



Line Dance Showdown 2012

So, we went to the airport two hours early to leave. Diane Poole, Lisa Goodman and I decided to have lunch at the Green Iguana and were enjoying lunch and chatting when Lisa said, "Maybe we should go to our gate." We all agreed and proceeded to go board the plane. When we got to our gate, the check-in guy said, "Are you Diane, Lisa, and Carol?" We said, "Yes." He said, "There goes your plane." Then we saw the rear-end of the plane taxiing to the runway. WE MISSED IT!!! LOL. Lunch was good, though. We were able to get on the next flight and got in at midnight instead of seven thirty. Diane even talked them into giving us the seats with extra legroom since we were there "so early." You go, girl!! We had to pay to take a taxi since the shuttle doesn't run that late. That was how it started and, thank goodness, it got soooooo much better after that.

Like I said, we arrived at the hotel at maybe one in the morning, unpacked, and went to bed fairly soon because we were going to go into Boston on Thursday. From the hotel you can see the train station so it's a short shuttle ride to get to the train station. It's very easy to find your way around if you do a little asking and look at the maps. It reminds me of BART in San Francisco. Fortunately, all of my friends are good at doing that stuff and just point me in what direction I'm supposed to go, so I was just sitting on the train and thinking, "Man, there's a lot of men in this town." As we walked around the rest of the stay and went to and from the airport, I kept noticing, "Man, there's a lot of men in this town. Cute men." This is a tip. If you are single and looking to move somewhere, check out Boston. LOL. We did the regular tourist stuff, which was really fun, and had to stop by Mike's Pastry to get some goodies before we took the train back to the hotel. It's fun to get there on Wednesday night so you can spend part of Thursday just going into the city instead of spending the entire weekend, like most of us do, inside a hotel when we get to go to all these great places to dance. We've started doing this for lots of events and it makes it so much more fun to see places and meet new people on the little trips. We went with Sheila's friends, Peter and Betty, from California and then met up with DeeDee and Wendy on the train and they came with us so it was nice to get to know them better.

I like the hotel where this event is held. There's a large lobby when you enter and a formal restaurant, a coffee bar/restaurant and also a bar restaurant all in one area. They have free wireless in the main lobby

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but the office center charges for internet connection (.50 a minute -- hello!!) so keep in mind to bring your own if you are used to using the office computers. The staff was good about filling requests and having water out all the time and I loved the temperature at the hotel. I know I'm always happy when it's cool and I heard some people wishing it were warmer but NOT ME! LOL.

We were able to check in for the event beginning on Thursday and the party on Thursday night was full and fun. Louie played a great mix, not only this night but every night. He also used the projection screen, which makes it easy to see what dances are coming up. JP Potter manned the beginner room and I heard it was hopping all weekend. Dan Delisle was the DJ in the main room during some of the day. We did old-and-new dances. One thing Jen and Jason did at this event was hand out "First Time" badges so the new people would be easy to spot and people could introduce themselves to each other and kind of show them the ropes. I thought that was a nice touch and there were a LOT of new people at this event for the first time. Jen and Jason always have their friends helping with registration every year and it always feels like a family reunion. Big Jim is always helping wherever he's needed and Trish, Staci, Laura, Dawn, and Cat are always manning the check-in desk and just helping in whatever way they are needed. Jen and Jason are everywhere all day and night making sure everything is running smoothly and making sure everyone is having fun. They are so organized by the time they get to one of their events that they spend the rest of the time enjoying their hard work. I think it's one of the things that sets their events apart. They just enjoy being there and having fun instead of making you feel like they are fixing things all weekend or worrying about things. If there's a problem, just let them know and it gets fixed. Jaden is always there with his caregivers sitting on the floor playing with toys or doing "kick ball changes." LOL. We've watched him grow up at their events. He'll be behind the registration desk before you know it! Another thing that makes this event fun is that old friends from Boston come to see Jason and Jen and dance with them. They make sure at night, especially on Saturday, that some of the old school dances are mixed in with the dances taught at the event and requests so it's a nice mix for everyone and it's fun trying to remember how to do some of the older dances. It also keeps people up and dancing late into the evening because they don't have to just be spectators but can dance all night long. Stacy will be posting on the site under "Dances Done at Events" an update of the ones from this event since Lisa kept track all weekend and I asked her to keep track of the ones that filled the

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floor so maybe you can look at some of those older dances to teach in your classes, because they are always done and it will give everyone a chance to bring back some of the classics to do at the next event.

Friday and during the day on Saturday was filled with lessons and open dancing. I met some new instructors at this event for the first time. Kirsten Matthiessen was there as a result of winning the prestigious World Dance Masters Competition in partnership with The Line Dance Showdown, which gave her a chance to teach at The Showdown and have her expenses paid to come to the event. This will be repeated this year and I'm sure Jen will be posting information about it soon. You can also check it out at this link if you are interested in competing: [World Dance Masters](#)

Lorenzo GoLo Evans was there and what a nice guy he is. His classes were well-received and his dances were fun. I took classes from Darren Bailey for the first time. I was so impressed with him. He's a wonderful teacher and very approachable and friendly. All of his dances were interesting and fun to do. I think we'll be seeing a lot more of him in the future. Sheila had told me about his dance, Mariah, before I got there. Unfortunately, it was taught on Sunday morning so his class wasn't too big but it was one of my favorites of the weekend. It's a fast cha to great music and I love the part where you go up on your toes - hold - and then jump. Fun!! You have to take a look at this dance because I want to keep doing it and you know it's all about meeeeeeeeeeeeeee. LOL.

There were some great dances taught but I'm not going to pick them out because I can only take so many classes and other people are writing about their favorites. I like to let the dances kind of appear, settle, and see which ones rise to the top because, if you look back at previous reports, you will see that some dances were "stars" only to disappear soon after and some were not noticed and went on to become "stars," so I've found that it's better to let things digest a little to see which ones are going to be keepers.

The highlight of the weekend, of course, is THE SHOWDOWN, and it never disappoints. Everyone was great. Here is the final placement.

1st - Rachael & Rob

2nd - Staci, Rob, Scott, John, Junior

3rd - Guyton & Will

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4th - Thr3e Live Studio - TJay & DJay

5th - Adam and Friends

I hope some of you will think about entering The Showdown next year. It is a huge \$2500 prize spread out among the winners and it's a great opportunity to showcase yourself or your group and we love watching it!! I hope you will order the DVDs from the event because you can order the entire show (or just the dances taught with a walk-through of each one). You can go to [CJ's page](#) on our site at this link and order them. He does a great job and it's well worth the money. He will have the complete list and order information on the site in a couple of days so bookmark the link or just go to CJ's Page on the worldlinedancenewsletter.com site. You can also order DVDs from previous events if you missed learning some of the dances in previous years.

After The Showdown there was a 50/50 raffle and the prize was \$512 (won by Dodee Davis). There was also some great prizes raffled off including passes to the Line Dance Showdown for next year, Fun In The Sun, Tampa Bay Line Dance Classic, Forth Wayne Dance for All, Big Bang Classic, Windy City, JG Marathon. Thanks to everyone for sharing passes!!

As the Emcees, Jamie and Rob, would say -- "Let's dance!!" Thanks to Jen and Jason and everyone who helped to put this great event together. I don't think I've missed one of them and they never disappoint me. I love seeing all my friends and learning great dances from the instructors and just having a great party every year in Boston. I hope you will join us next year. I promise you can't do just one!! I look forward to reading everyone's reports and will see everyone next year in Boston!! Be sure and look at the pictures at [this link](#).

Carol Craven