



PSDC Newsletter

Portland Swing Dance Club

June - July 2013 issue

SO Swing ... So Great !



It was a bright and sunny day that greeted many West Coast Swing dancers as they started on their journey to the city of Medford Oregon for the 2nd annual SO Swing Dance Convention. Directed by Dave Kahn and Rebecca Blust, the event is in it's 2nd year and was held May 16th thru 19th, 2013.

This is a popular destination for many in the bay area as well as those from Seattle and Portland as it's (sort of) centrally located. As one participant put it, "it's somewhere in the middle" SO Swing even had some international competitors in attendance. The destination is also attractive to many dancers as it's a nice getaway from the normal convention.

SO Swing hosted 3 categories of competitions. Jack and Jill (JnJ), Strictly, and the ever popular Northwest / Southern Oregon favorite, 3-Way Strictly Swing). Newcomers JnJ, and Novice Strictly was on Friday followed by All-Star Champions Strictly. Saturday was the JnJ Competitions for Novice through Advanced, followed by All-Star Champions JnJ. Sunday was the Strictly Swing Competitions, Intermediate/Advanced, including the 3-Way.

The staff was incredible and many of the pros hung around for social dancing until the early morning hours. Instructors and Professional Staff included Alyssa Glanville, Jung Choe, Ben McHenry, Katie Schneider, Bob Tucker, Mark Scheuffele, Cameo Cross, Nick Jay, Edwin Li, Eunjin Le, Nick King, Jason Wayne, Sharlot Bott, Joanna Meinel, Tara Trafzer, John Kirkconnell, Victoria Tolonen, Joshua Sturgeon, Yvonne Wayne, and Zee. DJ's for the event were: Chris Jones, Jody Moscaritolo, Mark Pawlick, Martin Casillas, Victoria Tolonen. Master of Ceremonies was Jody Moscaritolo.

Many of the pros were seen having fun and social dancing throughout the weekend. A special surprise guest Luis Crespo was also having fun and social danced late into the early morning hours.

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From the Editor

The sun is starting to shine in the Northwest and we have been having unusually dry weather. Yes, Summer is fast approaching and with the heat comes some HOT dancing.

Already we had SO Swing to start us off on the right foot (see Article SO Swing... So Great). Next we have Dance N Play which is just around the corner, Eagle Crest Resort in Central Oregon. Then after that, we have the Portland Dance Festival, a mix of Country Western and West Coast Swing happening in July. (See Calendar for date).

I have an exclusive interview with The Ballroom Dance Company, Director Sunnie Page, host of some of our PSDC events as well as the recent Come Rain come Shine Dance Convention. (see page 3).

Finally don't forget our DJ Corner. This issue we have Stryder Crown giving us his insight in how he hears the music. He also shares with us some of his top pics for music he likes listening to. Some unconventional, and some albums he feels everyone should listen to.



Hope you enjoy this issue !

Sincerely,

Steve Klein

Board of Directors:

President	Chris Jones
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Newsletter	Steve Klein

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WWW.PortlandSwing.Org

SO Swing Recap, Continued Those I spoke with said they felt less pressure at this event and it was kind of refreshing. Dave and Rebecca gave a great home town feel to their event, and many people appreciated that.

Another talk of the event were the event T-Shirts. The pros were asked to give nick names of themselves and it was those names that were put on the back of the T-Shirt as the staff. It was fun for everyone to match the pros name with the nick names found on the shirt. Even the pros themselves were stumped on a few, trying to figure out who was who.

Many people helped make this event a success. One person who caught my attention was the director of the Portland Dance Festival, Randy Shotts, put over 40 plus hours at the front desk. He was helping the registration desk, and providing warm friendly greetings to all who came in and out of the ballroom.

This was the theme all weekend. Warm friendly, and partying til dawn. Yes, you heard me right, we had a dance party going on til early morning hours. Yet it felt somewhat like coming home... with a hangover. But still coming home none the less.

But in all seriousness, if I had to pick another event to go to, this would be one on my list. Because it's relaxing and the event directors, staff, and pros really do look out for you.

Dave Kahn said it best, "We want to again convey our thanks to all our out-of-towners. That's what really made the difference for SOswing, both in terms of the energy of the event, and the level of dance. "

Here are a few photos of the weekend...

Photos of SO Swing



PSDC Dance Calendar

June 8

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. The intermediate lesson by **Trudy Thatcher** at 7:30, Beginners Lesson by **Chris Jones** at 7:30pm downstairs. **Simeon Wessinger** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00 midnight.
Location: Sunnyside Grange

June 22

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. And **NICK KING Workshop Weekend !** **Nick King** teaches the intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson at 7:30pm backstage. **Chris Jones** spins tunes from 8:30 to 12:00
Location: Norse Hall

July 13

PSDC Second Saturday Swing Dance. **CANCELLED:** Join us at this year's **Portland Swing Dance Festival** At the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. All Weekend !!!

July 27

PSDC Fourth Saturday Swing Dance. The Intermediate lesson at 7:30, Beginners lesson at 7:30pm backstage. **Joe Broderick** 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

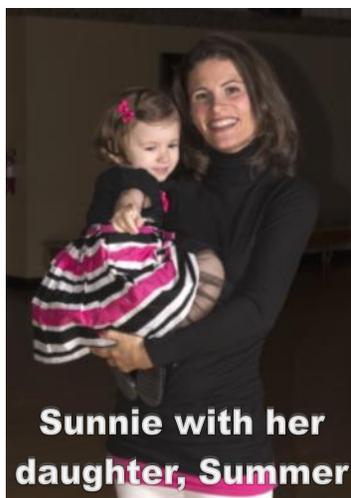
Jack n Jill O'Rama
Anaheim, California
6/7-6/9, 2013

Dance n Play
Redmond, Oregon
6/14-6/16, 2013

Portland Dance Festival
Portland, Oregon
7/12-7/14, 2013

Studio Spotlight

The Ballroom Dance Company



Sunnie with her daughter, Summer

I Interview with Sunnie Page, Director of The Ballroom Dance Company Location: Tigard, Oregon

How did your studio / business form?

I was an avid social ballroom dancer & amateur competitor for years. I traveled regularly to New York City & London for coaching... investing every penny & second of time into training & competing. After competing successfully as an amateur at the championship level nationally and internationally, my partner convinced me to turn pro. I

actually wanted to remain an amateur, & thought I might teach a few lessons a week. This was in 2004 — coinciding with the American debut of “Dancing With the Stars.” Partner dance exploded in popular culture. Almost immediately I was fully booked and needed a larger floor to fit popular group classes and dances. And so began the quest for a huge studio!

With the help of real estate agents I found our (current) building. It took over a year to completely remodel the facility and create the three elegant ballrooms we have today.

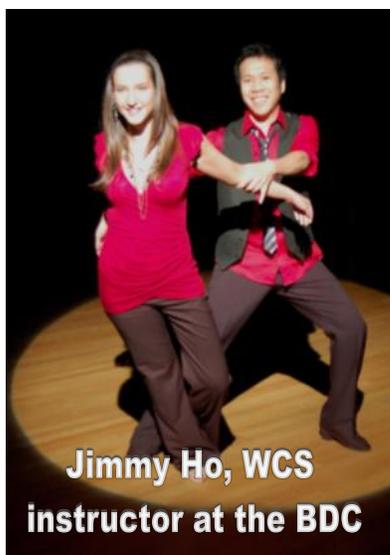
The irony is — though I never wanted to open a studio or even turn pro. I now own to what my knowledge is the largest ballroom dance studio in the United States or Canada. It is funny how life can turn out in a way you didn't plan! I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been able to share the joy of dance with thousands of people over the years through teaching & hosting social dances.

When did you acquire the current space? Any surprises?

We opened our current location in 2007.

(1) When I purchased this building the prior occupant was a paintball business. We removed over 20 dump trucks full of sod, boulders and trees from inside the building before we could begin construction!

(2) Our sprung maple floors are supported by thousands of small evenly spaced rubber cushions. I purchased the floors from a grade school gymnasium under demolition.



Jimmy Ho, WCS instructor at the BDC



3. What's your overall mission of the studio?

I strive to create an oasis for people to enjoy dance. This includes but is not limited to:

1) Cultivating new dancers

When I first started dancing in Portland, there were very few group class options. Most group classes were lumped together into 1 skill level, mixing dancers of all skill levels. This made it virtually impossible for a beginner to join in the community, without the expense of private lessons. We price our beginners classes cheaper than higher skill levels to appeal to newcomers.

2) Cultivating competitors

We provide high level local as well as visiting coaches for competitors. We also host monthly West Coast Swing, Jack and Jills to give dancers valuable competition experience.

3) Providing ample social dance opportunities

When I first started dancing in Portland, there was only 1 dance a week to attend. Admission prices were high. As an avid social dancer myself, I wished there were more dances to enjoy during the week, with less expensive choices. Each week The Ballroom Dance Company hosts 4-7 budget-friendly social dance opportunities.

When did you start providing West Coast Swing at the studio?

Trina Siebert and Jimmy Ho were among the very first professionals to join our studio. West Coast Swing has always been the most popular singular style in our studio. Trina and Jimmy still teach here and have since been joined by instructors Marcus Sterling and Kathy Carter, who also teach weekly group classes. Marcus hosts weekly Sunday night west coast swing dances (7-10pm \$5). Jimmy hosts weekly Thursday night west coast swing dances (8-9:30 \$3).

Our West Coast Swing program develops new students into competent members of the social West Coast dance community. We also prepare dancers for competition. All of our instructors share the goal of installing a lifelong love of dance and a solid skill & technique foundation into their students.

Our west coast swing classes help dancers to find that “perfect connection” with the music and their partner. As students progress they can take more advanced classes to specifically target technique, musicality, and showmanship.



Marcus Sterling, WCS instructor at the BDC

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Kathy Carter, background instructor at the BDC

We also offer a west coast swing “performance class” that performs in our professional showcases. This gives interested students the opportunity to work on a group piece and perform it in front of a live audience, without the pressure of performing solo or having to find a partner.

I know you do showcases at the studio, how often do they occur? Do you allow other studios, students and instructors to perform there?

The Ballroom Dance Company hosts popular professional showcases twice a year. These feature west coast swing as well as all the other styles of dance. Professional sound and lights (including but not limited to giant spotlights, colored LED’s, black lights, disco ball, etc!) help dancers look their best for friends and family in the audience. Most performers are our professional

dancers and top amateur couples and groups from our studio. We also feature guest performers from other local studios.

Our next showcase “Come Fly With Me” is
Saturday June 8, 2013 4:30pm.
 Seats range \$10-\$30.

7. Anything else you would like to add that I didn't cover?

Our Sunday night west coast swing dances have long been a safe place for new dancers to practice, ask questions, and transition from lessons to social dancing. We are also hosting West Coast Jack and Jill competitions the 3rd Sunday of each month. Instructor Marcus Sterling hosts these in the Champions Ballroom during our Sunday night dance parties.

Competitor entry fee is \$1 in addition to dance admission, which goes towards Jack and Jills prize awards. This monthly event is cheap and fun!



Trina Siebert

NICK KING Workshop !!! - 4th Weekend in June !

The Portland Swing Dance Club is honored to be bringing Nick King to Portland for a weekend of workshops, fun, and dance. As of this print, details are still being planned. Please look for the latest updates on our website at **www.PortlandSwing.Org** Or contact Nick De Vore, Events Coordinator....

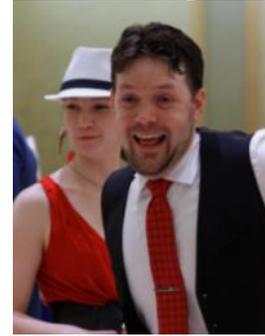
Photos in this issue provided by:

Steve Klein, Sunnie Page, Kara Pezneckner Reavis, Felix Huang Sabreen Lakhani, Shakeri Photography PDX, and Stryder Crown



PSDC Newsletter
 Portland Swing Dance Club
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DJ Corner
Stryder Crown



This issue’s DJ Corner is DJ Stryder Crown. Always known for his special and unique selection of music, I thought I would interview him for the PSDC newsletter.

How long have you been dancing WCS

and DJing? Been dancing WCS for ~ 4 years, but I've been DJ'ing for ~10 years. Mostly Lindy, Blues, and private parties here and there.

Where do you DJ?

Just DJ'ing at Lenoras right now on the side.

When you DJ, do you have a philosophy or a goal in mind?

When I DJ...To play the best music for the moment. To lead the crowd from point A to point B and keep the crowd always wanting more. There is no difference between music and dance, they are inherently the same thing. So when I play a song, it's not enough to sound good, it has to inspire and support a certain style of dance.

What other dance backgrounds do you have?

Dance background in Ballroom, Lindy, Latin, Blues, and a smattering of Tango. I want to play music that demands you dance to it, that grabs you from top to bottom.

Give us your top 10 songs... That's a tough one...I'm not sure I could tell you...How about I give you 5 unconventional songs & 5 bands/albums that everyone should listen to. If you want to hear what I'd DJ, just come out & dance.

- Discovery - So Insane
- Emeli Sandé - Mountains
- Kimbra - Call Me
- Bahamas - Caught Me Thinking
- Foster the People, I Would Do Anything For You

- Daughter - If You Leave or His Young Heart
- Tinashe - In Case We Die
- Wilco - Yankee Hotel Foxtrot
- Alt J - An Awesome Wave
- Frightened Rabbit - The Midnight Organ Fight or The Winter of Mixed Drinks

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