

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Saturday April 18, 2009

Club News

Welcome new members and our re-newing members as well!

For \$60.00, your annual membership guarantees that you're going to get the best instruction in town along with a roaring good time every Thursday night! Dues paying members get a discount on the entry fee. They pay only \$5.00 at the door. That'll get you at least an hour of social dance before and after class plus an hour of group lessons in a well lit, smoke-free studio environment. Its one of the best deals around. Figure that we meet every week, except a few times in December or because of some crazy storm and you'll average about \$7.00 per week for the year!! Nobody can offer that kind of a deal but North Houston. That's because you come out each and every week, and support your club like nobody else does! You make this all possible. Thank you again and again!

I'd like to give y'all a quick report on the Tulsa Spring Swing that several of us went to over Easter last weekend. I'm feeling no shame here when I let you all know that I came home with a 1st Place in the Mixed ProAm Routine division with Lisa D'Amico. We worked hard on that dance, and it paid off. I'm very proud of that win, and extremely honored to have danced with my teacher/coach Lisa. She choreographed the routine, and we worked together to modify it and make it work for both of us. It was so much fun. It paid \$50.00 to each of us, plus free admission to Dallas DANCE in September and to the Palm Springs Swing Dance Classic in August. The video of us dancing is on

YouTube for those of you who'd like to see it:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5bSLqwNOQM>

In addition, there was a DJ Challenge too. Ruth Gilbert, head DJ at the competition, opened up the DJ booth for 9 DJ's to play 4 songs each at midnight - playing the best we had. The crowd voted on whose music they liked the best to dance to. **Yours Truly** one that one too! That one paid \$100.00 and free entry to the "Meet Me In St.Louis" competition in September! Not bad eh? I did pretty good in the other events I entered too. It was a great weekend indeed.

Donese Scheffe also came home with 1st AND 2nd Place win's in the Masters Jack and Jill events. She had to dance twice because there were so many guys who signed up for it. She ended up winning both top slots! Way to go Donese! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIYadvcLeio>

Ben Hooten danced ProAm with Sara Krezinski (Novice) and took 3rd! Rock On, Sara!!! Here's your video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1kYS6oQIKM

We did our club PROUD! We'll be looking forward to more and more of you trying your hand at competing. We'll be there to cheer you on too. But whether you do or not, we're all very grateful for the time we spend together at our club. We know what a good thing we have going here on Thursday nights. That's why WE ALL come out night after night - to dance with friends! We all have a great time together. Y'all make it feel good to come home. Thanks again.







Class Notes

This week, Ann taught the **Beginner Class** focusing on the 6-Count Basic Step, the Right and the Left Side Pass. Guys, step back on ONE. Ladies.....you just keep looking that good - that's all you need to do! Ha!



Charles taught the **Intermediate Class**, starting with a Basic then a Right Side Pass. Next came a Whip Step followed by a Left Side Pass. Finally a Whip Step with a different exit - like a lady's single or double spin. Charles worked on several important skills during class. First of all, y'all did the Whip Step, which is new to our Intermediate dancers. This takes a while because now you're leading an 8-Count pattern versus a 6-Count Pattern. The Whip Step means the guys are really having to learn how to lead the ladies, and the ladies, are really learning to trust and follow the fellas. You're learning how important it is to keep a good connection with your hands and arms. You're learning to think ahead and plan what move you'll be doing next. You're learning how to link up several moves into interesting variations. And finally, you're learning that you can change up the Whip Step and put your own exit on it, using a single or double lady spin. Or you might just not put any spin on it and keep it simple. Its our choice.

Last week, Paul helped Ann demonstrate what y'all learned, and I promised I'd upload that so the whole world can see Paul dance his magic. Here it is Paul - you're famous!!! Click on: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5QfkjWZfEo>

Ben continues to fill that room up with smiling, finger-snappin' dancers. This week, our **Advanced Class** started from Closed Position doing a Basic to Open. Next came the Left Side Shoulder Catch with the Lady returning behind the man's back, ending with a cross hand connection. Next came the Left Side Overhead Lady Spin, catching her upper arm for a rock-and-go, then the behind the man's back return again, this time with the lady catching the man's right arm, using it for her free-spin back to her anchor. Next, Ben added some footwork variations on a Basic by stepping sideways for your triple steps - first, triple step right, then triple step left. Ben is really challenging his class by adding speed to these moves. His music is upbeat, and quick. This week he was playing Eminem's newest songs. Nice job y'all!



Bobby is putting together a series of tough moves using alternate counts, extended patterns and right side leads in his **Advanced Patterns and Footwork** class. Bobby taught the Jordan Elbow Whip, the Jordan Behind-The-Back Swing move, the Hustle variation Overhead Arms Roll move, and finally the Right-Left hand connection gave us 2 moves: The Elbow Tuck-

Whip, and the Elbow Tuck-Turn. Next week, we may name them a whole different bunch of names, but y'all know what we're talking about, right? I mean, you already got the move down and have been dancing it!



Here's a little treat for you. We do a social mixer dance each week called the "John Paul Jones". We pair up with someone new, play a song and start dancing. We rotate partners after a minute of dancing, then keep on dancing with your new partner. Its a great way to meet new people. Everyone gets to dance with the new folks, some of the advanced dancers and inevitably, all of our friends. I shot a quick video of it this week. See if you can find yourself in it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZEOSBjdIj8>

That's all for now gang. Have a great week.

Wayne