

July—August 2007



PUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Dallas Push Club

“The truest expression of a people is in its dances and its music... Bodies never lie.”

--Agnes De Mille

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JACK AND JILL ANALYSIS

By Mike Corbett

Dancing well, while important, is not a guarantor of success in major National Jack & Jill contests. There are many other important elements that make for victory. My attempt to explain them here is intended to help reduce a competitor's confusion about the results and make spectators more knowledgeable about what they are watching.

First of all, the nomenclature of the various divisions is unclear to many. The World Swing Dance Council (WSDC) guidelines intend that a "Newcomer" is a newcomer to "placing in major competitions," not a newcomer to dancing. It's important to examine and understand the definitions separating divisions used by each individual Event and their intended meanings, because they are not standardized. Although they vary somewhat in name and detail from one event to the other there is a common thread. A mix of five divisions are generally used: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Invitational/Professional/Champions. Many events may combine Advanced and Invitational. Some are combining Novice and Intermediate. Some don't have Newcomer at all.

Remember that the division names relate to but are not intended to accurately describe dance ability. Dancers who are competitive in the lowest or "Newcomer" division may be considered by many to be "Advanced" social dancers even though they are probably really "Intermediate" social dancers in the grand scheme of things. "Newcomer" means the competitor is a newcomer to placing in major competitions. There will be nothing "novice" about the dancing of those who place near the top of the Newcomer division at a major Swing Dance Event.

Competing as a "Novice" is intended to mean you are not a newcomer to competition, but yet you haven't accumulated enough World Swing Dance Council "placement points" to be forced to compete in the Intermediate or Advanced divisions. Novice social dancers are completely out of their element in this division if they haven't won or at

least made it to the finals of a Newcomer contest. Many events combine the Novice and Intermediate divisions for various reasons. This practice tends to scare off some of the inexperienced dancers, particularly if there is no Newcomer division offered. Large heats are sometimes required by time limitations but most event promoters would rather have large heats than turn away competitors by limiting the number of couples allowed to enter.

There are two major schools of strategic thought used by knowledgeable Jack & Jill competitors. One is to "dance down" by remaining in a division until forced by the point system to move up, even though their dancing is at a level that is appropriate for the next higher division. The other is to "dance up" to improve the possibility of drawing a better partner. Both have their positives and negatives and both are generally considered as "part of the game" by other competitors. In general, the dance-downers are counting on their dance ability to carry them through the luck issues and the dance-uppers are hoping to mitigate the luck issue of partner ability and music selection. It's a crap shoot either way.

Examples of the "luck issues" are numerous. The obvious areas include:

1.partner, 2.floor placement and 3.music. Less obvious are such issues as (in preliminary rounds). 4."how many judges were looking at my good or bad moments" and 5."how many other good dancers are on the floor at the same time" 6."is this group of judges looking for what I'm showing" Most, if not all these issues present themselves simultaneously and effect the results in varying degrees in each individual situation. Better competitors can deal with a wide range of partners and floor placement but it's hard to put together a great dance without a great song. Another related issue is the format of the competition itself.

Here is an example of how numerous issues can effect seemingly inconsistent results. In

(Continued on page 6)

Dallas Push Club Calendar of Events

July\August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>July 1</i> 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	2 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	3 Addison City Limits	4	5	6	7
8 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	9 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	10 Addison City Limits	11	12	13	14 C & W/Swing Party @ SOKOL
15 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	16 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	17 Addison City Limits	18	19	20	21
22 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	23 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	24 Addison City Limits	25	26	27	28
29 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	30 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	31 Addison City Limits	<i>August 1</i>	2	3	4
5 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	6 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	7 Addison City Limits	8	9	10	11 C & W/Swing Party @ SOKOL
12 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	13 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	14 Addison City Limits	15	16	17	18
19 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	20 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	21 Addison City Limits	22	23	24	25
26 2:00–5:00 <u>Dance Lessons at Dancemasters</u>	27 8:00–9:30 <u>Int/Patterns Class at Dancemasters</u>	28 Addison City Limits	29	30	31	<i>September 1</i>
2 <u>NO CLASS</u>	3 <u>NO CLASS</u>	4 Addison City Limits	5	6	7	8

Dallas D.A.N.C.E.
Aug 30 thru Sept 2 Fairmont Hotel Dallas



Saturday
August 11, 2007
8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Swing / C&W
Dance Party



Sokol Athletic Center
(Walnut Hill Ln East of Greenville Ave)

\$10 Cover

For More Info Contact Terry Rippa at 214-526-8889



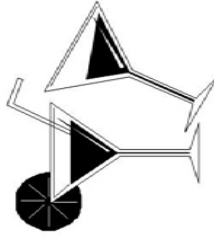
SLEAZY BAR
Swing & C/W
Dance Party



Saturday
July 14, 2007

8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Sokol Athletic Center
(Walnut Hill Ln East of Greenville Ave)



\$10 Per Person

For More Info Contact Terry Rippa at 214-526-8889

Upcoming * Local & National Events

Grand Prix of Swing

July 13-15

Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO. For more information, contact Cowtown Swing Dance Club at (816) 525-8399. [www.usaswingnet.com/kansascity/]

* Sleazy Bar Swing/C&W Dance Party

Jul 14

Dress up in your trashiest outfit and join us for a great night of fun and dancing at Sokol Athletic Center, Dallas, TX. See the enclosed flyer or call Terry Rippla at (214) 526-8889 for more information.

Dance Houston 2007

Jul 27-29

Melody Club, Houston, TX. For more information, see the enclosed flyer or contact Terry Hopkins at (281) 831-9873. [www.melodyclub.com]

Swing Fling (N.A.S.D.E. Event)

Aug 2-5

Hilton Washington Dulles, Herndon Virginia. For more information contact Barry Durand at (505) 286-8646. [www.swingfling.com]

Swingtime In The Rockies (N.A.S.D.E. Event)

Aug 9-12

Westin Westminster, Westminster, CO. For more information contact Kimberly Foss at (303) 517-2050. [www.denverswing.com]

* Swing/C&W Dance Party

Aug 11

Join us for another "C&W Meets Swing" Party at Sokol Athletic Center, Dallas, TX. See the enclosed flyer or call Terry Rippla for more information.

Summer Hummer (N.A.S.D.E. Event)

Aug 24-26

Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA. For more information contact Bill Cameron at (860) 268-1968. [www.dancepros.net]

Dallas D.A.N.C.E. (N.A.S.D.E. Event)

Aug 30-Sep 2

Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, TX. Join the Dallas Push Club by August 1st and receive a FREE ticket to the event, a \$15.00 savings on the weekend door price. See the enclosed flyer for more information or contact Terry Rippla at (214) 526-8889 [www.DallasDANCE.com]

The Dallas Push Club is a member of the National Association of Swing Dance Events, World Swing Dance Council, National Fast Dance Association, National Association of Rhythm & Blues Dee Jay's, Southwest Regional Dance Association, Texas State Dance Association, and North Texas Dance Federation.

DPC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Freeman Spencer	972-475-0872
VICE-PRESIDENT	Tom Tidwell	469-879-9551
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	Dan Houpt	214-275-9903
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	Susan Parker	972-820-7476

REGIONAL BOARD & STATE BOARD REPS:
Kerry Turner, Judy Wooten and Tom Tidwell

**MEMBERSHIP
(New and Renewals)**

Robert	Allman
Calvin	Baw
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Marj	Carrington
Tom	Carrington
Betty	Cherry
Kenneth	Chisholm
Yvonne	Chisholm
Tim	Comstock
Kelly	Eslinger
Amber	Fussell
Brian	Knorr
Meg	McCurry
Dave	Megaffin
R B	Miller
Kay	Reneau
Jane	Talarico
Pat	Topp
Ellen	Wesbrooks

Dance Nights Out

Tuesdays

Join a group for great music, dancing and fun at Addison City Limits, 4050 Addison Rd., Addison. (no cover)

Sundays

Head for Addison City Limits, 4050 Addison Rd., Addison with music provided by DJ Tom Tidwell. General Dancing starts at 7:00 p.m. and there is no cover.



Steve Mack

214-405-7323

stevemack@kw.com

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AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER BROKER



Happy Birthday!

Paula	Olsen	07-03
Terry	Lockwood	07-04
Gregg	McMurry	07-20
Shirley	Schubert	08-01
Bill R.	Jones	08-09
Jeanie	Haynes	08-10
Kay	Reneau	08-19
Jeanette	Holmes	08-22
Jacquie	Jensen	08-26
Tommy	Smith	08-27
Susan	Parker	08-30
Meg	McCurry	08-08

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(Continued from page 1)

two recent competitions less than a month apart and in the same geographical region three men had very different results. The Winners of both the Newcomer and Intermediate divisions and an Intermediate non-finalist (of the six couple final) of Event A all competed in the combined Novice / Intermediate division of event B. The Newcomer Winner from Event A made the finals of Event B, the non-finalist in Event A won the contest in Event B, and the Intermediate Winner of Event A failed to make the thirteen couple final of Event B. This is a very common scenario which might confuse some people even though it is quite normal. How did this happen, you ask?

A lot of it is luck. Just how the elements of luck effected the outcome in the above example is hard to say. Here are some hypothetical possibilities. First (not hypothetical) the format was different. There were still preliminaries and semifinals but contestants danced to three songs with three partners in preliminary rounds of Event A and only two of each at Event B. That effects the luck issues 1, 3, and 4 above. Additionally, contestants were judged as individuals until finals in Event A but were judged as couples in the semi-finals of Event B. That elevates the importance of luck issue 1 but also effects all the rest of the issues to some degree. The Event B non-finalist (Winner of Event A) in our example needed to be a member of one of the top thirteen couples in Event B but only needed to show as a top six leader in Event A. Luck issues 1, 2, 5, and 6 are elevated considerably in the Event B format. It takes both better dance ability and better luck to make the partnership look good enough to make finals.

Once you are in the finals the luck issues start to change and the ability issues become more important, but both are still crucial factors. Once in the finals your "floor position" and "judge viewing time" become non-issues and competitors don't have to worry much about getting a "bad" partner or (hopefully) bad music. There are exceptions.

I once attended a competition where the Advanced division got mostly boring music that lacked energy while the Intermediate and Invitational dancers danced to mostly the same, very exciting, music. In this case the music selection effected the performance to the extent that the finals of the Intermediate contest were considered by many to be a better "show" than the Advanced finals!

Competitors who do consistently well in major Jack and Jill competitions are all skilled at making the partnership look good with a fairly wide range of adaptability to music and partner style / ability issues. Even so, if you are lucky enough to draw both the partner and the music that naturally compliments your style, you are likely to perform at a higher level, so the "luck of the draw" is always still there.

When watching, even as a competitor, look for who is putting on the best show. And when you see something you like, make some noise. Notice whether a judge is watching. When competing or watching, pay attention to timing technique and TEAMWORK. Balance your dance by helping your partner look as good as possible. Even in the preliminaries, judges are looking for teamwork. Most importantly, have fun and show it ... before, during, and after.

(reprinted from West Coast Swing America May 1998)



Dallas Push Club

214-TAG-PUSH (214-824-7874)

DallasPushClub@webtv.net; www.DallasDance.com



Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Res. Phone : _____ Bus. Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Birthday (Month/Day Only): _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$70.00 for one (1) calendar year.

**MAY WE PUBLISH THIS
ADDRESS (YES ___ NO ___)
PHONE NO. (YES ___ NO ___)
IN THE NOV/DEC DIRECTORY
ISSUE OF PUSH NEWS?**

MAIL DUES TO: DALLAS PUSH CLUB, P. O. Box 851522, Mesquite, Texas 75185

We would like to offer renewals and new members a FREE ticket to the 2007 Dallas D.A.N.C.E. on Labor Day Weekend at the Fairmont Hotel. If you have joined the Dallas Push Club by paying your dues for the full calendar year of 2007, you will receive this unique offer and a great value for your money (Door price is \$85.00). In addition you will receive the Dallas Push Club Newsletter "Push News," membership card and all the benefits of being a member of one of the oldest (35 years) and largest swing dance clubs in America. Your Free Dallas D.A.N.C.E. ticket will be available for pick-up at the "will-call" table Labor Day Weekend and is non-transferable.

DANCE HOUSTON

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FRIDAY - SUNDAY JULY, 27TH - 29TH 2007
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Male Pro-Am Novice & Inter. Strictly Swings - \$2500

Female Pro-Am Novice & Inter. Strictly Swings - \$2500

Note: S.S. Pro-Am Prize Money Breakdown

Pros Split \$1500 Based on ALL Am's Total Points

Novice Dancers \$500 - Intermediate \$500

Exhibitions

Overseer
Terry Hopkins

Vendors

DJ's
Ray Coker &
Donnie Mc
Friends

The Melody Club Ballroom

3027 Crossview Houston, Texas - Phone 713-785-5301 or www.melodyclub.net

Ticket Prices

Weekend (Advance Sales Thru. 7/20) - \$60

Reserved seating available for tables of 8 or 4

Friday - \$25.....Saturday - \$30.....Sunday - \$25

Weekend at the door - \$70

Spectator pass \$5 p/day

Workshops

Friday 7:15 FREE with Admission

They're Back, The 2 Bald Guys!

Saturday \$10 each or \$25 for all

10:00 Angel & Debbie Figueroa

11:00 Terry Roseborough
12:00 Mario Robau Jr.

Need A Room? Marriott Courtyard - 713-784-3003 - 9975 Westheimer
 King or 2 Doubles \$69 or \$79 with Breakfast - Mention Dance Houston

FMI Contact Terry Hopkins at 281-831-9873



Terry Rippa's
PUSH
 A Swing Dance

VIDEO DVD & TAPE ORDER FORM

(DVD Format - Each 2 Hour Length)

Please send me the following PUSH instructional DVD/tapes: [CIRCLE SELECTION]

DVD 1 6 BEAT - BASIC PATTERNS Start Step, Throw-out, Open Basic, \$25.00
 Tape 1 Left Side Pass, Right Side Pass

DVD 2 8 BEAT - BASIC PATTERNS Whips: Arm Lock, Inside, Outside, \$25.00
 Tape 2 Behind-the-back, Rollout

DVD 3 ROCK STEPS - INTERMEDIATE Rock Steps, Challenge Steps, \$25.00
 Tape 1 Hold Step Start, Throwouts, Spins

As a dance instructor for the Dallas Push Club, the oldest and largest swing dance club in the Southwest, Terry Rippa has taught many champion dancers and several thousand social dancers since 1980. He is a highly recommended teacher for beginners/intermediates. Push is primarily a social dance. Terry's philosophy is to teach Push as it is actually danced while preserving its style from years past, but, also, by laying the foundation of solid basics for future trends and creativity. As a former champion dancer, Terry is on the forefront of the current trends as the dance "Pushes" into the new century.
 Come, have fun and learn to do the Push, a smooth, provocative dance.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Send this form and check to:

Terry Rippa, 502 Lakeside, Mesquite, TX 75149
 (214) 526-8889 terryrippa@webtv.net

DANCE LESSONS

SUNDAYS

LOCATION - Dancemasters Ballroom at Plano Rd. @ E. Northwest Hwy.
INSTRUCTOR - TERRY RIPPA
COST - \$10.00 per person at the door.

BASICS 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

We alternate weekly, teaching 6-beat patterns one week and 8-beat patterns the next.
Repeat lessons until *he can lead and she can follow* before advancing to Intermediate Patterns

MONDAYS

LOCATION - Dancemasters Ballroom at Plano Rd. @ E. Northwest Hwy.
INSTRUCTOR - TERRY RIPPA
COST - \$10.00 per person at the door.

INTERMEDIATE & PATTERNS 8:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

(Prerequisite: Basics as noted above.)

*** Should you wish further details, Terry can be contacted at 214-526-8889. ***

(Check Newsletter Calendar for Changes.)

July ♦ August

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

P.O. Box 851522, Mesquite, TX 75185

The Dallas Push Club