

line of dance is always counter-clockwise.

While line dancers should stay in the center, away from the two-steppers etc, the latter should also stay away from the center and not wander into the lines nor cut the corners.

The dance floor may be further divided if more than one line dance can be done to a particular song. Generally the more advanced dance is to the rear of the floor, however this is usually at the discretion of the DJ. When there is a split floor (whether with two, three or even more dances), it is a good idea to leave as much distance as possible between the different dances, especially if one or more of them moves considerably. If the dance floor is crowded, it is not a good idea to split the floor.

When dancing near beginners be mindful and courteous and don't show off. Too many variations can put people off if they are unsure of themselves. If you want to enliven a beginner level dance, do it away from any beginner dancers.

Beginners are advised to stick to the center of the dance floor - that way, no matter what wall you may be facing, there will be

someone in front of you who (hopefully) knows the dance and whom you can follow. The reverse of this is that advanced dancers should try to stick to the sides.

If the floor is crowded, take small steps, but watch out for collisions. If you bump into someone, it is customary to apologize whether it is your fault or not. It never hurts to be polite.

And remember line dancing is meant to be fun, both for you and everyone else on the dance floor.

Gloria Tetu



I was looking at some of my photos the other day and spotted a photo I took back in January of Gary and Sandy dancing. I started



**Gary, Sandy and Meghan Andrews**

to wonder why I had not seen them in a while so I sent off an email to Sandy and she responded with this great news.

"I had a baby 5 months ago. We haven't gone dancing again because I feel bad having to leave her all day and then to go out again at night. We might be going though within the next couple of weeks. I'm starting to get the itch to dance again. Here are some pictures of Meghan (born June 5, 2004 at 2:39am 8.2lbs). The first

Mike Ponte

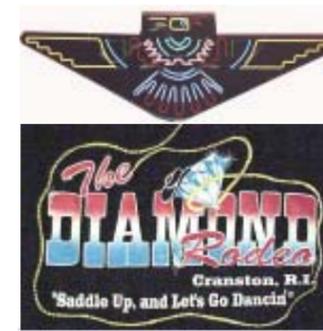


**Proud farther, Gary Andrews, holding Meghan**

pic is her halloween costume. The second pic is from when she was 2 months old and the last two are from this past weekend when she turned 5 months (the balloon was her halloween "treat" from my cousin for her)."

Congratulations to the both of you from your friends at the Diamond Rodeo!

Hope to see you on the dance floor soon.



**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

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

Thursday  
Two Step Lessons 7:00 - 7:30 with Joe Macera  
Line Dance Lessons with Mike Camra 7:30 - 9:00  
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: Cindy Sebetes Facilitator: Joe Macera

**November 2004**

**"A little cowboy love"**

From across the bar I noticed you  
Tall, dark and handsome, who is this guy?  
I couldn't stop watching you  
For reasons I don't know why.

I just had to ask you to dance  
And across your face came to a smile  
but how were you to know  
That I've been watching you for a while?

Standing on the side of the dance floor  
I could feel the heat  
"Cuz now you're watching me  
and without knowing my feet just lost the beat!

Like two old friends, we talked for hours  
After breakfast and long after everyone was gone  
On and on we went, as we sat listening  
to the words of a Tim McGraw song.

Oh what is this weird feeling I'm getting  
Every time you look into my eyes?  
Could it really be  
You're giving me the butterflies?

Wearing a cowboy hat and the sweetest kiss me smile  
you leaned over and gave me the shyest first kiss.  
Two very vulnerable hearts  
certainly not expecting this!

April Conrad



**April Conrad**

To all the "regulars" at the club who already know me well... hello.  
Can you believe after all these years I'm finally writing for the newsletter?! To all of you who may not know me or may only know me by face, let me tell you a little about myself.  
I started coming to the Diamond Rodeo in 1995. Wow, almost 10 years ago!? Time really flies when you're having fun. Well,

let me tell you in the beginning it wasn't always fun. Actually a bit discouraging. Let me explain. When I first started coming here I absolutely didn't know a soul. I was living in Massachusetts and had begun to learn line dancing at Vincent's (Randolph, Ma) on Friday nights. I met a great group of people that welcomed me into "their circle" and took the extra time to teach me the line dances and a few couples dances. Just when I became very comfortable going there the owners decided to make Friday nights into Latino night. Now what? Where do I dance? I tried the Rocking House (Taunton, Ma), Diamond Jacks (Raynham, Ma) and even a place in Saugus, Ma. (The name escapes me!) But none of these had that same feel. Then one day a friend told me about this multiplex club in Rhode Island called Mustang Sally's. "It even has a country bar", she explained. Why not I thought, so one Saturday night in October I decided to go and that's where my Diamond rodeo story begins.

Like I said before being an "out-of-stater" I absolutely knew no one... a little uncomfortable but none the less I got out there and did the few line dances I knew. Sitting by myself, ice tea in hand, I sat until the next song came on that I knew the dance to. The couples dances came and went as I sat there watching. I wasn't confident enough that I knew them enough to get out there and besides you need a partner and again I knew no one. Besides knowing no one, no one ever asked me to dance either. The end of the night would come and I drove myself back to Massachusetts. I had an hour ride to think about whether or not to go back the next week-



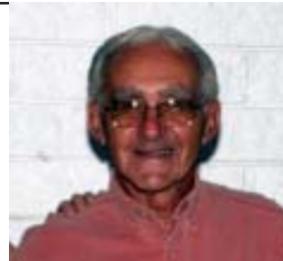
**2004 Christmass Party**

Peter Dibiasse and I are once again organizing the Diamond Rodeo Christmas Party for the year. It will be held on Saturday night, December 18th at the Rodeo and we will be distributing flyers for it starting this weekend. The time will be 7:00 and we will once again be asking people to bring food, with them letting Peter or I know what they are bringing so that we won't have too much of one item and not enough of another.

Additionally, we have some local people who are in Iraq right now, and we are going to be asking for donations to enable us to get some much needed items sent to the Rhode Island guardsmen who are there.

Jo-Ann Sagat

Two Step Lessons  
Thursdays  
7:00 - 7:30



**Joe Macera**

Line Dance Lessons  
Thursdays  
7:30 - 9:00



**Mike Camra**

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**

end. I must really be a sucker because the next weekend I was back. This pattern continued weekend after weekend. Discouraging? Yes! Then one Friday night this "guy" asked me to do the North Carolina Stroll. I explained to him I was very new at this but he still insisted we dance. "Okay Im thinking" its your toes that are probably going to get stepped on!! Well, I did just fine (he was a great lead) Now, let me back up, this "guy" was a regular, always smiling, enjoying dancing and even acting out the lyrics while he was dancing (oh, let me not forget to mention changing his shirt often too!) This "guy" every weekend would find me for the North Carolina Stroll whenever possible. As the weeks went on he taught me another and another couples dance. To this day I am very grateful and to this day he has been a great friend. This "guy" you may all know as Peter Dibase. If you haven't noticed, he still does that very same thing with "new comers" as do I.

Thanks to Peter, I became a "regular". He introduced me to a great group of people, some of which have become my closest friends. We go to concerts together, plan cookouts and just two years ago Peter and I were the Best man / Maid of honor for a good friends country wedding.

How things change... I went from knowing absolutely no one and feeling uncomfortable to knowing a great group of people and becoming comfortable enough to show up in my scrubs at midnight after a long shift in Boston! Yeah, I'd say I'm hooked!

Well, since then, Mustang Sally's became Mardi Gras and I have moved to Rhode Island one year ago (the gas \$\$ was a killer!!)

On a personal note, I am a nurse, working in Providence caring for America's heroes! Before my days as a nurse, I sold diamonds for seven years (who said diamonds are a girl's best friend!?) Outside of dancing I very much enjoy the outdoors, camping, the beach, water sports, softball, volleyball

and riding my motorcycle. I guess my love for country music started with the lyrics. I hear a song and I can visualize the whole thing, I can feel it, see it and sometimes I've lived it. I guess that why I enjoy poetry because it's a way to relive that thought, that emotion, that experience over and over. "If it comes from the heart, you'll touch a heart". Happy reading and happy dancing.

P.S. To all those "new comers", don't get discouraged, we have all been in your boots at one point!

Your dancing friend, April



### Wrangler, June 2004 Golden Shoe Winner

Michael Cayer - Warwick, RI Years Together - 2

Where does a person start talking about a "Diamond in the rough"? Except to explain the reasoning behind it. I started riding again when I was 41 years old and decided to lease a horse, so I could learn how to barrel race. But then was informed by the owner of the horse that he was too old to barrel race. So, I asked my trainer if she could help me find a horse to do barrel racing with. She found this breeding farm down in CT and found a horse named "Acie" and stated this is probably a good



Michael Cayer

horse for me: So the next night we took a drive down to see him and she was going to test ride him for me for soundness. And boy was he sound, but he was not the horse for me and I felt overwhelmed and didn't feel that right connection. But, then out of the corner of my eye I saw his brother Stevie and inquired about him. The owner said he hasn't been ridden in years, which he was sold once before but returned because the kid that had him would try to make him buck and his parents thought that Stevie became too dangerous. Even after hearing that and Stevie being 15 years old, plus my riding instructor saying lets look around some more, I still felt some sort of connection to him, so I bought him. I went down to CT every other day for six weeks and did ground work with him in the round pen as my trainer instructed me to, which was very enlightening to me cause I had never done this before. Then the big day came when I got him home to the farm where I board him and I now had a horse I couldn't ride and needed to gain mussel and weight. A few weeks go by and Stevie had gain weight and now was the time to ride him, my trainer at the time felt I wasn't ready to ride him because we didn't know how he would be. But I said there is only one way to find out and I saddled him up and climb aboard him. I guess that groundwork paid off because he let me get on him and we walked around in the indoor ring for a little while. I know I should called it a day at that, but live and learn, I asked him to canter and yea-ha the bucking started, but I stayed on and got him down to the walk. I decided to call it a day at that point. My trainer had decided to move on to another farm to increase her clientele and now I was on my own. I had no clue really where to begin. Well, I went to local tack shop and rented the John Lyon's training tapes, bought some other training books and went to Parelli clinics and got some great ideas. I went to the Big E in Ma. And I was able to meet John Lyon's in person and watch his methods. I really en-

joy John's methods and applied them to Stevie. People at the farm started calling me Mikey Lyon's, to this day new people that come to the farm actually believe my last name is Lyon's. One of these days I would love to attend his courses and become certified, I would be the only one in RI that was, but just can't afford to. So for now I will just have to keep watching his tapes and work with that. Watching his tapes and applying them to Stevie has paid off, Stevie and I worked together and we have the walk, trot and canter (counter clockwise) extremely well, we still need to work on the (clockwise) canter, we just can't get that correct lead every time. But Stevie and I did qualified for the NBHA 2004 World Championships. RI01 Open-1 entry, I'm so proud of Stevie. We have a lot of work still ahead of us, but welt get there.

Michael Cayer



### Country Dance Floor Etiquette

The following isn't meant to be a "you must obey or else" list of rules and regulations - after all, we're all on the floor to have fun. It's just a list of suggestions which dancers are encouraged to follow to make things more enjoyable for both yourself and others. In other words, it's about being polite and considerate. For those who've been dancing since the days of Achy Breaky Heart . please be tolerant of those who're new to line dancing. They'll pick things up eventually and, remember, you were a novice once yourself!

Most of these suggestions are just plain common sense, but we could all do with a reminder now and again, whether we've only just started dancing or we've been doing it for a dog's age.

Always listen to the DJ. It's his job to ensure things go smoothly and it's your job to heed them. It is customary for the DJ to also announce which

dance is to be done to the music and to also count it in.

If the DJ does a good job, let him know you have appreciated his efforts. People are all too willing to air a complaint, but compliments are few and far between. DJ's, like beginners, thrive on compliments - and you are more likely to get your requests played, especially if they are dances only a handful know. Food, drinks, chewing-gum or cigarettes should NEVER be carried onto the dance floor. It's both dangerous and unpleasant.

Never stay on the floor to talk. This includes standing around the edges of the dance floor - dances can and often do move from one side of the floor to the other and no dancer likes running into or trying to dodge a "chatter".

If you are seated or standing around the edge of the dance floor, please be considerate of those dancing - if the dancers move towards you, move out of their way.

If you are dancing away from your usual haunts and you find the regulars are doing a dance differently or to another song don't tell 'em they're wrong - line dances tend to vary considerably from place to place.

If you are a beginner, tolerate experienced dancers. They may need a little more room than you might expect.

The first line always picks the dance if the DJ does not call it. If you don't know the dance, dance in another part of the floor where you are not in anyone's way.

If the dance floor is empty and you are starting off the dance, go to the front so that others can line up behind you.

If the dance has already started

when you arrive on the dance floor, pick up the dance at whatever point those already on the floor are at. Line dancing is all about dancing in step with everyone else, after all. Also join the end of a line, not the middle! Don't be tempted to stop dancing to teach, especially if there is no room. Try to teach off the floor if you can find space. On the other hand, if you notice someone nearby who is having trouble, it is quite acceptable to call out the steps (but not too loudly), whilst continuing to dance yourself. This in fact is a good thing to do - it's a great encouragement.

The dance floor is divided into two sections: CENTRE: for the line dances, OUTSIDE: (around the line dancers) for two steppers and swing dancers

Of course, you won't always have two-steppers or swing dancers, but if you are near the edge of the dance floor it is always a good idea to kept alert to the possibility. Those dancing around the outside lane have the right of way. Of course, if the floor is packed with line dancers, it's not a good time to try two-stepping.

For two-steppers (or others dancing around the floor), the

Continued on next page



Gloria Tetu

## Bill's Corner

### HELLO TO ALL

Since this is the last newsletter for the year, Happy Holidays to all, may Santa Clause leave you those cowboy boots that you have been asking for or that cowboy hat. A great New Years resolution is to start taking lessons, yeah, I know it's tough for some of you to get here for 7 P.M. but just think, you pay 2.00 and get to learn 2 dances for free. What a deal!

For those of you who have never been to the Diamond Rodeo Christmas Party, you're missing a great time. See Peter for all the info. And you have to be here for the New Years Eve Party, talk about a Country Rockin' good time with Joe spinning those country tunes leading up to midnight in Times Square,



William H. O'Brien III

then the tunes continue until 1 A.M. OK, I've been asked to keep my column short this time, I guess I babble...ME? No! I just howl, laugh, drink and take pictures of all of you having a great time. Those pictures can be seen at [www.mikeponte.com](http://www.mikeponte.com) so the next time you see my camera, smile and say DRINK!!!

"END OF DANCE"





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