

Reel Time

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

Summer 2006

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.
Tuesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Barbara Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311. **Classes begin Sept. 12.**

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Joyce Chase 203-238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278. **Classes begin Sept. 6.** (See Note below.)

Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers Millennium School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown, CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Angela Montague 203-762-9892 or Peter Price 203-675-9587. **Classes begin Sept. 12.**

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 310 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT. Friday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Ruth Walsh 860-536-6265 or <http://www.mysticsscottishdancers.com>.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Dick Platt 203-878-6094 or Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591.

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Ernie Harrington 203-664-1315 or Ed Davis 203-264-0870. **Classes begin Sept. 11.** No class held Sept. 25 or Oct. 2.

Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers First Church of Christ Congregational Parish House, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT. Friday 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Contact Donna Ives 203-393-3713 or Mollie Keller 203-375-2840. **Classes begin Sept. 15.**

Peter Price's Class Second Thursday of the month, 8:00 pm, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Ave., New Haven. Fall dates: **Sept. 14**, Oct. 12, Nov. 9; no class in December. This class welcomes everyone with an interest in Scottish country dancing.

Note: The Middletown class will begin a series of classes for beginners on Wednesday, October 4, to run every week until Thanksgiving. Please spread the word.

Upcoming Events

Hillsboro Highlands Hillsboro Camp, Hillsboro, NH Friday-Sunday, August 25-27, 2006. For more information, contact Loren Wright at NashuaSCD@comcast.net.

New Hampshire Highland Games Loon Mountain Ski Resort, Lincoln, NH Friday-Sunday, Sept. 22-24, 2006. See www.nhscot.org for more information.

Long Island Scottish Games Old Westbury Gardens, NY. See liscots.org for more information.

Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood
Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD Friday-Sunday, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2006. Linda Gaul, Alan Thwigg, Ellie Brisco, Laura Risk, Kate Neally, teachers. Music by *Scottish Weekend Band*. See <http://www.ScottishWeekend.org> for more information.

Flora Macdonald Ball Red Springs, NC Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006. Given in conjunction with Flora Macdonald Highland Games. Music by Dave Wiesler, Mara Shea. See <http://www.floramacdonaldball.com>.

St. Andrews Scottish Festival at Goshen Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006. Goshen Fairgrounds, Rt. 63, Goshen, CT. Piping, clan tents, sheepherding, Highland dance competitions, vendors. See <http://www.sasct.org>.

Scotland's Highland Festival Scotland, CT, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006. See <http://www.scotlandgames.org>

Hamilton Branch Weekend Hilton Garden Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 13-15, 2006. Irene Bennett, Ian Paterson, John Walton, teachers. Music by Bobby Brown and *The Scottish Accent*. See <http://hamiltonrscds.org> for more.

Middletown Fall Party Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006, 7:30-10:00 pm. \$10.00. First Church, 190 Court Street, Middletown. Music by Norb Spencer and his band. Call Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278 or Joyce Chase 203-238-0694 for more information.

South Shore Scottish Country Dancers Fall Workshop Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Classes, social dance and ceilidh. See <http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca>

NOMAD Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 3-5, 2006. See <http://www.nomadfest.org> for more information.

Jeannie Carmichael Ball and Brunch Dance

Thayer Hotel, West Point, NY Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 4-5, 2006. Ball, \$70; Brunch, \$25. Music by James Gray, Keith Smith. See <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org>

Argyle XXIII Arlington, VA Friday-Sunday, Nov. 10-12, 2006. Elaine Brunken, Ruth Taylor, teachers. Music by *Terpsichore* and *Thistle House*. See <http://www.argyle-weekend.org> for more information.

Burns and Beyond with Jean Redpath National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA Sat. Nov. 11, 2006. Two shows: 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm see <http://www.rscdsboston.org> for more information.

Middletown Holiday Party Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2006, 7:30-10:00 pm, \$10.00. First Church, 190 Court Street, Middletown, CT. Music by Norb Spencer and his band. Call Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278 or Joyce Chase 203-238-0694 for more information.

New Haven Branch Highland Ball Saturday, March 3, 2007, West Hartford Community Center. Save the date.

For information on similar events, check www.intercityscot.org.

Camp Laurelwood Workshop

The weather for Saturday, May 27th was iffy with thunderstorms predicted. The small group gathering at Camp Laurelwood in Madison that morning purposely refused to mention this possibility as they used brooms, putty knives and Swiffers to clean the floor of the Rec Hall, sponged the restroom fixtures, cleared out litter in the storage rooms behind the stage to make space for people to change their clothes, moved benches, set up tables. After a lunch break, this new dance workshop – an experimental event for the New Haven Branch – began to come together as people arrived, helped by a series of signs made and placed along the main roads by Ev Munro.

When Joyce Chase and Catriona MacAuslan first thought up the idea of a dance workshop in Connecticut, they envisioned a weekend event something like Pawling or Hillsboro. But reason prevailed and they modified it to last eight hours on a Saturday for starters. With three teachers giving a series of classes in the afternoon, a barbecue potluck supper and then a social dance with live music, they felt this would make a full day for dancers.



Such perfect arms

Lucile Blanchard joined their committee to help with publicizing and registration for the event, and all three shopped for the food and paper goods. Nina Stein, Ena and Dick Baxter came early to help with the cleaning and set up. Richard Ives brought his grill for the barbecue. Skip Chase was the chef. With everything in place, the weather was the only unknown.



Fergie, Karen and Ken

As it turned out, heat was more of a problem than rain. The newly installed ceiling fans in the camp Rec Hall did keep the air moving as 35 dancers put on their ghillies. Karen Lavallee-Tente was the first teacher. She worked on phrasing and covering with special attention to keeping eye contact with your partner. She taught a reel she'd devised for the occasion, called *Camp Laurelwood*. When that was danced successfully, she went on to teach *Well Done Jack*, a lively jig.



Norb and Suzie

Ken Way had the class warm up by walking at a smart pace through a dance he improvised out of several figures. He then worked with strathspey, focusing on the Tournee, a figure that constantly gives dancers trouble. Once mastered, he used it in *One Good Turn Deserves Another*, and then worked the class through the Knot, ending with a fast romp in *Cerebral Vortex*

Fergie Ferguson introduced *Springtime in Helensburgh*, saying that this was Helensburgh in Australia, not Scotland. It contained the Burnieboozle figure which just happened to be on the evening program. After making sure the class mastered that, he taught a strathspey called *Laurelwood* which he devised just for this event, dedicating it to Joyce and Catriona.

By then, dancers were mainly interested in drinking water and sitting outside in a shady spot to catch a wisp of breeze. When the grillmaster finished his task, they settled at the camp's picnic tables to eat hot dogs and hamburgers and the wonderful assortment of dishes brought by the participants. Since the camp kitchen is kosher, all food and drink had to be kept in coolers, the coffee and tea made in electric pots, and it worked out nicely.

Norb Spencer and Suzie Petrov arrived in time to eat with everyone, then set up their instruments on the stage. Pretty soon dancers were lining up for *Miss Allie Anderson*. The teachers briefed the dances and *Burnieboozle*, the program's challenge dance, was a success, thanks to the earlier practice. As time passed, the heat didn't dissipate so when the witching hour, 8:00 pm, approached, a decision was made to drop two dances from the program. The evening ended with the *Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, a fine fast reel.

With many dancers staying to help, the Rec Hall was cleaned out in record time, trash bundled, furniture moved back into place. Meeting afterward at Catriona's for tea and talk, the committee decided the experiment had worked. So look forward to Camp Laurelwood II some time in 2007.

Lucile Blanchard

Challenge Class IV

The final challenge class of this season was held Thursday, May 18 at First Church in Middletown. Barbara Austen presented a program of relatively simple dances, but ones in which dancers had to pay attention to phrasing. For example, doing a double figure of eight in six bars (with no collisions!) in *Euan's Jig* or turning 1 1/2 times after turning corner-and-partner to end between your corners again ready for advance and retire. The key is in varying the length of your steps and either counting the phrasing or listening carefully to the music to make sure your steps fit. All of the sets successfully completed all six of the dances and it appeared a fun time was had by all.

Note: As teacher liaison this coming year, Barbara will be finding teachers for the challenge classes. Ken has passed along some good ideas, but your suggestions would be welcome.

Pawling – 2006

The weekend of May 19th brought mixed weather to Sylvan Lake, New York where 130 dancers and musicians gathered at Circle Lodge, but spirits stayed high. The Welcome Dance that Friday night with music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent was indeed welcoming, followed by a party in the canteen and more dancing in the back room to jazz, tango, Big Band, you name it. Saturday morning classes were taught by Elinor Vandegrift, Robert McOwen and Les Lambert. Dave Goldberg ran a walk-through of Ball dances after lunch and then people drifted off to look for bargains in the clothing bazaar or a CD in the Scottish Shops, some to party on the lake shore, others to take a much-needed nap. Everyone dressed in their best for the sherry party which was followed by dinner and the Grand March led by the piper, Andrew McDicken. The Highland Ball program was a bit more strenuous than the Friday night dance, and many dancers were glad they'd practiced for such dances as *Twixt Don and Dee*, *The Twa Meen't Reel* and *The Fireside Reel*.

For the Ceilidh after the Ball, the Connecticut contingent prepared a skit for nine dancers that involved crutches, canes, slings and bandages. Dick Baxter was a particular hit with his head completely bandaged like a soldier back from World War I. Joyce Chase did a masterly job of trying to get this set of the mortally crippled to walk through a dance with chaotic results. Then Ellie Toy amazed us with her demonstration of tai chi exercises along with Mary Zagami of New York. Ellie is advanced enough after ten years of classes to work with a sword. She began with an innocuous handle in her hand. A flick of the wrist and she was hefting a three-foot sword. Nobody who saw Ellie would want to argue with her armed like that. Topping off the Ceilidh was Ken Way performing *The Tattooed Lady*, a Kingston Trio song. He dressed the part in hat and vest with Sandy Taylor of New York as the lady. Sandy tossed her red cape aside to display her body, covered in thermal under-wear which Ken had illustrated with tattoos, front and back. It was the hit of the evening.

Everyone welcomed the fact that Sunday breakfast was held an hour later than usual, followed by classes and lunch where they raffled off booze and money. The workshop ended with the Champagne Dance where all three teachers took turns leading the joint class. All agreed it had been another success for the New York Branch.

Summerdance

Five Connecticut dancers decided to ignore the hot and rainy weather and go to New York to participate in

the 17th annual Summerdance put on at the United Nations by the New York Branch. And we had a fine time, joining almost 60 others from New York and New Jersey to perform for a large group of spectators who had come indoors because of the rain. From one o'clock until four, we danced such classics as *Jubilee Jig*, *The Wild Geese*, *The Lea Rig* and *St. Andrew's Fair*, ending with the rambunctious *Reel of the Royal Scots*. Everyone clapped when the president of the New York Branch, John Horrell, gave the UNICEF representative a check for \$1,500. Then we walked over to O'Neill's pub and crowded around the bar for refreshing drinks. After a meal of hearty food, Fergie set up the music to play for more dancing and taught us *Tartan Tree*. He was kind enough to then teach *Laurelwood*, the dance he devised for our Camp Laurelwood Workshop in May, and he gave a great speech about it as well, urging everyone to look for next year's workshop. The evening ended with *The Falls of Rogie*. When a young woman who had never danced before took a place in the set, we could see Fergie's mind at work. Should he substitute a simpler dance? He accepted the challenge and decided to show off his teaching skills, walking the dance with the newcomer several times until she was familiar with it. Then we danced it all the way through to everyone's enjoyment.

Lucile Blanchard

Dancing at a French Chateau

In mid-June, a group of twenty-seven dancers, all but two from the U.S., joined Ken McFarland for a tour of the Loire Valley that featured dancing at a French Chateau with Liz Donaldson and David Knight. Although I had often heard good reports of Ken's tours, this was my first experience with one. After meeting in Paris at The Holiday Inn at Charles de Gaulle, we traveled by coach to Versailles. The palace and the grounds are so expansive we had to walk fast to see everything. Luckily this was one of the few days when the fountains in the gardens are in action. The splendor of it all is amazing and it is easy to see why a revolution rose up against such excess.

The following day we saw Chartres Cathedral, where a service was in progress, and absorbed as much of the stained glass as we were able. On to the Chateau de Briotierres in Chateaufort-sur-Sarthe where we settled in to our rooms. After supper that evening, we danced, as we did all the rest of the evenings there. The music was excellent. The dances were briefed by Ken McFarland, the programs full of good, familiar dances.

From there we visited other chateaux daily, as well as castles and abbeys – including the Chateau de Serant, the Castle of Angers, Fontevraud Abbey, Chinon Castle, the Abbey de Solesmes, Chateau de Plessis-Bourre and the Chateau de Montgeoffrey. They all had interesting historical features – tapestries, furnishings, paintings, chapels, moats, gardens. We took a short

cruise up the Loire on a small boat and watched birds on the sands. One novel trip was to a troglodyte village, where people had lived underground in old mines. This one was occupied as recently as the 1950's.



Ken sheltering a knight in armor

The mid-day meals were very relaxing events, except for the worry about getting back to the bus before it left. It wasn't unusual to take in the ambience for a half hour before spying a waitress or food. This turned out to be one of the most enjoyable parts of the trip for me, as it gave a small indication of the French character, their pleasure in the mid-day repast, and the joy of being able to actually relax for once.

On the way back to Paris, we stopped at LeMans to visit a cathedral and view several medieval houses. Flanking the steps up to the cathedral was a very impressive inscription carved into the stonework in nine-inch tall Roman-style letters. The English translation was "Post no Bills." We had our last supper in Paris at a Portuguese sports bar the night that Portugal won over England. It was incredibly noisy and festive. Altogether, it was a very interesting trip with a nice group of people and the dancing was great.

Ken Way

Round Hill Highland Games

A group of RSCDS dancers from the New York and New Haven Branches gathered for the 83rd Round Hill Games in Norwalk, CT on Saturday, July 1st. Joyce Chase and Catriona MacAuslan had been given the task of arranging for the country dancing event from 11am to 1pm. When they arrived, they found no electricity for Joyce's boom box because the new generator at Cranbury Park refused to run. Catriona earned her job title by driving off to buy batteries. Five couples gathered on the stage, which was pieced-together particle board, to dance *Maxwell's Rant*, a suitable start for the program, I'd say. After a couple of dances, Joyce urged four or five people from the audience to join the

dancers on stage to learn some of the simpler steps, and they danced *Welcome to the Dance*, a round-the-room dance, with success. After *Davy Nick Nack* and *Tribute to the Borders*, everything paused so that we could watch the Opening Ceremonies with all the pipe bands who had been practicing not far from the dance tent. The dancers joined them in the parade across the field, carrying the yellow RSCDS flag. Returning to the tent, they finished up with *Sugar Candie* and *Mairi's Wedding*. The band Mac Talla Mo'r (Gaelic for "Great Echo") followed with a fine program of music led by Ilana Regina Ofgana who accompanied her rich voice on the keyboard, her brother Jesse playing the bagpipes, with Levon (only 14 years old) joining in for a rousing piece now and then. The music was so entrancing that Joyce kicked off her shoes to do Highland dancing steps on the grass. Then Catriona and Susan Ferguson just had to set and twirl on the stage. After weeks of very unpleasant weather, everyone was thankful that the sun shone and the breeze blew for a near perfect day.

Lucile Blanchard

Renew your membership . . .

The membership application for the 2006-2007 New Haven Branch year is attached to the back of this issue. Please fill out the form and mail it with your check to the Membership Chair, Ed Davis. The address is on the application. To be listed in the Directory, return your application by November 1. Please note that members of other branches who want to receive Reel Time and the Directory can join for a lesser fee.

Hark the Country Dancers Sing

written by Alison Jones

While pipers practised birls by night,
 All playing unco' weel,
 The Angels of the Lord came down
 And danced an eightsome reel.
 "Fear not," said they (for mighty dread
 Had ta'en away their wind);
 "Glad tidings of great joy we bring
 To you and all your kind.

"Today in cities round the world
 Such talents are displayed,
 And when this mortal you slough,
 Dear friends, you've got it made.
 For bandsman guid in heaven you'll find
 And dancers braw as weel;
 And he that lifts not heart and feet,
 We'll send him to the de'il."

Thus spake the Seraphs: and forthwith
 Appeared a mighty league
 Of Angels stepping gaily as
 They danced a holy jig:

"All glory to the bless'd strathspey,
 The legacy of our past;
 If only more would dance and play,
 We might have peace at last."

Hark the country dancers sing!

Hark! the country dancers sing,
 "Scottish Country Dancing's just the thing.
 It is lively; it is fun.
 Come and join us everyone!"
 Joyful all ye sets collect,
 Fill the halls with tartan decked,
 With the happy Horde proclaim,
 "Let us walk it through again!"
 Hark! the country dancers sing,
 "Scottish Country Dancing's just the thing."

from the Tasmanian RSCDS web site
submitted by Ena Baxter

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Ken Way (860) 653-5258
Vice President	Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060
Secretary	Barbra Link (860) 345-8925
Treasurer	Richard Ives (203) 393-3713
Branch Class	Leslie Kearney (203) 281-6591
Teacher Comm.	Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 536-1981
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Bob Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694 Ev Munro (860) 442-7283 Nina Stein (203) 757-2539
Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-087
Newsletter	Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278 mailto:lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **November 15** for publication by the end of the month. I will welcome all of your stories or reports, and particularly all calendar listings. My home address is 1061 Millbrook Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

The internet address for the New Haven Branch web site is: www.rscdsnewhaven.org

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 so that I will have your preferred address.

APPLICATION for RSCDS NEW HAVEN BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

for the period
September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007

Become a member of the New Haven Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) and support Scottish Country Dancing in Scotland and Connecticut. As a member of the RSCDS you will enjoy these **benefits**:

From the RSCDS in Scotland:

“The Country Dancer”, the RSCDS magazine. The magazine will include new dances that up to this year were published in annual dance books.

From the New Haven Branch:

- Four issues of *Reel Time*, the Branch newsletter
- A New Haven Branch Button with your name
- Discounts on class fees (at participating Connecticut classes)
- A membership directory * (listing members who join before November 1st)
- All Branch Mailings and
- New members receive a \$5.00 discount toward their first New Haven Ball

In addition to the materials you receive, your dues help underwrite events such as the Ball; support teachers by funding workshops and scholarships; and assist in defraying the cost of equipment, tape, and CD purchases. Your dues also assist the RSCDS in Scotland, which publishes dances and music, produces records, tapes, and CDs, trains and certifies teachers, maintains a web site, and maintains a world wide directory of Scottish Dance groups.

The RSCDS needs your support.

Cut here, complete, and send

		APPLICATION	9/1/2006 – 8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> Title	a. _____ (Ms., Mr., Dr., etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> b. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name (s)	a. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> b. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address	_____		
	City _____	State _____	Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	(____) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Work Phone	a. (____) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> b. (____) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail	a. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> b. _____	

The information above will be published in the Branch Directory.
 If you do not want an item published, put an X in the box adjacent to that item.
 If you would prefer receiving Reel Time **electronically**, please check here []
 Class you regularly attend (your “home” class) _____
 Name for Button (If different from above) _____

Select a membership category

- Annual \$25.00 ___ (Couple ...\$48.00 ___)
- Life or Long Term Member..... \$10.00 ___
- (Expiration Date if Long Term _____)
- RSCDS membership through another Branch \$10.00 ___
- Junior (under 16 years old)** \$2.00 ___

Mail to:
 Ed Davis
 17 Library Road
 Southbury, CT 06488

Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 Please pay by check, payable to: **RSCDS New Haven Branch**

* The Directory is normally distributed through your home class. For first class **mailing**, check here ___ and **add \$.50**.
 ** Junior membership is with the New Haven Branch only and does not include RSCDS publications.