

# The Harmonizer

**Mission Statement:**

Music City Couples is an organization in which the members are committed gay and lesbian couples in the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee area.

The organization serves to provide a forum for those member-couples to strengthen their own relationships while also providing a social and supportive structure for their fellow member-couples. Music City Couples holds no religious or political affiliations and makes every attempt to respect the privacy of its members.

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## Pride a HUGE Success!

Nashville PRIDE 2002 was a HUGE success!! The entire day was BIG FUN for all who attended. Of course, as you can see, we looked oh so fine in our NEW, "official" Music City Couples T-shirts.

Several marched in the parade which did get some air time on the Channel 4 evening news with our banner.

This being our first year at PRIDE, our hard work paid off, from folding flyers (400), making and cutting up magnets and stickers, the collage of some of our couples and events that have occurred, and the making of our T-shirts!



Picture from clockwise top left: Stefen, Jerry, Andrew, Joe, Scott, Steve, Tara (with Logan), Julia, and Bill at the Music City Couples tent at PRIDE. Not pictured: Russ & Don and Larry & Bobby

As you can see, our hard work and dedication to making this group a success within the Middle Tennessee area paid off, as we distributed nearly all our flyers and registered almost 90 couples who expressed an interest in Music City Couples by registering their email and phone numbers! Following the week after PRIDE, more than a dozen couples we spoke to at PRIDE joined our message board. This response shows that there is an obvious need within our community. The most common thing we heard when talking to other couples at PRIDE was they often felt isolated when their social outlets are limited to the bar scene.

To all our new interested couples, we say welcome and we are hear to support you and each other.

Thanks to all who helped at the booth and who marched. We say "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!"

Please check out the calendar on the message board to get details on the "Get to Know Each Other" POTLUCK coming in July. Remember to watch for more events as we grow, with the first being the size of the newsletter being expanded!

For more highlights and pictures, check out page 5 of this issue of *The Harmonizer*!

# Organizational Update

June 7th , Music City Couples had it's second organizational, all member meeting.

Several items of importance were discussed as well as the winner of our new logo being announced. Items discussed included continuing with 4th Friday bowling and making sure that it is announced on the message board to all members a week before to remind them. Also, something new we are going to try is having dinner night the third Tuesday of every month. What we hope this allows is for as many couples to get together at a different restaurant around town in hopes of everyone getting to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. We realize not everyone can attend but those who do are sure to have a good time. Pride was also discussed and our new t-shirts with the logo were handed out, and what the future of our organization holds. Even if you were not there, if you have a suggestion let us know, as those that were there had many good suggestions to move us forward and help us grow. Congratulations to Stefan for submitting our winning logo! For submitting the winning logo, he and Steve receive half off their yearly membership dues this year!



As new members join, we say "WELCOME TO MUSIC CITY COUPLES!" and look forward to getting to know you all.

## Music City Couples Finance Report

### Revenues to date

Membership Dues	\$604
Couples National Donation	<u>\$100</u>

**Total Revenue:** \$ 704

### Expenses to Date:

Bank Service Charges	\$ 22
Check Charges	\$ 13
Misc Pride Expenses (est)	\$253
Pride Booth Rent	<u>\$120</u>

**Total Expenses:** \$408

### Membership Dues Collected:

Steve & Scott	\$50
Russ & Don	\$50
Joe & Andrew	\$48
Gary & Jim	\$48
David & Kenneth	\$48
Julia & Tara	\$48
Greg & Ken	\$48
Sunny & Kathy	\$48
Bill & Jerry	\$48
Joe & Garry	\$48
Duane & Greg	\$48
Jon & Cliff	\$48
Stefen & Steve	<u>\$24</u>

\*Note—Expenses for Pride are estimated and have not all been itemized and reimbursed \$604

# Feature Couple of the Month: Bill & Jerry

(Interview by Julia)

**So, Bill, Jerry, how did you all meet?** We met online 6 months before we actually met in person and had a date. Then we lost touch but I (Bill) was able to track Jerry down again by finding his ad on Love @ AOL.com. Jerry thought the way they met was "perfect" but Bill says, we didn't even like each other when we first met." Jerry, "yes we did." Well however it started out you can tell the love is in the air as they recollect those first days and months.

**What did you like about each other?** Jerry said, "once Bill's nervousness calmed some I just wanted the date to last a lot longer." Bill's first attraction to Jerry came when Bill saw his picture online. He made mention of using Jerry's "ears as handles." Hmm.....Jerry say's, "you never told me that." His face is a few shades of red as he chuckles out loud.



Jerry & Bill

**What was your're first date like?** "Well, we went to the Olive Garden for dinner. Love Circle came next, then we went to the Bicentennial Mall to walk around and later to the airport to watch the planes land. The date lasted 8 hours..... "

**How did you all feel after the first date?** **Bill:** "It was love at first site for me. I went home and cancelled all future dates." **Jerry:** "I was hooked....but I still went on a date the next night just to be sure."

**What is it that you love about each other?** **Bill:** "I like the way he looks at me, I know that I am loved." **Jerry:** I like his honesty, his sincerity and his caring nature."

**Do you all have any pet names for each other?** "Well", (they both laugh outloud), none that we can mention." "Let's go with baby and honey."

**Do you all have any hobbies?** **Bill:** "I like to landscape, to fish and to read fantasy novels." **Jerry:** "Well, we both like to ride bikes, camp and travel when the timing is right."

**Any pets?** "Oh yes girl, we have four dogs. Three Schipperke's and one Lhasa Apso. Meana, Gretchen, Skippy and Sasha. We love our girls and Skippy is the most recent addition to our family."

**What is your idea of perfect evening?** "Dinner at the Melting Pot, at table #13. It is the most romantic spot in the restaurant and the food is delicious."

**What is you idea of the perfect job?** **Bill:** "My first choice is to be a residential garden designer. If I had a choice though I'd like to own an eclectic book store and have discussions concerning the principles of each book being read while giving away free coffee and cappucinos." **Jerry:** "Not working at all..."

Well there you have it. The love story of Bill and Jerry.

So far I have really enjoyed the little laughs and shy glances that come when interviewing couples. Stayed tuned next month when I catch Russ and Don off guard as they tell me *their* love story.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gary (Jim) 7/5

Larry (Bobby) 7/12

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Jerry 3 years



## Oh Brother, where art thy dues?

Uh oh, you say, where did the time go? Find you asking yourself, "where did the time go?" It's still not to late if you have forgot to pay your dues. We want to keep sending you a newsletter and see you at future events and meetings. You are the reason why Music City Couples is a success!

If you have not paid your dues, this could be the last issue of *The Harmonizer* you receive. Starting in July, for those couples that haven't enjoyed our group events earlier this year, the annual dues will be prorated for the remainder of 2002. Send your payment today and don't miss out!



## A Middle Tennessee Gardener's Journal

### The Glory of the Morning Glory

As a boy growing up in the mountains of East Tennessee, I was always amazed by the little vines with beautiful flowers that grew in my grandparents' garden. I was no less amazed by the fervor in which they, my grandparents, systematically ripped the plants from the ground every chance they had! Apparently the plants that I so loved were quite capable of choking out an entire row of green beans in a single bound, but that didn't stop me from loving them. Now as an adult, I see the common morning glory and its close cousins for sale at local garden centers at premium prices. This assures me that I am not the only one with a love of this beautiful climber with a flower that lasts only one day.

Today, as a small group from Music City Couples were riding our bikes along Shelby Bottoms Greenway, Julia (of Julia and Tara, our Events & Hospitality Couple) called my attention to a small white flower appearing at odd intervals, peaking its head above the bramble that grows along the asphalt trail. It was none other than my old friend the Morning Glory! May you too come to see the glory of the Morning Glory!

## Recipe of the Month: Pork Tenderloin

### INGREDIENTS:

1 teaspoon dried sage	4 medium tart apples - cored and cut into 1 inch chunks
1 teaspoon dried thyme	1 large red onion - cut into 1 inch chunks
1 teaspoon dried rosemary	3 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon crushed majoram	1 cup apple juice
1 (6 pound) pork tenderloin	2/3 cup real maple syrup

### DIRECTIONS:

Combine the sage, thyme, rosemary, majoram, salt and pepper. Rub over roast. Cover and refrigerate roast for several hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place roast in a shallow roasting pan and bake for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Drain fat. Mix apples and onion with brown sugar. Spoon around roast and continue to cook for 1 hour more or until the internal temperature of the roast is 160 degrees. Transfer the roast, apples and onion to a serving platter and keep warm. Skim excess fat from meat juices. Pour drippings into a heavy metal skillet. Stir in apple juice and syrup. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until liquid has been reduced by half, about 1 cup. Slice the roast and serve with gravy.

Yield: 8 servings

## PRIDE 2002 Pictures

Due to the size of the file being sent for conversion, some pictures were deleted for editorial necessity. Thanks for your understanding.



The new Music City Couples Logo unveiled at PRIDE this year



Bill, Steve, Julia, Stefan, Back: Bobby and Larry march in PRIDE with our new banner.

Once again, the Nashville Storms continue to be very busy. Several new things are coming up this month that range from an art point of view to the sports enthusiast.

A new group called Storms View is being organized by the Storms to promote gay and lesbian artists. For the sports enthusiasts, now is the time to get registered for the upcoming fall bowling league.

Don't forget to also mark your calendar for the June 30th Heat Wave Carnival and cookout at the Toolbox from 3pm to 10pm. For more information, visit the Nashville Storms website at

[www.NashvilleStorms.com](http://www.NashvilleStorms.com).

**2002  
Music City Couples  
Operating Committee**

**Chair Couple**  
Steve & Scott

**Finance Couple**  
Russ & Don

**Media & Member Services  
Couple**  
Bill & Jerry

**Hospitality Couple**  
Tara & Julia

# July 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Nash Trash Tours 2pm
14 Get to Know you Joe & Gary's	15	16 Dinner Out TBA	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Bowling 8pm	27
28	29	30	31			

As you can see, the newsletter has been expanded and we are not even a year old yet! We want to continue to have so much information to tell you, that we need a bigger newsletter. One new thing you will see is the financial report. We also want to include more pictures of our most recent events with highlights. Please note that we now have our official mailing address.

**Music City Couples  
P.O. Box 330717  
Nashville, TN 37203-7509**

**AS OF PRINT DATE, THESE ARE THE MOST CURRENT EVENTS. PLEASE CHECK THE MESSAGE BOARD FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES.**

*The Harmonizer is a monthly publication of Music City Couples. Production of the newsletter is the responsibility of the Media Couple. We encourage all members to submit articles to appear in the newsletter. The Media Couple reserves the right to select and edit all articles for publication.*

# August 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Cook- out Ken & Greg's
18	19	20 Dinner Out TBA	21	22	23 Bowling 8pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31