



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



STILL ROLLING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

By KRISTIN DIZON

Probably most members don't realize this, but we have some "skate dancing" enthusiasts in the club. Maybe we should meet some Saturday afternoon and try a little West Coast on wheels. "All skate!"

"Everyone knew it was a fashion faux pas to wear black to the roller rink in the '30s and '40s. In those days, skates had wooden wheels on a steel frame, and white paraffin dust provided traction so one could glide rather than slip and slide. Fortunately, if you were a woman, the powder also fluffed up your hair in a fetching way.

Powder aside, the roller rink of yesteryear was a palace of romance. It's amazing how many of the couples that gathered one recent morning at Pattison's West rink in Federal Way had first crossed paths while skating.

Every Thursday morning, about 50 old-timers gather to do ballroom dancing on skates. Clapsed in each other's arms or holding hands, they perform a tango, fox trot, waltz, polka or other "artistic skate dances."

They remember the days when the tunes were played by a rinkside organist; today, recorded pipe organ songs carry them back in time. Melodies like "Chattanooga Choo Choo" revive the big-band era, while an organ version of "Blueberry Hill" evokes poodle skirts and curvy, chrome-trimmed Chevys.

One woman, who is deaf, dances by feeling the beat and reading her partners' lips for cues.

A man wearing a "Titanic crew" T-shirt and a helmet sheds his snakeskin cowboy boots and laces up a pair of skates he brings in a bowling bag. Others extract skates from metal attache cases and suitcases on wheels. The group has the feel of a family, teasing each other and reminiscing about the

old days. They hold a Christmas potluck; a New Year's bash and a monthly party to celebrate birthdays. There's always a helping hand when someone falls, and many of these gliders' grandchildren now skate at the same rinks they do.

"I can't imagine I'm still skating," says Norma Marshall, 69. "But it's exercise and the music's great." The phenomenal legs of Dottie Shores are a testament

to the healthful benefits of skating. Nearly 80, Shores airily pirouettes and arabesques across the rink in a short skirt, flashing svelte gams that look like they belong to a 16-year-old. For Shores, widowed for nearly three years, the music is a magnet. She adores the tension of a tango, the epic grandeur of songs from "Dr. Zhivago," the syncopation of the blues. "I love the music and I try to interpret each piece that comes on," she says. "Some of them I just feel that I come alive to." The dances are elegant. They flow seamlessly across the floor, though it takes time to master them. Each has specific steps repeated in a pattern and come in beginner, intermediate and expert levels. Fewer enter the ranks of this type of artistic dance skating, which is similar to modern ice-dancing

NEWS ABOUT CINCINNATI

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. The tickets have gone on sale for the Fall Convention by the Cincinnati Bop Club. The dates are November 7-11. Please check out the attached flyer and order your tickets now because they go fast and there is a limit on the number sold. You need to get a confirmation code from the Bop Association before you can reserve a room. Last year we had over 60 members attend and it was TOO MUCH FUN. Call Paul Hennessey if you have questions. 1-513-697-6351

NEXT PARTY

MAY 20

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

DANCE LESSON

Last month, Bill Scheff, owner of Amber House and MSDA's DJ, led us through the mechanics of Free Spins for the Ladies and the Execution of Leads & Pickups for the Men. It cleared up lots of questions and gave us plenty of practice on that free spin. Thanks Bill.

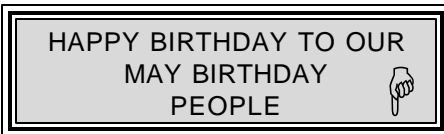


This month, it's a pleasure to introduce Denise Salkowski and Angelo Comitto to our list of professional dance teachers. Denise and Angelo are from the new studio, Rythm N' Shoes, and will be teaching how to incorporate Cuban motion into Intermediate East Coast Swing. See bios on page 4.

NEW MEMBERS

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

LORI BURTON
DARRELL BURTON



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.

Sue Traub	01
Joyce Smith	01
Linda Abrams	02
Meagan Woodbury	03
Tecla Lamberti	04
Laura Ingels	06
Ziggy Pakiet	08
Tonya landon	11
Gilles Fouquart	11
Sherri King	13
Bruce Cameron	13
Darrell Kennedy	13
Nancy McCaffrey	17
Anne Sherbin	18
Mary Ann Milewski	19
Louis Palmeri	20
Bob Bennane	22
Patti Morris	23
Mark Elliot	25
Anthony Cosgro	25
Amelia Skwiers	26
David Fishback	26
Doc Chamberlain	27
Paulette Brockington	28



FUTURE PARTIES



June 10
July 22
August 12
September 23

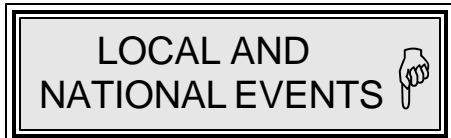
.....
Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.
.....

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:

**DAVE THE BAKER'S
SHOP HAS
MOVED!!!!!!**

**Gallery of Cakes
29457 5 Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154
734-427-9202**

**Hours:
Tues - Fri, 10 to 6
Saturday, 10-2:30
Sunday, Closed**



BARRY DOUGLAS WORKSHOPS & POTLUCK DANCE PARTY

Sunday, May 6, 2001, Amber House Night Club 2-Step, West Coast Swing & Inter. & Adv. Hustle classes. Prices vary depending on how many classes you take. Starts at 10:30 AM. Potluck Dance from 4:30 until 9:00 PM. \$5 to MSDA members. Another \$1 off with a dish to pass. **GREAT** discounts for MSDA members. **All workshops, plus dance, only \$40 for MSDA.** See attached flyer and http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/barrys_workshop.htm FMI: 810.754.3434 or wscheff@speakeasy.net. Check out Barry's site at: <http://i-hustle.com>

RHYTHM N' SHOES KICKOFF DANCE PARTY

May 10, 9 TO 11 PM
DJ: Suzie Brecht
\$7, \$6 to MSDA members
Available: Practice skirts and tops
Rhythm N' Shoes Dance Studio
2172 Franklin Rd, BH.
(248) 334-0299
See attached flyer.

GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

May 24-28 Atlanta, GA
770-512-7848 and
<http://jackieandcharlie>

NEW ORLEANS DANCE MARDI GRAS Swing & Hustle Competition -

July 18-23, 2001
New Orleans, LA - 318-798-6226
or Email: nocdmg@aol.com
<http://dancemardigras.com>

BEAT THE HEAT

July 26-29 Columbus, OH
For the \$50 ticket, they feed you all weekend, breakfast, lunch and a buffet dinner!!! Last year they inaugurated a brand new floor. Only a 3 1/2 hour drive. 614-9399-1844 or email: watsongeo@aol.com, Buckeye Bop Club

DISCO AMERICA DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 3-5, 2001 215-233-5507 or
Email: DonnaBoyledisco@aol.com
<http://www.discoamerica.com/> -

SWING FLING

Washington, DC
Aug 3-5, 2001 505-286-8646 or
Email: DonnaBoyledisco@aol.com
<http://www.swingfling.com>
durand5678@aol.com

DALLAS DANCE

Aug 31-Sept 2 Dallas, TX
\$60 ticket before Aug 1. 14
Contests, 8 workshops, pool
party, social dancing.
<http://DallasDance.com/> or
Terry Rippa (214) 526-8889



DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



AMBER HOUSE offers TUESDAY LESSONS WITH TIM CONSTANT.

7:30 to 8:30 PM for ECS and 8:30 to 9:30 for Carolina Shag. \$5 per lesson. **WEST COAST WEDNESDAY HAS MOVED TO THE AMBER HOUSE.** Details below under West Coast Wednesday. FMI: Call (810).754.3434. **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

They are under construction and expect to resume their regular schedule at the beginning of June. Call first. (313) 565-3329

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
Location: **HAS MOVED TO THE AMBER HOUSE!!!** 7:30, 8:15. Lessons by Tera Gehrking-Vitale. Dancing 9 -11 PM \$1.00 off to MSDA members every Wednesday. For more info: 810-446-8888 or visit <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.

ARGENTINE TANGO DETROIT Grand Opening May 18th

7758 Auburn Road, Utica
FMI: (810) 254-0560
10% off all events to MSDA members. <http://www.argentinetangodetroit.com>
LnBrtn@compserv.net

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

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? 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 ljaworski@aol.com. **Linda will be bringing her art display to the MSDA dance in May!!!**

COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Meagan Woodbury, MSDA member, is the lady to contact if you are a male dancer between 40 - 70, & you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on cruise ships. Meagan works for Loretta Blake & has been interviewer, trainer & tester for MI; Ca; Oh. areas 10 years. \$5 discount for MSDA members. (313) 886 -9394.

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. (313) 882-5422.



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 snelson@att.net



PLEASE REMEMBER

TO TAKE YOUR MSDA MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU WHEN ASKING FOR DISCOUNTS AT STUDIOS AND EVENTS. THEY ARE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU THE DISCOUNT BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SOME PEOPLE MASQUERADE AS MSDA MEMBERS.



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 \$70.00!!



**GUEST INSTRUCTORS
DENISE SALKOWSKI &
ANGELO COMITTO**

Denise has a background in Tap, Ballet, and Jazz with a focus on Ballroom dancing. She has taught and competed in Ballroom dancing for the nations largest franchised studio organization and now can be found at Rhythm & Shoes in Bloomfield Hills.

Angelo has a background in Ballroom dancing competes on a regular basis in both smooth and rhythm class. He has taught at the nations largest franchised studio organization and now can be found at Rhythm & Shoes in Bloomfield Hills.

Denise and Angelo will be performing a showcase for us at the May dance.

Continued from page one...

competition. There also are divisions for singles, pairs and figures, with categories running across the age spectrum. These people know their pastime is largely a lost art today.

Gloria Stair, a stylish twirler, laments the lack of interest among young skaters. "With in-line skates, the kids just race around to that awful music," she says. "They don't learn to skate beautiful."

Larry "Chris" Christiansen, 68, a former regional champion in artistic skate dancing, takes me out for the simplest dance, the glide waltz. I have never partner danced on skates, yet somehow Christiansen makes me feel like a graceful swan. This levitating across the floor is heavenly and I can see why these folks come every week. "It brings us back to our old childhood days in a sense," says Carl Greco, who describes himself as "69 going on 17."

"It makes us forget we're old," he adds with a laugh. Most feel the same about this reawakening of days past. I overhear another old-timer say: "If I can manage it at 90 years old, you'll find me here. If I can't stand up, I'll have someone push me in a wheelchair."

All in the family Roller rinks come and go, consumed by fire or economic hiccups. Many local rinks burned to the ground or slowly wasted away in the '50s, '60s and

'70s. But since the late 1930s, one family has turned a love for skating into a Washington dynasty. The Pattisons reflect the national picture, in which about 70 percent of roller rinks are family owned and passed down from generation to generation. Clan matriarch Evelyn Pattison, 78, remembers the elegant theater seats, mirrors and pipe organ in her father's rink in Redondo Beach, which opened in 1937 and burned down in 1951. "We had dress rules. You couldn't wear jeans. The girls could wear skating skirts, but not the short, short ones like now," she says. "

[Sounds just like my high school days. The teachers stood at the door to the gym as I entered the dance and measured from the bottom of my knee cap to the edge of my skirt. If the gap was too big, I had to go home and put on a longer skirt! Yes, kids, that was in the olden days. SN]



REQUEST

More than half the MSDA members are online and are receiving the newsletter electronically each month. If you are one of these people and would like to have your snail mail version stopped, **please tell me**. I'll be sending out and email to this effect also. Thanks, Sharon Nelson. sfnelson@att.net

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>, 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. S.N.

Dance Web Site of the Month

<http://www.dancingusa.com/>

"America's favorite ballroom dance magazine is now online and better than ever. In our little corner of cyberspace, every dancer and would be dancer can find a wealth of essential information about Tango, Swing, Salsa, and Ballroom dance. Much of the website is open to the public. Take your time and look around. We bring you the most comprehensive partner dance resource on the web. Opt for a comfortable chair to peruse the calendars, city guides, web directories, feature articles, product reviews, and discussion boards. Our goal is to help you dance seven days a week and twice on Sundays."

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION
SHARON NELSON
2152 SHANKIN
WOLVERINE LAKE, MI 48390
<http://msda.org>
sfnelson@att.net



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
MAY 20!!!!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!