

Mission Gala is great success

By Nan Lincoln

BAR HARBOR — Gala was certainly the operative word at the Bar Harbor Club last Friday evening at the Maine Seacoast Mission's Sunbeam awards ceremony. About 200 well-wishers turned out in their finest duds for the event, which honored two Mount Desert Island residents, Charlotte Bordeaux and Dick Dimond, whose money and manpower have made a significant difference in addiction programs throughout Down East Maine.

The evening kicked off with cocktails in the Bar Harbor Club's handsome new pool house overlooking Bar Island, then moved for dinner into a mammoth white tent that stretched over Club's the entire lawn. The white linen-topped tables were cleverly decorated with glass bowls filled with colorful chunks of illuminated sea glass instead of floral arrangements, and at each place setting was a sumptuous little packet of Black Dinah lavender chocolate, handcrafted in Isle au Haut.

At the tables sat an array of folks from all over the Down East area, many of whom have donated time and money to the Sea Coast Mission programs, such as Addison resident Roger Clapp, who has volunteered to make such programs as the after school Edge Project work in his community.

Mr. Clapp talked to his tablemates about how effective that program has been for engaging Addison young people with healthy after school projects and activities. He also enthused about the Sunbeam's new



Chad and Marion Smith cut the rug in fine fashion at the Maine Sea Coast Mission Sunbeam Awards Gala at the Bar Harbor Club.

NAN LINCOLN PHOTO

telemedicine service, which allows outer island fishermen to consult with their doctors on screen, on line.

As dessert was swiftly served by the club's staff, the Mission's executive director, Gary DeLong introduced the event's honorees. In his introduction of philanthropist Ms. Bordeaux, he talked about her willingness to listen to new ideas about services and programs that could help individuals and families who struggle with addiction problems and to respond to many of those ideas with advice and generous financial support.

life to herself and decided to use her money to become a Good Samaritan in her community. Thus far, she indicated it has worked out pretty well. Judging from the thunderous applause she received, the audience agreed.

Dr. Dimond accepted his award with a compelling talk about his work with the Hancock County Deferred Sentencing Project, which allows a judge to give a drug-addicted defendant the option of attending a rehabilitation program in lieu of a prison sentence.

Mr. Dimond recognized Hancock County District Attorney Mike Povich and Superior Court judge Paul Pierson and former state senator Jill Goldthwait for being pivotal in making the project become a working reality.

After dinner the guests were encouraged to sally forth to the club's large ballroom, where Brian Catell and the Jump City Jazz band were playing. Many guests took up on the offer and finished the evening dancing to old standards from the Big Band era, and some not-so-old standards from the Beatles's repertoire. Those who did stay were treated by the surprise performance of former Celtics basketball player and coach turned singer KC Jones, who crooned a few mellow tunes with the band.

The evening, which was also the Sea Coast Mission's main fundraiser for its general fund, was a great success in that respect as well, raising \$100,000 from sponsors and patrons who paid between \$100 per person to \$15,000 per table to attend.

After accepting her ship's clock award, Ms. Bordeaux brought the house down with her short speech.

She talked about how when she was going through her own recovery — that she had been asked to give herself over to God.

"Well, OK, I thought, I can do that," she said. "But there were two things I decided I wouldn't give over God even though they have been problem areas in my life — my sex life and my money — I mean, why would anyone do such a thing?"

So, she said, she kept her sex