

June 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Sundays Joe Macera					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	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
Sunday - Two Step Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Macera Wednesday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Debbie Bliss Friday & Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna			 Wednesdays Debbie Bliss	 Fridays Gail McKenna	Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00	



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

Wednesday Night
 Line Dance Lessons at
 7:00 with Debbie Bliss

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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



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

June 2001

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Our Special Moment

Our life before country dancing was a very ordinary one. On Saturday we might go to a show and stop for a late night snack and then go home. We even went to a few dance clubs on occasion but nothing really interested us as much as the new contemporary Country music and dancing.

I'll never forget the Saturday night we sat with our husbands at one of the local restaurants and the sound of "Achy Breaky Heart" filled the room. We learned a new country singer named Billy Ray Cyrus had recorded this new country song and it was becoming a big hit. We also learned a man named Joe Shutt was giving Country dance lessons at a place called Mustang Sally's. We wasted no time going to this club and one of the dances he taught was the "Achy Breaky". The dance turned out to be a big craze and everyone wanted to learn it. We learned it so well we even got into a contest to determine the best Achy Breaky dancer. We came in first and second place.

This was not enough for us. We needed more. We heard Billy Ray Cyrus was coming to the Civic Center and we knew we had to see him in person. He was just so handsome and so talented and we were two of his big-



Rita Polce, Billy Ray Cyrus and Ilda Matteo

gest fans.

We went to the box office as soon as the tickets went on sale. The night of the performance we dressed in our country clothes and we arrived at the Civic Center early. A nice gentleman came up to us and said he was Billy's manager and would we like to meet him and take a picture with him. Well we were sure we died and went to heaven. This was just unbelievable.

After his terrific performance we were summoned into his dressing room. He was just so friendly and polite and he asked us questions about our families. He was basically a very nice person. We posed for a picture with him before we left and he gave us an autographed picture to remember him by. The kiss we received on our cheek just added to the excitement of the moment.

If we had to pick a special moment in our lives this

would certainly be near the top of our list. We watch his recent acting venture as "Doc Cassidy" on the television show titled "Doc". He certainly proves he is not only a great singer but an excellent actor as well. We wish him success in his acting venture and feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to meet this very talented entertainer. Just why we happened to be in the right place at the right time is a mystery to us but we're glad we were.

Needless to say we are still country dancing and even our husbands enjoy coming to the Diamond Rodeo on Saturday nights. We found a place where we can relax and enjoy the good music and the country dancing. One thing is for sure we'll remember our special moment with Billy Ray Cyrus forever.

Rita Polce & Ilda Matteo



Joe Shutt

THOUGH PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW.. GOOD-BYE IS NEVER FOREVER WHEN YOU KNOW THAT PEOPLE CARE..AND WE DO!!

Let's hope it's a temporary hiatus with regard to country dance guru, Joe Shutt's noticeable absence from those trendy weekly instructionals at the Diamond's hardwood. Surely this great dance step informant, unique in his own endearing manner and teaching expertise which has always been expressed with an ease and style only Joe Shutt can deliver, is sorely missed!

So, Joe.. this we say to you: "Be sure to concentrate on healing that angry knee of yours!!" Cause we're all rootin' and hootin' for a rapid recovery and the possibility of your return someday (eh?)..to pick up where ya left off and once again share with us your impeccable teaching talent! !

Applause and a standing ovation for all that you are and all that you've done! Bouquets to you! Oh, and P.S., .."FEEL BETTER FAST! YA HEAR!?"

..written by Esther Scittarelli

A Tribute to the MAN

I've been doing a little writing lately for the Diamond Rodeo Newsletter. I've written about how I enjoy the club and about a few of its patrons who have made a definite impression on myself and others but I've left one very important person out of my articles. He's a person who really enjoys country music and dancing and also country attire because he always looks so at home in his western wear. He's also very important to our own Diamond Rodeo Newsletter. Without him and his expertise at putting together our very interesting newsletter, we would not get all the bits of news and the great photos that appear in the monthly edition. We all know what a big job it must be to set up the articles and print enough copies so everyone can enjoy reading and keeping up with all the goings on at the club and in country music. Hail to our Editor, Michael Ponte.

Mike is at the club every Friday with his wife Sue and also his trusty camera that is always ready to capture a picture or two for the newsletter. Along with his co-editor, Joe Macera, they work at putting together a paper we will all enjoy. Mike is quite a computer enthusiast. He's right on top of any new software and I'm sure spends quite a bit of leisure time at his computer. Sue can testify to that I'm sure. He and Sue went on vacation but before he left he had April's newsletter all set up and ready to go to print when he returned home. Now that is devotion. He also has his own Web Site. Take a look; it's quite interesting.

Sometimes we're apt to take things in life for granted but I hope after reading this article that each of you will go

up to Mike on a Friday evening (not while he's on the dance floor because dancing comes first to Mike) and say thanks, I enjoy your Diamond Rodeo Newsletter. Thanks for taking the time so we can enjoy reading some interesting articles. I'm sure both Mike and Joe would appreciate it if you wrote an article for them to publish. I know you all have something to say which I'm sure everyone would be interested in reading in the future. After all country dancers are intelligent, witty, and able to do almost anything they put their minds to.

Mike, keep up the good work we've become accustomed to because the newsletter has never been better. We appreciate what you and Joe do to make the Diamond Rodeo special and we'll try to keep the articles coming. I know you will be reluctant to print this article because it's about you but I'm sure everyone would like to know just how much work goes into preparing the newsletter so let the presses roll.

Rita Polce

BEETLE CRUSHERS

If God wanted us to look at the floor he would have positioned our eyes in our kneecaps. Well-Why do we do it? -Look at the floor all the time. Are we frightened that our feet are doing something that they shouldn't or are we frightened that they will disappear forever (our feet I mean).

How many dancers go out on the floor and tread beetles. Yes, they seem to be looking for beetles to tread or they

seem to have lost their feet or something. Then it surprises me to find when the music stops they come off the floor all smiles. Could they have trodden on shall we say a hundred beetles only to go back onto the floor as the music starts to resume their (eliminate the beetles vendetta) once more? LOOK UP! Don't be shy. There is light up there and it helps you to see where you are going. By looking up it also looks professional. It helps to keep your posture. It helps to keep your balance. And above all, it helps you to look as if you know the dance. Not only do you look good but you feel good. It lets you smile at other people. And yes, if you are brave enough-really brave enough, you can even TALK to other dancers without missing the steps.

A PARTNERSHIP OF DANCE

Most people, when thinking about getting into Country Western dancing or competition for the first time, want to learn turns. They don't realize that dance comes before turns. They learn turns, and their footwork and hand exchanges are nonexistent. They never took the time to learn to dance before turns. The two-step, for example, is more than four steps, two shorts and two longs, done to six beats of music. Two people must learn to move as one, to any two-step rhythm, slow, medium, or fast tempo. They must move smoothly, and their steps must be the same. It takes more than one or two weeks to accomplish this. Some couples dance together for months before they begin to move as one. Patience and

GOOD BALANCE

desire to start Country Western with good basics is essential. Once the basics are mastered a dancer can grow to any level desired with confidence and enjoyment. Turns are variations added to a dance. When dancers move as one to the best of the music without thinking about it, then and only then are they ready for turns. At every event there will be couples that put so many turns and moves into their dance that the dance itself is lost in all the turns and moves. The most important part of dancing is to be able to perform a dance with the proper steps, in time with the music and moving as one. Webster's Dictionary defines one part of "partners" as either of two persons dancing together. "Partnership" is defined as the relationship of partners, joined interest. Before a couple can dance together as partners, they must have a relationship with mutual respect for each other. This is a "partnership of dance." One partner cannot always be right and the other always wrong. Preparing for competition will test that relationship unless the partner is more important than competition. We all want to win, but winning or losing is not important if it makes for conflict between two people. The old saying "It takes two to Tango" means just that. It takes two dedicated people. Country Western dancing can be one of the most enjoyable parts of life, or it can be hell. It all comes down to "A Partnership of Dance." Respect each other and the rest will take care of itself. Enjoy Country Western dancing as something you

accomplish together and let egos alone! CONFIDENCE

Confidence is not something a few people are born with and others are born without it is an acquired characteristic. Nobody is born confident. The most gifted individual has to construct confidence on the basis of faith and experience, like everyone else. Confidence is delight-in living, in being who you are, in liking what you do. Confidence is that quality which refuses to stay defeated, a kind of stubborn cheerfulness. Confidence can be acquired and nothing can stop you from attaining it.

HOW TO BEGIN TO LEARN TO DANCE

- 1. Learn the dance pattern. 2. Learn to lead or follow your partner. 3. Learn where the emphasis point is in each dance pattern. 4. Learn to "hear" the music. 5. Move from the back muscles and rib cage area. 6. Learn both parts-learn to lead as well as follow.

Remember

The torso (center) moves first, then the legs and feet. When transporting weight from one foot to the other, be sure the free leg and foot pass close to the weighted leg and foot. The legs and feet should never reach out beyond the radius of the upper body.

Something to think about: "Live like there is no tomorrow." "Love like you have never been hurt." "Dance as if no one is watching!" ...submitted but not written by Esther Scittarelli



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Photo of a man in a cowboy hat and contact info for Alto Building Inspections. Structural / Mechanical, Termite - FHA - VA Certified, 203 (K) Consultant. Principal Inspector R.J. Marchand. Tel: (401) 823-1391, Fax: (401) 823-9163, Beeper: (401) 954-3811.