

OVER THE WATER

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

Spring

2008

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

Branching Out!

SHARING THE JOY OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Those of us who are regulars at the Scottish Country Dancing classes and events in the greater Washington, D.C. area already know the fun and friendships that are really one of the best parts of the SCD experience. This is an activity for young and old, experienced and beginner. Everyone can experience the joy of Scottish Country Dancing! But we need to get the word out. Several of our area groups and branches

dancing friends.

The Washington Branch has had a lot of success recently introducing students at the University of Maryland to the wonderful world of Scottish Country Dancing. Ellen Ternes describes her experiences with a young and enthusiastic group of student dancers:

In January, over semester break, University of Maryland freshman Chris Tabicz showed up at St. Columba's for a Tuesday night

class. His dad dances Scandinavian, but Chris had become taken with things Scottish after a visit to Scotland last summer, and thought Scottish Country Dancing might be more to his taste. Sure enough, he loved it right off. He came back the next week with another Maryland student.

Since I work at the University of Maryland, and it would be easy for

Pg. 3

have been doing just that. There are so many ways you can get involved. Help us introduce Scottish Country Dancing to more and more people and expand our circles of



In This Issue

Scottish Weekend...2
RSCDS Honors...2
Branching Out...3-4
Around the Beltway...5-6
Music Box...6
Candidate Class...7
Wee Nibbles...7

Scottish Weekend will celebrate its 20th anniversary this fall with its signature extraordinary music, a star teacher line-up and more than 120 friendly, energetic dancers and musicians from around the U.S., Canada, and even across the Pond.

On the weekend of September 19-21, at Timber Ridge Camp, Highview, WV, Scottish Weekend will bring together some of the nation's best Scottish Country Dance musicians, headlined by

guest band Terpsichore.

Only a little more than two hours from the D.C.-Baltimore area, Eric Finley from Ayr, Scotland, David Queen of Southport, England, and our own Elaine Brunken will bring their high energy teaching to the dance classes. Liz Donaldson, who has mentored many dance musicians, will teach the music classes.

Pg. 2

Scottish Weekend Cont.



Musicians playing for the Friday night dance, the Saturday ball and classes are Elke Baker, Liz Donaldson and Ralph Gordon of Terpsichore, Dan Emery, Earl Gaddis, David Knight, Melissa Running, Marty Taylor, and Dave Wiesler.

Of course there will be the traditional ceilidh featuring local "talent," (some more local than others), Friday night sing-along, swimming pool, canoes for a drift on the river, plenty of good food that someone else cooks, beautiful scenery, and the always fun Sunday morning combined class, where all the tired and slightly brain-dead but happy dancers try out a dance from

each teacher.

And just in time for this Scottish Weekend, the wildly popular "Memories of Scottish Weekend" CD, featuring many of this year's musicians, has just been reissued. Check out the ad in this issue of *Over The Water* for information on how to order the CD if you can't wait until September.

The music and dancing at last year's Scottish Weekend left dancers using accolades like "an incredible high," "best ever," "the most wonderful, sprung, wooden floor," "awesome."

Registrar Fred Eustis says he's already received more than twice the number of registrations than at this time in any of the previous 19 years. Don't be left out because you waited until too late. Download the application at the Scottish Weekend Website - <http://www.scottishweekend.org/>.

Remember, Scottish Weekend has scholarships. You can share your enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing with others by donating to the scholarship fund, which is tax

deductible. Your donations help fellow dancers and musicians enjoy opportunities they would not have otherwise to improve their skills and increase friendships in the SCD world. If you know dancers or musicians, especially young dancers, who might benefit from a scholarship, please encourage them to apply.

For more information on Scottish Weekend 2008, see the Scottish Weekend Website, <http://www.scottishweekend.org/>, or e-mail chair Ellen Ternes, ellenter@comcast.net, or registrar Fred Eustis, feustis@starpower.net.

And don't forget to check out photos from Scottish Weekend 2007:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/scottishweekend>



ANNETTE HARRIS HONORED BY RSCDS

Norfolk resident Annette S. Harris, a long-time member of the Northern Virginia Branch, was honored recently with the RSCDS' Branch Service Award. She was nominated for this award in recognition of her more than 25 years of outstanding service to Scottish Country Dancing in Virginia. The Branch's nomination read as follows:

"She has upheld the objectives of the Society, shown sustained and exceptional commitment to the promotion of SCD, and encouraged in others the knowledge and enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing and music.

"As the only certificated teacher in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia (encompassing the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Hampton Roads) for most of the past 25 years, Annette was the lead (and often only) SCD teacher in the area. She organized classes, planned, and taught them on a weekly basis; she planned, publicized, arranged programs and music for, and emceed dance parties for local dancers, including an annual spring tea dance that drew dancers from Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

"The Hampton Roads area is a transient one because so many people are in or employed by the U.S. Navy and are moved in and out of the area every few years. Because of this, the continuing group of dancers has been very small. Annette has been the "glue" that held them together and insured that area newcomers were recruited to and made welcome in SCD classes."

Congratulations Annette!

Branching Out Cont.

me to coordinate with them, I offered to teach a beginner class on campus if they could line up 6 people and a space. Before we knew it, Chris had the space for Wednesday evenings, some students (all of them from the Global Communities dorm), and we were on our way. Bill and Betsy Wallace of St. Columba's have come along just about every week, and Jim Mielke has joined us many times to help fill out the set and "demonstrate" Scottish Country Dancing.

We "experienced dancers" (okay, old folks) are learning some things ourselves. First, the way to communicate these days is on Facebook, and within about 3 weeks, the students had a Facebook site for "Royal Scottish Country Dancing at Maryland." (Join Facebook and check it out here: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8958976692&ref=ts>, lots of pictures and some video.)

We also found out these kids are pretty fearless. They are willing to work at getting it right, but they're not afraid to try new things. Pretty soon after our first class, they not only asked if we could work up a demonstration for the university's Cultural Explosion program, it was

their idea to mix two dances into the eight rounds. The Wallaces, John MacLeod and I filled out the set for the demo, tried not to look too old or creaky, and had a blast dancing in front of several hundred people at Maryland who hooted along with the Scottish Weekend rendition of Blue Bonnets.

New dancers started arriving. Three graduate students from China saw the N. Va. demo at the Cherry Blossom Festival, said they wanted to "learn to do that" and showed up the next Wednesday. Then two staff members started coming. The Terp dancers learned there was also a new group at University of Maryland Baltimore County, taught by Ralph Stoddard and Ariana Vogt, so they connected with them - by Facebook of course. And in April, they said they wanted to have a dance on campus, inviting the UMBC dancers as special guests, and that would also be open to other area dancers and anyone on campus. Sure, why not?


The students found a dance floor and publicized the dance campus-wide. Liz Donaldson heard about the plans, said she'd like to play, enlisted David Knight, and before long, the Washington Branch offered to support the cost of the great live music. What a super turnout! With the two

student dance groups, Washington branch dancers, and students who heard the music and came by to see what was going on. We had four full sets, with people watching on the sidelines. We did walkthroughs of every dance, gave some instruction about how the dance and sets work and helped each other through the dances. It was a blast.

The next week's class? We had six new dancers show up - and come back the next week. The students are trying to find a night to dance in the summer, but nothing is definite yet. What is certain is that the group applied for and got official student group status last week and they have a list of names of students who want to start again in the fall.

The secrets so far? For one thing, the motivation is coming from the students - Chris and his friend Gabi are passionate about the dancing and are the driving forces behind the group. The great help from area dancers who understand the goal is to have fun while we learn has been a super factor. And being open to the students' ideas, not trying to implement a pre-conceived notion we might have, has been fun and successful for everyone. Stay tuned for more dancing from College Park.

But the Washington Branch is not the only area SCD group to be reaching out to college campuses to spread the joy and excitement of Scottish Country Dancing with the younger generation. William, from the Charlottesville group, organized two 2-hour introductory teaching sessions of Scottish Country Dancing with Mary Baldwin College. They had a dance class of 10 students--some real dancers and some brand new. Ron & Dale and



Memories of Scottish Weekend

Due to popular demand and to celebrate the upcoming 20th anniversary, the Scottish Weekend Committee has re-issued the formerly sold out "Memories of Scottish Weekend" CD, recorded live at the 1998 Ball.

Amazing Musicians!
Earl Gaddis, Calum MacKinnon, Anne Hooper, Steve Hickman, Marty Taylor, Ralph Gordon, Liz Donaldson, with piper Dan Emery

Fabulous Tunes!

Adieu Mon Ami	8x32 Strathspey
Blue Bonnets (with pipes)	8x32 Jig
De'il among the Tailors	8x32 Reel

And Many More!

Only \$15!

To order, contact Liz Donaldson at liz@us.net or 301 986-1291.

Soon the CD will also be available from CD Baby and TACSound, and from other musicians listed above who carry the CD.



Want to know what's happening? Read the EVENTS CALENDAR:
<http://rscds-greaterdc.org/events.html>



Branching Out Cont.

Pat & Howard joined him, with Howard playing for the first session. Celia Belton assisted with the second session. But not only did they introduce Scottish Country Dancing to the college students; Dale taught a dance for the class to perform for a local 3rd grade class. Spreading the seeds for Scottish Country Dancing to take hold in generations to come!

In addition to these special programs, the Northern Virginia Branch has been working hard to make new dancers feel welcome and give them the “FUNdamentals” they need to become top notch Scottish Country dancers. For the past two years, the Alexandria class has been offering a separate beginners dance class as part of their regular weekly dance sessions. During the first hour, beginning dancers, with the help of some more experienced dancers, are given instruction on basic steps, figures, and dances. Each week they learn something new and/or have the opportunity to improve upon earlier skills. Then they join the rest of the dancers for a combined class where the beginners can show off their new abilities and sometimes even show the experienced dancers a thing or two.

The FUNdamentals class, or “FUNs” as it has been dubbed by those in the know, has been a great success. We have had several new dancers become a regular part of our dancing community, and we have a few more up-and-coming dancers who have joined us recently and are showing real progress. There will not be a FUNs class offered over the summer, but we want to continue the class in the fall, which means we need new dancers. That’s your cue to talk to your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, strangers on the metro Bring them with you to class. You’ll be glad you did, and so will they.



A Dozen Ways to Generate Interest in Scottish Country Dancing

1. **FROLIC for FREE!** In honor of Peggy’s significant birthday, she is sponsoring the Northern Virginia Summer Frolic dance on August 23. So bring some friends along and let them see what it’s really all about.
2. **DEMOS!** There are several coming up. Dance, smile, help get the crowd involved.
3. **Wear your KILT to work!** OK, you may get some strange looks, but I guarantee you’ll have an opportunity to tell someone about dancing.
4. **SCOTTISH GAMES and other events!** We almost always have an RSCDS tent or booth. Help us pass out flyers and talk to the attendees. We already know they like things Scottish.
5. **Dance on the METRO!** You get to share your love of SCD and get in some extra practice.
6. **INVITE a friend to a beginners class!** Northern Virginia will be sponsoring a FUNdamentals class in fall, and the Friday Basic class at NIH is a big hit with beginners. See the website or talk to Yvonne Yang for dates, times, and details.
7. **Use Scotland the Brave or other Scottish tunes as your RINGTONE!** If you are confused how to do this talk to Mark Priest; I have heard De’il Amang the Tailors and other dance tunes blaring from his pockets.
8. **TALK to EVERYONE!** Whenever someone asks you what you are doing for the weekend, in your spare time, or for fun say, “I’m Dancing! Want to come?” It’s that easy.
9. **Ask for HAGGIS at the grocery store!** Anyone who knows where you can buy this should be dancing with us.
10. **Share information with other GROUPS you are involved with!** Ask if you can post information on bulletin boards at your work, community center, church, etc. Read the RSCDS manual for your book club selection, or at least choose something Scottish.
11. **Hold an informal DANCE PARTY!** Helen and Barney Lawless have had a couple of really fun dance parties at their house with the Fairfax group. They are relaxed, fun, beginner friendly, and there is always lots of food. Plan one yourself or offer to help Helen with one—they have a nice floor.
12. **SPAM your address book!** Don’t pass on stupid jokes or silly chain letters. Send everyone on your contacts list a link to the Greater DC RSCDS website and an invitation to join us for some fun and dancing. It’s spam everyone can appreciate.

BONUS (Baker’s Dozen): **OVER THE WATER!** Share a copy of our wonderful newsletter with everyone you know. After reading this, don’t you feel like dancing?

Video Pick of the Spring: Check out this slide show of Tartan Day in Alexandria. I think you will recognize some of the happy, smiling faces.
<http://video1.washingtontimes.com/photo/2008/tartanday08/>



It's been a great year for Scottish Country Dancing in the greater D.C. area. As we head into the summer social season, here is a little bit about what's been going in some of our dance groups around the beltway and beyond.

Party! Party! Party!

It has been a fun year in Baltimore. The fall semester was spent honoring Roy Goldring. Each of the teachers used Roy's dances exclusively so that by the end of December we had done 44 of his dances in class. The end of season party consisted entirely of Goldring dances and one dance written by Stewart MacLeod in honor of Roy's style. Stewart's dance follows:

Baltimore's Tribute to Roy (S4x32 /4 cpls)

- 1-5 1st couple dance in then cast off to below 4th couple to face up nearer hands joined (2nd couple step up on 3 and 4).
- 6-8 1st couple dances up to remain in the middle facing up in 2nd place.
- 9-12 1st with free hand m. with left and w. with right turn 2nd couple 1 1/2 times to original places.
- 13-20 1st and 2nd couples and 3rd & 4th couples full right-round-diamond strathspey poussette.
- 21-24 All four couple turn with both hands (1st couple end facing down in top nearer hands joined).
- 25-28 1st couple dances down and casts up into 4th place as 2nd, 3rd, and 4th couple set and cast up one

place to progress.
29-32 All dance back to back.

We were having so much fun that we organized a last minute Hogmanay for December 31, with a potluck dance, piper & first footing featuring our piper, Doug Nelson and first time first footer Ian Nolan. Helen Wilson wrote a lovely strathspey

for the event:

Baltimore New Year's Strathspey (S3x32/3 cpls) by Helen Brattin Wilson

- 1-4 1c & 2c set to partners turn partners with both hands, opening to join hands for...
- 5-8 4 hands round to the left, ending in the middle, facing up, in promenade hold.
- 9-16 2 couple allemande.
- 17-24 1c & 3c all around diamond poussette...
- 25-30 Mirror reels on the sides, 1c starting in and down, everyone taking nearer hands whenever possible, and 2c & 3c ending facing out...
- 31-32 1c & 3c continue the reel for one more pass, while the 2c dances an extra loop out & down, covering with the 3c so they meet to dance in to the side line with nearer hands joined, ready to begin again as new 1c & 2c

The spring semester was no less joyful! There was the social evening at the end of February featuring the top eight dances taught by Tina MacKay and the enthusiastic participation of our newest dancers, Abigail and Leisel Kloetzli, Jeff Jordan and Ian Nolan; the Lady's Step Class offered by Arianna Vogt and the Wednesday evening classes at UMBC taught by Ralph and Arianna; the Bon Voyage party for Gus and Helen Wilson who are sailing to London; and finally; not one but two end of season socials on May 19 and 26. And don't forget the Spring Tea Dance. The music by Terpsichore was inspiring,

the dancers were impressive (we heard that from the Pennsylvania folks), and Stewart's dance program was great! The after party at Carol Curtis' house was as much fun as the dance.

We will be moving to the Westchester Community Center in Oella for the summer, and looking forward to the air conditioning for five weeks any way. The summer session will be a series of very informal sessions in which the dancers take turns leading the evening. All that is required is that the leader pick some dances he or she likes and brief the dances. We use recorded music for these sessions. You can get directions and the schedule of session leaders from the web site at http://rscds-greaterdc.org/balt_info.html.

In short, we had a great time this year. We are especially grateful to the teachers, Jay Andrews, Beth Kingsley, Tine MacKay Margaret MacLeod, Stewart MacLeod, Ellen Ternes, Ralph Stoddard and Arianna Vogt, who worked so hard to make the classes fun and to the musicians; Elke Baker, Liz

Pg. 6



Our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

November 7-9, 2008

Teachers: *Elinor Vandegrift*
Seattle, WA
Cecily Selling
Philadelphia, PA

Music: *Keith Smith, Fiddle*
Muriel Johnstone,
Piano

Registration Information at
<http://argyle-weekend.org/>

Don't Miss It!

Music Box

It is time to bring SCD music into the digital age. More and more teachers are opting to throw out the cumbersome CDs and heavy multispeed players and go with the iPod or MP3s and a laptop for their dance music needs.

What are the advantages of digitizing your music collection? First, you have quick and easy access to a large library of recordings that you can carry around in a briefcase or even your pocket. Second, finding music for a particular dance is easier with indexes and search functions, and you can quickly skip around within the music as well. Third, most MP3 players allow you to slow down or speed up the tempo without affecting the pitch. Fourth, setting up a playlist or burning a CD from your files for a class allows you to quickly move through your lesson without having to fiddle with CD cases and music changes. Finally, a little technical know-how and you can edit the tracks for different numbers of repetitions.

As we see more demand for digital music in the SCD community, more sources of these files will be made available. The Music Makars has already taken the plunge into this brave new world. They have made their music available for purchase on iTunes. That means for just \$1 per track or \$10 for an entire album, anyone around the world now has immediate access to their music. At about a 50% savings over purchasing a physical CD. No waiting, no fuss. It's ready to go in your digital library for your next class.

Exciting things are certainly happening for SCD in the digital music world. Stay tuned!

Around the Beltway Cont.

Donaldson, Becky Ross, and Marty Taylor who added that something extra special at class and made the social dances special. Thanks, we had fun!

Money! Money! Money!

As we finish the 2007-2008 year, The Washington Branch is in very good financial shape. We covered all our expenses and saved a little money to start next year. The Branch classes and dances broke even. Two groups develop at area colleges, University of Maryland, College Park and University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Thanks to the dance chairs, Kay Hoffman, Jenn Mayrovitz, and Ralph Stoddard who were able to manage costs and have a little left over to support a combined social evening at UMCP in March, paying for the musicians, Waverly Station. Branch members at the event who made donations to cover half the cost of the music. Also thanks to

Yvonne Yang. Her work with the Friday classes at NIH not only made the Branch classes available, it resulted in a little left over cash.

We also had enough income from dues to cover our administrative expenses. However, we must increase our dues in June.

The Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS decided to raise Society dues to 15 Pounds beginning in June 2008. That is a 50% increase in dues, and when we convert the new dues into dollars it could be more, depending on the exchange rate at the time of payment. While we have been able to cover our expenses without raising dues for the past couple years, this increase in the dues to Scotland will require at least a 50% increase, just to break even. Therefore, Branch dues for 2008-2009 will be \$55. If the Society offers any discounts, we will pass them along. For example, there has been a 20% discount for members under the age of 25.

Fun! Fun! Fun!

The Northern Virginia Branch has had a great dancing year. Class attendance in Alexandria has been good, with at least three sets most nights. This includes one set of dancers for the FUNdamentals class (both new and experienced dancers). We have largely succeeded in our goal to have live music at least twice a month, which always makes the dancing more exciting. In the fall we hope to continue with both the FUNs class and regular live music.

A good time was had by all at the annual dance events sponsored by the branch. This included the newly christened "Snowdrop Ball" in March, featuring the Music Makars, and the Basic Tea Dance this May, with Terpsichore.

The branch recently held its AGM. No surprises there. Last year's board will continue to serve, since they have been doing such a great job! One change is in the Teacher Coordinator position, which has been held by Eva Lanyi for the past two years. Due to increased work responsibilities, and the insanity of agreeing to Vice Chair Argyle Weekend (that means she'll be in charge of the whole kit'n'kaboodle next year) she will be stepping back.

Taking the reigns will be three new volunteers. (Yes, it does take three people to replace Eva.) Yvonne Yang will attend board meetings, coordinate the teaching schedule, and help plan branch dance events. Beth Kingsley will schedule musicians for Wednesday classes. Shanda Robertson will become the branch demo coordinator (or as I prefer to be called, the Demo Czarina!).

Splish! Splish! Splash!

Don't forget the Charlottesville Group's annual dance and BBQ at Sherando Lake on June 7! It's so much fun in such a beautiful location you won't want to miss it. See http://www.avenue.org/mhscd/Sherando_brochure08.htm for details.

Do You Want to Teach SCD?

Teaching Scottish Country Dancing is fun, exhausting, thrilling, frustrating, exhilarating, rewarding. Just ask any teacher.

RSCDS teachers undergo a fairly rigorous training. There are two ways to get the training: go away for two weeks to the RSCDS's Summer School at St. Andrews or at the TAC Summer School, or take a local class spread out over several months in the fall and winter, and take the exams in the spring.

This year, the RSCDS is not offering entry-level training at Summer School. Teacher training will be offered locally starting in the fall, taught by Elaine Brunken and Ellie and Mel Briscoe. The training and examinations are given in modules, and we're offering all of them:

For Teaching Certificate Part 1

(much like the old "prelim" level):

Unit 1: A written paper on SCD history, technique, formations, and music

- Preparing for this is mostly self study, based on the RSCDS Manual, with coaching from the tutors. Start this summer!
- The next available date to take this test is October 11.

The test is taken locally, and papers are sent to Scotland for grading.

- You must pass Unit 1 before doing Unit 2 and 3.

Unit 2: Practical Dancing

- Testing on the candidate's ability to dance and brief from a pre-defined set of 15 dances (listed on the RSCDS Web site).

Unit 3: Teaching Level 1

- Candidates must teach two formations and a step
- Candidates must teach and dance up to RSCDS standards.

For Teaching Certificate Part 2

(for those who already hold Teaching Certificate Part 1):

Unit 4: Teaching Practice

- A record of what teaching you have done is submitted to HQ, no less than three months before the examinations.
- That's another thing to get ready over the summer!

Unit 5: Teaching Level 2

- Demonstrate that you can analyze and teach an RSCDS

dance from start to finish-- steps, formations, transitions, etc.-up to standard.

This is all laid out in detail on the RSCDS Web site: <http://www.rscds.org/teaching/examinations>

Candidates would need to start self-preparation during the summer. Level 1 candidates need to get the manual, apply for Unit 1, and start learning dances. Level 2 candidates must compile a record of teaching for submission to HQ.

The class is co-sponsored by the Washington and Northern Virginia Branches. Class schedule, time, and location will depend on space availability and where the candidates live, but we'll probably have a kick-off meeting during the summer to get things started.

To find out more or to "sign up" informally, send an email to mail@briscoe.com or elainerb@aol.com, or call the Briscoes at 703-461-7383 or Elaine at 301-604-8385. We've heard from several people, and we'd like an idea of who else is interested by the beginning of June.

Thanks!



Wee Nibbles...

- Summer social dancing, with guest instructors, begins in June for Northern Virginia and the Washington Branch. Teachers interested in conducting a class, contact Yvonne Yang (yyvonne@bigfoot.com) or John MacLeod (blackolav@cs.com) respectively.
- The new SCD Directory is now available thanks to the hard work and diligence of Jenn Maryovitz. E-mail Jenn (bskase_98@yahoo.com) for a copy, and be sure to thank her.
- Demo opportunities at Ft. Ward on Aug. 14 and the Virginia Scottish Games on Sept. 13-14. Contact Demo Czarina Shanda Robertson (robertsonsh@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating.
- It is rumored that the Washington Demonstration Group will be performing at the Anne Arundel Scottish Festival on Oct. 11. Contact Jim Milke (jim.mielke@geologist.com) for confirmation and details.
- The Frederick Group will be performing at the Potomac Celtic Festival on June 14. For information see <http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/> or contact Valerie Hill (fredericksd@mindspring.com).
- It may not be too late to attend the Richmond Silver Thistle Ball and Brunch. Contact Moira Turner (moirajturner@aol.com) for reservations.
- Ellie Briscoe and Michelle Ryan will be conducting a CPR class on June 12. The class is limited to 12 people; SCD teachers will be given priority. For more information, e-mail Ellie (mail@briscoe.com).

