



# DESERT SWING DANCE CLUB, INC. NEWS

P.O. Box 669, Desert Hot Springs, CA., 92240

AUG., SEPT., OCT., 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

Polly Culbreth

(760) 698-8198

[DSDCpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:DSDCpresident@yahoo.com)

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Bishop

(951) 927-3655

[ronfbishop@outlook.com](mailto:ronfbishop@outlook.com)

#### SECRETARY

Deborah Lloyd

(760) 989-1252

[debhoyle@msn.com](mailto:debhoyle@msn.com)

#### TREASURER

Sara Roth

(630) 536-6819

[sir704@gmail.com](mailto:sir704@gmail.com)

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

#### EVENTS

Josie Nelson

(760) 328-6611

### MEMBERSHIP & OPERATIONS

Ann McGowan

[dscdcmemps@aol.com](mailto:dscdcmemps@aol.com)

(760) 832-9229

Payments to:

58 Calle Solano

Rancho Mirage, a. 92270

### CARES & CONCERNS

Donna Lofgren

(425) 280-8333

[lofgrend@aol.com](mailto:lofgrend@aol.com)

#### PUBLICITY

Ursula Auer Longo

(760) 285-7124

#### NEWSLETTER

Patrice Atoun

(310) 490-4891

[fatoun.2000@yahoo.com](mailto:fatoun.2000@yahoo.com)

#### WEBMASTER

Larry Kroeze

(562) 799-9274

[larrykroeze@aol.com](mailto:larrykroeze@aol.com)

A Proud Member

of the:



Friends and fellow dancers,

### SAVE THE DATES:

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, we will be having the welcome back snowbirds Pizza Party during our Tuesday dance. We have always had a large turnout for this event. Pizza is free and you only pay for the water and soft drinks.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, will be our Christmas dinner dance. We will again be at the Aqua Caliente Casino. It was lovely last year.

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, will be the Tri-City Plus dance. This will be at the Pavilion in the large room and will be from 4 to 9 p.m.

Dancing is an art. It certainly is the act of creating something lovely. In the beginning there is somewhat of a scientific approach. Some people learn by counting and pacing out the steps on the floor. Others (“instinct and street dancers”) learn by watching and imitating. In either case after you have done a step a few times your subconscious takes over and you don’t have to think about that step anymore. Now you can interpret the step as you see fit. Now you become an artist. Not everyone will agree with you, but then not everyone agrees that Rembrandt’s paintings are beautiful. At some point you must ignore all the technical words, mechanical explanations and turn your abilities into your own art form.

### Next: Neglected areas of the dance. “The free hand”, by Ron Ford.

The free hand is the hand that is not in contact with your partner during a step and so has nothing to do but hang around. Gals do not seem to have as much trouble with the free hand as guys do. Years ago I (Ron Ford) watched a video tape of myself in a contest. Everything looked O.K. except my free hand. My palm was up and my fingers were curled. I decided then and there to clean up my act.

I had an inspiration! I had access to the best dance teachers in the world. Fred Astair, Gene Kelly, Donald O’Connor and Sammy Davis Jr. I watched, studied, practiced, imitated, modified, etc, etc. It took some time and a lot of concentration, but I finally got to the point where I was comfortable with my free hand.

Here is what I came up with. Keep your palms down, fingers together but slightly fanned, thumb in. Your arm should be slightly bent with your elbow close to your body and not flapping around like a chicken trying to fly. All your free hand action should be below shoulder level. These rules apply 99% of the time but may be modified occasionally for effect.

Let’s all dance now.

Polly



Through the National FastDance Assn., our dance club activities are licensed by:



# .... CALENDAR OF EVENTS ....

**Weekly.....Dancing @ The Palm Springs Pavilion, - EVERY TUESDAY.** Lesson begins at 6:00 pm and open dancing from 7:00 to 9:00pm, 401 So. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs.

Admission: DSDC or other dance club members; Dance-\$7.00, Dance and Lesson-\$12.00  
Non-members; Dance-\$10.00, Dance and Lesson-\$15.00  
Members and Non-Members; Lesson Only-\$10:00

We honor all swing dance club members; please present your member's card.

Lessons begin at 6:00 pm and feature two alternating instructors:



**JANICE HILL**  
with Beginning & Beyond  
West Coast Swing



**RAYMOND STANTON**  
with West Coast Swing,  
Country Two-Step and other  
dances.

**Beyond The Beat Dance Studio**  
41-990 Cook St., Suite 401  
Palm Desert, Ca.  
760-340-0342

**Buddy Schwimmer's "The Dance Center"**  
1445 Park Av.,  
Redlands, Ca.  
909-335-0721

Please note that every dance is a "Ladies Choice" at the DSDC..

Our very cool music is by **DJ, Randy**. Please notice the **TIP JAR** located in front of the DJ booth. We ask everyone to be generous and show our appreciation to Randy. **All contributions go to our DJ – not to the DSDC.**

**Monthly.....DSDC Board meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Meeting is held at the Palm Springs Pavilion at 5:00 p.m. just before our Tuesday dance. All members are invited to attend. Please call any board member ahead of time if you wish to be put on the agenda or in case of last minute changes.

**CHECK US OUT AT:** *Our website, DesertSwingDanceClub.com.*

*Facebook, Desert Swing Dance Club*

*Meetup.com/Desert-Swing-Dance-Club*

## .... SPECIAL EVENTS ....



### **WELCOME BACK SNOWBIRDS PIZZA PARTY**



**Tuesday, November 7th** at the Palm Springs Leisure Center in the room directly across from our dance studio room. Pizza is free and soft drinks and water will be sold for \$1.00. Starts at 6:30 pm.

**Save the date** for our **Christmas Party** which will be on Saturday, **December 9th, 2017** at Aqua Caliente Casino. Dancing starts at 5:00 pm and dinner will be at 6:00 pm. Music is provided by our "DJ Extraordinaire" **Randy Johnson**. The dinner is a delicious buffet and there will be drawings for door prizes. Tickets are \$35.00 for members or non-members.

**Also mark your calendars for February 24th, 2018.** The date for **Our Tri-City Plus Dance** is confirmed. This is our largest event of the year with busses coming from San Diego and Los Angeles Swing Dance Clubs. We also have people coming from Las Vegas, Phoenix, Northern California and Washington. An Italian dinner with salad, garlic bread, dessert and coffee will be served. Soft drinks and water are free. Location is the Palm Springs Pavilion Ballroom. We will be dancing to the music of "**Jumping**" **Jack Smith** from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Fee is \$25.00/person.

# THE DSDC WISHES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

TONY ALBA 8/8  
 ERIKA BELL 8/4  
 DEE BOYD 8/26  
 BILL DEGROOT 8/14  
 BARBARA DYER 8/4  
 DON ESTEP 8/5  
 CYNTHIA HILLAND 8/19  
 DEBBY LLOYD 8/21  
 MARIAN MOHLER 8/2  
 YOLANDA MORENO 8/3  
 ANGELA ROMEO 8/24  
 GERTRUDE THOMAS 8/29  
 ALICE TRITCHKOV 8/6

GENE AVILES 9/14  
 PATTI CONLEY 9/10  
 TINA ESTES 9/12  
 JILL GOVER 9/2  
 TERRI NOLAN 9/2  
 MONA VAN DUSEN 9/22

JOEL BEAN 10/10  
 BOB BUSCHMAN 10/25  
 MARIA DE GUZMAN 10/26  
 LOREN FICHT 10/20  
 DONNA GENETT 10/29  
 MARC IMLAY 10/31  
 KAY MILLER 10/18  
 HOWARD MISCHER 10/7  
 LARRY SORIANO 10/21  
 LEE SPILA 10/30



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Dee Boyd  
 Dominique D'Arceaux  
 Gina Russo-Hartman  
 Sonny Rougt*

*Allen Byron  
 Kimberly Dye  
 Cynthia Hilland  
 Nancy Tiro*

*Susan Byron  
 Deborah Engel  
 Catherine Lindren*



# Why Beginners Quit Dancing

by Mark Van Schuyver

A popular dance instructor told me that "out of 1,000 folks who think they might enroll in a dance class, perhaps 50 will actually do it. Of these brave 50, only 30 or so will finish the beginner series. Of the 30 only 20 will return for intermediate classes. After one year, maybe 10 will still be dancing."

"Gee whiz! Only ten out of 1,000?" I asked.

"This number might be high," he replied thoughtfully.

Why such a high turnover? What makes it so hard to begin? What makes it so hard to stay with it? Let's examine the top five reasons why people give up before they really get started.

## **NEW-BE ANXIETY**

Adults don't like to look stupid. That is the bottom line. We adults know how to walk and we don't like to crawl. When new student "John Doe" walks into that first dance lesson, he is no longer Mr. Big. At that moment, gone is the respect of family, friends, church, and co-workers. Zero is the value of his BA, MBA or Ph.D. Years of jogging, golfing, skiing, skating, and batting will not help. Suddenly big John is a kindergarten child again. He's a little kid, a "baby dancer," new-be-know-nothing. This is simply not a condition that adults like to be in.

New-be anxiety is absolutely normal and completely unavoidable. New students can increase their odds of staying with the dance by realizing that this is a price that every single person must pay if they wish to play. Knowing that you are not alone helps a lot. Ask other beginners, intermediate, advanced dancers, and your instructors to share their new-be stories with you. You are not alone John Doe!

## **FEAR OF REJECTION**

It is human nature to seek acceptance and avoid rejection. New dancers enter a world of leaders and followers who seem to know everything while they know virtually nothing. To a New-be, the dance floor is so scary that it might as well be made of ice. Fear of rejection by experienced or even other beginner dancers is very real.

New dancers take heart. A very high percentage of experienced dancers will say yes to a beginner leader or follower if asked politely. Tell the person that you are just starting and don't worry about doing anything fancy. Followers you must ask too. In dance club environments it is perfectly acceptable for followers to ask leaders to dance.

If you are a beginner leader, give clear leads and never force your partner. Stay with basics and do not forget to smile! Remember, three basic steps done well are better than a hundred fancy moves lead badly.

If you are a beginner follower, keep cool and relaxed. Listen to the music and let the leader put you in place. If you miss a lead just laugh and keep dancing. Don't apologize or freeze up. Just relax and follow, you will be fine. Leaders and followers, always thank your partner regardless of relative skill.

## **BAD PLANNING**

Lots of dancers quit because they fail to plan for dancing. Dance lessons take time and social dancing takes time and special planning. Babysitters, practice partners, phone calls to find out where folks are going to meet all take time and energy. Without planning, dancing loses its priority status in our lives.

If you find yourself thinking, "I'll go out next week," you may be on your way to quitting. In the beginning, it is important to discipline yourself to attend classes and social dances. Plan for dancing. Don't lose your momentum.

## **FAILURE TO PRACTICE**

Failure to practice is a major cause of frustration for all dancers. That which is not practiced will not be remembered. Studies have been done on this. New material should be practiced within ten minutes of learning. Then practice again within two hours of a lesson. More practice must be done within twenty-four hours to insure retention. Then, weekly practice is needed to maintain the material and advance the skill.

This schedule of practice is only a minimum amount. It is just enough to make us remember. To get better, to perfect a new skill or dance technique we need even more practice with partners and coaches. Learning is hard. Practice is essential.

## **STOP AND START**

Years ago I taught marital arts classes. Over a seven-year period I observed many students who dropped in and out of class. With each return effort, these folks demonstrated beginner-bravery but lost learner-momentum. With each return, they dropped out sooner and returned even later. Without exception, every one of these stop and starters quit before obtaining any significant skill.

A body in motion tends to stay in motion. If you are a beginner who is serious about dancing, do not stop. If you must miss classes and social events, then dance in your house or in your hotel room. Do not stop as it greatly reduces your odds of reaching your goal of becoming a great dancer. Find a way to dance every day.

## **CONCLUSION**

If it is true that only ten out of 1,000 who start dancing stay with it then it is a huge accomplishment to be one of those ten. If you are a beginner, and you stay with it, you will soon become a member of a special community of brave souls who did not quit. You will enter a world of folks who did not give up when the newcomer anxiety bug struck. You will join a group of people who overcame their fear of rejection and kept dancing anyway. You will see people that did not forget to plan to dance, folks who practiced hard and stayed with it every day. Students who did not stop and start. In short, you will see yourself.



Mark Van Schuyver lives in Atlanta. He is a writer and a West Coast Swing enthusiast with over thirteen years experience dancing. More than 100 of his articles have been published in national magazines including many on the subject of dance. You can reach Mark at by e-mail at [Zarrdd@bigfoot.com](mailto:Zarrdd@bigfoot.com).

This article is reprinted from the "West Coast Swing America" website.



# SCOTT TANSOR

by Lynn Fontana-Krohn

Scott Tansor was born and raised in Chicago and as a kid, his parents sent him to the roller rink and the bowling alley to "keep him out of trouble". Every morning he would go to the bowling alley and on Saturday afternoons, he went to the roller rink. When he was eight years old, he made friends with a girl who also spent a lot of time at the roller rink because her father was a guard there and her aunt worked behind the candy counter. She needed a partner to do all the dance numbers with so she taught Scott how to skate. "She taught me how to skate forwards and backwards and then once I learned to skate backwards, she taught me all the roller skating dance numbers. There was Waltz, Couples, Foxtrot, Collegiate, Society Blues, Fourteen step, and Backwards Strutting." By the time Scott was nine years old, he knew how to do all the dance numbers.

Meanwhile, another young Chicago kid named Richard started frequenting the roller rink as well. Richard wanted to learn to skate but as it turned out, he was actually more into dancing. Scott and Richard became friends and during the intermissions in between the roller skating sessions, they would go put music on the juke box. Richard was one of the better dancers on the little dance floor they had by the juke box and Scott would just sit and watch him dance with all the girls. "Richard was a very good dancer and he knew all the latest dances."

Time passes and when the friends, reached nineteen or twenty, Disco had become the "in" dance but it didn't seem to hold Scott's interest so he got back into his bowling. "I used to travel the country bowling and in the meantime, Richard really fell in love with Country dancing." He loved doing Two-Step but Scott remembers him saying, "You know I see people doing a dance that I can't figure out. It doesn't have specific steps like Two-Step or Waltz. I keep watching but I have no idea what it is". Finally he asked one of the dancers what dance they were doing and their answer was, *West Coast Swing*. From then on, Richard was determined to learn this mysterious dance with many steps.

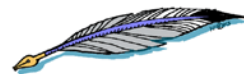
Eventually, Scott made his permanent home in Palm Springs. Richard stayed in Chicago but the two of them kept in touch and visited back and forth between the coasts. On one of Richard's visits to Palm Springs, he had researched places to dance West Coast Swing and asked Scott to take him to a place called "Billy Reed's". Scott's reply was, "OK! I'll take you there and we'll have dinner. Then you can dance and I'll go play tennis. I'll come back and pick you up." After dinner, Richard excused himself for a few minutes and when he came back to the table, he had signed them both up for the lesson and dance. His only comment being, "You're going to love this. You were very good at roller skating, you're going to love West Coast Swing."

"So my first lesson was that night", Scott recalls. "Janis Hill was the teacher and I *struggled*. I mean, just this 'One, Two, Three and Four, Five and Six!' I just kept having to say it in my head. After I took the lesson, I just sat and watched everybody dance. Some people came up and asked me to dance and I could not. I could hear the music but I could not do those steps to the music. I just sat and watched Richard dance." Richard stayed for the following week and every single day he and Scott practiced. Then he said to Scott, "OK, now you're not having to think about that basic step anymore so you'll be able to listen to what Janis is actually teaching." He made Scott promise that he would go back to the lessons, so Scott started going to the dances every week and slowly fell in love with West Coast Swing!"

"Then I started going to Billy Reed's every week and getting better and better. When Julie Gubb was living in Palm Springs and giving lessons, Scott got more serious about West Coast Swing and Julie helped him with a lot of the finer points of the dance. When she moved to Vegas, he would go there and practice with her. "She really helped consolidate my West Coast Swing to the point where I felt that I could do a lot more. I don't have to really think about staying within a pattern. I can go outside of the pattern because no matter what I did, she was able to dance through it. She taught me how to go outside patterns and just enjoy the music while I'm dancing."

When Scott says he keeps improving his dancing, he's not kidding. He decided to enter the Desert Swing Dance Club's Tri-City Jack and Jill contest. "I drew a girl named Cindy from San Diego as my partner and I was so surprised when we won!" The next year he entered again, drew another girl from San Diego and won again!! He entered Jay Byam's Summer Dance Classic in the Newcomer's Division and won Second Place. He says he has found that what he didn't realize about competition is when he's standing there waiting for the music to start, his mouth gets dry, his hands get kind of clammy and he gets nervous but the more he does it, the more that nervousness is alleviated. Now when he goes to Jay's Dance Classics to compete, he walks out there, the lights are on him but it's not as nerve-racking anymore. He says to himself, "OK, just relax, listen to the music and enjoy it and as soon as I hear the music start, it's as if nobody else is in the room. I just try to connect with the person I'm dancing with, enjoy the music and think of all the technical things that I've learned."

He observes that, "The competition stuff, while it's fun and you really want to push yourself to do better, is not as fun as the social dancing. The social dancing is the best. I love our Sunday Snowbird dances when Larry (Waters) hosts them (at Step-By-Step Studio). He plays the old bluesy music and then I just totally forget about any kind of technical stuff and we just have so much fun dancing to the music. My favorite dance that I ever go to, is the Sunday afternoon Snowbird Dance because of the music that's played and it's just about having fun with all the women."



**SUMMER 2017**

*It is always time to register or renew your DSDC membership*

COUPLES: Please indicate both names, birthdays, signatures and total fees enclosed.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL NEWSLETTER? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Birth Date: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

West Coast Swing Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Years or Beginner: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special talents or interests you would like to share with the club (carpentry, dessert making, flower arranging, DJ, accounting, fund raising, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: DESERT SWING DANCE CLUB. Mail application to: Membership Chairman, Ann McGowan, 58 Calle Solano, Rancho Mirage, CA., 92248**

*Whereas dancing, like most other sports, contains an element of risk of injury: I hereby certify that I have been notified that the DSDC and the Dance Club Facility Associate, and Dance Instructor accept no liability for any injury occurring out of or from my participation in any club meeting, dance, workshop or any other social function. I have been advised to carry my own medical and accident insurance.*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



PO Box #35  
66311 Two Bunch Palms Trail  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 922240  
Forwarding Address & Corrections Requested