

Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



Vol. 18, No. 1

Summer 2017

UPCOMING DANCES MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



- June 9
- July 14
- August 11* (To be confirmed - stay tuned!)
- September 8
- October 13 – 20TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE
- November 10
- December 1 – HOLIDAY DANCE

Dance lesson starts at 7:30; 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!

Dancing In St. Petersburg

PBDC members enjoy classic Florida ballrooms

By Helene Ellis

Looking for a great vacation spot where you can dance almost any day of the week, enjoy interesting sightseeing, and also relax on a beautiful beach? Mark and Deni Sibley and Don and Helene Ellis have found a wonderful



The Coliseum in St. Petersburg

destination at St. Petersburg, Florida. There are a number of beaches along the Gulf with a plethora of condominiums and interesting places to visit...a highlight of our trip was the Chihuly Glass Collection in downtown St. Petersburg. (There is also a Salvador Dali museum there.) Great restaurants feature a number of different ethnic foods; of special note is the famous Columbia Restaurant's Cuban cuisine. But the real priority of our trip was the ballroom dancing! The Wednesday afternoon "Tea Dance" at The Coliseum in St. Petersburg is a unique experience. The

(Continued on next page)

20TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE OCTOBER 13

Can you believe the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club will be **20 years old** in October?! We will celebrate this special anniversary at our dance on **October 13**. This gala event will feature great food, fellowship, and – of course -- dancing! A highlight of the evening will be a special dance lesson and performance by a ballroom dancing professional from Charlotte, NC. He owns a dance studio there and is a certified instructor and ballroom competition judge. This will be a special treat, so **mark your calendar** ...details to follow!



St. Petersburg (continued from Page 1)

dance is preceded by an hour of instruction if you are interested. The Coliseum (535 Fourth Ave. N.) was built in 1924 and is owned by the city of St. Petersburg. During the 1920's, 30's, and 40's it was dubbed the "Palace of Pleasure" for thousands who went to dance to great live music in the elegant Ballroom. The dance floor is made of 15,500 sq. ft. of highly polished red oak. The two story arched ceiling is strung with tiny white lights and a reflecting ball, giving a wonderful gala atmosphere. Their tea dance (held November



Outside the Gulfport Casino

through May) features live music, a variety of ballroom dances, and mixers. The Sibleys and Ellises enjoyed dancing the afternoon away among the 90 or so in attendance with plenty of dance floor (although a few couples would forget the line of dance!)

Another great place to dance is the Gulfport Casino in Gulfport (5500 Shore Blvd. S.). Gulfport is adjacent to St. Petersburg and the historic Casino overlooks



Deni and Mark take a lesson at the Gulfport Casino

the Boca Ciego Bay. You may be thinking the Casino is a place to gamble but this casino is a social gathering place. The Casino opened in 1935 and has a 5,000 sq. ft.

Canadian white maple dance floor, stage for bands, and refreshment bar. They offer different dance lessons several days in the week and have open dance several evenings.

We took a silver level waltz lesson one afternoon and then returned later in the week for a 50's and 60's band and dance on Cinco da Mayo. Summer is off-season for the area, but dances with live music are offered several times a month during the rest of the year.

There are other dance clubs in the area as well as dances held at the VFW club. When you are ready for a change of pace, try the dog races or a tour of Ybor City in Tampa. And then there are the lazy days of simply reading a book under your beach umbrella. All in all, it's a great place to visit, especially when you are with friends.



Don and Helene dancing at the Coliseum

Special thanks to Helene for submitting this article. Why not write a brief article about your dance experiences? Please send articles and photos for the newsletter to dorrdepew@yahoo.com. Word document and jpg photos work best. Thanks!



From the President

Dear Fellow Dancers,

On February 14, 2017, Vence lost his painful battle with a terribly aggressive cancer. The PBDC Sweetheart Ball was Friday, February 10th. We love to have spotlight dances at our special parties, and this was to be a very special one. Chrissy and Dorr Depew were dedicating their first time performing spotlight to Vence in honor of his teaching them and for the bravery he displayed every day.

On February 10th, Vence was having a particularly bad day. In the afternoon, he became very emotional and told me that he thought "it" was happening. I encouraged him to have us stay home from the dance. This he would not do. Unfortunately, we didn't know how badly he was until we got him to the dance. We had to take him out of the dance before Chrissy and Dorr could perform. Sadly, we went to the Hospice House to begin his last few days.

The highlight is that Chrissy and Dorr performed their spotlight dance that night in honor of Vence. I couldn't be more proud. The irony is that the last place he was—was the dance club. He loved everyone and loved - **loved** - teaching. We performed many spotlights, our last being with Vence in a wheelchair. I think every day of his being able to see all at the dance, one last time. We miss him beyond words. I hope he is dancing!...

Also, thank you all so much for your support, love, concern, cards, flowers, food, etc. The special Marine Corps Toys For Tots box of toys wrapped in red, white and blue from the Sumter Ballroom Club presented to me at the April Dance is etched in my heart. As you all know, Vence also loved the Marine Corps!

"Dancing is like Dreaming with your feet"...

Love, Pauline



Decorating Help Wanted!

We can always use help decorating the Leatherman Center for our monthly dance. If you have a flair for decorating, this is your chance to get involved! It does not require you to spend any money for we have an inventory of decorations available. If you'd like to help with decorating, please call Marilyn Mong at 665-7513 or email Marilyn.mong@att.net.

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, and for 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.

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



2016-17 Leadership

President: Pauline Jelovchan
Pbjelovchan@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Jane Snipes
Janesnipes@northstarcorp.com

Treasurer: Janice Flowers

Secretary: Jesse Adams
jesseadms@sc.rr.com

Standing Committees

Dance Theme & Decorations:

Marilyn Mong
Marilyn.mong@att.net

Music and Band:

Rich Gerner
shamrockrjg@aol.com
Pauline Jelovchan
Pbjelovchan@yahoo.com

Dance Instructors: Rich Gerner and
Pauline Jelovchan

Assistant Instructor: Donna Gerner

Newsletter: Dorr Depew
dorrdepew@yahoo.com

Door Prize Chairpersons: Rich and
Donna Gerner

Video Librarian: Janice Flowers

Webmaster: Bruce Blumberg
bruceb@uscsumter.edu



Editor's Notes

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! I hope you have great times with your family and friends this summer. If you're traveling, be safe! We'll have our regular dance in June and July, and probably in August, too (to be confirmed). Looking ahead, we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our club with a very special dance on October 13.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter. Thanks to Jesse for the photos and especially to Helene Ellis for the great article she submitted for the summer edition. Look forward to seeing you at our monthly dances!

Dorr Depew
Newsletter Editor

Why not try your hand at writing a brief article about your dance experience, the way Helene did this time? You don't have to be a great dancer...or a great writer...to tell your dance story! Just send it to me and we'll include it in a future newsletter. I'll even edit and polish if you like!

You can email me at 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!

Dance Information: Dances are held on the 2nd Friday of each month, unless **noted***. The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club meets at The Leatherman Center, Freedom Blvd., Florence, SC. **Upcoming dances:**

Dance Lesson from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Admission – Regular admission is \$5 for members of the PBDC and \$10 for non-members; there may be an extra charge for dances when dinner is included (holiday dance, etc.)



THRU THE VIEWFINDER

PHOTOS FROM RECENT DANCES
CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR MORE!

