



Carolina HeartBeat

Publication of Carolina Heartland USA Dance Chapter 6092

Send news and views to trudy@newhomeguides.com; Visit www.carolinaheartland.org

Trudy Atkins and Steve Raeford, Editorial Staff

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www.carolinaheartland.org

From the President...

A sincere thank you to Black Tie Chair Jim Steed, to co-chair Yvette Zannini and to all who are a part of the preparations for our annual

Black Tie gala April 28. "Thank you" is such a simple phrase, it seems inadequate, but it is what we truly want to say to each participant whatever your involvement.



Carolyn Steed

The Black Tie has indeed something for all: The 17-piece Greensboro Big Band, a superb dinner, the excellent recorded ballroom dance music by Rockie Troxler and Lib Johnson, and much more for a memorable evening in an elegant setting with friends of dance.

We are fortunate to have so many dance opportunities in our area, but I hope you agree that our Black Tie is a special evening to be remembered time and again. Apparently 190 dancers agree because we had to close registration last week, nine days before the date of the dance. A call from a couple in Iowa, who had heard about our Black Tie, took the last reservations. Although we tried to lease an adjoining ballroom, none was available.

Some day, when perhaps we no longer dance, we will hear that special tune, close our eyes, and return to that evening as we remember waltzing or doing a foxtrot. Life is good for ballroom dancers and especially so on special occasions such as Black Tie.

It takes each of us to make this occasion a success including those who chair, decorate, record music, usher, sell tickets and attend. With our numbers increasing each year, we will need to consider adding additional space for future events. What a great concern!

Please continue to support our chapter at monthly dances, workshops and numerous outreach activities. Meanwhile, Carolina Heartland will strive to continue bringing you quality dance opportunities. We hope you, our members, will bond as dance friends, have fun, learn new dance steps at our monthly lessons such as the bronze and silver waltz steps Allen Berryhill taught so expertly this month, and feel your life is better because you dance with us. As your president, I extend a warm and heartfelt thank you, however inadequate those two simple words might sound. THANK YOU!

Carolyn Steed

USA Dance Calendar

May 6 - "Shall We Dance" demonstration during Parisian Promenade, 2 - 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Greensboro Bicentennial Gardens. (Contact Curtis Holt to sign up).

May 20 - Monthly Dance: West Coast Swing Lesson at 4:30 p.m. by Tim Saunders, Greensboro Ballroom, dancing from 5:15 - 7 p.m., The Grange.

June 9 - Samba Workshop with Wayne and Marie Crowder, 1- 3 p.m., The Grange. (Register with Sherri Raeford.)

June 10 - Monthly Dance, Instructor to be announced, The Grange.

Spotlight on....



Elaine Frost, one of our newest members, recalls as a young girl growing up in southwest Virginia, that "one of the highlights of my week was going to the movies to watch Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron and other wonderful dancers." After the movies, she and her cousin would play "dress up" with their mothers' crinolines and dance with the bedposts! Thus began her romance with dancing.

About five years ago, a friend encouraged her to take some lessons with a group of seniors in Danville. She learned the basics of the waltz, foxtrot, rumba, swing and cha-cha and at the same time started taking shag lessons.

Approaching retirement from her job as accounting manager at Bonset America Corporation, she became apprehensive at the thought of having so much free time after years of working although she continues to oversee her own small tax business in her home.

"This week I came home from shopping for the Black Tie Ball and called my cousin with whom I had played 'dress up.' I told her I was learning to dance with a real man and we laughed." Besides dancing and her work as a CPA, Elaine is the mother of a daughter and son and five grandchildren.

"Although I wasn't born dancing, I hope to be learning new dance steps when I cannot do anything else. Carolina Heartland has become a wonderful source of having fun, keeping busy and making new friends who love to dance as much as I do.

Third Black Tie Ball Is an Early Sell-out

The Carolina Heartland chapter has a problem: Our third Black Tie is a sell-out nine days before the ball.

In previous years a good percentage of the reservations came in the final week of the dance. This year reservations were closed April 19 when a couple from Iowa called to book the last two spaces. President Carolyn Steed immediately tried to rent an adjoining ballroom, but it had been booked for another event.

Meanwhile, our Resident Photographer Steve Raeford will be taking pictures of Beautiful People as he did last year as a benefit for the Carolina Heartland chapter. Dancers who bring their cameras are reminded that the special photo setting is reserved for Steve's pictures, although others are welcome to take pictures in the ballroom.

Parisian Promenade to Feature Carolina Heartland Dancers

Greensboro Beautiful is bringing Paris to Greensboro with the Parisian Promenade in the Tanger Bicentennial Gardens on May 6, and Carolina Heartland will be part of it.

Our members have been invited to perform on Sunday afternoon from 2 - 3 p.m. A special dance floor has been installed on the green sward in front of the Wedding Gazebo for our performance.

As local painters and photographers exhibit their works, a sidewalk café will serve cheesecake, ice cream, quiche and pastries along with Mediterranean specialties. Greensboro's first Poodle Parade is scheduled in the Children's Area where a variety of activities are planned.

The Bicentennial Garden is located on Hobbs Road near Friendly Center. On site parking is available for entertainers only. Be sure to request a permit when you sign up to join us with Curtis Holt, Outreach Chair.

News & Notes

Appreciation to Baxter Stapleton, music maker extraordinaire, who has given our chapter twin speakers as part of the process of downsizing his music collection. Thanks also to Robert and Karen Fogleman who created and produced a large replica of our logo for display with the dance placards they gave us last year.

Kudos Also to Eileen Leggio and Lib Johnson who suggested a Silent Auction to help defray the cost of Black Tie tickets. The auction brought in \$492.50, including \$115 for the Rodin sculpture Branch Sternal gave for the auction. Elaine Frost, our Spotlight subject, submitted the highest bid to win the sculpture. A total of \$62.50 was also received by "passing the hat" at Grange dances.

Sandhills Dancers - Rockie and Mary Lou Troxler are invited by the Sandhills USA Dance chapter to perform at its spring ball at Whispering Pines Country Club May 18. "We hope to represent our chapter well," says Rockie.

Dancing Opportunities

May 4 - First Friday at The Grange, 8 - 10 p.m. ; music by Lib and Bob Johnson.

May 6 - Tea Dance, Greensboro Ballroom, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., hosted by Tim Saunders. (Call 854-1850 for monthly schedule.)

May 11 - Carl's Dance. 6:30 p.m., dinner and dancing to music by Carolyn and Rodney Williams, High Point Elks. (Reservations MUST be made by Wednesday noon).

May 12 - Greensboro Social Club, 8 p.m., Lewis Recreation Center, music by Bill Hammett, Greensboro.

May 18 - Silver Arts Ball, 7 p.m., Smith Senior Center, Greensboro.

May 19 - Mountain Empire Chapter, lesson at 7:30 p.m., dancing until 11 p.m.

May 19 Triangle Chapter, Highland United Methodist Church, Raleigh.

May 26 - Horizon Dance Club, 8 p.m., The Grange, Greensboro.

May 27 - Piedmont NC Chapter, lesson at 5:30 p.m., dancing from 6 - 8 p.m., Skateland, Clemmons.

Re the Benefits of Dance

Homer Mason seldom misses a dance, with or without Dot whose peregrinations take her abroad frequently; therefore, his absence at our monthly dance in April was noted and noteworthy

Why was he a no-show? The preceding Friday he had played tennis for two hours in a State competition, beating a 30-year-old opponent (7/6 and 7/5). He barely had time to dress and make Carl's dance at the High Point Elks Club.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, he was matched with a 55-year-old in a split set which he won in the third set after two hours of play. After lunch, he played a 40-year-old whom he beat on the third set by

default (3/0) when his opponent suffered a leg injury.

Following four grueling hours of tennis, Homer made a timely appearance at the Elks Club dance that evening.

For a man approaching his seventh decade who has had two heart by-passes, Homer is a prime example of the benefits accruing from ballroom dancing. He insists on giving some credit to tennis and to the fact that he never had a heart attack (the by-passes were performed on an undamaged heart), but dancers know where the credit is truly due. (Homer may be a candidate for the Guinness Book of Records.)

Public Relations

Angela Prince of Matthews, NC has been appointed Director of Public Relations for USA Dance by Esther Freeman, USA Dance president. She replaces Ken Richards, who is now serving as Vice President of DanceSport. Angela is responsible for the USA Dance organization's overall communications program, media relations and publicity. Her e-mail address is Public-Relations@USADance.org

Dues Reminder

USA Dance renewals are due for Fred Astaire Dance Studio (High Point Road), Ron Osborne, Branch Sternal, Margaret Norton and Gene and Anna Kutz. Checks should be addressed and mailed to USA Dance, Inc., National Membership Director, PO Box 126, Southampton, PA 18966-0126. Anyone who prefers NOT to be mentioned in HeartBeat when their renewal is due need only to inform the editor. . . nicely, please.

Members Asked to Recirculate American Dancer Magazine

Please do not discard your *American Dancer Magazine*.

After reading, please recirculate the bi-monthly issues by giving them to new or potential members, media representatives, Chambers of Commerce and other organizations.

For your convenience, Carolyn Steed has arranged to have collection boxes at the sign-in table at our monthly dances. Incidentally, our chapter was cited with photo as USA Dance National Chapter of the Year on page 24 of the January/February issue.

Curtis Holt Wins the Gold in Silver Arts Competition

Curtis Holt, our chapter's Outreach Chair, brought home the Gold in the Guilford County Silver Arts competition at the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center on April 1.

The idea to compete occurred when Curtis was asked to judge the Rockingham County Silver Arts for the second year. He checked with Kay Trout, a former tap student who now teaches at Greensboro Dance Theatre, who agreed to perform "Tapping in Style" which won the Gold. They have been invited to vie for the state title in Raleigh in October.

At Our April Dance- Steve Raeford, our Favorite Photographer, was tied up on a shoot Sunday, April 15, so he asked his multi-talented wife,

Sherri, to serve as photographer in his stead. He has taught her well as borne out by the Spotlight photo and the photos below.



Conrad and Betty McClintock



Tommy Sue Pendleton with Jerry Snyder



Rockie and Mary Lou Troxler



Carolyn and Rodney Williams