

The Crystal Chronicle

July 1989

In case we didn't mention it in one of the previous newsletters we have a room to dress and do make-up in at the meeting place for those of you who don't travel dressed.

At the June 24th. meeting we were moved from our regular small conference room to two adjoining double rooms. But thanks to the motel staff it worked out just fine, they replaced the beds with tables and there was plenty of space. We expect to be back in our regular room for the July 22 meeting.

Thanks to Stephany, who is going to help us with the paperwork, the Crystal Club will become a legal entity. It also looks like we are going to set up a checking account for the Crystal Club with little or no finance charge.

We encourage people to contribute to the newsletter, especially GG's. If you have something to contribute drop us a line. While we're on that thought people should write to the Crystal Club and tell us what you would like to see at the meetings in terms of discussions, speakers, etc.

We are trying to decide if we should get a speaker for the August meeting or if we should wait until September. I'm talking about things like make-up, wig and wig care, deportment, professional counselors, etc.

We had seven people at the June meeting, pretty decent considering how hot it was. In attendance were Rochelle, Cheryl Marie, Stephany, Mary Ann, CT and Nellie, and Susan.

I hope to see some of you at the July meeting. We do anticipate seeing some new faces at the meeting as screening during the week was fruitful.

Until later,
Susan

Membership Dues

Crystal Club membership dues are \$15 per year for cross dressers. Couples (a cross dresser and a GG) may also join at \$15 for the couple. Dues are due and payable July 1 of each year, and cover the period from July 1 to the following June 30.

As we do not yet have a bank account, we prefer that membership dues be paid in cash at a meeting, or to one of our officers (Susan, Mary Ann, Kelly, or Rochelle.) We are working on getting the account, however, and hope to have it by August 1. We will

accept checks or money orders made out to Crystal Club (or left blank, if you're brave) mailed to the PO Box, if you cannot attend the meeting. We may have to hold onto the check for awhile if we have trouble cashing it, but we will honor your membership.

First time attendees are welcome to attend, and should pay the meeting fee. After one meeting, the prospective member should know whether they want to join or not. We recommend that she join (by paying membership dues) at that same first meeting, if she chooses to join. This will give her voting rights, get her on the mailing list, and permit attendance at future meetings.

Treasurer's Report June 1989

June	Starting Balance	68.13
	New Memberships	45.00
	Meeting Fees	80.00
	Total	193.13
	June Expenses	-81.71
	Ending Balance	111.42

Susan

July Meeting

The July meeting will be on July 22. The doors will open at 6. Snacks and beverages will be provided. A changing room will be available if you prefer to come and dress at the meeting site.

New Publications

Speaking As A Woman

Creative Design Services has just announced a new publication, *Speaking As A Woman*.

The booklet, written by **Alison Laing** (*Renaissance*), is the first of its kind to deal with the development of a feminine voice for transgendered males. Laing became interested in this area after hearing **Dr. Reinhardt Heuer** speak on the subject at *Fantasia Fair*. Heuer, who conducts speech development classes each year at the fair, reviewed Laing's manuscript. Laing dedicated the publication to **Ari Kane** of the *Outreach Instituted*, promoter of the fair.

The book is available now with a cover price of \$8, postpaid. Write to CDS, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. [Courtesy Renaissance News.]

My Husband Wears My Clothes

I recently heard about a new book on crossdressing. I just received my copy and it looks very interesting. It's called *My Husband Wears My Clothes* by Dr. Peggy Rudd.

Dr. Rudd is a counselor who has been married to a crossdresser for 8 years. She describes how it was difficult to comprehend at first, but has come to acceptance and understanding by reading, interacting with others, and being sensitive to her husband and his needs. This book is her attempts to share this information with other wives, girl friends, family members, and friends.

It is available for \$11.40 (including posting) from

PM Publishers, Inc.
1811 Crutchfield
Katy, TX 77449

Denise Jacob

[Courtesy CD-Forum.]

[Note, this book is also available for \$12.95 + \$2.50 postage & handling from Chevalier Publications, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. I have a 2 page flyer about the book from Chevalier which I will bring to the July meeting – Mary Ann.]

National Affiliation

We received a very nice letter from JoAnn Roberts at Renaissance. She outlined the requirements for national affiliation with them, and the benefits. It strikes me that there are a few important benefits, such as the use of videotapes about crossdressing that we can play at our meetings. One major issue is the purpose of our organization: Renaissance is an educational organization, to help educate crossdressers and the public, and one by-law states that this should be our primary purpose. I suggest we discuss this at the July meeting.

Mary Ann

Speakers

We plan to have some speakers at future meetings. Since we're expecting attendance to pick up once the weather cools off, we may wait until September for our first speaker. Possible speakers include:

- Michael, a professional hairdresser/cosmetics person who is also a professional female impersonator, to talk about hair and make-up.
- Heather, the leader of Cincinnati's Cross-Port organization, to talk about forming a club. Heather is a TS who can help us better understand TS needs.

- A psychologist who deals with trans-gender patients.
- A lingerie party (similar to a Tupperware party.)

I have left out the names of people whom we haven't asked yet. Your feedback is invited.

Mary Ann

Artwork

We've gotten some nice comments about our newsletter from other groups. Just the fact that we have one already is apparently unusual. There have been kind offers to include our text in the newsletters of Cross-Port and Renaissance, which fortunately we've been able to decline. Since I'm lucky enough to have a laser printer on loan (although I don't know for how long) the printing looks very sharp.

However, the headline on the first page looks kind of barren when compared to some of the other newsletters in the area. Alpha Omega has a "Gibson Girl," Transpitt has a lady and a fancy pattern, Paradise, Renaissance, and IFGE have logos as well. Are any of you artistically inclined, or have any ideas for combining our name, Crystal Club, with a picture to represent what we're all about? It sure would make the newsletter look nice.

I'll bring some other newsletters to the July meeting for you all to look at. I have no artistic ability, I'm afraid, but I hope one of you does!

Mary Ann

Places to Go in Columbus

Hi girls, Gina here.

While talking with Susan, we thought it would be a good idea to let our newer sisters in the Crystal Club know about some of the places they can visit in Columbus, if they want to go out for the evening.

First let me warn everybody that the 1470 West is no longer in business. It has changed hands and is now called Papa Jacks, I've heard it's now a black jazz night club. I personally am sorry about this. The 1470 West was a large, clean, and friendly night spot with a great dance floor where we were always welcome and made to feel like ladies. Anyway, beware that the 1470 West is no more.

For you girls that haven't been out before, you should understand that Columbus bars are funny. You can go one night and find the place packed with people, while the same place the next night won't have anyone there but you and the bartender. One night it can be mostly a girl bar, then the next a boy bar, and the next a mixed group. What I'm saying is that you really don't know what to expect.

One exception is the Grotto II at 473 N. High St. While it's not the cleanest or classiest place in town, it's at

least consistent. It's a drag bar, most nights they have a show of some sort or another and on all nights we are made to feel at home there. I've always had a good time and been treated like a lady.

Another place where I've always had a good time is Wall St. at 144 W. Wall St. It's one of those places that you don't know what to expect, but mostly, it tends to have a girl trend or a mixed crowd. I've been in the place as both Tom and Gina and had a ball every time.

Here's a list of gay bars in the downtown area you might want to visit.

- Herby's Tavern – 349 Marconi St.
- Trends – Garage – 40 E. Long St.
- Eagles [Formerly Kismet] 232 N. 3rd. St.
- Grapevine Cafe – 73 E Gay St.
- Wall St. – 144 N Wall St.
- Grotto II – 473 N. High St. [Entrance in the rear]
- The Attic – 473 1/2 N. High St. [Right above the Grotto]

The only one that I haven't been to is the Eagles, but good friends of mine have and reported it's a nice place.

Hope to be seeing all of you soon, and if you have any questions at all, please don't be shy.

Love,
Gina

Poem

*I think I'll take some time today
To step into some hose
And yes, before you've time to say
I'll admit.... I'm one of those*

*The time has come for you, my friend
To meet the other me
I'll try to make you comprehend
What it's like to be a TV*

*I'll tell you of the ups and downs
The buying sprees and purges
I'll mention all the shoes and gowns
And coping with strong urges*

*I'll try to make you understand
A life of constant stress
And even though I am a man
The thrill of a new silk dress*

*And now you look at me with doubt
For keeping others guessing
But girls are still what it's all about
Even though I'm into "dressing"*

*So please don't shake your head and sigh
And put me down among the damn
Or wish for a cure that I won't try
Cause I'm quite content with who I am*

Gina Thompson

Editor's Edict By Rochelle

Thank you Gina, and it's good to hear from you again. I hope to see you some future meeting. I'd like to thank all of those that attended the last meeting. It was more of a social but everybody that came had a good time. We stayed until about 12:30 talking about anything that came up. I think that the socials are the best because feel more at ease talking about the things that know about. The more at ease you feel in the group the more at ease you feel about yourself, and that's what Crystal Club is all about.

I'd like to thank Gina for the list of places to go in Columbus to have a good time. We are still trying to put a buyers guide together and hopefully we can have something ready soon. Again if you have any input to this task please let us know. As was said earlier by Susan we will getting a checking account for Crystal Club soon thanks to the efforts of Stephany. We are lucky to so many members that want this club to come alive.

Susan was asking about what kinds of speakers we'd like to have in the future. I'd like to see some professionals that can give us some ideas on make-up, hair styling. As being newly open about my "dressing," I'd like to hear from somebody that's been through what is still in front of me, and give me some kind of idea on how to handle it.

Again thanks to Gina and all of those that helped make this newsletter possible. Until I see you at the next meeting or you receive the next newsletter I'll wish you the best.

Rochelle Richards

Guess What?

Friday at 5:30 PM the only thing I was interested in was a couple of "cold ones" with my friend. We both work at the same company and had already made plans to run over to "the usual spot" as soon as we could get out of the office. Finally, it was time to usher in the weekend in proper fashion so off we went.

It was the usual zoo when we arrived but we managed to get a table after about thirty minutes. Food and beer was the next priority to satisfy. The order placed, we began a conversation that I won't forget any time soon.

My friend and I discovered over the last three years that we have a lot in common. Besides being born on the same day, in the same year, we share a lot of the same interests. Our wives sometimes are equally amazed at how close the similarities are. Well, I was to learn this

evening of one acute difference in our lives. A difference that could “test the metal” of any friendship and, in all probability, end most. It turns out that being in a minority sometimes isn’t all that bad.

“I have something to tell you,” he said. “I’ll need your word that you will not mention this to anyone. It could very likely end my career if it ever got back to the office.”

Well, this was an unusual opening for a conversation! I began to wonder who in the hell he had killed. “OK. You have my word. I won’t even tell my wife if you don’t want me to.” I replied. “Do you remember the last Halloween party? The costume I wore?” I remembered that he had come in “drag” to the party. I could tell that he was getting rather tense. “Yes, I don’t think I could forget that. You were pretty convincing!”

“Well,” he said, “that’s not the only time I’ve dressed like that.” “Yeah,” I said, “I heard that you came like that to a party a couple of years earlier. Everyone was so amused I wondered if you’d ever do it again.” (Here’s where I went to the ozone layer for a minute or two.) “Well, that’s not exactly what I mean. I dress like that more often than Halloween. Actually, I dress like that as often as I can. I enjoy it.”

As I sat there wondering if I had somehow consumed more beer than I was able to remember, I glanced up at his face. He *was* serious. Now what do I say? I decided to see where this conversation was going to lead.

“How long have you been dressing like a woman?” I asked. “Who else knows? Does your wife know? Why?” I have to admit that curiosity began to overtake the initial shock. “You know how whenever you notice a pretty girl at a bar,” he began, “that more often than not there are people falling over themselves to pay extra attention to her?” “Of course!” I replied, “So?” “Well, when I’m dressed up *I* get that kind of attention and I really get off on it!” he said.

“Well, who do you tell people you are?” I asked. “I use the name Cathy,” he said with a grin. “Does the wife know?” I asked again. “When I first told her,” he started, “she didn’t handle it very well. She was upset. Now, she even goes to my monthly meetings with me. By the way, I belong to a group of other crossdressers that meet once a month.”

About this time *my* wife entered the bar. We motioned for her to come over to the table. When she sat down the conversation did not change. She was brought up to date on “current events.” She reacted much the way I had expected her to. Disbelief, followed by curiosity, than gradual acceptance. We talked for a few more hours. As he talked, in the back of my mind I kept going over things about my life that I couldn’t tell just anyone. Things that would put me “at risk,” just as my friend was when he confided in me and my wife. He had put more than a friendship on the line that might.

He had put enough trust in us to share a very private part of his life. That in itself means a lot! My wife Sue and I met a new friend in the bar that night. Her name is Cathy.

Since then, one of the best times I have had in a long time was going Christmas shopping with my wife, Cathy and “her” wife. We played “hooky” from work and spent the day shopping downtown, talking and just plain having a good time. I have to admit, she’s “quite a gal.” And he’s quite a friend.

Bill

[*Courtesy Cross-Port “InnerView” and Alpha Omega “Outreach”.*]

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, and others who assume a complete feminine identity. We welcome their wives and significant others (SO’s.) We welcome guests from other cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an officer.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not be “hit on” by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed in feminine attire, or not dressed (i.e. in masculine attire). It is expected that most members will normally dress, but this is not required. Persons are *not* permitted to arrive partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group. Ladies pants and casual wear are fine. An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, their wives/SO’s, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after the screening process, in order to protect our members from people looking for cheap entertainment.

The Crystal Club may be reached at:

Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg Ohio 43068-0271