

***A Joint Newsletter of
the Northern Virginia
and Washington DC Branches of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society***



Summer Assembly

Time to plan your summer dancing vacation! Dance camps generally last a weekend or longer, and offer a full-immersion approach to your favorite hobby. Days are spent in classes (or just hanging around with other dancers). Social dancing and parties fill your evenings. Classes are almost always offered at all levels – from basic through advanced, so you should never feel you aren't experienced enough to attend.

- **Thistle School.** At Lees-McRae College in the cool green mountains of Banner Elk, North Carolina. Sunday July 8 through Friday July 13 (followed by the Grandfather Mountain Gala Ball with the Scottish Accent on Saturday July 14). Teachers will be John and J'ina Middleton, Frances Gray, Gary Morris, Mary McConnell, and Elizabeth Lee Barnes; Bobby Brown for the music apprentice program. Classes on five levels, including teacher candidate training. Contact Betty Lee Barnes at 202-966-3595 (fax 202-362-3623), thistledance@erols.com.
- **Pinewoods Scottish Sessions.** Pinewoods Camp is located near Plymouth, Massachusetts between two freshwater ponds. Dancing (fabulous sprung wood floors designed just for dancing), swimming and shenanigans (a reel of four canoes?). Sponsored by the Boston Branch of the RSCDS, Session I (the Weekend) runs from Friday July 6 through Monday July 9 and Session II (the Week) begins Monday July 9 and ends Saturday July 14. Teachers will be Elaine Brunken, Bruce Hamilton and Fiona Miller for Country Dance; Maggie Carchrie for Highland and Cape Breton; and Pat Clark for a Music Class. Application postmark deadline is April 1. Contact MaryEllen Scannell at 781-593-5949, scannell@gis.net or Betty Allen at 781-849-3512, eallenscd@aol.com
- **Pinewoods English-Scottish Session.** Same location and shenanigans, plus rapper sword with pool "noodles". Sponsored by the Country Dance Society Boston Centre and the Boston Branch of the RSCDS. Classes in ritual and country dance, evening socials of mixed English Country and Scottish Country Dancing. Monday July 2 through Friday July 6. Contact Howard Brezner (registrar) at hsbresner@gw.dec.state.ny.us, Priscilla Adams at ArachneAS@aol.com, or Margaret Keller at mskeller@mit.edu.
- **TAC AGM and Summer School.** University of Waterloo, Ontario. Annual General Meeting Friday July 27 through Sunday July 29, then Summer School from Sunday July 29 through Sunday August 5. Teachers will be Ellie Briscoe, Gary Morris and Bill Zobel. Contact Catherine Shaw at celliot@uwo.ca or surf to <www.tac-rscds.org>
- **Scottish Weekend.** Camp Ramblewood near Havre de Grace, Maryland. (Alright – technically it's Autumn, but close enough.) Friday September 21 through Sunday September 23. Dance teachers will be Catherine Shaw, Bob Grant, and Elaine Brunken. John Taylor as music teacher and Guest Musician and will join the (always!) fabulous sound of the Scottish Weekend Ensemble (Liz Donaldson, Dan Emery, Earl Gaddis, Ralph Gordon, Steve Hickman, David Knight, Marty Taylor, Susie Petrov, and Dave Wiesler). Contact Fred at 410-922-6369, feustis@starpower.net, or skip change over to <www.ScottishWeekend.org>



The Happy Meeting

By Betty Lee Barnes

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Washington Branch and the research efforts into my SCD activities by many friends and relations, a letter reached me last May advising that I'd been awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour (it was all a total and very happy surprise to me).

Duard and I decided to go to Scotland for the ceremony, which took place at the Society's AGM, always held the first weekend of November. The whole event was most exciting; imagine the formal Ball on Friday night and the more informal dancing on Saturday completely filling two ballrooms at the Troon Municipal Hall (two bands were necessary). My personal highlight, of course, was the presentation of the Scroll by the Earl of Mansfield, and it was particularly pleasant that the other three North American recipients (Frances Gray, Mary Murray, and Evelyn Murray) were all friends of ours.

Thistle School had presented me with a Scroll in July, in anticipation of the Society's award -- so I now have two precious documents to remind me of the particular treasure of SCD -- the people who make up its world.

Let's Meet Again

It's Annual General Meeting season! Please attend your group meeting so you can thank the officers and other volunteers who Make Things Happen, and so there is a quorum.

- **NoVA AGM** Wednesday April 18 at Durant Center. Contact Jay Andrews, andrewj@erols.com
- **Washington Branch AGM** (7:30 pm, Branch members) and **Dance** (8 pm, OPEN TO ALL!) Saturday May 12 at Greenbelt Community Center (in the gym!). Music by Cearcall na Caraidh (Circle of Friends). Contact Sheryl at 301-513-5698, griffits@ba.ars.usda.gov.

Maxwell's Rant
Neidpath Castle
Light and Airy
Mary Erskine
Kilrymont
Blue Bonnets
Donald Bane
Ferla Mor

Trip to Gatlinburg
Balmoral Strathspey
Irish Rover
Kendall's Hornpipe
The Silver Tassie
The Highlandman Kissed His Mother

Moment of Truth

RSCDS Teacher's Exams: Tues. April 10 and Weds. April 11 at regular class locations in Greenbelt and Alexandria. Stooges needed 7-10:30 on Tuesday and 7:30-10:30 on Wednesday.

Please come to classes these two nights (even if it's not your usual night!) so that plenty of stooges are available for the exams. NOTE THE EARLY START TIMES. A regular class will be held alongside the exam, so you'll be dancing and having fun even when you're not stooging. Teacher's Certificate and Preliminary Pass Candidates have been working all year towards these two evenings -- the candidates and tutors have volunteered lots of time and work towards the future of Scottish Country Dancing, and they need your support. Many thanks to dancers who have been filling out dancing sets and stooging for practice teaching and mock exam -- candidate classes would not be possible without your help. See you there!

It's Just For Fun

Basic Social and Basic Technique classes continue on Friday evenings at NIH in Bethesda. March 9 (technique), March 23 (social) and a season finale Social Party on April 27. Aimed at basic dancers but open to all levels so come and bring a friend. \$3. Contact Ralph at 301-649-5666 or caberfei@aol.com.



The Merry Dancers

For more, see the Calendar or Inter-City Scot at <<http://members.tripod.com/~InterCityScot>>.

- **NoVA Spring Dance Party** with Liz Donaldson, David Knight, Becky Ross. Saturday March 10, 8 pm at Trinity Church in Arlington. \$12. PLUS a raffle drawing to support Argyle Weekend – buy your raffle tickets at your weekly class. Contact Ellie at 703-461-7383 or mail@briscoe.com.

<i>The Wild Geese</i>	<i>Levi Jackson Rag</i>
<i>Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Mrs Stewart's Jig</i>
<i>Monymusk</i>	<i>The Minister on the Loch</i>
<i>Blue Bonnets</i>	<i>Ferla Mor</i>
<i>Wisp of Thistle</i>	<i>John McAlpin</i>
<i>The Last of the Lairds</i>	<i>Roaring Jelly</i>
<i>Culla Bay</i>	<i>The Reel of the Royal Scots</i>
<i>Mrs MacLeod</i>	

- **Richmond St. Patrick's Day Dance** with Waverley Station. Sunday March 18, 2 pm at Church of the Epiphany. Contact Stella at 804-740-4404 or stellaf@worldnet.att.net.

<i>Hooper's Jig</i>	<i>Shiftin' Bobbins</i>	<i>The Isle</i>	<i>The Irish Rover</i>
<i>The Sailor</i>	<i>The Shamrock Girl</i>	<i>The Peat Fire Flame</i>	<i>Wisp of Thistle</i>
<i>Strings of Clair</i>	<i>Rory O' More</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Zeal</i>	<i>The Leprechaun</i>
<i>St. Patrick's Jig</i>	<i>Brian Boru</i>	<i>Irish Girls</i>	<i>Currie Mountain</i>

- **Capital Weekend** with Tally-Ho! and Findhorn. April 6-8 at the National Cathedral School. Guest Teachers Sinclair Barbour and Marianne Taylor. Contact Denise at 301-942-2831, tempesst@juno.com or dance your way to <www.geocities.com/paris/parc/1297/capitalweekend>

Welcome Dance

<i>Joie de Vivre</i>	<i>Roaring Jelly</i>
<i>The Silver Tassie</i>	<i>Neidpath Castle</i>
<i>Swiss Lassie</i>	<i>The Blackwater Reel</i>
<i>Haste to the Wedding</i>	<i>Luckenbooth Brooch</i>
<i>Bridge of Nairn</i>	<i>Adieu Mon Ami</i>
<i>Round Reel of Eight</i>	<i>Davy Nick Nack</i>

Capital Ball

<i>Laird of Milton's Daughter</i>	<i>Kersty's Jig</i>
<i>Wisp of Thistle</i>	<i>Bonnie Stronshiray</i>
<i>Scotland's Gardens</i>	<i>Ellie's Jig</i>
<i>Over the Water to Charlie</i>	<i>Lady Lucy Ramsay</i>
<i>John McAlpin</i>	<i>Kenora Reel</i>
<i>Clutha</i>	<i>The Minister on the Loch</i>
<i>Fair Jenny's Jig</i>	<i>Reel of the Royal Scots</i>
<i>Allshellach</i>	
<i>General Stuart's Reel</i>	

- **Baltimore Tea Dance** with Findhorn Trio. Sunday April 22, 2 pm at Church of the Redeemer. \$12. Contact Sally at 410-889-5153, Penny at 410-609-0976, or <www.smart.net/~snarf/bscd.html>.

<i>St. Andrews Fair</i>	<i>Joie de Vivre</i>	<i>Lady Home's Jig</i>	<i>Pelorus Jack</i>
<i>The Swiss Lassie</i>	<i>Neidpath Castle</i>	<i>Bedrule</i>	<i>Delvine Side</i>
<i>Deacon of the Weavers</i>	<i>J.B. Milne</i>	<i>Clutha</i>	<i>Reel of the Royal Scots</i>
<i>Davy Nick Nack</i>	<i>Mrs. Macleod</i>		

- **NoVA Basic Tea Dance** with Terpsichore. Sunday May 20, 2:30 pm at Trinity Church in Arlington. \$12. PLUS, a silent auction to support Argyle Weekend. Contact Carol at 703-379-5779 or Shelly at 703-329-9118. To donate an item to the auction, contact Ellie at mail@briscoe.com.

<i>Good Hearted Glasgow</i>	<i>Mrs Stewart's Jig</i>	<i>EH3 7AF (Postal Code)</i>	<i>Blue Bonnets</i>
<i>The Fife Hunt</i>	<i>Sugar Candie</i>	<i>Catch The Wind</i>	<i>Arniston Glen</i>
<i>Rakes of Glasgow</i>	<i>Reel of the 51st Division</i>	<i>Fair Donald</i>	<i>Mrs MacLeod</i>



He Danced Awa'

More distant dance events with a local connection. Look for flyers, or check the Inter-City Scot (a newsletter of SCD events in North America) at <<http://members.tripod.com/~InterCityScot>>

Blaine Peet pas de basques to Pittsburgh to teach a workshop March 31 to the music of our own **Tally-Ho!**

Terpsichore toddles out to Ames (Iowa) May 12-14.

Elaine Brunken capers to Columbus to teach June 9-10, and wisks **Waverley Station** with her.

Tae Fife And Back

Stella Fogg, Blaine Peet and **Ralph Stoddard** attended the Society's Summer School at St Andrew's last August, where they learned the dances in Book 41 (Millenium Book). They have graciously agreed to hold a **New Book Workshop** to share their experience with us all. Date and location to be announced at your local class – look for flyers!

Welcome To The Dance

With so many parties and Balls coming up, here are some thoughts for our newer dancers on what to expect at the more formal social events. Adapted from (and inspired by) Lara Friedman-Shedlov's guide on the Twin Cities Branch website (which, in turn, credits the Edinburgh University New Scotland Country Dance Society).

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SCD BALL ETIQUETTE

Beforehand:

- Look for the event flyer – your class may have copies. A cheatsheet (crib notes for the dances) will often be with the flyer. Look over the cheatsheet; maybe even "dance" the dances on your kitchen table with salt-&-pepper shakers or coins. Dances for a local event may be done in class during the weeks before the ball.
- Don't feel compelled to find a date. In Scottish Country Dancing, it is customary to change partners throughout the evening, even if one has come with a date.

What To Wear:

- Whatever you wear, make sure you can dance in it!
- Men are always encouraged to wear the kilt at a ball, but don't stay away if you don't have one. At a formal ball, other formal wear such as a suit and tie is appropriate. At semi-formal events and parties, a nice pair of trousers and shirt are very proper. On the other hand, if you've never worn the kilt before, a ball is the perfect opportunity to borrow or rent one to try.
- Ladies, a Scottish Country Dance ball may be your chance to wear that (full-skirted) bridesmaid dress or prom gown you thought you'd never wear again. Unless you are up for an Oscar (or on the "A" List for the next inaugural), there aren't many other opportunities to really dress up these days. If you don't have an Yves St. Laurent lying around, never fear! An attractive skirt and top or dress will do quite nicely.
- Ghillies or other soft-soled leather dance shoes (ballet or jazz shoes) are typical footwear for men and women. If you haven't got a pair, any soft-soled shoes will do. For the safety of themselves and other dancers, ladies should not dance in high heels. Stocking feet will work but may be dangerously slippery.

At The Dance:

- There are usually very few (if any) walk-throughs at a ball, so look over the cheatsheet beforehand. At most balls, the dances are "briefed" -- the MC reads the crib notes aloud.
- If there is a cheatsheet, a copy is usually available at the dance. At more formal events, these are often in little booklets. Men usually keep them in their sporrans. Women's formalwear rarely has pockets, presenting have more of a challenge. Many formal balls will provide a ribbon and pin to tie the booklet to your dress. Consider bringing an extra safety pin just in case.



- After more popular dances and old favorites, dancers may call for an encore. If a dance is repeated, it is once and to the bottom unless the MC says otherwise.
- Balls usually begin with a Grand March and end with a waltz or polka. Often the evening ends with everyone singing "Auld Lang Syne."

What's A Grand March Anyway?

- A Grand March is simply a walk around the room with a partner, usually to the music of a piper. It is often used to start off a ball. It is extremely easy -- no fancy footwork or formations -- and very suitable for normally non-dancing partners who may have attended the ball with you. Walking gives everyone a chance to loosen up their feet and leg muscles before dancing, and to see who has come to the dance.
- When the Grand March is announced, find a partner and line up. People who come with a date usually partner with him/her for the Grand March, but if you come alone don't feel bashful about just asking someone. It doesn't matter if the person is the same sex.

General Dance Etiquette:

- Feel free to ask anyone of either sex to dance. It is customary to dance with many different partners throughout the evening. Beginners shouldn't be afraid to ask more experienced dancers to dance. Some people continue "booking" partners for dances later in the evening; others consider it rude to do so.
- Form sets when the dance is announced or the band signals the next dance by playing the opening bars of music. It is considered rude to take the floor before one of these two signals has been given.
- Always join sets from the bottom -- never dash into the middle or the top of a set that has already formed.
- If you are top couple, count off your line so each dancer knows if s/he is 1st couple, 2nd couple, etc. Sets are 4 couples unless the MC tells you to count off in 3- or 5-couple sets, or form squares. If couples are needed to complete a set, hold up fingers indicating how many couples are needed. The MC will announce it.
- After each dance is completed, thank your partner and the other dancers in your set. It is also considered polite to escort your partner from the dance floor.

Tips For Less Experienced Dancers:

- Be aware of and open to cues from your partner and the other members of the set as you dance. A good partner will try to help you through a dance and remind you what comes next.
- Don't feel you must skip a ball because you don't know all the dances. Few people at a ball know all the dances. They just look like they do. Practice gives the ability to look at the dance notes quickly, watch carefully and work out (GUESS!) what comes next. For example, if you are 2nd corner and 1st corners are doing something, you will likely be doing the same in the next phrase. You can also peek at the person in your same position in the next set over. Most important, keep an eye on your partner and watch for cues.
- If the program indicates a dance is recommended for more experienced dancers, consider sitting that one out. Don't let others bully you into a dance if you are uncomfortable with it, just to make up a set.
- If you mess up, which we all (however experienced) do during an evening, don't panic! Sort out the set so you can all dance the next time through. The vast majority of experienced dancers are eager to encourage and help you, and want to make your ball experience fun. If you run across one of those rare stinkers who won't dance with you or gives you a dirty look if you make an error, DON'T let it discourage you.

MOST OF ALL, SMILE AND ENJOY YOURSELF!

Will Ye No' Come Back Again?

Submissions for the next issue of Over The Water go to Jenn Stoddard at SawinJ@sec.gov or caberfei@aol.com (if to caberfei, specify "Newsletter" in the header), or 1709 Alberti Drive, Silver Spring MD 20902. Items must be received by Thursday May 17. As always, thanks to Jay Andrews for the Calendar and distribution.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION <i>(NOTE: details for many local events are elsewhere in this issue)</i>
Mar. 9, 2001	Washington Branch Basic Technique Dance Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: Ralph Stoddart.
Mar. 10, 2001	Teachers' Candidates Class, 10:00 a.m. (Stooges needed at 2:30 pm) NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Contact Ellie Briscoe, 703-461-7383, mail@briscoe.com .
Mar. 10, 2001	NoVA Spring Dance Party, 8:00 pm
Mar. 16, 2001	Washington Branch Advanced Social Dance Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: John MacLeod.
Mar. 17, 2001	Teachers' Candidates Class, 10:00 a.m. (Stooges needed at 2:30 pm) NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Contact Ellie Briscoe, 703-461-7383, mail@briscoe.com .
Mar. 17, 2001	Delaware Valley Branch Spring Ball and Brunch. Table-in-Clothier, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore Pennsylvania. Saturday: Ball 8:00pm; Sunday: Potluck Brunch 11:00am, Dancing 1:00pm. Music by Daron Douglas, Earl Gaddis, and Dave Wiesler. Contact: Dan and Jill Emery 610-584-9146, djemery@erols.com or Jenny Beer (Hospitality) jbeer@culture-at-work.com . Web site: http://delvalrscds.org/dvspringball.html .
Mar. 18, 2001	Richmond St. Patrick's Day Dance Party, 2:00 pm
Mar. 23, 2001	Washington Branch Basic Social Dance Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: Ralph Stoddart.
Mar. 24, 2001	Teachers' Workshop, 10:00 a.m. New York Branch Spring Dance, 8:00 pm Sponsored by the New York Branch of the RSCDS. Holy Cross School, New York City, NY. Teacher: Bill Zobel. Music: Jim Stevenson. Contact Sally Clayton 212-865-3985.
Mar. 31, 2001	Teacher Candidates Class, 10:00 a.m. NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Contact Ellie Briscoe, 703-461-7383, mail@briscoe.com .
Mar. 31, 2001	Pittsburgh Scottish Country Ball and Workshop. Sponsored by Pittsburgh SCD. Music by Tally-Ho! (David Knight, Matty Metcalfe, Liz Donaldson). Workshop Teacher: Blaine Peet. Contact Jean Picone, piconejm@msx.upmc.edu .
Apr. 6-8, 2001	Capital Weekend.
Apr. 10, 2001	Teacher's Examination, 7:00 pm Sponsored by the Washington and Northern Virginia Branches of the RSCDS. <u>Greenbelt Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD.</u>
Apr. 11, 2001	Teacher's Examination, 7:30 pm Sponsored by the Washington and Northern Virginia Branches of the RSCDS. <u>Durant Center, Alexandria, VA.</u>
Apr. 18, 2001	Northern Virginia Branch AGM.
Apr. 20, 2001	Washington Branch Advanced Social Dance Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: Denise Peet.
Apr. 22, 2001	Baltimore SCD Tea Dance, 2:00 pm

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION <i>(NOTE: details for many local events are elsewhere in this issue)</i>
Apr. 27, 2001	Washington Branch Basic Social Dance PARTY, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: Ralph Stoddart.
Apr. 28, 2001	Norfolk Scottish Country Dance 8 pm Venue to be announced. Music by Terpsichore. Contact Annette at 757-587-4126, AharrisScottishCountryDance@aol.com .
May 4, 2001	Washington Branch Experienced Technique Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teacher: Blaine Peet.
May 12, 2001	Washington Branch AGM and Dance.
May 18, 2001	Washington Branch Advanced Social Dance Class, 8:00 pm NIH Aerobics Center, Bethesda, MD. Teachers: Jenn and Ralph Stoddard.
May 18-20, 2001	Pawling Weekend. Sponsored the New York Branch of the RSCDS. Teachers: Bruce Frazer, Sandy Bain and Elinor Vandegrift. Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent and Jim Stevenson. Contact Sheila Wilson, 212-744-1470 (not after 10pm Eastern time), info@rscdsnewyork.org . Web site: www.rscdsnewyork.org/ .
May 20, 2001	NoVA Basic Tea Dance, 2:30 pm
June 2, 2001	Sherando Lake Scottish Country Dance, 2:00 pm Waynesboro, VA. Music by Waverley Station. Contact Bob Belton at 804-979-0939, trouto@aol.com .
June 9-10, 2001	Potomac Celtic Festival. Leesburg, VA
July 2-6, 2001	Pinewoods English-Scottish Session.
July 6-14, 2001	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions I and II
July 27, 2001	Virginia Scottish Games Dance, 8:00 pm Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Branch of the RSCDS. Venue to be announced. Music by Terpsichore. Contact: Ellie Briscoe, 703-461-7383, mail@briscoe.com .
July 27-29, 2001	Northern Virginia Scottish Games. Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA.
Sept. 21-23, 2001	Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD.
Nov. 2-4, 2001	Argyle Weekend. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Branch of the RSCDS. Trinity Presbyterian Church. Fri. night 8-11, Sat. classes 9-4, Ball 8-12, Sun. brunch. Teachers: John Middleton, Mel Briscoe, and Mary Kay Friday. Music by Findhorn and Terpsichore with Earl Gaddis. Live music for all classes. Sunday teachers' class by noted tutor John Middleton. Saturday special: English dance class with Mary Kay Friday and music by Dave Wiesler and Earl Gaddis. Contact Ellie Briscoe, 703-461-7383, mail@briscoe.com or Jay Andrews, 703-719-0596, andrewj@erols.com .

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