

29th Annual Marine Corps Marathon with the St. Jude Heroes



Have you ever thought about running a marathon? Well, I may be crazy, but I have always wanted to go the distance. So in addition to the time I have been spending on the dance floor at the Diamond Rodeo, I have been training for this year's Marine Corps Marathon to be held on October 31, 2004. While listening to the Country Cares for St. Jude's Kids Radio-a-thon on Cat Country this spring, I decided to use the entry I had secured in this year's 2004 Marine Corp Marathon to also raise money for the kids at St. Jude's. In addition to my goal of completing 26.2 miles, I have set a goal to raise \$5,000 for the kids at St. Jude, and I now ask your help in raising money for this worthy cause.

More than 19,000 children have been treated at St. Jude Hospital, with countless others benefiting from its ground-breaking research on various forms of cancers, viruses, and other catastrophic illnesses, which is shared freely with local doctors and hospitals. With your help, patients will continue to receive treatment at no cost to their families, and the important research will endure.

I hope you will sponsor my efforts so that together we can help these children in need. Your donation is tax-deductible and will make a tremendous impact in the life of a child. You can mail your contribution (made payable to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital) to me at 13 Basking Ridge Drive, Middleboro MA, 02346, or you can donate online, at the following website: <http://www.marathonguide.com/sjrunners>. Just click on the Sponsor a Runner link and enter my name. Every donation - big or small - brings St. Jude's one step closer to finding cures.

Thank you for your friendship and support as I undertake this fundraising effort.

Jennifer Stone

Line Dance Lessons Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00		Mike Camra
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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		Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays Gail McKenna
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SIDE-BAR
COMMENTS

Club Hours

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

MARDI GRAS

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

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

Thursday
Two Step Lessons 7:00 -
9:00 with Joe Macera
Karaoke from 9:00 - 11:00

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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



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

June
2004

[interview](#) [links](#)
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Like Clint Black sings, "Summer's Comin'".

It's likely that at some point one hot day this summer, you'll be grasping a cone of your favorite flavor of ice cream as it melts down the cone and onto your forearm faster than you can eat it. Then you'll have the joy of an "ice cream headache" (man, I hate that).

Ever wonder who sat around (somebody with no life, obviously) and dreamed up the cone?



The Cone

The walk-away edible cone made its American debut at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The ice cream cone was served up by several vendors, one being Lebanese immigrant, Abe Doumar. Some historians credit Abe Doumar with building the

very first machine for making ice cream cones - waffle type cones that were born from the ingenuity of adapting a waffle iron into a cone oven. However, Doumar did not make his first cone oven until after the World's Fair. There are, however, more claims to the cone's history. One being that Italo Marchiony submitted a patent in 1903 for a mold to make edible cups with handles. Moreover, paper and metal cones were used by Europeans for some time to hold ice cream and edible cones were being served in England prior to 1904. On July 23, 1904, Charles E. Menches of St. Louis, Missouri conceived the



cream, and dance off the calories at the Diamond Rodeo!



RONALD G. HILL

It is with great sadness that I report the death of an old friend, Ron Hill. Ron was a long time friend of many and loyal Diamond Rodeo patron. Ron was born in Negaunee, Mich. He moved to this area and was a welder at the Derektor Shipyard in Middletown.

Hey Everyone..

It's me, Harry in Nashville.....And I've got some great news! I'm now engaged to a wonderful woman named Sandra Molina. I proposed to her on may 8th, and after thinking about it for about a millisecond, she said YES!!!

I wanted it to be a special night to remember, so with the help of some friends that work at the Wildhorse Saloon, it worked out wonderfully..

The DJ, dance instructors got Sandra out on the dance floor under the pretense of showing a dance; something she was nervous about doing. But Bryan



Harry Pratt and Sandra Molina

finally calmed her down and as she faced the crowd in the Wildhorse, standing there alone in the middle of the dance floor, the lights went down and a soft spotlight shone down on her. With John Lennon's "Imagine" playing in the background, a poem I had written especially for the occasion played on the sound system. Sandra stood there and listened while I walked up behind her and watched. When the poem had ended I was there on one knee with the ring in my hand. I asked Sandra to marry me, and she said yes. I slipped the ring on her finger and we embraced. I can't explain the feelings, emotions, and love on that dance floor that night. I know that if I had never learned to line dance at Diamond Rodeo, I may never have met the woman and the love that I thought would never come my way. SO I want to thank you all for having the patience to get me on my way to line dancing and to having the opportunity to meet my future wife. A date hasn't been set, yet. But it will be sometime soon. Take care, and when you get the chance, I hope You dance.

Harry

To all my Mardi Gras friends.

As I sit here listening to Cat Country, I realize how much I miss my Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the Diamond Rodeo and how close I came to never seeing you guys again.

About 4 months ago, I was dying. My body was killing itself. Everything I ate or drank didn't stay in my body - not even an ice cube. I had started a new job that I liked, but had to leave after being there

for 3 weeks due to my illness taking over my body.

My mom took me to the hospital and the doctor told me that I was very dehydrated, anemic, and my potassium level was very low. Three days later, they performed a Colonoscopy - a procedure to look at my large colon. They said that I had Ulcerative Colitis - inflammation of the colon.

They put me on Prednizone - a steroid that I was put on for almost 4 months to tame

the colitis. Severe acne, appetite changes, and massive weight gain are the side effects to this horrible drug. It's a drug that has made me fat and ugly. They also have me on other drugs as well. I guess you can say I became high from very low. I am 25 and it's supposed to be 45. I am now talking a double dose of iron due to my lost of blood and then some.

Even though I'm still sick, I will be coming back to Mardi Gras. It may take me awhile to do some dancing or leave the dance floor when my legs become stiff from lack of exercise, but I'm still the same Maria who loves to dance at the Diamond Rodeo. The same Maria who loves being with all my cowboy and cowgirl friends. You all know who you are and I know I have your love and support.



Maria Tarvis

Hello to all.

To those of you reading this or here for the first time, WELCOME ABOARD!

yeah, i know, your having something to drink, served by one of our FANTASTIC BAR-TENDERS looking at the line dancers and saying to yourself "how do they do that". It all starts with "YOU". First things first, take the lessons and learn the steps. But please do yourself a favor, buy cowboy boots or shoes that are comfortable for you with a leather sole and rubber heel. High heels and tennis shoes are not going to work with line dancing. Attend lessons as scheduled in this newsletter, but if anything, "DON'T GIVE UP"!!!!!! There is a saying that i truly believe "once you learn line dancing, you will be in your own world and having lots of fun" (Kix Brooks).

A BIG THANKS to Gail McKenna for her dedication and hard work on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Without her guidance a lot of us would be lost learning these line dances. Mike Camara for his guidance on Thursdays to the beginner line dancer and to Joe Macera for his dedication on Thursdays and

Sundays for those of you learning the 2 step. Keep it up and don't give up! Thank you to Joe, Sam and Bob for playing the kick ass country music. And thanks to the Cat Country 98.1 Disc jockeys (Cat Country 98.1 Friday Night Dance Party). Without those involved in the publishing of this newsletter, it wouldn't happen. All they asked is for you to write about anything pertaining to country music and you.

Until the next time.....see you on the dance floor



William H. O'Brien III
"End of Dance"



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