

BOOTS, BEATS, & LIFE

The Weekly Edit

Country Dance Newsletter

Issue 17 | Weekly Edition

This Week's Highlights



Featured Story

The Voyager's Compass: New Map Additions

The hunt for the perfect floor never ends. I've updated my Google Map of Dance Venues with three new location across the Midwest that meet our high standards for floor quality and 'vibe.' Whether you are looking for a massive hall or a cozy corner with a big-band feel, check the map before you hitch the trailer. Don't forget to read the full breakdown of these spots over at BootsBeatsLife.com

The Rhythm Reset: Finding the 1

Mastering the '1' is the ultimate game-changer for any dancer, as starting on the correct downbeat ensures your entire pattern aligns perfectly with the music's phrasing. Most country hits follow a standard 4/4 time signature, meaning every sequence of eight counts—the 'magic number' in dance—resets your momentum and helps you stay in sync with the crowd. This week, we're using Ella Langley's 'Choosin' Texas' as our rhythm guide; its heavy, driving bass line makes the downbeat impossible to miss, providing the perfect practice track for finding your anchor before you even take your first step. By learning to hear that initial 'hit,' you move beyond just memorizing steps and start truly feeling the pulse of the room.

The Anatomy of a Perfect Dance Floor

Ever wonder why your knees feel like gold after a night at the Bottleneck Blues Bar but ache after a night on a standard bar floor? It's all in the 'spring.' A professional-grade floor isn't just wood; it's a balance of slip and grip. In this week's edit, we look at why the Bottleneck's intimate, big-band layout provides the perfect 'friction-free' environment for both high-energy line dancing and smooth two-stepping. When the decor is this rich and the floor is this fast, every moment captured through the lens feels like a scene from a movie.

[View the Full Bottleneck Gallery](#)

SONG OF THE WEEK

'Choosin Texas'

By: Ella Langley

[Listen Here](#)



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VENUE SPOTLIGHT

The Bottleneck Blues Bar

The transition from Diamond Music Hall to the Bottleneck Blues Bar marks a sophisticated new chapter for the St. Louis country dance community. While the layout is more intimate than our previous home, the venue's management has already proven their dedication by expanding the hardwood floor space specifically to accommodate our record-breaking crowds. Beyond the elite acoustics and premium dancing surface, the partnership with The Salted Lime for "Dinner & Dance" deals creates a complete "night out" experience unmatched in the area. Between the attentive staff and the vibrant, musical-relic decor, the Bottleneck has solidified itself as the premier 2026 destination for every country and line dancer.

Final Score: **4.6** / 5 Boots 🥞🥞🥞🥞🥞

Read the full, unabridged review at BootsBeatsLife.com.



INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Colleen Coco

Ready to master that new dance without the stress? Colleen Coco focuses on making every step approachable and fun. Her classes at Countin' Kicks with Coco prioritize the learning process, breaking down complex choreography so you can stay confident on the beat. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned stepper, Colleen's inclusive style will have you kicking it in no time. Find her at local events or book her for your next private party!

ON THE FLOOR THIS WEEK

Monday

 **Lumiere of Chesterfield | Chesterfield, MO**
Line Dancing with Mona

 **VFW Post 5691 | Collinsville, IL**
Line Dancing with Stompin' Boots

Tuesday

 **Silver Creek Sports & Social | Belleville, IL**
Line Dancing with Little Cactus Line Dancing

 **MK Ranch Bar & Grill | Warrenton,**
Line Dancing with Krissy Schulze

 **Brookdale Farms | Eureka, MO**
Line Dancing with Stacey Schwartz

 **Elks Lodge | High Ridge, IL**
Line Dancing

 **Social Bar & Grill Soulard | Saint Louis, MO**
Line Dancing with DJ Fish

Wednesday

 **Bottleneck Blues Bar | Saint Charles, MO**
Line Dancing with Mona and DJ Fish

 **The Marquee at New Town | Saint Charles, MO**
Line Dancing with Tiffanie

 **Stovall's Grove | Wildwood, MO**
Line Dancing

 **The Outfield Sports Bar & Grill | Marthasville, MO**
Line Dancing

 **VFW Post 5694 | Highland, IL**
Line Dancing with Little Cactus Line Dancing

 **VFW Post 5691 | Collinsville, IL**
Line Dancing with Stompin' Boots

Thursday

 **The Rec Hall STL | St. Charles, MO**
Line Dancing with Mabee Fitness Line Dance

 **Stovall's Grove | Wildwood, MO**
Line Dancing

 **American Legion | Breese, IL**
Line Dancing with Little Cactus Line Dancing

 **Swansea Improvement Association | Swansea, IL**
Line Dancing with Stompin' Boots

Friday

 **Stovall's Grove | Wildwood, MO**
Line Music

 **54 Country | Kingdom City, MO**
Line Dancing

 **The Office Bar & Grill | Washington, MO**
Line Dancing

 **KC Hall | Hillsboro, MO**
Line Dancing

 **Brookdale Farms | Eureka, MO**
Line Dancing with Stacey Schwartz

 **VFW #1308 | Alton, IL**
Live music with Shotgun Creek Band

Saturday

 **Stovall's Grove | Wildwood, MO**
Live Music

 **Gene's Country Club | Pevely, MO**
Live Music with Boulderdash

 **54 Country | Kingdom City, MO**
Live Music

 **American Legion | Mascoutah, IL**
Line Dancing

 **American Legion | St. Libory, IL**
Live Music with Shotgun Creek

Sunday

 **HandleBar in the Grove | St. Louis, MO**
Line Dancing with Show Me Country Dance

 **Main Street HonkyTonk | St. Charles, MO**
Live Music with Russo & CO



Dance 'n Map



Live Music

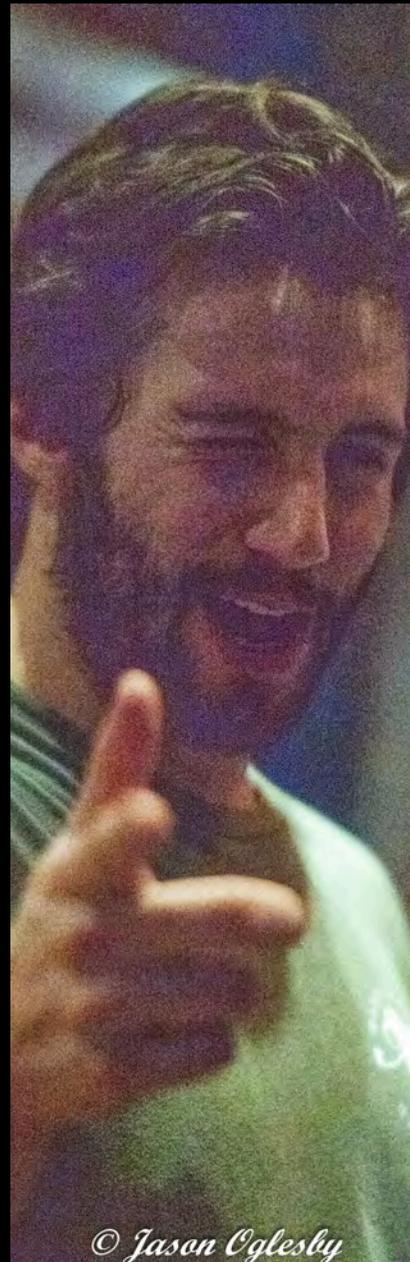


Line Dance

Behind the Lens with Oggie

The Secret of the Wide-Angle

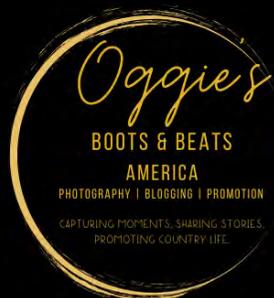
In a crowded hall like the Bottleneck Blues Bar, the biggest challenge isn't just capturing a dancer—it's capturing the energy of the entire room. While a phone camera tends to 'flatten' the crowd, I use a professional wide-angle lens to pull in the depth of the venue, from the vintage instruments on the walls to the synchronized movement of the line. By dropping the shutter speed just enough, I can freeze your favorite move while keeping a soft 'motion blur' on the background, making the photo feel as alive as the dance itself. Check out the Pixieset Gallery to see the difference between a flat snapshot and a professional edit.





Don't Let the Music Stop Here.

Every photo I take is a piece of our community's history. If you saw yourself in this week's edit, don't settle for a blurry screenshot—own the high-resolution memory. Support the art of country dance photography and grab your professional digital downloads for the price of a single drink at the bar.



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