

# The Down Beat - February 2010

OKC SWING CLUB  
NEWSLETTER



\*\*\*\*\***IMPORTANT NOTICE**\*\*\*\*\*

**LESSON TIMES for FEBRUARY  
REMAIN THE SAME AS  
JANUARY JANUARY TIME**

ALL class times this month will be the same as the January class times. See the calendar.

Thanks to all our wonderful teachers who have been filling in for Paul during his absence. He is having surgery and will be out for a while longer. Thanks to all who have inquired about him.

On Mondays, **PURPLE, YELLOW, and GREEN classes will meet at 7** followed by **PINK and RED at 8**. The 7pm classes can begin practice in whichever room is not being used and the club **PRACTICE PARTY will begin at 9 in the main hall**. We hope many of our class members will stay to dance at the Practice Party. After all, you will only improve your dancing if you practice what you have learned.

## **Paul Update**

Our fearless leader, School Director Paul Ramirez, had surgery on his neck Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Although he is expected to go home the first week of February, he was not recovering from the operation as quickly as any of us hoped. He is still actively involved in what is going on, even hosting an instructor's meeting in his hospital room, and kept up to date by a host of active club members. We all hope that he is up and running as soon as possible.

## **School Update**

As most everyone knows by now, our main dance floor has been severely damaged by ice melting on the roof and flooding nearly the entire east half of the school from the front doors and office to almost the back of NE portion of the floor and carpet area. As of this writing approximately 30% of the dance floor shows signs of water damage. We are working with the property management and our insurance to determine how to repair the damage. The roof will be redone by Salazar Construction as soon as it dries up and we have estimates being computed by several sources. **NO CLASSES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED** and all activities will continue using floor space that is available. Please continue to support the club.

## **Dance YAHOO GROUP**

Please **sign up on the Yahoo Group** so you can 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/>. Mickey does a great job of keeping us posted on last minute changes as well as reminding us of things on the calendar. Many dancers have also joined FaceBook and post information about competitions and dances there.

## **BIRTHDAYS & BIRTHDAY PARTY**



Happy February Birthday to Club members: **Diana Blakely, Karen Borum, Ted Boyd, Ray Cloer, Cathy Gilbert, Suzann Grimes, Janine Little, Kelly Meacham-Lorenzo, Gloria O'Conner, Lynda Speller, Logan Thompson, and Darlene Wallace.** Come on out to the Swing Club Birthday Party on Saturday, **February 20th** birthday party and celebrate your special day. This is a tuxedos and tennis shoes dance.

## **CLUB DECORATIONS**

Many thanks to those who came to help decorate on December 27th for the New Year's Eve Dance: **Karen Bauman, Paul Ramirez, Mickey & Al O'Dell, Danny Tollison, Richard Daniel, Bob Laymon, Randy Keller, Roger Hoskins, Laura Ulmer, LaTresa Wright, Lindsay Shaw, Pete Quinones, Kathie Loffi, Sue Ogle, Eli Whitney, Linda Jones, Gail Moore, Carl Wilson, and Dottie Jett. THANK YOU ALL!!**

## **JANUARY REVIEW – Were YOU There?**

Happy January Birthday to: **Rena Teague and Dottie Jett.** Thanks for celebrating your day with us.

Our birthday party in January was super sweet! We had LOTS of delicious cobblers and ice cream that were all gobbled up by our hungry dancers. While all of the entries were wonderful, three stood out. First place went to Susan Baker for her apple/peach cobbler. Emily Oehlert took second with her blackberry/mint cobbler. And special mention went to Bob Laymon for his chocolate cobbler, a real crowd pleaser and the “people’s choice” according to Bob. Thanks to all who came out to celebrate 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 January: **Eli Whitney, Gene Merz, Sandi Taylor, Ralph Wheeler, Joanie Cobb, Mike Denney, Rick Kiser, Alison Derrick, Bob Laymon, Jean Bash, Mark Kassin,**

**Phil Washburn, Danny Tollison, Lia Wood, Christine Poteet, Ben Clemons, Carl Wilson & Dottie Jett.** Thank you, thank you, thank you. You make the club run.

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](mailto:DottieJett@gmail.com)

AND MORE

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

**COMPETITORS**

Many of our dancers traveled to Houston on January 14-17 for America's Classic Swing Dance Championships. And the winners are:

*Novice Jack & Jill*

**Benjamin Clemons**, 1st alternate  
**John Woods**, finalist  
**Mickey O'Dell**, semifinalist  
**Josh Luth**, semifinalist

*Intermediate Jack & Jill*

**1. J Erik Thompson**  
**5. Lonnie Johnson**  
**Amanda Thompson**, 1st alternate

*Novice Strictly Swing*

**5. Benjamin Clemons & Lindsay Shaw**

*Intermediate Strictly Swing*

**3. J Erik Thompson & Amanda Thompson**  
**5. Lonnie Johnson**  
**8. Sara Daly**

*Male Pro-Am Intermediate*

**4. Linda Cuccio**

*Female Pro-Am Intermediate*

**1. J Erik Thompson**  
**5. Lonnie Johnson**

## Female Pro-Am Novice

### **5. Benjamin Clemons**

Other competitors from our club include: Al O'Dell, Robyn Woods, and Helen Ajugo, a very new member in our Yellow class.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners! We are so proud of you!!!

Be sure to let us know if you go to a dance event and compete. We would like to recognize you in our newsletter.



Al O'Dell received a special presentation at our last Friday night practice party on **January** 22nd. He was presented a certificate that recognized his 13 back to back jack and jill dances in the novice division at America's Classic Swing Dance Championship held recently in Houston. We are proud of Al for representing the club and surviving 13 different dance partners, four of which made the finals!

Ben Clemons was part of the group that went to the America's Classic in Houston. Luckily for him one of his



friends, Tom Whitson, was able to loan him a belt just before Ben competed. A few thought it would be fitting to present Ben with a couple of spare belts at our Friday night dance party. Terry Whitson did the honors of presenting the belts. Since they were worried Ben might end up with his "pants on the ground" the song, "pants on the ground," was played in his honor as he and Lindsey danced.

## AMERICAS AMATEUR NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS COMPETITORS

*Submitted by Erik Thompson* -- Thanks for filling us in, Erik.

Americas Amateur Novice Championship Events (AANCE) is based on a “tour.” There are 16 or so events across the country that are on the tour. Generally speaking, the top 20% (I think that is the correct number) in Novice and Intermediate dancers from the Jack n Jills and Strictly Swing are “qualified” for the year-end “Championship” event. The AANCE Final Championship Event (Novice Jack & Jill, Novice Strictly Swing, Intermediate Jack & Jill, Intermediate Strictly Swing) are all held at the Americas Classic Championship (ACC) event. Only the winners are announced so we really don’t know how anyone placed. It is basically two different “events” that occur at the same time. For the complete list of qualifiers, go to [www.aance.com](http://www.aance.com)

### AANCE QUALIFIERS

#### Novice Strictly

**Erik & Amanda Thompson, 1st Place Champions**

**Ben Clemons and Lindsay Shaw**

**Linda Cuccio, 8th**

**Jorge Villatoro and Sara Daly**

#### Novice Jack & Jill

**Erik Thompson, 3rd**

**Amanda Thompson, 1st alternate**

**Linda Cuccio**

**Jorge Villatoro**

**Sara Daly**

#### Intermediate Jack & Jill

**Lonnie Johnson, made it to finals**

**Gail Moore**

**Linda Cuccio, 3rd**

**Bonnie Cannon**

**Jorge Villatoro**



And the big winners are **ERIK & AMANDA THOMPSON** who won

**FIRST PLACE** in Novice Strictly Swing. They are the new **NOVICE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**.

Check out the new jackets they won. Only three were given out this year. We are so proud of you!

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

### **FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH**

Are you free for lunch on Fridays? A few of us have been meeting for lunch on Fridays at 11:45 at various places around town. If you have suggestion, we'd love to hear it. We may also go to a movie afterward. If you're interested, call or email Bob Laymon or Dottie Jett. We also post where we are going on FaceBook.

### **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.

### **ZUMBA**

ZUMBA classes on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. Classes are \$5 each or \$35 per month.

### **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 @ CHISHOLM'S ON THURSDAY NIGHTS**

Stuart Phelps continues to play great 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**

**Ladies jackets can be ordered at the front desk. Our minimum order is 12.** We're getting close, but still need a few more orders. With three styles to choose from there is something for everyone and every size. 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.

<http://www.okcswingdanceclub.com/>

## MEMBER/NON-MEMBER NOTES

Your membership supports the Club and keeps it running. And YOU save money! We have 2 new members: **Greg & Kitty Kendrick**. Some of our members have been away a while and are now back and some are paying their renewal dues: Robert “**Benji**” **Benjamin, Byron Brannon, Russ & Dianne Burke, Janet Elsener, Randy Keller, Rick Kiser, Dave Miles, Beverly Quick, Pete Quinones, Renae & David Teague, Larry Thompson, and John Vaughan**. Welcome to Greg & KittyKittyeveryone. We’re happy to have you all and thanks for supporting our club.

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 @ \$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! Also, club members may bring one guest on the last Friday practice party each month and that guest gets in free.

## 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

Instructional 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.**

New **Purple**, **Red**, and **Yellow** DVDs are available. You can see the steps and get a leg up on the monthly instruction. Purchase them now at the front desk.

## SCHOOL POLICY

You may bring snacks and drinks to the Practice and Birthday Parties. *No popcorn*, please. Please label what you put into the refrigerator. No two-liter drinks or larger may be left in the refrigerator overnight; they take up too much room and will be thrown out. 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 there. Thanks for your cooperation. Let's keep our Club clean.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task itself has become easier, but that our ability to perform it has improved.**

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

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