

OVER THE WATER



*A Joint Newsletter of the Northern Virginia and Washington DC Branches
of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society*

January

2005

** <http://rscds-greaterdc.org> * RSCDS Headquarters, Edinburgh - www.rscds.org **

From the NoVa Branch President

Durant Center Reopens; Fairfax Update

In late October the Northern Virginia Branch dancers in the Alexandria-Arlington area were happy to return to the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria, after a more than two-year absence. The Center was closed in June 2002 for renovation. In the interim, the Alexandria Public Schools allowed the NoVA Branch to hold classes in the nearby Jefferson-Houston School's Multi-Purpose Room.

The Multi-Purpose Room's major deficiency for dancers was the hard tile-over-concrete floor. The floor discouraged many experienced as well as new dancers. As a result, the NoVA Branch witnessed nearly a 40 percent drop in membership since the spring of 2002. Now that we have access to Durant's more resilient floor, the NoVA Branch Committee looks forward to rebuilding its membership.

The official opening of the renewed Durant Center was held during a day-long Open House on Saturday, November 13, presided over by Mayor Euille and other city dignitaries. The NoVA Branch participated in the celebration with a demo team made up of NoVA Branch members supplemented by members from the Teacher Candidate Class. Ellie Briscoe organized the 20-minute demo, with Maria (Adams) Ward serving as emcee.

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Pam Howie and Bob Dennis at Argyle XXI ball - more on p. 3

The Durant Staff was pleased with the performance, and the audience participation.

The NoVA Branch has attempted this past year to assist in the formation of a new SCD group in Fairfax County. For several years, members of the NoVA Teachers Committee have viewed the rapidly growing Fairfax County area as a potential SCD location. In the fall of 2003 Maria Ward and Takashi Iwasawa started a Monday night class at the Fairfax Fencing Club. In late 2003, with the departure of Maria on a work assignment, Takashi has continued as the sole teacher. Since late spring 2004, and to hold down expenses, Ana and Mark Golden graciously opened their home for the weekly classes. A thank you to Maria, Takashi, Ana and Mark.

Two keys to creating a viable SCD group, in addition to a good measure of dedicated teaching, are (1) publicity to get out the word, and (2) finding a suitable and affordable dance location. None of this is easy. Whether a SCD group can take root in Fairfax County at this time remains an open question.

-Jim McRae

Carol Porter Receives RSCDS Branch Award

Carol Porter, longtime teacher and dancer in the Northern Virginia Branch, recently received the RSCDS Branch Award.

The award recognizes “individuals who consistently uphold the objectives of the RSCDS, show sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of Scottish Country Dancing, and encourages in others knowledge and enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing and music.”

Congratulations Carol, well deserved!

Washington Branch Capital Weekend 2005

April 1-3

National Cathedral School
Washington D.C.

Teachers:

Elaine Brunken

Martin Mulligan

☆☆☆

Friday Welcome Dance

Music by Terpsichore
Liz Donaldson, Elke Baker,
Ralph Gordon



Saturday Night Ball

Music by Thistle House
Dave Wiesler,
David Knight, Dan Emery



Check our website
<http://rscds-greaterdc.org/>
for registration, programs
and cheat sheets.

PROFILE

Scottish Country Dancers have lives off the dance floor — or so we hear. In this issue, we launch “Profile,” a feature that reveals the “other lives” of some area dancers.

Jay Andrews

Dancing With Penguins



Grew up in: Lakewood, Ohio

Started dancing: 1984 — “Betty Lee Barnes got me involved.”

In his other life: Systems engineer with the Altarum Institute; Has worked for BAE Systems (British Aerospace) on the Trident Missile, Space Shuttle, Hubble Space Telescope and other NASA programs as a support contractor; U.S. Coast officer and graduate, U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Served on several ships including the USCGC Eastwind, an ice breaker working in Antarctica in support of operation Deep Freeze.

Memorable “Other Life” Moments:

† **As a cadet, sailing the *Eagle***, a full-rigged 327-foot three masted barque (tall ship);

† **Navigating the inland passage** along the coast of Chile from the Gulf of De Penaz to the Straits of Juan de Fuca.—“*The only charts we had were from Royal Navy surveys in the early part of the 19th century. We had a Chilean naval officer on board as pilot and were using classified Chilean charts, which we had to return at the end of the voyage. Of course we were busy making our own copies during the trip.*”

† **Site survey for the Anvers Island Research Station** in the Antarctic Peninsula, first established as a British whaling station between 1900 and 1920 “*The site was next to a penguin rookery which lent a certain distinctive aroma to the area.*”

† **The attempted recovery of the DSRV Alvin**, which had sunk in 1520 meters of water off Nantucket—“*I was acting CO of *Sassafras* at the time. During that operation we ‘liberated’ a 20-foot swordfish from a Russian trawl line. It was very tasty!*”

† **Several memorable storms** including two hurricanes at sea.

Favorite dance: General Stuart's Reel

Most memorable dancing experience: A “magic” circle at Capital Weekend 3 years ago

Other hobbies: Crossword puzzles, mysteries, especially Dorothy Sayers, P. D. James, Colin Dexter

Argyle XXI Redux

By Michelle Ryan

As the fall season came into full swing, it was time once again for the annual and much anticipated weekend dance event for the Northern Virginia Branch, Argyle XXI. Dave Chase, the 2004 Argyle XXI chairperson, welcomed the attendees with greetings sent to us from afar: Helen Frame, one of the 2003 Argyle teachers, sent her well wishes via email to Ellie Briscoe. Pame McFarland ensured our out-of-town guests were well attended by overseeing this year's hospitality program.

We quickly formed sets in the familiar venue for Scottish Country dances at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington. Jay Andrews emceed a delightful Friday evening program with such favorites as "Fair Jenny's Jig" and "The Reel of the 51st Division," accompanied by the buoyant and energetic music from Dave Wiesler, Mara Shea and Dan Emery.

Saturday morning opened with a light continental breakfast spread organized by Carol Porter. Fortified, we were ready to start our classes taught by Fiona Miller (Alberta, Canada) and Terry Harvey (Newton Square, PA). We brushed up on a number of skills, including strathspey and foot work for turns without hands -- a challenge indeed!

We took our break in the downstairs activity room with a hearty lunch of sandwiches and salads organized by Jim McRae and Peg Collier

Saturday afternoon included a workshop by Fiona Miller on "Dancing for the Aging and Aching Body" and ball review by Maria Ward, just back from her wedding in Scotland no less!

Helen Lawless-McCune and Barney Lawless served as gracious hosts for the evening's reception to welcome dancers to the Ball. Led by Ralph Gordon on pipes, the dancers paired off for the Grand March.

The ball featured the ever-popular musical group *Terpsichore* (Elke Baker, Liz

Donaldson, Ralph Gordon) who delighted dancers with energetic and exciting dance music. Due to popular demand, Elke Baker shared her latest adorable baby photos and announced a new CD of Ken Kolodner's hammered dulcimer music, with Elke as a featured artist.

It was a joy to see Shelley Foote again, who returned from her new home in California. Shelley devised an elegant ball program with an 18th century flare that included "The Fireside Reel" and "O'er the Muir Among the Heather," as well as the traditional "Argyll Strathspey." Shelley was joined by Maria Ward in emceeding the Ball.

The festivities continued into the wee hours with an afters party at Peg Collier's home. Argyle XXI came to a close at the Sunday brunch hosted by Jeff and Mary McLean.



(Thanks to Maria Ward, Beth Kingsley, Pame McFarland, Ellie Briscoe, Marla Bright and boB Cameron for their input.)

Wee Nibbles...

Maria Adams has had a name change. She finally tied the knot with Ed Ward, so, *ta da*, she is now Maria Ward. To celebrate the end of the world's longest engagement (in a beautiful ceremony in Scotland), the newlyweds are hosting a Wedding Ball on Saturday, March 12, 2005, 8:00 p.m., at Trinity

Presbyterian Church, Arlington. Music will be by Terpsichore. Other than your best wishes, admission is free. Check the branch website for details



Frederick Scottish Country Dancers thank everyone who made their 10th anniversary party a success. You helped raise \$500 for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



Stella "I'll dance anywhere, anytime" **Fogg** has a new phone number: 804-282-5482. Call her for information on Richmond dancing or just to ask her to go to a dance with you.



Save trees—get your area SCD event updates, class information and cheat sheets on the Washington-NoVa branch website: <http://rscds-greaterdc.org/>.



STOOGES NEEDED

JANUARY—APRIL 2005

The Teacher Candidate class invites Scottish Country Dancers to be "stooges" to help train your new teacher candidates. We practice teaching you, you have fun and learn a few things too! We need 12 dancers for each session. If you're a new dancer, that's even better!



WHEN:

2-4 p.m. on Saturday **January 22**, Saturday, **February 12**,
Saturday, **February 26**, Sunday, **March 13**, Sunday, **March 20** (our practice exam)
Saturday, **March 26**, and for the exam, Tuesday, **April 5**, 8-10 p.m., in Greenbelt.

WHERE:

Lioudmila Dance Studio 18 Roth St., (2nd floor), Alexandria Va. See website at www.dancelioudmila.com or pick up a flyer in class for directions .

Please let Jay Andrews know on which dates you can help.

Over the Water

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