

Chapter 9

In this chapter my study of the music came to some fruition by my talking my way into a salsa band called Humbria. We debuted at the Glas Kat in Feb 2006, mainly due to the big kind heart of Diana the promoter. I was also contacted by Andre about writing for a new Salsa magazine called iSalsa and started developing content for that. Café Cocomo continued with success as well, but off from its peak a little bit. Other clubs survived as well. There were several new openings too, as usual, and most failed miserably. I played with Humbria on sidewalks in the Mission District, out of the way clubs, and also with Franco Bros in April at Cocomo and at the Cocomo owner's birthday party – all by talking my way in. I was not that good.

Humbria became a burden in that it was not a well run band and the leader was not fair with compensation. (That leaves out a lot!) But it disintegrated just as it had in the past due to the same problems. But I had developed a great appreciation for the music and it helped my dancing tremendously. I also played with a band Tito y su Son several times. It was all dues..

Mid-year, my partnership came to a grinding halt and the rest of that year was really just survival. There were other followers that stepped in conveniently to help teach at Cocomo and I developed a great team of assistants that I still use today. But life was not too happy and the collection of salsa paraphernalia slowed down as a result too.

The iSalsa magazine first issue came out and it was well received although there was no real distribution channel other than a handful of people. But I was very proud of the content and being a contributing editor, and the magazine just looked great! At the end of 2006 I finally bought a new digital camera that easily fit in a pocket and started taking tons of pictures. So, the pictorial record really picks up here!

This chapter ends around December 2006.