



# Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



Volume 6 Issue No. 3

Florence, South Carolina

June - August 2006

## Dancing in St. Petersburg

By Helene Ellis

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When planning our vacation this year, Don and I wanted to include our favorite recreation, dancing, and our favorite destination, the beach. We were able to achieve our goal by traveling to St. Petersburg, Florida. The internet is a wonderful tool to find places to ballroom dance. (Do you regularly check the up-dates on our Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club web site?)

"The Coliseum", located at 535 Fourth Ave. North, is a fabulous dance facility built in 1924 and is owned and operated 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 square feet of highly polished red oak. The two story arched ceiling is strung with tiny white lights and reflecting ball giving a wonderful gala atmosphere. You may call 813-892-



Don & Helene Ellis at "The Coliseum" in St. Petersburg, Florida

5202 for a schedule of their events. Don and I attended one of their weekly Wednesday afternoon Tea Dances (admission was \$5/person). The dance hostess, Betty Braverman, made us feel most welcome and gave us a short tour. Their dance program is much like our Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club with live music, a variety of ballroom dances, and mixers. During intermission they featured a Cha Cha demonstration. They had discontinued dance instruction for the summer but will resume in the fall.

One of the participants at the Tea Dance, Carl, invited us to attend the dance at the "Gulfport Casino" that evening. We had also found information on the internet about the Gulfport Casino which is open to the public and features ballroom dancing at their waterfront grand ballroom at 5500 Shore Blvd. S. in St. Petersburg (813-

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"The Pier" in St. Petersburg offers Latin dancing every Friday evening.

### 2005-2006 Board of Directors

#### Officers

Tom Simmons **President**  
 Anita Stansbery **Vice President**  
 Janice Flowers **Treasurer**  
 Pauline Jelovchan **Secretary**  
 Helene Ellis  
 Nancy Windham  
 Ellen Simmons

#### Standing Committees

##### **Dance Instructors:**

Tom & Ellen Simmons

##### **Dance Theme and Decorations:**

Ellen Simmons

**Publicity:** Joe DeVito

**Membership:** Janice Flowers

**Music and Band:** Tom Simmons

**Web Master:** John Wells

**Door Prizes:** Josie Marqueses

**Newsletter:** Joe DeVito

**Video Librarian:** Helene Ellis



## From the Desk of the President.....

By Tom Simmons

The summer theme parties were enjoyed by all that attended. Members and guests dressed accordingly and the decorations were first class. Unfortunately, the board's worries about summer attendance were justified. We had an average paying attendance of 22.

September marks the beginning of a new club year. I am optimistic the club will return to previous levels of attendance and excitement. Your Board has worked hard to leave no stone unturned. They have met the challenges head on and made some hard decisions. I have received correspondence from several members backing the board's decisions and offering support. The board welcomes any suggestions.

We have an opening on the board due to Anita's marriage and departure from Florence. Nominations will be accepted through the September dance. Please provide the name to any of the board members. The election will be held at the October dance.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Anita Stansbery for her service as Vice President on the board, as dance instructor, and willingness to help the membership with their dancing. Her dance abilities and expertise are an inspiration to everyone. We wish her all the best in the future and hope she, and her husband Ross, will visit us when they are in Florence.

**Thanks to Anita Stansbery...**

Did you notice the ballroom dance DVD playing before the lesson starts? We hope to be able to find other sources of dance exhibitions for your entertainment while you are waiting for the class to begin.

Members looking for another place to dance should consider the Columbia club. Several members of our club have attended their dances. The dances are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Information can be obtained by clicking the link on the Palmetto Dance Club web site. Additionally, you can ask Tom Savage or Edna Free at our dance.

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*Dancing at St. Petersburg continued from page 1*

893-1070). We wanted to dance there but after dancing at the Coliseum and touring the Salvador Dali Art Museum, our feet were ready for a rest.

For a daring change of pace, we decided to visit "The Pier" for some Latin and Salsa dancing. Located at 800 Second Ave. N.E. in St. Petersburg, they offer free instruction and dancing every Friday evening. The Pier is a huge, multi-story complex for shopping and dining that extends several hundred feet over Tampa Bay. Imagine learning to dance the Bachata under the stars as a summer rainstorm approaches!

We learned of all the above dance sites by going to [www.dancinglist.com](http://www.dancinglist.com) on the internet. You may want to try this for an area you plan to visit. If you have found a great place to dance, we would like to hear about it. We're always looking for new locations.

**PBDC  
SUMMER THEME  
DANCE SHOWCASE**

# Beach Party



## Independence Day Patriotic Dance



## The Hawaiian Luau Dance Party





By Tom and Ellen Simmons

In June we reverted back to the one dance per lesson format. We feel that we accomplished our mission of bringing our newer members up to speed in the basic steps utilizing the two dance format. We reviewed this format and decided that there was a degree of confusion trying to learn two dances in one session. Our newer members feel more comfortable spending the whole hour on two or three basic steps. We will continue, when possible, to teach one advanced step to our more experienced members during the last twenty minutes of the hour. We will designate a couple to continue working with the newer members.

I would like to discuss the terms timing, rhythm, and tempo. Timing is the way music is written; i.e., 4/4 time and  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. As most of you know, the waltz is the only dance that we do that is not 4/4 time. Rhythm is the way the feet are expressed; i.e., slows and quick's. Tempo is the speed of the music or measures per minute (MPM). Beats per minute is simply the MPM X 4 (4 beats per measure if 4/4 timing). I mention these terms because many of our members hear a song played and feel like there is only one possible dance. If a song is written in  $\frac{3}{4}$  timing you have two choices depending on the tempo – Waltz and Viennese Waltz. Most songs are played in 4/4 time. If the song has a Latin rhythm then you will likely do a Cha Cha, Rumba, etc... Listen to the music and count the rhythm in your head. Many songs allow you to pick from several different dances. I can give you examples of songs where you could pick from as many as five different dances.



## DECORATING

By Ellen Simmons

A special thank you goes out to the members that decorated for the summer theme parties: Patty and Joe DeVito for the June Beach Party; Maggie and Jay Reece for the July Patriotic Party; and Ellen Simmons and Janice Flowers for the August Luau. The decorations were very creative. A lot of time and effort went into each theme party.

I have three volunteers for the next four dances. I need a volunteer for either September or November. Remember, each dance can have a theme of your choice, but does not have to be as elaborate as the summer dance themes.

# State of the Club Message

from your Board of Directors

Dear members,

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 1, of the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club by-laws, the board must provide the membership with a clear statement of the condition of the association. A year has passed since the last State of the Club message and membership has dropped to the lowest level since the club was formed nine years ago. The number of members seems to have stabilized. The current membership and the monthly attendance will not sustain the club indefinitely. Your club has lost money every month for more than two years. An e-mail was sent to all members in early August describing items that were discussed at the last board meeting, and the actions that will take effect in September. The board has cut all expenses possible, but increases in the band fee necessitated increases in the dance fee to \$8, annual membership to \$35 and eliminating the "first time free" policy for guests.

We are encouraged by the fact that "Dancing with the Stars" will return this month with eleven different celebrities. This normally generates an increased interest in ballroom dancing.

During the past few weeks we have received two very generous donations to the club. These donations will insure your club will be able to celebrate next year's tenth anniversary.

## Video Library Collection Available

by Helene Ellis



Attention new and veteran members:

Don't forget that one of your club membership benefits, use of our video lending library of dance instruction, is still available.

We currently have 8 tapes in our collection. These tapes are loaned for 1 month and may be borrowed and returned at our dances. Please contact me or any board member for information. If you need instruction for practice at home between dances these are for your use.

- Basic Steps used in Fox trot, Waltz, Rumba, Mambo, Cha-Cha, Lindy swing and Tango.
- Latin Dances, Rumba, Cha-Cha, Salsa/Mambo and Tango.
- Beginner East coast swing and West coast swing.
- Beginner Cha-Cha and Rumba.
- Beginner Waltz, Cha-Cha, and Fox trot part 1.
- Beginner Fox trot part 2, Rumba, and East coast swing.
- Beginner Waltz, Cha-Cha, and Fox trot.
- Beginner Rumba and East coast swing.

# Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club

## Membership Application Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership dues are \$35/per person**

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

12/1/03

### Dance Schedule

Dances are the second Friday of each Month

**2006/2007**

#### New Season Starts

September 8, 2006

October 13, 2006

November 10, 2006

December 8, 2006

Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Open dancing from 8:30 to 11:00 pm.

Admission - \$8 for members & \$10 for guests

### Dance location

The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club will hold their regular dances on the second Friday of each month at **The Leatherman Senior Center**, Freedom Blvd. in Florence, South Carolina.

### Coming Events.....



- **Board Nominations**
- **Election of Officers**
- **Annual Club Birthday**
- **Christmas Formal**

### Club Membership

*from Janice Flowers*

The PBDC makes it easy to experience ballroom dance in the Pee Dee. Any beginner or expert dancer is welcome as a guest at our dances. Club membership is not required.

PBDC members please promptly renew your membership when due. Our club depends on your dues to help pay for the hall, band and special treats throughout the season.

If you have not renewed your membership, we urge you to fill-out and send the form above with your check to the address shown.



Don't forget the success of the PBDC depends on your participation in club activities. Our future is dependant on your energy, creativity and personal interactions & experience. Please step forward and help in the following areas:

- Decorations for this season
- Newsletter stories
- Publicity opportunities
- Door prizes
- Special projects

### Editor's Note

Your comments, suggestions and articles of interest are welcome and encouraged. Write to PBDC, 410 Eastburn Ct., Darlington, SC 29532, Tel. 667-9147 or email us at [jdevito@sc.rr.com](mailto:jdevito@sc.rr.com)

Please be sure to check out our website:

[www.Palmettodanceclub.org](http://www.Palmettodanceclub.org)

The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club Newsletter is published four times a year. It is encouraged that ALL club members participate in contributing to this publication at least once during each year. Next publication date is December 1, 2006. Your information must be received by November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### Editorial Staff:

Joe & Patty DeVito  
Anita Stansberry  
Pauline Jelovchan  
Tom Simmons