

FLORIDA MASTERS 2005 FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

We had a fabulous time in Ft. Lauderdale this weekend. Jennifer and Jason and all their crew do such a great job of making everything seem effortless -- even though -- and this would freak most people out so they would run screaming -- Louie St. George's truck broke down in Virginia (I think) so being the trooper that he is -- he rented a U-haul truck, loaded all of his equipment out of his truck, drove the U-haul straight through like 16 hours with no sleep to Florida and arrived by Midnight on Thursday for the Thursday night open dance (love those Thursdays) and then worked until the late/early morning hours. What a guy!!! Oh, and did I mention we had a few rain showers (the California people liked them though)? LOL. BUT the hotel was kept cool for the dancers and everyone was there to greet people as they arrived and make everyone feel like you had just arrived for a visit with a friend and could kick up your heels and relax. That's what is special about Jennier and Jason's events. They always make you feel like this is just another day of having fun dancing and always have time to make everyone feel welcome and this event was no exception. This was the first Florida Masters and I saw lots of new people there from Southern Florida and there were people there from all over the US and Europe that we had time to meet and talk with and I really enjoyed that. Bracken was there and it was fun doing Funky Fresh next to her in class (thank you, Bracken) and Michele Jackson was there and it was fun dancing next to her doing Holla and they both just came to have fun!!! And thanks for mine and Bucky's honorary membership to the Orange County Dancing Group. I got a really cute pin and will wear it proudly. Oh, and did I mention that THERE WAS TONS OF OPEN DANCING!! Of course the most energentic and talented people in the universe were there to teach and party with us and there was excellent attendance at all the classes. There seemed to be something for everyone with a mix of easy and difficult/traditional and funky dances/country and noncountry with Louie leading the band and finding dances that all of us thought we forgot but somehow managed to remember with a little help from our friends. We danced until the wee hours every morning and just had a great time. I hope they do it again and again and again!!! Thanks Jason and Jennifer for doing such a wonderful job and for Jamie being the perfect MC and being able to dance on the super floor and having CJ doing the videos (I love his videos) and having the lunchtime food being sold in the lobby so you could just grab something to eat guickly or have a cup of coffee and for having such a super show on Friday by Masters in Line and then again on Saturday along with Guyton and the Strange People (how do they dance on stilts!!!!????). They even had some hunky cowboys from Roundup performing their new team routine and they got a great response from the audience. Maurice put in a cameo appearance that was hysterical. There was a 50/50 cash raffle along with a TON of free passes to a bunch of great upcoming events. They even totally surprised me (and I'm not easy to surprise) with a really beautiful thank-you award to hang on my wall and I really REALLY appreciated that and was totally surprised. It was so nice of them to do and thanks to all of you who were really happy about my getting it and taking the time to say hi. I am the luckiest person in the world to have all of you to talk with and interact with all the time but it is especially fun at events to meet you all in person and I will meet you all eventually. LOL. I let Stacy know how much you appreciate her work on the web site because, especially now with all my AOL problems, it would be a lot, lot worse if the newsletter wasn't at least on the web site for those of you still having problems. THANKS, STACY (and yes, she does know every dance ever written and I couldn't do any dance without asking her or Diane, "How does it start?" and they all know to tell me when the tags are coming because I just kind of keep on going like the energizer bunny.) There will be lots and lots of pictures on the website in the next few days and I'll let you know when they are posted.



Now to what I know you want to read and some of these comments are from asking people and some are from classes that I took. There were some extra dances thrown in and I hope I don't miss any but if I do, please write and let me know so I don't miss any.

FRIDAY: (And I don't have all the choreographers names so if I'm not sure, I'm just putting who taught them instead.)

GOT TO BE REAL, MIL (I). (I liked this one but I forgot what the music was)

FLOAT (Guyton Mundy) (I/A) This one was popular, not very difficult, has arm movements that even I could do when my feet weren't moving, and filled the floor

KEEP IT BURNING, (I) John Robinson (I already told you this is an awesome dance and it is and awesome dance)

I'M MOVING ON taught by John Robinson but I think it is by Craig Bennett (I) (the music is gorgeous and I really liked this dance)

RIGHT TO BE WRONG, Scott Blevins (I) (I AM going to learn this dance -- when it's being done by the people who can do it well, it is really a beautiful dance)

FUNKY FRESH, by JP Potter, taught by Stella Cabeca (I) (Done a lot and everyone I talked with liked it and I liked it a lot)

DON'T WORRY, MIL (I)(Reggae-type music, looked pretty easy)

OVERLOAD, MIL (I) (missed this class and I wish I hadn't. It was very popular)

CLOUDS IN MY EYES, John Robinson (I) (I didn't see this one)

YES, YOU WON'T, Bryan McWherter (it was fun doing this one and we always do it on the weekends so lots of people who didn't know it got to learn it.)

I PLAY CHICKEN WITH THE TRAIN, (I) Guyton Mundy (this one always fills the floor)

BLACK HORSE, by Kate Sala, taught by Arline Winerman (I) (EVERYONE likes this dance and Arline had a full class for it)

THE ANTS DANCE, by Michele Burton, taught by Arline Winerman. (B) Cute, easy dance.

COUNTRY TWANG THANG, MIL (B/I) (I didn't take this class but heard good feedback about this one.)

GET IT ON (I), MIL (I), This was a cute dance and pretty easy

FUSION, by Michael Barr, taught by Bill McGee (I already knew this one and a lot of people took this class)

EVERYBODY JAM, taught by Bill McGee to some really great music and I'll have to find out what he used. It was really fun to do.)

BETCHA NEVA, MIL (I), I really, really liked the music with this dance that I think will be done a lot by all levels and ages. The singer sounds like Shakira and I love Shakira (hope that's how you spell her name)

DOUBLE J SWITCH (I), by Joey Warren & Junior Willis, taught by Scott Blevins (This was very popular.)

AND THAT WAS JUST FRIDAY!!! I'll add Saturday tomorrow. I'm tired and have to work today so there will be MORE TO COME!!

Carol Craven