



Line Dance Lessons
Wednesdays
7:00 - 8:00

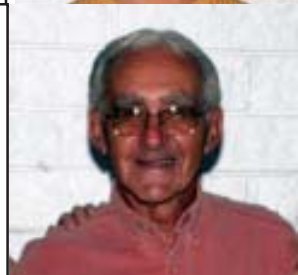
Two Step Lessons
Thursdays
7:00 - 7:30

Line Dance Lessons
Thursdays
7:30 - 9:00

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



Wayne Learned



Joe Macera



Mike Camra



**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

**October
2005**

Howdy Ya'll! It's been almost 5 years that I have been coming to the Diamond Rodeo and what a great time it's been. I've had countless nights of fun dancing my boots off to all the great music with all the interesting people I have met over the years.



Wayne Learned

And about 8 months ago I was lucky enough to be asked if I wanted to become an instructor here. Help others learn how to have a great time? Sign me up! I had done some teaching at some corporate functions and private lessons before, as well as "pointing" the way for those newcomers on the floor next to me, but never a regular weekly class. Except for a few weeks at a barn in Hopedale MA teaching Karen, Roger, Jane, Stacy, Sue, and Michelle, who are now regulars at the Rodeo, this was my first steady teaching job. It was a bit unnerving at first teaching in front of a large group of people and preparing a weekly class, but after a few weeks I started to feel comfortable. Thanks to my fellow instructors Gail McKenna and



Mike Camara for their help in "showing me the ropes" of the equipment and words of encouragement. And thanks to all my students that come up to me after a class to say how much they enjoyed it and that they got the dance down. That makes it all worth while for me. And thanks to Karen and Jane for their compliments in the past newsletters. People always ask me what it takes to be good at dancing. Well, like anything else, practice and lessons are the best way. With lessons four nights a week and time to practice afterwards, all you have to do is show up and us instructors and all the other friendly folks at the Diamond

Rodeo will help you out. Another way to help your dancing is to get a good pair of cowboy boots. By that I mean boots with real leather soles, not man-made material. The difference is the way that you will be able to move your feet on the floor. Leather is smooth and non-resistant on the hardwood floor. Man-made or rubber soles have too much traction to be able to do pivot turns and other line dancing moves smoothly. A good pair of boots can set you back a little bit of money, but with proper care and the occasional re-soling (which can't be done to man-made soles), they can last you for de-



every boot company is an interesting story. If you ever want to know anything about cowboy boots, whether it's where to get them, what makes a good one, or even the history of boots and boot companies, I'm your man to ask. Just be careful if you get me started on this topic because I won't shut up!

I collect cowboy boots as a hobby. I have been doing this for almost 10 years and currently have 140 pairs in my collection. Some made by companies you may have heard of like Justin, Tony Lama, Dan Post, and Lucchese. But also many from custom makers like Paul Bond, ML Leddy, Tex Robin, and Champion Attitude, or companies or custom makers that no longer exist or have passed away like Dixon Boot Company, Romero Boot company, and Willie Lusk (Willie Lusk was the first African-American to open his own boot company with the financial help of Las Vegas legend Benny Binnion). Behind

every boot company is an interesting story.

Boots can be made in any color or multitude of colors, and with many different kinds of animal skins. Everything from sea bass, stingray, shark, and eel, to ant-eater, elephant, kangaroo, water buffalo, lizards, snakes, and cows. And don't forget about toad, gator, crocodile, goat, and ostrich! And yet, there are still more!

There's also different styles, from the standard cowboy boot with a 12 inch shaft, to short peewees with shafts between 8 and 12 inches high, to buckaroos with shafts over 12 inches (with some going up to or beyond the knee). Toe and heel styles can vary a lot depending on taste too. Pointy, rounded, or squared toes, low 1/2" to high 2+" heels, inlays, overlays, wingtips, the choices are endless. There is a boot for everyone no matter what your tastes.

Nothing says country like a pair of real cowboy boots. It is a fash-

ion statement and an American icon known the world over as a symbol of the American west and the legendary cowboy.

Now.....Go get a pair of boots, come to one of the classes here at the Diamond Rodeo, and let the fun begin!

Wayne Learned



FALL IS HERE

Fall is here, so starts the migration of line dancers and friends we have not seen all summer. The Diamond Rodeo's magnetic attraction brings in the new and the old. The rookies are always eniovable. after all. a new dance



Al Foster

partner is welcomed news. Somehow its predestined who we are gonna two-step with, who are Renegade partner is gonna be. Ever notice that for the Renegade we are not as selective as to who we ask? It must be the fact that multiple dance partners change our qualifications. Hey, lets just get out there. Hopefully you know I am kidding, we go to dance and have fun, when our batteries run low, we know when to leave (some of us anyway). After 10 years of sitting on the rail, I still find myself pointing out the diamond shape in the not so middle dance floor. For those of you young guns that come in after 10, you might notice that the diamond on the floor is the center of the original dance floor, yes, from the Silver horse to the doors was added on years after the original floor was put down. OK Tonto, lets get out of here HI HO

Al Foster

COUNTRY DANCING

There's just somethin' about country dancin' that somehow keeps ya comin' back. It's pure. It speaks. It beckons.

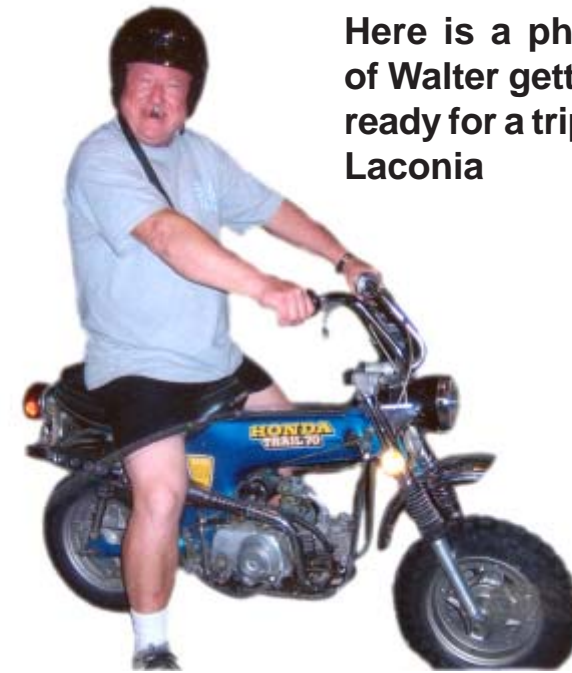
I've heard said there's a life all its own out here, on that dance floor, that is, and ringside too, for that matter. Nights at the Diamond are, for certain, testimony to that. One is witness to the fact that there is no criteria as to style or dance caliber. (Although boots do count for somethin'.) Some come to dance, some to learn to dance, and there are those who simply come to en-joy it vicariously. There's no denying this country music dance bar is "the place" with a draw for patrons to invest their social time out!



Esther Scittarelli

So, yes, there is, after all, a life all its own out here. And yes, there's somethin' about country dancin' that keeps ya comin' back for more and then some! Agree?? Agree.

Esther Scittarelli



Here is a photo of Walter getting ready for a trip to Laconia

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Hello to all, I've been line dancing since 1998, some of you may remember my cousin Cheryl, she brought me here on a Friday night. For the longest time a bar stool was my friend as I watched. Then I bought my first pair of cowboy boots, that was an experience, followed by a cowboy hat. OK, now I'm ready for lessons. At the time, Debbie taught on Wednesday nights, Gail on Friday, Joe Schutt on Saturday and Joe Macera on Sunday. I went to another place on Monday night. So I had Tuesday and Thursday off. A lot of credit to the instructors, without them I would not have the experience that I have now. A lot of credit though has to go to Gail, she has been my main instructor thorough the years. I love to have fun on the lesson dance floor as well as thorough the night. If your serious about line dancing you have to stick with it and don't give up, if you mess up, join the crowd, we all do and then we laugh about it, I mean, it is funny! Take the beginner lessons on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The intermediate lessons are with Gail on Friday nights and wow, she does a super job, but again, you have to stick with it and not give up. And

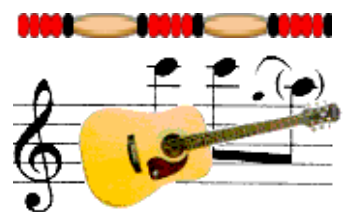
Bill's Corner



William H. O'Brien III

of course when Mike Ponte and I are not dancing we are taking photo's of YOU dancing. They can be seen on two web sites by clicking the club photos icon, www.members.cox.net/w1pro or at www.mikeponte.com See you on the dance floor "END OF DANCE"

Bill O'Brien



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