

# WORLD LINE DANCE NEWSLETTER



## REPORTS FROM THE 2006 LINE DANCE SHOWDOWN

**SUBJECT: SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE LINEDANCE SHOWDOWN VIDEOS/DVDS.**

**FROM:** [ContractCJtheDJ@aol.com](mailto:ContractCJtheDJ@aol.com)

Here's a little sneak preview from the Showdown. The complete list of dances on the videos/dvds will be ready by next Monday and I'll send order info shortly.

<http://www.worlddancenewsletter.com/CJsVideos.html>

NOTE FROM ME: You're gonna really laugh at this one!!

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### **"My" Boston Showdown Moments**

**From: Johanna's crazy cousin, Show-Ming**

This writing here is only a tiny reflection of my event experience. Even though I tried hard to be brief, this seems so long already. Enough said. What an AWESOME weekend!

I felt cared for by all my crazy cousins, renewed and inspired.

After checking in the hotel, I can't stop the hello/hugging mode in the lobby for quite a while. Eventually my roomie, Judy Chen, and I were driven to the local fine restaurant "Hard Cover" by my long lost cousins Jared and Julie. The rib eye steak, the fish, the wine and the dishes I can't even name were all sooo good that I totally forgot about my tired body, not to mention the sleepless night before the six hour flight and all the effort to get to Boston.

The excitement was instantly infectious the moment I walked in the grand ballroom for the pre-event welcome party. IT'S A FULL HOUSE! The chandeliers sparkling on the red/white/blue balloons definitely added lots of glamour. Since so many friends I haven't seen for months were already dancing, of course I hurried up and joined in the nonstop dancing and laughing. This was only Thursday evening.

As I danced, I realized the floor is so kind to my aching joints. I even felt like a much better dancer than my ordinary self. This quality floor certainly helped motivate me to try the never ending turn/spin/sweeps of Toy Soldiers, which was taught at 9AM Saturday by both choreographers, Barry and Bryan. They took turns teaching the class.. Barry took only a few minutes to go through the easier first and third sets of eight counts. It was very brave of Bryan to teach such a big class the second and fourth sets, which were loaded with turns and directional changes. I wonder if that is how it was choreographed too? I like this dance very much. Great job! Barry and Bryan.

Surprisingly, I like just about all dances taught or the ones I saw in the evening parties. New dances I like include Raindrops For Perfidia (beautiful haunting Rumba music and easy to remember steps), Toy Soldiers (unique step/turn pattern), Sinfull (sensible steps with room for personality twists), Ho Yau Ying (cool steps with Jackson kick; of course, it's a left kick, my unintelligent side), Syncopated Kiss (cute and fun; brought smiles

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on dancers' faces), Soul To Soul (great steps but not easy to do as well as Michael Barr. I'm still faking it.), Bosa Nova (happy rhythm to work on whatever techniques or flight ideas that come up in my head), Talk About It (happy, energetic, fast rhythm), Geek In The Pink (an event hit), Friction Addiction (I'm a bit afraid to ask what it means; challenging steps), Speak To The Sky (nice song). Hoo Haa Hustle (loved Debi's demo but I missed the class. Somebody teach me, please.), Papa Loves Mambo (witty choreography), Dirty Cash (sharp beats; it's growing on me)...

The slightly older dances that I liked included Just For Tonight (mentioned in MIL Vegas; got to try this dance by Larry and Tracey), Shake (Guyton's brilliant choreography; dance like part of big production team), Aquarius (dreamy, ethereal; oh! take me away.....), That's Life/C'est La Vie (sensual steps), Get It While It's Hot (it's hot hot hot !), No Regrets (my recent favorite of Scott's dances), Meltdown (hard to sit through the song without moving some parts of the body; I rarely did it right, but it's fun trying), Infatuation (love it; I used it for performances), We Be Burnin' (unusual reggae tone).

Many of us can't help ourselves to try Speechless. It's exactly like Louie said, "Not pretty!" Watching Tom Mickers dancing Speechless is simply humbling. I did take many of his classes. Intellectually I understand everything he said, but physically I'm worn out so very fast, in 30 minutes, well, I lie, maybe 20 minutes. I noticed I simply tried too hard. Tom taught us the line dance technique class overtime, 90 minutes to be exact. I knew I learned a lot, even though right after his class I felt all of a sudden I couldn't dance any more. I think it's only because now I'm aware of all my technical challenges and just can't get it right.

When Pedro stepped in and taught "Kick and Rock" impromptu in one of Tom's Friday classes, my head kept thinking about my first Pedro experience back in 2001 at the Spanish CW Dance Championship at Barcelona. During the whole twenty-five minutes he was teaching, I was wondering if the whole class would be rolling, hopping, squatting or crawling on the floor? I had seen how he worked his charm and converted all the boys and girls into young Pedros (in spirit) in Spain. It would be interesting to see how he transformed this crowd. Well, it wasn't meant to be. Tom took his class back and it was a different world. How blessed are we?

PS: Thank you, Pedro for being so sweet. Your kind word is now engraved in my heart. I felt so honored to be "knighted" by you. Guess from now on I am Ok to be me.

The evening parties were full of laughter, dancing and exciting happenings. Two special performances were presented Friday night by Swingin' Six (line/swing routine) and Robyn/Amanda Delisle (Wicked Little Girls). While I was busy dancing, all of sudden I heard some noises when many dancers stopped dancing and hurried to sit and watch Wild Wild West being "line" danced by Tom Mickers, Pedro Machado, Brian B. and ..... Guess you have to watch CJ's video or use much imagination to picture this scene. It's probably more entertaining than the formal stage performance. Another happening occurred while I was dancing Bomb Shell Stomp. Almost in my blind spot I saw four lady dancers ROLL OVER simultaneously on the floor, ON BEATS, they got up and back to dancing vertically, ON BEATS, all synchronized with the rhythm. Amazing!

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To say the least, the Showdown Competition here was for the masters. There were eight incredible performances to be exact. Among them, there are young talents like Amanda Delisle and Jamie Beaver performing a creative program. Elsa did a refreshing Indian folkdance/belly dance/hip hop medley. It was charming and endearing. I am now willing to try dancing on the floor horizontally, or to take traditional Raks Sharki (belly dance) lessons (Elsa, classes next?), although I still can't see myself carrying Kuchi Pudi (pot) on my head yet. This was my first time watching Tom Mickers' performance up close, which is probably true for most of the audience too. Can you imagine all eyes followed his chiseled body dancing all over the floor. The floor coverage is definitely the biggest ever. When Tom danced with the floor mop, my head got very busy with many different ideas...

I want to give a billion thanks to Sofia and Michelle for taking me to the Naked Fish. My main entrée and all three appetizers were heaven sent. I was even healed by our goofy intellectual conversation of nothingness. Thank you for driving me to buy the 365 million lottery tickets; too bad they were not sold here in Boston.

It's a delightful surprise to see Judy Teh of Malaysia here this weekend. Wish you the best for your Pan Pacific event, Judy.

As Johanna described the best, coming to these events is like going to our family reunions with all the crazy cousins. It's way too much fun! I can't wait for my next family reunion, can you?

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## FROM: TODD LESCARBEAU

Well, let me just start by saying that Jason & Jen did a tremendous job with this event. I haven't been to this event in a couple of years, but from what I hear and experienced this past weekend I have to say it's even better each year! I won't write in about Guyton and Scott since Ginger and others filled you in. Let me suffice to say that the "showdown demonstrated the diversity of dance and the artistic creativity of the competitors" you can tell that they put a lot of thought into their routines. John Robinson was funny and entertaining as always. I believe he taught "Aquarius" and "Cold Hard Cash". Johanna Barnes's "GEEK IN THE PINK" is a great dance that filled the floor each night it was played. Scott Blevins taught Friction Addiction, Meltdown, No Regrets. Brian Barakauskas taught "Oops Up!" and "Love is in the air". Braken Ellis-"Fantabulous" and "How Will I Know". I had the pleasure to take Tom Mickers "Speechless" lesson. Guyton taught "Drop The Heat", "Shake" and more. Too many awesome dances to choose from. I always have trouble deciding which workshop to take.

I don't know if you will receive the "official results" so the following is what I can remember about the choreography contest.

Those of you out there who competed, please write in and let Carol and the rest of the line dance world know of your wins. I am so proud of all of the competitors this year. Great choreography as always. What I enjoyed the most is the camaraderie amongst the competitors. Many of us participated in demos of each other's dances in competition. It really demonstrates how great dancing is.

Choreography Competition Winners. (THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST as this is based on my own recollection and

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I know I can't remember everyone. So please take this as a partial list and use it as you will.) in any event, these are dances to look out for.

ABC/phrased category

Syncopated Kiss - Forty Arroyo 1st place (you go Forty...you Hot Potato!)

Energy - Todd Lescarbeau 2nd place

Ain't Nothing You Can Do 3rd place

Not sure of categories or placements but the following were also winners

Ring - Steve Lescarbeau

Hey Y'all - Steve Lescarbeau

Just Dance With Me - Sarah Delisle

Boogie Foot 06' - Todd Lescarbeau (2nd place-Intermediate-non country)

Time To Play - Robert Delong

Double Take - Michelle Jackson & Alana Johanson

Polka Play - Forty Arroyo

I believe Christopher Petre was a winner in choreography although I cannot remember the name of the dance (Sorry Chris)

Any way that about sums it up for me. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS! Thanks to all the instructors for their hard work teaching us these great dances!

Todd Lescarbeau

Let's Dance!

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**From: Mike and Connie Jackson**

Where to begin.....This was our first event to attend and it was an eye-opener! My goal was to see the dances that are so popular on your surveys each week. On Friday I popped into Michelle Jackson's \*Speak to the Sky\* workshop. Her style is easy and fun and I can see why the dance is becoming a favorite-definitely a keeper! After that, I followed with Signed, Sealed and Delivered (remembered when the song was a top 40 hit) and very much enjoyed how Tom Mickers related to the group!

Joe Steele opted to teach Just LeDoux and it worked well even though the group was small. Irish Stew (one I already knew) but is always a hit and he did a great job, with the help of Trish, getting everyone to feel like an Irish Step dancer!

Then off to see Guyton Mundy \*teach\* Happy Hour. I have to admit I was a bit overwhelmed but after a few times \*working it\*, I have a new appreciation for line dancing. Great song and a super fun dance!

Now, Saturday brought new challenges and learning experiences for my husband also including what I think was our introduction to Club dancing or something like Hip Hop (have no idea what to actually call it) except its name- The Shake. Now there is an experience for someone who does country line dancing! But what a blast! Guyton taught it well and I think I retained 40% (video is being ordered).

Donna Shea taught two very nice beginner dances- Love U 2 Much and the Slow Slow Dance (a great alternative to couple two-stepping) with her cool styling! Still recuperating from Guyton, we popped into the Bosa Nova and Make It Up with Tina Foster and now know why those are in the top of surveys!

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We checked out the Competitions and were impressed with the work and attitude of the dancers. Just a cool way to get ready for what the night would bring.

Ok, remember I said this was our first event and we were totally not prepared for what we saw at the Showdown after dinner. Jamie and Pedro were incredible as MC(s) and to say that the competitors were great would be an understatement. To see the talent of people I have read about in your newsletter was an experience I know neither of us will forget. From Tom's impressive dance to the Paul and Rachel's winning take on Moulin Rouge to the Country Big and Rich mix with the Amatos to Elsa's traditional>today's version of India dance to Michelle Jackson/friend's choreography to Brian's original work, it was so hard to vote! As mentioned before, the act by Guyton and Scott was too funny for words!

Sunday allowed us to experience \*the Jamie Marshall\* and Bombshell Stomp. Adding It Had to be You and B Squared, taught by Christopher Petre and his technical flair made a final day a big hit.

Thank you, Camerons, for the time and effort you put into this \*event\*. For us, it was a great experience!

Mike and Connie Jackson

NH Grizzlies Baseball

[www.nhgrizzlies.com](http://www.nhgrizzlies.com)

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**From: Sarah DeLisle - DancerMom@snet.net**

We are back from the Line Dance Showdown 2006...totally exhausted, but boy was it worth it!!!!

We got there Wednesday afternoon - got stuff unloaded & then went out to Tequila's to dance for a little while after event director Jen Cameron & crew arrived from Florida. (Jason was already here enjoying our lovely New England Mid-Winter thaw...it was in the fifties!) Thursday we got up, had breakfast & got to work. Floors were put down, balloons & lights put up & after feeding the work crew (Thank you ALL! - in no particular order: Big Jim, Melissa Greene, Melissa from Maine, Amanda, Larry, Tina & Irv, Jenn, Trish, Patrick, Beth & Allison, Cat, Mary, Melissa Princess, Gracie, Matt, Bettie, Robyn, Shaunna & Gabe, Kerry, Kelly, Kate, Betsy, Michelle, Kim, Jaime, Robin, Heather, Jessica, Niki, Dawn & Dan, Bill & Sonja, Zac, Rich & I hope I didn't forget anybody!) we headed down to the ballroom for the Thursday night dance! What an incredible crowd ...totally awesome! On Thursday night - before the event had officially started - the dance floor was packed!!!! Guyton Mundy taught a fun dance called Happy Hour - check it out at his website - [www.funk-n-line.com](http://www.funk-n-line.com)) & DJ Louis St George really knows how to keep us happy. It was so fun to dance to lots of the new stuff, but also fun to see what we could remember...SO awesome to have a FULL floor for Jukebox! It certainly was a good start to a kick#%^\*(& weekend!!

Friday morning came quickly & Tom Mickers (if you don't know who he is go to [www.TomMickers.com](http://www.TomMickers.com)) started things off with a free workshop. I am sure somebody else will go into detail about all the workshops & instructors...suffice it to say the Showdown has the best of the best! Workshops carried on the rest of the day along with several hours of open dancing. DJs Dan DeLisle & David Kopczyk did a great job during open dance in the afternoon. Old stuff, new stuff, borrowed stuff, blue stuff...no, not borrowed & blue...., but it was a great chance to get some dance time in & work on remembering the stuff you just learned!!

Friday night came & we were treated to 2 performances at the evening dance. First was Amanda DeLisle (yup - my Amanda) & Robyn-April Rivard-Darby Maguire (did I get them all Rob?) with a routine they had



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choreographed to a song called Wicked Little Girls. Of course I totally loved it & I'm pretty sure Robyn's mom would agree with me!) It was cute & fun & Amanda even smiled! Then Michelle Jackson, Anne Fleming & 4 others had a great line/swing routine. After that it was more dancing!!! When I went up to bed the dance floor was still full & it was past 1 o'clock! (ok, so I'm old & I need my sleep...I did stay up past 3 on Saturday night, tho!)

Saturday morning we were back for more workshops & of course the competition in the afternoon. Our area was very well represented: Vicky Zalewski, Kim Beaver, Paul Bartlett, Steve Lescarbeau & Bill Belejck all competed in line dance & did a GREAT job! In the choreography competition it was great to see so many wonderful new dances - many from our area dancers, too! Forty Arroyo, Robert DeLong, Todd Lescarbeau, Steve Lescarbeau, Christopher Petre & Sarah DeLisle (yah, me) all had dances entered in the 5 different divisions of choreography - I think I got us all! The best part was watching everybody take the numbers off so they could dance with each other in the choreography entries. It is so cool to see the camaraderie that exists amongst us in this area. We REALLY do play well with others!

Then Saturday night came the SHOWDOWN!!!!!!...something we had all been waiting for! There were 8 acts - ALL wonderful! Tom Mickers, Brian Barakauskas, Elsa (dunno last name, but she can dance with a vase on her head! in really cool clothes, too!), Barry & Dari Anne Amato, Anne Fleming & Michelle Jackson, Scott Blevins & Guyton Mundy (in drag if you can imagine that!), Paul McAdam & Rachael McEnaney & MY personal favorites, Jaime Beaver & Amanda DeLisle! Jaime's mom, Kim, & I were standing on the same chair in the back of the room...good thing we were, or everybody elses' eardrums would have been broken! Maybe that's why I am still hoarse today?

After the Showdown we danced, had 50th birthday cake for my husband Larry AFTER he danced a Tush Push with some of his favorite girls. & then we danced some more! After all the ballots were counted it was time for awards - the Showdown winners were Rachael & Paul, followed closely by Scott & Guyton....if you haven't done so already, you need to order the video from CJ. I can't wait to get mine!

Sunday morning came way too soon...actually some people were going to bed as some of us were getting up! More workshops & then the awards from the Saturday afternoon competition. I wish I could remember where everybody placed, but I can't - brain & body are still tired. I just know that all our area dancers did EXTREMELY well...& I was thrilled with first place in non-country newcomer/novice with Just Dance With Me!. Forty Arroyo, Todd Lescarbeau, & cousin Steve Lescarbeau, Robert DeLong & Christopher Petre all placed well...I think between us all, New England brought home a whole bunch of medals! Who needs the Olympics when we have something like the Line Dance Showdown!

Then of course the sad part...breaking down the floors, popping the balloons, un-decorating & getting ready to go home. Thanks to all who helped pack stuff up & put it away - next year can't come soon enough! Thank goodness we do have the Florida Masters in Orlando in July to look forward to! July 14th thru 16th...start planning now! It rocked last year & will only get better!

Jason & Jen know how to throw a great event - it just gets better every year! Mark your calendars for the 3rd weekend in February 2007....Danvers, MA is the place to be ...or maybe they should change the name of the town to DANCERS, MA?

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**FROM: RHODA WONG IN MA, [cpcuau at hotmail.com](mailto:cpcuau@hotmail.com)**

In a word FANTASTIC from start to finish! We actually had a warm up on Wednesday night at Wildman Louie's Extreme Dancing in Groton, MA and continued onto the Showdown Thursday night till Sunday. A few workshops were repeated – FRICTION ADDICTION and SHAKE, for obvious reasons, so there were many choices. Here are some impressions.

**HOTEL** – Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers, MA comfortable guest rooms, meals were very good (new chef in the kitchen?) and reasonably priced. Ballroom and conference room hard wood dance floors were just wonderful – smooth, even, plenty of room and no obstructions like columns. It took a little adjusting and the hotel staff worked to keep the rooms temperatures comfortable.

**OPEN DANCING** – big party in the main ballroom ongoing from midday to late night or whenever the last dancer left. DJ Wildman Louie (I don't know how he does it) doesn't seem to need sleep and was in top form throughout.

**DANCE WORKSHOP DEMOS** – well timed and offered the evening prior to classes. Saw lots of variety in dance choices.

**INSTRUCTORS** – great line-up, personable, talented and dancer friendly. Personal note – it's easier (relatively speaking) to understand a new move when the teacher/choreographer explains the technical mechanics behind the steps and the feeling and look that the dance should convey. If you haven't already attended a workshop with any of these choreographers and their peers, please do. It can make a world of difference in your enjoyment and dancing.

**WORKSHOPS** – ran smoothly and on time. Last minute changes fitted in a few new dances. These are some of the classes I attended. I wish I could have taken many more.

## **Thursday:**

**HAPPY HOUR** – by Guyton Mundy, int country. Taught during the Thursday night free dance.

## **Friday:**

**VOGUE** – by Tom Mickers, int 2 wall with a restart - striking hand and 3-D body moves, model poses and attitude. Fun and find a mirror for practice. A new favorite.

**FRICTION ADDICTION** – by Scott Blevins 32 count, int. Just walking but so many turns can have your head spinning. Challenging and very popular on the dance floor.

**ROCK AND KICK** – impromptu teach by Pedro Machado.

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ATTITUDE – by Rachael McEnaney & Paul McAdams, adv 4 wall with 2 tiny tags. Long-ISH, tricky and fun to dance.

## **Saturday:**

TOY SOLDIER – by Barry Amato & Bryan McWherter, int 2 wall phrased. Has lots of sweeps and spins that are timed just so that the dance flows easily

with the music. Already popular overseas. First time taught in the USA.

My pick of the lessons.

WILD WEST BOOGIE – impromptu teach by Jenn and Jason Cameron (see they can do anything!) and Pedro Machado (sometimes speaking in Spanish) – int, 32 count, an old favorite.

HO YAU YING - by Rachael McEnaney & Paul McAdams, int/adv 4 wall. Good beat and popular with Michael Jackson fans.

MELTDOWN – by Scott Blevins 32 count. Just like walking but so many turns can have your head spinning. Challenging and very popular on the dance floor.

TECHNIQUE – by Tom Mickers. Helps to get the flow, balance and movement looking and feeling right. Very solid.

## **Sunday:**

SHAKE - by Guyton Mundy, int. 128 count funky. Clearly a floor filler of the weekend. Had to give it try finally. First 64 counts were tricky (Guyton styling) and last 64 were easy to remember. So, don't give up because of the length and give this one a look.

PODABE – by Guyton Mundy, int funky. Liked this one, nice pace with hand moves and dance steps.

TOO DELICIOUS TO DENY – by Tom Mickers int 32 count. Had fun with this one. Felt like I was skating around an ice rink. Surprised how the steps worked, but the feet got there fine.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED – by Tom Mickers int 32 count. Again some new steps – Pinocchio walk. Always liked Stevie Wonder's music and this new dance fits nicely with the Motown moves and attitude.

PON DE REPLAY – impromptu teach by Bryan McWherter. Same music as REPLAY, but a bit easier to dance. Too tired to stand, so learned this "chair dancing".

We stayed up too late in open dancing and didn't get to several intended workshops like MYSTIFIED by Bracken Ellis. Liked these in open dancing –

AQUARIUS by John Robinson, GEEK IN THE PINK by Johanna Barnes, DOUBLE TAKE by Michelle Jackson and Alana Johanson (choreography winner). We danced a new dance ENERGY by Todd Lescarbeau, (choreography winner, still waiting for the dance step sheet, Todd if you are reading this) which is as fun and energetic as the name says.

THE SHOWDOWN – this was worth the price of admission for the weekend! Great entertainment with creativity



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and dancing artistry. Difficult to pick just one best. Also, I still laugh when I think of the Bundy Sisters. Looking forward to next year's event. Thank you Jenn and Jason for a great time!

Rhoda

**NOTE FROM ME:** Remember, you can see the clip of The Blundy Sisters if you go to the link in today's newsletter at

<http://www.worlddancenewsletter.com/CJsVideos.html>

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**From: Sherry and John Labonte**

What a fantastic time we had this weekend at the 2006 Linedance Showdown in Danvers, MA. As usual the instructors were first rate, bringing us some great new dances. Favorites of the weekend were Geek in the Pink by Johanna Barnes (fun to do interesting moves and a floor filler), Oops Up! (very funky and fun to play with, goes great to the music) taught by Brian B, but choreographed by Raymond Sarlemijn & Michel Platje, Ho Yau Ying by MIL (fun and FAST), Double Take by Michelle Jackson (also fun and fast) and the chance for a lesson on the awesome dance Speechless from Tom Mickers! We didn't take the lesson on Shake from Guyton, but obviously many did as it filled the floor by the end of the weekend, making us really wish we hadn't missed it. There were so many great dances to choose from I'm sure you'll be hearing about many more.

The Showdown was incredibly entertaining as usual, and was won this year by Paul and Rachel with a superb, and different routine where DJ Louie saved the day and "created a new happy ending". The show was stolen, however, by the 2nd place winning Sister Act. I don't know when I've last laughed that hard. I couldn't make out exactly what was being announced, but I believe they were calling themselves the Blundy Sisters, (Scottina and Guytonette). They were just too much, hamming it up for many photo ops and playing their parts until the awards were announced.

This year's photos have been posted on the site: <http://www.shorewings.com/showdown2006/>

enjoy,

Sherry and John

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**from: Ginger Kozlowski**

Just got back from three full days and nights of dancing at the Showdown! It was a great weekend, and I thank Jen and Jason Cameron for keeping us busy and happy. The Showdown competition itself was inspiring to watch. This year, only two acts incorporated humor. Amanda Delisle was hilarious with her "learning to dance" bit (never knew she had such a funny streak in her!), and Guyton Mundy and Scott Blevens were a scream as the "Lucky Sisters." It was hard to tell who they were at first under the wigs, makeup, dresses and high heels. You had to see it to believe it! All the rest were examples of dancing at its finest, from Barry and DariAnne Amato's routine to a mix of Save A Horse with other songs, incorporating clogging and a lot of fast, precise

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moves, to Tom Mickers with his bullfighter theme and lyrical dances with a broom and a scarf, to Paul McAdams and Rachel McInaney's Moulin Rouge theme. Michelle Jackson and her friend whose name I never caught did the routine they used last year in the regular show and it was just as terrific...they deserved a prize too! Brian Barakauskas was as amazing as ever, and a new person I've never seen before simply called Elsa in the Showdown did a cool Indian (as in India, not native American) dance balancing a vase on her head and then changing to a hiphop dance.

I voted, but I wish I could have voted first place for them all. They were incredible.

There were a lot of people in the regular competitions, more than usual. They did well, but I was disappointed that few took advantage of the no-rule rule to goof around and make it fun. That was always the best part of watching the competitions at the Showdown for me.

I'll leave it to others to describe all the dances taught. I picked up a bunch I want to bring back to New Hampshire, from beginner to advanced, country and noncountry.

Louie kept the floor full for three straight nights. I don't know how he keeps going like that! Jamie Marshall and Pedro Machado were very entertaining at the MCs for the various events. I'd say Guyton's "Shake" was probably the dance that got most people's interest. I thought at first it was too impossible for me to learn at 128 counts, but gave it a shot at the end of the weekend and it really was a lot of fun!