

OKLAHOMA CITY SWING DANCE CLUB

DOWN BEAT CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2009

SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER

Our Club Fundraiser, the Showcase, on April 25th is sure to be a huge success. Dancers from all variety of dance will be performing. Get your name on the advance ticket list now for just \$15. The evening will start with wine and cheese at 7 pm; the Showcase will run from 8 until 11. Many of your friends will be out there for your entertainment; come and encourage them. There will also be a silent auction, so if you can provide a service or item to auction, it would be greatly appreciated. You could buy and donate a gift certificate for dance lessons, or money donations will also be accepted. We are a non-profit club so donations are tax deductible. We will dance after cleaning the hall. Come support your Club and your dancing friends. Be part of the fun!



COMING UP THIS MONTH

April will bring showers and plenty of dancing. Besides our regular classes, practice and birthday parties, many dancers are making plans to participate or compete at Spring Swing in Tulsa, April 9-12 (tulaspringswing.com), and Oklahoma Rush, OKC, April 17-19 (oklahomadancerush.com). There will be plenty of workshops and dancing for everyone. Come for the fun and to support your fellow dance competitors.

Our birthday theme is CLOWNS. We have quite a few in our Club, but now everyone can dress like one. Put on your best happy face and funny nose and join the fun.

If you would like to bring some light snacks for our Birthday or Practice Parties, it would be greatly appreciated. Just bring your contribution to the kitchen.

Calendars are available online and in the Club entryway.

HAPPY EASTER April 12! Remember, no classes on Easter, but we will have a make-up lesson on the last Sunday of April at the regular times.

NEW OFFICERS

We have a new board of officers for the Club. **Al O'Dell** has taken over the job of president; **Carl Wilson** is the vice-president; **Lindsay Shaw** is staying on as secretary; **John McCarthy** is staying on as treasurer; **Gail Moore** is assistant treasurer; **Danny Tollison** is our Sergeant-at-Arms; **Paul Ramirez** is the School Director; **Mickey O'Dell** is Paul's "Right-hand Man," aka Activities Coordinator/Director Assistant; **Dottie Jett** is the Newsletter Editor; **Karen Bauman** is decorations chair; **Erik Thompson** is Past President. Congratulations, and thanks for

REPORTERS NEEDED

Are you on the go and in the know? Your help is needed. You don't have to write an article every month, but if you see or know something, a report would be appreciated. We'll give you credit for the report or keep it anonymous, your choice. Contact DottieJett@gmail.com

MARCH REVIEW – Were YOU there?

Nearly 100 dancers attended the first Practice Party of the month. Seventeen couples participated in a Jack & Jill contest for Yellow and above. The Bruiser, aka LaTW, took out another man dancer, DT; he seems to have recovered now. The winning couple that night was the combination of **Randy Keller** and **Dottie Jett**. Congratulations!

March Birthdays were celebrated in the customary way, with lots of people, dancing, cakes by **Karen Borum**, and everyone in green. A few, **Linda Jones**, **Alison Derrick**, and **Andrea Anfuso**, took Paul's instructions to wear green "from head to toe" seriously and did just that! **Danny Tollison** went a step further and came as a leprechaun. Paul had a special recognition for our president, **Erik Thompson**, and he danced with several female and male dancers while blindfolded and wearing Mickey Mouse gloves. There were calls for the return of "Erika." It was great fun. Happy Birthday to **Erik**, **James Benson**, **Rhonda Corley**, **Donald Taylor**, **Christy Remington**, and all other March birthday dancers.

About fifty dance-crazy people braved the snowstorm to come to the Friday Practice Party 3-27. Stewart played some awesome music and when he played some C/W, an astonishing thing happened...Paul Ramirez danced country!! PQ's interest seemed to be piqued as he sat and watched, mesmerized by a lady dancing in a short skirt. **Ben Clemmons** danced some pretty fancy steps with a red-head. They danced SO well together.

Paul held a Cha-Cha Workshop on the 4th Sunday that was well attended. We learned some fancy moves we can incorporate into our West Coast dancing. Thanks, Paul.

As if our month of dancing wasn't enough, Paul taught a workshop on the last Sunday to help the Pink and Purple students progress to the next level, followed by a workshop on double resistance for Yellow and above. We finished the day by celebrating 2 years of dancing at Friends, complete with tons of wonderful food and some fabulous door prizes. CW never comes to Friends but came that night and won a bottle of cologne. Now he smells GOOD. Maybe we can get him there a little more this year. Many thanks to Ken Bryant and T.E. Mayo for organizing the bash and providing the music, and the staff at Friends for allowing us to use their facility.

ON-THE-GO COMPETITORS

Linda Cuccio won 1st place in Novice ProAm at the Chicago Classic. She placed 9th in Jack & Jill, and she and dance partner Kyle Snow placed 3rd in Strictly Swing. Congratulations!!!

MEMBERS

We had six new members join our club in March and 17 renewed their membership for another year. **David Martin**, one of the dance instructors at the school, was one who renewed and he danced at our second Practice Party. What a great West Coast Dancer. You should come here more often, David. Thanks to all our members. Your support keeps the club running.

Non-members are always welcome to dance with us and participate in classes, but members receive a discount. Members, if you are not able to come for the full month of lessons @ \$40, you can pay just \$10 for single group classes. No need to miss the whole month! Those who have attained the dance level where they are happy can pay maintenance dues of \$20/month and that entitles you to the all Monday and Friday Practice Parties. Don't miss out!

DOOR

Volunteers are needed to work the door in thirty-minute shifts for the Practice Parties, Birthday Party, and the Showcase on April 25th. Please sign up at the front desk or check the new easel in the entry. Your help is greatly appreciated.

LOST & FOUND

Are you missing something? Check the lost & found for shoes, car keys, makeup bags, coats. It's amazing what we leave behind. Lost & Found is pretty full and we'd like all those things to go back to their rightful owners. If you accidentally took home a pair of black dance shoes with a rhinestone circle on the toe, please bring them back so their owner can claim them. Thanks.

T-SHIRTS/JACKETS

There are a few men's and ladies' t-shirts for sale at the front desk for \$10/each. Jackets will be available soon. Wear your club colors!

CLASS DVDs

DVDs are available each month for your dance level @ \$10/each. No pre-payment is necessary but, pre-orders are encouraged to guarantee availability by the first class of May. If you are Green or Blue, please let Al O'Dell know that you want one. Thanks, Al, for all your hard work (all proceeds go directly to your club).

DANCE NIGHTS OUT

Wednesdays

Join us at Friends. 3705 West Memorial (located on the Northwest corner of Portland and Memorial in the shopping center) for an evening of dancing. Guaranteed swing music from 7-9 pm. NO COVER!

Thursdays

Head to Chisholm's at the Biltmore Hotel (located at 401 S. Meridian Ave, OKC). Swing music from 7-9pm. NO COVER! Great Music played by one of our club members, Stuart!!

STAY CONNECTED

Want to stay up to date on the latest happenings in the club? Register to receive important emails on our website! Go to www.okcswingdanceclub.com and enter your email address in the Yahoo groups option.

Note from the Editor: No fancy layout, no cute graphics, just the news. Bear with me while I find my way with this job. .t