

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Sunday August 9th, 2009

The Newsletter took a small vacation while I traveled to Denver for Swingtime In The Rockies, and then on to Memphis after that for work, and a fun weekend filled with music. I've got lots of things to report.

First and foremost is the big announcement that Bryan Spivey has become a **permanent** member of our Instructor Staff! We received so much positive feedback from y'all, that we just couldn't let Bryan get away. Bryan will teach the Advanced Class. Bryan has been dancing, competing and teaching for many years. He's taken some time away from teaching while he and his wife, Lisa, enjoyed their new baby girl, Lee. Now, Bryan is back and lovin' being with us here at North Houston. I can't tell who's more excited about this - Bryan or us!!



Next, I'd like to welcome all the new folks we've had come dance with us lately. We had a full Beginner class this week, and we've got more and more folks joining our other three classes too. I'd also like to thank all our regular members who make this club so much fun week after week. You all are the ones that make our new members drop in to find out why we have so much fun here. We've got the reputation of being the friendliest club for a reason. Its YOU who make North Houston the place to be every Thursday night. We appreciate you all!

Congratulations to Heath Burns for making the Finals in the Novice Jack and Jill competition at Swingtime In The Rockies. This is HUGE! Heath was one of 10 finalists out of a group of about 70 men who competed in this event. We are SOOOOOO proud of you Heath!

Class Notes

In our **Beginner Class**, Donese reviewed the Basic 6-count patterns this week, and added a real nice alternate footwork pattern for the Sugar Tuck, or TeePee move. Instead of the regular count of ONE TWO, THREE-AND-FOUR, FIVE-AND-SIX, Donese changed it up to give the ladies a chance to get those hips and legs going. The new count is ONE, TWO-AND-THREE, FOUR, FIVE-AND-SIX. Want to see that again? Drop in next Thursday night!

Ann Dahn led our Intermediate Class through the a Basic Step, a Left Side Pass, a Right Side Pass followed by a Basic, and then the new move - a Promenade variation. This move travels to the man right (the lady's left) in a series of triple steps with a lady free spin at the end of it. Thanks for helping!

I've posted 2 videos of Bryan's **Advanced Classes** on YouTube. I had some catching up to do, and I thought y'all might like to see the video rather than have me try to describe the Lindy Swivel Move that Bryan taught. Then this week, Bryan taught alternate footwork for an anchor step. To practice it at the end of a Whip Step, count it to yourself as "SEVEN CROSS EIGHT" as you move away from your partner and establish your connection again. This sets up a Right Side Pass the really MOVES the lady as she takes big strides down the slot. Take a look.

Bryan and Jeni doing the Lindy Swivel Move:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMam1u4kaZU>

Bryan and Suzanne doing the 'Seven Cross Eight' move:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfXz0YWpGZE>

In our **Advanced Patterns and Footwork** class, Bobby Pritchard taught the entire laundry list of West Coast Swing moves! Yup! Every move you can think of, he put it together for us. Okay, I'm exaggerating a bit, but if you want some new moves that are fresh, challenging and that are successful to lead on the social dance floor, Bobby will cover it for you. This class had something in it for the ladies as well as the fellas. You've got style, changing the lead from the man, to the lady and back to the man, you've got pattern variations and you've

got spin for everybody. There's even a sexy little 'Get Down On It' move too. Along with that, you get the lovely addition of Rhonda to help demonstrate what Bobby is teaching. Can't beat that!

Instead of going down the list of moves, how about if you just watch it on YouTube too:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odAJct4ACpA>

Social Calendar

Two big events are coming up next weekend. First, The Lonestar Competition in Austin Texas offers a Swing event which includes ProAms, Strictly Swing's and a Jack and Jill category. This event is held a great hotel, and has lots of workshops included along with the Country Western dancing. Check it out at <http://www.lonestarcountrydance.com/>

Also, Kansas City is host to the Grand Prix of Swing the same weekend.

<http://www.grandprixofswing.com/>

Then be sure to make it up to Dallas on Sep 3-6 for Dallas DANCE. This is one of the biggest West Coast Swing Dance events in the country. Not only are the top Pro's in the world attending, but Dallas DANCE also has some of the best social dancing you'll find anywhere. Non-stop. And all day and night!! Check out <http://www.dallasdance.com/> for more info.

Final Thoughts

This past weekend, the famous Pro dancers Ben Morris and Melina Ramirez were in town for a workshop at Melody Club. I highly recommend that you sign up for these workshops as they come around. I believe the next one is scheduled for October with Katrina Branson and Christopher Hussey. The workshops that they teach offer a chance to learn from the top rated pro dancers in the country. They teach the techniques that make them famous, and challenge all of us to improve our dancing with new ideas, new styling and new ways to think about dancing to the music we hear. In the final session this weekend, Ben and Melina taught how to style your dance to songs that are more acoustic and coffee shop type, and how to vary that when dancing to a more energetic or hip-hop style song. Melina showed the ladies how to style, add hips and legs, and how to toss that head of hair around for some real flashy poses. Ben taught the guys how to set these kinds of things up in order to have that dance 'conversation' that can make for your most memorable dances ever. Several of us from North Houston attended. We definitely got our money's worth. Try to make the next one if you can!

That's all for this week folks.

Keep on dancing!

Wayne