



Line Dance Lessons
Wednesdays & Thursdays
7:00 - 8:00

Two Step Lessons
Thursdays
7:00 - 7:30



Friday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna
Cat Country Dance Party Night Every Friday
Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna



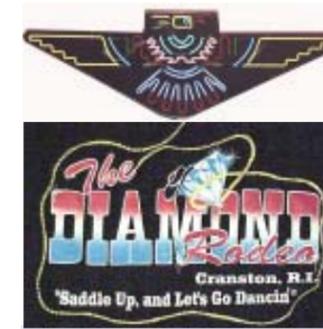
Wayne Learned



Joe Macera



**Fridays & Saturdays
Gail McKenna**



Side - Bar
Comments

Club Hours

Wednesday 7 PM - 1 AM
Thursday 7 PM - 1 AM
Friday 7 PM - 1 AM
Saturday 7PM - 1 AM

**MARDI
GRAS**

1500 Oaklawn Ave.
Cranston, RI
(401) 463-3080

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays
Free Line Dance Lessons
Fri - Gail McKenna
Wed - Wayne Learned
7 - 8 PM
Thursday
Two Step Lessons 7:00 - 7:30 with Joe Macera
Line Dance Lessons with Mike Camra 7:30 - 9:00

This newsletter can be viewed on line at www.mikeponte.com



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



Diamond Rodeo Newsletter - Editor, Layout & Photos: Michael Ponte Co-editor: Cindy Sebetes Facilitator: Joe Macera

**June
2006**

We Don't Line Dance Here!

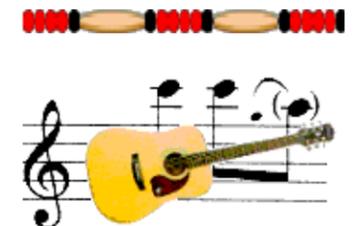


Julie Grant (left) and Judy Johnson (right)

"We don't line dance here". Julie and Judy couldn't believe what was being said. Here we were in Texas, where there was everything (else) we liked: cowboys, BBQ's, honkytonks, and country music, and we seemed to have picked the one place that didn't have line dancing. Julie turns around to Judy and says, "Glad we have the Diamond Rodeo back home!" The Diamond Rodeo is truly the best place for country people to meet in the Northeast! It is definitely worth the

drive every week from Southern Massachusetts for us. We have been to country bars in Connecticut, Worcester, Danvers, Nashville, Houston, and Dallas, and the Diamond Rodeo is our absolute favorite. There is no place else that keeps us out on the dance floor all night. What is unique is the versatility of the Diamond Rodeo. You can two-step, line dance, or try one of the other couples dances like Shooters or the El Paso Cha-cha, so there is something for everyone. Another bonus is that if you

have friends who do not appreciate country music, they can go next door and find other types of music and dancing within the Mardi Gras Complex. Our enthusiasm for line dancing has proven to be contagious. While we weren't successful on converting all of Texas on line dancing (we did try!) many of our friends have joined us for the dance lessons - offered from Wednesday to Saturday. Julie's students at the school where she teaches heard so much about Cotton Eye Joe and Country Walking that she now offers an after school class on line dancing. The students have even demonstrated their fancy footwork in the school's annual talent show! So, next time you are traveling someplace - and come across a honky tonk that claims "thou shalt not line-dance here." Remember that you can always scoot your boots back home to the Diamond Rodeo and find there is no place like home!



COUNTRY DANCING

I started to come to Mardi Gras in the early nineties, when they offered a buffet. I had fun with friends and wanted to meet Mr. Right. I didn't know much about country music or the dances. I didn't get asked to dance or try to learn. I stood to the side, lost interest and stopped coming.



Jeannine Deary

Then I reconnected with an old friend in May of 2005 who said to come along. Cindy introduced me to friends and acquaintances at Mardi Gras. Cindy is friendly with everyone she knows by name and some by face.

It finally got warm and summer arrived. We sat outside on the porch under the umbrellas. It was a great atmosphere and fun to relax and meet new people whether they knew the dances, wanted to learn or just liked the music. New people, like myself, could step outside and learn the dances, make some wrong steps and find encouragement from others. The atmosphere and sense of the other people had been friendly, approachable and encouraging. That was not a club atmosphere that I have ever experienced before.

I realized that people showed new comers the dance steps while on the dance floor. Dancers point in the direction of the movement and to their feet to show kicks and steps.

Now that was gracious dance hospitality and much appreciated. My friend Cindy would encourage me to try simple dances and tell me that she knew I could do it. She would also be honest enough to tell me that the dance is too hard for a beginner and that I should get off the dance floor. That was very valuable for a new person that would get overwhelmed, discouraged and in the way.

I asked for my favorites to be played because I wanted to practice them. I was told that I should come to more lessons and learn more dances. But like my geometry experience, I would rather come and cram and take the risk of jumping in. It helps me to have other people to review steps.

I watched birthday cakes go by and people celebrating together. I enjoyed my birthday and friends birthdays as well. I enjoyed the holidays and laughed at the Halloween costumes and Christmas Party. I was told that the food would line the length of the place...and it did. I remember being surprised that people would offer food and recipes at a club that they only visited once or twice a week.

I continued to meet new people and learn new dances. Socializing and sharing experiences about the week and common interests was a great release. I began to build friendships and catch up with new people who became old people...

It was always fun to hear a favorite song and know the dance. I started out with Mr. Mom, Country Walking, and the Redneck Stomp, and moved onto My Maria and then Copperhead Road. Friends taught me to do couples dances: The Sway, the North Carolina Stroll, the

El Paso Cha Cha something to work with. I enjoyed the experience and realized that it wasn't as hard as I once thought...what was I so afraid of before.

It is my favorite place to come, to catch up with friends and do dances and learn more, have fun and release stress and regroup again. It keeps me coming back.

Jeannine Deary



For the guys



Al Foster

Dancing brings men into contact with women in a very graceful unforced way. Here at the club, dancing allows both sides to get to know one another over a period of time. When at other clubs, the awkwardness of creating a conversation is uncomfortable. At our club, you can get to know many women over a period of time. Over the years I have seen countless friendships develop, many romances and an impressive number of marriages as well. Dancing is a powerful tool if used properly. However, dancing has its limits too. In order for dancing to be an effective way to meet women, men must use common sense. Attention grabbing dance moves or being rude wont win her heart, you will only catch her eye. Ultimately you must be a nice guy too. Women will notice your expertise, but if your considerate of them, they may like you too.

Al Foster

Bill's Corner



William H. O'Brien III

As I come off the lesson floor I am soaked, but I get told this by several people, what's funny is when I hug a female friend and they don't know. That's a towel for me...lol...after that, I head to the bar where I am served by one of the great bartenders. Sometimes I remember their names and sometimes I can't, but anyway, while I'm waiting to be served, I notice how fast they work and the multiple mixed drinks they make, and.....while they are making the mixed drink, they asked you what you want.....amazing talent and excellent bartenders. The next time your waiting patiently for one to serve you, for entertainment, watch them, it's amazing.

The other thing I wanted to mention is how safe Mardi Gras is, as I help Gail carry her CD case out to her SUV on a Friday night, we walk out the front entrance, surrounding my favorite cashier (I don't know her name) are 2 or 3 bouncers. It's great to see this. Any sense of trouble, they are on top of it before it enters the club, and even if trouble is in the club, Walter and his crew are all over it like roaches on wood and it's gone, never to come back. But you know, very seldom is their trouble because of the reputation that Mardi Gras has. You know, when people look at the pictures that Mike Ponte

and I take, they see people having fun and that's what country line dancing is all about, that's what the Diamond Rodeo is all about. A BIG THANKS to John Reedy and his staff for providing all of us with a safe night club.

See you on the dance floor....."END OF DANCE"



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