

SpeakEasy Singles celebrate 27th year of Tri-State socializing

Since 1985, the SpeakEasy Singles social group has provided a wealth of recreational opportunities for the divorced, widowed and otherwise unwed in the Kanawha Valley.

The volunteer-run organization is not a dating service, although many of its members over the past 27 years have met through SpeakEasy Singles activities and eventually married.

SpeakEasy Singles hosts 13 dances annually, attracting attendees from Kanawha, Putnam and surrounding counties, as well as from Ohio and Kentucky, regularly. The dances are usually held on the second Saturday of every month in the Wilson Student Union of West Virginia State University in Institute, a smoke- and alcohol-free environment. SpeakEasy organizers encourage any adult single to attend and socialize, even if he or she has no inclination to dance to the music played by an area DJ. An average dance's attendance is approximately 150 people, according to the group.

May's SpeakEasy Singles dance will be the group's reunion/anniversary dance, in which married people are allowed to attend, as well. It will take place from 8 p.m. until midnight on Saturday, May 12. Admission is \$8 for SpeakEasy Singles members and \$10 for all others.

Dances are just one aspect of the group's social schedule. Upcoming activities include the following:

* Saturday, April 28: A "Ramps & Rails" train ride in Elkins. Participants will meet at the Bob Evans restaurant in the Crossings Mall, Elkview, for breakfast. From there, they will embark to Elkins for a ramp festival and a one-hour train ride. To RSVP or obtain more information about the event, call Vicky at 304-205-4329 or 304-389-4082.

* Sunday, May 6: The SpeakEasy Singles will host co-ed volleyball at Coonskin Park in Charleston from 4 to 6 p.m. Afterward, players can meet for dinner at The Cold Spot in Charleston. The cost is \$2 per player, and, depending on attendance, the Sunday volleyball matches may become a summer staple.

* May 18-20: Camping at Carter Caves State Park in Kentucky. The cost is \$40 per person. For more details, con-

tact Howard at 304-543-1001.

Other activities in which the singles partake include Saturday morning bicycle rides, West Virginia Power baseball games, picnics, trivia contests and dinners at restaurants throughout the Kanawha Valley.

Membership is not required to participate in SpeakEasy Singles events, although the \$16-per-year membership fee includes discounts to certain activities and a subscription to the group's monthly newsletter.

To find out more about SpeakEasy Singles, visit www.speakeasysingles.com online, call Nancy Sarver at 304-925-8024 or send e-mail to Nifty50inWV@gmail.com

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