



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION



“Skippy’s Intensive”

Recently I inquired why Skippy’s Michigan Intensive had a different schedule than those I’d seen that were taking place in other cities. Here is her very thoughtful response.

“Dear Sharon -

Once someone has attended any one of the Intensives, they usually attend several. Our complete program spans quite a bit of time. The name of the Module may be different, but it is usually a different approach to the same crucial subjects. Recently, many dancers have become interested in Judging Modules in order to learn what judges are looking for. That is why the titles for Michigan are slanted toward Judging.

We have quite a few followers in the Chicago area and several have shown an interest in attending BOTH Intensives. The dates offer a rare opportunity to participate in one - have time to practice, teach, share, ABSORB the information - and then while things are still rolling - attend another session. This affords an opportunity for further questions and further development, while the material is still fresh. Second attendees report an astonishing level of understanding and an ability to “hear the little things” often missed. Intensives range from “Mini-Intensives” - like a weekend - to a full 7 day, week long Intensive. The one in Chicago is 29 hours - and the one in Michigan is 19 hours. Each serves a different purpose, but all of it is dance education.

Ours is a unique program that encourages different levels of dancers to attend the same sessions. The “mix” of questions helps educate all of us. (Through the years, MANY of my personal discoveries have been simply because someone asked a question in a very different way. It’s exciting, being there when discoveries happen!) Each person seems to hear and understand the material that suits their own current needs. Many report attending what they thought was the exact same program, only to find that every subject included new content. The SUBJECT of each one or two hour Module actually includes material that could cover 4 or 5 hours. The direction that the subject takes, is determined by the questions and needs of those in attendance.

The entire GSDTA program is equivalent to about a four semester college program. It is really best when you know someone who has been through the program. I can only assure you that reports from attendees attest to the fact that everyone learns a lot - even from a ONE day seminar.

We plan Intensives according to time and space available, and according to requests that have come from a specific area. Modules vary from place to place. No two are ever exactly the same. Naturally, the more time invested, the more information is learned. I have found over the years, that people who attend Intensives fall into 3 different categories:

#1. The ones who attend to get specific information that will help their dancing or their teaching - and learn enough on the first Intensive to accomplish what they set out to do.

...continued on page 4

NEXT MSDA PARTY

MAY 23

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. 586-754-3434***

DANCE LESSON

Last month we had a unique situation that worked out very well. Our scheduled guest instructors couldn’t make it so Bill Scheff taught Hustle at one end of the hall and Tim Constant taught Shag at the other end. A good time was had by all! Thanks, guys.



This month, we have the pleasure of a first: the smooth, much sought after dancer and teacher, Mr Bill Fields will be teaching for us. Join Bill for a new starter step, some timing tips and a cute pattern for West Coast.

...bio on page 4.

WE HAVE THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE!!

There are very few seats left, front and center, in the MSDA section at the Michigan Classic (4th of July weekend.) MSDA members get \$5 off the normal weekend price of \$95. Contact Sharon Nelson now to reserve your seats. 248-390-0515 or sharon@sfnelson.com.

<http://michiganclassic.com/>

**Take an intensive with the
“Instructor’s Instructor”,
Skippy Blair.**

NEW MEMBERS

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

**MARIO AGOSTA
MARTIN WUNSCH**

**HELP OUR CLUB GROW
AT THE NEXT DANCE:**

- ☺ SAY HELLO TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW
- ☺ LEARN THREE NEW NAMES
- ☺ ASK TWO NEW PEOPLE TO DANCE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR
MAY BIRTHDAY
PEOPLE

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 gift for those present at the party in their birthday month. Please be sure to see Jean at the front desk before leaving the party...it needs to be laminated.

| | | |
|----------|------------|------|
| REN | BRYANT | 6/5 |
| THOMAS | WOPINSKY | 6/8 |
| AL | KABACINSKI | 6/9 |
| THOMAS | BASHAW | 6/9 |
| AMY | HAIGLER | 6/14 |
| STANLEY | KUBICKI | 6/15 |
| GEORGE | POWELL | 6/16 |
| FRANK | GONZALES | 6/18 |
| ROBERTO | DEROCHIS | 6/20 |
| JAMES | DANIELS | 6/22 |
| SHELLEY | HANDREN | 6/24 |
| VIRGINIA | HAMEL | 6/27 |
| JON | ACKERMAN | 6/29 |



FUTURE PARTIES

June 27

July 18

August 15

September 9

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Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.
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BIRTHDAYS...AN ISSUE FOR SOME MEMBERS. It has been brought to my attention that some people **HATE** being called out on the floor for the birthday dance and may even stay home that day to avoid it. Yet I know that others love it. So, please let me know if you don't want your birthday published in the newsletter and/or if you don't want to come out on the floor. I'll be happy to respect your wishes. SN

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

JIMMY BARRIOS

COMO'S..SALSA & SWING
Woodward and 9 Mile every Wed night. 9PM till 1AM. **NO COVER CHARGE.**

DANCE CAMP LAS VEGAS

June 13th - 18th. Full week of ballroom dance lessons taught by pros. 800-851-2813
<http://www.masterycamps.com>

AMERICAN OPEN

June 18th - 20th. Conneaut Lake, PA. Multiple dance floors, air-conditioned Art Deco ballroom. Contests and workshops in West Coast Swing, Hustle, Lindy, DC Hand Dancing, and Stepping. Vintage amusement park and lake on site. Golf courses, boating, cottages and camping. Rooms: \$65. Weekend pass: \$79 by May 10th.
<Http://artspectrum.org>.
313-790-2311 or
info@artspectrum.org
See attached flyer.

MICHIGAN DANCE CLASSIC

July 1-4, 2004
Marriott Renaissance Hotel
General Motors Global Center
Detroit, Michigan
WC Swing, Lindy, Hustle, Cabaret, 15 Competitive Divisions, 20 Dance Workshops. Eveready Flashlight Show. Saturday Evening Dinner & Show, Skippy's Intensive & Judging Seminars. Color-coded Earlybird Seating Options
Platinum: \$99 Gold: \$95
Silver: \$89 Bronze: \$85
Earlybird Hotel = \$89
<http://michiganclassic.com>

JAMMIN' IN JULY

July 22-25. Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio
\$65 for the weekend. For More information, contact: Ronald Reese - (614) 861-3927 (Event Coordinator). HOLIDAY INN (614) 885-3334

TAMPA BAY BEACH BOOGIE

AUGUST 19, 20, 21, & 22
Tradewinds Island Grand Resort
5500 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete, FL 33706. 1-800-808-9833. \$35 for the whole weekend. EC, WC & Shag.

SWINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES

AUGUST 19 - 22. Hyatt Regency, Denver, CO. Competitions, workshops, top teachers.
www.denverswing.com. 303-989-6651. Over 20 hours of social dancing.

DALLAS DANCE

Sept. 2-5. Dallas, TX. Fairmont Hotel, Regency Ballroom. \$28,000 in prizes. 5000 sq ft dance floor. Dance til dawn each day. \$65 by Aug 1. Terry Rippa (214)526-8889 or <http://www.dallasdance.com/>

BRIDGETOWN SWING

Sept. 9-12. Portland, OR. Kyle Redd & Sarah Vann Drake Jordan Frisbee & Tatiana Mollmann Wayne & ~~Shari Bott~~ With more to come...
Tickets: tickets@portlandswing.org
Information: bts@portlandswing.org

**DISCOUNTS
FOR MEMBERS**

THE DANCE CLUB's progressive classes begins every six weeks at the Amber House in Warren. Schedule: <http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/> 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. 586-754-3434

NEW TUESDAY LINDY CLASS AND DANCE with Paulette Brockington, starting on Tuesday, June 8 at 8:15pm at the Amber House. The five class session will cost \$35. Call Amber House to pre-register: 586-754-3434. Amber House is located at 7012 E. Nine Mile Rd. Each class will be followed by a dance. Cover is \$5 and includes admittance plus a \$2 drink ticket. Paulette Brockington. 313-790-2311

RHYTHM -N- SHOES DANCE STUDIO
NEW: Now there are dances on both Thursday and Friday nights. \$7 on Thurs and \$10 on Fri. 9 to 11 PM. Light snacks served. **\$1.00 discount to MSDA & MSSHD members on Thursday AND Friday night dances.** Suzie Brecht is the manager of the studio, as well as a teacher and the DJ. 2172 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills. 248-334-0299. See *attached schedule*. RhythmNShoes@aol.com. <http://www.rhythm-n-shoes.com>

ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY
Friday night parties every Friday. Call for dates. 9:15 -10:45 PM. \$5. **Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members.** 811 North Main Street, Royal Oak. FMI: 248-548-4770

TROY DANCE STUDIO
\$1.00 discount on every event to MSDA members. They hold scheduled parties several nights a week. 4963 Rochester Rd. Troy, MI 48098. Elaine Marrero, 248-689-3393.

ARGENTINE TANGO DETROIT
7758 Auburn Road, Utica
586-254-0560. An instructor from Deliz DanceSport is teaching Salsa & Swing on Mondays! **\$1.00 off all events to MSDAmembers.**
lori@argentinetangodetroit.com
<http://www.argentinetangodetroit.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 **free** to all the latest dance news, visit her website at: <http://dancemichigan.com>.

Instructors, DJ's, Studios and Bands may advertise for free. You can print out a huge list of area dance floors or check out the Information Station at the monthly dance for her list.

DELIZ DANCESPORT

231 Eureka Road, Wyandotte, MI 48192
734 -281-1969. M-F, 1pm-10pm, Sat. by appt. 734-281-1969 or delizdance@aol.com

DANCESPORT ACADEMY OF MICHIGAN

23666 Park, Dearborn, MI 48124
313-724-3262. The studio has Friday night open dances, \$8. Sat night dances are \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.**
<http://www.dancesportacademy.com>

DANCE ELITE BALLROOM STUDIO

6315 Haggerty, W. Bloom. American and International Ballroom Dancing. Group and private lessons for all ages. Jacob Reves, Professional Dance Instructor. Competitive dance coaching. Barry Douglas teaches Hustle classes Tuesday nights. Saturday night dance parties, 9 to midnight, \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** 248-926-8522. <http://eliteballroom.com>. See *attached schedule*.

NEW!!! DEAL AMERICA FURNITURE

Full line of furniture & mattresses, plus computers: sales, service repair and upgrades. Dial up internet service and BROWSE BLASTER.

MSDA Members receive 10% Discount. 285 Piquette, Detroit, MI. 313-872-2550.

Monday thru Sat. 9am to 6 pm

NEW!!! CEO VIDEO

Still and video photography services. "Documenting precious, once-in-a-lifetime, loving memories of special occasions."
\$50 off the Diamond Wedding Videotaping Package (5% of \$1000), 5% discount on any other services.
Matt Trupiano. matt@ceovideo.net, 586-596-5240. <http://www.ceovideo.net/>

PERSONAL TRAINER

Muscle toning, strength & balance training to increase your dance endurance & poise. At your gym. **10% discount per session to MSDA members for first 5 training hours.** Madelyn Kleitch, ACE certified. <http://personaltrainermk.com/> 313-882-5422.

COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Contact Meagan Woodbury if you are a male dancer between 40 - 70, & you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on cruise ships. **\$5 discount for MSDA members.** 586-775-1933

DINING WITH SINGLES

Now you can join other available, like minded, single people for evenings of fine dining and dinner theater. It's fun, it's affordable and it's without the social pressure of one on one blind dates. **\$20 membership discount to MSDA members.** Type MSDA in the comments form. <http://www.diningwithsingles.com/>

SWING TIME STUDIO/DANCE HALL

G-4510 VanSlyke Road- Flint
Swing, Ballroom, Latin, Country & Social. Group Classes & Private Instruction available. 2200 sq. ft of Floating dance floor. **\$1.00 off any workshop or Dance party to MSDA members.** Instructors: Terri Sweet-Tim Johnson-Tim Constant-Dave Wolf. Contact Terri at (810) 762-0101. swing42@sbcglobal.net

REMINDER: Show your **MSDA** card at GLSDC and MSSHD dances to **get in at their member prices** Just show your card and save. They have a club dance every Wednesday in Flint at VFW Hall, G-4138 Corunna Road, just 1/2 west of I-75. GLSDCeditor@aol.com. MSSHD is will be the third Sat in July : bbudzyn@comcast.net <http://www.michiganswing.com/>

HUBER & BREEZE

30% discount on all Rentals, Sales, Repairs of New & Used Disc Jockey Equipment. 33540 Groesbeck Hwy. Fraser, MI (586) 294-3950

LYNCH'S

Three Locations:
Warren: (586) 751-1780
15% discount to MSDA members.
They carry various trims for costumes, teachers' shoes, tights, etc.

**GUEST INSTRUCTORS
BILL FIELDS**

Skippy Blair Continued

Bill Fields has worked in and competed in dance since 1993. Having started in the world of country dance, in both line and couples and grown to ball room and swing. Taught Social dancing for 2 seasons in the Plymouth school system, and 4 years for the Grosse Ile Recreation department. For the last 2 years has been an active partner in the Downriver Swing Club, teaching classes at Pier 500 and helping to grow are Downriver dance community. Now turning more attention to swing and hustle and just finishing a Skippy Blair intensive at the Atlanta Grand Nationals, there's lots to talk about. **Rules of Dance, 1 You can never get to many hugs. 2. The time you spend dancing doesn't count off your life.**

#2. The ones who are only interested in sessions that deal exclusively with West Coast Swing. After the first Intensive they opt to attend specific training hours, rather than another Intensive.
#3. The ones who get "hooked" on dance education (like me!) - and become part of the Dance Dynamics "family". (like Jordan & Tatiana - Mary Ann Nunez - and Wayne & Sharlot who took it to extreme and now teach the program all over the world.) Many people attend at least one Intensive a year. Others attend whenever and wherever they can make it.

ALL of the above participants are on target for their own goals. With the addition of the recent JUDGING program, it has made us all more aware of how much the Judging information helps the DANCER - and the TEACHER. Each Module looks at some part of the dance in a different light. The more we learn - the better dancers we become - and, for the teachers, the more we can share that information with others.

WOW! I didn't plan on writing a book. However, this is something I should have written a long time ago. I think this information would be helpful to anyone interested in attending an Intensive. Yes? Please let me know if there are any other questions. PS: Don't you feel sorry for people who don't dance? I feel so fortunate to be surrounded by people who spend a great deal of their time LOST in the music and the dance! It's a cure for all ills. God Bless - and keep dancing.

Much Love,
Skippy

NOTE: Please check out the attached schedule of her Michigan Intensive. See you there!

MUSIC?

Each month there will be a sheet at the front desk that invites you to list the songs you would like to hear. We will make every effort to play those songs, if not at this dance, then the next one. Feel free to bring in CD's and ask either me or Bill to play songs that you like. As always, our format is mainly swing and hustle with a sprinkling of country, latin, and ballroom. If you would like to try out your DJ skills, just ask.

S.N.

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) 390-0515 or msda@att.net

BE A JACKPOT WINNER!

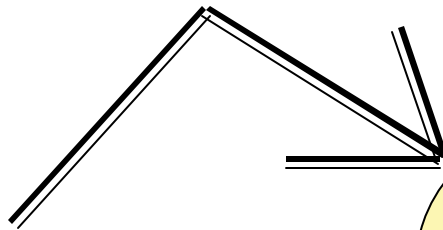
REMEMBER THE 50/50 RAFFLE.

At each party, you can buy an arm's length worth of tickets for \$5.00. The raffle drawing is usually around 6 PM. Anyone can enter. You must be present to win.



The drink ticket you receive when you enter our parties is to be used for a free soft drink or an alcoholic beverage. If you choose not to drink one, please turn it in at the bar. This is a direct part of the payment process to the Amber House! Remember: we need to help support Bill through food & drink purchases! We want to keep having our parties there.

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION
SHARON NELSON
PO BOX 1125
WALLED LAKE, MI 48390
<http://msda.org>
pres@msda.org



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
JUNE 27, 2004!!

PLEASE NOTE
THAT THE
PARTY IS NOT
THE THIRD
SUNDAY.



Thanks for all your support!!