

New Salsa DJ Heats Up MWR Clubs

Story and photo by MWR Marketing



"The Lady of Salsa" - DJ Martha Blount, heating up an MWR club near you.

Salsa music is on the upswing in Yokosuka military clubs through the efforts of DJ Martha Munoz Blount, also known as "The Lady of Salsa."

The infectious beats of the salsa sounds have had people of all cultures up on the dance floors. Blount is one of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department's latest disc jockeys (DJ) specializing in Latin music. She began her career as a DJ in the islands of Hawaii in the 70s. At that time, the music was a new sound to the military and the local people of Hawaii. Her first appearance was a Schofield Barracks' non-commissioned officers' club where she drew a crowd of 300 people on opening night. The club was

surprised to see such a turnout when the music was not as popular within the military club system or Hawaii. She has brought attention to Latin music at several duty stations she's moved to. Now she is residing in Japan bringing the spicy sounds of salsa to Yokosuka military clubs.

Salsa is rapidly gaining acceptance throughout the Yokosuka military clubs. Blount has performed at the Officers' Club opening up Cinco de Mayo, the CPO Club, Seaside Club, salsa pool party at Green Beach pool and for the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, which was held at the CPO Club's Silver Room. The music is very popular in Tokyo, with a variety of salsa clubs there. Blount says she would like to make salsa more popular in Yokosuka so that Latin music lovers do not have to travel so far. With the help of a few good people, she is thankful to DJ, and Chief, Tony Norman for helping to expose her. Norman gave Blount her first shot at spinning sounds during MWR's Salsa Block Party 2.

"I want to thank MWR's great staff, who have stood behind me 100% and have always been there to help me," said Blount. "I also want to thank my husband Chief Jimmie Blount for always supporting me in my music career. I would like to extend a few more thanks to Mrs. Patricia Perez for always supporting me in all my activities and helping me with the business and to Eliza and Georgia who are always in every salsa dance. I also have to thank the Latin community of Yokosuka and all the club managers who believed in me and have allowed me to bring the Latin music to their clubs.

Blount added, "I'll be looking forward to doing more entertainment for the people in Yokosuka. I will also be bringing the Latin sounds to Ikego's community soon. You do not have to be Hispanic to enjoy Latin music. This music reaches all those who like it."



Salsa music and dancing in Yokosuka has gained an increase in popularity recently, thanks in part to the work of Salsa DJ, Martha Blount.

For Your Entertainment

Discounted Tokyo Disneyland tickets: ITT has Tokyo Disneyland Passport tickets available at the discounted price of \$40 for adults, \$34 for juniors and \$25 for children. Tickets are good for one day of admission and rides.

Cirque du Soleil "Quidam" Circus: The world famous Cirque du Soleil is coming to Tokyo in February! Based loosely on traditional circus acts and street entertainment, Cirque du Soleil has been entertaining audiences around the world since 1984. Tickets will be on sale at ITT until November 30 for ¥8,000 for adults and ¥5,700 for children 3 - 12.

Za Ondekoza Live Tour (Japanese Taiko Drummers): Don't miss the opportunity to see this traditional Japanese musical form live at Yokohama's Kannai Hall on January 12. ITT will be selling tickets until December 6 for ¥3,600 per person.

Brian McKnight in Concert: ITT is now selling tickets to see R&B singer Brian McKnight, live at Zepp Tokyo on December 10. The cost is ¥4,900 (festival seating only). Doors open at 1800, show starts at 1900.

WWE Wrestling: Don't miss the chance to see the superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment (formerly the World Wrestling Federation) live at Yoyogi National Stadium in Tokyo on January 24. Tickets cost ¥7,500 for A seats, and ¥3,750 for B seats. Sales begin December 16 at ITT.

Chicago Japan Tour: ITT has tickets available until December 24 to see this highly influential 80's band live at the Toyo International Forum on January 31 & February 1. Reserved seating costs ¥6,500 per person, transportation will be available for \$12 per person. Sign ups will begin December 1.

For details about any of the events listed above, call ITT at 243-5613/7257. ITT is open Monday - Friday from 0900 to 1800 and Saturday from 0900 to 1300

50 Mile Swim Club: Are you an avid swimmer? Why not earn points while you swim? Swim Club members must swim 50-miles (no time limit) in order to win a prize. Sign up now and start swimming! For more details, contact the Aquatics Office at 243-6410.

One Day Ski/Snowboard Trip: Join Outdoor Recreation as we travel to Kagura Mitsumata in Niigata Prefecture on December 7. This large popular resort has 1225m of vertical drop and is almost guaranteed excellent snow conditions. The great selection of slopes on 20 courses is supported by a good lift system, and snowboarding is allowed on all slopes. The main Mitsumata slopes and the early Tashiro slopes (with a mini half-pipe and one make) are very popular courses with snowboarders. The cost is \$40 per person for transportation only and \$53 per person for transportation and ski or snowboard set. ¥4,000 lift ticket NOT INCLUDED.

Beginner Rock Climbing Trip: Let Outdoor Recreation teach you to rock climb on December 8! We will take you to Takatori-yama (only a 15 minute drive from Yokosuka!) for a beginner rock climbing class to learn the basics of climbing, belaying and rappelling on class 5.6 ~ 5.10 rock through hands-on training. The cost is \$15 per person.