



Rhythm and News

The Official Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Portland Swing Dance Club

May, 2014

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Message
- Dear Patsy
- Sounding Board
- SOswing

Mark Your Calendar!
Bridgetown Swing - Sept. 26-28, 2014

Manny Viarrial Brought it to the Spring Swing

The PSDC Spring Swing in March was an outstanding event. We had many dancers enjoying the workshops both Saturday and Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the lessons presented by Manny Viarrial. As a follow-up, we asked Manny for additional advice.

Q: Rhythm News: What three words describe your dance classes?

A: Manny: Fantastic, Memorable and Beautiful

Q: Rhythm News: What inspires you in your teaching?

A: Manny: To me teaching is like dancing. I am trying to be one with my partner. Teaching is a tool that allows me great opportunities to be apart of someone's joy for dance. I am a people's person. I aspire to be the best as a teacher, dancer, and performer. This is what I shoot for with my students. Be in the moment, this is what this dance is all of about.

Q: Rhythm News: What is your advice for beginning west coast swing dancers?

A: Manny: The advice that I would suggest would be to practice. This is hard to do. We have to find motivation to make this work. If one aspires to be good, one has to put in the time to make that so. Go to coaches that care and have your best interest at hand. This is why I like teaching - to give that certain energy of inspiration to the learning process of a beginner.

Q: Rhythm News: What advice do you have for dancers who want to start competing?

A: Manny: Compete for the joy and experience of the dance. Competing is a strange beast. My advice is to compete for the love of the moment. Try to accept what decisions the judges make. We have to understand that there is a lot of politics involved. I would say to those who compete, be who you are and compete because you love to dance. Don't do it for the accolades. Dancing and competing should come from the heart and soul of your very being.





President's Message

This is the month of May and we are almost half way into the year! First of all, I would like to thank every one of you who have been supporting PSDC. Many of you have been coming out to the dances, taking workshops, volunteering for PSDC, and inviting your friends and family into the West Coast Swing community.

In March, we were honored to bring in Manny Viarrial for our Spring Swing event. One of the responses from Manny was that he always enjoys Portland and he had a great time visiting. We've also had responses from the dancers telling us they had a great time at the workshops and dance. As part of the West Coast Swing community and family, we always want to show everyone from out of town that we always have fun dances and a warm dance family. Our dance community is growing, and I am very happy to see everyone's enjoyment.

As I have mentioned from the previous edition of the PSDC newsletter, we want

to bring you many new, fun, and enjoyable events and activities such as theme dances, potlucks, contests, and more. Currently, we are looking into having a picnic-potluck. Everyone's involvement is very much welcomed and appreciated! If you have some great ideas for the club or would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Also, we would like you to join us at our monthly board meetings. Look for the dates of our PSDC board meetings on the web calendar. Another way to get involved is simply to come out to the PSDC dance parties! Family members, friends, and new dancers... everyone is encouraged to come out and dance! Let's keep growing our amazing dance family!

Thanks for your support,
Jimmy Ho,

President, Portland Swing Dance Club
president@portlandswing.org

"...we always have fun dances and a warm dance family."



Photos contributed by Jim Heyting



Dear Patsy

*Dear Patsy,
I'm a beginning dancer and new to this club. I'm not getting enough dancing in at the dances because none of the guys ask me to dance. I'm afraid to ask guys to dance with me because I'm not very good. Should I stop going to the dances?
Shy Dancer*

Dear Shy Dancer,
No, don't stop coming to the PSDC dances. Here are my suggestions to getting more dancing in each night:

- Attend the lessons before the dances. It's a great way to be noticed.
- Introduce yourself to each partner during the class and use their name each time you dance with them.

- **STAND, DON'T SIT DOWN DURING THE DANCE.** Look like you're interested in dancing.
- Participate and volunteer your help with the club and you will soon be recognized by more leaders.
- Ask others to dance. They may be as insecure as you are. Even if you see an excellent dancer, don't be intimidated by them. I find all the PSDC leaders willing to dance with everyone.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful to you.

NOTE *If any of you have other questions about the club or dancing, send them to newsletter@portlandswing.com.*

Portland Swing Dance Club 2014 Board of Directors

President	Jimmy Ho president@portlandswing.org
VPresident	Glenna Cooke vicepresident@portlandswing.org
Secretary	Joe Broderick secretary@portlandswing.org
Treasurer	Nomer Dumanon treasurer@portlandswing.org
Events	Donna Heyting events@portlandswing.org
Dances	Melena Bronson dances@portlandswing.org
Membership	Peter Bailey membership@portlandswing.org
Promotions	Emerald Beanland promotions@portlandswing.org
Facilities	Ted Macy facilities@portlandswing.org
Newsletter	Larry Sanders newsletter@portlandswing.org

The Sounding Board

1999 was the founding year of the Portland Swing Dance Club. Through the last 15 years we've used the latest technologies to keep our members informed and up-to-date about club dances and other activities.

In the early years we used email notifications, but in today's hi-tech world, email has almost gone the way of the dinosaurs. We still use email to spread the dancing word, but we want to reach more dancers with texting, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

We all know that the only constant in life is change so the PSDC board is trying to stay abreast of the latest and greatest methods for communicating. In order to do that, we are looking for a volunteer from our membership to fill a new appointed position -- **Social Media Coordinator** -- so PSDC continues to have a positive and consistent presence in the world of social media. This person will work with the Marketing & Promotions Director, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and others to set up and maintain interesting and exciting web communications. If you are experienced in posting to social media, we'd love to have your help. Please contact me if you're willing help us communicate to the world's dancers about what's happening at PSDC. Thank you in advance.

Glenna Cooke
vicepresident@portlandswing.org

Southern Oregon Swing

May 16-18, 2014 in Medford, Oregon

The SOswing Mission

The Spanish strategically built their missions along the west coast, each always within a day's ride. The same dynamic has almost evolved with West Coast Swing conventions. Dave Kahn & Rebecca Blust, now Event Directors for SOswing, realized there was an event-gap, about 600-miles long, along the I-5 between Sacramento and Portland. A WCS "mission" was missing. Turns out, Southern Oregon is the midpoint.

SOswing Convention (SO = Southern Oregon) is a mission, created to fulfill a need for a WCS event that catered to locals, yet also heartily welcomed out-of-towners.

"We wanted a smaller, more intimate, friendlier event, where our dancers would feel connected to their WCS pros and their community, not lost in a huge crowd," Dave explained.

Rebecca pointed out, "We wanted an event that really caters to dancing." Rebecca points out that may sound

odd at first, but many other events make the audience watch too many competitions and don't allow enough time for social dancing. At SOswing, they have the workshops and comps and the WSDC points, but they also prioritize social dancing.

"In fact, that's the biggest reason we choose the pro dancers we do for SOswing. They are known for being great dancers—and we know them for being great about dancing with everyone. But, just in case," she smiled archly, "we write the part about social dancing into their contracts."

Finally, SOswing is about doing it all, doing it well, and doing it for less. This is by far the least expensive event on the West Coast. After May 1st, it's just \$110. Last year was extremely well run, and super fun. This year looks to be even better!

Submitted by
Dave Kahn and Rebecca Blust

Portland Swing Dance Club Locations

Second Saturday Dance

Sunnyside Grange
13289 SE 132nd Ave
Clackamas, OR 97086

Fourth Saturday Dance

Norse Hall
111 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232

Join us at the next
PSDC Meeting, May
24th at 5:00 PM at
the Norse Hall.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

portlandswing.org

Like us on
Facebook



Portland Swing
Dance Club

2014 PSDC Dance Schedule

Prices Members = \$7.00
Guests = \$12.00
< 17 years = Free (with adult)

May 10	Second Saturday Instructor=Trina Siebert DJ=Jimmy Ho
May 24	Fourth Saturday Instructor=Melena Bronson DJ=Marcus Sterling
June 14	Second Saturday Instructor=Glenna Cooke DJ=TBD
June 28	Fourth Saturday Instructor=Randy Shotts DJ=Joe Broderick
July 12	Second Saturday Dance held in the Swing Room at Portland Dance Festival
July 26	Fourth Saturday
Aug 9	Second Saturday

Sunday Aug 10	<p>★ Summer Picnic ★ Sellwood Park Plan to join us for a summer afternoon in the park!</p>
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Upcoming Dance Events

May 5-12	Swing Diego San Diego, CA
May 16-18	S.O.Swing Medford, OR
May 22-26	FreZno Dance Classic Fresno, CA
June 12-15	Dance N Play WCS Event Redmond, OR Jack & Jill O'Rama Anaheim, CA
June 26-29	Colorado Country Classic Denver, CO
July 2-6	GPSDC July 4th Convention Phoenix, AZ
July 10-13	SinCity Swing Las Vegas, NV
July 11-13	Portland Dance Festival Portland, OR
July 17-20	Swingtime in the Rockies Denver, CO

Renew your membership now!

PORTLAND SWING DANCE CLUB

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