

# February 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Sundays</b> Joe Macera			 <b>Wednesdays</b> Debbie Bliss	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>3</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>4</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>10</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>11</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Line Dance Lessons 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>17</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>18</b> Two - Step Lessons		<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>24</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>25</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Line Dance Lessons		 <b>Fridays</b> Gail McKenna	 <b>Saturdays</b> 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 Cat Country Dance Party Night Every Friday Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Shutt				  <p>"Come on, spill it! What kind of dirt did you pick up in the bedroom?"</p>		



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

Fridays  
 Free Line Dance Lessons  
 with Gail McKenna  
 7 - 8 PM

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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



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

**February**  
**2001**

**interview** | **links**  
**biography** | **reviews**

Hello to everyone at  
 the Diamond Rodeo.



**Mike Camara**

My name is Michael Camara. My friend Joe Mecera has asked me to tell you a little bit about myself and the Diamond Rodeo.

I have been coming to Mardi Gras (back then Mustang Sally's) since 1992 even before the Diamond Rodeo.

Back then the Diamond Rodeo was a sport's bar, with table tennis, basketball, video games, and a slot car race track under the bar. Friends and I would start our nights there, waiting for the dancing to start on the Mustangs side.

If my memory is correct the making of the Diamond Rodeo started in the later part of 1992.

In Feb., 1993, I started to learn country line dancing at a six week work shop at Kent Hospital where I work.

After that course, I was hooked country dancing. Started then and is still today a big part of my social and recreational side of life.

I have danced at and have taken lessons from just about every country and western establishment in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. I have danced in the Catskills and Manhattan and even Vegas. I always come back to the Diamond Rodeo though as my favorite weekend dance spot.

After taking line, couples and free style lessons for 2 years, I started to write down dance steps that I liked. In the beginning of 1995, I choreographed my first line and partner dance called "Eazy Coin". Even though they were published in the country dance Magazine called CDL (Country Dance Lines) (back then the Bible of Dance instructors) the dance did not catch on very well.

A few months later I got the itch again to write a dance. So I got together with my friend Dan and we put together a dance that even today is my most popular dance and that is "My Maria". It is nice even today to receive calls from all over the world from different choreographers asking about the dance. I have written 6 dances all total now with my latest, again with my friend Dan is "Six Pack Summer". This I hope will catch on at the Diamond Rodeo.

Even today I take lessons every week and try to get to

the Diamond Rodeo at least once a week on Friday or Saturday.

Also in 1995, I met my wife to be at the diamond rodeo, and in August of 1997, we were married on the dance floor there under the saddle. It was a great day with over 150 family and friends dancing the day away.

So if you see me around don't forget to say hi. I try to say hi to everyone so if I missed you just say hi first.

Remember country dancers are probably the most friendly people that you will meet at any kind of club you go to. If you are new at country dancing don't get discouraged, we all started out at the beginning, and remember to ask us for help and advise, if we haven't already tried to help.

Always remember why we are here at the Diamond Rodeo, that is to have fun.

Thanks for your time  
 See you on the dance floor.  
 Michael Camara



**Hello to all**

A special thanks to Mike Ponte for taking our picture. Deb Phelan and I (Bill O'Brien) have been Country line dancing for about 2 1/2 years.

Deb and I both enjoy couples and line dancing. I now believe in the saying that the Mardi Gras' dance floor is magical at bringing couples together. Deb and I met here 3 months ago and are head

over heals crazy about each other. Deb calls me her gentle "man" and she is my country girl. We are an extremely compatible pair. Many of our country folk have expressed what a great looking couple we make. We both THANK YOU for such a wonderful compliment.

Deb has been a professional hair stylist for 15 years and is still loving it. You can find her at SuperCuts on Bald Hill Road. Those who have had their hair cut by her say that "she is the best" and that she is!!!! Deb has two beautiful sons, Brandon (8) and Evan



**Debbie Phelan & Bill O'Brien**

(6). Between you and I, I have never come across such a wonderful mother who cares for and loves her children tremendously.

As for myself, I am a cable TV technician at StarLight Communications, which is privately owned by Picerne Properties. Since my employment here I have been nicknamed "The Cable Man". I have previously worked as a Disc Jockey for 6 years in Ohio. There my nickname was Wild Bill. I have also owned and operated my own DJ business for 18 years. Thank you Mardi Gras' for making a perfect match!!!! Love,  
Deb and Bill

### PROFILE OF A DANCER

Scenario: He enters the Diamond alone..a tall, distinguished presence, almost mysterious in his prominent black gear. Yes, long dark duster, black renegade style Stetson set foremost atop his head, making his way in long purposeful strides to his usual spot at a far, dark corner from which we won't see him emerge for quite some time. In fact, at this point one might almost say he's anonymous. Anonymous. But only for a time. That is..until later..when the hype of the night and music settle in. Typically, a rhythmic west coast swing tune or a smooth two-step will move him into a dance mode. Then, inconspicuously, he ultimately emerges with smooth confidence onto the Diamond's hardwood, a top choice, feminine dance compliment in tow. As the music plays out..his dance excellence unfolds, destined to attract audience awe..all the while he is noticeably, completely unaware of its effect. Yes, this seasoned dancer, is notorious not only for his distinguished hat and presence but more importantly for his high caliber dance significance. A compelling lead is truly apparent as we are witness to his smooth yet sensual quality of dance movement no one else can best. Impeccably so, his.."best in the east"..west coast dance presence presents itself with captivating, L.A. California style, encompassing using the body or body stances to lead dance moves, which he incorporates with ease and all the right ingredients-posture, sophisticated yet subtly sensual dance attitude, precision foot work, syncopated, well executed amalgamations and personalized signature style. Certain to mesmerize with a true sense of

dance rhythm and partner communication on the dance floor resulting in nothing less than poetry in motion. Whether it be his precision two-steppin' or his west coast swing flair..both of which are more than mere footwork, his personalized signature style brings viewing pleasure to those of us who can only enjoy it vicariously. Hats off to this significant country dancer whose audience holds his dance excellence in high esteem on the positive side of envy.

Yes, there are dancers, and then there are dancers. Applause and hats off to one who stands back at the same time that he definitely stands out. To one whose anonymity at this writing is finally revealed. Yes, JOE (the mailman), to be sure, all agree.."You're one hard act to follow!"



..written by Esther Scittarelli

### NEWS FROM NASHVILLE 1-21-01

Hello everyone from Nashville! How's the weather up there? I'm being blamed for bringing the cold and snow down here with me...Soooo much snow; up to an inch at any one time! hehehe!! I've been keeping busy with work and, of course, dancing at The Wildhorse and at Denim & Diamonds....Mostly

at The Wildhorse Saloon, though...They had a great New Year's Eve party featuring Trick Pony. Their single, "Pour Me" is moving up the charts, and they're moving up, too... Ya know, they got their start at The Wildhorse Saloon.

This weekend, Mary Sue Englund and her band, The Crew played There.. They sounded great, and put on a wonderful show.. I really do think you'll be hearing more about her... their CD is called "Somewhere In Between".

The Grand Ole Opry is playing at The Ryman Auditorium here in Nashville every weekend until February 24th... and what a line-up!! The weekend of January 26th should be an exciting one there..Some of the stars playing will be Darryl Worley, BJ Thomas, Martina McBride, Holly Dunn, Lee Greenwood, Ricky Skaggs, The Whites, and Kenny Chesney....and others!!

I've already got my ticket (and the price is reasonable-\$25 and \$35)... So, in next month's issue I'll give You all the rundown on that show.

Oh... And did You know?

Brad Paisley will become the newest member of The Grand Ole Opry on February 17th... And..... Emmy Lou Harris (yep, Emmy Lou Harris haven't heard much from her in a while) will release "EMMY LOU HARRIS ANTHOLOGY" on April 17th...Included on "ELH ANTHOLOGY" will be "Mama Help", "Precious Love", "Timberline", and "Driving Wheel", just to name a few... Well, That's about it from Nashville for now..So, until next time....Stay warm....Be happy... And KEEP DANCIN'!

Harry Pratt



## HOW MANY DANCES DO YOU KNOW?

By Bob Crossman

After a little research, we discovered that we have taught 316 dances. That is 237 line dances and 79 partner dances. Of course, everyone has their favorites, that will be popular for years. Dizzy, Tush Push, Slappin' Leather, Watermelon Crawl, Crusin', to name only a few. Then we have the current favorites-Poor Boy Shuffle, Prairie Strut, Mambo #5, etc., etc., etc. Along with your favorites there are the don't likes, and this is perfectly OK. We have some that we've taught, that we think were dogs. What you as students must do is keep the favorites foremost in your mind and let the others go. If they were any good at all, they'll come back to mind when you see them again. Many times new music can make a world of difference with an old dance, it revives the dance and everyone is dancing it again.

Only a few people are gifted or diligent enough to remember all the dances that we have taught. The mind normally retains that which it thinks is important and pushes the rest to a subterranean level. So don't think that you are abnormal or that you are having an onset of Alzheimers, if you can't remember all the dances. Few of us can remember them all. Your favorite might not be the favorite of the dancer next to you and theirs not your. So the next time you hit the hardwoods, look for the person who knows and executes that dance with style and grace, stand by them and we bet it will come back to you. It's probably one

of their favorites. If you have some dances which you really liked, but would feel more comfortable with them, if we reviewed them-put them on the list of favorite dances and we will review them. Going through dances that you've learned before is always a golden opportunity to work on weight distribution, styling, and the count and retention. Sometimes during the first go at a new dance, it's so easy to miss some important styling and steps. Dancing isn't a horse race, no first prize for the person who knows the biggest number. The prize in dancing, for years to come, is personal fulfillment, self confidence, poise, grace, and FUN!!

### Spotting

In preparation for doing any type of turns you must know how to turn without getting dizzy.

Spotting is a movement of the head during turns in which the eyes are focused on a particular spot in the direction of the progression, and the head is snapped at the last possible moment, to focus upon the same spot again.

A 1/8 turn is taken diagonal to wall or center, a 45 degree turn. A 1/4 turn is a one wall turn, a 90 degree turn. A 1/2 turn is a two wall turn, a 180 degree turn. A 3/4 turn is a three wall turn, a 270 degree turn. A full turn is a four wall turn, a 360 degree turn (a full revolution).



### LOU VALENTINO

**DANCE LESSONS**  
2 Step - East Coast  
Waltz - West Coast  
And More...

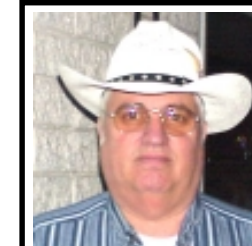
Call For More Information  
401-231-4794



Disc Jockey  
Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays  
Corporate Parties, Holiday Parties,  
Banquets, Reunions, Nightclubs

(401) 474-4938  
Cranston, R.I. 02920

DJ Joe D  
entertainmentdj@yahoo.com



Structural / Mechanical  
Termite - FHA - VA Certified  
203 (K) Consultant

**Alto Building Inspections**  
Principal Inspector  
R.J. Marchand

Tel : (401) 823-1391  
Fax : (401) 823-9163

Beeper: (401) 954-3811