

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

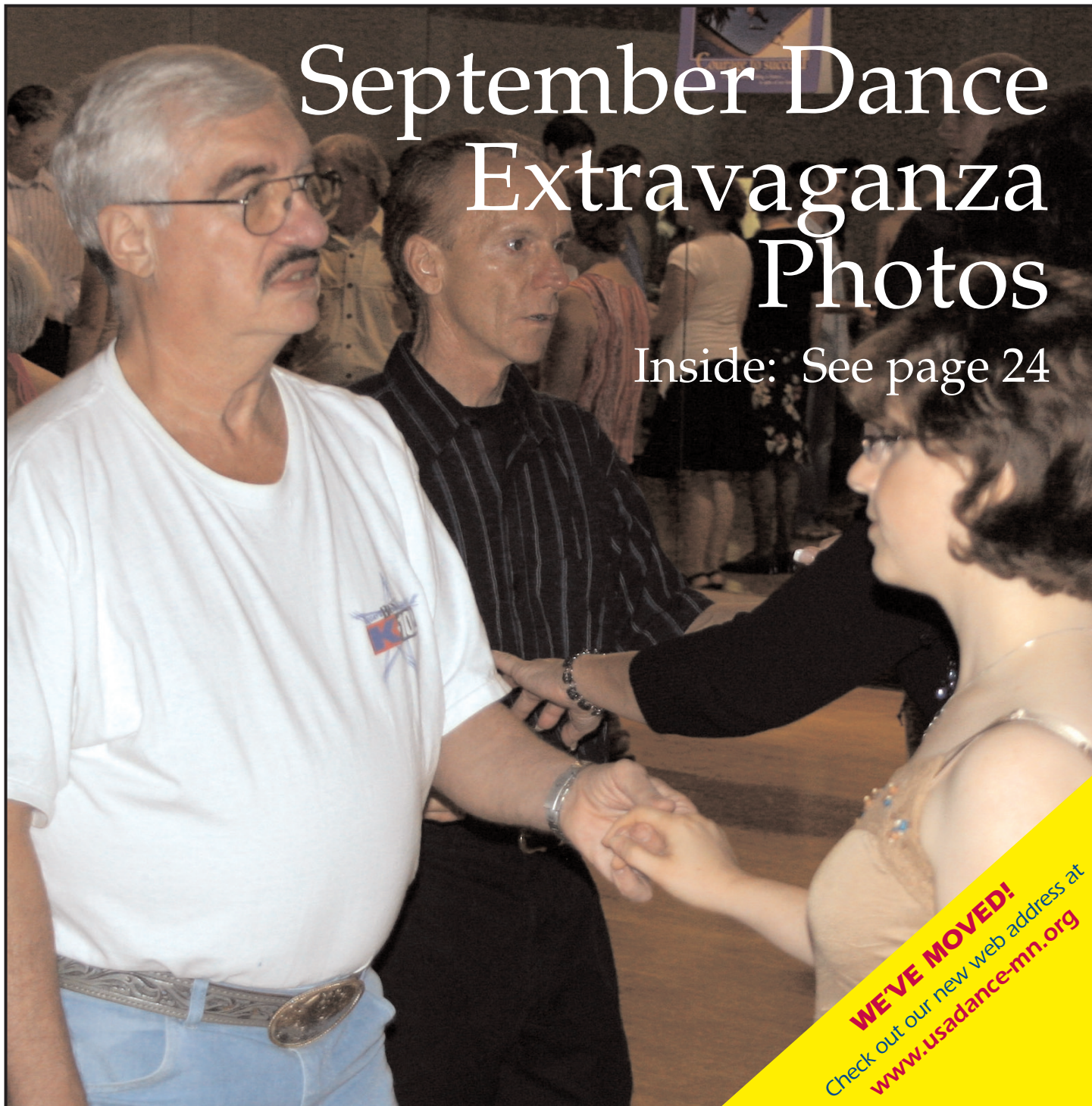


A publication of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance

October 2006

September Dance Extravaganza Photos

Inside: See page 24



WE'VE MOVED!
Check out our new web address at
www.usadance-mn.org

Inside this month's issue...

Minnesota Goes to Nationals & Dancing Can Make You Laugh!



Dancers Nite Out



- Fri., 10/06 – Country Night @ Shakopee Ballroom, DJ & music by Bob Wood; Line Dance Lesson @ 7:40pm, Partner Dance Lesson @ 8:00pm; Dancing from 8:20-midnight; Admission: \$6. FMI: bwood@mm.com or 651.481.0024.
- Sun., 10/08 – Jan Garber 12-piece Orchestra at Medina Entertainment Center, Highway 55, Medina, 12:45pm Lesson, Dancing 1:30pm-5:00pm; \$14 in advance; \$17 at the door; FMI: www.medinaentertainment.com.
- Fri., 10/13 – Dance Party by Scott Anderson, The Dance Shoppe, 2800 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth, 7:00pm beginner waltz/rumba lesson \$10; Dance Party 8:00-10:30pm \$10. FMI: 612.816.4446.
- Fri., 10/20 – Country Night @ Shakopee Ballroom, DJ & music by Bob Wood; Line Dance Lesson @ 7:40pm, Partner Dance Lesson @ 8:00pm; Dancing from 8:20-midnight; Admission: \$6. FMI: bwood@mm.com or 651.481.0024.
- Sat., 10/21 – **USA Dance Monthly Dance** at Dancer's Studio, 99 N. Snelling, St. Paul; free lesson @ 7pm; dancing @8-11pm – see ad this page!
- Sun., 10/22 – Dancer's Delight at Medina Entertainment Center, Special Variety Dance Music by D.J. Gail Zimmerman, MC, Betty Ernst, Instructor, Caroline Olson for waltz lesson @ 2:15pm. Dancing from 2-5pm; Admission: \$5. (similar dances hosted on 11/12/06 and 12/10/06 – mark your calendars!)
- Fri., 10/27 – Dancer's Studio Halloween Party, 99 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul; 9-10:30pm; come in costume and win prizes! FMI: www.dancersstudio.com.
- Sat., 10/28 – Halloween Dance Bash!! 8pm – 12 midnight at Harmonies Dance Center, 10726 France Ave. S., Bloomington; hosted by DJ, Bob Wood with a variety of dance music! Potluck, BYOB; Admission: \$7. FMI: bwood@mm.com or 651.481.0024.
- Sat., 10/28 – Halloween Spooooohtacular Halloween Dance and Costume Contest with "The Dweebs" doors open at 7:30pm, music begins at 8:30pm, Medina Entertainment Center, Hwy 55, Medina; Admission: \$13; FMI: www.medinaentertainment.com.
- Sat., 11/11 – 4th Annual Gala Benefit Ball and Show of Beyond Ballroom Dance Company! Held at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Avenue, St. Paul; 7:00pm; enjoy dancing, live and recorded music, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, fabulous preview show of new season! Tickets: \$25; FMI: www.beyondballroom.org.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio (651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Babalu (612) 240-9053
800 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis. Monday Salsa Caliente Night; dance from 9pm-1am; cover \$5. Saturday Salsa Live Music Night; free salsa lesson at 9:30pm, dance to live latin music from 9pm-2am; cover \$10.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
www.cafebailar.com Social dance club specializing in Latin and Ballroom dancing holding dances twice a month at Fosters' Dancesport Studio, 816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday every month. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance 8:30-midnight.

DNO continued on page 27

Enjoy the humor in
dance at USA Dance's

October Dance



**Saturday,
October 21st**

Group class 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Dance 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

The Dancer's Studio

South on Snelling from 94, #99 on the Right

Free Lesson with paid admission to the dance!

\$5 Age 25 and under
\$7 USABDA members
\$10 non-members

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467

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

Inside this issue... Dancing Can Make You Laugh

Omission

The Dancing Times tries hard to keep track of all of our busy dancers (pro/am and am/am).

If you have results that we miss and would like them printed please pass them on to us.

At this year's Twin Cities Open, Jessica Madson and Emanuel Ardeleanu won the following two awards:

First Place in the Amateur Closed Bronze Rhythm Championship
Top Amateur Couple

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From the Board

*Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance Board Meeting
- September 5th, 2006*

Members present: Mike Jones, Erik Pratt, Debbie Thornquist, Jeff Skaalrud, Emanuel Ardeleanu, Cheri Rolnick, Frank Kohlasch, Dan Viehman, Janelle Huff, Steve Vespested, Sharon Kennedy.

Call to order: A quorum was established. Agenda was reviewed, modified, and approved. Minutes from July and August were reviewed and approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's: The August dance was at the Dance Shoppe in Plymouth. Scott Anderson taught a fun lesson - thank you, Scott! Pete and Joyce ran the music - we appreciated your help and the variety of music you provided! A deposit was paid to reserve the Shakopee Ballroom for the Star of the North.

Monthly Dances: Clarified that people who join USADance for the first time at a monthly dance receive free admission to that dance. Discussed ways to keep costs low for students and young adults to encourage attendance. Passed a motion that people 25 and under will get in for \$5 at the monthly dances.

Tea Dance: The date is being reserved at the Lafayette Country Club. The first Sunday in May was not available, so a different Sunday close to that time will be chosen. The first Sunday in May 2008 is reserved for us.

Website: The transition to usadance-mn.org is practically done. Thank you so much for the time put in by Tom and the website committee to make this transition a reality!

National Ballroom Dance Week: Rapit Printing is printing posters designed by Min; they will be ready for distribution this week. A Governor's Proclamation is pending stating that September 15-24, 2006 shall be observed as National Ballroom Dance Week in the State of Minnesota (wow!). The Dance Extravaganza on Sept 16 is our kick-off event. Dan presented information on setting up and organizing the Dance Extravaganza events. There will be a demo at Mall of America on Sept 18, featuring a Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Dean and Mary Constantine. The closing event will be held at Maddy B's on Sun, Sept 24. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked so hard to organize and promote this NBDWeek!

Old Business:

1) The Board was provided with website links with information on encouraging dancing in the schools. Contact Mike J. if anyone would like further information.

2) The Board reviewed the mission and plan for Minnesota PerformDance Production's Christmas Show. This is an exciting new event that will prominently feature ballroom dancing. The Board approved purchasing two ads in their program.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 3, 7:30-9 pm
Teacher Federal Credit Union (west building)
6681 Country Club Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55427

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

Membership in **USA Dance** is open to dancers of all levels. There are several categories to choose from: Social, Competitor, Junior (17 and under), Collegiate, and Associate (professional/instructor).

USA Dance MN sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members are entitled to discounts on admission to the monthly dances, as well as access to a great network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the **USA Dance MN HOTLINE:** 651-483-5467.

The *Minnesota Dancing Times* is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

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Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity and content. Photos will be returned. Please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or send high quality jpgs to Anne LaTourelle.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Anne LaTourelle, 6130 Ives Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442.

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (**high quality pdf or jpeg format ONLY**) or camera-ready artwork to **Cathy Dessert (651-415-0375 or cathydessert@comcast.net)** along with payment to **USA Dance MN**.

Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee, contact Janie or Eileen. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high	\$130
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$80
	OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high	
Qtr. page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$60
Business Card	3 consecutive months	\$50

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only).

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH
©2006 USA Dance

At Least We Can Laugh! from Anne LaTourelle

So, when a bunch of dancers get together to sit around a talk about dancing, what can you expect to hear? One might expect to hear about their great exploits, their fabulous titles and experiences, their competitions, demos, shows, partners, costumes, coaches, you get the idea. Certainly, there are times when they do discuss some of these but more frequently what you hear about are all the funny stories.

You will hear stories of Mark & Karen Tepley literally crashing into each other not once but twice at a Dancing The Night Away show. Of course, they were front and center on stage at the time and it was caught on tape for all to watch. You'll reminisce with Janie and Andy Nordberg as they recall their comedic presentation at a Dancing The Night Away performance with Andy in a large wig that "conveniently" goes flying off. You'll hear about flying hair pieces, costume malfunctions (think Janet

Jackson), couples crashing into other couples, missed choreography and the like.

One of the best things about local shows like Dancing The Night Away or Ballroom Blast was to gather together after the show to watch the taping. Each couple usually has something funny to share. Be it a strange look that passes between the couple, or dropped choreography we air our dirty laundry. Why do we do it? Why point out our short comings? I for one feel it builds camaraderie and makes us all feel that no matter how advanced the couple or accomplished the performance, it could always be better. Nothing is as bonding as listening to Nels Petersen point out how he and Theresa goofed up or had to adjust or forgot to do something. To us it was seamless but they see the humor.

Read on in this issue to hear about some other humorous moments. ■

Humorous Dance Moments

Funny Stories Shared By Others

Mike Youngdahl:

The funniest thing I have seen happened at Star of the North, when we had it at the First Trust Center in St. Paul. It was just before awards were to be presented. Quiet and mild mannered Greg Moore was the emcee. As per usual at all dance competitions, chaos was the order of the day, with competitors pressing forward to the emcee stand. I was standing in the far corner looking at the mayhem, when Greg quietly said, "Hey, back off."

It was hilarious. It was so understated. Some people "got it." While others were oblivious, I nearly wet my pants.

Dan & Yvonne Viehman:

The On Your Toes formation team performed at the Mall of America Rotunda and during the waltz routine, when ladies were to kind of promenade around their partner as the guys were in an outside circle and the ladies on an inside circle. Cheri Rolnick got a little disoriented with that MOA space and ended up missing her partner and running to a new spot in the circle to catch up - Dan and I were baffled by how she was able to gracefully get back to her position without losing a step of choreography!! Amazing!

Another moment was when I was at a competition and a "revealing moment" occurred while Bobby Tarnowski was dancing with Monica Mohn. She makes her own gowns so wonderfully. yet this gown had straps that criss-crossed in the back and one of the straps came loose during the waltz revealing her right breast to the crowd! With all the charm and

FUNNY STORIES continued on page 7

Humorous Dance Moments

That's Not Funny!

By Mike Jones

...But it was supposed to be. At least that's what we were going for.

So what do you do when you'd like to be funny? You know, like when you're expected to give a toast or say a couple of words to any type of group event or presentation. Jokes can help but it's all in the presentation.

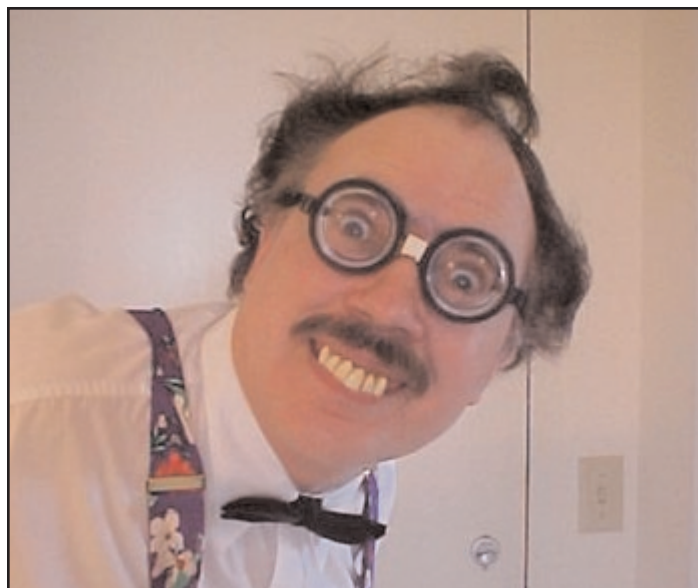
We're dancers so we're supposed to know a lot about presentation. But dancing levity is based on movement and actions. Some people can be quite humorous with little effort while some others can't get beyond looking dumb. So how does one act funny? Personally, I've found that tripping and/or falling can help. There's something about a misfortunate character falling down (and falling hard) that lets the audience know that it's OK to find humor in my malady. Of course, I'm referring to my stint as the infamous Houlet Himmin AKA the Nerd.

Some of you may have seen my alter ego dancing with Lois Donnay at the last Dancin' the Night Away and Ballroom Blast productions. We also did a few other shows including the talent contest at the Minnesota State Fair. My original inspiration for this character was from Shinya McHenry at the Dancers Studio. He can nerd it up like nobody's business. Anyhow, it was almost scary how well I also took to the nerd character. It was something that I was able to do right. Which by definition (because I was a nerd) means that I was doing something wrong. So I did wrong right.

For the last show, I tried to come up with an new and totally different act that involved humor in a group comedy routine. That meant trying to direct a group of other people on how to be funny. Well, to make a long story short we ran out of time and the whole plan fell flat on its face. That's one fall that wasn't funny.

I sure do miss the nerd. Perhaps he'll return for a command performance sometime. Possibly Shinya and I could be dueling nerds. That would be a sight that could curdle milk.

In the mean time, my advice to someone else that's trying dance humor is to invent a character around your basic humorous premise. Then learn the choreography correctly without aberration. After which proceed to goof it up. Having a straight man or straight woman for partner makes for a good contrast and someone to play off of. Don't forget the kneepads, because you don't want falling



down to be your down fall. Props and the costume are definitely very important. Attention to detail celebrates your prodigious patheticness.

If someone out there is trying their own form of dance humor routine and they would like some nerdly advice, feel free to contact me. It's not always easy to do something wrong right, but we'll have at it and/or fall down tryin'.

And now for some particularly cheesy dance riddles and humor:

Q1 How does a witch doctor ask a girl to dance?

Q2 Why didn't the skeleton dance at the disco?

Q3 What dance do you do at the end of summer?

This mushroom walked into a dance club and asked this girl to dance.

She replied "Are you kidding? You are a mushroom!"

And the mushroom replied "Ah come on, I am a FUN GUY".

A1 Voodoo like to dance with me?

A2 Because he had no body to dance with.

A3 Tan go ■

Save the Date:
**The Minnesota
Snow Ball
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January 6, 2007**

*The largest and most
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**Fabulous show by 5-time World 10-Dance Champions
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**For more information contact Donna Edelstein or Paul
Botes at 763 557- 6004 thesnowballcomp@msn.com**

Humorous Dance Moments

FUNNY STORIES continued from page 4

grace of a true performer, she kept right on dancing making adjustments to cover her bare breast and at the end of the song quickly tucked the strap into place and went on to the next dance!

Another moment: Dan's first time at the microphone at Landmark Center made him sweat! We'd just finished dancing and I went to change costumes, so he took the mic to introduce Theresa and Nels as they prepared for a rumba solo. Dan introduced them and looked to Pete Maki to start the music. To his astonishment, Pete was over yonder with the tape reeling out of the cassette holder! Dan had to fill the dead space as we waited for the malfunction to be fixed. Not knowing what to say or how to ramble on the mic like his wife does, he graciously told the audience that "we'll be right back after we handle some technical difficulties." I didn't know whether to chuckle or cry for him as I was hearing this over the PA system in the dressing room! Fortunately, the tape was fixed and we've moved on to music on CD!!

Another moment: At a demo at the St. Joseph's Home for Children, the only space to change was in a stairwell near where we were performing. We agreed to it before looking in that space...the stairwell floor had roughly 10 mousetraps strewn about and one had captured a mouse! Eek!! We had a great time dancing despite the traps!

One last moment: At a demo at a senior residence, one couple, Eddie and Edie, were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. So we decided to ask them; what was the key to wedded longevity? Eddie responded as he looked at his wife, "Do as you're told!"

Tom LaTourelle

Anne and I were at a demo at a nursing home. I can't remember the name of it but as usual, there were many more ladies than gentlemen watching. When the time came for us to dance with residents in the audience I had a very, very elderly lady approach me. As Anne stood next to me she reached up and grabbed my bicep and said "I haven't touched anything that hard in 50 years". Anne seemed to find it extremely funny.

Nathan Daniels

Okay, so here's a funny one; I was dancing in my first Rising Star Final at the Ohio Star Ball. My partner and I had made the top six out of 25 couples and were ecstatic. We danced the Cha Cha and all was going really well.

Then came the Rhumba! We started off and then -- I forgot my routine - completely blanked out! So, in my infinite wisdom, I thought -- I'll just do lead and follow and will trigger myself back into the routine. Well, I started to lead an open Cuban walk (you know, when the girl is paraded around the outside of a circle attached to your hand), and that's where it stayed -- FOR 45 SECONDS! Not only could I not remember my routine, I couldn't even remember what steps I knew to lead and follow! Eddie Simon was there watching and his comment was - "God she's great at that Cuban walk arm styling -- and she has so many variations on that theme!" Anyway, the real 'kicker' to the story was that WE WON THE RHUMBA! Go figure!

Anonymous:

First let me set the stage... a solo couple is dancing a theatre arts number with lifts. The judges are seated along the edge of the dance floor with their clipboards, all eyes on the one couple. The audience is doing the same. The couple is middle-aged and dances as a hobby, something they enjoy doing together.

The music is playing. They are at least midway through the performance. She is lifted with great effort on his part as evidenced on his face each time he successfully does it, entirely above his head. I am holding my breath as I watch. She snakes down around his shoulders and then around to his back and suddenly her heel catches in his pants and the zipper of his pants unzips! This sets off a reaction from the audience of titters and gasps. The judges struggle to maintain their composure. One in particular is having difficulty staying in his chair because he is shaking trying to hold in the laughter!

The couple continues dancing. She is oblivious. Fortunately for him, he has a long shirt that covers the essentials! Gravity continues to tug the pants earthward. As the music ends, the couple bow, walk off the floor and he courageously pulls up his pants and makes his exit. Meanwhile, the judges, especially the one shaking with mirth, burst out with laughter, tears, and fall to the floor. The audience cheers. The guy really maintained his dignity in an undignified situation! ■

DRACULA

STATE THEATER OCTOBER 27-28

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Humorous Dance Moments

Funny Moments in Dance!

By Anne LaTourelle

Through the years of dancing, Tom and I we have seen and been involved with a bunch of funny things. Some times they don't seem funny at the time but become funny later on...when you reflect on them.

These comical moments seem to fall in one of several big categories.

The first category; the floor.

We have managed to dance on things that have made us laugh. I recall one show at Excel Energy Center for a New Year's Eve demo where the floor was soft, actually squishy. These floors might be good for jazz dancing and the like but they are awful for ballroom dancing. Imagine 2 ½" heels sinking into the squishy floor while trying to do a quickstep or Viennese waltz. To make it even worse, we could barely hear the music at this demo. I just had to follow along with Tom and hope he was hearing something more than I was.

Another floor challenge is dancing on carpet. Many times we have gotten to a demo only to find that the "dance floor" is carpeted. Most of the time it is fairly flat but at times there is actually pile. This not only makes dancing difficult but is also dangerous for knees and ankles. Carpeting is especially hard for the lady who is frequently doing the turning and spinning.

Another floor issue and the most painful blooper for me personally was at a Mall of America demo quite a few years ago. There was a hustle number that was a group affair with different couples coming forward to do short solos. Tom and I were tagged to do a solo and when he started spinning me to come forward away from the group I slipped. The floor there is marble and when sand and dirt are on the floor it becomes slick. I fell very hard right on my butt. Not only did it hurt (a lot) but I was embarrassed as hundreds of people were all looking at us. To this day Dan Viehman refuses to let me watch the tape of this show because he said it looks too painful.

The funniest floor situation was pretty recent. Jeannie & David Schmit invited Tom and me to join them at a demo. The occasion was a couple renewing their wedding vows and they wanted a lesson and demo. We walked into the room and just about burst out laughing. The floor was the size of a postage stamp...ok, so it was maybe 10' x 10'. Any kind of smooth dancing was completely out and our other dances were challenging. Thank goodness both Tom and David are excellent social dancers and able to adjust and adapt.

The 2nd area of laughter; costuming.

I was wearing one of my very first gowns...which was made by my neighbor...at the Twin Cities Open. I was dancing with Paul Botes and actually standing in line on-deck. I gave my dress one last little tug and the entire right side of my dress tumbled down my shoulders. The elastic had been tightened so much that it broke. Donna hurriedly took a pin off the number of someone (Paul?) and pinned my dress up. As I was dancing all I could think of was maybe the left side is ready to do the same thing. Luckily, I managed to keep my modesty and dignity.

Tom once had a funny situation with part of his costume...his shoes. We were at a competition...again, I think it was TCO. We were dancing the Tango and were in the corner ready to head back out. Tom stomped his foot as you some times do in a tango and the bottom half of his heel fell off. We kept on dancing.

This year at nationals we saw a lady's float some how cover her face and head completely and since she is stuck in dance position and can't pull it off she kept dancing that way until her partner pulled it off. That brings up a comical fact about standard dancing. With all the floats and big arm pieces that these dresses have it makes it very difficult to do an under arm turn when the man releases the lady for her bow at the end of the song. Tom has learned to simply let me roll out and not to turn me. We frequently chuckle about the couples on the floor that seem not to have figured out this fact. The lady gets all wrapped up in her drape, wing, etc. and it looks pretty comical.

Another category of humor; being a novice

The first time you do something in dancing can also lead to comical moments. The first year Tom and I were dancing in the Novice category for American Smooth at Nationals we had a good laugh. We were unaware that the Viennese waltz is not danced in this category. After the foxtrot we didn't notice everyone else leaving the floor and actually went to a spot on the floor and struck our opening Viennese Waltz pose. We stood there for a few moments before realizing we were the only couple on the floor and quickly exited.

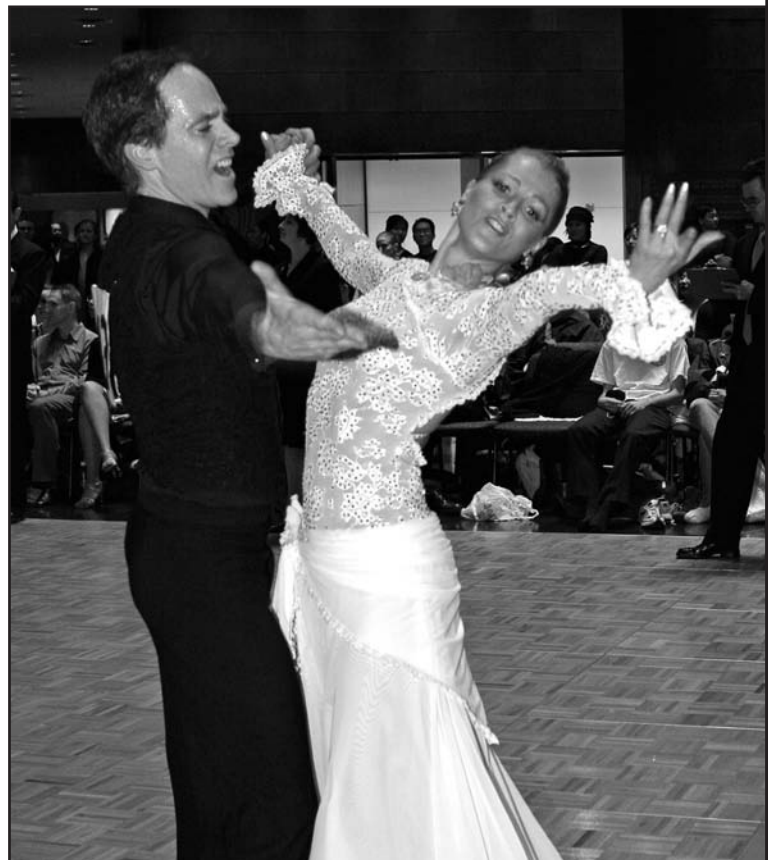
Next time you are watching a show, demo or competition see if you can spot some of those comical things happening.



The 10th Annual STAR OF THE NORTH DANCESPORT COMPETITION **February 16 - 18, 2007**

The Shakopee Ballroom
2400 East Fourth Ave.
Shakopee, Minnesota

Plan to attend this fabulous event. Larger venue, more scholarships, more prizes, more excitement, and especially more fun!



Cheer on your friends and bring your dance shoes for the special social events!



*Sponsored by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission,
USA Dance MN & the U of M Ballroom Dance Club*

Information

**For more information call the
USA Dance HOTLINE (651) 483-5467**

www.usabda-mn.org

(Click on Star of the North)



Countdown to Star of the North 2007

By Mike Youngdahl

As previously reported, I have agreed to chair the 2007 edition of the Star of the North State Games (SOTN.) It has been a privilege to be involved with the SOTN games over the years. Due to the efforts of an awful lot of people, SOTN has become one of the premier non-sanctioned amateur dancesport competitions in the country. Our mission statement for the event is to provide a low-cost opportunity to participate and watch ballroom dancing. In my humble opinion, I think we have been wildly successful in achieving our goal.

Star of the North is at a crossroads. For years, we have focused on making the event affordable for competitors and spectators. As a business venture, SOTN has been fortunate to have the support of financial backers who ensured that entry fees for competitors and admission prices for spectators remained very reasonable. If we had to pay for all the services we used, the event would be cost prohibitive.

So what is my vision of the future of the event? If things continue on as they have, I am afraid SOTN will soon reach a point where increasing expenses will necessitate increasing entry and spectator costs. If that happens, I believe we will lose the charm of the event. We had a couple compete at 2005 Star of the North who started dancing 3 weeks before the event. We must have done something right, because they were back in 2006. Keeping the event affordable and offering scholarships was the major reason for our success in college students dancing at SOTN. With the mixed proficiency events, it was awesome to see national champions dancing with newcomers.



College students compete at Star of the North State Games DanceSport Competition

In a utopian world, a dance venue would offer to host Star of the North for nothing. They would say they want to be a destination for ballroom dancers throughout the year and believe that hosting Star of the North would be good advertising.

In a utopian world, every ballroom dance student would be encouraged to attend Star of the North. The students would pay a minimal cost for the event, but would spend upwards of \$65 an hour with their instructors to prepare for their event. The business wonks call it leveraging.

In a utopian world, future Star of the North organizers would receive requests from studio owners and professionals to offer help running and promoting the event. They would recognize that Star of the North is an opportunity to donate their time and talents to an event that will ensure that their name is seen by captive participants and spectators. The business wonks call it good will.

This will be my last year as the chair of Star of the North. I have reached the point of "Be reasonable, do it my way." It is an indication that it is time to move on.

If you would like to get involved in Star of the North, please call me at 763.274.1691. As a volunteer group, we would be delighted to have you on the team. If you volunteer, you might as well compete, too. We have the foundation in place, but we would welcome any help you could give. See you at the Shakopee Ballroom, the new venue for Star of the North, on February 16-18, 2007. ■



On Your Toes
school of dance

Come dance with us at On Your Toes school of dance!

Every Wednesday:

Beginner Salsa classes at 7:00pm.

Intermediate Salsa classes at 8:00pm.

Taught by James Wood

\$15 per person per class, or buy 6 for \$60.

Walk-ins welcome. No partner required.

For more info: tricia@onyourtoes.org or (952) 928-7803.

2nd Saturday of every month:

Social Ballroom and Latin Dancing

Lesson 7-8:00pm

Dance 8-11:00pm

Free to all current On Your Toes students

\$8 if you show any current dance club membership card

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Next dance: Saturday, October 14th

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Minnesota Heads to USA Dance Nationals

By Anne LaTourelle

After multiple years of having nationals just down the road in St. Paul any Minnesota couples electing to dance at nationals needed to head to San Jose, California this year. Those of us who compete got used to having a large number of Minnesota couples participate at Nationals when it was held locally. This year there were 8 couples who headed west. Those couples were: Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler, Jeannie & David Schmit, Gordy & Linda Davis, Gene Bersten & Zhanna Vayntrub, Tom & Anne LaTourelle, Aiden Mamedov & Melani Bersten, Alan Bersten & Melanie Melinkova and Anthony Brown & Alissa Mrazek from Rochester, Minnesota.

With high hopes these couples embarked on the last event of the USA Dance competition season. This competition is for all the marbles; titles and bragging rights. Nationals was last held in San Jose in 1999. That year was the first time both Gordy & Linda and Tom and I attended nationals. After 8 years of dancing at a national level we were headed back. We remembered dancing on a gymnasium style floor with bleacher seating surrounding the venue. The floor was smaller than we remembered but it allowed for a small (and crowded) practice area. We certainly missed the large useable practice floor that Minnesota had provided and the large seating area at the Roy Wilkins auditorium. It seemed that although the event had just as many couples competing there were far less spectators. I was disappointed Sunday evening at the Adult Championship American Smooth venue to see empty seats. What a shame that more dancers don't stick around to watch events after theirs conclude. The dancers at this high level all put in hours and hours of practice and deserve to have a full venue to dance for.

American Smooth was again strongly represented by Minnesota dancers. Minnesota had finalists in the Adult, Senior I and Senior II events! Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler danced beautifully in their event which this year was a quarter final! Theresa wore a beautiful lime green dress in the first 2 rounds and then changed into a tomato red gown for the final. This is an event that Tom and I really enjoy watching the process. We try and pick the 6 couples that we think will make the difficult final cut. It is always interesting to see new couples that we have never seen before and wonder "where did they come from?" Nels and Theresa danced to a 2nd place finish representing Minnesota big time.

In the Senior I division Jeannie & David Schmit danced to another 1st place finish for their 4th year in a row. This event was a semi-final heat this year and Tom & I also made the cut finishing 2nd for the 3rd year in a row! Minnesota went 1,2 for the 3rd year in a row! It is amazing to us that with all the senior I couples Jeannie & David and



Tony Brown and Alissa Mrazek from Rochester, MN placed 3rd in the Cabaret division.

Tom & I some how always seem to end up standing next to each other year after year...pretty cool! Linda & Gordy Davis were the only Minnesota representatives in the Senior II championship this year. They danced beautifully resulting in a 4th place finish in this semi-final event! Minnesota continues to impress in American Smooth.

Gene and Zhanna made the jump to Adult Latin this year and had a great showing easily making the first round cuts and dancing in the quarter finals. This event started with approximately 40 couples!

Aiden Mamedov & Melani Bersten danced Junior II Latin at the silver, gold and novice levels. They danced uncontested in silver but had competition at the gold and novice levels placing 2nd and 5th respectively.

MN TO NATIONALS continued on page 23

Competitor's Views of Nationals

Everyone's experience is different and unique. Read on to see about the experiences of some of the Minnesota couples attending Nationals this year.

Gordy & Linda Davis:



Q. How many times have you competed at nationals? When did you start?

6 times. Our first nationals was in 1999 in San Jose.

Q. What events did you dance and what were your results?

S1 American Smooth Semi final (12 couples)

S2 American Smooth 4th place (14 couples)

Q. Nationals had been in Minnesota for years prior to heading to San Jose. What did you think of

San Jose and the competition they put on?

We thought the competition was run well. In 1999 we remembered dancing on a basketball court floor. So we were pleasantly surprised to see they had put down a nice floor.

Q. Do you prefer traveling for nationals or did you like it here in Minnesota?

We like change. A couple from NY come up to us and wished nationals was still in MN because it was more centralized and liked the venue.

Q. What events did you enjoy watching? Any memorable moments while being a spectator?

We watched only championship events Saturday evening and Sunday evening.

Q. Getting ready for nationals takes a lot of work. What was your practice schedule like? What did you do to get ready for nationals?

We practice 4 days a week and get coaching once a week. We did 5 competitions during the year.

Q. Any comical moments or funny stories to share about nationals (or getting prepared)?

This was quite comical at the time. We were working on a move with our coach and in the middle of a dance my hand somehow got caught up in Gordy's front pocket. We laughed so hard we had tears.

Q. What is the best part of competing? Do you and your partner both agree?

A competition shows us that our hard work and dedication pays off.

Q. When is your next competition?

We don't know.

David & Jeannie Schmit:

Q. Nationals had been in Minnesota for years prior to heading to San Jose. What did you think of San Jose and the competition they put on?

The San Jose location turned out to be a great place for nationals. It was a much smaller venue than St. Paul, but it worked because there were not so many spectators. We enjoyed walking in downtown San Jose and getting meals in various cafes. Our hotel was so close and convenient to the competition. The set-up for vendors seemed to work well and the volunteers did a good job. On the downside, the music was not even close to the quality that Pete and Joyce give us. The tempos for American Style were off (really fast swings, slow waltzes and foxtrots, etc), and some of the music choices were inappropriate for the dance. I missed Paul Botes as the MC. Paul's voice is perfect for this and he's tops at pronouncing competitor's names and announcing awards. The photography was hit/miss at this comp. Top level International Style events were well photographed, leaving out most syllabus level and American style events.

Q. Do you prefer traveling for nationals or did you like it here in Minnesota?

I actually prefer traveling. Fewer distractions and much less time driving to and from the comp over the 3 days. On

JEANNIE & DAVID continued on page 16

Reflections on USA Dance Championships 2006

By Nels Peterson

We approached the 2006 USA Dance Nationals with a bit of apprehension. As unprecedented 14 time owners of National Open Titles, we knew winning again this year would be difficult. Our training started in June rather than the usual October. California competitions are traditionally difficult for us. I don't dance well on dark basketball courts and Theresa dances best with an audience.

We remembered the last Nationals held in San Jose and geared our practices to prepare for the facility...an unlit basketball court. This training proved misguided. Not only did the experienced California volunteers execute the competition well, they put a good quality floor over the basketball boards and got some lights. Kudos!

The lack of audience was a problem. Both the National and local committees have always lacked the time, talent and energy to use this event as a stepping stone to advance USA Dance. The NDCA musters up 10,000 spectators to watch their National Amateur Championships. When the most winning amateur couple in U.S. history can't be sold to more than 30 spectators, you have a precisely defined marketing failure and perhaps the eventual end of USA Dance.

Few would be unhappy with our number two placement at this event. After hard looks at videos of the whole field, I judged our placement as correct. I wasn't happy for the couple that clearly out danced us that night though, as they were placed 5th. ■



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the other hand, we save money staying home, and the St Paul venue was so large and comfortable. The practice floor/competitor area in St Paul was the best!



Q. What events did you enjoy watching? Any memorable moments while being a spectator?

Of course it's always exciting to watch top competitors, and I especially like to watch the children. However, we both also enjoy watching any newcomers or beginning level dancers. It takes a lot to get out there and dance in front of judges and an audience. It's inspiring to watch people face their fears and get out and do their best. I enjoy cheering these people on.

Q. Getting ready for nationals takes a lot of work. What was your practice schedule like? What did you do to get ready for nationals?

The first 4 years we practiced a lot, 2 hours every day, plus 4+ hours of coaching per week. Last year our practice dropped dramatically because of putting time into my business. We haven't made a definite plan for this year yet. To get ready immediately before competing we have a silly ritual. We like to watch a scary movie in our hotel room. It seems to take our minds off the dancing for a bit (relieves the jitters), but keeps our minds sharp and clear.

Q. Any comical moments or funny stories to share about nationals (or getting prepared)?

We've had the usual happen to us. My shoes fell off twice in the same foxtrot, and in the same dance, someone else lost a shoe completely and David almost stepped on it. Another time we had a couple continue to apologize for

being in our way (right there on the floor in a comp!), we had to tell them to be quiet, go away, and we'll talk about it later. In Atlanta last year we thought we were done dancing so David took off his vest and we were relaxing at the table until we heard our names being called and we were supposed to be on the floor.

Q. What is the best part of competing? Do you and your partner both agree?

The best part of competing is the feeling of dancing your best, feeling the music, and relaxing and breathing into the dance. It's when it's an enjoyable experience that we love it. Unfortunately, it doesn't always feel good! We also like to connect with the other competitors from across the country. Competitors in our category are very nice people and we love to meet up with them at the various comps. We have something in common; our love of ballroom dance AND the struggles of ballroom dance in our busy lives, so there's always a lot to talk about.

Q. When is your next competition?

Who knows, we're still planning. Maybe Ohio Star Ball. We can't do Atlanta this year.

Tom and Anne LaTourelle

Q. How many times have you competed at nationals? When did you start?

We have been competing at Nationals since 1999, so that makes this year our 8th national competition. We were complete rookies then, and did not have a good idea of what Nationals would be like. There were so many competitors, and such a high-level of dancing it was amazing.

Q. What events did you dance and what were your results?

The first time we competed at Nationals we did American rhythm and American smooth, but over the years we added international standard and stopped doing American rhythm. We've also gotten older (doesn't everyone?). This year we placed 2nd in Senior (35-50) Championship American Smooth, 2nd in Senior Pre-Championship International Standard, and made the Quarter-Finals for Senior Championship International Standard.

Q. Nationals had been in Minnesota for years prior to heading to San Jose. What did you think of San Jose and the competition they put on?

Having been at San Jose for our first national competition, we expected a not-too-nice venue. We were pleasantly surprised that the dance floor and setting were greatly improved from last time. While I thought Nationals was well-run, I missed having a larger practice floor, and, as always at Nationals, missed more social dancing.

TOM & ANNE continued on page 18

ASK DR. DANCE

Paul and Donna are popular coaches and adjudicators. They own Time To Dance in Plymouth and organize The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. They can be reached at 763 557-6004.

Q I love the funny routines I see sometimes on Dancing with the Stars and at our local shows (I still remember Mike Jones and Lois Donnay doing a funny cha-cha). What is the secret to doing a humorous dance routine? Why don't we see more of them?

She Said:

Most show dance or solo numbers are thematic. Generally the themes are dictated by the music. There are fewer comedic pieces of music than romantic, beautiful, touching, retro, evocative, brutal or powerful. I think it also takes a certain personality to pull off humor -- and not everybody feels that they can be convincingly funny.

There is also a certain amount of risk associated with being funny -- because an audience cannot always tell if something is supposed to be comedic or not!!! As I judge I love the variety possible with showdance numbers. An interesting or amusing theme is always a welcome change of pace.

Canadian competitors have excelled at humor -- Jean Marc & France, Pierre & Mireille and Anik & Alain. When you see 5-time World 10-dance Champions, Anik Jolicoeur and Alain Doucet perform at the Snow Ball this January, you will see an expert rendition of humor combined with beauty.

He Said:

Funny routines are challenging to do. Most successful funny routines are also superbly danced and require considerable skill of the performers. Something to think about when considering a comedy routine is that bad dancing is not funny, it's just bad dancing. Those who remember Nick Cotton and Maria Hansen dancing their comedic toilet paper routine at the Ohio Star Ball will recall that it was beautifully danced and hilariously funny at the same time. ■



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PRODUCTIONS

A group of about ten dancers, both men and women, are posed in a festive winter setting. They are wearing various winter outfits like sweaters, scarves, and hats. Some are holding snow globes or small gifts. The background is white with blue snowflake graphics. There are also several wrapped Christmas gifts in the foreground.



Q. Do you prefer traveling for nationals or did you like it here in Minnesota?

I actually prefer traveling for Nationals and other

competitions. Being away from home and work allows you to focus completely on the competition. You also get to spend more time with other competitors. Competing in Minnesota means having to run home to feed the dogs for us, while most other competitors leave to run on errands that they would not need to do out of town.

Q. What events did you enjoy watching? Were there any memorable moments while being a spectator?

While I enjoy watching most events, I especially like watching Championship Latin and Standard. The dancing is amazing, especially when you remember that all the dancers are amateurs. It is very good to see the high level of dancing. It gives us hope for the future of dancesport in the US.

Q. Getting ready for Nationals takes a lot of work. What was your practice schedule like? What did you do to get ready?

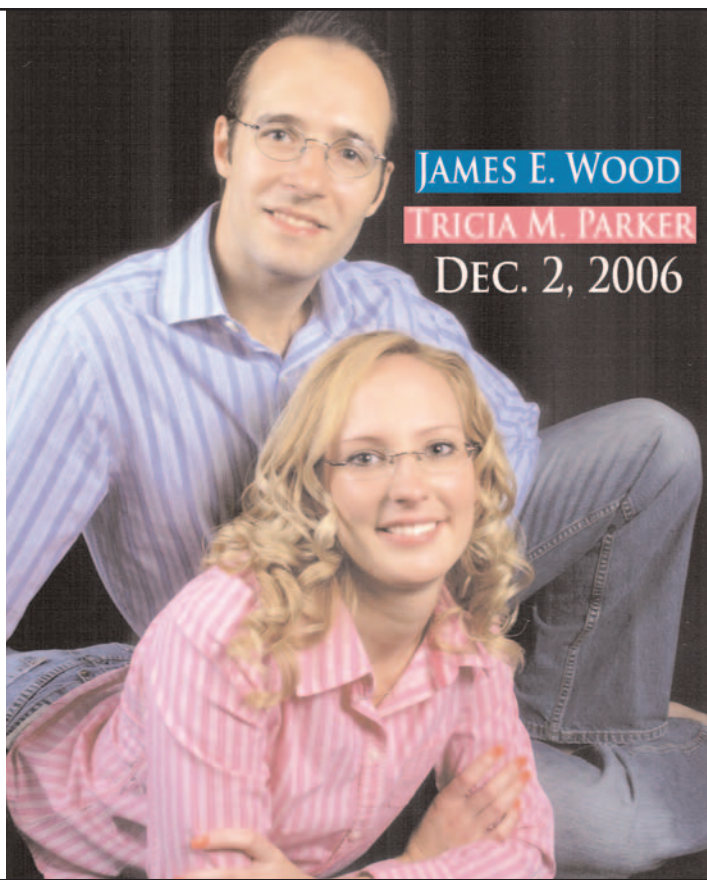
Getting ready for Nationals is a challenge, to be sure. Like most sports and arts, you can spend as much time and effort as you can spare, and there are always more things that to practice and try to improve. It is a never-ending process; a struggle for improvement. We take weekly lessons for changes and refinements to choreography and styling. We also practice 3-5 times per week for about 1-2 hours per practice. ■

Engagement of James Wood & Tricia Parker

The hearts of two dancers are coming together for a lifetime of happiness!

James Wood and Tricia Parker got engaged on Friday, August 18th, 2006! The wedding is set for Saturday, December 2nd, 2006.

All dancers are invited to join them at Shakopee Ballroom for a full evening of entertainment and dancing! Details will be posted on www.triciadancer.com!





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7:00 - 10:00pm

The Dancers Studio will once again host this elegant event to raise money for a great cause. This year funds will go toward the partnership of **Animal Ark** and **New Chance**, strengthening our community by empowering troubled youth. Come enjoy food, fun, social dancing, a silent auction and a truly fabulous and unique professional dance show! **Tickets are on sale now!**

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The Dancers Studio's 2nd FREE Newcomer Class and Party is on **Thursday, October 19th**. This event is for anyone new to ballroom dance.

At **8pm** there will be a group class on the very basics in a variety of dances followed at **9pm** by a dance party to practice the new moves!

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Photos by Cathy Dessert



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A Review of "So You Think You Can Dance"

By Nathan Daniels

Let me start by saying that the TV show "So You Think You Can Dance" has been a great venue for ballroom dancing to shine! The combination of the size of the audience, the participation of highly qualified ballroom judges and choreographers, and the level of talent of our ballroom competitors, has shone a great light upon our beloved Dancesport. (for those of you who have seen the show - kudos --- for those of you who have not - booo!)

Okay - so on to the actual specifics of the show ---

The premise of the show is to find the best 'all-around' dancer across many styles of dance - lyrical, hip-hop, contemporary, ballroom, Broadway, ethnic, etc. This premise is great, however, not in this short a span of time. It puts too much physical stress on the dancer's bodies, due to the different ways that a dancer must move and contort their bodies. The dancers must use different muscles and different balance points than they are used to. This is a forum for disaster.

Given a longer span of time, their bodies could get more accustomed to these new movements and adapt to these differences, thus diminishing the number of injuries that occurred during the run of the show!

The judging process on the show needs to be addressed a bit.

While I realize that a person knowledgeable in one form of dance can tell what they like or don't like, or if a person is balanced or poised, or if one has stage presence or not --- this does not qualify them to judge other forms of dance.

This lack of knowledge of other forms of dance could so clearly be seen in their comments to and about the dancers. Some of the judges had 'noooo' idea what they should be looking for in the dancers not doing their own area of expertise. While I realize that this is a TV show, and certain things are inevitable --- I think that this area needs to be addressed! (No, I don't know what the solution should be --- Okay - There, I said it!!!)

3) The dancers on the show were all 'sooo' very talented. To be able to dance styles of dance that you are not accustomed to and have not been trained in, to that high a level of performance, is amazing.

All of the finalists were excellent in their own area of expertise, as you would expect, but most of them were really, really good to fantastic at whatever other styles were thrown at them as well! It really came down to what you liked --- technique or showmanship. While we all would like to see that perfect blend of the two --- this very rarely occurs. On last year's show, the winner - Nick Lazzarini - did indeed have that blend. He had superb technique as well as a great ability to connect to his audience. This year, however, it came down to the technique of Travis vs. the showmanship of Benji. Well -- showmanship won -- with Benji coming out on top.

All of us in the Ballroom/West Coast Swing community should be very proud to have such a great representative of our sport. Benji Schwimmer is a West Coast Swing National Champion, and is now the winner of, "So You Think You Can Dance". Congratulations to him on a job very well done!! ■

MN TO NATIONALS continued from page 13

Alan Bersten & Melanie Melinkova danced Junior I Latin at the silver, gold and novice levels. They placed first in silver and 2nd in both gold and novice.

Anthony Brown & Alissa Mrazek danced in the challenging Cabaret style placing 3rd! This in front of former Minnesota champion Carol Post Stroick who was one of the judges of this event! This was their first Nationals and they danced Syllabus Smooth/ Rhythm as well as the Cabaret Championship. Tony & Alissa are both from Rochester, Minnesota and this was their first year of competing together.

Down town San Jose is well laid out and beautiful. We had a good time walking around, finding restaurants and even shopping at a farmers market for fresh California fruit. The skies were sunny and a brilliant blue...not a cloud in the

sky. After the hot Minnesota summer we enjoyed the cool evenings.

The hotels for the competition were very close...right across the street. My only complaint about the Marriott was that the restaurant was very expensive without the option of a less expensive café available. The event did have a number of vendors and generally events were running on-time...some even a little early. During our pre-champ standard event we actually took to the floor and then had to leave again as there were not enough judges to score the event because it was so early.

Next year the competition will be held in Louisville, Kentucky August 3-5 where another group of dancers will head off to follow their dreams. ■

September Dance Extravaganza

Dance Shoppe, Plymouth

Photos by Theresa Kimler



Etiquette of the Ballroom circa 1900

We all know the slogan from Virginia Slims cigarettes that says "You've come a long way baby". Well, the same can be said for the dancing world. Watch this newsletter for on-going pictures or text regarding dancing etiquette of long ago.

To acknowledge the customary introduction, a bow and "How do you do" are all that good form requires. If, however, the introduction occurs in a woman's home, a little more cordiality is expected. The "How do you do" may be followed by "I am very glad to know you." If the person presented is an old friend of the person making the introduction, it is courteous to show more warmth, as: "Mary has mentioned you so often. It is a pleasure to meet you at last."

Younger girls and women rise when presented to an older woman.

When a man is introduced to a woman, she acknowledges the presentation by bowing and repeating his name, or by using the customary "How do you do." Any kindly, friendly impulse should be courteously received whether or not it is socially correct. ■

Etiquette
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☛ Contact Amy at 608-835-5666 or email albishop@charter.net

Latin/Rhythm Beautiful dress by Dancewear Designers by Julia Gorchakova. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 4" to 5' 9". Unique royal blue dress covered in swarovski stones with fringe angled at bottom of dress. Fringe longest point falls just below knee. Halter straps with open back with built in bra/bodysuit. 1 yr old, worn twice. Originally \$2400 asking \$1800.

Latin/Rhythm. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 2" to 5' 6". Black lycra material with white, gold, black sequins and beads all over dress. The mid section of bodice is open and fringe hangs over open section as well as on bottom of dress. Originally \$200 asking \$70.

Smooth Size 10-14 black chiffon circle skirt with one layer of black chiffon lined, elastic waistband. Brand New. Originally \$100 asking \$50.

Shoes Size 7 1/2 (American) pair of Diamant Champion round toe 2" latino heel, elastic court std shoes, flesh satin. Brand new. Originally \$110 asking \$50.

☛ Contact Cheri at artncheri@aol.com or 763-544-6724

Flashy fuchsia silk dress with silver swirls featured in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Size 2-4. This dress is very eye-catching on the floor. Asking \$675.

Aqua and Blue silk and chiffon dress. Gown in long sleeved with heavily stoned bodice and three tiered chiffon skirt. The dress is soft and elegant. Could be used for smooth or standard. Asking \$1100. Size 2-4.

☛ Contact Michelle at 651-286-6705 (day) or 763-572-0418 (eve)

Sexy Bright Red Rhythm Dress. Size 4-8. Halter cut top, with stones all around collar. Beading on short flirty skirt moves well on the floor! Luxury Crushed Red Velvet very comfortable to wear. Gently used, is in excellent condition - all loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$400

Sultry & Exotic Gold Latin/Rhythm Dress. Size 2-6. This sultry 2-piece costume has lots of straps and fabric pieces that make for great movement. TONS of rhinestones - on the floor it completely shimmers. Comes with: necklace, 2 arm bands, 2 wristbands, and large matching hoop earrings. Looks great on the floor, very sexy All loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$600

☛ Contact Stacie at 612-251-8108 or PIER0081@umn.edu

Gorgeous one of a kind Designs to Shine - Maria McGill Gown. Most of the dress is a brilliant aqua with a portion of the skirt, bodice and one sleeve in black lace. You must see this one - pictures available. AB Stones throughout with 3 areas of detail pearl bead work. Only 1 owner. A steal at \$2,700. Size 2-6.

Price reduced. You can't miss this one on the floor! Bright fuchsia Dore standard gown. The chiffon skirt and float slowly changes from Fuchsia into purple. Floats are detachable - works for n excellent smooth gown. Stones throughout the dress. It is made of stretchy material and will fit sizes 2-8. Pictures available. Reduce from \$3,000 to \$2,500.

Price reduced. Very playful 2 piece white Latin or rhythm dress. Has a decorative AB accent stones on the skirt, fringes and end of sleeve. The bra is heavily stoned. Material is very stretchy and fit sizes 2-6. Picture available. Reduced from \$1,700 to \$1,400.

☛ Contact Lynne Schulz at 952-545-2989 or lynneschulz@cpinternet.com

Red Satin Pumps with Rhinestones all over upper and lower heel area - gorgeous!, suede dancing soles, by Celebrity, 2 1/2 in. heel, USA Size 7 1/2 to 8N; great for holiday parties even if you don't dance!, \$50 or best offer.

☛ Contact Lynn Kohlasch at 612-243-8800 or lkohlasch@earthlink.net

Latin/Rhythm Fuchsia & Blue Dress. Beautifully stoned with sassy short skirt and open back. Size 4-8. Asking \$550.

☛ Contact Theresa at 651-773-3511 or theresakimmler@yahoo.com

Size 2-6 Blue Beauty. Deep royal blue gown with elegant fit and stoning detail on bodice. Effortless movement, latest multi-tonal stones, fabric from London. Designed by LeNique just for USA Dance Nationals. \$2400.

☛ Contact Eileen @ 651-636-6306 or eileen@arcilla.net

Bright Blue Satin Smooth/Standard Gown. Get noticed in a bright shiny satin gown. Full skirt and cut makes you feel like you're floating! Open back with fully stoned inset and skirt hemmed with satin band. Cut is flattering for many figures. Comes with matching earrings, hair piece, neckband and arm bands. Professionally designed/created by Flair Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$1200.

Lavender Latin/Rhythm Dress. Lavender latin/rhythm dress with halter style top, ruffled hem and open back. Entire dress stoned in different colored stones which will make you sparkle! Dore Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$2100.

Price Reduced. Mint Green Smooth/Standard Gown. Elegant mint green dress can be used for both smooth/standard. Unique stoning and draped chiffon with stretch satin bodice and chiffon skirt makes this dress feel light as a feather. Comes with matching earrings, necklace and armbands. Made for Movement. Size 2-6. Asking \$500.

☛ Please call Anne @ 763-550-1223

1st time offered, stunning hot pink American Smooth Gown which skims your body and creates great lines. Surplice look neckline with heavily stoned flounce, long sleeves with cut-outs and stoned flounce at wrist, V-back with stoned flounce. The lines of this gown are beautiful and the color really pops. Made for Movement. Size 6-10. Asking \$1200. Call Anne @ 612-280-7818.

Championship level gown. Get the latest style without paying full price! Brilliant turquoise American Smooth gown loaded with stones in a figure flattering pattern! Off the shoulder style with very sexy open back and side slit for great kicks. Slinky fabric really moves and is comfortable. Can be tailored to fit! Call Anne for more information. Size 8-12. Asking \$900.

Beautiful bright coral standard gown. Size 8 to 12. Made by Marsha Wiest Hines who described this color as "yummy"! Velvet and chiffon with beautiful coral and gold sleeves floats, bodice accents decorated heavily with beautiful colored stones. Very light weight to dance in and with an open back and V-front will fit many sizes and figures. These gowns really stretch to fit a large variety of figures... so try it on! Asking \$750.

☛ Contact Donna @ 763-557-6004

Size 2-6 Dynamic deep purple ballgown with side slit has only been worn for Professional shows. Can be worn for smooth or standard. Two beautiful sets of accessories compliment this gown. One set has a rhinestone hip belt with matching cuff bracelets and neck scarf. The other set includes a fuchsia choker and cuffs. Asking \$850.

☛ Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net

Sunshine Yellow American Smooth! This gown will get you noticed! Slinky fabric moves with you. Assymetrical design collar, one full sleeve has bracelet style cuff with matching arm and wrist band, dropped waist belt solidly stoned, multi color AB stoning throughout! Made for Movement. Size 2-10. Asking \$975. Payment plan accepted.

Black/Fuschia American Smooth. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. Size 2-8. Asking \$675 or BO.

Orange Flame Latin/Rhythm! 2-piece dress is "one-of-a-kind" with assymetrical style sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning throughout. Beautiful braided detail belt and straps with matching wrist bands, necklace and earrings. Size 2-10. Asking \$875.

Stunning Red Latin/Rhythm! You'll feel like a champion in this dress with bracelet-style cuffs on sleeves and AB stoned matching hipster belt. Has full open back and slit in assymetrical skirt. Size 2-10. Asking \$775.

Gold/Rose-Red Rhythm Dress. Get noticed in this one of a kind dress! Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flared skirt add great movement. Light Siam AB stoning adds the finishing touch to this fabulous dress! Rose hair piece. Size 2-6. Steal deal at \$575.

Fuschia Rhythm Dress. Gorgeous Rose/fuschia/Ameythst AB stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetrical skirt, low back cut. Has great movement on the dance floor! Size 2-8. Asking \$375.

Discount Rhythm shoes! Sz 8W USA DanceSport Capezio. \$40. Worn once.

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Competition Calendar

Oct 8, 2006 – NJ DanceSport Classic Fall Frolic – Hackensack, NJ
Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies. Sanctioned by Usa DanceSport NJDSC or by e-mail at questions@njdancesportclassic.com or by phone at 973-325-1399.

Oct 27 - 28, 2006 – 2006 SouthEast Regional Championships Atlanta, GA

For more information, contact Ann Smith by email at JSmith5817@aol.com or 404-816-9939.

Oct 28 - 29, 2006 - D.C. DanceSport Inferno

Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Organized by Ballroom at Maryland, sanctioned by USA Dance. More information and registration at : <http://ballroomatmaryland.com/dcdi/>

January 6, 2007 – The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

The largest single day competition in the US featuring fabulous pro-am and amateur competitions. Pro show by 5-time world champions Anik Joliceur and Alain Doucet. Doubletree Park Place Hotel, Mpls. Contact Donna Edelstein or Paul Botes at 763 557-6004. thesnowballcomp@msn.com

Jan 12 - 14, 2007 – USA Dance Manhattan Amateur Classic Pace University, New York City

Organized by Greater New York Chapter. Sanctioned by USA Dance. For more info: <http://nyusabda.org/mac/aboutmac.html>

January 28, 2007 – Royal Palm USA Dancesport Championships Coconut Creek, FL

Hosted by Royal Palm Chapter. Contact info: Bernard Matos 561-282-0899 or brny07@yahoo.com

Feb 9 - 10, 2007 – Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships Downtown Marriott, Knoxville, TN

Organized by Greater Knoxville Chapter. Sanctioned by USA Dance. For more information contact Tim McGhee, 865-386-7843, or www.usabda-knoxville.us

Feb 16 - 18, 2007 – Star of the North DanceSport Competition Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 East Fourth Ave, Shakopee, MN

Sanctioned by USADancesport. For more information, contact Mike Youngdahl at 763-441-0646.

Mar 17 - 18, 2007

Hearland Classic USA DanceSport Championships Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN
Sanctioned by USA DanceSport. Organized by Heartland Chapter (#2022). For more information, Ron Wright, (317) 257-4954, rt2dance@comcast.net, or Nancy Dew, (317) 849-6373, dewn@juno.com. Website at <http://indyusabda.org>

Mar 23 - 25, 2007 – USA Dance NE Regional DanceSport Championships/NJ Dancesport Classic Hackensack, NJ

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies. Qualifying event for 2007 USADance National Championships. Info: NJDSC or by e-mail at questions@njdancesportclassic.com or by phone at 973-325-1399.

Apr 13 - 15, 2007 USA Dance Pittsburgh Dancesport Championships

Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sanctioned by USA DanceSport. For more information contact the organizer, Andrew Pueschel at 412-656-3667.

May 19 - 20, 2007 North Central Regional DanceSport Championships/Chicago DanceSport Challenge

Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel. Qualifying event for 2007 UsADance National Championships. Contact organizer Barbara Finn at barbarakfinn@comcast.net, or visit our website at www.usadancechicago.org

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Cheek to Cheek Ballroom (763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN, 1st Friday Dance! Lesson 8-8:45 pm; Dance 8:45-11 pm; \$8/non-studio members; \$5/studio members.

Cinema Ballroom (651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, MN, Friday Night Dancing at the Cinema! Every Friday evening. Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am; \$10/general admission; \$6/with student ID.

Dancers Studio (651) 641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 99 Snelling Ave. N. St. Paul, MN. Every Friday night, Beginning and Advanced lesson at 8 pm, Dance 9-10 pm. \$15-25/non-members.

Hidden Haven Country Club (763) 434-4626
20520 NE Polk St., Cedar, MN Every Sunday from 6-10 pm. Classic country and rock-and-roll, the band is Ringer.

Loring Pasta Bar
www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center (763) 478-6661
www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Highway 55, Medina. Wednesdays, Big Band Dances, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8-11 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 777-5599
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night (952) 946-6227
11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night from 10pm-2am.

Rebels Swing Dance Club (952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com Harmonies Dance Center, 10726 France Avenue South, Bloomington. Two Sundays per month, Dances 7 pm. \$5/Rebels members, \$8/non-members.

Shakopee Ballroom (952) 445-0412
2400 East 4th Avenue, Shakopee. Every other Friday they offer either ballroom or swing or dance bands; lesson at 7:30 pm and band begins at 8 pm. Other dances scheduled occasionally.

Social Dance Studio (612) 869-2158
www.socialdancestudio.com St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1st Fridays-Latin Dance Parties 9-12 midnight. \$5/person.

Tango Society of Minnesota (763) 576-3349
www.mntango.org 2nd Saturdays, DanceSport Studio, 816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. Introductory lesson 8 pm, Dance 9 pm - 1 am. \$10.

Tiburon Restaurant
1201 Harmon Place, Minneapolis Band: Salsa del Soul playing Salsa every Friday! Big wood dance floor, reasonably priced late night menu and drink specials and valet parking; cover charge starts at 9:30 pm.

Twin City Ballroom Dance Club (651) 735-2233
twincityballroom.com 7166 10th Street North, Oakdale (corner of 694 and 10th St. N.). M-W: Lessons 8 pm, Fridays: Lesson 9 pm, Dance 10-11:30 pm, Sundays: Lesson 8 pm, Dance 9-10:30 pm. \$7/\$2 off with Univ. ID.

Wabasha Street Caves (651) 224-1191
215 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul. Thursdays are "Swing Night" with big bands! Lesson 6:15 pm, Dance 7-10 pm. \$7 cover charge.

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

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PLYMOUTH, MN 55442-1247

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dance Contacts

Instructors

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Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies.....	973-449-7654
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Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
Eric Remsen	612-724-3156
Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584
Kate VanAlstine.....	651-641-0777

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production,
tailoring (Marsha Wiest Hines)952-595-0003
Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear
(Deborah J. Nelson)763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Studios

Arthur Murray Dance Studio St. Paul	651-227-3200
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids	763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul	651-699-5910
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
Foster's Dance Sport Studio, Hopkins	952-938-0048
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park.....	952-928-7803
Social Dance Studio, Mpls	612-869-2158

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club	651-777-5599
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota.....	763-576-3349
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

USA Dance MN HOTLINE (651) 483-5467

www.usabda-mn.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: October 10th, 2006