



The 5th Wednesday Letter

From Sandi & Dan Finch

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

New Isn't Always Better

Nearly 70 new advanced round dances come into publication each year. We try to teach those that have enjoyable and accessible music, interesting and do-able choreography and have that certain appeal that will put them on the National Carousel Clubs most taught list.

That way, you are spending your workshop time on dances that have a good chance to staying around and that you can do when you travel to weekends across the country.

Our records show we teach an average of 22 new dances a year. To fit them into the program, something has to give.

How do we determine what comes into the program and what drops out? We rely on you to tell us what you like, by dancing it when it is on the program and by responding when we ask for opinions in the Dance Popularity Polls we take periodically.

Just because a dance is new doesn't make it better. That's obvious. Look at the irreplaceable "oldies" we do regularly: *St. Michel's Quickstep* (1984), *Sam's Song* (1982), *And I Love You So* (1987), *Autumn Nocturne* (1981), *Kiss Me Goodbye Foxtrot* (1976), *Roadhouse Blues* (1981), *Memory* (1984), *Rose Tango* (1978), *Love Story Tango* and *Four & One* (1982).

An "oldie" can slip away for many reasons, sometimes from overuse,

sometimes because its choreography was just a bit too novel for its time, sometimes because something was lacking in the presentation the first time around. Sometimes--like love--choreography is just better the second time around.

Last year, we re-taught *Tico Sambo* (1987) and *Till* (1976) at your request. This year, we have reintroduced *You're The Top* (1988), which we taught in all three classes, and *Dancing Quickstep* (1990), which will have been taught in both advanced classes by mid-summer.

We have started adding to the Wednesday Night program some old dances that merit a second time around. If you like them, we'll find a way to fit them into the current inventory. The "oldies but goodies" revisited so far this year are: *Tenderly* (1985), *Boulevard* (1989), *Stairway to the Sea* (1981), *Embassy Waltz* (1986), *Almost There* (1992), and *Cheek to Cheek* (1969).

You will find this happening at weekends now too: Roundarama features an oldie teach and the Gosses this year re-taught *Rumba Calienta* at McCloud.

Let us know if you remember any oldies you want to try again, and what you think about those we program on a trial basis.



Days of Our Lives

Birthdays:

July

Harold Peyton	July 11
Larry Miquelon	July 11
Bill Murff	July 11
John Michaelson	July 14
Lynn Brewer	July 15
Nancy Dufault	July 18
Dee Myers	July 25
Robert Hornsby	July 25
Don Miller	July 29

August

Margaret Shirley	August 1
Barbara Evanko	August 1
Marie Marlow	August 3
Svea Larson	August 4
Ray Martinez	August 4
Jean Miller	August 5
Eva Zieg	August 9
Rick de la Torre	August 12
Carol Rhyne	August 15
Judi Nelson	August 23
Mickey Marshall	August 29

Anniversaries:

Emerson & Jean Beckstead	July 29
Chuck & Fran Rowitz	August 10
Malcolm & Audrey Pecor	August 14
Bob & Lorraine Mahrt	August 17

Intro to Advanced Moving to Cypress

The Thursday Night Intro to Advanced Class is moving this week to a new location.

We outgrew the upstairs studio at the Imperial Ballroom, so as of June 30, the class will meet at the Cypress Community Center in Oak Knoll Park, 5700 Orange Avenue, Cypress.

We can accommodate 40 couples, dancing on a wood floor, in an air-conditioned hall. There's plenty of parking in a safe, lighted lot.



Wednesday Night Art
We hear about Larry Rhyne's photography and one recent Wednesday Night, we got to see it! Larry brought in a showing of his work that he had put together for a Sierra Club exhibition, for our own kitchen gallery.

Ramblings:

David Moorhouse supposedly retired from his Los Angeles County school administrators job last December but he has been on official duty to a conference in Jordan on developing education programs for emerging democracies. The Los Angeles County Office of Education is partnering with Ghana in West Africa. 68 countries, including the Balkan states, former Russian satellite countries and African dictatorships, were there to develop programs to teach youth about the protections and responsibilities of a free society. He also got in some sightseeing to the ancient city of Petra and a swim in the Dead Sea, then it was back home to the national square dance convention in Portland with *Elaine Vierras*.



It has been an exciting travel time for many of you. *Pat & Anne Lane* were off to Italy in May. *Madeline Ruge* and her daughter went to Greece. *Ken & Eva Zieg* took the train to New Orleans in April, then flew to Florida to board a ship for a cruise to Barcelona, in all a three-week trip. *Sun & Tae Bae* cruised across the Atlantic to Great Britain, then came back by ship. *Bill Fryxell* was busy in June, attending graduations of grandchildren in Arizona and northern California, then he was off for an Alaskan cruise with 20+ members of his family.



Joe & Dee Myers are off to Georgia for a seven-day bike tour across the state. He bikes; she does some sight-seeing and catches up with him at appointed stops. They went back early so he could train and acclimate for the 60-70 mile rides each day in the humidity of the southeast.



Local year-end recitals, school plays and graduations have trumped dance nights for too many of you to mention in the past month. *Sally Davis* went to the Pacific Northwest for her daughter's college graduation. *Carol Mattern* had her own graduation of sorts--she retired from teaching. *Ken & Marion Scholtz* did an exhibition of Beale Street Blues as part of the Santa Monica Oceanaires spring show.



Barbara Evanko came to Springfest with an old friend most of us had not seen for several years, *Victor Ricafort*. It's nice to see *Barbara Johnson* back dancing on Wednesday night. *Marie Marlow* finished her semester of estate planning and is back on Wednesdays. *Paul & Betty Stottlemeyer's* granddaughter Alexa, a Stanford freshman, won a campus contest to promote student interest in athletics by designing a t-shirt and promotion called "The Red Zone--Are You In It?" She works part-time for the college athletic department compiling stats for recruiting purposes and carries a full schedule of classes.



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Mark Your Calendars:
Next
3rd Saturday Night Dance,
July 16