

# North Houston Swing Dance Club

**Monday June 7th, 2010**

Please join us at La Cabana Mexican Restaurant before class! It's just across and slightly east from the studio on FM1960. We meet from 6:00-7:00PM for food and perhaps a margarita! Come on over!

Our entire club has been focused on improving our dancing this summer. We've gone back and covered a lot of basics, correcting our lead/follow technique, simplifying our patterns, and dancing more with the music. The result is that our attendance is up, our 'happy' factor is soaring, and we're very happy to report that no arms or shoulders are being twisted up and strained! Yippee!!

Thanks for coming out each week. The only way to get better is to get out here, practice and dance. You can't do it by staying at home. So again, thank you to each and every one of you who come out and support our club. We're very happy to have you. YOU are the ones who make this club so much fun, so friendly, and so healthy. We love our members, our studio home, and our fabulous atmosphere. We're smoke-free, air-conditioned, and security-aware. Thank you again for making this club the BEST in Houston!

Charles Soliel and Susan came by this week for a visit. Charles is a wonderful WCS and Shag dancer. He's put together a Houston City Competition event and would love for us to join him at the end of July. Details are listed below.

I got a last minute notification last Friday that one of my favorite bands for dancing to WCS was playing in Conroe. They played Saturday night with NO COVER! We had a nice turn out, and several others who had planned to come but just couldn't make it. Then, on Sunday, Luther and the Healer were playing at Papa's on the Lake at HWY105 in Conroe. I'll keep my ears open for other venues to dance at, and I'll try to get you earlier notice when I can. Opportunity knocks....and you gotta be ready to jump in!

**Class Notes**

Donese introduced our new members to West Coast Swing with an hour of individual, personal attention. We're so lucky to have Donese teaching for us. Donese loves to get **Beginners** started and ready to move on to the Intermediate Class. She'll cover the basic 6-count Whip steps and have you dancing on the very first lesson. Donese has given so many of our club members their start. High 5's to Donese. Be sure to tell her how much you appreciate her. We sure do!

I stepped into Ann's **Intermediate Class** to get the summary of what she was teaching so I could include it in this newsletter. Ann had a big smile on her face, and asked me to see if I could figure out what she had been teaching. Gary started the music and the class started dancing. A good Starter Step. An nice side pass. A Walk-Around. Everyone doing something just a little bit different. And then....it became clear. The class was DANCING!! Just DANCING! Ann had her class take familiar steps they'd learned, and just dance to the music! How wonderful! What was fun about this was....I saw nothing but smiles, and winks, and giggles. Ann's class ROCKS!!

Michael Stephens has really been 'smoothing' out his **Advanced Class**. No herky-jerky patterns or twisty-turny stuff. Michael is teaching 'smooooooooth'. He taught a nice starter step, a hip catch and walk out of the slot, an arm catch with a rock-and-go, and a smooth turning whip step. Fun class Michael. Thanks!

Bryan took his **Advanced Patterns and Footwork** Class up to the next level this week, covering spin techniques. Bryan worked off of the Dallas Side Pass, and changed that over to a Right Side Spinning Pass. There is no easy way to learn this. It simply requires repetition. Bryan is doing a wonderful job of cleaning up all the advanced patterns and skills necessary to dance successfully in any social setting. Great basic technique is the key to fabulous dances. Keep it up Bryan!

## Music

I've heard lots of good music lately. I'll play this one for you this week, so be sure to listen up. It's called "I Don't Live In A Dream" by Jackie Greene. You'll get a kick out of this video, because Jackie is recording it himself in his living room. Its a great song! Click here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qz3VcLv2kQ>.

## Social Calendar

\*\*\*Mark your calendars again for June 19th (Third Saturday) West Coast Swing Night at The Dance Place!!!! 3300 Chimney Rock – Suite 500 , (Corner of Chimney Rock and Beverly Hill). Additional parking on Chimney Rock Side Cover - \$8.00 The Dance Place has one of the best and largest dance floors in the city so come join us and plan on having a really great time. DJ for June is Bob Bowlby!!!! Remember it BYOB and no cover for dance instructors.

\*\*\*Dance America Productions presents "The Houston Swing Classic". It'll be held Thursday, June 24 at 7:00pm through Sunday morning, June 27 at 2:00am. This too is a brand new event. We've already filled up a table for North Houston! This is a non-competition social dance event featuring workshops by Heavy & Snowflake Grammar, Beata Howe, Damon & Lisa D'Amico, Bryan Jordan, Terry Roseborough, John Lindo, Christopher Hussey, and Phil Dorroll. There will be dance Exhibitions and a Saturday afternoon cookout. Your DJ's for the event are Ray Coker, John Lindo, Rich Kopels, Cara Johnston, and Phil Dorroll. For more information, check this out:  
<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=107248135966175>

\*\*\*The Houston Dance City Championships will be held July 30-August 1, 2010. There will be lots of competitions, social dancing, music and workshops. It'll be held at the Whitney Oaks Hall, the same place as last year near Crosstimbers and Airline. It was a great good time last year, and its bound to be the same again. Check it out at:  
<http://www.houstondancecitychampionships.com/>

That'll do it for another week. See y'all Thursday!

Wayne