

# Innovations

## April 2003 Newsletter



**DanceSational Workshop, Saturday, April 5, 2003 6:30 – 7:45PM .....**  
**West Coast Swing with Wayne & Sharlot Bott.** With moves named “Sharlot’s Shimmy” and “Wayne’s Back Door” it’s no wonder these dance professionals were awarded swing dancing’s “Innovation Award”. Sharlot puts the “S” in Style. Don’t miss this opportunity to add creativity to your West Coast Swing.

The workshop cost, which includes admission to a dance party to follow at 8:00 p.m., is \$10 for annual members and \$20 for others. Admission to just the dance is \$5 for annual members, sister club members, and college students with I.D. and \$7 for others.

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**Free Classes** This Month prior to the Innovation’s Dance Parties:

Friday Nights: 7:15 – 8:00 PM Intro to Cha Cha

Sunday Nights: 4:15- 5:00 PM Intro to West Coast Swing with Bob and Vickie Palladino

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*Super Mario Weekend was nothing short of SUPER! A huge thanks to all of the attendees and the volunteers that made this Event one of Innovation’s best.*

# Ooohhh!!!

The Saturday, March 1st **Night Club 2 step** Innovations workshop was taught by Michael Kiehm (solo). His expected partner, Brandi Northrup, was recovering from surgery and not up to dancing just yet. (We all wish her a speedy and complete recovery!)

Lots of Innovations folks were in attendance (and we thank you for your support!). For me this workshop was a whole lot of fun for several reasons. First was the dance itself. Night Club 2-step is a great dance to learn. Secondly, Michael is truly a **GREAT** teacher. Finally, the banter between Michael and the class was very entertaining.

**The dance:** Night Club 2-step is a great "feel good" dance that doesn't require the finesse of last month's Waltz. With just a few moves you can be dancing in a reasonably acceptable fashion and feeling pretty good about holding your own against the more accomplished dancers. The level of Michael's instruction was truly challenging and the patterns taught were worthy of any competition dance floor!!! Yes! I was totally impressed with this workshop. Night Club 2-step may just have become my next favorite dance (WCS will always be #1).

**Michael:** Michael began by separating the men and the women, reviewing the basic movements of the dance with each group. We not only practiced moving side to side but also back and forth across the floor. Michael has such a command of both the leader and followers parts that even the women wanted to look (er...dance) just like him!! His introductory pattern was awesome! He did not teach "down" to us but rather challenged us to new heights. We were introduced to spirals and rondes and back to back moves rith form the get-go. Was he listening to our grumbling....not even! Now I have to say: Innovatons has presented many world class teachers at our workshops throughout our year and a half of existence, but there is something about the way Michael teaches and his command of his "audience" that is just beyond compare. He is a master technician.

**The mood:** In particular, I had to marvel at the way Michael parceled out that one particular suggestion that made the move really work for us...the "ooohhhh" moment of enlightenment. (We had several of those "ooohhhh" moments during the course of this workshop). And, yes, because Michael knows many of us, (having taken his classes over the years), there was an automatic kind of familiarity with the class as a whole, creating a nice casual feeling tone between instructor and students--not to mention a free exchange of (good, bad, and "ugly") comments. What fun!

**In conclusion:** Innovations has sought far afield for quality instructors for our workshops. The irony of it all is that we have the very best talent right here at San Diego's own Starlight Dance studio. Thank you Michael Kiehm! You are the master!!

**Frosting on the cake...**if you have not seen Michael and Michael do their technique line dance you have truly missed out! **Oh my gosh!!**

Save me a (NC 2-step) dance!  
Charlene

# SUPER MARIO ROCKS!

By Wayne Peleti

Innovations Super Mario Weekend was a big success. Attendees were treated to a series of workshops featuring the incomparable Mario Robau Jr.

For many attendees this was the first time they had seen “The Master” in action. Their overwhelming response of approval bordered on giddy amazement. Those of us familiar with Mario’s teaching style understood their feelings. Until you’ve taken a workshop with Mario it’s difficult to understand the man’s ability to teach and entertain at the same time.

His witty, often acerbic comments, brought gales of laughter from those present (too often at the expense of the author). However, embedded in those comments was an unparalleled understanding of the dance and what makes it work (or not work). His ability to define with clarity and conciseness, proper technique as well as common mistakes is rooted in a lifetime of dance experience and dedication.

In addition to world class instruction, attendees were treated to a cornucopia of food. The feasting began Friday with an evening of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres including shrimp with cocktail sauce, BBQ meatballs, sweet & sour meatballs, veggie pizza, crab dip and of course, brownies and cookies.

For lunch Saturday, sandwiches, pasta salad, Caesar salad, meatballs, and cookies were served to appreciative workshop attendees.

Saturday evening attendees were greeted with a beautifully decorated ballroom and a delicious carne and chicken asada buffet. The buffet included rice, beans, tortillas, Caesar salad, green salad, and a Super Mario Cake.

Sunday was leftovers day, but by then everyone was stuffed, happy and exhausted.

Super Mario Weekend was a big success largely due to the efforts of the many volunteers who donated their time and labor. As the event chairman I want to thank the following people on behalf of all those who attended including Mario (he said to tell you he had a great time):

Joyce Brungardt, Barbara Carlson, Kurt Dahlvig, Roberta Daugherty, Misty Frank, Jim Hance, JT Holland, Charlene Juszcyck, Jamie Lewis, Bill Martin, Diana Newhouse, Jay Okudan, Martha Peleti, Kristine Peterson, Julie Rishovd, Jim & Linda Schaeffer, Carol Schwarz, Alex Seguritan, Mark Sheddon, Rodney Thomas, Charlie & Sherry Van Epps, Mark & Caroline Washington, Mike West.

## **April New Members**

Faye Blankenhorn  
Rick Blankenhorn  
Rich Bray  
Brenda Gettig

Kathy Keeling  
Catherine Marks  
Glenn Walker  
Amelia Wong



## **April Birthdays**

There will be a list of all members who have birthdays in the current month at the front desk. (If you didn't include your birthday on your application form, just show your drivers license.) If you want to take advantage of your free admission on the day of a workshop and you wish to take the workshop, admission is \$5 for both the workshop and dance. Happy Birthday From Innovations.

1	Bob Dey	11	Susan Lang
1	Barbara Fox White	11	Marian Liebowitz
3	Michael Biggane	11	Jim Widdecke
3	Mary McDowell	12	Laurie LeBlanc
5	Kathy Fennell	14	Ed Presnillo
5	Bill Martin	15	Ted Alexander
6	Rob Gilmore	20	Morianne Fenton
6	John Hayes	24	Diane Gates
7	Ed Dayrit	25	Rosemary Mohler
7	Ernest Rodriguez	26	Caryn Maroni
8	Cliff Tabadisto	29	Nancy Martin

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The New Innovation's Jackets are here. If you would like to order one please see the DJ during the Innovation's dances.

Volunteer Opportunities are available. Please see Martha Peleti to sign up to become an Innovation's Volunteer. We need help with Set Up, Clean Up and Hospitality. We have a great time!

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Several Upcoming Events include:

April: Easter Goodies

May: Strawberry Shortcake for Mother's Day

June: Father's Day Cake

July: Reminder—No Dance Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will all be watching the Fireworks

August: Mud Pie Sunday

## **Workshop Schedule**

All workshops are intermediate level unless stated otherwise.

April 5 – West Coast Swing - **Wayne and Sharlot Bott**

May 3 – American Cha Cha – **Mary Murphy**

June 7 - West Coast Swing - **Parker Dearborn**

June 16 - West Coast Swing – **Rob “I” Ingenthron**

July 5 – Salsa – **Al & Edie Espinoza**

Innovations' dances and workshops, unless specifically stated otherwise, are held at Starlight Dance Studio at 6506-H El Cajon Blvd. in San Diego, CA. Phone: (619) 287-9036

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