



Ballroom Beat

Official Monthly Publication of Piedmont NC USABDA, Chapter 619

Send news and views to PiedmontNCUSABDA@aol.com

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August 2004

From the President...

Our gala Black Tie Dinner/Dance is Saturday, August 14, less than three weeks away. This festive dance is the high point of our Chapter's year. The 2004 dance promises to be one of our best, and it will be even better with you there.



A great floor, dance music by a live, dance-able band and delicious food, all will contribute to a wonderful evening of dining and dancing.

Please send in your reservation form TODAY and start looking forward to a grand ball. (See our website to print a form (www.ballroom-dancing.org))

Also, please invite out-of-town dancers to attend. Martha Plyler has again arranged a discounted hotel room rate of \$87 plus tax for August 14 at the Adams Mark Winston Plaza Hotel for those attending. Reservations must be made by August 4 to receive this special rate. (Reference: Piedmont USABDA)

Although this is our formal dance, I am sometimes asked if gentlemen may attend if they do not have a tuxedo. Of course they may, and they will be most welcome. We want you to come whether you are wearing a tux and cummerbund or not.

See you at the dance.

Homer Mason

It's Leap Year, Ladies...

It comes just once every four years when an extra day is added to the usual 365 to make up for the 1/4 day cycle which is lost annually.

In recognition of this quadrennial phenomenon, the suggestion has been made that we issue a ten-punch dance card to each lady attending USABDA's monthly tea dances at the Grange and at Skateland. Each punch would represent a dance with a gentleman of your choice, but it's up to the lady to extend the invitation to the gentleman of choice.

Of course, anyone not wishing to participate is excused. Please call President Homer Mason or any member of the board to express your opinion. (Homer Mason (288-2852), Trudy Atkins (454-3516 or 299-0419), Karen Fogleman (659-7911 or 367-5583), Tim Stinson (468-6918 or 367-5583), Marcia Barney (712-8183), Ellie Dolata (454-2483), Mae Taylor Moss (708-9507 or 315-3709), and Franzi Brown (855-1835).

Calendar Notes

August 8 - Tea Dance - 4:30 p.m. Samba Lesson-*Sasha Tsyhankov*, Fred Astaire/Greensboro; Dancing 5 - 7 p.m. Music: The Johnsons.

August 27 - Tea Dance, Skateland, Clemmons 5:30 p.m. Cha-Cha-Victoria & Jani Szukk, Fred Astaire/Winston-Salem; Dancing 6 - 8 p.m. Music: The Barneyes .

August 14 - USABDA's Annual Black Tie Formal Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem (www.ballroom-dancing.org)

September 19-26 - National Ballroom Dance Week - Beginner's Lessons :Monday-Thursday; Beginners' Ball, Sunday



SPOTLIGHT on The Parkers

Will and Gingi Parker have been dancing since their marriage in 1998. Will was taking lessons with several other singles when he met Gingi and they started dating. Gingi was not a dancer, but as their romance was kindled, she started taking lessons and has been trying to keep up with Will ever since. In addition to dancing, Will sells insurance and investments at Hege Investments in Winston-Salem. He hunts (quail and elk) and they have a litter of 11 bird dogs at their home in Yadkinville. (Three are available for adoption). Will was born in Davidson County but has traveled afar, namely to Zimbabwe several years ago on a Methodist mission trip. Gingi is a Sandwich Generation gal with elderly parents in South Carolina where she was born. Besides dancing, Gingi dotes on her five grandchildren and Will.

by Ellie Dolata

First Friday at the Grange -

August 6 is the date for the monthly First Friday at the Grange, a benefit dance with proceeds earmarked for Grange renovations. Lib and Bob Johnson furnish treats and great music for dancing from 8 - 10:30 p.m. (Call 299-7412 for more information or just come.)

Brochure on Health Benefits to Be Published by USABDA

The Piedmont chapter of USABDA is publishing a brochure, in cooperation with the Regional Cancer Center, listing the health benefits of ballroom dancing.

The Cancer Center will print 5,000 brochures which will be distributed to doctors' offices in Greensboro through the Greater Greensboro Society of Medicine.

It has been suggested that brochures also be distributed at health clubs, libraries, and at other public gathering sites. If you can help in this distribution or know of other appropriate distribution sites, please e-mail Homer Mason at hmason@triad.rr.com.

Video Checkout Extended to Monthly Schedule

Dance videos may now be checked out for one month, rather than two weeks, without penalty, according to Dot Mason, our Video Dance Librarian.

Videos checked out the second Sunday at the Grange or the fourth Sunday at Clemmons will be due at the same dance location the following month. A Video Reserve Sheet listing all library holdings will be available at each dance. Videos may not be renewed, and the \$5 per week late fee will remain in force for videos kept beyond the return date.

Ski-Bumpass - Want to learn the ski-bumpass line dance? The Winston-Salem Dance Forum will begin its monthly dance Saturday, August 21, at 7:35 p.m. with a half hour of instruction, followed by ballroom dancing from 8 - 11 p.m. at South Fork Community Center.

WANTED! Your e-mail address so Ballroom Beat can be forwarded to you via e-mail each month. Please send it to Homer Mason (hmason@triad.rr.com)

From the Studios...

Sasha Tsyhankov, one of the new owners of the Fred Astaire/Greensboro studio, will give instruction in the samba at the USABDA tea dance at the Grange Sunday, August 8, at 4:30 p.m. Sasha, who was born in the Crimea, began his dancing career in Kharkov to considerable acclaim before coming to the United States three years ago at the invitation of Fred Astaire Dance Studios. "Many of my friends are here as well," Sasha says, "teaching in Durham, Charleston and Winston-Salem." In addition to winning the national dance championship in the Ukraine, he has received blue ribbons at regional and state competitions in the United States.

Studio Guest Dances. Dancers are welcome at Greensboro Ballroom's First and Third Friday Oldies Dance Parties from 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. ("No smoking," please)...Fred Astaire/Greensboro has "open guest night" on Thursdays at 8 p.m...Fred Astaire/Winston-Salem Studio's "open guest night" in August will be Thursday, August 26, from 8 - 10 p.m...Biltmore DanceSport Center in High Point wel-

comes guests every Friday night from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Strictly Singles - Greensboro Ballroom Owner Terry Walsh has announced plans for dancing classes for single retirees to be held weekly from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Ballroom on Mary Street off Wendover. Single retirees who are interested in joining this group should call 854-1850 Studio.

Victoria and Jani Szukk, dance instructors from Hungary, now with Fred Astaire/Winston-Salem, will open our tea dance at Clemmons with a cha-cha lesson. Victoria has been dancing since she was five, following the example of her parents who were also Hungarian champions. She was six times Hungarian champion with a former partner and with Jani ranked third in Fred Astaire's National Dance Championship in Las Vegas. Jani began dancing five years ago although he had always wanted to be a dancer. Victoria loves to read and watch movies when she is not designing and making their costumes. Jani, who plays soccer and likes to fish, also helps with costume design.

Appreciation for Hosts and Tea Dance Treats

Franzi Brown, Margaret Norton and Linda and Don Rankin were hosts for our July tea dances at the Grange and at Skateland respectively.

Treats were provided by: Ann and Jim Astin, Marcia and Hubert Barney, Karen and Robert Fogleman, Earnest Galloway, Edith Laws, Virita Harper, Donna and Hewan Han, Ralph Mawyer, Dot and Homer Mason, Tim Moore, Ellis and Marilee Pardue, Martha Plyler, Jerry Evans, Linda and Tom Siaton, Lynette and Wes Smitherman, and Polly and Max Toney.

Dancing Opportunities ...

Following are several dance events scheduled the third Saturday of the month.

Sanford (Senior Enrichment Center), 7 - 10 p.m., third Saturday. Call 910-692-5280.

Raleigh (Highland United Methodist Church off 1-440), 7 p.m., third Saturday. Call 919-738-5464.

Mountain Empire (Wytheville Community Center), third Saturday, (call Becky Comer, 276-783-5402)

If you know of a dancing opportunity for members, please share the information with Ballroom Beat editor Trudy Atkins (trudy@newhome-guides.com).

For information about other USABDA chapters and competitions throughout the United States, call Mary (800-447-9047) or check the national website at www.USABDA.org.

National Ballroom Dance Week Scheduled

National Ballroom Dance Week is coming September 19-26 with a host of activities for the novice as well as the advanced ballroom dancer.

We will again sponsor the Beginner Ballroom Dance classes in Triad dance studios in waltz, fox trot, cha-cha, and tango, concluding with a swing lesson at the Beginners Ball on Sunday, September 26. As in past years, dance tickets can be shared. More information will be forthcoming in the September Ballroom Beat.

Regional Cancer Center Sends "Thank You"

Shawn Houck, Corporate Events Specialist for the Moses Cone Health System, has written to thank Piedmont USABDA members for their participation in Cancer Survivor Day 2004 on Sunday, June 6.

"Cancer Survivor Day was a success due to volunteers like you who made such an event possible....The time you committed and the energy you brought to assist us is greatly appreciated and enabled the mission of caring to be fulfilled."



Lynn Messick with Tim Moore.



Homer with Joyce D'Arconte.



Sasha Tsyhankov, who will provide instruction in the Samba at the Grange, with Franzi Brown.



Victoria and Jani will teach the Cha-cha at The Clemmons tea dance.

Bylaws Online -

Chapter bylaws are now posted on www.ballroom-dancing.org