



The Tartan Times

Vol. LXII, No 6

July/August, 2014

*The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England
10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-185*

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee *President:* Jeremy Thorpe; *Vice President:* Betty Allen *Secretary:* Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Bob Littlehale; *Members at Large:* Dale Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet **Teaching & Music Committee** Chair: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall **Nominating Committee** Chair: Gary Apfel **Bookstore:** Dawn & Mike Little **Pinewoods Benefit Ball '13** Co-Chairs: Gillian Charters and Betty Allen **Demo Team** *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Karen Sollins **Highland Ball 2014** Co-Chairs: Ed & Sara Pokrass **Membership** MaryEllen & John Scannell **November Concert 2013** *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen; *Producer:* Linda McJannet **Pinewoods ESS '14:** *Contact:* Jerome Fung **Pinewoods Scottish '14:** *Co-Chairs:* Jeremy Thorpe & Kendra Eshleman **Archives:** Lance Ramshaw **Mailing List & Equipment:** Peter Tandy **Website:** Laura and Meyer Billmers **TAC Rep:** Patti Tillotson **NH Highlands:** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik **Data Base** Peter Tandy **Member Directory:** John Scannell **Class Listings** Barbara McOwen

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Exec Committee Class Liaisons: **Brookline:** Jean Farrington **Salem MA & Stow MA & Albany NY:** Vickery Trinkaus-Randall **Nashua & Greenland NH:** BDan Fairchild **Great Barrington & Northampton MA:** Alex Hall **Cambridge MA & Montpelier VT & Fairlee VT:** Beth Birdsall **Brunswick & Belfast & Kennebunk ME:** Betty Allen

THE TARTAN TIMES is published by the Boston Branch for its members. A free copy is sent to every North American Branch and to nearby Affiliated groups. Annual subscriptions available for \$10. Checks should be made payable to RSCDS Boston Branch (Canadians, please send a money order in U.S. Funds). Mail to Bob Littlehale, Boston Branch Subscriptions, 12 Wigglesworth St., Malden, MA 02148-7422. The **Tartan Times Editor: Evelyn Murray**, may be reached at 1-617-864-8945, by email: athollbrose@verizon.net or by snail mail at 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEB MASTERS Laura and Meyer Billmers

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website very carefully. The web masters are happy to post event fliers & minicribs. However, it is considerably more work for us to have to do it more than once! If you have multiple documents to post, please try to submit them all at once, rather than piecemeal. Thank you in advance.

EXEC NOTES - Lance Ramshaw, Secretary

At our Annual General Meeting on June 9, Jeremy Thorpe was elected as our new Branch President and Susan Haines as Secretary. Dale Birdsall was elected to a 2-year term on Exec (filling out the partial term of Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, who agreed to continue for an extra year when we had an open slot), and Merrill Henderson and Linda McJannet were elected to full 3-year terms on Exec. For the Nominating Committee, Joan Hill was elected to a one-year term, filling an open slot, and Peter Olszowka to a three-year term. Grateful congratulations to them all, and warm thanks to those who are completing their terms.

Membership forms for the 2014-2015 year will soon be available in classes and on the website. The rates have gone up a bit, since the RSCDS in Edinburgh has (again!) increased their per-member charge to Branches, and Exec felt that we had no choice this time but to pass that increase along, but we hope that you all feel that supporting our Branch and the Society is still a very worthwhile investment.

Our first Ball at Memorial Hall in Melrose was a great success, as the web survey results showed. We are looking forward now to our Pinewoods sessions, both English-Scottish (July 7-11, with space still available) and Scottish Sessions I and II (July 11-19).

New Hampshire Highlands

Scottish Country Dance Weekend



August 22-24, 2014



Teachers:

Susan Eisley, Pittsfield, MA
Jennifer Schoonover, Rockland, MA
Janet Walker, Pittsburgh, PA

Musicians:

Terry Traub, *music director*, with
Howard Lasnik, Barbara McOwen,
Robert McOwen, Emerald Rae,
& Stephen Thomforde

Cost for the weekend is only \$195*

Includes five meals, accommodations in
dormitories**, all classes and parties!

*\$10 discount for full payment by July 1.

**Limited private and semi-private accommodations available for an additional fee.

Application & more information:

<http://rscdsboston.org/events-NHHighlands.html>

Contact:

Roberta Lasnik, (781)-643-3977,

rlasnik@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATES

THE BOSTON BRANCH ANNUAL FALL CONCERT WILL BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 8TH, 2014

SAME LOCATION - SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM AND LIBRARY LEXINGTON, MA
QUESTIONS: CONTACT **JOHN CRABTREE**, PRODUCER

THE 2015 HIGHLAND BALL DATE WILL BE HELD ON
APRIL 18, 2015

(THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE FROM OUR MORE USUAL MAY DATE). SAME LOCATION AS 2014
MUSIC BY FROST AND FIRE

FOR QUESTIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 2014 BALL
CONTACT **SARA AND ED POKRASS**, BALL CO-CHAIRS.

RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL AT ST. ANDREWS

JULY 20 - AUGUST 17, 2014

STILL HAS SOME OPENINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS
INFO AND RESERVATIONS WWW.RSCDS.ORG

Chelmsford Class Premier Party

Message from Rebecca Gore and Bonnie Rankin

Chelmsford Class Premier Party: Come join us for our first party dance
in our beautiful air conditioned hall!

When: August 9, 2014

Time: Noon Walk through • Dance Party 2 pm

Ice cream at Intermission

\$10 RSCDS members • \$12 non-members • \$5 students • \$20 Family cap

Musicians: The Gunns with Dan Wheatley

MC: MaryEllen Scannell

**Where: Chelmsford Community Center, 31 Princeton St.
North Chelmsford MA 01863**

Info: Rebecca Gore 978-250-1687 rjgore@gmail.com

party program <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-fliers/ChelmsfordPartyFlier2014.pdf>
and cribs <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-dancenotes/ChelmsfordPartyMinicrib2014.pdf>
are now posted

HAVE SHOES WILL TRAVEL

The RSCDS Annual General Meeting Weekend is November 7-9, 2014, to be held at the Bell Centre, Perth, Scotland. All members of the RSCDS are welcome to attend. The weekend includes a dance (Friday evening), a Ball (Saturday evening), classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and the AGM held Saturday afternoon, all in the delightful city of Perth, with excellent shopping and restaurants, as well as many historic sights both in the city as well as in surrounding area. Info and reservations www.rscds.org/events/

THE RSCDS CANBERRA & DISTRICT BRANCH invite you to the 39th Australian SCD Winter School to be held in Australia's "Bush Capital" during its renowned spring flower festival, FLORIADE. Dates: 28 September - 4 October, 2014. For further information about the program, registration procedures, accommodations and fees, contact Jack Arthur jarthur@apex.net.au or visit the Canberra Branch websire. www.rscds-canberra.org/home/canberra-winter-school where you can download a Brochure and Registration form.



MONDAY JULY 7 – FRIDAY JULY 11, 2014
SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

A “Best of Both Worlds” dance week at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth MA, offering three full days of English and Scottish Country Dance classes at multiple levels, Highland dance, ritual dance classes, group singing and band and fiddle workshops. Come Monday afternoon and leave Friday morning.

TEACHERS

English dance - Barbara Finney and Anna Rain
Scottish dance - Mel Briscoe and Robert McOwen
Ritual Dance - Michael Gorin

MUSICIANS

Dave Wiesler (Director), Josh Burdick, Liz Donaldson, Dan Emery,
Art Friedman, David Knight, Emily O’Brien, Calum Pasqua

Cost: \$355 for members of RSCDS &/or CDS Boston Centre, \$365 for non members,
\$275 for all under 25 years old. Work scholarships are available.
Resgistration sites at rscdsboston.org and cds-boston.org

Contact esspinewoods2014@gmail.com or Jerome Fung 609 815 4758

SCOTTISH DANCE & CULTURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, INC. (SDCEA)
Report to the Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS Boston Branch
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, President
June 9, 2014

The SDCEA is the private non-profit corporation established in 1987 to administer the Branch scholarship funds. The present Directors of the Corporation are:

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, President	Julie Mullen
Gail Wine, Treasurer	Kendra Eschelman
Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, Clerk	Robert Littlehale
Peter Tandy	

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5, SDCEA

The Board administers several funds from which scholarships are awarded. A description of each fund's purposes, goals, and requirements is available on the Branch website under "Member Resources, Financial Assistance."

In the past year (2013), a total of \$ 2,079 was awarded in scholarship aid to Scottish Country Dancers to attend Pinewoods Scottish Sessions I and II, the Boston Branch Highland Ball, the Teacher Candidate Class, and the TAC Tutor Course. In general, it is the policy of the SDCEA to award half scholarships to these activities to encourage participants to pay part of the cost themselves. Preference is given to Branch members, though some of the awards are available to non-Branch members as well. We now have a policy requesting that each award recipient give us a very brief report on his or her experience in using the award. In addition we give out a number of Class awards each year from the Ed Rawson Fund. These awards, designed to encourage new dancers, consist of the book, *A Guide to Scottish Country Dancing* and one of the accompanying CDs. Seven Class Awards were given out in 2013. They are given to new dancers identified by their teachers as having displayed a strong commitment to Scottish Country Dancing.

Of course, contributions to the SDCEA are always welcome. At the 2014 Scholarship Dance, the SDCEA received \$935 in donations. If you would like to make a contribution, you can speak to a Board member, pick up a donation form at your next class, or print one from the Branch web site. Contributions of any size are gratefully accepted, and many thanks to all who have contributed. The anonymous recipients are very appreciative of the help that they receive.

We would again like to remind all dancers and musicians that these funds are available to any dancer or musician with a demonstrated need. They are intended to support all dancers and musicians who could use some financial aid to enable them to participate in Scottish dance and music related activities, including, but not limited to, special classes, workshops, balls, and weekends. In many, but not all, cases Branch membership is a requirement for eligibility. We would really like to encourage greater use of these funds. Let us know if you have a need. All scholarship applications and awards are confidential.

Now, to recognize this year's Class Award winners:

Cambridge Class	Wadada Sellassie & Jacqueline Barnard
Fairlee Class	Margaret "Peggy" Richardson
Brunswick Class	Karla Harkins
Northampton Class	Ed Smith

All classes responded to the request for nominees, but there were none this year from the following classes: Nashua, Seacoast/Greenland, Brookline, Belfast, Salem, Montpelier, and Stow.

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS

June

30th *** Cambridge Class End-of-Season and Ice Cream Dance Party

July

5th Roundhill Scottish Games, Norwalk, CT p 8

7 - 11 *** English Scottish Session at Pinewoods, p 5

11 - 14 *** Boston Branch Scottish Session I at Pinewoods

14 - 19 *** “ “ “ “ II “ “

19th * Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, Look Park MA p 8

26 -Aug 17 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland p 3

27 - Aug 3 TAC Summer School 2014, CO, p 13

August

9th *** Chelmsford Class Premier Party, Chelmsford MA p 4

16th * Maine Highland Games, Topsham Fairground, ME p 8

18 - 22 Nova Scotia Branch “Scotch on the Rocks” p 13

22 - 24 *** New Hampshire Highlands SCD Weekend, Contoocook NH p 3

23rd Quechee Scottish Festival VT p 8

30 - 31 Capital District Games, Altamont NY, p 8

September

7th *** Brookline Class starts its 2014-15 season

8th *** Cambridge Class its 2014-2015 season

19 - 21 * NH Highland Games, Lincoln NH p 8

SAVE THE DATES

Oct 18-19 Nova Scotia Branch workshop with Marjorie McLaughlin

Nov 7 - 8 Boston Branch Annual Concert, Lexington, MA

Nov 7 - 9 RSCDS Annual Conference Weekend and AGM

Code Breaker: “***” an event sponsored by the Boston Branch. “***” other SCD events within the Branch area. “*” of possible interest (often a Scottish Concert) within the Branch area.

Please support events; the class/branch/group members work hard to put together their event, the musicians spend a lot of time preparing the music and rehearsing, the teacher(s) spend anxious hours planning programs, class material, etc. They appreciate seeing that their labours are not in vain when they look at a hall full of dancers all ready to put their best right (?) foot forward.....!

FOR THOSE TRAVELING TO PINEWOODS THIS SUMMER,
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ALONG CLARK, LONG POND AND HALFWAY POND
ROADS, MAY IMPACT YOUR TRIP TO CAMP. ALLOW EXTRA TIME AND
TRY TO AVOID ARRIVING IN THE DARK!!

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2013-14 {CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS}

DATE			CONTACT
JULY			
7-11	English Scottish Session at Pinewoods	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Jerome Fung, jerome.fung@gmail.com esspinewoods@rscdsboston.org
11-14 14-19	Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Jeremy Thorpe and Kendra Eshleman scdpinewoods@rscdsboston.org
AUGUST			
22-24	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Center, Contoocook, NH	lonwright@comcast.net
OCTOBER			
11	Fairlie Autumn Social	Town Hall, Fairlie VT	garyapfel@gmail.com
18	Brunswick Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329 pstillotson@gmail.com
NOVEMBER			
8	Annual Fall Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA	John Crabtree, jcrabmail@gmail.com
DECEMBER			
6	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Old Town Hall, Salem, Massachusetts	Hannah McArdle, hannahmcardle@yahoo.com

**PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO NANCY RAWSON, 781-894-7754,
nrawson@earthlink.net**

HIGHLAND GAMES IN THE NEW ENGLAND AREA

- July 5 Round Hill Cranbury Park, Norwalk, CT., www.roundhill.org
- July 19 Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, Look Park, Florence (Northampton) MA
www.glasgowlands.org
- Aug 16 Maine Highland Games Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, ME
mainehighlandgames.org
- Aug 23 Quechee Scottish Festival, Quechee Polo Field, Quechee, VT
- Aug 30–31 Capital District Scottish Games, Altamont, NY scotgames.com
- Sept 19–21 NH Highland Games, Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH www.nhscot.org

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30 pm, new location beginning January 12, 2014: Brookline Academy of Dance, 136 Westbourne Terrace, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- Great Barrington:** Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, 39 Railroad St., Great Barrington (above Crystal Essence). Contact Jean Campbell, 518-672-4243 or Ted, 413-698-2944
- * **Cambridge Class at the Canadian American Club:** Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club (www.canadianamericanclub.com) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Chelmsford:** First Fridays year-round, 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Live music. Contact Rebecca Gore at rjgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
- * **Newton:** Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. Sept through mid-June at Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July and Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdschoes14@gmail.com
- * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, First Churches, 129 Main St. (Rt. 9), Northampton (enter on Center St, across from the Iron Horse). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
- * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays 8 pm, beginners at 7:30, First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, WeeBluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
- * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. New: childrens class 7:00, adult beginners 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net
- Yarmouth:** Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Menzies, 508-432-3711

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Year-round, Mondays 7:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact BelfastClass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; David Thompson, 207-469-3293
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-839-8637, crone4072@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Fridays 7:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Laurie Stevens, 603-380-2144, SeacoastDancers@rscdsboston.org
- Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, downtown Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671
- * **Nashua:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
- Manchester Center:** Tuesdays 7-9 pm, First Congregational Church (on Route 7A, across from the Equinox Hotel). Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hollyvalentine530@yahoo.com
- * **Montpelier:** Sept-May, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Union Elementary School, 1 Park Ave., Montpelier. Contact Martha Kent, 802-879-7618; Art and Sandy Farnum, 802-223-7483

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 6:45 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New or Cecil Lubitz, 518-383-6580; loisanew@nycap.rr.com; clubitz@nycap.rr.com

* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch, www.rscdsboston.org. Because of occasional weather and hall variabilities, etc, it's always advisable to get in touch in advance if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email Classes@rscdsboston.org

MUSIC PAGE

Niel Gow's tune *Farewell to Whisky* -

There are two stories behind this fascinating title. One was that in 1799 the barley crop in Scotland failed, the harvest being so poor that no barley was permitted to be used for distilling. Bear in mind that the whisky of the day was produced very locally and not by large commercial distilleries as is the case today. As confirmed by Niel's son Nathaniel, the tune does allude to the prohibition of 1799. However, there is another story found more often amongst the Scottish fiddling



community. I heard it from the late Ron Gonnella, and Barbara McOwen references a similar story in her book on Aonghas Grant. This was that leaving a get-together very late one night he fell and broke his fiddle. In those days fiddle cases did not exist, the instruments were carried in green cloth bags. Niel was so upset that he did go on the wagon for about three months. James Hunter's book *The Fiddle Music of Scotland* notes that the tune should be played 'slow and pathetic.' You can choose which story you like best!

Niel was born in Inver, a very tiny village near Dunkeld, Perthshire, and christened Niel - the gaelic spelling for the anglicized 'Neil.' In those days the everyday language in that area would have been gaelic. He apparently won a fiddle competition when very young, and before he became popular as a dance band leader he played for people crossing the Tay on the ferry - there were fewer bridges in those days. The picture is from the portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The dance *Niel Gow's Farewell to Whisky* is published by the RSCDS in Book 34. The note says it was collected in Canada and made available to the Society by Miss Jenny MacLachlan. It has an unusual configuration similar to *La Tempête*, two couples facing two couples, the women on the right of their partners.

[written by Evelyn Murray from part of an article by Barry Pipes of Toronto Branch, Book 34 and her own memory]

MacPherson's Farewell

According to the notes by Brian Mokler for the NHStrathspey and Reel Society Newsletter *The Granite Skies* both the tune and the verses were composed by James MacPherson in the week between his trial and hanging (November 1700). He was probably not a model citizen, being tried for his activities as a highwayman and general troublemaker. This is not music to be played sweetly. But let the verses tell his side of the story:

Farewell ye dungeons dark and strong
Farewell, farewell to thee,
MacPherson's time will no' be long
On yonder gallows tree.

*Sae rantinly, sae wantonly, Sae dauntinly gaed he
He played a tune and dance it roon, below the gallows tree.*

It was by a women's treacherous hand
That I was condemned to dee,
Below a ledge at a window she stood,
And a blanket she threw o'er me.

Untie these bands from off my hands
And gie me my sword,
An' there's no' man in all Scotland
But I'll brave him at his word.

There's some come here to see me hanged
And some to buy my fiddle,
But before that I do part wi' her
I'll brak her thro' the middle

He took the fiddle into both his hands
And he broke it ower a stone,
Says, There's nae ither hand shall play on thee
When I am dead and gone.

The reprieve was comin' ower the brig o' Banff
To let MacPherson free;
But they pit the clock a quarter afore
And hanged him to the tree.

RSCDS Boston Branch General Meeting — June 9, 2014

Report on Pinewoods Camp Inc. — Bill Card

This report is based on the Board of Directors meeting of March 9, the Facilities committee telecon of April 2, Executive Directors reports through the winter, and the Volunteer Weekend of May 23. As you would expect, the Volunteer Weekend was the most pleasant and productive.

I'm very pleased to report that, this winter, there was no significant storm damage to camp (cheers).

Projects

This allowed us to complete the projects on time. The Shower House in the Pinecones area has been completely renovated and now includes 3 toilets, of which one is handicapped-accessible, and 3 showers, of which one is outdoors. I am reliably informed that the outdoor shower is already the most popular. (laughter)

Two new camper cabins have been built nearby. With the cheerful assistance of many campers, they've been named "Rory O'More" and "Money Musk," two tunes of both the contradance and Scottish Country dance traditions. I am pleased to add that one cabin has already received its first inhabitants – as shown in the photograph. We know they like music, but I'm not sure which tradition they prefer.

This year's projects will be modest, primarily renovations and repairs of Pinecones. We are laying plans for the replacement of Pine Needles, before it sinks into the swamp. (We hope it will not burn down or fall over first.)

Volunteer Weekend

The Volunteer Weekend of May 23 was a great success, marked by return of "The Horde": Dirk, Emily, Cathy, Bruce, Andrea, Hannah, Diane and others including Seth and Vera from Pennsylvania. The Horde took on the biggest, dirtiest tasks and finished them all: raking the paths, weeding the herb garden, pruning the beech saplings, and – literally — debugging the fluorescent lights in the kitchen. (scattered laughter)

Saturday night, The Horde had enough energy left for dancing in the Camp House with the other volunteers. This included the debut of a Scottish Country dance, "The Rakes of Pinewoods," written by Seth for the occasion. For me, it was a great pleasure to do Contra, English, and Scottish all in the same hall and same evening with live music by Dirk and Emily (applause).

As if that weren't enough, Andrea, Bruce and Hannah were back at Pinewoods the next volunteer weekend, and were, to quote the Executive Director, "enormously helpful".

Planning

Last year's workshop for Program Providers has led to some important discussions on how camp has been and should be used. This year, the sessions will follow the traditional pattern. However, next year, the order of the sessions may somewhat differ. The RSCDS sessions will not be affected. As near as I can tell, the RSCDS sessions are serving as a model for some of the other Program Providers, and we at Pinewoods are very pleased. (cheers)

The proposal to install solar energy collectors at camp, either solar thermal or photovoltaics, is still under study and discussion. Practical use of solar energy at camp would have both positive and negative impact, and we are discussing how to maximize the positive and minimize the negative.

Finances

Propane is the #4 operating expense of Pinewoods. (After labor, insurance, and food) We use it for cooking, hot water, and off-season heat. It reached record high prices this winter, and that has affected our operating expenses, although we believe the impact has been tolerable. The other finances of Pinewoods were boring this year. Of course, that's what we hope for.

We certainly appreciate the generous donations of our campers. And this year, we received a very generous gift from the estate of a long-time camper. So if you had considered making a post-mortem gift to Pinewoods, you will no longer be the first to do so.

Succession

The Board of Directors for Pinewoods Camp Inc. includes a representative from the RSCDS, Boston Branch – that's me. (applause) I am appointed by the Executive Committee, and my term of 3 years end in November 2014. I have offered to continue as representative for another term, and the Executive Committee has approved. It will be my pleasure. (more applause) However, if you would like to be the representative, for this term or some later term, feel free to speak with me or with the Committee to find out what's involved.

For the moment, an experienced cook and a skillful crew have been engaged for the summer, and we look forward to welcoming you all this July.

PEOPLE NEWS

Flowers of the Forest — John Drewry

John passed away very recently in the nursing home he had moved to a couple or more years ago outside his home of Aberdeen.

A prolific deviser of dances with roughly a dozen collections published and more in leaflet form. Many have become firm favourites in both classes and on ball programmes. He devised several new figures for our repertoire - the best known is the Rondel which appears in such popular dances as *Bob Campbell*, *Magic Airt o' Gow*, and *The Silver Tassie*. Others such as *Belle of Bon Accord* and *Blooms of Bon Accord* celebrate his city of Aberdeen, the former to a famous J. Scott Skinner tune, the latter to celebrate the wonderful gardens which secured the coveted prize for best.... so often that they were finally disallowed to compete!

For many years he travelled internationally as well as within the United Kingdom to teach his dances. New York has a special dance in the early winter the programme exclusively made up with John's dances. He will be sadly missed, but he has left us a wonderful legacy to enjoy for as long as there are people Scottish Country dancing!

[The following article came from the Orange County Ceilidh, Mar/Apr 2014

The Reel of The Royal Scots

I believe the Reel in the title of this dance comes from the fact that one's head tends to reel when reading the history of this renowned regiment.

The Royal Scots, or The Royal Regiment, is not only the oldest regiment in the British Army, but one of the most ancient in the world. In fact, it is so old that it is known as "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard". While its origins probably cannot be traced back to Roman times, you can go back 600 years.

The history of the regiment did not start in Scotland but on the continent, where Scottish soldiers served as mercenaries. For about two hundred years, from the 1400s to the 1600s, the regiment was in the service of the Kings of France, Bohemia, Holland and Sweden.

Starting around 1419, Scottish soldiers of fortune fought for the Kings of France, eventually becoming the king's bodyguard known famously as the Garde du Corps Ecossais. During the Thirty Years War, a Scots Brigade, known as the Green Brigade, served Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden.

In 1633, Louis XIII of France empowered Sir John Hepburn of Athelstaneford, who had commanded the Green Brigade, to form a Regiment from the Independent Companies of Scotsmen then serving in the French Army. Charles I of England authorized Hepburn to recruit 1,200 soldiers from Scotland for this new regiment, to which were added those in the Green Brigade. The new regiment was known as Le Regiment d'Hebron or Hepburn's Regiment and Hepburn rose to become Marechal de France.



In 1662, Charles II recalled the regiment to his service. As Dumbarton's Regiment, it distinguished itself in the defense of Tangiers against the Moors. The Regimental March Past is the famous, "Dumbarton's Drums", and dates from the Colonelcy of the Earl of Dumbarton 1678-1684.

From 1684, the regiment became known as the Royal Regiment of Foot. From then on, the Regiment has fought throughout the world wherever Britain's political and military needs demanded. During the First World War, the regiment raised 39 battalions, of which 11,162 members gave their lives.

In 1812, the title was changed to the The Royal Scots by Queen Victoria's father and Victoria became known as the "The Daughter of Regiment". This is why, when marching past Royalty, the regiment does so to the tune



"The Daughter of the Regiment".

The Regimental Museum of The Royal Scots is in Edinburgh Castle. In 2006, the Regiment was amalgamated with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers and became part of the The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Norm McCallum

Nova Scotia Branch "Scotch on the Rocks" August 18-22:

Scottish Country Dance (5 half day classes & a dance with live music) half-day excursions and a 1 hour massage. In Wolfville NS. The teachers are the legendary Keppies. Info: www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

TAC Summer School, Greeley, Colorado July 27-Aug 3. U of No Colorado, teachers: Keith Bark, Tim Wilson, Helen Russell, Graham Donald, and Marjorie McLaughlin. www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school

DANCING ABROAD — by Robert McOwen

In mid-May Barbara and I left for a trip that would include three great European cities: Paris, St Petersburg and Stockholm. We spent a week in Paris, enjoying the great museums, monuments, and meals (and a Bellini opera). But we also had a chance to attend the RSCDS Paris Branch Class that meets near the Moulin Rouge on (you guessed it) Monday nights. Before the class, we had coffee with Jerry and Danielle Reinstein in their apartment and then headed to the class all together. We enjoyed meeting the dancers in Paris, which included an



Robert teaching the highland class in St. Petersburg, Russia
Sergey is far left; Nadezhda is far right

American who was trying it for the first time, and a Swede who happened to be in town (whom we met with later in Stockholm). We had met Jerry at St. Andrews in the 80s; he has also danced in San Francisco and New York.

After our week in Paris, we flew to St Petersburg, Russia, where we spent another week enjoying the museums, monuments, and meals (and two magnificent ballet nights). And we also went Scottish dancing with the Humpty Dumpty group that meets on (you guessed it) Monday nights. The group is run by Sergey and Nadezhda Kargapoltsev, and also features highland, ladies' step, and ceilidh dancing on other nights. When they realized that I was the

Robert McOwen of Highland Dance Boston, they wanted me to teach the highland dance, Duncan McGillivray, that they had seen on our website. So I did that after the country dancing on Monday, finishing about 10:30 pm. It is still light late at night in St Petersburg at the end of May (they call it "White Nights"), so we all went out afterwards. We can only barely read the Cyrillic alphabet, but many Russians speak enough English for us to communicate, and anyway the joy of dance and comraderie carried us along.

Sergey had also organized a music session at a pub, and had procured a fiddle and a guitar for us to play. We all met there, along with some of the dancers - the pub had Belhaven and Guinness on tap and feels similar to the Irish pubs here in Boston. Gradually musicians arrived and we all had a great long rollicking tune session, similar to the Glasgow sessions which successfully combine Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton repertoires. Although musicians from the States and U.K. occasionally come through, these were all Russians. We couldn't really talk to each other but music became the common language.

There is a Moscow Branch, inspired in great part by Catherine Finogenova, whom Barbara had met at the RSCDS AGM in Aberdeen in 2012. The St. Petersburg group is not a branch, but is an imaginative group of dancers and musicians. They give an annual Ball, and are looking to start a weekend of workshops in a nature reserve outside the city. Scottish country dancing is alive and well in Russia.

DOCUMENTATION OF DANCES — by Evelyn M.E. Murray, FSA Scot
(originally published in *The Family Tree*, Odem Library, Oct/Noc 1998 issue)

This subject comes to mind as a result of correspondence from a reader referring to a comment made in a previous article about the dance *J.B. Milne* by Hugh Foss. The dance is published in Foss's *Angus Fitchet* book of dances. Fitchet was a well-known fiddler and Foss was very particular in matching the dance to the music. In referencing the original dance instructions for bars 17-32, they clearly state "2nd and 3rd women change places giving right hands, the 2nd and 3rd men, the same, and set to partners (who are across the dance); cross giving right hands to partners and 2nd and 3rd women set to each other as 2nd and 3rd men do the same, and repeat until these dancers reach the positions where they first started." For some unknown reason the dancers turn back to set to the person behind them and then cross, which requires a sort of spinning effect to the picture. Foss was painting a picture with this figure as J.B. Milne was a cinema owner! Thus the dancers depict the cinema screen with the 1st couple providing the on-screen action.

The classic dance for dancers rewriting a dance is of course *Mairi's Wedding*. Here, the dance has four successive half reels of four with corners, making the pattern of a "wedding knot," and very attractive this is when dancing as James Cosh wrote and published the dance. The diagrams are very clear, 1st woman and 1st man pass by left shoulders in the middle. I am looking at the diagrams as I write. The words are also precise, bars 9-12 state: "1st couple dance a half reel of four with first corners," etc. In a regular reel of four the dancers pass by the left in the middle. The dance became popular when I was dancing in Chelmsford, Essex. One of our members at the time happened to attend a dance where Cosh was playing (he was a band leader in Glasgow). He asked Cosh whether he wanted left or right shoulder passing in the centre. The reply was a very firm "Left!" This makes additional sense as was it was a wedding dance and usually the heart is on the left side. The feel of the dance is completely changed when danced passing right shoulders. The figure becomes less precise and the pattern of the knot is lost.

My point here is that there is nothing wrong in writing a dance where the dancers pass right shoulders in the middle of a half diagonal reel of four with corners. Or, similarly, turning and setting to the person one has just passed; there are many dances where this does occur. But, why make changes in a dance someone else has devised and published, just because you do not like the deviser's clear directions?

We should try to keep as close as possible to the original descriptions without imposing our additions or subtractions to the figures. We do not rewrite a Bach Cantata just because we feel it would be better done in a different way. What we would do is write a variation which would be stated as such. In the SCDance world we have two familiar examples where just this has been done. Hugh Foss wrote a set of dances called *The Waverley Fugues*, based on the dance published by the RSCDS as *Waverley* or *Fergus McIver*. One very popular dance from this set is *Fugal Fergus*. It is a fugue on *Fergus McIver* and immense fun to do once one has learned the original dance. Another example is *Corn Rigs*. Published in Book 4 by the RSCDS it is a simple reel for two couples in a longwise set; the four figures are a casting figure, figure of eight, down the middle and back, ending with pousette. Then turning to Bob Campbell's *Glasgow Assembly* we find *Riggs of Corn*. The variations are all based on the original ones but both couples are dancing the whole time, making the dance a little more challenging. Both dances use Robert Burns' tune for his song *Corn Rigs*.

Continued on page 15

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

COPY DUE DATE FOR THE SEPT/OCT 2014 ISSUE IS AUGUST 1st. PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR FALL EVENTS TO THE EDITOR BY 8/1/14. DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD ALSO GO TO NANCY RAWSON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR

Note: Class Events flyers are limited to one-half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep.

Continued from page 15, Documentation of Dances

These two examples show devisors taking an original dance and writing a variation, the new title indicating that there are differences from the original. Angus Henry (who lives in Wulagi, NT Australia) became so fed up with people dancing *Mairi's Wedding* incorrectly has written a dance called *Mairi's Divoice!* So those who object to the dance as written can now do it with the name changed. Henry noted that devisors put a lot of thought in their work. He wrote the dance to "assist dancers who had never actually read James Cosh's emphatically clear published instructions for his dance."

To many this discussion may seem overly pedantic. However, one of the purposes of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is to research and publish dances. The books and leaflets published by the RSCDS are carefully prepared so that the dance instructions are clear and precise following established protocol. When I tutored candidate classes one of the points I made to the class was always go back to the book before teaching a dance. Not to rely on memory, or other sources such as Pilling, excellent aide as that is.

Scottish Dancing today is a living entity. It grows as dances are published and as composers write new tunes. However, it is just as important to ensure that the dancing is taught accurately, retaining the fun and the spirit.