



I make the music decisions!



Letter from Iraq

Hi guys, it's been a while since I've been able to get online. I wanted to let you all know that I should be coming home soon. They have us scheduled to go home to RI around the 14th or 15th of April. I am pretty excited to go see as many of my friends and family as I can. I plan on partying, too! I hope to see you all when I come home. The hardest part now is staying focused, since we still have to go on the road. I thank you all for the packages, letters, cards, or emails you sent me. I've shared them with my troops, and they were very appreciative. I thank you on their behalf. I hope every one of you is blessed by the Lord for your support. Sincerely yours, PEDRO

Line Dance Lessons
Wednesdays
7:00 - 8:00



Wayne Learned

Two Step Lessons
Thursdays
7:00 - 7:30



Joe Macera

Line Dance Lessons
Thursdays
7:30 - 9:00

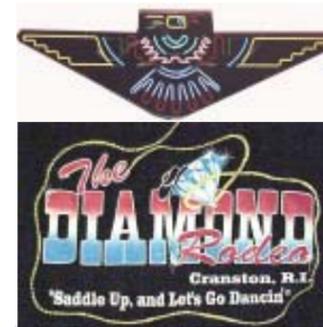


Mike Camra

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



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 and Saturdays
Free Line Dance Lessons
Fri - Gail McKenna
Wed - Wayne Learned 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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



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

May
2005

Life's Little Miracles

During Easter season, I got to thinking about miracles in my life. The fact that I've had a great place to go and dance, socialize and flirt outrageously for the past eleven years is certainly a miracle. When I'm on that dance floor in the Diamond Rodeo Room, I'm in another world. A world where there are no bills, no phone calls I have to take, no children saying, "Mom, I'm hungry" or "Mom, I'm bored", no boss telling me what to do, no problems at all. Just the music and the dance and the friends who will bust my butt when I eventually miss a step! And then there's the flirting. So many men, so little time. But everyone knows I'm all talk and no action. I'm the one who sings, "Gonna have a little fun, gonna get me none...I'm here...I'm here for the dancing!"

puppies! I've decided to keep one of these little rug rats, but I must give the other nine away to good homes. Did I mention that they're ADORABLE? All I ask is that you pay for their rabies and distemper shots and give them a loving home. They should be ready to leave their Mom on May 15th. Remember, they're adorable!!!

What miracles are there in your life? Write about them. This is YOUR newsletter! I look forward to reading your articles and seeing you on the dance floor!

Cindy Sebetes

The Streets of Nashville

On February 21st, Stephanie and Julie found themselves in the beginning of what is to be an

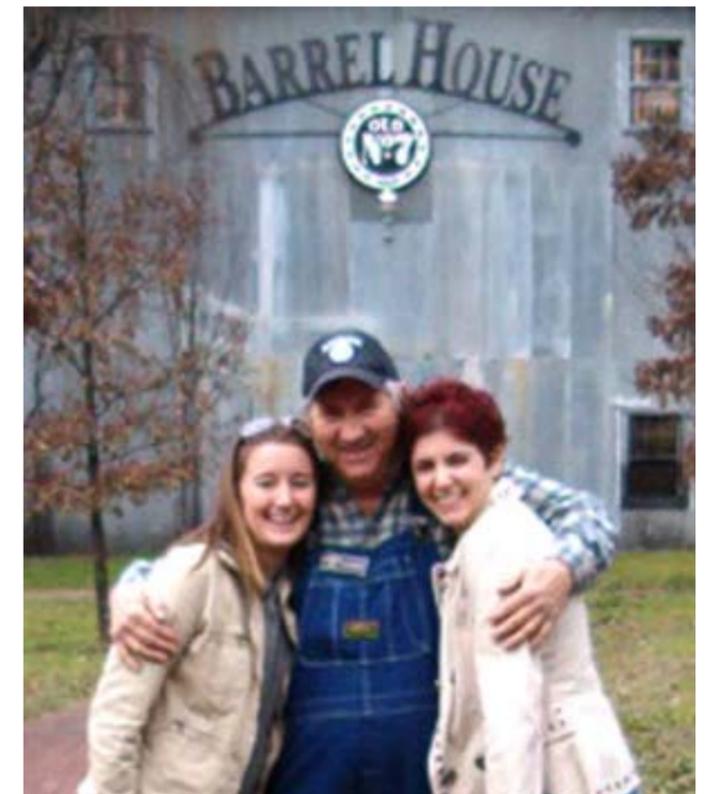
excursion-on the streets of Nashville. Upon a late arrival, our grumbling stomachs lead us to the heart of the Music City. We enjoyed a quick, but expensive burger at Rippy's and listened to the first of many aspiring artists. Although we enjoyed listening, it was our mission to bring to Nashville the skills Mike Camara has brought to us--we wanted to find a line dancing bar.

As we made our way down the strip, we found ourselves in the midst of a sea of tight-fitting Wrangler wearing belt buckle-toting men. (Are there women in Nashville? We don't know, we weren't looking). This is the night that we met the crew who pointed out to us that we were sitting next to Colin Raye at yet another bar, sans line dancing.



Cindy Sebetes

The fact that I've learned to two-step and do it well is another miracle. It was so hard for me at first because I always wanted to lead. It's in my blood to always want to be in control! To relax enough to trust my partner to lead was definitely a small miracle! And what fun it is! The next miracle in my life is actually ten little miracles! My German Sheppard mix and a beautiful Husky in the neighborhood are now parents to ten adorable



Julie Caito, tour guide and Steph Pavone

Daytime is not quite as exciting as night, so we had to find activities to busy our time. The Jack Daniels distillery seemed like the perfect leisure activity. We took a two hour drive through barren fields and cow pastures only to see the JD distillery shining on the horizon like a beacon in the night...in a dry county. Educational as it was, we were anticipating the whiskey sample, which turned out to be a shot of lemonade. Afterward, we took a stroll through downtown Lynchburg which consisted of two stores, the Teakettle Café and the Farmer's Bank...no line dancing bar... That night we went back downtown-after several encounters with the southern homeless we have a tip for the readers-always be "As Sweet As a Peach" and "As Honest as Abe" with them-they can take it. If you talk to them as you would the bums in Boston (i.e., tell them you have no money), you will find yourself getting verbally harassed. We went to Legends Corners, Tootsies Orchid Lounge, Porky's BBQ, The Second Fiddle, The French Quarter, The Exit-In (an exclusive songwriters club) and the Tin Roof. None of these bars have line dancing. We made our way around the city, seeing the rest of the sights such as the Grand Ole Opry, catching a show at the Ryman of Billy (ahhhhhhh) Currington and Trace Adkins, and finishing the day at the Wild Horse Saloon where lessons were over and there was not one line dancer to be seen. Although we did not get to use any of our well-developed line dancing skills-thanks to Joe Macera, Mike Camara, CJ the postman, and Wayne with his determination to teach Steph left from right-we had a fabulous time in Nashville and we know that we can count on the Mardi Gras for a good ol' line dancin' time!

Steph Pavone



A Night in the Life of DJ Joe

By Karen Collins

It's Friday night and he's on his way to the Diamond Rodeo. Once again he'll provide the songs for the country music lovers who go

Arriving 'bout 8:00, not a minute too late, his eyes give the club a quick glance. As he makes his way to the corner, he sees Gail teaching a difficult dance

He starts to cue up the music which is not an easy chore. Then hears a round of applause coming from those who are on the dance floor.

This mammoth greeting and roar of applause is intended for him because He'll "go all out" to make the night a success and they appreciate all that he does

The lesson has ended and he promptly announces "Let's all give Gail a big hand" Now the pressure is on to play songs for those who'll request, and the few who'll demand.

With limited time to speak, between songs, his job can be very demanding. He has this technique for engaging the crowd and his efforts are vastly outstanding

As he starts to spin off the hottest new hit, he seeks a response from the crowd. His hope is to get people on the dance floor so he turns the volume up loud

As the music begins, the couples step out on the floor and patiently wait. For in order to get the dance started he must call out 5-6-7-8

Between songs there's occasional time-filling chatter, entertainment is always expected. Loyal fans will approach him with tales of the day and no one is ever rejected

He hears rumors and lies, hearsay and buzz, stories of scandal and shame. He's the ill-fated hostage of drama and gossip but, he'll never divulge someone's name.

He alerts the crowd with a hearty "last call" soon it'll be time to go. It all went right on this Friday night, in the life of DJ Joe

"Remember the Alamo!" What does that mean, anyway?

How many times have we heard that, and where was it used? Here we all are at the Diamond Rodeo, a country dance club. How about a little Texas history? (If you're not careful, you might learn something...)

Let's make this as painless as possible, since you're probably in more of a "fun" mode right now, since you're here at the club with a brewski in your hand and ready to unwind with your friends. Texas used to be Tejas prior to the 1840's, a part of Mexico. Some Europeans, over from England, Scotland and Ireland came to the United States and settled down South, then wanted to own lots of land, so they moved to Tejas because the Mexicans gave them free land there, if they converted to Catholicism. But after a time, these Europeans wanted to run Tejas as its own country, so they had to fight the Mexicans for it, under the rule of Santa Anna. Santa Anna was a ruthless Mexican general who took no prisoners in war, not even in civil war against his own people. He just killed them straight out. He was a conceited, pompous dictator whom even the Mexicans despised. In fact, they exiled him a total of 18 times! In one civil conflict alone in May of 1835, he wiped out 2,500 Mexican men, women and children. Not a nice guy. He actually took pleasure in hearing people say he was the "Mexican Napoleon". Even Napoleon was only exiled once; this Santa Anna dude was real bad news.

he European men who wanted Tejas for themselves included Jim Bowie, David ("don't call me "Davy", he said) Crockett, and Sam Houston. Houston was the only one not present at the time of the war at The Alamo, an old, abandoned Spanish mission.

Sam Houston was a big drunk, but he was the President of the new country called Texas. He would drink all night, sleep from



The Alamo

about 5 am till noon. After spending two hours sobering up, he'd run the country from 2 pm till about 6 pm, then get drunk again and start all over. But he was a great leader, and he coaxed Santa Anna's troops to follow him deep into Texas as he retreated, wearing them down and depriving them of supplies...a brilliant tactical move that was wrongly perceived by his foes as cowardice.

Anyway, back to the Alamo. 150 brave Texans holed up there, knowing of their certain death against Santa Anna's 1,200 soldiers. It was, of course, a huge victory for the Mexicans. But those men did not die in vain, they died for the freedom of Texas, and set the mood for all the battles which followed, lead by Sam Houston.

Jim Bowie, David Crockett, Deaf Smith...they died at The Alamo in order to be the driving force to motivate Houston's troops to victory time and time again. Finally, on April 19, 1836, Santa Anna's troops were defeated for good. Sam Houston assembled 900-plus troops at the banks of the San Jacinto River just minutes

before the battle. He told them in fighting sentences: "The battle we have sought is upon us. The army will cross and meet the enemy. Some of us may be killed, and must be killed. But, men, Remember The Alamo!!! The Alamo!!!"



Gloria Tetu

To this day, we fight to defend our freedom on foreign soil, a spirit borne of bravery and of an example set so very long ago by those early Americans. Remember, always, The Alamo.

Gloria Tetu

Hello to all

Ok, you know who you are. You have been coming here for a month or maybe a week or two making the barstool and a drink your companion as you watch us "Git ur Done" on the dance floor as we sweat or perspire (lady talk) from line dancing. So when you're ready to put that foot on the floor for the first time and feel the energy and fun, you can "Git ur Done" as well. Which means you're ready for lessons - beginner lessons on Wednesdays with Wayne at 7 pm. Thursdays feature 2 step lessons with Joe Macera from 7-7:30 pm followed by beginner lessons 7:30-9 pm with Mike Camera followed by Karaoke at 9pm with DJ Joe DeSio. Fridays are my favorite lesson night, geared for the Intermediate line dancer with my favorite Instructor Gail McKenna starting at 7 pm. Gail teaches beginner line dancing Saturday nights at 7 pm.

To see more information about Mardi Gras and the Diamond Rodeo go to <http://www.mardigrasmulticlub.com>

Mike Ponte and I take club photos which can be seen by click-

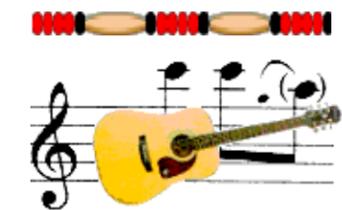
Bill's Corner



William H. O'Brien III

ing the "club photos" icon at <http://www.mikeponte.com/> and www.members.cox.net/w1pro Ok, that's it for now from the corner.

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