

March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Sundays Joe Macera			 Wednesdays Debbie Bliss	1	2 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	3 Line Dance Lessons
4 Two - Step Lessons	5	6	7 Line Dance Lessons	8	9 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	10 Line Dance Lessons
11 Two - Step Lessons	12	13	14	15	16 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	17 Line Dance Lessons
18 Two - Step Lessons	19	20	21 Line Dance Lessons	22	23 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	24 Line Dance Lessons
25 Two - Step Lessons	26	27	28 Line Dance Lessons	29	30 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	31 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 AM
 Friday 7 PM - 1 AM
 Saturday 7PM - 1 AM
 Sunday 7 PM - 12 PM

MARDI GRAS

1500 Oaklawn Ave.
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Fridays
 Free Line Dance Lessons
 with Gail McKenna
 7 - 8 PM

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

March 2001

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Love At First Sight

Although our romance blossomed at Mustang Sally's, it actually began at Desperado's in the Spring of 1994, at least for my husband. That's when we first met. It was my first time at Desperado's & my first experience with country dancing. I was there with some friends I work with, one of which had won an office party at Desperado's. I knew nothing about country dancing, but it looked like so much fun that I just had to try it. So I took some line dance lessons that night which were taught by Joe Shutt. Lawrence came and danced right beside me trying to show me the dance steps. Then later in the evening he tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to dance with him. I told him I didn't know how, but he very graciously offered to show me. Although I was married,



Sharon & Lawrence

it seemed harmless enough, so I danced a few couple dances with him. I had no intention of ever going back to Desperado's because I didn't like the location. About 1 1/2 years later I had the unfortunate experience of going through a divorce. Over this 1 1/2 years however, I began taking country line dance lessons at Mustangs'. I enjoyed it so much I decided to go one Thursday night with a girlfriend of mine. It was that night that I met Lawrence again, only it had been so long that I didn't even recognize him. He kept telling me that I looked familiar. I had cut my hair so I didn't look exactly the way he had remembered me. When he found out that I had gone to Desperado's only once, about 1 1/2 years ago, he knew right away that I was the same woman that he danced with that night. He insists that he fell in love with me at first sight, and that he intently watched the crowd every time he went to Desperado's to see if I was there. He said he never forgot about me, and when he saw me again 1 1/2 years later, he immediately had those same feelings. Needless to say, it's been an incredible romance ever since. We married on Oct 14, 1998 in Las Vegas, and our love and passion towards each other continues to grow stronger every day. It's the most incredible love affair I've ever known! For us, everyday is Valentine's Day.

Sharon Ellis

The Newest Member of the WHY? Club



Jaimie & Freddie Edwards

Hi, my name is Hunter G. Edwards. I was born to Jaimie and Freddie on December 22, 2000. My mom and dad met in The Diamond Rodeo last February. To say the least it was love at first sight. A couple of two steps and a watermelon crawl and my mom and dad decided to combine their families. Almost a year later and here I am, the youngest of nine children ages 12, 11, 10, 10, 7, 6, 5, 4 and me. I was born a real country fan. My mom and dad spent a lot of time on the dance floor at the Diamond Rodeo for those nine months. I was born to Collen Ray's "Little Red Rodeo: and my favorite lullaby is "The Dance" by Garth Brooks, preferably at 2am sung by my dad. A Great deal of thanks goes out to all of our friends and everyone that has inquired about me. Mom and dad really appreciate it. The Diamond Rodeo is a great place to hang out, dance and make great friends. There is truly something magic about it. I can't wait until I am old enough to

come and have some fun, but until then you can find my mom and dad (Jaime and Freddie) there on Saturday nights.



Hunter G. Edwards

Although many of you may recognize him, some have not been properly introduced. I would like you to meet Joe King. "Joe" will suit him just fine, as he is not fond of nicknames (baby, darling, honey or dear will not signify a response).



Joe King

He is a technical writer for American Power Conversion in West Kingston. He is currently single (divorced many years ago) and recently moved to Richmond. He loves children (but has none of his own), animals & elderly people.

Joe has been a regular patron of Mardi Gras and the Diamond Rodeo for the past 8 years. You will usually find him sitting at the bar enjoying a glass of Glenlivet "on the rocks" and socializing with all around him.

He is known to be thoughtful, generous and treat all people as equals. He will not take part in any jokes, comments

or conversations that will fir degraded particular sex, race, or nationality. He expects nothing from others except to be treated with the same respect he gives you (if shown otherwise you will have just lost a friend). Take the time to get to know him and you will see he is basically a good guy with a big heart!

p.s.

His biggest secret is that he is really very very shy. He prefers to call it "Situational Uncertainty".

Written by Melissa Augaitis



Melissa Augaitis

What is Fan Fair?

Fain Fair is the largest country music festival in the United States. It includes concerts from today's top country artists and exhibits. Some of the exhibits will feature aspiring artists booths and fan club booths as well as "lifestyle" and "commercial" booths. All exhibits will be open from loam to 4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from loam to 3pm on Sunday. This year it is expected to draw crowds of 50,000 people. With that many people it is expected to bring in close to \$30 to \$40 million. So when is Fan Fair? This year's Fan Fair is scheduled to take place June 14-17. It is different than previous years in the respect that it use to be a mid-week fair and now it will take place over a long weekend. There is another significant change to

this years fair. The fair is usually held on the Tennessee State Fair grounds but this year it is going to take place on several different sites in downtown Nashville. The benefits to this are the numerous restaurants that will be close at hand for travelers and there will be many entertainment booths and dealers to shop at while downtown.

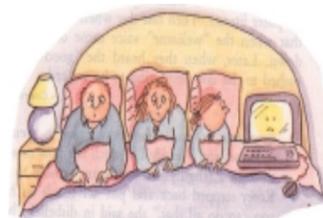
Who are the artist participating this year?

This year has a line up of wonderful talent. The following line up could change. Some names are: Tracy Byrd, Kenny Chesney, Billy Ray Cyrus, Joe Diffe, Bill Engvall, Sara Evans, Vince Gill, Billy Gilman, Andy Griggs, Alan Jackson, Lonestar, the Kinleys, Patty Loveless, Jo Dee Messina, Martina McBride, Montgomery Gentry, Brad Paisley, Collin Raye, Travis Tritt, and Trisha Yearwood. New names will be announced as they commit to the event. How much are tickets?

Tickets range from \$90 to \$115. The \$115 tickets will get you into all events for the entire four days. The higher priced tickets will get better seating for the shows. There are tickets available at discount prices for children under 18. To get tickets, or any other information, check out Country.com. Search the website with Fan Fair 2001 as your search criteria.



Sarah Whynot



The day the entire Kemple family had a virus.

A story told in a poem I've seen her here before The girl who doesn't smile Sitting across the way Waiting patiently For a song, a dance Something familiar Yet challenging To bring her to the floor To draw her out To make her one with the others.

Only there is she truly at ease Unnoticed Just part of the crowd Flowing with the music From wall to endless wall Round and round Like the water in a whirlpool There is only slight resistance Before she is swept into the center Where the energy is strongest. (Is that a twinkle in her eye?)

The song ends She slowly exits the floor To find an empty stool Away from the others To quietly observe; Polite acknowledgements are made She kindly accepts But offers nothing more She shyly averts her gaze If someone tries to catch it. She looks to the dance floor And waits patiently For a song, a dance Something familiar To bring her to the floor.

Writer wishes to remain anonymous



"When I was your age, I was 49"

GOOD BALANCE

Let's Talk Dancing

By Joe Bonomo

Dancing is your invitation to fun; a means for developing your personality, an entree into many social circles; a cure for shyness, and a manner of gaining friends. Dancing is one of our greatest schools for giving us the knowledge and education in meeting our personal problems. Through dancing, we learn poise, balance, grace, and a better understanding of rhythm and timing.

Through dancing, we increase our personal magnetism; we acquire a better way of getting along with our friends, our companions and strangers. You'll learn how to carry on an interesting conversation. We are able to find greater happiness in life by ridding ourselves of our self consciousness. That terrible feeling of social embarrassment, that most of us have some time in life, slowly disappears as we better ourselves on the dance floor. Becoming an accomplished dancer, even in one particular dance, gives us the confidence that we need. With greater confidence, comes the opportunity to develop our personality. Dancing teaches us to get along with people. It teaches us to be diplomats-knowing how to say "yes" or "no" nicely so feelings are not hurt. There will be many times on the dance floor when you will not enjoy the companionship of your dance partner. Yet, you will learn to make believe that you have enjoyed it immensely-thereby increasing your power of self control. As you become more apt at dancing, your inferiority complex will disappear. You

will learn a superiority complex has no place on the dance floor-and you will settle down to being a regular "guy" or "gal." Dancing is fun, but it demands physical effort. So dance more-you will feel better and you certainly will get more out of life. This article is an advertisement for learning to dance-but-read it over carefully-doesn't it really apply to us as teachers and students!!!

Be Sharp

1. LOOK SHARP

Be well groomed. Looking sharp is an attitude and an action.

2. POSTURE

Good posture is good for our health, our attitude, our stamina, our impression on others, our self esteem, and our coordination.

3. CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM

These are the most important qualities to be found in a winning personality. True confidence does not manifest itself in cockiness. Lack of confidence shows in either quiet timidity or annoying loudness and coarseness. The best source of confidence is knowledge.

4. KNOW HOW

Know how-be assured that what you do is absolutely right.

5. **BE FRIENDLY** Greet people by their names, smile.

6. **BE COMMUNICATIVE** A magic word is thank you, another is please. Use them!

7. **BE CONSIDERATE** Be kind, be helpful, consider others feelings.



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