

WORLD LINE DANCE NEWSLETTER



The Marathon 2012

NOTE: BE SURE AND LOOK AT THE INSTRUCTORS' PICTURES ON THE CARDS THAT STACY MADE WHEN YOU OPEN THE PAGE AND ALSO CLICK ON "PHOTOS" BELOW THE INSTRUCTORS PICTURES TO SEE THE REST OF THE PHOTOS FROM THE WEEKEND.

I was a little nervous about the Marathon this year. I've gone for many, many years and whenever anyone wanted to change things, Jean's answer was always, "IT'S THE MARATHON!!" I didn't know how this would sit with Jean, in particular, and with the attendees who have gone for years and would have expected THE MARATHON!! No, we didn't have a zillion lessons a day in multiple rooms; no, people weren't there to teach only their own choreography; no, we didn't start in the early-morning hours; no, we didn't have demos first thing in the morning; no, we didn't have a parade at midnight; no we didn't have paid workshops -- and that was just some of the good things that happened this year -- and yes, I missed the parade but the costumes were just as much fun and didn't take away so much time from dancing and yes, I think Jean was very happy with the changes. I think Scott was an important part of letting Jean know that this would be a good direction to take the Marathon after talking to many people and encouraging his friends to be supportive and give this a serious try this year -- and give it a try they did. The DJs took their responsibility of truly setting the tone of an event seriously and were all fabulous. Thank you, Louie, JP Potter, Jill Babinec, and Joey Smith for doing such a great job and keeping the floor full all day and night. I really liked the projector being used for the upcoming dances during open dancing. There was a wonderful turnout and the atmosphere was fresh and happy and it became a MARATHON of fun and camaraderie. Congratulations to both Jean and Scott for making such drastic changes seem so easily done and with the same skill that has made this event so perfect year after year. This is the event that started our weekend adventures many years ago (18 to be exact since this was the 19th year) and the offspring that have come after have each developed their own personalities and grown from their infancy to world-class events, many with the advice and help of Jean, I truly think the dance world would not have been the same without the inspiration of the Marathon. Thank you, Jean, for doing it year after year with the help of many people while gaining the respect of all of us who came and continue to come to enjoy it and thank you for moving this giant in a different direction that will allow it to continue to grow into the future.

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Well, first of all the hotel. What a great hotel this is for a dance event. The lobby and bar area are situated so you check in and socialize the very first moment you arrive. There are shouts of greetings and hugs all around. The staff must get paid millions of dollars because they have been there long enough to remember our names year after year and the same people are there year after year. I think the shuttle drivers would bring me back to Clearwater if I asked and not utter one word of complaint. They are wonderful, as is the desk staff, the cafe staff, the restaurant staff, the bar staff, the gift shop owner, and every other person who works there sporting a smile and a greeting because I truly think they do enjoy our stay and show it. I think the air conditioning guy was sleeping here and there but that was the ONLY problem I heard about all weekend and the air was perfect on Friday night and almost perfect on Saturday night. I hope you will take a moment to write the hotel a note and let them know how much you appreciate their hard work and hospitality.

Here's the instructors for this year and a schedule of the dances taught:

Bonnie Mathews (North Carolina) Lou Ann Schemmel (California)

Bracken Ellis-Potter (California) Lynne Martino (New York)

Brian Barakauskas (Kentucky) Maurice Rowe (Florida)

Bryan McWherter (North Carolina) Michael Barr (California)

Debbie McLaughlin (England) Michael Thompson (Georgia)

Guyton Mundy (Florida) Michele Burton (California)

Joey Warren (West Virginia) Nancy Morgan (Arkansas)

John Robinson (Kentucky) Neville Fitzgerald (England)

Johnny Two-Step Houston (England) Nigel Amon (England)

Juliet Hauser (California) Rona Kaye (New York)

Junior Willis (Tennessee) Scott Blevins (Indiana)

JP Potter (California) Sue Ann Ehmann (Virginia)

Leslie Thompson (Georgia) Tajali Hall (Canada)

Will Craig (North Carolina)

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SCHEDULE OF DANCES:

http://worldlinedancenewsletter.com/2012_marathon/zzworkshopsked.pdf

Registration started promptly at noon on Thursday followed by workshops beginning at two. There were some excellent dances taught during the weekend. Some of the most popular dances being done before the Marathon started were chosen for the opening day, PEOPLE LIKE YOU by Joey Warren, LOVE TROUBLE, taught by Lou Ann Schemmel. Scott taught his HURT ME SO, very popular this weekend. Nigel Amon taught the energetic FAKE ID, Maurice Rowe taught one of his new ones, M & M'S LULLABY. Guyton Mundy taught his beautiful FAITHFULLY, Lou Ann taught INFINITY AND BEYOND by the winner of the European Choreography Championships, and John Robinson taught WITHOUT FIRE, and this is Thursday afternoon before the largest crowds even arrived. I'm not going to go through every dance taught but will mention the ones that people mentioned to me were their favs or the classes I took and liked.

Open dancing on Thursday started at 5 and then at 7 was the preview of dances. The OFFICIAL kickoff party with Louie opened at 8:30 in the main ballroom and there were lots of people to enjoy the evening.

Friday started off at 8:15 with Cardio Linedance taught by Bracken and she repeated this Friday and Saturday mornings for the early birds. Um, I wasn't up for those. Lessons started at 10 every day. It was so nice to get up and have a leisurely breakfast and chill until lessons started. I loved starting at that time. The most mentioned dances that I heard about on Friday were HURRY UP AND WAIT, HOOCHIE COOCHIE, STRAIGHT TO MEMPHIS (this is a very easy contra dance that Scott taught and it absolutely filled the floor). Michael Barr retaught the classic AMERICAN POP. What a great dance! Nancy Morgan taught a cute beginner dance called EASY DOES IT to some catchy soul-type music. Michele Burton's MIDNIGHT TRAIN is to a lovely song that I have always loved. Scott taught NAUGHTY BABY and people really liked this one. Bracken brought back another great dance, GIVE IT BACK. Love this one, too.

Friday late afternoon was the COOKIE PARTY. I always am nervous about doing the Cookie Party just because I like to be invisible. LOL. We always have fun, though, and this year was no exception. I was sorry the practice for the evening show prevented many of the weekend instructors from attending because it's a nice chance for them to meet everyone in an informal setting. I was so grateful to Dancin' Terry and her

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friends for doing a CHAIR DANCE demo. What a great idea for people who aren't able to dance or if they are in a nursing home or for some reason aren't able to stand up and dance and it was really fun. She did BEACH BOP BOOGIE (BEGINNER) AND PROUD MARY (INT) and everyone joined in laughing and just having fun. Thanks so much, Terry, and your friends, Barbara, Lorraine, and Karelyn, for such a fun demo. If you would like to know more about chair dancing, you can e-mail Terry and she will be happy to help you.

dancinterry2003@yahoo.com.

I compiled a list of trivia questions that people tried to answer -- I was glad to see I stumped you on a lot of questions. I'll put the entire list with answers at the bottom and maybe you can use it for one of your socials in the future. I'm always looking for good trivia questions. Jean, as always, provided the yummiest cookies and cute teachers' badges. I want to thank everyone for coming and making me not be nervous. Believe it or not, I'm kind of shy. LOL. Once again, the previews of Saturday and Sunday dances were at 7:30 and then the evening dance began. The dances I noticed on Saturday (or people told me about) were DARK SIDE. This has been around a little while but it got a lot of attention this weekend. Maurice Rowe's dance, MAMMA KNOWS BEST, and Debbie McLaughlin's dance, SOLID GROUND, were done one right after the other in the same room to the same music so I'll let these go where they will go. I really liked Maurice's and took that lesson and Debbie's was popular on the floor and looked good, too. Bonnie Matthews taught a cute beginner dance to a Maverick's song called WHAT A THRILL. Will Craig's HOW YOU GONNA is a good dance. I took this class. Bracken taught an easy soul-type dance called THE VOICE OF SOUL to the Soulman music. Johnny Two-Step taught a cute, easy Charleston-type dance called HEY BOY. Scott taught a new one called NICE AND SLOW. Brian Barakauskas taught two technique classes that were very well-attended. I was happy to see him teaching a technique class because his are excellent. I think it's kind of sad that some people dance for many many years but never work on technique so it's basically just learning steps and not so much how to do them. I really hope that everyone will take advantage of these classes when they are offered, not only by Brian, but by others teaching them. They are well worth the time and effort and you just learn so much in such a short time to make you look better and dance safely. Thanks, Brian, for a great class. I wish I had taken both of them. Nancy Morgan taught two cute easy ones called EZ SKILLZ and THAT GIRL. I think you know I think Nancy is really talented at doing fun, easy dances. I really liked John Robinson's IN THE MOOD

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FOR THE BLUES, a really cute, soulful dance that he does so well. One of my favs of the weekend was COLD BLOODED LOVER by Joey Warren. It's a fast waltz similar to The Smell of Your Sweet Perfume, but I love both of those dances. Neville Fitzgerald taught WHAT AM I TO YOU and KISS THE STARS. I had heard a lot about KISS THE STARS and the floor was quite full for both of these. Guyton's FAIRY TALES AND LOVE SONGS...WHATEVER was mentioned to me a lot. Bryan McWherter brought back one of my all-time favs, PHLOOR PHILLA. It was fun to try to remember. LOL. Johnny Two-Step taught an upbeat, easy dance called JUST ENJOY. Michael Thompson taught a country beginner called KEEP MY IN MIND. I wanted to take Will Craig's WORLDWIDE but was not in the building for that one. I loved the music. Rona Kaye taught her new one called WHAT'S THE POINT? I was also gone for this one but it looked good in the previews.

The show on Saturday night was FABULOUS. Oh, my goodness, you just had to be there. I will try to find some of the videos of the show and send them in the newsletter but the basic premise was that a cleaner at a big Vegas Hotel that had wax figures would dust the figures and they would wake up and perform. Lynn Martino was the hysterical maid, Hazel, and the show included Brian B. as Elvis, Johnny Two-Step as an outrageous showgirl, Bryan McWherter as Britney Spears with backup dancers, John Robinson and Junior; Joey Warren as Michael Jackson, Guyton, Will Craig, and Maurice Rowe were the Peep Show Girls, and Deb McLaughlin was Tina Turner with Natalie Mundy and Jill Babinec as her backup dancers. Other cast members for the finale were spread throughout the audience and joined the cast for the big number at the end.

Here's a video that Lou Ann Schemmel has posted on Youtube and she has more that I will forward when she gets home and gets them on Youtube.

<http://youtu.be/uoGnCK3kMJM>.

Here is another one loaded on ArynFriendsLD site on Youtube.

<http://youtu.be/kb088Bqv72E>

There was a 50/50 raffle and lots and lots of passes and gifts given out by event directors and vendors at the event. Guyton also did a raffle of his artwork with half of the proceeds going to the Boys and Girls Club of Florida. Congratulations to all the winners. They were really good prizes. There was also a best costume

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prize for the Vegas theme, "White Trash Wedding." Be sure and look at the pictures. The costumes were really good.

I left early on Sunday to get back home before my son had to stop babysitting my babies. I would definitely have taken Junior's (the boy is on a roll, I tell you), SAMBA IN THE SUN, taught by John Robinson. I might have to teach this one myself. It's one of those islandy music type of dances that I go on vacation in my head. LOL. Some of my friends groan but I don't care. I like them and you know it's all about meeeeeeeeeeee!! Other dances taught on Sunday were MIRROR taught by Nigel Amon, TURN TO YOU, taught by Michael Thompson, BORN FOR LEAVIN' by Neville, BACK IN BLACK AND SICK OF ME taught by Junior, SEARCH THE WHOLE WORLD taught by Juliet Hauser, LATE NIGHT BIMBO and LEAVE YOUR MARK, by Debbie McLaughlin, CREEPIN UP ON YOU (a really darling dance by Peter and Alison) taught by Lynne Martino, who was the absolutely fabulous star of the show on Saturday. I think she would win the Academy Award of Dance for that performance. I loved it. Bonnie Mathews taught IT HAPPENED IN MONTEREY and BEACH THANG. I'll have to wait for feedback on these dances or we'll see which ones do well on the survey in the upcoming weeks. I don't have the winners of the choreography competition yet but I will post them in the newsletter as soon as I get them.

Needless to say, I had a blast seeing everyone and dancing and just spending a weekend having fun at THE MARATHON. There is only one and I hope it continues for many years to come. Next year is the 20th Anniversary, so plan your trip to be in Raleigh between May 30th and June 2nd of 2013, to do it all over again. Thanks so much to Jean and Scott and all of the volunteers (especially Fran Chelius, Richard Dieter, Rick, and Mike who seemed to be everywhere at all times) and all the other people who made THE MARATHON such a success once again. I heard nothing but nice things about it and I'm already reading that people are booking for next year.

HERE IS THE TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

What is Scott Schrank's real name? (Donald)

What is Junior's real name? (James)

What 3 U.S. choreographer's share the same initials? (J.W.= Joey Warren, Junior Willis, Julia Wetzel)

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What 3 U.K. choreographer's share the same initials? (D.M.= Dan McInerney, Debbie McLaughlin, Dee Musk)

Who appeared in the first Broadway production of Cats? Jim Ferrazzano

What kind of pet does Bill and Lynda McGee have and what is the name? Tortoise (big one). His name is Mr. Hairy Patron

What Line Dance Instructor/Choreographer started their dancing career in the 60's as a Go Go Dancer in a cage? Steve Lesarbeau. His dad was a musician who had a band and was a single dad. He also was a master cabinet maker who made all the go-go cages in the area at most of the bars, so when he had to play and couldn't get a sitter he would take his 3-year-old with him and so he didn't have to watch him, he would put him in the cages with the girls. What else was there to do but dance.)

Who volunteered to be Santa Claus and visit patients at Clearwater Community Hospital? Stacy Garcia

Who was asked on a date with Elvis Presley in Las Vegas? KC Douglas

Who plays the flute? JoAnne Brady

Who taught at Bill Ray's event in Las Vegas for 2 days but her luggage didn't arrive? Jo Thompson

Who was feature twirler in the Inaugural Parade for John F. Kennedy with the only band chosen to represent Florida? MEEEEEEEEE

Who is a bounty hunter? Lisa Johns from South Florida

Who runs triatholons? Krissie Brownlee Lindsey.

Who was a county 4-H president? Scott Blevins

Who has two different colored eyes, one blue/the other grey and brown? Debbie McLaughlin.

Who recently received a black belt in karate?? Jill Babinec took 4 years... don't mess with the DJ

Who works at a plant that manufactures pistons for cars? Junior Willis

Who designed and built the harnesses for the Mission Space ride at Epcot Center? Answer = Guyton Mundy

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Who was a competitive swimmer before they started line dancing, loves to ski, was a waitress from the age of about 10 and was on her dad's wages when she was about 13. Was raised in pubs/restaurants. Moved into her first house when she was 17. Played clarinet and piano. Was in every sports team at school and college - netball, rounders, hockey, tennis. (Rounders is like a girls form of baseball; netball is like basketball but you can't bounce the ball - mainly a UK and Australian sport!

Who likes to play her favorite actress-Lucille Ball? Lynne Martino

Who holds A MA in business English, and a BA in French. Worked for American Express in Brighton (UK) from 1996-1999. Started line dancing in '96 when he lived in Brighton. Turned line dancing into a career in 2005. Won the intermediate world line dance championships in 2005. First job teaching at an event in the US was in Tampa 2008? Niels Poulsen

Who used to be a welder and has a big lionel train collection.....used to be obsessed with them when he was growing up. Has all kinds of track, mountains, tunnels, and things like that. Going to have a room in his house and set them all up one day. ANSWER: Joey Warren

Carol Craven