

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Saturday October 18, 2008

Club News

Too long! That's what it's been! Too long since we all turned out and danced like we did this week. We're all back and classes were full again. Understandably, we've all had a lot to handle over the last month but you all made it through the hardships and were ready to dance Thursday. Way to go!

Several of us missed last week because we did something crazy! We attended, competed and danced at San Francisco's Boogie By The Bay dance event. Dancers representing our club, plus several other dancers from around the Houston area, flew out to San Francisco last weekend. A total of about 25 of us, we may have had the single, largest presence of any city in the country!

We not only got to see some exciting dances from the Pro's, we found ourselves dancing with the best dancers in the world! West Coast Swing is definitely an international dance, catching on everywhere. California really attracts quality dancers to their events. Folks flew in from England, France, Canada and Australia. Dancers from all over the United States were there too. This 4 day event had workshops, competitions, dinner, and some of the finest dance music you can get. I'll play a few of the songs next Thursday. I'll also include a few pictures below just to show how much fun we had!

Class Notes

Bobby has been knocking out some killer classes lately. These are advanced moves with added body styling, so not everyone is going to get the hang of them the first time out. It takes good dance background and lots of practice.

Bobby first reviewed the whip with an outside turn to a hip catch. Roll the lady back in for a sit and hold on the man's left side.

Then came something special for the ladies! Bobby taught two 'hijack' moves from a basic sugar tuck that the lady can use as she hits phrase changes in the music or actually hits a break in the song. Rhonda showed us how its supposed to look. Ladies, this is a cool set of moves with advanced footwork, counter-direction turns and lets you show some of that 'attitude that makes this dance really sizzle!

The final move was the hardest to lead and will take the guys a while to be successful on the social dance floor with it, but its a blast when you get it! It's an accelerated Dallas Side Pass that Bobby taught by beginning the pattern on count 5. This sets up the hit or the break that is anticipated on count 1 of the next music phrase. As the Dallas Side Pass

finishes the spin on count 8, the man extends his arm at chest level in front of the lady, holding it slightly out and in front of the lady, stopping her rotation. Then quickly loop over her head. She responds to this set up by pressing her left hand into the mans waist and hip, leaning left into him for compression, then sliding out and away to hit the music on count 1.

This is Musicology! This is advanced stuff! You have to count the music, know how to set it up by beginning on the '5', and be practiced and confident in your leads and follows. Great class Bobby!

Want to see what it all looked like? Check it out - click here

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DCUVIxQSFM>

Ann and Charles had a full intermediate class too. Our beginners have moved on up and are working on adding new moves to their 'library'.

Coming Up

The Texas State dance competition is coming up in 2 weeks. Beginning Friday Oct 31 through Sunday Nov 2, the Texas State Dance Championships (TSDA) will be held here in Houston at the Westin Galleria, located at the Galleria Shopping Center at Look 610 and Westheimer. Come out and support the dancers from our fine state, and dance your heart out all weekend too!

<http://swwc.org/tsda/?SID=822164505004A7451B51CCC954743B7BEEB>

See you all next week!

Wayne

Boogie By The Bay Photos



Heath and Debbie



Frankie, Wayne and Victoria



Linda and Robert



Heath



Linda, Donese and Ann



Wayne and Shelley

