

# North Houston Swing Dance Club

**Saturday November 22, 2008**

## Club News

Each week, I'm amazed at just how many of you members consistently come out to dance with us Thursday night. You all ROCK!!!! For a club to be successful, every one of us has to be involved in some manner to make it happen. Some of us dance, some instruct, some organize, some greet folks at the door, some pay the bills, and some decorate the place with their big smiles, but all of us contribute to make it a success. We're experiencing phenomenal growth and its all thanks to you! We're breaking attendance records each week. We had 5 new members join us in the beginners class this week. And even after offering a new level of instruction with Ben Hooten, our classrooms are still packed with eager dancers! Thank you, each and every one of you, for being committed to establishing North Houston as the place to be on Thursdays. Again...YOU ROCK!!

## Class Notes

Our **Beginner Class** introduced the 6-count foundation steps of West Coast Swing. The Basic step, the left side pass and the right side pass. Here's two key things to remember:

1. Guys, step **BACK** with your left foot on count **ONE**. Gals, step **FORWARD** with your right foot on count **ONE** with the guy gives you the lead. In almost every case, this will be the beginning first step of any West Coast pattern. So when you start, or when you lose the beat in the song, just settle in your place for a second, listen to the music, and begin to dance with this pattern - guys step back with your left, gals step forward with your right - and off you go.
2. Guys, step back into the slot on count **FOUR**. Whether you're doing a basic, a right side pass, a left side pass, or whatever, on any 6-count pattern, step back into the slot with your left foot on **FOUR**. Ladies, this count **FOUR** establishes

the 'post' and indicates that this pattern is ending. Now you can now do your anchor step FIVE AND SIX.

Everybody got the hang of these 3 steps so well, that all of y'all were dancing through most of the class. Probably the hardest step for the guys was the right side pass. So guys ( ladies...help the fellas out here and keep smiling while they think real hard), you're gonna lead her down your right side - your RIGHT SIDE. Step back and slightly diagonal with your left foot on ONE, raise your left hand up to eye level and flip it so your thumb is pointing down and you're looking at your watch on count TWO. If you can get that, you've got the rest of it nailed! Now let the lady pass and strut her stuff on THREE AND FOUR. Bring the hands down on FOUR for your 'post', and both of you anchor step on FIVE AND SIX.

Just to keep things rolling, y'all also learned a Left Side Tuck Turn too. As class ended, y'all were doing a fine job of putting 4 moves together and dancing to Ike Turner's 'Jazzy Fuzzy'. High - 5's !!

Our **Intermediate Class** built off of last weeks class by adding a Right Side pass with the guy stepping under his left arm on FOUR and doing a nice little walk around for his anchor. I'll save the words, and post the link for y'all to watch your 'Bad Selves' doing some fine dancin' !

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlEYItT8MtU>

Ben added another **Advanced** move to his amalgamation by working on ways to hit a break, or accent parts of a song by stopping and holding a beat or two. This move was a J-Hook lead that begins on count SEVEN. This is anticipating that count ONE will start a new music phrase, or perhaps have a break in the music where the song stops for a rest, then gets going again. So, J-Hook lead on SEVEN, EIGHT. Now you're side by side with your partner, facing the 'audience' - the lady is on the man's right side, the fella's right hand connected with the lady's left. Now hit and hold count ONE. Got it? Next pick up the beat again and keep dancing. Understanding the music and counting in 8's. This is Musicology, Baby....Musicology 101. Thanks Ben!

I'm sorry that I didn't get the information from Bobby's class in time to include it here, but I'll catch it next time. My fault - I got to dancing after class and didn't take any notes. I'll owe you one, okay??

## **Around Town**

Next year, I'd like to hit a few places around town for a fun night out social dancing with the club, and let folks out there see us, so we can let them know about our club to keep it growing. I've gotten a couple suggestions that are great ideas. In Atascocita, **Rock, Wine and Blues** is a real nice club with a funny name. They've got a small but nice dance floor and probably one of the nicest atmospheres of any dance club - most folks dress up a bit with slacks and a nice shirt or blouse. Next, on Guhn Rd. just off of Hwy 290 near Tidwell/Holister, is a club called **The Westwind**. There's no cover and lots of parking I hear. One last suggestion was have a party right here at our studio. We'll be having an Anniversary Party early next year so plan on that, but I'm looking for ideas on places to let people see us dance who may not have seen West Coast Swing before. I hear **Martini's** off of Rayford Sawdust might be a good spot. Any thoughts on those places?

I've gotten several notices of a chance to watch the US Open Swing Dance competition in Anaheim, California for free over the Thanksgiving weekend. I'm told that you can watch it for free on internet TV. I can't vouch for the site, but I'll forward it to you. <http://www.usopenswingdc.com/> On the right side of the home page, there's a link to the site that is offering the TV show for free. Friday night will feature lots of Jack and Jill dancing as well as the Showcase Division.

In December, we take nominations for your club officers and Board members. Then we hold elections too. This takes place right after class, so please consider serving on the board or nominating someone who you think would do a good job for us all.

Next week is Thanksgiving. There's no class, but we return for the following 2 weeks in December. Lets all take a moment and remember all the people and things we're thankful for - loved ones, our country, and the many blessings we've all experience this year. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday, and please, drive safely.

See you Thursday, December 4th.

Wayne

OH!!! Wait!!

For those who may need to burn off some of those Thanksgiving calories, Saturday November 29th, Damon and Lisa D'Amico are hosting a Holiday Workshop and Party. Here's the details:

## **Holiday Workshop and Party**

End of the Year/Holiday Workshop and Party

Saturday, Nov. 29th at Melody Club

### SCHEDULE

- 6:00-7:00 pm -- Lisa's "For Ladies Only" and Damon's "For Men Only".
- 7:00-7:20 pm -- Wine tasting and open dancing

- 7:20-8.00 pm -- West Coast Swing - applying new techniques.
- 8:00 pm -- Open dancing.

Cost : \$35 for both workshops and party.