

# Reel Time

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

Spring 2004

## 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 will be June 8.**

*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 will be June 16.**

*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 date and time TBA.**

*Newtown Scottish Country Dancers*  
St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Contact Ernie Harrington (203) 938-2881 or ech105@snet.net. **Last class is May 24, possibly later.**

*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 is May 28.**

## Upcoming Events

**Pawling Spring Weekend** RSCDS New York Branch. Friday - Sunday, May 21-23, 2004. Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake, Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers are Ruth Jappy, Jim Rae and Johan MacLean. Music by Bobby Brown and the *Scottish Accent* and Jim Stevenson. Contact Sheila Wilson 212-744-1470 or info@rscdsnewyork.org.

**Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival** May 22, 2004. Washington County Fairgrounds, Richmond, RI. For more information see [www.riscot.org/](http://www.riscot.org/).

**Bonaire Scuba Dance II** May 29-June 5, 2004. Combination scuba diving or snorkeling and Scottish country dancing on a Caribbean island. Recorded music. Contact Mel and Ellie Briscoe 703-461-7383 or mail@briscoe.com.

**Westchester Ball** Westchester Scottish Country Dance Society. Saturday, June 5, 2004. St. John's Episcopal Church, Fountain Square, Larchmont, NY. Music by *Highland Whiskey*. Contact Judy Zingher 914-592-5862.

**Summerdance XV** Fundraising for UNICEF Saturday, June 26, 2004. United Nations General Assembly Lobby, 12:30-4:00 PM. For experienced dancers. Men wear kilts, women white dresses with tartan sashes. Contribution \$15.00. Website: <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org> or contact Sheila Wilson 212-744-1470.

**Round Hill Scottish Games** Saturday, July 3, 2004. Cranbury Park, Norwalk, CT. For directions and more information see: [www.RoundHill.org](http://www.RoundHill.org).

**English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods** July 5-9, 2004. Pinewoods Camp, 80 Cornish Field Rd., Plymouth, MA, sponsored by RSCDS Boston Branch. Includes classes in English and Scottish country dancing. Teachers are Bruce Hamilton, Geoffrey Selling, Yonina Gordan, George Fogg and Laura Scott. Music by Earl Gaddis, R. P. Hale, Cal Howard, Mary Lea, Sylvia Miskoe, Ed Pearlman and J. Schwab. Contact Jill Emery 215-591-0750 or jemery@mccus.jnj.com, or Priscilla Adams [arachneas@aol.com](mailto:arachneas@aol.com).

**Halifax (NS) International SCD School** Wednesday-Sunday, July 28-August 1, 2004. Dalhousie University, sponsored by RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch. Teachers are Mel Briscoe, Elaine Brunken, Margan Dawson, John Drewry, Colleen Putt, Maggie Keppie, Jane Smarzik and Ron Wallace. Music by Jim Aulenbach, Elma Grech, Muriel Johnstone, Duncan Keppie, Keith Smith and *The Macadians*. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033 or [lydiahedge@accesswave.ca](mailto:lydiahedge@accesswave.ca).

**Dancing in Scottish Castles & Walking in Scotland** August 4-16, 2004. Includes 3 nights stay in luxury castle, dances in other castles and manor ballrooms, sightseeing in the Highlands and islands. Live music by David Wiesler and Earl Gaddis. For more information, contact Ken McFarland 800-822-3435 or ken\_mcfarland@earthlink.net.

**Maine Highland Games** August 21, 2004. Thomas Point Beach, Brunswick, ME. Sponsored by the St. Andrews' Society of Maine. For more information, contact Susan Mack macrodel@aol.com.

**Hillsboro Highlands** Friday-Sunday, August 27-29, 2004. Hillsboro Camp, Hillsboro, NH. Teachers are Susan Eisley, Charlie Inglis and Howard Lasnik. Musicians are Terry Traub, Ken Allen and David Knight. For more information, contact Susan Haines 603-435-8643 or sdhaines@earthlink.net.

**Quechee Games Festival** Saturday, August 28, 2004. Quechee Polo Field, Quechee, VT. Sponsored by the St. Andrews' Society of Vermont. A kilted mile will be held, among other things.

**Pearls of the Northwest** Friday-Sunday, Sept. 10-12, 2004. RSCDS Seattle Branch 30th annual weekend workshop at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA. Teachers Vicki Goodloe, Sara Gratiot, John Middleton and Ron Wallace. Music by Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith, Ralph Gordon and Calum MacKinnon. For more information, see: <http://www.rscds-seattle.org>.

**Darlington (MD) Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood** Friday-Sunday, Sept. 24-26, 2004. Teachers are Stella Fogg, Vicky Goodloe and Ron Wallace. Music teacher is Calum MacKinnon. Music by Calum MacKinnon, Liz Donaldson, Dan Emery, Earl Gaddis, Ralph Gordon, Becky Ross, Jim Stevenson, Marty Taylor and Dave Wiesler. Contact Betty Evans 410-296-5537, esecllc@att.net or Fred Eustis 410-922-6369, feustis@starpower.net or web site: [www.ScottishWeekend.org](http://www.ScottishWeekend.org).

**Mystic Scottish Country Dancers Fall Ceilidh** Friday, Oct. 29, 2004. 7:00-11:00 PM, Groton Motor Inn, Groton, CT. \$15.00. Featuring country and Highland dancing. Contact Mary Ruddlesden, 860-442-3731 or Ruth Walsh, RHWDVB@aol.com; also check the web at [pageupconsulting.com/MSCD](http://pageupconsulting.com/MSCD).

**Robert Burns Dinner and Dance** Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005. 5:30 PM - midnight, Groton Motor Inn. Sponsored by the Mystic Scottish country dancers. More information to come.

## 2004 AGM

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) for the RSCDS New Haven Branch, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 23, has been postponed to Sunday, June 6 at the New Haven Medical Building, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. The meeting will start at 2:00 PM with refreshments and dancing afterward. All members are urged to attend. This is your chance to voice your opinions and suggestions.

### New Classes Continuing

Peter Price will continue to hold his classes on the second Thursday of the month through the summer. 8:00 pm at the New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT. The dates are June 10, July 8 and August 12. For more information, call 203-675-9587.

### On a Personal Note

Several of our members have been hospitalized this spring for a variety of ailments. Luckily they are all back on their feet and dancing again. Our best wishes for continued good health to Owen McKay, Mary Byrnie and Ena Baxter.

### And the Band Played On!!!

Our New Haven Highland Ball has come and gone. A wonderful weekend that passed all too quickly. The skies grew clear as the witching hour approached – a sunset instead of snow for a change, an auspicious beginning for a great evening, and it allowed our piper, George Thomson, to welcome everyone on the steps. Arriving guests were greeted by Barbra Link in her second year as hostess. The badges designed by Ken Way were kept a deep dark secret until the last! As always, a great design. Did everyone realize the pattern represented a reel of three and a reel of four? How like Ken.

Marvelous appetizers from our Windsor and Middletown classes started the evening. We dined at heather-decorated tables, the dinner prepared by Krause Caterers. The serving arrangement devised by Skip Chase accelerated the lines so everyone got to eat a warm meal. Our gentlemen gamely carted tables to storage and we were ready to DANCE! First, a graceful Grand March devised by George Thomson and Kate Mahoney and piped by Bob Scent. The dancing was enthusiastic and well accompanied by *Millbrae*, who really played their hearts out and were very much appreciated. We had many positive comments on the program. Thank you, Leslie Kearney.

We had several newbies and not-so-newbies come to this their first Ball and comment how much they enjoyed themselves. The many folks from out of town were very welcome, old friends as well as new arrivals. There were very few set breakdowns and it was wonderful to see the ballroom floor totally full for most of the evening. A tribute to our teachers for their pre-Ball preparation. And a very heartfelt thanks to our briefers – Mardene Hof, Ken Way and Joyce

Chase. Special thanks go to Don Wills as our Master of Ceremonies. His directions and humor made the evening even more enjoyable.

Mary and I now pass the baton to Karen Pestana and George Thomson who will be the Ball chairs for the next two years, backed up by Barbra Link and Jane Leibert as co- chairs. We wish them well and are sure they will do a great job. At the second break, Lynn Bishel re-capped the "dog waltz" as someone called the St. Bernard Waltz, then Bob and Linda Scent demonstrated it and everyone joined in. Thanks to Elizabeth Muir for punch preparation and to all the helpful elves who replenished the punch and refilled water pitchers.

Sunday dawned bright and clear for the Brunch. Our meal was as usual well-provisioned and delicious. Thanks to Ed Davis and Susan Leff for the ham and everyone else for the many tasty choices. Special thanks to the kitchen crew for set up, vigilant clean up, and breakdown. We really appreciated it! Our infant "gently used" gown sale went very well and made some extra cash for the Branch. The music was again terrific. Despite a severe lack of sleep, the band was still enthusiastic and even played on after the official end of the program. Our briefers, Peter Price and Karen LaVallee-Tente did a great job as we knew they would with the great program devised by Barbara Austen. Dancers crowded the floor to the very end.

As we wind up the details, Mary and I want to thank everyone who helped us in so many ways. We could not have done it without the support of all of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

*Catriona MacAuslan and Mary Byrne*

### **Congratulations to Bob Gregg!**

Dr. Robert A. Gregg of Woodbridge was given the Maurice Chamberland Award on Thursday, November 20, 2003 at a meeting of the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society. The award is made for work enhancing societal well-being through the application of chemistry. The award is named in honor of Maurice R. Chamberland who was an early chairman of the Section. The Chamberland award was last made in 1993.

Dr. Gregg was cited for his research in developing an adhesive system and rubber compounds for steel-belted radial ply tires. Gregg showed that standard rubber to brass-plated steel wire adhesion tests were misleading. He then devised a reliable test that had the added advantage of being able to use test samples taken directly from tires. Conventional rubber stocks with good adhesion to brass were unacceptable for use in tires. Gregg chemically compounded rubber to give stocks having both good adhesion and good service life in tires. As a result, Uniroyal tires did not experience adhesion failures. One other tire company that continually experienced catastrophic failure of its tires due to poor adhesion

has been forced to recall about 30 million tires over the years.

Gregg was also cited for his pioneering work on azo-dicarbonamide, a chemical blowing agent now used at the rate of 250 million pounds per year. On heating it releases nitrogen bubbles that when trapped in rubber or plastic lead to lightweight foam products. Marine flotation devices, insulating materials, shock absorbers such as Ensolite, and grips on tools and sports equipment are just a few of the applications.

### **Ramblings from the Heights (of Fair Haven)**

The Second Thursday of the Month class at the New Haven Friends Meeting House has been a glorious experiment so far but attendance has been light. In December and January the number of dancers totaled just one. February we actually had a dance! In March four people showed up and we put Fred Astaire to shame as we danced with FIVE chairs. April 8th we managed a three couple set (gold road trip award for Tony and Sherri who have been regulars and come from Fishkill, NY).

Terry Glasspool is our sustaining member *in absentia* because his dance *This One's Four Isobel* (for 4 dancers – no couples) has been a mainstay the last two months. It is a really good dance and worth the effort of learning (and teaching). It certainly made it onto my Top 10 Strathspeys list and is right up there along with Roy Goldring's *Castle Douglas*.

I've been having a lot of fun with two new CDs. *More Memories of Scottish Weekend* is quite good – not as good as the first one but what do you want? The fiddle ensemble included the two Hoopers (Anne and Betsy) who are finesse, not power, fiddlers. So the sound reflects that. *Denise's Waltz* (Dave Wiesler ©1997) is an astounding piece. It might be the best waltz I have ever heard! The other CD is Dave Wiesler and Hanneke Cassel's *Many Happy Returns*. The tunes are HOT! We danced *On the Morning Tide* and *McGregor's Leap* on Thursday.

Work has begun on next year's Kilts and Ghillies ball program. You can expect to see (no guarantees) *The Old Way of Killiecrankie* (48 R 3C set) which doesn't dance like a 48-bar dance. (With *Cadgers in the Canongate*, I feel like a member of the Huff and Puff Scottish Dance Club – not so with *TOW of K*). You can also expect to see Terry's *Gypsy Dreams* and John Drewry's *Ythanside* on the program. I was pushing the envelope a tad when I put *The Dancing Master* on this year's ball. And I am going to push again – this time with a fugue by John Mitchell from his *Whetherly Book 2*. *The Dundee City Police Jig* (32 J 5) is done to a beautiful pipe jig composed by Jimmy Shand. The program is a true collaborative effort with Leslie and Joyce. By the way, Joyce let me see the preliminary New Haven Ball program for next year and it looks good. She beat me to *De'il Among the Tailors*. (I was planning to close with it too!)

*Peter Price*

## Report on the Kilts and Ghillies Ball

The Kilts and Ghillies Ball held on April 24th was a wonderful night. The food was gourmet, the band lively, the dancing terrific. The 54 people in attendance danced up a storm to the super music provided by Norb Spencer, Susie Petrov and Martin Suckling. The Ball is now run by the Woodbridge dancers with physical and financial help from the Kilts and Ghillies dancers. After years of having the Ball on this date, there now seems to be a conflict with other events. This will be taken into consideration next year, so don't be surprised if the date is changed. This Ball has been a favorite of many dancers and is too special to disappear. Many thanks to all who helped make the evening a success.

*Doreen Johnstone*

## A Scottish Saga

Breadalbane is a district in Perthshire, Scotland. *The Braes of Breadalbane*, a strathspey, is well known to Scottish country dancers. Better known to many is the *H. M. S. Breadalbane*, the northernmost shipwreck in the world. A three-masted bark, the *Breadalbane* sank half a mile south of Beechey Island in the Canadian Arctic on August 2, 1853 after its hull cracked from pressure of the ice. It was part of an expedition to find the explorer Sir John Franklin and his men who had attempted to find the long sought Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

The wreck of the *Breadalbane* was located in 1980 by Dr. Joseph B. MacInnis who later took pictures of the ship in the gin-clear water, using a remotely controlled submersible. In 1983, he led manned dives to the wreck. A British naval ship, the *Breadalbane* was 120 feet long and displaced 500 tons. It sits upright with sails furled in about 330 feet of water in a remarkably fine state of preservation due to the very cold water.

Dr. MacInnis is Canadian and his forebears were from the Isle of Mull in Scotland. That may explain his love of the water and high-risk exploration. A candidate for the Canadian Olympic team before committing to the medical school at the University of Toronto, he was the first man to dive under the North Pole working with Ocean Systems Inc. and has explored many shipwrecks including the *Titanic*. He was co-leader of the team that made the movie.

The *Breadalbane* was later visited by Dr. Alfred S. McLaren, captain of the nuclear submarine *U.S.S. Seadragon* who made the first underwater transit of the Northwest Passage. In the *U.S.S. Queenfish*, he completed an under-the-ice survey of the entire Siberian Continental Shelf. On one of these forays, he surfaced near the North Pole and the crew played a soft ball game with the Pole as the pitcher's mound. To score a run, a player literally had to run around the world. Nowadays, if you have the money, you

can go on a guided tour for \$10,000 that includes two or three dives to the *Breadalbane*.

Sir John Franklin sailed into northern waters in 1845 and was never heard from until Dr. John Rae came across evidence of his fate in 1854. Dr. Rae, from the Orkney Islands, was a surgeon on a Hudson Bay Company ship. Commissioned to survey the northern coastline of North America, it is estimated he walked 23,000 miles in Canada which took him from 1846 to 1854. Eskimos he met at Repulse Bay told him about seeing dead Europeans and showed him items with the names of Franklin and his officers. Rae and his men were awarded 10,000 pounds sterling for determining the fate of Franklin and his crew.

Scotsmen have been active in geographical and scientific exploration and in military activities in many parts of the world, including the northern reaches of Canada.

*Bob Gregg*

## Middletown Scottish Tea Party

The Middletown class held their third annual Scottish tea on the last Wednesday of April and it was a resounding success. Twenty dancers enjoyed the program Ken Way devised and we got through all ten dances even with a generous break for tea. Women came dressed in lovely gowns topped by hats of all kinds and some even wore white gloves. Only one hat stayed on its owner's head throughout the evening. Catriona Macauslan said it was so thoroughly afixed, she was afraid to try to remove it. Jane Leibert's dress with fine Phillippine embroidery was particularly notable, being one her mother wore in 1943. The tables were covered with flowered cups and saucers, teapots, sugar tongs and an outstanding assortment of small sandwiches and pastries, with Elizabeth's Muir's trifle to finish it off. An evening enjoyed by all.

*Lucile Blanchard*

## A Scottish Prayer to End With

From ghoulies and ghosties  
And long-leggedy beasties  
and things that go bump n the night  
Good Lord, deliver us!

*Thanks to Ed Davis*

## Editor's Note

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) 264-087  
Newsletter Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278  
lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Deadline for the next newsletter is **August 15** for publication by the end of the month. I will welcome all of your stories or reports, and particularly all calendar listings, as many of us depend on Reel Time to jog our memory. For this next issue I would particularly like the starting dates for classes, and any change in the contact person. My home address is 1061 Millbrook Road, Middletown, CT 06457 and my e-mail is [lblanchard@wesleyan.edu](mailto:lblanchard@wesleyan.edu).

Note to Readers: If you would rather receive Reel Time by e-mail, please send an e-mail message to me at [lblanchard@wesleyan.edu](mailto:lblanchard@wesleyan.edu) so that I will have your preferred address

## MEET SOME OF OUR OFFICERS:



President - Dick Baxter



Secretary - Ena Baxter



Ball co-chair - Mary Byrnie



Ball co-chair - Catriona Macauslan