



PSDC Newsletter

Portland Swing Dance Club

May - June 2012 issue

The Summer of Dance Conventions

Oregon is very fortunate. We have not, 1, not 2, but 4 Dance Conventions coming to Oregon this year. We have the Portland Dance Festival in July, and of course our very own PSDC sponsored Bridgetown Swing Dance Convention in September. We also have 2 new events making their debut this year. The SO Swing (Southern Oregon Swing Dance Convention) in Medford, Oregon and Dance N Play convention (held in Redmond, Oregon).

What does this mean for the Portland Swing Dance Club member? It means high quality pro instructors, judges, and deejays from across the country will be coming to our state to share with you their love, passion, and experience in this dance we know as West Coast Swing. You wont have to go very far to enhance your dancing skills.

What it also means is our level of dance will rise as a result of the weekend full of workshops, social dancing (both during the day and late night), competitions, and

other fun activities. As many of you already know, going to workshops at dance conventions can accelerate your dancing skills and make moves that were previously difficult seem effortless and fun on the social dance floor.

And social dancing is just one aspect of workshops. The two new dance conventions mentioned earlier will focus on both the competition dancer as well as the social dancer.

For this issue, I am focusing on the new conventions coming to our state this year, since they also happen to fall in the same month's as this May/June issue. I had the opportunity to interview the event directors for both these newer events. I'm sure you will enjoy reading their passion, mission and goals to enhance your competition and social dancing.

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Samantha Buckwalter Workshop Coming...

Once again this year, the PSDC is able to bring in some talented dancers and instructors to make your dance experience even better. Last year we had two workshops. We had Ben Morris and Patty Vo. Then Patty Vo came back during June for another weekend workshop.

So far this year, we have had Nick Jay and Joanna Meinel for SwingBlizzard, and now for the weekend of June 22-24 we will be hosting a workshop with Samantha Buckwalter.

Samantha competes in the AllStar/Champions division of West Coast Swing and has been dancing competitively since 2001. Samantha has studied under the SwingDaddy himself, Mario Robau Jr., where she assisted him in workshops and intensives both in the US and abroad.

Details of this workshop are still being formed. For more information and specifics be sure to check our website, or contact our Events Director, Jennie Beyerl for more information.

PSDC Dancing Recap

It's been a wonderful couple of months of dancing bliss at the PSDC Sunnyside Grange dances in SE Portland, and the Norse Hall Dances in downtown Portland.

In March, we had the Norse Hall dance, which was great fun and well attended by club members as well as new members who joined the club that weekend. We even had a few out of town visitors. That very same evening we held a Jack and Jill competition which was also well attended and a lot of fun.

The newcomers workshop this year was held during the 4th weekend of April,



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Board of Directors:

President	Chris Jones
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Membership	Michael Terry
Events	Jennie Beyerl
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Newsletter	Steve Klein

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WWW.PortlandSwing.Org

New Oregon Dance Conventions

Written By Steve Klein. Interviews with Event Directors, Dave Kahn & Rebecca Blust of SOswing, and Cheryl Lyons of Dance N Play

PSDC Dance Calendar

May 12

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. Rachel Lidskog teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson by Arthur Lahm at 7:30pm downstairs. Open dancing from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight. Location: Sunnyside Grange

May 26

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. Chris Jones teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson by Trudy Thatcher at 7:30pm backstage. Open dancing from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight. Location: Norse Hall

June 9

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. Instructor (TBD), teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners Lesson by Rick Davis at 7:30pm downstairs. Open dancing from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight. Location: Sunnyside Grange

June 23

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. Special out of town guest instructor: Samantha Buckwalter teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners Lesson by Jimmy Ho at 7:30pm backstage. Open dancing from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight. Location: Norse Hall

For other weekly dances, be sure to check out our online calendar.

Competition Calendar

WCS Events on the West Coast

SwingDiego
San Diego, California
5/10-5/13, 2012

SOswing
Medford, Oregon
5/18—5/19, 2012

Fresno Dance Classic
Fresno, California
5/25-5/28, 2012

Dance N Play
Redmond, Oregon
5/31-6/3, 2012

Jack and Jill Orama
Anaheim, California
6/14-6/17, 2012



SO SWING - Southern Oregon Swing, Medford, Oregon

Event Directors:

Dave Kahn and Rebecca Blust.

May 18- 20th, 2012

<http://www.soswing.org/SOSwingConvention.html>

How did SO Swing convention/event come about ?

Rebecca: Five years ago we had a plan to put on a convention. We always thought this area needed one. There is no convention between Ptown and Chico.

Dave: The main thing we're trying to do with SOswing Convention is make it a fun, dancer-centered event. Since we ourselves have been dancing and attending West Coast Swing events for years, we have a good idea about what we like, and what we'd like to see more of. We're taking our experience and putting it into our event.

What's the overall goal of SOswing Convention?

Dave & Rebecca: To grow the dance community and have fun doing it!

The convention will be focused on West Coast Swing, by and for West Coast Swing dancers. Our emphasis is on dancing to music played by DJ's whose music we really like. We're also offering a healthy selection of workshops by pros who (*we*) really enjoy and respect--included at no extra charge to pass holders. Yes, we're offering contests judged and scored by professionals, we also like those (*contests*) ourselves, but they are not going to take over the weekend. Competitions are just a part of what makes a good dance weekend fun.



Dave & Rebecca Competing in WCS

What's the SOswing mission? Are you a club?

Rebecca: Dedicated to promoting WCS in Southern Oregon. No we are not a club, Dave and I run SOswing, but we have a very supportive community that help out tremendously. There wouldn't be a SOswing without them.

I hear you will be offering competitions, is your event sanctioned?

Rebecca: Our event is not sanctioned this year, but we are running this as our pre-qualifying event to be a registry event next year. We are offering Jack n Jill in New-comer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion. Also Strictly Swing divisions of – Novice, Int/Adv., Invitational.

Dave: We are doing everything by the WSDC book, to the letter. Our goal is to become a pointed, WSDC registry event for 2013!

We feel like we're providing a connecting link in the event chain that runs up the coast, from San Diego, to LA, to Sacramento, to San Francisco, and then skips to Portland. That's a 600+ gap between Sacramento & the Bay area and Portland, with Medford

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New Oregon Conventions Continued

right in the middle. It makes sense for us to offer an event to fill the gap!

I noticed the price is really affordable. Will that continue into the future or is that a first time?

Rebecca:

This is a dancers convention and we tried to keep our prices as low as possible. We are not in this for the money but for the dance. Next year our prices will go up a little bit because as a registry event we have to be in a hotel, which is more expensive.

Dave: We're doing and will continue to do our best to keep our prices low. Our first ticket offering was just \$69 for a weekend pass. Now that the discounts are ended, we're still only at \$95 for the full weekend.

Other Details of SOSwing:

You can get the list of our fabulous instructors on our site. Our hotel is only \$77 a night (not including tax) with a FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET

We have a photo contest after the event for the best photos, cash prizes for winners. For only \$15 you can buy a photo/video pass. GREAT CASH PRIZES

All-Stars are free and can win \$1,000 in their Jack & Jill competition and \$850 in their Strictly Swing.

dance
N
play



How did Dance N Play come about?

"I began organizing Dance N Play over two years ago. While on vacation at Eagle Crest Resort in 2004, I had the opportunity to tour the banquet and resort facilities. Everything I saw sparked creative ideas for a WCS Dance Convention that would provide dancers with many of the things they were missing at dance conventions: More social dancing, time with friends, more workshops, ways to accelerate competitors points, fewer competitions, time outside of the hotel, larger hotel rooms, food venues, not have to eat out, intense learning, private lesson time, other activities, and more play time. A West Coast Swing Dance Convention at Eagle Crest Resort could provide dancers with what they wanted."

What's the overall goal of your Convention?

"My goal is for Dance N Play to be a 5-7 day event where West Coast Swing dancers can as they say, *'Work hard and play hard.'* Competitors who want to focus intensely on learning, practicing, choreography for routines. They also have 3 work out gyms to choose from and outdoor activities to relax or challenge them. Dance N Play will also be the place for dancers to connect with family and friends for a dance vacation. "

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turntable.fm By: Quin Kloppenburg



There is a new site out there for West Coast Swing Music! We've all gone online and searched for music to dance to, now you have a site! You can dance to it, DJ on it, talk to other Westies all over the nation, and you can hear what they are playing at their dances. It's a great way to find music and keep up with what's going on all over the west coast community.

Turntable.fm/west_coast_swing_music is the site. It started as a place to test music on other dancers before putting the songs on the social floor. This site was put up by Arjay Centeno, a DJ and Pro, who travels all over the World to dance and DJ. This site rates the music played, what the listeners like to dance to, what songs do they want to hear, and what is over played, etc.

This site isn't just for DJs, its for everyone. Yes you may find yourself up there next to Arjay Centeno and Victor Loveira or social dancers, *and yet* you can still test your music and DJ skills against the nations dancers. Be warned it is an addictive site, but is a great interactive music finder and 'hang-out' for dancers, with all genres of west coast encouraged and played equally.

New Oregon Dance Conventions continued

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Is this dance convention for both competitors and social dancers?

"Dance N Play offers two different event tracks:

- 1) The WCS Competitors Advantage: Primarily for the WCS Competitor who wants focus intense learning how to accelerate their level of points, and level of WCS skill. These workshops are also great for WCS dance instructors 'and' designed by Champion instructors taught for specific levels." Although Cheryl adds that attendees will not be auditioned into levels.
- 2) The Weekend Pass: For the dancer who prefers primarily WCS workshops and the dancer who prefers a variety of dance workshops. Both event passes include Thurs. - Sun. social dancing beginning at 9:00 pm in 2-Ballrooms, a WCS Ballroom, and a Variety of Dance Music Ballroom

Is this event a World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) Sanctioned Event?

"A 1st year event cannot be a WSDC sanctioned event; which means competitors cannot earn Jack & Jill Competitors points... Our goal for Dance N Play 2013 is to be WSDC sanctioned. Dance N Play Competitions, even after sanctioning, will be a variety of Jack & Jill Competitions for point placement and fun. "

Any other details you would like to add? Such as staff, DJ's, etc. ?

"Four of our Pro Instructors are WSDC Swing Dance Hall of Fame Inductees: Michael Kiehm, Mary Ann Nunez, Barry Jones, Kelly Casanova.

Three have over 35 years combined as Chief Judge at WSDC & NASDE Events: Kelly Casanova, Gary Jobst, and Jim Minty.

Others on staff include: Patty Vo, Michael Kiebasa, Katie Schneider, Chirs Jones, Doug Silton, Ian Kirkconnell, John Kirkconnell, Trina Siebert, Will Shaver, Joshua Sturgeon.

West Coast Swing D.J. Staff: Chris Jones, Jason Brown, John Kirkconnell"

(PSDC Dancing Recap - Continued from page 1) (April 27th and 28th). The wonderful and talented Trina Siebert was on hand again to teach for us. Also this year, making her debut as newcomer instructor was one of Portland's Westies Angels Trudy Thatcher. When asked what Trudy thought about her first time teaching the workshop, she said, "I really enjoyed teaching the newcomer workshops. The students were amazing and learned very quickly. They made my job easy and fun !"

Many newcomers enjoyed the great lessons by both instructors. They also became new club members and enjoyed the 4th Saturday dance at Norse Hall.



PSDC DJ's - We're Looking for YOU !

The Portland Swing Dance Club holds 2 social dances per month, one at Sunnyside Grange in Clackamas (South East Portland area), and one at Norse Hall (Son's of Norway Hall located near downtown Portland. IF you have ever wanted to DJ and think you have what it takes to DJ one of our West Coast Swing dances, please contact us and let us know at the email below.

Some things to consider: This is open to members or non members, and will be a 30 to 45 minute trial. We ask DJs to keep to the 80/20 rule (80% West Coast Swing) and 20% other (such as a Night Club 2Step, or Country 2-Step for example) There are other guidelines and restrictions so please send us an email for more details.

Send your interest to Peter Bailey, Facilities@portlandswing.org

How to become a member...

We would like to invite you into a family of dancers who share your passion to dance. The Portland Swing Dance Club is born out of a desire for people to thrive with West Coast Swing.

We are a non-profit organization. The membership dues, dance income, and donations go back into the dance community. The Board of Directors operate as a volunteer service. By becoming a member, you will be a part of our mission to foster the growth of West Coast Swing in the Northwest.

Come to any of our dances and sign up as a PSDC Member at the front desk. We take checks or cash for the membership fee of \$30. You may also pay with a Visa credit card with a service fee.

You can also download the electronic application online, fill it out, and mail it with your check to: The Portland Swing Dance Club P.O. Box 6761, Portland, OR 97228-6761

Photos by: Steve Klein, Cheryl Lyons, Dave Kahn, Jim Long, and Jil Hendershot



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Deadlines for articles are the 15th day of the month prior to publication dates. If you have a submission, please address it to Steve Klein, Newsletter Editor at: newsletter@PortlandSwing.org