



Ballroom Dance Society

Silver Slipper

August 2009

President's Corner

For the last couple of years or so we have surveyed dancers as to their opinion on the music played at regular dances, since this is probably the biggest factor in customer satisfaction (or otherwise).

The intention was twofold: 1) to solicit opinion as to the level of satisfaction with the music played and, hence, constructive criticism as to how it might be improved; 2) to improve the quality of music in any case in order to attract new dancers to the club and to retain existing members.

The survey has been met with a mixed response. Over the last recorded 30 dances we surveyed, an average of only 73.2% of dancers bothered to complete the survey - less than 3/4. We do not know what the remaining 25% think and so cannot cater for their taste in music.

It appears the quality of music has indeed improved, judging by the general increase in percentage marks of satisfaction returned on the surveys. However, it is well known that one can never please all the people all the time, and this is evident from the widely varying opinions given. Sadly, some of the comments returned have not been at all constructive. In fact, some have not been worthy of publication!

All our DJs are volunteers. They give their time freely to the club and do their best to make each occasion special, be it a regular monthly dance or a special ticketed event. Each DJ has his or her personal view on the music played and each will play an individual style, while still trying to cater for the majority.

Not only does the NBDS have its own music collection of over 160 CDs, but most of the DJs also play music from their own personal collections too, and this provides a wonderful variety of music to dance to. This individuality is part of what makes the NBDS the success it is today. The sound systems owned and used by the NBDS are first rate and, used properly, fill each venue with great music for dancing.

If you would really like to dance to different music please volunteer to be a DJ for a night. We have a huge selection to choose from. Spend some time preparing the music and, as most DJs do, a playlist. We will certainly appreciate the effort you make for others to enjoy, as well as giving our few regular DJs a well deserved rest.

Andy

Newcastle Dances Amazing

For those who attend them, the dances at Newcastle Island are magic. Each dance is hosted by a different member or visiting instructor and presents a different flavour of dance. Brian Hicks and Alet Devitt did a west coast swing workshop followed by a mix of ballroom and social dances on July 5. Brian Gaines and Mildred Shaw featured romantic ballroom favourites on July 12, while Gwen Spinks put on an Argentine tango milonga July 19. The NBDS Summer Picnic was held again this summer on July 26. The Pavilion restaurant served a salmon barbecue. Nelson hosted the dance with a workshop on waltz and a selection of ballroom tunes from his extensive collection. Only 11 members braved the blazing sun for the expedition to Newcastle. Warren Scott hosted a Latin dance with a bachata workshop on August 2, and the Barnetts led off their dance on August 9 with a paso doble workshop.

Newcastle Island Dance Camp

The 5th annual dance camp was held on July 31 to August 2, 2009. The combination of great weather, a strong group of dancers, great food from the Pavilion restaurant and some fresh ideas made this the best dance camp to date. New this year was the So You Think You Can Dance challenge for the professionals. The 6 instructors hired for the Dance Camp plus 8 others were first randomly mixed so none were dancing with their regular partners, then challenged with 3 pop tunes that could be danced to a variety of dance styles. Weekend pass holders voted for their favourite instructors. The winners were Warren Scott and Elizabeth Stetar, both from Nanaimo, while Javier Monsalve and Heather Neale of Victoria were the runners-up.

Special thanks to committee members Gwen Spinks, Gale Drew, Tina Maher, Tammy Paton, Fred Jones, Nick Fast and Brian Hicks for making this event a success.

Annual General Meeting

**September 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m. sharp
Bowen Park Committee Room 1**

Ted Barnett, chair, and the rest of the Nominations Committee, will be beating the bush to ensure that everyone has a chance to express their interest or put names forward. This is your chance to (a) put your hat in the ring to be one of the elected directors; (b) vote for candidates that you think will be best for NBDS; and (c) step up to make your contribution through one of the many committees that do the work behind the scenes to make dances happen. The AGM is the single most important way we have as members to have our say in the future direction of the NBDS. Don't miss it!

Highlights from Newcastle Island Dance Camp 2009



John Kirkconnell demonstrates style in west coast swing with help from Claudia Houwers of Victoria



Javier Monsalve leads with enthusiasm; Dustin and Yuko enjoy more than salsa.



John dePfyffer coaches dancers during a Newcastle workshop.



The meringue workshop by Javier and Heather set the mood for the weekend.

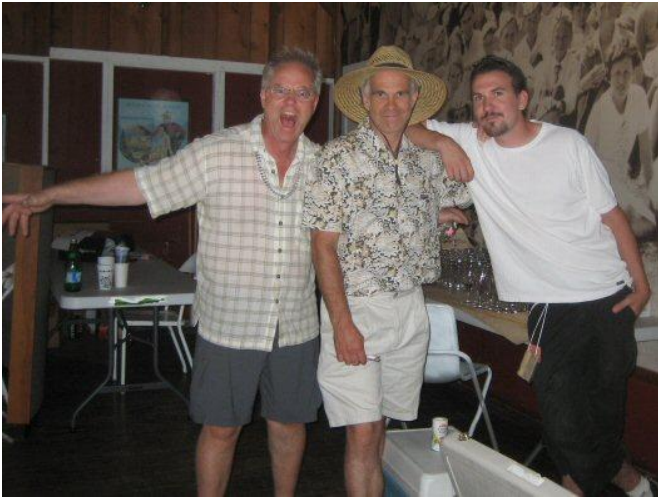


The evening sun warms the crowd for Tess Kumlin's rumba workshop





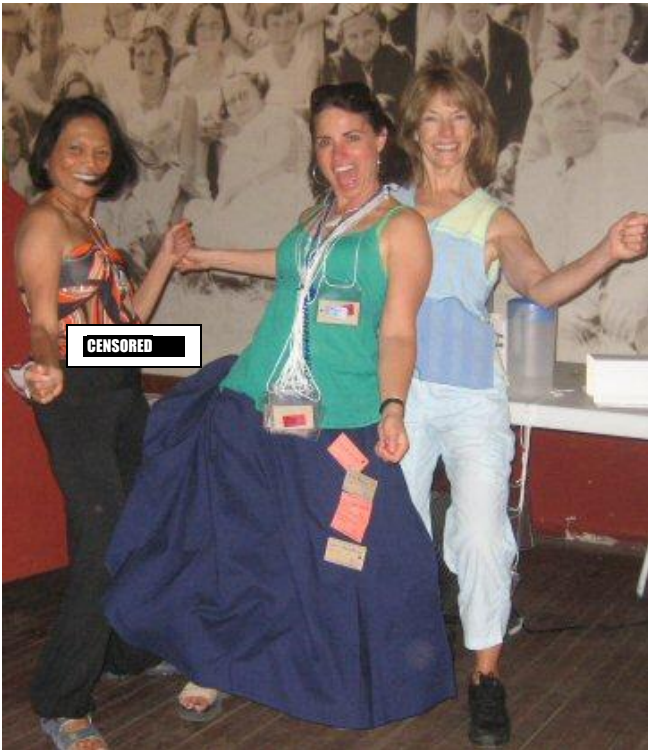
Javier and Heather start a salsa workshop with an exercise.



Nick, Brian and Brandr stir it up



Merengue seemed natural in the Newcastle breeze



Tina, Tammy and Gale get fresh with a fan, Marilyn Monroe style



Yoga to start off the day.

HELP WANTED

The Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society has immediate (2009-10) openings for motivated dance enthusiasts. You enjoy working with others, find your personal reward in achieving objectives, and like to keep busy. Join the new team with one of these new (or recycled) jobs and achieve self-actualization.

CLASSIFIED ADS: HELP WANTED

PRESIDENT and CEO

The leading dance organization in mid-Vancouver Island requires a strong and motivated individual to take the lead in setting the agenda for the year to come. The successful candidate will know the mid-Island dance scene and its key players, and be able to keep them in line with a gavel. Contact any member of the Nomination Committee for full details.

Dance Workshop Coordinator

You are well-connected by phone and e-mail and willing to talk, negotiate, plead and cajole a variety of instructors to commit to pre-dance workshops for the coming year.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Keep the dance scene front and center in the Nanaimo media. Prepare news stories for upcoming dance events. Write bulletins for community calendars. Be interviewed by Oprah, Peter Mansbridge and/or the Silver Slipper.

Bar Coordinator

You have a Serving It Right certificate and are willing to help ensure that dances have a bar. Hire bartenders, get Special Occasion License and buy supplies.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Tell jokes. Introduce guest entertainers. Embarrass your friends with birthday songs. Lead the club with special dances, spot dances, competitions, announcements and generally make dances more entertaining.

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

You love counting money and hanging around at the bank. You love writing cheques and handing out money. You obsess with keeping accurate records and would love to tell the rest of the executive to hold on when they are heading for red ink. We need you to stand for election as Treasurer!

SECRETARY

You know that a sentence starts with a capital and ends with a period, and that these should be darn close together. As a communicator and writer you will be able to concisely present executive decisions and meeting results and contribute to the Silver Slipper.

Director-At-Large: 5 Required

Previous experience with NBDS would be an asset, but so would fresh views on ways to improve the dance experience in the Nanaimo area. To apply your ideas and experience to NBDS decisions please attend at Bowen Park Committee Room 1 at 7:00 p.m on September 21/08

The Silver Slipper

has an immediate opening for

EDITOR

Access to a computer and e-mail would be an asset. See the current editor for details.

Newcastle Island Venue Coordinator

Liase with SFN to book Sunday afternoons at the Pavilion. Invite hosts to present dances and workshops. Help everyone enjoy the summer breezes at Newcastle Island.

COMING EVENTS

Anniversary Dinner Dance October 2

MONTHLY DANCES

NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park, Friday, Sept 4, 2009 Wild West Night

7:30 Workshop: Jeff & Eva Bettany - Jive
8:30 Dance – ballroom tunes by DJ John Maher

Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion 1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nanaimo.

Next Dance: Friday, September 11

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: evads@shaw.ca

NBDS Saturday Dance at Nanoose Place Saturday, September 19, 2009

7:30 Workshop: Viennese Waltz, Fred & Brigitte Mark
8:30-11:30 Dance

Music: Latin and standard by Andy Mundy

The Silver Slipper is published occasionally by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. The editor is John Maher (johnmaher@shaw.ca). Please send any dance related news that you think would be of interest to NBDS members and guests. If you don't send something, we may have to make something up about you, which could be worse than not sending something in your own words. Please share your stories! Thanks.

John