

Reel Time

Newsletter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Haven Branch Fall 2006

Hooper, Ed Pearlman, Beth Murray. Call Lance Renshaw 978-371-8030 for more information.

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 203630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT.
Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Joyce Chase 203238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278.

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.

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 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.

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.

Peter Price's Class Second Thursday of the month, 8:00 pm, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Ave., New Haven. Winter dates: Jan. 11, Feb. 8. This class welcomes everyone with an interest in Scottish country dancing.

Upcoming Events

Concord Pinewoods Benefit Ball Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006, 5:30-10:30 pm. \$25 (RSCDS members), \$27 others. Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, MA. Semi-formal. Potluck supper, 6:00 pm. Music by Anne

Windsor Christmas Party Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006, 7:00-9:30 pm, \$10.00. Grace Episcopal Church on the

Green, Windsor. Music by Norb Spencer and friends. Call Barbara Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860298-8311 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 203238-0694 for more information.

First Night in New Haven, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006. 7:00-8:00 pm, dinner (potluck), dancing after. \$10.00 plus potluck dish. Toast in the New Year at midnight. Contact Barbara Austen, beausten@att.net for more.

Annual New Year's Day Dance Party Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. Northampton, MA. Contact Karen LaVallee, 413527-3407.

Annual Robert Burns Celebration Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, 6:00 pm to midnight. Presented by the St. Andrew's Society of CT. \$35 (adults), \$10 (children) J. Timothy's Restaurant, 143 New Britain Ave., Plainville. Traditional Burns supper of neeps, tatties, haggis, followed by a Ceilidh. Contact Pamela Munro, pmunro@sbcglobal.net.

Robert Burns Dinner and Dance Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, 5:00 to midnight, Groton Inn and Suites. \$45.00 Deadline for reservations is January 29, 2007. See www.mysticsscottishdancers.com.

New Haven Branch Highland Ball Saturday, March 3, 2007, West Hartford Community Center. \$55 or \$60 after Feb. 5. 5:30 pm to midnight. **Sunday Brunch**, March 4, New Haven Medical Society. 11:00 am. Music by *Thistle House*: Dave Wiesler, David Knight, Dan Emery. Ball Workshop: Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, 2:00-5:00 pm, New Haven Medical Society, 362 Whitney Ave., New Haven. Teacher, Peter Price. Ball Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007 2:15-5:00 pm. First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court St.,

Middletown. Teacher, Ken Way.
For more information, contact Barbra Link at
blink6325@yahoo.com or Jane Leibert, 860-887-9184 or
see www.RSCDSNewHaven.org.

Nutmeg Camp (formerly Camp Laurelwood) Saturday,
Sept. 8, 2007. Save the date.

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

Holiday Parties

Windsor Holiday Party, Tuesday, Dec. 12: The Mad
Hatter 32J3 Boyd/All Kinds Davy Nick Nack 32H3
Glasgow Assembly Jenny's Bawbee 24S2 5:3 Well Done
Jack 32J3 29:3 Highland Mary 32S3 Let's All, Too De'il
Among the Tailors 32R3 14:7 The Barton's Reel 32R3
Goldring/15 Social Flights of Fancy 32R3 Boston 50th The
Sands of Morar 32S3 45:6 Northern Harmony 32J3 Boston
50th Ann Auld Friends Meet 32S3 Goldring/leaflet The
Australian Ladies 32R3 Glasgow Assembly

Middletown Holiday Party, Wednesday, Dec. 27:

The Twinbairn's Reel	32J2	Deeside II
Seann Truibhas Willichan	32S2	27/9
Peggy Dewar Major Ian	32R3	38/1 35/4 Rondel
Stewart The Quaich	32J3	Book
	32S3	
J. B. Milne Mrs. Stewart's	32R3	Angus Fitchet
Jig* Village Reel	32J3	35/1 20/4
	32S2	

Wind That Shakes the Barley* 32R3 Duthie 8
SCD

The Wild Geese 32J3 24/3
Asilomar Romantic 32S3 SFO Coll. VII
Reel of the Royal Scots* 32R3 L/7
* New Haven Ball Dance

First Night

If you haven't sampled the very special First Night that
the New Haven Branch holds every year, then you should
come this year. Held at the New Haven Medical Society on
Whitney Avenue, it is a very friendly combination of food,
music and dance, a fine way to welcome in the new year.
Barbara Austen says that this year, the dancing will likely
include *Joie De Vivre* (32J3), *The White Cockade* (32R3),
Maxwell's Rant (32R3), *Mrs. Stewart's Jig* (32J3), *Dalkieth's
Strathspey* and *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*. Look for a program
at your class after Thanksgiving.

On a Personal Note

Joyce Chase has passed the preliminary teacher
certification exam at TAC. Under the new guidelines she
passed units 1, 2, and 3. Congratulations, Joyce!

AGM Report

On Sunday, May 13, the Annual General Meeting for
the New Haven Branch of the RSCDS was held in New
Haven. The treasurer's report showed income for the 2005-
2006 year to be \$10,994 with expenses of \$10,771. Most of
the income came from the annual ball, membership dues and
fund-raising at NOMAD. The two major expense categories
were the ball and the portion of membership dues sent to the
Edinburgh RSCDS. Richard Baxter, president, and Ena
Baxter, secretary, ended their terms of office with a strong
show of appreciation by the members present for their work
of the past four years. The new slate for the Board presented
by the nominating committee was voted in.

President Kenneth Way
Vice President Catriona MacAuslan
Secretary Barbra Link
Treasurer Richard Ives
Branch Class Leslie Kearney
Teachers Committee Barbara Austen
Intergroup Don Wills
At Large Mary Byrnie
Robert Byrnie
Joyce Chase
Everett Munro
Nina Stein

NOMAD

Thanks to all the members who donated their wonderful
baked goods to the NOMAD Food Booth, we once again
raised over one thousand dollars for the Branch. We had
many compliments on the overall quality and great tasting
cookies, brownies, shortbread, pies, etc. Steve Rice's scones
were a great hit and we could just about keep up with the
sales, Barbara and Steve had to go home and bake more
scones and brown-ies for the Sunday sales. Barbra Link's
homemade apple pies also sold out Saturday and she went
home and baked again for Sunday.

We also wish to thank all the members who found time
to give a much-needed helping hand at the booth. Special
thanks to Barbra Link for staying with us from beginning to
the end both Saturday and Sunday, and Susan Wall for all
day Sunday. Susan Leff once again came to the booth early
Sunday morning and had the porridge (oatmeal) ready for
the early arrivals. If you like porridge – Susan's is the best.
Again we say thank you to all who participated, both bakers
and helpers.

*The Branch Food Booth
Committee, Barbara Austen,
Steve Rice, Dick Baxter, Ena
Baxter*

Note: This year's NOMAD Food Booth raised more than
\$1,400 for the New Haven Branch, mostly thanks to the
strenuous efforts of four people and three serious helpers.
They all deserve our sincere thanks.

Trip to Scotland – Catriona MacAuslan

I am beginning to organize a proposed trip to Scotland
for August 17-26, 2007. I chose this week in particular
because it's the week of the Cowal Games, the largest
highland games in the world. Also the final week of the

Waverley paddle steamer's summer schedule, the last paddle steamer to operate and it takes folks to the Cowal games and around the Kyles of Bute. The Edinburgh Festival is on with the Tattoo. And the Oban RSCDS branch is holding a summer dance this week, very interested in our potential visit. We can also dance at Helensburgh and Glasgow. I have blocked two self-catering properties right next to each other. Yes, you WILL have to make your own breakfast, but think of the luxury of not having to get up to be at breakfast at a certain time! The Gardener's Cottages and the Loch Lomond lodges are on the grounds of the Arden estate, backed by a walled garden. The Loch Lomond lodges I have held are Smiddy/Stables/Coach House. The Internet links for all are listed below.

This is the coast of mountains and lochs, some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. As well as dances with the "locals," there are many places of interest. We will be close to Glen Coe, the island of Gigha, the Kyles of Bute, Glasgow, the Scottish Lake District, the steam train from Fort William (Harry Potter), The Road to the Isles and even Skye, if we feel ambitious. Or you can simply read, relax, walk. I plan on 4 or 5 vehicles to be driven by those willing to take on the left side of the road. This allows parties to choose their particular places of interest. If we do have enough folks for the Tattoo, for example, and can get tickets, we may consider a bus and driver. Such things would be additional to the basic cost.

As for the cost: due to oil prices and summer travel, the airfare makes up a good portion of the price. My best calculation, based on 20 passengers, is \$1850-1900 per person. This covers the airfare, self-catering properties and vehicles. Not included are the last Saturday night's stay (self-catering is Saturday to Saturday) and food, entrance fees, Waverley tickets, etc. I will have more details later. I would need a deposit of \$250 per person by January 20 to determine if the trip will take place. Final calculations will be based on total participants. This amount would be refunded if we do not get the number of folks needed. If we do get 20, the amount becomes nonrefundable and will be applied to deposits to the properties and airline.

If you are interested, please send a check for \$250 made out to "New Haven Travel" to: New Haven Travel, 195 Church Street, 11th floor, New Haven, CT 06510 Att: Catriona MacAuslan

www.aboutscotland.com/gardenerscottages
www.lochlomondlodge.co.uk
www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk
www.cowalgathering.com
www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk

Hillsboro Highlands

Once again, Hillsboro Highlands provided us with their unique mix of primitive living and elegant dancing. The rain avoided us and Peace Lake was particularly serene. This year Susan Haines bowed out and the chairmanship was taken on by Morven Troost and Loren Wright. Marianne Taylor, Anne Hooper and Terry Traub played for us, helped along by Howard Lasnik. Six of us Connecticut dancers took part and we happily met up with Jim MacNab, formerly of

Connecticut until he absconded to New Hampshire where he keeps busy working on his house (more closets) and building boats. After the usual Friday night dance, everyone walked through the dark woods to Fiddle Inn for a party with a Hawaiian theme. It's not clear that a grass skirt and flower lei add anything to a kilt as a fashion statement, and someone was heard to call for a lawn mower. On Saturday, eighty-five dancers had a good workout with the teachers – Jeanetta McColl, Ralph Stoddard and Kent Smith. Kent actually managed to corral eight dancers to perform *Convergence* for the Ceilidh after the Saturday night dance. This is a dance only a physicist could love. For the combined class Sunday morning, Ralph warmed us up with *Gypsy Thread* where the whole set linked hands to dance under a pair of arched arms. Kent taught *No Kangaroos in Austria*, a reel dedicated to a dancer who moved from Australia to Europe, and the weekend ended with *The Fiddler of Doonie*. The pleasure we got from this helped to offset the news that this might be the last of SummersEnd. We hope not, but the outlook is not very positive.

Lucile Blanchard



Pinewoods Review

This was my first year at Pinewoods and it was a great experience for me. Everything was as great or better than everyone said it would be. My favorite part was the classes. Pinewoods definitely has the best teachers you could ever find. In every class that I attended, the teachers were able to correct the mistakes of everyone without making them feel awkward. One thing that I found surprising is how efficient each of the teachers were – we had a only a short time for each class and yet they managed to fit a lot of teaching and a lot of dancing into each one, there was no time wasted in any of the classes. The classes at Pinewoods are definitely the best you could get anywhere.

Another great thing were the parties and dances. Each one was set up and planned excellently. All of the dances and balls were devised to have an equal number of challenging and easy dances, so that no one ever felt left out for the entire dance. At the parties, everyone was always nice to each other. No one was yelling or getting frustrated and all were willing to lend a helping hand to those who needed it. Everyone, regardless of experience or skill level, had a great time at the dances. In short, Pinewoods was the highlight of my summer. It was just a truly amazing

experience. Whether you go there to dance or just to sit and enjoy the music all week, it is worth going. I highly recommend it to all, young or old.

Noah Pestana

Alpine Boat Basin Dance

I had never been to the Alpine Boat Basin event, sponsored by the New Jersey Branch, imagining somehow that it took place near the Swiss Alps. So I was pleased to join Joyce Chase and Louis Perez on Sept. 17th for a drive to the Hudson River where we found a modest park with picnic tables and a handsome stone and log pavilion that was probably built by the WPA in the '30's. Fifty or so dancers from the New York and New Jersey branches brought picnic lunches which we enjoyed in the sunshine while watching fishermen try their skill in the brown river water. Sailboats and small yachts went past, kayaks, tugboats pushing barges. Trains traveled along the far shore, helicopters flew overhead, planes circled to land at LaGuardia. Then we danced, a cheerful program with several unknown dances – *The Music Makars* and *Collichur* – and many familiar ones. A very pleasant Sunday afternoon.

Lucile Blanchard



The Alpine Boat Basin Pavilion

Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night

The 9th Annual Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night took place on Misquamicut Beach in Westerly, Rhode Island on Saturday, October 7, 2006. At precisely 6:30 pm, under sparkling stars and the brilliant glow of a full moon, the Westerly Morris Men and The Misquamicut Players solemnly processed from the Andrea Hotel to the makeshift stage set in the parking lot adjacent to the hotel. The actors took to the stage to the Beatles Classic tune *For No One* performed by King Crimson's Jesters. The Morris Men then performed one of their popular dances, *The Maid of the Mill*, from the village of Bampton in the Bush. The crowd roared at the lyrics of the chorus: "Oh, the maid of the mill, the maid of the mill, she said that she won't, but her SISTER will!" Accompanied on the button accordion by founder Peter Leibert, the six Morris Men performed two more dances while on stage the actors cavorted to the lively music.



Misquamicut Players – Rick on the right Then the play of inquisition and execution began, as Scotsman Guy Fawkes was brought to trial for trying to blow up the English Parliament with kegs of gunpowder. The inventive script borrowed bits from Monty Python and Rodney Dangerfield, as well as original dialogue from the actual trial of Guy Fawkes in 1605. Star Trek's Mr. Sulu made a surprise visit, and even George W appeared to deliver a blistering and hilarious satire on the proceedings. Woven throughout were musical numbers such as Paul McCartney's *Mull of Kintyre*. In the end, the doomed Scotsman Fawkes was marched offstage by the Kentish Guards Fife & Drum Corps, to be burned (in effigy) in the enormous bonfire on Misquamicut Beach. The audience members, many of whom had arrived early for an oceanfront dinner or drink at The Andrea before the show, adjourned onto Misquamicut Beach to enjoy the magnificent bonfire. The full moon shining down on the sea was a beautiful backdrop to this thoroughly enjoyable evening of pageantry and laughter.

Becky Corbett



Note: Rick Corbett, a Misquamicut Player, and Becky are dancers with the Mystic class. Peter Leibert and Ev Munro, Morris Dancers, dance also at Mystic and Middletown.

A Great Ceilidh!

The weather prediction for Mystic/Groton and environs for Friday, October 20, was a typical forecast for Scotland:

“Partly cloudy, partly sunny. Slight chill with occasional warmth. Dry with occasional beads of mist.” The Mystic Scottish Country Dance crew was elated that no snow was predicted and we could proceed with our 4th Annual Ceilidh at the Groton Inn and Suites. Many members of the Connecticut RSCDS family came as well as friends and guests from the area. Ceilidh chairman Mary Ruddlesden and her cordial committee members planned a diverse program for the 120 or so in attendance, with delicious food and drink and an auction of Scottish treasures that caused great cheer when the winning numbers were drawn. Peter Leibert, the very amiable Master of Ceremonies, paced the events throughout the evening: demonstrations by the Stirling Highland Dance Company and our own newcomers group who danced *Domino 5*, selected tunes by members of the Mystic Highland Pipe Band and the guitar playing/singing Dram Boys, our own Becky and Rick Corbett performing on the fifes that they play in two fife and drum corps in Rhode Island, Peter playing several tunes on his versatile concertina. He then led us through several energetic social dances. RSCDS members Everett Munro, Mary and Bob Byrnie, Jane Leibert, Bob Cole, Lucile Blanchard, Ellie Toy and Elizabeth Muir performed *Capelthwaite*, an elegant dance. We were pleased to welcome Joyce Chase who has become an integral part of the Mystic Club, providing superior country dance instruction to our newcomer group this fall as well as to all members of the Club. While we work on dance techniques and maintaining eye contact, Joyce urges us to remember that the most important thing in Scottish country dancing is to smile and have a good time! And that we do! We ate, then danced off some of those calories, sang and listened to beautiful Celtic music, told a few jokes, met many great people and generally had a superior time of it. Plans are already in motion for our 2007 Fall Ceilidh at the Groton Inn and Suites on Friday, October 19.

Ruth Walsh

Challenge Class I

On Thursday, November 9th, a small but energetic group gathered in Woodbridge for the first of this year's challenge classes, taught by Barbara Austen. This location was necessitated by the unavailability of the church hall in Middletown. A new location will be found before the spring round of classes begins. Barbara's themes for the evening were phrasing and anticipation. We did better with the phrasing! One dance, *Forth Frolic*, had 16 bars of hands across with the first couple changing first sides of the dance, and then ends of the dance. The dancers did wonderfully well dancing that. It was the last eight bars that had us all laughing – two quick diagonal movements followed by a straight-across cross. I don't think any of us were successful in the execution! Other dances included *Ruffian's Rant*, a strathspey with the three women, then the three men, dancing a circle on the side of the dance. Starting and then finishing in a straight line was quite a challenge. *Diamond Quarrie* and *The Leprechaun*, both quick-time dances, were fun to learn and dance. We sincerely hope with more advanced planning that more people will be able to enjoy the next challenge classes.

Barbara Austen

Middletown Fall Party

The Middletown class held its annual fall party on Saturday, October 21 at First Church with Norb Spencer providing the music in his masterly fashion. He told about his choice of music, describing the source of some pieces which were from far back in the 1700's. Ken Way devised the program, a fine mix of familiar dances and new, including *The Snake Pass*, *The Shores of Solway* and *The Falls of Rogie*. Eighteen dancers enjoyed a table full of tasty treats at intermission and stayed to the very end.

Barbara Austen – Teacher

Barbara Austen who now teaches the Greater Hartford Class in Windsor started Scottish country dancing in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1983 while working on her Master's degree. She felt it was one opportunity to keep touch with the regular world. After moving to New Hampshire, she began to take the teacher prep classes about 1988 or so just to improve her own dancing. Several people there encouraged her to take the teacher exam, which she failed miserably. That strengthened her resolve to pass the test next time and start teaching.



Barbara at Camp Laurelwood

This became more of a necessity when she lived on Long Island, as there was only one teacher. This woman, Ann Smith, was most encouraging and supportive of her goal in wanting to pass the certification exam. In 1992, she went to TAC – a frustrating experience because their tutor was not physic-ally well and didn't really prepare the prospective teachers for their exam. But she did qualify. And she also met some terrific people and is still in touch with some of them. One particular aspect of teaching she enjoys is that it makes her look constantly for new dances to teach and every once in a while she comes across a terrific find.

In 1994 Barbara moved to Connecticut, married Steve Rice and got her Masters of Library Science. She attended the Greater Hartford class and joined the New Haven Branch. She also danced with the New Haven class. She became editor of *Reel Time* in 1998 and continued until

2003. She served as membership coordinator for a year and was the New Haven Ball Chair for two years, with no co-chair to help. (She says the new system of having co-chairs with prospective chairs doing the Brunch is much better.) She enjoys teaching the Windsor class because they have a lot of fun, particularly when they goof up, which happens fairly frequently. They now say when they make a mistake that they have created a Windsor version of the dance!

compiled by Lucile Blanchard

***** 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 lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Editor's Note Deadline for the next newsletter is **February 15, 2007** 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.