

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Friday February 29, 2008

Its a **LEAP** year!!!

Club News

Y'all are having just too much fun!

We rocked the studio again last night with good people and good dancing.

Y'all are what make North Houston Swing Dance Club so cool!





Class Notes

Bobby Pritchard gathered the entire club for a lesson on Starter Steps. Triple step left, triple step right, then walk, walk, and 'opening the door' for a left side pass with triple step, and anchor step (triple step)

Then in the advanced class, Bobby began his anatomy lessons, teaching the locations of the lady's hips, waist, ribs, and 'hip pocket'. Several demonstrations helped clarify the issue. Right, Harry?????

Bobby reviewed the last 2 weeks by going over the Whip with a shoulder pick to open presentation, then the tandem turn. Since this is quite a difficult advanced move, Bobby spent lots of time going over the pivots and partner positions to make it work. It isn't easy, is it? It looks like Heath and Anne got it though. See how I freeze-framed the shot so you can see about where the lady's hip is? (Anybody who says that shot was posed is a bald-faced liar!!). Anne looks like she's mastered this move!!



He then added a new move. It's the Whip with an accelerated outside turn to a hip catch, followed by a duck-under/guy slide. It's a normal whip through step number 4. With the lady prep-ed for the outside turn, the guy now accelerates the lady turn on 5, sliding his right hand from the lady's shoulder blade, down to her waist, and lets her spin into his hand, catching her hip on 6. Now the guy raises his left hand, and scoots to the right in front of the lady, going under his left arm on 7-slide-8, turning to face each other again. Got it?





The entry level class reviewed the 6-count moves they've been working on, and progressed to the left side spinning pass. This class keeps on growing. We're thankful for all our new members!



Our Intermediate class had to do some thinking outside the bun Thursday night. They took 6-count patterns, and learned how to do a sway, or rock, left and right, to catch the beat at the opening of a song, and also learned how to stretch their moves into 8-counts when needed. See, most of us learned 6-count and 8-count patterns, and sometimes, you find yourself slightly off the music phrasing, so you need to swivel-swivel, or bop left and right once to get back on the beginning of a chorus. In other words, Thursday's class members were introduced to Musicology – the study of music. So lets take a minute and cover a couple of things here.

The music we dance to in swing dance is typically made up of phrases, with 8-counts to a phrase. If I counted that during a song, it would be 1-2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7-8. So if you did a 6-count basic pattern in that song, you'd have 2 beats of music at the end of the phrase (beats #7 and #8). If you wanted to get back on the 1st beat of the next phrase, you'd have to kill 2 beats with a swivel-swivel, or a left and right bop. This is what the intermediate class got to practice. With a little more practice, that awkward swivel-swivel, or shift left and right, will turn into what we call the 'Groove Step'. You gotta get a Groove Step! You can't buy it. You gotta dance it to get it! Its another fine little thing to put in your dance here and there. More to come!





Anniversary Party - Saturday April 5th

We've got something special planned for the club. Mark your calendars. Saturday April 5th is our Anniversary Party at the studio. We'll have details as the date gets closer, but here's a little sneak preview. Champion Dancers Damon and Lisa D'Amico are going to be coming up to give us a dynamite workshop to start the party off right! Y'all are gonna love this one! I want you to click on this YouTube link of a recent video of them dancing for a group in Seattle. Click on it, then come back and read the rest of this newsletter. Go on! Take a peek!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xebo00JpDfl>

You back? Okay, that's what's in store for you Saturday night, April 5th. And although our Anniversary parties attract lots of great dancers, this party is for YOU - so plan on having a great time! You're gonna love the price too. Just wait and see!

Around Town

Looking for a middle of the week, night of dancing to live music? Believe it or not, Houston has it! About a half hour drive will get you to The Concert Pub located at Chimney Rock and Richmond. A great band plays there Wednesday nights at 9:00PM. Gobs of hot dancers hang out there. Live Music, dancing, and no cover. Not bad! But be sure to tip the band. You'll love 'em!

<http://www.lutherandthehealers.com/schedule.htm>

That's all folks! I attached the photos this week. Let me know if you can't view them.

See you next week.

Wayne

****Go see our website, too****

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