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DANCIN' ON THE INTERNET

By H. Leon Raper (E-mail: hlr@primenet.com)

Yes, that's right, it's time to go dancin' on the Internet. We can jump on our information super highway surfboards and start surfing the Internet. It's a real mind-blower to find out how much information is available on the Internet and how many people there are throughout the world with the same interests in dancing. In this article we will look into how you can do what is called a "Net Search" for anything you want to find, how to contact each other by E-mail, how you can get on the Internet and how to get further information.

Try a Net Search on the words "swing dance." You will end up with an Info Search Result which lists the following and more from which you can select: West Coast Swing, Swing Dance Styles, Washington D.C. Swing Dance Server, List of Swing Clubs & Societies in the U.S., The U.S. Swing Dance Server, The Lindy Hop, and many others.

Then, select the "U.S. Swing Dance Server." You will get a choice of the following items from which to select: Events, Styles, Technique, Steps, Terms, Music, Videos, Clubs, Competition, and many others. If you select "styles," you can obtain information on may different swing dance forms. If you select "Clubs," you access a listing that contains contact information for most of the swing dance clubs and associations throughout the world. This listing is maintained by ELLEN C. BAUER (E-mail: ecb@world.std.com). If you select "Technique," you can see a discussion on the subject of Lead & Follow.

A very interesting and very large category is "Style" which contains the following selections: Arthur Murray Shag, Balboa, Beach Bop, Boogie Woogie, Bop, Bugg, Country Swing, Disco Swing, Double Hustle, Double Swing, East Coast Swing, Flying Lindy, Hustle, 3-Count Hustle, Imperial, Jamaica, Jitterbug, Jive, Kansas City Shag, latin Hustle, Le Rock, Lindy Hop, Line Hustle, New York Hustle, Prep Step, Push, Rock and Roll, Rope Hustle, Shag, Single Swing, Sling Hustle, Stepping, St. Louis Shag, Street Hustle, Supreme, Texas Tommy Triple Swing, Western Swing, West Coast Swing, Whip. If you want to have a real hoot, locate "Henry's Dance Hotlis" on Internet. You will find information on all kinds of dancing, including C/W dancing.

To contact someone by E-mail, all you need is their E-mail address. Sending E-mail is just like sending a letter to someone, but instead of waiting days for them to receive it, they receive it in seconds, anywhere in the world, with no postage stamps, no express mail charges and no additional long distance telephone charges. Your access provider service will provide you with your E-mail address. Are you already on Prodigy, America On Line, CompuServe, etc? If you are, you may already have an E-Mail address and not be aware of it. For instance, if your address on Prodigy is xyz44a, then your E-mail address would be xyz44a@prodigy.com. Anyone can send you E-mail by addressing it this way. You can also send others E-mail using the same approach with their E-mail address. However, since Internet access is relatively new to some of these access provider services, you may have to call your service to ask them to send you some upgraded software. Please call your service provider for guidance.

How do you gain access to the Internet? There are basically two different ways. You can get your own access line, hardware and software, but that is cost-prohibitive for most. Or you can subscribe to an Internet access provider service. There are basically two different types of access provider services. The first are multi-service providers like America On Line, Prodigy, CompuServe, and many others. These are highly-advertised multi-service providers which charge a relatively low monthly fee plus an hourly charge for access time on the service. Some also provide a few hours of free access time per month. The second are also Internet access providers, but they provide direct access to the Internet only. They may provide no other services than direct access to the Internet. They charge a higher monthly service charge, but give many hours of free access time per month. Some give over 200 hours per month of free access time. The service I use is Primenet, which charges about \$22 per month for which you get 150 hours of free access time on the internet. If you plan on spending much time on the net, then these Internet direct services are much less expensive than the other multi-service providers. If you are going to spend many hours on the Internet using one of the multi-service providers, then your costs could easily mount up to 10 to 40 times what it would cost with a service like Primenet. You can find out about these services at your local computer stores, or at a major computer warehouse-type of store like Comp USA, Computer Warehouse, etc. To get information on Internet access provider services, go to the store and ask them who is their Internet expert, then as that expert what access provider services give the most for the least amount of money. Surfing the net is fun, and you can spend many more hours than you thought you would. At first, you may want to test the waters with one of the access provider services that charge a lower monthly rate. but you will probably graduate very quickly to another service that gives you more free hours. Also, don't go to the computer store and buy one of those interesting Internet starter software kits. Save your money. First, find out which Internet access provider service you want to use. That service provider may also provide you with free software to get you started.

Getting the dance clubs and event promoters involved! It would be nice if all the dance clubs would include an article in an upcoming issue of their newsletters requesting that their dancing computer-junkie members inform them of their E-mail addresses for publication. Also, the dance clubs and event promoters should include an E-mail address when submitting event dates and club contacts to *Country Dance Lines*.

For further information on becoming a dancing "Internaut" you can contact any of the access provider services previously mentioned or locate others, get information at your local computer store, or contact me by phone at 520/525-9091 or E-mail at the above E-mail address. It would be great if we have any other writers out there who would write articles for publication and share some of their experiences on the Internet. Also, maybe we could suggest other ways for the Internauts to help bring the dancing global village closer together.

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