

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Wednesday October 14th, 2009

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We appreciate every single one of our members and all that you do to make our club the success that it is. Because of your weekly attendance and active participation, we've been able to keep our annual club dues and door fees unchanged for over 3 years now. Its the best deal in town! Membership is still \$45.00 for 6 months, or better yet, \$60 for a one year membership. The entry fee for members is staying at \$5.00 (non-members is still just \$10.00)! And to thank all of you in one more way, we've been drawing TWO tickets each week for free admission the next time you come to dance. We're providing snacks, top notch instruction, the best music and a safe, healthy studio environment. We all work very hard to make your Thursday nights, the best night of your week. Thank you all for all that you do!

I've been out in San Francisco all weekend competing in the Boogie By The Bay competition then took a few days off to tour Wine Country too. It was a great weekend full of great social dancing and the highest quality competitions. I didn't have a Strictly Swing partner, but when I spread the word, I found a gal who was looking for a partner too. Glenda Smith, from Sacramento, and I danced in the Intermediate Strictly Swing contest and did well enough to make it to the Finals. We didn't place, but it was still exciting to get that far. Plus, we both agreed that we danced the best we'd ever danced in a competition. I also danced in the Jack and Jill contest, and had an international series of partners during the rotation. I danced with a lady from France, from Australia, and one from England. West Coast Swing has gone world-wide! I've posted lots of photos on Facebook if you'd like to take a look.

Class Notes

Wow! What a great Beginner Class this week! Five new members, plus Cecil helping out! Thanks to Frankie for helping too! We covered all kinds of important elements of the Basic Step for West Coast Swing. First the footwork for both the guys and the gals. Then connection, emphasizing compression and resistance in your handhold. Then we worked on dancing in rhythm to the music. Finally, we introduced the Left Side Pass, which every one picked up real quick. Ladies, you were looking good! Guys, nice job opening up the slot for the ladies to easily pass by. Next week, we'll review these two moves, then move on to more 6-count moves including the Right Side Pass and the Tuck Turn.

Our Intermediate Class reviewed moves y'all had been working on, including the Spinning Left Side Pass, the Whip and the J-Hook lead. Ann introduced the Whip with an Inside Exit, another great variation off the 8-count Whip. Ann has a wonderful talent of being able to break down these moves, and outline step by step how to get it done. She is incredibly generous with her time too. She spent lots of time at the end of her class helping individual students clarify each move she was teaching. Thank you so much Ann!

Bobby Pritchard's job required him to miss Thursday, so we combined our 2 Advanced Classes. We missed you Bobby and Rhonda! Hurry back!

Bryan taught a real nice series of moves that are great for social dancing. Bryan showed how to do the Tuck Turn with a guy turn for the anchor. Next came a roll in to shoulder drape with swivels back and forth ending in a back wrap, and a lady free spin out. Finish it up with a Whip Step, guys step through the frame by turning left and stepping through to the outside rail. Lead the lady in a behind the leader's back barrel roll to finish in basic position.

Social Calendar

October 16th and 17th Katrina Branson and Christopher Hussey have cancelled their workshops due to severe colds. They'll be rescheduled sometime next year.

Saturday October 24th, Trent and Michelle Haynes are hosting a Hustle and West Coast Swing Workshop and Party, featuring Angel and Debbie Figueroa. Hustle is at 7:00PM and West Coast is at 8:00PM. Each workshop is \$10.00. A party will follow the workshops. Its \$5.00 for just the party.

Then Halloween weekend, Oct 30 - Nov 1, the Texas State Dance Association (T.S. D. A.) will be held in Dallas. Pre-register by October 16th and pay just \$50.00 for the whole weekend - no entry fees for competitions except the Jack and Jills! For info, click here:

<http://www.texasclassic.com/tsda09home.html>

Music

I've got a new artist that I'd like to recommend this week for your West Coast Swing library. He's been doing pretty good in England, but he's just now getting air time in the States. Its Jay Sean. Check out these two songs - they're really fun to dance to! The titles are: **Tonight**, and **Maybe**. Let me know what you think!

One last note: Because we care about y'all so much, I'd like to take just a minute to talk about staying healthy as we enter another cold, flu and allergy season. Remember to wash your hands frequently and use anti-bacterial hand lotion. Use a tissue or handkerchief if you can when you sneeze. Cough and sneeze into your elbow instead of into your hands. And finally, if you're really sick, please stay home. We will miss you, but we'll appreciate that you didn't spread your cold to someone else. Practice good health along with your new dance steps!

Okay folks, that'll do it for another week. Get out there and dance!

See you next Thursday.

Wayne