



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Line Dance Lessons		Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	Line Dance Lessons
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			 Wednesdays Debbie Bliss		 Fridays & Saturdays Gail McKenna	



Attention Marlboro Smokers

Your help is needed by the "Hat Dancers". Peter and David are collecting the "miles" that are on the side of Marlboro cigarettes. They would like to order six tan Stetson hats from the Marlboro gear catalog for the members of the "Hat Dance" team.

So don't throw the packs away, do a good deed and help out with this task

Please save your "miles" for Peter and David.



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



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

Spring 2002

interview links
 biography reviews

I was asked to write an article for the May issue of the newsletter, and was thinking about what I could write. I've been coming to this club approximately 10 years, so I will write this as sort of an appreciation for having this "fun" club to go to for all these years.



Marie Devlin

I've met wonderful people. Look forward to seeing the same faces week after week, and sometimes seeing faces that I haven't seen in years, come back with hugs and kisses. Because this club is like home to many of us. I started learning from Joe Schutt, on a Monday night, he taught from 7 PM to 11 PM. 4 dances a night and then went over the previous dances that he taught. He really kept us on our toes, and I am sorry

to say that Joe has retired. I miss him a lot. But I caught the dancing bug from him and used to go home with the notes and the songs and practice the dances with friends at home. I've traveled to Nashville, Branson, Missouri and Las Vegas several times, and it was so nice to have been able to go to clubs out there, and just jump in and do the dances. Over the past 10 years I've seen many changes here at the club. From the remodeling of the club, to the different dance instructors over the years, and even the different DJ's, to which I have to say Joe DeSio is truly the best DJ and always seems to get the crowd motivated.

It's fun to go on the dance floor and know all the dances so well that you don't have to think, and then you do a very tricky turn that you know by heart, and that you are so sure that you have mastered, and then realize that you are facing a different direction than everyone else. Everyone is such a good sport on the dance floor. We are always laughing, and having so much fun. So much for dancing etiquette...

I want to thank Paul, the manager, for putting up with us ladies when we insist that he shut the heat off (and the heat is already off), but he goes to the thermostat anyway to humor us, or to adjust the air conditioner because it is "too" cold. And to the jokes we play on him, and the shorts with

the hearts on them that we force him to model because Regina has bought him as yet another gift. Paul knows who we are because we have our own little corner, on the left side of the doorway. Our own little corner where we have our own little click of several women, where no men are allowed to go. Only Paul. I know I'm not telling you anything you don't know, but just reaffirming what WE all know, that the Diamond Rodeo is THE place to be, and how much we all look forward to coming here. We just have to keep our sense of humor, and sense of direction.....

Lets keep having fun,
 Marie Devlin

Hi, my name is Joseph Martins, but everyone calls me Joe. I started coming to Mardi Gras sometime in the fall of 98 when my marriage fell apart. I first started going to the traditional music side, but ever since I can remember I've always liked country music. So I used to walk into Diamond Rodeo and listen to the music, and watch everyone have a great time doing line dancing and couples dances. One day I ran into Mike Camara, who I knew because his sister works with me, and we talked a while and he told me that there were dance classes 3 nights a week at 7:00 PM. So I made a point to see if I could get my two left feet to

be coordinated and follow some of the line steps and dances, and who knew? I might even get a beautiful lady to do some of the partner dances with me. Lucky me! I hit the jackpot when I met Robin in the parking lot the very first night that I decided to take some classes on a Wednesday night..

For the first half of 2001, I attended most classes and to



Joseph & Robin

my amazement I not only like it, but was having a great time and met some great people in the process along with falling in love with the most beautiful and wonderful lady to come into my life. What she sees in me only God knows, but I'm not complaining. I'll keep doing what I'm doing and hopefully we will ride into the sunset on my Road Star and grow old happily together. I would like to say a special thanks to all those that have helped me along the way on the dance floor, you know who you are, and if along the way, I stepped on anyone's feet... It was all in fun...



Better Late Than Never
Substitute teaching at Mardi Gras March 22, 2002. Joe Shutt and Louie Moniz Jr. filled in for Gail McKenna. It took two of us to fill Gail's shoes. It was a fun time for both of us. Of course, Joe being the main man. We both saw people we have not seen in a long time. It was a pleasurable evening. Us two old dogs have not taught in a while. It came back quickly.

The reception given to both of us was warming. Thank you patrons of Mardi Gras. We love you and missed you. Keep on dancing

Joe Shutt and Mad Louie.



Tad, is that a beer or a microphone?



It says "Guard your nuggets"

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for Richard and Maryann on becoming new grandparents. They are regulars at the Diamond Rodeo and enjoy country dancing.



Richard & Maryann

Now they have two baby boys to enjoy also. Andreas and Joseph were two welcomed additions to their family. We wish them all the happiness life has to offer with their new grandchildren. Life doesn't get any better than that.

May 2002



The Man Behind the Newsletter

I've written a few articles for the Diamond Rodeo Newsletter and I've had the pleasure of getting to know Mike Ponte. Mike enjoys sitting at his computer and learning everything possible about what's happening in the world. His web site is the greatest and really helps people find out many things about country clubs, country dancing, ham radio, and also about his love of Volvo's and motorcycles. If you want to see a past issue of the newsletter just log onto his site on the web and you'll see it all. You'll also see his bike that he is very proud of.

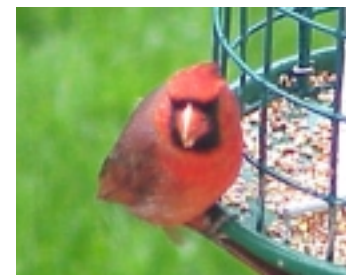
Mike takes the time from

his busy life and puts the newsletter together so we can read about what's happening of interest at the club. He and his wife Sue are frequent visitors to the Diamond Rodeo. Their love of dancing is what brought them together. On Friday nights after a busy week at the Electric Co. in New Bedford where he works, Mike and Sue drive up to the Mardi-Gras to unwind.



Mike, Sue and E. Bunny

They both can do some pretty fancy country dancing that I know they enjoy. He always carries his trusty camera to get some pictures of people when they least expect it and before you know it your picture pops up either on line or in the newsletter. When you see a flash you know Mike is doing what he does best. Recently when I talked to Mike about where he lived he made sure I knew he lives in the sticks of Rehoboth. He bragged about the two Northern Cardinals who live in a birdhouse in his back yard.



At present he is in the process of building a Pond Garden in the woods behind his house. I'm sure he'll stock it with fish and then sit back and enjoy his labors.

It's going to be very hard to persuade Mike to print this article because he's not the type who would want any praise for what he does but maybe if I beg he will put it in print in the newsletter he works so hard to put together. If anyone has something to write, either about the club, dancing, or anything that would be of interest, don't hesitate to approach Joe Macera or Mike Ponte because your articles will certainly be welcomed. Don't forget to go onto Mike's web site at www.mikeponte.com. You'll be glad you did.

Rita Polce
May 2002



News From Nashville

I received an email from our friend Harry Pratt. Harry was a regular here before his work took him to Nashville.

Mike P.

I've attached a couple of pics from the TNN taping for the 4th of July with Pam Tillis and Aaron Tippin...

Say hello to everyone at the club for me..
Still dancin' in Nashville,
Harry
imok39@yahoo.com



Online Message Board

What is a message board?

Message boards are an asynchronous form of communication that enables participants to "post" messages to a Web site where others may read and respond to them by posting their own messages. Messages are posted using a Web browser, such as Netscape or Internet Explorer.

Postings to message boards tend to be more prepared and thoughtfully presented than discussions held in chat rooms, and serve as a written record of a group's interactions. Discussions might contain a brief flurry of posts, or an extended dialogue that may take weeks or months to run its course.

Message boards are also known as: discussion boards, electronic bulletin boards, forums, on-line conferences and threaded discussions.

On a message board you are posting messages that others can read seconds, days, or months after you have posted them.



I have created a message board called "**Diamond Rodeo Inside Mardi Gras.**"

It can be accessed from my web page at


www.mikeponte.com.

You may post new messages, requests or questions to the group. You can reply to a message or just read the open group discussions.

So next time you are surfing the internet stop by and check out the message board.

Michael Ponte






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