

**The Jellyfish**  
*Official Line Dance of the Crescent Ski Council*  
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Mr. Bob Wilbanks  
Editor, The National Ski Club Newsletter  
c/o Rowil Publishing  
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Subject: The Jellyfish

Dear Bob:

It was nice to see you at the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) conference in Park City, UT, August 27-29, 1999. If everyone read every issue of your publication cover-to-cover, that would be just about all the training in the operation of ski clubs and councils that they would need!

Here is the information and instructions for The Jellyfish, that I said I would send. Feel free to publish any or all of this information in the National Ski Club Newsletter as you see fit. Maybe you could get other clubs and councils to submit their official line dances? Or, is Crescent the only one that has such a thing?? In the digital image from Stanley Sharaga of me Jellyfishing at the NSCF dinner, that is Bonnie West, President, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, learning The Jellyfish and Mike Sanford, VP-Marketing, San Diego Ski Council, observing.

First, my Jellyfish pedigree: The Crescent Ski Council (CSC) includes ski clubs in NC, SC, GA, TN, VA, WV and FL (and, once, KY). I have been a member of the Winston-Salem (NC) Ski Club (later, Winston-Salem Ski & Outing Club), a member-club of CSC, since 1977 and Captain of the CSC Jellyfish Demonstration Team since 1981 (a perpetual appointment-Ha!).

At the Saturday-night party of the annual Fall Convention of CSC at Myrtle Beach, SC, in September, 1981, Winston-Salem Ski Club members, Sara Wilson and I, learned an unnamed line dance from Laura Krieger, a member of the Charlotte (NC) Ski Bees. On Sunday, we practiced the dance in the surf and taught it to other Winston-Salem Ski Club members including Chris Gallos, Gloria Gamble and Karyn Steinle. There were lots of jellyfishes coming ashore at the time, so we named the dance "The Jellyfish."

Soon, we began to call ourselves "The Jellyfish Demonstration Team" and began performing The Jellyfish at all CSC functions and teaching it to anyone who wanted to learn. We added steps and, later, made contributing a step a way to qualify to become a Jellyfish. At a ski weekend at Snowshoe, WV in 1982, we had a then-record 200+ people performing The Jellyfish at one time. In October, 1983, Jellyfish Co-Captain Diane Board and I distributed a roughly hand-drawn sketch of the steps to aspiring Jellyfishes. Around that time, we decided The Jellyfish was getting too difficult for first-timers to learn in a few minutes, so declared The Jellyfish complete. The Ski School at Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, adopted The Jellyfish as an on-slopes pre-ski warm-up in 1984. CSC adopted The Jellyfish as the Official CSC Line Dance. Jellyfishes Karen Connelly and Janie Todd improved the graphics and published the steps in the Palmetto (Greenville, SC) Ski Club's newsletter in 1984 (copy enclosed; more on that in a moment).


At the next CSC Convention at Myrtle Beach, we decided to add Jellyfishes to the Demonstration Team, so we conducted tryouts by the pool on Saturday afternoon and planned to have the finals at the party that night. One aspiring Jellyfish, Denver Board (Diane's husband, Vice Chairman of Crescent '83-'84 and Chairman '84-'85), had some tee-shirts made with the imprints "CSC Demo Team" on the front and "Let's Jellyfish" on the back. We decided to award these to the new

Jellyfishes (after reserving one for each of the current Jellyfish Demonstration Team, of course). At the party, there were swarms of dancers Jellyfishing their hearts out in hopes of becoming a Jellyfish. We made a mistake at the trials in the afternoon: we didn't eliminate anyone. At the finals, we ran out of shirts before we ran out of worthy Jellyfishes, so there were many broken hearts. I called an emergency meeting of the Jellyfish Demonstration Team. We agreed that The Jellyfish is supposed to be about having fun, not breaking hearts, so decided to go undersea for a while until the passions cooled. For a couple of years, we performed The Jellyfish on a limited basis at CSC events for fear of opening old wounds of The Great Jellyfish Tee-Shirt Shortage. By the late 1980s, after we had performed in public only minimally, the Jellyfish Demonstration Team had scattered, and many of those short-changed at The Great Jellyfish Tee-Shirt Shortage had recovered or moved on, we determined it was safe to resume public performances and encouragement of participation. At CSC events, there is always someone who wants to know "that line dance you're doing." While none (except me) of the original Jellyfish Demonstration Team remain active in CSC (or their respective clubs, as far as I know), Barbara Casey (Palmetto Ski & Outing Club), Margaret Jordan (Columbia (SC) Ski Club) and Terri Tokaz (Columbia Ski Club) are among those helping keep the tradition alive. But, for unknown reasons, The Jellyfish never returned, in terms of numbers of participants, to the glory days of the early 1980s.

The official Jellyfish is performed to a 4-count and remains as it appeared in the Palmetto Ski Club's newsletter in 1984. "Elvira" is a favorite song to Jellyfish to, but just about any song with an "Elvira" beat, or faster, will do. Refer to the enclosed copy for the steps. Steps #2, #3, #4 and #5 plus a hop and quarter turn comprised The Original Jellyfish. It turned out that every Jellyfish who subsequently contributed a step to The Jellyfish was a member of the Charlotte Ski Bees! This is probably appropriate since Laura Krieger was a Charlotte Ski Bee, too (although, to my knowledge, she never attended another CSC Convention). Jellyfish Co-Captain Diane Board contributed step #1, the "Di-Drop." Donna "D.Y." Young contributed #6, the "D.Y. Shimmy" (the "D.Y." was mistakenly omitted in the published version). Sandy Atwell contributed #7, the "Sandy Strut." Bobbi Little contributed #8, the "Bobbi Wobble" (a.k.a. "Funky Chicken"). Betty Herring contributed the #9, the "Betty -Butt." We accepted Denver Board's "Let's Jellyfish" tee shirts and added step #10, the "Denver Twist," but never officially designated him a Jellyfish because he didn't learn the rest of The Jellyfish. Maybe we should have made him some kind of associate, or something? That has always seemed an oversight in the history of The Jellyfish.

The Jellyfish even has a mascot since June, 1999. My Aunt Ann Lumsden, who collects Beanie Babies™, so enjoyed watching The Jellyfish recently, that she sent me "Goochy" the Beanie Baby Jellyfish!

Jellyfishingly yours,



Ken Lumsden  
Captain, Jellyfish Demonstration Team  
CSC Chairman '97-'99

enclosure: "The Crescent Ski Council Jellyfish in 10 easy steps"

xc: File The Jellyfish  
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