

OKC SWING CLUB NEWSLETTER
MAY 2009

SPRING SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER – **Carl Wilson** Contributing Writer

It was standing room only for a refreshing night of entertainment at this year's Spring Showcase, with a wide range of dancing and costumes to entertain us for over three hours. Thanks to the Square Dance Club for joining us this year along with our returning and new participants, including Swing, Salsa, and Ballroom dancers and instructors. The silent auction, I-pod raffle, and Spring Showcase ticket sales helped our Club raise over \$ 4,500. This is equal to one month's operation costs for the Club. Thanks to our members who quickly cleaned up afterward. Dancing continued until the early hours of the morning.

The raffled iPod was won by **Chotsie Albright**, who also won the bid on the most expensive item in the silent auction, the designer purse. Thanks to all who bid and congratulations to those who won.

Many thanks to all those who donated items for the auction: **Neil Craig, Suzanne Grimes, Artist Rob Holt, Ed Kelsay, Ruth Hammontree, Rhonda Corley, David & Renae Teague, Crista Jones, Alison Derrick, Susan Baker, Jane Kelly, Andrea Anfuso, Christy Remington, Melissa Frazier (Carl Wilson's daughter), Terry Whitson/Les Hastings, Laura Ulmer, Paul Swenson, Ms. Candi Boone, Amanda Thompson, and Paul Rameriz.**

Thanks to all who decorated, worked the door, brought food, cleaned, danced, donated or bought auction items, bought raffle tickets, taught, performed, or in any way contributed to the success of our Showcase. It is the group effort that makes this special occasion so successful.

COMING UP THIS MONTH

The **May calendar is available** online and in the Club foyer. Check it out for regularly scheduled classes and dances. 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.

Our May birthday theme is FLOWERS. Wear your flowered clothing, put flowers in your hair, bring fresh flowers for your table or your Sweetie, and show off your flower tattoos. Thanks to **Karen Baumann, Paul Ramirez, Danny Tollison, Scott & Carol Jahn, Rafael Lorenzo, Linda Jones, Al & Mickey O'Dell, Carl Wilson and Dottie Jett** for giving up their Saturday morning to decorate the Club.

There will be a **SCHOOL DANCE on Saturday, May 23**, \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. We'll start with a Cha-Cha lesson at 7 pm (included with your dance admission) followed by Swing, Country/Western, Ballroom, and Salsa (all social dances taught at the school) at 8 pm. **Stuart Phelps** will be spinning the CDs. Dress up and come join us. (Jeans are OK, too.)

Have a safe **MEMORIAL WEEKEND**. **No classes on Sunday**, but **classes as usual on Monday** the 25th, test night. If you miss that night, you can test the following Sunday, May 31, at 5 pm after the Cha-Cha Swing Workshop.

We'll **decorate the Club on Saturday, May 30**, starting at 10. It would be great to have a few more people to help. It only takes a couple of hours. Many hands make light work. Thanks to those who come help on a regular basis.

No lessons on May 31st, but there is a **Cha-Cha Swing Workshop** from 3 to 5 pm. \$10 gets you in to the workshop and a DVD. Be sure to put your name on the list for the DVD.

And finally, finish the month with a **Practice Party at Friends on Sunday, May 31**. This will be the last "last Sunday Practice Party @ FRIENDS" until September. Let's make it a big one! Starts at 7.

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE PARTIES

Come join your fellow dancers at the Practice Parties at Friends on Wednesdays, Chisholm's on Thursdays, and the last-Sunday-of-the-month dance at Friends. The CD fun starts at 7 pm for all these places.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Miami Dance Magic in July

Dallas Dance for Labor Day Weekend

Niagra Falls the latter part of September

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

It's not too early to start thinking about the State Dance Festival to be held here in OKC November 6 – 8. Mark your calendars and find a partner with whom you can compete. More details as the event approaches.

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

APRIL REVIEW - Were YOU There?

BIRTHDAY PARTY – **Linda Jones** Contributing Writer

Many clowns turned out for the April Birthday party. Winners include **Scot & Carol Jahn, 1st**, and **Richard Daniel & Linda Jones, 2nd**, in couples; and **Cathy Gilbert, 1st**, and **Tim Gestes, 2nd**, in singles. Congratulations and thanks for sharing in the fun.



Happy birthday to the following who celebrated their April birthdays at the Club party: **Richard Daniel, Kevin Gant, Terry Whitson, and Crista Jones**. Happy birthday to all our April birthday members.

WHO'S BEEN MISSING

Welcome back to **Eric and Amanda Thompson and the kids**. Amanda had surgery and has finally returned to dancing.

ON-THE-GO COMPETITORS

Danny Tollison traveled to Tunica, Mississippi, for the big dance held there each year. There is only one contest, Jack and Jill. Danny competed with about 50 couples and came in 4th! Congratulations, Danny.

Around 30 OKC dancers ventured north to the Tulsa Spring Swing and many from our Club competed and came home winners. Here's the summary.

Intermediate Jack & Jill: **Gail Moore 1st**.

Masters Jack & Jill: **Neil Craig 7th, Ward Fowler 8th, Dottie Jett 9th, Rhonda Corley 10th, and Carl Wilson 11th**.

Novice Jack & Jill: **Linda Cuccio 6th, Ben Clemons 8th**.

Newcomer Jack & Jill: **Kevin Gant & Candice Daniels 6th, Josh Luth and Candice Daniels 10th**.

Strictly Swing Masters: **Neil Craig & Rhonda Corley 8th, Carl Wilson & Dottie Jett 9th, Ward Fowler 10th**.

Strictly Swing Novice: **Ben Clemons & Lindsay Shaw 4th, Josh Luth & Linda Cuccio 7th**.

Strictly Swing Newcomer: **David & Renae Teague 3rd, JR Bragg & Candice Daniels 4th**.

Pro-Am Newcomer/Novice: **Linda Cuccio 4th, Ward Fowler 12th**.

Candice Daniels came in 4th as *Top Newcomer Follower* and **Linda Cuccio** came in 5th as *Top Novice Follower*.

Other competitors include **Hiro Yamada** and **John McCarthy**. CONGRATULATIONS to every participant. You are all winners in our books. Go to

<http://www.tulaspringswing.com/> for all the contest winners and pictures.

Oklahoma Rush was held right here in OKC and several of our members wandered over to the East side to compete. Here's the summary:

Int/Advanced Strictly Swing Overall Champion, Jorge Villatoro & **Gail Moore**;

Masters Strictly Swing Overall Champion, **Ward Fowler & Dottie Jett**;

Novice Strictly Swing Overall Champion, **Ben Clemons & Lindsay Shaw**;

Intermediate Jack & Jill, **Gail Moore 1st**;

Novice Jack & Jill, **Ben Clemons 1st; Lindsay Shaw 3rd**;

Intermediate Pro-Am, **Gail Moore 2nd**;

Novice Pro-Am, **Ben Clemons 1st**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

COMING TO OKC in JULY

July 17 – 19 brings Sam & Denise Miller of Country Western fame to our Club. As many of you know, West Coast is part of C/W dancing. The Millers will be having a West Coast workshop on Saturday, July 18, before the dance that night. All West Coast and Country dancers are invited to attend. Saturday Swing Workshop @ 7 pm, followed by dance @ 8, cost \$15 at the door or \$10 before July 16. See the flier in the foyer for more information about workshops and dances that weekend, or to schedule a private with them.

MEMBER/NON-MEMBER NOTES

Sixteen people joined the Swing Club this month and 5 renewed their membership. Your membership supports the Club and keeps it running. And YOU save money!

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. As you can see, it is very frugal to be a Club member.

If you are already a Club member and bring two people who sign up for lessons, you get one free month of lessons. 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.

If you choose not to join the Club, non-members and visitors are always welcome to dance with us and participate in classes for \$10/class or party.

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 the Practice Parties. You must pay the \$40 fee for the month the first time to 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.)

Club members who have attained the dance level where they are happy may pay maintenance dues of \$20/month and that entitles you to the all Monday and Friday Practice Parties.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask at the desk. Don't miss out!

STOLEN EQUIPMENT & PICTURES

Our sound equipment was stolen from the practice room next to the sound room. If you have any information about these thefts, please let Paul know. Thanks.

DOOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always needed to work the door in thirty-minute shifts for the Practice Parties and Birthday Party. Please sign up at the front desk or check the new easel in the entry. Your help is greatly appreciated and will ease the burden on the few who are always working.

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. Please don't take something that does not belong to you.

T-SHIRTS/JACKETS/DVDS

There are a few men's and ladies' t-shirts for sale at the front desk for \$10/each. **Jackets are now available, \$50 each.** Wear your club colors!

DVDS are available each month for your dance level @ \$10/each. If you are Yellow, Green, or Blue, please put your name on the list to let us know that you want one. Thanks, Al, for all your hard work.

SCHOOL POLICY

There has been a big problem lately with people putting gum on the bottom of tables and chairs. Please chew and dispose of your gum responsibly. (Josh, you're not allowed to chew gum while competing.)

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 instead of in the decorations and don't put liquids in the trash; push in your chairs; don't tear up the tablecloths. Seems silly to have to remind adults of these things. Remember to leave the hall the way it was found when you got here. Thanks for your cooperation. Let's keep our Club clean.

Thought for the Month: *"Use what talent you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best."*
Henry Van Dyke

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Photo by Al O'Dell