

Reel Time

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

Summer 2013

Class Schedules

NOTE : Most classes start sometime in September and typically continue through May or June. Check with the contact person for start and end dates of the dance classes.

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.

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.

Wilton Country Dancers Millennium School of Irish Dance, Top Floor, 9 Ethan Allen Highway [Route 7] Wilton, Connecticut. Between Keogh's Hardware and Dunkin' Donuts North of Routes 57 and 107, South of Route 1102. \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for dancers 21 and under. Contact Sandra Bethray 203-322-8341 or Angela Montague 203-762-9892.

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 Linda Scent 860-464-9081.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
Whitney Arts Center, 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.

Peter Price's Class Fourth Monday of the month class, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Ave., New Haven. From 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Note: This class will only take place if there are 8 dancers who have confirmed with Peter that they are coming. Contact Peter Price 203-675-9587 or Peter.price1672@gmail.com

Summer Dancing in New Haven Summer dancing will start on Tuesday, June 25th (the week after the Windsor class ends). 7:30-10 PM at the Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Avenue, New Haven. Dancing will continue through August 27. Contact Leslie Kearney (203-281-6591)

Upcoming Events

New Hampshire Highlands – August 23-25, 2013. St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH, about 20 minutes west of Concord, NH. For more information – Loren Wright 603-891-2331 or <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-NHHIGHLANDS.html>

53rd Long Island Highland Games – August 24. Old Westbury Gardens, Old Westbury NY. 8AM to 5 PM. More information at: <http://www.liscots.org>

Dance at the Alpine Boat Basin – September 15. Dance in a covered pavilion overlooking the beautiful Hudson River. Come at 12:30 for a picnic... dance at 2. <http://www.meetup.com/New-Jersey-Scottish-Country-Dance/events/121819222/>

38th New Hampshire Highland Games – September 20 – 22. Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. More information at <http://www.nhscot.org>.

Bob Gregg Workshop – the Bob Gregg Workshop has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 5 at the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge from 2 to 7 PM. For more information contact Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591.

Fairlee Autumn Social – October 12, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 town Common Road (off Route 5) in Fairlee, VT. For more information – Gary Apfel 802-439-3459 or <http://rscdsboston.org>

Scotland Connecticut Highland Games – October 13, 2013. The games will be at the Waldo Homestead, 96 Waldo Road, Scotland, CT. For more information see <http://scotlandgames.org>.

Mystic Fall Ceilidh – October 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Stoneridge Auditorium at 186 Jerry Browne Road Mystic, CT 06355. For more information contact Rush Walsh (860) 536-6265.

Brunswick Fall Dance Party – October 19, 2013. Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, Maine. For more information contact Patti Tillotson 207-833-2329. More information at: <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-calendar.html>

Eighth Annual Nutmeg Workshop - The Nutmeg Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 19th at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown.

41st Jeannie Carmichael Ball – November 2 and 3, 2013. US Military Academy at West Point, New York. Music by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Ball tickets \$75/person. For more information: <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/>

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

Mystic End of Year Party

The Mystic Scottish Country dancers had their end of the season party at StoneRidge in Mystic CT on June 17th. The evening was a pot luck with some ceilidh dances and some practice for the dancers that would be performing at the Rhode Island Highland Games the next day.

Joyce Chase had picked out two fine dances for use to practice *The Reel of the 51st* and *The Minister on the Loch*. These are two fun dance that each have an interesting story about them. The Reel of the 51st Highland Division is a modern Scottish country dance written by Lieutenant J.E.M. 'Jimmy' Atkinson of the 7th Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders while in a POW camp during the Second World War. Atkinson spent the rest of the war as a POW in Germany. His idea of a reel with a St Andrews cross in its key formation was intended to symbolise Scotland, and the Highland Division, in adversity.

Atkinson's letter home with instructions for the dance was intercepted by the German security service, the Abwehr, who spent the rest of the war trying to break the code!

The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch, better known by its shorter title The Skating Minister, is an oil painting by Sir Henry Raeburn in the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh. It was practically unknown until about 1949; today, however, it is one of Scotland's best known paintings.

Dave Lees

Windsor End Of Year Party

Windsor had its end of season party on Tuesday, June 18, with music provided by the Norb Spencer Trio. The program was varied, with such dances as Cutty Sark, Highland Lass, Reel of the Royal Scots, and Capetown Wedding from the RSCDS books, and Unnamed Dance from our own Nutmeg Collection. As usual, the refreshments were a big hit, the weather was not too hot, and a good time was had by all.

We will be starting again on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm, same place (Grace Church on the Green, Windsor) with teachers Barbara Austen, Mardene Hof and Karen Pestana.

Barbara

Rhode Island Highland Festival

The Rhode Highland Festival was held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Richmond Rhode Island on the 8th of June 2013. We were surprised to see that the arrangement of the festival was totally different from previous years.

In the past, most of the major events (like armies of pipers marching and playing) took place on a huge field next to the buildings. Apparently someone finally figured out that the big field was a very easy path to use to sneak into the fairgrounds for free.

The big events now take place in a fenced area (actually an old parking lot that was disassembled) and there is much tighter security. Nevertheless everything ran smoothly for the festival. The country dances performed 'The Reel of the 51st' and 'The Minister on the Loch'. Joyce Chase did a wonderful job telling the stories of each of these dances. The weather was hot that day but not hot enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd.

Everyone wanted to dance and there are no age limits at all. Young and old, tall and small, everyone had a good time dancing.

The country dancers were everywhere getting people to join in the dancing. Catriona found a partner for some enthusiastic social dancing.



There were many people ready and able to try out country dancing and the Scottish Country dancers were there to show them the moves.



With Peter Leibert playing the dancing went on well into the afternoon.



The dancing was very enthusiastic and Peter Leibert provided music for the dancers throughout the day.



The music and enthusiasm was contagious. These guys really got into it and designed their own version of the Reel of the 51st.

Dave Lees

Round Hill Games

The 2013 Round Hill Highland Games..the 90th by the way..opened up clear and HOT!! With the help of our trusty companions, Ev,Bill,William , we put up our two tents in as cool a spot as we could find.. Joyce, per usual, had put together a program that would encourage “non dancers” to join us and participate in the fun...and we had several come to do their very best..We

also had some other dancers who have not danced in a while, determined to start up again. That is what it is all about.



Ev’s clan tent was invaded by a TV cameraman filming the games and he did a rather lengthy interview with Bill Cournoyer and William Douglas, with various of us in the background..

He then came to the RSCDS tent and filmed the dancing and Joyce briefing us... We had no idea if all this would ever see the light of day..but we were a clip in the local news..given more time than any of us might have expected..

As usual, vendors of Scottish items and food were evident, reinactors roamed the field in Roman garb...must have been HOT!!



There were many pipe bands and as *always*, your heart swells at the sound..

Some special thanks to Sandra Bethray who came and encouraged folks to participate and generally “talked up” Scottish County Dancing..!!

All in all a fun day.

Catriona MacAuslan

Pinewoods 2013

It is usually pretty hot up in Plymouth, Massachusetts in the summer but this year seems to be a real record setter.



Bill Douglass and Doug Clough are no strangers to hot weather and they came to the camp well prepared. That is no amount of heat that cannot be beaten back with a well stocked cooler.



It is rumored that this was where Everett was found, floating in the pond after getting lost while hiking back to his cabin after a full evening of dancing.



The Cottey house is a great place to hang out after

an enthusiastic evening of dancing... or 'socializing'. Cottey house is about as far away from everything at Pinewoods as you can get.



You never know who you are going to run into when you go to Pinewoods. Rick and Becky hiked all the way from West Virginia to get some dancing in the woods.

Dave Lees

You Never Know when a Piper is going to show up

I found this guy scaring away the geese when the Dodd Stadium was opened this year.



The Connecticut Tigers opened at Dodd Stadiums 18th summer and Bob Scent was there to entertain the audience.

Dave Lees

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **Nov 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

Minutes of the New Haven Branch Board meetings are available to all Branch members. If you want a copy, let Susan Leff know (etdavis4@netzero.net);

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

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers (2012-2013):

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

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 - Vice President Stephen Rice 203-630-9749
 - Secretary, rec Susan Leff 203-264-0870
 - Secretary, cor. Catherine Mahoney 203-879-6000
 - Treasurer Catriona MacAuslan 203-421-4060
 - Branch Class Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591
 - Intergroup Don Wills 960-536-1981
 - At Large Mary Byrnie 860-635-4056
 - Peter Leibert 860-887-9184
 - Everett Munro 860-442-7283
 - Elizabeth Muir 860-345-8403
 - Karen Pestana 860-298-8311
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