

September 2000

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

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

Fridays
 Free Line Dance Lessons
 with Gail

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



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

September
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interview links

bioGraphy reviews



Lu Ann & Mike Grafe
 Mike and LuAnn are engaged to be married in May of 2001, but the whole thing started back in June of 1999. Right here at the Diamond Rodeo. It was a Friday night, of course, and Mike's first time at the club. They didn't dance together that night, but fate sat them next to each other at the long "Mardi Gras" table for breakfast at Bickfords. Mike was invited to breakfast by Amy and Carolyn, where he was introduced to Pete, a fixture on the hardwood, and other Friday night regulars including LuAnn.

The following Friday they danced together for the first time at the Diamond Rodeo and have been together ever since. There is no doubt that this energetic couple found true love at the Diamond Rodeo, where you'll see them smiling on the dance floor every Friday night.

SPOTLIGHT ON TABLE ONE!

Let's talk about table one! ..A comfortable bunch. Let's see.. First and foremost, there's Russ..the predominant one, who, notorious for



Ron, Russ and Stephenie his colorful persona, to say the very least, lends a great sense of Pizzazz to this table's ambiance. Yes, coupled with this is added a generous bit of vivid wit, drama and comedic antics affording entertainment to the group's regular weekly presence. And there you have Russ in a nutshell! This cowboy's spontaneous, ever so direct, bluntly comedic comments, renditions and outbursts, sometimes bordering on satire, poke fun and sport at the obvious, and tell me this fun loving man (to whom all of this innate talent comes naturally) could very easily do stand up comedy as a sideline.. Yes he is that sharp, witty on command and that funny as well as fun to be around! Never a dull moment with Russ as the head of this table.

Then to Russ's left sits his significant dance partner, Joanie. This very distinguished lady brings to the table a bit of feminine polish and sophistication. Trim and always impeccably dressed in moderate country gear, she stands back at the same time that she definitely stands out!! And, then, of course, also a

comforting regular, is Russ's sidekick, John. A good ole boy. Often times he can be found following Russ to the pool game table. Yet, noticeably missing of late.. is a certain someone whose weekly presence sat shot gun to Russ at this well known and proverbial TABLE ONE. This vacant bar stool had always been otherwise



John & Ron

occupied by Russ's buddy and pool ally, Ron Hill, a highly revered Diamond Rodeo patron of long standing. Word has it absence is due to his being under the weather of late and not feeling up to par enough to boot scoot the night away. Our sincere message to Ron is this: "Feel better fast and get back to scootin' with the rest of us, as your weekly presence is sorely missed by all. Ya hear!? Amen!

..written by Esther Scittaeli

Some people come for the dancing, others for the multi-cultural experience that's provided by having so many clubs in one building, some enjoy the atmosphere of the country scene, and still others come just to see the great friends that they've made while they were here. What we don't stop and think about very often is the staff that's



Don, bartender -bouncer here to make our night's more enjoyable. And just recently, one of those staff members has crossed the line from being there for us, to being there with us.

As a bartender and a bouncer, he is one of the best at what he does. The service is always fast and exceptionally well done. He always makes time to listen when you need an ear to bend, or laugh when you have something funny to tell him. Most bartenders go out of their way as to remember not only what drink you're having, but exactly how you like it. However, very few manage to learn everyone's name and make them feel at home while we're here. It's a good feeling to have someone around who notices if someone is drinking too much, and tries to get their friend's attention to make sure that they're going to get home safely instead of getting behind the wheel. His nose for sniffing out trouble and putting a stop to it before it even gets started creates a much safer and happier atmosphere for all of us. For all that this man has given to us, it was easy to be cordial to him when he decided to start coming in for a few drinks and a little dancing. What I wasn't expecting though, was the man that I met.

Easy to get along with would be an understatement. His knowledge on so many different subjects has of ten left me standing with my mouth hanging open in a state of awe. Never before have I heard so many of someone's

life experiences and been fascinated with them to the point where I lose myself in the story, and feel like I've been there myself. And no matter where he's been or what he's done, he never let's that knowledge and experience come across like he's better than any of us. I've learned that when this particular man calls you a friend, you should consider yourself blessed. He'll always be there for you when you just need to make small-talk to take your mind off something else. He's always willing to listen - not just hear, but really listen - when something is troubling you. He's the first one to make you laugh if you're a little bit stressed out from your day, and he's the first to tell you if you're making an ass out of yourself. It's that multi-faceted personality that makes him such a unique individual. To those who have taken the time to get to know him, he is priceless. And for those who have yet to let your lives be touched by him, you don't know what you're missing. So let's take this opportunity to say "Thank You, Don" - for your impeccable services, and your irreplaceable friendship. It's not every day that we get to meet someone who can single-handedly make our lives a better place to be. I look forward to continuing getting to know just what has made you into the man that you are today. And in the meantime, I am both privileged and honored to call you my friend.

Writer wishes to remain anonymous

THIS ONE STANDS BACK. YET STANDS OUT!

Behind the scenes.. quietly and inconspicuously, Joe Macera stands back.. but at the same time stands out! And without any effort. A vet-



Joe Macera

eran dancer both ballroom and country.. Joe, shares his Sunday night two-steppin' hirts not only on footwork but on the importance of posture, balance, rhythm and style. All crucial ingredients to becoming accomplished, with precision footwork and presence. You can't have one and not the other to appear complete and wonderful to look at! His valuable input is noteworthy to say the very least. He seeks no applause yet is deserving of it! I know I speak for all when stating.. that we are privileged to be allowed the pleasure of his Sunday night two-step lessons.. his tips so crucial to a winning dance appearance!

written by Esther Scittarelli

My Nite Out



Rita Polce

It's 6:40 PM. The phone rings. The voice on the other end asks the question, "are we on go?" I answer quickly with the words, "I'm ready." This has become a routine on Wednesday and Friday nights for the last few years. These words mean it's time to forget the trials of everyday life and to release the tensions of

the week with a trip to Mardi Gras and the Diamond Rodeo to move our feet to good country music. There will be many familiar faces who have gotten to be friends. We greet everyone and someone always asks "I wonder what dances we will learn tonight?" There are also new people every week who are fascinated by watching and want to learn the many intricate steps they see performed. Someone always takes the new people under their wings and teaches them some of the steps. Once they learn a dance they become new members of a special group of country dancers. This is the IN place where people of all ages and all walks of life come to enjoy an evening of good conversation, great dancing, and the upbeat atmosphere of a great country club.

To add to the pleasure of the evening the DJs are there to please all the dancers. A certain DJ even adds a few fun games, which really pleases everyone. When this DJ asks the question "Is everyone having fun?" The loud cheers echo through the Diamond Rodeo. On Friday nights 98.1 radio station is there to give away prizes and make it really a party night.

I know, I personally and many of the people who attend regularly leave the Diamond Rodeo with a feeling of satisfaction that the night was a definite plus in their lives. Everyone needs a release from tension and the everyday blahs and the Diamond Rodeo is our release. I know the phone will ring at 6:40 PM on Wednesday and Friday nights and this is what I look forward to every week. Yes! I'm ready to enjoy another fun filled night at the Diamond Rodeo because I know I'm a country girl.

GOOD BALANCE DANCE ETIQUETTE

When we hear the word etiquette in relation to "Dance". We right away think of "Dance Floor Etiquette". This is good, but etiquette in relationship to dance should be extended beyond the dance floor.

Before The Dance

Take special care with personal grooming. You will be dancing with other people so you want to start out fresh and clean both in body and clothing. PLEASE DO NOT NEGLECT under arm deodorant. While you may not notice the need, you can be sure that others DO! Go lightly on the cologne or perfume. If you tend to perspire heavily, take along a hand towel and an extra clean shirt.

At The Dance

When dancing, fresh breath is a must. Take along breath mints or sprays. Your partner will appreciate this. Stay away from onions, garlic and spicy foods when you know you're going to be dancing "cheek to cheek." If someone offers you a breath mint, take it. They may be trying to tell you something!

When asking someone to dance, state what you plan to do, i. e., "May I have this Two Step" or "Would you like to West Coast Swing". A person likes to know what dance is expected of them before stepping onto the dance floor. This is the 90's and it is appropriate for ladies to ask a gentleman to dance.

If you must turn down a dance invitation (because of being tired or other reasons), thank the person for asking. You may want to offer to dance with them later on, i.e.,

"I would like to sit this one out but could we dance the next Waltz?" If you really don't want to ever dance with that person, you might want to give an EXCEEDINGLY polite hint to say why.

* Don't attempt to teach while social dancing.

Dance to your partner's level. Showing off all the fancy turns and spins to a new partner is not a good idea. Always start with a few basic, simple turns. If your partner handles those well, then gradually add more advanced turns. NEVER attempt to show off. It will only embarrass your partner.

Adjust your dancing to fit the space on the dance floor. If the floor is crowded, keep your steps small. Save those fancy dance moves that take up space for another time when the floor is less crowded. Always take the initiative to acknowledge and apologize if accidentally bumping into someone or step on someone's foot. Keeping your weight forward on the balls of your feet will minimize damage when your foot finds another beneath it. Missed hands, turns, etc. need not require an apology to your partner. Don't worry about giving a bad lead or not following perfectly. It's only dancing and dancing is for fun. Relax and enjoy.

How close should you hold your partner? Let the lady determine how close she feels comfortable dancing with her partner

by Geneva Matteis




Mardi Gras First Annual Golf Tournament
Sunday, October 29, 2000
Chemawa Country Club, N. Attleboro, MA
508-399-7330

8:00 a.m. Tee off time! \$55 per person includes golf fees, cart, food and prizes! See DJ or contact Mardi Gras at 401-463-3080



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