



# Ballroom Beat

Official Monthly Publication of Piedmont NC USA Dance Inc., Chapter 6019  
Vol. 15, No 6 June 2008 Marcia Barney, Editor (336) 712-8183  
Send News and Views to the Editor at [PiedmontNCUSABDA@aol.com](mailto:PiedmontNCUSABDA@aol.com)

*We Promote Ballroom Dancing!*

## Your Pres Says

*Happy June, Dancers!*

*This is the month when temperatures begin to soar into the 90s and we begin to think of sun, sand, and air conditioned spaces.*

*This week I am in Myrtle Beach enjoying a lot of sun and sand while thinking about the many advantages of dancing.*

*One of the great things about our art/sport is that it can be enjoyed "year 'round." Regardless of the temperature outside we need only some good music, a dance floor and good friends to have a wonderful time. So, as the temperature soars, think of places you can find those three ingredients for a really cool time. Check our website, [www.ballroom-dancing.org](http://www.ballroom-dancing.org) for ideas.*

*You probably also have some friends who should be, but are not yet dancers. Tell them about our upcoming dances, both our "Ballroom Sundays" and special events such as the October 11 Black Tie Dinner Dance.*

*Remember that our dance this month is on June 22<sup>nd</sup> – the fourth, but not the last, Sunday of this month. I look forward to seeing you and a guest or two on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Skateland!*

*Your President, Linda Rankin*



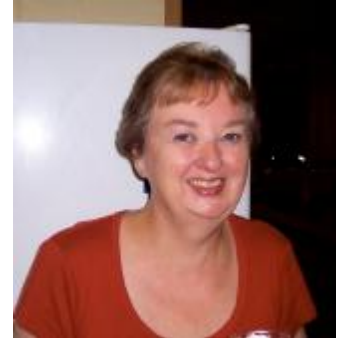
## Here's Rita

Rita Crews, Vice President/President-elect of Piedmont NC USA Dance, is usually a quiet lady about whom little is known. We have heard her speak affectionately of her lab/huskie mix named Charlie. We have also heard her mention – somewhat hopefully - that he is now on round two of obedience training.

Rita has two married adult sons but so far has only four-legged grandchildren. During the day she spends her time managing residential property for Miller Hatcher of Winston-Salem. In her spare time she enjoys bowling, horseback riding, and travel.

Rita started dancing in 2000. She has served as Line Dance Coordinator, Charity Ball Co-Chair, Black Tie Sub-committee Chair, and as Refreshments Chair of Piedmont NC USA

Dance before becoming VP. Whenever there is an event, Rita is there with a helping hand. She is also Treasurer of the Winston-Salem Dance Forum. One of the things she enjoys most about dancing is the camaraderie.



## Inside

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### **The Fourth of 5 Sundays in June: Ballroom Sunday Sunday, June 22, 2008**

**5:30 – 6:00 PM – Fox Trot Lesson**  
Tony Econ, Studio E  
Foxtrot Practice 6:00-6:10 PM

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

**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.

June 22, July 27, August 24, Sept 28, Oct 26,  
Nov 30, Dec 28  
August 18 – Sept. 22 – Introductory Classes for  
new members  
October 11 – Black Tie Dinner Dance  
November 30 – Holiday Premier Promenade  
December 28 – Early New Year's Dance

### *Welcome New Members:*

**Randy and Sherryl Peters** (*right*), students of Zach Lawrence, *All the Right Moves Dance Studio*, joined us on May 25.



### *Welcome Guests:*

*Please come again!*

We were delighted to see friends from the Carolina Heartland Chapter and from Triangle USA Dance in May!  
**Dawn Sicurezza** and **Darryl Cook** (*left*)



visited on May 25. We hope you'll return in June. It was great to see **Tom and Linda Siaton** (*right*) back dancing after an absence of several months.



*Bring a guest to our June 22 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 July 27 Ballroom Sunday!*

### **The rest of 2008 at a Glance**

June 22 – Ballroom Sunday – Foxtrot  
by Tony Econ, Studio E at 5:30  
dancing from 6 until 8 – Skateland  
Tea Dance and Lesson – Every fourth Sunday –  
Except November 2008 on the fifth Sunday –  
5:30 – 8:00 PM Skateland, Clemmons:

### **Truisms**

- Be regular and orderly in your practice so that you can be flamboyant and original in your dance.
- A dance belongs half to the leader, half to the follower, and totally to the partnership.
- The greatest of all teachers is named Practice
- The world is composed of two classes: those who can dance and those who wish they could.
- A person is not old until they forget how to dance.
- Cherish a partner who loves to dance. Build a monument to one who loves to practice!
- He who will not learn will say the teacher is bad.
- Whether you think you can dance or whether you think you can't, you're right.
- How many steps you can get through is not as important as how many steps can get through to you.
- A great deal of dance talent and pleasure is lost for want of a little courage.
- A dance is never finished – only halted to be improved later.
- If you get lost in the dance you can be found on the floor.
- Dancing is not to express our talents, it is to express our dreams.
- Too often I hear of the classes dancers have attended, not of the lessons they have learned.
- I only dance on days that end in "y."
- Dance ability will grow when fertilized well with practice and sound advice.
- The partner who holds too firmly only restricts.
- If you don't try, you can't dance.
- If you're looking for a big opportunity, start with a single dance.
- Never sacrifice one technique to perform another.
- More steps falter because the dancer is cautious than because he is overly confident.
- Success is the joy of knowing you danced your best.
- Ballroom dancing is not to express our wants, it is to give life to our dreams.
- There is no ceiling in the enjoyment of dancing.

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Teaching the World to Dance

**Ten Tips for Better Dancing**

Dancing is a partnership activity whether you have a regular partner or a different partner each dance number. These tips could make the experience more enjoyable and help improve your dancing:

1. Smile a lot, it's contagious. You can even catch it from yourself!
2. You are not your partner's teacher! Learn your part and allow your partner to do the same.
3. The best way to make your partner a better dancer is to give them lessons with a good instructor.
4. How much you enjoy the dance is more important than how much you know about dancing.
5. Dancers have passages, too. Some of these, such as going from Bronze to Silver, can be major and lengthy. If you have a regular partner these can be painful or pleasant. Remembering that different people learn different parts of the whole at different rates can help.



6. Every dance lesson offers something – some a lot, some a little, so give every instructor your open-minded undivided attention.
7. Take advantage of resources available to you. We have almost 100 videos and DVDs by world class instructors in our library. Check out a couple, and then watch them.
8. Be considerate of other dancers. Breath mints are great, perfume is not.
9. Pass out sincere appreciation freely and criticism sparsely. Phrase it positively.
10. Give as much as you get. Participate in the organization. Volunteer occasionally, you might be surprised how much fun a few hours of teamwork can be.

*Footnotes:*

Thanks to **Hilda Forrest** for her contribution to our Friends and Sponsors Program. Hilda is a Gold Sponsor who contributes annually. Deepest sympathy to **Travis and Linda Jackson** on the death of his father.

**The Right Attitude**

Those of us who could be called “mature” – at least in years – often marvel at how quickly young dancers learn. Sure, their brains aren't clogged with so much valuable and not-so-valuable information as ours, but I think that's only a minor part of the issue. In one aspect it should be easier for us to learn the intricacies of dance – we have a much greater abundance of experiences with which to relate what we are learning.

It seems to me that of far greater importance is our willingness – eagerness, even – to learn. Think of the times when you were eager to learn something new with no preconceptions of what was being taught. Your mind was an open book ready, excited to accept knowledge. Too many times we say “I already know that” or “I've been exposed to that from a more reliable source.” At that point our attitude flat-lines our learning curve.

Be eager to learn. Whether you've been exposed to the information before or not, be open minded. John Dorosk (*above left*) once told me “I've never been to a lesson where I didn't learn something.” Thanks, John!

## Special Invitations:

**Mtn. Empire USA Dance** – Saturday, June 21, Rural Retreat Community Center. Lesson @ 7:30, Dance 8:30 – 11 PM. Info: (276) 783-5402. \$7.50 USA Dance members, \$10 guests.

**Winston-Salem Dance Forum** – Saturday, June 21, Spring Formal, from 8 – 10:30 PM, South Fork Community Center, Winston-Salem. Info: 712-8183. \$5, semi-formal attire.

**Winston-Salem Dance Club** – First Saturday night of each month. South Fork Community Center. 8 – 10:30 PM. \$5, Dressy casual.

**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. Call 336-374-2712 or 276-755-3072 for details and to confirm dates.

**Travel Tip** - If you plan to travel this summer go to our National website and check to see if there is a USA Dance Chapter in the area you're visiting.



Ø To the fabulous Video Librarian Tim Moore for taking such good care of our extensive video/DVD library. To Linda Rankin for helping out when Tim is out.

Ø To the incomparable Hubert Barney for camera, proofing, inspiration, and truism input.

Ø To John Dorosk, Franzi Brown, Margaret Norton, Hilda Forrest, Don Long, Don and Linda Rankin, and the Barneys for the treats at our May Ballroom Sunday.

Thanks to Don Long for bringing the paper products and to Don Rankin for helping with the water pitchers.

Ø To all who bring a wonderful attitude (*such as Tom and Kathy Rucker, above*) and a love of dance to our Ballroom Sundays!

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

We'll add another fabulous Dance Vision video to our library on June 22, *International Style Techniques and Principles, Samba Vol. I* by Johan & Nadia Eftedal. We'll also add a Dance Vision DVD *American Style Smooth Styling and Artistic Expression* by David Hamilton & Olga Foraponova.

Bring a smile, a friend(s) and a snack to share to our **June 22 Ballroom Sunday**. Remember,  
**It's the Fourth Sunday!**

Check our fabulous web site:

[www.ballroom-dancing.org](http://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.

"Ballroom Beat"

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