

July 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
2 Two - Step Lessons	3	4	5 Line Dance Lessons
9 Two - Step Lessons	10	11	12 Line Dance Lessons
16 Two - Step Lessons	17	18	19 Line Dance Lessons
23 Two - Step Lessons	24	25	26 Line Dance Lessons
30 Two - Step Lessons	31		

Sunday - Two Step Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Macera
 Wednesday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Debbie Bliss
 Friday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Shutt
 Cat Country Dance Party Night Every Friday
 Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna



Side - Bar
Comments

Club Hours
 Wednesday 7 PM - 1 AM
 Friday 7 PM - 1 AM
 Saturday 7PM - 1 AM
 Sunday 7 PM - 12 PM

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

Sundays
 Free Two Step Lessons
 with Joe Macera
 7 - 8 PM

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



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July 2000

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**PAUL AND ROBIN
 TAKE IT TO THE
 ALTER!**

Congrats are in definite order to newlyweds Paul and Robin Rathbun wed in contemporary country style center stage right here at Diamond Rodeo! Word has it the May 13 wedding was indeed a joy to behold! After the ceremony the distinguished, fun loving couple clad in non-traditional wedding gear engaged in an eventful evening dancing the night away amongst friends, well-wishers, and onlookers. It goes without saying that this couple is totally smitten with each other. The bride's display of loving attentiveness to her groom and his proud and beaming response reflected the obvious depth of feeling between them. Witnessing their joy was truly inspiring.. restoring faith in new beginnings and "Nuptial Love."
 Showered with best wishes and certain to enjoy wedded bliss, the newlyweds are

wished enduring love, all the very best and more as they turn their sights toward new horizons TOGETHER!

..written by Esther Scittarelli

**WALLFLOWERS,
 YOU SAY?**



Guess again! There was nothing quiet or shy about this group at the Country Line Dance Workshop at East Hill Farms this year! There was plenty of dancing, eating and drinking to do. Tons of fun to be had!



The setting was perfect and the weather was delightful. There were many cozy, comfortable cabins available and the mountains served as a perfect backdrop to the gorgeous scenery. It was a typical farm-like atmosphere (right down to the odor), which set the mood for a relaxing, friendly atmosphere. Most were anxious to already

reserve their places for next year! We even enjoyed the added pleasure of being present for the birth of 13 piglets.

There were other activities available also, for those who tired of dancing. Milking cows and horseback riding were just some of the favorites. Most of us though stuck with the dancing, which was a great way to meet some very nice people. One person in particular stood out among the crowd of about 200 people and that was 'Mad Louie'. He would teach the dances with so much energy and vigor, that you would want so much to learn the dances to please him as well as yourself. He was an inspiration to us all.



Thanks so much to Joe Shutt and Steve Falk for their hard work in organizing this fabulous weekend. They were fantastic instructors and we even reviewed some of the older dances. A great time was had by all.

Submitted by Michaela, Marie, Jane, Rosa and Barbara.

GOOD BALANCE

LEARNING HINTS FOR THE DANCE STUDENT

HINT #1

Learn in small doses; Don't expect to learn everything at once. Some ideas will take weeks or months to "take hold."

HINT #2

Measure your progress against your own previous performance, not against the couple dancing next to you.

HINT #3

Go over what you have learned later in the same evening, even if only for five or ten minutes. By the next day, things will be fuzzy. Practice as often as possible until the next lesson. If you do not practice at all, you will still learn, but progress will be much faster with practice.

HINT #4

Feel free to practice without embarrassment on the dance floor in any dance situation. The people who you think are watching are too worried about their own performances to give you a second thought. They are concerned about living up to someone else's dancing that they admire. Proficiency in dancing is relative. There is always someone better, no matter what your own level is. So being inhibited in public practicing is being foolishly self-defeating; you are not getting the practice and results you need.

HINT #5

Contrary to popular belief, learning is not always a gradual thing. Learning takes place in "spurts." If you feel that you are virtually "standing still," rest assured that you are headed for a learning "spurt."

HINT #6

In social dancing, memorize the entrance to a pattern. Many patterns are forgotten because the preliminary entrance movements have been lost. Invariable, if the entrance steps are remembered, the remainder of the pattern will automatically flow.

HINT #7

The first group of instructions in any dance will enable you to dance the basic essentials, i.e., where your feet are placed, relationship of your dance position to your partner's, and alignment (where you are in relation to the room). The second, third and possible fourth groups of lessons (of the same dance and pattern), whether class or private lessons, will give you a broader understanding, which will enable you to dance more comfortably.

HINT #8

Arguing with your dance partner does not lead to making progress. The process of learning to dance should not be a "grim" experience, but a "fun" activity. Keep things in perspective and keep things "light". You'll learn more efficiently if you both are in a happy frame of mind.

HINT #9

When learning a new pattern, the man should not be totally responsible for leading it. Both must learn the foot pattern, and then the leading skills will be more easily learned.

HINT #10

It is very helpful in learning patterns, to learn the names of the patterns. This will aid tremendously in remembering them.

HINT #11

Become familiar with the music associated with the dance you are learning and

establish where the "one" beat is. Determine whether to start to dance on that first beat or on the "two" beat, as in Cha-Cha. Be aware of the rhythm structure of the dance; i.e., where slows and quicks are or whether the rhythm is even (as in waltz).

Above all, give yourself time to learn. Be kind to yourself and refrain from making unreasonable demands on yourself or your dance partner - enjoy learning as well as dancing!

Janice Levit, Ireland

Sway - Regular Body Movements

The Sway movement is a sideward poise of the torso and upper body, creating a curved line throughout the body between the toe of the free foot and at the head. It is used essentially to counter balance a sideward movement, as in a normal turn, and can be applied to a variety of other Body Lines for added effect. The shoulder dips slightly.

Counter Sway - Contra Body
The Counter Sway movement is a sideward poise of the torso and upper body, creating a straight line between the free leg and the head. It is used mainly to create contrasting lines, as in an Oversway, and for the "swoop" effect in a side lunge. The upper body stretches upward.

Body Roll

Body roll movements are used most effectively in both Smooth and Rhythm dances. They are normally taken as a highlight movement in Open position. All Body Roll movements require a relaxation of the neck muscles in order that

the head can be moved naturally with the line of the body. The action of rolling the upper body begins at the waist, with the upper body following.



Hi Everyone.

I just returned from Raleigh, North Carolina where the line dance marathon was held. It was a three-day event with workshops, evening dances and competition. The event was a qualifier for W.C.W.D.C. world's championships. I did not judge at this event. I did teach and it was a lot of fun. You meet people from everywhere. There were also people from England in attendance. The music being used is still a big controversy. It seems most of the big named choreographers are using non country music. I'm not against non country music as I like most all types of music. When you attend a country western event I would think that is the type of music you will hear. There appears to be two groups of people at most country western events, a younger and older. The younger crowd wants top 40-type music and the older crowd wants country western. Dance is about fun and having a good time. I personally think that there is a bigger market for the country music. There is a lot of good danceable country music out there.

Being a judge and teacher on the national level we have to choreograph dances. I prefer not too but have to. I use country music first and give them a not country option. I have to respect John Ready,

the owner of the Mardi Gras, because he sticks by his guns. The club always seems to be jumping using strictly country music. Although I don't think it would hurt to mix one or two at the most during the course of the night. It would give those who like that type of music a chance to line dance to it.

Keep Dancing
Mad Louie :)



Great Lyrics Lee Ann Womack's I hope you dance

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder, You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger, May you never take one single breath for granted,
GOD forbid love ever leave you empty handed,
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.
I hope you dance....I hope you dance.

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance,
Never settle for the path of least resistance,
Livin' might mean takin' chances but they're worth takin',
Lovin' might be a mistake but it's worth makin',
Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter,
When you come close to sellin' out reconsider,
Give the heavens above more than just a passing

glance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.
I hope you dance....I hope you dance.
I hope you dance....I hope you dance.

(Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along,
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder where those years have gone.)

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.
Dance....I hope you dance.



Country Music Dinner and Dance Cruise With DJ Bob Studley

Tuesday August 22, 2000
from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM
aboard the Bay Queen. 461 Water Street, Warren, RI 02885.

Enjoy a night of Country line and partner dancing Plus a complete dinner buffet while cruising Narragansett Bay aboard The Vista Jubilee. This is the only Country Dinner and Dance cruise scheduled for this Summer.

Tickets are \$33 per person and must be ordered and purchased by July 22, 2000. You must be 21 years of age to purchase tickets. All sales are final. Boarding time 6:15 PM in Warren.

To order tickets or for more information:
Call Bob Studley
(401) 946-2260
Bob Studley has been country dancing for over 5 years. He is a Country DJ and owner of Classic Masters DJ Service.



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