

# The Greater Columbia Chapter Of USA Dance



*The Greater Columbia Chapter of USA Dance  
Dances held on Saturday Jan the 10th and 24th  
Dance Lesson - Foxtrot  
Dance Location The Barn  
680 Cherokee Lane West Columbia, SC 29169  
Doors Open at 7:15  
Dance Lesson 7:45 until 8:15  
Dancing from 8:15 until 10:30  
Wonderful Music, Food, Soft Drinks, and Lots of Fun  
Members \$5.00 Guests \$8.00 Students \$4.00*

## **BEGINNER BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS**

The Greater Columbia Chapter of USA Dance  
Is holding beginner ballroom dance lessons  
Learn to dance without spending a tank worth of gas  
The lessons will focus on Foxtrot dance  
Dance Location: Pacific Park  
200 Wayne St, Columbia, SC 29201  
February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th 7:00- 8:00pm  
\$3.00 per lesson or \$10.00 in advance for all four classes  
For information call Mike Verdone (803)407-0132

## *Letter From The President*

Happy holidays to all our dancers! I hope that your Thanksgiving was memorable and enjoyable and that you are ready for the excitement approaching New Years. It is amazing to me that the year has flown by so quickly. Seems like just yesterday we were thinking about offering beginner ballroom lessons and now those lessons are long behind us. But mark your calendars because we are going to start up our lessons again in February 2009. As I am sure most you know, the Barn is booked virtually every night of the week so we have been forced to find a new location to hold our lessons. Fortunately, the city of Columbia offered the facility at Pacific Park, near Olympia and opposite California Dreaming on Assembly Street. We will have directions for you as we get closer to our February lessons. We are hoping to begin beginning foxtrot lessons from 7PM for one hour. We will charge \$3 per hour or six lessons for \$15 per person in advance at the first lesson. This year we were able to teach 388 total dancers with our lessons in July, August and September. By starting our lessons earlier in the year and holding our prices the same, I hope we will be able to reach even more dancers in 2009. Certainly the interest seems to be there and after all, presenting low cost ballroom dance lessons to our community is part of the charter of USA Dance.

Your USA Dance board was very active this year trying to increase the attendance at our dances. One of the first action items we tackled was lowering the admission price for members to \$5 and guests to \$8. I think this initiative resulted in increased attendance while keeping our treasury the same. We also offered live music at our Azalea Ball in April without increasing the admission. My feeling is that we should be able to offer live music each year without having to empty our bank account. By keeping our attendance up throughout the year, we should be able to do this.

We also had a Salsa Workshop in April taught by Eduardo Diaz. Our attendance was superb as was the level of instruction. Eduardo is one of my personal favorite teachers and his group classes are not to be missed. Again, by keeping admission prices to only \$10, we were able to fill the floor and learn some really fancy salsa moves. We will try to get Eduardo back again in 2009.

Teena Marie from Augusta entertained us with a dance performance and a very special trunk show in July. There were a number of our ladies and gentlemen who took advantage of the opportunity to buy some high quality, low cost dance wear from Teena. This is a win-win situation since Teena generates income for her studio and our chapter members are able to get affordable dancewear. This is another occasion that we may want to pursue again.

Pamela Marshall and Wolfgang Elfe continued their journey toward dancing excellence representing our chapter at the USA Dance Competitions in Baton Rouge and Indianapolis. Both these amateur comps have a very high level of skill and Pamela and Wolfgang earned some very good scores. I am certain that they will continue to compete in the coming year and we wish them success in all their competitions.

We finally got our T shirts showing USA Dance Columbia. You too can become a walking billboard for our chapter by buying and wearing your very own USA Dance Columbia T shirt. Just think, who else would offer you below cost T shirts? Guess we don't have business sense selling for less than we bought them for, but we are here to serve our members, not make money from them. Next year we will be having a T shirt and blue jean dance, so you will need to have bought your T shirt by then. Either blue or grey in small, med, large or extra large, for only \$8!

We know that our last dance of the year, our Christmas Ball, will be a wonderful event. We will be having heavy hors d'oeuvres, special holiday music, and a dance performance. We only ask that you come wearing your holiday finery ready to dance and bring a donation that we will collect and give to the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Try to bring at least \$5 worth of food as your price of admission. We know that Harvest Hope is a very worthy cause and we want to collect as much food for them as we can.

In conclusion, I encourage you to offer your time and energy to helping out with dances. We always need help setting up for our dances and cleaning up afterwards. We need to fill several openings on the board and we are actively recruiting volunteers to assist. If you are inclined, please offer your services. We will all appreciate your efforts. Thanks so much for 2008 and let's hope for a happy healthy 2009 filled with smiles and dancing!