

THE DOWN BEAT
AUGUST 2009
OKC SWING CLUB NEWSLETTER

COMING UP THIS MONTH

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING THE AUGUST CALENDAR

Please examine the August calendar closely as there are some changes to our regular schedule due to the way the weekends fall. As we used to say in trail riding, “call before you haul,” or, in our case, check your calendar before you haul yourself to the Club. Our theme for the month is **PAJAMA PARTY**.

CLUB PICNIC

We’re having our annual picnic at Stars and Stripes Park on Saturday, **August 29**, from 2 until 6 PM. Please bring a prepared meat dish and another side dish. The club will provide plates, silverware, napkins, and water. You should bring any other beverages that you wish to have. Also, don’t forget your sunscreen, hat, lawn chair and umbrella for watching the games. Come on out and enjoy the day with us!

FREE JUDGING SEMINAR

At 2 pm on **Sunday, August 30**, our Swing Club will host a judging seminar by Jeanne Degeyter and Will Carlton. This is a **MUST** for anyone who intends to compete and anyone who desires to judge dance contests.

NEW LADIES JACKETS

We are now taking orders at the front desk for the ladies jackets with the new logo. There are three styles available, your choice. Price is just \$45 for the jacket with the logo embroidered on the back and the club name on the left front. For an additional \$5 you can have your first name embroidered on the front right. These jackets are just right for those cool dance halls or when you’re sitting watching an exhibition (we know you’re dancing, otherwise). All jackets will be black and the logo will be our school colors, maroon and silver.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy **August** Birthday to Club members: George Bauer, Jenny Chen, Janet Elsener, Margaret Huwar, Wayne Sebastian, Valerie Simmons, Paul Swenson, Carol Ward, Gregg Wingfield, and Hiroshi Yamada. Come on out to the Swing Club birthday party and celebrate your special day. If you would like to bring some light snacks for our Birthday or Practice Parties, it would be greatly appreciated. Bring your contribution to the kitchen.

CLUB DECORATING

We will be decorating the Club on August 29 for September, so please make plans to give a little time Saturday morning at 10. All dancers (Swing, Ballroom, Country, Salsa, Square Dance) are welcome to come join us.

CLASS RESTRUCTURING *Written by Al O'Dell, President*

In the coming months, probably around October, we are planning on extending the class curricula to better serve our students and to allow us to provide the video of the moves to be taught at the first of the month. We are planning to take the hundred or so combinations of moves we have been teaching in Yellow and creating an increased number of instructional steps, like the many variety of whips, moves like the inside-outside roll up, etc., to the Red curricula, which will become Yellow. Just how many that will be is yet to be seen, but the idea is to try and create classes that are more ability and experience balanced than we have in our current Yellow class. Yellow will then have a set number of required moves, probably on the order of 30-50, depending on how many moves we think we can teach in about three months before repeating. The most difficult Yellow moves will migrate to Green, etc. We expect a good number of the current Yellow to move to Green, some Green to Blue, and most Blues to the new Rainbow level that will identify the advanced and instructor club members.

What we hope will happen is that the classes will be evened out both in numbers and ability. It also means that more classes will be taught at the same time to include dual class sessions on Sundays. Paul will still teach all levels during the month and we hope that it will work out so that everyone will still be able to dance the next level down to help with the short term memory loss that many of us seem to be developing! In any case we expect a plethora of club members to volunteer for instructor duty to make this work out and Paul, in his duties as the Director, will vet each instructor to meet his standards even though the HOW the moves are taught will be up to the individual instructors. By Paul teaching each class during the month, he will ensure his "standards" are met, and, oh yes, there will be tests to move from Purple to Yellow and Yellow to Green. Movement beyond that level is at the discretion of our head instructor, Paul Rameriz.

Confused? Well, so are we, but we'll try to work it out. If you have any great ideas you care to share, please, no PLEASE come to the next board meeting and let yourself be heard.

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

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE PARTIES

Come join your fellow dancers at the West Coast Practice Parties at Friends on Wednesdays and Chisholm's on Thursdays. The CD fun starts at 7 pm for both these places.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Grand Prix of Swing, Kansas City, MO, Aug. 13-16, early bird deadline July 8.

<http://www.usaswingnet.com/kansascity/>

Dallas Dance for Labor Day Weekend Sept 3 – 6 <http://www.dallasdance.com/>

Swing Niagara Dance Championships, September 23-27, <http://www.swingniagara.com/>

OKSSDC, Nov. 7, OKC

Look for fliers in the foyer and plan a mini-vacation.

Mark your calendars and find a partner with whom you can compete at the State Dance Festival to be held here in OKC November 6 – 8. There is now a book at the front desk that describes the different dances and qualifications for entering.

JULY REVIEW – Were YOU There?

SAM AND DENISE MILLER were outstanding! They challenged our dancing and taught us a few new moves. And their exhibition on Saturday night was nothing short of fabulous. Many thanks to them for coming and sharing their time and talent with us.

COMPETITORS

Linda Cuccio went to Denver for Swingtime in the Rockies and made it to the finals in Pro-Am Jack & Jill, Novice Jack & Jill, and placed first with Kyle Snow in Novice Strictly. <http://www.swingtimeintherockies.com> Next up for Linda is Kansas City and the Grand Prix of Swing!

THANKS TO OUR DOOR VOLUNTEERS

It is so nice to have so many volunteers to help work the door. If you haven't done it yet, you can sign up on the easel by the front desk. Your help is greatly appreciated and will ease the burden on the few who are always working.. Many thanks to the following dancers who signed up and worked the door in July: **Al and Mickey O'Dell, Ben Clemons, Danny Tollison, Pete Quinones, Kathie Loffi, Lisa Mitchell, Alison Derrick, Debbi Billon, Mel Hardeman, Bill Ward, Margaret Tambini, Cliff and Belinda Gann, Crista Jones, Gloria Conner, Andrea Anfuso, James Livingston, Edna and Brent Buxton, Randy Keller, Beverly Quick, Lynn Spears or Barnett Sparks, Rick Kisser, Sandy Taylor, Mike Denny, Sally Shepherd, Jean Bash, David and Renae Teague,**

Linda Fryer, Carrie Spires, Carl Wilson, Dottie Jett, and everyone else who worked and didn't sign the work sheet.

CLUB DECORATIONS

Many thanks to **Karen Baumann, Paul Ramirez, Carl Wilson, Dottie Jett, Danny Tollison, Scot and Carol Jahn, J. Neufeld, Rafael Lorenzo, Richard Daniel, Bob Laymon, Tom & Terry Whitson, Linda Jones and Linda's daughter, Jerri Linn Russell.** It was a very FAST day with all the help. Y'all are great!

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Happy Birthday to our July members who celebrated their birthdays with us. May you have many more.



Steve Beazley, Edna Buxton, Steve Nilson, Stuart Phelps, Mickey O'Dell, and Shirley Moore.

Thanks to **Karen Borum** for the delicious birthday cake. Talk to her if you need a cake or cupcakes for a special occasion.



Even Uncle Sam came to our birthday celebration!!

T-SHIRTS / JACKETS

There are t-shirts for sale at the front desk for \$10/each. **Jackets are now available, \$50 each, and ladies jackets are \$45 and can be ordered in your choice of three styles, in your size.** Wear your club colors!

MEMBER / NON-MEMBER NOTES

Your membership supports the Club and keeps it running. And YOU save money! We have 7 new members: **Robert & Maria Blair, Marc Coffelt, Roxann Hauser, Gene Merc, Wayne Sebastian,, and Charmaine Smalley.** Staying for another year are: **Linda Jones, Richard Daniel, and Jenny Chen.** Welcome to everyone. We're happy to have you.

When you start lessons, you get to come for lessons and dance at the two practice parties for the Club member price of \$40 for the first two months. Then we ask you to either join the club for \$50/year and continue with your \$40/month lesson fee, or continue lessons at the non-member price of \$55/month and Practice & Birthday Parties at \$10 each. Dancers who want to save money will join the Club. It's the best deal.

If you are already a Club member and bring two people who sign up for lessons, you get one free month of lessons the next month. So be sure to let the person at the desk know when you bring in a new student. And tell the person you invite to let us know, as well. In order to receive your free month you must be current on your yearly dues when your student enrolls.

Members, if you are not able to come for the full month of lessons & parties @ \$40/month, you can pay just \$10 for one single group class and \$5 for Practice Parties. No need to miss the whole month! The best deal is still the \$40/month plan because it allows you to participate in ALL classes where you are qualified to dance, plus all Practice Parties. You must pay the \$40 fee for the month the first time you come dance that month. You cannot come and pay the Single Lesson fee and then add it up until you get to \$40. The Single Lesson fee is categorized differently. The Single Lesson price applies ONLY to the one lesson. (So if you pay to come to Green, you cannot come to the other classes or practice party that night. The Practice Party would be an additional \$5 for members.) Best deal = monthly fee.

Club members who have attained the dance level where they are happy may pay maintenance dues of \$20/month and that entitles you to all Monday and Friday Practice Parties. Non-members and visitors are always welcome to dance with us and participate in classes for \$10/class or party. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask at the desk. Don't miss out!

LOST & FOUND

Are you missing something? Check the lost & found for shoes, car keys (how can you leave without car keys???), makeup bags, coats. It's amazing what we leave behind. Please don't take something that does not belong to you.

DVDs are available each month for your dance level @ \$10/each. Many hours go into creating the videos each month. If you are Yellow, Green, or Blue, please put your name on the list to let us know that you want a DVD. There are now some DVDs that show a summary of all the lessons taught for several months. Order yours at the front desk. Thanks, Al, for all your hard work.

SCHOOL POLICY

You may bring snacks and drinks to the Practice and Birthday Parties. No popcorn, please. Please take care of the area where you sit. Please dispose of your trash in the trash

containers, not in the decorations, and don't put liquids in the trash; push in your chairs; don't tear up the tablecloths. Remember to leave the hall the way it was when you got here. Thanks for your cooperation. Let's keep our Club clean.

Thought for the Month: *"Don't let life discourage you; everyone who got where he is had to start where he was."* Lao-Tzu

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