



HOT News from the Oxnard Salsa Festival

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Images Available online at: www.oxnardsalsafestival.com

Oxnard Salsa Festival Announces 2011 Contest Winners

Oxnard, CA – The votes are in and the Oxnard Salsa Festival is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 *Dancing with our Community Stars Dance Contest & Charity Fundraiser* and the *Great Oxnard Salsa Challenge*.

The 'People's Choice' winner for the 2011 *Dancing with our Community Stars* was awarded to Al Jones, Regional Vice President for First California Bank, dancing for St. Vincent de Paul's West County Winter Warming Shelter joined by instructor, Christina Maggio.

The six participating dancers raised a grand total of \$51,958.77 for their charity of choice and People's Choice winner, Al Jones raised \$15,428.00 for his charity. "We are very pleased with the results, having exceeded our goal this year, while having the opportunity to give back to this wonderful group of charities," stated Ruth Ballin, Executive Director of the Oxnard Salsa Festival.

Lisa Guerrero and her dance partner, David Polon took first place for the technical portion of the dancing contest at the Oxnard Salsa Festival, with Carl Morehouse and partner Jessica Morgan placing second and Al Jones & Christina Maggio, third. The other dancers included Laurie Eberst & partner, Ron Pettibone; Danie Navas & partner, Jesse Rodriguez; and Tim Flynn & partner, Amanda Lynne.

In addition to the dancing contest, the local restaurants, commercial salsa makers and residents also competed for top honors during the 2011 *Great Oxnard Salsa Challenge*, another highlight of the annual festival. The competitors vied for salsa fame, submitting all types of salsas from mild to red hot, smoky and fruity. The winners are as follows:

Professional Division

Best Hot Salsa	Cabo Seafood Grill & Cantina
Best Medium Salsa	Sugar Beets Restaurant
Best Mild Salsa	Sugar Beets Restaurant
Best Red Salsa	Cabo Seafood Grill & Cantina
Best Green Salsa	The Kitchen
Best Fruit/Specialty Salsa	Sugar Beets Restaurant
Judge's Choice	Sugar Beets Restaurant and Cabo Seafood Grill & Cantina
People's Choice	Iron Horse and BG's Café

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Amateur Division

Best Hot Salsa	Mike Gonzales, Lakewood, California
Best Medium Salsa	Commissioner Peggy Rivera, Oxnard, California
Best Mild Salsa	Mark Litwinczyk, Agoura Hills, California
Best Red Salsa	Marie Gutierrez, Ventura, California
Best Green Salsa	Jacob Baird, Camarillo, California
Best Fruit/Specialty Salsa	Troy Hardee, Port Hueneme, California
Judge's Choice	Mike Gonzales, Lakewood, California

Presented by the Oxnard Downtowners, the annual event features spicy food and fiery entertainment for a two-day action packed salsa celebration. Event highlights include Main Stage entertainment with salsa music and dancing, a large salsa tasting tent, an eclectic vendor marketplace, international foods, kids korner attractions including tortilla art, a salsa recipe contest and salsa dance shows. Festival admission and parking are free.

For more information, call 805-247-0197 or visit www.oxnardsalsafestival.com.

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