



Ballroom Beat

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

We Promote Ballroom Dancing!

Your Pres Says

*Happy Valentine's Day,
Dance Family!*

The most romantic day of the year makes you want to dance. I hope cupid's dance arrow has pierced your heart and that you have dance fever all year long



Your Board and black tie committee have been hard at work getting ready for our annual Gala Black Tie Dinner Dance. The questionnaire of January 27 indicated your overwhelming support for a DJ rather than a band for the event. Likewise, you indicated your willingness to drive to Lexington for an outstanding dance floor. We have incorporated your desires into the plan.

I hope you learned a lot from the outstanding tango lesson with Tony Econ in January. Also, thank you to Zenaida Ortiz for the informative workshop on February 2. We look forward to specific applications for Cha-Cha on February 24.

We always enjoy your comments about a lesson or workshop because that is what enables us to target the things you most want in your dancing. I look forward to seeing you on February 24, at 5:30PM. Grab your dancing shoes and a friend - or two - and join us for more dancing fun at Skateland.

Your President, Linda Rankin

Showcase Date Set

Showcase Chair Dianna Saddler has announced that our annual Showcase of Dancers will be held on May 10 at South Fork Community Center Ballroom. The event will feature amateurs and professional dancers. The cost to enter remains the same as in previous years - \$25 per couple (additional \$10 per person for additional dancers in the same dance.) Couples can be amateurs, professionals with amateur partner or professionals. Group or formation dances are also welcome. At least one of each couple must be a member of USA Dance (any Chapter).

The number of dances will be limited to 20. A couple may dance in up to two numbers if space permits. Each dance should be 2 to 2 1/2 minutes in length.

Start preparing your routines now. To enter, call Dianna (right with partner Jim) at 788-0548 for a reservation form.



Ballroom Sunday

Sunday, February 24, 2008

**5:30 – 6:00 PM - Cha Cha Lesson
by Zenaida Ortiz
Cha Cha Practice 6:00-6:10 PM**

**General Dancing – 6:10 – 8:00 PM-THE floor
Great Music by Hubert and Marcia Barney**

Inside

- Welcome Guests
- Calendar & Footnotes
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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 Guests: *Please come again!*

We were delighted to see friends from the Carolina Heartland Chapter in January!
Jennifer Sapp, Sophia Thompson, and Julia Cartwright, students at All the Right Moves



Dance Studio, came as guests of Brenda Davis and Instructor Zach Lawrence.
Liliana Mendoza-Batista and German Granados-Navaroo (left) came as guests of Tom and Kathy Rucker.

Raymond and Shirley Harvey (rt.) came as guests of the Barneys.

Egbert and Millie Jones (below left) also came as guests of the Barneys.

JR and Suriya Setty (below rt.) also were guests of the Barneys.



Ron Williams and Rosalea Saleeby (photo on next page) came as guests of the Barneys.

Nancy and Paul Watkins (right) were also welcome guests of the Barneys.

Dick and Walena Morsa, experienced dancers who are new to the area, visited again in January and brought friends **Lee and Nan Goodson**.
Carol Cooper returned for a visit on January 27.



Bring a guest to our February 24 Dance. If they join both of you win: They get a membership in a great organization as well as a free 6-week introductory class and you get free admission to our March 30 Ballroom Sunday!

The rest of 2008 at a Glance

February 24 – Ballroom Sunday, Skateland
 March 30 – Ballroom Sunday on the **5th Sunday**
 Mambo lesson by Adina Harper of Fred Astaire Dance at 5:30 dancing from 6 until 8 - Skateland of Clemmons
 Tea Dance and Lesson – Every fourth Sunday – Except March and November 2008 on the fifth Sunday – 5:30 – 8:00 PM Skateland, Clemmons: Feb 24, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28
 May 10 – Showcase, South Fork
 October 11 – Black Tie Dinner Dance

Truisms

- To freely dance, that is my definition of success.
- Good dancing involves a peculiar, unfathomable combination of control and freedom.
- The dancer who smiles in the face of adversity probably plans to blame their partner.
- The world would be a much better place is everyone would just dance.
- Every time you give your partner a piece of your mind, you add to your own vacuum.
- The partner who trusts their partners will make fewer mistakes than those who distrust partners.
- Dance every dance as if it were your last..
- There is no such thing as an unimportant dance.
- Be not disturbed at being inexperienced; be disturbed rather at not gaining knowledge.
- There are two kinds of impressive dancers: Those who are good by the grace of nature, and those who are good by an act of will.
- Ask any dancer what he thinks matters most in a partner: five to one the answer will be "kindness."
- No dancer every found her feet too heavy.
- The saddest thing I can imagine is to get used to having no challenge.
- Each of us is a potentially great dancer that can be laid waste only from within.
- Everything comes to he who waltzes.

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Teaching the World to Dance

Big Inventory Clearance Sale in progress through March 31: Many great videos and DVDs at half price!

A Recipe For Great Dancing

Find a large open temperature-controlled space with a smooth, preferably wooden, floor. Mix together, in fairly equal portions of men and women, a group of interesting



people (*such as Ron Willard and Rosalea Saleeby, right*) who love to dance. Be sure that a variety of dancers are represented from novice through Bronze, Silver, and Gold. For more variety an Instructor or two can be added. Some of the dancers will stay with American flavors. Others will occasionally introduce a bit of International flair.

As you are doing this, mix some really good waltz, fox trot, swing, rumba, cha cha,

tango, quickstep, samba, and mambo music in alternating slots. For added spice sprinkle in a viennese waltz and a bolero or two. A West Coast Swing, a Shag, a Merengue, a Paso Doble, or a Polka can be added to taste. Be sure each has a nice, fresh, strong beat and is just loud enough to hear easily from anywhere on the floor.

Now place the first mixture on the floor and the second mixture on the CD player. Don't worry about checking too often since

the reaction of the two mixtures to each other and to their own grouping should take care of itself.

Allow the mixtures to steep at room temperature for about an hour.



You will probably see a good deal of rise and fall. After an hour, stop the interaction for a few minutes to check hot spots. Mix (*illustrated by John Cavello and guest Carol Cooper*) a couple of minutes before placing back on the floor for a second period of movement.

This recipe is always good. Sometimes with just the right personalities and balance, combined with particularly fresh music, it is magnificent.

One warning: You can't make this recipe alone. It requires a lot of participation by others. So, help us keep the Great Dancing Recipe going at Piedmont NC USA Dance. We have the great floor, the outstanding music, and a wonderful mix of members. Now let's add a little more flavor just to make it even more interesting. Help with this by inviting friends – dancers and novices – to come join the recipe for fun!

Footnotes:

Thank You to **Mike and Kathy Lewis** (*right*) for becoming a Gold Couple in our *Friends and Sponsors Program*.



Special Invitations:

Mtn. Empire USA Dance – Saturday, 16, Rural Retreat Community Center. Lesson @t 7:30, Dance 8:30 – 11 PM. Info: (276) 783-5402. \$7.50 USA Dance members, \$10 guests.

Winston-Salem Dance Forum – Saturday, February 16, from 8 – 10:30 PM, South Fork Community Center, Winston-Salem. Info: 712-8183. \$5, dressy casual attire.

Carolina Heartlands USA Dance - Second Sunday of each month. 5:30 – 8 PM, Skateland USA North in Greensboro. Also second Saturday night in Mount Airy. Next dance February 9. Call 336-374-2712 or 276-755-3072 for details.

Competitions:

Heritage Classic – Grove Park Inn, Asheville, February 26 through March 1. Check www.theheritageclassic.com for details.

Triangle Open Championships – NCSU Campus in Raleigh – March 14 & 15. USA Dance members who would like to help as volunteers call Marie Crowder at 336-623-4961 or e-mail mariecrowder@earthlink.net. Competition details: <http://home.earthlink.net/~mrcrowder/triangleopen/index.html> or from Marie at her address.



- Ø To our terrific Webmaster John Clark for his continued interest and assistance.
- Ø To the fabulous Video Librarian Tim Moore for taking such good care of our extensive video/DVD library.
- Ø To the incomparable Hubert Barney for lights, camera, proofing, inspiration, and truism input.
- Ø To Dick and Helen Heck, Tom and Kathy Rucker, Lucy Chambers, John Dorosk, Tom and Linda Siaton, Betty Wolfe, Corbett Jones, the Barneys for the treats at our January Ballroom Sunday. Thanks to Rita Crews for bringing the paper ware.
- Ø To all (such as Gene and Donna McDonald, left) who bring a wonderful attitude and a love of dance to our Ballroom Sundays!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

We'll add 2 more fabulous Dance Vision Videos to our library on February 24: *International Style Rumba Technique* with Corky and Shirley Ballas and *Mambo Solo Steps* with Ron Montez.

A new Piedmont NC USA Dance **Directory** will be available at our February 24 dance. Be sure to come and pick up yours.

Want to get your "**Ballroom Beat**" faster and in color? Sign up for e-mail distribution. E-mail your editor at HMBBar@aol.com, subject line of "Ballroom Beat" and say put me on the list. Please give your name as not all e-mail addresses obviously identify the owner.

Bring a smile, a friend(s) and a snack to share to our **February 24 Ballroom Sunday**.

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

Notes of Appreciation:

- Ø To Tony Econ for the enlightening Tango lesson on January 27.
- Ø To the Wake Forest Formation Team for the Cha Cha and Samba performance on the 27th.

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