

Dancing to the rhythm of Carrboro



Carrboro residents practice line dancing with first-time instructor Bruce Gillooly. (Photo by Brandon White)

Brandon White
UNC Staff Writer
The Carrboro Commons

Once a month, residents from Carrboro attend a Dance Jam session at Carrboro Recreation & Parks on Friday night. These unique sessions cost \$3.00 admission and feature a wide variety of dances, including rhythm, Latin and Zumba.

Robbin Justice-Jones, the recreation specialist and head coordinator of Dance Jam at Carrboro Recreation & Parks, stated that the Dance Jams are open to people of all ages.

"I would like people to come out," Justice-Jones said. "As long as you follow along, we welcome all families to come here."

Justice-Jones talked about the different types of Dance Jams, including the popular Rhythm Jam, which involves several people playing different drums, noisemakers and other instruments. The Rhythm Jam is designed to have a beat gradually build as class members follow different instructions with their instruments.

Justice-Jones said that a downside about the Dance Jam is that students are unable to build on what they learn since the jams are different every month. She said that the Dance Jams are also hard to schedule due to other

Dance Jam Spring Schedule

Zumba - Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Latin Jam - March 4, 7:30 p.m.
Nia Dance Jam - April 29, 7:00 p.m.
Rhythm Jam - May 6, 7:30 p.m.

activities in nearby areas.

"We usually have to plan these events two to five years in advance," Justice-Jones said. "It's already hard to make a schedule when there is a major event going on in Chapel Hill, but it's worse in March when the basketball tournaments are going on."

Friday night's dance session featured the Line Dance Jam that was taught by Bruce Gillooly, who was teaching his first class at Carrboro Recreation & Parks. Gillooly learned to tap dance at a young age, and participated in several different kinds of dance classes up until he graduated from high school. After spending 31 years at IBM, Gillooly retired and has been a teacher of ballroom, line and tap dancing since 1997.

"Find something you love to do dur-

ing retirement, and do what makes you happy," Gillooly said. "It keeps you fit."

Over a dozen people of varying ages participated in the line dancing class, which started at approximately 7:30 p.m. Gillooly led the group of students in several well-known line dances like the Macarena, Cupid Shuffle, the Cha-Cha Slide and the Electric Slide. Gillooly also incorporated a few relatively unknown line dances into the latter part of his class, including the Biker Shuffle and Zorba, some of which Gillooly learned specifically for the class.

Although a few students left before the class ended at approximately 9:00 p.m., the overall reaction to the line dancing class was positive, and many people enjoyed learning from Gillooly.

"I had a great time," student Roz Freeman said, who had also recently attended a Zumba Jam at Carrboro Recreation & Parks prior to this class. "It was a nice, thriving experience, and I like Bruce. I will definitely be back."

The next Dance Jam to take place at Carrboro Recreation & Parks will be a Zumba Jam that will take place on Feb. 26 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.