

WORLD LINE DANCE NEWSLETTER



Fun In the Sun 2013

Well, we had another great year at Fun in the Sun in Orlando. The hotel, as always, is beautiful and the pool is such a great draw every morning, noon, and night. We were on the 7th Floor and overlooked the pool and the retention pond all the way to the airport. It's a lovely way to begin and end the day. People get there early and stay late to make a mini-vacation out of this event and it just keeps growing. This was the largest attendance ever, and I'm sure next year will be even larger.

The party on Thursday night was really fun and we had two teaches as a bonus. Frank Trace taught one he wrote especially for the event called, what else, Fun in the Sun. It was fun and easy and as peppy as Frank is. This was his first time back at a big event after his heart surgery and the only difference I saw was that he looked more fit and trim than before and he was still being his lively self. Rachael taught Be My Baby Now, another easy one that everyone got quickly.

There were some really good dances taught this weekend, from easy beginner to intermediate-advanced classes. Some of the ones that filled the floor doing the evenings were BLURRED LINES by Rachael M. and Arjay Centeno, MIRRORS, by Will Craig and Amy Glass. Another favorite was MADNESS taught by Scott Blevins and choreographed by a promising new choreographer Vicky St. Pierre. Previews of the next day's dances were done each night under the fun-and-disciplined guidance of Jamie Marshall. The DJs kept the floors full day and night. Good job, J.P., Louie, and Ferrel in the beginner room.

I liked that the workshops started at 9:00 instead of 8:00 because you didn't have to rush so to get down to the lesson rooms and could enjoy eating the great buffet in the restaurant with omelettes made to order and nice pastries and all kinds of things. There are many restaurants within either walking distance or by shuttle that the hotel provides, everything from Chili's, Hooters, Denny's, and lots of other restaurants closeby. Many people ate in the bar/restaurant. The food was very good and the prices were reasonable. I took some great pictures of all of this stuff but I won't tell you what I did with the memory stick. Just know that I stuck it somewhere that it will never see the light of day again until someone buys my computer someday down and road and finds it and says, "What is THIS?" Anyway, I can't get it out again and now I know you need an adaptor for those little, tiny memory things. LOL.

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Some of the dances that stood out to me or were mentioned to me by people who took the classes were: Rachael McEnaney taught I DID. I didn't take the class but I liked the dance. It looked like a solid intermediate. Lindy taught ISLAND SONG which was a very cute beginner contra dance. Junior's MAKE YOU FEEL WANTED was very nice. Scott Blevins and Lou Ann Schemmel's BOOTY CHUK had a lot of people on the floor during open at night. Marilyn McNeal taught BLACK VALENTINE by Kim Ray and MY SPANISH LOVE by Simon Ward. I really like this dance. As I said, Scott taught MADNESS. This was very popular this weekend. Not long and not really difficult, just a little tricky. Zachary Detweiller taught his new dance GET LUCKY choreographed with Michelle Ljungquist. I didn't take the class but I heard he had a big class for it. Marilyn McNeal also taught A LIQUID LUNCH by Francine Sittrop. This is a fast peppy dance that I think is going to do well. Another favorite that people mentioned to me was Will Craig's LOVE SOMEBODY. Guyton's NO LIFE AFTER YOU, TONGUE TIED, and YOUR LAST DAY were all popular and lots of people have said they are teaching them. Scott's first waltz, NEVER SAY NEVER, is quite dramatic and the floor was full for this one. He also taught a little beginner contra called M.C.B.A. that was adorable. You should check it out. There were so many good dances and I'm only one person but you will see them moving up the charts in the next few weeks.

Stacy has added most of the videos on this page so you can check out the ones you have heard about or want to see. It's quite a lot of work to do this so thanks, Stacy, for taking the time to do it as well as get everything on the site. Lisa Johns-Grose taught SWANGIN. I don't know if this was the one I used to know but it's cute. Rachael taught RIBBON OF HIGHWAY, a long-time favorite in the beginner room. I like that Jason and Jen have all the instructors teach in the beginner room. There is one room dedicated to beginners at all of their events and they always have all of the instructors teach in there as well as in the int-adv classes. I think this is a nice touch and the beginners love getting to take classes from the people many of them have heard about but never met. Another one I kept hearing about was Rachael's and Simon's WHERE WE BELONG. I would say this is a true high intermediate but it was the favorite of many people. Lorenzo taught two separate HIP HOP/SOUL TECHNIQUE classes and people loved them. People also love Lorenzo. He is so friendly and such a great addition to the events. Jamie taught ROCKIN' THE WAGON WHEEL and COWGIRL BOOTS. Both good club dances in the beginner room.

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I left on Sunday morning so didn't take classes but Bracken taught TREASURE. I really wanted to learn this one so I guess I'm going to have to teach myself. Scott taught FEEL, one of my all-time favs of his. Rachael taught FEEL THIS MOMENT, another hit for her. As I said, Stacy will post all of the videos she has been able to find and here's the link for the schedule for the weekend so you can see what was taught. Be sure and check out some of the beginner dances for your classes because there were lots of cute ones.

The banquet on Saturday night was very well-attended and the food was excellent. I always enjoy going to the banquets at events because it's a time to actually meet people and get to talk instead of running on the floor or being preoccupied because you want to see what is going to be played next. If you haven't attended a banquet, you should give it a try. Each table has a choreographer seated at the table so you can also get to know them a little better. Another bonus is you get preferred seating for the show. We were happy to see Guyton doing well, although he looked tired after his accident. Being the trooper he is, he hung in there all weekend and I'm sure did way more than his doctor would have liked but that's just Guyton. We wish him a speedy recovery. That was a very frightening accident he had and he's very lucky to still be with us. Another treat this weekend was meeting Irene Tang who has tons of teaching videos on Youtube. What a lovely person and dancer she is. We also got to dance with and get to know Debbie ??Carlson from California who must know every dance in the entire whole world.

There was a 50/50 raffle and I think the total was over \$1000. I think that's the biggest raffle at an event that I can remember. There was also a raffle for a puppet that Guyton made with a bandaged arm and a wounded head like Lorenzo got the week previous to the event. Lorenzo was trying a new dance move and fell and hit the back of his head and got a concussion, so he also was supposed to be taking it easy last weekend. He was PRETTY good at taking it easy but still probably did more than he should, too.

And the SHOW!! Wow, it was so good. Rachael organized it and did the script and everyone did such a great job playing their part in a rendition of The Sound of Music. I thought the casting was perfect!! There's lots of videos of the show on youtube. Along with the videos that Stacy has put on this page, you can view many videos from the event by putting in Fun In the Sun, 2013, Line Dance or you can go to Betsy's channel (Betsy33431) and she has lots of videos. If anyone else posted videos of the show, let me know and I'll add them as a note in the newsletter.

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The Wild Roses had a basket raffle with lots of goodies. You could buy a ticket and then put your ticket in the little box in front of what you wanted to win. I like those kinds of raffles.

We danced on the wonderful floors owned by Jen and Jason all weekend. Not only do they look great, but they are so smooth to dance on. There were lots of vendors this weekend, too. Another of my favorite things about big events. I'm going to do a little note for the newsletter with their info and websites so you can check them out.

I know I probably missed things but I mainly want to thank Jen and Jason and all their terrific friends/assistants for always hosting such a great party. I can't wait for Tampa in November and the Line Dance Showdown early next year in Boston. No one does it more effortlessly than they do and it truly is like a homecoming/party every single year and every single event. I hope you will join us in Orlando next year and will get your registration in for the Tampa Bay Line Dance Classic, November 7-10, 2013. Here's the link to sign up. www.TampaLineDanceClassic.com. Try to stay an extra day and join us at the After Party that Diane Poole and I and our class has after the event on the other side of the bay. We will be posting info soon. Until we meet again, be safe, be well, and keep on dancing!!

Carol Craven