



Well in the first picture I am getting my gear ready to go out on patrol (we use Toyota "HiLux's") to make sure there is order in the area. The second one is me in one of the local stores checking up on the people and workers. My mission here is Law and Order. The weather is weird here. We get a breeze off the ocean at times which is nice. During the day it gets hot were you can't shut off the AC and at night it's like winter back home, you need a jacket. I would like to say Hi! to you all at the club. Also to say thank you all for your support along with Sam at CAT Country. I look forward to getting home, having a Corona and doing some dancing. Let everyone know to feel free to email me with any questions they may have. For The Stars, Stripes and the Eagle fly's
Jason

This is my email address out here in the dessert jason.giorgi@qatar.army.mil.



Qatar, officially State of Qatar, independent emirate (1995 est. pop. 534,000), 4,400 sq mi (11,400 sq km), on a largely barren peninsula in the Persian Gulf, bordering Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The capital is Doha. The economy of Qatar is dominated by oil and natural gas, which accounts for 70% of export income. The present emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, came to power in 1995. In the late 1990s Sheikh Hamad eased press censorship and promoted ties with Iran and Israel. Since 2001 Qatar has allowed U.S. use of the Al Udeid air base, and the headquarters for the U.S. invasion of Iraq (2003) were in the country.

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

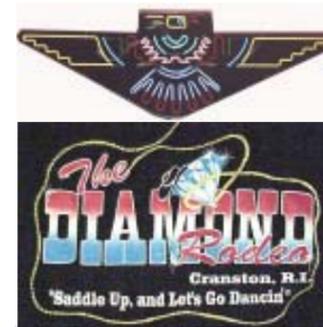


Mike Camra

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
February 2006

WHAT DOES PASSION HAVE TO DO WITH COUNTRY DANCING?

I recently had surgery on my knee. Besides reading and watching a lot of TV, I have not been working or doing any of the activities that I enjoy. The recuperation has been monotonous, boring and overall, a very slow process. I have had a lot of time to sit around and think. A lot of my time is spent daydreaming about the things I wish I could do and the things I want to do. And I'm referring to the simple things some of us sometimes take for granted including our ability to walk and drive a car. But if there were one thing missing for me, it would have to be passion. I really miss being part of all the



Renee Raymond

things I am most passionate about. Now, you may be thinking, "What is this girl talking about? Passion? What does passion have to do with country dancing?" So, in order to better explain myself, I looked to Webster's Dictionary. Passion is defined as 1. a powerful emotion, such as love, joy, hatred or anger, 2. Boundless enthusiasm and 3. The object of such enthusiasm. Imagine your life without passion. Maybe your passion is career, being a parent or doing volunteer work. Whether your passion is collecting stamps or western boots, imagine what your life would be like if you did not have them. I know I'm passionate about my job as a

teacher. It brings me great joy to impact the lives of young adults. Yes, I teach high school. It is a challenge, but every night when I get home from work, I feel good about what I do. I'm also passionate about being with my family and being with my friends. As of September, I walked into the Diamond Rodeo and a new passion, a new feeling of that 'boundless enthusiasm' hit me: country dancing. I love the lights, I love the music, I love my boots, I love to feel my face hurt from smiling the entire night, I love all the new people I have met, and I REALLY miss it. Unfortunately, it is looking like it might be quite a while before I can 2-step with my friends, Joe and AI, as well as goof up on all

the dances I will have to relearn! With the New Year upon us, I hope that everyone can appreciate the passions they have in their lives and remember to not take them for granted. Find joy in the simple things and if you feel like passion is missing in your life, I encourage you to find it! Save a dance for me! Happy New Year! These are the days we will remember These are the times that won't come again The highest of flames become an ember. And you gotta live 'em while you can -Keith Urban.

Renee Raymond

NOW I LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC



Linda Lombardi

I DON'T LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC - that's how I felt until about 7 years ago when I began coming to Mardi Gras for swing lessons. When the band took their breaks, I would go into the Diamond Rodeo and I was hooked within a few weeks. It was perfect timing because the swing lessons were discontinued and I would have to travel further if I stuck with that. Luckily, a couple of the regulars at the Diamond Rodeo took me aside and taught me a few dances and gave me the confidence to get on the dance floor. Of course, a little alcohol helps too! I used to come on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, but having to get up before 6:00 a.m. for work every day took its toll on me and growing older took its part. I recently turned 50 and I never thought that I would be going out to a club every weekend. Well, coming here keeps me young-at-heart. I work hard all week and look forward to my Saturday nights in my "other world". That's what it feels like when I walk in the room - I leave behind the hustle and bustle and frustrations of real life and just have fun for a few hours.

In an article I wrote a few years ago, I said that I've met some real friends here and that still is true. My "dates" on Saturday nights are Steve and Lorraine. I met them here a couple of years ago and they are such good people. They recently celebrated their 30th anniversary and just became grandparents for the first time. Lorraine is my dance partner a lot of the time and we have a ball. I'm hoping to be a grandma soon, but my

23 year old son has other plans. I guess that's good. It's too bad that relationships don't last like they should. One last note, I am trying to get a group of people together who are musically inclined to have jam sessions on Sunday afternoons. I have my drums set up, so I am looking for other instruments that can be brought over for the day. My neighbors won't mind (I think!). Let me know what you think. Keep smiling. Linda



Something About Country Dancing



Fran Coppola

When the Diamond Rodeo Room first opened, I walked in and stayed for about 5 minutes and went into the other room. I said to myself, this is not for me...too many steps. How could I possibly remember all those steps? The following week I decided to give it a try and took a lesson from Joe Shutt and the rest is history. I was dancing 4 times a week and loving it. Walking into the Diamond Rodeo Room is like being at home. Everyone is friendly and willing to help if you don't get it just right. The atmosphere is exhilarating and when the DJ announces the song & dance it's like a rush to get on the dance floor. You feel the music from your head to toes. Everyone has their own style and can be very creative. And when my feet get tired and I've had enough, I sit next to Richard Marchand who is like an icon and enjoy just watching and chatting with my friends. And it doesn't end there. Whether I'm at home, in the car or in the of-

frice, my feet are always moving to the music. Dancing is an expression of who you are from within. But there's something about dancing at the Diamond Rodeo Room. You have to experience the feeling, so just get out there and dance.

Fran Coppola



Look Around



Al Foster

In your travels you might have danced country around several clubs, but its hard to find the atmosphere. We might hear of a place that teaches country dancing or they have a certain night for country, but have you ever looked up? At least at the Diamond Rodeo you can look to the ceiling and see bull horns, cactus, Confederate flags etc. Not that it makes us a better dancer, but even along the top of the bar and on the walls you have neon George Strait and canteens. When you walk into the club, the whole room makes you feel good, so for all you spectators, just a warning, it doesnt take long for the country bug to bite ya. Taking from Toby Keith's song "Should have been a Cowboy" what are the chances of Gail, Joe or Wayne teaching us how to Rope and Ride? I'm gonna pass on the cattle drive.

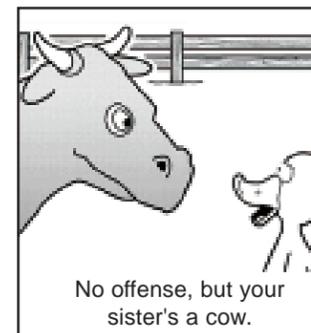
Al Foster

Many times articles in the monthly newsletter talk about having the courage to learn to dance for the first time and subsequently returning to the Diamond Rodeo for many fun nights. I'd like to take this time to thank everyone for coming down and having a great time with us. It's amazing to see all the new faces and big fans of Country music. Working with the music at Cat Country 98.1, one of my favorite things to find out from listeners and dancers is how you got into liking Country music. Unlike down south where Country music truly has been a part of the lifestyle for many years, most listeners in Rhode Island and Massachusetts did not grow up listening to Country. The majority of listeners of Country music in Southern New England have discovered it as an adult, but now that Country music is so popular, the kids are actually growing up listening to it as well. Even teenagers from all over write the station to let us know they love hearing people like Gretchen Wilson, Rascal Flatts, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Shania Twain, Toby Keith, Garth Brooks and Keith Urban. It is no surprise to me to see all the new people having fun dancing at the Diamond Rodeo. Whether this is your first time coming and reading this newsletter or you've been coming for years, I'd like to personally thank you for



Sam Stevens

bringing your friends, family and co-workers down to the club. Some people drive many miles to dance with us, and I'm honored that you think we're worth the drive to have an exciting evening. The dance instructors do a great job and the bartenders and waitstaff are always smiling to make you feel right at home. So get all your friends out for the fun! The fuller and more exciting the crowd is, the better!



No offense, but your sister's a cow.

Bill's Corner



William H. O'Brien III

Hello to all, I pull in to the parking lot between 6 and 6:15pm and of course some of us have our parking spots that we like. As the time gets closer to 7pm, the typical people are there anticipating Paul coming thru the entrance door just as Johnny Carson did, except Paul doesn't have a curtain and he doesn't tell jokes, but his warm smile greets us as we walk in. The people who have been waiting for the doors to open also have designated tables and stools. Some choose non ripped stools while others use them for their coats. As you walk in the Diamond Rodeo, you can feel the energy from the country music and the dance

floor; It's an awesome feeling. As I make my way to the stool, it's typical for me to stop and say hi to Karen and Steve as well as Kerrin (my favorite bartender) and Sam (Richard Marchland). There is a story behind why I call him Sam and why he calls me Ralph. Anyway, I say hi to him. Ok...now my dance night starts, I head to the DJ booth to say hi to my favorite line dance instructor Gail, she starts the lesson hour by warming us up, and testing us at times to see if we remember a certain line dance we do! Well, sometimes we need help. The lesson floor is always fun with a lot of energy and people eager to learn what Gail has planned to teach that night. If only we could get Walter with his blue shorts to join us. The Diamond Rodeo has had line dancing for a long time. And it is the best place to learn line dancing in New England. Proof of this is that there are always new people at the Diamond Rodeo checking out the line dance

craze that has been sweeping the nation since Boot Scootin' Boogie came out by Brooks and Dunn. I say hi to the newcomers and they tell me that they are new to this line dancing stuff and how do we remember all the steps? They look out on the dance floor with amazement and want to try it someday! Until then, they watch and have a drink in hand or should I say, medicine to help with the overwhelming brain trauma from watching the line dancing. However, it's exciting to see that person on the dance floor taking the lessons and months go by and they are having fun doing what they have been wanting to do for some time. So, the night goes on, by the way...Diamond Rodeo photos and can be seen on the world wide web at www.members.cox.net/w1pro. Click on the club photo icon....see you on the dance floor.

"END OF DANCE"

Bill O'Brien

Castle Home Inspections
Complete Home Inspection Services
Robert Rubadou
Owner/Certified Home Inspector
271 Market Street
Warren, RI 02885
(401) 245-7852
Cell (401) 263-7317
Nascarbob38@msn.com
Castleinspections@msn.com

PFS INVESTMENTS INC.
Member NASD® A member of citigroup™

IRA'S Albert Foster
1611 Warwick Ave.
Warwick, RI 02889
(401) 286-1270

Mutual Funds

A Registered Representative of PFS Investments Inc.

Der Jess entertainment
Professional Disc Jockey Service
Weddings, Holiday Parties, Corporate Events...and more!!
E mail: discjockey@riweddingdj.com Cranston, R.I.
Website: www.derjessentertainment.com 401-474-4938
DJ Joe DeSio
Remember "DJ is in the name"

Richard Marchand rmarchand@travishomeloans.com
Loan Officer

TRAVIS MORTGAGE LLC
Strength, Security & Trust
A Division of Saybrook Financial, Inc.

652 George Washington Highway
Lincoln, RI 02865

Cell: 401-954-3811
Office: 401-475-6440
Fax: 401-475-6448
Toll Free: 866-780-0371