

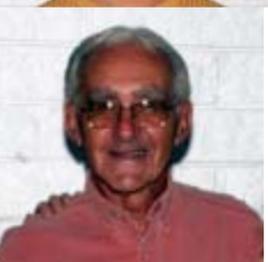
Line Dance Lessons
Wednesdays & Thursdays
7:00 - 8:00

Two Step Lessons
Thursdays
7:00 - 7:30

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



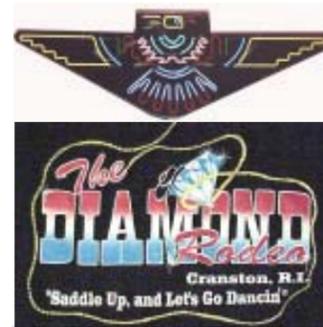
Wayne Learned



Joe Macera



**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 Wayne Learned 7:30 - 9:00

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



Quick Quick... Slow Slow



Editor, Layout & Photos: Michael Ponte. Co-Editor Cindy Sebetes
Facilitator: Joe Macera - Contributors: Al Foster, Bill O'Brien, Esther Scittarelli
November 2006

Texas Two step

One of my goals in life is to have been lost in as many states and as many countries as I can. I'm currently at 35 states and 16 countries. While I'm getting lost, I construct emails for my friends and family back home. This is part of my email home from Dallas, Texas, sent on March 1, 2006. I'm starting in the middle, because I tend to go on a bit.



Ernie Levesque

There are twelve of us at dinner. We represent Rhode Island, Florida, California and Texas. I was the only one who had plans for the evening and I left dinner early. I have to drive about an hour west to Fort Worth, and a very famous dance hall, the biggest Honky Tonk in the world, called "William Robert's (aka Billy Bob's) Texas". Of course no one includes the "Texas" part, they just call it "Billy Bob's". This is important because after trekking up and down North Main Street in Fort Worth, I finally stopped at a gas station and asked for directions. The station is a "BP" (British Petroleum) which I thought was funny. The

woman spoke very slowly and said "go left out of the gas station and turn left at the first light". When I walk out I can see the light and I can see this incredibly large building with an enormous neon sign in the shape of the state of Texas. The word "TEXAS" is scripted across the center of state. And then I notice, up in the pan handle, in much smaller script is "Billy Bob's". I feel like the idiot I am. I now realize why the woman was talking so slowly. Somehow "Are you blind?", comes to mind. Billy Bob's is a pool hall, game room, casino, restaurant, show theater and dance hall. Every piece has its own space and every space is bigger than you would believe. Because (say it with me)... "Everything is bigger in Texas!".

While it is not always apparent, I am really quite shy, but I made a promise to myself that I would dance the "Texas Two Step" in Texas. When I get inside of Billy Bob's there is a live band playing and the place is pretty empty (by that I mean less than a hundred people, playing pool, sitting at the bar, and a few dancing). When the band breaks the DJ announces that there will be some line dancing. The first song is really a couples dance and I notice this young woman who is standing at the side of the dance floor. She is moving to the music and I summon up all of my nerve and decide to take a chance and ask her if she knows the dance. I touched her shoulder and leaned in and asked: "Do

you know this?". She turned to me with a smile that could break my heart and answered with a southern drawl, so sweet, it could have stomped all the pieces, but she said: "Yes I do" and we did! Later, after the band came back from a break, I asked her if she would "two step" with me. Same smile, same drawl, same answer. By the way, in case you don't know, dancing to a live band is always better than dancing to recorded music. The band has to have a certain level of expertise but other than that it will be better. I don't know why. This band is good but I'm not thinking that I have to run out and find their music and I don't even remember their name. As we walked to the dance floor, I told her that I was not very good and she said: "that's okay"; and, as if in a show of faith, she took her shoes off before she stepped on the dance floor. She was terrific, I kept my promise to myself and had such great time doing it! But I have to pull a Cinderella now and leave before the ball even gets rockin'. I have an hour ride back to the hotel (and I'm prone to getting lost); and I have a full day at work tomorrow, which is also scheduled to start an hour earlier than today! So I'll do the responsible thing and leave. What is wrong with me!?

As I leave Billy Bob's, I hear the long wail of a train whistle and I'm reminded that I'm in the Fort Worth Stockyards. For over a hundred years, this is where cattlemen and cow-

boys from all over Texas drove cattle to market. Fortunes were made and lost here, and some of the most colorful people, ever, lived and died here. There is a little more strut in my step.
More Later,

Ernie Levesque



Addicted to dancing.

I started coming to Mardi Gras about 9 years ago with my girlfriend. We spent most of our time in Club Carnival and the Monkey Bar. We would walk through Jr's and the Diamond Rodeo. I was amazed the people knew all the dances and were all in sync with each other.

I talked my friend into taking a lesson on a Friday night. She wasn't really interested after that and I didn't feel like I could go by myself so time went by.

Then two years ago my other friend and I were walking on a bike path commenting about how our kids get so much exercise and have a better social life than us. While they were in the pool on a swim team, all we were is a taxi driver trying to squeeze time for ourselves by walking for exercise. We decided we had to get a life too. My sister came to visit from Pennsylvania around the same time and we went out dancing at Mardi Gras. While we were in the Diamond Rodeo, my friend and I decided we would take lessons and Thursday nights worked best for us.

Mike Camara was our first teacher, and from the beginning we were both hooked. At first after learning the dances, Mike would play one slow song, one medium speed and then finally the real song the dance was intended for. I could make it through the first song but half way into the second song I was lost. The final song I could only watch, mar-

vel, and wonder if I would ever get to that point Well it has been two years and I am still hooked and really enjoy the challenging dances and I don't have to sit out the practice songs anymore

My son told me I am addicted and need to attend "Dancers anonymous." If that is true the only therapy is more dance lessons. See you on the dance floor.

Judy Schneider

Click here for her photo



Things you will never see at the Diamond Rodeo



Al Foster

- 1 Too many people submitting articles
2. Sitting someplace different.
3. Peter doing the Watermelon Crawl in the back row.
4. Peter not changing T-shirts
5. Richard sitting near the DJ Booth
6. Wayne not knowing a dance
7. The bartenders not knowing what you drink.
8. Russell sitting at the bar
9. Joe not two-steppin
10. Paul the DJ doing his only dance at 10:30 instead of 10:15
11. Walter picking up your drink when there is something left in it.
12. Bill not yelling Yaahooooo
- 13..A female asking "who is Bubba?"
14. Me writing something that somebody cares about.

Al Foster

Ready to Rock

Choreographed by Gail McKenna and Bill O'Brien
Music Ready to Rock by Aaron Tippin
48 count, 4 wall beginner line dance with a swing beat

Walk forward, walk back, rolling vine x 2

- 1,2,3,4 Walk forward right, left, right, kick left
5,6,7,8 Walk back left, right, left, touch right.

Rolling Vines

- 1,2,3,4 Full turn right, 1/4 onto right, 1/2 onto left, 1/4 onto right, touch left.
5,6,7,8 Full turn left, 1/4 onto left, 1/2 onto right, 1/4 onto left, touch right.

Hips

- 1,2,3,4 2 hip bumps to right, 2 hip bumps to left.
5,6,7,8 2 hip rolls counterclockwise with weight ending on left.

2 shuffles forward, jazz box with 1/4 turn to right

- 1+2,3+4 Step forward right, step left next to right, step forward right
Step forward left, step right next to left, step forward left
5,6,7,8 Cross right over left, step side left, turn 1/4 right onto right, step left next to right.

Jazz box with 1/4 turn to right, side shuffle with rock step

- 1,2,3,4 Cross right over left, step side left, turn 1/4 right onto right, step left next to right.
5+6,7,8 Step side right, step left next to right, step side right, cross left over right, recover onto right. (may substitute full turn shuffle)

Side shuffle with rock step, 1/4 turn to right

- 1+2,3,4 Step side left, step right next to left, step side left, cross right over left, recover onto left, (may substitute full turn shuffle)
5,6,7,8 Step 1/4 right onto right, (1/2 pivot) step forward left, turn onto right, step forward left.

End of Dance



Paul Cahoon

It was nice to see our friend, Paul Cahoon, at the club a few weeks ago. Paul moved to Florida several years ago but still stays in touch with several people from the club via email. Before his move south he was at the club most evenings. You could always count on Paul to give you a big smile and handshake when you saw him. Paul's email is: Pcahuny@webtv.net

Mike Ponte

People



Bill's Corner



William H. O'Brien III

Hello to All.

As this newsletter comes out, we need to thank Mike Ponte, Cindy Sebetes and Joe Macera for the terrific job that they do on it. They are always

looking for contributors, so feel free to write something about Country music, line dancing, how you got started doing line dancing, what brought you to the Diamond Rodeo and so on. They would love to print an article about you and we would love to read about you. And of course the great photos in the newsletter can be viewed from two different websites:

www.mikeponte.com or
www.members.cox.net/w1pro

See you on the dance floor.....next to me.

"END OF DANCE"

PUSSIES GALORE

Bengal & Siamese



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DJ Joe DeSio

Remember "DJ is in the name"

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