



U.S.A.B.D.A. Your Cincy Dance Connection

United States Amateur Ballroom Dancer's Association of Cincinnati

Issue 11, December 04



Winter Dance

December 11 - Music Hall

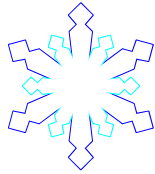
8:00pm - Midnight

\$15 per person - Tickets can be purchased at door

DJ: Tony Rimkus



**Entertainment
Fiesta Dance
Group**



How to Get Tickets?

Tickets can be purchased by calling Kevin Kock at 772-4772 or you may purchase them at the door.



You Could Be Dancin' - a recap of what you missed

You Could Be Dancin' will be a regular feature in the newsletter. Starting in January, Vicki Matthews, our USABDA reporter will recap events and keep you up-to-date on what members are thinking. For this month I am reporting on our November Dinner/Dance..... editor

If you had not signed up for the November appreciation dinner here's what you missed.... For a change members got to spend some time sitting around a table socializing without the interruptions of music and dancing. Our estimated count for the evening was around 90 people.

Tony Hou, the event coordinator selected a great meal which included entrees of turkey roast beef and fish. Everyone thought the food delicious and his choice excellent. Marcia Nugent McKenna was extremely helpful in working with the caterer to set up the feast. Dinner was topped

off with a selection of cheesecakes and carrot cake. Thanks to all those who pitched in and helped serve and clean up. AND thanks to the door workers for taking checking in dancers for the evening.

The lesson for the night waltz, was taught by Luana Conte of Always Ballroom. With her partner she demonstrated and taught a series of waltz steps with a lot of emphasis on style and technique. Thanks to Luana for a great lesson.

New Board Elected for 2005

The 2005 elections are over and we would like to announce the results

President: Pamela Neveu
Vice President: Pat Hoffman
Secretary: Barb Alvarez
Treasurer: Karen Schulte
Outreach Chair: Vicki Begley
YCN Coordinator: Gary Neiheisel
National Ballroom Dance Week Chair: no nominee
Newsletter Editor: Susan Cappa
Webmaster: Scott Peterson
Telephone Coordinator: Calvin Pauley
Advertising Chair: Mike Gilkey
Admissions Chair: Kevin Kock
Ticket Chair: Marcia Nugent-McKenna
Hospitality Chair: David Slaughter
Refreshments and Decorations Chair: no nominees
Registrar: Bob Peare
Scheduling Chair: Vivian Cosio
Event Photographer: Tony Hou

Thanks to Marcia Nugent-McKenna for her help in coordinating the nomination process and counting the ballots.

Collegiate Ballroom Dance Club Forming

A much awaited happening! Students at the University of Cincinnati are forming a ballroom dance club. Classes will be forming soon! Any student interested in pursuing dancing at UC should contact Ni Fong at the following e-mail address: Ni Song [nisong19@yahoo.com]

Website Help Needed

Non-Techies can apply!!!!
During the next year, USABDA Cincinnati will be revamping the website. Our newly elected web designer, Scott Peterson is forming a committee to plan "web strategy" for 2005. Technically challenged? Don't worry! If you have an ability to organize and brainstorm and have spent time cruising the internet, we need you. Email Scott Peterson at scott.peterson@zoomtown.com to volunteer for the committee.



USABDA January Dance January 15

Instructor
Bonita Brockert - ChaCha

March 19 Music Hall Dance

Put this on your calendar of events - Our professional couple for this dance will be Brian Jolly and Kristina, they were second in the Blackpool Exhibition Championship, Third at the US Pro Open Championships, Third at the World Mambo Championships, and First at the 2003 US National Rising Star championships. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter

FYI

Bylaws and Budget posted on website.

As you know the **By-Laws** have been revised and approved by the membership. By January, we will have them on the website in PDF format for those who wish to download them. Available too is the **2005 Budget**. Any questions should be directed towards a board member.

If you cannot get a copy via the website, call the information line and request a copy to be mailed to you.

All these "housekeeping chores" are what makes USABDA function and run smoothly. Take the time to appreciate what your board is doing for YOU!



November Board Meeting Highlights

The USABDA board meeting was held on November 30th. Typically we have it at Mahogany Hall but this month thanks to Mark Beatty (non-member) owner of Utility Service and Supply for letting us use his facility. We changed the location because Mark presented a sample website that he developed for a similar type social club.

USABDA is looking to upgrade the website to make it more useful to the membership. Larry Buskey gave a great presentation of the history of our website to date and Scott Peterson will be taking over as webmaster come the first of the year.

There was a lot of discussion about the 2005 budget. Karen Schulte, Kevin Kock and David Slaughter have met independently and presented their figures to the board. Look for some event changes to happen in 2005 and also some kind of USABDA involvement in National Ballroom Dance Week in September.

Mike Gilkey who will soon be turning the president position over to Pamela reported on the professional couple that will be entertaining us for March at Music Hall. A bad weather policy was discussed for the upcoming winter season

Be sure to thank your volunteer board for all their great contributions.

Bad Weather Policy!

It is approaching the time of year where weather may make affect the evening's activities. In case of inclement weather, tune in the local TV station for cancellation notice of USABDA dances. You can also call the hotline 513-961-0136.

Member Focus - Pamela Neveu



This month's member focus is on Pamela Neveu. WE felt Pamela was a good choice as she has just been elected President of USABDA and will assuming the responsibilities on January 1. Taking over the member focus section itself is Joan Daniel. She will be contacting members for interview, sending them questions and getting it all together for each issue. Welcome to the newsletter staff Joan, your work is appreciated already.

editor - Susan Cappa

When and how did you first become interested in ballroom dancing

Long ago (1981) I took an intro lesson with a studio and in 1986 I took lessons for about one year, yet was never actively involved with the dancing community. In 1990, I began lessons again and became involved in the dancing community. In 2000 I accepted my first board position.

What is your favorite dance?

I really like moving to music so any dance is my favorite, it's just that I feel that my personal style is better suited to some dances than it is to other dances. When I try to narrow the list down to my favorite dances I realize that all of them in some way, on some level, connect me to my dancing spirit...could that possible be called the "dancer's high."

Tell us something about your family

My immediate family consists of me and four ferrets, Eadie, Ariel, Sami, and Merlin. Sami and Merlin are rescued orphans. I have socialized them to the extent that I take them to public venues for educational and recreational purposes.

Where do you work

I'm employed by a government contractor. Wright-Patterson AFB is my current "duty station"; working in the finance office of a training system group. Wright-Patt is a great place to have an office because security is tighter than with the general workforce.

What do you like best about being a member of USABDA

The opportunity to meet other USABDA members and guests.

Please share something our members may not know about you

My personal life philosophy is all about

...serving, divided into three segments. I seek activities that fulfill spiritual development, community involvement, and my own personal interest. Currently, taking my ferrets into nursing homes to provide stimulation to the residents fulfills my spiritual development. Participating in Civil War Re-enactment activities fulfills my community involvement. At these activities I wear the Civil War period dress that I designed and sewed, complete with pantalets, chemise, Pagoda jacket, overskirt, bonnet, and supplemented with a hoop underskirt and other Civil War era accoutrements. A few of the Civil War activities have been the 2003 re-enactment of Morgan's Raid where I was honored to be the dancing partner of President Abraham Lincoln. I participated in the Cincinnati Tall Stacks where I served as a roving guest assistant dressed as a Civil War lady...again using my own period dress. In 2004, the Germantown 200-year celebration fulfilled my community involvement which included a part in a movie as a Civil War character. Participating in ballroom dancing activities and serving on the USABDA board will fulfill my own personal interests. Lastly, most people are not aware that I can recite the alphabet backwards.

Any other comments?

As the Presidential incumbent to the USABDA, Cincinnati Chapter No. 206, I look forward to working with the new Board, as well as, the Cincinnati dancing community at large. I've had the pleasure of working with some of the board members in other venues and know from first-person account they are dedicated, inspired, and creative people. Even with the experience (one year trustee, three as president) I can take to the president's position, I believe these professional servants will be my mentors.

Dear Dance Diva,

Yo Diva, I watch a lot of NASCAR and it looks easier to maneuver the Daytona 500 than to get my girl around the dancefloor! I got bottled in tango traffic and just when I start merging into line of dance to start a graceful pattern - wham! incoming couple on the right. I put on the brakes and YAHOO - let the games begin. Give me some floor pointers for dummies Ms. D.

Signed, Buck

Dear Buck,

The Dance Diva feels your pain! Yes I do recognize it is yet another task to throw upon our already overwhelmed male dancers. Leading, technique, steps and now FLOORCRAFT. Knowledge is power however. Let's review some basics

Maintain line-of-dance flow in a counter clockwise direction. (Do they dance clockwise in the southern hemisphere?). This applies to traveling dances including Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Quickstep, and Viennese Waltz. Slower dancers should move towards the inside of the dance track allowing faster dancers to pass them on the outside. Don't tailgate couples but don't dawdle either. If a coexistence dancing is in order (foxtrot and swing), the swing dancers should stay to the middle of the floor allowing others to move around. A good rule of thumb, the slower the dancer, the closer to the middle you should dance. Leaders look where you are going and prepare for the unexpected. You are responsible for protecting your partners while they can guard your back.

Caution should be exercised when getting on the dance floor, especially if the song has already started. It is the responsibility of the incoming couple to make sure that they stay out of the way of the couple already dancing. Specifically one should always look opposite the line of dance to avoid blocking someone's way, or even worse, causing a collision AND please do not stand in the flow of traffic and hold a conversation. Move away from the dance area.

Remember we are all winners here. The checkered flag goes to all courteous dancers who bring their partner back safe and happy.....Gentlemen, start your dancing!

Dance Diva

Have a question? Email usabdadance-diva@hotmail.com

Current Board Members

President -Mike Gilkey
mgilkey@gilkey.com
513-769-4527

Secretary - David Slaughter
cowboycountry@fuse.net

Treasurer - Kevin Kock
Kjcock@juno.com
513-772-4772

Registrar -Bob Peare

Publicity -Monthly Dance Coordinator
Vivian Cosio
viviancincigirl@yahoo.com
513-469-1952

Newsletter Editor- Susan Cappa
cappasusan@hotmail.com

Phone - Pat Hoffman
wasco274@aol.com
513-769-0204

Webmaster - Larry Buskey

Trustees -
Tony Hou
tonyhou@acninc.net 513-489-2688
Alex & Barb Alvarez
barb@bmscincy.com 513-233-2951

Karen Schulte
dancemucho@aol.com



Look for the New Board Member Listing next month!

Next Board Meeting Wednesday, Feb 1, 7pm at Mahogany Hall. All members are welcome to attend.

Check out the Website at www.dancecincinnati.net

In This Issue...

December Winter Dance	1
You Could Be Dancin'	1
Election Results	2
January Dance	2
Bad Weather Notice	2
Board Meeting News	2
Ask The Dance Diva.....	2
Member Focus	3
Competition News	I-1
Proper Shoe Care	I-1
2005 USABDA Schedule	I-2
Studio Talk	I-2

Information and items of interest are welcome. In order to be considered for inclusion in the newsletters end requests by email to cappasusan@hotmail.com.



USABDA of Cincinnati

P.O. Box 40151
Cincinnati, OH 45240
Information Line: 513-961-0136

Change Service Requested

USABDA - Your Cincy Dance Connection

COMP-Spot Competition - Is It for You?

Why Compete?

Many of us find social dancing challenging enough, so “why compete”? First, let’s define DanceSport Competition? It is an organized dance event that invites people of all ages and levels to participate in the sport and hobby of Ballroom Dance. There are over 300,000 worldwide registered competitors and growing — there is no doubt Ballroom is hot!

People decide to compete for a variety of reasons. Competition can help create clear goals for your dancing. Goals may include accelerated learning, measured improvement in skills, fun, camaraderie, creative expression, life balance, and a sense of accomplishment. I compete because it heightens my awareness of mental, physical, and emotional harmony. The journey into competing has led me to discover my own “internal diamond” and it is a wonderful experience!

How to Get Started?

Ask your instructor about competing and discuss your goals. Decide if you want to compete as Pro/Am (Teacher/Student), and/or as an Amateur Couple (Student/Student). If you compete only as an Amateur register with USABDA as a competitor. If you plan to attend Pro/Am competitions register for an NDCA membership (www.ndca.org). Be prepared to commit to a specific number of lessons per week, as well as individual practice to prepare for the event. Practice makes perfect definitely applies in the competitive arena.

Selecting a Competition

Start with a small to mid-size event, defined as total number of entries between 1000-4000. If cost is a concern, select a location in or near your home city to reduce expense. A national website of events for both Pro/Am and Amateur competitions is www.dancesportsuperbowl.com. If you are dancing as an Amateur the most competitive events are hosted by USABDA, www.usabda.org.

What is the Cost?

There is a financial investment associated with competing. Decide upfront what your budget is and manage it closely. Competitions offer package or ala carte pricing. Packages are inclusive of hotel, food, souvenir program, reserved seating, VIP welcome party, and daily entry tickets. Also, there is an entry fee per dance based on single dances or multi-event and scholarships. These fees can range from \$25 - \$100 per dance entry. Factor in costumes (rentals are available) and travel expense if the competition is not local. If you dance Pro/Am a fee is charged by the Professional (usually per dance or flat rate), along with his/her expenses (travel, hotel, food). If the Professional has a team of competitors participating, the expense for the Pro is shared across the team.

If you are undecided about competing, I suggest first attending an event as a spectator. Then try participating in a dance exhibition (Showcase) hosted by a studio in your local area to see how you enjoy the experience.

Next issue we’ll explore Categories and Levels. May your Holiday Season bring joy, harmony and lots of dancing



Guidelines for Purchasing Dance Shoes

1. Fit is absolutely the essential. The only way to determine fit and control is to try the shoes on, especially when it is your very first pair or you are trying a new style or brand.
2. For ladies and men: Look for a snug fit when new. Ballroom shoes stretch, and if you get them too loose when new they will stretch out very quickly and you will lose the support and control you need for good footwork and technique.
3. For ladies, the toes should be as close to the end of the shoe as possible in a sandal.
4. There should be a steel shank under the arc.
5. Soles should be suede for proper control and to feel the floor, not smooth leather.
6. Finally, When there is no ballroom shoe specialist near you, and you must order by mail, give the person you talk to as much information about your size and feet as you can. The more we know about your feet and any problems you have, the better we can help you find the right shoe.

The Proper Care of Dance Shoes

1. Do not wear your shoes outside.
2. Always have your shoe brush with you when you are going to be wearing your shoes. Brush your shoes after you are through dancing so they are ready for the time you wear them. Brush often – it’s good for them.
3. If you compete, it’s a good idea to have glue with you at the competition. Suede soles on ladies’ shoes, and suede soles and heels on men’s shoes, can come loose caused by the metal sections on the competition floor and walking around the hotel on carpet can sometimes loosen the soles and heels. Be prepared.
4. Men, please polish your leather shoes. Ladies, please trim your straps.

Diane Vermillion, Owner
Royal Impression Ballroom Dance Shoe Co. Columbus, OH
Phone: 614-463-1080
877-546-1301 Toll Free
FAX: 614-463-1078
email: shoes@royalimpression.com
website: royalimpression.com



Lessons and Studio Events

A-Mrika

Sharonville
Mary Ramirez-Cook 769-0409
Come in and see our new studio at 10831 Sharondale Road. Call for direction.

Always Ballroom

Elizabeth Apesos - 937-256-2626
alwaysballroom@aol.com
www.alwaysballroom.com
Luana Conte will be teaching Waltz at the November 13th USABDA dance.

Bernice DuBro Dance

East Dayton
Bernice DuBro
(937) 435-9099 or 254-6442
artmay@aol.com calsn.net/bdance

Brockert Dance Studio

Bonita Brockert
(513) 851-8101 geneb@one.net

Copacabanna

Fairfield, Cinti Mills
A Non-Alcoholic and Non-Smoking Nightclub where you have room to dance!
www.Copacabanna.com

Copacabanna Dance & Event Center

Holiday Dances – 513-719-7200

Space also available for your events!
CHRISTMAS BALL - December 17th 7–11 pm
Dress for the festive season and enjoy the celebration while dancing to your favorites tunes. Only \$10 per person including FREE lesson (7-8) and snacks.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Dance - December 31st 8 pm – 1 am Featuring DJ "Jack Meinking" Great music and dancing, and hors d'oeuvres. Welcome the New Year with a champagne toast at midnight. Dress to impress!! —Limited seating – Tickets \$25 each in advance – (\$30 at the door) Call the COPACABANNA NOW Rhea, Mgr.

Danse Royale Ballroom

West Chester
Veronica Rocco (Homme) (513) 779-0500
DanseRoyaleBallroom@fuse.net
www.danseroyaleballroom.com
Please check website calendar before making schedule decisions.

Lessons with National Dance Board member Larry May are available, please contact the studio

Mondays -Salsa Night (all levels)

Tuesdays - Private lessons only

Wednesdays - 7:30-10:30PM Latin Night Lesson 7:30 (different dance every week, including Hustle) \$10 lesson + dance, \$5 dance only.
Thursdays - Ballroom Techniques (7:30pm smooth and 8:30pm rhythm)
Fridays & Saturdays - Checkwebsite calendar (Fri.

Dec. 10th Holiday Ball)
Cincinnati Salsa Club -No dance Dec. 25th
Happy Holidays for more information :
cincinnati@salsaclub@fuse.net

Dance Club

Withamsville Jeff Bill 753-5265

Elegance In Dance

Miamisburg
Terry & Angie Cavanaugh (93) 885-0108
acavanaugh@earthlink.net

Larry May Dance Studio

Dayton/Cincinnati
Larry May 937-219-4612

Mahogany Hall

Evendale
Nancy Farrell (513) 769-3262
nancysbk@fuse.net

Step-N-Out

Covington
Doreen Beatrice
stepnoutstudio.com
Thursday - Weekly Swing Dance Sponsored by "SwinGallery" Group 8:00pm /Dance following until Midnight \$4.00 per person.
www.swingallery.com
Sunday - Sunday Evening Ballroom Dance
Sun. Dec. 5th Group 6pm open dancing to follow until 8:30pm
Friday - Friday Night Practice Dance

Friday Dec. 17th Group 8-8:30pm-open dancing to follow until 10:30pm \$5
Sunday - Step'n Out's Holiday Dance
Sun. December 19th Hors d'oeuvres, champagne, demonstrations and lots of dancing!!!!
\$20

The Best of Ballroom

Blue Ash
Piper Landis (513) 984-6222
thebestofballroom@yahoo.com

Top Hat Dance Studio

Hamilton and Fairfield
Peggy James (513) 896-4287
ecurbsemaj@juno.com
Over 20 years experience. Certified bronze and silver. Call for information for private lessons.. Annual showcase, November 7 - call for details.

Tracy Kellum Studio

Tracy Kellum (513) 688-1662

Wissel Dance Studio

Lebanon
Dave Wissel (513) 932-3349
New Year's Eve Dance: Dave Wissel will be hosting a New Year's eve dance at Countryside YMCA in Lebanon. We will be using our main gymnasium floor as its large and nice hardwood. Proceeds will benefit the YMCA scholarship program providing YMCA memberships to low-income families. Free group class included. Phone 513-932-3349 or e-mail dwissel@direpc.com

USABDA 2005 Dance Schedule

Jan 15	ERC	Chacha	Bonita Brockert	John Bramhall
Feb 19	ERC	WC Swing	Mary Ramirez-Cook	Tony Rimkus
Mar 19	CMH	No Lesson		Jack Meinking
Apr 23	ERC	Lead/Follow	Larry May	Jack Yaus
May 21	ERC	Rumba	Doreen Beatrice	Tony Rimkus
Jun 18	ERC	Waltz	Terry Cavanaugh	Jack Meinking
Jul 16	ERC	Tango	Staff, Always Ballroom	Terry Cavanaugh
Aug 13	ERC	Samba	Tracy Kellum	Jack Yaus
Sep 17	ERC	EC Swing	Jeff Bill	Tony Rimkus
Oct 29	CMH	No Lesson		Jack Meinking
Nov 12	ERC	Fox Trot	Piper Landis	John Bramhall
Dec 10	CMH	No Lesson		Jack Yaus

Group Lesson 8-9pm, General Dancing 9-11:30pm Subject to change
ERC Evendale Recreational Center, 10500 Reading Road (just north of Glendale Milford)
CMH Cincinnati Music Hall 1243 Elm Street, Downtown Cincinnati
Admission \$7 for member, \$10 for non-members

USABDA does not endorse any particular studio or instructor, but recognizes that good instruction is available from a variety of people throughout the area. For the rest of the year we will continue to list your lessons and events as in previous newsletters. This page however, will be evolving over the next few months. Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated.