

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



THAT MUSIC ISSUE AGAIN....

It's time to talk about music, playlists and the club dances. For many months, the club has been growing in size and quality. If you can tear yourself away from dancing (I know it's hard) to view the floor, you will see many new faces and a lot of wonderful techniques, moves and styling. It seems to me that the movement toward better dancing is in full force and is still gaining momentum. Our members take lessons, go to conventions and workshops, practice for exhibitions, win contests and look better all the time. This kind of effort toward improvement makes each dance more exciting than the last and I see no end in sight, thank goodness.

With each dance comes feedback. I get comments that range from, "This is the best dance in town." and "Keep up the good work!" to "You play too much _____." See you around." (Just fill in the blank.) Granted, this last remark was one of a kind and I get much more positive feedback than negative, but it is disturbing to me. I've talked about the issue with several club members and feel that it's time to address it. My goal is to create an atmosphere where we can dance and have fun, so we do our best to make sure everyone is happy and wants to come back. Did I say 'everyone'? Is that possible? I've found that, no matter how hard we try, that's too lofty a goal. I need to stop feeling badly that I can't meet the conflicting needs/wants of the whole group. For example, what should I say when the same person tells me one month that we play too much Latin and the next month that we play too little Latin?

I've decided that the answer is a playlist. Many clubs and DJ's, including Bill, use one and I think it's time to make

it a dynamic, living, breathing part of our Club awareness. I intend to publish the list that we use and I'm more than happy to take requests so the list can grow. That's the easy part. The hard part is deciding how often to play each type of music. It's true that we call ourselves a Swing club and that we don't restrict ourselves to swing music. I guess I'll have to put a disclaimer into our advertising somewhere. We throw in some Latin, Country and Ballroom, not to mention a few line dances now and then. If we were to cut out everything but Swing and Hustle (although I get complaints about too much Hustle being played), we would lose many people.

I've been to dance conventions all over the country and have noticed that our dancers are probably the most*Continued on page four.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING CINCINNATI TICKETS!!!!

Tickets are sold out for the Fall Convention by the Cincinnati Bop Club. There are three MSDA members who want to go but don't have tickets. If you know of any tickets available, please contact Sharon Nelson at 248-926-5484 or by e-mail at: sfnelson@worldnet.att.net. I'm keeping a list and will let the members know. The more of us who go, the more fun it will be so let's ask anyone we know from previous conventions or from other cities if there are any tickets that we could purchase. Thanks for your help. S.N.

THE LINE-UP

We are happy to announce our list of teachers for future MSDA dances.

September 19 ...Cindy Gerald's
October 24...Tonia Deliz
November 21...Bill Vogel III & Tandy Zapinski
December 19...Joyce Stoughton
January...Tim Constant

NEXT PARTY

SEPTEMBER 19

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

Our teacher at the August dance was Barry Douglas. In spite of the fact that many MSDA members were in Chicago at a dance convention or out enjoying the marvelous weather, Barry still drew 46 people for his Hustle and Night Club Two-Step lesson. This was a record for the club! Thanks, Barry for another great lesson.



Our teacher on September 19 will be Cindy Gerald's. Cindy will teach Intermediate West Coast Swing, including some dynamite styling moves. If you go to the Stardust Ballroom, then you've had the pleasure of watching Cindy's animated WCS. We're looking forward to it, Cindy.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- JOHN HUDAK
- REBECCA DAVID
- DAVID BEISNER
- LOLA McCRAW
- BEN PHILLIPS



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.

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|-------------------|------|
| JOHN LOGIUDICE | 9/1 |
| HYUNG KIM | 9/1 |
| MERRY JO HILL | 9/3 |
| BOB CAMPBELL | 9/4 |
| BEVERLY EDE | 9/7 |
| BILL FIELDS | 9/9 |
| MICHAEL LEACH | 9/12 |
| DONNA CHATTULANI | 9/15 |
| GAIL HUSZTI | 9/17 |
| BARB VANRAAPHORST | 9/17 |
| SHARON WOLD | 9/20 |
| ROBERT MADGETT | 9/21 |
| MEL NISER | 9/22 |
| HAL LEVY | 9/23 |
| HARRY ELLIS | 9/24 |
| DOROTHY McGREGOR | 9/28 |
| FERNANDO DIAZ | 9/30 |



FUTURE PARTIES



- October 24
- November 21
- December 19

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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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 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

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HUSTLE USA DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 17th, 18th and 19th
 Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel
 East Rutherford, New Jersey
 Reservations: (201) 896-0500
 Mention HUSTLE USA
 Info: <http://www.hustleusa.com>

END OF SUMMER SWING AND HUSTLE DANCE EVENT

Saturday, Sept 11 at Columbia Ballroom in Columbia Station, Ohio
 Workshops & Dance. **See attached flyer.**

LATIN DANCE PARTY

Sunday, September 26 6 to 10 PM
 Amber House, 7012 E 9 Mile, Warren
 Dance to the hottest Latin & Swing music around. Light buffet included.
 \$6.00. \$1.00 off to MSDA members. (810) 754-3434. **See attached flyer.**

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

BEATA HOWE WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 24
 West Coast Swing
 Ann Arbor's Dance Classics
 4029 Carpenter Road
 Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 975-9055
 To register or FMI:
 Joyce Stoughton-Kim (734) 973-2575 or jas.amdance@juno.com
See attached flyer.

\$3 DISCOUNT, off the package, TO MSDA MEMBERS. You must show your card at the door. Classes include Intermediate WCS, Advanced Technique, Wraps & Turns, Hitting the Breaks and Cool-fun-moves-which-are-easier-than-they-look. Register and pay by September 30 to save 30%.

2nd ANNUAL AMERICAN LINDY HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 29,30,31, 1999
 Sheraton Hotel, Stamford, Conn
 Workshops plus the semi-finals and final round action of the American Showcase Division.
 Norma Miller, Master of Ceremonies. George Gee and the Jump, Jive and Wailers. Meal/hotel package: \$165. (203)359.1300.
 FMI: Paulette Brockington. (313)869.9385 or www.artspectrum.org.
See attached flyer.

SWINGIN' AT SEA

March 5-12, 2000
 Caribbean Dance Cruise
Yes, tickets are still available.
 Hosts: Beata Howe, Robert Cordoba and Deborah Szekely
 West Coast Swing Dance package. Sixteen instructors.
 Reservations: (800) 503-9600
 FMI: Beata: (818) 500-YEAH

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

THE DANCE CLUB classes begin the week of Sept. 12 at the Amber House in Warren. FMI: Call Bill Scheff at (810).734.3434. Private lessons available. **See attached class schedule for special offers.**

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO offers our members a discount of \$1.00 off the admission fee for their the Stardust Showcase & the 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.

DANCE AVENUE DANCE STUDIO offers MSDA members a discount of \$1.00 off their Thursday night parties. FMI: call Dance Avenue at (313) 565-3329. **See attached class schedule.**

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 so much going on, you almost need to stop in to keep informed! 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.

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? E-mail Brenda at dancealert@aol.com and visit her new website at:

<http://members.aol.com/dancealert/index.html>.

Check out our Information Station for her list of **Dance Floors** in the area.

DAVE & GINNY WOLF AT JD'S MACOMB THEATRE

31 N. Walnut
Mt. Clemens, MI
Sunday Dances Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. No classes in July or Aug.
Swing lesson 2:30 to 3:30 P.M.
Swing Dance from 3:30 to 7 PM
Hottest & latest dance music by DJ Dave
Hosted by "Just A Swingin'" Dance Club
\$1.00 off to MSDA members showing membership cards. \$7 per person includes lesson and dance.
FMI: (810) 796-3868. Call Dave & Ginny anytime.


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!!!

COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Megan Woodbury, MSDA member, is the lady to contact if you are a male dancer between 45 and 70 and you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on the cruise ships. Megan works for Lauretta Blake and has been a 'tester' for the Michigan, Windsor and Ohio areas for eight years. You can reach her at (313) 886-9394.

NEW CLUB FEATURE

This is really cool! 

If you'd like to receive your newsletter by e-mail a few days before it arrives by snail mail, please let me know. Send me (sfnelson@worldnet.att.net) your e-mail address with the word 'YES' in the subject line. If I can omit sending you a hardcopy, please make a note of that in the message. You'll need Acrobat Reader to open and print it. It's available for free at www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html#reader.

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



MSDA DANCE ATTENDEES, PLEASE NOTE:

The white 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.

CONGRATULATIONS to last month's Dance Card Contest winners: John Logiudice and Dave Wolf won free admittance to an MSDA dance, Virginia Hamel won a portable minifan, a club button and an MSDA license plate and Chris Wolf won a George Gee and the Make Believe Orchesta CD. Johnny Logiudice won \$37 in the the 50/50 Raffle.

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 Bob Campbell for tickets.



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.

THE MSDA IS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The featured web site this month is our own <http://www.msda.org>. A few weeks ago, I registered our name and started building the site. It's still under construction but is usable right now. There are newsletters that may be downloaded, applications for new members, an events listing with printable flyers for the events, information on the monthly dances, photos of MSDA members and a page of links to local and national dance sites. I'm in the process of adding a guestbook for comments and information that dancers want to pass on. I see this page as being a great place for the WDEC, the Weekend Dance Event Co-ordinators, i.e. Vicki Fearon, Patti Morris and Hope Larson, to post what and where it's happening each weekend. No pressure, ladies.

I also intend to put links to studio schedules, to Brenda's Dance Floor list and to the Danceaway Weekend Webazine. Many times a month, I get e-mail requests for information on the club, so this site will come in handy. Just direct people to it if they ask you about the club.

Features that I hope to include in the near future are videos of past events, streaming videos of live club dances, a club directory for those members who would like to be included (complete with photo id shots), a live chat room (of course), and anything else that seems like a good idea. Please think about the site and what would be useful or entertaining to you. I'd love to have some suggestions and input on this. Also, let me know if you run into problems or broken links. That stuff happens.

I'm gathering release forms that give me permission to put your photo on the site. I won't do it unless I have a signed form from you. If you'd like to be included in the club photo page that is linked to the Monthly Dance page, please stop by the front table at the door during the dance and sign a form. Please bring me any photos that you think might be appropriate for the site. I'll put them up as time permits. Just make sure the people in them have signed release forms.

I've looked forward to this project for a long time and want it to be a fun, informative, group effort. I'll keep you updated as it grows and matures.

Sharon



DANCE SITE OF THE MONTH

<http://www.msda.org/>

The article above describes the goals and status of this work in progress. Check it out and let me know what you think.

THAT MUSIC ISSUE AGAIN....

...continued from page one.

versatile bunch of them all. We brought hustle to the Move Across the River event in Cincy several years ago and had people standing around watching us. Whenever we're at a convention, I see our people dancing the Cha-Cha, Mambo, Waltz, etc. while many other dancers are restricted to Swing or nothing at all. I'm proud of our versatility and want to encourage it. Besides, it's nice to mix it up sometimes. If you're a member of our club and don't know anything but swing, you'll feel like you're sitting out too much. There is a remedy for that and lots of rewards as a result. Consider it, please.

So, let's take the bull by the horns. In your opinion, how many Swing songs should be played before another type is introduced? How many Hustles should be played in 4 hours? How many Two-steps? How many Waltzes? Cha-Cha's? What will happen to the atmosphere if a Quickstep is played? Will an Argentine tango clear the floor? There are certain members who really enjoy a Viennese, although not many know how to dance it. Should we play it for them? What about the people learning the Lindy Hop?

This issue is one that is faced (or not) by every dance club in existence. Here's my plan. I'm going to start a Suggestion Box and will welcome comments and suggestions from anyone who has something constructive to say. In other words, it won't help me if you just complain. I'm looking for opinions about playlist construction and the reasons behind the opinions. Or, you can snail mail, email, fax or call. We'll keep a dynamic list going that will be subject to change. We're very flexible but don't read minds well, so we'll need help finding out what you'd like to hear. Sometimes people complain and, when asked what they'd like to hear next, they say, "Gee. I don't know the names of the songs. I just know what I like when I hear it." That's a little tough to put on the list, Jack. I recommend that you start asking about music when you're out dancing and write the songs down as you hear them. That's what I do wherever I go. I'll even call a radio station if I hear a dynamite song and miss the artist and song title.

Bottom line: We want your input. We want to create a successful, enjoyable situation. We want to please as many people as possible. WE want to relax and enjoy the dance. I'd like to put the process in place ASAP and then get on with the dancing.

Thanks in advance for your effort and comments. I know you care about the club and want it to grow and improve, just as I do.

Sharon Nelson, President, MSDA

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



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THE PARTY IS **SUNDAY,**
SEPTEMBER 19! SEE
YOU THERE.



**MANY THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**