



Ballroom Beat

Official Monthly Publication of Piedmont NC USA Dance Inc., Chapter 6019
Vol. 13, No 5 May 2006 Marcia Barney, Editor (336) 712-8183
Send News and Views to the Editor at PiedmontNCUSABDA@aol.com

We Promote Ballroom Dancing!

Your Pres Says

Fellow Dancers,

Our Ballroom Sunday Dance on April 23 was a lot of fun. Allen Berryhill taught us a unique step to enhance our Swing. It was a pleasure to have a number of guests, especially the youth group from North Davidson High School. We look forward to seeing each of you again!



The Quick Step and Cha Cha Workshop on May 7 was exceptionally helpful to those attending. We are planning other quarterly Workshops for the rest of the year and would appreciate your input on days and times for these events.

Hopefully you are preparing a routine for our Showcase on August 26. This is a great opportunity to exhibit your skills while publicizing ballroom dancing.

Put September 23 on your calendar for an outstanding night of dancing with Leon Jordan and The Continentals. We'll dance from 6:30 until midnight with dinner at 7.

See you on May 28 at Ballroom Sunday!
May Neal



Share the Floor And Reward Yourself

The purpose of Piedmont NC USA Dance is to promote ballroom dancing. To encourage more assertiveness in bringing new members, Membership Chair Leslie Lundquist (*below with David*) has announced a Membership Growth Event. The event begins immediately and culminates with National Ballroom Dance Week September 17-24.

New members who join between now and September 17 may attend a 6-week Introductory Ballroom Dance Class free. The class will begin the second week in August. They will, of course, also receive all the other benefits of membership including magazines, newsletters, and reduced admission fees to dances and workshops.

The current member who recruits the new member will receive one free pass to a Ballroom Sunday for each member recruited (unless they recruit 6 or more and choose one of the following options.) Members who recruit 6 – 8 members may choose a ticket to the Dance portion of our September 23 Big Band Night. Those who recruit 9 or more may choose a ticket to the Dinner *and* Dance at Big Band Night.

Ballroom Sunday May 28, 2006

Skateland, Clemmons

5:30 PM Lesson – Samba
Zeki Maviyildiz of Fred Astaire Dance Studio

General Dancing – 6:00 - 8:00 PM -THE floor
Music by Hubert and Marcia Barney
Hosts: Linda & Tom Siaton

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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 New Members

Casey Strange (*rt.*), a student at North Davidson High School who found out about us at another dance club. Casey is sponsored by Jerry Evans and Martha Plyler.

Willie Lee Frazier, Jr (*rt.*), another member of the North Davidson dance club also joined us on April 23. Jerry and Martha also sponsored Willie.



Shane Strange, another member of the North Davidson Club became a member on April 23. Shane is sponsored by John Dorosk (*Between Shane and*

Thea in photo above.)

John Dorosk also sponsored **Thea Edwards**, another member of the North Davidson Club.

Welcome Guests

Please come again!

Ron Osbourne, a member at Carolina Heartland danced with us on April 23.



Stephanie Chilton (*left with Bill Richardson*), visited for the first time on April 23. We hope you'll return on May 28!

Richard Simon, a former member of Piedmont NC USA Dance was back for a

short visit and graced us with his presence.

Tim and Joan Sullivan (*rt.*) visited for the first of hopefully several times on April 23.

Former member **Tom Moran** visited again on April 23.

We are always delighted



Narizzano on April 23.

Sarah Albritton (*rt. with Ed*) came as a guest of Ed Robson.

Lynn Messick, also a former member, visited on April 23.

to see Carolina Heartland members **Wes and Lynette Smitherman** (*rt.*) visit.

Bill and Sheila Reeves, former Piedmont NC USA Dance members, brightened our dance by visiting as guests of Al and Ivete



2006 at a Glance

May 28 – Ballroom Sunday, Skateland

5:30 – 6 Lesson 6 – 8 Dance, Dance, Dance

Ballroom Sunday Monthly Dance & Lesson –

Every fourth Sunday (Except December on the third Sunday) - 5:30 – 8:00 PM Skateland, Clemmons on June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, December 17.

August 26 – Showcase of Dancers

Sept. 16 – 24 – National Ballroom Dance Week

September 23 – Big Band Night – *Under the*

Harvest Moon, Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

September 24 – Beginner's Ball

November 26 – Holiday Premier Promenade

December 17 – Christmas Dance

Tips and Tidbits:

To make dancing more enjoyable for everyone on the floor:

- Ø Greet and converse off the dance floor. It is possible to clog the line of dance even with a floor as large as ours.
- Ø Keep conversation relatively quiet. Happy voices are music to our ears, but they can drown the dance music.

Truisms

-Good partners are those who know your strengths and your weaknesses and still like to dance with you.

- Treat your partner as you do your pictures, and place them in the best light.
- Dance to the rhythm in your soles.
- Life is a great dance floor; have all the pleasure on it that you can.
- It's never too late to learn one more dance move.
- Mediocre dancers try to make you feel impressed. Really great dancers make you feel that you, too, can be great.
- A dancer is like a piece of paper on which every song leaves a mark.
- Dance is like an ever-shifting kaleidoscope – a slight change, and all patterns alter.
- Knowledge can open doors, but only practice can keep them open.
- The value of a technique or a step lies in the use of it, so dance.
- People who say dancing isn't happiness haven't heard the right music with the right partner.



Maximize Your Lessons

It's safe to say that to become a proficient (your definition) dancer we need dance lessons. Lessons come in 2 basic types: private and group. They come from a variety of instructors with different stengths, different teachnig styles, and who emphasize different aspects of dance. Some instructors teach International Style ballroom dancing, some American Style ballroom dancing, some teach only social dancing, and some teach all of the above. They have diferent ways of expressing the same concept. Some instructors have a great deal of confidence in themselves, others exhibit a great deal of confidence in their students. The point: Instructors vary dramatiacally which leads to the first rule for getting the most out of a dance class:

- 1- Pick an Instructor whose personality and teaching style fits your needs.
- 2- When you're taking private lessons, before your lesson begins tell the Instuctor about your goals – to get through a wedding unembarassed, to be a passable social dancer, to be the best dancer on the floor most of the time, to be the best you can be, to be a top ranked competitor.
- 3- Be proactive for your private lessons, keep your instructor updated on your interests and needs. Let him/her know if you'd like to learn more Waltz, Cha Cha, or Quick Step or if you'd like to emphasize technique more than steps.

- 4- When taking lessons with a partner, remember who is the Instructor and who are the students. "Helping" the instuctor explain a move or figure to your partner only makes the lesson difficult for everyone and can result in flaring tempers, hurt feeling, and wasted precious time.
- 5- In a group class, help the instructor with other students *only* if and when the instructor specifically asked you to do so. See #3 above. If another student asks for help and the instructor isn't available, be carefully not to exceed your (be very modest) knowledge and expertise.
- 6- Focus on the lesson and ignore distractions. Someone taking pictures (as did Bob and Pam Pelc, left), or conversations, for example.
- 7- Concentrate on *your part* as leader or follower. Assume that your partner is concentrating on his/hers.
- 8- Warm up before your lesson – both physically and mentally. Stretch your muscles and clear your mind.
- 9- Practice the technique or step as much as possible during the lesson to improve retention.
- 10- Listen carefully to the instructor – even if you think you already know the material. You'll probably hear something new or a different way of applying something you already know.

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Teaching the World to Dance

Special Invitations and Happenings:

Mt. Empire USA Dance. May 20, Wytheville, Va Waltz lesson at 7:30, Dance from 8:30 – 11 PM. \$7.50 USA Dance members, \$10 guests; (276) 783-5402 for details.



Winston-Salem Dance Forum Spring Formal – May 20, 8-11 PM, South Fork Community Center Ballroom, Outstanding refreshments, great music. \$5 admission, Guests welcome. Info: 712-8183.
Carolina Heartlands USA Dance have changed their regular second Sunday dance to the May 21 in honor of Mother's Day. Lesson at 4:30, dance until 7 at the Grange in Greensboro.

Check our fabulous web site: www.ballroom-dancing.org for regular dance opportunities, registration forms, and other valuable information.

Notes of Appreciation:

- Ø To our terrific Webmaster John Clark for his continued interest and assistance.
- Ø To Jerry Evans, Martha Plyler, and John Dorosk for encouraging the next generation of ballroom dancers.
- Ø To Tom and Linda Siaton for hosting our April Ballroom Sunday.



- Ø To the incomparable Hubert Barney for music, lights, camera, truisms, proofing.
- Ø To Allen Berryhill (*in top photo practicing an off-the-floor dance hold – the shadow hug – that's a favorite of most dancers - with Lynn Messick*) for the delightful Swing lesson at our April Ballroom Sunday Dance. Allen offers private lessons at his *Dance Arts Studio* and group lessons at South Fork Community Center on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
- Ø To Wayne and Marie Crowder for the fabulous Quick Step/Cha Cha Workshop on May 7.
- Ø To Debbie Moore for the helpful music feedback on March 23.
- Ø To Pamela and Robert Pelc, May Neal, John Dorosk, Linda and Tom Siaton, Travis and Linda Jackson, Martha Plyler and Jerry Evans, Wes and Lynette Smitherman, and the Barneys for treats at our April Dance.
- Ø To all members and guests (*such as Travis and Linda Jackson shown on the left*) who brought a spirit of camaraderie and fun to our April Ballroom Sunday!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Another outstanding Dance Vision video will be added to our extensive video library on May 28: -David and Carrie Kloss with American Style Intermediate Waltz.
Get your Showcase ready for our August 26 2006 Showcase of Dancers!

"Ballroom Beat"
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