new RSCds Website

Launching April 7

Strike any key to continue

Reprinted from the RSCdS International branch Newsletter

he RSCDS Mother Ship in St. Andrews is about to launch a new version of its website. All members will be issued personal usernames and passwords to access the members-only portions of the site. The new website will allow members to pay on-line for purchases from the web store, and possibly for RSCDS workshops and events.

The new site promises to be much more interactive than the old site and will encourage members to participate more fully in the society. Customizable templates will be available for publicity and promotional materials that can be used by the branches. In the near future, the site will support musical downloads and links to social networking sites.



A very inventive guy named F. L. Pilling came up with a method of drawing common SCD figures in diagrams so that dancers would have a quick way to remind themselves of the figures in a dance. Try it, you'll like it! Name this dance:



Mystified? The dance is Petronella. First 8 bars: petronella figure. Second 8 bars: petronella figure. Third 8 bars: down the middle & up. Fourth 8 bars: poussette.

See how easy it is! We'll be providing a lot more Pilling diagrams in future issues and during classes so you can learn more about them.



Part of the responsibility of being a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is that we hold a formal meeting annually to review our accomplishments, count the money, elect officers, announce plans for the coming year, and let Edinburgh (and the rest of the dancing world!) know what we've been up to.

The Northern Virginia Branch will hold its AGM on Wednesday, April 28, at 8:00 p.m. sharp. As soon as we get a quorum of members, we can hold the meeting, and then we'll have social dancing. All members are encouraged to be on time. If you're not a member yet, now's the time! Other groups in the DC area will be holding their AGMs in April and May – don't miss your group's meeting - there could be cookies!

Upcoming" Cvents

Spring Up,
Kick Up your Heels
and Dance!

Saturday, April 3 Alexandria Tartan Day Festival

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., 301 King St. Alexandria, VA Everyone is Scottish on National Tartan Day!

Sunday, April 4

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Fairfax, VA, near Fair Oaks Mall - contact dance.lawless@gmail.com for directions Admission: Scot Free!

Fri – Sun, Apr 9 – 11

Kensington Town Hall Armory, Kensington, MD

teacher: Mary Murray

live music with Laura Risk, Nicholas Williams, and Dave Wiesler www.capitalweekend.org

Admission according to participation, see the website for details

Sunday, April 18

Baltimore Spring Tea Dance

Lawless Sunday Social Dancing

A Capital Weekend

2:00 p.m., St. Marks on the Hill Music: Becky Ross (fiddle), Marty Taylor (winds and concertina) and Liz Donaldson (piano) contact Doug Nelson 410-831-2870; waveland@erols.com or Don Vasbinder 410-795-8144; donald.vasbinder@verizon.net

Admission: \$20 (\$15 students)

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 (rescheduled from Feb. 9)

St. Columba's Valentine's Dance

8:00 p.m., Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio Music: Alexander Mitchell, fiddle and Liz Donaldson, piano contact: Jay Andrews andrewj@rcn.com, 703-719-0596 Admission: \$8 St. C's members, \$15 Non-Members, \$5 Students

Saturday, May 1 Terrapin Spring Ball

8:30 p.m., Colony Ballroom (Second Floor) in the Stamp Student Union Music by Waverley Station: David Knight (fiddle), Liz Donaldson (piano), and Dan Emery (pipes)

contact: Alyse or Gabi dance.scottish@gmail.com, 240-676-2832

Admission: Free! (donations gladly accepted)

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Northern Virginia Basic Tea Dance

2:00 p.m., The Durant Center, Alexandria, VA Music: Elke Baker, fiddle and Liz Donaldson, piano contact: Ellie at ellie@briscoe.com, (703-461-7383) or Monica at mstich42@gmail.com, (507-319-0878) Admission: \$15

Saturday, June 5,

2010 Sherando Lake Dance

http://mhscd.avenue.org/Sherando_10_brochure1.htm
Sponsored by the Monroe-Highland Scottish Country Dancers http://mhscd.avenue.org
2:00 pm, Sherando Lake, Lyndhurst, VA
Music: Waverley Station - David Knight, fiddle and Liz Donaldson, piano

Admission: \$15 dance, \$19 dance and picnic; also \$8 park admission per car RSVP early and receive an embroidered shirt!

Saturday-Sunday, June 12-13, 2010

Richmond Silver Thistle Ball Weekend

Hanover Arts and Activities Center, Ashland, VA
Music: Elke Baker, fiddle and Muriel Johnstone, piano
Information: Sandy Gallamore, AGallamore@aol.com, 804-678-8927
or Rochelle Altholtz, chippychew2@comcast.net, 804-338-3372
Reservations: Moira Turner, MoiraJTurner@aol.com, 804-778-4708

Over the Water









A regular publication of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of the Greater Washington OC area www.rscos-greateroc.org

Offering Scottish Country Dancing for all levels of Dancers

We are waiting to welcome you!



That auld "Uh, oh" feeling



by Maria Ward, with contributions from the Washington Area Teachers

Help! I'm in the middle of a dance that's much too hard for me! What do I do?? Signed, Still Pretty New at This.

Dear Still,

I hate to waste even words, so this advice will serve for experienced dancers as well as new dancers. First:

Don't Panic!

It's just a dance, not brain surgery or a battlefield. Catch your partner's eye, don't forget to breathe, and SMILE!

Let your partner know that you're lost and need help. Your partner will give you cues or will find someone in the set to coach you. You may need one person on your side to help you find your path, but having the whole set trying to direct you will be confusing for everybody. Look to other people in the set - they can help you non-verbally. If someone is offering you their hand - take it!

Look around before the repetition starts and locate a person in a neighboring set in the same position as yours. Watch your "mark" and do as they do. Recruit your feet and keep on dancing—you won't stay in the wrong place for long if you're on the move!

Totally flubbed a figure? Start over! The music keeps going even when mistakes happen, so just take a breath and step to the next place you know you should be – the beginning of the next figure or the next repetition of the dance. Keep an eye on your partner - they should step with you. Second:

Don't give up!

Stay in, smile! Pay attention to your partner, stick it out, and smile! The dance won't last forever. A set can survive a few imperfect repetitions, but a set is not a set with a dancer missing!

How to prevent this from happening again? Study the crib sheets for a dance program ahead of time and mark the ones you should watch instead of dance. If someone asks you for a dance you don't want to do, politely say that you are not available for this dance and ask for their hand in a different dance.

If the set has formed and you realize during the talk-through that you probably should have stayed sitting, alert your partner. Ask the other couples in the set. Ask to be in 4th place so you can watch – then *watch carefully*!

No matter how you feel when the dance is over, smile and thank your partner! See you at the dance! - Oancin' Hamish

Class Schedule

In the Washington area, you can dance almost every night of the week. See the website for details! www.rscds-greaterdc.org

Monday Bethesda, Baltimore, Frederick

Tuesday Greenbelt, Charlottesville, Richmond, UMBC

Wednesday U Maryland, Alexandria

Thursday Williamsburg

Friday Bethesda
1st Sunday Fairfax

Mapital Weekend

april Orings Spring and - Canadians?

The Kensington Town Hall will house this year's Washington Branch Capital Weekend on April 9-11. The Canadians are coming! Vancouver provides Mary Murray to lead classes on Saturday and Sunday. Quebec and Montreal provide musicians Nicholas Williams and Musicians Laura Risk for the Friday night Welcome Dance, to be joined by Dave Wiesler from Delaware for the Saturday night ball. Together they should bring some terrific combinations of instruments and arrangements. You don't want to miss this event. Check the details at www.capitalweekend.org.

Is this heaven to see sixteen fiddles plaging!

It wasn't heaven, but it was close! The annual Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club boasted sixteen fiddles, a piano, a guitar, and assorted other instruments playing for a high-energy SCD afternoon on the wooden floor at the Glen Echo Town Hall. Band leaders Peter Walker and Becky Ross kept the musicians in dance tempo while emcee Elke Baker led 5 sets of dancers through a program of wonderful dances chosen to highlight the musicians' skills with the great tunes. Many dancer-thanks for a fun afternoon!

SCOTTIZH VYEEKEHT - 2010 -

September 24-26 Timber Ridge Camp, High View WV All the details and application - http://www.scottishweekend.org/

Great dancing, great music, great teachers, great friends, great fun!

Applications are already way ahead of last year.

Don't get waitlisted, sign up soon!



Gear the Kilt!



by ellen ternes

You've probably seen the RSCDS@UMD dancers at Scottish Weekend, Argyll, and Capital Weekends -- okay almost any event where they can poussette, poussette, and poussette. A sure sign you have a University of Maryland dancer among you is the bright yellow shirt with the "Fear the Kilt" logo, a spinoff on the University of Maryland's "Fear the Turtle" logo.

Now in its third year, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at Maryland – the University of Maryland, College Park -- is getting ready for its third annual Terrapin Spring Ball on Saturday, May 1, 8:30 p.m., in the Colony Ballroom of the Stamp Student Union on the campus. Count on plenty of energy from the music of Waverley Station (Liz Donaldson and David Knight) with Dan Emery on pipes, a super UMD student piper to play for the grand march, and a program guaranteed to be as fun as it is good for your heart rate. And of course there's a lively afters party in St. Mary's Hall, right across the street from the ball.

The Terrapin Spring Ball is free to all, but rest assured, a lot of time and work has gone into making the event happen. At the end of their first year, the group, led by Chris Tabisz and Gabi Kocerha, got official Student Government Association status, which allotted them some funding to get their dancing off the ground. But they've also had lots of bake sales and a pot luck dinner to help raise money to help pay for the ball and for dancers' attendance at other events.

The group dances on Wednesday night in St. Mary's, which has a nice big room with a wood floor. They do demos on campus – they're performing at the annual Maryland Day extravaganza on April 24 – and recruit at student activity fairs. And while they have teachers Howard Lasnik (a professor at Maryland) and Ellen Ternes (a proud Terp alum), the students run the show, with great ideas, lots of energy, and hard work.

This is the first year RSCDS@UMD has members graduating. Chris, Gabi, Devon Welsh and Rachel McGuire are heading off to graduate school and jobs, but all promise to keep dancing. The Graduation Reel on the Terrapin Spring Ball was devised in honor of the grads.

Come to the ball! Get the details and cheat sheet here - http://rscds-greaterdc.org/flyers/umd_spring2010.html and driving directions to the Stamp Student Union at www.union.umd.edu/visitorInfo/directions.shtml Parking is free in Lot Z and most other lots on Saturday night. (Warning – if you're in a lot that says permit required 24/7, they *mean* it.) There's pay parking in the garage across from the Student Union. See you on May 1!