



CrackerBilly's

at the Crossroads

PRESS RELEASE

DELAND – Long-time area country music nightclub disc-jockey Dusty “Miller” Johnson and his line dance instructor wife Gloria Johnson are back in the nightclub business in Volusia County. The duo were recently offered a chance to take over a large section of the Crossroads Grill to start a new line dance club in West Volusia. This new venture is to be called CrackerBilly’s at The Crossroads. The Crossroads Grill is located in the Budget Inn at Interstate 4 and Florida Rte 44 east of Deland. If you wonder where the name came from, Dusty is a Florida Cracker and Gloria came from East Tennessee, hence the name CrackerBilly’s.

Dusty and Gloria were fixtures in the country music nightclubs of Volusia County for Over 20 years working in venues including Finky’s Country Showplace and the Southern Star in Daytona Beach, Billy Bob’s in South Daytona, The Rockin’ Ranch in Ormond Beach, Chap’s in Edgewater, JR’s Country Club in Deland, and for the past 2 ½ years they taught at The C-Note in New Smyrna Beach. Recently the American Legion (Post 17) in New Smyrna opened their public hall to the duo for a Monday night class. They have also been featured in various workshops across the Southeastern United States hosted line dance cruises for Carnival Cruise Lines and NCL, and were the featured weekend DJ/Instructor team at the Cheyenne Saloon at Church Street Station in Orlando for several years. In 1996 they were named DJ/Dance Instructor Team of the Year by a national trade organization in Nashville, TN.

CrackerBilly’s (as it will most likely be known by local fans) will be a DJ driven dance club with a heavy emphasis on line dancing and is set to open Friday October 24, 2014. While Gloria will be teaching line dancing starting at 7:00, Dusty will be pushing the music starting about 9:00. Dusty and Gloria are planning to “keep it simple” to start and open just two nights per week (Friday & Saturday). As the business builds, additional nights will be added, lighting for the dance floor will be installed, carpeting replaced, décor added, and special events will be scheduled. While their partner who owns the Crossroads Grill will profit from the open bar and full service menu. CrackerBilly’s will be a 21 and up club and will have a \$5.00 door charge. With the number of people this pair knows in the country music arena, you never know who might be stopping in just to say hello on their way down I-4.

Gloria, who retired as the Assistant Principal at Deland Middle School in 1996, is a well-known line dance choreographer with 130 line dances to her credit including, among others: Sweetpea for Shania Twain (“Honey I’m Home”), Lightning Cha Cha for The Bellamy Brothers (“We Dared The Lightning”), Too Much Fun for Darrel Singletary (“Too Much Fun”), and Cha Cha Maria for Brooks & Dunn (“My Maria”). Gloria was tricked into writing her first dance (“The Daytona Slide”) through a cooperative effort of Dusty, Hank Williams Jr., Hank’s wife Mary Jane Thomas, and Hank’s late manager Merle Kilgore. That dance for Hank’s “Daytona Nights” on his Hog Wild album was turned into a national dance promotion with over 200 clubs submitting videos of patrons doing the dance. Seven of her dances have been featured in the national Country Weekly magazine.

Dusty started in radio broadcasting at WMFJ AM while still a student at Seabreeze High School and spent time at WTOG TV in Savannah, GA, KSOP AM & FM in Salt Lake City Utah, and at other stations across the country. In 1982 he began working part-time at the Rockin' Ranch in Ormond Beach, FL. He has also been the concert emcee for Johnny Cash, Jerry Reed, Mel Tillis, the group Atlanta, Reba McEntire, Tanya Tucker, and many others. Dusty is also the administrator and designer for one of the three largest websites in the world for line dancing (www.country-time.com) and maintains sites for Gloria (www.gloirajohnson.us) and himself (www.djdusty.us) along with their business (www.crackerbilly.com).

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