

Reel Time

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

Spring 2003

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 or Karen Pestana (860) 298-8311. **Last class was June 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. **Last class is June 18.**

New Canaan Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers
Millennium School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown, 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 Dick Platt (203) 878-6094. **Summer dance begins June 3 at the Medical Society with June 17 relocation to the Yale Divinity School.**

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers
St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 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. Contact Jack & Doreen Johnstone (203) 393-3189. **Last class was May 30.**

Upcoming Events

Rick Johnson Memorial Dance to celebrate the life of Rick, a dancer with the Northampton class. All proceeds go to the Johnson family. Saturday, June 7, 2003. First Churches. 129 Main St., Northampton, MA. 5:30 PM potluck dinner (\$1 + dish), 7:00 pm dance (\$15.00). Music by Earl Gaddis and Karen Axelrod. Contact Virginia Van Scoy, 413-586-5476.

Westchester Ball. Saturday, June 14, 2003. St. John's in Fountain Square, Larchmont, NY. Music

by Highland Whisky. Sherry at 6:00 pm, dinner 7:00 and dancing at 8:00 pm. Coast \$30.00. Contact Judy Zingher, 914-592-5862 or <mailto:juzing@juno.com>.

***Advanced Class.** Thursday, June 19, 2003. Teacher Kent Smith. Anyone who can dance basic figures such as reels, turn corner, partner, corner, partner, and set and turn corners without a walk through are welcome to attend. Cost \$6.00. Contact Lucile Blanchard, 860-347-0278.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Scotland at the Smithsonian. The National Mall, Washington, DC. June 25-29 and July 2-6, 2003. Through dynamic performances, demonstrations, and educational programs, more than one hundred of Scotland's finest musicians, storytellers, cooks, craftspeople, and scholars will demonstrate and celebrate the living traditions that make and sustain Scotland's distinctive culture. From the Highlands and Islands to the Borders, inner-city Glasgow to Edinburgh's Royal Mile, the shop floors and mills of Dundee to the oil fields of Aberdeen, Scotland's heritage, regional cultures, and occupations will be highlighted and honored. Free.

The Highland Mist Scottish County Dancers of St. Louis Missouri/Illinois announce a four-part **Ball Weekend.** June 28/29 2003. Details are on their website - <http://members.aol.com/ParadiseMO/highland.html>

1. Scottish Musicians Workshop, St. Peters MO. June 28, 2003 - 2:00 PM. A workshop for all instruments. Taught by Elke Baker, fiddle player from Ellicott City, MD.

2. Highland Mist Banquet, Winchester, MO. June 28, 2003 - 6:00 pm. At Giovanni's Little Place Restaurant.

3. Highland Mist Ball, Manchester, MO. June 28, 2003 - 8:00 PM. At Just Dancin' Studio (air-conditioned). Live music by Elke Baker. Snacks and soft drinks provided. Bring your own beer, scotch, etc. Cost: \$20 per dancer, \$10 per observer.

4. Highland Mist Brunch, Lake St. Louis, MO. June 29, 2003 - 10:00 AM.

Celtic Fling Scottish & Irish Festival. Mt. Hope Estate & Winery, Pennsylvania. Contact Thomas Roy 717-665-7021 x127 or take a look at the site <http://www.parenfaire.com>.

English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods. July 7-11, 2003. Includes classes in English and Scottish Country, Longsword, Rapper, Highland, Cape Breton, and Colonial. Cost \$280.00. Contact Howard Brezner 518-456-1732.

Scottish Session at Pinewoods. Session I, Friday, July 11-Monday July 14, 2003. Session II, Monday, July 14-Saturday, July 19, 2003. Teaching staff includes Linda Gaul, Ron Wallace, Marianne Taylor, Howard Lasnick, Robert McOwen and Lance Ramshaw. Music instructors are Elke Baker and Barbara McOwen. Music director is Terry Traub. Session I costs \$230 for RSCDS members; Session II costs \$300. A deposit of \$50 is required to reserve a place. Contact Betty Allen 781-849-3512 or eallenscd@beld.net.

Waterloo (ON) TAC Summer School Sun-Sun, July 27-August 3. St. Jerome's University. Sponsored by Teachers' Association (Canada). Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Teachers are Helen Frame, Gail Michener, Sandy Bain. Contact Marie Ziccarelli <mailto:Zmrezz@aol.com>.

Summerdance XIV Fundraising for UNICEF. UN General Assembly Lobby, 1st Ave. and 45th Street, NY. Saturday, August 2, 2003. 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Men to wear the kilt, women tartan sashes with white dresses. Contribution \$15.00. Contact Sheila Wilson 212-744-1470 or <mailto:info@rscdsnewyork.org>.

Hillsboro Highlands. Friday-Sunday, August 22-24, 2003. Hillsboro Camp, Hillsboro, NH. Teachers are Charlie Inglis, Jeanetta McColl and Robert McOwen. Musicians are Tom Pixton, Dave Knight and Lissa Schneckeburger. Cost \$114.00 per person. Includes accommodations for two nights, five meals, two dance parties and four classes. Contact Susan Haines 603-435-8643 or <mailto:sdhaines@earthlink.net>.

Fort Worden XXIX Scottish Country Dance Weekend. Friday-Sunday, September 12-14, 2003. Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA. Teachers Bruce and Jo Hamilton and Ruth Jappy. Music by Muriel Johnstone, Laura Risk and Calum MacKinnon. Friday evening dance and Ceilidh. Workshops on Saturday for English Country Dancing, Shetland, Quadrilles and Step dancing. Ball and champagne party on Saturday evening. Sunday morning dancing. Entire weekend registration

\$90.00. Accommodation extra. Contact ftwordenregistrar@earthlink.net.

Scottish Country Dance Weekend with Ann Smith. September 19-21, 2003. Swan lake Resort Hotel, Swan Lake, NY. Teacher Ellen Sears. Cost \$224.00 per person for entire weekend. Contact Ann Smith at hplever@earthlink.net.

Darlington (MD) Scottish Weekend at Ramblewood. Friday-Sunday, September 26-28. Friday Night Welcome Dance, Saturday classes, Saturday Night Ball, Sunday Morning Classes. Sponsored by Scottish Weekend, Inc. Dance Teachers are: Fred de Marse, Ruth Jappy, and Marjorie McLaughlin. Music by Scottish Weekend Band plus Muriel Johnstone as Guest Musician. Contact Fred Eustis (Registrar) 410-922-6369 <mailto:feustis@starpower.net> or Betty Evans (Chair) 410-296-5537 <mailto:bettyevans@att.net>. [<http://www.ScottishWeekend.org>]

***Mystic Scottish Country Dancers Fall Frolic.** 7:30 pm. Saturday, November 8, 2003. Christ Church Parish Hall, Westerly, RI. Watch for flyers! Heat is included this time!

NOMAD. Saturday-Sunday, November 15-16, 2003. *New Location!* New Haven Career High School, 140 Legion Ave., New Haven. See the web site at <http://www.geocities.com/nomadfest>.

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to Steve Rice for finally completing his Master's degree in Library and Information Science. With any luck, we will see him dancing more often.

Congratulations to John Boswell on the impending birth of his eighth grandchild!

Condolences to family and friends of Joan Treble, a dancer and teacher who frequently attended classes in Newtown. She collapsed during the Ceilidh at the Pawling Weekend and died a short time later.

Dick Morrison Scholarship

The scholarship, named in his memory, allows newer dancers to attend Pinewoods Camp. Pinewoods is a camp in Plymouth, Mass., that hosts a variety of music and dance weeks and weekends. Every year there is an English/Scottish week, a Scottish weekend, and a Scottish week. The fortunate dancer

this year is Jay Harrington, Ernie's son.
Congratulations!

Last Advanced Classes of the Season

The Branch is planning one more advanced class on June 19. Kent Smith will be teaching that Thursday evening in Middletown, at our usual 190 Court Street venue. The charge will be \$6.00.

New Haven Class Looking for Volunteers

Once again the New Haven class has been asked to dance at the annual Irish Fes in North Haven. The demo is scheduled for 4:30 pm on Saturday, June 21. However, they need dancers, beyond those in their class. Anyone interested in dancing for this demonstration should contact George Thomson at <mailto:certicee@aol.com>.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the AGM held Sunday, June 1, 2003 at the New Haven Medical Society, President Dick Baxter expressed his appreciation to everyone who helped make his year so enjoyable. He extended special thanks to Joyce Chase for her service as member-at-large on the Board (she is withdrawing as of June 1), May Byrnie and Catriona MacAuslan for hosting a successful ball, and Steve for his tireless work making the NOMAD food booth a success. Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation. The Branch treasury is healthy, with a small surplus this year rather than a deficit. The pending bad news is that a replacement for Brian, who has been treasurer for 20 years, may be needed within the next year. He will be laid off, the question is when.

The officers for next year are listed on the last page of the newsletter.

New Haven Class News

The New Haven Class hosted a Celebrate Spring dance on March 30. (Based on the weather, this was a premature celebration). We danced a variety of couple, Ceilidh and easy/fun social dances.

Since April Fool's day fell on a Tuesday, I couldn't resist celebrating it with a special program. Each dance had something different about it, fun but not weird. We started with Leap Year (24 bars) and followed it with the strangest dance of the evening, McDonald of the Arches (Macdonald of the Isles

danced backward). We followed that with The Black Mountain Reel, since we had 5 couples exactly. Then came Lass O' Livingston, Allison Rose, Equilibrium and Summer in Assynt. We ended the evening with a dance suggested by Lynn Bishell that wasn't on my dance program, Red House. Red House was the perfect dance to end the evening! [Note, regular class fees have been raised to \$6.00 for non-members and \$5.00 for members.]

Brian Haeckler

First Advanced Classes Held

The first of this year's advanced classes was held on Thursday, April 10 in Middletown. Ken Way led us through a series of dances, beginning with Chequered Court, a dance that used the patterns found in traditional Celtic designs, weaving and circling about the set in a very satisfying manner. Then he tried us severely with a dance called Timepiece which included couples circling in a way that mimicked the meshed gears of a clock. The circling wasn't so bad, only the steps that led us into and out of it. When we finally were able to perform Timepiece all the way through, we were happy, but a clockmaker would have shuddered in dismay.

The second class, led by Howard Lasnik of the Boston Branch, was held Thursday, May 29. Howard taught some challenging dances—for example, "Left handed Fiddler" with most figures danced using left hands instead of right. Only eight people enjoyed Howard's teaching.

Dancers are encouraged to attend the next advanced class on Thursday, June 19, which will be taught by Kent Smith. The cost will be \$6.00. Call Lucile Blanchard, 860-347-0278, or Joyce Chase, 203-238-0694, for further information.

Lucile Blanchard

The Second Annual Scottish Tea Party

The party was held in Middletown on Wednesday, April 30th to high praise and acclaim. Thanks to the efforts of Catriona MacAuslan, Betty Muir and Joyce Chase helped by Ena Baxter, Mary Byrnie and Ev and Sarah Munro, the silver and china tea service covered four tables. Most of those who came brought food, more than the roomful of dancers could possibly eat and all of it tasty. There were four kinds of tea - English breakfast, Prince of Wales, Typhoo (a decaf tea) and decaf Earl Grey. The treats included an impressive variety of scones, meringues, shortbread, cookies, sandwiches and cakes plus an amazing

raspberry trifle. Ken Way provided a program of social dancing which helped us work off some of the calories. A delicious evening enjoyed by all. This has become a yearly event and you can mark next year's calendar for the last Wednesday in April when the third annual tea party will take place.

Lucile Blanchard

Line Dancing is like SCD?

In an article in *USA Weekend*, May 9-11, 2003, the actor Ewan McGregor is quoted as saying, "Line dancing can be very similar to Scottish country dancing." One begins to wonder if he even knows what SCD is all about! Maybe we should invite him to a class, or at least set him straight through a letter-writing campaign! Or maybe he was referring to Ceilidh dancing?

Bagpipes

It all begins with a sheep's used bladder,
Discarded, empty, what could be sadder?
Add hollow wooden legs and shaven cane
(Although this combination sounds insane.)
Listless and inert it droops towards the floor,
It appears unable to do much more.
A small lonely octopus, deflated,
Creature of the deep, adrift and sedated.
Then comes along a kilt-clad piper
Who can this strange anomaly decipher.
Observe the power of transforming breath
That lifts this sodden sack from pseudo-death
To full-blown life. And now we march along
Behind the swelling sounds of drones and song.

Bagpipes was written by Mollie Keller's niece, Margaret Bryant, and used with her permission. Her mother is taking up bagpipes and this is Margaret's first impression of the many-legged beastie.

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
Teacher Comm.	Ken Way (860) 653-5258
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 434-0415
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056
	Bob Byrnie (860) 635-4056
	Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060

Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-0870
Newsletter	Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749 mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **August 15** for publication toward the end of the month. **In this issue I will announce class starting dates.** 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> .



Have a happy and safe summer!