

Reel Time

Newsletter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Haven Branch

Fall 2001

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.
Tuesday 7 to 9:45 PM. Contact Lucille Miller (860) 283-5402.

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers
First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. Wednesday 7 to 9:30 PM. Contact Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278.

New Canaan Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers
Comstock Community Center, School Road, Wilton CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact Angela Montague (203) 762-9892.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10 PM. Contact Brian Haeckler (203) 732-1017 or Dick Platt (203) 878-6094.

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers
Hawley Middle School, Newtown. Monday 7 to 9:30 PM. Contact Ernie Harrington (203) 938-2881 or ech105@snet.net.

Bethany-Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers
First Church of Christ, Congregational Parish House, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge CT. Friday 7 to 9 PM. Leslie Kearney will be teaching. Contact Jack & Doreen Johnstone (203) 393-3189.

Upcoming Events

Robert Burns Supper. Friday, January 25, 2002. Trinity Episcopal Church, 91 Church St., Seymour, CT. 6:30 pm. The evening begins with piping in the haggis, followed by a traditional dinner and poems, songs and dancing. Cost \$15.00. Contact Doreen or Jack Johnstone, 203-393-3189.

Ottawa Ardbrae Ball Weekend. Friday-Sunday, January 25-27, 2002. Friday welcome dance. Skating, shopping, or across-country skiing on

Saturday. Ball at the Ottawa Congress Center with music by Bobby Brown. Sunday Brunch. Cost \$50 [US]. Contact Guy Quesnel, 613-725-3031 or g.quesnel@cympatico.ca.

English, Scottish and Contra Dance. Experience all three dance forms at Sage Hall, Prospect Street, New Haven on Sunday, January 27, 2002 from 2:00-5:00 pm. Live music. Contact Brian Haeckler 203-732-1017.

Surprise (shh, it's a secret) 80th Birthday Party for Sally Dee. Friday, February 9, 2002. First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem, MA. Plan on arriving at 6:45 pm., Sally will be piped in at 7:30.

*** New Haven Ball Dance Workshop.** Saturday, February 16, 2002. First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. 2:00 pm. Contact Lucile Blanchard, 860-347-0278.

Winter Party. Saturday, February 16, 2002. Old Bedford Town Hall, Bedford, NH. 5:30 pm. Potluck supper, 7:00 pm dancing. Music by Highland Whiskey. Cost \$12.00. Contact Brenda Janssen, 603-226-2739 or Janssens@mediatone.net.

39th Annual Tartan Ball. Saturday, February 23, 2002. Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada.. 6:00 pm reception, 7:00 pm dinner, 9:00 pm dancing to music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent. Hotel rooms at \$95.00 per night. Cost of the ball, \$50.00 for RSCDS members. Contact Ann Campbell, 905-459-5213 or acampbell@idirect.com.

***New Haven Ball.** Saturday, March 2, 2002. West Hartford Community Center. 6:00 pm reception, 6:30 pm dinner, 8:00 pm dancing. Music by Tullochgorum. Sunday Brunch and more dancing at the New Haven Medical Association. 11:00 am brunch, 12:00 pm dancing. Cost \$50.00. Contact Joyce and Skip Chase, 203-238-0694.

Cincinnati Branch's Biennial Workshop. March 8-10, 2002. Middletown, Ohio. John Middleton of Hamilton joins Jo Hamilton as workshop teachers. The Music Makars will be back! The weekend will also include a teacher's workshop on Friday

afternoon with John Middleton and a Step Dancing class (sometimes referred to as "Ladies Step Dance", but it's not just for the ladies) with Jo Hamilton on Saturday afternoon. For more information and a downloadable flier and registration form, see <http://www.rscdscincinnati.org/index3.html>

Cardigan, New Hampshire, Annual Ski and SCD Weekend. March 8-10, 2002. Contact Lance Ramshaw, 978-371-8030.

Ed Rawson Celebration Dance. Saturday, March 23, 2002. 8:00 pm. First Parish Church, Unitarian, Weston Center, MA. Music by Highland Whiskey. Cost \$15.00. Contact Nancy Rawson, 781-259-9566.

Tartan Day. Saturday, April 6, 2002. Wear something tartan!

Tunes of Glory. Saturday, April 6, 2002. New York City. Join a massive parade of 500 pipe bands and individual players as they march down Fifth Avenue to Central Park. The event raises funds for cancer care and research. The Mystic Scottish Country Dancers invite you to ride with them on a chartered motor coach. Cost \$20.00. More information is about the event at www.tunesofglory.scotsman.com. For tickets on the Mystic Pipe Band coach, contact Everett Munro, 860-443-2772.

New Jersey Branch Rerr Terr Dance. Saturday, April 6, 2002. Music by Highland Whiskey. Contact Margie Larkin, 201-797-1036 or billlarkin@worldnet.att.net.

Island Fling. Saturday, April 13, 2002. Mineola Irish-American Hall, Mineola, NY.. Contact Ann Smith, 631-271-5740.

NEFFA. Natick High School, Natick, MA. April 19-21, 2002.

Pearl Homberg Workshop for Teachers and Musicians. April 19-21, 2002. Scottish Cultural Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia. Instructors, Lesley Martin (dance) and Calum MacKinnon (Fiddle), Andy Imbrie (Keyboards) and Ralph Gordon (Bass/Cello). Workshop fee \$80.00. Hotel rooms available at the Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel at &79.00 (Cdn). Contact Angela Gauld, 604-270-4241 or angelag@shaw.ca.

Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, Friday-Sunday, May 3-5, 2002. Saturday's dinner and ball at Nevins Hall, Framingham, MA. Music by Highland Whiskey with Hanneke Cassel. Tickets will be available in February, on a first come, first served basis. More information available at

www.rscdsboston.org. Contact Gregor Williamson, 617-625-9593.

39th Annual New York Branch Pawling Weekend. Friday-Sunday, May 17-19, 2002. Holiday Hills, Pawling, NY. Teachers Ann Dix (England), Keith Bark (Canada) and Bill Zobet (Scotland). Music by Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent and Jim Stevenson. Contact Sheila Wilson 212-744-1470.

2002 Workshop to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 31-June 2, 2002, Teachers Bill Zobel, Ruth Jappy and "Fergie" Ferguson. Music by Muriel Johnstone, Slex Jappy and John Taylor. For information check their website <http://home.attbi.com/~scdcolorado/> or <http://members.home.net/scdcolorado/Index.htm> .

On a Personal Note

Long-time Branch member Arthur Reed sent his thanks for his honorary membership and the book of new dances. He says the books still make good reading. He writes, "My memories of teaching and dancing are still vivid, although I am no longer active. I am glad to see the branch is still going strong."

Another friend from the early days of the Branch, Isobel Voytek suffered a small stroke and is not dancing, but has rejoined the Branch so she can keep up to date on what is going on.

Bob Gregg had a knee replaced in October. His doctors told him to expect a six month recuperation, but he says he is aiming at three.

Bobby Steward (a.k.a. Mother Goose) has had a bout of ill health recently and has given up dancing. Our best wishes to her. We shall miss her smile.

Report of the RSCDS 72nd AGM

Members of the RSCDS voted a number of important changes at the last AGM. The annual membership rate increases to L10 on July 1, 2002. The management structure changes November 1, 2002. The Management Board will consist of 18 elected members plus the Chairman, Chairman-elect and the Committee Convenors. There will be six meetings a year. Three Management Committees will be elected and they can appoint sub-committees or working parties. Branch delegates will elect the Management Board and Committees at the 2002 AGM.

Festive Dance hosted by Mystic Scottish Country Dancers, November 2001

The Mystic Scottish Country Dancers (organized in the 1980s to maintain the country dancing skills of Scotland) meet weekly throughout the course of the year at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the top of Fort Hill in Groton. Our energetic classes also provide fellowship – and we have great fun in the process. The group traditionally sponsors a Burns Dinner and Dance close to the birth date of Robert Burns. Newcomers to our ranks are welcome, and at this point have a roster of some 20 members.

The Program Committee, charged with planning for the 2001-2002 season, recommended that the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers “spread their wings” a bit by hosting a Festive Scottish Country Dance in the fall around St. Andrews Day. We thought that this night would be a perfect time to bring together dancing groups in the CT and RI areas for an evening designed for us all to become better acquainted with one another while enjoying good fellowship and invigorating dancing.

The search for a hall for the dance resulted in our renting the expansive Performance Hall of the Chorus of Westerly in RI. It not only has a great wooden floor but it also has tremendous acoustics that carried the music of Christine Anderson and her companion Paul to our dancing feet. Marge Wills prepared the flyer advertising the Festive evening, and included the dance “recipes” for the various dances on the program. Don Wills, our Master of Ceremonies, greeted our 65 dancers and guests, and introduced Paul Hemenway from the Li'l Rhody Group and Linda Scent from the Mystic group who guided us through the dances on the program. Many smiles and much goodwill abounded, and we were delighted with the wonder of the evening.

The consensus of our attendees was that we do it again next year. Thus, we will check schedules of other groups in our area - so that there won't be conflicts – and we look forward to seeing one and all in the fall of 2002!! We shall let you know the date very soon, and hope you will be able to join us for our 2nd annual Fall Festive Dance. [**Editor's Note:** Mark your calendars now for **November 2, 2002** for the next Festive Dance with the Mystic Dancers.]

*Ruth Holland Walsh
Club President*

Quilters Galore

Sunday, November 12, was the day nine quilters gathered at the home of Barbara Austen and Steve Rice to put together an absolutely gorgeous quilt designed and mostly sewn by Priscilla Lavallee (our hero!). Thanks go to Karen Lavallee-Tente, Susan Harden, Catriona McAusland, Mardene Hof, Ellie Toy, Joyce Chase and Marge Wills for their help cutting, slashing, pressing and sewing. Thank you also to those people who donated fabric.

The quilt, in soft purples and greens, features a thistle border and a patchwork center. Tickets for chances on the quilt will be available soon, and the quilt itself will be given away at the New Haven Ball in honor of the Branch's 25th Anniversary. (See last page for a picture of the quilt)

Holiday Parties Kept Everyone Dancing

The marathon of holiday dances started on November 10 in Middletown where three to four sets enjoyed a fun yet challenging program. It was a great way to begin the season and to welcome new dancers.

Dancers who attended the New Haven Party on December 9 were treated to a surprise. About ten musicians who participated in this fall's music workshop joined Norb in providing an afternoon of terrific tunes to accompany the dancers. The program, developed by Brian Haeckler, featured dances that were not overly challenging so all attendees, whether brand new to dancing or old hats, could enjoy them. Dancing was followed by another of the Branch's famous potluck dinners.

Two nights after the New Haven Party, nearly all of the musicians showed up to play for the Greater Hartford Party. What a treat it was! Some of the attendees who had heard the group in New Haven thought they sounded even better in Windsor.

Two extraordinary musicians, Terry Traub and Jim Stevenson, played for another Middletown party on Saturday, December 29 (a switch from the usual Wednesday between Christmas and New Year). The group was a bit on the small side, yet energetic and very appreciative of the fine music. It is reported that a number of folks from Northampton made the trek south, for which we are greatly appreciative. Many hope these same musicians can play at a party again in the near future.

To ring in the New Year, about 25 dancers assembled at the New Haven Medical Society for an intimate potluck dinner followed by dancing. Those who were present at 7:00 pm toasted 2002 with revelers in Scotland. Dancing stopped about 10 minutes before midnight so everyone could watch the ball in Times Square drop (thanks to a television carted to the event by Steve Rice) and toast the New Year with champagne. Surprise guests include Jim and Ellen McRanor, who showed off photographs of their newest granddaughter.

The consensus of those present was that we should make the New Year's party an annual event. (Anyone else interested in making this a regular dance party should contact someone on the board.)

And if that weren't enough, Northampton hosted their annual New Year's Day candlelight potluck dinner and dance on Tuesday evening, January 1. Several of the New Haven Branch dancers returned the favor and attended what is always an elegant evening.

Now we can all rest up for the New Haven Ball!

Demo Team Members Needed

As a follow up to the article about the benefits of dancing with a demonstration team, experienced dancers are invited to join the Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers on their team. The group meets on alternate Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm in Glastonbury. If you are interested, please contact Mardene Hof at 860-233-3210.

New Home Page Address

If anyone has tried to access the Branch's home page recently, you have probably only seen fuzzy, garbled stuff. And let's admit, the address was a bit hard to memorize! Well, thanks to David Keller, the branch now has an address that makes sense, and David is working on building a better home page. Take a look at us at www.rscdsnewhaven.org. Thanks, David.

Scottish Country Dance Directions 1749

Eighteenth century dance instructions published in an earlier issue of Reel Time piqued a lot of interest. Here are some instructions from the *Menzie's Manuscript* as transcribed by Jim Healy. Our modern instructions follow.

The Menzies's Rant or Reel Don ne Marachan

1st man turns 2^d woman & casts off, then the 1st woman does the same then the 1st pair goes figure of eight through the 2^d pair; then the 1st man sets to the 2^d woman & turns her, then the 1st woman the same; then the 1st pair goes four hands round with the 2^d pair & right & left

The Menzies Rant or Reel Duine Na Marachan RSCDS Book 7, No. 6.

On the second chord, first couple change sides, where they remain until they reach the bottom of the dance.

- 1-4 First man turns second woman 1 1/2 times with right hands and casts off one place on women's side. Second woman dances up.
- 5-8 First woman turns second man 1 3/4 times with left hands and casts off one place on men's side, while second man dances up.
- 9-16 First couple dance a reel of four with second couple.
- 17-20 First man sets to the second woman and turns her, while first woman sets to second man and turns him. Finish first couple in second place.
- 21-24 First couple turn each other to finish still on opposite sides of the dance.
- 25-28 First and second couples dance four hands half round.
- 29-32 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.

Och Ah Ken Yer Faither Fine!

By Marion McKeen

If I took a boyfriend home with me
Ma mither said "Come in,
Sit doon I'll mak us aw some tea."
Then the questions would begin
"Is yer mither no' wee Jeannie Smith
That steyed at number nine
She marriet big Jock Thomson
Och ah ken yer faither fine!
And yer granny came fae Riccarton
And she worked in Blackwood's mill
And HER sister marriet John McCall
Noo is SHE living still?"

On and on she'd question them
About their kith and kin
Seed, breed and generation
I could have done her in
From family she'd turn to work
And off she'd go again
I'd sit there all embarrassed

And the boys would show the strain
"Are ye daein' an apprenticeship?
Whit future dae ye see?
Oh, ye have nae made yer mind up
Whit ye really want tae be."

But there was one exception
Who answered her with glee
"A leading ballet dancer,
Is what I want tae be!"
Her jaw dropped and her eyebrows rose
"Oh?" she said "I see"
I thought "Good on you son,
You've struck a blow for me"
Then I met a boy from out of town
And I hardly could believe
Though she didn't know his father
She knew his Uncle Steve!

But now I've daughters of my own
Who bring their boyfriends in
I ask those selfsame questions
About their kith and kin
And when I have the answers
About their family line
It pleases me if I can say
Och, Ah ken yer faither fine!

Submitted by Jack and Doreen Johnstone
From The Kilmarnock Standard, September 21, 2001

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Pat Morrison (203) 387-5343
Secretary	Leslie Kearney (203) 281-6591
Treasurer	Brian Haeckler (203) 732-1017
Branch Class	
Chair	George Thomson (203) 230-8551
Teacher Comm.	Ken Way
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 434-0415
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060 Marge Wills (860) 434-0415
Ball Chair	Joyce and Skip Chase (203) 288-0694
Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-0870
Newsletter	Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749 bausten@worldnet.att.net or bausten@cslib.org

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15 for publication at the end of the month. Please get your stories (class and personal tidbits) and calendar listings to me by then. My email address is bausten@worldnet.att.net or bausten@cslib.org