

# Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



Vol. 16, No. 2

Fall 2015

## From Our Instructors

### **Why Don't Men Dance?**

*By Vence Jelovchan*

More often than not, when we're in a social gathering and the subject of ballroom dancing comes up, the female expresses excitement about learning to dance but the man would rather make a trip to the dentist. After years of being involved in ballroom dancing, a common, key question always arises: "Why Don't Men Dance?" The answer is simple – they don't want to embarrass themselves or their partner because they don't know HOW to dance.

This is no different than a man learning to hunt, fish, develop computer skills, excel in sports, etc. You have to be TAUGHT to know how to do it properly. Looking back during the early years when Pauline and I were first dating, the minute I heard that we would be at a party, wedding reception, etc., where dancing would be involved, I literally broke out in a cold sweat. Why? Because nobody ever showed me how to dance. Many years later in our married life, I agreed to attend beginner ballroom lessons with Pauline for I knew how much she loved to dance. Low and behold, I didn't hate it! In fact, I related to the structure of ballroom dancing for each dance had its own set or "rules & regulations" on how that particular dance step is done. This appealed to my structured mind.

So guys, I get your pain. Why would you want to give up fishing, hunting or a sporting event to go dancing?? The answer is simple, because this is an opportunity to connect with your wife or partner. To an inexperienced man, the dance floor is not as much a place of energy, and fun and stimulation on all levels, as much as it is a giant examination table. We are motivated by achievement and feeling successful. The average man is also not motivated by being able to move his hips like a Cuban. So how do you get to the point of actually not hating the thought of ballroom dancing? The answer is quite simple – be willing to invest the time & energy to be taught, then practice, practice & practice some more. I won't kid you; this can be a rocky road. For those that may have already taken beginner ballroom lessons, it's very easy to let other activities get in the way of your

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## **UPCOMING DANCES MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



- **September 11**
- **October 9**
- **November 13**
- **December 4 –  
Christmas Dance!**

Dance lesson starts at 7:30; brief review of previous month's lesson starts at 7:15; open dancing from 8:30 to 10:45. Bring your favorite finger foods to share, and/or a door prize (value not to exceed \$10-12), and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. And don't forget to invite a friend – our monthly dances are a great introduction to ballroom dancing!

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ballroom dancing. Over time, your skills will become rusty, your enjoyment will become less for you've forgotten the basics, and before you know it, your ballroom dancing days will be over. Please, don't fall into this rut. There will be many times where you prefer to do something else and attending a lesson or practicing simply is a lower priority. If you choose this route, you will disappoint your spouse/partner and lose an opportunity to become closer. You see, every dance with someone is a conversation. The better the conversation, the more fun you have together. However, learning anything new can be frustrating, and it's often easiest to take your frustrations out on those closest to you. Some partners blame one another for not doing the steps right. Please, don't play the blame game.

So, guys, how do you get there? Following are some simple guidelines I'd like to suggest:

1. Be willing to take a beginner ballroom dance class curriculum offering the core ballroom dances. If you've already taken the beginner classes, consider a refresher class. Maybe this could be a special anniversary gift, Valentine's Day surprise, or just a way of showing your spouse/partner that you truly care.
2. Once enrolled in a class, do your best to learn the steps and then outside of class, practice, practice & practice some more. While it's ideal to practice together, you don't need to have your partner with you to practice your steps. Today's busy schedules, business travel, etc., sometimes do not permit couples to be together all the time. Not to fear, you can still practice the steps on your own with an "imaginary" partner. You would be surprised at how much better your sessions together will be if you practice on your own first. Ballroom dancing requires teamwork, which can strengthen your relationship ... but be prepared for some rough patches while you learn.
3. With most everybody today having a smart phone, ask your instructor if it would be permitted to video a recap of the steps at the end of the lesson. This will help immensely in trying to remember what was demonstrated in the lessons for trying to remember, as we get older, is difficult.
4. Don't fret about not knowing a lot of different steps or patterns – yet. Concentrate on learning the basics of each dance, then focus on doing those steps to the best of your ability; the more advanced steps/patterns will come over time as you become more experienced & confident. Also, a dance usually last only 2-3 minutes so how many patterns can you truly do in that time?
5. Don't shy away from retaking lessons. Over time, it is easy to develop poor habits that may have eased into your steps over time. By retaking lessons, you can refresh the proper techniques and unlearn bad habits.
6. Don't limit your dancing experiences to just once/month at the PDBC. There are PLENTY of venues where you can ballroom dance. If your travels take you to another city, going away on a weekend getaway, etc., search the internet for ballroom dancing opportunities in that city. I can assure you, there are plenty and most of the time, a basic lesson is offered prior to the dance and you may pick up something you didn't know. Plus, it's highly likely you will meet some very nice people.

Sharing the experience of movement and music with your significant other can be very powerful and satisfying. Dancing can bring couples closer together.

So men, I'll leave you with this. What kind of conversations are you having with your partner? If they're limp, frustrating, or dry, perhaps you may need to review the above.

"The Person That Dances with You in the Rain, Will Likely be There to Walk with You in the Storm"  
 ..... gift plaque from Donna Gerner to Pauline this past year.



## From the President



Dear Members and Guests, The Club had a great turnout for the June Dance and also for the August Picnic. Rich and Donna Gerner did a fabulous job cooking the Nathan's hot dogs and all the condiments and sides were perfect. Vence came back as instructor with me-felt absolutely marvelous to have him back and looking so well. A special special THANK YOU to Rich and Donna for helping with the lessons this past year. A job well done and appreciated.

The club is looking forward now to the fall and holiday times. At Christmas we love to have spotlight dances performed. Please consider putting a dance together and being part of our Christmastime celebration. If you need help with a routine, please ask us for guidance. I am very proud of our club, very proud of our board, our members, all those that help and welcome guests to come learn the art of dance. Dance is a GIFT-appreciate it!

Fondly,

*Pauline Jelovchan*  
Club President



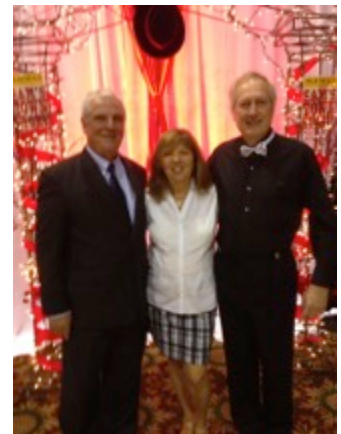
## 2015 All Star Dance Camp

By Catherine Blumberg

*Editor's note: Club members Bruce and Catherine Blumberg and Paul Purvis attended the All Star Dance Camp this summer in Tunica, MS. This is Catherine's account of a great week at camp.*

Whew! What a great break-out party. On the second night of dance camp husband, Bruce, and I checked-out a 50's & 60's theme party. While it was difficult to step away from the fun and merriment in the main ballroom, we're glad we did. Bruce was looking quite spiffy in his letter sweater and nerdy glasses; I knew I was very chic in my hot, pink poodle skirt, bobby socks, initial shirt and pony tail tied with a polka dot scarf. So, we couldn't miss a chance to strut our stuff.

We felt just dandy as we lined up for "The Stroll", boys on one side and girls on the other. Were we at a recreation of American Bandstand with The Diamonds playing on stage? Not quite, but I'm sure we had just as much fun as the teenage couples of the 50's who joined hands, met in the middle of a swaying avenue of guys and gals and moved their way from the front to the back of the line.



my

Since "The Stroll" was such a hit with the partiers, another dance genre was given a try— square dancing. Once again the boys lined up to face the girls and smiles widened. We stepped up and back eight counts, joined arms left, joined arms right and do-si-doed around and around. Then we skipped, and skipped, and

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skipped a little more. Really, how often do adults get to skip — with no eyebrows raised? Best of all, Bruce had always feigned a total lack of interest in square dancing. I took square dancing in college and had always wanted to do it again. Yeah, after this dance party he was ready to go home and do-si-do with our ballroom club. He was pumped. Miracles do occur!

The ease of learning to dance “The Stroll” and the “Virginia Reel” were perfect antidotes for “frame and form fatigue”— a major component of dance camp. However, campers bring it on themselves. Most sign-up for the maximum number of classes available – six fifty minutes sessions between 9am and 5pm. Some add in private lessons from the pros as the opportunity for training from world class dancers cannot be passed-up. Before 9 am a warm-up and stretch class is also available. I assume some people also go to the VIP parties and the after parties.

I have no idea of the attendance at the morning warm-up sessions or the after parties. I’m doing my best to carefully and cautiously arise from my evening slumber and arrive at class by 9 am. It’s not easy because I’m already staying up too late! But, I can’t help it. Every night campers get together for an outstanding dinner buffet and a doubly delicious dessert bar featuring an array of shimmering sugar treats. The bananas foster was one of my favorites. The choices of sugar-free desserts were also a sight to behold (think chocolate meringue pie). Yum!

After dinner is fun and games. I usually tried to fill my dance card for several reasons: to burn off my dinner calories, to meet others and to experience dancing with a variety of people and styles. This camp experience was the first time I’ve felt comfortable dancing apart from my partner. I realized that social dancing is a gift. It’s not a leader or follower performance. Watching some of the pros during social dance time inviting amateur dancers out onto the dance floor cemented this notion. Those professionals made their partners feel valued, even if it meant repeating a basic step the entire time. What a gift!

Enjoying the gift of dancing were the young and the young at heart. Campers ages ranged from 14 to 92! There was music for everyone too! Monday night was Ballroom Radio and the playlist was all current new music. (Think Pink) No Frank Sinatra that night. Sure, Frank Sinatra is great, but so is Meghan Trainor and Luke Bryan. What a way to bring the generations together! No evidence of generation gaps at this party.

Tuesday night was Elvis night. Dance camp planners were quite wise to take advantage of Elvis’ legacy. (If you stop in Tupelo, Mississippi, where Elvis was born, you can visit the store where Elvis’ mother bought his first guitar.) Without Tuesday night, I never would have believed an entire night of ballroom dancing could be done to the sounds of The King. Here are a few of the styles and Elvis tunes:

- Foxtrot – “Fever”
- Rumba – “Spanish Eyes”
- West Coast Swing – “Heartbreak Hotel”
- East Coast Swing – “Return to Sender”
- Cha Cha Cha – “Little Sister”

Every night at dance camp was awesome and Thursday evening brought it all together. The ballroom was especially elegant and set the stage for the evening performances that began with campers’ routines and culminated with showcases by the pros. I felt like I had a front row seat at ABC’s *Dancing With The Stars*. Of course you know we are ALL STARS at dance camp. Come shine with us at ALL STAR Dance Camp 2016!





## Club Leadership 2014-15

### Officers & Board Members

**President:** Pauline Jelovchan  
*Pbjelovchan@yahoo.com*

**Vice-President:** Jane Snipes  
*Janesnipes@northstarcop.com*

**Treasurer:** Janice Flowers

**Secretary:** Andrea McKenzie  
*andreamckenzie@ymail.com*

### Standing Committees

**Dance Theme & Decorations:**  
Marilyn Mong

### Music and Band:

Vence & Pauline Jelovchan  
*Pauline: Pbjelovchan@yahoo.com*  
*Vence: Vjelovchan@aol.com*

### DJ - Eddie Collins

*eddiecollins@sc.rr.com*

**Dance Instructors:** Vence and  
Pauline Jelovchan

**Assistant Instructors:** Rich and  
Donna Gerner

**Newsletter:** Dorr Depew

**Door Prize Chairpersons:** Rich  
and Donna Gerner

**Video Librarian:** Janice Flowers

**Webmaster:** Bruce Blumberg  
*bruceb@uscsumter.edu*



## BALLROOM DAY DANCE CAMP

Sponsored by Sumter Ballroom Dance Club

Morning - 10:00-12:00 - Smooth  
LUNCH  
Afternoon 2:00-4:00 - Latin  
Professional Instructor - John Del Vecchio

Saturday, September 19, 2015  
Paul Purvis' Studio Place  
2079 Central Rd. Lake City, SC  
Ph. 843-598-0609

**Cost:** Current SBDC Members (those who have taken lesson within the last 4 mos.) FREE  
Other participants: \$10 for the day including lunch or \$5 per session without lunch

Call (803)438-9356 or e-mail: [alfredroberson@bellsouth.net](mailto:alfredroberson@bellsouth.net) to let us know if you are planning to come so that we can get a count for the lessons and lunch. Thank you. We look forward to our spending this time together and learning some new dance steps.

## Club Membership

The PBDC tries to make it as easy as possible to experience ballroom dance in the Pee Dee. The PBDC is the only ballroom dance club within 60 miles. We as members must constantly recruit new dancers in hopes that they will join our club. In the past 6 months, many members have moved away, missed attending due to medical issues, etc. Pass the word and let's boost attendance this year.

Please renew your membership promptly when due. Our club depends on your dues to help pay for the hall, DJ and special treats throughout the season. If you have not renewed your membership, we urge you to fill out and send the form in this newsletter, along with your check, to the address shown.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

For the very latest info about PBDC activities, including lots more photos and plenty of information, visit the club Web site: <http://www.palmettodanceclub.org>



**2015/16 Dance Calendar**

Dances are held on the second Friday of each month, unless **noted\***.

- September 11
- October 16
- November 13
- **December 4\***
- January 8
- February 12
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8 \*\*
- August 12 \*\*
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- **December 2\***

\*\* - *subject to change*

**Dance Lesson** from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (review of previous month's lesson at 7:15).

**Open Dancing** from 8:30 til 10:45 p.m.

**Admission** - \$5 for members of the PBDC and \$10 for non-members.  
 Dinner/Dance - \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.



**Editor's Notes**

**Dear Friends,**

Hard to believe Summer is almost over...school has started and I think I felt a touch of Fall in the air this morning. I hope so, anyhow...it's my favorite season!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our next dance.

The purpose of the PBDC Newsletter is to provide members and friends with news, features and information about ballroom dance in the Pee Dee. In this edition, you'll find a variety of articles about dancing, along with photos from our most recent dances. Your comments, suggestions and articles of interest for the newsletter are welcome and encouraged. Try your hand at writing a brief article about your dance experience!

You can email me at [dorrdepew@yahoo.com](mailto:dorrdepew@yahoo.com), send items via regular mail to 400 Church St., Cheraw, SC 29520, or call me at 843-910-2283. The newsletter is published four times a year. We encourage all club members to contribute news and information for the newsletter. Please submit items for the next issue as soon as possible! Thanks!

**Dorr Depew**  
 Newsletter Editor

**Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club  
 Membership Application**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership dues are \$20 per person.

**Mail to: Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club, 410 Eastburn Ct., Darlington, SC 29532**



# THRU THE VIEWFINDER



PHOTOS FROM RECENT DANCES  
CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR MORE!

