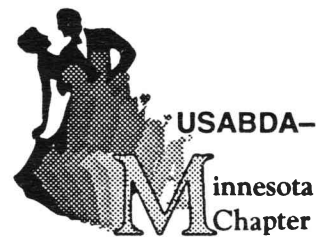


# Dancin' Times



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

March 1996

## DANCERS NITE OUT

**Sun. 3/3** MN Ballroom Operators. free dance, 5 bands (2 big band style), Bel Rae, Moundsview, 2-8pm, 786-4630.

**Fri. 3/8** West Coast Swing Club, B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., St Paul, lesson 7:30pm, dance 8:30pm, 869-3184.

**Fri. 3/8** Lucky Dancer Party, On Your Toes School of Dance, 928-7803 or see ad pg 5.

**Sat. 3/9** Grand Opening Part 2!, DanceSport Ballroom, 874-0984 or see ad pg 8.

**Sat. 3/9** March Harehop, Capitol Ballroom, 224-5523 or see ad pg 11.

**Sat. 3/16** Dancers Studio Spring Showcase Dance, Grand Ballroom, Macalester College, 641-0777 or see ad pg 12.

**Sun. 3/17** Bells of Ireland Ball, Capitol Ballroom, 224-5523 or see ad pg 11.

**Fri. 3/22** West Coast Swing Club, B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., St Paul, lesson 7:30pm, dance 8:30pm, 869-3184.

**Fri. 3/22** Paul Heffron, Shakopee Ballroom, free lesson w/ paid admission 7:30pm, dance 8:30, 461-2966.

**Fri. 3/22** Dick Macko Big Band, Medina Ballroom, free lesson w/ paid admission 7:00pm, dance 8:30, 478-6661.

**Sat. 3/23** March Dance, Twin Cities Ballroom, 8pm, \$10 incl. lesson at intermission w/Timothy & Michele Mason, amateur showcase, 7th & Walnut, St. Paul, 292-8463.

**Wed. 3/27** Beginner Dance, Medina Ballroom, instruction by Scott & Amy Anderson, see ad pg 15.

**Fri.-Sun. 3/29-31** Land O' Loons Lindy Hoppers Spring Workshop w/Steven Mitchell, near U of M Campus, 920-9403 or see ad pg 6.

**Sun. 3/30** **USABDA** Food Shelf Benefit Dance, Twim Cities Ballroom Dance Club, see info this page.

**Sat. 3/30** Chrysalis Ball, Capitol Ballroom, 224-5523 or see ad pg 11.

### Ongoing...

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

Every Thursday and Sunday, Bel Rae Ballroom, 786-4630

USABDA-MN presents

## A Food Shelf Benefit Dance

Saturday, March 30

7:30-8:30 Lesson

8:30-9:00 Bronze level dancing

9:00-11:30 Open dancing

Cost: \$4 members, \$6 non-members

Please bring non-perishable food items or a cash donation to contribute to local food shelves during food shelf month.

Checks made out to Minnesota Food Shelf Network are preferred-- anyone donating \$25 or more will get into the dance **FREE!**

Twin Cities Ballroom Dance Club  
West 7th & Walnut (enter on Walnut)  
St. Paul

**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 King  
USABDA Chapter Secretary

- The March dance is our food shelf benefit. Attendees are asked to bring an item or cash gift in addition to door fee.
- Medina Entertainment is hosting a Singles Convention March 23. USABDA will have a table.
- The Beginners Dance is March 27 at the Medina Ballroom. Scott & Amy Anderson are the instructors.
- The Tea Dance is April 28 at the Lafayette Club. Nominations needed for Volunteer of the Year. Event help also needed.
- Organizers for the Symphony Ball June 1st at the Metrodome have asked for USABDA to perform.
- USABDA will soon be selling mugs as a fund-raiser. We need more sources of income as dances do not always break even. There will be no other fund raisers at a USABDA dance other than our own.
- A coordinator is needed for the taste test fundraiser which we can have every 3 months. It involves lots of phone calling.
- A letter was received from a dancer who felt she was not asked to dance enough. Another criticism is that USABDA doesn't use the ballrooms enough. Much discussion ensued. The Board's position is this: While we, as an organization, are sensitive to the needs expressed, we feel that we do all we can to provide opportunities for ballroom dancers to dance. We cannot insure that each person attending is going to dance all they'd like. There is always a need for more men. We all need to share responsibility in making a social event a success. Mixers have been suggested and we're open to other ideas!
- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 5 at Yvonne Riske's, 11100 Cedar Hills Blvd, Minnetonka, party room. 525-8933.

## COMPETITOR'S COLUMN

includes regional and USABDA events

**BYU Medals Ball and DanceSport Championships U.S. National Professional Standard and National Amateur Youth, Junior, Pre-teen and Cabaret Championships.**

March 15-16, Brigham Young Univ. Provo, UT Contact: Phy Ed Dept. (801) 378-8124.

**North Central Regional Collegiate & Adult Dance Sport Festival also called the Circle City Dance Festival (USABDA)**

March 23, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN, Contact: Heartland USABDA, (317) 272-0428.

**Texas Challenge Dance Championships**

March 28-30, Adams Mark Hotel, Houston, TX. Contact: Houston Center of Dance, (713) 879-0814.

**Wisconsin State Dance Competition**

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

**Minnesota Open Ballroom Dance Competition**

May 31-June 2, Radisson St. Paul, see ad pg 9.

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

## Twin Cities Open Ballroom Dance Competition Review

By Amy Anderson, Coordinator

Despite frigid temperatures, the **Twin Cities Open Ballroom Competition** (Feb. 2-4) drew competitors from all over the country making it the largest ballroom competition ever in Minnesota! The competition, held once again at the beautiful **Minneapolis Convention Center**, was witness to many "debuts" in partnerships, studios, and the much anticipated **Dancers Cup Circuit**.

In partnerships... we saw new and wonderful partnerships. **Amateur couple Andy Nordberg and Janie Sorheim** coached by **Nathan Daniels** took a Bronze medal in the hotly contested **Amateur Smooth Scholarship**! Participating in T.C.O. for the first time were some very talented Amateur couples from outside Minnesota such as **Tom & Pat Schinabeck** from Appleton, WI who won the Amateur Smooth Scholarship; and **Mike & Luci Slywka** from Ohio who were **Top Amateur Couple**! It is always the organizer's goal to bring more Amateur Couples to the Midwest to compete against Minnesota's own talented contingency of amateur dancers, so it was nice to see.

In the **Professional** ranks, we saw new professional partnerships from outside Minnesota choose the Twin Cities Open to make their debut. **Paul Holmes & Wendi Davies** (NY) won the **Open Standard** Competition. Paul was a top dancer from England, and Wendi is a former U. S. Champion and daughter of dance legend Bill Davies who was one of the adjudicators. Also in the Standard Competition was **Dale Pizzitola & Ann Zabinski** (WI) who won the **Rising Star Standard**, and took Bronze in the **Open Standard**. **Dan Rutherford & Nicole Collins** (IN/MO), took the Bronze in the **Open Rhythm** Competition. **Teka Rae & Scott Lazorov** (PA) took the Silver. **Michael Wirtanen & Amy Palowski** (WI), took the Silver in the **Rising Star Rhythm** Competition.

The Twin Cities Open was also the inaugural competition in the new **Dancers Cup Circuit**. The Dancers Cup consists of six competitions around the country in which students, teachers, and amateur couples accumulate points toward cash prizes totaling \$30,000! Competitors who participated in T.C.O. have already begun accumulating points! It's so easy to do - just participate in at least three of the six comps on the Dancers Cup Circuit! They include the **St. Louis Star Ball** (March 7-10); **Wisconsin State** (Apr. 11-14); **Maryland Invitational** (June 7-9); **Heart of America** (Aug. 8-11); and the **Constitution**

**State Champ's** (Sept. 26-29). For details call Amy Anderson at 431-0936. Current top point contenders from Minnesota are: Teachers - Paul Botes & Sandra Botes; Students - Phil Schloss & Marcella Groh; and Amateur Couple - Bill & Bea Beddor.

A real highlight was a wonderful presentation from amateurs **Tom Severson & Julianne Mossak**. Always a crowd pleaser was their energetic Polka. They also performed a wonderful interpretive number which really shows their versatility. Saturday evening included the much anticipated **Unforgettable Award** presentation, which goes to someone who has become a great ambassador of the art and sport of ballroom dancing in Minnesota. Past recipients include Marcella Groh, Oliver "Sarge" Schader, and Mary Quinlan. This year the award went to **Bea Beddor**.

Overall, the Twin Cities Open was a wonderful display of great ballroom dancing at every level. The premise on which these competitions are organized is to bring to Minnesota the caliber competitions that we Minnesotans, used to have to travel to. The success of the Twin Cities Open, however begins right here with our own professional and amateur dancers. I want to personally "thank" those of you who competed in T.C.O. or volunteered your time to help.

### Overview of Results:

**Adjudicators:** Bill Davies (NY), Glenis Dee (MD), Wendy Johnson (CA), Dan Messenger (WI), Sam Sodano (OH), and Kerry Wilson (Canada); Scrutineer: LeRoy Walters (KS).

**Amateur Smooth Scholarship:** Tom & Pat Schinabeck (WI); Mike & Luci Slywka (OH); Andrew Nordberg & Janie Sorheim (MN); Mark Tepley & Karen Kettler (MN); Jim & Celeste Gibson (MN) Bill & Bea Beddor (MN); and Scott & Bernie Osborn (MN). (see photo below)

**Pro/Am Smooth Scholarship:** Tom Schinabeck & Ann Zabinski (WI); Bill Odom & Peggy Heeney (TX); Dorian Goetsch & David Nyemchek (MO); Pat Schinabeck & Terry Irwin (WI); Ellen Neuman & Jeff Nehrbass (MN); and Michelle Vandesteeg & Paul Botes (MN)

**Pro/Am Theatre Arts Open:** Bea Beddor & Michael Chapman (MN/FL); Carol Post & Robert Foster (MN); and Jennifer LeTourneau & Nathan Daniels (MN)

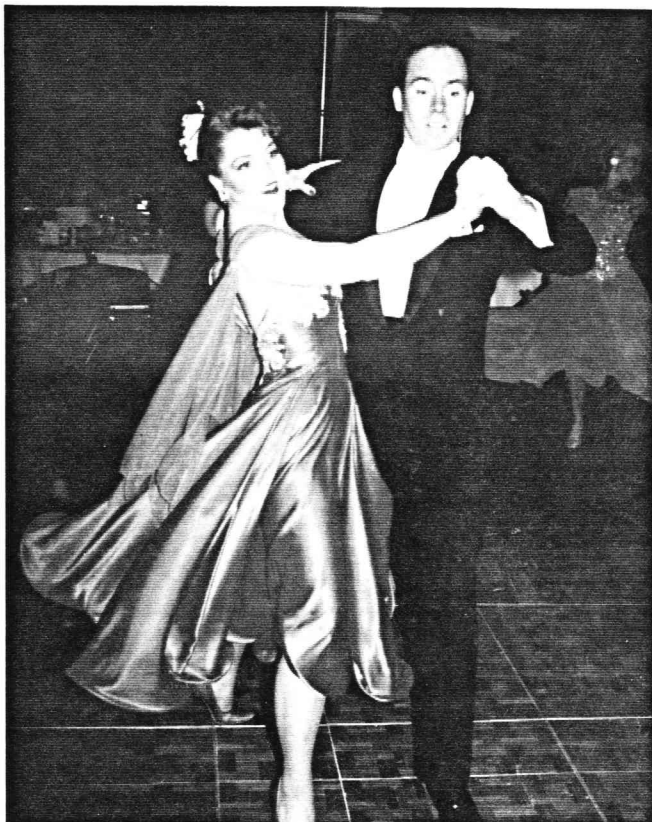
**Pro/Am Rhythm Scholarship:** Bill Odom & Peggy Heeney (TX); Jeanie LaFavor & Dan Rutherford (MN/IN); Kristi Nauman & Nichy Vegas (WI); Jennifer LeTourneau & Nathan Daniels (MN); and Janice West & Julio Alvarado (IL).

Amateur Smooth Scholarship Winners

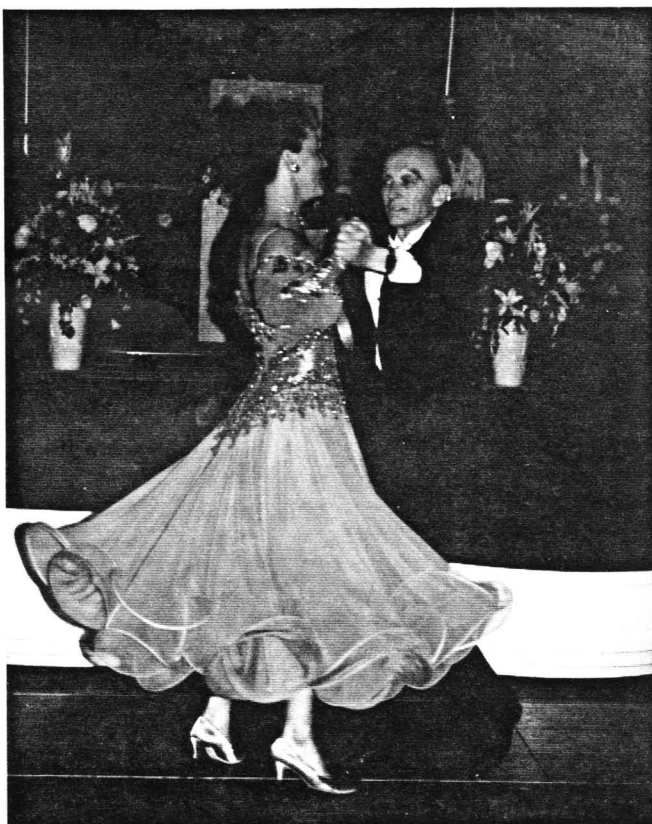


## Twin Cities Open Competitors

(more photos on page 14)



Amateur American Smooth  
Andy Nordberg & Janie Sorheim



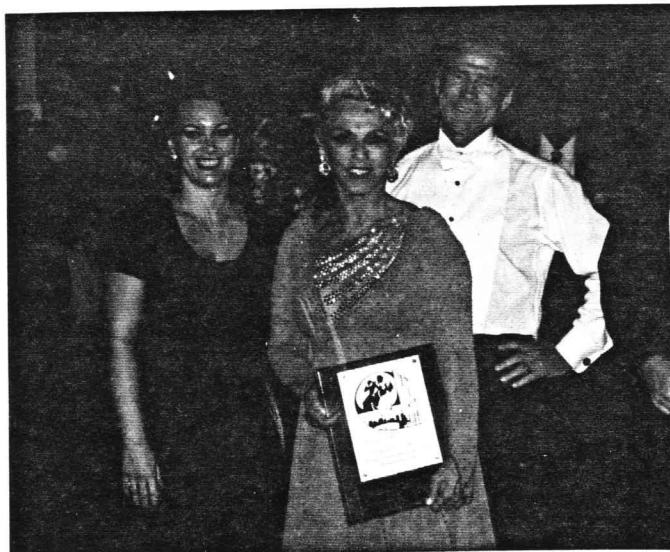
Pro/Am American Smooth  
Joseph Hannasch with Tracy Heinze



Amateur American Smooth  
Jack Cain & Ellen Neuman



Pro/Am International Standard  
Donna Edelstein with Timothy Mason



The "Unforgettable Award"  
Bea Beddor with husband Bill, and TCO organizer Amy Anderson





# ST. PATRICKS DAY

## Friday, March 8th 8 - 11p.m.

---

**Foxtrot lesson from 8-9p.m. with Cindy!!**

ENTERTAINMENT provided by On Your Toes staff & students  
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# Steven Mitchell

## Lindy Hop Workshop

March 29-31, 1996

*Paid Advertisement*

Steven Mitchell, champion Lindy Hop teacher, dancer, and innovator, is bringing his enthusiasm and creative energy back to Minnesota. A choreographer for major dance companies across Europe, he was recently featured in the television special, "Gotta Dance!" Steven integrates authentic Savoy styling with a vast repertoire of classic and new steps.



*Photo by Brian McGill*

On this visit, Steven will be assisted by Anna Sandesjög of Sweden, 1995 World Lindy Hop Champion. Some of the best Lindy dancers in the world are in Sweden, and this is a wonderful opportunity to take in that marvelous Harlem-via-Sweden Lindy Hop style.

Lindy Hop is the ancestor to Jitterbug, Swing, and Rock-and-Roll. Born in Harlem in 1927, Lindy grew up in the 1930s and 1940s to big band, jump swing, and boogie-woogie music, and is now experiencing a major resurgence across the United States and Europe.

Steven will cover lead-and-follow social Lindy Hop; styling; fitting your steps to the music; beginning, intermediate, and advanced steps; and getting the most enjoyment out of Lindy Hop. Whether you've had five Swing classes or fifty, this workshop will increase your skills and joy in the dance.

## Workshop Schedule

The entire workshop is appropriate for those with some prior Swing dance experience. Each class will build on the previous one as the week-end progresses. Get the most benefit by taking all four sessions.

- |                |                     |                                       |   |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Class 1</b> | <b>Fri March 29</b> | <b>7:00-9:30 P.M.</b>                 | <b>Beginning Lindy Hop.</b> It all starts with a good foundation. Beginners will learn the four basic steps while the more advanced dancers will refine their styling.                |
| <b>Class 2</b> | <b>Sat March 30</b> | <b>9:00-11:00 A.M.</b>                | <b>Beginning/Intermediate Lindy Hop.</b> Cement your foundation by building on the first class. Includes both steps and styling. Separate styling sessions for leaders and followers. |
|                |                     | <b>Leaders only 11:15-Noon</b>        |   |
|                |                     | <b>Followers only 12:30-1:15 P.M.</b> |   |
| <b>Class 3</b> | <b>Sat March 30</b> | <b>1:30-4:30 P.M.</b>                 | <b>Intermediate Lindy Hop.</b> Add the frame to the foundation you built. More steps, more styling.   |
| <b>Class 4</b> | <b>Sun March 31</b> | <b>12:00-3:00 P.M.</b>                | <b>Advanced Lindy Hop.</b> Raise the roof and top off the weekend. Not for the faint of foot. <i>Prerequisite:</i> Completion of the rest of the workshop or comparable experience.   |

**Registration:** Call to request a registration form. Full payment is required to hold your reservation. No refunds after March 19. Registrations will be confirmed.

**Enrollment:** Limited enrollment, so register early. Lead/follow balance will be maintained.

**Location:** University Technology Center Atrium, 1313 Fifth Street SE, in Dinkytown, Minneapolis.

**Co-sponsored by:** Land o' Loons Lindy Hoppers and Tapestry Folkdance Center.

**Information:** For workshop information, registration form, or directions, call:

Land o' Loons Lindy Hoppers at (612) 920-9403 or 920-7648.

## FOR BEGINNERS EYE'S ONLY

by David Schmit, College & Youth Coordinator

Where were you on the night of Wednesday January 31st? Were you one of the 70 adventurous souls who braved the 20 below temperatures just to take part in the **Beginners Dance** at the **Macalester College**?

If so, then you know the evening quickly heated up as our very own nationally ranked theater arts champions **Jennifer and Robert Foster** skillfully lead the beginners through the basics in Cha Cha and Foxtrot. Robert and Jennifer then amazed the audience with an impromptu dance exhibition. The evening included dancing, valuable door prizes, delicious fruit punch, and exciting music presented by **Pete Maki** and his assistant **Joyce Thompson**. WOW!

Everyone held their breath as the final numbers were drawn... Three lucky winners received two free passes (valued at \$70.00 each) to attend the **Twin City Open Dance Competition**. Thanks to **Scott and Amy Anderson** for hosting the TCO and their generous contribution making these prizes possible.

Our thanks to **Kathy Welder** and the **Macalester Social Dance Club** for their assistance and use of their beautiful ballroom. Special thanks to Robert and Jennifer for donating not only their time and talent but graciously donating their professional fee and two introductory lessons as door prizes. The students loved your sense of humor and genuine warmth!

Of course we can't forget to thank our tireless dance buddies and supportive USABDA members. Ladies, we actually had eight extra guys looking for partners. Thank you all for providing the enthusiasm and skill that really makes this dance unique. Finally, thanks to **Lisa Hamilton** for the many details necessary to organize, advertise and execute the beginners dance. What a great idea, glow in the dark lapel stars for our dance buddies.

So where will you be on Wednesday March 27th? At the next Beginners Dance...at the **Medina Ballroom**...of course! Come and join the fun. To find out how you too can become a dance buddy! Call Lisa Hamilton 893-0310.

*Editor's Note: A flyer for the next Beginner Dance is on page 15. Please copy it and hand it out to your friends!*

## Fun on a Steamboatin' Vacation

By Doris Pease

Cruisin' mini-style on the **Mississippi Queen** proved to be a top notch swinging vacation. Picture yourself relaxing in the Paddlewheel lounge, listening to Dixieland music as you watch the big red paddlewheels slowly stir the great Mississippi River. You really become a part of America's history.

Leon and I left cold Minnesota in January, flying to **New Orleans** for a week going up the Mississippi to **Vicksburg** and back. With about 400 passengers from all over the country, in one week you got to know a good share of them.

Lots of music and dancing. The dance floors are small and are crowded after the evening show, but by the first intermission, there was room to dance. Four hosts kept the singles dancing.

The ship's **Dixieland Band**, and the **Let's Dance Band** played good dance music. With the **Tommy Dorsey Orchestra** on board for the last half of the week, we had lots of swing. The **Ink Spots** came on board the last day to do the show. The Night Owls Club every night in the Paddlewheel Lounge had great entertainment with **Bobby, the King of Fun and Ragtime**, a small dance floor and the Moonlight Buffet.

All of the activities you find on a big cruise ship were part of this week. We flew kites, played the calliope, had contests, ate and ate. There were tours to go on as we docked, including a trip into Cajun land, and walking trips in the small towns. It was fun and I recommend it to all. There were 21 from a California dance club that had a ball. Maybe USABDA could plan a future adventure.

There are three steamboats cruising America's inland rivers from various ports--St. Paul to St. Louis in the summer time. The lowest price (inner cabins) is \$330 for a 2 night trip, to \$990 for 7 nights. All trips have a theme so you can choose what makes you happy, and they all have music.

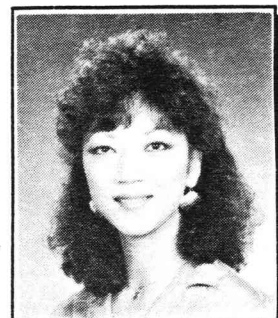
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# Grand Opening Part 2!



*Our Grand Opening was a HUGE success! We had exactly 100 guests. Thank you to all who came for your show of support!*

## **Our Next Dance is Saturday, March 9th!**

*Paid Advertisement*

*7:30 - 8:30 Group \$2.00 Rumba*

*8:30 - 11:30 Dance \$8.00*

*Special performance by Robert and Jennifer Foster*

## **DanceSport Ballroom**

*Location: Semple Mansion, 3rd floor  
100 W. Franklin Ave. Mpls. (corner of LaSalle and Franklin)  
4 short blocks East of Rudolph's Barbeque*

**Also call for more information on**

*March 15th coaching available with US Latin Champion, Shirley Johnson*

*- or -*

*on privates, groups, parties, practice and rental.*

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**May 31-June 2, 1996**

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## ATTENTION DANCE INSTRUCTORS

- ☆ Looking for new students?
- ☆ Want some free advertising?
- ☆ Increased exposure to the general public?
- ☆ Increased attendance at your parties?

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.

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## DANCE NOTES

☛ Wow! That was my reaction watching the PBS special on **Championship Ballroom Dancing** (Ohio Star Ball, November 1995.) First seen on February 7th, it's aired several times since then. While the program is lengthy, it's worth every minute. It's nice to see Twin Cities professionals like the Fosters and the Masons (even though they're from Florida.)

☛ **National Ballroom Dance Week** this year will be September 20-29. Make a note of it on your calendar!

☛ If you live on the southwest side of town, a new dance studio has opened up near the Eden Prairie Center. **Ferrell Institute of Arts** or F.I.A. had its Open House last month. Sandra Botes (Coliseum Ballroom) teaches a variety of classes at the new studio. F.I.A. is located at 8246 Commonwealth (near Green Mill.) Call 509-0149 for more information.

☛ You'll notice that we're inserting flyers/ads in the newsletter periodically promoting the **Beginner Dances**. There's a purpose behind this. They're for you to copy and hand out to your friends, coworkers or family. Make use of them!

☛ Much discussion, complaint and criticism revolves, on a regular basis, around the lack of dance opportunity at the monthly dances-- at most *all* dances-- due to a lack of men. The Board has a position on this; you'll find it in the **Board Notes** on page 2.

☛ I wish I could remember who told me about this, but someone mentioned a way to bring the life back into the suede on the bottom of ballroom shoes. Apparently if you saturate them with 409 spray, it cuts through all of the wax. Don't quote me on this, but if you hear of tips like this, please send them my way.

☛ Competitors, if you're going to a competition, please let me know. I'd like you to write a short article for the newsletter! Maybe even enclose a photo!

The Editor

## SWAPLINES

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. (Dress is seen in action on pg 4)

Sensual black rhythm 1-piece, Sz 4-8. Gold/black AB stoning at neckline & bottom, full-length, leg-slit, black chiffon panels, hem detail, stretch material. \$500. Theresa, 778-4405.

Elegant black rhythm 1-piece Sz 4-6. One arm bare, contrast white detail on top, shimmer w/ jet rhinestones. Randy Christensen design. USBC Champ. \$1000, Theresa, 778-4405. (Dress is seen in action on pg 14)

Fun black 2-piece rhythm, Sz 4. Sleeveless top w/ 2 matching mini skirts, earrings. For adventurous dancer to show figure. Works for younger dancer too. \$175. Theresa, 778-4405.

Join Julie, Rainier  
and Gill for our...

"Mad as a  
March  
Hare Hop!"

SAT. MARCH 9TH!  
8:30-11:30

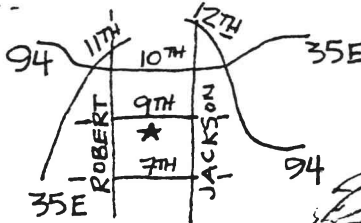
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MARCH 17TH  
SUNDAY!

6:30-9:30  
#7<sup>00</sup>

Join us for a jig and green punch!

The  
Chrysalis  
Ball!

SAT. MARCH 30TH

8:00 pm - MIDNIGHT #10<sup>00</sup>

Have the last dance with us!

Have  
Punch!

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► Professional Dance Show  
Amateur Showcases

General Dancing

Saturday, March 16  
7-11 pm

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For more information call The Dancers Studio at (612) 641-0777

## USABDA PROFILE

FOCUS ON USABDA  
MEMBERS

### JOYCE THOMPSON



Meet your new **Treasurer, Joyce Thompson**. Most of us know Joyce from her presence at dance demonstrations and dances as the "helper" to **Pete Maki**, USABDA's Music Director. Sometimes she even gets to dance!

Dancing had always fascinated Joyce. Growing up in a small farming community, opportunities were somewhat limited. Actually pretty much non existent. But the dream never quite faded, and after nursing school she signed up for group classes at a **YMCA**. Then pursued more lessons via the community education route. In addition to traditional ballroom, tap and jazz were added to her list of dance interests.

She started lessons at **Dancers Studio** in 1992 about once a week. A year or two ago she competed Pro-Am with **Ranier Rics** in **American Smooth and Rhythm**, winning 1sts and 2nds in her division at **Twin Cities Open** and **Minnesota Open**. Now she and Pete train with **Paul Botes** at the **Coliseum Ballroom**.

Joyce's goals aren't lofty, actually they're similar to most USABDA members that we interview: *"Continual improvement and to be a very good social dancer."* She wants to be comfortable following and to follow well. *"I enjoy music very much but it goes beyond music-- it's a way to express yourself. It's relaxing too. And it's nice to have a hobby that you can have fun at yet continually improve. I enjoy it very much."*

As to her partnership with **Pete**, they met at a USABDA dance (see, it really does happen!) and started taking group lessons at the **West Coast Swing Club**. Now their focus is mainly smooth and their favorite dance is clearly the foxtrot. Lessons focus on technique more than new patterns. She loves learning as a couple, since not only is there a partner with whom to practice, but it's a *"lot cheaper!"* As to future competitions, well, *"...we'll see."*

Joyce's professional training is as a nurse. She's had tours of duty at **Ancker Hospital**, **St. Luke's Hospital**, **United Hospital**, and now works for **St. Paul Surgeons** in bariatric surgery- (bariatrics is a branch of medicine for those extremely obese.)

Joyce has two grown children; **David-23**, and **Michelle-25** who is married. No grandchildren, no pets, and no house; she's currently looking to buy a home that has enough floor space to practice her dancing.

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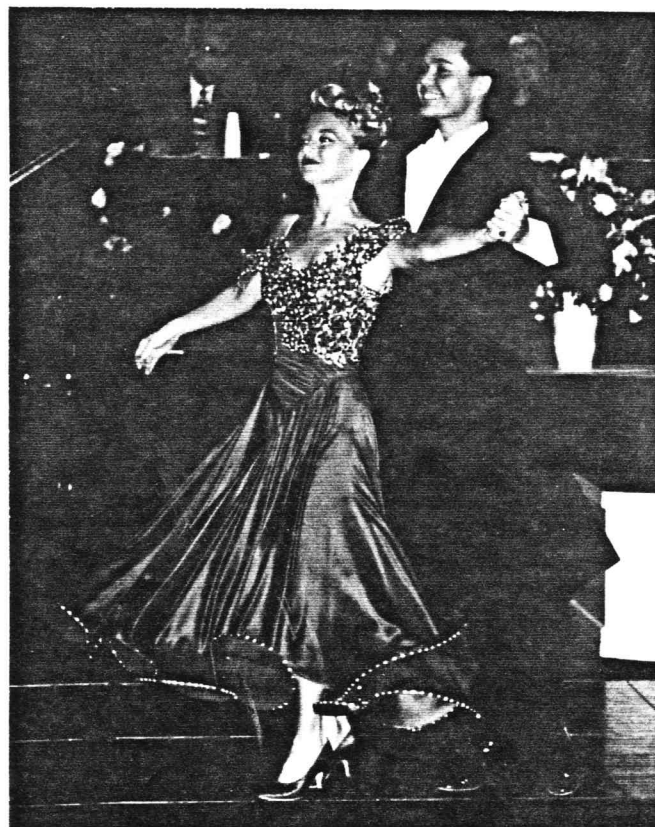
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MINNESOTA

# Dancin' Times

USABDA-MN

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## OFFICERS

President: Jim Baker, Wayzata  
Vice President: Karen Kettler, Minneapolis  
Treasurer: Joyce Thompson, St. Paul  
Secretary: Melanie Helvig, Minneapolis  
Newsletter Editor: Shari Akemann, Golden Valley

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Karen Voels 612-493-3372

## USABDA HOTLINE

612-489-0581

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\*Call for group class information

## Inside this issue...

- ♥ Twin Cities Open results
- ♥ Your new Treasurer - Joyce Thompson
- ♥ January Beginner Dance
- ♥ Cruisin' on the Mississippi
- ♥ March Food Shelf Benefit Dance

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NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
March 10**

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