

Results and Response to the Red Hot Lindy Hop Survey

Pennies From Heaven' For Your Thoughts

First of all, the Red Hot Lindy Hop board would like to personally thank each and every one of you who made time to take our short survey. The information you provided will be a tremendous help as we make plans for the year to come.

Please take a few minutes to see what people said and our response to the results.

1. How did you first hear about Red Hot Lindy Hop?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Friend		31.9%	15
Memphis Flyer		0%	0
Radio		0%	0
Advertisement in a newspaper		2.1%	1
Internet search for Swing Dance in Memphis		12.8%	6
Internet search for Lindy Hop in Memphis		2.1%	1
St Peter's Church Swing Dance		25.5%	12
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		25.5%	12

As you can see, the most effective way to get more people to come to our dances is to tell your friends. Word of mouth actually accounts for 40.4% of the total if you include some of responses given under "Other". If you would like to help us get the word out, but need some help, please let us know how we can help.

2. Have you attended any of the following RHLH events?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Swing Night at Celeste \$5		40%	16
DJ Dance (\$5-\$7)		60%	24
Live Band Dance (\$10-\$12)		70%	28
Progressive Lesson (4 classes over 4 weeks)		30%	12
Workshop / Bootcamp (3 or more classes in a weekend)		42.5%	17
UofM Student Chapter Free Practice (Weds.)		65%	26
UofM Student Chapter Free Intro Lesson (Weds.)		62.5%	25
Total Respondents			40
(skipped this question)			7

We are glad to see that so many of you have made it out to our Live Band Dances. We hope that more of you will make it out to Celeste and we believe our night at Celeste will be one of our most outstanding events in the coming year. The venue is top notch and we feel we have been doing a good job playing music that complements the crowd. If you have not danced on the floating floor, you are missing out. The venue is truly made with the dancer in mind.

3. Will you attend these RHLH events within the next month?

	Yes! With out a doubt	Signs point to Yes	Signs point to No	Not likely	Never	Response Average
Swing Night at Celeste \$5	30% (13)	39% (17)	16% (7)	16% (7)	0% (0)	2.18
DJ Dance (\$5-\$7)	32% (13)	45% (18)	15% (6)	8% (3)	0% (0)	1.98
Live Band Dance (\$10-\$12)	32% (13)	49% (20)	12% (5)	7% (3)	0% (0)	1.95
Progressive Lesson (4 classes over 4 weeks)	5% (2)	26% (10)	32% (12)	32% (12)	5% (2)	3.05
Workshop / Bootcamp (3 classes on a Saturday)	5% (2)	37% (14)	24% (9)	32% (12)	3% (1)	2.89
UofM Student Chapter Free DJ Dance	27% (11)	39% (16)	15% (6)	15% (6)	5% (2)	2.32
UofM Student Chapter Free Intro to swing lesson	14% (6)	33% (14)	19% (8)	24% (10)	10% (4)	2.81

These numbers were lower than we were hoping. . I asked the wrong question. I should have said in the next few months. That being said, it looks like we are doing some good thing with our night at Celeste, our DJ dances, the Live Band Dances, and the UofM Student chapter dance. These events will change a little in the next year, but hopefully for the better.

4. In what part of town would you be mostly likely to attend a RHLH swing dance event?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Downtown Memphis	2.1%	1
Midtown Memphis	21.3%	10
University of Memphis area	23.4%	11
East Memphis (Germantown Pkw area)	27.7%	13
View Other (please specify)	25.5%	12

<u>1.</u> Rhodes
<u>2.</u> downtown, midtown, or UofM
<u>3.</u> not sure
<u>4.</u> anywhere
<u>5.</u> anywhere
<u>6.</u> Southaven, MS
<u>7.</u> West Memphis
<u>8.</u> If the venue is good, any of the above locations is fine
<u>9.</u> Rhodes
<u>10.</u> any
<u>11.</u> any
<u>12.</u> Any area

It looks like we have been doing a fairly good job with the location of our events. Apparently the majority of people don't care to go to downtown Memphis for dance events. We will need to re-evaluate what our best options for weekend dance venues are. We have held a number of workshops and dances in Southaven MS, but believe this is not likely to continue in the near future because we are becoming over extended.

5. What classes would you like us to offer? Check all that apply			
		Response Percent	Response Total
East Coast		43.5%	20
Collegiate Shag		50%	23
20's Charleston		52.2%	24
40's Charleston		47.8%	22
Partner Charleston		60.9%	28
Tandem Charleston		52.2%	24
Beginner Lindy Hop (basic step and a few moves)		32.6%	15
Intermediate Lindy Hop (Work on lead / follow techniques and add some fun moves)		60.9%	28
Advanced Lindy Hop (You would be happy working on technique and your basic swing out all day)		47.8%	22
Balboa / Bal-Swing		50%	23
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		23.9%	11

<u>1.</u>	Swango--lindy +tango
<u>2.</u>	Blues
<u>3.</u>	I like Charleston, but I do not know differences among the above forms
<u>4.</u>	jumps and throws
<u>5.</u>	ballroom
<u>6.</u>	West Coast Swing
<u>7.</u>	Shim Sham
<u>8.</u>	Beginning West Coast
<u>9.</u>	As long as timing works out, I'd love to come to anything you offer!

This is some great info on what people would like to see. Partner Charleston and Intermediate Lindy Hop obviously take the lead. We will soon have a class plan for the coming year, and think everyone will like what they see.

- Swango – We will not offer this in the near future seeing as none of our teachers are familiar with this dance form. Perhaps we can have a guest teacher at some time. Let us know if you know of any.
- Blues – We will have some great blues dance opportunities coming in February.
- Charleston – We will just have to offer some great Charleston classes to teach everyone the different forms of Charleston
- Air Steps or as you call it “Jumps and Throws” - We have been hesitant to teach Air Steps in Memphis because the majority of our dancers are beginner to intermediate. Air Steps are advanced moves and it is easy to get injured or injure someone else if done incorrectly. These moves require a solid understanding of lead and follow technique. Without this understanding, it is nearly impossible to do them correctly. Air Steps should never be use on the social dance floor. They should be reserved for the jam circles (not steal jams or birthday jams) or performances. All that being said, we can offer a class in the year to come. Where either some guest teachers or we teach some of the basic Air Steps. Partners would be required for this class, no rotation.
- We will not likely teach any Ballroom dances, as this is not part of our mission. “We are dedicated to the preservation of the vintage swing dances, as well as sharing our knowledge with those willing to learn.” Let us know if you need help getting in contact with people who teach ballroom. We have many contacts in the dance community and can help you find what you are looking for.
- West Coast - As we are not the experts in WCS, we will not likely offer these classes. However, there is a great WCS swing group in town. They offer lessons on a weekly basis. We may also get some of their teachers to teach a few intro to WCS lessons at Celeste.
- Shim Sham – We too would like to see some lessons on the shim sham and other swing dance line dances. we will be able to offer some good swing dance line dance classes in the year to come.

6. What would be the best Day / Time for you to attend a swing dance class?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Wednesday 7-8 pm		26.1%	12
Wednesday 8-9 pm		6.5%	3
Thursday 7-8 pm		19.6%	9
Saturday 12-3 pm		47.8%	22

We have planned more Saturday boot camps/workshops in the year to come. We may also adjust the lesson plans at Celeste. Wednesdays may see a change in this coming year too. We are looking into the possibility of holding some classes at Rhodes. We would probably alternate between UofM and Rhodes.

7. Please answer the following questions and tell us a little about yourself:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Response Average
Would you like to get a Red Hot Lindy Hop T-Shirt?	59% (26)	36% (16)	5% (2)	1.38
Are you a member of our mailing list?	91% (43)	9% (4)	0% (0)	1.09
Male?	33% (13)	64% (25)	3% (1)	1.66
Female?	79% (33)	21% (9)	0% (0)	1.21
Married?	9% (4)	87% (39)	4% (2)	1.91
Do you have kids?	24% (11)	76% (35)	0% (0)	1.76
Do you have Kids at home?	13% (6)	80% (36)	7% (3)	1.86
Are you new to dancing?	13% (6)	87% (40)	0% (0)	1.87
Do you do other forms of dance?	72% (34)	26% (12)	2% (1)	1.26

- T-shirts are here! If you want one, make sure to contact Sara Beth at sarabeth@redhotlindyhop.com.
- Good to see that our mailing list is reaching people.
- Guys, we need to increase our numbers.
- Ladies, how do we get the guys to show up like you do?
- Good job for those of you who are new to dancing. You will find that the more you do it, the more you will like it.
- Great to see that many people participate in other forms of dance. This will only help all your dancing.

8. How young are you? (In years, not how you feel.)			
		Response Percent	Response Total
20 or under		4.5%	2
21-30		59.1%	26
31-40		15.9%	7
41-50		9.1%	4
51-60		6.8%	3
61-70		4.5%	2
71 and up		0%	0

We are not surprised to see this spread, but would like to see greater numbers across the board. What can we do to get the 30 and up age groups to come out? We can obviously use some help reaching these people. We believe many people have a misconception that Swing dance in general, and lindy hop in particular, is only danced to fast music. We hope to change this mindset. Swing dance is not all fast music and Air Steps. This is only part of the dance, but you should only see this in jam circles. The guy who first put Air steps into the dance is still dancing today. His name is Frankie Manning and he will be 93 this year. He is still dancing and teaching Lindy Hop workshops. Swing dance in general and Lindy Hop in particular is a fabulous dance no matter what age you are. If you ever think you are too old to dance, give up that thought and come join us on the dance floor.

9. Please answer the followings questions:

	Always	Most of the time	Some times	Almost never	Never	N/A	Response Average
Do you have fun at our events?	46% (21)	43% (20)	2% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (4)	1.52
Do you feel welcome at our events?	43% (20)	35% (16)	13% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (4)	1.67
Do you encourage your friends come out dancing?	39% (18)	28% (13)	22% (10)	2% (1)	2% (1)	7% (3)	1.93
Are we a friendly group?	30% (14)	43% (20)	17% (8)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (4)	1.86
Are we approachable?	31% (14)	42% (19)	18% (8)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (4)	1.85
Do we come off as a clique?	2% (1)	27% (12)	30% (13)	27% (12)	2% (1)	11% (5)	3.00
Are we intimidating?	2% (1)	12% (5)	16% (7)	42% (18)	16% (7)	12% (5)	3.66
Do we offer high quality dance lessons?	29% (13)	44% (20)	7% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	20% (9)	1.72
Do we offer high quality swing events?	36% (16)	40% (18)	9% (4)	0% (0)	2% (1)	13% (6)	1.77
How well do you like our music selection?	14% (6)	57% (25)	14% (6)	5% (2)	0% (0)	11% (5)	2.10
Is our music too fast?	0% (0)	9% (4)	26% (11)	26% (11)	28% (12)	12% (5)	3.82
At Celeste, do we play enough West Coast to create a good mix?	10% (4)	17% (7)	2% (1)	2% (1)	0% (0)	69% (29)	1.92

- Some good information here.
- We would like to see more of you encourage your friends to come out. They might just be surprised at how fun swing dance can be. If our swing dance scene is to grow, this is one of the main areas that will help it to do so.
- We think we can work on being a little more outgoing, especially when people are new to our dance scene.
- In general people seem to like our music selection. That is good to know, but we also think we can make some improvements here, especially in the live band area.
- The music may be a little on the fast side. We will watch this, but it is also important to push the boundaries of what people think the limit of danceable music is. We think you will find that we do a good job at Celeste finding a good balance.

10. Tell us your thoughts... Let us have it.

Please take a moment to answer these 3 questions:

1. What are we doing well?
2. What can we do better?
3. What can we do to get you dancing more?

1. We are new to the area (Jackson) and we have a new baby (now 3 months old!) Our goal is to get out at least once a month. We love to Lindy Hop and Bal.
Response:
Welcome to the area and we look forward to meeting you. Send me an email and I will see if I can find some contacts for some other dancers in Jackson. You might be able to carpool with them.

2. 1.Very Welcoming 2.Change the Wednesday dance to another day... 3.Location
Response: The Wednesday practice will most likely remain, but we will look at our option here. The Location will remain the same because the University of Memphis Student Chapter runs this event. We are looking into starting up a night at Rhodes College. If the night at Rhodes materializes, we would likely alternate Wednesday between UofM and Rhodes.

3. I can't say. Still haven't been I can't say. Still have not been
Response:
Please come out and dance with us so next time you can say. We would love to meet you.

4.	<p>1 Classes are good. 2 I can't think of anything. 3 I think I dance a decent amount already.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you 2. Let us know if you do think of something 3. Good to hear.
5.	<p>1. good lessons 2. I'm not sure at the moment, I'll get back to you... 3. I'm @ Celeste Thursdays & Fridays (cant go Wed due to church events, so probably things on Saturdays (ok , so I already dance 1-2 times a week... not the point...)</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <p><i>We will probably try to have a class/workshop and a dance once a month on Saturdays during this coming year.</i></p>
6.	<p>1. Lessons 2. ? 3. More dj dances in the downtown/midtown/UofM area</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you. 3. We will probably concentrate on the areas that had the highest responses in question 4.
7.	<p>I can only attend classes later in the evening 8-9 time frame Need a better mix of music, not all fast swings Everyone needs to try harder to dance with everyone else.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <p><i>We don't know that we can offer classes that late. We will probably attempt to offer classes at the times that had the highest response. See question 6. We think we do an OK job trying to dance with everyone. That being said, we do think we can get better at this and will work up some strategies on how to help new people feel more welcome. Also, don't be afraid to ask us to dance. If people are not asking you, go stand near the dance floor. If you are sitting at a table, people may think you want a break or you may look like you are in conversation with friends and people don't want to interrupt.</i></p>
8.	<p>1. plenty of beginner classes, which is good for first timers. 2. not sure 3. change the universe--not much can be done.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <p><i>When you figure out how to change the universe, let us know.</i></p>
9.	<p>1. Well: Keeping the activity level up. You seem to be trying to provide plenty of ops. 2. Seems that we're caught in the middle. Lindy is mostly put on by the youngsters banging around and Swing is mostly put on by the fogies. While we get along with everyone, those 40-50 are less represented. 3. We need more time. Our kids are fantastically busy right now. Also, I'd like to see the St. Peter's quality event regularly out east (Gtown or near).</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Less represented... unfortunately that is true. If you have any good ideas on how to we can reach more people in your age group, we would like to hear them. Remember our most effective way of getting people to come out has been word of mouth. 3. We too would like to see a St. Peter's quality event on a regular basis. Our goal has been to hold a weekend dance with a live band or DJ once a month. We are not aware of a good venue out east aside from Celeste. If you know of one, please let us know. <p><i>Notes On Swing & and Lindy</i></p> <p><i>We would also like to take a moment here to better define "Swing" and "Lindy". Swing or Swing Dance is the general term that covers all the different forms of dance that we all do. Swing includes East Coast, Lindy Hop, Charleston, Shag, Balboa, and West Coast Swing. Lindy Hop is a dance that can be danced to slow blues type music or fast energetic music. This music typically ranges from 80 to 200+ BPM. Here in Memphis most dances seem to prefer 90- 160 BPM. Wes Coast Swing is a descendent of Lindy Hop. It developed as music changed from a syncopated swing beat to more of a rock beat. Here in Memphis, dancers seem to prefer music around 100 to 120 BPM and when the music gets above 150 BPM, you will often see many people turn to East Coast and Charleston. Here is a good reference for the definitions:.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swing dance and it's forms http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(dance) - West Coast Swing http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Coast_Swing

10.	<p>1. Your lessons are great and one-on-one tips during the open dance period are VERY helpful! 2. It was helpful to me to have the schedule of upcoming dances in advance like you did in Sept/Aug (you gave us the schedule through Nov/Dec) 3. You do a great job of making the dances very affordable, but when I don't come, especially to workshops (weekend travel), it's money related. I don't make this comment to ask you to change anything, simply to let you know!</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Thank you.</i> <i>2. It has been hard to plan things more than a few months in advance. We do believe we can make some improvements here; one of them would be to get our calendar back up and running. We believe we should be able to plan a minimum of two to three months out. This would give you a good idea of what is to come.</i> <i>3. We hope you are able to come to workshops and out of town events with us in the future. We feel that workshops and especially out of town events are the quickest way to improve you dancing.</i>
11.	<p>1. having events, variety of music 2. more fast, old, big band music; more exciting, improvisational dancing 3. Advanced free lessons</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Thank you.</i> <i>2. Please take a look at question 9. People in general seem to think the music is within a good tempo range. That being said, our D.J.'s love the old music and like to push the boundaries of what people believe they can dance to. We also must pay attention to what tempo and type of music gets people out on the dance floor. It is our goal to find a good balance among all of these.</i> <i>3. We cannot offer free advanced lessons. Typically a 1 hour class will require 1 to 2 hours of prep time. We usually need to pay for the room in which we hold classes, and our teachers put a lot of time and money into traveling out of town to learn new things to bring back to you. On a national scale, most classes and workshops run between \$5 to \$10. After considering all this, if you still feel that \$5 to \$10 for an advanced class is expensive, take a look at what some of the ballroom studios charge for a one hour class.</i>
12.	<p>1. Effort to get the Memphis dance scene hopping 2. Organize a web list of sites of dance clips, basic step outlines, routines 3. see above, list of out-of-town workshops</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Thank you.</i> <i>2. we like that idea and will work with our web designer to see what we can come up with.</i> <i>3. If you are not a member of Swing Out Memphis, make sure you are. Many of our friends out of town will post events there we may also be able to add something on our web site to help here.</i>
13.	<p>1. Providing Memphis with a youthful venue and club to Swing Dance with. 2. Its tough to offer more dances and get crowds though when there's not a lot of interest... 3. There isn't enough weekend dances on a regular basis or large enough crowd at the dances.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Thank you.</i> <i>3. Our goal is to hold a weekend dance once a month on a set schedule. We have tried to hold them more often, but find that our numbers go down when we do.</i>
14.	<p>very nice approachable dancers more flexible beginner classes #2</p> <p><i>Response: Please email Jaredan@redhotlindyhop.com with a better explanation of how we can do better.</i></p>
15.	<p>1. RHLH is doing a good job communicating events to dancers. Initiating this survey was a very good idea, too, and I appreciate the fact that you value my input and want to improve the swing dancing scene. 2. It would be helpful to have more classes on weekends. And RHLH members could be more encouraging to newer dancers, specifically at the dances, where more advanced people tend to dance mostly with people that they're used to dancing with. 3. Stage lindy bombs! More Count Basie!</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Very nicely put, thank you!</i> <i>2. The majority of people seem to want more weekend classes. It is very likely that we will have some good weekend classes to come this year. In regards to newer dancers, please see the response to question 10.7.</i> <i>3. More Lindy bombs is a great idea, and any help getting them organized would be greatly appreciated. More Basie... We can help you out there.</i>

16.	<p>I have only attended one dance so I can't really say much, except I'd love to see more events on Friday/Saturday nights. (I have to drive a ways to get to UofM and Celeste.) Thanks for asking our opinions!</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Our goal has been to hold one weekend dance every month. You might see if you can carpool with people who live near you. Post something on Swing Out Memphis about carpooling to an event and see who might be able to help.</i></p>
17.	<p>Bring the St Peter's dance back to once a month event</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Unfortunately this is not likely to happen. The new Father at St Peters told us we could not continue to hold dances there because we were causing too much wear on the floor. We attempted to replace this event with dances at the gallery ballroom, but with low attendance we were not covering expenses. We still hope to hold a dance similar to the St. Peter's dance once a month in the year to come.</i></p>
18.	<p>There are not enough guys to dance with the single women. Everyone seems to come in couples.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>You're telling us! The guys have their work cut out for them right now! Girls, you can help us out here. Tell your guy friends how cool swing dancing is and what the ratio of girls to guys is. Don't let them give you the excuse that dancing is not macho. Let them know if they want to be a real man, they should not be afraid of the dance floor. Guys, tell you friends too.</i></p>
19.	<p>1. The lessons are great! 2. More dances in midtown and U of M area. 3. Dancing on Thursday night</p> <p><i>Response: 1. Thank you. 2. We will likely have open practice nights at UofM and perhaps Rhodes in the year to come. 3. We have dancing on every Thursday night at Celeste. Please come and check it out.</i></p>
20.	<p>I think you need to be more open to adults of different ages. I haven't been to Celeste yet, so maybe this has changed but in the past, I have gotten the feeling that your group doesn't want to include anyone past 30. If you want to grow your group, you need to be welcoming to a variety of age groups that are interested in dance.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We are would love to have people of all ages. If the only night you have been to is UofM practice night, please realize that this event is put on by the University of Memphis Students and attracts many first time college kids. At our other events, we often see the ages range from 12-60+. Celeste is 21 and up. Please also see our response to question 10.9.2.</i></p>
21.	<p>You must be doing something right! Your website has motivated me to get movin'-creaky knees & all!</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Great to Hear it!</i></p>
22.	<p>1. promoting 2. come to Rhodes 3. Just depends on the schedule I have</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>1. Thank you, but we can do better.</i> <i>2. This may happen sooner than later.</i></p>
23.	<p>1. Um... classes and intro lessons are great 2. I suppose I'd like a class on a Tues. or Thurs. or even Monday. 3. Kill off all my other friends so that I would have no place better to be...ever.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Classes on other days may come in the future. The hardest part is finding days that work for everyone, including the teachers.</i> <i>As for #3, seeing as we are not in the hit man business, you will find other methods to take care of your friends. Our suggestion though, bring them along, we would love to have them come out and dance with us too.</i></p>

<p><u>24.</u></p>	<p>1) This is a good dance group and some really cool people attend. It is not large, but it is high quality. Generally, the group is friendly. The group projects a really strong interest in swing dance. Everyone seems willing to dance and have a good time. Most of the people are very likeable. I have a good time when I go to an event. The lessons are generally very good.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> 1. <i>Some good feedback, thank you.</i></p> <p>2) The music could be much better. Play more music that has a strong beat, that is easily recognizable. Play music that would drag a dead man out of his coffin and make him dance. Too much of the music played is boring and you have to listen very closely to figure out the beats on which to dance. Some of it is too fast, and only a few people enjoy dancing to it. Have a plan to develop a good list of dance music. List all songs that will be played at DJ event on a sheet of paper prior to the event. (This should include a mix of east coast, lindy, Charleston, and west coast music.) Then hand out the sheets and ask everyone to rate the song after it is played as to excitement and dancibility. Rate it by circling a number. Example: Rag Time Blues Excitement 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Dancability 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 After several events, make up a dance list with about 75% all of the highest rated songs. Add some new ones each time for interest and ask people how they liked the new ones. If people like them add them to the list, if not drop them. Develop a dance list that will make people want to dance! The one we have now just seems to happen, it is not planned. The band (Paul and the twelve apostles) play good music, but I do not consider much of it to be good dance music. Perhaps a third of what they play appeals to me as dancing music. I have heard many negative comments on our dance music. Some people who used to go to the St. Peters dance stopped going to our events because they do not enjoy the music. Never just play one type of music. At the last dance the theme was twenties Charleston. The music did not include hardly any lindy music! It was boring! Always have a mix of lindy, east coast, west coast, and Charleston.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> 2. <i>We like your thoughts on playing "music that would drag a dead man out of his coffin". As you may or may not know, our DJs typically do not have a play list planned before an event. Doing this makes it real hard to respond to the crowd. We agree that our music could be a lot more exiting. You will find that it is sometimes hard to find a good balance between exciting music and music that is not too fast. As our DJs get more experience, you will find that they do a pretty good job. If you are referring to Wednesdays at UofM, please realize that this is a practice night and we often put on an existing play list. We are sorry to hear that you dislike Paul's band so much and agree that some of his songs are hard to dance to. We have had plans to have the Jim Mahannah band play two different events late last year, but had to cancel them because we lost too much money on previous events. To pay for an event featuring Jim, we need to get about 70 people to attend. Perhaps a survey on Weekend dances and preferred music is needed.</i></p> <p>3) Better music. I actually prefer a DJ to a poor band. I would say that we only use a band, if they are really good. If not, DJ the event. Always have a steal jam for a song or two. I enjoy these. Have some competition in these steal jams between guys or between girls and do other things that add to the fun. (Even plan to have fun by planning things that appear spontaneous.)</p> <p><i>Response:</i> 3. <i>We think you will find that many of our dances in the year to come will be DJ dances. We also enjoy the jams and steal jams. Typically these happen on a whim, for it is hard to plan them. We would also like to see some more competition during the jams, but we need to get more people to start stealing and being a little complete on the dance floor for this to work.</i></p>
<p><u>25.</u></p>	<p>Very good teaching Need more classic swing music and less neo swing, or just a different mix of music to practice to at lessons and dances schedule too full to dance more</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Thank you for our comments on teaching. We can probably find you some more classic swing music. The hard part is keeping the mix where most people are dancing. Lindy is still new to Memphis and East Coast typically works real well with the Neo Swing.</i></p>
<p><u>26.</u></p>	<p>1) Multiple dances, classes, locations, etc. to choose from. Friendly. 2) Contests that encourage dress up are fun. 3) A larger crowd would be nice, but I don't think you can have much control over that. Other than that, I just need to get off my butt and go.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We can do more contests that encourage dress up. We want the larger crowd too. Please bring your friends and as you put it, "get off your butt and go."</i></p>

<p><u>27.</u></p>	<p>1) You are trying very hard; marketing & really approaching other groups (yeah!); being true your mission to teach the "older" forms of dance--shag, Charleston, and balboa-- (unfortunately, I don't have time to learn them. I only have time to learn the lindy hop); Now making every effort to try new things--survey's, Celeste, intimate dances at homes</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>1. Thank you for the great comments.</i></p> <p>2.1 Not that it maybe possible, but wish you could do lessons on Mon/Tues or also do progressive lessons on Sat vs Wed/Th;</p> <p>2.2 Play MUCH better music at the dances...really bothering a lot of people since this was the 3rd dance in a row (or 4th). People are coming out of support. I like Paul and his music, but not really getting to the heart of LH and the CD music that could make up for it just doesn't--- I understand that the last dance was for 20s but many people who come to the dances are not core Wed/Th night people & don't know 20s stuff, so you should have played more of other music--20% 20s still would have made it at 20s dance and still have provided 80% people could dance to; ask the people who come before the dance what they want to learn since only a handful attend--the majority may want to continue learning LH since they cannot learn a new dance at one lesson that they cannot follow up learning "off line". Remember, many people are part time LH. Right now you are NOT getting too many new people because they feel required to do dances that they cannot practice & get better at off line. Play shag and balboa some, but play to the majority of new/part time people</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>2.1 Lessons: Lessons on other days may be possible, but it comes down to when the majority of people can come to the lessons and when our teachers are available to teach. We have taught Saturday classes about once a month and have been offering one day boot camp/workshops that typically consists of 3 to 4 progressive classes. We have trouble offering weekly classes on the weekend because many of our teachers are out of town at various national events learning new moves and techniques to bring back to Memphis.</i> <i>2.2 Music: We are sorry to hear that you and apparently so many others do not like the music that has been played at our last few dances and agree with your comments about Paul's band and the 20's music. Please also see the response to question 10.24.2. We hope you will come out to one of our Thursdays at Celeste let us know what you think about the music there. At Celeste, we have better control of the music. Our DJs typically do not have a play list planned before the event in order to watch the crowd and see what types of music get people on the dance floor. If you have any further comments about music, we would love to hear them.</i></p> <p>3) Have classes in addition to Wed/Th; play MUCH better music at the dances--some where along the way you have moved too far from LH; stay with basic/intermediate LH classes at beginning of dances unless you know the people don't need it. I really think that if you could FIX the music at the dances it would make it much, much inviting to new people & your attendance will go up---of course, you'll have to let everyone know that you are doing that since they may have "given up"...and I don't think having the dance downtown was the main factor because people are used to the gallery ballroom...still, more in town would be better... Fix the music.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We can only offer so many classes before we stretch ourselves too thin. All of us have other full time jobs and many of us are already working on Red Hot Lindy Hop related tasks 3 to 5 nights a week. We have been offering some incredible classes on Saturdays and there should be some good ones in this upcoming year. We sincerely hope that people have not given up on us. We are throwing these events for the community. We do not make money off the events and even the people organizing and teaching at the events pay the cover. If we make a profit at the event, the money is used to bring you more great dance events. Again, if you or anyone else has more comments on how we can help our swing dance community grow, we would love to hear them. We feel the need to grow our attendance or our swing dance events here in Memphis may soon disappear.</i></p>
<p><u>28.</u></p>	<p>I feel that you are offering a good variety of classes. I feel that you could include a wider variety of music. Music that is current as well as from the swing era would be a good idea.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We would love to hear of any suggestion on music. It is often hard to find current music that is good for dancing swing to, unless you are talking about WCS, which lends itself to more of a rock beat.</i></p>
<p><u>29.</u></p>	<p>I have sadly yet to actually attend a RHLH event because I work all the freaking time. Weeknights are tough, so perhaps a more regular/late running event on Fri/Sat nights? I hope to meet y'all sooner than later.=)</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>Perhaps you will be able to make it to one of our upcoming Saturday dances. We hope to meet you sooner than later as well.</i></p>

30.	<p>1. Staying the course 2. Create a demand 3. If you can't say anything nice...</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>It is a long course! Any ideas on how to create more demand? Point taken, and it will be passed on.</i></p>
31.	<p>1.RHLH has gotten soooo much better at organizing communication. I am thrilled to always know what's going on and where. Great job! 2.hmmm... I dunno 3.have more late night dances</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>More late night dances, we can probably help out here.</i></p>
32.	<p>I'd like to see you at other dance venues trying those dances. The Lindy Hop Core group seems a bit snobby, not just opinionated, but prejudiced.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We too would like to see us at other events. We typically are doing Red Hot Lindy Hop stuff 4 to 5 nights a week so it is hard to get away to attend other events. During this coming year, we hope to change this. We would like to know more about how you feel we come of as snobby, opinionated, and prejudiced. Please email our president at Jaredan@redhotlindyhop.com if you feel you can talk about this. It would help us to know more about why we come off this way.</i></p>
33.	<p>You guys are great, but I work evenings, so hard to get to dances at night. I'd love to attend more - maybe when my schedule changes.</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you and we would love to have you out more.</i></p>
34.	<p>1. Good variety of events, good opportunities to learn, cost, great website. 2. Teach slower forms of dance like blues, play a little more variety of music at a variety of tempos, be more inclusive when events during the week happen, recruit more leads. 3. Different tempos of music and styles (Vocal swing music, bluesy jazz, etc.)</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>1. Thank you for the great comments.</i> <i>2. Please see the blues workshop coming this Feb. Also know that the lindy hop is a great dance for slower music. As for leads, see the response to question 10.18. If you have any other ideas on how to get more guys out, we would love to here them.</i> <i>3. If you have not yet been, check out Celeste.</i></p>
35.	<p>I think RHLH is doing a great job introducing Memphis to swing and Lindy and I appreciate the effort you are going to provide dance opportunities in Memphis. Things that might help would be to have RHLH members dance more with new people outside the regular group. It seems that the RHLH members tend to dance predominantly with other RHLH members. Another suggestion would be to add more West coast or other type dance tunes to some of the dances to draw in a bigger crowd in order to support the dances. They can still be billed as swing dances but have maybe 30-35% of the songs be "other" dance music.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>1. Thank you for the great comments.</i> <i>2. See responses given in question 10.7. If you come to Celeste on Thursday nights you will find that we play a mix of swing music to complement the crowd, which includes music for all types of swing dance, including WCS.</i></p>
36.	<p>1. Offer lots of classes 2. more workshops different teachers for variety encourage dancing other styles more 3. more leaders would get me dancing more</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>We believe the year to come will offer a good verity of classes and teachers. As for more leads, see the response to question 10.18.</i></p>

Thank you again for your time.

We hope to see you on the dance floor
Sincerely
The Red Hot Lindy Hop Board