



Tampa Bay Line Dance Classic 2010

The theme this year was BLACK AND WHITE. There were black and white decorations and just a feeling of sophistication around the event this year. Everyone wore black and white all weekend but Saturday night, especially, it was truly like a ballroom feeling. I thought it was a very fitting end to Arline's reign as director of this event that has grown by leaps and bounds.

There was a LOT of people here this year. It was the biggest ever and Arline, with the help of Jen and Jason and staff, kept things running smoothly from the open dance on Thursday night until the very end of the event. I love the location of this event, other than the fact that it's so close to shopping and eating establishments and the food in the hotel is very good and reasonable. Arline had breakfast and lunch set up in the hallway so you could quickly pick up something to eat and get right back to dancing with a place to sit to just relax and enjoy the breaks. The shuttle is always available to take people to the malls and stores and restaurants and everyone really appreciated that. The rooms in the hotel are comfortable and large so it's easy to get ready for whatever activity is coming up next. I love that, when you register, you get those wonderful chocolate chip cookies. Yummy!!

There were many people who played tourist before/after/or during the event. I have to say that the Tampa Bay Area has something for everyone and I always keep a list of places to visit while you're here so if you plan to come next year and extend your stay, just ask and I'll send you the list. We are very close to the Gulf Beaches (just across the bridge) and the weather, as always, is beautiful at this time of year.

There were four lesson rooms being utilized all through the weekend with open dancing at different times during the day. The lineup was really good, as it always is for this event. It was nice having some new instructors this year and it was fun meeting Alan Birchall and Jacqui and having Frank Trace for the first time. There was an all-beginner room for lessons and dancing all weekend and I heard so many people comment on how much fun they had in the beginner room and being able to go back and forth from one room to the other. Louie manned the main ballroom and played a great mix of dances. Big Dave manned another room and did reviews as well as requests, and Olivia kept the beginner room going all weekend. I heard so many good comments from people about how much they were able to dance.

Here's the lineup of instructors for this year:

Sandy Albano, Michael Barr, Craig Bennett, Alan Birchall, Scott Blevins, Stella Cabece, Amy Christian-Sohn, Mark Cosenza, Barry Durand, Bracken Ellis-Potter, Neville Fitzgerald, Patrick Fleming, Kathy "G", Carol Huban, Rona Kaye, Marilyn McNeal, Rosie Multari, Guyton Mundy,

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Dee Musk, Glen Pospiesny, John Robinson, Maurice Rowe, Vivienne Scott, Frank Trace, Shaz Walton, Junior Willis. Hope I didn't miss anyone!!

There was a great turnout for the dinner on Saturday night. I like the way Arline has two seatings for dinner. Everyone who buys dinner goes in early to get their seats and then either eats or dances until the party starts later on Saturday night. The food is always excellent and the desserts are really, really yummy. It's so much easier than having to have your table number drawn or wherever else to go out to get a dance and seat for the evening.

There was a good choice of vendors this year. There was a huge display of dance shoes as well and tee-shirts and jewelry and all kinds of stuff to tempt you. The vendors are located in the area outside the dance rooms so you can browse between or on the way to classes.

Previews of the next day's dances were held each night and Saturday's dances were held at three in the afternoon so it wouldn't take away from the dance time on Saturday night. I like when the previews are at night because then the instructors can stay up and dance with us and not have to rush down in the morning and those of us who like to stay up late don't have to get up too, too early, although I usually do anyway. All of the classes are posted in the hallways outside the lesson rooms so you can always see what's going on and where to be without having to try to find your schedule, which I always manage to lose during the weekend. LOL.

I'm not going to feature dances because I'm late getting the report finished. I had company before and after and then caught a cold so I've been recuperating since the event and trying to catch up on work after. There have been some great reports and Stacy includes them on the report page under REPORTS FROM OTHERS so be sure and check out the dances they mentioned. Here's the page with the complete schedule:

<http://tampalinedanceclassic.com>

The highlight of the weekend was the show and tribute to Arline on Saturday night. All the men looked so handsome in their suits and tuxedos and the ladies looked elegant. There was one after another people paying tribute from Neville singing to Arline to the massive Hello Dolly routine organized by Rosie. I hope you will look at the pictures to get a real feel for how special it was. Arline turned her crown over to Jen and Jason, who will continue to run this event with the input of Arline and Arline will be doing the pro-am competition and show next year and will still be involved and watching her baby grow over the years. It was a happy and sad night for me because I've watched this event grow in my back yard over the years with love and very hard work and it is just one of life's passages that was very emotional for me

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and for lots of other people. There were beautiful flowers and a very nice book that people signed and a photo display of previous years and I know Arline really appreciated it. She feels very comfortable passing the baton to Jen and Jason and she knows they will keep the spirit of what she has done alive and well.

We always hold the AFTER PARTY with Arline after the event and will continue this as long as people want it to continue. There were over 60 people who attended and helped decorate and just came to party and have fun. I hope you will plan to stay next year if you didn't stay this year. A special thanks to Diane Poole who always is Ms. Organization and to Cheryl Hurlbert for being such a great DJ and Mary Ann Young and Nigel and Dawn for getting there early and also teaching and all the other people like Stephen, Sheila, and Judy Chen who came to help decorate and get things organized. It was fun having John Robinson and Alan Birchall and Jacqui come to the party, too.

Nigel taught BEAUTIFUL MONSTER by Neils Poulsen.

Mary Ann Young taught WONDERLAND WALTZ.

Dawn Sherlock taught Maurice's new dance, FOHAWK.

Rosie Multari taught MOVE ON THE FLOOR by Patti Bullock.

John Robinson was there and did really quick teaches of FOREVER AND ONE DAY,
BOYS IN THE SUMMER.

Thank you, Arline, for your dedication and work that has made this one of the premier events in the US and the World. I hope many of you will come next year and join us in beautiful Dancing Heaven in Florida. Come early and stay late and make it a real vacation so you can enjoy a place we are lucky enough to call HOME!!

Carol Craven