

OVER THE WATER



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

September

2004

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

From the Washington Branch President

Thank you, thank you, thank you, all of you who selflessly volunteer your valuable time to Scottish Country Dancing. It is your dedication and enthusiasm that vitalize the spirit and traditions of the Society.

I am especially grateful to our Webmasters, Sheryl Griffith and Yvonne Yang, and to Ellen Ternes, our new *Over the Water* editor, who give countless hours of their time to keep the members of our area branches informed of events and activities. I am so thankful for the committee chairs, the teachers, and the committee of management who are the essence that make the events and activities happen. And I'm thankful to the dedicated dancers who strive to improve their step and form, then join in the fun at the dance. It is all of you who are the fabric that creates the joy of the dance.

My appreciation for those dedicated members is amplified through my grieving the loss of my predecessor, Mary Ann Williamson, who died of lung cancer on July 18th. Mary Ann's natural talent for music and dance was a gift to our dance community, but it was her honest, sweet manner, her patience and kindness that created a sense of peace and friendship. This, combined with her knowledge, strength and discipline made her a great teacher and mentor. I will miss Mary Ann's guidance and will feel

Cont'd. on p. 3

In This Issue

- ◆ SCUBADance II ... p. 2
- ◆ Candidate Class...p. 3
- ◆ Frederick 10-Year Party...p.3

Mary Ann Williamson

1941-2004

Former Washington Branch president and teacher Mary Ann Williamson passed away in July. Her gentle spirit, warmth and a smile full of light will be missed by all of us. Following are selections from the eulogy written by her brother George Williamson and a tribute from fellow dancer Joe Lubozynski.

We treasure beyond words the kindness, friendship, pleasure and joy you Washingtonians have given Mary Ann over the decades. Her California family had this unspoken dream and hope of her one day returning maybe one third to one half time or so to the golden state, rotating under our roofs at her pleasure. But more importantly we also knew and appreciated that she long ago fell in love with this area and with her exceptional companions here in the musical, choir dance, church and NIH communities. Who would argue with that? She found so much of the best in herself here.

Very sadly, to state the obvious, we are here because we have suffered an enormous loss from Mary Ann's passing. What best explains the magnitude of this loss to us? Well, to me at least, its essence is that Mary Ann was ...just... so... damn... nice.

Of course there are her other sterling qualities. She was exquisite. Always exquisite. Mary Ann didn't have the slightest idea of how to be crude, in even the smallest way.

Smart. She raced her way through the University of California at Berkeley, and was a

Continued on p. 3

SCUBADance II ... *Once and to the Bottom*

by Michelle Ryan

What do you get when you combine dancing and SCUBA diving? SCUBADance II!

At the various Scottish country dance venues and classes I've attended, I began to find this unique group of diver/dancers who, as I discovered, were just as passionate about their Scottish dancing as they were with their SCUBA diving. As luck would have it, Mel and Ellie Briscoe were planning a SCUBADance trip — SCUBADance II — at Buddy Dive Resort in Bonaire, Netherlands, Antilles, where SCUBADance I had been a great success.



Photo by Jean Amendolia

Hands around and Glub! A SCUBADance II set floats to the left.

Plastic Tartan

My pre-trip packing lists consisted of the usual SCUBA related gear, but interspersed was my dancing attire, including a plastic tartan sash for underwater dancing.

The day arrived for the start of SCUBADance II, and I joined Sheryl Griffith at BWI Airport to catch the Air Jamaica flight to Montego Bay, where we would meet up with more diver/dancers from Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco. Then it was on to Bonaire with dive and dance gear in tow.

Dive and Dance

The evening dances were held at the Buddy Dive Resort pool bar, and for about two hours, the place was transformed into a

mini-dance hall, complete with music from CDs. A dancer from the Boston branch served as emcee. My dive buddies, who just a few minutes prior were in their wetsuits and dive and snorkel gear, were now standing across the set from me in their dance attire and ghillies.

Ready and...

We encouraged others to join us in the dances, and for a time, employees from the resort as well, as other guests were reeling along with us. But I think the dance I will remember for the rest of my life was the underwater Scottish dance on our last day of diving. On the deck of the

boat, Ellie briefed the dance, "Flying Bridge," she devised for the occasion.

We walked the dance at the stern, then met underwater at about 20 feet. Hovering above the reef that started at about 40 feet, we got into two lines, and, with the aid of Ellie's underwater horn, we danced — a modified cross-the-set with hands joined and return, grand chain with a turn-single, down the middle and up, and circle round.

Fins With Turnout

Instead of skip change, we finned our way around the dance, and used neutral buoyancy to stay level in the set. The dancers bowed and

Cont'd. on p. 3



**Scottish
Weekend**

**September 24-26
Camp Ramblewood
Darlington, MD**

Teachers * *Stella Fogg*, Richmond, VA * *Vicky Goodloe*, Lexington, KY
Ron Wallace, Santa Rosa, CA

Music Staff * *Calum MacKinnon*, Guest Musician
Liz Donaldson, Music Director

with

Dan Emery, Earl Gaddis, Ralph Gordon, Becky Ross, Jim Stevenson,
Marty Taylor, Dave Wiesler

**There's still time to sign up. Check the Branch website for
details, including programs and cheat sheets.**

Over the Water

1718 Priscilla Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904

FALL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
Sept. 18-19	Maryland Renaissance Festival – Scottish Celebration Crownsville, MD. Contact 800-296-7304. Web site: http://www.rennfest.com/mrf/
Sept. 24-26	Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD. Sponsored by Scottish Weekend, Inc. Friday Welcome dance, classes on Saturday and Sunday, formal ball on Saturday night. Dance teachers are Ron Wallace, Vicky Goodloe, and Stella Fogg. Guest Musician and Music Teacher Calum MacKinnon. Contact Betty Evans, Chair 410-296-5537 bettyevans@worldnet.att.net or Fred Eustis, Registrar 410-922-6369 feustis@starpower.net . Web site: www.ScottishWeekend.org .
Sept. 19 (Sunday)	Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. Contact 703-683-5849. Web site: http://www.accessenter.com/scotfair/
Oct. 9	Frederick Dinner-Dance Sponsored by the Frederick Scottish Country Dancers. Venue: Walkerville, MD. Dinner 6:00 p.m., Dance 8:00 p.m. Music: Waverley Station - David Knight, fiddle, Liz Donaldson, piano, and Ralph Gordon, bass and cello. Dinner reservations required by Oct. 1. Contact: Dorothy Spofford, 301-831-6099 or spofford1@starpower.net
Oct. 23	Richmond Scottish Country Dance, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Dance on the field at the Richmond Highland, Games and Celtic Festival. Musicians to be announced. Contact: Stella Fogg, 804-740-4404 or email: stellafogg@comcast.net .
Oct. 23-24	Richmond Highland Games Richmond Raceway Complex, Strawberry Hill, Richmond VA. Contact 800-569-3200. Web Site: www.richmondceltic.com/contact_us.asp
Oct. 26	St. Columba's Halloween Dance (In Class) Venue: Greenbelt Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD
Oct. 30	Delaware Ball, 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Branch of the RSCDS. Venue: Wilmington Friends School, Alapocas Drive & School Road, Wilmington, Delaware. Information: Siân Frick at (302) 368-2318, sianfrick@compuserve.com or Jan Conley (302)998-7310
Nov. 5-7	Argyle XXI Weekend Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Branch of the RSCDS. Venue: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA. Contacts: David Chase (Chair), 703-780-8616, David E. Chase@hud.gov ; or Yvonne Y. Yang (Registrar), 703-750-2965, Web site: www.argyle-weekend.org .
Nov. 13	Jeannie Carmichael Ball and Sunday Brunch Dance Sponsored by RSCDS New York Branch. Venue: Crest Room, Thayer Hotel, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. Sat: Sherry 6:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Grand March 7:45 pm; Sun: Brunch 9:30 a.m.-noon, Dancing 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.. Music by Barbara McOwen, Andy Imbrie, and Alice Hooper. Contact Sheila Wilson 212-849-8282, info@rscdsnewyork.org or Mary Zagami 718-823-0119, Mzagami@aol.com . Web site: www.rscdsnewyork.org
Dec. 4	Scottish Christmas Walk Alexandria, VA. Contact 703-549-0111.
Dec. 4	Christmas Walk Tea Dance, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Venue: Minnie Howard Middle School, Alexandria, VA
Dec. 4	Boston Branch Benefit Ball Sponsored by RSCDS Boston Branch. Venue; Springstep, Medford, MA. Contact Tom Moscarillo, tommosc@yahoo.com or Livia Kohn, 978-807-7364, lkohn@bu.edu
Dec. 12	Richmond Christmas Dance Venue: Church of the Epiphany, Richmond, VA
Dec. 20	Baltimore Christmas Party (In Class) Venue: Catonsville Presbyterian Church, 1400 Frederick Rd, Catonsville MD.

FALL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
Dec. 31	Delaware Valley Hogmanay Ball, 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by the RSCDS Delaware Valley Branch. Venue: Tarble-in-Clothier, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA. Musicians to be announced. For additional information see: http://www.delval.rscds.us/dvhogmanay.html
Jan. 2	Washington Branch Welcome the New Year Dance Venue: TBD
Jan. 26	Northern Virginia Burns Night (In Class) Venue: Durant Center, Alexandria, VA
Jan. 29	Burns Night Celebration and Dance, Charlottesville, VA Dance Venue: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy, VA. Dance: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Dinner & Ceilidh: 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Prepaid reservations only. Contact Celia and Bob Belton, 804-979-0939, trouto@ntelos.net .
Feb. 15	St. Columba's Valentine's Day Dance (In Class) Venue: Greenbelt Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD
Feb. 24- Mar. 1	RSCDS Winter School Sponsored by the RSCDS. Venue: Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Scotland. See the RSCDS Web Site, http://www.scottishdance.org/ , for details and an application.
Mar. 5-6	New Haven Ball
Mar. 12	NoVA End of Winter Dance Venue: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA
Mar. 19	Baltimore Tea Dance, 2:00 p.m. Venue: Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, MD. Music to be determined (Tentative – Terpsichore with Marty Taylor).
Mar. 30 & 31	Battlefield Band, 8:00 p.m. Venue: The Barns at Wolf Trap
Apr. 1-3	Capital Weekend Venue: Cathedral School
Apr. 30	SCDSW Bobby Brown Dance Venue: TBD
May 14	Northern Virginia Branch Basic Tea Dance Venue: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA
May 24	St. Columba's AGM (In Class) Greenbelt Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD
June 11-12	Potomac Celtic Festival Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, VA. Web site: www.potomaccelticfest.org
June 11	Richmond Summer Ball Sponsored by the Scottish Country Dancers of Richmond. Venue: Montpelier Center for Arts and Education, Montpelier, VA. Contact Stella Fogg 804-740 4404 StellaFogg@comcast.net or Moira Turner 804-778-4708, fax 804-778-7540, MoiraJTurner@aol.com
July 18 – Aug. 14	RSCDS Summer School 2005 University Hall, Kennedy Gardens, St Andrews, Scotland. See the Society web site for details and application form www.scottishdance.org .
July 21-24	Northern Virginia Scottish Games Venue: Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA. Contact 703-912-1943. Web site: www.vascottishgames.org .
July 22	Northern Virginia Branch's Virginia Scottish Games Dance, 8:00 p.m. Venue: TBD Music: TBD