

Innovations

February 2004 Newsletter



Wayne and Sharlot Bott

DanceSational Workshop,
Intermediate West Coast Swing,
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2003
6:30 – 7:45PM.

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 Students (with ID) and \$7 for others.

Innovations is pleased to have **Wayne and Sharlot Bott** as our February Star instructors. Nationally recognized instructors and competitors, Wayne and Sharlot are favorites of the West Coast Swing circuit in general and of our club in particular. Members may have most recently seen them at SwingDiego where Wayne was the Master of Ceremonies for the third year running and Sharlot won the Champions Strictly Swing competition with Kyle Redd. Wayne and Sharlot bring talent and experience, as well as the ability to make learning to dance a really enjoyable experience. So don't miss what is sure to be an evening full of fun and learning.

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

Friday Nights: 7:15 – 8:00 beginning **Salsa** with Alex and Misty

Sunday Nights: 4:15- 5:00 beginning **West Coast Swing** with Jane Hance

Hustlin' The New Year In

New papa Archie (Awesome) Dawson returned to Innovations last Saturday to:

- a) Say hello, eat pumpkin cake (courtesy of Misty), and have fun dancing.
- b) Celebrate his birthday with a chain dance.
- c) Teach an awesome workshop in NY style hustle.
- d) All of the above.

If you were at Innovations first Saturday workshop for 2004, you know the correct answer is d). The party was a blast in every way except we missed Melanie who was at home with 2 month old Jesse.

For the workshop Archie started with a "no frills" intermediate level pattern. Basic throw-out, a couple of closed turning basics, throw-out with a four count inside turn, recover and right into an inside release with a hand change, finishing with a "travelling" shadow position recovery and turning basic with an inside turn.

Archie built the pattern block by block with some insights on basic technique for both leaders and followers. Then when the workshop attendees were comfortable with the patterns he showed us some optional extras.

For the followers there was a very cool, preferably low, straight leg kick with some hip twisting action on the end of the four count inside turn. For the leaders an underarm inside turn at the end of the inside release with a hand change. Both options raise the difficulty level but make the pattern look advanced and more exciting to watch.

After some tips on what to do with the hands (followers) and what not to do with the hands (leaders) there was lots of practice to tunes and by the end of the workshop everyone looked pretty comfortable with the material. Archie and Kelly, who very kindly helped out with the class, repeated the material for those that brought video cameras and then it was time for some serious eating and dancing.

Around nine there was a break in the festivities and everyone sang Happy Birthday to Archie and watched as he blew out the numerous candles Martha and Kelly had placed on his cake. Then all the ladies lined up for a birthday chain dance with Archie and tried to wear the old man out.

The cake was added to the already sumptuous food table and the dancing and eating proceeded unabated until 11:30 when the party ended. What a great way to kick off the New Year's Dancing. A big Happy Birthday and thanks for a great workshop to Archie. A big congratulations to Archie and Melanie on their newborn son. And a big Happy New Years to everyone.

Hair And Back Again

By Wayne Peleti

Sunday, January 18th Ronnie DeBenedetta and Laureen Baldovi were back at Innovations. Laureen was last here in November. She and Ronnie were preparing for the US Open, which, in case you hadn't heard, they won. Now they are preparing for SwingDiego.

This visit they taught an awesome Country Western 2-Step workshop. As always the presentation was excellent. The material was fun, challenging and easy to lead. There were technical tips you only get from teachers with the kind of experience these two bring to a workshop.

Sometimes the technical expertise of these two is actually overshadowed by the hilariously entertaining dialogue Ronnie and Laureen run between themselves and the class. By the way, for the record, regarding Ronnie's response to my concern about messing up my hair on one of the moves, I do not have a hairy back.

In between all the laughter we did learn a very nice routine. First a basic, finishing in promenade. A promenade basic, finishing with a prep to lead a check. Lead the lady out and check her (No ronde ladies!). Bring her back and past the leader with one and half inside turns (egg beater arms optional), catching her hip in preparation for a rock step check on the next quick-quick. After the check, use slow-slow to roll the lady slowly to cuddle position. From cuddle position prep and lead an outside spin to a hammerlock. From the hammerlock the leader releases his right hand and does a cut in with a duck out (optional) finishing with a right to right hand hold. A basic outside turn for the follower finishing side to side facing line of dance and prepped to do a basic in and out. On the first slow of the in and out the leader turns the follower a quarter turn left so the check is done with the follower facing out from the center of the circle. As the follower returns the leader turns her a quarter turn left to facing line of dance on the first slow and preps her for a free spin to basic on the next slow. Finish with the free spin to basic.

I know it seems like a lot to learn in one workshop, but with Ronnie and Laureen's excellent guidance I can honestly say everyone seemed to have a pretty good grasp of the material by the end of the workshop. I tried the material out with pretty good results during the dance.

The rest of the evening was the usual eating (I hope everyone got to try some of Bill Martins excellent lemon cookies) and dancing off calories we've come to expect.

We all want to thank Ronnie and Laureen for another great workshop and to wish them the best of luck at Swing Diego. Many of us will be there to help cheer them on. And of course we look forward to having them back again.

How Is Luis Doing?

Many of you have asked us this question. Below is an article giving a summary of how our president Luis Leon is doing. For those of you who didn't know, Luis has been recuperating from a serious injury. We would like to thank Caryn Maroni for writing this and many other missives, for her kind consideration of Luis and his family, and for her efforts to keep all of Luis' many concerned friends abreast of his condition.

Dear Friends of Luis:

While Luis was in San Jose attending the U.S. Open, he received an undisclosed trauma to the head which caused a severe skull fracture and internal bleeding in the brain. He was in the Intensive Care Unit for 24 days at the San Jose Hospital before being flown by medical plane to the San Diego Kaiser Hospital, where he stayed for an additional 14 days. The next 17 days he was at the Sharp Hospital Rehabilitation Center. By January 24th he will be able to stay at home, and just report to therapy from 9-4pm weekdays. **He is doing much, much better and will continue to improve.**

Thank you to the many people who were able to visit Luis in San Jose, and also to the many who have visited him here in San Diego. Also a special big thanks to Laureen Baldovi and her parents Pat and Tiny who helped house and transport Luis's Mom, Trina, during her stay in San Jose. And also thanks to all those who made cash donations to the family, I was able to present Trina and Luis with \$550 dollars.

Thanks again to all, Caryn Maroni

A Note to all well wishers:

Please send cards to:

**Luis Leon
c/o Innovations
PO Box 23745
San Diego, CA 92193**

Innovation's Special Event

Bus Trip to The Orange County West Coast Swing Club Sunday, February 8th

Join our "swingin" party bus to the **Orange County West Coast Swing Club (OCWCSC)** on Sunday evening, February 8th

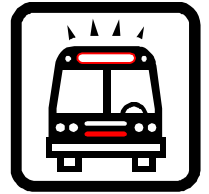
Leave Starlight 4:00 p.m. (Encinitas pick up at 4:30 p.m.)

Arrive at OCWCSC about 6:00 p.m. and Dance until 10:00 p.m.

Bus leaves at 10:00 pm and arrives back at Starlight about 12:00 a.m.

Cost \$20 per person, includes

- your admission, a \$10 value for non- OCWCSC members!
- bus ride, tip for driver included
- snacks, beverages and video entertainment on the bus
- one tired day at work on Monday! Take the day off!



Sign up at the front desk. No reservations accepted without payment.

February New Members

Mikaila Cameron
Howard Heilbrunn
Marjorie Heilbrunn

David Melman
Kathy Townsend

February Birthdays

1 Tatiana Mollmann
2 Helen P. Higgins
2 Jeff Lorenz
2 Russell Williams
4 Debbie Wright
5 Penny Hyde
7 Keith French
8 Connie Wolfe
13 Evie Encarnacion
14 Faye Blankenhorn
16 Ned Schnorr

18 Ron Devriendt
19 Susan McKee
20 Patrick Staley
21 Lisa Rizzi
21 Barb Shuler
22 Howard Bossert Jr.
23 William Bremner
23 Bill Waldon
24 Tui Fundora
25 John L. Jordan
28 Marc Washington

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DanceSational Workshop Schedule 2004

Saturday, February 7 th 6:30 – 7:45 PM	Wayne & Sharlot Bott	Intermediate WCS
Saturday, March 6 th 6:30 – 7:45 PM	Parker Dearborn	Intermediate WCS
April 2 – 4	Super Mario Weekend Mario Robau	Lost of Food, Fun, Dancing, & Workshops
Saturday, May 1 st 6:430 – 7:45 PM	Pending	Pending
Saturday June 5 th 6:30 – 7:45 PM	Rob ‘T’ Ingenthron	Intermediate WCS

Workshop Schedule Subject to Change.