

Kickin Country with Ken & Judi Biography

I began dancing as a child in the 1960's. I grew up in a dancing and twirling environment. My oldest sister owned and operated "Gloria School of Twirl and Dance" for many years. During the 60's-70's I was always attending baton, gymnastics, and dancing classes, clinics, camps, and also competitions winning many awards for dance and twirl. I have had the opportunity to perform as a child for many public events like fairs, fund raisers, parades, and nursing home events. My instructors included various local dance studios and also international instructors. I began my instructing as a young teen in my sister's studio and also private lessons in my home as well.

There were a few years of down time during the 80's after graduating, marrying, and starting my family. I began dancing again as an adult when my daughters began dancing in preschool. I originally began dancing tap, jazz, and ballet along with baton and gymnastics.

In the 90's when country dancing was new and upcoming, I began taking country line dancing lessons. My third child, a son was only 2 years old. He along with my two daughters and at times a few of their friends would join me during a lesson. My passion for dancing was rekindled with country. I didn't even like country music until I saw the country dancing. I have not stopped since!

There have been years of country dancing with a wonderful group of friends I have met along with of course my family. It was during the 90's Ken and I began partner dancing. Ken began country dancing just before I did but we met at a local roller rink in Shawnee where lessons were offered. I must credit the late CJ Taylor and her husband Newton for getting us "hooked on country".

Ken and I finally married in 2005 after being a couple since 1998. We began instructing together formally in 2000 doing Christmas parties and events and then purchased our own equipment. We now instruct or DJ/Karaoke nearly every night of the week. Sunday we set aside for FAMILY.

Ken and I are former members of the Rambler Ranch (Now Penn's Peak) Dance Team. During the years of Rambler Ranch we had the opportunity of meeting many of the country artists during performances at the Ranch. We also had the opportunity to do a commercial and danced on the televised shows broadcast from Rambler Ranch. We also performed at various local events as dance team members. Sadly, Rambler Ranch closed its doors after the 2000-2001 New Year's Eve Celebration. It has since been reopened as Penn's Peak but without country dancing.

For the past three years Ken and I have been doing our private dance classes and DJ and Karaoke for private parties. In November 2005 I began instructing for Club Montana West in Quakertown, PA. January 4, 2008 "Gypsies" Night Club at Mt. Airy Casino, Mount Pocono, PA opened its doors for "Denim and Diamonds" country night. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to give "Gypsies" first line dancing lessons. Ken and I will be there as the dance instructors there every Friday night along with the DJ and a live band each week. Recently I have been contacted to begin country dancing at the Skytop Lodge in Skytop, PA.

Having accomplished a major milestone graduating with a Master of Science-Health Services with a concentration in Wellness Promotion from the California College for Health Sciences/Independence University, I hope to enjoy a bit more personal time. We plan to channel this extra time into our home, family and friends, and our Country Family.

Ken and I look forward to an exciting time in our life together. We embrace the opportunities we have been given to move forward with our country dancing and music hobby. We also must take time to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our friends and family who have made this all possible for us. WE LOVE YOU!!