

North Houston Swing Dance Club

Friday January 22nd, 2010

Did we have a blast this week or what? I love to see all those smiling faces!

Congratulations again to all our members who made it out to America's Classic last weekend. Everyone had a great time. I've heard so many stories about great dances, fun times, and all the spectacular performances. I've got a few YouTube video links to share with you in the newsletter too. Lets get to it!

Jack and Helen took the night off to spend time with Jack's son who is shipping out for the Middle East next week. We missed y'all.

Class Notes

Bobby and Rhonda led their Advanced Patterns and Footwork class through some very cool moves. Bryan took his Advanced Class through a variation of the Inside Whip with a lady scroll out. In Ann's Intermediate Class, we hooked everybody up with a Groove Step, and learned to get down using only 3 basic steps and a 'Groove Groove' to keep us on the 8-count music phrasing. Our Beginners were introduced to West Coast Swing for the first time. We've got something for everyone. All in all, it was a fabulous night, wasn't it?

In response to your feedback, we put some music on in Ann's classroom for a few minutes at the beginning of class. Those of you that prefer to socialize and practice now have a place to warm up too.

Thanks for the kind words on the music too. Its fun to find music that makes everyone want to dance all night.

Around Town

Saturday night!!! There's going to be a real good dance party at a fine new studio in Cypress, Texas out Highway 249 and Skinner Rd. Located at 25250 NW Freeway, Suite 280 (upstairs from

Schlotsky's) Cypress, Texas 77429 info@cypressdance.com, 832-475-9142. You'll have a GREAT time for just \$5.00. And...its BYOB! See you there Saturday night.

Be sure to mark you calendars for Saturday, February 27th. That's our *Anniversary Party* and Member Appreciation Night. We're planning workshops, snacks and fun dancing all night. This will be our best party ever, so don't miss it. We've got lots of surprises in store for you. It'll be a night to remember!

Videos from America's Classic

Here's a couple of video's from this weekend that you're gonna love!

The first is our own Bryan Spivey dancing the Slow Whip with Samantha Buckwalter. Bryan won First Place in the category. Slow Whip is typically done to slower blues music with 80 or less beats per minute. You'll see how Bryan changes between slow and accelerated moves to add contrast to his dance with Samantha. Way to go Bryan! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMv-nk2K4q0>

Next, I'll toot my own horn if I may. Here's the video of me and Lisa D'Amico doing our ProAm routine against 11 other couples, both Male and Female Pro's with their amateur students. We won First Place with this dance! This was the last time Lisa and I will be dancing this routine so it was a great way to finish. One of the things I have enjoyed most about doing this routine, was how we constantly tweaked and improved the pieces of the routine as we found new ways to express the song. We always tried to do something better each time we were going to dance it. At this event, we were aware that we were not allowed to do 'lifts or drops' where one dancer provides support to their partner as they drop below your waist, or you lift them off the floor. Lisa tried to demonstrate that she supported her own weight during her 'fall' and I tried to show that I 'dropped' and recovered under my own weight. Two of the judges still gave us a violation for what we did, but it didn't penalize us so much that we lost First Place. Other couples also received the same types of rules violations in their dances. What the heck...you take your chances... and you dance your dance. It was fun no matter what. Here's our video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ryQqCuLIBY>

Finally, you've got to see two amazing dances from this weekend. The first is Benji Schwimmer and Kellese Key. Benji is famous now as both a dancer and movie star. He won the first year of 'So You Think You Can Dance' on TV. Kellese is one of America's best Female West Coast Swing dancers. She's from Dallas. They took First Place in the Showcase Division. Showcase does allow lifts and drops. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2cCaQmATDE>

And finally, I'd like you to take a look at one of the most expressive Classic Routines ever. Take a look at this First Place win with Gary McIntyre and Susan Kirklyn - both from the Central Texas area: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPGJXKhCZb4>

Way to go TEXAS!!

I hope you enjoyed those. Now lets get back out there and dance!

See you all next Thursday - the best night of the week!

Wayne