

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's July 2014

Newsletter

This Month

Ellen Colonna and Hondo Velasco are the volunteer dance instructors for July.

- Thursday, July 3rd: **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- Wednesday, July 9th: **Board Meeting**
7 pm at IHOP, 1500 W. Grant Road. All members are welcome
- Thursday, July 10th: **Victoria Rodriguez** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 17th: **Alex Diekmann** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 24th: **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- Thursday, July 31st: **Scott Miller** is the DJ.



Ellen Colonna, TSDC Vice President and Dance Director, brought a smile to Ben McHenry's face as they danced together. Ben stayed until closing and danced with many, many TSDC followers. Look inside this issue for more photos of Ben social dancing at TSDC.



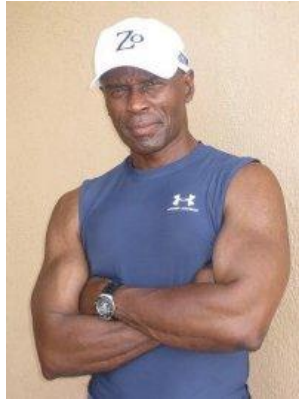
After teaching two workshops, National WCS Champion Ben McHenry treated us to a spotlight dance with one of Tucson's own WCS Champions.... Wendy Miller. Look inside this issue for more workshop photos.

Upcoming Events:

- Thursday, August 4th: Bob and Anastasia, National WCS All-Stars, are coming to Tucson for two special workshops. Regular dance night prices of \$4 members and \$6 for guests! More details in the August newsletter.
- Desert City Swing: Phoenix, AZ. September 4th -7th

President's Message

Is it hot enough for ya? Well, this time of year in Tucson might be too hot for doing most things, but dancing's not one of them! If you're going to sweat, why not do it on the dance floor? Just remember to keep the water flowing and a change of clothes nearby.



It's been great to see the dance floor packed once again at TSDC. What a great time to come out and practice "your stuff" before heading off to WCS summer conventions. Speaking of conventions, remember that the club is selling 40 tickets to Desert City Swing, which takes place September 4th -7th in Phoenix. We have pre-purchased these tickets and will be selling them on a first pay, first seated basis. With these tickets, you will be guaranteed a seat at one of our four club tables. Sitting with folks you know makes for a much more enjoyable event. You must purchase a ticket from Susan at TSDC's front desk in order to sit at our club tables. If you purchase them online from Desert City Swing, you will not be able to sit at TSDC's tables. These tickets will sell out so make sure you're not left saying, "Dang, I should have bought one last week."

Do you find it fascinating to sit and watch a sea of dancers doing WCS to the same song? Man, I sure do. I'm amazed at the variety of styles and personalities being expressed on the dance floor. From top dancers to those without a clue (but good intentions), from those dancing in time to the music to those dancing to an entirely different beat, from introverts to extroverts, we have 'em all at the same time on the dance floor. What links them all is their love of this dance. This, for me, is fascinating and enjoyable to watch.

There's also a group of dancers that I see which

intrigue me but, I don't find enjoyable to watch. These are the dancers who ignore their partner. If you've ever been ignored by the person you're dancing with, you'll know what I mean. I've seen dancers never once look in the eyes of their dance partner. I'm not talking about some ole creepy stare. I'm just talking about occasional eye contact or even just looking in the direction of their partner's face. I've seen dancers never smile at their partner and rudest off all, and on one too many occasions, I've watched dancers looking away from their partner seemingly looking for the partner they'd rather be dancing with. We talk all the time about "connection" in WCS. Connection is displayed loudly by body language. If we looked bored or uninterested in our partner, it shows in our dancing. Imagine how our partner feels. You can bet that it won't make for an enjoyable dance for either partner.

Occasional eye contact, smiles and a little praise from time to time ("nice job, great dance, cool move, wow, that was fun, etc.") can do wonders on the dance floor. Still to this day, I enjoy having a partner say nice things about our dance together and sure as hell want them to show some interest in dancing with me. If you've danced with me, you know that I always give compliments. We usually share laughs and have a good time getting our groove on. I want you to feel at ease with me and I want you to leave our dance together with a smile on your face because that's exactly how I want to feel.

Mark your calendars for August 14th when we welcome All-Stars Anastasia and Bob Tucker from Phoenix. They are excellent dancers and two of the nicest people you'll ever meet. Anastasia is one of my absolute favorite followers to dance with. This will be their first time teaching at TSDC, so let's pack the house and give them an enormous Tucson welcome. And here's the added bonus, it's regular club pricing for their two workshops! You won't want to miss this special evening.

See you on the dance floor...

Zo Carroll



Did You Know TSDC is ONLINE?

www.tsdc.net Check out our website!

Did you know TSDC is on Facebook with TWO different pages?

Tucson Swing Dance Club ...This page is loaded with club info, lesson videos, current photos and even some historical photos from way, way back (it's fun to go on and see who you can recognize).

Tucson Swing Dance Club (Open Group)...This page has up-to-date postings from the club, as well as other postings from community members that might be of interest to dancers.



Beyond Patterns

By
Matthew Loukopoulos

Dance Trifecta

As some of you know, I started a blog several months ago, www.swingandtango.wordpress.com. Not too long ago I wrote something on my blog that I've always believed to be the most important elements in dancing, aside from a good and solid connection. I also posted it on my Facebook page.

As any of you who have had a lesson or two with me know, I teach what I believe in. I teach what I know and study inside and out and have experienced first-hand. I'm also open to learning and discovering more whether it is simple push break or a complicated figure that requires a lot of skill. The post I wrote that you are about to read is what I believe in. Aside from my connection obsession (and the 4 week series I teach with the same name), it is the core and essence of my dancing. It is what I believe makes for great dancing. And I can prove it through experience.

I just came back from a Tango festival in Greece. It was not a huge festival by Swing standards. Maybe 250 people attended. There were people from 16 countries within that crowd. Most people had English that was better than my Greek. Many times there was a language barrier. Accents and broken English were everywhere. The dancing was some of the best Tango I've ever had. I didn't get to my hotel room until sunrise every night (err, day?) of the festival. Even the Swing dancing I did in a local jewelry shop was good, but that's a whole other story.

In the entire 4 day weekend I only had two lousy dances and one that was just OK. The rest were phenomenal. It wasn't because I was king of the floor. Far from it. There were people waaaay better than me there. It wasn't because I was chasing after dances with 'Pros' and 'All-Stars'. I did not know a single person there. We were all 'regular' people who happened to be really good. I wasn't constantly doing fancy moves with them either even though I was able to do them due to my skill and my partner's skill. I was definitely barking with Top Dogs and able to keep

up to the pack, but that isn't what made the dancing so great.

What made the dancing soooo good was that their fundamental elements and concepts were so well understood and solid. That includes their connection, although I'm sure I obsess about it way more than the average dancer. I was able to dance well with someone I've never met, in a country across the Atlantic, and all through a language barrier. Everybody brought good quality of personal movement to the floor along with a solid understanding of the elements and concepts of how the dance works. If you wanted to play, you brought your toys and you shared them. Movement was primary. Moves were secondary. That's what made the dancing soooo good.

I'll finish this month's article with what I wrote. I would like you all to read it. And then I would like you all to read it again. Ponder, reflect, soak it all in. There's a lot to think about in there. I wrote what I have always believed makes for great dancing. I wrote and was teaching this long before I went on my trip. My trip just happened to confirm it, again. This is what I study and believe thoroughly. I teach what I believe and have experienced. Great dances come from movement through connection driven by music.

For the love of all things Holy in the lands of Swing and Tango please study and understand the following:

1: The dance itself. Its foundation, how it functions and its elements and fundamentals

2: Motion of the body. Where impulse and intention come from, where that energy goes and what it can and will do. And also the same path, but in reverse.

3: The Lead/Follow relationship. What are the roles, responsibilities, how they relate to each other and how action or lack of action affects that.

Music is the medium we choose to intertwine it all. Everything else is fluff.

Desert City Swing

Phoenix, AZ: September 4th – 7th
Arizona Grand Resort

Tucson Swing Dance Club will be in the house at DCS! Sit with other TSDC dancers and make our presence known. TSDC has purchased 4 tables (40 seats total) at the Desert City Swing Convention in Phoenix.

This convention ROCKS: Amazing pros, loads of social dancing, great competitions and, of course, parties galore. You WILL want to be a part of this incredible event!

Tickets are available on Thursdays at the Club!

**Only \$135 cash or check (please make checks payable to TSDC)
Full-time students (under 24 with student ID) \$85**

Tickets are sold on a “first pay, first seated” basis.
Pass is for Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Sunday night dance not included)

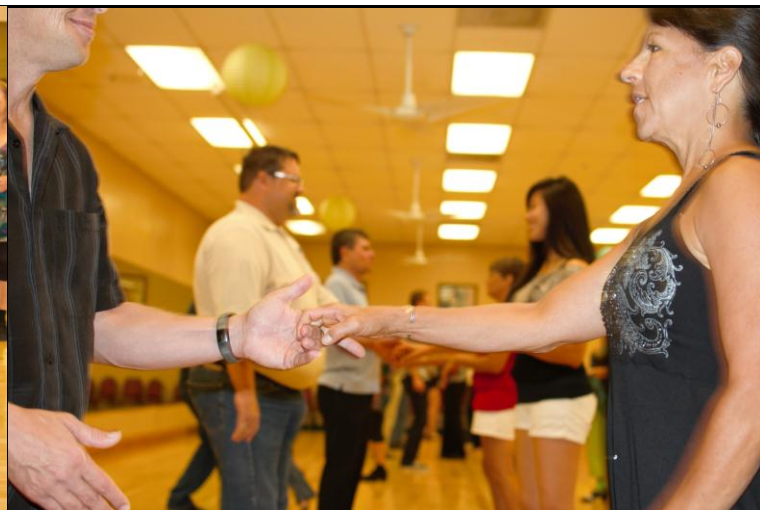
**IMPORTANT: YOU MUST PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS THROUGH
THE CLUB IN ORDER TO SIT AT THE TSDC TABLES!**





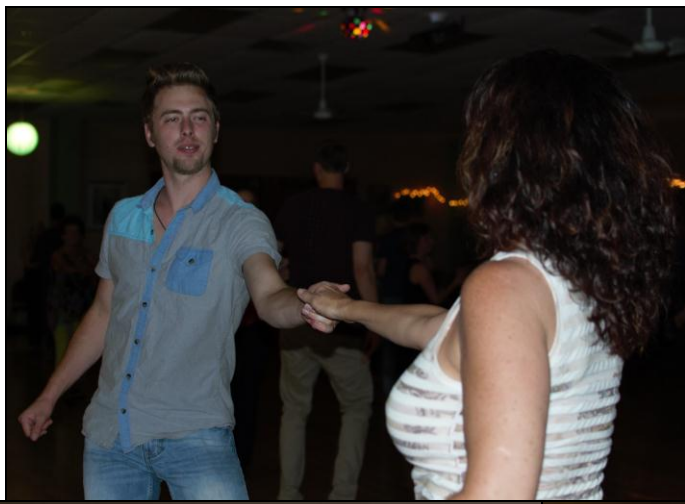
Ben McHenry: Medicine AND Candy!

*Ben McHenry, National WCS Champion, packed the house for his two workshops in June. Ben delivered fun, engaging drills (dancing without touching, dancing with only our palms touching and dancing with our eyes closed) all designed as “medicine” for healing our connection issues. He also supplied us with tasty “candy” in the form of some moves that were simple to execute, but supplied a big “Wow Factor”. His workshops were laced with humor, practice and feedback. We were able to walk away with the knowledge and skill to start applying what we learned that very night. After his workshops, Ben performed an inspiring spotlight dance with TSDC’s own **Wendy Miller**, also a National WCS Champion. Ben stayed until closing and danced with anyone who asked him. It was so wonderful to have Ben back in Tucson! A special thanks to the **TSDC Board** for bringing Ben here, **Christie Kroger** (our Workshop Coordinator) for organizing this event, **Scott Menkal** for hosting Ben at his house, **Ellen Colonna** for allowing Ben to teach privates at her house, **Sherry Lotz** for the great tunes as our DJ that night and to all of the members who showed up to improve their dance and support a special event at the Club. We greatly missed **Matt Rounseville**, our Club Photographer, since he was out of town. Fortunately, **Ellen Colonna**, **Zo Carroll** and **Mary Carroll** all stepped up to take some photos that night. Thanks to everyone who helped make this workshop such a success!*









July Birthdays

Members get in **FREE** the week of their birthday!

- 7/3 Nick Moore
- 7/7 Candice Hill-Crouch
- 7/8 Nan Martin
- 7/12 Rochelle Browne
- 7/18 Shey Godoy
- 7/19 Lana Howard
- 7/23 Eric Wade
- 7/23 Tom McCurnin
- 7/29 Jasmine Lane
- 7/31 Millay McAndrew

New Members

Rosario Ibarra

Susan Kelly

	<p>KELLER WILLIAMS SOUTHERN ARIZONA</p> <p>KW</p>	<p><i>Rochelle Luety Browne</i> cell: 520-400-7723 fax: 520-721-5240 rochellebrownetucson@gmail.com www.rochellebrowne@kw.com 1849 N. Kolb Rd. #101 Tucson, AZ 85715</p> <p>  </p> <p><small>Each Office Independently Owned and Operated</small></p>
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**Coming
August 14th!**

**National WCS
ALL-STARS**

**Bob
&
Anastasia**

Dance Lessons at the Club

Each month the club's dance instructors teach the beginning patterns in West Coast Swing. Students may start the sequence on any Thursday.

- ▲ First Thursday of the month: Left side pass, underarm turn, underarm turn with a hand change, and the right side pass.
- ▲ Second Thursday: 4-beat starter step, throwout, and closed basic.
- ▲ Third Thursday: Sugarpush, tuck throwout, and turning basic.
- ▲ Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with an inside turn, and whip with an outside turn.
- ▲ And in months with a fifth Thursday: Basket whip and variations.

We recommend taking the beginning class for three months before going on to the intermediate class. Intermediate classes teach pattern variations, combinations, and syncopations beyond the basics.

About the TSDC

Founded in 1977 by Rose Marie Burrell, the Tucson Swing Dance Club has dances every Thursday night at **Shall We Dance**, 4101 E. Grant. There are dances every Thursday night except on Thanksgiving or other major holidays.

Club instructors teach a beginning lesson from 7-7:45pm and an intermediate lesson from 8-8:30pm, with dancing until 10:30pm.

Admission is \$4 for members and \$6 otherwise; annual memberships cost \$25 and run from January 1st through December 31st. Members are also eligible to compete in the club Jack & Jill contests and receive discounts to special events. The newsletter is available online at www.tsd.net.

2014-2015 TSDC Board

President: **Zo Carroll**
President@TSDC.net

Vice President: **Ellen Colonna**
VP@TSDC.net

Treasurer: **Tom Grubaugh**
Treasurer@TSDC.net

Membership Secretary: **Eleanor Schrandt**
Members@TSDC.net

Corporate Secretary: **Vera Tucker**
Secretary@TSDC.net

Sergeant at Arms: **Don Bennett**
Sergeant@TSDC.net

Head Judge: **Ellen Colonna**
Judge@TSDC.net

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Carroll**
Newsletter@TSDC.net

Contest Coordinator: **Hondo Velasco**
Contests@TSDC.net

Dance Director: **Ellen Colonna**
Dance@TSDC.net

Music Director: **Scott Miller**
Music@TSDC.net

Club Photographer: **Matt Rounseville**
Photo@TSDC.net

Website Administrator: **Alex Diekmann**
WebAdmin@TSDC.net

Publicity Director: **Kathy Lussier**
Publicity@TSDC.net

Hospitality Director: **Rochelle Browne**
Hospitality@TSDC.net

Workshop Coordinator: **Christie Kroger**
Workshops@TSDC.net

Mailing Address: **Tucson Swing Dance Club**
PO Box 32226
Tucson, AZ 85751

Ad Rates

Email ads to newsletter@tsdc.net and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, PO Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Issues	1	2	4	6
Business Card	\$7.00	\$13.50	\$25.00	\$35.00
Quarter Page	\$14.00	\$27.00	\$50.00	\$68.60
Third Page	\$19.50	\$37.50	\$65.00	\$95.00
Half Page	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$70.00	\$100.00
Full Page	\$40.00			
Single-Sided Insert	\$50.00			
Double-sided Insert	\$80.00			

Local WCS Instructors

If you're a current TSDC member and you'd like to be listed here, send your contact information to newsletter@tsdc.net.

- ▲ Laurence Bonfoey:
dontdelaydancetoday.com
- ▲ Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- ▲ Wendy Miller: 520-907-0945
wendymillerdance.com

West Coast Swing
Jitterbug, Two Step,
Waltz, Cha Cha.

Laurence P Bonfoey
520-271-7099

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DJ SURVEY
each week!

