

Boots, Beats, Life

Weekly NEWSLETTER

December 29, 2025 | Issue #13

Your Ultimate Dance Week Starts Here!



This Week's Highlights:

- **Featured Venue of the Week:** A road trip to the newly opened **Country Nights, LLC** in West Plains, MO—featuring a massive 2,000 sq. ft. dance floor and authentic home-style cooking.
- **Country Music Spotlight (National):** The legendary **Rascal Flatts** returns for their 25th Anniversary "Life Is a Highway" world tour.
- **Country Music Spotlight (Local):** St. Louis favorites, the **Whiskey Morning Band**, bringing their high-energy 90s country hits to the local stage.

Featured Venue of the Week



Country Nights, LLC in West Plains, MO

Road Trip Discovery: Country Nights, LLC Takes West Plains by Storm!

Why We Love It: I recently took a 3.5-hour trek south of St. Louis to see if the rumors about a brand-new country destination were true—and Country Nights, LLC did not disappoint. Since opening its doors in April 2025, this blue-clad dance hall has quickly become a crown jewel for Southern Missouri, boasting a massive 2,000 sq. ft. LVP floor that is absolute perfection for two-stepping, swing, and line dancing. From meeting the owners, Stacey and Jeramiah, to diving into a plate of their incredible hand-breaded fish and chips, the welcoming atmosphere at this West Plains gem is exactly what the country community needs.

Read the full story of my visit, including more about the venue's amenities and why it's worth the drive from the city, over at BootsBeatsLife.com in My Blog section.

You can find more information on dance nights and bands playing at their Facebook page at [Country Nights, LLC](https://www.facebook.com/CountryNightsLLC).

Country Music Spotlight

National Spotlight: Rascal Flatts - Life is a Highway tour extended!

After a four-year hiatus that left a void in the genre's vocal harmony scene, Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus, and Joe Don Rooney are reuniting to celebrate 25 years of hits. Known for their polished crossover appeal and soaring anthems that defined the early 2000s, the band is reclaiming their throne at a time when nostalgic 2000s country music is trending more than ever. Their return isn't just a trip down memory lane; it's a masterclass in the melodic storytelling and high-octane production that originally paved the way for many of today's biggest stars.



Latest Song

While the band is focusing on their massive catalog for the anniversary tour, fans are revisiting their classic multi-platinum hits like "Life Is a Highway" and "Bless the Broken Road." To get in the spirit for their return, you can stream their *25 Years of Rascal Flatts* collection on Spotify or Apple Music.

Where to See Them Perform

The trio is hitting the road for the highly anticipated "[**Life Is a Highway Tour**](#)" starting in early 2026. St. Louis fans are in luck, as the band is scheduled to bring their world-class production to the [**Enterprise Center**](#) on **January 17, 2026**, with special guests Lauren Alaina and Chris Lane.

Why We're Watching Them in the Upcoming Year

2026 marks the official silver anniversary of Rascal Flatts, and the industry is buzzing about their first live performances together since 2020. We are watching them closely because their reunion signifies a return to the vocal-driven, "big-chorus" country music that is perfect for large-scale singalongs. With rumors of potential new music to accompany the tour, they are set to be the biggest comeback story of the year.

Local Artist/Group of the Week:

Boots, Beats, Life Spotlight: The 90s Country Revival: Dancing the Night Away with Whiskey Morning Band”



Founded by singer-songwriter Suzy Bacino, the Whiskey Morning Band (WMB) is a 90s-heavy country cover band with a "rocking edge". Known for their professional sound and "good, old-fashioned twang," the group consists of veteran musicians from the St. Louis

circuit who share a deep love for country music. They have built a reputation as one of the most danceable bands in the region, focusing on hits that keep the floor moving.

Latest Song

While they are celebrated for their authentic covers of 90s country icons, the band also performs original music. Their album, *The Here and Now*, features songs written by Bacino and was recorded right here in St. Louis at Sawhorse Studios.

Where to See Them

After closing out a busy 2025 at the Trainwreck Saloon, the Whiskey Morning Band is hitting the ground running for the new year. You can catch their high-energy traditional sets at several St. Louis staples in early 2026, including a return to **Trainwreck Saloon Westport on Friday, January 23, 2026**. They are also a frequent favorite at the **Lindenwood Park Concert Series** and various regional festivals. To stay updated on their latest 2026 bookings and ensure you don't miss a night of 90s country dancing, follow their official website [Upcoming Shows](#).

Why We're Watching Them

The Whiskey Morning Band is a perfect fit for dancers because they prioritize a "danceable" setlist filled with classic 90s country—a golden era for line dancing and two-stepping. With a new drummer, Brian Ferguson, joining the lineup in late 2025, the band is heading into the new year with fresh energy

and a heavy booking schedule, making them a must-see for anyone looking for a "true" country night out in St. Louis.

Follow their Journey: [Whiskey Morning Band](#) for show dates and updates.

Watch a Performance: [Whiskey Morning Band - Instagram](#)

Need to plan your night out? Check out our comprehensive Guide on Venues & Instructors within the Saint Louis region to find exactly where to wear your boots tonight!

Your Weekly Dance Planner: *Where to Two-Step & Line Dance This Week!*

New & Noteworthy: Beginner line dance class starting in January at Bottleneck Blues Bar! Check our website for details.

- Monday Dances
 - (W) *Lumiere of Chesterfield* – Chesterfield, MO | Line Dancing with Mona | 6:00-7:30 pm
 - (W) *VFW Post 1234* – Collinsville, IL | [Line Dance Lessons with Stompin' Boots](#) | 6:00-7:00 pm, Open Dance 6:00-9:00 pm | Lessons \$3.00 | Open Dance Free
- Tuesday Night Shuffle
 - (W) **Silver Creek Sports & Social** – Belleville, IL | [Line Dancing w/ Little Cactus Line Dancing](#) | Lessons & Open Dance | 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event
 - (W) **MK Ranch Bar & Grill** – Warrenton, MO | [Line Dancing with Krissy Schulze](#) | 6:00-9:00 pm | Free Event All-ages
 - (W) **Brookdale Farms** – Eureka, MO | [Line dancing w/Stacey Schwartz](#) | 6:30-10:00 pm | \$7 Cover | 18+ Event
 - (W) **High Ridge Elks Lodge #3455** – High Ridge, IL | [Line Dance Lesson & Dance](#) | 6:30-9:30 pm | \$5 Cover | All-ages
 - (W) **Social Bar Soulard** – Saint Louis, MO | [Line dancing with DJ Fish](#) | 8:00 pm-12:00 am | \$10 for 18-20 | \$5 for 21+
- Wednesday Moves
 - (W) **Stovall's Grove** – Wildwood, MO | 7:00 PM-12:00 AM
 - (W) **The Outfield Sports Bar and Grill** - Marthasville, MO | [Free lessons](#) 6:00-7:00 pm Open Dance 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event | All-ages
 - **VFW Post 1117** – Caseyville, IL | [Stompin' Boots New Years Eve](#) line dance | 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM
 - **Gene's Country Club** – Pevely, MO | Live music and dance w/[Vince Moreno](#) | 8:00 PM | Cash Only Bar/Entry
 - **Time Out Sports Bar & Grill** – Troy, IL | Live music with [Shotgun Creek](#) New Year's Eve | 8:00-11:55 PM
 - **Roadhouse Barn & Grill** – Hawk Point, MO | Live music with [Ethan Carl](#) | 8:30 PM - 12:30 AM
 - **Rec Hall STL** – St. Charles, MO | [Two Step Into the New Year](#) with DJ Fish | 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM
 - **Main Street Honky Tonk** – St. Charles, MO | NYE at the Honky Tonk w/[Mark Perkins](#) | 9:00 PM

- **American Legion** – Breese, IL | New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball with Little Cactus | 7:00-11:59 PM
- Thursday Throwdown
 - (W) **Stovall's Grove** – Wildwood, MO | [Live music w/ Hill Williams Band](#) | 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event | 21+
 - (W) *Swansea Improvement Assoc* – Swansea, IL | [Line dancing w/Stompin Boots](#) | 6:00-9:00 pm
 - **American Legion** - Breese, IL | Little Cactus Line Dancing | 7:00-9:00 pm
- Friday Night Fiddle Fest
 - (W) **Stovall's Grove** – Wildwood, MO | **Live music (unknown band - website down)** | 7:30-11:30 pm
 - (W) **54 Country** – Kingdom City, MO | [Line dance with Club Ready-Line Dance LOTO](#) | 6:00-11:45 pm
 - (W) “*The Office*” **Bar and Grill** - Washington, MO | [Line Dance Lesson](#) 6:00-9:00 pm
 - **VFW Post 1234** – Collinsville, IL | Line dance night | 7:00-10:30 pm
 - **Das Bevo** – St. Louis, MO | Live band w/[Diesel Island](#) | 7:00-10:00 PM
- Saturday Night Shindig
 - (W) *Stovall's Grove* – Wildwood, MO | Live music Live music (**unknown band - website down**) | 7:30-11:30 pm
 - (W) **Gene's Country Club** – Pevely, MO | Live music [Route 67](#) | 7:00-11:00 pm | \$10 CAD | 21+ | NOTE: Cash Only Event
 - (W) **54 Country** – Kingdom City | [Line dance lessons - Live band - Open dancing](#) | 8:00 pm-1:00 am
 - **The American Legion** – Mascoutah, IL | Line dance lessons with [Stompin' Boots Line Dance](#) | 6:30-10:00 pm
 - **American Legion** – Breese, IL | [Line dancing w/Little Cactus Line Dancing](#) | 7:00-11:00 pm
 - **The Outfield Sports Bar & Grill** – Marthasville, MO | [Free lessons and open dance](#) | 7:00-11:00 pm
 - **The Quarry** – New Melle, MO | Line Dancing w/Line Dance STL | 5:00-11:00 PM | 18+ Event
 - **Trainwreck Saloon Westport** – Maryland Heights, MO | Live music and dance w/[Shotgun Creek](#) band | 8:30 PM
- Sunday Soul Steppers
 - (W) **Sugar Creek Winery** – Eureka, MO | [Line dance lessons and dance](#) | 1:00-5:00 pm | Free | All-ages

Several of these local venues offer weeknight line-dance nights with lessons for beginners; cover varies, and floor-size/material details are inconsistent across listings.

This Week's Featured Article

2026 Year in Review – The Search for a New “Dance Home”

The St. Louis country dance community faced a significant turning point in 2025 with the sudden closing of **Diamond Music Hall** in St. Peters. The loss created a massive vacuum, leaving hundreds of line dancers and two-steppers without their primary "dance home." While the void was felt deeply, the resilience of our local scene has been inspiring. Throughout the year, several venues stepped up to offer new opportunities, and while none have quite rivaled the scale of Diamond yet, two contenders are showing immense potential for 2026.

The **Bottleneck Blues Bar at Ameristar Casino** in St. Charles has become a major midweek hub, opening Wednesday nights specifically for country music and dancing. Meanwhile, **The Quarry** is under new ownership and undergoing an expansion that includes plans for a dedicated monthly line dance night. Coupled with the consistency of **The Marquee at New Town** (featured in last week's issue) and the recent addition of weekly dance nights at **Rec Hall STL**, the community is slowly but surely finding its footing again. The landscape changed in 2025, but the beat hasn't skipped a second.

Read the full article [here](#), on BootsBeatsLife.com

New Year, New Boots – Top St. Louis Country Concerts for Early 2026

As we hang our 2026 calendars, the St. Louis concert lineup is already looking legendary. We are kicking off the year with a massive "silver anniversary" celebration as **Rascal Flatts** brings their *Life Is a Highway Tour* to the **Enterprise Center** on January 17. But the momentum doesn't stop there. 2026 is shaping up to be the year of the stadium and arena tour, with rumors of dates from heavyweights like **Zach Bryan** and **Eric Church** potentially hitting our region in the spring.

For those who prefer a more intimate setting to catch rising stars, keep an eye on the **Old Rock House** and **The Sheldon**, which are booking more Americana and traditional country acts than ever before. Whether you're looking for a massive light show or a small floor to two-step near the stage, 2026 is promising to be one of the best years for live country music in the Gateway City. Grab your tickets early—it's going to be a busy season!

Community Corner Spotlight

Spotlight: *Rec Hall STL*



For this week's community spotlight, we are turning our attention to [Rec Hall STL](#) in St. Charles, a venue that is quickly becoming a vital player in the Saint Louis country dance scene. As we navigate the loss of Diamond Music Hall, Rec Hall has stepped up to offer the community a fresh, expansive space to gather and keep the boots moving. This week, they are going all-in on the country community by hosting the "[Two-Step Into The New Year](#)" celebration, featuring a dedicated night of line dancing led by local favorite **DJ Fish**.

Join us for line dancing with DJ FISH, a balloon drop at midnight, all-inclusive drink packages and even a VIP package.

Beyond their special events, Rec Hall's commitment to providing a consistent weekly line dance night in their massive 33,000 sq. ft. facility offers the exact kind of "new home" energy our region has been craving. By opening their floor to both instructors and casual dancers, they are ensuring that the spirit of country dance in St. Charles remains vibrant and accessible well into 2026.

Your St. Louis Dance Hub

Your Comprehensive Guides: Venues & Instructors

We've compiled detailed resources to help you find the perfect place to dance or the ideal instructor. These comprehensive guides provide extensive lists of venues within a two-hour drive and a directory of country and line dance instructors.

Explore the full interactive Venue Guide on our website – [Venue Guide](#)

Find Your Perfect Instructor in our online directory! – [Instructor Directory](#)

Community Call to Action.

The Heartbeat of Our Community

We all move to the same beat! Help us keep the Midwest moving:

Question of the Week: What is your “Dance Resolution” for 2026? Do you want to master the Two-Step?

Learn 10 new line dances? Visit Nashville?

Help Us Grow: Share events, invite friends, and support local venues!

How you can help keep the scene strong

- Attend consistently—regular turnout encourages venues to expand.
- Tip bands and instructors and buy a drink or two.
- Coordinate “community nights” to bring more dancers together in larger rooms (Marquee or Schuetzenground are good candidates).
- Share event pages and invite friends—numbers matter to venue owners.

Connect With Us:

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Photo of the Week: Pre-Show Vibes at Trainwreck Saloon



I snapped this shot last Friday night at the **Trainwreck Saloon Westport** just moments before the **Whiskey Morning Band** took the stage. This venue remains one of my favorite spots in the area to grab a fantastic dinner and settle in for some top-tier live music. While the dance floor might be on the smaller side, it never stops this community from finding a groove! Whether it's a tight two-step or a packed line dance, the energy is always high when a great band is playing. It's a perfect reminder that you don't need a massive hall to have a massive amount of fun.

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Thanks for dancing through the week with me! Be sure to stay tuned for more venue reviews, music picks, and dance floor stories.