

## **THE DOWN BEAT**

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

**OKC SWING CLUB NEWSLETTER**

The September theme is **SCHOOL COLORS - TAILGATE PARTY – SUPPORT YOUR TEAM!** The tables have colors on them and we want YOU to decorate them with your school colors, mascots, whatever makes you think of YOUR school. And wear your school colors to the birthday party, too. Or dress up as your school mascot. The possibilities are endless!

Not only are we encouraging people to decorate their tables but it is also a **TAILGATE PARTY** with **CHILI COOK OFF**. You must **sign up** if you want to join the competition. We will also need people to bring food to go along with the chili, like cheese, chips, crackers, chopped onions, desserts; talk to Mickey, Al, Carl, or Dottie and let us know what you'll be bringing. This should be a lot of fun!!!

### ***LESSON TIME CHANGES***

In **October**, we will be adding the **RED class on Sundays at 2**, same time as the **PINK** class. All other classes will remain the same.

On **Mondays**, **GREEN, YELLOW, & PURPLE** classes will be at **7:00**. **PINK and RED** will meet at **8:00**.

**BLUE** class will continue to meet on Tuesday at 7 and any **dancers wishing to have help prior to competing at the State dance are welcome to come at 8:00**.

There may be other changes. If you are not yet signed up at the Yahoo group, you might want to do that so you can receive up-to-the-minute changes and notifications from the school. Go to the club website to get registered.

### ***NEW LADIES JACKETS***

The ladies new jackets have finally arrived and are a big hit. With three styles to choose from there is something for everyone and every size. If you don't have yours, be sure to 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.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy **September** Birthday to Club members: **Susan Baker, Frank Boutsen, Vicki Daniel, Harry Epperson, Ward Fowler, David Hall, Bill Hendricks, Deborah Knight, Sue Ogle, Jay Sanders, Lindsay Shaw, Diana Stokes, and Sandi Taylor**. Come on out to the Swing Club birthday party and celebrate your special day. Don't forget, it's a tailgate party. Check to see what you can bring to eat. Birthday people get in free!

## CLUB DECORATING

We will be decorating the Club on October 3, 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.

### REPORTERS NEEDED

DID YOU GO TO DALLAS DANCE OR ANY OTHER DANCE EVENT?  
Your help is needed. PLEASE Email your comments or thoughts  
about the dance event. 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?

Sept. 22-24, Virginia State Open at Herndon, VA; [www.VSOswing.com](http://www.VSOswing.com)

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

Oct 8-11, Boogie By the Bay at San Francisco, CA; [222.boogiebythebgay.org](http://222.boogiebythebgay.org)

Nov. 7, OKC OKSSDC

*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.*

Nov 5-8 Tampa Bay Classic at Tampa, FL; [www.TampaBayClassic.com](http://www.TampaBayClassic.com)

Nov 26-29 US Open at Los Angeles, CA; [www.USOpenSwingDC.com](http://www.USOpenSwingDC.com)

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

**If you are planning to compete at the OKSSDC (the State Dance to be held here in OKC on November 7<sup>th</sup>) you are welcome to come to the Club on Tuesdays about 8 pm, after Blue class, for some additional help. There is no charge if you are a current club member.**

**Coming up** – We're having a photo identification contest in October. Be looking for a photo of you as a child, one that others have not seen. We'll let you know when it's time to bring it to the club. We'll also be having an ice cream social for October.

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

We were pleased to have **Austin Murray, Chelsea Rogers, and Will Carlton** join our club practice party on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Those of us who were still dancing when they arrived were pleased to be able to dance with these awesome dancers. Good things happen when we stay late.

Our August 10<sup>th</sup> practice party lasted a little longer than usual while 24 dancers waited out the storm by....dancing, of course. What else is there to do when it's raining? The storm finally subsided enough for us to run through the raindrops. A few left during the hard rain and got soaked. Many thanks to the few who braved the hard rain to retrieve cars and transport others to their vehicles. We should keep our umbrellas handy since we never know when we will get a shower or storm. It is Oklahoma, after all.

### **COMPETITORS**

CONGRATULATIONS!!! OKC Swing Club was well represented at the Grand Prix of Swing, held in Kansas City. Many of our competitors came home winners. Here are the results.

*Male Pro-Am Novice SS:* **Linda Cuccio 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

*Female Pro-Am Intermediate SS:* **Jorge Villatoro, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Female Pro-Am Novice SS:* **Erik Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup>.**

*Open Strictly Swing:* **Austin Murrey & Chelsea Rodgers, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Intermediate Strictly Swing:* **Jorge Villatoro & Sara Daly, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Novice Strictly Swing:* **Josh Luth & Linda Cuccio, 1<sup>st</sup>; Ben Clemons & Lindsay Shaw, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Erik & Amanda Thompson, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*GP100 Strictly Swing:* **Lindsay Shaw, 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

*Newcomer Strictly Swing:* **David & Renae Teague, 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

*Intermediate Jack & Jill:* **Lonnie Johnson, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Novice Jack & Jill:* **Linda Cuccio, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ben Clemons 3<sup>rd</sup>; Erik Thompson 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*Newcomer Jack & Jill:* **David Teague 5<sup>th</sup>.**

For all of the results, go to <http://www.grandprixofswing.com/>

If you've been somewhere and competed, please let us know so we can mention it in our newsletter.

**NEEDED: REPORTS ON DALLAS DANCE. SEND TO  
DOTTIEJETT@GMAIL.COM**

**BIRTHDAY PAJAMA PARTY**

Happy Birthday to George Bauer, Jenny Chen, Greg, and Allan Harris, who all celebrated their August birthdays at the Club birthday party.



*See all the pictures on the Club website.*

Sexy, funky, cool, country, swinging, babyish, old maid, cowboy on the trail with saddle all describe the outfits worn to our Pajama Birthday Party in August. What a fun, revealing party it was! Thanks goodness those who sleep naked kept their clothes on for the party!



August Pajama Party

*by Rick Kiser*

The Birthday Party was embarrassing. I even saw Sally from a distance and said, "There's a married person" lol. And Paul, well there's no way I would wear something like that! lol But over all it was great fun.

*by Mickey O'Dell*

The pajama birthday party was a great one. We had about 30 people dress in their pajamas. There were several that really stood out... i.e., Paul! He wore a pink bodysuit with a flap in back along with a bonnet. Too cute!

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

## **CLUB PICNIC**

*See all the pics at*

<http://picasaweb.google.com/odellcol/ClubPicnic?authkey=Gv1sRgCNSkiZG3tb6CWA&feat=email#>

*by Rick Kiser*

The 2009 Club picnic was absolutely fantastic! Food, food, and more food: ribs, brisket, turkey, 5 kinds of chicken, rotten potatoes (lol), a homemade cherry pie made from scratch by **Rhonda**. Games were super and very competitive. **Danny, Mickey, Al**, and a few more were there early to set up games and the food area. They did a super job.

*by Mickey O'Dell*

We had around 70 people. It was perfect weather. There was plenty of food for an army! The horseshoe tournament was once again a huge success. It started about 3:00 and ended close to 7:00 with the winners being **Danny Tollison and Terry Whitson/Linda Jones** (Terry had to leave so Linda replaced her). The second place winners were **Al O'Dell and Andrea Anfuso**. Everyone had a great time. John Vaughn brought his sailboat and took people out sailing... me being one and I had a wonderful time... although I got my shorts wet and people thought I wet my pants... not! Several played volleyball.

## **JUDGING SEMINAR**

*by Mickey O'Dell*

This was very informational. We learned how to judge, what to look for, what to take off, and how to decide a tie. We were told what one should or should not wear during the competition.

*by Rick Kiser*

August 30, our Swing Club hosted a judging seminar by **Jeanne Degeyer, Will Carlton**, and, of course, our fearless leader, Mr. **Paul Rameriz** with his vast wisdom. They presented an understanding of what criteria is used to judge swing dance contests and what they recognize as a Relative Placement Scoring Process. The major criteria were Timing, Technique, Teamwork, Content, Musicality, and Showmanship. Each of these areas was broken down and discussed. It lasted for almost 3 hours and was very informative, both for dance competitors and future judges. And it was FREE! ☺

## 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: **LaTresa Wright, Beverly Quick, Carol Ward, Mike Denny, Lisa Mitchell, Gloria Conner, Mickey & Al O'Dell, Terry & Tom Whitson, Rick Pricer, Marc Coffelt, Scot & Carol Jahn, Randy Keller, Danny Tollison, Sandy Taylor, Gene Merc, Bob Laymon, Joy Kegebein, Rita Hughes, Jerry Beasley, Pete Quinones, Kathie Loffi, Linda Jones, Carl Wilson and Dottie Jett.**

## CLUB DECORATIONS

Many thanks to **Karen Baumann, Paul Ramirez, Danny Tollison, Scot and Carol Jahn, Richard Daniel, Al & Mickey O'Dell, Linda Jones, Jim Bell, and Rick Kiser.** It only takes a couple of hours to put away the old stuff and redecorate. Come on out and help us on **Oct. 3** at 10 A.M. It would be greatly appreciated!

## 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 2 new members: **Joy Kegebein** and **William Parr.** Some of our members have been away a while and are now back and some are paying their renewal dues: **T.J. and Mick Fredrickson, Allen Harris, S.R. Hunter, Jamie Leal, Trish Liscom, and Phillip Washburn.** 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 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!

#### 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, 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.

**Thought for the Month: "Advice is like snow--the softer it falls, the longer it dwells, and the deeper it sinks into the mind."** Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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