

OVER THE WATER



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

October

2005

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

From the Washington Branch President

Jim McCullough is the new president of the Washington Branch.

I feel honored to serve as your president and look forward to working with everyone on Branch issues and events. Before turning to those topics, I'd like to express my utmost appreciation to Joan MacLeod, both for her fine work as president and especially for organizing a president's handbook, which is already proving to make my work much easier.

Classes got underway in September, and numerous dance events are coming up. Learning, dancing, and socializing are essential aspects of Scottish Country Dancing. All of us need to think about recruiting new members, not only to share our enjoyment with them, but to help maintain the organizational and financial base for all these wonderful activities. One way to pique the interest of prospective members is to invite them to observe dance events (at no charge to them). It's not too early to start telling them about Capital Weekend, March 31 - April 2.

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Greater DC Website Puts Dance Info at Your Fingertips

Thanks to Yvonne Yang, just about everything you want to know about Scottish Country Dancing in the Washington, D.C. area is now on the Greater DC website:

<http://rscds-greaterdc.org/index.html>

The site contains the latest information on classes (including teacher schedules) and events (flyers and cheat sheets). *Over The Water* can be downloaded. There are a few additional news articles available only on the web site, plus pictures and videos. The site also contains information on where to buy dance shoes (locally and on-line), dance tips and other SCD resources, links to other SCD groups and events, and much more.

Event organizers should send information to Yvonne Yang about any upcoming events, including date, time, location, musicians, cost, contact, flyers and cheat sheets. Class

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presidents or class organizers should send changes to class schedules, such as cancellations due to weather, changes of venue, and meeting announcements. Please send the information to Yvonne at either yvonne.yang@oracle.com or webmaster@rscds-greaterdc.org, or call at 703-750-2965.

A new feature is a series of "Dances Taught" pages for the SCDSW, St. Columba's and Northern Virginia classes. Anyone can look up the name of a dance they learned, and those who couldn't make it to class can see what they missed. Examples:

SCDSW Dances Taught

Page: http://rscds-greaterdc.org/scdsw_dances.html

St. Columba's Dances Taught

Page: http://rscds-greaterdc.org/stc_dances.html

There's also a page for Baltimore. The "Dances Taught" page for each class can be accessed from the News & Information page for that class.

For the information to be current and complete, the class teacher, or teacher committee chair for the group, should send Yvonne the list of dances taught (and steps and figures, if they would like to keep track of this information) after each class. Other classes that would like to publish their Dances Taught on the web site should contact Yvonne.

The Greater DC website is for the dancers and teachers. If anyone has anything else they'd like to see on the web site, please contact Yvonne.

-Yvonne Yang

*President's Message, cont'd.*

Speaking of the financial base, in May the membership voted to increase Branch membership dues to \$35. This is the first increase in many years and reflects a likely increase in the member dues payments that we send each year to the RSCDS, and anticipation of unfavorable currency exchange rates (which has been our experience in the last two years). In addition, the Branch dues pay for liability insurance for teachers and officers and help fund a reserve that, among other things, provides a cushion against losses we may experience with the New Year's Dance or Capitol Weekend.

I'm excited about some new Branch initiatives to increase our financial base, attract new dancers and help teachers keep their skills honed. Joan MacLeod is heading up a Branch growth committee to look for ways interest new people in dancing. Fred Eustis and his committee are working on ideas for development and increasing Branch membership among those in our area who love Scottish Country Dancing and music. Also, as you may have heard, the Branch will be planning a special fundraising event, possibly a yard sale. We'll keep everyone informed as that develops.

If you're interested in assisting with Branch growth or development, including publicizing our activities, please contact Joan or Fred. Your active participation in this work and in other Branch and group governance activities is crucial for keeping all our events and classes at their customary high level of excellence.

-Jim McCullough

**Wee Nibbles...**

 **Welcome to the world, Samuel MacRae Wiesler.** The son of Julie MacRae and Dave Wiesler was born on Oct. 1, a week before his due date. Weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz., young Samuel thanks his mother's pas de basquing at Scottish Weekend for his early arrival.

 **Change in New Year's Dance Date—** It's been changed to **Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m.** Same location— Whitby Gym, National Cathedral School.

Really Blue Re Reels

Remember those first days of learning reels? Remember Bob Dylan? Dave Wiesler recalled both when he wrote and performed this song to Dylan's "Tangled Up in Blue," at last year's Scottish Weekend. Following is an abridged version, courtesy of Dave.



TANGLED UP IN REELS

Music: Bob Dylan

Words: © 2004 Dave Wiesler

SHE was living in Silver Spring, looking for a little fun.
I had a place in the suburban sprawl, outside of Washington.
She saw an ad in the Sunday Post, one weekend just by chance.
We ended up in Arlington at a Scottish Country dance.
As the music started playing, we were thrust into a set.
The chaos that we started, no I never will forget
The way it feels – tangled up in reels.

WELL I got through the dance somehow without falling on my ass.
Someone said we'd have more fun if we went to a weekly class.
So we drove to Greenbelt Tuesday night, and they explained it all to me:
"You trace an eight out on the floor when you do a reel of three."
But when I traced the eight out, it was a reel of four instead.
I smashed into my partner, who took a tumble, head over heels – tangled up in reels.

SOMETIMES you reel on your own side, sometimes you cross over.

Sometimes you dance a dizzy path, looks like a four-leaf clover.

Sometimes you join in right away, sometimes you first gotta wait.

Sometimes you use up just six bars, sometimes you use all eight.

You can do it with a Strathspey step, you can do it while you skip.

The only thing in common is I always feel I've slipped
On banana peels – tangled up in reels

IF the instructions say to reel across, I'll do it on the side.
If I should pass left shoulders, seems I'll do it with the right.
I join in when I should be out; it's enough to make you laugh.

'Cause I mix up mirror and parallel, I mix up full and half.
There's crossover, diagonal, tandem, dolphin, too.

The word is so innocuous – amazing what confusion it conceals – tangled up in reels.

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More Nights To Dance!

By popular demand, the Washington Branch is bringing back Friday night Basic classes and a new kids' class. Ralph Stoddard will teach both. Also, 2 new teacher workshops. Cut out this schedule and stick it on your refrigerator.

Friday class (8-10) NIH

Oct. 21 * Nov. 11, 18 * Dec. 9, 16 * Jan. 13, 27 * Feb 10, 24
March 10, 24 * April 14, 28 * May 12, 26 * June 9, 23

Kids class, Sundays (2-4) NIH

Oct.16, 23, 30 * Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27
Dec. 4, 11, 18 * Jan. 15, 29

Teacher Workshops

Feb. 12 (2-4) * Book 44
April 2 (2-4) * Ron Wallace

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