



PSDC Newsletter

Portland Swing Dance Club

March - April 2013 issue



Come Rain Come Shine 2013

Come Rain Come Shine made a great comeback over the weekend of 22nd through the 24th of February, 2013. This took place during the weekend of our normal 4th Saturday dance. As many of you know, we decided to cancel our normal PSDC Dance at Norse Hall in support of this West Coast Swing dance event. In return the event directors, **Andrew Slac** and **Jason Isbell** gave our members the member price to the Saturday night dance. This included social dancing and watching the pros dance. Out of area pros on staff were **Michael Kielbasa**, **Katie Schneider**, **John Kirkconnell** and **Alyssa Glanville**, **Sean McKeever** and **Courtney Adair**, **Joshua Sturgeon** and **Lindsey Nastos**. Thursday was the early bird dance and Friday afternoon was the start to some great workshops. Workshops were offered in two levels. Level two was for intermediate to advanced dancers with options for dancers to audition up. Level 1 gave great technique and fundamentals for all divisions and levels of West Coast Swing dancing.

Friday evening was met with some wonderful social dancing until the early morning hours. Late night also had something special, competitions. Our first comp was the Advanced Jack and Jill (JnJ) competition danced in spotlight form, followed by the Champions Strictly competition. There was also another qualifier for the Jam Circle Challenge, and the winners competed in the Saturday night finals round along with all the other finalists over the past few months.



Continued on Page 2

From the Editor

There has been so much happening in our swing world lately, that it feels the past few months went zinging by. I mean, where did the time go anyway?

For us West Coast Swing Dancers, much of it was spent dancing at swing dance events and conventions up and down the west coast. One was SwingCouver, a dance convention held in Vancouver BC. I along with other PSDC members attended this fun event. Then just after our 2nd Saturday PSDC dance in February we had the Capital Swing Dance Convention held in Sacramento, CA. Many from the Portland area and Corvallis were in attendance along with our Swing Dance neighbors to the north, Seattle area and Canada.

We had great local events as well. First was The Swing Blizzard workshop weekend with Barry Jones which was a huge success—see article on page 4. Come Rain Come Shine ended February with a big bang! After a two year hiatus, they were back in full swing. Read article Pages 1 and 2. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Steve Klein

Steve Klein
Newsletter Editor / Historian
newsletter@PortlandSwing.org

Board of Directors:

President	Chris Jones
Vice President	Glenna Cooke
Secretary	Rhonda Shotts
Treasurer	Carla Titus
Membership	Kristy Brehm
Events	Nick De Vore
Dances	Bobby Shakeri
Facilities	Peter Bailey
Promotions	Jimmy Ho
Newsletter	Steve Klein

inside...

- Come Rain Come Shine Recap
- Calendar of Events
- Featured instructor Spotlight
- Swing Blizzard Recap and DJ Corner

- Page 1 & 2
- Page 2
- Page 3 & 4
- Page 4

WWW.PortlandSwing.Org

CRCS 2013, Continued

DeeJays for the weekend were **Martin Casillas, Larisa Tingle, Joe Broderick, Trina Siebert, and Forrest Hanson**. All did an amazing job and kept everyone dancing.

On Saturday the workshops continued followed by the Novice division Jack and Jill prelims later in the day. In the evening PSDC members were able to get in at the club dance rate, which was a nice discount



over a normal admission price. What happened in the evening? well more open dancing of course. Later the competitions got started again. 11pm was Novice Jack and Jill finals as well as Intermediate Jack and Jill Finals. Champions JnJ took place not too long after and then the finals to the Jam Circle challenge was one of the highlights of the evening.

Sunday they wrapped it up with workshops, private lessons by the pros, and Strictly Swing Competitions in Novice and Int/Adv...

Awards were large white umbrellas, signed by the CRCS staff. **Andrew Slac and Jason Isbell** did a great job coordinating volunteers, organizing the event, and also playing tag team on the microphones. Having two mic's was a great idea and the audience loved it. Andrew gave an emotional thank you and appreciation for all who attended and the volunteers that spent hours making sure this event was a success.

All in all a great event worth coming to again. Thanks to Andrew and Jason for holding our social dance there and for putting on a great show for all the Portland Swing Dance Club members..

Enjoy these few photos of the event to remember the fun times we had. Compliments of **Sabreen Lakhani**.



PSDC Dance Calendar

March 9

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. **Jason Isbell & Mackenzie Grover** teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners Lesson taught by **Steve Klein** at 7:30pm downstairs. **Joe Broderick** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight.
Location: Sunnyside Grange

March 23

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. **Leilani Nakagawa** teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson by **Trudy Thatcher** at 7:30pm backstage. **Trina Siebert** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00
Location: Norse Hall

April 13

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. **Kathy Carter** teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners Lesson by **Cassie Winter** at 7:30pm downstairs. **Jason Isbell** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight.
Location: Sunnyside Grange

April 27

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. **Jen Miller** teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson by **Jimmy Ho** at 7:30pm backstage. **Bob Smith** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00
Location: Norse Hall

See our website for more details.
www.portlandswing.org/calendar/

Competition Calendar

WCS Events on the West Coast

High Desert
Lancaster, California
3/8-3/10, 2013

Seattle Easter Swing
Seattle, WA
3/29-3/31, 2013

City of Angels Swing
Los Angeles, California
4/4-4/7, 2013

San Francisco Dance Sensation
4/11-4/14, 2013

Featured Instructor Cassie Winter



A well known instructor in the area and a great social dancer, Cassie Winter has done it all. She has been teaching since she was a Novice competitor and her skills as an instructor has grown along with her competitive skills. Just recently she won not one, not two, but three different competitions in the Come Rain Come Shine West Coast Swing (WCS) dance event held in Portland.

How long have you been WCS Dancing? And how long have you been a PSDC Club member?

I started partner dancing in 2006, and I did it all: Ballroom, Latin, Swing, Argentine Tango, and Blues. It wasn't until 2008 that I decided to focus solely on WCS. I became a PSDC member in 2009.

How did your interest in WCS dance come about? (or dancing in general)

I have been a dancer since I was a child. It started with ballet, as it does for many young girls, but that didn't last very long. Instead I trained as a tap dancer for almost four years, and I also studied jazz off and on during that time. But then I took a decade long sabbatical as it were, and it wasn't until I watched the second season of "So You Think You Can Dance" where Benji Schimmer won that I was inspired to start dancing again. I immediately signed up for Swing and Argentine Tango classes at PSU and the rest is history.

You have been a dance instructor for some time now, what got you started? What gives you drive?

It's funny, actually. When I started partner dancing, I never imagined I would ever become an instructor. In fact, I was adamantly against it! I started out as a teaching assistant, and many students appreciated how I supplemented the main instruction and enjoyed the way I explained things. Everyone kept asking me when I would start teaching on my own, and I kept saying never. At that time I still suffered from extreme shyness and social anxiety. The first time I taught a class on my own as a substitute instructor, I was literally shaking with fear. Fast forward to today, and I get a rush from teaching large groups of people. One of my goals in life is to be inspiring, and this pushes me to continue to better my own dancing, to compete and to perform, and to gift others with that same ability. I now pride myself on my teach-

ing ability and always strive to make WCS both accessible and fun for everybody.

You are known for experience in leading, and have taught the leader's role. Where did your interest in leading come about?

Originally my interest in leading came about out of necessity. The PSU dance classes I participated in never had enough leaders, and since I learned the follow's role so quickly, I transitioned to leading early on to balance out the classes. Within half a year of starting partner dancing, I was both leading and following every dance. This accelerated my learning and allowed me the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of partner dance connection from both leading and following perspectives, and that is what I enjoy teaching most. If you want to learn how to effectively communicate with your partners on the dance floor, I can give you the tools to do that.

Do you have an overall philosophy with instructing?

If so what is it?

I wouldn't necessarily call it a philosophy, but teaching connection technique is my primary aim and I tend to focus on it almost exclusively. I want my students to leave my classes with the foundational techniques that create this dance so that they don't have to remember patterns, they can just dance intuitively. Most importantly, safety underlies everything that I teach. Having been seriously injured on the dance floor multiple times, I know how important it is to highlight safety issues when teaching so that all my students can protect themselves and take care of their partners on the dance floor.



What have been some memorable moments in your dancing career?

To date, my favorite performance was the three-person "Pirate WCS" routine I did a couple years ago with Trina Siebert and Mackenzie Grover. Giant squid! Another favorite memory was this past summer when two students of mine got married and performed for their first dance a WCS routine that I had choreographed and been teaching them for the six months prior. It was not a simple routine and I am very proud of how hard they worked. By the time the special day rolled around, they knew that routine so well that they could perform it without thinking about it, and the smiles on their faces had me crying like a baby. Most recently, I am very proud of my achievements at Come Rain Come Shine 2013

where I took first place in the Jam Circle Challenge following Nick DeVore, and I also took first place in both the Intermediate J&J, and the Intermediate/Advanced Strictly – both leading the wonderful Rosiee Thormahlen. The stars aligned for me that weekend, and I am so grateful to have had Rosiee and Nick for partners, and I am honored to have been competing against so many dancers, leaders and followers, that I look up to and respect, and who inspire me as dancers and as people. I love that the heart of the WCS community is built upon love, respect, and inspiration, and I am eternally grateful to be a part of it.

(Continued on page 4)

Featured Instructor: Cassie Winter (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

What's the studio you work at and how can people contact you?

I am so excited to now be a part of Uptown Ballroom under Leilani Nakagawa! I teach regular WCS and Argentine Tango group classes and am available for private lessons. Our class schedule and contact information can be found on our website:

www.portlandballroomdancing.com



Swing Blizzard Recap

The Portland Swing Dance Club's yearly Swing Blizzard workshop event was a great success. US Open Champion and Hall of Famer Barry Jones was our guest. January 11 through the 13th, 2013 were the dates.

The kickoff dance was held at the Ballroom Dance Company in Tigard, Barry held a 30 minute lesson and social dancing soon followed.

Paradise Studio was the place to be on Saturday where our members had some great workshops for people of all levels. Then it was off to Sunnyside Grange in Clackamas, where our normal 2nd Saturday dance is held. Chris Jones was the DJ of the evening and Barry taught the intermediate lesson focusing on the difference between Circular and Linear as it relates to West Coast Swing.

One thing our members liked about Barry was his ability to bridge the gap between those who have some "old school movements" about West Coast Swing and show how the dance has changed. On Sunday he focused on this even more by introducing workshops that was described as the "Old School Moves with a New School Twist".

People enjoyed the weekend and it seemed very relaxing and yet rewarding. Even Barry enjoyed his stay. He was very happy to see many of us so eager to learn and grow in our chosen art form of West Coast Swing dancing.

ATTEND A PSDC BOARD MEETING

Want to see how the board runs? Want to see what decisions affect you as a Portland Swing Dance Club member? If you are a member you are welcome to sit in, listen, and even give feedback to board members.

Plan on attending one of our board meetings. Usually held before the 2nd Saturday dance at Sunnyside Grange at 5pm-7pm.

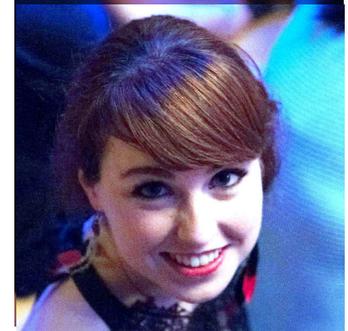
Photos & artwork in this issue provided by: Steve Klein, Sabreen Lakhani, Tiffany Schmidt, and Cassie Winter. All other photos are Copyright by their respective owners. Used here for news and/or educational means.



PSDC Newsletter
Portland Swing Dance Club
P.O. Box 6761
Portland, OR 97228-6761

DJ Corner

Tiffany Schmidt



This issue's DeeJay corner features **Tiffany Schmidt**. Tiffany has been DJ-ing since 2009. She is a consistent DJ for the OSU West Coast Club as well as the Eugene Swing Dance Club dances on the first Monday of each month. Here is what she had to say about her DJ-ing style....

When I DJ I first consider who my audience is. DJing for a beginner crowd is very different than DJing for those who have been dancing for years. I like to be considerate of everyone's skill level. Keeping this in mind, I also like to challenge my audience. In the sense that if I am DJing for a beginner crowd, I like giving them the opportunity to practice dancing to a couple of more advanced songs. My goal at the end of the night is always going to be that everyone is left thinking about how awesome their dances were, but I also want them to leave feeling inspired.

My top 5 favorite songs tend to be a mix of songs that I personally love to dance to as well as DJ.

Tiffany's Top 5 Songs as of March 2013

Title	Artist
Forest Gump	Frank Ocean
Boyfriend remix	Alex G
Mad	Anthony Hamilton
Too Old to Die Young	Brother Dege
Roads	Portishead

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