

# Reel Time

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

Late Summer/Fall 2002

## Class Schedules

*Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class*  
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.  
Tuesday 7 to 9:45 PM. Contact Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749. **Classes start Tuesday, September 3.**

*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. **Classes start Wednesday, September 4.**

*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. **Looking for a site.**

*New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class*  
New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10 PM. Contact Dick Platt (203) 878-6094. **Classes start Tuesday, September 10.**

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

*Bethany-Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers*  
First Church of Christ, Congregational Parish House, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge CT. Friday 7 to 9 PM. Contact Jack & Doreen Johnstone (203) 393-3189. **Classes start Friday, September 20.**

## Upcoming Events

**New Hampshire Highland Games.** Friday-Sunday, September 13-15, 2002. Lincoln, NH.

**Pipes in the Valley: A Celtic Music Festival.** Friday-Saturday, September 20-21, 2002. East Hartford Elks Pavilion and Grounds, 148 Roberts Street, East Hartford, CT. Friday 3:00-11:00 pm, Saturday from 11:00 am-11:00 pm. The organizers hope to make this an annual event, featuring concerts,

pipe band competitions, food, whiskey seminars, locally brewed beer and vendors of Scottish wares. Next year they may feature SCD! Proceeds benefit the Connecticut Police and Firefighters Memorial Funds. Cost, \$10.00, \$12.00 at the door, children under 12 free.

**25<sup>th</sup> Scottish Country Dance Weekend.** Friday-Sunday, September 20-22, 2002. Nevele Grande, Ellenville, NY. Scottish workshops for basic and intermediate-advance dancers on Saturday and Sunday, evening Scottish dance parties Friday and Saturday, Scottish ceilidh Saturday evening. Tennis, hiking and swimming also available. Weekend rates \$225 per person, \$310 for single occupancy. Contact Ann Smith, 632-271-5740 or Freddy Sverdlow, 561-683-7764.

**New Jersey Branch Picnic and Dance.** Sunday, September 22. Alpine Boat Basin Pavilion, Palisades Park at Alpine, NJ. Picnic from 12:30-2:00 pm (barbecue grills will be available). Dancing starts at 2:00. Donation of \$5.00 benefits the Jeannie Carmichael Ball. Parking \$4.00. Contact Cindy Carlone at (973) 302-0070.

**Camp Ramblewood Scottish Weekend.** Friday-Sunday, September 27-29, 2002. Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD. Teachers Marjorie McLaughlin, Robert McOwen, and Bill Zobel. Classes in Basic, Technique and Social will be taught by each of the three teachers. Four music classes will also be provided. Cost \$190.00 covers housing, tuition and food from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. Contact Pam Stephens, 301-587-2687 or <mailto:pamvictor@starpower.net>.

**St. Andrews' Fair, Goshen.** Saturday, October 5, 2002. Goshen Fair Grounds. Admission fee.

**\*Middletown Fall Party.** Saturday, October 12, 2002. 7:30 pm. First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Contact Lucile Blanchard, (860) 347-0278. Cost \$5.00.

**NOMAD Music and Dance Festival.** Friday-Sunday, October 25-27, 2002. Newtown High School, Newtown, CT. Contrabands and concerts Friday 7:30-10:30 pm. Music, dances, songs, storytelling,

and crafts Saturday from 10:00 am. - 11:00 pm. and Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Admission fee.

**Boston Branch Workshop, Potluck and Evening Dance Party** with SCD teacher Esther MacKay of New Zealand. Saturday, October 26, 2002. First Universalist Church, Salem, MA.

**\*Mystic Scottish Dancers Festive Dance.** Saturday, November 2, 2002. Christ Church Parish Hall, 7 Elm Street, Westerly, RI. Dancing from 7:30-11:00 pm. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$8.00. Contact Marge and Don Wills at (860) 434-0415 or Ruth Holland Walsh at (860)536-6265.

**Jeannie Carmichael Ball.** Saturday, November 2, 2002. Thayer Hotel, West Point, NY. Music by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Contact Sheila Wilson at (212) 744-1470 or check the Branch web site at <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org>.

**\*New Haven Class Music Workshop and Holiday Party,** Sunday, November 10, 2002. New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Music workshop led by Terry Traub. Music for dancing by whomever stays afterward. Watch for flyers.

**English-Scottish Dance.** Tuesday, November 26, 2002. Metropolitan-Duane Hall, East 13<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York City. Music by the Celtic Knot. Contact Ann Hankins at (212) 799-2084 or Ann Lowenthal at (212) 666-3271.

**\*Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers Christmas Party.** Tuesday, December 10, 2002. Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. 7:30-10:00 pm. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$5.00.

**\*New Haven Branch New Year's Eve Dance.** Tuesday, December 31, 2002. New Haven Medical Society, Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. Music by many of your favorite bands. Potluck dinner at 7:30 pm, followed by dancing until midnight. Cost, a contribution to the dinner and \$10.00. Profits will benefit the Dick Morrison Scholarship Fund. Contact Barbara Austen at (203) 630-9749 or <mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net>.

And for those who REALLY plan ahead, mark your calendars for:

**January 28, 2003. Greater Hartford SCD Burns' Night Party.** Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. 7:30-10:00 pm. Live music.

**February 8, 2003. Mystic Scottish Country Dancers** host their **Robert Burns Dinner and**

**Dance.** Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa, Exit 88 off Route 95. 5:00pm to midnight. More information on their website

<http://www.99main.com/~lees/BurnsNight/>.

**February 14, 2003, Woodbridge Dancers** will host a **Valentine's Dance**.

**March 1-2, 2003, New Haven Ball,** West Hartford Town Hall.

## On a Personal Note

Sadly, the Branch has lost one of its founding members and former teacher. Annie "Isobel" Voytek died Tuesday, June 25, 2002 in Milford, CT. She is survived by her husband, Michael P. Voytek, and her children Trema Voytek of Westport, Ronald and Philip Voytek of New Haven and Ian Voytek of Milford.

At Pinewoods, Pat Morrison evidently thought dancing on her hands would be more challenging. Seriously, though, Pat did fall on the dance floor and broke her wrist. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Judith and Tony Dewdney on the birth of their second grandchild.

## Two Dance Classes in Search of a Floor

The Kilts and Ghillies class that usually meets at the Community Center in Wilton, and the Newtown class that met in the Hawley School in Newtown have lost their rooms and are searching for a new place to host their class. If you know of an inexpensive and accessible place in the Wilton or Newtown areas, please contact Ed Potter(203) 226-6681 or <mailto:edwin.potter@snet.net> or Ernie Harrington at (203) 938-2881 or <mailto:ech105@snet.net>. We don't want to lose any of our classes!

## Once Upon a Saturday

The Rhode Island Scottish Festival at Westerly was held on May 18, 2002. The night before the Games it began to rain. It began but it did not stop. In the morning the weather forecasters looked out. They said, "It will stop by mid-day." They didn't say which mid-day. And they stayed warm and dry in their snug little broadcasting studios.

The performers and athletes and vendors looked out. They said "Och, weel, we've a job to do." So they packed up their pipes and drums and fiddles and

voices and digeri doos and dancing ghillies and costumes and showmanship and cabers and hammers and sheaves and athleticism and their everything-tartan-you-could-imagine wares and their entrepreneurship and they showed up at the Games.

The clansmen and clanswomen looked out. They said, "Och, 'tis but a wee Scottish mist." And they packed up their tartans and their sept charts and their clan membership applications and their plastic storage containers and their duct tape and their Scottish pride and they showed up at the Games.

John Q. and Jane Q. Public and their children looked out. They said, "Sleep in." "Rent a video." "Read 'War and Peace'." "Make hot cocoa with marshmallows." And they did. They wanted to be Scottish, but not that much. This was not the day to be "Braveheart." And they did not show up at the Games.

The day kept on being cold and raw and wet. The wetness even reached the port-a-potty seats. The rain was like a word search--vertical, horizontal and diagonal. The puddles had taken their cue from the banking industry and had merged into the Last Amalgamated Puddle. An entire field of canny Scots, and not one of them could find the "Off" switch to stop the deluge!

Scotch on the Rocks tuned up and played "Itchy Fingers," when what they really had was cold fingers. But it stirred the blood of their listeners. Charlie Zahm, in a borrowed Mayflower Movers jacket, had such cold fingers he could not play his guitar and was forced to rely on his full, rich voice a cappella. That voice warmed his listeners' hearts, but they worried that he'd go on from the "Mingulay Boat Song" to something about an ark. The twang of a digeri doo came from the direction of the Wicked Tinkers.

The highland dancing competition was moved inside. The athletes figured they couldn't get any wetter so they started putting the shot.

Doughty clansfolk gathered in those tents which had not been damaged by the rain and wind. They stood around in their parkas and Wellies under their brollies questioning their collective intelligence and sanity ("Is this dumb?" "Are we nuts?"). They broke out the hot coffee and shortbread, but not the duct tape. Camaraderie had shown up and did not give a fig about the weather.

Gradually, reluctantly, all but the entertainers and athletes began to strike their tents and pack their cars. They drove slowly off the muddy field to avoid getting stuck in the ruts. As the last tent was furled

its owner said, "The rain won." The best-laid schemes o' mice and Scottish folks had indeed "gone a-gley." (Actually the mice did not look out or say anything, so maybe they were okay.) But whatever else the Scots do, they will show up (wearing all nine yards of the finest Scottish wool around their middles even on a steamy day). And they will all live Scottishly ever after.

*Jane Platt*

Editor's note: Next year's Rhode Island Scottish Festival will be held at the Washington Country Fair Grounds on Route 112E in Richmond, RI. The site is not only bigger, it also has buildings to which participants and spectators can retire if the weather should be a repeat of this year.

## **Summer Dance in New Haven**

Summer dancing officially ended August 20, and for those who did not make a class, you missed a really good time. Although the sessions were well attended, there were some notable absences. You missed a good assortment of teachers and dances, real air conditioning, and a **wooden** floor.

The Board wishes to thank the teachers--Brian Haeckler, Ken Way, Barbara Austen, and Leslie Kearny--and it also extends a special thanks to George Thomson who organized the classes and dealt with the frustrations of coordinating with security.

## **Dues are Due**

At its summer meeting, the Board reluctantly voted to increase dues, starting this fall. The costs to Scotland have increased significantly, to the point that our membership fee does not cover the newsletter, buttons, and other perks of belonging to the RSCDS. You will notice that the annual fee is now \$20.00, with a special fee of \$35.00 when there are two members in one household.

Please use the attached form to renew your RSCDS membership as soon as possible. Also, please note that an extra line has been added for you to check off if you would prefer receiving Reel Time by email. The Board sees this as one way to help reduce costs.

## **How to Build Stronger Classes**

At that same meeting, the Board discussed the need to attract and retain dancers in each of our classes. This seems to be a universal problem. To help you

"grow" your classes, the Board suggests the following:

- Each class could call former dancers and invite them to return.
- Do more demonstrations. Classes need to seek more opportunities to show how fun SCD is.
- Assign mentors or buddies to new dancers.
- **Smile.** Be sociable and welcoming to all dancers, new and returning.
- Get names and addresses of new dancers, and if they don't appear again, assign someone to make a friendly call inviting that person back or try to get information on why he or she is not returning.
- Teachers need to instruct their classes in how to help gently, without a lot of loud instructions or wild hand waving.
- At refreshment or break time, put chairs in a circle and make this an opportunity to socialize.
- The Branch could host a social at the end of the year. This could be a picnic with dancing, at which families (and children) are welcome.
- Consider adult education programs and colleges in your locale as a source for dancers.
- Contact fraternal with a tie to Celtic culture like the Order of Hibernians, Daughters of Scotia, Masons, Eastern Star, St. Andrews' Societies.
- Have three teachers brief the dances at a social, thereby attracting dancers from other groups.
- Host a Halloween or other holiday-related party during your regular class time, or as a special event.
- Make the New Year's Eve dance an annual event.

Please contact members of the Board for any help your class might need in maintaining membership. The Branch will only survive if we all work together.

### **Dick Morrison Scholarship Month**

The Board has designated January 2003 as Dick Morrison Scholarship Month. The funds for the scholarship have been used to send two dancers to Pinewoods Camp. Without additional money, the

scholarship will lapse. During the month of January, all classes are asked to put a separate box next to the one for the nightly fee asking dancers to make a donation. If every dancer donates an extra dollar each week, the Scholarship fund will be well on its way back to health.

### **NOMAD**

Every year the Board exhorts dancers to attend the NOMAD weekend celebration and to assist with our major fundraiser--the food booth. Just what is NOMAD, you ask? Well, I will tell you.

NOMAD stands for the Northeast Music Art and Dance Festival, which is held every fall in Newtown, usually at the High School. Singers, dancers, storytellers and performers of all kinds meet for 2-1/2 days of socializing and fun.

The weekend starts with a Friday night Contra dance from 7:30-10:30 pm. Callers are Bill Olson and Christine Hale. Music is provided by Duffy's Insurance, a New York-based band.

Among the singing and music workshops and concerts will be Sandy and Caroline Paton, the Beans, the Jackson Pike Skiffers, Debra Cowan and Shipping News. The Shamroques perform traditional Irish music, and NEFESH offers a fresh interpretation of traditional and contemporary Jewish, Klezmer, Yiddish and Israeli music. Nzinga's Daughters present African songs, a cappella plantation songs and stories. Celtic harp, a Balkan singing group, and a bluegrass band are just some of the other performers you will get to see.

Those interested in learning or perfecting a musical instrument can attend workshops in hammered dulcimer, bodhran, guitar and the fiddle.

Dance performers include the Monique Legare International Dance Company, the Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers, Matachin Dancers who will demonstrate bellydancing, and the Appalachian clogging group Fiddlekicks.

For those who wish to participate rather than just watch dancing, there are sessions on contras, English Country Dance, waltzes, Balliamo Italian dances, Bal Folk French, Israeli, Macedonian, Zwiefache, Turkish and Balkan, to name a few. And of course, Scottish Country Dancing.

In between sessions and workshops, make sure to volunteer at the New Haven Branch food booth, specializing in Scottish fare (supplemented by some

good old fashioned American food like peanut butter and jelly). The funds raised at the food booth help underwrite your member's benefits. Please help when you are asked.

### **New Haven Ball Brunch Program**

Devised by Joyce Chase

The White Cockade	32R2	5/11
Asilomar Romantic	32S3	San Francisco
Kelloholm Jig	32J3	Leaflet 32/1
Captain MacIntosh	40R3	MMM2/7
Minister on the Loch	32S3	Goldring
Hooper's Jig	32J3	MMM2/15
West's Hornpipe	32R4	5 Trad./10
Argyll Strathspey	32S3	35/3
Lady Home's Jig	32J3	MMM1/28
The Clansman	32R2	32/8
Jimmy's Fancy	32S3	14/10
Duke of Perth	32R3	1/18

### **Etiquette on the Dance Floor, 1849**

Do not volunteer any directions about the dance, or even the correction of mistakes. Appear not to notice it, and wait quietly till your turn comes, when you can do it right. If you do interfere, depend upon it, no one will thank you, or think you know more about the dance than themselves. Besides, it only adds to the confusion.

From Hazzard, William P., *The Ballroom Companion: a Handbook for the Ballroom and Evening Parties*, Philadelphia: George S. Appleton, 1849.

### **Pawling Weekend Moves to New Venue**

The conference center where the Pawling weekend has been held for the last 39 years is being sold. The new owners probably will not rent the facility to groups like the RSCDS. However, do not despair. The weekend will continue at a new location, the Circle Lodge in Hopewell Junction, NY. The extra good news is that the Lodge has a huge dance hall with a wood floor. The classrooms also have wood floors! Happy feet! So we will see everyone there the weekend of May 16-18, 2003.

### **The Two-sex Scottish Dancer**

*This poem was published in an earlier issue of Reel Time, but it is well worth repeating. Thanks to*

*Doreen Johnstone for bringing it to my attention.*

I'm a two sex Scottish Dancer and may seem rather dim,  
 But I never spend one evening as a full time her or him,  
 I change my sex from dance to dance, my corners always alter  
 It's really not surprising I occasionally falter.  
 The old and simple dances I can manage very nicely  
 And I can learn a new dance and do it most precisely,  
 But when it comes to next week I don't know if I can  
 For I learnt it as a woman and dance it as a man.  
 And so you men who have the luck to always stay the same  
*[She's never been to New Haven!]*  
 When female gentlemen go wrong be sparing with your blame.  
 I'll add a postscript to this tale--one comfort I have got  
 When both the women change their sex it doesn't show a lot!

From "Pat's Party Pieces," by Patricia Batt.  
 Published in aid of the North London hospice.

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RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Dick Baxter (203) 735-5079
Secretary	Ena Baxter (203) 735-5079
Treasurer	Brian Haeckler (203) 732-1017
Branch Class	George Thomson (203) 230-8551
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### **Editor's Note**

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My apologies to Ruth Walsh, Barbara Garton and Marge Wills for not acknowledging them for providing the photographs of the Tartan Day Parade in NYC that were included in the last issue.

Deadline for the next newsletter is November 15 for publication toward the end of the month. Please get your stories (class and personal tidbits), and calendar listings to me by then. My home address is 70 Pearl St., Meriden, CT 06540, and my email address is <mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net> or <mailto:bausten@cslib.org>

