

Innovations

May 2004 Newsletter

6:30 PM Workshop & 8:00 PM Dance



Michael Kiehm & Dawn Haight

DanceSational Workshop,

Intermediate West Coast Swing,

Saturday, May 1st, 2004 6:30 – 7:45 PM.

Innovations is pleased to have **Michael Kiehm and Dawn Haight** as our Star Instructors for May.

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 Clubs & Students and \$7 for others.

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

Friday Nights: 7:15 – 8:00 Beginning Night Club 2-Step Rich Lundin

Sunday Nights: 5:30- 6:15 Beginning West Coast Swing with Alex & Misty

Sunday April 25th – Country Western Theme “Helping A Friend”

Innovations will be continuing the fourth Sunday of the month being a heavier mix of Country Western 2-Steps. The music for WCS and the other dances will be from various genres, Blues, Funk, Jazz, Pop, etc. **This month Nick Hyde will be taking donations to help “JD” Daugherty defray some of the expenses arising from his recent accident.** Most members of the Country Western community are familiar with JD because of all he's done for the dance community. Be sure and see Nick Hyde or stop at the front desk for details.

MARIO ROCKS!

By
Wayne Peleti

Such seems to be the consensus from those attending Innovations 2nd Super Mario Weekend. Mario Robau Jr. is arguably the country's premier West Coast Swing instructor. Innovations has been fortunate to have many of the nation's finest competitors and instructors teach workshops. Mario is a "super" continuation of that tradition.

Each instructor has a unique philosophy about the dance, West Coast Swing, and a related philosophy about teaching the dance. If one had to summarize Mario's philosophy in 3 words they would have to be Technique, Technique and Technique. Everything about the way he looks at the dance and the way he teaches the dance is steeped in technique.

Because he is gifted with the kind of mind that can break things down logically and because he's been looking at and/or teaching the dance for 20 years, Mario's insights are pure gold. Mario doesn't teach a pattern. He teaches a series of technique tips which, when followed, result in the smooth execution of a pattern. Moreover, Mario has a real genius for verbalizing basic concepts, which the average dancer only senses subconsciously.

A classic example: "There are two types of leads, extension and compression. Extension leads generally feel more comfortable to a dancer." Sounds obvious when it's pointed out, but most of us don't think of leads as either tension or compression. And yes extension leads do come more naturally. "Pulling" seems a more comfortable lead than "pushing", maybe because both partners' centers end up moving in the same direction.

There were six great workshops this weekend. Each one was filled with more examples of Mario making enlightening technical observations. Music Interpretation is perhaps my favorite. Mario shares insights born out of a love for music (well certain kinds any way), as well as his extensive dance experience. We should really call this one "How Music Really Works As It Pertains To Dancers." Master this material and you really will be dancing "to the music".

Even with all of the insights he makes about music and dancing, I'm not sure that Mario's greatest talent isn't entertaining. His workshops are always as much fun as they are educational. He does this in part by making wisecracks aimed at unsuspecting, innocent bystanders (like myself). But the main portion of the entertainment is the humorous way in which he presents his technical points.

Sometimes he does this by over the top demonstrations of what we're doing wrong, like the followers foot shuffle when they're not sure which foot they're supposed to be on. Sometimes he does this with simple humorous observations that amuse and make a point, like his advice to the followers – "if you think you're on the wrong foot, wait a half beat and you'll be on the right foot".

However he does it, you never leave a Mario Robau workshop without feeling that dancing is fun and something I can and want to do. And that, perhaps, is the truest measure of a great instructor. For those of you who were unable to attend, I can only say, make room on your calendar next year. Super Mario weekend is a relatively small investment in time and money for what is a super educational and entertaining experience.

US OPEN PROMOTIONAL

Saturday May 1st, 2004 there will be representatives of the US OPEN at the Innovations party. Following the workshop, featuring Michael Kiehm and Dawn Haight, the dance will be held as usual. *During the dance however, there will be a drawing for two US OPEN 2004 tickets.*

As part of the festivities, Innovations is holding it's first dance competition. The competition is *Just Dance Open-Mixed, Double Jackpot*. In addition to the cash prize awarded, first place winners will also receive 20th Anniversary videos of the US OPEN. For more details about the competition visit our website www.innovationsdance.org or email jeralynnb@hotmail.com.

In addition to the usual goodies and refreshments there will be pizza, compliments of the US OPEN representatives.

THANK YOU!

If you see them around, please be sure to thank these people for all the work they did to make Super Mario Weekend a success:

Andrea Maher

Bill Martin

Bill Stalzer

Charlene Juszcyk

Dann Marquardt

Diana Newhouse

Ellen Boucher

Jamie Lewis

Jene Alan

Jim & Jane Hance

Jim & Linda Schaeffer

JT & Carol Schwartz

Julie Rishovd

Kurt Dahlvig

Larry Fromweiller

Mark Sheddon

Marc & Carolyn Washington

Mike Cowlshaw

Susan Lang

Wayne & Martha Peleti

Here's a special thanks to our cooks Bill Martin, Jamie Lewis, Martha, Wayne; also to Carolyn Washington, Jim & Linda Schaeffer for all the help preparing and especially for the beautiful job they did decorating; Andrea Maher and Diana Newhouse for being there when they where needed. JT Holland, Carol Schwartz, Mark Sheddon, Julie Rishovd, Charlene Juszcyk, Susan Lang and the rest of the clean up crew were terrific doing the dishes and all the other grunge work. And a big thanks for the great music to all of our volunteer DJ's, Carol Schwartz, Carolyn Washington, Charlene Juszcyk, Julie Rishovd, Martha & Wayne Peleti.

Sunday Dances Get New “Lease” on Life! And A New Start Time – 5:30 PM

Thanks to renegotiations of the Sunday rent, Sunday dances will have a new lease on life. The new rental rate means Sunday’s are no longer a financial burden on the club. It’s still unclear whether Innovations annual members and the dance community at large want Sunday dances.

For the time being, members of the club are willing to continue doing what it takes to run the dances. **There will be some changes in the format.**

- **Sunday dances will begin at 5:30 PM and the official end time is 7:30 PM.**
- **There will be a Beginning class starting at 5:30 PM in the small ballroom.**
- **The class on Sundays is free. If students want to attend the dance afterward they are welcome to pay the admission then. Attending the dance is not required to take the class.**
- **The fourth Sunday of the month will remain Country Western day. This means there will be more CW 2-Steps than normal. However, the music for WCS and the other dances will be from all genres of music, Blues, Pop, Funk, R&B, etc.**
- **The music mix on the other Sundays will be the same as on Fridays.**

If you want Sunday dances to continue then get some friends together and attend a dance. We provide the floor, the music, the refreshments and a pleasant ambiance. Please note there is still no dance on the Sunday following the first Saturday workshop/dance party.

May New Members

Jone Augustin

Anthony Woods

Sylvia Salopski

May Birthdays

2 Barbara d'Artenay
5 Rich Bray
5 Susy Hafner
5 Merle Tucker
6 Heather Gnau
6 John Hatch
6 Lyn McAllister
8 Paige Sykora
10 Brenda Chesley
13 Martha R. Peleti
16 Donald L. Snyder
18 Cathy Meyn

19 Karen Healy
19 Denise Lujan
19 Karen McEntire
21 Karen Kelsay
21 Diane Thompson
22 Lois Rubin
23 Anne Callies
23 Wendy Frieder
27 Hillary Stall
28 Susan Chesebro
29 Diana Newhouse

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Innovations **Strawberry Shortcake Sunday!** - May 16th

It's strawberry season again and Innovations will have its 3rd annual **Strawberry Shortcake Sunday on May 16th**. If you like home made shortcake smothered in a strawberry sauce and topped with whipped cream be sure and drop by the dance (under the new format that will be at 5:30 PM). Have some strawberry shortcake, and then dance off the calories.

DanceSational Workshop Schedule 2004

Saturday, May 1 st 6:430 – 7:45 PM	Michael Kiehm & Dawn Haight	Intermediate WCS
Saturday June 5 th 6:30 – 7:45 PM	Rob "I" Ingenthron	Intermediate WCS
Saturday July 3 rd 6:30 – 7:45 PM	Carrie Kloss	Intermediate Waltz

Workshop Schedule Subject to Change.