

# Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



Volume 10 Issue No. 1

Florence, South Carolina

January-March 2010

## Dancing With the Stars - Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club Style

by Bob Trowell

I have been thinking about something that our DJ, Eddie Collins, said about Dancing With the Stars. He predicted that one day one of us might be on the TV show "Dancing With the Stars" (or DWTS as I like to call it). While that could possibly happen, I am thinking that we already have our own dancing stars here. Eddie apparently recognizes that, and I am sure that all of you know that too.

Since my ailing back keeps me off of the dance floor more these days, I get more opportunity to watch other people dance. In the past couple of years, I have had the opportunity to watch some couples begin ballroom dancing with a bit of hesitation, and then, over the course of several months, become competent ballroom dancers.

Part of that competence

comes as a result of the excellent instruction that Vence and Pauline give us throughout the year. I have always been impressed at the number of steps that they are able to present in a short hour.

This instruction comes as one of the excellent bonuses of our reasonable club dues. Vence and Pauline are our own professionals, and my personal PBDC Stars.

Since our first visit to the PBDC, we have been amazed, impressed, and inspired by my next PBDC Stars, Josie and Galo.

They have taken the tango, and made it into their own personal

dance. The judges on DWTS, talk about chemistry between dancers, but there is no doubt that there is chemistry between these two. They move as one on the dance floor. We can all take inspiration from them.



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### Officers 2009 - 2010

**President:** Bob Trowell  
**Vice-President:** Bill Bramlett  
**Treasurer:** Janice Flowers  
**Secretary:** Cara Murphy  
Kevin Casper  
David Evans  
Vanessa Huggins

### Standing Committes

**Dance Instructors:**  
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan  
**Dance Theme and Decorations:**  
Vanessa Huggins  
**Parliamentarian:** Pauline Jelovchan  
**Membership:** Janice Flowers  
**Music and Band:**  
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan  
**Web Master:** David Evans  
**Door Prizes:** Kevin Casper  
**Newsletter:** David Evans  
**Video Librarian:** Janice Flowers

## From the President. . .

by Bob Trowell

Earlier this year I was thinking about the previous year and what it brought to us. Although 2009 will most likely be remembered for the economic recession, several public figures behaving badly, and the failure of several big businesses, for the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club, 2009 has been a good year. Our membership is up; finances appear to be sound; we have a board made up of veterans as well as new members; and the prospects for the future look good.

I have been impressed by the club and its leadership since Peggy and I began to look at the Club back in the spring of 2007.

Peggy had finally decided to retire, and we were trying to decide whether or not to stay in Mauldin, South Carolina or move somewhere else. One of our main requirements was to have a place to continue our ballroom dancing. Peggy had given me ballroom dance lessons as a Christmas present a couple of years before, and we both enjoyed it so much that we were hesitant to leave our dance studio in Greenville. Although we did not want to give up the dancing there, we had no qualms about leaving the faster pace of life, especially Greenville traffic. We still had friends in the Darlington county and Florence areas,



but one big question was, "will we still be able to dance ballroom there?"

Our questions were answered by the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club. The club's up-to-date website let me know that it was an active club. Month-by-month pictures revealed a group of people having fun dancing. Although not the only deciding factor in returning to live in Hartsville, this was an important one, and we decided to move back.

When we attended the first Club dance in September 2007, we were greeted by a group of friendly, welcoming people. We joined the club without hesitation and have not been disappointed since.

Where else can you go to a ballroom dance 12 times a year with great people and dance lessons for such a small fee?

The popularity of ballroom dancing is growing due to such factors as "Dancing With the Stars", and several movies such as "Shall We Dance" and "Take the Lead". When I mention dancing to people here, many of them want to know where we go to dance, so I tell them about what used to be one of the best kept secrets in this region of South Carolina - the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club.

Notice that I said that it used to be a well kept secret, but many of our Club members

have been spreading the word about the Club. They have extended the reach of the Club all over the region by teaching ballroom dance and giving exhibitions in places including assisted living centers, churches, and schools. We are getting great local exposure with pictures and articles in a variety of newspapers and magazines through the efforts of some of our members. By these efforts we have attracted many new members, and I expect our membership to grow over the next few years.

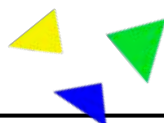
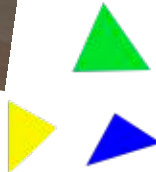
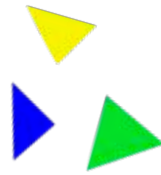
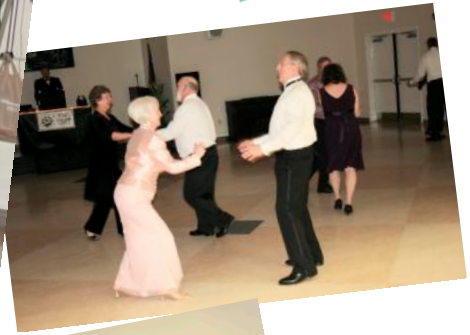
So, what should we be thinking about for the remainder of 2010? I would like to suggest a few goals for the club:

- \* Continue to spread the word about the Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club
- \* Continue to promote ballroom dancing as a healthy, low impact way to have fun.
- \* Attract new members
- \* Continue to teach ballroom dance

What is my personal goal?....Keep on dancing!Bob



The club has a facebook page where you can follow club activities between newsletters. Become a fan!  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/httpwwwpalmettodancecluborg/106291372738520>





While I know that I can never rise to the level that Josie and Galo have attained in the tango, I am still trying to emulate the grace that Perry and Vana have in the waltz.

To me it is as if they glide around the dance floor on a layer of air. Maybe one day I can figure out how to step up on that layer, and we can glide around the floor. In the meantime, I will have to be content to watch these two PBDC stars.

Rich and Donna gave us an exhibition at the last dance that would make any of the DWTS stars envious, so they should be included in any list of PBDC stars.

As we are dancing, we do not always appreciate what other dancers are doing. We had the opportunity to work with two more PBDC Stars, Jay and Caroline, when they taught a ballroom dance course at the Governor's School, so we were able to watch them do their dancing.

They did so many steps that I think that they know more steps than Arthur Murray, and they seem to do those steps effortlessly.

Of course this list would not be complete without Al and Kay, Maggie and Jay, and..... Well, you get the idea. There are too many dancing stars in our group to mention them all.

Everyone seems to enjoy dancing, but I do feel as if I have to mention one more couple. Don and Helene look as if they enjoy every minute that they are on the dance floor. From the first time that I

saw them dance, it was obvious to me that they thoroughly enjoy dancing, and is that not what dancing should be about?

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## Promoting Our Passion

by **Vence and Pauline**

Vence and I wanted to tell you what we have been doing to try to promote our passion, ballroom dancing. In February and March, we taught another beginner ballroom dance class at Poynor.

We had 21 participants. I hope the students enjoyed the class as much as we enjoyed teaching. I think they did, as we were asked to do a Part II.

In April, we plan to do three weeks of lessons that will last two hours each. We will focus on two dances each night.

First, we will review steps and then focus on posture, line of dance or proper "moves".

This Part II class primarily is an opportunity for the students to have "practical application"; i.e., practicing how to maneuver around the dance floor utilizing and combining the steps learned in the lessons.

One male student, who planned to marry on March 20th in another state, took the Poynor lessons to learn ballroom for his "first dance". His wife to be did not know that he was taking the lessons (she has ballroom experience), and she will find out the week before their wedding that he can now also perform

ballroom steps. We hope to see them at our dances.

Also, in February and March we taught the participants in the play, THE GOLDEN LAND, in Dillon to do the Foxtrot for their party scene.

We also performed a Tango as performers in the play.

This was definitely out of my (Pauline's) comfort zone. The director of the play and his wife plan to come to our dances starting in April.

Welcome Gerry and Alicia.

This summer we will again attend dance camp to try to keep updating ourselves as instructors.

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**Thank you to all of the people who donated door prizes for the past quarter.**

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## Media Library

by **Janice Flowers**

**Attention new and veteran members:**

The videos are currently being updated to DVD featuring Vence and Pauline.



# 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 2010 - 11

Dances are the second Friday of each month.

May 14, 2010

#### Summer Dances

#### Admission - Free for members

June 11, 2010- Casual Dress

July 9 2010 - Casual Dress

August 13, 2010 - Casual Dress

New Season Starts

September 10, 2010

October 8, 2010

November 12, 2010

December 3, 2010

January 14, 2011

Dance Lessons from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Open Dancing from 8:30 til 10:45 pm.

Admission - \$5 for members of the PBDC & \$10 for non-members.

#### 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**  
**Summer Dances-June, July & August**  
**Casual dress. Admission for members is free.**

### 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. 667-9322 or email us at [d\\_eevans@yahoo.com](mailto:d_eevans@yahoo.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 June 30, 2010. Your information must be received by June 15th, 2010.

#### Editorial Staff:

David Evans  
 Cara Murphy  
 Bob Trowell