

BALLROOMING IN BR

*Your monthly guide to ballroom dancing in Baton Rouge
and vicinity* *March 2007*

Sundays Richard and Donna Stewart host continuation of Betty Tamas' Ballroom dance parties at Jeffie Jean Studio, 7:30-9:30, \$5/person. Great recorded music, mixer dances, refreshments, news about other dance events. Location: 11600 S. Harrell's Ferry Road, near Sherwood Forest exit of I-12.



Saturday Mar 3 Saturday Night Ballroom presents St. Patrick's Day dance party at American Legion Post 38, 8:00-11:00. Excellent recorded music, exhibitions, mixer dances, refreshments. \$10/person for dancers and spectators, \$5 for high school and college students with ID. Professional dance teachers admitted free. Dressy casual, this time in something green. Exhibition Mar 3 by Nathalie Gomes and Hop Swing and a Jump, Inc. Next dance: **Apr 7**. For more information visit Web site: www.saturdaynightballroom.org. or call Sandy at 665-5442 or e-mail to [snbdancer@cox.net](mailto:snb dancer@cox.net).

Fridays Mar 2, 9, 16, 30 Ric Seeling's Dance Studio hosts dance parties with fine recorded music, mixer dances, cash bar, 8:30-11:00, \$7/person. **Mar 23** music by Nightshift band. For more info see www.ricseeling.com or call 928-2788. Location: Reeves Shopping Center at Sharp Road and Old Hammond.

Tuesdays BREC Senior Citizens Center, Independence Park, hosts Senior Tea Dances, 1:00-3:00. \$4/person. Live music by Cliff. Mixer dances. Food and drinks. All dancers welcome. For info call 218-8155.

IN NEARBY CITIES

Sunday Mar 11 USA Dance La. Gumbo Chapter presents monthly dance at Jefferson Orleans North, 2600 Edenborn Av., **Metairie**, 2:00-5:00. Dance lesson at 1:30. \$10/member, \$12/nonmember, \$5/student. Recorded music, door prizes, snacks. For info call Kerry Lovell at 504-453-7646 or visit www.usabdanola.org

Saturday Mar 17 Magnolia Ballroom Dancers Association in **Jackson, MS** presents monthly dance at Forestry Auditorium, Agriculture Museum, 8:00-11:00. Fine recorded music, exhibitions, refreshments, mixer dances. \$10/member, \$15/non-member. Dress: elegant casual. For info see www.magnoliaballroomdancers.org or contact cbaker@mhanet.org.

Saturday Mar 17 the **Houma** branch of USA Dance La. Gumbo Chapter will present a dance. For location and other info see www.houmadance.com or call Ann Durocher-Steven at 985-853-0030 or fliprann@aol.com.

Saturday Mar 31 Acadiana Chapter of USA Dance offers Spring Dance, at Shrine Club in **Lafayette**. Live music. 8:00-10:00. \$5/member, \$8/non-member. Exhibitions. For directions and more info see www.geocities.com/usabda_lafayette or call Zee at 337-984-2267.

OVER

Friday Mar 2 Big Easy Dance Club presents party at Club Silhouette in **Metairie**, 8:30, \$3/member, \$7/non-member. Music by DJ Henry. Location: 3505 North Hullen St. For info on this and many other dance events in March, and the Team Match April 14, see www.clubsilhouette.net or e-mail to Elaine Champagne at clubsilhouette@aol.com.

COMPETITIONS

The excitement of this year's local competitions begins with the annual **Dance Fest Team Match** at Club Silhouette **April 14** (note change of date.), 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, with dance party at 8:30 pm. \$25/person to enter, plus \$10 per dance event. Rules and entry forms now available. Contact Elaine Champagne at clubsilhouette@aol.com or Cecil Phillips (see last section below). Wide variety of events in ballroom, social, and country dances, and all skill levels. Team matches offer great way for newcomers to enter a competition for first time.

The largest and most publicized annual comps will be the **USA Dance South Central Regional Championships, June 1-2** (all amateur couples), and the **Louisiana Challenge, June 3** (pro-am couples). The weekend events are sponsored by Louisiana DanceSport and will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge. Last year over 200 dancers participated, including outstanding competitors from all over the nation. Early registration deadline: **April 14**. Rules and entry forms now available. Contact Ann Durocher-Steven at fliprann@aol.com, or www.gumboofballroom.org, or contact Cecil Phillips.

The Southeast District of the **Louisiana Senior Olympic Games** will again offer a dancesport competition on **August 4** (the afternoon before Saturday Night Ballroom party). This comp is open to amateur couples aged 50 and up, and includes six ballroom dances at newcomer, bronze, and silver levels. Venue: American Legion Post 38 in Baton Rouge. Rules and entry forms to be available by April.

DANCIN' DAN'S TIP OF THE MONTH



The upcoming Team Match announced above is a fun form of competitive dancing, where the couples dance for team points as well as personal achievement. The teams are assigned by the organizer in order to balance them with respect to age and skill levels. The dancers are motivated to do their best to gain the most points for their team. The event is timed nicely to serve as a warm-up for the big USA Dance Regional and the Louisiana Challenge in early June. My tip to dancers in training, especially those who have little or no experience with competitive dancing: enter the Team Match this year. Get over the first-time jitters at an event that is "newcomer friendly," where a number of other dancers are just as nervous as you are. You will have fun, score points, and have a memorable experience.

Ballrooming in BR is published as a service to local dancers by Cecil Phillips. All the places and events listed are open to the public, but the times, prices, and dress codes often change, so it is best to call each place in advance. Distribution is by handout at the Sunday night dances and at Saturday Night Ballroom parties. New information on future dance events is welcome. Please provide complete details by the 20th of the previous month via e-mail to cphil99@cox.net.
