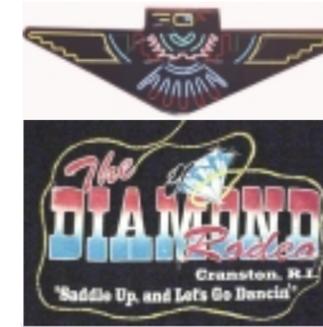


March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 Wednesdays Debbie Bliss		1 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	2 Line Dance Lessons
3	4	5	6 Line Dance Lessons	7	8 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	9 Line Dance Lessons
10	11	12	13 Line Dance Lessons	14	15 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	16 Line Dance Lessons
17	18	19	20 Line Dance Lessons	21	22 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	23 Line Dance Lessons
24	25	26	27 Line Dance Lessons	28	29 Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	30 Line Dance Lessons
31 	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 Gail McKenna				 Fridays & Saturdays Gail McKenna	



Side - Bar
Comments

Club Hours
 Wednesday 7 PM - 1 AM
 Friday 7 PM - 1 AM
 Saturday 7PM - 1 AM

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

Wednesdays
 Free Line Dance Lessons
 with Debbie Bliss
 7 - 8 PM

Fridays & Saturdays
 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



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 Co-editor: Joe Macera
 Writer, Columnist: Rita Polce
March 2002

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[biography](#) [reviews](#)

Dancing reaps invaluable rewards

About ten years ago some friends and I went to "Mustang Sally's" after a softball game. As I sat there at the table having a drink and talking, the people dancing across the room on the dance floor caught my eye. I was mesmerized - they looked so impressive and yet they also looked like they were having so much fun. Needless to say, I became a regular attendee at line dance lessons on Monday and Tuesday nights with Joe Shutt, and from then on, dancing became a part of my life. Eventually, I learned some

partner dances and on Sunday nights I took two-step lessons from Joe Macera. Over the next several years I found myself at Mustang Sally's listening to great music, dancing around the floor, and forgetting my worries (while getting exercise at the same time!). Sometimes months would go by when I didn't dance, but I always returned and when I did I realized that I had learned so much and had made so many awesome friends through my dancing. What was even better was there were always more friends to meet and more dancing to learn. One of the

greatest things about dancing is that you can take it to any level you want to. You can learn a few basics and dance with friends just for fun, or you can be more serious about it and enter into competitions all over the world. Recently myself and one of my best friends from Mardi Gras, Wesley Wicks, decided to take private lessons together with John



Kerrin Pollock

and Dee Soares from Cumberland. Last July, after Wes and I had been taking lessons for a few months Dee suggested we go to a dance competition in Stamford, Connecticut just for fun and to see what it was like. As she said, whether or not we were going to compete, the competitions were a lot of fun to go to. We went with a bunch of other friends from Mardi Gras including my sister Kim, Jack, Glenn, Dave, Gina, Tony, Dave, Michelle, Al, Lou, and a bunch of others. (In fact Dave Salzburg, Gina, Dave Parks, and Lou competed they all looked great). Wes

and I had more fun than we ever expected to have, so we decide to be a little crazy and take a road trip to the next competition which was going to be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in November.

When we told John and Dee of our plans, they said they were also going and they suggested that since we were all going to be there, that I dance in the Professional/Amateur division with John, and that Wes dance in it with Dee. Wes and I decided to do it. John and Dee were very supportive and patient, and again the competition was way more fun and exciting than we ever expected. Florida was a blast! - plain and simple. We're going to New York next month to compete and I'm sure we'll be in Stamford again this year. I have a lot more to learn about the rules of following and dance styles in general. I suspect I always will, but through the dancing I've already done - both socially and competitively - I've reaped invaluable rewards. Through the dancing experience I've gained personal satisfaction and self confidence which has of course spilled over into other areas of my life. For this reason as well as for the fun of it, I would highly recommend dancing to anyone!

Kerrin Pollock

It's Dance Time



The lights dim, music fills the room, and as the lights brighten the hardwood floor once again, we see "The Cowboy Demo Dance Troupe". The club's patrons cheer and clap

here at the Diamond Rodeo. He originally learned it in Ohio. He was born in Nashville but went to college in Cleveland, Ohio where he danced at a club called the "Boot Scootin Sa-



their hands to the rhythm of the music as they watch this very talented group perform a dance called "The Hat Dance". These country dancers have put together a routine that the club's regulars and even visitors from the other clubs within the Mardi Gras complex really enjoy watching.

One of the dancers named Russ introduced this dance

loon". He joined a dance group called "The Demo Dance Team". When he graduated college and came to Rhode Island he found our own Diamond Rodeo, which he told me he loves, but don't we all? That's why we keep coming back! When Russ visited our club our own Peter took him under his wing to help him feel comfortable and teach him some of our dances. It was

kind of a sharing thing with them because in return Russ taught Peter and the rest of the group the dances he learned in Ohio. Another of these dances is "The Tennessee Express" which is quite upbeat



and a pleasure to watch them perform. This dance is done to the music of "Cotton Eyed Joe" and you can see it performed on any Friday night at the Diamond Rodeo along with "The Hat Dance".

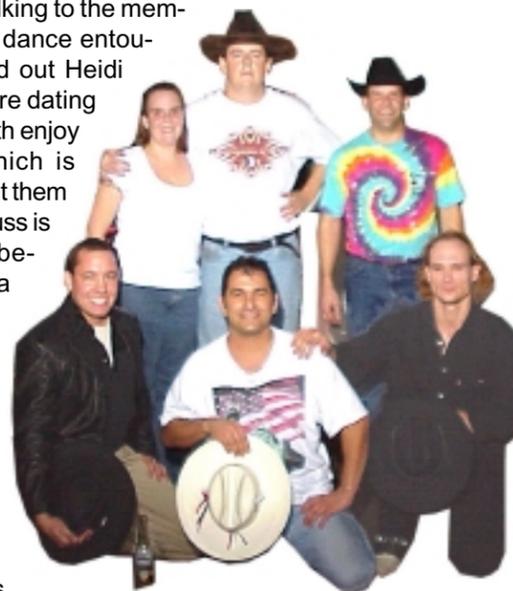
Joining Russ and Peter on the dance floor are Dave, Mike, Steve, Allen and the only female performer in the group, Heidi. In talking to the members of this dance entourage I found out Heidi and Steve are dating and they both enjoy dancing which is what brought them together. Russ is relocating because of a new position but he will still be with us every other Friday. He is a Manufacturing Consultant and 27 years old. By the way girls he is single and looking. Our own Peter is a Senior Head Teller

for the State of Rhode Island and all the girls love Peter and he loves all the girls.

We certainly are fortunate at the Diamond Rodeo to have this talented group. I only hope they will continue to

bring us many new choreographed dances for us to enjoy. All I can say to these great dancers is keep your boots shined and your cowboy hat ready because we at the club certainly love watching you perform.

Keep Dancing,
Rita Polce 2/2002



Hello Everybody,

Joe Macera has been asking me to write an article for our newsletter ever since it was put into print. I have always told him that I would write something, and when each deadline passed, Joe would be back again asking me to write. Well Joe, you have been very persistent, here is my article.



Gail McKenna

The first time I stepped onto a country dance floor to learn a line dance, I was hooked! What could be better? Great people, great music and dancing all rolled into one. I couldn't learn the dances quick enough. My friends and I would take the lessons, go home and practice, and then go back for more...Just to do it all over again!

A few years later a friend of mine suggested that I try teaching. When I did, it was a totally different aspect of dancing to explore. The best part of teaching a dance is watching people's faces when they "get the dance", it is just fantastic to see people having as good a time as I am. Sitting back and watching the dances that I have taught being danced is just, as good as it gets. What a feeling! I still get excited when everybody likes a dance, and try to pick better ones when you don't.

Everyone at the Diamond Rodeo is part of a big country family. And as in any big family, everyone has their own personality, and that gives the

Diamond Rodeo a personality all its own. Having fun is what country dancing is all about. I sure hope you are all having as great a time as I am when you are on the dance floor.

I can't forget to mention Joe and Sam, thanks for all that great music you play for all of us. Can't forget Debbie, my partner in teaching, and Paul who makes sure everything runs the way it should. And remember, let us know what dances and songs you want us to play, and to teach. We're all here to have a great time with you!

See You On The Dance Floor, Gail



" Their Time had Come"

They were the underdogs; their colors are red, white, and blue; their name is the Patriots; and their time had come. As individual players they were great but as a team they were invincible. With a victory score of 20 to 17 they brought back to New England the "Super Bowl Trophy". Against the odds they held their heads high and played as a team, a great team with one goal in mind, victory.



It seems like it happened the way it should. Patriots, patriotism, a team working together, like our country coming back from the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

It was all in the cards. It was being deserving because of all the hard work that went into this victory.

Thank you, New England

Patriots, for making all your fans proud and to those who doubted your ability to win I say, "Their time had come". The Patriots are the Greatest, Rita Polce





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