



COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS **NEWSMEMO**

95.12
DECEMBER 1995

FROM THE PREDITOR

When none of four potential items for this issue arrived, the decision became a simple matter. The decision to cut back to a single page for the final issue of the year is not only ecologically sound but it saves time for all concerned in what is a busy season. Catch up can happen next year.

Edmonton's River City Festival is over for another year and by all reports, Rob and Sherry and their staff put on another good one. Personal circumstances precluded first hand reporting of this event but it appears that participants liked the new location, the offerings, and that the weekend went well. There were mixed responses to the 'dinnerless' show. The show was enjoyed but some missed the dinner (the cost factor to the event has to be taken into consideration when discussing that issue, a matter lost to some).

If the 'Year In Review' article seems somewhat patchy, it results from available information. Just as we don't get a complete listing of all significant activities for the Events Calendar because the information isn't provided, there is seldom any report from those that are listed and run. Some feedback would be nice to share with readers - and they are also consumers for future events.

A joint effort with three organizations in Calgary (see Events Calendar) to put on a New Year's party appears a good way to end the old year and bring in the new. The very idea of it seems to remind one of the goals of a certain organization - and the spirit of season we are entering. With that in mind, the very best of the season to you and yours.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

January saw Worlds III, the culmination of the 1994 UCWDC circuit, held at Disneyland in Anaheim. A good Canadian contingent went forth into what was supposed to be the California sunshine and by all reports, had a good time - even if the weather didn't cooperate. Our Canadians watched, worked, and danced. Canadian dancers who placed at Worlds III included Gary McIntyre and Vanessa Linford, Jim and Stephanie McDonald, Dan Kovaks and Tamara Phillips, Myles Munroe and Trista Berg, Ken and Karen Close, Kim Degagne and Pam Towers, Tom and Deb Selzler.

February saw the first major attempt at formalizing the direction laid out at AGM '94 for moving toward the ACWDA goals for instruction. Over 40 people came together in Red Deer for a Joint Country Pride/ACWDA sponsored workshop to explore NTA system with Kelly Gellette. March brought on the of the five festivals held in Alberta in 1996. The Country Western Dance Championships in Calgary put on

credible first year event and announced plans for a 1996 edition. During that weekend, Connie Maitland was good enough lead a session in which she shared her recent problematic experiences and newfound knowledge relating to the importing of foreign dance instructors. Thanks again to Connie for her efforts and willingness to share her information.

April offered a rejuvenated Calgary Dance Stampede. One feature was the offering of three simultaneous workshop sessions all weekend with one always geared toward the real beginners. June was the month for the Third Annual Instructors' Forum and Fourth Annual AGM. August provided two festivals, the oldest of the quintet, known as the Canadian Finals, was held in Edmonton; the Red Hot in Red Deer relocated from the frigid freeze of February. As well as a new location on the calendar, Red Hot ran out of a new venue as well.

September placed a more extended workshop in Red Deer for teacher development, offering the first three sections of the NTA program. November was the time for the third running of the River City Festival in Edmonton, complete with a new venue and a swing competition added to the regular CW competition.

T²: TEACHER TALK - INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

The code of ethics material will wait for another issue but it is underway. In the meantime - and anytime for that matter - a minor variation of the Golden Rule would serve us all well. If we always remember to treat others as we would like to be treated, we would face far fewer problems.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some, even one, would be nice. All I want for Christmas is.....

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT : POINTS TO PONDER

-->>Imagine what the world might be like if the real spirit of Christmas could be with us for the whole year.

AGM V AND FORUM IV LOOK FOR ALBERTA'S BEST

Repondez-vous, s'il vous plait!

NTA TEACHING MANUALS-SYLLABUS AVAILABLE

The manuals are available for \$48.00 Canadian or three for \$145.00 'over the counter'. Check for shipping costs. Contact Jerry Smith, 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-6852; fax 403-526-2018.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL IN THE CW DANCE FAMILY

EVENTS CALENDAR : WHAT'S HAPPENING , WHEN, AND WHERE

The EVENTS CALENDAR is offered as an open, non-partisan listing available to members and non-members alike. It's purpose is to provide notice of dance related events provided to us or that we become aware of for the benefit of our membership and any other readers of NEWSMEMO. It also offers the function of a clearing house to planners of events to check other future events for potential conflicts of dates.

DECEMBER 31: Join Spirit of the West, Country Cuz It's Fun, and the Calgary Country Dance Stampede for a Kickin' Country New Year's Eve dinner and dance featuring non-stop country music, performances by World Championship competitors, and party favours. A limited number of tickets are available until December 18th, so call Beth at 403-293-3666

MARCH 2, 1996: ACWDA executive meets in Red Deer

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AUGUST 16-18, 1996: The 4th Annual Red Hot Festival goes in Red Deer with the same big venue for competition, social, and related activities. Call 403-346-5484 for details.

ZONE REPS:

NORTHERN: Karen Gorman - 403-539-4201

EDMONTON: Gord Villumsen - 403-487-3477

CENTRAL: Rob Ironside - 403-346-5484

CALGARY: Ian Munroe - 403-640-9123

SOUTHERN: Diane Smith - 403-527-6852

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President: Jerry Smith - 403-527-6852

Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501

Treasurer: Cathy Estabrooks - 403-475-8033

Membership Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501

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Calgary Dance Stampede - Garry Nanninga - 403-283-3149

Red Hot Festival: Rob/Bonnie Ironside - 403-346-5484

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Dorothea Thielmann Manager	Ph: (403) 488-4022 Fax: (403) 482-1826	

Keep the 'Memo' Events Calendar informed of events



COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS NEWSMEMO

95.11
NOVEMBER 1995

FROM THE PREDITOR

November brings the last Canadian event of the calendar year and thoughts move on toward Worlds in January for those who follow the UCWDC circuit and plan to attend the annual UCWDC finale. Canadians have done extremely well in the past and it is to be hoped that this year will be no exception. CWDI waits until June to put on its first 'International Championships'.

>>>>>

A call for the creation of a code of ethics for instructors came out of the forum at the AGM in 1994. An offer to initiate work on it appeared and some discussion followed. Alas, nothing has developed to date so a challenge goes out to provide some input. Starting next month, ideas for such a code will begin appearing in the newsletter. Come up with some ideas about what it means to be a professional - and to act in a professional manner. That will go a long way toward getting the basics for a code of ethics up and running.

>>>>>

One of the problems that the CW dance community seems to have created for itself deals with the matter of workshops and instructors of same. As more people became CW dancers, and more became better dancers, more workshops were offered to provide even more development (big mouthful, eh?). A vast majority of the instructors were imported and we soon reached a point where everyone felt that the need of the 'master instructor' from somewhere far away (we all know an expert is someone with a briefcase - or CD player - 50 miles or more away from home). Recently, some of these workshops appear to have been having trouble succeeding, at least on a financial basis.

That leaves some excellent local (Alberta) instructors wondering what goes on. Many, if not most, CW dancers don't need and may not even be ready for the 'master teacher'. There is both room and a need for more recognition and use of our own top instructors. More people can be reached for more reasonable rates and that should benefit more dancers. The Association has long been promoting the development of instructors in Alberta. A part of that means we also have to acknowledge our best instructors and take advantage of what they have to offer. Our whole dance community stands to benefit if we do it right.

(Read the editorial on p.3 and the 'Alberta's Best' item)

Notes From The October Executive Meeting

-->>The final statement for the 1995 AGM dance and social shows a final profit of \$51,711.

-->The Association will continue its work toward developing a

comprehensive set of rules to promote 'dance country for fun' from the club/bar/single session event to a full fledged competition. Event directors and other interested parties will be involved for input and development.

-->>Low turnout resulted in a financial loss in what was otherwise an excellent workshop with Kelly Gellette Sept 29 to Oct 1. There are plans to look into another to continue the series already started, subject to interest, location, and joint venture partners. Working with instructors is a priority.

-->>Planning is underway for the "5th Birthday Party & AGM" in June. Workshops, an Instructors' Forum, the AGM, and the birthday bash - dance and social events - are part of the package.

-->>Board members received and reviewed the updated copy of the policy handbook (ACWDA Mission Statement, By-laws, and operating policy).

T²: Teacher Talk - Instructor Information

This month our discussion is on East Coast Swing basics. But before getting into that, let's clear up a few misconceptions. I have heard some instructors say they won't teach ECS because it is too "ballroom". These same instructors teach West Coast Swing without hesitation, 'cause its country.

Swing is swing. It is neither ballroom nor country. Swing came of age in the nightclubs during the big band era. Boogie Woogie, Jitterbug, Jive, East Coast AND West Coast Swing were all products of the swing music played by the big bands. Back then, the only place to get formal dance instruction was in the ballrooms so ballroom instructors started teaching swing as a way to bring in more revenue. We started teaching swing in country lessons because a lot of country music we listen to now has a definite swing rhythm. So let's get rid of the notion that swing is "ballroom". It is its own style.

ECS comes in three flavours, Single time, Double time, and Triple time. They are all the same dance. Which one we dance depends largely on the tempo of the music. Triple time goes with slower songs, double time with medium tempo songs, and single time with really fast songs.

To place our students in swing frame, we need first to teach them about foot positions, specifically third and fifth. In my examples, I will relate to triple time ECS. Remember that nothing changes for single or double time. ECS is danced in third foot position for the two triple steps. The rock step is in fifth position.

Start with your students lined up, men on one side and the ladies on the other, facing each other. In third position, the man's right toe points to the lady and his left toe points 45° to the left. The lady is the mirror image so her left toe points towards her man and her right toe points 45° to the right. In this position, their shoulders should no longer be parallel with each other but will naturally turn to form a 90° angle.

Get the man to place his right hand on the lady's left shoulder blade while the lady gently grips the top of the man's arm with her thumb and middle finger. This gives them a stronger connection to the man's frame than the hand on the shoulder that is used for the smooth dances like Two Step.

Next get the men to extend their left arms straight out to their left sides with their wrists bent down. The men then lower their left arms until they are almost touching their left legs. The lady then inserts her right hand into the man's hand, palm down. This is the basic swing frame. In this position, the man can now lead the lady through the two triple steps using the heel of his right hand (that's the one on the lady's back). He leads the rock step with a gentle push pull motion of BOTH his arms.

The "swing look" comes from the timing of the steps, hips, and the "pulse". The timing of the steps is: 1 a2, 3 a4, 5, 6. The step is: step together step, step together step, rock step. The "together" happens not on the half beat between 1 & 2 but rather on the 3/4 beat between 1 and 2. The same for 3 and 4.

The hips meanwhile are doing strange and wonderful things. As the man steps left on beat 1, his hips push to the right as if he is trying to sit into his hip. You can teach your students to do this by having them stand still and bend the left knee, the right hip automatically pushes out to the right. Straighten the left knee and bend the right knee, and the left hip will push out to the left. So on 1, the man steps left, letting his right hip push out. On "a" he steps together, letting the hips straighten out and on 2 he steps left again, letting the right hip push out. Reverse the pattern for 3 a4, so the man steps right on 3 letting his left hip push out, straighten on "a" and step right on 4 again letting the left hip push out. On 5, 6, the man's hips will go right as he rocks back and left as he rocks forward. Of course, the lady is mirror image to the man.

When the "pulse" is added, the whole thing comes together to look like swing. Please don't make the mistake of equating the pulse to the lilt in polka. Even though both dances use a triple step, the lilt and the pulse are two very different things. A lilt in polka lifts the body up above its normal resting height on the "&" or half beat. The pulse in swing on the other hand brings the body up to its normal resting height on beats 2 and 4. Here's how it works. In the triple pattern the dancer steps on the ball of the foot on beat 1. He or she slides the second foot together with the first on the "a". As the dancer steps on

beat 2, he or she bends the knee and steps on a FLAT foot. This effectively lowers the body slightly below its normal resting height. As the weight is brought onto that foot, the knee is straightened to raise the body up to its normal height. When you are teaching the pulse, if you get students to over exaggerate it, then when they are dancing to the music, they will probably get it right.

To keep frustration levels low, introduce feet, hips, and pulse separately so your students only have to think of one thing at a time. And speaking of time, give them lots and lots of practice time because so much is happening in this triple rhythm that it is actually the hardest dance step to learn.

Next month I will continue with ECS patterns and turns. Until then, have fun and keep dancing.

Ian Munroe : Prairie Winds Country Dancing

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

None to be found - help us out. Send us some ideas, some opinions, some comments. Send some thoughts on ethics and professionalism within our dance community, especially but not solely relating to instructors.

Something To Think About: Points To Ponder

-->>Looking out for number 1 is all right as long as it includes making certain you don't step on number 2 as you do it.

-->>Character is defined by what you are willing to do when the spotlight has been turned off, the applause has died down, and no one is around to give you credit.

AGM V And Forum IV Look For Alberta's Best

The Association has plans in the works to offer workshops by Alberta's own leading instructors at the AGM weekend in June. Sessions for dancers as well as some opportunities for instructors to work together, share, and learn are part of the goals for the weekend. The weekend will also include social activities, especially a fifth birthday party for the ACWDA.

Members are requested to offer suggestions to any member of the executive or by contact through the Newsmemo. The planners would be particularly interested in hearing from member instructors who might be willing to take part and help the Association. Instructors are invited to offer proposals on what they would be willing and able to do in support of an 'Alberta's Best' concept set up as part of AGM '96 weekend. Please contact the President or any other member of the Board, including as many details as possible.

NTA Teaching Manual-Syllabus Available

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

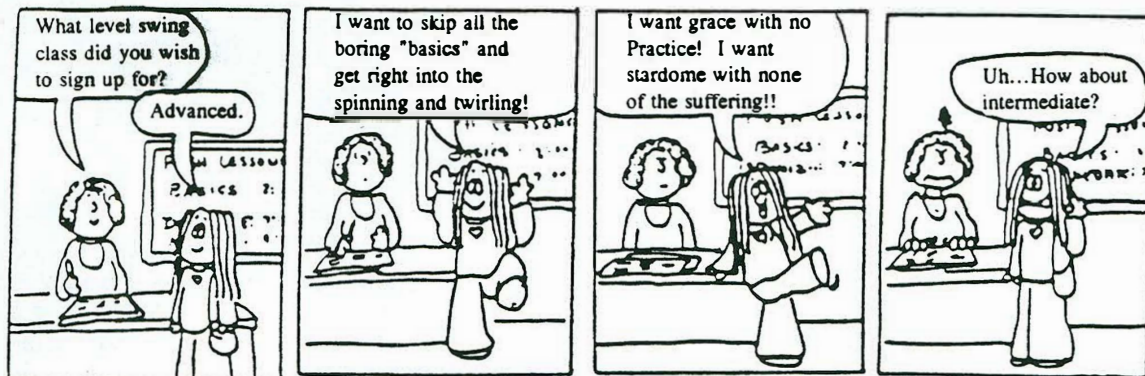
So, how many of you out there are beginning dancers? Not you? Well, let's talk about this. If someone has taken one beginning level class and has learned "how the basic goes", he/she is no longer a beginner - right? I don't think so. *Webster's* defines a beginner as "an inexperienced person". Can one truly say he/she is "experienced" after only one class or session at the beginning level? I don't think so.

Becoming proficient in any form of dance takes time, dedication and PRACTICE. Unfortunately, many students think they know more than they actually do. This can cause frustration for both dancers and instructors. For example, Mr. and Mrs. Beginner decide they know how to two-step after one beginning session. They are now ready for some "hot moves" so they sign up for an intermediate class. Sound familiar? In actuality, Mr. B doesn't have a clue how to really LEAD the lady, he just does the few patterns he learned in class. Mrs. B doesn't really understand how to FOLLOW him, she merely does the moves because she also learned them in class. They have the basic down, sort of, but turning and execution is still a problem (he leads her on the wrong foot, she turns on one foot, wobbles, executes moves herself etc...). Would you consider these dancers ready to move on to intermediate? I don't think so. In an intermediate level class they would impair the teacher's ability to move at an average pace through material. And, in a rotating class, other intermediate level dancers would not appreciate getting stuck with either Mr. or Mrs. B.

This scenario is typical in the dance community. So many dancers out there are moving on because they think they are ready when in actuality they are not.

When is a beginner no longer a beginner? When a dancer has acquired enough knowledge to become somewhat proficient in a particular dance, then he/she is ready to move on. Proficient, as explained in *Webster's* "implies a thorough competence derived from training and practice." Translated into "dancer lingo", this means the dancer must have a thorough knowledge of the basic footwork, he/she must understand the rhythm of the dance and be able to keep time with the music, the gentlemen must understand the concept of LEADING a lady (as opposed to forcing her into a move or whimpering his way through a pattern), the ladies must be able to understand what it means to FOLLOW a lead (without anticipating or helping), the couple must have a suitable dance frame and know how to use the principles of "equal resistance", and, finally, each person must understand basic turning techniques.

So, how many of you out there are beginning dancers? If you are being honest with yourself, I would assume many of you should answer "yes" to this question. Even if you are not an "absolute beginner" you could be a "beyond beginner" (in between beginning and intermediate). Please, be true to yourself. Ask yourself if you can do all the items mentioned above. If you feel you can accomplish these skills with respectable proficiency, then by all means, move on to intermediate. If you don't understand them, stay in the beginning, beyond beginning or lower intermediate classes until you do. I guarantee you will become a better leader, follower, dance partner and class participant because of it. Good luck!



Reprinted courtesy of
Rhonda Shotts, Editor
NWCWDA Newsletter

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NOVEMBER 26: Central Zone, ACWDA, has a lunch meeting at 12:00 hrs at Caper's Pizza in Red Deer. Topics for discussion include events, rules, teaching, NTA, and other.

JANUARY 26-28, 1996: Keep an eye out for information on the second annual CCWDC festival in Calgary.

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By appointment

Dorothea Thielmann
Manager

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ALBERTA COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE ASSOCIATION

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS NEWSMEMO

95.10
OCTOBER 1995

FROM THE PREDITOR

We're still working to get the 'Memo' back on schedule - hopefully before it has to be a New Year's resolution.

Quick comments on a few things:

- } - the teacher workshops with K. Gellette went well (more people would have been nice) and plans have already been discussed to follow it up with another; going beyond Level II;
- } - sure would be nice to have more material being provided for the 'Memo', be it events, happenings, comments, etc;
- } - the letter from the Peace Country Western Dance Club opens the way for other clubs to introduce themselves and their activities to members and readers;
- } - remember the last major event of the year and check out River City in Edmonton November 10 - 12. Be there.

T??: TEACHER TALK - INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Ian Munroe of Prairie Winds Country Dancing is back with an column for October. Comments or articles are invited.

I had a very interesting but disturbing phone call the other day from a lady who was in a dance class I taught two years ago. It seems she tried to phone me in mid August to find out where I was teaching because she and some friends wanted to take some more lessons. As it turned out, she tried to get hold of me at the same time I was having trouble with AGT. We had just moved and the new phone number they gave us was already in use by a company, and had been for several years. Unable to get through to me, this lady and her friends signed up for an eight week course with another pair of instructors.

What was disturbing was that she was now phoning me to see if she could still get into my class. She and her friends (six couples) dropped out of their dance class after the second night. It seems the two instructors spent most of their time arguing in front of the class as to the proper way to do the moves they were teaching instead of teaching the students how to dance. Because of the unprofessional attitude of these "instructors" (who have taught together for more years than I have been dancing), I gained fourteen paying students.

As instructors, we all have to realize that in class is not the place to be figuring out the mechanics of a dance move. Please do yourself and your students a favour and decide what you are going to teach **BEFORE** you get to class. Along with that, teach the patterns or moves that you know, not ones that you 'sort of maybe know'. In other words, know your limitations as a dancer and a teach below your level. If you are a beginner dancer, you simply should not be

teaching. If you are an intermediate dancer, teach beginner classes. If you are an advanced dancer, teach beginner and intermediate classes. If you are a master dancer, teach beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes.

If we all show a little professionalism, maybe I won't get anymore disturbing phone calls and you won't lose any more paying students.

RED HOT RESULTS

Results from the Red Hot Dance Festival held in August:

TEAMS

LINE DANCE TEAMS

1. Cadillac Jack's Line Dance Team

JUNIOR TEAMS

1. Cadillac Country Juniors

SHOW DANCE TEAMS : OVERALL PLACEMENT

1. Country Cuz It's Fun, Calgary, AB
2. Saskatoon Silver Spurs, Saskatoon, AB
3. Cadillac Jack's Country Dancers, Red Deer, AB
4. Whispering Pines Dancers, Prince George, BC
5. Blue Ridge Dancers, Cloverdale, BC

COUPLES COMPETITION

DFF First Timer

1. Kelly Serge/Karen Hilton, Calgary/Strathmore, AB 1st-2Stp; 1st-Wal; 1st-ECS; 2nd-WCS; 1st-TTS
2. Jason Zalewski/Debbie Webb, Prince Albert, SK 2nd-2Stp; 2nd-Wal; 2nd-ECS; 1st-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha

Also placing:

Dave Grant/Sara Kinvig, Delbume/Red Deer, AB
3rd-2Stp

DFF Beginner

1. Michael Huffman/Madelaine Anderson, Calgary, AB 1st-2Stp; 1st-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha
2. Pat/Delores Cuthbertson, Stettler, AB 2nd-2Stp; 1st-ECS; 1st-TTS
3. Lyle Elmgren/Marylee Morton, Saskatoon, SK 6th-2Stp; 2nd-ECS; 3rd-WCS; 2nd-Cha Cha
4. Jim/Linda Wright, Medicine Hat, AB 7th-2Stp; 1st-Wal; 4th-ECS
5. Ken Frey/Patti Verhesen, Red Deer, AB 5th-2Stp; 5th-ECS; 3rd-Cha Cha

Also placing:

Jon Dewalt/Kathy Morgan, Elkwater/Medicine Hat, AB

8th-2Stp; 3rd-ECS; 2nd TTS
Jim Swinston/Rose Nielson, Red Deer, AB 9th-2Stp;
6th-ECS; 3rd-TTS; 1st-Pon
Doug Price/Lisa Lee, Edmonton, AB 4th-2Stp; 2nd-WCS
Daniel/Linda Boisvert, Edmonton/Calgary, AB 3rd-2Stp

DFF Novice

Placing:

Terry Grant/Deborah Lumsden, Edmonton, AB 1st-2Stp;
2nd-ECS; 1st-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha
Curtis Buxton/Lori field, Calgary, AB 2nd-2Stp; 1st-ECS;
1st-TTS
Jordan Bippes/Deborah Lavach, Calgary, AB 3rd-2Stp;
2nd-Cha Cha; 2nd-TTS
Michael Bohne/Sandra Brongdust, Red Deer, AB 4th-
2Stp; 3rd-ECS;
Kirk McDougall/Lorraine Sauve, Fort McMurray, AB 5th-
2Stp; 3rd-Cha Cha

DFF Intermediate

1. Grant Albrecht/Cathy Gregory, Calgary, AB 1st-2Stp; 1st-
Wal; 1st-ECS; 2nd-WCS

Also Placing

Francis Lukion/Vicki Robson, Edmonton, AB 3rd-2Stp;
2nd-ECS; 3rd-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha; 1st-TTS
Laurie Koebel/Antoinette Holmes, Red Deer, AB 2nd-
2Stp; 1st-WCS

DFF Junior Youth

1. Corry vandenBrink/Katie Treherne, Calgary, AB 1st-2Stp;
1st-Wal; 1st-ECS; 1st-Cha Cha
2. Josh Gifford/Tori Hanmore, Calgary, AB 2nd-2Stp; 2nd-
Wal; 2nd-ECS; 2nd-Cha Cha
3. Chris Kasthol/Jordan Berg, Calgary, AB 3rd-2Stp; 3rd-
Wal

DFF Junior Teen

1. Rob Engel/Amber Petersen, Calgary/Saskatoon, AB/SK
1st-2Stp; 1st-Wal

DFF Junior/Adult

1. Grant Albrecht/Rickee-Lee Murdoch, Calgary, AB 3rd-
2Stp; 1st-ECS

Also placing:

Bart Gilbert/Amber Petersen, Saskatoon, AB 1st-2Stp
Rod Engel/Kirn Erickson, Saskatoon, SK 2nd-2Stp
Harold Oberhammer/Meaghan Engel, Saskatoon SK,
4th-2Stp
Jim Swinston/Crystal Swinston, Red Deer, AB 1st-
Wal
Jim Swinston/Amber Swinston, Red Deer, AB 1st-Pon

Open Division 3

1. Dan Kovacs/Cailin Moritz, Vancouver, BC 1st-2Stp; 1st-
Wal; 1st-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha

Also placing:

Kevin Hendrickson/M.J. Bippes, Calgary, AB 2nd-Wal;
2nd-WCS; 2nd-Cha Cha

Pro Am Female

1. Doug Davidson/Carol Violette, Calgary, AB 1st-2Stp; 1st-

Wal; 1st-ECS; 1st-WCS; 1st-Cha Cha; 1st-TTS
Also placing:
Kim Degagne/Karen Macky, Calgary, AB 2nd-2Stp; 2nd-
ECS; 2nd TTS

Pro Am Male

Placing:

Daniel Boisvert/Sherry Tovell, Edmonton, AB 1st-2Stp;
1st-WCS
Wally Hewryluk/Cheryl Mayes, Spruce Grove/Edmonton,
AB 2nd-2Stp; 1st-ECS
Jason Creighton/Kathy Koebel, Red Deer, AB 3rd-2Stp

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News & Notes from the Peace Country Western Dance Club

The western dance division of the Grande Prairie Dance Club decided to become a separate club in 1992 and the Peace Country Western Dance Club resulted. The club has goals of: (1) promoting western dance among the residents of the Peace River region through the sponsorship of dance lessons, dances, and dance demonstrations; (2) providing opportunities for members to improve their dance knowledge and abilities; and, (3) providing support for members who enter dance competitions.

We have averaged a membership of approximately 150 to 200 members per year. We offer to the public four sessions of line dance and couple dance lessons from Septemebr to April. Approximately one dance per month is held, including a wind-up workshop dance in April. We have a small dance demonstration group that does demos when requested.

At this date dances are scheduled for October 28, November 25, December 31, February 10, March 16, and April 20 (workshop/dance). The next session of couples' dance instruction (Two Step, Waltz, Swing) begins November 7 and the next line dance lessons begin November 13. Call 403-538-1710 for more information about lessons or the club.

Sharon Durda, Secretary PCWDC.

TEACHING WORKSHOPS HELD IN RED DEER

Twenty-five people took in one or more of the workshops put on by Kelly Gелlette September 30 to October 1. Sponsored by Country Pride and ACWDA, the sessions covered Basic Fundamentals, and Levels I and II of the NTA syllabus. Including the February and April sessions, there are now over 70 who have taken the Basics workshop (40 plus have completed certification). Level I workshops have been completed by 23 people (15 have finished the three certification tests), and 16 have taken the Level II workshop.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: POINTS TO PONDER

-->>Right. Do something right. It will satisfy some people and absolutely amaze some others.

NTA TEACHING MANUAL-SYLLABUS AVAILABLE

The NTA teaching manuals are now available for \$48.00 Canadian or three for \$145.00 'over the counter'. Contact Jerry Smith, 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-6852; fax 403-526-2018.

RIVER CITY C.W. DANCE FESTIVAL



790/CFCW

Edmonton's
Third Annual
Fully Sanctioned
Event!!



**Open Dancing, Workshops, And Fun all Weekend
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
November 10,11,12, 1995**



A Separate Swing Event



**EXCITING SWING
COMPETITION!!!!
STRICTLY SWING AND
CLASSIC DIVISIONS**

**1995 U.C.W.D.C. RULES AND SCORING
FORMAT USED FOR ALL
COMPETITIONS**

**THIS IS A 3RD YEAR UCWDC WORLDS
EVENT. PLACEMENT POINTS WILL BE
AWARDED.**

Couples Competition

- Divisions** Classic - I,II,III,IV,Gold,Silver Diamond Adv
Diamond Novice,Jr. Pri., Yth, Teen
Showcase - I,II,III,Gold,Silver,Diamond Adv
Diamond Novice, JrTeen
- Dances** - 2-Step, Waltz, Polka, Triple 2-Step, Cha Cha,
Pony, Schottische, East and West Coast Swing
- Juniors** - Classic - Finals Only - Choice as above
Showcase - Two Step, Waltz, Solo
- Just Wanna Dance** - Two Step, Triple 2-Step, Swing

HOTEL & RESERVATIONS

The Coast Terrace Inn New Venue !! Bigger Workshops

4440 Calgary Trail North Ask for the River City Block
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada At a Rate of \$76.00 CDN
1-800-665-9495 in Alberta Double Occupancy
1-800-663-1144

**For Registration Information Contact: Rob and Sherry Tovell
9705-87 Avenue, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA T6E 2N3 1-403-439-5773**

EVENTS CALENDAR : WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHEN, AND WHERE

The EVENTS CALENDAR is offered as an open, non-partisan listing available to members and non-members alike. Its purpose is to provide notice of dance related events provided to us or that we become aware of for the benefit of our membership and any other readers of NEWSMEMO. It also offers the function of a clearing house to planners of events to check other future events for potential conflicts of dates.

OCTOBER 13 - 15: The Northern Interior Dance Festival in Prince George offers workshops, demos, and a dance. Call Bill or Debbie at 604-564-9373 or Peggy Jo at 604-563-7895.

OCTOBER 13-14: The Central Alberta Rhythm Cloggers present workshops in Red Deer with Susan Woods from Cranbrook. Call Ida (403-347-8098) or Len (403-746-2250).

OCTOBER 21: The Alberta Ballroom Division of the Canadian Dance Teachers' Association presents the CDTA Alberta Cup, an International and American style ballroom competition. Call Lawrence at 403-285-1020 or Michel at 403-251-0847.

NOVEMBER 4: 'Spirit of the West' 1995, the second annual Line Dance Competition and Dance is on at Tsawwassen. Call Brian at 604-921-9791.

NOVEMBER 10 - 12: River City CW Dance Festival III is scheduled for Edmonton, with competitive, social, and workshop activities. Call Rob or Sherry at 403-439-5773.

JANUARY 26-28, 1996: Keep an eye out for information on the second annual CCWDC festival in Calgary.

MARCH 23-24, 1996: Dance Bash '96 offers workshops in Kelowna with Randy/Rhonda Shotts plus Ted Scarpino/ Kelly Dupuis, and others. Call Tom or Deb at 604-765-5411.

APRIL 1996: Calgary Country Dance Stampede V is set for April 12, 13, 14, 1996, offering social, competitive, and workshop activities. Call 403-252-5525 for information

JUNE 7-9, 1996: ACWDA's 5th AGM and dance is scheduled along with the 4th Annual Instructors' Forum. The AGM and Instructors' sessions plus the annual dance will be held Saturday June 8. Tentative workshop sessions are planned for Friday evening, part of Saturday, and part of Sunday. Mark the date(s) on your calendar and plan to attend. Don't miss in '96. It's ACWDA's 5th birthday.

JUNE 14-16, 1996: Toon Town Shake Down, Saskatoon's 1st Annual Swing and Country Western Dance Event gets initiated. Call Gary at 306-241-5857 or 306-242-0025.

JULY 18-20, 1996: The 10th Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention comes to Alberta in the city of Edmonton. Call Allan or Norma at 403-466-3564

AUGUST 16-18, 1996: The 4th Annual Red Hot Festival goes in Red Deer with the same big venue for competition, social, and related activities. Call 403-346-5484 for details.

Check the events in 'Letters to the Editor'/Peace Country

ZONE REPS:
NORTHERN: Karen Gorman - 403-539-4201
EDMONTON: Gord Villumsen - 403-487-3477
CENTRAL: Rob Ironside - 403-346-5484
CALGARY: Ian Munroe - 403-640-9123
SOUTHERN: Diane Smith - 403-527-6852


EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:
President: Jerry Smith - 403-527-6852
Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501
Treasurer: Cathy Estabrooks - 403-475-8033
Membership Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501
The Executive Officers and the Zone Reps form the Board of Directors or the Executive of the Association.

EVENT DIRECTORS:
Member directors / events are listed for easy access and communication by all members. Listings are in order of occurrence.
River City Festival: Rob/Sherry Tovell - 403-439-5773
Calgary Dance Stampede - Garry Nanninga - 403-283-3149
Red Hot Festival: Rob/Bonnie Ironside - 403-346-5484

NEWSMEMO is a publication of the ACWDA and belongs to its members. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and the ACWDA does not necessarily share the views stated in the various comments, letters, or submissions printed. Name, address, and phone number must be provided with all items for publication. Names will be withheld upon request.


Advertising space is available in the NEWSMEMO. Costs for members range from \$5.00 for a business card to \$25.00 for a full page. Contact the editor for more specific information.

The end of September is the tentative editing date for the next NEWSMEMO. If you have events or items that you would like to appear in an upcoming issue, please send them as soon as possible to Jerry Smith, Editor, 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-6852; fax 403-526-2018.



Dancing Shoes

- Ballroom Shoes
- Country Dance Boots
- Accessories



For your appointment
please call:

Dorothea Thielmann
Manager

Phone: (403)488-4022
Fax: (403)482-1826

***Keep the 'Memo' Events column informed of events