Dancin' Times



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

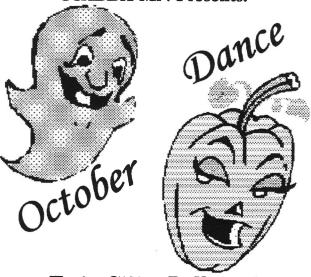
October 1997

DANCERS NITE OUT

- Thu. 10/2 Robert and Jennifer Foster performing portions of "I Won't Dance", City Center Atrium, Mpls, 12:30-1L00 pm.
- Thu. 10/2 Everett Boyer Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661
- Thu. 10/2 Big Band Dance Night-Moonlight Serenaders, Wabasha Street
 Caves, 215 S.Wabasha St., St. Paul, Lesson 6:30 pm, Dance 710 pm, \$5. 224-1191 (Directions: The Caves are across Wabasha St.
 Bridge near down-town St. Paul. The Wabasha St. Bridge is closed for
 repairs go south across the Robert St. Bridge and back to Wabasha St.)
- Fri. 10/3 Five Men Swinging Band, Rendezvous (formerly American Classic) Ballroom, 1628 E.Lake St., Mpls., Lesson 8 pm, Dance 8:30-midnight, \$8/\$6 students, (\$1 off before 9 pm.) 871-3687.
- Fri. 10/3 Armond Rezac Big Band, Shakopee Ballroom, 8:30 pm. 445-0412
- Sat. 10/4 The Bobby Lane Orchestra, Medina Ballroom, Dance 8:30 pm. 478-6661
- Sun. 10/5 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, Dance 7 pm. 941-0906.
- Thu. 10/9 Sammy Jensen Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661.
- Fri. 10/10 FREE Anniversary Dance, On Your Toes School of Dance, 8 pm, 928-7803. See ad on page 10.
- Fri. 10/10 Jack Schultz Big Band, Shakopee Ballroom, 8:30 pm. 445-0412
- Fri. 10/10 MN West Coast Swing Club, B-dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville, Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. 731-9768.
- Wed. 10/15 Dean Olson Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661.
- Thu. 10/16 MAHPERD/USABDA-MN Country Dance, Thunderbird Hotel, 7 pm. See ad on page 14.
- Fri. 10/17 MAHPERD/USABDA-MN Dance for Health, Thunderbird Hotel, 7 pm. See ad on page 9.
- Fri. 10/17 Five Men Swinging Band, Rendezvous Ballroom (formerly American Classic), 1628 E.Lake St., Mpls., Lesson 8 pm, Dance 8:30-midnight, \$8/\$6 students, (\$1 off before 9 pm.) 871-3687.
- Fri. 10/17 Dean Olson Big Band, Shakopee Ballroom, 8:30 pm. 445-0412
- Sat. 10/18 USABDA DANCE. See info this page.
- Sun. 10/19 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, Dance 7 pm. 941-0906.
- Thu. 10/2 Robert and Jennifer Foster performing portions of "I Won't Dance", Mall of America Rotunda, 11:00-11:30 am. See ad on page
- Thu. 10/23 Jim Sturm Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661.
- Fri. 10/24 Paul Heffron Big Band, Shakopee Ballroom, 8:30 pm. 445-0412
- Fri. 10/24 MN West Coast Swing Club, B-dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville, Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. 731-9768.
- Sat. 10/25 Rockin' Hollywoods, 50's & 60's band, TGIS dance, 8:30 pm. 478-6661.
- Thu. 10/30 Jack Schultz Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Dance 7 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661.
- Fri. 10/31 R-Factor, 70's-90's band, Medina Ballroom, 8:30 pm. 478-6661.

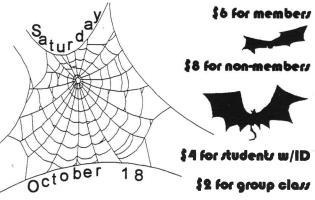
 Nov. 1 Autumn Bash hosted by The Dancers Studio, Sokol Hall.
- For a list of weekly dance opportunities, see page 17.

USABDA-MN Presents:



Twin Cities Ballroom

Corner of W 7th and Walnut in Downtown St. Paul



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 includes both national and local dues. 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 for 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 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.

All questions regarding the newsletter should be directed to:

Jim Baker

USABDA President (612) 476-4843

Newsletter Editor: Janis Livingston

Newsletter Layout: Jason Borton and Carolyn Jackson



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



Notes From the Board

by Melanie Helvig USABDA Chapter Secretary

The Board met on Sept , 1997 and the following items were discussed:

- A committee has been formed to organize the Star of the North Games Ballroom Dance Competition. If you would like to be involved, contact the head of the committe, Steve Vestpested.
- We have three officer and several board member positions coming up for election this December. The officer positons are president, secretary, and treasure. To nominate someone or to apply for one of these positions, contact Jim Baker, 476-4843.
- Jason Borton and David Schmit presented their ideas for setting up an intercollegiate competition team and for getting social dancing programs established in the high schools.
- Please accept our apologies for the lack of air-conditioning at the August Dance.
- The 1996 Dancin' Times was named the number three USABDA newsletters for that year. Congratulations to Shari Akemann for your work as editor.
- The next board meeting will be at 7:15 on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at Wade Warford's place of employment: Laird Plastics Limited, 7150 Boone Ave N. Brooklyn Park, Phone 535-2118.

Competitor's Column Includes regional and USABDA events

Northern Lights Dancesport Extravaganza

Oct 4-5. Dance Shoppe, Plymouth, MN

Contact: Scott & Amy Anderson (612) 431-0936.

Capital City Classic

Nov 9. Hilton Hotel, Raleigh NC

Contact: Patti Anderson-Troy (954) 570-7335.

Ohio Star Ball Championships

Nov 19-23. Regency Ballroom, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus OH, Contact Sam Sodono (614) 8848-7827.

Chicago Harvest Moon Ball Championships

Nov 28-29. Holiday Inn O-Hare Airport Hotel, Rosemont IL, Contact Jay Jarquin (312) 935-4767 or Rich Burnett (708) 782-6770.

11th Annual Intercontinental Intercollegate & **Adult Amateur Dancesport Festival**

Jan 4-12. Workshops, coaching, and competition available. INEXPENSIVE!!! Convention Center, Orlanda FL, Contact Area Coordinator: Jason Borton (612) 529-6978, borton@cems.umn.edu.

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



Produce Expression Training for MN Smooth Dancers in Tampa. Trisha Folestad, Jeff Chinn, Carolyn Jackson, Jason Borton, Janie Sorheim, Andy Nordberg

THANKS AND CONGRATS TO USABDA-MN by Nels Petersen

Miami Beach, Florida - On Sunday evening, September 6, 1997 at the World Amateur Ten-Dance Competition and US Pro-Am and Professional Championships, Nels Peterson and Theresa Kimler and Carol and Gary Stroick received the prestigious Feather Awards. The awards were given for being the top Amateur Rhythm and top Amateur Smooth dancers in the United States, respectively. The presentation, made in front of most of the world's top professional competitors, was a memorable surprise to the foursome.

Two Feather Awards to members of the same USABDA chapter is a rarety. Nels, Theresa, Gary and Carol wish to thank everyone for the generous support and help in bringing home this prestigious national recognition.

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Gary, Carol, Theresa, and Nels proudly display their beautiful Feather Awards.

NATIONAL USABDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LOCAL USABDA - MN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I affirm that I am an Amateur dancer for whom ballroom dancing is strictly an avocation and a recreational activity and/or competitive sport; and who neither seeks nor receives, either at present or in the past, personal material gain from my dancing.

Please print clearly. Dues and donations are tax deductible. This form may be used by two persons residing at the same address.

| Name | Dat | e of | Birth | | Signature | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------|----------|-----|-----------|-------|----------|
| Name | Dat | e of | Birth | | Signature | | |
| Address | | | C: | ity | | State | n.i. |
| Phone: Home () | | | Work | |) | | Zip |
| Membership Category (one for each pe | erson | a) | | | • | | |
| • Social Dancer | | | = \$ | | | _ | |
| • Competitor | | | = \$ | | | 920 | |
| • Students (17 & under) | | | = \$ | | - | | |
| • Students (College) | | | = \$ | | - | | USABDA- |
| Associate (pro supporter) | | | = \$ | | | | |
| • Newsletter Subscription | | \$15 | \$ | | _ | | innesota |
| Total Check Enclosed: | | | \$ | E | - | | Chapter |

USABDA- Minnesota Chapter membership requires national dues. The local subscription rate is \$15 per person for everyone. This is the newsletter subscription. Dues and subscription fees are due annually. The dues depend on membership category (listed above). Please return application with a check made out for the total amount payable to USABDA-MN.

Send to: Joyce Thompson, P.O. Box 13873, St. Paul, MN 55113 (612-489-4012)

ADVICE FROM THE PROS What Is West Coast Swing?

by Eric Remsen

It is a dance that originated in the western and southwestern United States during the 1940s. By the early 1950s, it was being taught in the major dance studios where it was called "Western Swing" or "Sophisticated Swing." In 1958, the Golden State Dance Teachers' Association (GSDTA) began calling it "West Coast Swing." It was an ideal dance for the 50s and early 60s because Blues and Rhythm & Blues were the predominant forms of music being played in dance clubs at that time. The rhythm and feel of that music were a perfect match for the subtle and flowing movements of the dance.

West Coast Swing has since become the official State Dance of California, and it has been continually gaining in popularity. Evidence of this popularity can be seen in the number of "swing dance conventions" that are held throughout the country. About 60 annual events (typically lasting three days) usually attract 500 to 1,000 par-ticipants each. Dancers of every age and level of ability gather to study, to compete, to perform, and to interact socially with one another. The U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships (held each year in Anaheim, California) holds the same stature for swing dancers as does the Ohio Star Ball for ballroom dancers.

What makes West Coast Swing such a compelling dance? First, it's challenging. Building on the principles that are fundamental to all forms of dance (such as connection, center, and frame), it involves a great deal of complexity and technical sophistication. While technique (such as good balance and clean footwork) is a universal standard, styling (such as substituting one rhythm of foot movement for an-other) is variable, highly individualized, and dependent upon the dancer's interpretation of the music. Second, it's a truly interactive dance where both partners share equal roles in spontaneously creating choreography. Skippy Blair, founder of GSDTA, calls this 50/50 partnership a "high-tech game that is played to music." Both the leader and the follower have permission to interpret the music on their own (provided that they honor the technical principles of the dance). Finally, it's a dynamic dance. While the fundamental techniques and principles remain the same, the patterns and style of the dance are in a continuing state of evolution, subject to influences from other forms of dance and from the imaginations of those who dance it.

Several factors distinguish West Coast Swing from the other swing dances. First, there is adherence to a track (or slot). The leader begins a pattern by initiating movement along the track and by defining the direction and length of the track. The follower begins the pattern by taking two walking steps forward (rather than a rock step). Both dancers typically end each pattern with an anchor step. Second, West Coast Swing focuses on subtlety, smoothness, and precision of execution. While it can be (and often is) danced to brisk tempos, it is not a bouncy, aerobic dance like East Coast or Jive. Finally, West Coast Swing has a characteristic "look of elasticity." This is achieved through the interplay of leverage and compression between partners.

While most ballroom studios have a syllabus for West Coast Swing, the dance as it is performed by its most accomplished practitioners has been evolving rapidly over the past decade in an environment that is not directly connected to the ballroom community. It is not surprising, therefore, that the dance has been infrequently oper-formed at ballroom competitions. Happily, this situation is beginning to change. Studio teachers across the nation have begun to study it with the top professionals and to teach it to their students. Some have even gone on to become recognized "West Coast Professionals" and to establish their own national prominence. Dancers who have expertise and experience in other dances have begun to attend swing conventions and to be coached by the top dancers. Novice dancers are attracted to the dance for its universal appeal. West Coast patterns can be adapted to a wide range of musical styles including those to which we traditionally dance Foxtrot, Cha-Cha, and Hustle.

West Coast Swing is a fun dance that presents a challenge to dancers at all levels of expertise. It is truly a dance of the times, requiring technical sophistication, equal partnership, communication, and teamwork.

Eric Remsen teaches at DanceSport where he specializes in West Coast Swing. As a competitior, he is undefeated in the state of Minnesota, and has won or placed at national competitions in California, Colorado, Illinois, and Oklahoma.



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presents

West Coast Swing Basics

Everett McClay V.F.W.

(Six week sessions)

Thursdays

Beginning Oct. 2nd 7:30 PM.

----or----

Sundays

Beginning Oct. 5th 5:30 PM

Member price \$36.00 Non-Member \$50.00 Repeat student special \$20.00

Attention: No refunds after week one. No applications accepted after week two.

Club memberships available \$20.00

West Coast Swing Basics Classes

These classes will cover the basics of West Coast Swing.

Special emphasis is placed on the triple step, leverage and connection in dancing, weight distribution, and lead and follow techniques that will create for you a smooth yet powerful West Coast Swing styling. The same look and styling that is leading the swing world today. Please feel free to ask questions to find out just what this style and look are all about. The club would like to thank the 96 people who enrolled in the summer classes! We expect demand for this fall to be high, so don't be left out in the cold - apply early and join in on all the fun.

Rebels staff members or instructors will be glad to help.

Intermediate level classes are in the planning stages now. Don't miss the boat!

Twin Cities REBELS HOTLINE 941-0906

Paid Advertisement

A new monthly column is being introduced this month. It focuses on advice for hair, makeup and clothing geared towards Dancesport. The articles will feature many useful tips on products, techniques, colors, style and much more. It is designed to give new ideas that can be incorporated into your daily dancing regimen, and to provide helpful hints for the competition floor.

The advice is given each month by our local hair and makeup artists and costumers that specialize in Dancesport styling. In addition, the offer is open to anyone to send in "hints from experience."

We think that you will enjoy this new column, and hope that it will give you yet another reason to look forward to your next issue of the Dancin' Times.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE Advice from Lisa Soldo

Each season brings with it brand new hair trends, and this one is no exception! Since the highly acclaimed movie "Evita" hit the big screen last fall, the elegantly polished, yet fasionably understated, low fan bun has been seen again and again on the competition floor. It's quite a change from the former asymmetrical cone shape styles we've seen for so long in the past. Many versions are created by incorporating curls, braids, barrettes and jewelry just above the bun to add versatility and design.

When it comes to makeup, it too has no exclusion to changing trends. This summer you may have already seen more and more glitter and frosts. With many choices of frosty eyeshadows and body glisteners available, the idea is to rub spare amounts of shimmery makeup on the face to make them attract light and glow. (Try iridescent powder for face and body by M.A.C. cosmetics.) Shimmery makeup whispers instead of screams and still gets the point across. A little light is just right!





DanceSport



in Knollwood Mall, St. Louis Park

are performing in

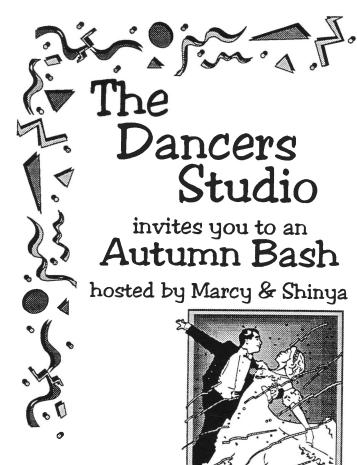
"I Won't Dance"

from Sept. 19 thru Nov. 30 on the McKnight Stage of the Ordway Music Theatre in St. Paul.

ALSO, performing portions of the show at

The City Center Atrium, Mpls. 12:30-1:00 pm, Thursday, Oct. 2

The Mall of America Rotunda 11:00 - 11:30 am, Wednesday, Oct. 22



Featuring professional rhythm show

Julie Jacobson &

Jay Larson

Saturday November 1st

7:30 - 8:30pm Group

8:30 - 11:30pm Dance

SoKol Hall 383 Michigan

> Tickets: \$15 Refreshments available



For More Information call The Dancers Studio at 641-0777

Paid Advertisement

MEMBER PROFILE "The Music Man" — Pete Maki by Janis Livingston

Pete Maki is the music master of USABDA-MN dances and demos. If you have been to any USABDA-MN events you more than likely have listened and danced to Pete's selections of music never knowing the intricate and time consuming job he has perfected for our enjoyment.

Pete comes from Duluth, but now he resides in the Twin Cities and is employed for US West. Apart from technically supporting 911 systems at work, he and his partner, Joyce Thompson, run his Ballroom Dance Tracks business. He has an immense collection of albums, tapes, records, and compact discs. He began hiscollection while being part of a group of jazz music lovers at Ohio State University. This group students put together a jazz show for WOSU FM on a weekly basis taking turns being the D.J.

Currently his business, Ballroom Dance Tracks, keeps him busy. He has alot of equiptment from sound to lighting systems to even a fog machine. Putting all of this together takes 3-3½ hours. He brings his top of the line equipment to USABDA dances and basically is only reimbursed for small items that need constant replacement, such as bulbs and tape. He spends at least a half hour to set up for our monthly dances.

The job of music director for USABDA-MN was turned over to Pete about four years ago. He needs to know the tempo of all the dances and whether the music he has fits the tempo or not. Much editing "on the spot" is done so he is not playing a 30-40 second intro before people can start dancing. Some music needs enhancement to get the proper level of sould so we can hear the beat and phrasing of the music. People see less than 50% of the actual work that goes into this job of USABDA-MN's "music master".

His biggest challenge is finding good music. A piece often sounds good, but is not danceable. Pete says it is rare to get a CD with more than one usable piece. He buys music from dealers

of competitions and scous used record and CD shops. It takes hours of work hunting and tracking down a piece that is usable. If he finds one he buys it and keeps it for himself. He describes the search for music like this: "You search for that something that is just right. It is like finding a 1957 Thunderbird. Once you find it, no amount of monet will let you part with it." All the music he plays is his own. Due to copyright laws, no music is copied and given to him or others.

Pete also serves on the USABDA-MN board of directors. His main concern is the USABDA-MN should continue to be the offical representative of amateur ballroom dancers. "The direction USABDA[-MN] is going is predetermined by National to support **ballroom** dancing." He wants to make sure USABDA-MN is a **ballroom** dance group and he likes his role in promoting "real quality dancing." Other goals Pete has are to "feel our the crowd at each dance and play what that crowd seems to need," (whether more bronze level or more advanced level music like Viennese Waltz or Quickstep).

Pete is interested in a multitude of activities -- "too many to get to and no time to do them." His music and job take up 95% of his time, but he would like to read, cook, plany, and use his cabinet-maker skills.

Does Pete ever get to dance? He has been a dancer since 1989 and started out taking lessons a Fred Astaire in Bloomington. Along with his partner, Joyce Thompson, he will quickly take a turn around the floor during a dance then acoot back to change the music. He says, "Finding a good dance partner is wonderful...well...again, it is like that 197 Thunderbird. You may search and search and once you have that special partner, there is nothing like it. That person is so special, well, nothing can compare to it."

Pete is really good at what he does. We appreciate his generous volunteer hours and expertise. He says, "I am committed to providing the best possible music for our local dancers." Thank you Pete! We are grateful to have you there for us.

Upcoming Dance Demonstrations

10/25 Women's Health Expo

International Market Square, 275 Market St. A half-hour demo (time to be determined), 2 smooth and 3 rhythm couples needed.

11/08 Singles Expo.

Time and place to be determined.

11/25 Monthly Birthday Party!

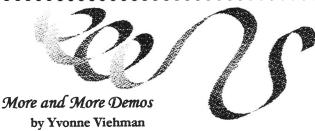
Parkhill Apartments, 3025 Ottawa Ave S, St. Louis Park, 7:30 - 8:15 PM. 2 smooth couples w/gowns & 3 rhythm couples needed.

12/31 A Capital New Year

At the Landmark Center, St Paul, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. More information to follow.

Please call Yvonne Viehman at 553-1202 and identify which demo, which dances and with whom you'd like to dance. You must be a USABDA member to perform at these demonstrations.

Keep on dancin'!



On Saturday July 12, USABDA helped the Lindy Swinger with a find-raiser for "Cars for Kids"! It was a classic car show that took place at Town & Country Dodge in Hopkins. With the assistance of the great 50's band called "The Senders" we were a swingin' "bunch! Many thanks to Steve Jewel for asking us to participate and to Marie Caset, David Schmidt, Linda Loeffler, Joannie Taylor and Yvonne & Dan Viehman for participating. Lots of money was raised for the Ronald McDonald House.

On Wednesday, July 23, Pam & Joe Krayzaniak were special guest performers at a Mall of Americal Dance Celebration from 10 AM - 1 PM in Knott's Camp Snoopy! Many thanks to them for helping out.

MINNESOTANS DANCE IT UP AT THIS YEAR'S USABDA NATIONALS

by Karen Kettler

Over 500 competitors participated in the USABDA National 9-Dance Champions Dancesport Championships at the University of Delaware the weekend of August 7 - 11. Eight couples from our local chapter attended and made an outstanding showing for Minnesota in all styles of ballroom dance (see placements). The couples are pictured below.

The competition was well organized by the Delaware Valley USABDA Chapter and was held in an arena on the university campus. The arena seating offered great sight lines to watch and compare dancers, and cheer on the competitors. One noticeable aspect of this competition was the high level of participation by youth and college dancers (which left some of us feeling our advanced age!). The enthusiasm and skill of these young dancers was great to see.

Honor dances were performed by winners of the championship events in Standard, Latin, Smooth, and Rhythm. Nels and Teri repeated as national champions in American Rhythm and performed their sexy Bolero as an honor dance. Professional shows were presented on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. The crowd was awed by the professional level American Smooth showcased on Sunday even though it was a change from the original plans.

Outside of the competition, the historical Philadelphia area offered great opportunities for sightseeing for several couples and visits with family for Jason and Carolyn. Our USABDA chapter showed itself well -- three out of the top six couples in the American Smooth Championships hail from The Twin Cities!

> "The dancing combined with the camaraderie made for a wonderful, inspiring, and unforgettable weekend!" -- Carolyn

A Quick Breath Between Dances: Jeff Chinn & Trisha Folestad, Mark Tepley & Karen Kettler, Jason Borton & Carolyn Jackson, Nels Peterson & Theresa Kimler, Dale Johnson & Pam Brose, Andy Nordberg & Janie Sorheim, Gary Stroick & Carol Post-Stroick, and Hub Nelson & Celia Mullen.

THE PLACINGS...

Andy & Janie

American Smooth

Adult A Novice Jason & Carolyn - 6th

Adult A Pre-championship Mark & Karen - 1st

Collegiate Championship Jason & Carolyn - 5th

Adult A Championship Gary & Carol - 2nd,

Andy & Janie - 5th, Mark & Karen - 6th

Adult B Championship Gary & Carol - 1st

American Rhythm

Adult A Novice Jason & Carolyn - 2nd Adult A Pre-championship Andy & Janie - 1st, Jeff and Trisha - 3rd,

Mark & Karen - 1

point from finals

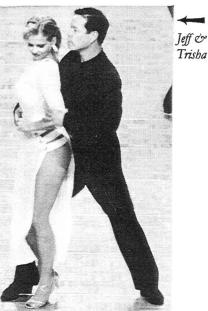
point from finals Collegiate Championship Jason & Carolyn - 5th Adult A Championship Nels & Theresa - 1st, Andy & Janie - 3rd, Mark & Karen - 1

International Standard

Mark & Karen

Hub & Celia - 1 place from finals (7th out of 75 couples)







DANCE FOR HEALTH



Benefit Dance

USABDA and MAHPERD presents.....

"the first Ever Second Monthly Dance!"

Friday OCTOBER 17



52.3

Thunderbird Hotel, Upper Ballroom 2201 E. 78th Street, Bloomington



7 - 8 pm

Dance Exhibition & Lessons

Debut of the newly formed "On Your Toes" Teen Dancers

8 - 11:30 pm Dance

Admission

USABDA members

\$6.00

Guests

\$8.00

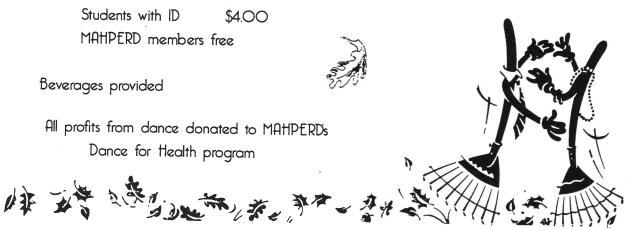
Students with ID

\$4.00

MAHPERD members free

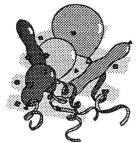
Beverages provided

All profits from dance donated to MAHPERD's Dance for Health program



Questions? Call David Schmit

424-6613



School of Dance



Please accept this invitation to attend our

3rd Anniversary Party!!

When: Friday, October 10th, 1997

8:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Cost:

Free!

Come and celebrate with us! See fabulous performances and dance the night away!

This is a Semi-Formal event. Coats and Ties please. Refreshments will be served.

GN YGUR TGES SCHGGL GF DANCE 5023 Excelsior Blvd Miracle Mile Shopping Center St. Louis Park, MN 55416 928-7803

Paid Advertisement

DANCE LINES

STRICTLY BALLROOM vs. SHALL WE DANCE by Greg Moore

From the island nation that gave us Mad Max comes the 1992 Baz Luhrmann film *Strictly Ballroom*. While from the island nation that gave us Godzilla comes the 1995 Masayuki Suo film *Shall We Dance?* Both will satisfy the narcissistic compulsions of any ballroom addict.

Both are comedies, according to the classical formula: Things start out OK, then fall apart, then come back together again for a happy ending. In SB, Scott Hastings is the rising amateur star who is bored with standardized ballroom and hungers for a dance style with more muscle. In SWD Mr. Sugiyama is the jaded corporate executive, husband, and father whose rat-race blues disappear when he sees the lovely Miss Mai gazing wistfully out of a dance studio window. Each hero slogs his way out of ennui, battling tradition and cultural standards as he goes.

We have two angles on ballroom here. Most of the SB, characters are shallow, pretentious, treacherous --- for them ballroom is a business, and where you go depends on who you know. The players in SWD are a sensitive, sincere lot --- likable working class stiffs who just want to add a bit of color to their otherwise gray lives.

They share the themes: (1) Dancing for the pure joy of it, (2) The expert learning from the beginner, and (3) Loyalty to your partner. In other dance movies, such as Saturday Night Fever, Flashdance, and Dirty Dancing, such themes were trampled under a stampede of music, flashy camera work, and erotic delights. But SB and SWD keep theme in the spotlight. The lure of provocative moves and costumes is undercut by cheesy dancing and outrageous behavior. Sensual appeal is tightly controlled by satire, supporting the theme rather than distracting from it.

These movies also share many structural elements, as if both directors were working out of the same toolbox. Both present an impressive array of hapless supporting characters. In SB, Shirley and Doug Hastings, Scott's mom and dad, are a study

in opposites. She is showy, bossy, and emotionally unstable. He is drab, submissive, and emotionally absent. Scott's pal Wayne is an uncomplicated chap whose primary goal in life is to learn some vile little samba figure called the Pago-Pago. Scott's competition is Ken Railings, a sly, scheming lush whose only distinction is his unfortunate taste for white tuxedos. And there's Barry Fife, president of the Australian Dance Federation, who has lied and manipulated his way to the top and will do anything to stay there. In SWD, Sugiyama's fellow students are Tanaka, an obese and painfully shy diabetic, and Kimoto, a pugnacious little know-it-all. Toyoko is the bull female of the studio, a Tugboat Annie in drag who works three jobs to pay for lessons and bullies the men without mercy. Miss Mai is the instructor, a tall, whisper-thin ballroom princess whose icy demeanor does not hide the sadness in her eyes.

Children and old folks are important catalysts in both stories. Scott's grade-school sister provides incisive commentary throughout the story ("A bit of musicality, puh-LEASE!"). Scott's would-be-partner, Fran, lives with her Spanish father and grandmother on the other side of the tracks. It is granny who introduces Scott to the earthy charm of the Paso Doble. "Feel the rhythm here," she urges as she thumps out a flamenco rhythm on his bare chest. And it is Fran's father, grizzled and brooding, who harnesses Scott's boyish zeal and teaches him to dance with passion and pride. Sugiyama's teenage daughter plays confidant, go-between, and counselor to her parents. Toyoko's daughter informs Sugiyama that her mother's hard-bitten manner hides a genuine fondness for him. Tamako-sensei is the sweet, unflappable mistress of the studio who teaches dance, settles arguments, and gently engineers partnerships. It is she who opens Sugiyama's heart to the inner joy of dancing: "Dance begins with the dancer's feelings."

Each hero is driven by emotional forces beyond his control toward a goal he does not fully understand. Scott wants to find his own style of dancing, but his search amounts to nothing more than dancing in front of the mirror after everyone has left the studio. Flashy stuff, but it's a lonely little show. Enchanted by Miss Mai's melancholy, Sugiyama braves the perils of the dance studio hoping to win her heart. But Toyoko shoots a hole in his little fantasy. "You're not the first," she comments mockingly, "We'll see how long you last." (ouch!) Before long, Sugiyama learns that falling for your dance teacher is a risky game.

Each hero discovers that his true reward is quite different from anything he expected. Initially, Scott is reluctant to accept Fran as his partner. He is a champion, she is a beginner. But when he submits to the teachings of her working class family his quest takes on new direction and meaning. Sugiyama's infatuation with Mai matures into a love for dancing itself. Because ballroom requires a level of physical intimacy that is "regarded with suspicion" in Japanese culture, he conceals his new love from his family. But, while he's sneaking away to the studio, his dutiful wife pines for him at night, sadly pacing through the steps in

a dance instruction book. In trying to protect himself from embarrassment, he cannot receive the gift his wife wants so much to give him.

Luhrmann's central characters must brave the prejudices and maneuverings of ballroom powermongers in order to find an expression that is sincere and artful. Masayuki's players must struggle against cultural commandments so that they may enjoy the forbidden fruit of ballroom. Luhrmann's message is that ballroom has a lot to learn. Masayuki's message, on the other hand, is that ballroom has a lot to teach. If Luhrmann has scared anyone away from dancing with Strictly Ballroom, then perhaps Masayuki will bring them back with Shall We Dance.



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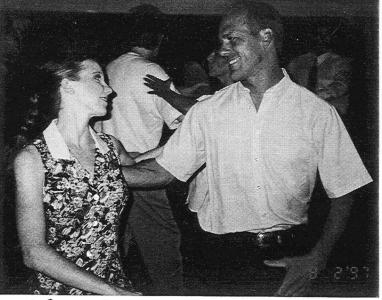








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Social Dancing

Photography by Elaine Barrett Thoughts by Carolyn Jackson

Minnesota is pleased to call itself home to some of the finest amateur competitors in the United States. But let's not forget the fine dancers in the area who strut their stuff at our local USABDA dances. Here are four local couples showing off for the camera.



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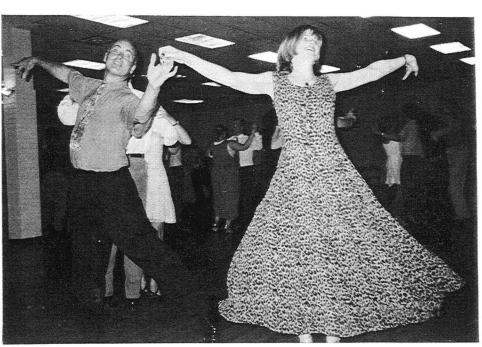
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The photos on this page were taken at the USABDA-MN monthly dance in June. Those on the facing page were taken at the July USABDA-MN Dance held August 2nd. These dancers are having so much fun, I'm ready for the next dance today!

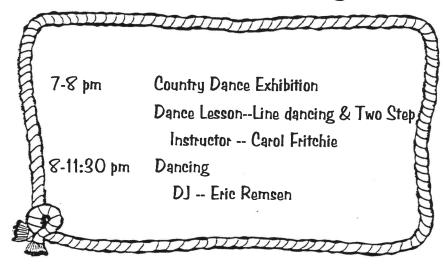


COUNTRY DANCE for BALLROOM DANCERS! (???)

in celebration of the annual MAHPERD state convention

Thursday OCTOBER 16

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Admission

USABDA members \$6.00

Guests

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Students with ID

\$4.00

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All profits from dance donated to USABDA Youth & College Dance program



For more information, call David Schmit 424-6613

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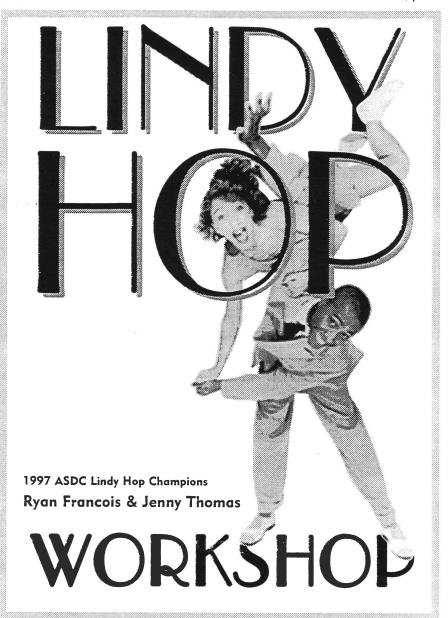
From London, England, two of the best known and most sought-out instructors on the Lindy Hop scene come to the Twin Cities for a progressive 3-day weekend of styling and technique, from beginning to advanced levels.

Ryan, creator of the popular line dance "Jitterbug Stroll" and founder of the authentic jazz dance company "Zoots and Spangles" (based in London), brings with him an enthusiasm born of the original dance style of the 1930s and 40s.

Jenny, winning dance trophies since she was a child, is a stellar performer and furnishes enough energy and pizazz to win over anyone even the least bit interested in Lindy or swing.

Together, Ryan and Jenny teach the dance in a way that is fun and inspirational as well as clear, precise, and exceedingly helpful.





The workshop will begin Friday at 7:00 pm and continue all day Saturday and Sunday. Eight sessions will progress from the basics through advanced styling. Sunday includes separate classes for leaders and followers. The sessions build on each other, so we strongly urge you to start with the beginning session. Some prior swing dance experience is helpful. The whole weekend package is \$80 (individual sessions are available). Call for a brochure. Class sizes are limited, so please register early.

For More Information and Registration Form

CALL (612) 920-7648

masci001@tc.umn.edu

Tango with the Issues

One or Two?

by Janis Livingston

Our members have noted that there seems to be less opportunity to social ballroom dance on the weekends. Requests have been made that the USABDA board consider adding a second monthly dance to its roster of



activities. Before this new project is undertaken, we would like to look at all of the pros and cons. Logistically, more work and involvement of members in carrying out the planning of when, where and how (lining up of the volunteers) would be needed. Do we have a large enough volunteer base to do that?

Would you support this new activity? Would having two dances dilute the attendance, or enhance enjoyment, by the floor being less crowded? Should one dance be designated more toward newcomers and bronze level dancers or does this separate the "experts" and "beginners" so that neither benefit from dancing you take personal responsibility for? with each other? Should one dance be promoted to youth and collegiate or would this become a "youth" versus "seniors" dance believe that all of us have a responsibility to reach out and thus in advertently causing an age-gap?

Let us also consider the dance studios and how this would affect their monthly dances. The independent studios have carefully set their dances so as not to conflict with USABDA and each other. We want to work hand in hand with the people who are teaching us to dance and not become competitors for the social dance dollar. USABDA dances are one way we make money to fund our projects. The studios need to keep bringing in new students to maintain business.

Yes, we do need the fun and camaraderie of social dancing. (I bet we all agree on that!) The question is... Should USABDA-MN provide a second monthly dance to its members and the community?

As always let us know what your opinions are. The board will act upon your recommendations. Please respond to the editor as noted on the last page, or tell a board member your ideas before the end of October.

NOTICE: We are now providing yet another way to share your ideas and opinions. Just look for the Dancin' Times poster at the USABDA dances.



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WHERE ARE THE DANCE BUDDIES? by David Schmit

For those of you that attended the USABDA Beginners Dances last year you are familiar with the term Dance Buddies. Dance Buddy was the title given to USABDA volunteers that gifted their time and talents to support beginning dance students. Dance Buddies were there to provide beginning dancers with a partner that knew how to lead or follow. They were much more than a dance partner, however. Some of their other duties included:

- -- Welcome new people at the door.
- -- Introduce USABDA and ask how we can help.
- -- Assist the dance instructor as a demonstrator.
- -- Introduce dancers to one another.
- -- Insure everyone has a dance partner or find one for them.
- -- Instruct all dancers in proper dance etiquette.
- -- Help clean up after the dance has ended.

As a member of your dance club, how many of these duties do

Many of our dances are attracting beginning or non-dancers. I welcome our new guests. With your support and assistance, I will be asking a number of you to be Dance Buddies at our upcoming dance events. If you would like to become actively involved in this project, please call David at 424-6613.

Being a Dance Buddy is a wonderful way to give back the support and assurance that you needed when you were a beginner. Give a hand ... be a Buddy!

ROMANCE OF BALLROOM DANCE

Want to work for a national dance magazine in the north metro area of Coon Rapids?

Dancing USA magazine is seeking customer service/circulation person full-time. Experience required. Must have computer skills for data enty or fullfillment program even better. Great phone customer service skills required. You will talk to people everyday about dance all over the US.

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Swaplines

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).

Elegant Red Cocktail-style Rhythm! Sz 6-8. Flared skirt w/AB stoning on criss-cross spaghetti straps and bodice. Matching dance trunks. \$175 obo. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

Beautiful Midnight Blue Rhythm! Sz 4-8. 1 piece. Panne 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).

Gorgeous Fuschia Pink American Style Ballgown! Sz 6-8. AB stoning and sequins on top, chiffon floats, boning style hem. Moves & looks great on floor! Asking \$500. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

Wonderful Starter Ballgown. Sz 6-8. Royal blue bodice and skirt with black sparkle chiffon assymetrical acents. Great for Brinze 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.

Exquisite petite standard gown size 2-6. Lime and Crocus. Newest empire waisted style. Must see this custom made Marsha Wiest-Hines costume in person. Asking \$1,700. Call Donna at 932-9449.

Elegant Petite Standard Gown, Sz 2-6 Gold and White with fashionable dropped waist and unpleated skirt. Bodice shimmers with gold beads and AB stones. Removable cape allows dress to be worn with gloves for American smooth or shows. Asking \$1000. Call Donna 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.

Child's American Ballgown Sz 4-6. Baby pink and blue lace with chiffon skirt & gloves. Adorable! Worn once. \$100. Lisa 922-8667.

Purple Fringe! Sz 6-12. 2-piece rhythm. Funky purple fringe with soft blue stoning. Beautiful contrasting colors. \$300 or best offer. Lisa 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.

Don't forget to send your pictures and articles to: Janis Livingston.
To get your event listed in the Dancers Nite Out, contact Dorothy
Jones. To submit advertisements, please call Jim Baker.

President's Corner

Another September has arrived and with it National Ballroom Dance Week. The chapter has a strong start for NBDW. Two of our competitive couples Nels Peterson with Theresa Kimmler and Gary and Carol Sroick are the recipients of National Feather awards. This was the second time for Nels and Theresa and the first for Gary and Carol. Congratulations. This is the first time that any chapter has two recipients the same year! Another first for USABDA Minnesota.

We are happy to acknowledge the success of our competitive couples but must not forget that a majority of our members are not competitive dancers but are social dancers. Ballroom dancing is growing and so is the chapter.

We have another first for our chapter The Minnesota chapter was recognized as one of the top chapters in the country in Amateur Dancer for recruiting 26 new members in June. Hats off to everyone for your efforts. Lets keep Minnesota on the list and add us as a Quality chapter by reducing g the delinquency rate on National dues to below 15%. Historically we have been 25-30%. Through just a little effort we are at 20%. Think what we could do with a lot of effort. Please renew your dues on time.

Jim Baker

COMING NEXT MONTH...

National Ballroom Dance Week Demonstrations and the USA BDA Grand Ball

If you have pictures or stories to share, contant Janis Lyingston (see postage stamp on next to last page).



Weekly Dance Opportunities...

Monday

Four Seasons Dancing, Argentine Tango 7 pm, Quest Club, Mpls. 342-0902.

Wednesday

Free West Coast Swing Lesson, Camp Snoopy, Mall of America, 10:00-11:00 am.

Thursday

- Four Seasons Dancing, Salsa basics 7pm, Intermediate Salsa 7:30 pm and FREE Practice Party 8:30-9:30 pm, Mpls. 342-0902.
- Medina Ballroom, 8pm, bands vary, 478-6661.

Friday

- Shakopee Ballroom, 8:30pm, bands vary, 445-0412.
- Four Seasons Dancing, 8:00pm, Intermediate ballroom lesson and FREE party, Mpls, 342-0902.
- Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, 8pm, bands vary, 561-0206.

Dancin' Times

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| *Jim & Kay Mondo, St. Paul | 770-1651 |
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| Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, St. Louis Park | 928-7803 |
| *Northwest Health Clubs, Minneapolis | 546-6554 |
| *On Your Toes School of Dance, St. Louis Park | 928-7803 |
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- ✓ Member Profile ~~ Pete Maki by Janis Livingston
- ✓ Dance Lines

 "Strickly Ballroom vs. Shall We Dance"

 by Greg Moore



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