

Reel Time

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

Summer 2010

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, 311 Broad St.,
Windsor CT. Tuesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Barbara
Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

Classes begin September 7, 2010.

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 September 8, 2010.

Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers Millennium
School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown
CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Peter Price
203-675-9587. Classes resume in mid-September – 14th
or 21st.

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church, 310 Fort Hill Road, Groton CT.
Friday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Beginners, 7-8 pm;
Intermediates, 8:15-9:30 pm. No charge for classes.
Contact Ruth Walsh 860-536-6265 or
www.mysticscottishdancers.com. **Classes begin
September 10, 2010.**

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

New Haven Summer Class New Haven Friends Meeting
House, 225 East Grand Ave, New Haven. Tuesdays,
7:30-10 pm. Contact Leslie Kearney lkdjq@aol.com for
more information.

Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers First Church of
Christ Congregational, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Wood-
bridge CT. Friday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Donna Ives
203-393-3713 or Mollie Keller 203-375-2840.

Peter Price's Class Second Monday of the month,
8:00 pm, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East
Grand Ave., New Haven. Summer dates: Sept 14, Oct
12, Nov 9.

Upcoming Events

Dance Scottish Week Sept 17 – 25 2010.
<http://www.rscds.org/events/dance-scottish-week.html>

Alastair Fraser and Natalie Haas Concert The North
Madison Congregational Church is hosting Alasdair
Fraser and Natalie Haas for an evening concert on
Sunday, Sept 19 at 6:30 PM. We have been invited to
put on a short (one dance) demo at the concert. Even if
you don't want to dance it is a great concert.

To reserve tickets e-mail Charlie Shaefer at the church:
workdog@mindspring.com. If you would like to dance
contact Barbara Link at blink6325@yahoo.com. The
church website is at www.northmadisoncc.org and more
information is available on the concert series link. This
is a great Dance Scottish Week event.

Pawling Weekend May 22 – May 24, 2011. Save the
date. For more information, see
www.rscdsnewyork.org.

Jeannie Carmichael Ball Saturday, November 13,
2010. Music by Parcel of Rogues. The Crest Room at
the Thayer Hotel, US Military Academy at West Point,
New York. Ball tickets \$75/person. For more
information contact Mary Sagami, 718-823-0119

New Hampshire Highlands Aug. 27-29, 2010. St.
Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH
Teachers: Stella Fogg, Howard Lasnik, Ralph Stoddard.
Musicians: Emerald Rae, Howard Lasnik, Terry Traub
and others. For more, rscdsboston.org/events

Concert – Hanneke Cassel Trio Oct 9, 2010. First
Congregational Church of Branford, 1009 Main Street,
Branford, CT. "One of the most talented and fun-loving
young fiddlers you could ever hope to meet! This is
fiddle music played with great stylistic integrity and
personal flair - definitely a joy to listen to!" - Alasdair
Fraser – Concert begins at 8:00 PM. Admission \$15.

Jim Malcolm Concert Jim Malcolm, a traditional
Scottish Fold Music Artist and Songwriter will play a
concert in West Hartford, Ct on August 27th at the Wilde
Hall Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved
from the box office: www.hartford.edu/hatt. The
concert begins at 7:30 PM. Catch him if you can!

Fifth Annual Nutmeg Workshop Sat. Oct. 23, 2010
High Lane Club, 40 High Lane, North Haven, CT
Cost \$35 Potluck supper
12:30 – 9:00 pm Warmup is at 1:15 pm.
For more information, contact [Lucile Blanchard](mailto:Lucile.Blanchard)
Save the date!

Mystic Fall Ceilidh Oct 15, 2010 (Friday) Groton Inn and Suites. Starts at 7:00 PM.

Scotland Highland Games Oct 10, 2010 (Sunday) Edward Waldo Homestead, Waldo Road, Scotland, CT. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. <http://www.scotlandgames.org/>

Celts & Currachs Aug 28, 2010. New London Connecticut. Festival featuring Celtic music, food, dance and an exhibition of rowing races of traditional Irish currachs.

New Hampshire Highland Games Sept 17-19, 2010. Loon Mountain Ski Resort, Lincoln, NH

Goshen Scottish Festival Oct 2, 2010. Goshen Fairgrounds, Goshen Connecticut. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Rain or Shine! <http://www.sasct.org/festival.html>

Check <http://www.intercityscot.org> for similar events.

Fourth Annual Nutmeg Workshop

This year the Nutmeg Workshop will be held on 23 October at the High Lane Club, 40 High Lane, North Haven, CT. The program will run from 1:00 – 9:00 and the cost is \$35.00. Registration will be accepted until October 18, 2010.

Program for the Nutmeg Workshop

Berwick Johnnie	32J3	Graded 14
The Silver Tassie	32S3	Leaflet 30
The Royal Deeside Railway	32R3	40/9
The Isle	32J3	Graded 15
The Birks of Invermay	32S3	16/2
Lady Susan Stewart	32R2	5/9
Roaring Jelly	32J3	Glendarroch 6
The Gentleman	32S3	35/6
Pinewoods Reel*	32R3	Yankee
Sampler 10		
The Jubilee Jig	32J3	Leaflet 19
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S3	Leaflet 19
The Wind that Shakes the Barley	32R3	J Duthrie

* for those that know the dance

For more information contact Lucile Blanchard at lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Round Hill Highland Games

On Saturday, July 3rd, a group of Connecticut dancers attended the 87th Round Hill Highland Games in Cranbury Park, Norwalk for a day of dancing. The group set up their double tent near the Clan tents at one end of the large field and only then read the program and found they had to move farther down the field. It was quite a sight watching an entire tent getting picked up and transplanted.

The program had yet more surprises. The group was to perform demonstration dance in the center of the field. A lack of any electrical source for the music, made it impossible to do the demo. Nevertheless, Joyce Chase was able to round up two sets of dancers for a warm-up with the *Gay Gordons*. This was followed by the *Mad Hatter* and then an anonymous dance that Joyce created.



The dancers for sets varied in number, going from two full sets to one three-couple set, nevertheless they were able to demonstrate *Rakes of Glasgow*, *Weaving 101* and *Miss Ogilvie's Fancy*, among others. Watchers, unfortunately, had to stand out in the hot sun, while the tent was comfortably cool under the shade of the trees. Ev Munro, responsible for the Munro clan tent, divided his time between Munro clan and the dancing tent. At noon the opening ceremony took place with a number of pipe bands marching onto the field, followed by the clans, and then some of our dancers carrying the flags of Scotland.



Fish and chips were the lunch choice of the day and spectators wandered that field to watch the various competitions – Highland Dancing, Drum Major and Pipe Band trials. A Ben Nevis climbing wall set up as well as a Ben Lohmond obstacle course. A number of races were held for adults or children, and Ena and Dick Baxter's two grandchildren won trophies which they were very proud of. Other events included a Three-legged Sack Race, a Dash to Dundee, the Caber Toss, Tug o'War, and the Guid Willie's Welcome Home-Rolling Pin Toss which must have been interesting.



In the afternoon, the dancing had to be coordinated with the Celtic rock band, Mac Talla Mo'r which was right next door. When that band played, nothing else could be heard. During the band's breaks, our group managed a short version of *De'il Amang the Tailors*, and then repeated it in a longer format with audience participation. This worked well. Joyce set out grapes and crackers and cheese, broke out some wine. And so it went. New York dancers had set their tent up nearby and some of them came over to join the dances. The closing ceremonies included a massing of pipe bands, always dramatic. All in all, it was a happy festive day.



Lucile Blanchard

Pawling Weekend 2010

We were lucky with the weather for the 47th Pawling Weekend. On Friday, May 21st, a hundred dancers and musicians gathered at Circle Lodge on Sylvan Lake in New York for the workshop. The teachers this year were Alex Gray from South Wales in the UK. He just happens to be the current chair of the RSCDS in Edinburgh, responsible for bringing them through a troubled fiscal time. Ellie Briscoe, who has taught some Connecticut events with her husband Mel, came from Maryland. They are both experienced scuba divers in their spare time.



Rebecca Roman, a teacher in Buffalo, made up the roster and her classes included a wonderful dance, *The Kilt Maker*, that mimes all the techniques that go into creating a kilt.

The weekend started with the Welcome Dance on Friday night, followed by an after party in the cafe. Classes were held on Saturday morning for three groups: Basic, Social and Technique. After lunch Dave Goldberg, a teacher in Brooklyn, held a Ball walk-through which was well-attended. He covered the fine points of *Culla Bay*, *The Last of the Lairds*, *Linnea's Strathspey* and other dances. At 5:30 people gathered, dressed in their evening finery, at the gazebo by the lake for sherry.



Dinner followed and we waited outside the dance hall, blessed by the clear mild weather with an almost full moon that was just starting to appear. The piper, Iain Burns of New Jersey, marched us inside for the Grand March and the start of the Saturday Ball.

Bobby Brown and his popular band, *The Scottish Accent*, provided the music for the dances and classes, with Jim Stevenson-Mathews playing for classes as well. Starting with *The Royal Deeside Railway*, the evening was one long string of great dances, ending with the *The De'il Amang the Tailors*. After the dance everyone rushed off to change into comfortable clothes for the Ceilidh which was held this year in a room near the cafe. This made for a welcome sense of audience participation, especially when familiar Scottish songs were sung. The stars of this event were John Morrell and Fen Lan Bohan dancing an extremely entertaining tango. Fen Lan also took on the chore of selling raffle tickets

and managed to raise a very generous stake for the New York Branch.



Sunday morning found us dancing in a slightly muted fashion, but the classes continued to be helpful and enlightening. At lunch, the raffle tickets were drawn. Surprise! Fen Lan won the money prize (half the pot), but we all felt she'd worked for it. And then she donated her winnings to the Branch. The weekend ended with a Champagne Dance, taught by all three teachers. We always leave Pawling with backward glances because the program goes so well and we see so many friends. But then we know that next year we can return, on May 20-22, 2011.

Lucile Blanchard

Rhode Island Highland Games

On Saturday, June 12th a group of Connecticut dancers attended the Rhode Island Games at the Washington County Fair Grounds in Richmond, Rhode Island. The weather was brisk to say the least. It was very windy that day, and threatening clouds were on the horizon. On arrival, the group was happily met by the welcoming committee.



Never passing up an opportunity to display previously unknown talents, Everett Monroe demonstrated his ability to stuff 47 grapes into his mouth all at once, while singing *Scotland the Brave*.

After that inspiring demonstration the team then got to work. They set up a tent, hijacked power with a

very long extension cord, tested the sound system and even had enough free time to play around with the signs to the rest rooms.



The ladies looked lovely in their white dresses and finally found the time to pose for a picture including 'Alex, the skip-changing pony'.



The group was scheduled to perform two dances *Shiftin-Bobbins & Kendall's Hornpipe* and the strathspey *Silver Tassie*. The wind had picked up considerably as we waited to start the dance with Joyce on the stage announcing our performance. While I was standing there, there was a sudden gust of wind and out of the corner of my eye I saw something white fluttering into the air. Brilliant! Joyce had released a dove... what a great way to set the mood of fellowship and goodwill for the games!

We performed both dances to an enthusiastic crowd and as we were leaving the field, Everett (who is dreadfully afraid of rodents), saw a little critter running across the field. He started jumping up and down to avoid the intruder. His animated hopping around looked remarkably like a pousette. Joyce saw this and called out 'I see the dancers want to do an encore, and they want something with a pousette.' And so *The Flowers of Edinburgh* was danced.

Did all this really happen? I was told later that Joyce's dove was actually a dryer sheet left over from the last dryer run for her dress. Could this be true? Was Everett really scared of mice or were we going to do the last dance anyway? Maybe we shouldn't have spent so much time at the Clan Monroe tent.



Dave Lees

Pinewoods

This year eight Connecticut dancers attended one or both of the RSCDS sessions at Pinewoods camp in Massachusetts. This is a very rare picture as we are all smiling, we are all wearing our own clothes, and we are all conscious and coherent.



Everett Monroe and I convinced Bill Douglass (his first time at Pinewoods) to stay with us in our mountain retreat at Pinewoods known as 'The Cottey House'. Cottey house has the unique feature in that it is absolutely as far away from everything on the campsite as is physically possible. Everett and I liked the privacy and felt very lucky that we could get that place for ourselves. It turns out that luck had nothing to do with it...talking with the camp organizers we found that they were delighted that we asked for that cabin because no one else in their right mind would every want to stay there. So it seems that as long as we ask for that cabin

our applications will always be accepted, no matter how obnoxious we may be.

Our master plan was to have Bill (as the newbie) do all the cleaning in the cabin while Everett and I did the real work, like stocking the refrigerator with beer and hanging Christmas lights so we could find the place in the dark. That idea lasted exactly how long it took Bill to throw both of us into the lake.



The routine at Pinewoods, even in oppressive weather, it very easy to take. You attend classes with excellent instructors, dance to exquisite live music, and you can find some sort of party going on just about every hour of the day or night.

The theme for the ball on Saturday night was Disney. Minna DeGaetano decorated the outdoor pavilion using the rest of us as a merry band of workers. This was totally appropriate since we had decided to dress up as Robin Hood's merry men as part of the theme.



The guys got to wear tights! And we liked them! I think Everett is still wearing his. We ran around in the woods singing:

*We're men, we're men in tights.
We road around the forest looking for fights.
We're men, we're men in tights.
We rob from the rich and give to the poor, that's right!*

*We may look like sissies, but watch what you say or else we'll put out your lights!
We're men, we're men in tights
Always on guard defending the people's rights.*

After that exhibition the camp organizers have requested that, from now on, everyone that comes from Mystic should stay in Cottey house.

The grand march for the ball was one of the most intricate and complex sequences that I have ever encountered. It ended with the entire group breaking into a skip-change conga line and there were no casualties.



The party on the last day of the first Pinewoods session had monster movies as the party theme. Becky Corbett showed what happens to you when you spend your entire life watching TV... she was decked out as 'The Brain That Wouldn't Die'. You would think that a brain on a table wouldn't need much maintenance – not true! We were running back and forth with drinks and straws and tasty treats the entire afternoon.



Minna went for nostalgia and picked one of Alfred Hitchcock's most adorable movies – *Psycho*. There she was in a shower (in a skin tight body suit) with John Purdy chasing her around with a knife the size of a machete. That was pretty cool... what really freaked

me out was when John and Minna disappeared for a while and came back after switched their roles. I will never be the same after seeing John in a skin-tight body suit....*brrrrrrr*.



One of the most memorable things about Pinewoods is the combination of a peaceful wooded setting and the almost constant sound of music being played in the background. I spent an hour on a raft in the lake listening to a musician playing a concertina by the boat house. It was wonderful...I could have stayed out there all day.

Bill had the same feeling on our last night at the camp. There is always a massive party at the end of a session. All the musicians gather in a cabin and play and play and play. The remarkable thing is that the first song of the night is just as good as the last one played, about six hours later. We even saw a change of pianists in the middle of tune without missing a note.

Bill, Everett and I stayed at the party for several hours before heading back to the cottage for sleep. Everett and I realized much later that we totally forgot about Bill and we had taken the only flashlight, leaving him stranded. You never want to be without a flashlight at night in that place! As it turned out, Bill never even noticed that we had left. He told me later that it was the first time in about 40 years that he had stayed up all night. He was totally enchanted by the enthusiasm and talent of the fine crew of musicians and the whole night just flew by for him.

Dave Lees

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the New Haven Branch of the RSCDS took place on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at the High Lane Club in North Haven. After a Board meeting at 1:00 pm to officially accept the new slate of officers and board members, the AGM was called to order at 2:00 pm. There were approximately two dozen people in attendance. After the usual

acceptance of the minutes of the 2009 meeting and the treasurer's report, the eight different committee reports were read and accepted. When the slate of candidates for this year's board was read, there were no objections or nominations from the floor and the slate as a whole was voted in. (See last page for the new list.) When the meeting was adjourned, Joyce Chase provided a social dance program that all enjoyed.

Minutes of the New Haven Branch Board meetings are available to all Branch members. If you want a copy, let Barbara Garton know (barbaragarton@earthlink.com).

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Catriona MacAuslan 203-421-4060
Vice President	Richard Ives 203-393-3713
Secretary	Barbara Garton 860-871-0321
Treasurer	Stephen Rice 203-630-9749
Branch Class	Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591
Teacher Comm.	Barbara Austen 203-630-9749
Intergroup	Don Wills 960-536-1981
At Large	Joyce Chase 203-238-0694
	Peter Leibert 860-887-9184
	Marque Lethenstrom 203-500-2144
	Catherine Mahoney 203-879-6000

	Sarah Jane Ripa 646-523-0868
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	Marge Wills 860-536-1981
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Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **November 15** for publication by the end of the month. The new editor will welcome all of your reports, and particularly all calendar listings. David Lees' email is david.g.lees@pfizer.com or dglees@comcast.net.

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