



Ballroom Beat

Official Monthly Publication of Piedmont NC USABDA, Chapter 619

Vol. 9, No 6 June 2002 Marcia Barney, Editor (336) 712-8183

Send News and Views to the Editor at PiedmontNCUSABDA@aol.com

Your Pres Says

Members and Dance Friends,

May has been an exciting month for us. We are looking better than ever on the dance floor. Many thanks to Chattie Byrd for arranging all the wonderful dance instruction this year.



June promises to be as good so we hope to see you participating and learning new and better techniques.

With all the weddings and graduation parties ahead we can feel confident in our dancing among family and friends. The August Showcase of Dancers is another opportunity to show off these new and improved skills. Be brave, be bold, and sign up soon with your partner to be in the Showcase. Many of us have admired great dancers who seem to have all the fun. Now is our time!

For the romantics out there, put some love in your life by dancing with your special someone.

*See you on the dance floor on June 9 and 23.
Ellis Pardue*

2002 Condensed

- Tea Dance - Every second Sunday 4:30 – 7:30 PM at the Grange in Greensboro
- Tea Dance – Every fourth Sunday 5:30 – 8:00 PM (Except Dec) Skateland, Clemmons
- August 31 – Showcase of Ballroom Dancers
- Sept 15–22 – National Ballroom Dance Week
- September 21 - Black Tie Dinner and Dance Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem
- September 22 – Beginners Ball - Skateland
- November 24 – Holiday Premier Promenade – Skateland, Clemmons – 5:30 – 8:00 PM
- December 8 – Christmas Party, the Grange
- December 29 – Pre-New Years Party, Officers Installation - 5:30 – 8:00 PM Skateland, Clemmons, Semi-formal dress

NBDW

Get accustomed to seeing those letters for they represent the biggest week of the dancing year. From September 15 through 22 we will demonstrate, celebrate, associate, and introduce ballroom dancing with and to Piedmont NC. The week will begin with dance lessons for the novice. For four nights those not yet aware of the wonders of dancing will be introduced to the Waltz, Fox Trot, Rumba, and Cha Cha. Tickets for all four nightly lessons plus the Beginners Ball will be \$25. New dancers will get an opportunity to meet different Instructors and decide who best suits their needs. On Sunday, September 22, the Beginners Ball will welcome newcomers to an ideal environment for getting to know ballroom dancers and their world of dancing.

Don't imagine that the experienced – whether 6 months or 66 years – will be left out of the festivities. We'll be dancing at the Newcomers Ball, at exhibitions in public places to introduce others to what we love to do, and at our own event extraordinaire Black Tie Dinner Dance.

Jumping June

On June 9 –Grange in Greensboro:

Waltz Lesson by Sasha Tsyganjov,

Fred Astaire-G'boro – 4:30-5:00 PM

General Dancing: 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Lib's music



On June 23 – Skateland USA of Clemmons

Shag Lesson by Jessica Shields 5:30–6 PM

General Dancing – 6:00 – 8:00 PM-THE floor

Music by Marcia (Tony Evans emphasis)

Inside

- Our favorite dances
- Events
- A Tea Party or an Oldies Night
- Notes of Appreciation
- Directions to Grange and to Skateland
- Guests

Directions to the Grange from Interstate 40: Take Exit 213 (Guilford College Rd). Go N app. 1 mile, cross Market St. Turn left onto Lindley Rd., Turn rt. onto Guilford School Rd. Grange is on the right.

Directions to Skateland: From I-40 on the west side of Winston-Salem take the Clemmons exit. Go south into downtown Clemmons. Turn right onto Cephis Dr. at the "Bronze Plaza" sign beside Dockside Seafood Restaurant. Turn left onto Neudorf Rd. Skateland is just ahead on the right.

Welcome Guests

Please come again!

Tom and Grace Moran brought their daughter-in-law and her daughter to our May 26 dance.

Z.I. Strader, a former member we had not seen for a while, was with us on May 26.

Patty Goins, a friend of Franz Brown and Margaret Norton, attended for the first time on May 26.

Ben McDaniel and Meredith Berseh, (rt.) attended our May 12 dance.



Homer and Cynthia Coker, (left) students of Tom Patillo, also attended our Mother's Day Dance.

Nellie Hicks, a vital member of Mtn. Empire USABDA, visited us on May 26.

John Dorosk, a frequent and welcome visitor, was with us again at Skateland.

Former member **Lynn Messick** was also with us on May 26.



Spotting During Turns

Spotting is a rotation of the head, which enhances your rotation. The concept is you focus on one spot (for example, your partner). The shoulders and hips turn as far as possible without looking from that spot. Then the head whips around, passing the body (which is still turning) and returns to its original point of focus. The shoulders, hips and body catch up last.

Lottery: A Tax on people who are bad at math.

Dancing With Duncan

by Glenda MacKeen

How about a "Tea Dance" or an "Oldies Dance Party"? Both are professionally presented at the Greensboro Ballroom at 4922 Mary Street in Greensboro, North Carolina. Owner Terry Walsh has created a friendly, casual dance space for a variety of dance moods. The dancers seem like family and many enjoy the time to dance as well as socialize.



A nice variety of recorded music is presented. Tables and chairs border the 2400 square foot wooden dance floor; complimentary sodas were available during the "Tea Dance" and the facility has an ABC permit as well. The \$7 per person admission fee is standard for all events.

The Ballroom is on an abbreviated summer schedule; the "Tea Dance" is the first Sunday of each month from 4:00 to 6:30 pm and the "Oldies Dance Party" is the first Friday of each month from 8:30 pm-1:00 am. Various instructors subcontract the space and offer private or group classes during the week; the facility is also available for rent. A recorded message at 336-854-1850 gives information about the dances scheduled as well as additional events, classes or schedule changes.

Many USABDA members were dancing at the May "Tea Dance" and other dancers were very friendly in welcoming us to the dance. I enjoyed finding yet another dance hall to "dance with Duncan".

(DIRECTIONS: off I-40 in Greensboro, West Wendover to Edwardia, one block, turn left)

Editors note: If you know a place Glenda might like to "check out" for this column, contact her at (336) 765-8528.

DANCER DESIGNS

Shirley N. Massey – 405-947-8513

5019 N Brunson Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Web Site: dancerdesigns.net

E-Mail: smassey@dancerdesigns.net

For the Ball Gown of your dreams.

The Dances We Love Most

Our tastes have migrated a little: We now prefer **Cha Cha!** In previous surveys Rumba has headed the list, now Cha Cha stands alone in the top spot. **Rumba** didn't slip far, just to a close second. **Waltz** remained third on the favorites list. **Triple Swing** moved up a bit into fourth place. **Fox Trot** and **Tango** followed. We also like Single Time Swing, Bolero, and Mambo. Many appreciate samba, Viennese Waltz and Quick Step while others would like to learn them.

Hustle, Jive, Merengue, Shag, and Jitterbug had more fans than detractors. (*Joe and Yvette*



Zannini, rt., just enjoy dancing.) Salsa and Lindy generated some interest, some curiosity, and some rejection.

West Coast Swing caused the most "strong"

feelings with strong likes and abundant rejection tempered by mild curiosity.

Based on opinions expressed by those responding to our survey, Polkas, Line Dances, the Paso Doble, Argentine Tangos, Bossa Novas, and Free Style Dances should not be regularly included in our dance programs.

The Phantom DJ

One of the items that all respondents to our questionnaire agreed on was the Phantom DJ. We have a "keeper." A few said they didn't care one way or the other, but none expressed dislike.



Maestro Hubert Barney is shown at left creating the Phantom DJ as Joe Dolata attempts a man-of-few-words 4-second spot.

*People with two left feet can train one to be right.
A fool and his money are soon partying.*

Events

Piedmont NC USABDA members prefer our regular Tea Dances to any of our "special events." The special event most favored is the Black Tie Dinner and Dance. (*Black Tie Chair Homer Mason dances with Franzi Brown below.*)

We like the Holiday Premier Promenade, the Showcase and the Pre-New Year's Party, too.

Possible conclusion: We like to learn a little and dance a lot. We also enjoy getting "all dressed up" occasionally.



Special Invitations:

Mtn. Empire USABDA's June dance will be on the second Saturday night – June 8. Lesson at 7:30, dancing from 8:30 until 11 PM. (*At right, Mtn. Empire member Nellie Hicks dances with Henry James on May 26.*) Contact Becky Comer at 276-783-5402 for details.



Check our new and constantly improving web site for information about regular dances.

www.ballroom-dancing.org

We Can Not be Bribed

According to information garnered from our recent survey, Piedmont NC USABDA Members cannot be bribed by anything other than good music and a good facility. Not one person said he or she would attend because door prizes were promised.

*Where are all those people who actually ARE Spring Chickens and WOULD hurt a fly?
When only the last one remains, is it an odd or an end?*

Notes of Appreciation:

Ø To Tom Patillo (rt.) for the moving Mambo lesson on May 12.



Ø To Chattie Byrd (with Tom above) for doing an outstanding job as Program Chair.

Ø To Alan Berryhill (rt.) for the buoyant Bolero lesson on May 26. We'll be using the cuddle and wrap in for a long time!



Ø To Henry James and Emmy Bagwell for "pitching in" to keep things running smoothly.

Ø To Hubert Barney for the lights, camera, and especially the action.

Ø To Glenda MacKeen for sharing her delightful dates with Duncan with us.

Ø To a fantastic friend of USABDA Webmaster John Clark.

Ø To Lib Johnson for music that keeps us out of our chairs at the Grange.

Ø To May Martin, Margaret Norton, Gingi Parker, Lucy Chambers, Emmy Bagwell, Chattie Byrd, Homer and Dot Mason, Maril Longinotti, Bob & Lib Johnson, and the Barneys for the tasty treats at our Tea Dances.

Videos

Half of those responding to our questionnaire use our Video Library. Those who do use it tend to show some signs of addiction, especially since we added the new Bronze videos. Any member of Piedmont NC USABDA can check out a video. Videos are due after 2 weeks. However, if you do not attend both the Greensboro and the Clemmons Tea Dances, Dot Mason and Marcia Barney are easy to find and will help you make returning them on time painless.

Why We Attend Dances

The most influential factor in determining whether we attend a dance is location. Does that mean that we'll attend if there's one anywhere near us? Or does it mean that we like them very close so that we don't waste valuable dance time traveling? The music was a close second in importance. The dance floor completed the top three factors in determining our attendance. Date, Time of Day, and Facility weren't far behind. The pre-dance lesson could get us out dancing. A favorite pre-Dance Instructor will motivate us to spend a Sunday afternoon dancing.

The cost of admission, refreshments, and other attendees seem to be taken for granted.

Coming Next Month

New column: Practicing for Pleasure

Available at June Tea Dances: *Dancing USA Magazine*. Pick up your free copy.

New Videos: Bronze level Cha Cha and Rumba with Ron Montez will be available in June.

Piedmont NC USABDA
Marcia Barney, Editor
3501 Lakefield Court
Clemmons, NC 27012



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