

THE

DOWN

BEAT

DECEMBER 2009

OKC SWING CLUB NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY REMINDER: IT'S FLU SEASON. PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS AND USE THE HAND SANITIZER TO KEEP FROM SPREADING GERMS. IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME UNTIL YOU ARE WELL. THE OTHER DANCERS THANK YOU AND WISH YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

LESSON TIMES SAME AS NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Classes this month will be the same as November class times. On Mondays, the **Red** class will meet in **Rae's Room** and the **Practice Party will begin in the main room at 8 p.m.** See your Club Calendar for class details. <http://www.okcswingdanceclub.com/> and click on Calendar, December.

The **YELLOW** curriculum now has set moves and will be on DVD like the Pink and Purple and available at all times. There are several Yellow DVDs, i.e., A, B, C, etc., with different moves. You must now test out of Yellow in order to move up to Green. Currently the new Purple and Yellow-C are ready. Red will be ready the week of December 7.

ALL LEVELS will benefit from attending **RED** class. You will learn footwork, connection, lead, and follow. New dancers are required to test out of Red in order to move up to Yellow.

Please **sign up on the Yahoo group** so you receive up-to-the-minute changes and notifications from the school, i.e., a last minute cancellation of classes or dance due to weather, or reminders of special dances. To get registered, go to the club website, <http://www.okcswingdanceclub.com/>. Many dancers have also joined FaceBook and post information about competitions and dances there.

CLUB CALENDAR

The club calendar is available online and in the entry. Thanks to Al for doing such a great job of keeping us informed.

TEACHERS' MEETING

On Saturday, December 5, all teachers only and helpers will gather at the Club at 10 a.m. for a meeting to clarify the way steps are to be taught.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Get them at the front desk, \$40 each. Current members can get them and insure against higher monthly lesson costs. A \$5 increase is planned for January 1, 2010.

NEW TO THE CLUB

This month we will start having ZUMBA lessons on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. Classes are \$5 each or \$35 per month (\$30 for December as it is a short month).

What's ZUMBA? It is a fusion of various Latin rhythms and easy to follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will leave you wanting more. The routines feature interval-training sessions for toning and cardiovascular benefits where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to shape your body while burning fat. Routines come from various styles of dance such as Merengue, Salsa, Reggaeton, Cha Cha, Bachata, Samba, Cumbia, Belly Dance, Flamenco, Bollywood, Club, Hip Hop and more. So come to Zumba and join the chest popping, hip shaking fun that has everyone talking and coming back for more.

What to bring to class? Water, work out tennis shoes with good support, maybe a towel to dry off sweat, and, of course, a smile. :)

Courtney Ainsworth will be the instructor, daughter of Country Western instructor Donny Ainsworth, and Donny says she's as wonderful as he is! She has been teaching regular group fitness classes since 1997 and has been teaching dance fitness classes since August of 2006. She has been teaching Zumba for a year.

BIRTHDAYS & BIRTHDAY PARTY

Happy **December** Birthday to Club members: **Doris Armstrong, Kay Davis, Doug Hilbert, Sharon Hylton, Mary Ann Johnson, Young Lowrance, Donna Martin, Darlene Neufeld, Al O'Dell, Rick Slay, John Smith, Michael Smith, Amanda Thompson, Danny Tollison, Tom Whitson, Carl Wilson, and Chris Yates.** Come on out to the Swing Club birthday party and celebrate your special day on **December 19.** This will also be our **CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE.** Please sign up at the front desk and bring your favorite dish to share.

CLUB DECORATING

We will be decorating the Club on **December 27th at 2 p.m.** for our New Year's Eve Dance. We will redecorate for January on **January 2 at 10 a.m.** Please come out and help on these two dates. **ALL SCHOOLS OF DANCE ARE ENCOURAGED TO**

HELP WITH THIS MONTHLY ACTIVITY SINCE WE ALL ENJOY THE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CLUB.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The OKC Swing Club is the place to be to celebrate the New Year. Dancing starts at 8. \$15 per person. Buy your tickets early; sign up at the front desk. The club will provide champagne for a toast at midnight and furnish the meat. We would like a few people to sign up for black-eyed peas and cornbread for our midnight "snack." Please see Mickey.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Are you free for lunch on Fridays? A few of us are meeting for lunch on Fridays at 11:45 at various places around town. We may also go to a movie afterward. If you're interested, call or email Bob Laymon or Dottie Jett.

PRACTICE PARTY @ FRIENDS on Wednesdays

Come on out and enjoy the West Coast Swing dance music played by Ken Bryant every Wednesday night from 7 pm until 9 pm at Friends. Friends is located in the Northeast corner of the shopping center located on the Northwest corner of Memorial and Portland or better known as the intersection of Lake Hefner Parkway and Kilpatrick Turnpike. At 9 pm, Friends will start their regular music by Speedy and his crew, The Clique.

PRACTICE PARTY @ FRIENDS LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Ken Bryant and T.E. Mayo have arranged for West Coast Swing dance music to be played as a special dance for every last Sunday of each month from 7 pm until 9 p.m. at Friends. The normal Friends band, The Clique, does not play on Sunday evenings. So actually, like past months, the Swing Dance music will probably be played until 10 pm.

PRACTICE PARTY @ CHISHOLM'S ON THURSDAY NIGHTS

Stuart Phelps continues to play West Coast Swing dance music every Thursday night from 7 pm until 9 p.m. at Chisholm's. Chisholm's is located in the NW corner of the Biltmore Hotel located on the NW corner of I-40 and Meridian.

APPARREL

It's time to get your order in for the ladies new jackets in order to have them by Christmas; our minimum order is 12. With three styles to choose from there is something for everyone and every size. Place your order at the front desk. The cost is \$45; for an additional \$5 you can have your first name embroidered on the front. We do have a few jackets left from the first order. Ask at the front desk. The shiny black jackets with the pink logo are also available @ \$50 each and we do have several on hand.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

January 14-17, America's Classic Swing Dance Championships, Houston, Texas
<http://www.americasclassic.com/>

January 29-30, Damon & Lisa D'Amico coming to our Swing Club...more next month!

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

November REVIEW – Were YOU There?

(And the last 5 days of October)

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Submitted by **Jay Neufeld** and **Danny Tollison**

Halloween may conjure up visions of shrieking kids in princess and skeleton costumes trick-or-treating door to door. However, this popular holiday increasingly has morphed into a celebration by the West Coast Dance Club that no one beats.

A large number of members arrived to show off their costumes and dance. Dancers dressed as an invisible man, Queen of Hearts, Popeye and Olive Oyl, sexy cowgirl, Dallas cheerleader, Adam & Eve, and many more costumes, headed to the club to dance –and party. There were a few members dressed as themselves but over 90% were in costumes. Be sure, if you have not already done so, to check out the photos on our site. <http://www.okcswingdanceclub.com/> and click on pictures, then on Halloween Party Pictures by Za Fritts and/or Halloween Party Pictures by Al O'Dell. These photos are great!

FALL SHOWCASE

Our **Fall Showcase** was held on Sunday, November 22, from 2-5 pm. It was a lovely affair complete with wine and cheese. Roger Hoskins, one of our own professional auctioneers, auctioned off eight tasty desserts. **Ben Clemons** was then auctioned off for an evening of dinner and dancing to **Jane Kelly**, and **Linda Cuccio** was auctioned off to **Carl Wilson**. Many great silent auction items went for pennies on the dollar to lucky bidders. **Linda Fryer** won the drawing for the flat-screen TV. Beautifully costumed dancers performed to the audience's delight, with audience dancing prior to the performance as well as during intermission.

Thanks to everyone who contributed auctions desserts/people/items. *Desserts:* **LaTresa Wright, Jane Kelly, Rhonda Corley, Cathy Gilbert, Carl Wilson, Carol Cannon;** *people:* **Ben Clemons & Linda Cuccio;** *items:* **Margaret Tambini, Keri May, Alison Derrick, Susan Baker, Pete Quinones, Brock Geeslin, Donny Ainsworth, Paul Ramirez, Rhonda Corley, Neil Craig, Jane Kelly, Laura Ulmer, Candi Boone, Beverly Quick, and Mickey O'Dell.** Thanks to **Joanie Cobb** and **Christy Remington**

for manning the door. Thanks to **Linda Jones** and **Mickey O'Dell** for handling the silent auction. Thanks to **Logan, Bailey,** and **Garret Thompson** for helping with the setup and food. Thanks to **Roger Hoskins** and his helpers, **Neil Craig, Ward Fowler,** and **Lindsay Shaw.** Thanks to **David Martin** and **Paul Ramirez** for emceeing the event. Thanks to all who attended, brought family/friends, bought raffle tickets, bought auction items/people/desserts, or helped with teardown after the event.

With your help, we raised enough money to pay for the new icemaker. Thank you for supporting your Club.

OKSSDC 2009

Dancing was Fine in 2009 at the 27th Annual **OKLAHOMA KANSAS STATE SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (OKKSSDC)** held on November 6 & 7 at the Clarion Hotel, hosted by the Sooner Dance Club of OKC. It seemed like almost everyone from our club who attended competed in something.

STATE COMPETITORS AND WINNERS

CLUB CHAMPIONS

1st Swing Tulsa Style

2nd Oklahoma City Swing Dance Club

3rd Wichita Dance Beat

And the dancers who competed and helped us win second place for the weekend:

NEWCOMER JACK & JILL

1st **Tom Whitson & Terry Whitson**

3rd **Ralph Wheeler & Christine Poteet**

4th **Sandi Taylor**

5th **James Livingston & Candace Daniels**

6th **Jane Kelly**

NOVICE JACK & JILL

2nd **Josh Luth**

4th **Lindsay Shaw**

5th **Zetty Templin**

6th **Al O'Dell & Mickey O'Dell**

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED JACK & JILL

4th **Lonnie Johnson & Gail Moore**

5th Erik Thompson
6th Amanda Thompson

NEWCOMER STRICTLY SWING

1st Mark Kassin & Jane Kelly
3rd Bob Laymon & Susan Baker
5th Candace Daniels & Bill Ward
7th James Livingston & Andrea Anfuso

NOVICE STRICTLY SWING

1st Josh Luth & Lindsay Shaw
6th David Teague & Rene Teague
7th Al O'Dell & Mickey O'Dell
10th Ward Fowler & Zetty Templin

MASTERS STRICTLY SWING

6th Lindsay Shaw & Paul Ramirez
9th Ward Fowler & Mickey O'Dell
10th Neil Craig & Rhonda Corley
12th Dottie Jett & Carl Wilson

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED STRICTLY SWING

2nd Ben Clemons & Linda Cuccio
5th Erik Thompson & Amanda Thompson
6th Lonnie Johnson
7th Hiro Yamada & Gail Moore

FEMALE PRO-AM STRICTLY SWING

1st Erik Thompson
3rd Ben Clemons
4th Josh Luth
8th Ward Fowler

MALE PRO-AM STRICTLY SWING

2nd Paul Ramirez & Gail Moore
5th Amanda Oehlert

MASTERS CONTEMPORARY

4th Floyd Schlicker & Jackie Smith

(NOTE: **Jackie Smith** and **Floyd Schlicker** were the only competitors to receive a standing ovation.)

There were many more OKC Swing Club Members who danced in the Jack & Jill competitions. And there were members who went to dance and support our competitors. In all, there were about 100 from our club who attended, competed, cheered on our competitors, and had fun dancing. DVDs are available; see Al O'Dell.

COMPETITORS

Lonnie Johnson, Erik & Amanda Thompson all went to the Cleveland C.A.S.H Bash on Thanksgiving weekend and came home winners.

NOVICE STRICTLY SWING

1st **Amanda & Erik Thompson**

NOVICE JACK & JILL

3rd **Amanda Thompson**

4th **Erik Thompson**

INTERMEDIATE JACK & JILL

2nd **Lonnie Johnson**

Congratulations!! You make us proud.

REPORTERS NEEDED

DID YOU GO TO A DANCE EVENT? Your help is needed. PLEASE
Email your comments or thoughts about the dance event for
publication in the newsletter. Contact

DottieJett@gmail.com

AND MORE

Would love to include some of your yummy recipes in our
newsletter. Email them to the address above. Thanks!!

CLUB DECORATIONS

Many thanks to **ALL WHO HELPED CLEAN UP AFTER THE HALLOWEEN DANCE** and to **Karen Baumann, Paul Ramirez, Carl Wilson, Al & Mickey O'Dell, Linda Jones, Danny Tollison, and Bob Laymon**, who came out early on Sunday to put up the decorations for November.

And **THANKS** to those who came to help decorate on November 28th: **Karen Bauman, Paul Ramirez, Minister Mike Fetters, Eli Whitney from Ballroom, Rick Kiser and his granddaughter Makannah, Mickey & Al O'Dell, Danny Tollison, Richard Daniel**

(who made it a party by bringing fried pies), **Rafael Lorenzo, Carol Cannon, Echo Theirjung, Jay Neufeld, Linda Jones and Gail Moore.** Even **Wayne Bair** from California came to decorate. **THANK YOU ALL!!**

THANKSGIVING/BIRTHDAY PARTY & DANCE

A couple of turkeys, a honey-baked ham, and tons of great homemade sides and desserts made for a bountiful Thanksgiving feast at the Swing Club Thanksgiving/Birthday Party & Dance. We even had our own Pilgrim. The dancing after dinner was wonderful and helped to get rid of a few of the calories we consumed. Go to the website to see the all the pics.



Happy November Birthday to: **Carol Cannon, John Vaughan, Joanie Cobb, (Paul), Ok Hwa McBride, Gail Moore, Laura Ulmer, and Linda Fryer.** Thanks for celebrating your day with us.

THANKS TO OUR DOOR VOLUNTEERS

It is so nice to have so many dependable 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. Many thanks to the following dancers who signed up and worked the door in November: **Joanie Cobb, Rebecca Biorato, Penney Lazaroff, Roxann Hauser, Mike Denney, Lia Woods, Echo Theirjung, Pete Quinones, Gene Merz, Linda Fryer, Christy Remington, David & Renae Teague, Rhaelynn Bonham, Sandi**

Taylor, Rafael & Kelly Lorenzo, Al & Mickey O'Dell, Linda Jones, Lisa Mitchell, Jean Bash, Christine Poteet, Ben Clemons, Margaret Tambini, Zetty Templin, Arlen & Young Lowrance, Josh Luth, Sally Shupack, Sandi Taylor, Carl Wilson & Dottie Jett. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You make the club run.

MEMBER/NON-MEMBER NOTES

Your membership supports the Club and keeps it running. And YOU save money! We have 3 new members: **Julia Assef, Ashley Hough, and Jay Kelley.** Some of our members have been away a while and are now back and some are paying their renewal dues: **Scott Appleton, Candace Daniels, Mike Denney, Lonnie Johnson, Mary Palen, Carol Ward, Jim Womack, William Parr, and Hiro Yamada.** Welcome to everyone. We're happy to have you.

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 (\$50/year) the month when your student enrolls.

Members, if you are not able to come for the full month of lessons & parties @ \$45/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 \$45/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 \$45 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 \$45. 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, cell phones, 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 **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.**

For **Yellow** class we have a new set of DVDs that will be available. These DVDs will cover the steps that will be taught beginning with Yellow A for October and Yellow B for November. The Yellow-C DVD for December is now available. You can see the steps and get a leg up on the monthly instruction.

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, keep your shoes off the tables. Remember to leave the hall the way it was when you got here. Thanks for your cooperation. Let's keep our Club clean.

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