

Upcoming Club Dances

August 16 @ Elks Club Plantation

Lesson: TBD

DJ: Marc Fisher

September 20 @ The German-American Club Hollywood

Lesson: Justin Grubbs

DJ: Marc Fisher



Aug/Sept 2003

Lina placed 3rd in the Jack & Jill comps at the Grand Nationals in Atlanta over the July 4th weekend.



Swing Time

READ ALL ABOUT IT

EXTRA
Venue Moves
To Hollywood in
Sept



What's NEW?

Bruce & Sayda winners of the Jack & Jill comp at Palm Beach Ballroom over the July 4th weekend!



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Directions to Paladium, take the Turnpike to exit 69, head west off the exit ramp. Follow to 441 (four traffic lights) and turn into the Peppertree Plaza.

 **South Florida Swing Dance Society**
 PO Box 81-4147
 Hollywood, FL 33081-4147
Hotline 305-944-9917
Http://www.sfsds.com

Make sure you're on our weekly E-mail list, send "add me to the E-mail list" w/ your first & last name and E-mail address to Swing-dance@bellsouth.net

Note from SFSDS President:



Hello Dancers!

It is again that time of year to put new faces on the board. Please sign up, nominate yourself or someone you think would be beneficial to the club. Membership is growing so I know there are many out there who have not yet served. Maybe you don't know what to expect, have never served on a board and don't think you would make a difference. Think again. If you love dancing, have great ideas and are willing to give 1 to 2 hours a week to the club, we can use you. Please don't expect the same people to do all the work, the club is only as strong and successful as its members are willing to help. Remember, we all do this out of our love for dancing; there is no compensation for being on the board.

Our last dance at the Elks Club in Plantation is on August 16 and I hope you join us in giving a fond farewell. The Elks Club has been sold to a church and the Elks Board of Trustee are planning on building in a new location in the near future. I think that one of the reasons our club has grown these past two years was to having this great place to dance.

Our first dance at the new venue, the German American Club in Hollywood, will be held on September 20. We looked at a number of locations and this one fulfilled our needs. The club is easy to reach by the turnpike or 95, has a larger wood dance floor (with no tacky finish), a large bar which features many German beers, plenty of tables and a large lit parking lot. I hope you all come and to give the new venue a look see and check out the floor.

Out of space, please enjoy the articles, sign up to run for the board and thank your board members and volunteers for all their hard work.

See you on the dance floor
Deborah
 (bergerde@bellsouth.net)

CLUB OFFICERS

President.....Deborah Bergeron..954-575-5600
 Vice President ..Marilyn Roy.....305-596-4341
 Treasurer.....Bruce Perrotta..... 954-975-6800
 Secretary.....Position Currently Open
 Membership.... Susan McMahon... 954-474-1010

COMMITTEES

Newsletter.....Jim Bergeron....954-575-5600
 Photography.....Pete Willets, Laura Smith
 Hot Line.....Jan Lovett
 Web Site.....Jim Bergeron (sflds.com)
 E-Mail.....Jim Bergeron
 Phone.....Marilyn Roy
 Social/Dance....Frank Szabo
 Food.....Suellen Clementino
 PR/Publicity.....Bruce Perrotta

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Szabo.....954-969-0066
 George Peroni.....305-696-2504
 Jan Lovett.....305 595 1250
 Jim Bergeron.....954-575-5600
 Jimmy Gentile.....305-866-1389
 Suellen Clementino.....954-497-3060

Directions to Hollywood German American Club.
From the Fl. Turnpike:
 Follow the Turnpike to the Hollywood Blvd exit. Take Hollywood Blvd. heading east. Proceed to S 62nd Ave, turn right. Continue down S62 Avenue to Washington Street. Turn right onto Washington and continue to the end, the German American Club is at the end of the street. Total distance from the Turnpike is approximately three quarters of a mile.
 Phone for The German-American Club: 954-961-3233.

Deadline for next issue is Sept. 15, 2003
 Price schedule for ads \$

# of Issues	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bus Card	10	20	25	35	40	50
5 X 3	15	30	40	50	65	75
6 X 4	30	60	80	100	130	150
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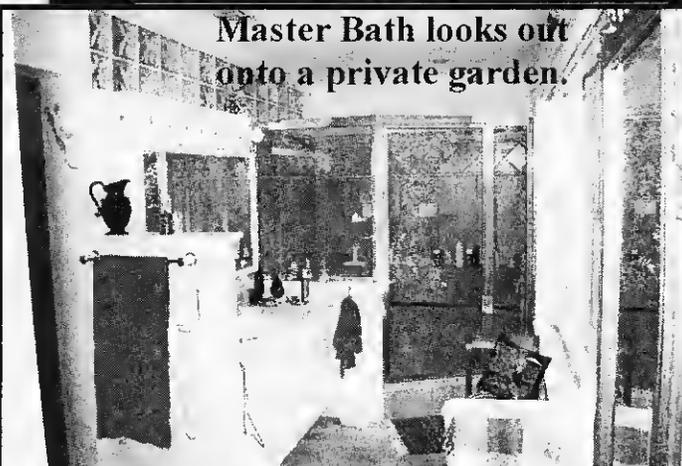


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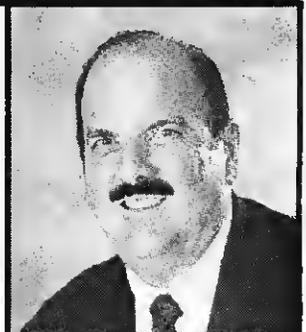
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August

September

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Shonna Neuhart
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Karl Deringer
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Linda Kapp
Marian Sprague
Melissa Mendez
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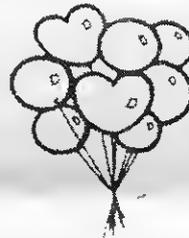
**Happy
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Nicole Dyk
Steven Fishner

Michael Gurevich
Sheri Harris
Meyers Joyce
Sue Ann Kadets
Carrie Miessau
Jeff Myers
Denise Newman
Jim Newman
Susan Oktay
Peggy Osgood
Phil Palma
Kayla Powell
Ray Powell

Judie Quinn-Bethea
Donald Rillera
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tact *Susan*

The Faux and The Doe

Bruce Perrotta

Does anyone else remember "Mutual of Omaha's Animal Kingdom" TV Program. For some reason, the dance scene keeps reminding of the animal kingdom, as anyone who took my survey months ago will remember the questions relating dancing and animal question(s). This must have something to do with my childhood, but that's another story.

Anyway, let's discuss a species that appears in the dancing environs. This little beastie whom I shall call the Faux Instructor is invariably male and can be found at the social dance halls worldwide. The reason I am pointing him out today is to advise him that he should consider changing some of his patterns of behavior. I'd like also to advise the inexperienced female dancing population, whom I think of as does, of the faux instructor's existence and to advise the doe's of some of the things they may experience as they begin the enjoyable pastime of dancing.

When a new follower takes to the dance floor, the wide open space seems rather frightening with seemingly hundreds of eyes watching your every move. (Hint: The whole room is generally not watching you... Think of it as simply hiding in plain sight) The partner takes the young doe out onto the floor while many other dance couples take their positions to camouflage the fledglings. Many of these dancers will encourage the new blood and the young dancer launches a lifetime of fun and enjoyment.

These dancers become friendly to their tribal brethren and begin to ask questions about dancing. In most cases, dancers will give tips, ideas and generally help each other, which is one of the coolest things about this species. You will see them on the floor or off, demonstrating something or discussing an idea. However, most people recognize the difference between helping and instructing. Unfortunately, this is where the Faux Instructors comes in... during the instruction phase.

The Faux Instructor takes a question or request to be shown something and turns it into a full blown lesson. The beginner can get inundated with a lot of information, which to them is incredible and they will initially be extremely grateful to the Faux Instructor. On review with other dancers or Real Instructors, many pieces of what has come from the Faux Instructor is damaging to the new dancer or just outright inaccurate. In many cases, the Faux Instructor takes the new dancer into areas they may not be ready to travel. If they do not have their basic footwork and fundamental understanding of the dance they are working on, they may become discouraged attempting to find the missing components of the dance and we may lose them altogether from the dance community. Attempting a triple somersault with a twist is just not the way to go about learning how to dance in the first day/week/month of the activity.

At this point, someone may say that we could have actually run across a Real Instructor. We can understand the less trained having such an identification problem, but Real Instructors act very much like the rest of the dance world during social dancing. They offer some tips and encouragement to the young dancers. Their identifying mark is the card or contact info they pass along to the new dancer as a chance to begin a new Teacher/Student relationship. Other identifying marks include frequent trips to the hard refreshment area and much later hours of activity.

Both Real Instructors and other dancers that become your friend (a truly awesome behavior pattern among dancers of all levels) will sometimes tip you off as to who the Faux Instructors may be within the community. This is not to dissuade asking anyone about an idea, lead or move that you are interested in learning. Instead, this is to note that you should be looking for instruction from trained individuals and take what you are given with the idea to test it among friends you have gained within the community. Don't allow anyone to tell you their way is the only way, especially in the swing community. Don't let anyone monopolize your social dancing time with questionable instruction. Social dance time is to have fun with what you know and learn via the lead that you are given what may be expected from you while dancing. In essence, it is practice time. One of the great things about dancing is that practice can be so much fun!

Now, I'm sitting by this dance "waterhole" knowing full well that there could be a Faux Instructor nearby, ready to rip me a new tail over this article. My defense to such an attack is quite simple...I watch instructors take new dancers and lead them through all kinds of wild and wooly combinations and moves. That is the key to dancing from the male (or leader) side of this art. If the newbie cannot follow what you are suggesting with your lead, it may be more productive to work on your lead than it is to instruct them on what you are trying to get them to do. If you can get your lead honed to the point where the youngest dancing doe can execute that triple somersault, you will not only have become the dancer you think you are, but you will be nearly ready to carry cards and exchange the Faux label for the Real one.

Something to think about till the next safari....Do dancers travel in prides or pods? I am fairly certain that it is not puds...

DJ Guidelines:

Jan Lovett

As you may or may not be aware, the South Florida Swing Dance Society Board of Directors' is comprised of various committees. Each committee is responsible for an integral part in the continued success of our dances and periodic workshops. One of the duties on the Social Committee is to arrange for our deejays and instructors for each dance. This duty has been delegated to me and has been an on-going challenge to please most of the dancers some of the time or is it some of the dancers most of the time?!!

Many comments concerning the music and instructors has been offered by you as a club these past ten months. These comments have not fallen on deaf ears. Let me explain the process.

Before any deejay/instructor is scheduled, a recommendation is made to me. I then contact the individual, either via phone or e-mail. If they are indeed interested in contributing to one of our dances the following information is offered by me, on behalf of the Board, so that no misunderstanding occurs: the instructors are not paid; we offer them a write-up in our newsletter and ask them to please leave flyers on the tables - to help increase their student base.

The Board has developed "Music Parameters" that are forwarded to each deejay upon finalization of their scheduled play date. The "Music Parameters" are as follows:

- Music - the music styles/tempo (i.e. east coast, west coast, cha cha, hustle, blues, etc. and beats per minute) should be varied. And, of course swing should be the dominate style - hence the name of our club "The South Florida Swing Dance Society".
- Songs should range between three to four minutes in duration.
- It is important to fade in/fade out the music - to keep the dance momentum going.
- The deejay also needs to be open to honoring song requests from our dancers, if at all possible. However, "instant gratification" are not operative words when we have until midnight.
- We are now asking that deejays limit their alcohol consumption - after all, they are "on the job."

And, for all of the above, they receive fair payment. These parameters were based upon the Board learning the hard way what helps our dances to be successful and what causes a semi-successful evening.

We are always looking for new instructors and new deejays. So, if you have a favorite instructor or favorite deejay that you would like included in our dance dates, don't keep it to yourself! Please, let me know (305 595 1250 or janlovett@flightline.com).

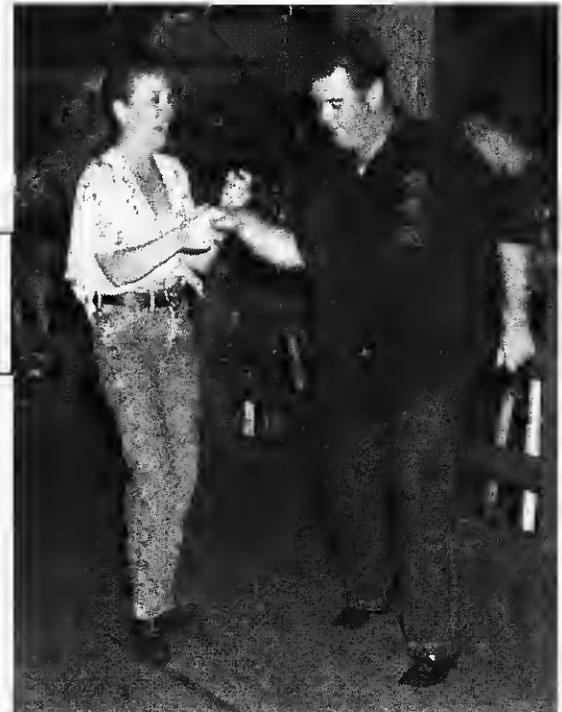
The Board is continuing to strive to fulfill each dancer's expectation in what makes an enjoyable evening - and a successful dance. We do appreciate your comments and remain open to your suggestions - as long as they are offered in a polite, friendly manner. And that, dear friends, is one aspect of the Social Committee's responsibilities!

If you would like to offer any of your time, effort, or knowledge for next year's Board, we sincerely welcome you with open arms!! Just tell Deborah or any Board Member! Best regards and happy spinning, dipping, lunging!!



At left Big Joe and Dani enjoy a dance at the Elks Club

Life may not be the party we hoped for. but while we're here we should dance. --Unknown



Right, Two of the Clubs previous instructors. Mary Jane and Jamee chuckle while dancing at Round-Up. Kind of makes one wonder what happened!

From the Editor. Jim Bergeron
A Short Note About a Pet Peeve of Mine



What do dancers need to dance? My personal choices are: a great dance floor, a partner who is fun and excellent music. Have you ever been out to dance and the floor just wasn't good? Have you been dancing and if you haven't brought a dance partner with you, there were simply no fun partners available? Next, have you been out where there is a great floor, many partners and the music simply isn't to your taste?

Of course each of these are rhetorical questions, but what are the differences between the three?

1. Bad Floor. A bad floor is tough to deal with. Whether it's too slick, too sticky or bad for any other reason you can think of, makes for a long and potentially dangerous several hours of dancing. If the floor is making my feet sore, twisting my knees or slipping all over the place makes it so I won't dance.

2. No Partner: If I am out and I am the only Swing Dancer at the venue, the floor and music don't matter, I won't be dancing due to the lack of partners. If there are no partners, fun or otherwise, how can I dance?

3. Selection Of Music: I've attended weekend dance events, local dances, clubs and other assorted dance venues that were playing a selection of music that didn't suit my taste. At each of these there were fun partners, a decent floor but questionable music.

The differences between scenarios 1, 2 and 3 are: One and two make it dangerous or impossible to dance, but number three still allows me to dance. There are certain tempos that allow dancers to do West Coast Swing. The music could be Blues, R&B, Beach, Rock, Jazz, Hip Hop, Disco or an assortment of others. East Coast Swing has faster tempos but many songs do cross over between dance styles. Throw in the Hustle music, again with many cross over songs, and one can see there is much music available that hits many tastes and misses others.

SFSDS has been rotating DJs monthly for a while now and I can honestly say complaints are received about each DJ hired. The music is too fast, the music is too slow, there's too much Rap, or not enough traditional swing. You name it and the Board has heard it. As a side note, my definition of 'Traditional Swing' is the music one learns to Swing dance to first. There is no solution for this 'phenomena' as there is virtually no chance of one person playing music for 150 (+/-) dancers and satisfying each one of them.

In closing I'd like to add, if there is something you want to dance to at one of the SFSDS sponsored dances, bring a CD with you. (Please don't inundate the DJ with 10 CDs.) The DJs have been instructed to take requests or play CDs patrons bring in and in my observations this is happening regularly. It may take a few songs to get to it so be patient. It may not be something the DJ has and, at the very least, they should be thankful you made a request.

My last point, and I'll hop off the soapbox, keep in mind your request may be something I don't like. But, you know what I'll be doing? I'll be spending the few minutes on a decent floor, with a fun partner enjoying the opportunity to dance.

NOTE: Opposing viewpoints welcomed and I will give equal space should a *reasonable* rebuttal be submitted. For the sake of the editor, 'Reasonable' means the rebuttal contains no cuss words! *Jim*)

After a couple of great years, we leave the Elks in Plantation and move to the German-American Club in Hollywood. Thanks to the Plantation Elks Lodge for the many dances, the fun times and lets all wish the Elks good luck in their new home when it is completed!

Pete obviously didn't take this photo. (At Right) Pete and partner sliding their way through the Grand Nationals in Atlanta.



The South Florida Swing Dance Society....

...was formed in January 1992 as a "not-for-profit" social organization "dedicated primarily to the entertainment, fellowship and interest of it's members and providing opportunities for its members to associate with others who share the enjoyment of dancing to swing type music wherever it may take us"

Our motto is

"Smile...Come dance with us!"

Upcoming Events

- **Dances nightly** **Gold Coast Ballroom.** 1415 Lyons Road. Coconut Creek. 954-979-0770 (Lyons Plaza) www.danceatgoldcoast.com (Friday mainly WCS/Hustle)
- **Dances nightly** **Paladium.** 5688 West Sample Road (Peppertree Plaza), Margate. 954-977-7752
- **Tue-Sun** **Round Up** 9020 West State Road 84, Davie, FL 33324. 954-423-1990 (Pine Island Plaza.) SFSDS Members receive \$2.00 off cover charge
Tuesday is swing night. SFSDS members receive a membership discount each visit.
- **Thursdays** **SwingAffair. Club Pearls** www.swingaffair.com
1710 East Hallandale Beach Blvd. in Hallandale Beach
- **Friday & 1st Sat.** **Palm Beach Ballroom.** 302 N. Dixie Highway. Lake Worth.
Swing Dancing every Friday and the 1st Saturday of each month.
- **2nd Saturday** **Ritz Ballroom.** 651 Indiantown Road. Jupiter.
2nd Saturday is Swing night in Jupiter.
- **2nd & 4th Sat** **SwingAffair. American Legion Hall**
171 American Legion Boulevard. Pompano Beach, FL.
- **August 16** **SFSDS Monthly Dance**
Plantation Elks 7351 NW 5th St. Plantation.
- **September 6** **Palm Beach Ballroom Workshops** 302 N. Dixie Highway. Lake Worth. 561-533-5878
National Champion John Lindo host workshops and will also Dee-Jay the dance.
- **September 20** **SFSDS Monthly Dance** **NEW VENUE starting in September!**
German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood (Directions on pg. 2)
- **October 3-6** **Dance Maniacs Cruise to Bahamas.**
Contact Beth Csira 561-798-0744 or email: Bethcruisestours@aol.com
- **October 18** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood.
- **Nov. 14 (Friday)** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood.



SWING TIME!

South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc.
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ng Dancers HotLine (305) 944-9917
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