

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Sunday December 14, 2008

Club News

This has been an incredible year, hasn't it? Our club has prospered in many ways. We've got lots of happy dancers, great teachers offering four levels of instruction, and a safe, comfortable studio to dance at. We've stayed on budget with our finances. We've survived colds and flu's, hurricanes and storms, summer heat, SNOW!!, and lots of life issues too. Even with all of that, look at us! We're not just surviving, we're growing! Thanks to the great leadership of Jack, our president, as well as Ann, Helen, Donese, Charles and the rest of the gang, we're closing out the year riding the wave of enthusiasm we're all a part of. Special thanks go out to Bobby and Ben too. So stay tuned - we're anticipating a BIG year next year. We've got lots planned. This is going to be one heck of a ride. Let's keep it going!



Class Notes

Our **Beginner Class** covered the basic count and footwork of West Coast Swing. Paul got some great instruction and individual attention to really nail down that foot placement. The guy steps back on count ONE, back again on TWO, then triple step THREE AND FOUR, stepping forward with the left foot on FOUR. Then triple step in place for an anchor step FIVE AND SIX. So the basic count for all Whip/West Coast Swing 6-count patters is: ONE, TWO, THREE AND FOUR, FIVE AND SIX.

Ann's **Intermediate Class** focused on doing things right. Y'all worked on having the men help the ladies to anchor by 'giving them something to work off of.' Plant your weight on your foot on step number of 4 of a 6 count pattern and Ann says. "Do NOT drift a fraction of an inch toward the lady". Same with your hand, guys - bring it to a dead stop in the middle of you and the lady and keep it there so that she can work

her anchor and shift her hips off the steadiness of your hand. Pretend you're putting your hand on a fence post. We sometimes call that stable hand placement 'the post'. Men, keep your hands very still and at your partner's waist level and keep your elbows and hands 'quiet.' Ann reminded the fellas to be aware that every move that you make with your hands signals something to her – so help her to learn to follow by not giving her a bunch of signals that don't mean anything.

Ann taught the 'fold' and the 'whip with an outside spin' to help the ladies practice their 'work – around anchor.'

Want to see what y'all look like on YouTube? Check it out:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQmuyT-Z6Lc>

Ben had a night off so **Bobby** took walls down and combined classes. Bobby challenged all of us by breaking up patterns, changing directions, and holding turns and moves. This is new stuff. We've been taught all these patterns and learned them well, and now we're breaking them up with starts, stops and changes of directions?!?!?! YES!!

Here's where dancing becomes YOUR dance, and not just a bunch of moves that you've learned to do one right after another. Here's where you get to be creative and change things up. It definitely isn't easy when you start doing this kind of thing after years of doing programmed moves. But that's why Bobby is so good at what he does. He's asking his class to step out of the mold and let your personality and character be expressed in how you dance. I love it!

By the way, Bobby and Rhonda - We wish you a fabulous, relaxing time on your cruise next week. Have fun!

Wanna see what y'all look like when you don't know the camera is running?!?!? Check it out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j18SXZP8hHY> Watch for Linda to come in and show off her pink sweater. Also featured in this video, we've got Lou, Tricia, George, Joel, Karen, Jimmy, Tim, Laura, Ricky, Michelle, Paul and Martha....and lots more.

Around Town

Lots of chances to dance are coming up real soon. Here are 4 events to mark on your calendar.

1. New Years Eve, Melody Club is having a big dance beginning at 6:30 PM. Here's what they say:

Come Hungry and Ring In the New Year at the Melody Club!

COME DRESSED TO IMPRESS!

\$50 each to the Best Dressed Female & Male for the Evening!

GREAT FOOD! - Honey Ham & Deep Fried Turkeys Buffet & Hors d'oeuvres

Champagne Toast & Black-eyed Peas served at Mid-Night

Champagne Jack & Jill Contest - \$5 entry fee

(J&J dance contest - 1st place only - Win a bottle of Champagne & \$50 cash.)

DESSERT Contest! - Bring your prize winning Dessert - 1st Place only - \$50

Assortment of DJ Music : A mix of Blues, Jazz, R&B & Pop for

Whip/Push/WCSwing/Shag/Hustle with a bit of Salsa for a touch of seasoning and some Country Western songs kicked in just for fun!

Attend Dance Workshop included with ticket.

PRE-SALE TICKETS ARE \$30 / At the Door \$40 / Tables seating - 6 - ea.
available for Reservation

Need a Room? - Marriott Courtyard - 713-784-3003 / Ask for Melody Club
Discount Rate.

Location: Melody Club
3027 Crossview Dr.
Houston, TX 77063

PRE-SALE TICKETS:

Contact: Donn & Trish 713-785-5301

Email: donn@melodyclub.net

2. Next, the Bay Area Whip Club is having their Anniversary Party Saturday January 10th on the NASA Space Center property. What do you say we show up and help them celebrate? Here's their info:

COME HELP US CELEBRATE
25 YEARS OF BAY AREA WHIP DANCE CLUB
SHARE YOUR MEMORIES
MAKE NEW ONES
JANUARY 10, 2009
6:30 TIL 11:00
GILRUTH CENTER- ALAMO BALLROOM
2101 NASA PKWY
GATE 5, OFF SPACE CENTER BLVD
\$5.00 PER PERSON
CASH BAR

CHECK OUT OUR FLYER AT [BAWDC.ORG](http://bawdc.org) <<http://bawdc.org/>>

3. Then, the following weekend, January 15-18, the America's Classic Championship will be held right here in Houston at the North Houston Hilton (formerly the Windham Hotel at Greenspoint) Our club has 3 tables reserved so you know we'll be there. If you're not already at a reserved table, there's lots of available seating. Also, the event directors would love some volunteer time if you'd like to help out with the door, or admissions or hospitality. One of the many highlights of this weekend will be getting to the workshop taught by **Benji Schwimmer!** If you're lucky enough to make it on Friday at 4:00PM, you'll never forget this workshop.

Benji Schwimmer was born in Newport Beach, California and grew up in Redlands, California. Dancing is in his blood, as he's the son of "King of Swing" Buddy Schwimmer. Like his father, he's also a swing dancer, and has won four US Open Swing Dance Championships.

After winning the first two, Benji took two years off from his dancing career to work in a mission in Oaxaca, Mexico. When he returned to the States in 2004, he got back into the dancing world and won the 2005 Championship (his

third). In 2006, he was chosen as a contestant for the second season of So You Think You Can Dance, and won first place, receiving a dance contract with Celine Dion in her Las Vegas Show for a year, \$100,000 and a hybrid car. In 2008 he received his 4th Championship title with Kellese Key in the Showcase Division.

4. And finally, let me have you tentatively mark this date: Saturday February 21st. That's when we're gonna throw ourselves one heck of an Anniversary Party. We'll get back to you with more details, but let me just say - plan to be there. We've got some things planned that you'll never forget. Food, workshops, great tunes, and some fine dancers - that's YOU, baby! Just wait and see what's in store for you!

That's all for now folks. Have a blessed Holiday season, and may next year be full of good music, great dance partners, and may you hit every break with a flair!!

Take care. Be safe. See you Thursday January 8th.

Wayne