

# Dancin' Times



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

May 1998

## DANCERS NITE OUT

\*\*\*\*\* New USABDA Monthly Dance Prices \*\*\*\*\*

Lesson - \$3      Students - \$5  
Members - \$7      Non-members - \$10

**Medina Ballroom** (Thursdays, 8pm) 478-6661  
**Shakopee Ballroom** (3/6, 3/20, 8:30 pm) 445-0412  
**Wabasha Street Caves** (Thursdays) 224-1191  
**MN West Coast Swing Club** (3/13, 3/27) 731-9768  
**Rebels Swing Dance Club** 941-0906

**Sat 5/2** Swedish Fruit Dance, Twin Cities Ballroom, Corner of W. 7th and Walnut, St Paul, Group Class, 8 pm, Showcase etc. \$10, students with ID \$5  
523-0364 or 292-8463

**Sun 5/3** Lafayette Club Tea Dance - Minnetonka Beach, 12:00 noon to 4:30 pm, Professional Showcases etc. Call Karen 724-0856 or Mike 699-4857 \$25, \$15 students with ID, Ticket Sale closes April 26.

**Sun 5/3** Rebels Swing Dance club, Member Appreciation Dance, 7 pm, Special guest : Debbie Branard, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, 3127 E. 78th Street, 941-0906

**Fri 5/8** Mn West Coast Swing club - Annual Dinner Dance, Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Live music, Tickets must be bought in advance, 731-9768 or 730-4468, Dinner and dance, member \$18, non-member \$23, dance only \$5 & \$7.

**Sat 5/9** Dance Sport Dance Party, Group class 8 pm, General Dancing 9-12.

**Sat 5/17** USABDA dance - On Your Toes School of Dance, see add this page, 928-7803

**Sun 5/18** Rebels Swing Dance Club, 7pm, Members \$5, Guests \$8, Everett Mc Clay VFW, Bloomington 3127 E. 78 th St. 941-0906.

**Fri 5/22** Mn West Coast Swing Club - Regular Dance, B-Dale, 2100 N. Dale St., 731-9766.

**Sat 5/23** Latin Dance at Twin City Ballroom 8 p.m. to 12, Lesson @ 8, mambo, \$10, students with ID, \$5, 523-0364 or 292-8463.

USABDA-MN Presents:

## The May Flowers Dance



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St Louis Park

Lesson

\$3

Students

\$5

Lesson by

Jeff Nehrbass

Members

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Nonmembers

\$10

Saturday, May 17

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:  
Joyce Thompson, P.O. Box 13873, St. Paul, 55113

### 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

By Yvonne Viehman filling in for Melanie Helvig.

USABDA-MN board met on April 7, 1998. 18 people were in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

\*\* USABDA is search of a new site to hold our monthly board meetings.

\*\* USABDA is also in search of new sites for hosting monthly dances as some of our current locations are too small -- USABDA is growing each month and renewal notices will be noted in the upcoming issues of the newsletter - send in your renewal to Carol Post Stroick (926-7648).

\*\* At the Tea Dance on May 3 the "Volunteer of the Year" Award will be voted on by general membership - 3 duos have been chosen by the Board -- and the presentation will take place that afternoon as well.

\*\* Grand Ball: Jim Baker volunteered to chair this committee. Volunteers needed - contact Jim at 476-4843.

\*\* Floor purchase: A proposition to purchase a portable dance floor was presented and USABDA has an opportunity to contribute to that purchase enabling us to have access to it for our dances.

\*\* Star of the North DanceSport Competition was a hot topic and all felt it was a worthy venture for which the committee is highly commended!

\*\* 06/05/98 - USABDA Show to be held at the Anoka-Ramsey community College Theatre - a fantastic way for us to showcase our finest in the best conditions - on stage!  
Sign up now through Yvonne Viehman (553-1202). Dress rehearsal - 05/27/98 from 5-9.

\*\* Next Board meeting: 05/05/98 @ 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced. Contact a board member closer to that date.

## Competitor's Column

*Includes regional and USABDA events*

### Minnesota Open

May 29-31. Radisson Hotel, St. Paul. See Page 11 for more information. For info - Bill or Arlene Kroll - 561-5407 or Billkro@aol.com

### The Twin Cities Open

July 10-12. Minneapolis Convention Center/Target Center, Minneapolis. For info - Scott or Amy Anderson - 431-3380 or see page 6.

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

## DANCE LINES

by Greg Moore

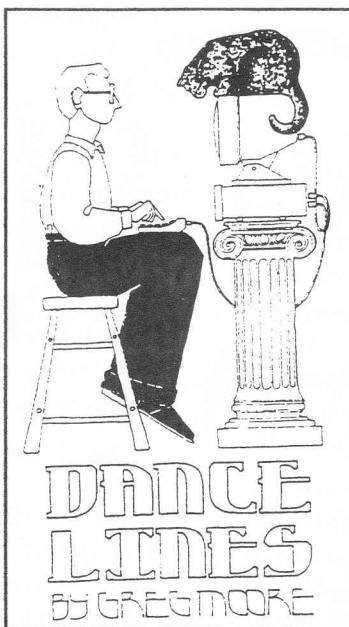
### COMPETITION MADNESS

"COUPLE NUMBER 40: GREG MOORE AND JANIS LIVINGSTON..."

Our first competition. I look out across the dance floor, vast and empty. I take a final peek at Janis. She is radiant, glowing with excitement and confidence, a lighthouse on this strange and unforgiving sea. Out there we will be judged: analyzed, categorized, and ranked. And if we screw up, there will be no mercy. We will be chewed up and spat out. What was once a merry, carefree pastime has become a terrifying test. People with whom we have laughed and cavorted are now dangerous obstacles, elegantly dressed icebergs which we must gracefully avoid at all costs. I suck in my gut, lift Janis' hand high and lead her proudly onto the floor. Inside this dashing tailsuit I am sweating and shaking. Outside, however, I am cold steel. I stride forward, gazing out over the heads of the audience. I smile audaciously, like a condemned man daring the executioner to strike.

How the ding-dong did we get into this predicament? What ever induced us to spend our hard-earned dollars on lessons, costumes, makeup, and entry fees so that we may be allowed to run this gauntlet? How did two sane people drift into such insanity?

When we partnered up there was no talk between us of competition. We were unburdened by plans, goals, or ambitions. Dancing was just fun. For that first year we attended group classes, took an occasional private lesson together, went to the monthly USABDA parties, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It seemed like enough for us. We also heard disturbing stories about the competition ordeals of our fellow students: the expenses, the emotional strain, the heartbreaks. We would shake our heads and chuckle. We're too smart for THAT nonsense, we assured each other. But it was already too late. Inside each of us, crouched in some dark psychic corner, a little demon waited patiently.



Now and then our group class would put together a routine and perform it at one of the monthly studio parties. We were always unsure of our choreography and technique, and there were always little boo-boo's, but everyone laughed and had a good time. For Janis and me, each performance was a thrill, and we would discuss it for weeks afterward. Then one day, quite innocently, we started talking about performing our own little routine. And the demons began to stir.

What dance should we do? Waltz? Foxtrot? Quickstep? Ever so quietly, the demons began to chant: t-a-n-g-o. So we asked our coach for a tango. He was delighted. What music did we want? he asked us. We didn't know, so he played

about a dozen selections. They all seemed a little ... insipid. Then he played "Jealousy." It was theatrical, melodramatic, unbelievably campy. Janis and I turned to each other in astonishment, as our demons shouted in unison: YES! THAT'S IT!

The coach threw himself into the project, as if driven by his own demon. Now all three of us were caught in this spell. We concocted a sketchy storyline and two characters, complete with names, backgrounds and costumes. The routine was a bold blend of American and Argentine tango, alternating between proud and wanton, tender and belligerent. It was all very new to us. And exquisitely delicious. What we lacked in experience and skill, we had to make up for in raw attitude. For a few hours each week, we became Tango Man and Tango Woman. And our demons were cheering like Packer fans on Super Bowl Sunday.

What were our studiomates thinking about this pair that was usually so quiet and demure, as we jostled and grappled and glared at each other? Everyone liked the routine, and always came up with the same question: Are you getting ready for a competition? We were always puzzled by this, because we were still poo-pooing the whole "comp" scene. But we were also deeply flattered, because we were rookies who had been mistaken for competitors.

There was no stopping our demons now --- they had total control. We had become performance-junkies. So it was no surprise that performing the tango routine did not satisfy our craving for applause. It only aggravated it. How on earth would we ever manage to support this habit?

To Be Continued

## ICE DANCING MEETS BALLROOM DANCING AT THE WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Professional American Smooth dancers, Scott and Amy Anderson were featured speakers and demonstrators at the annual meeting of the International Skating Union Ice Dance Committee held during the World Figure Skating Championships recently in Minneapolis. It was a week of exciting competition as most of the top amateur skaters fresh from the Olympics gathered for this prestigious event. It was also a week of meetings as guidelines for the upcoming skating season were established. The International Skating Union is the governing body which produces and sanctions those events that the amateur figure skaters and ice dancers compete in throughout a "season" with the World Figure Skating Championships as the finale of the season. Shown on television worldwide, the event was held at the Target Center, the same venue that will host the Twin Cities Open DanceSport Competition's Saturday Evenings Professional events and WORLDANCE '98 Benefit produced by Scott and Amy Anderson on July 11<sup>th</sup>!

Scott and Amy's lecture focused on the Waltz, as it is the chosen dance for the "Original Dance" phase of competition of the Ice Dancers next season. Ice Dance competition is divided into three phases - the "Compulsory Dance" in which all skaters demonstrate the same sequence of patterns to the same piece of music of a ballroom and Latin dance. The dances demonstrated this year were the "Golden Waltz" (or Viennese Waltz as we know it), and the "Silver Samba." This is 20% of the skater's final placement. The second phase of competition is the "Original Dance" in which the skaters demonstrate their interpretation of the same dance (this year, it was the "Jive") with their own music and choreography. This is 30% of their final placement. The "Free Dance" is the final phase in which the skaters can choose any dance to interpret to their own music. This year everything from a dramatic "Carmen", to step dancing from "Riverdance" was interpreted.

In attendance at this annual meeting were the judges, coaches, skaters, and media that cover Ice Dancing from all over the world. Also in attendance was Julius Kaiser who has coached several ice dancers throughout his career. Having been exposed primarily to traditional, International Waltz, the reception was remarkable as they witnessed (many for the first time!) the "American Style" Waltz and Viennese Waltz as demonstrated by Scott and Amy. Those in attendance know the importance of

"marketability" of their sport and understand what brings high ratings to an already large television audience worldwide. They concluded that it is the freedom of creativity of expression to a particular piece of music, while still demonstrating the characteristics of that dance, that makes Ice Dancing so interesting and entertaining to watch and perform. This is no different than what DanceSport is experiencing, except that Ice Dancing is already an Olympic Sport shown to millions of television viewers worldwide, and receives the corporate sponsorship to develop their sport and make their athletes household names.

One of the highlights of the meeting was when Scott invited Olympic Bronze medallist and World Silver medallist, Marina Anissina of France to join him as he demonstrated various dance positions that are commonly used in American Style Waltz. Marina, with her flowing red hair, and her partner, Gwendal Peizerat danced as "Romeo and Juliet" during their Free Dance Competition.

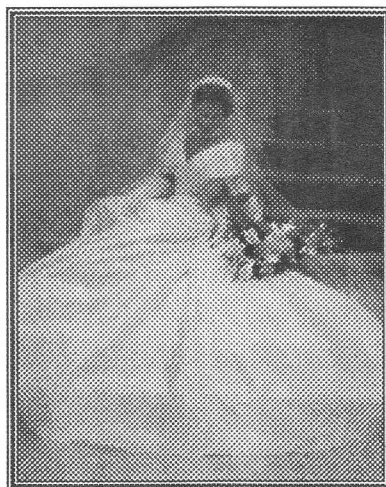
Scott and Amy discussed the different interpretations of Waltz depending on the music the couples choose. With help from local professionals, Jay Larson and Julie Jacobson, and Scott's Pro/Am partner Kathy Rotter, they demonstrated Waltzes and Viennese Waltzes from various pieces of music from traditional to contemporary. The lecture was taped for use around the world as coaches and skaters prepare their Original Dance for next season. It will be interesting to see how the skaters interpret American Style Waltz on the ice and how the judges score it. Use of music, skirt length and use of the skirt, dance positions - proper and improper were discussed. For Scott and Amy, it was an honor to be asked to be in the company of this widely respected group of current and former Olympic Ice Dance Champions, and to see how their sport works from the inside. Figure Skating and Ice Dancing is going through some of the same changes and conflicts as we see in DanceSport - how to judge, amateur vs. professional, American vs. International, and the list goes on. We can learn a lot from each other's sport; this lecture was one step closer to that.







Included in this photo are (L to R) Jay Larson; Scott Anderson; Kriszina Regocezy, ISU Chairperson of the Coaches Commission & former World Ice Dance Champion; Julie Jacobson; Kathy Rotter; Wolfgang Kunz, ISU Chairman of the Ice Dancing Technical Committee; Amy Anderson; Julius Kaiser; and other members of the International Skating Union.



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# Twin Cities Open DanceSport Competition/WORLDDANCE '98 Update

## The Who, When, What, Where, Why & How's . . .

**Who** - The Twin Cities Open & WORLDDANCE is produced by Scott & Amy Anderson

**When** - Competition begins July 10, and runs through the 12<sup>th</sup>

**What** - Twin Cities Open is a NDCA recognized DanceSport Competition. WORLDDANCE '98 is a Benefit for Fraser Community Services in which all Professional Finals from the Twin Cities Open & All-Star Invitational will be held at the Target Center, July 11

**Where** - the Minneapolis Convention Center is the site for the Twin Cities Open; WORLDDANCE '98 is at the Target Center

**Why** - because we want to bring ballroom and latin dancing to the masses!

**How** - Entry deadline is May 27<sup>th</sup>, call the Hotline if you want to participate. Tickets for WORLDDANCE '98 will be available sometime this month through TicketMaster - watch for details!

## When is the Amateur Competition?

FRIDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> - Matinee - Amateur Standard & Rhythm Single Dance Freestyles

Evening - All Amateur Scholarships

SATURDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> - Matinee - Amateur Smooth & Latin Single Dance Freestyles

SUNDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> - Matinee - All Amateur Multi-Dance Events

## What Amateur Dance Divisions are Available?

SINGLE DANCE FREESTYLES - American & International; All Levels (Newcomer thru Advanced); All Dances

MULTI-DANCE EVENTS - American Closed Bronze (W,T); (R,SW); Closed Silver (W,T,FT); (C,R,SW); Advanced (W,T,FT,VW); (C,R,SW,B,M)

International Novice Bronze (W,QS); (F,T); (C,R); (S,J); Novice Silver (same dances as Novice Bronze); Novice

Gold (same dances as Novice Bronze & Silver); Pre-Championship (W,T,F,QS); (C,S,R,J); Open (W,T,VW, F,QS); (C,R,S,PD,J)

SCHOLARSHIPS - American Open (W,T,FT,VW); (C,R,SW,B,M)

International Open (W,T,VW,F,QS); (C,R,S,PD,J)

## What are the Entry & Admission Fees?

All Studios and Independent Professionals have received Competition Packages. Please ask your teacher for details. If you need more information, please call the Hotline, 431-3380.

## Can I advertise my business in the Competition Program?

Advertising Rates are available depending on the space needed. You may also "Sponsor" a Scholarship event in which you receive your advertising free! Call for details!!!

## I can't dance at the event, but would like to help out. . .

Call Jeanie LaFavor at 831-6186 for volunteer opportunities

## Who is Judging the Twin Cities Open?

Sam Sodano, Glenis Dee Creger, Debbie Avalos, Shirley Johnson, Pierre Allaire, Mireille Vielluex, Enrique Ramon, John Nyemchek, Marianne Nicole, and Kerry Wilson. The Master of Ceremonies is John DePalma, the Chairman of Judges is Leroy Walters, and the Scrutineer is John Speros.

# Entry Deadline - May 27<sup>th</sup>!!!

## Twin Cities Open Hotline 431-3380

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## Dance Demos

by Yvonne Viehman

### CELEBRATING WITH PARK HILL APARTMENTS RESIDENTS

On Tuesday, March 31, as huge snowflakes fell for one last time, USABDA again joined the residents of Park Hill Apartments to celebrate their monthly birthday party. One woman celebrating her 101st birthday received 101 roses from all of her kids! There's a reason to go on living. Another woman, age 87, gave me the following advice, "Don't ever stop dancing! I married a man who didn't dance and it was like cutting off my right arm! I love dancing and really enjoyed your performance tonight." Those who helped make this show a success included: Cheri Rolnick & Wade Warford, Dorothy Jones & Arthur Hellmann, Patty Johnson & David Schmit (it was Patty's first time out and she did a great job!), Carol Post Stroick & Scott Koefod, and Mike Youngdahl with whom I enjoyed dancing. Pete Maki and Joyce Thompson played excellent music not only for the demo, but long after the demo so the residents could dance with us and each other. Many thanks to all of you! Gail O'Brien of Park Hill Apartments provided USABDA with a \$100 donation.

### PLAN TO ATTEND NOW----- LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

USABDA will go on stage at the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Theatre on Friday, June 5. Finally, a venue at which we can present the best of ballroom dancing! USABDA will join forces with the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Theatre group, directed by Tom Vallek, to put on an hour-and-a-half dance show. It will be similar to the show we did at the Mall of America on September 17, 1997, but we can make it even better with the ability to dim the lights, add back drops, and set the mood --- performing to a full house of 350 people who'll pay to watch! The Mall of America demo took the help of 55 people to pull off. So, sign up now! We're looking for smooth, rhythm, theatre arts and cabaret performers. What an opportunity for USABDA and what a great way to gear up for the Twin Cities Open.

### *Upcoming Dance Demonstrations*

**06/05 Lights, Camera, Action!** USABDA goes on stage at the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Theatre, 11200 NW Mississippi Blvd., Coon Rapids (time to be announced)

**09/16 Pre-Kick-Off to National Ballroom Dance Week at the Rotunda at Mall of America (time to be announced)**

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

### *Keep On Dancin'!*

### DANCER PROFILES

In preparation for Twin Cities Open (TCO) and WORLDANCE on July 9-11, 1998, we are seeking profiles from as many dance partnerships as possible. If you came to the USABDA dance on March 28, you may have picked up the flyer regarding TCO and the insert regarding the information sought. KARE 11 and the ad agency marketing WORLDANCE would like to do spotlight interviews featuring YOU to help promote the event and show the world how we fit dancing into our lives. Call me if you need a profile to complete --- 553-1202. Thanks, Yvonne.

### MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new USABDA members and subscribers to the Dancin' Times:

Suzanne Anglo, Ronald Belz, Martha Ehrensom, Paul Jensen, Peggy Hohanes, Eckhard Kaul, Ken Dendle, Karl Moe, Michael Roubik, Michael Tongen, Kathleen Wang, Virginia Wordrum, Jay Gutenkauf, Pat Kingston, John Neiss, Rosario Guerrero.

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## ADVICE FROM THE PROS

by Loren Greenberg

### I REMEMBER THE PROM BALLROOM

My first experience with ballrooms began in the late forties at the Prom Ballroom which was located just off University Avenue and Dunlap Street, in St. Paul. Dances were held there several times a week at that time. On Friday and Saturday it was a great place for singles to meet and dance.

The Prom was a beautiful ballroom with a huge floor. There were so many lovely ladies to dance with. It was at this time I learned some ladies lie ... They would tell me what a good dancer I was. Like a dummy, I believed them. I learned later, I was a lousy dancer, but, it was still fun. It was dancing at its finest!

#### I remember . . .

. . . the street cars lined up outside at closing time. Many dancers had no other transportation.

. . . the crowds and the elegance of the Prom.

. . . hearing that jitterbug dancing was not allowed, although later swing dancing was.

. . . hearing Jules Herman band broadcasting from the Prom on a Sunday night.

. . . hearing about the "Jams" where the dancers would form circles on the floor. It was showtime and the best swing dancers would dance in the circles. It could be East Coast, West coast, or Lindy Hop, etc.

. . . crowds standing in front of the stage watching as the big bands played.

. . . when they had the Four Hundred Dance Club. The club had approximately 100 members whose purpose was to come to the Sunday dance class and assist where needed. They were not allowed to dance with each other during the class.

. . . hearing about the Latin dances in the downstairs Arizona Room.

. . . after many years of absence, I returned to the Sunday night dances. Ladies were in long gowns and men in their suits --- very elegant.

. . . watching this one fellow who always danced with two ladies: one lady dancing directly behind the other. And how smooth they were. I was told they were dancing a style called "Slicker Dance" and that there were only two to four patterns they could use when they had contests.

. . . all the beautiful people I met over the years and the friendships I formed.

. . . the first Minnesota Star Ball. It was the first state ballroom competition.

. . . how sad we all were when the Prom closed.

*ed. note: From personal experience --- Loren Greenberg is a "good dancer!" No lie!*

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## **VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE YEAR AWARD**

USABDA-MN recognizes the accomplishments of its volunteers each year by giving an award to the person or persons who best exemplify the quality of volunteerism to our membership and the dance community. This year purely by chance, the USABDA board has nominated duos. It was just simply not possible to separate the roles of all these people: they are teams, some are partnerships --- they did their volunteering together as well as separately. As individuals they accomplished much ... but, as a team, they went over the top. Please read the following profiles and vote on May 3, at the Tea Dance, for the duo you feel is the USABDA volunteers of the year.

### **STEVE VESPESTED AND JULIE CHASE:**

Steve, even though he resides in Rochester, Mn, has co-chaired the 1997 Grand Ball, does dance demos, ran for President of our chapter, is a board member and chaired the mammoth task of putting the Star of the North DanceSport Competition together. Julie assists the collegiate MYCDA performance group, does the computer layout for the Dancin' Times, serves on the USABDA board, and coordinated the bulk of Star of the North DanceSport Competition along with Steve.

### **GREG MOORE AND JANIS LIVINGSTON:**

Greg researches and writes articles for Dancin' Times and serves as copy editor. He also served on the Star of the North DanceSport Organizing Committee and was responsible for the judges. Janis is editor-in-chief of the Dancin' Times and served on the Star of the North DanceSport Organizing Committee being responsible for the vendors. Both attend USABDA board meetings and do dance demos on a regular basis.

### **PETE MAKI AND JOYCE THOMPSON:**

Pete serves on the USABDA board and is responsible for providing music for all of the USABDA-MN events. Joyce serves as Treasurer for USABDA-MN and assists Pete in providing music for all of our events. They both set up, played and took down the music system at Star of the North DanceSport Competition.

## **DANCE NOTES:**

Many volunteers put the Star of the North together and kept it going. I have heard nothing but complements from all attendees. Everyone pitched in. It was gratifying to see people work above and beyond the call of duty to make the event a big success. The USABDA board expresses their heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you.

Planning for next years Star of the North DanceSport Competition is now in progress. Please contact a board member if you would like to become a member of the organizing committee. You may take part in any number of ways so don't delay!

Remember board meetings are open to all members.

Anyone is welcome to submit articles to the Dancin' Times. We may edit for length and clarity. The deadline is the 10th of each month.

New USABDA dance admission prices are in effect starting in May: Non-members \$10; members \$7; students \$5; and the lesson charge will be \$3 above this base figure.

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## **Comments from our readers:**

"I just love to read those articles in the Dancin' Times. Where do you come up with that stuff?"

"Would it be possible for you to highlight or put in pictures of special dance performances that are done at the dance studios?"

*ed. note:* We'd be happy to do this for USABDA members. Just send in your article or pictures. A little note about any picture is needed and pictures will not be returned if used. A self-addressed stamped envelope should be included for return of a picture in case we are unable to use it.

The newsletter is still looking for a computer. Can you help?

Remember: The newsletter deadline is the 10th of each month! Keep your editors sane!!

NDCA RECOGNIZED

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**Evening:**

**Fri, Sat & Sun**

**\$20.00**



Nels Peterson performing the all important job of lining up couples to compete at Star of the North



## THE FIRST ANNUAL STAR OF THE NORTH DANCESPORT COMPETITION

### "WE DID IT"

by Janis Livingston

We had only 5 months to plan this baby. Thinking there was not enough time to design and deploy the event, the board actually voted it down on first consideration. But, after a few energetic souls urged more thought on the subject, AND, with promises of keeping the event to a "low-key", one day affair, a vote was re-taken and passed. Immediately a committee was formed to get this wobbly scheme set in motion.

Starting at ground zero, Steve Vespested and several curious USABDA members met to set up the preliminaries. Just what exactly did we need to do? The brainstormed list was more than a page long. It seemed insurmountable. Eventually, though, jobs were casually and voluntarily distributed (most of us did not know exactly what we were supposed to do with our assignments or where we were going with our helpful and expectant energy.) Thanks to some of our USABDA competitors like Jason Borton and Julie Chase we obtained some direction and made decisions based on their experience.

Just like jello beginning to set, we were free flowing liquid... unformed... unknowing what the final product would be. The venue site was discussed --- high school gym or hotel? The floor --- should we rent or even buy one? The registration fees --- could we keep them low enough to encourage registrations? The vendors --- how many and what kind? The judges --- would our local pros be interested in giving up a day of income to help us out? On and on, question after question, we took a stab, made a decision and went with it.

Gradually, through the efforts of all, things started to firm up. The beautiful venue site of the First Trust Center was chosen (no high school gym for us). A floor was possible with corporate sponsorship. Steve produced a budget and we set the fees low. Vendors were recruited and were willing to take a chance. And our wonderful local pros gave us an enthusiastic commitment to judge. The jello was setting.

As March 28, 1998 approached, the firmer that jello became. (By the way, does jello expand ... ? Someone must have dropped a little yeast into our concoction because that "low-key" event we all expected was becoming larger and more grandiose by the day.) Our goal of 100 participants was exceeded by over 30. Our modest efforts of putting

on a small competition encouraging newcomers and first time competitors kept multiplying ... becoming 167 heats and over 1000 starts!

To accommodate dozens of late registrations, the schedule was constantly being revised. We didn't want to turn anyone away. We didn't know it then, but ... our jello was about to plop over the sides of the bowl! It wasn't until we got moving into heat after heat that it became apparent that the ever-revised schedule was in a time warp. Our inexperience did not prepare us for this (and a few other glitches). Even after mega-hours of preparation, we could not have foreseen that ultimately we would have to cut out the lunch break and end the competition 2 1/2 hours late!

The beauty of the venue, the excitement in the air, the hopeful anticipation of the participants went a long way to salve the fatigue that had inevitably started to show toward the end of the day. Our Star of the North organizing committee had done a stellar job. Our judges had been asked to pitch in extra hours beyond their already grueling, no break, schedule for the day. And they did it graciously. In the end, despite the worry, the fatigue, the stress, the over stimulation, WE survivors felt good. WE had pulled it off! WE did it! The First Annual Star of the North DanceSport Competition was in the bag. That plopped over jello tasted sooo good!

The "WE" that did it:

Steve Vespested	Committee Chair and Lord of the Dance
Julie Chase	Registrations and Lady of the Computer
Greg Moore	Judge Wrangler
Janis Livingston	Vendor Valet
David Schmit	Floor Finesser
Elaine Barrett	Volunteers (who were vital)
Mike Youngdahl	Slave to Steve
Nels Petersen	On Deck Director (The Godfather of Ballroom Dance)
Dan Viehman	Captain Video
Yvonne Viehman	Emcee and Captain Video's Matey
Gary Stroick	Scrutineer and Most Wise Advisor
Carol Stroick	Awards and Scrutineer Sustainer
Pete Maki	Music King
Joyce Thompson	Music Queen



## More volunteers:

Ellen Ardery (emcee), Hub Nelson (emcee), Gordon Lee, Kris Sanders, Lia Babitch, Wes Barris, David Castro, Erin Dirksen, Bob Gavin, Janice Graham, Rachel Hawken, David Johnson, Hannah Lemberg, Paul Rybski, John Schless, Nancy Schumacher, Katy Selberg, Judy Shaber, Katherine Streff, Tristan To, Danielle Vogelgesang, Mike Albrecht, Mike Viehman.

## OUR GRACIOUS JUDGES:

Cindy Nehrbass	On Your Toes School of Dance
Paul Botes	Dancesport Independent
Donna Edelstein	Dancesport Independent
Tracy Heinze	The Dancer's Studio
Marsha Wiest-Hines	Made For Movement
Amy Anderson	Dance Shoppe
Eric Remsen	Dancesport Independent
Gary Ott	Rebels Swing Club
Jeannie Tucker	Independent

## STAR OF THE NORTH SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

Lisa Soldo of Illusions  
Dancer's Studio  
On Your Toes School of Dance  
Dance Shoppe  
Jay Larson  
Nathan Daniels  
Wendy Davies  
David Hanson

Many thanks to you for your support of amateur ballroom dance!



Above: Ellen Ardery doing her job as emcee.  
Bottom Left: Gary Stroick working hard as scrutineer.  
Bottom Right: JanieSorheim and Andy Nordberg showing their winning form.





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# STAR OF THE NORTH COMPETITION RESULTS

Since there are 20 pages of results for all of the events, we will report only multi-dance events --- half in this issue and half in the June issue of *Dancin' Times*.\* In keeping with the Olympic format, only places 1st through 3rd will be printed. Congratulations to all competitors!

## INTERNATIONAL LATIN RESULTS

### Intermediate Collegiate 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Samba

- |   |  |              |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Matthew Schmidt and Sarah Wolstenholme | Ohio State   |
| 2 | Sergei Ivanov and Yen-Hong Lim         | UW - Madison |

### Silver 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Samba

- |   |                            |             |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Dale Johnson and Pam Brose | St Paul, MN |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|

## AMERICAN RHYTHM RESULTS

### Newcomer Cha Cha/Rumba

- |   |                                    |               |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Alan Geronilla and Brita Geronilla | Rochester, MN |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|

### Silver Cha Cha/Rumba/Samba

#### Adult A

- |   |                                 |                           |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Scott Koefod and Carol Post     | Golden Valley/Minneapolis |
| 2 | Tom Sheehan and Elizabeth Smith | Minneapolis/St. Paul      |
| 3 | Ed Stelmach and Heidi Stelmach  | Brook Park, Ohio          |

#### Adult B

- |   |                                |                          |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Ed Stelmach and Heidi Stelmach | Brook Park, Ohio         |
| 2 | Tom Sheehan and Ewa Peczalska  | Minneapolis/Eden Prairie |
| 3 | Wade Warford and Carol Post    | Plymouth/St. Louis Park  |

### Gold/Open Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing/Bolero/Mambo

#### Adult A

- |   |                                 |                            |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Andy Nordberg and Janie Sorheim | Robbinsdale/St. Louis Park |
| 2 | Mark Tepley and Karen Kettler   | St. Paul/Minneapolis       |
| 3 | Ed Stelmach and Heidi Stelmach  | Brook Park, Ohio           |

#### Adult B

- |   |                                |                  |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Ed Stelmach and Heidi Stelmach | Brook Park, Ohio |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|

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Collegiate Beginning 2-Dance Cha/Cha/Rumba

- |   |  |              |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Geoff Ihle and Kelly Clark             | UW - Madison |
| 2 | Sergei Ivanov and Alexandra Ivanshina  | UW - Madison |
| 3 | Rostyslav Boutchko and Julia Verliking | UW - Madison |

Collegiate Intermediate Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing

- |   |                                  |              |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Geoff Ihle and Emily Jean Miller | UW - Madison |
| 2 | Jason Borton and Julie Zarambo   | UW - Madison |
| 3 | Dmitry Lapidus and Yen-Hong Lim  | UW - Madison |

Collegiate Advanced Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing/Bolero/Mambo

- |   |                                    |                           |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Jason Borton and Carolyn Jackson   | University of MN          |
| 2 | Dmitry Lapidus and Yen-Hong Lim    | UW - Madison              |
| 3 | David Castro and Abigehl Bonlender | Macalester College/U of M |

Open Newcomers 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing

- |   |                                    |               |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Alan Geronilla and Brita Geronilla | Rochester, MN |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|

Open Bronze 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing

- |   |                                    |                     |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Geoff Ihle and Kelly Clark         | Madison             |
| 2 | Ken Kendle and Diane McNew         | St Paul/Minneapolis |
| 3 | Rostyslav Boutchko and Anna Snider | Madison             |

Open Silver 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing

- |   |  |                         |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Scott Koefod and Carol Post            | Plymouth/St. Louis Park |
| 2 | Tom Sheehan and Elizabeth Smith        | Minneapolis/St. Paul    |
| 3 | Matthew Schmidt and Sarah Wolstenholme | Ohio State              |

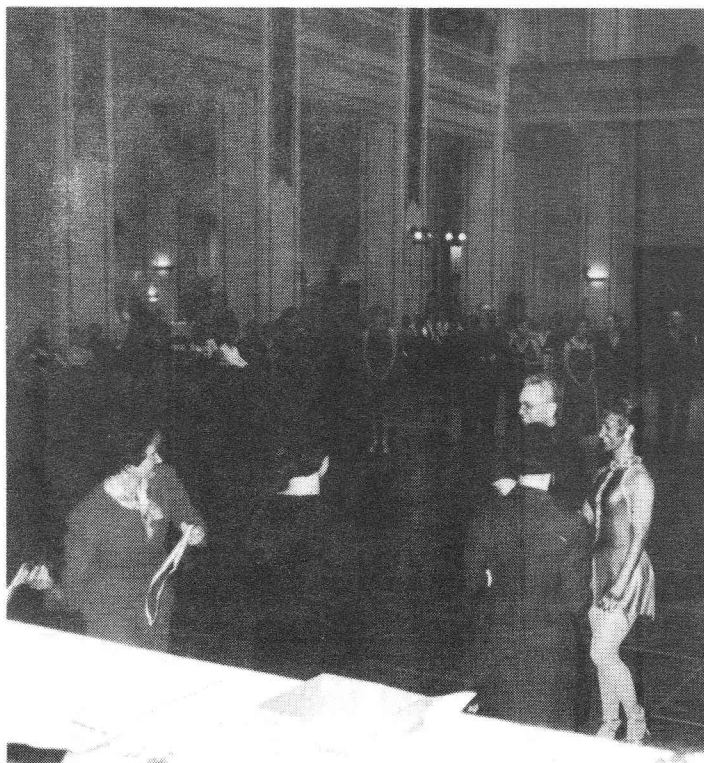
Open Gold 3-Dance Cha Cha/Rumba/Swing

- |   |                                  |                            |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Andy Nordberg and Janie Sorheim  | Robbinsdale/St. Louis Park |
| 2 | Mark Tepley and Karen Kettler    | St. Paul/Minneapolis       |
| 3 | Jason Borton and Carolyn Jackson | Minneapolis                |

\*American Smooth and International Standard events will be reported in June.



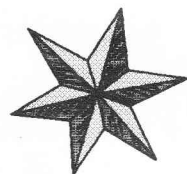
Above: A scene from the competition.  
Below: Scenes from award presentations.



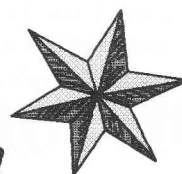
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# A EVENING WITH THE STARS



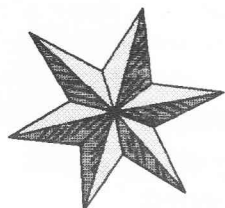
Sunday, June 14, 1998 - Shakopee Ballroom

Admission \$15.00 - Doors Open 7:30 PM

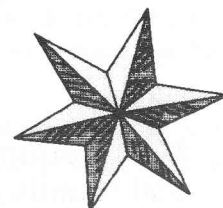
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*Mosteika*



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**Every Thursday, 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
at Twin Cities Ballroom**

## What is it?

A round is a set of the dances for a particular style, one after the other, for about 2 minutes each. As in competition, you may not stop, and you must maneuver around the other careening couples.

## Why do it?

- Improve floorcraft
- Increase stamina
- Test your routines
- Test your partnership
- Build confidence

## How does it work?

Warm-Up (7:30 - 8:00)

Walk through each dance for about 5 minutes.

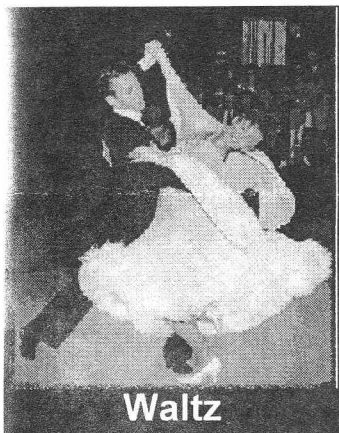
Round 1

Break

Round 2

Break

Round 3



**Waltz**



**Quickstep**



**Tango**



**Foxtrot**



**Viennese Waltz**

Music during warm-up  
and rounds is reserved  
for Rounds participants

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- Join in for any or all dances.
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# Swaplines

\* **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.

**Hot Lime Green & Black 2 Piece Rhythm!** Sz 4-8. AB stoning throughout. Shimmery lycra spandex, skirt moves great. Asking \$325. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**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. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**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. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**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. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Beautiful lavender gown,** heavily stoned bodice, chiffon skirt with feathers, can be worn for American or Modern, asking \$1200. Bernie 933-1874.

**Championship royal blue two-piece** - size 2-6. Asymmetrical cut top and bottom with one side attached. Royal rhinestones throughout, semi-sheer material. \$550. Call Theresa at 704-4405.

**Popular lavender two-piece** - size 2-6. Halter-style top with armbands and earrings and plenty of rhinestones. Bottom has asymmetrical cut and stretch material to fit everyone. Very clean. \$600. Call Theresa at 704-4405.

**Glorious Professional Standard/Smooth Gown** size 2-6. Raspberry and turquoise velvet gown with jewel and rhinestone pattern over entire costume - made for this years Ohio Star Ball. Beautiful matching necklace and earrings. Custom made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Asking \$1550. Call Donna at 932-9449.

**Child's Interchangeable Ballgown & Latin** Sz 4-8. Gorgeous neon orange panne velvet body suit includes chiffon ballgown skirt with orange feathers and long rhythm skirt. Beautiful. \$500. Call Jennifer at 938-0048.

**Vibrant apple-green pearl chiffon dress** has striking contrast of sapphire blue mesh sleeves and sapphire chiffon underskirt. Accented with AB and sapphire stones. Comfortable design fits all sizes 2-6. Worn one competition. Asking 1,000. Carol 926-7648.

**White charmouse smooth gown** has tangerine accents on arm, bodice, and contrasting underskirt. Large crystal stones and 20 gross of AB stones. Would flatter younger dancer or petite figure dancer. Mint condition. Asking 1,000. Size 2-4. Carol 926-7648.

**Consignment costumes.** Interested in a beautiful costume at an affordable price? Available now, a wide selection of used dresses and gowns from dancers around the United States. By Appointment only. Lisa Soldo (612) 922-8667

*Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column.*

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### Star of the North

Results and Articles



### Ice Dancing Meets Ballroom Dancing

At the World Figure Skating Championships



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DEADLINE  
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