

Dancin' Times



Published monthly for members of the United States
Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association--Minnesota Chapter

April 1996

DANCERS NITE OUT

Fri. 4/5 Rochester **USABDA** April Dance, Eagles Club
Rochester, lesson 7:30pm, dance 8:30, (508) 281-1034.

Sat. 4/6 3rd Year Anniversary Dance & Party, Coliseum
Ballroom, 8-11:30pm, \$10 includes group lesson at
intermission, 722-6311.

Fri. 4/6 Bring On Spring Dance & Fashion Show,
DanceSport Ballroom, 874-0984 or see ad pg.10.

Sat. 4/6 Rockin' Hollywoods (50s & 60s), Medina Ballroom,
9pm, 478-6661.

Fri. 4/12 West Coast Swing Club, B-Dale Club, 2100 N.
Dale St., St Paul, lesson 7:30pm, dance 8:30pm, 869-3184.

Fri. 4/12 Caribbean Cruise Party, On Your Toes School of
Dance, 928-7803 or see ad pg 7.

Fri. 4/12 Jerry O'Hagan, Medina Ballroom, lesson 7:30pm,
dance 8:30, 478-6661.

Fri. 4/12 Dean Olson, Shakopee Ballroom, free lesson w/
paid admission 7:30pm, dance 8:30, 461-2966.

Fri. 4/19 Guy Lombardo Big Band w/Al Pierson, Medina
Ballroom, 8:30pm, \$12 advance, \$14 door, 478-6661.

Fri. 4/19 Jack Schultz, Shakopee Ballroom, free lesson w/
paid admission 7:30pm, dance 8:30, 461-2966.

Sat. 4/20 Spring Dance Party, Coliseum Ballroom, 8-
11:30pm, \$10 includes lesson at intermission, 722-6311.

Sat. 4/20 T.G.I.S. Dance w/ Rockin' Hollywoods,
Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, \$8, 644-3443.

Sat. 4/20 Swing Into Spring Dance, The Dance Shoppe,
509-0995 or see insert.

Fri. 4/26 West Coast Swing Club, B-Dale Club, 2100 N.
Dale St., St Paul, lesson 7:30pm, dance 8:30pm, 869-3184.

Fri. 4/26 Paul Heffron, Shakopee Ballroom, free lesson w/
paid admission 7:30pm, dance 8:30, 461-2966.

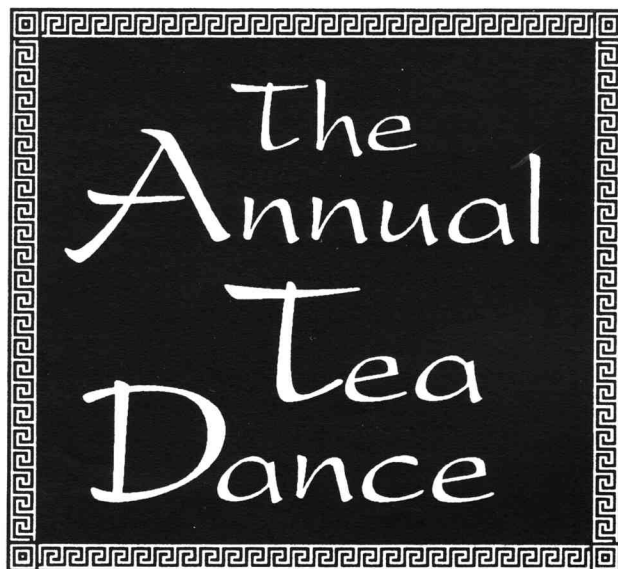
Fri. 4/26 Fabulous Hi Tops (50s & 60s), Medina Ballroom,
9pm, 478-6661..

Sun. 4/28 **USABDA** Tea Dance, Lafayette Club, see info
this page.

Ongoing...

Friday & Sunday evening dances, Everett McClay VFW,
3127 E. 78th St., Bloomington, 561-0206 or 566-6874.

USABDA-MN presents



Sunday, April 28

Lafayette Club on Lake Minnetonka

Brunch

10:30am-12:00pm

Dance & Professional Showcase

12:00-3:30pm

Tickets: \$25.00

Karen Kettler 724-0856 or Ed Munson 784-8192

Directions to the Lafayette Club:

Hwy 394 west (turns into 12) past Wayzata to
County Rd 15 West. 5 miles. Turn right at St. Martin's Church
(Lafayette Bay will be on the left). Look for the Lafayette Club sign.

USABDA HOTLINE

612-489-0581

Call for information on dance events. Leave
a message for membership information.

What Is USABDA? Who Are We?

USABDA stands for the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association, a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing not only as an art but a healthy sport. Minnesota's chapter was started in 1991.

Membership in USABDA is open to ballroom dancers of all levels. There are membership categories for all dancers: Social, Competitive, Junior (17 and under), College students and Associates (professional/instructors).

USABDA sponsors a monthly dance and other special dance events. Membership includes both national and local dues. Membership entitles you to discounts on our monthly dances, a monthly newsletter and a great network for meeting other dancers.

You'll have fun dancing and meet many new friends!
For more information Call the USABDA Hotline number.
612-489-0581

Minnesota Dancin' Times

Published monthly for members of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association—Minnesota Chapter, providing news of ballroom dancing to chapter members and friends.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USABDA Members: No charge
Non-members: \$10 per year

ADVERTISING

Display Ads: To advertise your professional service or event, submit camera-ready artwork.

Sizes: Full page 7 1/2" wide x 9 1/2" high
Half page 7 1/2" wide x 4 1/2" high (horizontal)
3 1/2" wide x 9 1/2" high (vertical)
Quarter page 3 1/2" wide x 4 1/2" high
Business cards

Rates: Full Page- \$40 Half Page- \$25
Quarter Page- \$15
Businesscard- \$15 for 3 consecutive months.

Classified Ads: Free 3-line ad in *Swaplines* available to members. Dance merchandise only

Payment: Payment must accompany ad.
Please make checks payable to USABDA-MN

DEADLINE

All materials due the 10th of each month.

Submit information, copy and ads to:

USABDA-MN Newsletter Editor
c/o Shari Akemann
1020 Sumter Ave. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Newsletter Editor: Shari Akemann.....612/593-0822



Send address changes to
Karen Voels at address on
back of this newsletter.
Please notify National
USABDA also.



Notes From the Board

by Melanie Helvig
USABDA Chapter Secretary

- Treasurer reports about \$2700 in the account.
- President Jim Baker is in the process of editing existing job descriptions, mainly for President and Publicity Director. He is also awaiting action plans detailing objectives from appointed positions. So far only one has been received. Improvements to the operating budget were discussed.
- The February Birthday Dance & Showcase was a success, and paid for itself. About 75 people attended the event.
- USABDA will be selling mugs at future dances for \$5. Elaine Barrett is heading up the endeavor.
- A Taste Test Fundraiser is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26. Elaine Prebonich and David Schmit are coordinating it.
- Much discussion centered around monthly dances, including admission cost, attendance and publicity. A committee has been formed to consider ideas and possible changes.
- The March 30 Food Shelf Benefit Dance is at the Twin Cities Ballroom. David Aanestad will teach American waltz.
- Plans for the April Tea Dance are underway. The dance is Sunday, April 28 at the Lafayette Club.
- There are a number of dance demonstration requests for the next month or so. Some discussion revolved around the use of performer dance tape requests and liability insurance for professionals performing at USABDA events.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, April 2 at David Schmit's work location... Office Building, 8520 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park.
(In Melanie's absence, thanks to Ed Munson for taking this month's notes!)

Competitor's Column

includes regional and USABDA events

Wisconsin State Dance Competition

April 12-14, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee WI. Contact: Dan Messenger, (414) 548-8882

Treasure Coast DanceSport Championships (USABDA)

April 13, Gulfport Historic Casino, Gulfport, FL. All amateur. Contact: Treasure Coast USABDA Chapter, (813) 367-1706

33rd Anniversary Detroit International Ball & Dance Championships

April 27, Cobo Hall, Detroit, MI. Contact: Don Derenosky, (313) 882-1008.

Minnesota Open Ballroom Dance Competition

May 31-June 2, Radisson St. Paul. Contact: Bill & Arlene Kroll, 561-5407 or see ad page 3.

***for a more complete list, see "Amateur Dancers", the national publication for the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association.

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Dance Demonstrations

by Yvonne M Riske

USABDA Dance Demonstration Coordinator

A Valentine's Tea

On Sunday, February 11, USABDA was invited to entertain the residents and guests at a **Valentine's Tea** at the **Nile Health Care Center** in Minneapolis. Amidst the tantalizing treats and the ice-sculptured swan, **Genelle Gotham & Phil Schloss**, **Anne Lippin & David Schmit** and **Dan Viehman & I** provided great dancing that brought smiles to all! The residents, though physically immobile, danced in their hearts as they enjoyed the performance and listened to **Pete Maki & Joyce Thompson's** fun-filled tunes. It's at events like this that we're reminded of the blessing of good health and the ability to dance! Thanks to **Nancy Neugent** for her hospitality and for the beautiful hand-made greeting "dancing" cards provided to all of us who participated.

Will You Be My Valentine?

We were honored guests at **RIDGEPOINT**, a retirement facility in Minnetonka, for **Valentine's Day "Lunch of the Month"** thanks to **Linda Ryan**, their Resident Services Coordinator. USABDA members performed an hour show from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. leaving the 50+ residents asking "when will you be back to dance again?" The residents loved the show -- especially the rhythm dances; several of the employees signed up to receive the newsletter. Those in attendance included: **Ellen Neuman & Jack Cain**, **Noel Blair & C.R. Barragan**, **Galena Zolotonosov & Kris Broberg**, **Anne Lippin**, **Shari Akemann & David Schmit** (yes David danced with two lovely ladies and played emcee!), and **Pete Maki** spinning the disks. Many thanks to all of you for carving out time in your already busy schedules to bring joy to a few hearts. Oh, nice touch dancers to wear little hearts on your costumes in honor of Valentine's Day! Thanks also to **RIDGEPOINT** and **Linda Ryan** for their \$50 donation!

Will You Be My Valentine...Again?

Most of those same USABDA folks gave up their Valentine's night to be with the **Sentimental Journey Big Band** at the **Medina Entertainment Center** to perform during the band's break. These dedicated souls included: **Ellen Neuman & Jack Cain**, **Noel Blair & C.R. Barragan**, **Diane Meissner & Doug Lusher**, **Anne Lippin & David Schmit** and **Sanae Storey & Jim Baker**. Many thanks to **Shari Akemann** and **David Schmit** for setting up this demo! The band was so impressed that USABDA was asked to do exhibitions during upcoming dances. Our dancers were allowed admission at half price and Medina had a packed house of dancers of all ages!

A New Addition To Dance Demonstrations!!!!

USABDA - MN is inviting all pro/am couples to also participate in the fun of displaying your talents at our various dance demonstrations! If you are an amateur dancer without an amateur partner, but who dances with a professional partner -- we welcome you to join us! The only requirements are that you be a member of USABDA and that your pro partner be an "associate" member of USABDA (to ensure everyone is covered by USABDA's insurance policy). Here's your opportunity to shine!! Call Yvonne at 525-8933 to sign up.

Edinborough Amphitheater Rocks Again!!

February 15 was cold on the outside but hot on the inside (that is -- hot on the inside of **Edinborough Plaza!**) as USABDA entertained the folks in the **Amphitheater**. We were thrilled to have some new faces partake in the demonstration such as: **Linda Arnold & John Bureau**, **Ingrida Erdmanis & Kris Broberg**, **Lisa Hamilton & John Woodcock** and **Lyle Grenke**. We also had many great "old reliables" -- the dancers who I've probably leaned on once too often but who so willingly join in the fun include: **Dorothy Jones** (who danced with Lyle), **Anne Lippin & David Schmit**, and **Shari Akemann & Doug Lusher** (Shari even made "valentine red" dresses to dance smooth and rhythm in! Quite a talent and a festive touch!) and thanks too, to **Joyce Thompson & Pete Maki** for just the right music. USABDA received a \$75 donation from **Edinborough Park Plaza** - Thank You!

Moving Into March

USABDA was honored to be among the guests at the **Bel Rae** for the **Ballroom Operators' Dance** held on Sunday, March 3, 1996. **Tony Jambor** invited us to provide a 15 minute demo during a band break. We fascinated the crowd of hundreds with our International Standard (Modern) dancers: **Celia Mullen & Hub Nelson** (dancing W/T/F) and **Sanae Storey & Jim Baker** (dancing W/T); our American Rhythm dancers: **Theresa Kimler & Nels Petersen** and **Galena Zolotonosov & David Schmit** (all dancing Cha Cha, Bolero and East Coast Swing); and our American Smooth couples who performed W/T/F: **Joannie Taylor & Mark Lee**, **Karen Kettler & Mark Tepley** and **Monica Mohn & Bobby Tarnowski**. Thanks also to **Pete Maki & Joyce Thompson** for keeping the music rolling during this quick demo.

Where Were You On The Night Of March 9th??

Many a USABDA dancer was out at the **Mall of America** sharing their talents with the crowd of 1800 on-lookers! Yes, **Mall of America** called us up after an entertainment group cancelled and asked us to perform Saturday night. It was a thrill being in the Rotunda again and what a fun show we were able to put together on such short notice! The fabulous line-up of social and competitive dancers included: **Carol & Gary Stroick**, **Joannie Taylor & Mark Lee**, **Monica Mohn & Bobby Tarnowski**, **Noel Blair & C.R. Barragan**, **Michelle Vandesteeg & David Schmit**, **Colleen Williams & Jim Flaskerud**, **Lisa Hamilton & Scott Koefed**, **Diane Meissner**, **Karen Kettler & Doug Lusher**, **Sanae Storey & Jim Baker**, **Susan Kindler & Arthur Hellmann**, **Bria Cremer & Jeff Chinn**, **Mary Jean Lundeen & Jim Albrecht**, and **Jaime Wong & Jerry Brunotte**, **Dan Viehman & me**, and **Pete Maki & Joyce Thompson** attending to the music. A special thanks to **Karen Kettler** for helping me in getting the dancers on deck when they needed to be. I am very grateful to all of you for your dedication and showmanship!! I think for many of us DANCING IS THE DRUG OF CHOICE! It keeps you flying high long after the initial fix!

Continued on next page...

Upcoming Dance Demonstrations:

Tue. 4/2 2nd Annual Variety Show sponsored by the St. Anthony Community Services (we were a big hit last year!) 15 minute show between 1:00 p.m - 1:30 p.m.; 1 rhythm and 1 smooth couple needed.

Fri. 4/19 "April in Paris" sponsored by Edinborough Park Plaza, 3330 Edinborough Way, Edina (in the same complex where we perform in the amphitheater); 45-minute show for 150-200 guests after their dinner -- need dancers there at 5:45 for a 6:15 showtime. 3 rhythm and 3 smooth couples needed. 831-4084 for directions.

Thu. 5/9 Chateau Presbyterian Homes, 4497 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park (where we performed for the past 2 years) One-hour show beginning at 7:00 p.m. Need dancers there at 6:30 p.m. 471-4001 for directions.

Wed. 5/15 Park Hill Apartments, St. Louis Park, 7pm for a 45-minute show. 3 rhythm and 3 smooth couples needed. 920-2126 for directions.

Sat. 6/1 "Take Me Out to the Ball!" Symphony Ball at the METRODOME!!! (more details to come soon!) Lots of opportunities for you to share your talents!

Call Yvonne at 525-8933 and let her know which demos and what dances you can participate in. Please ensure you are a USABDA member, so you are covered under our insurance policy.

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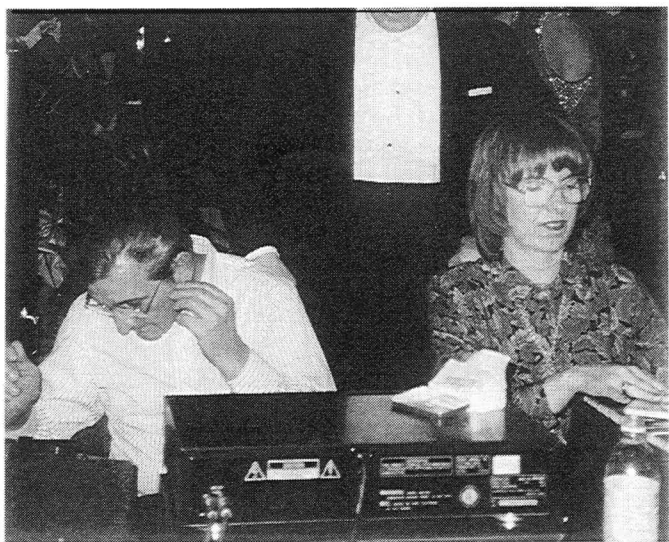
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USABDA at Mall of America



Gary & Carol Stroick at Mall of America



Music director Pete Maki with assistant Joyce Thompson at Mall of America

Jackpot In Las Vegas

By Jim Baker

Harrah's Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada was the site for the 1996 **Challenge of Champions**. Students **Jim Baker** and **Phil Schloss**, of the DanceSport Ballroom, rolled the dice and came up winners with **Jennifer Foster**. In spite of normal competition jitters they still managed to garner 20 firsts and 4 thirds. Way to go! Also seeing if Lady luck would smile on them were amateurs **Theresa Kimler**, **Heidi Smith** and **Nels Petersen**. Theresa (one of the most talented amateur women competitors in the US) and Nels complemented each other very well. They easily won the **Amateur American Rhythm**. Nels also danced with the ever elegant Heidi Smith in the hotly contested amateur **International Standard**, in a field of 24 couples. Nels and Heidi make it to the semi-finals but unfortunately we missed seeing them in the finals.

In the **Amateur American Smooth** competition **Bobby Tarnowski & Monica Mohn** struck Silver bringing home 2nd.

A real jackpot was hit by professionals **Robert and Jennifer Foster**. The Fosters, dancing with their characteristic style, which looks so effortless, won the **American Rhythm** over a diversly talented field. They went on to win the **Theater Arts** competition with a new number choreographed to a Barbara Streisand song. The crowd loved what they saw and would be very surprised to know that the routine was under a week old.

Good fortune continued to smile on the Fosters as they were crowned the 1996 **Professional Grand Champions**. Jennifer was awarded 7th place top female teacher for the past year through the efforts of Phil and Jim. Congratulations to the Fosters. Another professional with Minnesota roots, **Mark Weiss** gambled in the **International Latin** event with his new partner Viola Jordan. They placed third, but showed that they are a couple to watch in the future. The event was won by **Rick Valenzuela** and **Melissa Dexter**. "Thar's gold in Nevada!"

USABDA Celebrates 5 years!

All those who attended the February 18th **Birthday Dance & Showcase** experienced a great afternoon of dancing and wonderful showcases by some of USABDA's best performers. Many thanks to those who decorated, provided the fabulous appetizers, emceed, played the music, sold tickets and helped to make the event a success. A special thanks to all of those who performed. Check out the photos on page 13!



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Intercollegiate Workshop a Big Success

On Saturday, February 24, the first **Twin Cities Intercollegiate Workshop** was held in Minneapolis. 20 students from three different colleges came into town for a fun-filled day of workshops held at **Coliseum Ballroom**. The students, who came from **Macalester College**, **Carleton College** and the **University of Iowa**, learned technique and steps in rumba, waltz, tango and hustle. The day ended with a dance, also held at Coliseum, resulting in a lot of tired but happy students. The workshop was arranged by **Elaine Barrett** and taught by **Sandra & Paul Botes**. Special thanks to **Avelyn Hooker** and **Kathy Kaufman** for volunteering to house the out-of-town students. The next workshop will be held in the fall, with hopes of doubling both the number of colleges and the number of students participating.

Have You Been Mugged Lately?

Hot off the presses... USABDA will now have **coffee mugs** available for sale! For the low, low price of only \$5.00 (\$6.00 for non-members) you can buy a dishwasher and microwave-safe mug with the USABDA-MN logo on it. These mugs will be available at the next monthly and Beginner dances. Get a set for the whole family. Get one to use every day of the week. Get some for your friends. To order yours early (for pick-up at the next dance) call **Elaine Barrett** at 789-2177, or find her e-mail address elsewhere in this newsletter. Please mention at which dance you'd like to pick up your mugs.

1996 Grand Ball

This year, National Ballroom Dance Week is scheduled for September 20-29. The **Grand Ball** will take place on Saturday evening, September 28, 1996, at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency Hotel. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend! The Grand Ball is the major concluding activity to National Ballroom Dance Week. It is the one major opportunity for our Minnesota Chapter to inform the public about the art and sport of ballroom dance. Volunteers are again needed to help make this year's event a successful endeavor. The USABDA-MN Board is asking that you consider serving on one of several committees directed by this year's Grand Ball Co-Chairs, Jeff Chinn and Ed Munson. Volunteers are needed for committees such as decorations, the intermission show, food/liquid refreshments, ticket sales, publicity, and convention services. If you haven't already been contacted by the time you receive this month's news letter, please call Jeff at 942-6947 or Ed at 784-8192 and let them know you are willing to help.

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USABDA PROFILE

FOCUS ON USABDA
MEMBERS

ED MUNSON



After raising four children, numerous pets, over 30 years as a **Business Manager** with the **Spring Lake Park School District**, and many years coaching youth athletics, Ed is taking time for himself these days. He plays in a senior tennis league, takes piano lessons (after many, *many* years), and dances.

Ed started with the **Minneapolis Arthur Murray Dance Studio** in 1989, completing the Bronze Program in the spring of 1994. While there, he participated in four formation teams, several in-house showcases and even at a USABDA dance. He also competed Pro/Am in nine dances at the 1992 **Minnesota Open**, receiving 1sts in Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Mambo and Merengue.

Ed first heard about USABDA through other Arthur Murray students who are also now in USABDA. *"It was a way to be able to keep in touch with the dance world. I really fell in love with ballroom dancing. There's a real beauty to it; seeing dancers move around the dance floor in an accomplished manner. That's why I want to continue in USABDA, to give back some of what I've learned."*

Ed's favorite dance is the Swing Hustle. Last year, Ed also joined the **West Coast Swing Club** and still tries to get there every month or two. He says. *"It's a nice relaxing dance with neat patterns. It's fun to apply the various six and eight-count patterns."*

There aren't any clearly defined goals as far as his dancing is concerned, maybe to participate in some demonstrations down the road. He's been a member of USABDA's **Silver Formation Team** for much of 1995. His main thing seems to be the music. *"Dancing has opened up a whole new world with music. I never really listened to it before; I could probably identify a tango or a waltz, but that's about it. I've learned to appreciate music so much more."*

Ed and his wife, **Mary**, have been married 37 years, She's a casual dancer but indulges him and lets him go dancing a lot. They have four grown children, two in Andover, one in Bemidji and one in Tennessee. Ed & Mary make their home in Spring Lake Park. Ed joined USABDA's Board of Directors in January and will be co-chairing the Grand Ball this fall. We're very glad to have him aboard!



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USABDA is here to serve: We are looking for studios or independent instructors to offer "Door prizes" at each of our bimonthly Beginners Dances. This has been a very successful program that introduces beginning dancers to the world of Ballroom dancing. The prizes have consisted of free entry tickets to Ballroom competitions, free introductory lessons, memberships to USABDA, subscriptions to Dancing magazine or invitations to dance Parties. The door prizes are a wonderful incentive for would-be students to attend our Beginners Dance and provides a free means to promote your business. If you would like to provide a "Door prize" call Lisa Hamilton at 893-0310.

Suede Sole Dance Shoe Cleaning Tips

By Betty Wells

(Editor's Note: Here is the article I alluded to in last month's Dance Notes)

To keep the suede soles of your dance shoes clean and like new, once wire brushing becomes difficult, spray the soles generously with 409 or Fantastik. Let the solution soak into the soles for a few moments, then scrub vigorously with a vegetable or hand brush. Rinse soles with hot tap water. You can repeat spraying, brushing and rinsing until the soles look clean and gray. Then rub excess water off soles with a clean washcloth or towel. Place shoes in the sunlight or let dry overnight. Once dry, brush as usual with a wire suede brush, and shoes are ready for dancing-- once more restored to their clean, soft, like-new condition.

I discovered this method of "restoring" my dance shoe soles quite by accident. A bottle of 409 tipped over and a good deal of the solution ran onto the soles of my dance shoes that I was attempting to brush. I brushed the 409 off and rinsed with hot water and discovered, once it had dried, that the soles of my shoes looked new! I then began cleaning all my dance shoes in the same manner and have repeated this cleansing whenever the shoe bottoms become very shiny and dirty. I've always been pleased with the results and wanted to share this method with other dancers. Be sure to keep the cleaning solution and water off the tops of your shoes.

Reprinted from Tidewater Virginia Chapter Newsletter, November 1995 issue.

Dance Notes

☛ Correction to last issue... **Wendy Davies** was listed as a U.S. Champion. She's actually placed 2nd (with then partner Jonathan Wilkins) at USBC and has been a US representative to the world championships.

☛ The Sunday, March 3rd issue of the Minneapolis Star/Tribune had a fine article on the **Bel Rae Ballroom** in Mounds View. We're sad to see the ballroom closing, it has no doubt held many special memories for USABDA members.

☛ **Tsha Jacobson** is off to the Big Apple! Most recently, Tsha was studio manager and assistant artistic director at On Your Toes School of Dance. She's moved to New York to start training with her new partner. Tsha is the current U.S. Rising Star American Latin Champion. We'll miss her very much.

☛ For all those wondering if we'll ever feature plain, ordinary dancing by our members, take heart. I have a number of pictures sent to me over the recent months of just that. In the next issue I promise to do a photo page of our members whooping it up on the dance floor. Send 'em in!

☛ Lastly, take a look at your mailing label. It shows your membership status, when it expires, and your national member number. If it's up soon, save USABDA the cost of sending you a renewal notice. Use the application on pg. 15!

The Editor

USABDA Enters the Computer Age

USABDA-MN is moving into the 20th century and starting an e-mail distribution list! Receive dance reminders, event announcements and other relevant USABDA news without having to open an envelope and save another piece of paper. Submit your news and views by e-mail to the Board or the newsletter. Call **Elaine Barrett** at 789-2177 to leave a message (name, e-mail address and phone number) or simply e-mail: smith206@maroon.tc.umn.edu. Get wired today!

Swaplines

Smooth gown, Sz 6-8, Ginger Rogers style in yellow chiffon w/ white satin underskirt, mesh sleeves and shoulder float. AB & yellow stones. Brand new. Asking \$1575. Donna, 932-9449.

Standard gown Sz 2-6. Newest style worn by Heather Smith on '96 Ohio tape. White & gold gown, flowing white cape, AB stones, lace and gold beads. Asking \$1950. Donna, 932-9449.

Sensual black rhythm one-piece, Sz 4-8. Gold/black AB stoning at neckline, full-length with leg-slit, stretch material to fit everyone. \$450. Theresa, 778-4405.

Elegant black rhythm one-piece Sz 4-6. One arm bare, contrast white detail on top, jet rhinestones. \$950, Theresa, 778-4405.

Fun black 2-piece rhythm costume, Sz 4. Sleeveless top with two hip-hugger mini skirts. \$150. Theresa, 778-4405.

DS B DanceSport Ballroom



'Bring On Spring' Dance and Fashion Show

featuring **Lisa Soldo** creator of 'Illusions' specializing in clothing, hair and
makeup for the dancer

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A Beginner's Guide To Competitions- Part 1

By Donna Edelstein

(Editor's Note: Several people have asked that we publish a basic guide to the terminology associated with competitions. I asked Donna, who has been competing for over eight years to write an article dealing with this topic. This is part one of two, the second will be in the May issue.)

Competitions can be very confusing to the new dancer. There are so many categories, levels, age groups, events...what do they all mean? Basically every NDCA (National Dance Council of America) sanctioned competition in America has three types of competitors:

Professionals – people who earn their living by teaching, demonstrating and competing in ballroom dance competitions
Amateurs – people who dance as an avocation
Pro-Ams – one professional dancing with one amateur

USABDA (United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association) competitions have only amateur/amateur competition.

Lets start with Amateur/Amateur competition. Competition is divided into the five styles of dance; **International Standard** (also known as "modern" or "ballroom", **International Latin**, **American Smooth**, **American Rhythm**, and **Theatre Arts** (lifts and drops).

Amateur couples can compete in syllabus levels: bronze, silver and gold, dancing required steps with mandated precedes and follows or "open" where any steps and choreography appropriate to the division may be used.

A couple working their way up the syllabus levels will typically enter bronze, silver, or gold "**Novice Syllabus**" competitions where they are judged on two dances; for example, Waltz/Quickstep or Foxtrot/Tango. They could enter one two-dance division and not the other. At this level it's up to the couple.

Once an amateur couple starts dancing "open work" they'll usually enter a division called **Pre-championship**. This division is often a "3-dance" meaning three of the five dances in a division are selected by the organizer, and the couples are judged on their overall performance in the three. However each competition can be a little different. At some comps Pre-Champ is a five dance event.

When a couple starts winning a lot of Pre-champs they'll usually move up to the **Championship** category which is a five-dance. Couples are judged on all five dances, and all five are danced one after the other. If this isn't enough to keep straight there are also age divisions. For amateur competitors there are usually four age categories – but these can vary. Typically you'll see **pre-teen** which is 12 and under, **junior** which is 13-17, "**A**" which is 18 and over, and "**B**" which is over 35. Additionally some comps have a separate division for **Senior-65+**.

Just to be confusing pro-am competition has different levels, different age categories, and both levels and categories can change at the organizers discretion so it's important to always read the entry materials carefully.

Pro-am competition is designed to allow as many syllabus levels as possible so teachers with a lot of students can let them all dance. These are all one-dance events. Typically a pro-am division will start with **New-Comers** for dancers who have never competed before. Often costumes are not allowed in the

new-comer division. Then the syllabus levels are **pre-bronze**, **bronze**, **pre-silver**, **silver**, **pre-gold**, **gold**. Once you get to "open" you may see all sorts of weird categories like "Gold Star One" and "Gold Star Two." Because all **open choreography** has no restrictions these categories are essentially meaningless. They just offer more opportunities for a teacher with multiple "open" students to dance.

The age categories vary all over the place as well and are more arbitrary for Pro-am than for AM/AM. For example The United States Ballroom Championships has **A, B, C, D, E**. Twin Cities Open has **A1, A2, B1, B2**, etc. At USBC someone 36 would be a "B", at TCO they would be an A1. At some comps "A" is 18-45. Basically the thing to remember when it comes to ages is look up the rules each times you enter because they will invariably change from comp to comp. Men and women also have separate divisions which is quite fair because men lead and that's an additional skill they have to demonstrate.

There are **Championships** and **Scholarships** for both Pro-AM and AM/AM although not all competitions have both. In a Championship which is a multi-dance the winning couple receives an award only. In a scholarship money is the award. However an amateur or pro-am is not allowed to be compensated for their dancing, so the award check is made out directly to their teacher or coach to be used for lessons. Usually scholarships have no age or sex divisions so all pro-ams in one style compete against each other and all AM/AM's compete against each other. Scholarship money varies. Typically first place money at a small comp like TCO is \$200. At a large Championship like the Ohio Star Ball first place is \$500. Usually only the first, second, and third place couples receive scholarships.

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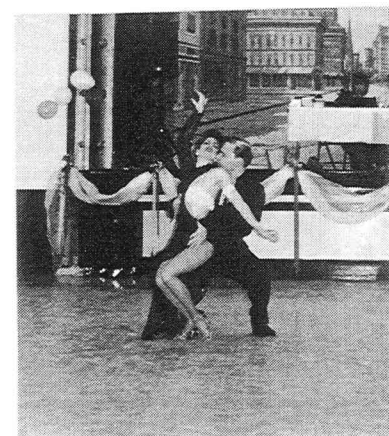
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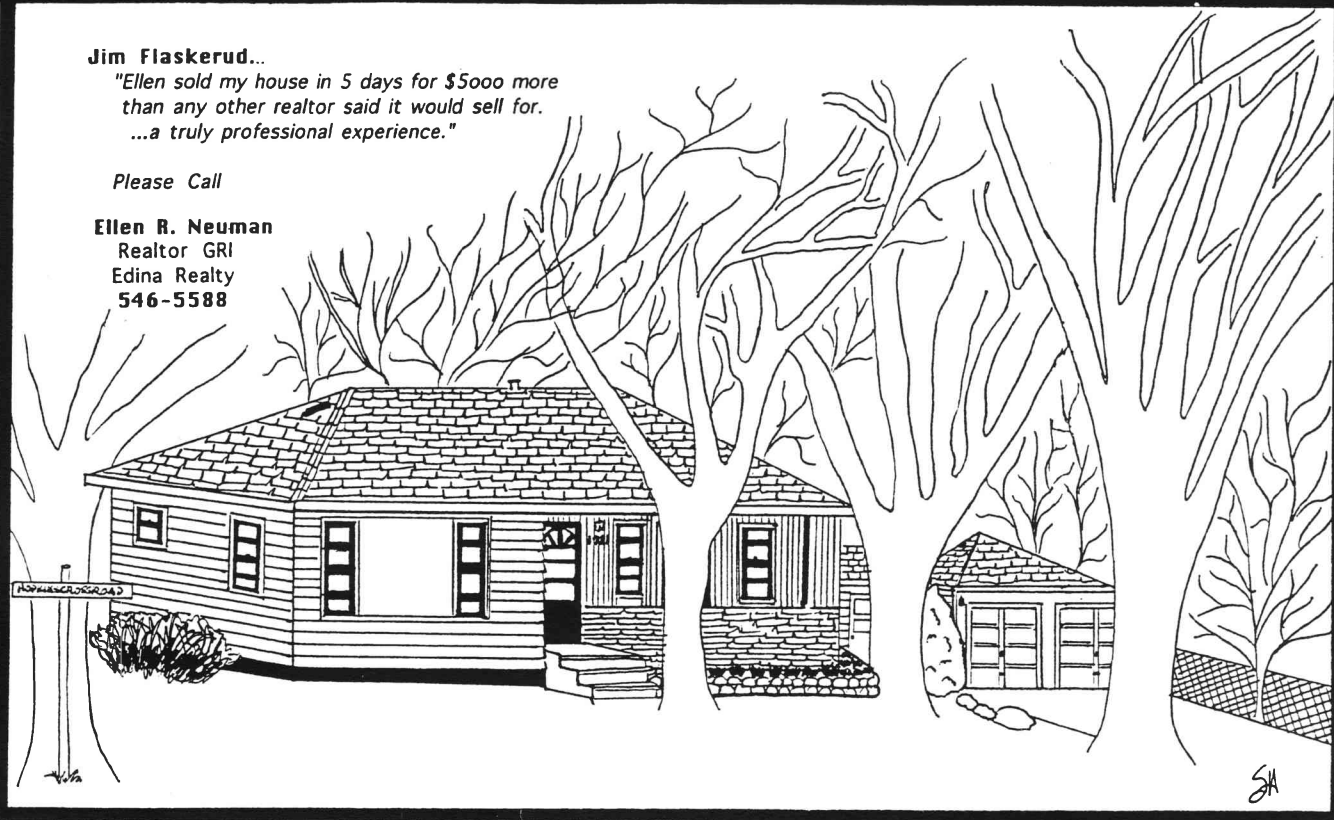


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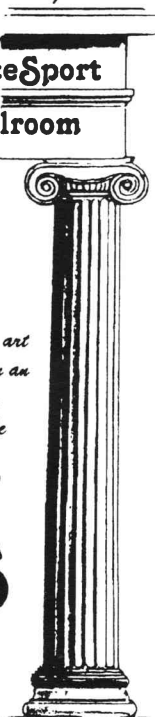
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- ☛ USABDA April Tea Dance

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