

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

September 2007

Minnesota's National Champions

*Gerdy & Linda Davis
Senior T1 Amateur
American Smooth*

Photography by Neatshots

*Nels Petersen & Theresa
Kimler Open Amateur
American Smooth*

*Andy & Janie Nordberg
Open Amateur 9-Dance*

Photography by Tim McGhee

USADance 2007 National Championships

*See pages 14-17 for
more on Nationals 2007!*

Inside this month's issue...

USADance National Championships and Twin Cities Open continued!



Dancers Nite Out



- Mo 9/3 The Abdomen – Pop-Rock Band performing at Lake Harriett Band Shell @ 5:30 pm
- Fri 9/7 The Classic Big Band with the Nostalgics Vocal Quartet performing at the Medina Entertainment Center, 500 W. Hwy. 55, Medina, FMI: 763.476.6661
- Fri 9/14 All-Dance Showcase at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Avenue, St. Paul; FMI: 651.699.5910
- Sat 9/15 **USADance Beginners Monthly Dance & Workshops at Retro Ballroom, 5810 W. 36th St., St. Louis Park – see ad this page and page 18 for more details!**
- Sat 9/15 Fall Bomber's Moon Ball Hangar Dance, Featuring Roseville Big Band. CAF Hanger, Fleming Field Airport, South St. Paul, MN, 6:00 p.m. doors open, 7:00 p.m. free lesson, 8:00 - Midnight Music & Dancing. \$10 donation per person
- Sun 9/16 MN Orchestra plays at Lake Harriett Band Shell @ 3pm
- Sun 9/16 The Classic Big Band w/ Nostalgics Vocal Quartet performing at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hopkins from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- 10/27/07 Minnesota Madness sponsored by Nathan Daniels & Scott Anderson, FMI: 763.545.8690.

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.

Blue Moon Ballroom (507) 288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.net 2030 Hwy 14, East Rochester, MN; Fridays: Latin Night, 7:30 pm - 12:30 am; Saturdays: Live Bands!

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
2nd Fridays and 4th Saturdays of every month at On Your Toes school of dance. 5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30 pm. Dance 8:30-midnight.

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom (763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN, Dance every Friday night. Lesson 8-8:30; dance 8:30-10:30. \$8 Gen. adm.; \$5, if also attending the 7 pm group class.

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.

Foster DanceSport Studio (612) 720-1587/(651) 278-4434
www.fosterdancesport.com 1st Saturday (7-11:30 pm) and 4th Friday (8 am - 12:00 am) Variety Ballroom, Latin and Salsa Party at Foster DanceSport Studio, 816 Main Street, Hopkins, MN. \$8 or \$5 student.

DNO continued on page 27

Dance into fall at the USA Dance's September Dance



*Special Beginners'
Dance & Workshops*
(See page 18 for more details)

Saturday, September 15th

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

Retro Ballroom

5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN
952-928-7803

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467
www.usadance-mn.org

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

From the Board

Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance MN #2011 Board Meeting – August 14, 2007. Submitted by Jannelle Huff

Members present: Mike Jones, Frank Kohlasch, Erik Pratt, Jeff Skaalrud, Jannelle Huff, Rob Eliasoff, Becky Stibbe, Julie Elholm, Donna Gates, Trisha Wood, Lisa Wu, Min Chong

Location: Clubhouse in Roseville, Minnesota hosted by Jannelle Huff.

Call to order: A quorum was established. Agenda was amended and approved. Minutes from July were approved with corrections.

Reports:

Treasurer's: July Dance held at Retro Ballroom, at On Your Toes in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The treasurer's report was approved.

Chapter Calendar: Events reviewed and distributed by Erik Pratt.

Dance Extravaganza: Discussion covered in Treasurer's Report.

Star of the North Dancesport Classic: Committee is working on budget to be approved at the September 4, 2007 board meeting. Committee is working on website to include online registration and promote and welcome dancers to the Twin Cities Star of the North Dancesport Classic in February 2008.

Old Business:

Monthly Dances: Tricia and James Wood will host September dance at Retro Ballroom. Dan Viehman will help organize demonstrations and volunteers to help at dance. Ballroom one format will be a 7 pm lesson and dance held 8 to 11 pm. Ballroom two format will be mini lessons or workshops throughout the evening with time incorporated to practice the material taught by the instructor. Ballroom three will be space

provided to partner dance (see additional information regarding this concept in the new business section) hosted by Rob Eliasoff and Min Chong.

Jeff Skaalrud is taking a break from doing music at monthly dances. Music will be done by Erik Pratt or Lisa Wu.

Aug. and Sept. dances will be held at Retro Ballroom in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Oct. and Nov. dances will be held at Dancer's Studio located at 99 Snelling Avenue; St Paul, MN. Dec. dance will be held at Classic Ballroom in Four Seasons Mall in Plymouth, MN. 2008 locations to be determined. Any studio interested in hosting monthly USA Dances on the third Saturday of month, please contact Erik Pratt at 612-788-0145.

National Ballroom Dance Week: USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 will celebrate National Ballroom Dance Week on September 15, 2007 at the Retro Ballroom in St. Louis Park, MN. No posters were made or distributed this year. Erik Pratt will contact Tom LaTourelle to release the information via web to promote and advertise National Ballroom Dance Week 2007. Becky Stibbe will work with Tom and constant contact an email list for advertisement to members. Any ideas for National Ballroom Dance Week 2008 can be forwarded to Erik Pratt, Min Chong, or Becky Stibbe.

New Business:

Mike Jones initiated concept to honor a long time member and dancer of our chapter. Mike nominated Millie Cuccia, Virginia Dietz, and Anna Reed who have been members and long time supporters of USA Dance MN. Millie, Virginia, and Anna will be honored at future dance.

The idea of a "Dance Partner Dance" would allow individuals a way to network to find amateur competitive partners, dance practice partners, or someone to share the cost of dance lessons. This potential amateur partner program will help to build larger base of competitive partnerships to build bronze, silver, and open dance competitors in future. Fifth Saturday of the month may be dedicated to partner dancing. Location and time to be determined after concept is tested in ballroom three at September dance.

Discussion to donate funds to 35W bridge victims tabled til next board meeting. Fund donation prospects include American Red Cross or Minnesota Helps Group. Becky Stibbe will gather more info for next meeting. Discussion and decision to donate funds to be continued next month as recovery effort still in progress.

Minnesota Madness: MN Madness at Shakopee Ballroom October 27, 2007. Registration begins 8:30 am, dancing begins at 10 am. Donation was given to USA Dance to promote MN Madness by sponsoring scholarship money for event. Contact Mike Jones for more info.

Frank Kohlasch requested funds from USA Dance MN Chapter 2011 to support Minnesota PerformDance's 2nd Annual Christmas Show to be held Dec. 14-16, 2007. Last year two ads were placed in program. This year the board voted to purchase black/white full page ad in program and color full page ad on back cover. One ad would promote USA Dance MN and the other would promote Star of the North Dancesport Classic in February 2008. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tues, September 4, 2007

Location: Janie Nordberg's house, 6000 Wolfberry Lane, Golden Valley, MN 55442.

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 (300 dpi 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

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only). Send to: **annelatourelle@comcast.net**

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH
©2007 USA Dance

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All About Twin Cities Open & Nationals from Anne LaTourelle

Recently I was at an event and heard someone congratulating an amateur couple for winning a national title at nationals. Of course, winning at nationals is something Minnesotans frequently do and we have come to take it for granted. Nearby was another couple that had also attended and while they didn't win a title they danced well. It dawned on me that we need to support and congratulate all

competitors. Only one couple can win and they all work very hard and put themselves out there... something not everyone is willing to do.

Read on to find out the results of some of your favorite dancers at both Twin Cities Open and USA Dance Nationals and congratulate these people next time you see them! ■

From The President

Newsworthy News by Mike Jones



USA Dance-MN's dances are the highlight of the dance monthly calendars for many Twin Cities dance enthusiasts; and for good reason. In recent years, we've added a special dance event called the Dance Extravaganza. The Extravaganza has been put on hold until further notice. The Extravaganza, which was held at the Dance Shoppe utilized four separate ballrooms each with its own sound system. Recently, the Dance Shoppe was sold and, because of remodeling changes, won't be available for us to use that way.

First, a salute. The Dance Extravaganza was the brain child of Dan Viehman. Over the years, he was the driving force and producer of the event during its tenure. Both Dan and his wife Yvonne have been tireless USA Dance-MN members for many years. You may remember them as the producers of the successful Dancin' the Night Away shows. With the retirement of the Dance Extravaganza, Dan will be relieved of that duty.

Yvonne is still quite active as our demo coordinator. I'd like to take this opportunity to offer them both special thanks on behalf of myself, the USA Dance-MN Chapter and the entire Twin Cities dance community. (I don't know if I can officially speak on behalf of the entire community of dancers, but I'll do it anyways). The Dance Extravaganza has had the help and

participation of many local dance organizations and instructors. They too, deserve our thanks.

The September monthly dance was to have been the next scheduled Dance Extravaganza so we needed to come up with something new and special and great and etc... I'm proud to say that I put in more than my two cents worth on this idea. The September monthly dance will be at the Retro Ballroom, which adjoins the On Your Toes Studio. They have 2 large ballrooms and a smaller studio we can use to mingle and have individual activities.

Right now the details of the plans are coming together, but here's what we have in mind. The large ballrooms will be geared towards different level dancers. One room will be a place for newer dancers to learn, practice and get floor time. They won't have to worry about being swept away by the more advanced dancers we have zooming around the floor. We want to offer a comfortable place to optimize everybody's dance preferences. We'll have the zoomers in one big room and non-zoomers in the other big studio.

We've had many requests for intro level lessons, so we're hoping for ample opportunities to offer lessons and mini-sessions in the smaller studio. Maybe we'll have a mixer between the two rooms.

We will make sure the non-zoomer room has some experienced dancers who are looking to dance with the newer people.

I'm looking forward to hanging out in all of the studios. We hope to see a lot of new, as well as old, faces. Personally, I'd like to see a big discount for students. I used the terms zoomers and non zoomers because I really want to avoid the terms "beginner" or "advanced". This whole dance concept doesn't have a name yet, but we could your ideas and feedback. Please send us your suggestions and don't miss it.

Classic news: The Classis Ballroom had their grand opening on August 7th, and it was true to form. The official opening and ribbon cutting was attended by the Mayor of Plymouth, who gave a brief speech about the importance of fitness for the city. The Twin West Chamber of Commerce also sent ambassadors who welcomed Classic Ballroom to the north/west suburbs.

Over 100 people attended the grand opening and were treated to mini-group classes, and an organic lunch provided by Four Seasons Mall neighbor, Fresh and Natural Foods. Dance performances by Russell Hunter & Stacy Zerk, Greg & Sue Prasch, Mark Tepley & Karen Kettler

NEWSWORTHY NEWS continued on page 5

News from USA Dance National Office



To Senior DanceSport Athletes

For your information, shown below is a letter of invitation to the IDSF World Senior II Standard Championship to be held October 20, 2007 in Belgium.

Please note, this World event is OPEN to any and all competitors. USA Dance will support the top two Athletes in this division from the National Championships. All other age eligible Senior-II competitors are welcome to attend this World Championship at their own expense.

Good luck to everyone that decides to attend.

Ken Richards, VP of DanceSport – USA Dance Inc.
302-765-3511, DanceSport-VP@UsaDance.org

To all IDSF Members

Houthalen, 24th of April 2007

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Belgian Dance Sport Federation (B.D.S.F.) we cordially invite to the following competition:
IDSF World Senior II Standard Championship 2007
Open for all couples (possibility to dance on Sunday the IDSF SENIOR II STANDARD with different judges than Saturday, entry via web site: <http://users.skynet.be/hdm>)

Date: 20th of October 2007

Place: Liege(Belgium) Palais des Congrès

Discipline: Standard

Organizer: Dance Sport Club Le Perron in Collaboration with Hubert and Monique De Maesschalck Under supervision of the BDSF and IDSF.

Conditions: According to IDSF rule 8

- Travelling expenses must be paid by the couples.
- First 24 couples will receive 100 Euro expenses.
- Free entry for all World Competitors on Saturday.

Please send "Entry Form" till 10th of October 2007 directly to:

De Maesschalck Hubert
Booithoekestraat, 20
B-8630 VEURNE (Belgium)

Phone: 32 58 23 95 07 Fax: 32 58 24 39 29

E-mail: hubert.de.maesschalck@skynet.be

Extra information: <http://users.skynet.be/hdm/www.bdsf.be>

We very much would appreciate your acceptance of our invitation and request your notice in time, also if not in the affirmative.

With best regards, Yours sincerely,

Guido Panis
President Belgian Dance Sport Federation
Président – Voorzitter
Guido PANIS
Wilgenstraat 82, B-3530 Houthalen
Tél. & Fax: + 32.(0)89.38.02.51
g.panis@skynet.be ■

NEWSWORTHY NEWS continued from page 4

Tepley, Tom & Anne LaTourelle, Jay Larson & Jenelle Donnay, and Paul Botes & Donna Edelstein rounded out the afternoon. Congratulations Classic Ballroom and welcome to the Twin Cities dance scene.

I don't know whether or not there'll be a full moon. But, on October 27th (at the Shakopee Ballroom) you can bet that madness will be the order of the day. It's Minnesota Madness and it's a great way for new or experienced dancers to show off their steppin' attributes. Nathan Daniels and Scott Anderson are the madness meisters. They'll be offering events that you won't find at a typical competition. Ya gotta check it out.

Big congratulations to Jill Ableman and Jason Johnson from Dancers

Studio. They were recently married, Jill be sporting a new name of Johnson. They're long time friends of mine and I wish them the best. I had the pleasure of attending their congratulatory dance at Dancers Studio.

Lately, we've had some good news and some bad news. Some of our fellow dancers have had to deal with some major issues. Whatever the news may be, it seems as though (sooner or later) dancing is an outstanding way to deal with our issues. We're here when you need us.



Do you know of something that's newsworthy? Almost everyone knows someone who deserves a pat on the back. Send your thoughts and ideas to: InMyOpinion@USADance-MN.org ■

Classic Ballroom Presents
The
Elegance and Opulence Ball
Saturday September 29th
8:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Experience the romance of dance under a canopy of
22 glistening Venetian crystal chandeliers.

Dine on gourmet appetizers.

Dance the night away.

Show featuring members of

The Beyond Ballroom Dance Company.

RSVP: 763 519 1314

Advance reservations
required by Sept. 26

\$20 pp.

(Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover accepted)

Formal attire preferred.



Classic
BALLROOM *take a step up
in your world!*

4228 Lancaster Lane N. Plymouth in the Four Seasons Mall
ClassicBallroomDance.com

ALL ABOUT TWIN CITIES OPEN...

Twin Cities Open 2007 Details!

We all learned about the history of TCO in last month's issue of Minnesota Dancing Times. Here are some great details about the event this year:

- **The largest to date – over 5200 entries!!!**
- Sold out DAY sessions as well as Saturday Evening!
- Spectators who took in the entire event included the Red Hat Ladies from LaCrosse, WI; and former Gopher Football coach, Glen Mason
- Event was highlighted by FM107's Lori & Julia show!
- **Amateur Open Winners:**
 - Standard & Smooth: Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler
 - Rhythm: Andy & Janie Nordberg
 - Latin: Gene Bersten & Zhanna Vantryub
- **Top Local Studios:**
 - 1 – Cinema Ballroom
 - 2 – Dancers Studio
 - 3 – Classic Ballroom
- **Top Out of State Studios:**
 - 1 – Simply Ballroom (St. Louis, MO)
 - 2 – Ballroom Parkrose (Portland, OR)
- **Top Teachers** included Eric Hudson, Dave Watson (OR), Jay Larson, Michelle Hudson, Shane Meuwissen, Paul Botes, Robert Foster, Joseph Scherer (MO), and Mark Webster (WI).

- **Professional Champions:**
 - Smooth: Eric & Michelle Hudson
 - Standard: Peter Minkov & Yulia Kornilova
 - Rhythm: Sam Gordon & Tamsyn Devierles
 - Latin: Andre & Natalie Paramonov
 - Showdance: Pavel Cherdanstsau & Svetlana Rudkovskaya
- Special Junior Amateur Scholarship was awarded to Magic Ballroom – given by John Abrams & the Wisconsin Youth Dancesport Foundation
- “Unforgettable Award” was given to Bill Beddor

Next year: July 10-12, 2008 at the Sheraton Bloomington. Visit www.twincitiesopen.com for more info or email at megamarc@frontiernet.net. ■



Peter Minkov & Yulia Kornilova
Photo by Sandra Colson

Being a Spectator at TCO *By Jeff Chin*

Idon't remember the first year I attended TCO, but I do remember watching the Saturday Evening show in January, 1989. I'm unsure who danced that evening, but do remember seeing Robert & Jennifer Foster, Deanne Moe, Kim Perry, Jesse Smith (He was 20?), Roy Kinsell, Shinya McHenry, Marcy Murphy (now McHenry), Nels Petersen, and of course, Scott & Amy Anderson.

As a relative newcomer to ballroom dancing with only one competition under my belt (1988 Minnesota Open in Medina), I was awe-struck with the quality of dancing by both professionals and amateurs. First impressions usually define what one thinks about something and the Twin Cities Open did that for me. If I was not hooked on dancing before that, I was afterwards. Look at all the gorgeous women... And I was sitting with two: Maria Cremer and Gina Tabor (for those of you who remember them)!

Because of TCO (like the Minnesota Open), I was exposed to many amateurs and professionals in the local area. That is why, in 1993, Celia Mullen and I chose Scott Anderson to re-choreograph all our routines. This led to an unexpected nine dance championship the following year.

Over the years, I've attended quite a few TCO's and have noticed that while the overall quality of dancing is improving, the number of people attaining a high level of competence is growing even faster.

Of course, who could forget World Dance 1998 and 1999, held at the Target Center? Finally, for those of you who do not compete, it is worthwhile to watch a competition like TCO, if for nothing other than to absorb the sheer joy that emanates from ballroom dancing. ■

ALL ABOUT TWIN CITIES OPEN...

Does the Cheering Really Help? *By Andrea Johnson*

Once again, Scott, Amy, and the Dream Team pulled off another fabulous TCO (that's short for the Twin Cities Open Dance Competition for the non-dancaholics). It was only my fourth time competing at TCO, but it was memorable because for the first time ever, I had my own personal cheering section. I had nine spectators that had come solely to cheer me on! Although, I suspect that they also came to see if I actually did wear my costume (or lack-there-of, as my friend pointed out) in public.

I distinctly remember when my friends walked in (just in time to see my first round of rhythm) and I literally saw their eyes double in size when they realized that they were looking right at me. I tried to prepare them, "Imagine me with about 20x my usual amount of make-up on, large fake eyelashes, and one entire bottle of hairspray in my hair," but I'm not sure anything can prepare people for how different their friends can look in their competition gear.

After my first round, I came off the floor to rest and visit with my cheering section. I was flooded with questions, "Do you get tired?" "Who is that guy you are dancing with?" "Can I have your autograph?" (well, maybe not that

one) "Did you hear us cheering for you?" and "Does it screw you up when we cheer for you?" It was the last two questions that struck me. Perhaps it is the performer in me that immediately answered, "Are you kidding?!" Why wouldn't someone want their name cheered across a dance floor? They explained that they thought it might throw off my concentration or make me embarrassed.

Valid points; however, from a competitive dancer's point of view, cheering is what makes me smile when I'm at my breaking point (mentally or physically) on the dance floor and my smile starts fading and feeling forced, my frame starts dropping and the performer is starting to fade. When I hear my name screamed, it makes me remember that I am not only competing, I am also performing for all the wonderful people who came to watch dancing and cheer on their friends. Even if there may be a select few that don't like being cheered for, I suspect I speak for most dancers when I say, "cheer, cheer, cheer!" It not only shows your appreciation for what you are watching, but it also brings the energy level up in the room, which makes for an exciting and fun competition. Cheer on! ■

Being a Spectator This Year at TCO! *By Lisa Lang & Charlene Ihrig*

We've enjoyed competing in the past three Twin City Open Competitions and had looked forward to participating again in this year. Unfortunately, circumstances intervened. Even though we were unable to compete, we decided to attend as spectators and found that despite the frustration of not dancing, it was a valuable experience.

As a competitor, you are constantly focused on your own dancing. This interferes with being able to appreciate the dancing of others. As spectators, we were able to relax, closely analyze, and learn from the performances.

It was interesting to see how important the fundamentals are. Good frame, precise footwork, and expression were very obvious in those who did them well. Unfortunately, the lack of those same elements was glaringly obvious in many. It emphasized to us how much we should concentrate on improving our fundamentals.

An enjoyable aspect of being a spectator was that it allowed us to talk and share the experience with others. We didn't need to cut conversations short to prepare for the next heat. It was fun to study the many different styles of costuming and analyze what seemed to work and why.

Overall, we found being spectators to be a good learning experience. We enjoyed watching the newcomers as much as the advanced students. The pro show was wonderful, but the most inspirational dancing was demonstrated during the honor dances on Saturday evening. The entire event celebrated the beauty of dance. ■



Photo by Sandra Colson

ALL ABOUT TWIN CITIES OPEN...

*A Rewarding
Experience for All!*

Photography by Sandra Colson



Most Dance Fun EVER!

All Ages • All Levels

Mark Your Calendars!

October 27th, 2007

At the fabulous Shakopee Ballroom!



Nathan Daniels • 763-545-8690

Scott Anderson • 612-816-4446

ALL ABOUT TWIN CITIES OPEN...

TCO from the Sidelines... *By Nathan Daniels*

From a judge's point of view, Twin Cities Open was GREAT this year. There are many reasons why this was so! The number of entries was up this year to over 5,000, which made for an exciting event. The sheer energy from having that many people participating was exhilarating. The quality of the dancing was also up this year. So, not only was the quantity there, but the quality as well.

This made the judges job more difficult, but much more rewarding. We really had to 'work' our skills to evaluate the placement of each couple, as opposed to trying to determine the 'best of the worst'!!!

Kudos to the hard-working instructors, as well as our top ranked amateurs, who should be proud of their success.

They have earned it! Here in the Twin Cities, we have some of the best talent in the country. This fact also attracts others to the Twin Cities so that they may see how they 'measure up' against our standard. Rock on!!!

Lastly, the judging panel was really fun. Sometimes judging panels get a bit stuffy and boring. This was certainly not the case at Twin Cities Open. There was a great mix of personalities. Judges, seasoned to novice, from all over the country, from all over the judging spectrum, offered their insights into the adjudicated events.

Congratulations to Scott, Amy, and the Dream Team for a job really well done. I am looking forward to see what they do in 2008!!! ■

Photography by Sandra Colson



Keep It Fresh By Shane Meuwissen, Cinema Ballroom

Everyone has their own opinions about the music they dance to and when you dj a variety dance, you get to hear them all. Personally, I enjoy dancing to new music and keeping it fresh. I like a foxtrot to an old Frank Sinatra song, but there's nothing like dancing rumba to a song I just heard on the radio. We're all familiar with the great classics, so I thought I'd take an opportunity to introduce you to some recently released albums.

Bitter:Sweet's "The Mating Game" is an album that has a bit of a pop sound to it. It provides a nice mix of rumba, cha cha, and bolero. Check out the title track "The Mating Game" for a good American rumba or "Dirty Laundry" for an excellent cha cha.

The Puppini Sister's "Betcha Bottom Dollar" is a modern day rendition of several classics with a sound that reminds me of the Andrew Sisters. This album has several outstanding dance tracks, with "Panic", an American foxtrot, and with a beautiful bolero rendition of "Sway".

Rhythms Del Mundo's "Cuba" is an interesting experiment covering the popular songs of today and giving them a Latin beat. Overall, they do a pretty good job creating cha cha, bolero, and salsa. The overall favorite at dance parties seems to be the salsa rendition of U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For".

Outkast's "Idlewild" is a mix of hip hop with jazz & blues roots. This album has a few songs that you can swing or quickstep to, but the real gem is "Idlewild Blue", which is a nice, bluesy triple-time swing.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful. If you have any questions, comments, or your own suggestions on some great new music, feel free to send a message to shane@cinemaballroom.com

If you're interested in hearing these and other great new songs, check out our monthly variety dance on September 24 at Cinema Ballroom. I'll be playing a mix of great classics and fun new music. ■

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*Our monthly **Newcomer Night** is the **third Thursday** of every month at **8:00pm**.*

Upcoming Newcomer Night:

Thursday, September 20

Call for details

651.641.0777



The Other Foot

A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORLD OF DANCE by Jennifer Foster

The *Magic* of Magic Ballroom

Minnesota's Magic Ballroom is a non-profit school of dance specifically for children's competitive Latin dance. Many have seen some of these kids dance at local competitions for years, but few know how they came to be. Like many endeavors, trial and error is sometimes the only teaching tool in creating the success of your product. The Magic Ballroom is no exception. Here is how they have achieved their accomplishments in just a few short years.

Over seven years ago, Robert Foster approached Lydia Petrigova about teaching a dance class for children at Fosters' DanceSport Ballroom. She advertised in a local Russian paper and there was a great response. All of the children who came were of Russian descent, a country where dance sport is the second most popular sport. As with many countries around the world, the children are exposed to both social and competitive partnership dancing at an early age.

The class nearly took up the entire floor. Meanwhile, Scott Anderson began a kids ballroom class in Plymouth. Among the students in the class were Gene Bersten and Zhanna Vayntrub. Gene also had his younger brother and sister in the class. There were two things that stood out in my mind at this time; watching children learn dance sport was very cute and boy, those Bersten kids surely were a handful!

Eventually, Lydia moved away, the class divided and continued successfully, some staying at Fosters' DanceSport Ballroom and some going to Mariusz Olszewski. By then, the competition bug had bitten both Gene and Zhanna and their parents were very supportive of their pursuit.

As all competitors soon discover, there is nothing cheap about competitive dance sport!

Private lessons become the only way to really develop your craft. Gene and Zhanna began their lessons with Robert Foster in Latin and Yulia Kornilova and Peter Minkov in standard. Both Gene and Zhanna have a lot of energy when they dance and preferred doing Latin, so they dropped the standard. After a few years, they were ready to go to a champion Latin teacher. They found Alexandra Gisher, a former Latin dance champion currently from New York City.

Along with their parents, Gene and Zhanna decided to put together a small dance program that would afford them the ability to bring Alexandra in every other week for coaching lessons and group classes. At the time, Gene and Zhanna were not allowed to teach since they were amateur dancers,

so they hired local teachers to instruct the classes some of which were quite helpful to their program. However, more than once, an instructor tried to take over their program and attach themselves to the talented couple. It was very important that their program serve the purpose of helping the kids continue the high level training they needed to compete nationally so Magic Ballroom parted ways quickly with these instructors.

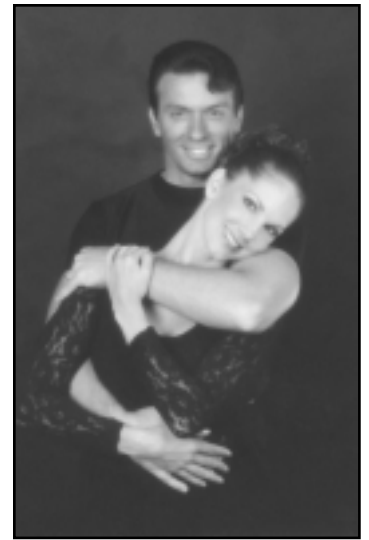
Eventually the ban on teaching was lifted for all competitive dance sport athletes, so Gene and Zhanna were allowed to teach which helped the program very much. They moved their classes from the Jewish Community Center to Fosters' DanceSport Ballroom this year. Both Gene and Zhanna have a wonderful work ethic-they are both in school-Zhanna in high school and Gene in college. Even with their busy schedule, Gene has kept the same job on Wednesday evenings at Menorah Nursing home for several years. One of the nicest things for me is when they acknowledge how difficult instructing children can be. So rewarding, yet such a challenge! (Gene was quite a character in his younger years!)

Having just completed the National Dance Championships Gene and Zhanna are back in the studio teaching and practicing, no doubt mentally preparing for their next season of competition. This September they will begin the classes for their students again after a few week summer hiatus, and I am sure all their pupils will be looking forward to that!

I would also like to acknowledge the other instructors in town that I know of who also teach children. Mariusz Olszewski teaches private lessons, Megan Gordon teaches a baby ballroom class at The Dancers Studio, Scott Anderson, who has taught at the Dance Shoppe in Plymouth, and Tony Karadjov, who teaches privates at Fosters DanceSport Ballroom. Robert and I had our first kids' class back in 1996 and I am happy to see it gain momentum in our dance community.

Best of luck to Gene and Zhanna and Magic Ballroom!

Jennifer Foster is a 3 time US professional champion and world finalist. ■



USA Dance 2007 National Championships

A Competitor's Perspective

George & Kelly Roscoe

Both events started with quarter finals, but we just missed the cut in the Senior I Silver Standard heat. Overall we had a great time, both dancing and watching the other heats. In fact we were so inspired, that in addition to competing in standard next year, we're thinking about doing Latin, too.

Min Cheng and Michael Heise

We went to Nationals for the first time this year. We were finalists in Adult American Silver Smooth, 3rd in Adult American Silver Rhythm, and 2nd in Adult American Bronze Rhythm.

The Knickerbockers

The elegant Galt House was a wonderful setting for the competition. The comp was very efficiently run and the amount of space provided was superb. There is no way to match the energy of Nationals. You can almost feel the air crackle during the adult Latin heats. It was too bad that they did not set aside enough rooms at the Galt House so all competitors could stay in the hotel, but our suite at the Holiday Inn (the designated overflow hotel) was pleasant, and the attached water park was a hit with our kids.

Tom & Anne LaFourelle

This was our 9th nationals experience and we now enjoy seeing old friends almost as much as dancing. We were thrilled to crack the top 12 in the S1Standard Championship. The standard dancers just seem to get better and better! We also placed 2nd in Pre-Champ S1 Standard and 3rd place in Championship S1 Smooth.



Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler

United States Open Amateur American Smooth Champions!

The venue for the USA Dance National Championships was a pleasant surprise compared to the last time we attended a competition at the Galt House in Louisville. The ballroom had become a non-smoking facility, was brightly lit, and had stadium seating. As seems to be a continuing problem for USA Dance, the marketing to the general public appeared to be non-existent. It would have been great to show the public the top amateur couples in the country. But, when we win as decisively as we did this year, we are pretty much happy about everything!

Gordy & Linda Davis

New Senior III Amateur American Smooth Champions!

Louisville ran a great national competition in truly one of the nicest ballrooms. They packed a full house on both Friday and Saturday evening. This was a terrific weekend for us achieving one of our goals as "National Champions".

Andy & Janie Nordberg

United States Open Amateur 9-Dance Champions!

After taking a year off, it was especially rewarding to return and win the Open Amateur 9-Dance title for the 7th time in our competitive dance career. This is one of the nicest venues we've attended for a National Championships – maybe surpassed only by the Salt Lake City venue in 2001 and St. Paul, Minnesota's venue (hmm...I may be a little biased on that one!) The Galt House is a beautiful hotel with lots of convenient restaurants and shops nearby. We were even able to squeeze in some sightseeing during the day. So much has changed over the years since attending our first National Championship in 1995, but one thing that hasn't is the camaraderie and friendships that continue over the years and the great passion and love for dancing that is so evident on the faces of the competitors!! ■

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USA Dance 2007 National Championships

By Anne LaTourelle

The 2007 USA Dance National Championships were held in Louisville, KY August 3rd – 5th. Louisville is familiar to many competitors as a host to many USA Dance regional competitions. The Galt House Hotel was the home to this event and is a lovely hotel sitting on the bank of the Ohio River.

The beautiful ballroom was set up with tables and risers. This allowed spectators to get a great view of the floor. In fact, the most coveted seats were not in the front row. The back row seats allowed you to see all the couples at one time.

The event seemed smaller than prior nationals, with some heats being semi-finals instead of quarter finals, etc. The dancing, however, seemed stronger than ever. The usual crowd favorites, Adult and Youth Latin, and Adult Standard, events filled the ballroom. The competition organizers did a nice job of spreading out the championship events over 3 evenings to help draw a crowd. However, it was disappointing that the Sunday evening championship events were danced before a small crowd. Even though Adult Smooth and Youth Standard Championships are exciting events, many competitors head home once their events are done to start their work week on Monday.

Minnesota dancers fared very well this year. I heard several comments about the high quality of American smooth dancing by couples from Minnesota. There were three championship events won by Minnesota couples! I don't think there is another state that can make that claim this year and we routinely do this! Championship winners include Gordy & Linda Davis who won Senior III Championship Smooth, Andy & Janie Nordberg who recaptured their 9-Dance Championship after skipping last year and Nels & Theresa placed 1st in the American Smooth Championship.

Next year, Nationals will be held in Baltimore and the date will be moved to the spring. Watch this newsletter for more details as they become available.

Here are the results for all the Minnesota couples attending this year. Next time you see these folks, congratulate them on their hard work. Only one couple can win each event but all should to be commended for their hours of practice and for chasing their dreams!

Jeremy Anderson & Katy Jablonski

Adult Silver Smooth – Semi-finals
Adult Gold Smooth – Semi-finals
Adult Gold Rhythm – 5th place
Adult Novice Rhythm – 6th place
Adult Bronze Standard – Quarter finals
Adult Silver Standard – Quarter finals

Alkon Vorotinov & Miriam Star

Youth Bronze Latin – 1st place
Youth Silver Latin – 2nd place

Alan Bersten & Melanie Melnikova

Junior I Gold Latin – 1st place
Junior I Novice Latin – 5th place
Junior I Silver Standard – 1st place uncontested
Junior I Pre-Champ Latin – 5th place

Aiden Mamedov & Melani Bersten

Junior II Novice Latin – 1st place
Junior II Silver Standard – 2nd place
Junior II Pre-Champ Latin – Semi-finals

Samuel Budilovsky & Sabrina Akselrod

Pre-Teen II Bronze Latin – 1st place
Pre-Teen I Silver Latin – 3rd place

Anthony Brown & Amy Bannon

Adult Silver Smooth – Semi-finals
Adult Novice Smooth – Semi-finals
Adult Silver Rhythm – Semi-finals
Adult Gold Rhythm – 6th place
Youth Silver Smooth – 1st place uncontested
Youth Novice Smooth – 1st place uncontested
Adult Novice Rhythm – Semi-finals
Youth Silver Rhythm – 1st place uncontested
Youth Gold Rhythm – 1st place uncontested
Youth Novice Rhythm – 1st place uncontested
Adult Championship Cabaret – 4th place

George & Kelly Roscoe

Senior I Silver Standard – Semi-finals
Senior I Bronze Standard – 6th place

Calvin & Cleo Knickerbocker

Junior I Silver Smooth – 1st place uncontested
Junior I Novice Smooth – 1st place uncontested
Junior I Bronze Rhythm – 2nd place
Junior I Silver Rhythm – 1st place uncontested
Junior I Novice Rhythm – 1st place uncontested

Gregory & Susan Prasch

Senior II Silver Smooth – Semi-finals
Senior II Bronze Smooth – 4th place
Senior I Bronze Smooth – 6th place
Senior I Silver Smooth – Semi-finals

2007 NATIONALS continued on page 17

2007 NATIONALS continued from page 16

Senior II Bronze Rhythm – 5th place
Senior I Bronze Rhythm – 5th place
Senior II Silver Rhythm – 6th place

Jeff & Bridget Knickerbocker

Senior II Novice Smooth – 2nd place
Senior II Novice Rhythm – 6th place
Senior I Novice Rhythm – 5th place
Senior I Pre-Champ Rhythm – 6th place
Senior II Pre-Champ Rhythm – 4th place
Senior II Pre-Champ Smooth – Semi-finals
Senior I Pre-Champ Smooth – Semi-finals

Dustin Gavin & Marina Budilovsky

Adult Bronze Latin – Semi-finals
Adult Silver Latin – Semi Finals

Viktor Lipchenko & Laurie Matthews

Adult Novice Latin – Quarter finals

Gene Bersten & Zhanna Vayntrub

Adult Championship Latin – Quarter finals

Gordon & Linda Davis

Senior III Championship Smooth – 1st place
Senior II Championship Smooth – 2nd place

Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler

Adult Championship Smooth – 1st place

Andy & Janie Nordberg

Adult Championship Nine Dance – 1st place
Adult Championship Rhythm – 6th place
Adult Championship Smooth – Semi-finals

David & Jeannie Schmit

Senior I Championship Smooth – 2nd place
Adult Championship Smooth – Semi-finals

Tom & Anne LaTourelle

Senior I Championship Standard – Semi-finals
Senior I Championship Smooth – 3rd place
Senior I Pre-Champ Standard – 2nd place

Mike Heise & Min Chong

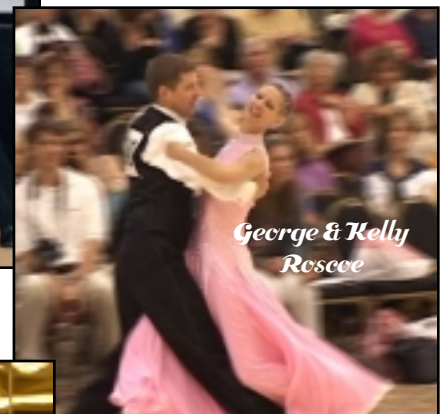
Adult Bronze Rhythm – 2nd place
Adult Silver Rhythm – 3rd place ■



*Calvin & Cleo
Knickerbocker*



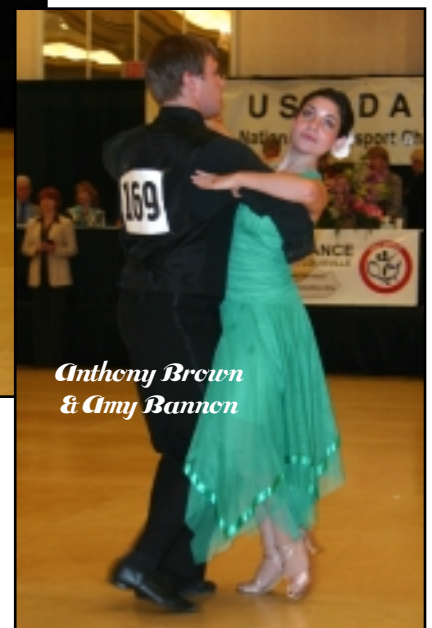
*Jeff & Bridget
Knickerbocker*



*George & Kelly
Rescoe*



*Min Chong &
Michael Heise*



*Anthony Brown
& Amy Bannan*

SEPTEMBER DANCE *with Something* EXTRA SPECIAL

In honor of National Ballroom Dance Week, a dance event for dancers at all levels!

DATE: Saturday, September 15, 2007

LOCATION: On Your Toes and Retro Ballroom
5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN, 55416 (parking and entrance in rear)

EVENT DETAILS:

Retro Ballroom

7-8 PM Silver-level Cha-Cha lesson by James Wood • 8-11 PM Dance with DJ Erik Pratt

On Your Toes Ballroom

8-8:30 PM Beg. level waltz lesson by James Wood
8:30-9 PM open practice time, questions/coaching help
9-9:30 PM Beg. level swing lesson by James Wood
9:30-10 PM open practice time, questions/coaching help
10-10:30 PM Beg. level foxtrot lesson by James Wood
10:30-11 PM open practice time, questions/coaching help

COST: \$10 General Admission • \$7 USA Dance Members • \$5 & nbsp; Age 25 and Under

QUESTIONS: Contact Tricia Wood at 612.600.5129 or info@usadance-mn.org.

Retro Ballroom



Group classes!

Wednesday Salsa group classes:

7:00pm Beginner level, 8:00pm Intermediate Salsa group classes with James Wood. These are on-going weekly! Walk-ins welcome. No partner required. \$15 per person per class or 6 for \$60. One free night every 6 weeks; the next is Oct. 3rd.

Thursday Waltz & Foxtrot group classes:

Starting Thursday, September 13th:
7:00-7:45pm Silver-level Waltz and Foxtrot group classes with Jeff Nehrbass. These will be on-going weekly! Walk-ins welcome. No partner required. \$15 per person per class or 6 for \$60.

Dance parties!

Saturday, Sept. 1st: Metro Variety Dance (Ballroom, Latin, Swing). Argentine Tango lesson by Lois Donnay 7:30-8:00. Dance 8:00-11:00.

Friday, Sept. 7th: On Your Toes (Ballroom, Latin) variety dance. Lesson by Jeff Nehrbass 7:30-8:30. Dance 8:30-11:00.

Friday, Sept. 14th: Café Bailar Dance Club (Ballroom, Latin). Lesson 7:30-8:30. Dance 8:30-12:00.

Saturday, Sept. 15th: USA Dance-MN (Ballroom, Latin). *Special dance! Dancing in both ballrooms! Mini lessons and dancing all night, 7:00-11:00.

Friday, Sept. 21st: On Your Toes' Country and Swing dance. Lesson 7:30-8:00. Dance 8:00-12:00.

Saturday, Sept. 22nd: Café Bailar Dance Club (Ballroom, Latin). East Coast Swing variations lesson by Scott Anderson 7:30-8:30. Dance 8:30-12:00.

All dance parties and group lessons are open to the public. Singles and couples welcome. FMI: (952) 928-7803, tricia@onyourtoes.org.



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www.onyourtoes.org

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 Why don't professional dance competitors have different age groups like the amateur dancers?

She Said:

There is one competition that I can think of that does have a Professional Masters event for competitors over 40 – and that is the Maryland Invitational. Not that many pros survive to compete into their 40's though (and some won't admit that they are in their 40's). Paul and I did and were Masters Smooth Champions at the Maryland Invitational.

Most pros start dancing fairly young and have danced 20 years by the time they reach their 30s. It is typical to forgo vacations, and in many cases put off buying a home in order to support one's dancing. Most pros also practice at least 2 to 4 hours per day – every day – in addition to a full teaching schedule which takes a toll on the body. Many pros retire because of trouble with various body parts.

Those pros who don't suffer injuries realize that after living this lifestyle for 15 or 20 years they are ready to retire from competition and have a normal life. Some want to have children, others want to develop a studio – and some just want to be able to eat a normal meal and have time to see friends and family.

Some suffer many partnership break-ups and can't endure starting one more partnership. Others decide they don't want to subject themselves to their partner's moods and ego.

It is also very expensive to be a pro – taking training from top coaches, traveling internationally, and if not sponsored – buying costumes and lots of dance shoes. It takes a lot of money to get to the top and stay on top. After a while people decide that they have reached their goals – or that it is not worth it to reach their goals as they see other competitors highly in debt due to dancing.

Additionally ours is a visual sport. The body does not look the same – or have the same degree of flexibility and speed as one ages. It becomes increasingly difficult to have the right look on an older body. Most pros don't want their older self compared to their younger self.

When a pro decides to retire from professional competition they have many options – enjoy dancing pro-am with students, help amateur and pro dancers to achieve their goals, perform in shows, create choreography, and judge. ■



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Outstanding Region 2 Chapters and Volunteers



Small Chapter: North Coast OH #2063

North Coast OH chapter has nine board members of which 3 are new in 2007. Membership increased in 2006 and a 30-day call is made to delinquent members. Annual reports were turned in on time. Thirteen dances were hosted in 2006. The chapter promoted local interest in partner dancing by sponsoring public demonstrations and local National Ballroom Dance Week activities. Marketing efforts includes a website and issuing press releases, publishing a newsletter and email announcements. Conducted youth outreach to local K- 12 schools. Supported dancesport by encouraging members to attend competitions. Increased chapter membership in 2006 by 33% and EOY cash balance by 36%.

Large Chapter: Heartland Chapter #2022

The Heartland, Indianapolis IN chapter has eight board members of which 2 are new in 2007. Membership increased in 2006 and a 30-day call is made to delinquent members. Hosted 13 dances including a New Year's ball plus the 2006 North Central Regional DanceSport Championship. The chapter promoted local interest in partner dancing by sponsoring public demonstrations and local National Ballroom Dance Week activities. Marketing efforts includes a website, issuing press releases, newsletter and email announcements. Conducted youth outreach to local K- 12 schools and support three college dance clubs: Butler University, Indiana University and IUPUI. Supported dancesport by hosting an annual chapter competition, encouraging members to attend competitions, and to encourage spectator attendance offered dance lessons at the 2006 Dancesport Championship. Increased chapter membership in 2006 by 9% and EOY cash balance by 23%.

Large Chapter: Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Finn, President, Chicagoland Chapter #2001: Barbara has amazing energy and a wonderful ability to manage a large chapter of nearly 300 members while attracting the many volunteers needed to staff the board, committees, and to launch a successful annual chapter competition in its second year. Also, in 2006 she bid on and accepted the challenge of hosting the 2007 North Central Regional DanceSport Championship. Somehow she finds time to also assume the duties of Area Coordinator and consults and guides chapters in the State of Illinois.

Small Chapter: Volunteer of the Year

Rose Blair, President, Lincoln NB #2058: In January 2006, Rose assumed the presidency of a very distressed chapter who's membership had declined to 25 in Dec 2005. In addition, the chapter was in debt. She's attracted new volunteers to the board and is still in process of filling the director at large positions. All debt has been paid and the EOY cash balance increased by 74%. The number of social

dances hosted increased from 7 in 2005 to 18 in 2006. Other programs include: Outreach to youth K-12, offered four special workshops, public dance demos, formal/charity dance, National Ballroom Dance Week activities and encouraged members to attend dancesport competitions. Marketing efforts include a newsletter, newspaper coverage, radio and email. Membership increased by 84% from 25 to 46 members.

Regional Leadership: Volunteer of the Year

Rog Greenawalt, Region 2 DanceSport Delegate, Heartland Chapter, Indianapolis IN #2022: Rog is definitely USA Dance's most passionate developer of dancesport competitions at the chapter level. In 2005 he accepted the positions of Region 2 DanceSport Delegate, the Competition Committee & the Eligibility Committee Rep. His key strategy is to increase number of chapter competitions in Region 2. During two years of his reign the number of chapters hosting comps has increased from 3 to 6 with the new comps being hosted by Chicago, Pittsburgh and Knoxville TN. To promote dancesport to chapters, throughout the year he and his dance partner perform dance exhibitions at chapter events. Rog was also co-launched the Heartland Chapter in 1994 and its annual chapter competition. ■



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Dancing for the Girl Scouts

By Bridget Knickerbocker

Once a year, the Girl Scouts hold a 5-day, 4-night jamboree for girls ages 12 - 17. During the jamboree, the girls choose from a series of seminars to fill their days. This year, the jamboree was held at St. Olaf College in Northfield Minnesota, and a ballroom dance exhibition was one of the seminars.

Because Cleo is a Girl Scout and I have family ties in Northfield, our family agreed to dance in the exhibition. When we arrived, we were totally taken off guard to find 1,300 girls! Cal (age 13) didn't seem disappointed by this turn of events...

Our seminar had 50+ girls attend with some adult chaperones. Given we were only 2 couples and we had an hour, we decided to fill time by talking about what it is like to be competitive ballroom dancers. At first the girls were shy, but when we started talking about the costumes, the questions came flying. We were asked what our dresses feel like, so we brought one out and let them touch it. One girl even followed us back to the changing room and asked to touch all the dresses!

While all the girls were riveted by the dancing, some would grin right back if we caught their eye and some would shyly look away as if embarrassed to be caught looking. By the end of the demo almost all the girls had come out of their shell and were making noise. I can't remember being more appreciated at a dance demo. Because Cleo is a girl scout, she was given a gift bag full of cosmetic samples, toys and gifts.

When Cal and Cleo were asked what they thought of the experience, "That was the most fun dance demo we have ever done! Can we do that next year?" ■

Menorah Plaza

Cheri & Art Rolnick provided great entertainment for the seniors at Menorah Plaza in St. Louis Park on Wednesday, July 25, 2007! The residents enjoyed many classic tunes from a wonderful string quartet and then while the quartet took a break, Cheri & Art dazzled the crowd with their waltz, and foxtrot routines.

When I was arranging the demo with their coordinator, Helen, I excitedly said, "Helen, you'll be glad to know that Art Rolnick and his wife will be dancing. He's an economist with the Federal Reserve!" To which she said, "That's great, but can he dance?!" She and the seniors were all very impressed by the dancing abilities of Art and Cheri! USA Dance received a \$35 donation for their efforts. Many thanks to Cheri & Art for sharing their talents. ■

Competition Calendar

Sep 29, 2007 Vegas DanceSport Series

University Las Vegas Gymnasium. Contact dmadance@hotmail.com

Oct 19 - 20, 2007 SE Regional DanceSport Championships

Qualifying event for the 2008 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. Presented by the Greater Atlanta Chapter of USA Dance. For more information, www.atlantasrc.org

Oct 27, 2007 California State DanceSport Championships

Just Dance Studio, Oakland CA, www.usabda-norcal.org/

Nov 17-18, 2007 National Collegiate DanceSport Championships

The event will be held at the Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. This is a great event! Don't miss it. (You must be a Student member of USA Dance to enter.) For more information go to the official website.

January 12, 2008 The Snow Ball

This event will be held at the DoubleTree Park Place in St. Louis Park. Amateur and pro-am scholarships. Pro show by Blackpool Latin Semi-finalists Deylan Terziev and Borianna Deltcheva. For more information contact Paul Botes or Donna Edelstein at 763 557-6004.

Jan 18-20, 2008 Manhattan Amateur Classic

Grand Ballroom, 311 West 34th St. NY, NY, www.nyusabda.org

Feb 9-10, 2008 USA Dance North Central Regional Championships

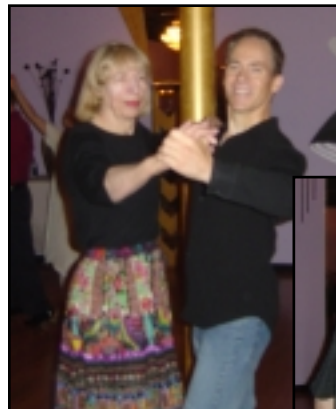
Qualifier for the 2008 National Championships Downtown Marriot Hotel. 500 Hill Ave Knoxville, Tennessee Organizer: Tim McGhee, (865) 386-7843, tim@usabda-knoxville.us

Feb 16 - 17, 2008 Star of the North DanceSport Competition

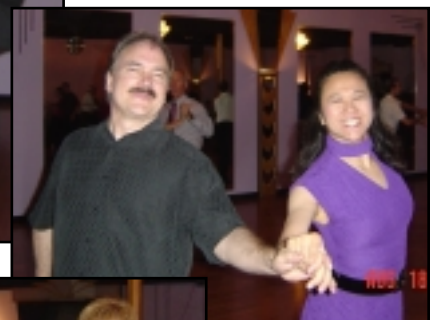
Ukrainian Event Center, Minneapolis, MN, www.usadance-mn.org

Mar 14 - 15, 2008 Triangle Open Dancesport Championships

NSCU Campus, Raleigh, NC, www.dancingwithwolves.org/triangle



August Monthly Dance Snapshots!



Save the Date:
**The Minnesota
Snow Ball
Competition
January 12, 2008**

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**For more information contact Donna Edelstein or Paul Botes at
763 557- 6004 www.time-to-dance.com
thesnowballcomp@msn.com**

Dance Trivia!

Welcome to a new monthly column where we answer dance trivia questions. Send your questions to annelatourelle@comcast.net (our friendly editor).

Question of the month:

What's with the tuxedo? I mean, when you consider the variety of styles of formal clothes for women, the *Pièce de résistance* of men's wear is the same outfit for everyone.

Answer:

A brief history of the tuxedo: the lore, the lure, the legend

All variety of fact and fiction surrounds the origin of tuxedo and the elegant garment that bears its name.

It is said, for example, that the custom of the Algonquians was to name a place after the chief whose tribe occupied it, and that there was sachum named P'tauk-Seet, "the bear," who, in the Seventeenth Century, ruled over a tract of land including what is now known as Tuxedo Combining P'tauk-Seet-tough, "The Home of the Bear."

Another version holds that the Indians called this area of lakes and hills, P'tauk/Sepo, or so it was translated phonetically by the Dutch in their initial land grants. Since the Indians had no written language, these are the best records available.

It written records dating back to 1754, these are references to Tuxedo Pond and later on, Tuxcito Pond, Tuxetough, Tucksito, Tugseto, Tucsedo, Tuxedo, Texedo and Toxedo.

The Marquis de Chastellux, in 1780, writes it as Duck Sider and Duck Seeder. In histories of the area dated 1857 and 1875, the name is corrupted to Duck Cedar with the explanation that the region is overgrown with cedar trees and is a favorite haunt of wild ducks.

The Lorillard family began acquiring land in the Tuxedo

area in 1800's and by 1852, had come into possession of most of what had been known as the Cheescock Patent. They turned it into an elite hunting and fishing resort – a millionaire's haven. With a labor force largely imported from Italy by Pierre Lorillard, they constructed a series of homes within the walled park in a matter of several months that stand today as a testament to the skill of the artisans. It was Tuxedo Park - High Society forty miles to the northwest of New York City.

As the gilt-edged society of Tuxedo Park developed its own social schedule, some new names began to appear. For example, there was James Brown Potter, one of the founders of Tuxedo Park, who was elected to membership in the Tuxedo Club at the organizational meeting held at Delmonico's, in New York City in November 1885. According to the archives, Mr. Potter was introduced to the idea of the dinner jacket by the Prince of Wales, who later became Edward VII.

The first Autumn Ball, held at the Tuxedo Club in October 1886, is marked as the official first appearance of the dinner jacket. Then, it is said Griswold Lorillard and his friends started the people attending the ball by wearing a scarlet satin lapelled dinner jacket – tail-less, while all others were attired in the traditional white-tie and tails. And thus was born the elegant garment forevermore to be known as the "tuxedo" – adapted by people rich and poor as the symbol of celebration. Designated by the motion picture industry as its symbol for high society, class and elegance, and even a symbol of hope for better days during the depression days of the thirties; defined by the tastemakers and standard-bearers as the appropriate garb for those events in an individual's life when only a tradition of elegance will do.

However, the British (being British) also claim ownership to the tux...

DANCE TRIVIA cont. on page 25



The Youth "Ham it up" at the Nationals Practice Competition at Fosters DanceSport Studio!



ALL ABOUT TWIN CITIES OPEN...

Bernice is "Gold Level" at Age 82!! *By Lynne Schulz, Daughter*

Who was that beautiful lady on the cover of the August, 2007 issue of "Dancin' Times"? That was my mom, Bernice Mattke, in some of her past competition photos! And this last July 2007 she was able to compete at "gold level" at the Twin Cities Open. (She will be 82 on September 14!!)

She has told me that her first dancing experience was at Sioux Historic Pavilion in Ortonville, Minnesota on the shore of beautiful Big Stone Lake. She never missed a Thursday night dance party there in two years. This was after her high school graduation while working as a secretary in the courthouse. Sitting and typing was too hard on her back, so she enrolled in nursing school.

Little did she dream that after marrying Harold Mattke (who at 83 can still do a foxtrot), raising four children, and pursuing a long career as a registered nurse, (her nurse's cap and cadet purse are on display at Methodist Hospital), that the dancing urge would swell up inside her once again!

So, Bernice started ballroom dance instruction at age 58! She's "had a wonderful time dancing with several handsome, very patient instructors." I remember her 50th wedding anniversary party – she was in great shape and danced a very sultry tango in a tight, side-slit dress with a white ruffle! Hmmm – a tough act for me to follow!

She has danced in several Twin Cities Opens, the Ohio Star Ball, and competitions in California, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, and Wisconsin. Ask to see her trophies – they are in a couple of grocery bags in her basement!

In 2002 after her double bypass heart surgery, she entered five comps with pro, Scott Anderson! Then she took a leave of absence because she had both knees replaced within two

years. However, she was determined to keep dancing. She said, "The challenge of a comp is always there – good for body, mind, and soul, and even if I'm just in the audience at a comp, I love the music and watching the beautiful flow of the dancers."

There have been embarrassing and humorous moments: At this last TCO she was feeling so comfortable sailing around the dance floor only to have "the wind knocked out of her sails" – she was informed that the clasp at the back of her neck on her lovely royal blue dress had come unhooked!! Her response: "So it goes!"

So look for Bernice on the dance floor when you're out and about. She'd be happy to meet you, maybe even do a little jig. What'll it be – West Coast, cha cha, hustle???

You, Go, Girl!! ■



DANCE TRIVIA cont. from page 24

British Origins

According to English clothing historian James Laver, the idea of wearing black for evening wear was first introduced by the nineteenth century British writer, Edward Bulwer-Lytton who wrote in 1828 that "people must be very distinguished to look well in black."

A resident of Tuxedo Park, James Brown Potter vacationed in England in the summer of 1886.

Potter and his wife, Cora were introduced to the Prince of Wales (who later became King Edward VII) at a court ball in London. Potter asked the prince for advice on formal dress. The prince sent Potter to his own Saville Row tailor,

Henry Poole & Co. Potter was fitted with a short black jacket and black tie that was unlike the formal tails with white tie that was worn in the United States for formal occasions.

The new tail-less formal wear was said to have been designed by the Prince of Wales. The prince and his tailor drew inspiration from the British military uniforms of the time, which used short jackets with black ties.

This is where the two origins meet. James Brown Potter took the design back to the Tuxedo Club, where Pierre Lorillard modified it, named it, and made it popular during the autumn ball. ■

☛ **Contact Lisa Wu at 651-278-4434 or lisa_wu_us@yahoo.com**

Green & blue rhythm dress sz. 4-10 green body & skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 nego.

Purple & white Smooth Gown. Sz. 6-10, \$300 New Latin & Ballroom Shoes for sale, sz. 7, 8 & 9 \$40

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

Gorgeous one of a kind Designs to Shine Gown. Most of dress is a brilliant aqua with a portion of the skirt, bodice and one sleeve black lace. A must see, pictures available. AB Stones throughout with areas of detail pearl bead work. 1 owner. A steal at \$2,500. Size 2-6.

Beautiful Dore Standard Gown. You can't miss this one on the floor! Color is called sherbert (peach). Has one large float, 2 armbands and 1 wrist band. Fit sizes 0-6. Pictures available.

Very playful bright red latin/rhythm dress strings of beads attached to the dress. Sleeveless, open back. Dress was taken in to fit a sz. 2-6. Could easily be let out to fit 6-8. With Black gloves. Pictures available. \$2,000.

Green Latin/rhythm dress originally worn by Inna Ivanenko, this dress is ultra showy! Features very slinky shape, draped fabric heavily decorated with Swarovski stones in Chrysolite (green) color and AB accents. The left side is quite open for those who dare to bare! Pictures available. \$1,200.

Sexy and playful all in one. Has long sleeve and an open back. Dress in skin toned with orange leaves appliqués through out. Heavily decorated with AB and orange stones. Skirt is full of orange floats that trail to the floor. Pictures available. \$2,500.

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

Shoes Size 7 1/2 (American) Diamant Champion round toe 2" latino heel, elastic court std shoes, flesh satin. Brand new. Originally \$110 asking \$40.

☛ **Contact Chris chris_scarlett@yahoo.com**

Women's Capezio pumps, black with strap and thick 2" high heel, Size 7 1/2 to 8M, hard leather sole, excellent condition, \$10.

☛ **Contact Ellen @ 612-600-9726 or EllenR_77@yahoo.com**

Women's Celebrity dance shoes, black, 3 in. heels, size 8 1/2 - 9.

☛ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos**

Size 6-10 excellent condition, (stretchy) fuchsia, heavily stoned bodice. Made by Marsha Weist-Hines. Problem solver dress, open drape chiffon sleeves, drop-waist slims and elongates, chiffon back drape. \$650.

Two unworn dresses: Black form hugging stretchy dress, deep front V held closed with leather straps. Body has multi colored shiny circles. Very hot sz. 6-8 \$75. Royal purple contemporary dress with 1 shoulder, asymmetric hemline, lots of beading. Never worn, sz. 10, \$350.

Authentic vintage disco outfit! Sleeveless 1 piece gray jumpsuit with 1 shoulder, full long legs flare when you spin, glittered top and matching belt. Right out of the 70's very good condition. Sz. Med. \$50

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

Newly offered Championship smooth Size 2-8. Feel like a princess in this beautiful white lace gown with chiffon layered skirt! Subtle multi-colored stoning with flower details. Made by Marsha Weist-Hines. Asking \$1100.

Championship smooth Size 2-8. Unique design, bracelet style cuffs, drop waist Rhinestoned belt, AB color stones throughout! Made by Marsha Weist-Hines. \$850.

Orange flame rhythm dress Size 2-8. One-of-a-kind 2-piece dress has asymmetric sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning, beautiful braid detail belt and straps, matching wrist bands and jewelry. \$750.

Stunning red rhythm dress Size 2-8. Feel like a champion in this showstopper! AB stoned bracelet-style cuffs and matching hipster belt. Open back and slit in asymmetric skirt. \$650.

Black/fuschia smooth gown Size 2-8. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. \$550.

Gold/rose-red rhythm dress Size 2-6. Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flare skirt add great movement. AB color stones add extra sparkle! \$450.

Fuschia rhythm dress Size 2-8. Multi-color stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetric skirt, low back cut. Great movement on dance floor! \$300 or BO.

☛ **Contact Anne @ 612-280-7818 or annelatourelle@comcast.net.**

Beautiful bright coral gown is a beauty on the floor and a breeze to wear. Dress has V front and back with long sleeves with beautiful draped sleeves. Will fit sz. 6-10. A steal @ \$700

☛ **Contact Kate VanAlstine at 651.214.0906 or yolanda4life@yahoo.com**

Asymmetrical orange & blue smooth dress size 2-6 Cool, one-of-a-kind design looks great on the floor. \$300 negotiable

Green & blue rhythm dress size 4-10 Green body and skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 negotiable

Red-belted rhythm dress size 2-6 Super low V-neck, hot-red belt design. Very sexy! \$400

Black lace rhythm dress size 4-6 Sexy see-through long-sleeved look, lots of stones and pearls on the body with cool black and pearl fringe on skirt, matching earrings. \$700

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

Size 2-6 Black Velvet Ballgown size 2-6: The elegant look of black velvet with a red underskirt that peeks out with movement. Red and Hematite stone pattern across bodice. Slimming fit, long sleeves, high neck. Pics available. \$2200

Size 2-6 Newly offered Chocolate Brown Ballgown. Detachable float makes this dress perfect for both Smooth and Standard. Rich look...rich fabric. Long-sleeves, high neck, stoning through neck, bodice, and waist create a slimming effect. Effortless wear! Great value! \$1800

Size 2-6 Top 6 Standard Gown now available. Made by Chrisanne with all the elegance and details you dream of. Multi-color AB, pink, purple, violet, blues stones on purple airbrush design. Feather sprigs on skirt for ethereal movement. Bare arms with floats, diagonal back design, multiple bracelets. True championship-level gown. Pics available. \$2800.

☛ **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.

☛ **Contact Rhonda @ 952-935-7810**

Assorted Celebrity smooth & rhythm shoes. US 9-10N and split sizes. Practice shoes & 1 pr. Supadance rhythm sandals also available. Best offer.

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

Time to clean the closet of dance gowns. I am lowering prices on all my dresses (size 2-4). I have two at \$500 and 2 at \$750. Call for write for or details. Call 763-544-6724 or artncheri@aol.com.

☛ **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

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Dance Contacts

Instructors

Jill Ableman.....	651-641-0777
Scott Anderson	612-816-4446
Harry Benson	763-843-2285
Gene Bersten	763-234-8656
Klaudyna Borewicz	763-519-1314
Paul Botes & Donna Edelstein, Mpls.....	763-557-6004
Modie Chehouri	651-641-0777
Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies	973-449-7654
Joy Davina	612-418-4046
Jennelle Donnay	763-519-1314
Robert & Jennifer Foster	952-938-0048
Donna Frykman	651-777-5447
Michelle Haley-Hudson	651-699-5910
Lindsey Hall	651-699-5910
Christine Hallberg	651-641-0777
Brittany Halverson	651-699-5910
Jeff Halverson	651-641-0777
David Hanson	218-722-0742
Eric Hudson	651-699-5910
Russell Hunter	763-519-1314
Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
Tony Karadjov	612-701-5604
Alyssa Kark	651-699-5910
Jay Larson	763-519-1314
Shane Meuwissen.....	651-699-5910
Deanne Michael	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski.....	612-242-5159
Todd Paulus	612-968-2401
Eric Remsen.....	612-724-3156
Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584
Kate VanAlstine	651-641-0777
Elicer Ramiez Vargas	612-240-9053
Peter Westlake	651-699-5910
Stacy Zerk	763-519-1314

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
Classic Ballroom, Plymouth	763-519-1314
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
ERV Dance Studio	612-240-9053
Foster's Dance Sport Studio, Hopkins.....	952-938-0048
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park	952-928-7803
Social Dance Studio, Mpls.....	612-418-4046

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

DNO continued from page 2

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.

Liola-La Bodega (612) 823-2661
Lyndale & Lake Street, Minneapolis; Sundays and Mondays
SALSA and Latin Dancing Costa Rica-style; Brought by
ERVentertainment & Tico Baila (612-240-9053)

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 10 pm-2 am.

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) 418-4046
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.

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.



October Issue...

*The Madness
is Coming!*

MINNESOTA

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