

Dance destinations plentiful throughout Kanawha Valley

Along with a plethora of private clubs and studios, there are several venues to kick up your heels throughout the Kanawha Valley regularly. Moreover, you can choose the dance style that befits you and your partner best, be it ballroom swaying, beach grooving or country two-steppin'. At some of them, you can take lessons beforehand, too.

Here are just a few of the public dance opportunities you can avail yourself of:

* **The Speakeasy Singles** sponsor a monthly public dance, typically from 8 p.m. until midnight on the second Saturday of every month at the Dunbar National Guard Armory. A DJ spins the tunes to break the ice and fill the dance floor. Admission is usually \$8 for Speakeasy Singles members and \$10 for others, although that, and the location of the dance from time to time, may vary. Check the social group's Web site, www.speakeasysingles.com, for the latest details, as well as a full calendar of their events and membership information.

* Recently relocated from its Charleston West Side site at Five Corners, **Club Dance** has plenty of floor space to dance the evening away in a convivial, alcohol-free environment.

Now situated in the Dunbar Village Plaza in Dunbar, near the Kroger supermarket, Club Dance will host Friday dances from 8 to 11 p.m. with DJ Sandi Elam, preceded by an "American smooth" lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. A buffet and other amenities are also planned for singles and couples looking for a dance/date destination.

Club Dance's grand opening dance party is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, Aug. 8. Call 304-993-0475 or go to www.dancedoctor101.com for further information.

* **The Extreme Country Dance Club** sponsors a line and patterned partner dance and classes every Friday evening at the Elk Elementary Center in Crede, off U.S. 119 between Charleston and Elkview.

Beginning and intermediate line

dance classes are conducted from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Patterned partner classes follow from 7:30 to 8 p.m. An open dance is held from 8 to 10:30 p.m., with music supplied by a DJ.

Admission is \$5 for nonmembers and \$3 for Extreme Country members.

For more information, dispatch e-mail to extremecountry@hotmail.com or call 304-949-3973, 304-779-9109 or 304-346-7467.

* **Ballroom dance lessons** are offered on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post on Dickinson Street in downtown Charleston. The cost is \$2 per person per session.

Dancers can then fine-tune their terpsichorean skills at a ballroom dance at the post from 8 to 11:30 p.m., usually on the final Friday of the month. Admission is \$5 per dancer.

For more information about the ballroom lessons and dances at the American Legion Post, call 304-766-1041.

* Organized last year, **the USA**

Dance Chapter #6113, Upper Kanawha Valley, in Montgomery sponsors regular dances for its members and the general public. Each dance consists generally of an hourlong dance lesson, followed by three hours of dancing and demonstrations.

Membership in the chapter is open to singles and couples of all skill levels in the Upper Kanawha Valley and elsewhere.

Along with ballroom techniques, participants can learn dance steps ranging from waltz and foxtrot to rumba, swing and tango and practice them during the evening.

For a schedule and more information, contact Terry Whittington at 304-382-8594 or SurgeonC-SA@aol.com or Melanie Whittington at 304-382-8596 or infvivi@aol.com

For more information about Charleston USA Dance Chapter 6014, visit <http://usadance.org> and follow the appropriate links.

* **The Charleston Area Shag Society** meets each Thursday from 7:45 to 9:45 p.m. at 2805 Kanawha Blvd. East in

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Charleston to enjoy the beach-inspired dance style that has been popular for decades.

Shag dance lessons are

taught from 7 to 7:45 p.m. at the meetings. Members pay \$4 and non-members pay \$6 per session.

For more information, call

Nora Johnson at 304-419-1637 or visit www.wvshag.com.

* **The Kanawha Valley Jamboree**, 8902 MacCorkle Ave. in Marmet (the former Marmet Elementary School site) has regular weekend live and local entertainment,

usually performing tunes in a down-home country vein.

Call 304-545-2693 for upcoming scheduled performances.

And, for spur-of-the-moment dancing opportunities, go to the events calendars of *The Charleston Gazette* and *Charleston Daily*

Mail online and click on the "Dances" link. The *Gazette* Web site can be accessed at <http://wvgazette.com>, and the *Daily Mail* home Web address is

<http://dailymail.com>

(Compiled by Clint Thomas, Gazette-Mail Metro staff)