

# November 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Sundays Joe Macera			1 Line Dance Lessons	2	3 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	4 Line Dance Lessons
5 Two - Step Lessons	6	7 ELECTION DAY 	8 Line Dance Lessons	9	10 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	11 Line Dance Lessons
12 Two - Step Lessons	13	14	15 Line Dance Lessons	16	17 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	18 Line Dance Lessons
19 Two - Step Lessons	20	21	22 Line Dance Lessons	23 	24 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	25 Line Dance Lessons
26 Two - Step Lessons	27	28	29 Line Dance Lessons	30	 Fridays Gail McKenna	 Saturdays Joe Shutt
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 Gail McKenna			 Wednesdays Debbie Bliss	Cat Country Dance Party Night Every Friday Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Shutt		



Side - Bar  
Comments

### Club Hours

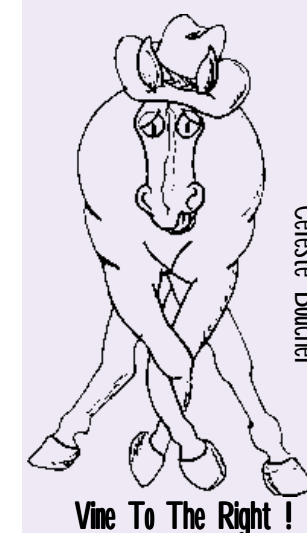
Wednesday 7 PM - 1 A M  
Friday 7 PM - 1 A M  
Saturday 7PM - 1 A M  
Sunday 7 PM - 12 PM

## MARDI GRAS

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Fridays  
Free Line Dance Lessons  
with Gail

This newsletter can be  
viewed on line at  
[www.mikeponte.com/mardigras](http://www.mikeponte.com/mardigras)



Vine To The Right !



Diamond Rodeo Newsletter - Editor, Layout & Photos: Michael Ponte  
Co-editor: Joe Macera  
Writer, Columnist: Esther Scittacelli

November  
2000

interview links  
biography reviews



Congratulations to Lou and Ericka. They placed first overall in their dance category at the northeast country western dance festival. The northeast country western dance festival, held every August in Stamford Ct., is one of many dance competitions held throughout the world during the year. Every competition provides a weekend packed with dance workshops as well couples, line, and team dance competitions. A big dance party held at night, complete with professional dance exhibitions and open dancing in 3 ballrooms, add to the excitement of the weekend. It was this kind of fun filled dancing weekend that provided the setting of Lou and Ericka's second dance competition together.

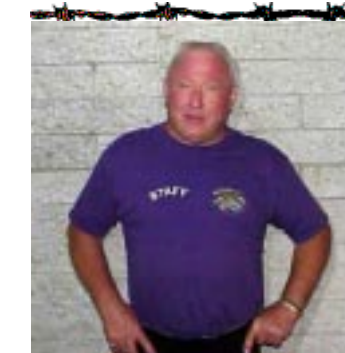
For those unfamiliar with who Lou and Ericka are, well this dynamic couple first met right here, at the diamond rodeo, in the spring of 1999. It all began one night at the Diamond Rodeo when Ericka told Lou she would take him to a George Strait concert in exchange for two-step lessons.

Sticking to this bargain, they went to the concert and shortly after, Lou began teaching Ericka the basics of two-step. Within a matter of a couple of months, in an effort to improve their dancing style and abilities, they began taking private dance lessons with local ballroom and country instructors. Lou also converted Ericka's two car garage into a dance studio to use for practicing and teaching.

This past March, after months of practicing and private lessons, Lou and Ericka decided to enter their first country dance competition together. They chose the big apple country western dance festival, held in New York. Their competition there was tough, but they managed to place mostly second in their individual dances of two-step, cha-cha, west coast swing, east coast swing, and waltz. Their overall outcome was a second place overall finish within their dance category. Soon after returning home, they began preparing for their next competition, the Northeast country western dance festival. Neither was aware that all their hard work and determination was about to pay off. They went into the Northeast competition dancing strong and confidently. Lou and Ericka placed first in two-step and west coast swing with seconds in east coast swing, cha-cha and waltz. Their overall placement was first in their dance category.

On any given night Lou and Ericka can be seen dancing regularly here at the Diamond Rodeo. From everyone at the Diamond Rodeo we wish them continued good luck and success. Keep dancing and see you on the dance floor.

David Solsberg



Walter Bolek

### LET'S GIVE A HOOT TO WALTER!

Yeah! Let's do just that! After all, isn't he Diamond Rodeo's number one veteran bouncer!? Yes, this one has put in his time here for a few years more than one decade! One can recognize him by his distinguished attire. Macho..to be sure..as his appearance present itself in distinctive above the knee shorts and high top sneakers, truly his trademark which he sports so very well due to his manly and muscular presence. Yes, our man who hails from the neighboring Warwick community-is an avid classic car collector-which he enjoys as a sideline among other collectables as well. Certain to have attracted positive

applause at local car shows are his brigade of prideful, polished classics. That I'm sure of!!

This upbeat man is fun to be around as he can tell as well as take a joke...so one can be assured he is a regular participant in the give and take of any fun to be had or manufactured. Notorious for his proverbial sweet tooth, this one can truly smell the presence of a chocolate cake that might be sitting behind closed doors anywhere in this establishment!!

So yes, let's give a hoot to our unique and well respected Walter Bolek! ..And a standing ovation for just being who he is and for his loyalty and dedication.

Written by  
Esther  
Scittarelli  
9/16/00



### Line Dance Workshop at Strawberry Park

The setting was perfect for an ideal weekend of R&R at Strawberry Park's Campground.



The weather was beautiful-sunny + in the 80's. It was even warm enough to enjoy swimming in the huge pools that were available. Not to mention the outdoor Jacuzzis were absolute heaven after a few hours of 'exerting ourselves' line dancing.

Joe Shutt was the dance instructor and he was incredible, as usual. He taught a variety of new and older dances, couples and line

dances. And, there was plenty of time between workshops to enjoy the many other activities that the Park had to offer.

There were scheduled sports games at various times like pool volleyball, soccer softball etc... And, also available at any time were tennis + basketball courts, horseshoe pits and a playground for the kids. There was never a lack of things to do for those very active souls. And then there were the rest of us who just chose to relax in a very peaceful atmosphere.

We'd rented a trailer on site, which is more my idea of camping. We've dubbed it "luxury camping" and it's still so nice to be away from the television and the phones.

But, it's also nice to be off the ground at bedtime and to be able to escape from the bugs and the rain if necessary.

All in all it was a great time, but everyone agreed that adding one more day would have

made it perfect. There was so much packing and planning to do! It just went by too fast!

Of course we met some wonderful people. Everyone is so relaxed and friendly when camping. The atmosphere is just conducive to that. We're already looking forward to next year. Hope we see you all there! What a BLAST that would be!

Michaela, Rosa, Joe + Gina



"I'm tempted to order chicken fingers, if only to find out what they are."

## GOOD BALANCE West Coast Swing

Slotted, 6 - count and 8-count patterns. Depending on the style lots of turns or lots of footwork. Syncopations are common. The man stays pretty much in one place while the woman moves back and forth in a slot. Therefore, it's the woman's movements that are emphasized. There's a lot more hand and arm motion than in the shag to produce figures like left/right passes, tunnels, and various wraps. West Coast developed from the Lindy.

As done in the Swing community the end of patterns typically use an "anchor step" and not a "Coaster step." The follower is discouraged from moving forward under her own power at the end of the pattern. Instead, she hangs out until the guy remembers to lead. Another distinction between the styles has to do with the "rock-step." Purists in the swing community claim there is never a "rock-step" in West Coast; by definition the "rock-step" is Eastern Swing. In practice, the purists are thankfully in the minority. Yet another distinction between the communities is in leverage and being grounded; the ballroom West Coast dancers are more "up" while in the swing community they are more "into the floor." Similarly, in the ballroom circles there is little leverage while in the swing circles many dancers strive for leverage and connection that appears to be more "heavy." Syncopations are used far more frequently in West Coast than in other Swing styles that I am familiar with. One rarely sees syncopations used in the East Coast style or Lindy, but perhaps because there is so much more time available with the slow tempos used for

West Coast, everybody does them. As dancers are learning the West Coast, they typically add syncopations at the end of patterns first. Later, other parts of the rhythm are changed such that the basic 12 3&4 5&6 becomes &12... or 12 &34..., etc. We emphasize footwork, often using a minimum number of patterns. WCS is indeed a slot dance. In theory, the lady should never step outside her slot (except, of course, to avoid colliding with another couple). The man is normally either in the other end of the slot, or immediately next to the slot so that the woman can pass by him. Her assignment, should she choose to accept it, is to get from one end of the slot to the other, preferably doing something stylish in the process. The man either leads her down the slot, or starts her down the slot then blocks her path, forcing her to go back to the end she came from. There are, of course, various turns, spins, fancy footwork and such associated with these maneuvers.

WCS is very improvisational among advanced dancers with "syncopations", i.e. rhythm variations, footwork variations, body waves, etc. Individual styles vary widely. Most of the finalists at the US Open Swing competition have radically different styles. There are no set "rules". There is a lot of leeway for the follower to improvise and add styling and syncopated footwork, typically as she turns around at the end of her slot.

West coast swing is a "slot" dance, which means that the woman travels forward and back along a single straight line on the floor, with the man

moving off of and onto her line. Although there are turning figures, they still keep the woman on her line. The tempo is 28-32 rpm. Figures begin with two walking steps followed by two triple steps (or a triple step, two walks and another triple, in Lindy time figures). The second triple step is generally danced in place and is called the "anchor step;" its main purpose is to reestablish physical tension between the partners, generally achieved by leaning slightly back. The style is very casual and sometimes overtly sexual. Perhaps most important, west coast swing features many "syncopations," which are changes in the basic pattern. The most common is the tap step to replace the first triple step; since both patterns use the same number of weight changes, they are equivalent.

Don Lackey

PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL DANCE  
Simple philosophy of social dancing: One of the most valuable assets you can acquire in life, for it permits you to step forth into a colorful glamorous setting and dance your way to fun, friends and happiness. Rhythm - we all have it: Our hearts beat in rhythm, and we walk in rhythm. Many doctors recommend social dancing as perfect exercise for keeping the lungs and heart strong and healthy. It is also an excellent way to release pent up tensions and forget worries. No special equipment is required to participate, and there is almost no risk of injury. Best of all, dancing teaches the important social graces necessary to relate comfortably to a person of the opposite sex.

Jack Henley - Dancing USA

### PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL DANCE

CLASS  
Class is lots of things, and not a lot of other things. Class never runs scared. It is sure-footed and confident. It can handle whatever comes along. Class has a sense of humor. It knows that a good laugh is the best lubricant for oiling the machinery of human relations. Class never makes excuses. It takes its lumps and learns from past mistakes. Class knows that good manners are nothing more than a series of small, inconsequential sacrifices. Class bespeaks an aristocracy that has nothing to do with ancestors or money. Some wealthy "blue bloods" have no class, while individuals who are struggling to make ends meet are loaded with it. Class is real. It can't be faked. Class never tried to build itself up by tearing others down. Class is already up and need not strive to look better by making others look worse. Class can "walk with kings and keep its virtue and talk with crowds and keep the common touch." Everyone is comfortable with the person who has class because that person is comfortable with himself. If you have class, you've got it made. If you don't have class, no matter what else you have, it doesn't make any difference.

Ann Landers

Ann Landers

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### Ann Landers

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LuAnn's horse "Allee", an Arabian, and her Dog "Sara" are shown here begging for a carrot.



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