



**SIDE-BAR
COMMENTS**

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Wednesdays, Fridays and
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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

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viewed on line at
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Quick Quick... Slow Slow



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**June
2007**



**Billy Ray Cyrus and
Karina Smirnoff,**

Seeing Billy Ray Cyrus on Dancing With The Stars (recently voted off), it reminded me of a neat story meeting him in Tennessee. Billy Ray Cyrus has always been a guy who takes care of his fans-which makes them extremely loyal. Some singers may have attitudes, but he truly is humble and appreciates everything the fans do to support him. In 2000, Billy Ray signed with a new record la-



Billy Ray Cyrus

bel and he decided to have a gathering at his house outside of Nashville for people in radio to hear the new project and get a chance to meet him. I happened to have the weekend off so I was real excited to take him up on his invitation!



Sam Stevens - WCTK

He basically opened his house to the 50 or so radio people that flew to Nashville. The inside of his house was so classy (not fancy/expensive, but just really beautiful). I mentioned to his wife that the decorating was really amazing (I didn't know she was the one who did it when I said it). She was so excited she grabbed my arm and took me into the other room where Billy Ray was showing some of his record company plaques to other radio folks to tell him about the great job she did. She wasn't bragging; She was just so happy someone noticed her work.

His property consists of about 550 acres. It definitely has the

southern feel to it with the front porch area supported by the pillars (a typical looking bigger southern home). At the front of the house they set up buckets of balls so people could tee off into the field. He also had a few 4 wheelers that he let people take around the property as well. That was real cool. I remarked to one of my radio friends from another town "How cool is this that we're riding all around Billy Ray Cyrus' property with his 4 wheelers. I'm so thankful for his invitation. This is amazing!" We rode all over the place for about 30 minutes.

After we had our play time, we had a big cookout in front of the house under a tent (it was evening by this point). He talked about how loyal his fans are in New England. He knows that the biggest thing he'll ever be known for is "Achy Breaky Heart," but he also admits he'd never have what he has if it weren't for that CD either. After we all had a great cookout and some ice cold brews, we all boarded the bus and headed back into Nashville. Very few Country singers have opened their house and invited radio people to visit, let alone go all over the property on 4 wheelers. It was one of those special days I'll always remember. It is no wonder Billy Ray Cyrus has such loyal fans. He really does appreciate everything he's been given.

Sam Stevens WCTK



First Impression

For most of the sixties I was a "Mod" drummer in a "Rocker" band. "Mods" and "Rockers" were British terms out of Liverpool, in England. Interestingly, the Beatles were actually a "rocker" band but they were the start of the "Mod" movement. Even so, the Beatles didn't like the labels. Ringo Starr is asked a question by a reporter in the movie "A Hard Days Night": "Are you a Mod or a Rocker?" Ringo answers: "Um, no. I'm a mocker!". I wish I had understood the depth of that answer when I first heard it.

I spent a lot of time trying to get the band; we were the "Classels", to play more of "my" music. This wasn't all that hard because we were a Wedding band: That really meant that we would play mostly anywhere. We did Weddings, Parties, Festivals, Dances, "The Cranberry Bowl", and were the first band to be retired after winning the "Battle of the Bands" three weeks straight at Lincoln Park (The old amusement park in Westport, Ma, not the race track in RI). As a wedding band we needed to be able to play a little of everything. Something to dance polkas,



Ernie Levesque

waltzes, the twist, swing, and just about anything else a drunken partygoer could come up with. We let "best men" and ushers jam with us and all we asked for was... money. In looking back on it, I loved playing the "Rocker" songs. I

wish that I'd seen the hypocrisy of thinking that there even was "my" music. There was really only music that I was told that I should like, by friends, fan magazines, bands and eventually radio stations. I really did like a lot of it and still do. Maybe that's why I was so easily fooled. Tim McGraw's "Back When" speaks to it: "I had my favorite stations; the ones that played them all. Country, Soul and Rock and Roll." Until I heard that song I had forgotten that radio stations used to play all of the genres. Two of the first vinyl, long playing, records that I owned were: Marty Robin's "Gunfighter Ballads" and Dee Dee Sharp's "Do the Bird". How much more eclectic can you get than that? I lost that eclectic approach and became very narrow in my acceptance of music.

I think there were two things that finally made me give up on any belief in what I had thought of as "my" music. The first was that all of my contemporaries were always bemoaning how all the great music was written when we were growing up. That is exactly what our parents and their parents said. What are the chances that we are the first generation in history to be right? My guess is, zero. The truth is that there is a lot of bad music in every generation, so it's always easy to poke fun, if that is what you want to do. Our bad music isn't great music; it just represents our great times. I don't care how bad the song is; if you hear it the first time you kiss a girl you really care about, that song is a great song. No song written today is likely to give me that kind of reaction, so I see today's bad music as ... well, bad music. But more and more now, I see the gems too.

The second thing; I like learn-

ing to dance country and western, which I learned from my twenty something niece; I learned from a twenty something waiter, in sidewalk cafe in Sydney, Australia. The place is called Gusto. It is on Hall Street just off the Campbell Parade at Bondi Beach, a part of Sydney's Eastern suburbs.

I'd go to Gusto often to get one of their famous two fruit muffins and a "long black". The muffins were a different combination of two fruits every morning and while some were the oddest mixes (Apple and Mango), they were always great. A "long black" is a double shot of espresso with extra water to make a ten ounce cup. It was so strong that it would bleed black through the Styrofoam cup before you could finish it! (As I'm writing this the pang of nostalgia is overwhelming.)

This particular morning I hear music coming from inside. The current song is "Lilly, Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts" by Bob Dylan. It is one of my favorite Dylan songs and, because it is eight and a half minutes long, you, generally, only hear it if you own it. It struck me that the previous song was "It's the Same Old Song" a Motown song by the Four Tops and before that was "Mascara" by Killing Heidi (an Australian rock group). I found myself listening just to see what would come up next and the mix included more and more generations and genres; rock, folk, country, soul, local and foreign. I got up and asked a boy on the staff about the music. He says that it's "his personal cassette" and he'll put something else on if I want. I smiled and said: "No it's great. I just wanted to know where the mix came from." He smiled like I made his day. He is a mocker!

I try to listen to all kinds of music now and certainly not

get stuck listening to oldies. And while I said that no song written today is likely to evoke the kind of nostalgic reaction of a song I heard during a first kiss; I was wrong about that too. The song "Want To" by Sugarland is a gem, and Jennifer Nettles is a diamond. When I hear Jennifer sing that song: I'm sixteen, on sea wall, on the Sakonnet River, in Portsmouth's Island Park, sitting with a girl who can make the world stop spinning.

Ernie Levesque



Al Foster

Dance Floor Etiquette

Here is the article that everybody avoids, I understand that nobody likes being told what to do, and everybody does what they want anyway, so let me quote from a few websites. Dance floor etiquette is like the rules of the road for dancing. We have fast lanes, slow lanes and center lanes.

Traffic moves counter clockwise at all times. The outside lane is used for progressive dancers. Sometimes the DJ might call for a two step and some people might want to line dance to it, therefore the center of the floor is used for that reason. We have a small floor, I know sometimes I get dirty looks when I dance a West Coast Swing on the side of the dance floor, but, when you start yelling at Mailman Joe for swinging, then I will worry about it. Some have

suggested we post a sign on the rail " No hanging around on the inside of railing"... "No sitting on the floor". "No bottles or drinks on the dance floor".....do we need to do that?..I dont think so. I'm sure we can all get along, pretty soon half of us will be outside on the patio enjoying the summer nights and there will be plenty of room to dance. While I have this platform, let me say that its nice to see some of the newer dancers like Amanda and Kristen, Tom and many others. If any of you want to write an article for the newsletter, make sure you see Joe, Mike or Bill, sound off, lets hear what you think, tell us how you got bit by the country bug.



Bill and Deloris Issler

der one roof would make a good franchise throughout the country (how about San Diego?!). However, it's all the great people at The Diamond Rodeo that keeps us coming back. Wayne, Gail, and Joe are super at pacing the lessons to meet the needs of the particular group at each class. The occasional step review is really helpful for those of us that are new. The highlight of the week for us is Thursday night two-step with Joe. We'd like to thank everyone for extending us such a warm welcome; especially Judy, Wes, Ernie, Russ and Audrey, Bev, John and Lori, and Michelle for their extra

support as we fumble through all these new dances - thanks guys!



Bill O'Brien

Hello to all

You know, I've been thinking.....if it wasn't for choreographers we would not have line and couples dances nor would we have the 2 step. We need to thank the choreographers past and present from the Diamond Rodeo and Nationwide for their talent in choreographing the dances that we have so much fun dancing too. See you on the dance floor "END OF DANCE"



New at Mardi Gras

We are pretty new to the Mardi Gras dance floor. We are native Californians that moved to Rhode Island about five years ago. Of all the new things we've seen here in New England, we think Mardi Gras is the best kept secret! This concept of multiple clubs un-



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Country Music Profiles

By Gloria Tetu

Here's another one of my on-going profiles of country music's best. You dance to their music, so you might as well know a little about them! Enjoy

Mark Chesnutt is one of country's true musical treasures. Critics have hailed him as a classic country singer of the first order, and some of country music's elite entertainers, from George Jones to George Strait, echo this sentiment. Mark's stature is easily gauged - he has had 14 number-one hits, 23 top-ten singles, four platinum albums and five gold records.

In a world that sometimes confuses style with substance, Mark possesses both. He'll tell you, "It's the music that has kept me around this long." Remaining true to himself as a traditional country artist while still keeping up with the ever-changing country landscape, Mark has a knack for picking great songs and delivering them with his world-class vocals and genuine heartfelt emotion.

Mark Chesnutt's personal integrity as well as his principal to record a genuine country song has made him a fixture on radio



Mark Chesnutt

and in the honky tonks. He got his start in the honky-tonks of Beaumont, Texas, learning from his father, Bob Chesnutt, a singer, record collector, and major fan of classic country music. Playing along side his dad, one

set at a time, Mark embraced his father's influence and began making a name for himself. With the release of his first single, "Too Cold At Home," Mark established himself as one of country's most authentic and talented vocalists.

All the recorded highlights take a back seat to his first love. Chesnutt lives for the stage. "I just make records because I want people to come see my show," he says with a grin. "Just listening to music is great," he says, "but I've got to be out there on stage making it." Fans who have seen him perform agree. Known as one of the industry's hardest-working concert performers, maintaining a hefty tour schedule and steady presence in front of his fans, Mark's dedication to deliver live music is unsurpassed

Married since 1992, Mark and Tracie Chesnutt are the loving parents of three boys, Waylon, Casey, and Cameron.

We line dance to one of Mark's classic songs, "Bubba Shot the Juke Box". If you don't know

the dance we do to it here at Mardi Gras, it's "Juke Box Shot". Here are the steps so next time you have no excuse for not getting out on the floor! (Hint to Gail: Maybe you can teach it again soon?)




See insert for dance steps.

-Ed



Gloria Tetu



<p style="text-align: center;">Line Dance Lessons Wednesdays & Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Wayne Learned</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Two Step Lessons Thursdays 7:00 - 7:30</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Joe Macera</p>
<p>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</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Fridays & Saturdays Gail McKenna</p>