

Rockin' Horse Tales

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Rhonda's Writin'

Happy Spring,

With all the excitement of Spring approaching, planning the projects we are getting to this year, and all the beautiful bulbs that are peaking through the ground, it is with great sadness that I start this letter. On January 31, we lost a very special member of our family and my dearest friend, Mazie, our dog of 8 1/2 years. She had been suffering some pretty serious liver problems that started when we bought the barn. She was also diagnosed with a tumor in her nostril that would not stop bleeding and it was in her best interest to not let her suffer anymore. With great sadness and strength, the four of us were with her when her time with us was up. The strength came directly from our 6 year old son Daniel, who pointed out that we could not just drop her off at the vet's office to get "the shot," but that we were her family and we needed to be there for her. It was a very moving experience, one I have never had to do before, and one I will not have to ever do alone, as long as Dano is around. Mazie has been buried in a place of honor in our front garden, a place I love spending so much of my time. Thank you to the "Tuesday morning girls" for all your love and support during this difficult time. I really appreciate it and know that she is greatly missed.



You can find us on the WEB at:
www.learn2dance4fun.com

Keep this flyer thru June 2002

On a much happier note, when I last left you we were getting ready for Christmas and New Years, both of which were pulled off with great Holiday excitement. The Christmas party was fun because of two things: 1. Our first ever gift exchange, and 2. A special surprise visit from Santa. (Speaking of the gift exchange, did someone not get their gift, one was left over — whoops!) Santa passed out over 90 candy canes and sure added to the festivities. I later found out that Santa is available for hire. If you are interested, please contact David Rigley at 425-430-0135.

We try to have a theme for our New Year's Eve parties. Last year was red, white and blue in honor of our country and September 11th. This year the format will change a bit, but the theme is AWESOME! It is never too early to start planning for New Year's, so gather up all that roaring 20's attire: fringe dresses, gangster outfits, violin cases and feather boas because we are having a (Zoot Suit) riot this coming New Year! In February of this year, the 11th annual Sweetheart Jamboree had a roaring 20's theme and it was a huge success! People said we should do that for New Year's. We thought about it

(we did already have costumes made) and thought it might be fun. Well, little did we know how easy the decorating would turn out to be. Walt and Debbie, the directors of the Sweet Heart Jamboree, donated a good portion of the decorations to the barn. Thank you Walt and Debbie for your generous donation. I am sure we all will get the most out of it. We've already started planning, it's only March for crying out loud — watch out what we do when December rolls around. It is guaranteed to be a hoot!

Speaking of the Sweet Heart Jamboree, it was one fun dance weekend: lessons Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with dinner, a show and dance Saturday night. There were dance contests, performances; you name it, they planned it! Walt and Debbie, and the rest of the Jamboree crew, deserve a big round of applause for a job well done. They have already started planning for next year, so if you are at all interested in attending, it is never too early to register. For more information, please contact Walt Overgaard and Debbie Susong at 253-350-5994.

We have some fun things planned for the upcoming Spring season. **April 13th** we are bringing back Michele Perron and Brian Bull, the instructors from



Mazie 1993 - 2002

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Red Auerbach

HALL FOR RENT!

With the decline in attendance at the 2nd and 4th Saturday swing dances, we have no choice but to cancel them all together and go back to renting out the hall. It was financially difficult, as well as hard on our family, to continue holding the dances. So, if you know of anyone looking for a hall to rent call us 425-255-9211.

Canada that came last June for our "Salsa" night. Michele will teach our Friday night line dance lesson, as well as partner and line dance workshops all day Saturday. We're having a special potluck dinner/dance on Saturday following the workshops. See enclosed flyer for more information. We are also going to start offering "line dance Saturday." One Saturday a month features an intermediate & Beyond line dance. For those of us who are up to the challenge, wanting some extra exercise or just needing some floor time, the barn is the place to be. We have planned one Saturday a month through June. Dances in the works are Mambo #5 (March 23), Smooth Criminal (April 27), MJDACS (May 25), and Prince's Bridge (June 29). Allow for at least 2 hours for each lesson and consider bringing a snack or lunch. Rest assured, we are guaranteed some GREAT music. Terry West also has some West Coast Swing workshops scheduled at the barn. We have them planned out on an enclosed flyer.

This year Dave and I walked the St. Patrick's Day Dash and afterwards we met Marc & Faith and Dave & Shelly at the Seattle Center for the Irish festivities. One of the things we did was try some Ceili (pronounced kay lee) dancing, like in the movie Titanic, and was it a lot of fun!! Shelly teaches it and said she'd love to teach a class on it at the Barn. We have planned out the calendar and found 5 Saturdays in a row that we can offer it: April 27 - May 25 from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon. Come on out and join us for some fun on Saturday mornings. We know you'll enjoy it, even if you aren't Irish.

With the Spring and Summer months comes our time to catch up (or try to anyway) on the remaining projects that need to be done around the barn. Dave and I are not a club so we don't have 'members' that we can rely on, it gets done because we have very dear friends. These past three years have taken its toll on us all as a whole, so we are looking for people who want to give a few hours and lend a helping hand. We want to clean the barn from top to bottom, as well as get the outside painted. It took quite a bit of time to paint just the one outside wall, and we sure could use some help with the other three. We are planning a BBQ dinner and private dance to anyone interested in helping out (to take place at a later date than the work party date). Please let us know ASAP if you are interested, we'll watch the weather and then set a date.

Any help would be greatly appreciated (no skills necessary).

In mid January I started working out at our local gym, Exercise Express. I get almost private, one on one instruction from the owner Alice. It is turning out to be quite fun, and something I really enjoy doing daily. I never knew the benefits would be apparent so quickly. With this new found "passion" I learned about the Avon 3-day walk for breast cancer (from my dearest friend of 20 years) and signed up. She is walking with family members and friends, and in total there are over 10 of us walking together. I now have something to train for and that gave me a goal: to walk the 60 miles in three days to help find a cure for breast cancer. We all know a woman, be it a sister, mother, Auntie, friend or spouse, and no one is left unaffected by this horrible disease. Please read my enclosed letter and consider helping me reach my goal to walk for a cure for breast cancer.

Because nice matters.

I wanted to close with something that I had to share with you. Something that has been going on at the barn lately and for me, it truly is inspiring to try and be the best person I can be. Since January there has been an "angel" at the barn, who voluntarily pays the admission of "the next person who walks in the door." How it was thought up I do not know, but it really has had an impact on the people who have been "next." A new gal came who heard about the barn. She loved to line dance and had not been dancing for a few years. I told her to come on in as her admission had been paid (knowing full well that it really had been paid and trying to not look like I was sucking up to her). She thanked me and danced the whole evening. Later, as she was leaving, she told me that she knew she was at a good place because a few hours before she came to the barn, she and her husband had scraped together all the money they could find, exactly \$7. The reason: she has gone back to school and has been a full time student for the last 2 years, and he had recently been laid off from his job of 20+ years. The "angel" really helped someone out in their time of need. Another person came "through the door" who had recently had job troubles and that random act of kindness helped him out. But the coolest one had to be the man who came "next" and decided to carry on the kind act and paid the admission of whoever came in after him. We truly are surrounded by good people and we are thankful for each and every one of them.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy:
They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."
~Marcel Proust

Thank you for being a part of our dance family.

Until next time,
Rhonda