



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



5678's Message Board Stirs up some Strong Feelings

TOPIC: Why are Country competitors down & Swing & Hustle up?

AMMIE WRITES: "The key to the answer is in the words of the question..."number of competitors OTHER THAN PRO-AM is down" Pro-Am is a sham. It's full of sand baggers and people simply after gold on a plaque from events. When I first got into pro-am I was told it was for people without a partner, to give them some relative ranking on how their dancing is progressing. The pro is not judged. You're not in competition with other Am's. Blah blah blah.

Who do you think you're kidding? It's a popularity contest among judges and the in-crowd. It has very little to do with the skill of the Am's or a process objective feedback on their dancing progress. There is no criteria. I've witnessed individuals at the same event compete in Classic Novice or Intermediate, SHOWCASE, and the ADVANCED couples. If that isn't sandbagging for gold, I don't know what is. I've asked about this for some time...Some of you Board members say "You're not in competition with other Am's." Yet others say "the medals you get depends on who shows up to compete against you." That's objective? And there always has to be a "loser". This is most in evidence at Worlds. For those of us who love dance and want to improve, it can be very de-motivating. If I didn't love dancing so much, and do it for myself, I'd be long gone from the Pro-Am circuit. So my point is that the problem is far beyond couples

dropping off...if you weren't engaged in wholesale "selling" awards in Pro-Am, those ranks would shrink too! This points to a deeper issue around the lack of customer orientation of the UCWDC powerbrokers. You guys just don't get it. You're running full speed toward a brick wall, and you don't see it. We are your customers. You're in business for us. Not the other way around. You don't regularly ask for customer feedback from us. You take money from the little competitors and spread it nice & thick at the top. With a few exceptions. The New Orleans event was a fabulous example of better equity in prizes. San Diego does a super job. Those of us who keep turning up at events all over the country, year after year, to subsidize only the top dancers and the line dancers (geeze...what's up with THAT???) get a little tired of the paltry little prizes and bare acknowledgements that come to the everyday dancers.

Why are country competitors down...get a clue, UCWDC Board. We keep coming because we love to dance and we love the comraderie among our peer dancers. But this relationship is getting too one-sided and, if it isn't addressed, the party's going to end under your noses."

NEXT PARTY FEBRUARY 18 at the AMBER HOUSE

Lesson 3 PM
Dance Party 4PM-8PM
*Our parties are at the Cabaret
Ballroom located inside 'The
Amber House, 7012 E Nine Mile
Road, Warren, MI. 810-754-3434*

NEW FEATURE

In an ongoing effort to keep introducing fresh, new elements to the club, we've decided to begin a **GUEST DJ** spot, similar to the Guest Teacher situation. There are many talented DJ's in the area who have offered to entertain us for awhile during each dance. This month, **Dave "The Baker" Michalski** will be spinning the toons. See page 4 for Dave's bio.



TOE TO TOE RETURNS!!

Do you need to pick up some new dance shoes? Now's the time and the Amber House is the place. They'll be at the party on the 18TH. Buy your Honey some new kicks for Valentine's Day. 😊
Preview your choices on their web site: <http://toe2toe.com/>

DANCE LESSON

Last month: Many thanks to the Bootie Queen, Paulette Brockington, for teaching us how to dance to the Blues and how to move so delightfully sleazily (is that a word?) with the music. It's always a pleasure, Paulette.



This month, Tim Constant is our Guest Teacher. Tim filled the house the last time he taught and we expect it to be the same this time. Tim will be teaching Intermediate/Advanced East Coast Swing steps he learned from many of the great European swing dancers he's met over the years. Some really fun and fancy material! See his bio on page four for more details.

NEW MEMBERS

The MSDA warmly welcomes the following Dancers to the club. Thanks so much for your support!

MURRAY COHEN
 BARBARA COHEN
 VINCENT DeMATTEO
 STEVE HAVER
 RICHARD FISHER
 TOM JUNG
 SANDRA JUNG
 MICHAEL NALL
 RAY RORISO
 LEE ROSSANO
 LAURA SAKULICH
 SUE SAWYER



The MSDA has a birthday party every month for those with birthdays during that month. We announce the members' names, have a birthday dance especially for them and serve cake. We also have a small gift for those present at the party in their birthday month. Please be sure to open it before leaving the party...it needs to be laminated.

SALLY STREET	2/3
BARBARA TRIPP	2/3
KAREN WEBER	2/3
GEORGE KRUCZKOWSKI	2/4
BRENDA RUPP	2/4
BONNIE SPARRE	2/4
BOB LEICH	2/5
SUSAN PORTER	2/5
ROXANNE THORPE	2/6
LINDA HIVELEY	2/7
NANCY HENDERSON	2/11
DAVID YOUNG	2/12
JAVIER COLON	2/23
JERRY BARTON	2/24
EILEEN PRUITT	2/27
KIM HALL	2/29



FUTURE PARTIES



March 18
 April 22
 May 20
 June 10

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Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.

The birthday cake for our parties is provided by Dave Michalski. He gives us a great discount and will give any MSDA member a discount too. Dave's shop is located at:

Gallery of Cakes
 10626 W. Warren
 Dearborn, MI
 313-581-5702
Hours:
 Tues - Fri, 10 to 6
 Saturday, 10-2:30
 Sunday, Closed



BIG III No. 2

February 17th 8 PM to 2 AM
 The Lafayette Grande.
 \$15 cover. \$12 for MSDA members. Lesson: \$5. Paul King & the Rhythm Society Orchestra. The band breaks will be filled with a VARIETY of music (not just 30s and 40s swing). About 1/3 of the tunes will be between 80-125 BPM, for East Coast, Fox Trot, West Coast, Waltz, Salsa and Cha-Cha. Plus, we will be playing **actual** WCS, Fox Trot, Salsa, etc. tunes! There will be a much wider range of dances and styles than at the last BIG III.
 FMI: 810-978-3703 or <http://swingdetroit.iscool.net>. See attached flyer.

MARCH MADNESS

Mar 2, 3 & 4th
 The Lafayette Grande, Pontiac, MI Workshops, dance contests and a Sat night dance with Paul King and the and Rhythm Society. Teachers Ryan Francois and Jenny Thomas are touring again after recently starring in the Broadway musical "Swing," the Tony Awards show, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Rosie O'Donnell Show and appearing with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.
 Purchase a weekend pass for only \$125 (if purchased prior to 2/15, \$150 after 2/15). Day rate \$75. Individual classes \$20 each. \$5 off the weekend for MSDA members. FMI: Paulette Brockington: 313-869-9385. Email: PauletteBrockington@yahoo.com or <http://artspectrum.org/marchmad.htm>

BOOGIE IN THE BURGH

Mar 29- April 1, Pittsburgh, PA
 3rd Annual Weekend Dance Party
 Weekend ticket: \$60. Includes workshops, 27 hours of dancing, exhibitions, hospitality suite.
 FMI: 412-561-7777 or Jerry Kovac, 412-825-0301 or <http://americanbopassociation.com/burgh.jpg>

INTERNATIONAL HUSTLE & SALSA COMPETITION

April 5-8, 2001, Miami, FL
 Radisson Deauville Hotel
 FMI: 954-927-9010 and <http://www.hustleandsalsa.com/>

FLOORPLAY'S ORLANDO SWING VACATION 2

April 12-16, 2001, Orlando, FL
 Rosen Plaza Hotel, 4 day ticket: \$50
 15,600 sq. ft. Ballroom. Competitions, parties, workshops, raffles
 FMI: (407) 370-0097 and <http://floorplaydanceorlando.com/>

STARDUST DANCE WEEKEND

April 20-22, 2001, Miami, FL
 Nevele Hotel, New York State
 FMI: 1 800 537-2797 and <http://www.stardustdance.com/april2001.htm>



DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



AMBER HOUSE offers **TUESDAY ECS & LINDY LESSONS WITH TIM CONSTANT.** ECS: 6:30 to 7:30. Lindy: 7:30 to 8:30. \$5 per lesson. FMI: Call (810).734.3434. **THE DANCE CLUB** classes begin each month at the Amber House in Warren. Private lessons available. Mambo, Hustle, ChaCha - Tango - Waltz - FoxTrot - Swing - West Coast. Huge Dance Floor! Amber House, 7012 E. Nine Mile Road (Just W. of VanDyke) Warren, MI

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO offers our members a discount of \$1.00 off the admission fee for their Friday night parties. Everyone is welcome. Party is from 9 PM to 12 AM. FMI: (248) 356-5678. **See attached class schedule.** 10% discount to members. NO DISCOUNT IS OFFERED AT THEIR ANN ARBOR LOCATION.

DANCE AVENUE DANCE STUDIO Due to remodeling, all classes and dance parties will be cancelled for the month of February. Classes will resume in March 2001.

ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members off the \$5.00 charge for Friday night parties. Party..9:15 PM-10:45 PM. FMI: (248) 548-4770.

TROY DANCE STUDIO They offer \$1.00 discount on every event they hold. They have scheduled Theme Parties on Tuesdays. Theme parties have hors d'oeuvres and drinks included. Open House for new students includes free group lessons the last week of each month. FMI: Elaine Marrero, TDS. (248) 689-3393.

WEST COAST WEDNESDAY
By Dance Fanatics
Times Square, Pontiac, MI
7:30, 8:15... lessons by Tera Gehrking
Dancing 9-11 PM
Kitchen open until 10 PM
\$1.00 off to MSDA members every Wednesday. For more info: 810-446-8888 or surf <http://www.DanceFanatics.com>

DANCE ALERT

Want to receive the latest e-mail news on dance related events in Michigan? Want to know where the hottest dance floors are? To subscribe to all the latest dance news, visit her website at: <http://dancemichigan.com>.

NEW PAGES have been added: **Instructors, DJ's, bands and Event Coordinators may advertise for free.** Also, check out our Information Station for her list of *Dance Floors* in the area.

CHANGE OF PACE CLOTHIERS
Located at 2045 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake, MI
248-332-1811. 10% discount offered to all MSDA members. They have men's & women's clothing, shoes & accessories! Wonderful quality, everything from funky to elegant. They also do expert alterations! Check out their wonderful sales rack. No discount there, but none is needed. Great buys on dance clothing!!!

LYNCH'S
Three Locations:
Warren: (810) 751-1780
Dearborn: (313) 565-3425
Wyandotte: (313) 281-8108.
15% discount to MSDA members. They carry various trims for costumes, teachers' shoes, tights, etc.

HUBER & BREEZE
30% discount on all Rentals, Sales, Repairs of New & Used Disc Jockey Equipment. Musical instruments & vocal lessons also available.
33540 Groesbeck Hwy.
Fraser, MI (810) 294-3950



Just in Time for Valentine's Day!!!

DANCE ART COLLECTIBLES
By Linda Jaworski
An incredible collection of gorgeous and/or entertaining dance related art and collectibles. What better gift for a dancer? I love my Popeye and Olive Oyl dancers! 10% discount on unframed posters and 15% off framed posters to MSDA members. 33228 West 12 Mile, Suite 138, F. Hills. For more info: 248-488-0244 ljjaworski@aol.com. Linda will be bringing her art display to an MSDA dance very soon.

Guess the Name of This Mystery Dancer...

I never danced socially until I was 30 years old. My first date (and only with this person) was a fix up by an Aunt who double dated with me. She fixed me up with someone who years later murdered two senior citizens in their home in Farmington Hills while traveling with a Carnival. West Coast Swing is my favorite dance, Hustle is my second. I'm currently married. I'm female. Who am I?



TRAVEL PLANS?

We have a listing of clubs, associations, studios, and dance events in other cities throughout most of the United States. If you would like to check out the dance action in a city you're planning to visit, call or e-mail either Sharon. or, check out our links page at <http://msda.org/links.htm>. We'll try to hook you up. (248)926-5484 or sfnelson@att.net



THE FIRST POTLUCK DINNER AT THE AMBER HOUSE WAS YUMMY

What better way to forget about a dreary, cold Sunday than to enjoy delicious home cooked food, dance with your favorite partners and meet new people. I loved the cream cheese & fresh veggie pizza and the pineapple upside down cake. Oh yeah..and the heavenly, multi-chocolate brownie and the succulent, slow cooked ham that fell apart on the fork, and all my favorite songs played upon request. I won't miss the next one. It's every first Sunday of the month at the Amber House in Warren. Check it out: <http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/>



BE A JACKPOT WINNER! REMEMBER THE 50/50 RAFFLE.

At each party, you can buy an arm's length worth of tickets for \$5.00. The raffle drawing is at 6 PM. Just see Steve Lenahan for tickets. Last month's pot was \$105.00!!



**GUEST INSTRUCTOR
Tim Constant**

Tim Constant began his dance career studying Lindy Hop and Swing with the one and only Frankie Manning. In addition to studying with this legend, he has traveled extensively to study with the contemporary masters of the dance such as the great Steven Mitchell, The Rhythm Hot Shots, Marcus Koch & Baerbl Kaufer of Germany, and Michael Johansson and Maria Weber of Sweden just to name a few.

Tim is currently the resident swing instructor for The Amber House and for Plymouth/Canton Community Education. He is also a guest instructor for Dance Avenue Studio and recently finished a 3 year stand as the swing dance instructor for The 24 Karat Club/The Token Lounge. Throughout 1998, he was the guest Swing instructor for The Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and in 1999 for The Michigan Dance Council in Lansing. He is also an accomplished workshop instructor, teaching many workshops in Swing and Jazz.

Along with teaching, Tim has performed and choreographed many shows to help promote the world of dance. Some of these performances include: The 2000 Spring Swing at The Redford Theatre, The Avon Players Theatre Guild, Michigan Heart Association benefits, Detroit Rockers Soccer Association pre-game show, the Fiesta De Hemingway Centennial Swing Celebration in Chicago, and the "Dancing Though Time" celebration at Henry Ford Museum.

Recently, Tim substantially reduced his teaching and performance schedule to dedicate the time for traveling across the country and around the world to study with the masters of West Coast Swing, Hustle, Shag, and Latin.

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*** **HOT TIP** ***

BE SURE TO FILL OUT A DANCE CARD OR TEN AT EACH PARTY. WE USE THOSE TO CHOOSE WINNERS FOR THE DOOR PRIZES.

**GUEST DJ
Dave "The Baker" Michalski**

Dave (the Baker) Michalski, owner of Gallery of Cakes, has been involved in music and dancing his whole life, starting with drums at the age of ten. During the 1960's and 70's, Dave played the drums in Rock & Roll, Jazz, and Wedding Bands. Then, in the 80's, he managed bands and began dancing with an Arthur Murray Studio where he competed both locally and nationally, to much acclaim! David 's involvement with music and dancing gives him the knowledge and experience to be a real 'Dancers D J'.

A NOTE ABOUT eGROUPS

I send all notices out via an online community known as eGroups. It has recently been changed to Yahoo! Groups. If you try to access the site, you will need to create a Yahoo! username and password to get in. There's a link to it from the home page of the MSDA site [Http://msda.org](http://msda.org), or you can go directly to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MSDA/join> and join there. If you want to send an e-mail to the group, you can do so using this e-mail address: MSDA@yahoogroups.com. Yahoo! has added some useful features including a customizable chat room in which you can log on with fellow MSDAers and discuss who's going where and when. Very handy.

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PLEASE MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

I send the newsletter out electronically as soon as it is finished and it gets there a few days before the snail mail version. Because I can include color photos and graphics, it's more fun. You can download and print the photos. I also put each month's issue on the web site, in color, so you might want to check it out. Sharon Nelson: sfnelson@att.net



Dance Web Site of the Month

<http://www.5678swing.com/>

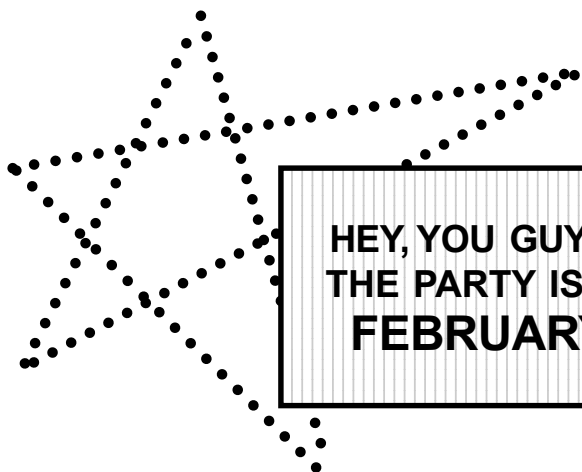
Barry Durand decided to separate country from swing and split his magazine into two separate venues.

The article on the from page of this newsletter is from the message board from another part of his site.

It can be accessed from this URL: <http://www.5678magazine.com/returnfrontpage.html>

It looks like he intends to give rec.arts.dance a run for its money.

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION
SHARON NELSON
2152 SHANKIN
WOLVERINE LAKE, MI 48390



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 18!!!!



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!