

Rockin' Horse Tales

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Rhonda's Writin'

I don't know where the summer has gone, but Daniel is already reminding us that he will be attending kindergarten at Apollo elementary school, right next door to the barn. For those who have been keeping tabs, he was 5½ years old this August. I can't believe my baby is starting school. Madelynn is also pretty proud that she is going to St. Jim's preschool. She will be 3 1/2 this October. They are growing up so quick, right before our eyes. It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since we sold our house to buy the barn. Where has the time gone? I know a lot if it has gone into this barn adventure, and what fun it has been! This coming **October 15th** we will have owned the barn 2 years. Unbelievable!! We so enjoyed the party last year, but this year we have a budget to work with and another party is not worked into it. Instead, come out **October 13th**, enjoy a little dessert, and see what we have been up to.

Thank you to everyone who came to our first ever 4th of July party. There were fireworks all around us from our neighbors, as well as the stuff we all had to blow-up. It was a great show, and what made it even better were the special friends who helped us celebrate. We danced from 5:00 - 10:00 pm, with lots of food to go around. We are planning on making this an annual party, so mark your calendar for next year and come out and join us.

Another great party we had this summer was our 8th anniversary potluck on July 21st. What made it so special was to have all the couples who met through us attend. We took a great group picture and hope to have it framed and hung up in the barn sometime in the future. Thank you to everyone for all the congrats and support (and to think, someone said our marriage wouldn't last two months — ha!)

We had our first swing dance on Saturday May 6th with Ron Bolin and what a great turn out! Over 120 people swing dancing the night away. Then we had our first swing dance with Terry West on June 24th and again, what an



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

excellent turn out! Over 100 people for that one also (even during the summer). If you are looking for a place to mostly swing dance (plus a couple of your other favorite partner dances) then head to the barn on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. You won't regret it. (check the dance calendar for possible changes to that plan) We have the calendar and lesson plans included on the dance flyers. Thank you Ron & Brenda, and Terry & Jackie!

This Summer has been so busy with all of our projects around the barn. During July we installed our new surround sound system. We want to thank Terry West for his knowledge and help, and Dr. John for his labor and time. We are very happy with the even volume around the dance floor. We have more things to come

CORRECTION

We need to give special recognition to Linda Hightower for the artistic help in getting our Logo started. She spent hours drawing, erasing and perfecting the original artwork. We inadvertently omitted her in our last newsletter. Our sincerest apologies Linda!!! Thank you for your help ~

We are excited to announce that we will be having one of the best local country western bands performing at the barn. **THE RANGERS** will be here live **September 29th, 8:00 pm to midnight**. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, high energy evening. The price remains the same, \$7 for lesson at 7:00 pm, \$7 for the dance, or both for \$10. The lesson for the evening is the Tush Push line dance. You won't want to miss this performance.

I don't remember how it started, but several years ago someone wanted to celebrate their birthday at one of our dances so they brought a cake, forks, plates, and napkins and shared their celebration with everyone who was at the dance. We would have a cake once every 6 - 8 months, but as the group grew larger we started to have a cake once every 4 months. Now, 9 years later, people are bringing a birthday cake almost every week. And it is not limited to birthdays. We are celebrating everything from becoming a grandparent, to anniversaries, new jobs, retirements, you name it. It is great fun and everyone enjoys being part of the celebration. But once in awhile the plates, forks and napkins are forgotten so we supply them, or various people donate supplies to make sure we have something to serve the cake on. This system has been working for the past 2 years, but we got to looking at our expenses and realized that we can't afford to keep doing it this way. We were given a great idea for a fund raiser to help offset the kitchen expenses (i.e. plates, napkins, saran wrap, aluminum foil, etc). We are looking for recipes to put together "The Rockin' Horse Dance Barn Cook-Book" with all proceeds going toward the

RECYCLE

We have separate buckets at the Dance Barn for bottles or aluminum cans. If you can help, please throw them in the appropriate bucket and we will take care of them.

Thanks for your help!

kitchen expenses. This is where you come in. Please send us your favorite recipe(s) if you would like to be in our first ever cook-book. We'll make sure you are mentioned, along with your recipe(s). The deadline for entry is **November 25, 2000**.

One more thing I would appreciate some help with is naming our garden. Let me give you some background. We started our landscaping with nothing more than rocks and dirt. We wheel barrowed the manure/compost mix-

Thank you

Steve, Tony, Bob, Marc, Bruce and Dr. John

Because of their help, we have done some big projects around the barn that needed to be done before Winter. We couldn't have done it all without them.

If you have any left over fruit this season, make sure to try this recipe. She used raspberries and peaches, but any fruit would work.

Simply Summer Fruit Cake

Submitted by Charlynn Bartlett

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 tsp. Baking powder
2 cubes butter
4 eggs

Blend together and spread in greased 9x13 cake pan. Top with berries or cut fruit. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

ture from the horse barn next door, and were fortunate enough to know someone who could get us plants at wholesale. Darcy, our friend who is a gardener, helped us plan out the design and also helped us get what plants we had, in the ground. As the summer went on, people were sprucing up their own gardens, and instead of composting plants/flowers they did not want, they donated them to our garden. This is where I need some creative thinking. We want to put a sign in the garden with a clever name on it (i.e., "The Given Garden", etc.) I can't seem to come up with a name on my own and would really appreciate your help. It doesn't have to rhyme, just has to have some meaning. I have already thought about "The Garden of Weedin," but after months

of weeding this place, I don't find that name amusing ☺. There is no deadline on "Name the Garden." If you come up with something, just please let me know. I would really appreciate it.

We have the rest of the year planned out and here are some highlights to look forward to. They are also on the dance flyer, but here they are in order:

- September 29 The Rangers perform live**
- October 13 The Barn's 2nd Anniversary Party**
- October 27 Dessert potluck/costume optional Halloween party**
- November 24 Thanksgiving leftover Potluck**
- December 22 Dave's (actual) 39th Birthday, Christmas party potluck and USO donation drive***
- December 31 New Year's Eve Potluck Party**

A few years ago, several people wanted to do a costume party for Halloween and it was a hit! We decided to just plan it every year. As always, costumes are OPTIONAL. Please bring a potluck dessert item and we'll take care of the rest.

Thanksgiving is on Thursday November 23rd and if you need a place to escape on **Friday the 24th**, come join us at the barn. If you have any leftovers from the day before and would like to get rid of them, let's try this fun, new potluck. If you don't have any leftovers, please bring something to contribute to the "leftover feast." It should be fun to see what everyone brings.

Dave's 39th birthday is **December 22nd** and with Christmas right around the corner we thought we would combine the two. Bring your favorite potluck dish and a serving utensil, we'll provide the rest. *Also this year, as we have done in the past, we are offering a USO donation drive. The USO is NOT allowed to cook food that comes in cans, rather they prefer fresh, ready to eat foods, such as breads, donuts, mayonnaise, pickles (because they ARE allowed to make fresh tuna fish sandwiches), fresh fruit, etc. They are also open to donations of blankets, toiletry items such as soap, deodorant, razors, etc. (FYI—when Dave and I stay at hotels throughout the year, we 'take' as much of the bathroom supplies and save them to donate to this worthy cause). Please remember those who dedicate their lives to protect our

country when coming to the dance on **December 22nd**, and bring a donation for the USO. For your donation, we will reduce your dance price by \$1. Our way of saying thanks for helping out.

As for the New Year's celebration, we have been holding one every year since 1991, and last year was our big, blow-out party. This year we are going back to basics with, you guessed it, a potluck. \$15.00 pre-paid by **Friday Dec. 29th** or \$20.00 at the door. We'll supply the party favors, toast at midnight, plates, etc. We'll also have the big-screen hooked up to ring in the new year. If you haven't been to one of our New Year's Eve parties, where have you been? A good time is had by all.

I think that about covers it for now. As always we truly appreciate your continued support. Without "you", it would be impossible for "us" to provide the fun and friendly, clean atmosphere that is known as "The Barn." Hope to see you real soon.

Until next time,
Rhonda



Our 8th Anniversary
'A day at the park'