

Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



Volume 8 Issue No. 1

Florence, South Carolina

January-March 2008

A Brief History of Swing

by Jennifer Reyna

In the last newsletter, I wrote about what I had learned of the history of the Waltz, and for this issue I've turned my attention to the Swing. I have a special affection for the Swing, as my mother was a proficient

Jitterbugger, and was voted best dancer by her senior class of 1946. Light and quick as a little bird, she was well suited to the rapid footwork and acrobatic airsteps of the Swing.

The Swing, or Lindy Hop as it was originally known, arose from the Harlem ballrooms of the late 1920s. It developed out of four popular social dances, the Charleston, the Collegiate, the Breakaway, and the Texas Tommy. The

music played at these ballrooms was a swinging jazz with an eight-count rhythm. Couples would dance in a circular path around a central axis and added improvisational breaks which highlighted their daring

airsteps, at times even attempting to swing their partner up to a horizontal position.

As the music of the Big Band era changed from the jazz of the 1920s, so did the style of dancing become more

smooth and elongated and less bouncy. The dance, then known as the Jitterbug after the Cab Calloway tune of the same name, became wildly popular with young people

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Officers 2007-08

President: Maggie Reece
Vice-President: Trena Ducker
Treasurer: Janice Flowers
Secretary: Cara Murphy
Kevin Casper
Darrell Conner
Charles Ducker

Standing Committes

Dance Instructors:
Vance & Pauline Jelovchan
Dance Theme and Decorations:
Charles Ducker
Publicity: Trena Ducker
Membership: Janice Flowers
Music and D. J.: Trena Ducker
Web Master: John Wells
Door Prizes: Kevin Casper
Newsletter: David Evans
Video Librarian: Janice Flowers

From the President. . .

by Maggie Reece

The world economy may be in trouble, the housing market may be in the dump, and the stock market may be volatile, but Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club is growing and thriving! Because of our decreased overhead, we were able to lower the fee structure and therefore, increase membership. Our total membership is at 62 which is near a club record. Our bank account is healthy which gives the board a real sigh of relief.

With so much to celebrate, the board voted to reward the members with a surprise. This summer, for members only, there will be no admission charge for the dances. So, mark your calendars for June, July, and August, casual dress, no lesson, just come out and dance.

Practice and have fun. For those who haven't joined yet, this is the time. Get in on the 3 months of free dances.

Another bright spot, Jay and Carolyn Black have

volunteered to teach the Junior Division classes beginning in September. We will have more information on this available later and on the website. In closing, I would personally like to recognize the wonderful job Vence and Pauline Jelovchan are doing with the dance lessons.



They, too, are volunteering their time and talent to teach, and we are forever grateful.

Maggie

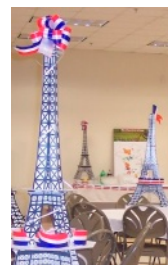


Decorations

by Charles Ducker

The Decorations Chairman would like to thank all those who volunteered to take a turn decorating for the parties each month. Trena and I started off the year decorating for the September dance. After that, we had volunteers for every month thereafter. No one had to decorate twice the whole

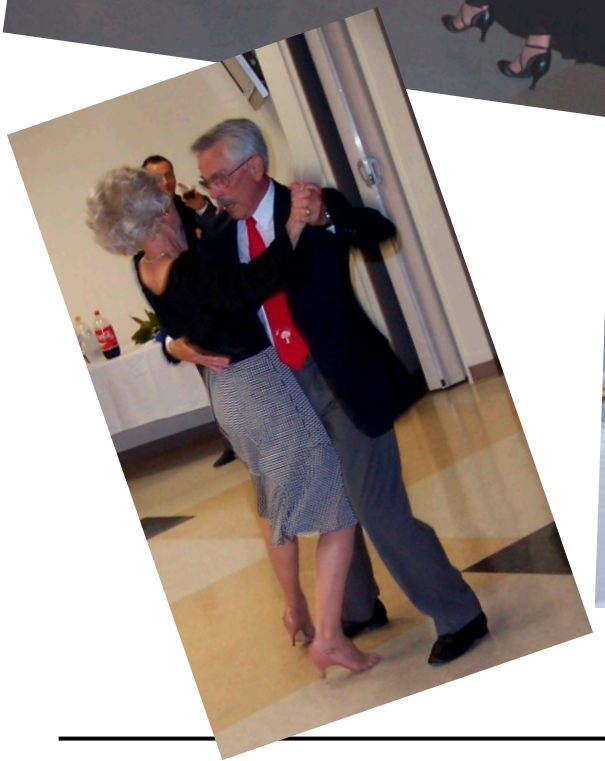
year. Deepest appreciation goes to the following couples: Charles & Lisa Ivory for October, Kevin & Barbara Casper for November, Steve & Jane Snipes for December, Perry and Vanna Dumez for January, Jay and Maggie

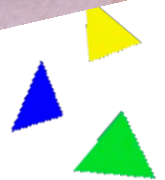


Reece for February, Edna Free & Kay Roberson for March, Mark & Kim Riggs for April and Patty Vilag for May.

The summer dances will be informal with no dance instruction and no decorations. Just come, dance and have fun.

We'll start back decorating in September.





Dance Instruction

by Vence and Pauline

We have now taught one lesson each of our six dances, Waltz, ChaCha, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango and East Coast Swing. Thank you deeply for your acceptance of us and our method of teaching. The reward for us is watching you out on the dance floor.

As we start round two of each dance, the basic steps have to be taught for newcomers but we will always salt in a new step and a different advance step. Once you know the basic steps, then the proper dance position and man's lead (and ladies' follow) can be mastered.

It takes time, it takes practice and it takes patience.

Remember: No one at our Dance is critiquing you.



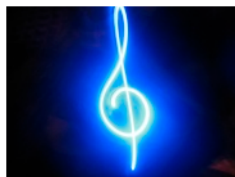
Everyone was a beginner at one time. We want you to learn to dance, meet new people and have a fun, social evening.

Music

by Trena Ducker

Eddie Collins and I have been working diligently on the music. We have a list of around 125 songs that we're working from.

Each month we try a mix of music including something new and different. Until we get a solid, fail **Continued Pg5, Col. 2**



Swing Cont. and mirrored the huge popularity of swing bands. Dance studios added swing dancing to their repertoire in the early 1940s, teaching a simplified version that was much more appropriate for the abilities of their clientele. This is the version that we learn today in our own dance club. There are many regional variations of the Swing, including our enormously popular Shag, the Jive from England, Boogie-Woogie from Germany, East-Coast Swing, West-Coast Swing, and the Dallas Push.

Our love of dance connects us to generations of dancers from times gone by. We may not be stompin' at the Savoy or decked out in our bobby socks and saddle shoes in a high school gym, but we sure are having fun!

Music Cont. safe list, we will continue to print the play list and get your feedback each month. It has been tremendously helpful so far.

We have been able to eliminate "duds," and "star" list your very favorites. We hope to keep a fairly long list so that each month we can hear and dance to different music, not getting tired of any one song.

Please continue to help us by marking the songs you like and don't like on the play list and by adding any suggestions of songs that **Cont. Next Col. Top**

you've, danced to before that really work.

We want you to truly enjoy the music because, after all, that's what inspires us all to get up and dance!

Those who danced were thought to be quite insane by those who could not hear the music. - John Milton

Door Prizes

We'd like to thank all of those that donated doorprizes to our Club for last quarter.

January door prizes were donated by Marcus and Adrienne Twiggs and Trena Ducker. February door prizes were provided by Edna Free, Hsin Yi Armstrong, Yasmin Sferrella, and Jose Marqueses. March door prizes were donated by Trena Ducker, David Evans, Frank & Judy Jordan.

Media Library

by Janice Flowers

Attention new and veteran members:

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

We currently have eight tapes in our collection. These tapes are loaned for one 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.



Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone/Home: _____ Work: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual membership dues are \$20/per person.

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

Dance Schedule 2007-08

Dances are the second Friday of each month.

January 11, 2007
February 8, 2008
March 14, 2008
April 11, 2008
May 9, 2008
June 13, 2008
July 11, 2008
August 8, 2008
New Season Starts
September 12, 2008

Dance Lessons from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.
Open Dancing from 8:30 til 10:45 pm.
Admission - \$5 for members & \$10 for guests.

Dance Location

The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club meets the second Friday of each month at **The Leatherman Senior Center**, Freedom Blvd., Florence, SC.

Coming Events

The Barn April 26 at 8:30 PM, Columbia, SC. Music by Walt & Joyce, Just Us Duo. Dance lesson begins at 7:30.

Club Membership from Janice Flowers

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. Pass the word and let's boost attendance this season.

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.

Volunteers Needed

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

- Decorations

- 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 d_eevans@yahoo.com. Please be sure to check out our website: 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 July 1, 2008. Your information must be received by June 15th, 2008.

Editorial Staff:

Trena Ducker
David Evans
Cara Murpy
Maggie Reece