

SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



August 2024
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From Our President Vinh Mines

Dear Members and Dance Enthusiasts,



I hope this newsletter finds you all in great spirits and high energy as we swing into the last month of summer! August promises to be an exciting time for our club, with a variety of events and updates to share.

Volunteer Opportunities: We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with our events and activities. If you have some time to spare and a passion for swing dance, we'd love to have you on board. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and make new friends.

Dance Etiquette Reminder: As our events grow in popularity, it's important to maintain a friendly and respectful environment. Please be mindful of floor space, take care of

your partners, and encourage new dancers. Let's make sure everyone has a fantastic experience.

Stay Connected: Don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates, event photos, and stay in the loop with club happenings. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and on our website:

www.sandiegoswingdance.com

As always, I am grateful for every one of you who makes the San Diego Swing Dance Club such a vibrant and welcoming community. Let's keep dancing, learning, and growing together.

Thank you for being part of the San Diego Swing Dance Club. Your participation and enthusiasm are what make our community so special. Let's make August a month to remember with lots of dancing, laughter, and new friendships.

DANCE HEADQUARTERS SD
5035 Shawline St., San Diego 858.565.9575

SUN, AUG 11

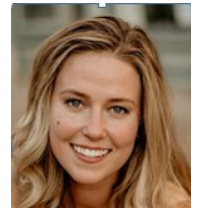
Garry & Judy
BIRTHDAY BASH!

ALIAS
VARIETY BAND

1:30-2:30 WCS dance lesson
2:30-5:30 open dancing to ALIAS

Admission:
\$10 SD Swing Dance Club members
\$15 non-members
* first time visitors get in free!

Keep Swinging,
Vinh Mines, President



Hey SDSDC!

Happy August! Just like our sunny San Diego days, West Coast Swing thrives on versatility and keeping things lively and exciting. To make this the best summer yet, we've got a sizzling lineup of events to keep your summer grooving:

- **August 11:** Garry and Judy's Birthday Bash with ALIAS! We will be celebrating August Birthdays this day as well. Big thanks to Garry and Judy Bowman for sponsoring this month's cake and the band!
- **August 18:** Vintage Cali T-Shirt Day
- **September 2:** Labor Day Dance

Hope to see you on the dance floor soon!
-Taylor

Upcoming Lessons at the San Diego Swing Dance Club

Join us every Sunday afternoon. Lesson(s) promptly at 1:30, Dance at 2:30

Aug 4	Large Ballroom	David Walkup & Trish Connery Walkup — Country Two-Step	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
Aug 11	Large Ballroom	Vinh Mines — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
Aug 18	Large Ballroom	Vinh Mines — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
Aug 25	Large Ballroom	Parker Dearborn and Melissa Rutz — adv WCS Workshop	Small Ballroom: No class

From Our Dance Director Geoff Burns

David Walkup & Trish Connery Walkup Teach Country Two-Step on August 4



David Walkup and Trish Connery Walkup

David Walkup and Trish Connery Walkup are trained dancers, teachers, choreographers, competitors, and judges specializing in partner dances. They are based in San Diego.

They began dancing in the mid-to-late 1990's — he in San Diego on the United Country Western Dance Council (UCWDC) circuit, she in Los Angeles on the West Coast Swing circuit. The joined forces in 2006 after meeting at a dance convention.



Both are award winning dancers — David holds four UCWDC worlds Championships and a US Open Swing Dance Championship. Trish holds five UCWDC Worlds Championships, is a California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Rising Star, and many top placements in various WCS competitions

Together they have over 30 years of experience in the dance community, teaching a variety of dance styles including Country 2-Step, West Coast Swing, Hustle, Nightclub 2-Step, Cha Cha, Waltz, and more.

Known for their fun and entertaining teaching style, they teach, coach, and choreograph for group classes, private lessons, wedding dance couples, and performance dance teams, as well as provide specialty classes and entertainment for private and corporate events.

Parker Dearborn & Melissa Rutz —Adv WCS Workshop on Aug 25



Parker Dearborn is a world-renowned professional dancer and instructor with a passion for partner dances. With an impressive 30-year journey in the world of dance, Parker's expertise spans various styles, including West Coast Swing, Ballroom, Latin, and Country. Hailing from San Diego, California, Parker embarked on his professional dance career at the young age of 17. Throughout his illustrious career, Parker has

made significant contributions to the dance community. As a competitor, choreographer, judge, event director, and teacher, he has left an indelible mark on the global dance scene. His dedication and commitment to his craft have taken him across the world, sharing his love for dance through workshops and performances.

Parker's remarkable talent, distinctive style, and captivating showmanship have garnered him numerous accolades in the realm of West Coast Swing. He proudly holds the

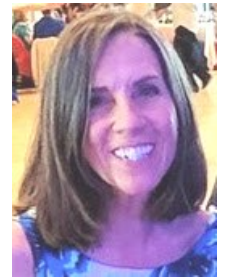
titles of three-time US Open Swing Dance Champion and two-time Grand National Swing Dance Champion, among others. His exceptional skills have also led him to showcase his abilities in various artistic endeavors. He graced the stage in the off-Broadway production of Swango and made appearances in the Hollywood movie, Love and Dancing. Moreover, Parker showcased his creativity and innovation as a choreographer for the popular television series, So You Think You Can Dance.

Driven by a genuine belief in the transformative power of dance, Parker Dearborn has devoted his entire life to this art form. His unwavering conviction that dance can inspire joy and bring about positive change in people's lives fuels his passion and motivates him to continue sharing his talent and knowledge with dancers and enthusiasts worldwide. Parker's unwavering commitment to the art of dance has made him an influential figure in the industry, leaving a lasting legacy of inspiration and excellence.

Melissa Rutz is a highly accomplished and versatile dancer with a lifelong passion for the art form. She began her dance journey at age four, training at Star Dance Studio in San Francisco. Melissa's diverse background includes extensive training in classical ballet, ballroom, and theater arts, providing her with a well-rounded foundation for her dance career. As an esteemed professional in the field, Melissa's expertise extends to various aspects of dance. She is actively involved in teaching, competing,

Continued on page 5.

Getting to Know Each Other Better Interviews with Meredith Anderson



This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Gail Malone. Her great attitude and obvious joy for dancing was apparent, but I had a feeling that there was a really interesting back story and I wanted to hear it. I think you will agree, I was right.

Where are you from originally and how long have you lived here?

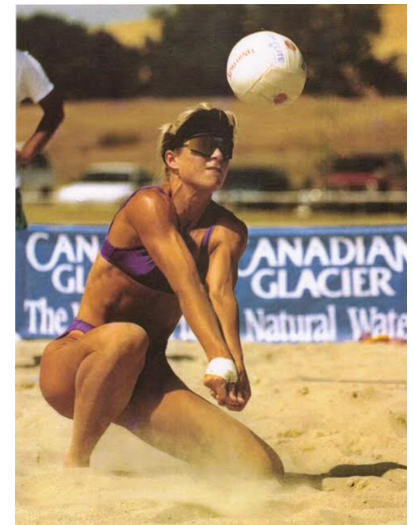
I am from La Crescenta, CA. I grew up in a family where the parents were still together until they passed away. I have one older sister. I grew up playing sports. I played various sports until I realized I loved playing volleyball. I went to CSULB on an indoor volleyball scholarship. Then I played professional indoor volleyball in Italy for two years. When I returned from Italy, I married and had one son (Larry). Then I played professional Beach Volleyball for 11 years on the WPVA (Women's Professional Beach Volleyball). I qualified for the 1996 Olympics in beach volleyball. It was the centennial Olympics in Atlanta and the debut of beach volleyball as a sport in the Olympics. I finished in 9th place. I then taught PE and coached volleyball indoors for 30 years. I now coach beach volleyball because it is now a CIF sport. I am still teaching and coaching at Santa Fe Christian School. This will be my 19th year teaching at SFC. I also donate my time to Fellowship of Christian Athletes for their sports camps. I also coach beach vb for the Challenged Athletes Foundation. These athletes have lost a limb either at birth or in an accident. Of all the coaching I do, I love this the most. These athletes enjoy every moment of life and don't take anything for granted.



How did you get started dancing?

In 2019 my husband passed away and then we went into COVID. Once COVID was over I decided I wanted to get back into a social life. I was trying to figure out how to start my life over

again as an "older" person. I decided I wanted to try dating again. I tried playing more volleyball but all the guys are 30 and that is way too young for me. I purchased a fixer-upper mobile home in Vista. I hired Ed's Sheds (Eddie) to build a shed for me. He started talking about all the dancing he does and suggested that I go to DH to try it out. He told me to wear a dress when I go. He was right. Now I am hooked. The intensity I had with learning beach volleyball has transferred to dancing. I love it. I probably dance 4 or 5 times a week. The people are nice and I am having so much fun.



Was West Coast Swing your first dance of choice?

I originally free-style danced for 30 years and I had learned single-step east coast swing. Now learning WCS was a challenge. It was harder than I thought. I was in the beginning class for at least 5 weeks.

Was it hard to start a new hobby?

My advice for beginners is just to stick with it. Smile and have fun. Nobody cares if you mess up. Choose to have a good attitude. I would wait on the sideline and just hope someone would ask me to dance. I knew I was not as good as the good dancers that hang out by the front door. I went to many classes to get better. So little by little as I got better, I got enough confidence to start asking people to dance. Now I go to Lindy Hop and Charleston on Wednesdays. I've learned to Cha Cha. I can Country Two-Step and I love the Cowboy Cha Cha. Next, I want to learn the Hustle. I went to Myrtle Beach for the Carolina Shag Festival and that was so much fun.

Continued on page 4.

Gail Malone Interview continued from page 3.

I just want to dance as much as possible, meet new people, and enjoy life. This is my new favorite quote. "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." Enjoy the moment! I am still fixing up my house (but dancing has taken priority). I like to do crafty things. I am a grandma now of a 1 1/2 year old girl named Mila. I also donate my time to Fellowship. I really appreciate how blessed I am and all the opportunities that I have been given. My purpose is now to pass it on in whatever way God leads me. For now, I choose to dance! I love The San Diego Swing Dance Club because there are so many people that also love to dance. I have made quite a few friends. I love to take a lesson each week and then dance for a couple of hours. I call that a good day!

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Gail is a California Beach Volleyball of Fame inductee (2017), and California Commission of Athletics Hall of Fame (2003), also Los Angeles Valley College Hall of Fame 2003 Individual & 2007 Team and is also a San Diego Coaching Legend 2016.



Larry and Maria taught for us on July 14 & 21

Melissa Rutz biography continued from page 2.

choreographing, and performing globally. Her talent and dedication have earned her a prominent position among the world's top West Coast swing dancers.

Melissa's outstanding achievements in the realm of West Coast Swing are a testament to her skill and passion. She has achieved remarkable success in numerous champion-level competitions, triumphing in categories such as Showcase, Classic, Strictly Swing, Team, and Jack & Jill's. Her dance versatility, coupled with her soulful musicality and expressiveness, sets her apart as a true artist on the dance floor.

Melissa's reputation as a world-class dancer and instructor continues to soar as she captivates audiences and inspires fellow dancers worldwide. Her commitment to excellence, coupled with her innate ability to convey emotion through movement, has made her an influential figure in the dance community. Driven by her love for dance and a relentless pursuit of artistic growth, Melissa Rutz continues to push boundaries and explore new horizons within the world of dance. Her passion for sharing her knowledge and expertise with others fuels her teaching endeavors, as she seeks to inspire and empower dancers of all levels. Melissa's impact on the dance world is marked by her unwavering dedication, exceptional talent, and the enduring legacy she leaves through her remarkable performances and contributions to the art form.



Photo collage from the July 21 SDSDC group lessons, courtesy of Maria Tee.

From your Webmaster

The SDSDC website should be your "go to" address for up-to-the-minute information about upcoming SDSDC events. The top-center section of the website always contains the latest information that has been posted. The most recent newsletter is available by clicking on the Newsletter banner. I am continuing improve the website.

IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING EMAIL FROM US — PLEASE VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH CHRIS AT THE FRONT DESK.

Please consider sharing the link to the website with friends that might be interested in attending our events:

www.sandiegoswingdance.com

As always, your input on improving the website is welcome,

Jody Kravitz, SDSDC Webmaster

**SAN DIEGO SWING DANCE CLUB, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2024-2025
Executive Board**

President.....Vinh Mines
Vice President Meredith Anderson
Membership Cristian Flores
Treasurer..... Garry Bowman
Secretary..... Wendy Knight
Newsletter Editor..... Jody Kravitz
Activity Director..... Taylor Frederking
Dance Director..... Geoff Burns
Hospitality Director..... Larry Clendenin
Publicity Director..... Maria Tee
Past President.....Craig Helm

Appointed by the Board

Webmaster Jody Kravitz
Member At Large Larry Armstrong

Due to endless SPAM attacks, a single email address is now offered for contacting board members. This email box is checked regularly and forwarded to the correct member if it is not SPAM. You may address the entire board also using this address:

SDSDCBoard@sandiegoswingdance.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Generally on the 2nd Sunday of the
Month at 12 pm at Dance HQ.

OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE:

August 4th 12:00 pm
September 8th 12:00pm

Location: Dance Headquarters
5035 Shawline St
San Diego, CA 92111

All members welcome.

If you wish to address the Board you must be on the agenda one week prior to the meeting. Members may approach any of the Executive



**New Website
Feature**

**Virtual Suggestion
Box**



PO Box 1954
Bonita, CA
91908-1954

August Birthdays

05	Marilyn Luteman	19	Tom Mountain
06	Jon Wright	20	Marina Davidovskaya
08	Bob Carter		Sylvia Nielsen
08	Glenn Haight	20	Taylor Frederking
08	John Barck	20	Bobby Guarnotta
09	Blain Adams-Denner	21	Dawn Wood
09	Clay Dunsmore	22	Dale Crist
09	Rita Crosby	24	Edward Rodriguez
11	Carol Sedlacek	24	Rita Havercamp
15	Ione Bauman	25	Barbara Carter-Moore
16	Larry Armstrong	25	Teresa Campbell
17	Parivash LaRocca	26	Mel Lyons
18	Cat Gautieri	29	GiGi Hermsmeier
18	Charlie Bird		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

The club will provide a cake and supplies to celebrate birthdays, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month. In August, it will be August 11.

About SDSDC:

The San Diego Swing Dance Club is a private, non-profit organization. Its specific and primary purposes are to enjoy, promote, preserve, encourage, and teach West Coast Swing. Members receive discounts to weekly dances and special events and each issue of *Swing Times* newsletter. If you haven't been to the Club dances in a while, stop by soon so you can continue to enjoy the dancing, fun, and friendliness that makes SDSDC so special.

The San Diego Swing Dance Club Inc.

The SDSDC meets on Sunday afternoon and is open to the general public. **No Partner Needed!** Admission is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Except on the 4th Sunday, lessons are free with paid admission to the dance. On the 4th Sunday, we have a special workshop before the dance for an additional charge. Mid-month Sundays have both Intro and Intermediate WCS lessons that are free with paid admission to the dance. Schedule is subject to change. Lesson is always prior to regular dance.)

(See Flyers posted and/or the website for further information)

Classes: Sunday - 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.

Dances: Sunday 2:30 - 5:00 P.M.

Dance Headquarters
5035 Shawline St.
San Diego, CA 92111

**SEE WEBSITE FOR
MAP & DIRECTIONS**
www.sandiegoswingdance.com

HOTLINE — Voice or Text — (619) 333-6603