

21st Century Insurance
Good people to call™

Save \$300 on Auto Insurance

Start by entering...

Car Make Car Model Car Year

Your ZIP:

[Click Here to Save](#)

- NEWS HOME
- LOCAL
- SPORTS
- REGIONAL
- BUSINESS
- POLITICS
- POLICE
- OBITUARIES
- DEATH NOTICES
- WEATHER
- ONLINE FORUM
- ARCHIVES

- Opinion
- EDITORIALS
- LETTERS
- WHADDYA SAY
- THUMBS UP/DOWN
- COLUMNISTS
- ONLINE FORUM

- AP
- AP HEADLINES
- NATIONAL
- WORLD
- AP VIDEOS
- AP MULTIMEDIA

- Your Town
- BETHEL
- BROOKFIELD
- Danbury
- NEW MILFORD
- RIDGEFIELD

Local

[Print this story](#) [Email this story](#) [Comment on this story](#)

May 03 2006 8:11 AM

Singles give meet market a try

Professionals engage in night of speed-dating

By Heather Barr
THE NEWS-TIMES
DANBURY — Couples are casually talking and sipping drinks at tables in the Ethan Allen Hotel. The bartender is busy; drink specials, a sign says, are \$7. One special is named French Kiss.

The lounge is full this Monday night, and one might suspect it's no more than a regular night — except for Vicki Weed and the numbered white signs on the tables.

Weed is carrying a little bell with a heart-shaped handle and a stopwatch. She rings the bell every six minutes, and men in the room rise and move to another table.

Another table and another woman. Such is the world of speed-dating.

ä

Fifteen men and 16 women came to meet other single professionals in the first speed-dating event arranged in Connecticut by Cupid.com/PreDating.

More than a year ago, Cupid.com, an Internet-based dating company, merged with PreDating, a company that sponsors speed-dating events, so people could get a live face-to-face spin on Internet dating, Weed said. Its headquarters is in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and previous events have been in New York state.

Weed believes in blind dates. She met her husband on one, she said, but not with the company.

The Danbury event was for people from their mid-30s to mid-40s, although some were younger or older. The goal was for each guest to go on as many as a dozen six-minute "dates" in a no-pressure, no-rejection atmosphere. They had pre-registered online for \$35.

They kept a scorecard about the people they met, which they would later post online. A man and a woman who rated each other highly have the personal profiles they filed with the company made available and can then e-mail each other. After that, they're on their own.



The News-Times/Heather Barr

Jeff Kornhaas, 41, of Meriden fills out a scorecard rating the qualities of the women he met during a speed-dating event Monday.

Danbury, CT
3:53 AM EDT
Fair
50°F
W 5 MPH

MARKETPLACE

- Find a Car
- Find a Job
- Find a Home
- Find a Business
- Coupons
- Place an Ad
NewsTimesADBUILDER.com

Coupons

BOATLOAD OF SAVINGS

FOUNTAIN OF SAVINGS

Features

HOW-TO GUIDE

HOMESTYLE

Education Outlook

HEALTH AND FITNESS

SENIORITY

BRIDE GUIDE

JILL MAGAZINE

MEDICAL DIRECTORY

BABY ALBUM

INSIDE BUSINESS

OUR BEST FRIENDS

EVERYTHING KIDS

Resources

FORMS

READER REWARDS

Newspapers in Education

Cupid.com/PreDating officials say recent research shows the "chemistry" between two people occurs within minutes of meeting.

About 60 percent who attend these events are speed-dating for the first time, Weed said. Another 20 percent speed-date regularly. Many of them don't usually go to bars.

After a few mini-dates Monday night the participants took a break, during which they mingled and munched on appetizers.

"This the best thing I have done in a long time," said a woman from Middletown who didn't want to give her name. Her 21-year-old child thought the idea was "hysterical," she said, but "I am really enjoying it."

Another woman, a petite blond who works as a dental hygienist and didn't want to give her name, heard about the event from a friend, and they came together.

"It is very cool. It's great meeting people," she said. "It's casual. It's a good time. To have 12 dates — where (else) can you do that?"

This was the second speed-dating event for 41-year-old Jeff Kornhaas of Meriden, who works in the heating and cooling business. He said a person should not come with the expectation of meeting a future wife or husband because that adds a lot of pressure.

"Nervous people don't really enjoy themselves," he said.

Speed-dating, he said, "gets me out. It's better than watching TV. For me it's perfect. It is done easy. It is a fantastic way (to meet people)."

Kornhaas likes that he can skip the awkward ice-breaker when meeting someone new. "I can tell within six minutes if a person is worth pursuing," he said.

He is also meeting women through an agency that sets up lunch dates.

A 45-year-old man who didn't want to give his name said he travels a lot for his job. When he goes out to places alone, he said, it can be hard going up to a woman who is with a group.

He tried meeting people through Internet dating Web sites, but "I got a lot of scams," especially when he would e-mail a woman for a while and then she would ask for money.

Then there is the fact he has a 6-year-old child.

"It can be hard to meet someone like-minded," he said. (Speed-dating) "is relaxed and you are guaranteed to have a conversation."

"It is casual. There is no pressure," said a dark-haired woman who was speed-dating for the first time. She said she tried dating online for about three months through Web sites, but many times she would find out a guy was not being honest about himself.

"I started to try this for the heck of it," she said.

"This is a more proactive way to take your social life into your own hands," said Jonathan Blair, 42, of Rockland County, N. Y., a magician.

"This is the best alternative to online dating," he said. "You actually get to talk to a human being. More people are doing it."

"I am older, so the bar scene is too cliche," Blair said.

General Business

News Search

KEYWORD:

DATE:

SECTION:

Archive Search

Your Town News

Get Your News via Email

Breaking News and Updates

Daily Headlines

This Week In PARADE



[Click here for bonus PARADE features](#)

A 48-year-old twice-married man said he liked meeting a lot of people in one night. But he planned to take things slow this time around, even if this was "speed-dating."

ãŸ

For more information about speed-dating with Cupid.com/PreDating, visit www.Cupid.com/PreDating. Its next speed-dating events in Connecticut will be the second week of July and the second week of August. The dates and locations will be announced online.

Contact Heather Barr

at hbarr@newstimes.com

or at (203) 731-3331.

- this story has been read 1347 times

Reader Comments

this story has 0 comments. [Post Comment](#)

SEARCH THE LAST 7 DAYS

KEYWORD:

DATE:

SECTION:

[Search Archives](#)



★Featured Properties

Sponsored Links

Student Loan Consolidation	Personal Injury Attorney Los Angeles	Teleconferencing
Fundraisers & Fundraising Ideas	Mortgage Calculator	Student Loan Consolidation
Spamalot Tickets	Bingo Game	Candlewood Lake Real Estate
Ipod MP3 Players	Online Bingo	
Place Your Link Here!		

[CONTACT US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

Division of *Ottaway Newspapers, Inc.*

The News-Times

333 Main Street Danbury CT 06810

All items copyright © 2006 by The News-Times unless otherwise noted.