

Reel Time

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

Fall/Winter 2002

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.
Tuesday 7 to 9:45 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 to 9:30 PM.
Contact Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278.

New Canaan Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers
New Location: Millennium School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown, CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact Angela Montague (203) 762-9892.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10 PM. Contact Dick Platt (203) 878-6094.

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers
New Location: St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 to 9:30 PM.
Contact Ernie Harrington (203) 938-2881 or ech105@snet.net.

Bethany-Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers
First Church of Christ, Congregational Parish House, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge CT. Friday 7 to 9 PM. Contact Jack & Doreen Johnstone (203) 393-3189. Joyce Chase teaches until December 6. Barbara Austen teaches December 16-January 17. Leslie Kearney is the primary teacher.

Upcoming Events

English-Scottish Dance. Tuesday, November 26, 2002. Metropolitan-Duane Hall, East 13th & 7th Ave., New York City. Music by the Celtic Knot. Contact Ann Hankins at (212) 799-2084 or Ann Lowenthal at (212) 666-3271.

Boston Branch Benefit Ball. Sunday, December 1, 2002. Hamilton Hall, Salem, MA. 2:30 PM. [Note date and time change.] Music by Sprig of Ivy. Gourmet potluck to follow at 5:00 PM. Cost \$21.00

for the dance, \$1.00 and a pot for the potluck. Contact Diane Kohlhofer at (978) 745-6505.

Drewry Night in Brooklyn. Saturday, December 7, 2002. Homecrest Presbyterian Church, Avenue T at East 15th St., Brooklyn, NY. Dance to some of John Drewry's newest dances and some old favorites. Contact Nancy Pryce at (718) 376-8303.

***Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers Christmas Party.** Tuesday, December 10, 2002. Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. 7:30-10:00 pm. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$5.00.

Cameron Scottish Music Ensemble meeting. Saturday, December 14, 2002. Teacher is Barbara McOwen. For more information, contact Isabelle Smith (718) 793-6238 or i.a.smith@worldnet.att.net.

Holiday Party at RSCDS New York Branch. Thursday, December 19, 2002. Holy Cross School, 332 West 43rd St., New York. Contact Sheila Wilson at (212) 744-1470.

Cambridge Class annual Holiday Party. Monday, December 23, 2002. YMCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge, MA. 8:00 PM. Band: Lissa Schneckenburger and Friends. Cost \$10.00.

***Middletown Holiday Scottish Dance Party.** Saturday, December 28, 2002. First Church of Christ, Congregational, 190 Court St., Middletown, CT. 7:30 PM. Music by Norb Spencer & Friends. Cost \$6.00.

***New Haven Branch New Year's Eve Dance.** Tuesday, December 31, 2002. New Haven Medical Society, Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. Music by many of your favorite bands. Potluck dinner at 7:30 pm, followed by dancing until midnight. Cost, a contribution to the dinner and \$10.00. Profits will benefit the Dick Morrison Scholarship Fund. Contact Barbara Austen at (203) 630-9749 or <mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net>.

Northampton New Year's Day Dinner and Dance. Wednesday, January 1, 2003. First Churches, Northampton, MA.

Joint Burns Birthday Celebration with the New York Branch and Scotia Dancers. Thursday, January 23, 2003. Holy Cross School, 332 West 43rd St., New York. Dance to The Celtic Knot, Eat Haggis, Tatties and Neeps. Contact Sheila Wilson at (212) 744-1470.

Ardrea Dancers Annual Ball. January 25, 2003. Ottawa Congress Center, Ottawa, Canada. Reception 5:45 PM, dinner 6:30 PM, dancing 8:30 PM. Music by Bobby Brown and Scottish Accent. Cost \$45.00 US. Contact Guy Quesnel at (613) 725-3031 or g.quesnel@sympatico.ca.

***Greater Hartford SCD Burns' Night Party.** Tuesday, January 28, 2003. Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. 7:30-10:00 pm. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$5.00. Contact Karen Pestana at (860) 298-8311.

Celebrate Burns Night with the New Jersey Branch in Tenafly. Tuesday, January 28, 2003. Music by The Celtic Knot. Contact Cindy Carlone (908) 771-9400 ext. 343 or mailto:cindycarlone@msn.com.

Mt. Cardigan Ski & SCD Weekend. January 31-February 1, 2003. Christopher Anagnostakis usually attends, so if you have questions, you might give him a call.

***Mystic Scottish Country Dancers' Burns Dinner and Dance.** Saturday, February 8, 2003. Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa, Exit 88 off Route 95. 5:00pm to midnight. Features Mystic Highland Pipe Band, Mystic Scottish Country Dancers, Sterling Highland Dance Company, toasts, music, poetry, door prizes and **dancing**. Cost \$45.00. Deadline for reservations is January 24, 2003. Reserve early! More information can be found on their website <http://www.99main.com/~lees/BurnsNight/>.

***Woodbridge Dancers Valentine's Dance.** Friday, February 14, 2003. Details to follow.

New Hampshire "Snow" Ball. Saturday, February 15, 2003. Bedford Town Hall, Bedford, NH. Potluck at 6:00 PM, dancing at 7:30 PM. Music by Tom Pixton and Friends. Cost \$12.00 plus a pot.

***New Haven Ball,** March 1-2, 2003. West Hartford Town Hall. Reservations will be mailed soon. Remember, if you are a new member, you receive a coupon for \$5.00 off the price of your first ball! Flyers and reservation forms will be in the mail soon.

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to Andy Chase, Joyce and Skip's son, for his 14th place finish in a world rollerblading competition in Los Angeles. It isn't Scottish dancing, but I bet none of us could do what he does!

Last Call: Dues are Due

This is your last chance to join the New Haven Branch of the RSCDS. If you do not have your forms in to Ed Davis by December , your name will not appear in the membership directory. You also run the chance of not receiving your newsletter on time, or other "dire consequences". Once more we are attaching the membership form at the end of the newsletter. You will notice that the annual fee is now \$20.00, with a special fee of \$35.00 when there are two members in one household.

Dick Morrison Scholarship Month

The Board has designated February 2003 as Dick Morrison Scholarship Month. The funds for the scholarship have been used to send two dancers to Pinewoods Camp. Without additional money, the scholarship will lapse. During the month of February, all classes are asked to put a separate box next to the one for the nightly fee, asking dancers to make a donation. If every dancer donates an extra dollar each week, the Scholarship fund will be well on its way back to health.

For those who were not lucky enough to know Dick Morrison, he was a very active member of the branch, serving as branch president, ball chair (several times) and a loyal member. His great smile and warmth made everyone feel welcome. His death was a great loss, and it is through the scholarship that the Branch keeps his memory alive.

New Dancers Join Local Classes

The start of a new dance season brought a new crop of dancers to several groups. New Haven and Middletown each had six new dancers the first few weeks. Windsor welcomed four. Of course, natural attrition means all classes had a net gain of two to three dancers, but the good news is, the classes are growing! Whatever you're are doing, keep up the good work. Special thanks to Ingrid Davis whose publicity efforts attracted the dancers to New Haven.

Where Have All the Teachers Gone?

The retirement of Mardene Hof and the departure of Ellen McRanor and Jane Lataille cut the pool of dance teachers in Connecticut nearly in half. Barbara Austen left New Haven to teach the Greater Hartford group and will also be teaching in December and January at Woodbridge. Joyce Chase is studying how to be a teacher under the watchful eye of Ken Way. Joyce is also taking a portion of the teaching load at Woodbridge during November and December. Bob Frew, one of the founding members of the Branch and a "certificated" teacher, has expressed an interest in teaching again after quite a long hiatus.

The message here is that our Branch needs more teachers. The RSCDS is sponsoring an examination tour in April and March 2003. Applications are due in December. If you have any interest in becoming a teacher, or if you have a preliminary certificate and wish to achieve the full certificate, contact Ken Way for information and details. And keep the idea of teaching in the back of your mind, because these tours occur every two years.

A Busy Fall Schedule

This past fall was filled with exciting events for dancers and for those who just enjoy things Scottish. The first (annual?) Pipes in the Valley festival in East Hartford on September 20-21 drew large crowds to hear pipe bands, watch Irish dancers, sip a wee bit of whiskey, visit the vendors and listen to folk music performances. Those from our dance community who went were particularly struck by the verra tall kilt-clad man from Dewar's, who was upstaged by the wee maid in her wee tartan skirt, also from Dewar's.

On October 5, a rather more sedate crowd enjoyed an unusually warm and dry day at the St. Andrew's Fair in Goshen. The Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers performed twice to appreciative crowds. George Thomson marched with his pipe band. There seemed to be more vendors than visitors, but all the booths were busy. And who could forget the charging sound of Neil Anderson who performed in a tent right behind the building in which the SCD demonstration was held. If you have never heard Neil, you are missing a real treat. He can do things with the bagpipes that probably should be illegal!

Middletown started the party season with its fall dance on October 12. A small but energetic group were challenged by the program, but impressed with the music of Norb Spencer and Friends (also known

as the Central Connecticut Scottish Chamber Orchestra & Pub Band).

This party was followed by NOMAD (read more in a separate report) where again the Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dancers performed, where Brian Haeckler and Barbara Austen lead dance classes, and where an intrepid group of volunteers staffed the food booth.

Ruth Walsh provides a perfect description of the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers' Fall Frolic on November 2 in an article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, George Thomson organized another extremely successful music workshop on November 10. Fifteen musicians, playing everything from the harp to the cello, took instruction from Terry Traub and Ann Hooper. After they were fed by a gourmet potluck provided by the dancers, the musicians then played a full afternoon for dancing. This year, there were more dancers than musicians. Brian Haeckler devised a fun and non-threatening program, which everyone appreciated.

Now it is time for everyone to prepare for the holiday and winter season of dances and parties. It's a terrific way to keep warm!

A Frosty Festive Frolic!!

The Mystic Scottish Country Dancers who are having a year-long celebration of the 20th Anniversary of its founding, hosted an anniversary Festive Dance on a very chilly Saturday night, the 2nd of November in the Parish Hall of Christ Church, Westerly, RI. Although the hall boasts a beautiful fireplace that has provided a very cheerful atmosphere on crisp winter nights throughout the years, little did we know that we would utilize that fireplace to the max on the day and night of the dance!!

Much to our horror, the Parish Hall furnace had broken down – and no repairs could be made for at least a week because of parts that had to be ordered from quite a distance away. What to do!?! The consensus was that we should continue to “go for it” and utilize the fireplace plus our warmest smiles to warm one and all... though initially we would be a bit chilly. We put a jolly fire in the fireplace early on Saturday morning, kept it going throughout the day and were delighted to see the inside temperature rise from 50 degrees up to 60+ with fond hopes that everyone would “think warm!” We were undeterred, and urged attendees to come with the layered look, for we figured that once everyone arrived, the fireplace plus our collective 98.6's and

energetic dancing, would warm things up quickly. Blankets and sweaters were available for anyone in need...plus hot coffee and tea in abundance. At that point we decided to rename our dance The Frosty Festive Frolic!!

The evening's program began with a Grand March and the singing of *God Bless America* with Bob Scent on the bagpipes, and then we commenced our fun evening of dance. Norb Spencer and his Central Connecticut Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Pub Band (CCSCO&PB) provided superb music that put an extra spring into our steps!! MSCD President Ruth Walsh and Master of Ceremonies Don Wills greeted one and all and we were off for a night of fun and fellowship!

Paul Hemmenway "called" the first set of 6 dances and after a brief intermission for refreshment, Linda Scent called the 2nd group of 6 dances. We were so pleased that some 55 hearty souls braved the cold, both inside and outside, to dance and socialize at our Frosty Dance!! Spirits as well as our fingers and toes were warmed as we enjoyed a magnificent evening. We concluded the dance with "The Reel of the Royal Scots," *Auld Lang Syne* and a final waltz. Warm we were...happy we were... with the request that we "do it again" next year – but not quite so chilly!!

*Ruth Holland Walsh
President, Mystic Scottish Country Dancers*

NOMAD

The RSCDS New Haven Branch Scottish Food Booth at the NOMAD Festival was a success again thanks to the efforts of the stalwart volunteers and bakers from our membership. Steve Rice with Dick and Ena Baxter, our president and secretary, set up, staffed and disassembled the booth for the two day festival. We served coffee, scones and other baked goods, and Scottish meat pies to the thirsty and hungry dancers, singers and musicians at the festival. The Greater Hartford Scottish Dancers demonstration team including Ken Way, Barbara Garton, Catriona MacAuslan, and Don and Marge Wills served on Saturday before and after their performance. Demo team member Karen Pestana enlisted her husband Jim, an unwilling dancer but very willing worker. Susan Leff again cooked Scottish oatmeal for Sunday breakfast, a NOMAD favorite. We also were delighted on Sunday with Everett Munro, a new volunteer from the Mystic group. Many thanks also to the stalwarts: George Thomson, Nina Stein, Pat Morrison, Bob and Mary Byrnie, Ed Davis, Barbara Austen and Brian Haeckler. Special thanks to Mardene Hof for her generous cash donation.

The monies raised from the NOMAD festival are an important addition to the balance sheet of the RSCDS New Haven Branch. It helps defray costs of the New Haven Ball, augments membership dues, helps add CD players and discs to branch classes and assists classes in paying for musicians for parties. Thanks from all to all that participated.

Steve Rice

Middletown Holiday Dance Party Program December 28, 2002

The Chase	32J3	Nutmeg Coll.
Rakes of Glasgow	32S3	11/11
Dashing White Sergeant	32R3RR	3/2
The Hunting Horn	32J3	Archives
Seann Triubhas Willichan	32S2	27/9
The Fireside Reel	32R3	18C Book
Blue Bonnets	32J2	3/5
Unnamed Dance	32S3	Nutmeg Coll.
The Fudge Factor	32R3	Nutmeg Coll.
Machine without Horses	32J3	12/12
Jimmy's Fancy	32S3	14/11
The Reel of the 51 st Div.	32R3	13/10

New Haven Ball Program

Devised by Ken Way and the Teachers' Committee

Pelorus Jack	32J2	41/1
Fun & Flirtation	32S3	Nutmeg Coll.
La Tempete	48R4	2/1
Ladies' Fancy	32J2	13/12
Braes of Mellinish	32S2	25/12
De'il Amang the Tailors	32R3	14/7
Wee Cooper O' Fife	40J2	Foss
Bob Campbell	32S4	Drewry
Petronella	32R2	1/1
The Hunting Horn	32J3	Archives
Seann Truibhas Willichan	32S2	27/9
Fireside Reel	32R3	18 th Century
Major Ian Stewart	32J3	35/4
The Trysting Place	32S2	35/6
Bratach Bana	32R3	Drewry
Lassies of Dunse	32J3	18/5
Duchess Tree	32S3	Drewry
Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh	40R3	39/7

Etiquette on the Dance Floor, 1885

The first thought that usually occurs to one taking part in a dance is, "I am about to enjoy an hour or more of unmingled pleasure." With this should come another, which is that, "All my pleasure depends entirely upon the kindly cooperation of others; I am, therefore, under an obligation to them that my part shall be strictly fulfilled." It will, therefore, be understood that each one participating in this mutual-pleasure-giving dance should enter upon the duties with honesty of purpose and kindness of heart. When all unite in such a disposition, the pleasure is augmented in proportion to the number engaged.

From Dodworth, Allen, *Dancing and Its Relations to Education and Social Life*, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1885.

Lochcarron Kilt Suits Star

Taken from the Border Telegraph (Scotland), November 14, 2001.

When Lochcarron of Scotland was approached about making kilts for the film "The 51st State," starring Samuel L. Jackson and Scottish actor Robert Carlyle, it came as a surprise that the kilts were for the American and not the Scot!

Samuel L. Jackson's character, Elmo McElroy, supports his clan by wearing one of its tartans--the Ancient Hunting MacGillivray.

This is one of thousands of tartans produced by Lochcarron, manufacturers of the world's largest range of tartans and kilts.

"We feel privileged to be able to add Samuel L. Jackson's name to the list of influential high profile personalities who have worn our fabrics," says Mark Gibson, marketing director at Lochcarron.

Wearing the Lochcarron kilt must have been a pleasant experience for Jackson, as he now has one for private use. The chosen tartan is Montgomery, the clan the Samuel L. Jackson's ancestors.

Others to have worn Lochcarron fabrics include the Queen, the Dalai Lama, Ewan McGregor, Liam Neeson, David Coulthard and Frank Bruno.

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Dick Baxter (203) 735-5079
Secretary	Ena Baxter (203) 735-5079
Treasurer	Brian Haeckler (203) 732-1017
Branch Class	George Thomson (203) 230-8551
Teacher Comm.	Ken Way (860) 653-5258
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 434-0415
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060 Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694
Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-0870
Newsletter	Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749 mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net or mailto:bausten@cslib.org

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15 for publication toward the end of the month. Please get your stories (class and personal tidbits), and calendar listings to me by then. My home address is 70 Pearl St., Meriden, CT 06540, and my email address is <mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net> or <mailto:bausten@cslib.org>

