

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>4</b> Line Dance Lessons Karaoke	<b>5</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>6</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>11</b> Line Dance Lessons Karaoke	<b>12</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>13</b> Christmas Party See Peter DiBiase
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>18</b> Line Dance Lessons Karaoke	<b>19</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>20</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Club Closed	<b>25</b> Club Closed Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>27</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Party			
Wednesday-Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna Thursday-Line Dance Lessons 7:00 - 9:00 with Mike Camra Karaoke from 9:00 - 11:00 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				<b>Wednesdays, Fridays &amp; Saturdays Gail McKenna</b>		



Side - Bar  
Comments

**Club Hours**

Wednesday 7 PM - 1 AM  
 Thursday 7 PM - 1 AM  
 Friday 7 PM - 1 AM  
 Saturday 7PM - 1 AM



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

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

Thursday  
 Line Dance Lessons  
 7:00 - 9:00  
 with Mike Camra  
 Karaoke from 9:00 - 11:00

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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



Diamond Rodeo Newsletter - Editor, Layout & Photos: Michael Ponte  
 Co-editor: Joe Macera  
 Writer, Columnist: Rita Polce  
 December 2003

interview links  
 biography reviews

**Round em up!**

In September, I finally went on the vacation I had planned for so long. For years I had always wanted to go on a real cattle drive out west. Not one of those fake ones where you ride horses that have been saddled for you, chase some cows for a few hours on a ranch, and then sleep in a cabin with a bed, electricity, heat and water.



**Barbara Messier**

I was talking about this dream trip of mine while riding horses in upstate NY one summer. A friend asked if I wanted a real adventure. He knew of a place and had gone on a driver with this outfit before and it's the real deal. So I checked them out. They are based out of Wyoming, and have been driving cattle forever. I was hooked. I talked to a few friends, and some were in, and some wanted no part of it! Two of my friends had done this before, so with one other, we booked this trip. We had actor in packing, we didn't know what to expect. Plus we had a year to wait. A year went by fast. The four

of us spoke often, planning, and buying what we needed for our trip. Anything can happen in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. The weather was a huge factor in packing, we didn't know what to expect. It could snow, rain, and be hot, we just didn't know. We are only allowed to bring 20lbs of personal belongings when we went up the mountains, as pack mule would transport this.

Packed and ready, we headed to a hotel in Wyoming, where we had one nights sleep before being picked up in the morning by truck and taken to our first of 3 camps. We went willingly into the mountains. The first camp was at 10,000 ft. It was snowing lightly. But what a beautiful sight. We gathered around the campfire, got our tent assignments and were told what we were going to do the next morning. We were all assigned our horse and gear for the week as well. We unpacked our gear into our tents. When dinnertime came, we had no idea what

to expect. We were very surprised when the first meal was steak! It's amazing what you can cook in a Dutch oven. The food was amazing all week long. Full breakfasts and dinner. Lunches were packed from a choice of leftovers, lunchmeats and peanut butter and jelly. Lunch had to fit into your saddlebag to be eaten out on the trail. Don't forget your bottled water! As for what happens when the sun goes down, that would be party time for the guests as well as crew. There was a fully stocked bar and more beer than we expected. The first night, after getting to know everyone and some fun and laughter, and drinking, we finally headed to our tents for some sleep. It was 28 degrees. I thought I would freeze to death. As we headed out our first morning, we realized that 25 cowhands and 10 crew, would have a hell of a time, and a lot of fun finding hundreds of cows that had been grazing for 3 months on 64,000 acres of wilderness.

One group that I was in, spent 7 hours in the mountain and never saw one cow. But the scenery was breathtaking. The other 3 groups that went out in different directions pushed the cows they had found down in to the trees just past camp. Tomorrow we would look for more cows. At the campfire every night, as we got the next days instructions, there were also what were called the "white saddle bag" nominations. The cowboy who basically earned them by doing something that would get them nominated by the others must wear the white saddlebags of shame. Someone who really deserved them won them every night! Two of the girls also found out that they can take down and hog-tie a man in about 10 seconds! Every day brought new challenges for us. The weather cooperated all week long. There was no rain and though the nights were in the 30's, the days warmed up into the 60's. Your flashlight is your friend. Every night there was a party around the campfire, and one night we found out that 17 people can fit into a 2-person teepee style tent. Practical jokes were everywhere. With some cowboy rules. You can't damage anyone's stuff. Though one cowboy came back from riding after 8 hours, and found that his "light house-keeping" request landed his tent onto a 25-foot rock! Most of the riding was light. For those of you who ride, because the horses cant keep up that pace all day, neither can the cows. So there's a lot of walking and "dog-trot". Which is a very fast paced trot. The horses can do that all day! It's not really the most comfortable pace. The horse I was assigned was a 4 year-old gelding named Gun-

ner, and although he was young, he was a good, sure-footed horse. He just didn't want his head touched! One of the most interesting and scary parts of this trip is a push through a place called the canyon. This is actually a trip through the mountains. Some of which, is on a 20-inch trail with nothing on one side but a few hundred feet drop off, and the Big Horn Drive at the bottom. It's pretty scary to think you might fall or get pushed over by some mamma cow that got separated from her calf. I can't imagine what that would be like if it was snowing or raining. There were some parts of this path that made me wonder what I was doing there. I was told if the cows fall off the mountain, which they occasionally do. The bears eat them. What a pleasant thought. I could write a book about this trip, but let's just say it was amazing. But it's not for everyone. You must really cowboy up. Sleeping in tents, no bathrooms, except for a tent over a hole in the ground with a toilet seat attached to a can. No electricity, no showers, and no matter how much you drank the night before, you had to get up and saddle your horse and ride the next day. Three times we broke camp, packed our belongings into duffle bags to be moved by pack mule, and moved to another location. Each one more beautiful than the last. So if you want to crawl into a sleeping bag, in a canvas tent, when its freezing cold, with no electricity, very little gear, wear the same clothes for a week, and work hard, eat amazing food, meet some great friends, party hard, work hard, and have a lot of fun, then this is the trip for you.

**Barbara Messier**



At this time of the year, I thought it would be appropriate to note the origins of some Christmas traditions. In all the confusion of our modern store-bought, materialistic conceptions of the holiday, it seems important to me that we not lose sight of very old and idealistic traditions.



**Gloria Tetu**

Try to imagine yourself in a very cold climate, where the Winter nights are very long.. Firewood and food are both becoming scarce and you have begun to fear for your own survival. As you keep a lonely vigil through this, the Longest Night, you feel as though the Darkness has taken over the Earth and the Light will never come again. Imagine your joy at that first spark of light and your hopes that, someday soon, the snow will melt and you will be warm and well fed! This is the way our ancestors must have felt about this time of celebration. The celebration of the Winter Solstice, as often as not referred to as Yule, is common to almost every culture.

For this reason, although the Christian Church has long since adopted it as the birthdate of Jesus, it has retained more of the ancient Pagan tradition than any other holiday or festival. Many customs have survived from Pre-Christian times. Among them is the Yule Log. Traditionally, the Yule Log has been of oak, ash or beech, ritually cut (often at Dawn) and ceremonially carried into the house. Toasts were often drunk with wine, cider or brandy, in those early morning hours, giving the participants a good head-start on the festivities. The Yule Log was said to have many magical properties Remnants of it, or its ashes, were kept in the house throughout the year for many purposes. Among these were protection from thunderstorms or lightning, protection from hail, preserving humans from chilblains and animals from various diseases. Women often kept fragments until Twelfth Night to ensure a thriving poultry flock in the coming year. It was customary to pour libations of wine or brandy upon the Log and to make offerings by scattering corn or bread crumbs over it. No Yule celebration would be complete without a decorated tree. This custom is thought to originate in the Roman custom of decorating homes with laurel and evergreen trees. In Winter, when all is brown and dead, the evergreens symbolize immor-

tality. Yule signifies the completion of the wheel of the year. Some believe the dark nights of winter are when the veil between the spirit world and the living world is the thinnest. It is therefore an appropriate time for self-examination and meditation on hidden energies-both the energies lying dormant within the earth, and also those within ourselves. Yule traditions celebrate nature's renewal, and help affirm our connection to the energy and power of the earth. Whether celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, or Yule, we can all delight in the season as a time to take joy in our natural environment, reflect on the events of the old year, and look forward in anticipation to the new. As the winter solstice demonstrates to us, every ending is a new beginning.



## The Monster Ball 2003



### Trick or treat!

This year Mardi Gras' was visited by the city's best superheroes (from the left): Super Girl, Spider Man, Cat Woman, Wonder Woman, Clark Kent, and Bat Man and Bat Woman, who fought crime against the worst notorious villains of Gotham City: The Penguin, The



Joker, The Riddler, Poison Ivy and 3 unknown bank robbers right in our own city of Cranston, RI. From the very beginning of the night there was trouble. The robbers thought they made off with all the loot and kids' candy and you can see how Poison Ivy started using her evil powers to convert The Riddler into Super Girl...



but Wonder Woman, Super Girl, and Cat Woman were at the rescue all night! And Spidey too...once he stopped putting his costume on backwards that is. What fun we had at the Mardi Gras Halloween



Party! Every year all of us look forward to playing dress up and wish it was Halloween everyday! I think even John was honored to have a superhero around!

**Melanie L. Proulx**



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