

MINNESOTA

Dancin' Times



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

July 1998

DANCERS NITE OUT

Medina Ballroom (Thursdays, 8pm) 478-6661
Shakopee Ballroom (Fridays, 8:30 pm) 445-0412
Wabasha Street Caves(Thursdays, 7:30pm) 224-1191
MN West Coast Swing Club 731-9768 or 730-4468
Rebels Swing Dance Club 941-0906
Rendevous Ballroom 728-3792
The Manor (Fridays, Saturdays, 8:30pm) 690-1771
The Front (Tuesdays) 378-5115

Fri 7/10 - Twin Cities Open Dance Competition, Minneapolis
Sun 7/12 Convention Center, Target Center

Fri 7/10 MN West Coast Swing Club - Regular Dance, B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St. 731-9768 or 730-4468

Sun 7/12 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Regular Dance, 7pm, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, 3127 E. 78th Street, 941-0906

Sat 7/18 **USABDA Dance - The Dance Shoppe**, Lesson 7:30 p.m., Dance 8:30 p.m. Plymouth 483-5467

Fri 7/24 MN West Coast Swing Club - Regular Dance, B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., 731-9768 or 730-4468

Sat 7/25 Dance Sport Dance Party, Group class 8 pm, General Dancing 9-12.

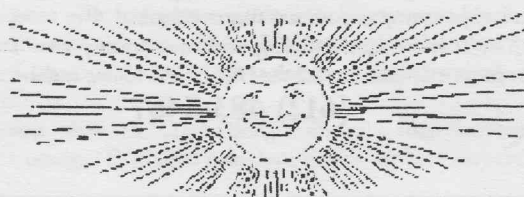
Sun 7/26 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Regular Dance, 7pm, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, 3127 E. 78th Street, 941-0906

Fri 7/31 Bring on Summer Gala Ball! On Your Toes School of Dance, 5023 Excelsior Blvd. St. Louis Park, lesson 8 pm. dance to 11:30, \$10. 928-7803.

Sat 8/1 Swedish Hustle/Disco & Ball Room Dance Contest: Best imitation of ABBA Twin Cities Ballroom, Hustle Group Class 8:30 pm Dancing 9-12, \$10 at the door, Student with ID: \$5, 23-0364 or 292-8463, Contest Participants Free

Sat 8/1 Dancer's Studio Summer Spectacular, Macelester College 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Tickets in advance \$17, At the door: \$20 641-0777

USABDA-MN Presents:



The Celebrate Summer Dance

The Dance Shoppe
Hwy 55 and Fernbrook
Plymouth

Lesson
\$3

Students
\$5

Members
\$7

Nonmembers
\$10

Tango Lesson
from Harry
Benson and
Mary Peterson

Remember, floor squares will be available for sale at this dance.

Saturday, July 18
Group class 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Dance 8:30 - 11:30 PM

USABDA HOTLINE
(612) 483-5467

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 as 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 entitles you to discounts on our monthly dances and a great network for meeting other dancers. You also have opportunity to purchase this newsletter.

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

(612) 483-5467

Minnesota Dancin' Times

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$15 per year

Make checks payable to **USABDA-MN** and send to:
Carol Post Stroick 3600 France Ave South, St Louis Park,
MN 55416-4735

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
Business card- \$15 for 3 consecutive months.

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

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

DEADLINE

All materials due the 10th of each month.

All questions regarding the newsletter should be directed to:

Editor-in-chief: Janis Livingston (612)481-1017
Copy Editor: Greg Moore
Newsletter Layout: Julie Chase
Newsletter Ads: Jim Baker (612) 476-4843



Send address changes to:

Membership
3600 France Ave
St Louis Park, MN 55416



Notes From the Board

by *Melanie Helvig*
USABDA Chapter Secretary

The full board met at Edina Realty, Ellen Ardery's place of employment, Tuesday evening, June 9, 1998.

* Dancing the Night Away was a huge success! Dan and Yvonne Viehman did a tremendous job choreographing, writing script, producing and advertising our first stage performance. They volunteered countless hours of sweat and energy, and we heartily thank them. Other time giving volunteers were Julie Chase, Pete Maki, Steve Vespested and Joyce Thompson. A huge thank you to them, and to our host ARCC coordinator, Tom who provided excellent lighting and staging. The overall effect was very exciting and professional. Thanks to the participants and all who supported this marvelous endeavor. We want to do it again next year!

* At TCO, membership status will be checked for amateur participants. You will be required to pay the competitor membership fees.

* The floor has been ordered! The cost will run close to \$40,000 including insurance and tax.

-Scott Anderson is a 1/4 owner and will get the first use of the floor at the TCO.

-Our first use of the floor will be for the Grand Ball in Sept.

-First Trust has agreed to store the floor for us in exchange for our renting their facility three times a year.

*Fundraiser --- June dance will be free admission for buying a square. All are invited to contribute whether a whole square, (\$55) or any amount. Help us get this fabulous new floor! We'll have dance space galore. We will give recognition to contributors by listing them for public display at the Grand Ball, as well as in a later newsletter.

*Dances: July 18 - Dance Shoppe, tango lesson by Mary Peterson and Harry Benson

August 15 - On Your Toes, quick step lesson by Jeff Nehrbass

September 27 - Grand Ball, First Trust Center, St. Paul

Next full board meeting: Tues., July 7, 1998, 7:30 p.m., at Teacher Federal Credit Union, just off Hwy 55 and Douglas Drive, at 6681 Country Club Drive, west bldg.

Competitor's Column

Includes regional and USABDA events

The Twin Cities Open

July 10-12. Minneapolis Convention Center/Target Center, Minneapolis. For info - Scott or Amy Anderson - 431-3380

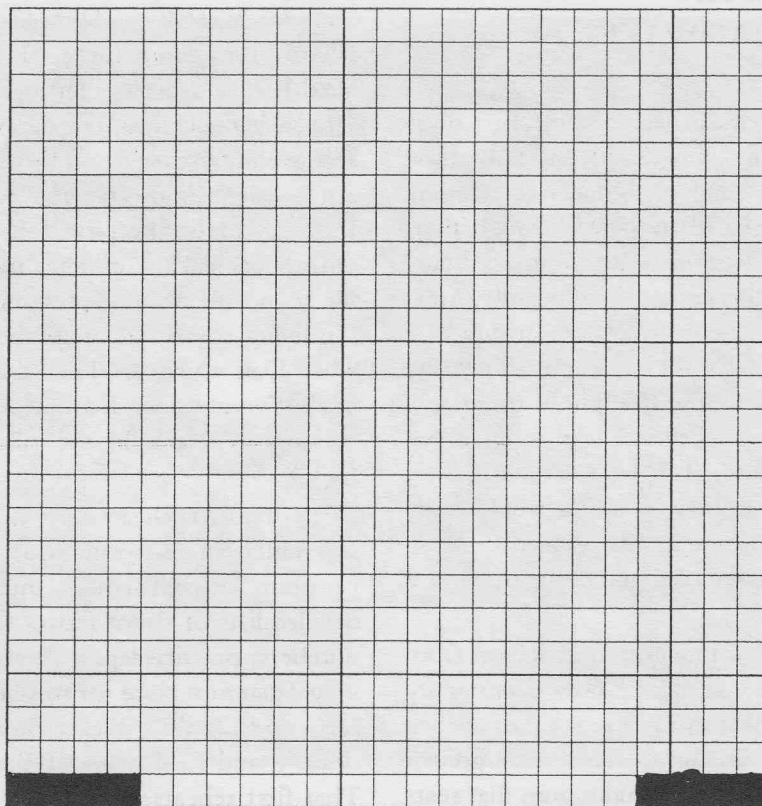
USABDA National DanceSport Championships

August 14-16. Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. For info - Rachel Hunter - 317-773-0558, huntera@indy.net

Star of the North 1999

March 19-21. First Trust Center, St Paul. See Julie Chase or Steve Vespested for information. 228-1557

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



Above is a representation of our new dance floor. Purchased by USABDA to be used at some of our major events (ie The Grand Ball, Star of the North, and possibly New Years Eve .) It consists of 544 squares measuring 3 ft by 3 ft. It can be set up to be 50' x 100' or 60' x 80' or any smaller combination. We ask that you consider purchasing a square to offset the cost. It is \$55 per square (completely tax deductible), however any contribution is invited.

=====

Floor Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

of squares _____ x \$55 = _____

contribution _____

Please make checks payable to USABDA - MN

Please send checks to Joyce Thompson

P O Box 13873

St Paul, MN 55113

TODAY: COON RAPIDS TOMORROW: BROADWAY!

As Dan and Yvonne Viehman watched the first dress rehearsal for *Dancin' Around the World*, the 90-minute song & dance extravaganza they had conceived, written, and produced, one thought kept passing through their minds: "What have we gotten ourselves into?!" Many people had arrived late. Others were leaving early. Most did not bring costumes. Few could remember the choreography from last week's rehearsal. And no one seemed to have a clear idea how the whole thing was supposed to fit together. After plodding through three hours of questions, suggestions, changes, and doubts, even Dan and Yvonne were unsure how or if this would really work. Every theatrical production has its problems. Most, however, are not planned, assembled, and performed in a mere six weeks.

In late March Dan and Yvonne got an invitation from Tom Valach, director of the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Theatre Department, to produce a splashy dance show for culture-hungry suburbanites. This was a golden opportunity. At ten bucks a head, an auditorium that seats 350 people could generate some much-needed cash for that lovely dance floor USABDA-MN wants to buy. Even beyond the practical benefits, the chance to put on a show in a real-live theatre, equipped with lights, sound, scenery, costumes, and even a fog machine, was not to be missed.

We needed a theme to tie the whole show together," explains Dan, "but we didn't want to just do another *Dancing Through The Ages*. We wanted something new and exciting." So they cooked up the idea of a transcontinental airliner (the Quickstep Harrier 797) that would take the audience from one dance scenario to another: a tango in Buenos Aires, a foxtrot in New York, a two-step in Dallas, a Viennese waltz in... well, you get the idea. It was a good scheme. In fact, it was almost too good. "We were getting more ideas than we could handle," says Yvonne. "The program started growing too fast, and we were constantly struggling to contain it and keep it manageable." the show was scheduled for Friday, June 5, just nine weeks away.

Dan and Yvonne started by announcing their plan at the April USABDA board meeting. They handed out flyers at the April dance party, and recruited performers and crew at the Tea Dance. Only five weeks left now.

What format should they use? Carol Post-Stroick suggested a glitzy hustle/mambo group number to open the show. A *Grease*-style rock & roll number sounded like a perfect finale. And in the middle, a non-stop procession of smaller acts. Now all they needed was a ton of choreo-

graphy. Off they flew to the video store to rent *Grease*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Boogie Nights*, and a zillion other dance flicks. They picked the moves they liked best and began crafting the opener and the finale. "It was like an enormous jigsaw puzzle that was so big it seemed impossible," says Dan. "So we just broke it down into small sections and worked on them one at a time." Piece by piece the puzzle began to take shape. Dan remembers waking up many mornings around 6:00 am to the sounds of Yvonne puttering through choreography in the living room. Yvonne and Carol tried out routines while Dan watched. Then Dan paced through routines while Yvonne pounded out detailed descriptions on the computer: "Step right and roll hands right, toe-dig w/left foot."

By the first rehearsal on Wednesday, May 20, they had assembled an awesome array of handouts: an itemized program of performers, music, and stage directions; detailed lists of dance moves for the opening and closing numbers; practice tapes; theatre rules ("The theatre is a very dangerous place for small children."); a list of Dancer Do's and Don'ts ("Please do not cancel unless you are dead."); and road maps of the Coon Rapids hinterland. That first rehearsal went reasonably well. The chaotic dress rehearsal a week later was bad news. Very bad. Another dress rehearsal was scheduled for the following Wednesday. Eight days left now.

The Viehman Machine kicked into overdrive. They trimmed and streamlined the program. They fired off press releases to every TV station and newspaper in town. The day of the show they gave a live interview on the local cable channel at 6:30 am(!). They cried, they cursed, they howled. Happily, the final rehearsal came and went without mishap.

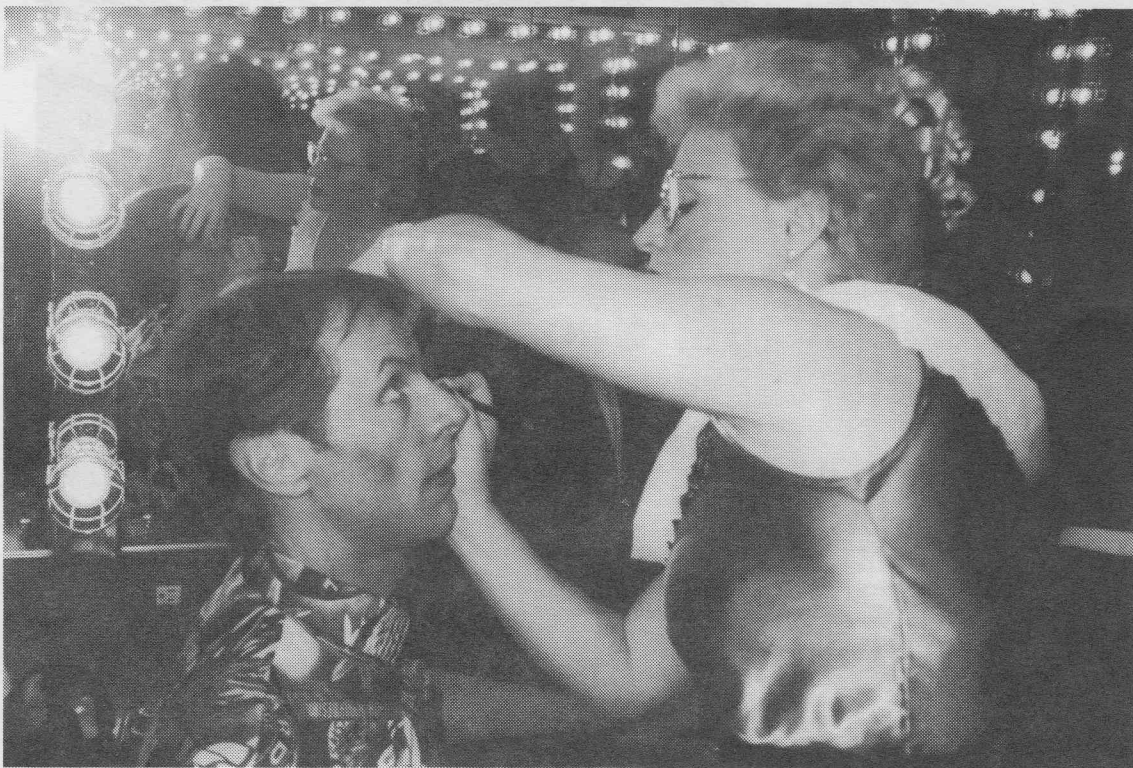
On Friday, June 5, at 7:30 pm, Dan and Yvonne stepped out onto the stage, smiled into the blinding spotlights, and introduced the show to an audience they could not see. Behind the curtain, the cast of the hustle/mambo number were doing a silent pep rally. Then the music exploded into the air, the lights fired up, the curtain rose, and a host of veteran USABDA hoofers launched into a "Disco Inferno" number that would make John Travolta weep with joy. Hours later, at the cast party, the videotape was scrutinized, and the show was declared a winner. The final statistics: 225 tickets sold, and just over \$1,000 profit netted.

Dan and Yvonne give credit for the show's success to the expertise and professionalism of the cast and crew (you all know who you are), and will be seeking venues for repeat performances in the near future. So dust off that little rumba routine, call your agent, and book yourself a seat on the Quickstep Harrier!



Above : A Group Shot following the performance.

Below : Preparing for the performance.





Above : Andy and Janie performing.

Below : Some of the crew for the show.



DANCIN' THE NIGHT AWAY

Amateur Dancers

(listed alphabetically)

Ellen Ardery & Don Arder,
Ellen & Mark Vollmer
Pam Brose & Dale Johnson
Tera Gehrking & Jason Barnes
Celeste & Jim Gibson
Melanie Helvig & Jeff Skaalrud
Carolyn Jackson & Jason Borton
Karen Kettler & Mark Tepley
Theresa Kimler & Nels Petersen
Lori Kozicky & Jeff Goldstein
Pam & Joe Krysaniak
Janis Livingston & Greg Moore
Rose Mack & Scott Parkin
Monica Mohn & Jeff Chinn
Bernie & Scott Osborn
Cheri & Art Rolnick
Judy Schaber & Dwight Johnson
Lynette Schwickerath & Neil Otey
Michele & Wayne Sharp
Janie Sorheim & Andy Nordberg
Rita Stoner & Sandy Navin
Carol & Gary Stroick
Yvonne & Dan Viehman

Individual Dancers:

Suzie Andrade, Susanne Anglo, Abighl Bonlender,
David Castro, Rachel Diephouse, Lisa Hamilton,
Kristan Istre, Marla Heisterkamp, Sarah Kaplowitz,
Kelly Laumeyer, David Link, Linda Loeffler, Dzung
Nguyen, Alexandra Pavlova, Alex Roitman, David
Schmit, Katy Selberg, Giselle Vargas, Sue Zeller.

Production Staff:

Thomas L. Valach, Yvonne and Dan Viehman, Carol
Stroick, Pete Maki, Joyce Thompson, Michael
Albrecht, Ellen Ardery, Rod Meyer, Michael Sharp,
Julie Chase, Steve Vespested, Cindy Nichols, Tom
Cable, Peggy Johannes, Jan and Tim Gabbert, Mike
Youngdahl.

Dance Notes:

*Congratulations go to all participants involved in the production and lovely presentation of 'Dancin' the Night Away. It was superbly done!

*Congratulations to Karen and Mark Lamm on the birth of Elizabeth Maria.

*National Smooth Champions Edward Simon and Michelle Officer will be offering coachings in Mpls this July 6, 7, and 8. Call Carol Stroick for details. 926-7648.

*TCO competitors please be aware that your USABDA membership must be upgraded to competitor if it is currently social. You will be asked to present your membership card at registration check-in. You may pay the \$20 more for competitor membership at that time. However, your membership chair, Carol Stroick, would be happy to do this ahead of time. Direct questions to Carol or Gary Stroick. 926-7648.

*The Dancin' Times still needs a computer. Plus we would like to have an official photographer that will go to all the USABDA events and get us shots specifically for the newsletter. It is getting harder and harder to get photos in on time for publication. Remember we need it by the 10th of the month. So send us those dance photos as soon as you have them.

* Buy a square at the June dance to help offset the cost of our new floor. And, for fun, you can put your name on the back of it! You will soon be seeing it in use at our big events.

* Send us your pictures with a self addressed stamped envelope. We will return if not used. We are unable to return if used. Articles are welcome --- we reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.

* Volunteers are needed to help with National Ballroom Dance Week. Contact a board member if you are interested.

MINNESOTA OPEN COMPETITION

as reported by Bill Kroll



Greg Moore and Janis Livingston perform a foxtrot grapevine at the Minnesota Open.

Alec & Denise Lazo impressive at 16th Minnesota Open

The 16th Minnesota Open was marked by smaller entries in all categories. This is the last year that the current organizers will be running this event alone, and the small entry dampened spirits a bit. On the other hand, the extra time allowed us to bring back the "by invitation" WILD RICE WALTZ, a mixed couples get acquainted event beloved by our competitors in the past. Our judges picked six couples for the final and the audience chose the winners by their applause. A tie necessitated a dance-off (a swing). All six couples got placement ribbons and the 1st place winners received packets of Wild Rice (a Minnesota product) and a "Minnesota Open" shoebag. Judges for the weekend were chaired by Lorraine Hahn, and included Linda Dean, Rosendo Fumero, Peggy Heeney, Joe Lozano and Terry Worrall. A very good panel. Marie Fantini was Scrutineer, and Linda Dean served also as the NDCA observer.

Linda Dean conducted a seminar Saturday morning on Rumba and taught a really nice amalgamation which she choreographed on the spot for the participants.

The show by Alec and Denise Lazo was a very strong and polished dance exhibition by this handsome couple. Several veteran observers remarked about Alec's suave smoothness while not sacrificing anything in the Rhythm. Denise is an excellent partner for him. All they need is a little more audience rapport, then they will be dynamite!

As we have for the past 16 years, we had a good time meeting old friends and new. We look forward to next year and hope to see many more of you here in beautiful Minnesota.

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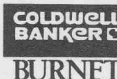
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Whether buying or selling, your thoughts and wishes are important to me. For twelve years I've been making my clients real estate stories have a happy ending.

I can do the same for you.

Sanae Storey
690-8564



MINNESOTA OPEN COMPETITION RESULTS

From Featured Events as reported by Bill Kroll

Amateur Novice American Smooth

- 1 GREG MOORE & JANIS LIVINGSTON
- 2 STEVE VESPESTED & SHARI AKEMANN

Amateur Novice American Rhythm

- 1 STEVE VESPESTED & SHARI AKEMANN

Amateur Novice International Standard

- 1 DALE JOHNSON & INGRIDA ERDMANIS

Amateur Pre-Championship American Smooth

- 1 JAMES & CELESTE GIBSON
- 2 GREG MOORE & JANIS LIVINGSTON
- 3 STEVE VESPESTED & SHARI AKEMANN
- 4 GORDON & LINDA DAVIS

Amateur Pre-Championship American Rhythm

- 1 TOM SHEEHAN & ELIZABETH SMITH
- 2 JEFFREY CHINN & MONICA MOHN
- 3 STEVE VESPESTED & SHARI AKEMANN

Amateur Pre-Championship International Standard

- 1 DALE JOHNSON & PAM BROSE
- 2 JOSEPH HANNASCH & DONNA BUCHHOLTZ

Amateur American Smooth Championship

- 1 GARY & CAROL STROICK
- 2 ANDREW NORDBERG & JANIE SORHEIM
- 3 JEFF CHINN & MONICA MOHN
- 4 JAMES & CELESTE GIBSON
- 5 BILL & BEA BEDDOR

Amateur American Rhythm Championship

- 1 NELS PETERSEN & THERESA KIMLER
- 2 ANDREW NORDBERG & JANIE SORHEIM
- 3 JEFFREY CHINN & MONICA MOHN

Amateur International Standard Championship

- 1 NELS PETERSEN & THERESA KIMLER
- 2 THOMAS YU & DAIRA BUI, Illinois
- 3 GARY & CAROL STROICK
- 4 DALE JOHNSON & PAM BROSE
- 5 JOSEPH HANNASCH & DONNA BUCHHOLTZ

Professional Rising Star American Smooth

- 1 JAY LARSON & JULIE JACOBSON
- 2 ADAM GORDON & MEGHAN GUERNSEY
- 3 HARRY BENSON & MARY PETERSON

Professional American Smooth Championship

- 1 JAY LARSON & JULIE JACOBSON (Rule 11)
- 2 NATHAN DANIELS & DEANNE MICHAEL
- 3 ADAM GORDON & MEGHAN GUERNSEY
- 4 HARRY BENSON & MARY PETERSON

Professional American Rhythm Championship

- 1 JAY LARSON & JULIE JACOBSON
- 2 JOHANN & BEATE MURRAY, Colorado

Pro/Am American Smooth

- Men BILL BEDDOR, Amy Anderson
TOM SHEEHAN, Mary Peterson
- Ladies DIANE GROVER, Jay Larson

Pro/Am American Rhythm

- Men TOM SEVERSON, Julie Jacobson
- Ladies LORRE THOMPSON, Jay Larson

Pro/Am International Standard

- Men JOSEPH HANNASCH, Meghan Guernsey

Collegiate Beginning American Rhythm

- 1 JON TRAVIS & SARAH YOUNG, U of Neb.

Collegiate Beginning American Smooth

- 1 JON TRAVIS & JOHANNA HARGENS, U of Neb.

Collegiate Advanced American Rhythm

- 1 MERVYN DESOUZA & ABIGEHL
BONLENDER, U of Minnesota
- 2 DAVID LINK & KRISTIN ISTRE, Carleton
College
- 3 DAVID CASTRO & RACHEL DIEPHOUSE,
Macalester College

Collegiate Advanced American Smooth

- 1 DZUNG NGUYEN & JULIE PARKER, U of
Minn.
- 2 MERVYN DESOUZA & ABIGEHL
BONLENDER, University of Minnesota
- 3 DAVID CASTRO & RACHEL DIEPHOUSE,
Macalester College
- 4 DAVID LINK & KRISTIN ISTRE, Carleton
College

Top Teacher

MARY PETERSON

Top Exhibitions

- Man BILL BEDDOR - 94.5
- Lady KATHY ROTTER - 98.0
- Couple NELS PETERSEN & THERESA KIMLER -
97.0

Twin Cities **Rebels**

SWING DANCE CLUB

*Proud members of the World Swing Dance Council
Present...*

Robert Cordoba and Debra Svekely

August 21 - 23rd

Robert and Debra currently lead the 1998 NASDE standings for swing competition nation wide. This is the measuring stick for top competition couples in the swing world. Since joining to compete in late 1997, they have established themselves at the top of the swing dance world. Robert is a three time U.S. Open champion, and brings over 20 years of teaching (Ballroom and Latin), and competition experience to his unique style of instruction. Debra has over 23 years experience teaching Tap and Jazz and brings a wealth of Swing dance experience and technical knowledge to her classes. Together, their dance classes and workshops are enormously popular, and loaded with technical information.

Robert Cordoba and Debra Svekely

represent the "Best of the Best" in both swing dance competition and teaching. Don't miss this dynamic couple when they visit the Twin Cities. Private lessons are being scheduled for Robert and Debra at this time. Call the Hotline for details.

This is truly a rare opportunity.

and

Tim Auclair and Michele Wells

St. Louis, MO.

September 19 - 20th

Details have recently been confirmed for this HOT HOT Swing dance couple to visit the Twin Cities in September. They have been competing for several years around the country, and rank as top competitors in the Swing Dance world. Tim and Michele were the 1996 NASDE Winners, and finished 3rd in 1997. They placed 2nd and 4th in the Classic Division of the U.S Open in 1996 & 1997, and were recipients of the coveted Feather award for Crowd Appreciation. Both Tim and Michele have accomplishments too numerous to mention here. Mark your calendars now! Tim Auclair and Michele Wells will be available for private bookings, and teaching workshops on their visit. Look for detailed "Bio" and more info on their visit in future Rebels publications and on the Hotline.

Call the Rebels HOTLINE 612-941-0906

DORIS PEASE: LOCAL HERO

by Greg Moore

Ballroom dancers in this country owe a lot to Doris Pease. Since 1973 she has generated and cultivated many of our most treasured institutions.

In 1973, on behalf of the Minnesota Ballroom Operators association, she started *Entertainment Bits*, the first-of-its-kind quarterly newsletter to promote social dancing around the U.S.

In 1983, she and her daughters, LeAnn Bamford (Publisher) and Patti Johnson (Designer and Editor), started *Dancing U.S.A.* a bi-monthly magazine devoted to the history, instruction, and enjoyment of ballroom. Their company, DOT Publications, prints 20,000 copies of each issue, which makes *Dancing U.S.A.* the most widely circulated ballroom dance magazine in the country.

In 1990, together with Cay Cannon of *Dance Action International* and Bob Meyer & Joan Adams of *Amateur Dancer*, she spearheaded the movement to establish National Ballroom Dance week.

In that same year, she began working with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to include ballroom dance in the Star of the North State Games. The first S.O.N. dance competition was held three years later at the Bel Rae Ballroom. At the end of that year, she organized the first meeting of the Minnesota chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dance Association.

Most recently, Doris organized free dance classes at the Mall of America on Wednesday mornings, 10:00 - 11:00, in Camp Snoopy's Playhouse.

If Doris were a scientist, she would have earned a Nobel prize by now. Instead, she and her magazine have been awarded a spot in the World Dancing Hall of Fame by the International Dance Teachers Association. Doris and five other winners from around the world will be officially recognized at the IDTA Dance congress in Blackpool this July.

Doris has the right to be pretty cocky about all this. But she talks about her achievements with the self-effacing air of someone who is being honored for doing something she thoroughly enjoys. "I've always loved journalism and dancing," she says, "and I feel so lucky to be able to make my living from both."



It has been an exciting career. The photographs, plaques, proclamations, and awards on the walls of her office will tell you that. Over the years Doris has schmoozed with more dance pros, bandleaders, ballroom operators, and politicians than any of us can name. She has served as executive secretary of the National Ballroom and Entertainment Association, and executive director of the Minnesota Ballroom Operators Association. She has been an honored guest reporter at dance celebrations all around the fifty states and Canada, and has run a couple of big band dance cruises. She has covered everything from a polka festival in Alaska to a dance weekend at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island to the Whoopie John Band's trip to Germany.

As Senior Editor of *Dancing U.S.A.*, Doris' challenge is not finding material. The hard part is choosing what to print. In addition to a select crew of writers, many friends and colleagues in the dance world are eager to have their essays and reports published. "We have to decide which articles we're going to include in each issue," Doris explains, "and which ones we want to save for future issues." *Dancing U.S.A.* has always been devoted to social dancing, and simply doesn't have room for competition results: "There's so much going on in the competition world --- we couldn't possibly cover it all!" Recently, however, new departments have been added, such as *Dancesport Exposé* and *Speaking Of*, that cover the competition scene.

What's the next frontier? Maybe a way of bringing social dancers and competition dancers together. "Social dancers like their bands, and competition dancers are used to recorded music... But I'm sure something could be worked out... I'm glad to see so many high school and college students going to dances." Doris believes that teens and young adults are important to the future of ballroom, and has been working with our own Dave Schmit to develop programs that will keep students coming our way.

Whatever direction ballroom dancing in Minnesota may take in the coming years, you can bet Doris will have a strong hand on the steering wheel.



Celia Mullen

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celiamullen@yahoo.com*

Photo: [unclear]



JULY DANCE AT DANCESPORT

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH

GROUP CLASS AT 8:00PM

DANCING BEGINS AT 9:00PM
ADMISSION \$10

CALL 938-0048 FOR MORE
INFORMATION

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ADVICE FROM THE PROS

Time Management for Dancers by Jennifer Foster

For most of us dance addicts, there never seems to be enough time to dance. We find dancing preoccupies most of our thoughts when we should be concentrating on something else, like work. We look for ways to fill as much of our week with dance related activities such as lessons, competitions, dances and practicing. The next thing you know, you have a whole new set of friends - your "dance" friends. Or, for marrieds, a little jealousy from the spouse has reared its ugly head. Maybe you've even committed to writing articles for dance magazines...

I started dancing (ballet) when I was 12, so, at a tender age, I was already gripped by the constant drama of Swan Lake-ing all over the house. After I got into ballroom it was the same thing all over again only this time I tangoed across the kitchen and rhumba-ed in the bathroom (in front of the mirror, so I could check out my Cuban motion.) When I shopped, I only tried on clothes that could be approved as "danceable". When I heard music on the radio, I was busy figuring out whether it was a swing or a hustle. Ballroom dancing made me feel so alive! I was hooked!

Eventually, you start to realize that, like any hobby, it can cost a lot of moola to dance as much as the dance addict needs to dance. Those costumes and coachings start adding up to the point where you're ashamed to admit to a non-dancer what you've invested in your pet project. Or, you may have hit a plateau in your learning. This can be really frustrating as it spurs on the desire to take more lessons, which of course only costs more money. Before you know it your love for dancing has turned sour. Here are a few words of advice for the dance addict (it takes one to know one) to help the love you have for dancing last a lifetime.



1. Start looking at what you can afford monthly. If you haven't got a budget, I highly recommend you make one. If you've been dancing for a while, don't forget an allotment for things like shoes, costumes, and travel expenses.
2. Look for a practice partner. But don't be too picky here. Everyone needs practice, even if you're better than your partner. If this seems like too much of a commitment, have more than one partner. Teachers learn from teaching a variety of students --- this concept could help you too.
3. Set up a weekly schedule for dancing and stick to it! If you are trying to get ready to compete and you miss a practice, you really can't make up the time. As most of you have realized by now, one can never really make up time. Have the broad perspective that you're doing the best you can and there will always be more chances to improve your dancing.
4. Don't put your faith in too many instructors, especially if they are putting down one to build up another. Instead, build a good relationship with one or two pros. Most teachers can do a couple of styles well. This is all one can really do at one time anyway. Going from teacher to teacher only slows your progress. In the long run, the work will always come from you.
5. Finally, have fun! Dancing isn't more important than your family or work, but rather, a reward. Don't overspend or over budget your time. Keep it in perspective and it will keep rewarding you for a long time to come. Your addiction will not overwhelm you, but enhance you with greater mental and physical health.

Jennifer Foster is owner of Dance Sport studio, in Knollwood Plaza with her husband and partner Robert. She is the proud mother of two girls. She and Robert have won many titles with their Theater Arts numbers and recently were on stage with the tour of I Won't Dance.

Upcoming Dance Demonstrations

07/20 Summer Sounds, a fundraiser for indigent children who are in need of hearing aids, Calhoun Beach Club, St Louis Park; Time to be determined. 2 Smooth couples and 3 Rhythm couples needed.

08/26 Senior Resource Center Luncheon, 36th and Bryant, Minneapolis. 1:00 - 1:45 pm; 2 Smooth couples and 2 Rhythm couples needed.

09/16 Pre-Kick-Off to National Ballroom Dance Week at the Mall of America Rotunda; 7:30 - 8:30 pm; LOTS of dancers needed - bring your best showcase pieces to perform.

09/24 State Conference for DAPE (Developmental Adaptive Physical Education - a group of teachers who work with handicapped kids); Camp Courage, Maple Lake (just west on Hwy 55); 7:00 - 8:00 pm; 3 Smooth couples and 3 Rhythm couples needed - sign up now - a great cause to support.

Please call Yvonne Viehman at 553-1202 and identify which demo, which dances and with whom you'd like to dance.

Keep On Dancin'!

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to USABDA and subscribers to the newsletter:

Pat Miller, Bridget Jodell, Partick Sweeney, Joseph Schmidt, Mary Vanderford, Vernetta Miller, Thomas Maresh, Thomas Latournelle, Elina Bodnya, Julie Parker, Vicki Kitts, and Patricia Folstad

Please feel free to ask our dance buddies to dance at the next USABDA dance. (Or anyone else for that matter.) You'll find the buddies wearing a red or white flower.

anyone else for that matter. You'll find the buddies wearing a red or white flower.

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*"This car is Hy-dro-matic" WOW (from the women backstage).

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*We have so much hidden talent in USABDA. It was so good to see it on stage!

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Standard gown size 4-6, loaded with 80 gross AB stones over a Coral and White gown, new style. \$800.

Apple Green and Sapphire pearl chiffon American gown, layered skirt is fabulous on the floor, asking \$800.

American smooth gown, white and tangerine, fits petite, younger dancer, mint condition, great dress for \$800, size 2-4.

Apple Green American gown, sleeves and bodice lattice work, loaded with large AB stones. Attention getter on the floor. \$600. Size 2-6.

Standard gown, traditional style, feathers, floats in sunglow and yellow, size 2-6, \$400.

**** Call Hub Nelson for the following ads at 225-8554.**

Simply elegant silk ballgown - size 2-4. White with black square neckline, mesh arms and upper back. Emphasis is on clean line: princess seaming, no feathers or floats (dripping sleeves show movement). Give it a whirl! \$900.

Standard gown - Size 4-6. Classic design, unusual colors! Seafoam green over sunglow orange. Feathered hem, lace bodice, and symmetrical floats. \$900.

Beautiful gown size 2-6, soft pink with hot pink, Jessica McClintock lace over bodice which is also covered with AB stones, worn in two comps, mint cond. \$1,200, Joanie 484-4562.

Lt Green Ballgown. Sz 8-10. Feathers on bottom. Asking \$550. Call Ellen at 521-8745.

**** Call Janie for the following ads at 232-5896(w) or 537-6743 (pm)**

Hot Lime Green & Black 2 Piece Rhythm! Sz 4-8. AB stoning throughout. Shimmery lycra spandex, skirt moves great. Asking \$325.

Beautiful Midnight Blue Rhythm! Sz 4-8. 1 piece. Panné stretch velvet. Moves great and very comfortable too! AB stoning along neckline, built in dance trunks. \$250 obo.

Slinky 2-Toned Silver/Black Rhythm. Sz 6-8. 1 piece, lined, sleeveless, open back, mid-calf length with sexy slit up to thigh for movement. Matching silver arm and wrist bands. \$125 obo. **Wonderful Starter Ballgown.** Sz 6-8. Royal blue bodice and skirt with black sparkle chiffon asymmetrical accents. Great for Bronze or Silver level! \$185 obo.

**** Call Theresa for the following ads at 704-4405**

Championship royal blue two-piece - size 2-6. Asymmetrical cut top and bottom with one side attached. Royal rhinestones throughout, semi-sheer material. \$500.

Popular lavender two-piece - size 2-6. Halter-style top with armbands and earrings and plenty of rhinestones. Bottom is asymmetrical cut. Latest comfort stretch material. Blackpool dress. \$600.

Black one-piece mini rhythm dress - size 2-6. Fringe beading to give extra movement. Black rhinestones throughout body. Tan halter straps for a sleek look and sexy neckline. \$650.

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Glowing Yellow Standard Gown, Elegant neckline and distinctive stoning. Absolutely a steal at \$1000. Tracy 792-2322

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