

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIII, Number 4
March/April 2015



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England
10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-1862

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, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Joan Hill

Highland Ball 2015 *Co-Chairs:* Ed & Sara Pokrass • **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2015** MaryEllen Scannell
Fall Concert 2015 *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen; *Producer:* John Crabtree

Pinewoods Scottish 2015 *Co-Chairs:* Beth Birdsall & Linda McJannet

Pinewoods ESC 2015 *Contact:* Stephen Thomforde • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Karen Sollins

Bookstore Dawn & Mike Little • **Equipment** Peter Tandy • **Archives** Susan Haines

Membership MaryEllen & John Scannell • **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy

Directory John Scannell • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

Webmasters Laura and Meyer Billmers • **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Exec Committee Class Liaisons: Brookline, Cambridge: Kat Dutton

Brunswick ME, Kennebunk ME, Belfast ME, Greenland NH: Merrill Henderson

Montpelier VT, Fairlee VT, Salem MA: Dale Birdsall • **Nashua NH:** Linda McJannet

Great Barrington MA, Northampton MA, Albany NY: Alex Hall

Stow, Chelmsford, Newton: 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 are 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 617-864-8945, by email at athollbrose@verizon.net or by snail mail at 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010

Layout Editor Barbara McOwen; **Mailing Coordinators** Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTERS

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website very carefully. The webmasters are happy to post event fliers and 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. — **Laura and Meyer Billmers**

Notes from the Executive Committee

At the December meeting held on January 7th as a teleconference, Exec. voted and approved to round up the \$1024.26 profit from the Pinewoods Benefit Ball to \$1025 to send to Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Robert McOwen has agreed to serve as Artistic Director for the 2015 Fall Concert and discussions are underway for the selection of performers. Plans for the Highland Ball and Pinewoods Scottish Sessions are progressing quite well, and the budget for ESC will be presented at the January meeting. Also, the Salem Class had proposed and Exec. approved that the Salem Class would take on the responsibility of planning and putting on the Pinewoods Benefit Dance. They have already started planning and hope to have fliers available for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions.

At the January meeting held on January 28th, Exec. reviewed the budgets for both the Fall Concert and ESC. Plans are well underway for both events. At this year's New Hampshire Highland Games, the hope is that the Branch will have a tent to provide information about the Branch and our classes. Time was also allotted for discussing how to improve communications within the Branch. Stay tuned for more information. — **Susan Haines, Branch Secretary**

RSCDS Boston Highland Ball Saturday, April 18, 2015

Memorial Hall, 590 Main St., Melrose, MA



The Boston Highland Ball 2015

Music by “*Frost and Fire*”

Peter Macfarlane, fiddle; Viveka Fox, fiddle; Aaron Marcus, keyboard; Hollis Easter, flute/pipes

MCs

Andrea Aeschlimann, Chris Harris, Beth Birdsall

Granville Market	8x32	RSCDS 2 nd Graded Book
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32S	Haynes, Carnforth #2
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5x32R	Goldring, 14 Social Dances
Northern Harmony	8x32J	Celebrate 50 Years of Dancing
The Silver Tassie	8x32S	RSCDS Leaflet
The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32R	RSCDS Book 10
The Clachan	8x32J	Foss, Kendoon Dances
Gang the Same Gate	8x32S	RSCDS Book 36
The Westminster Reel	8x32R	RSCDS Book 45
A Trip to Drakensberg	8x40J	RSCDS Book 38
The Robertson Rant	1X80S (sq. set)	RSCDS Book 39
Cabferei	8x32R	18 th Century Book
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32J	RSCDS Book 22
The Lang Whang	8x32S	Dunedin Book 1
Scott Meikle	4x32R	RSCDS Book 46
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8x32J	Dickson, Glenarroch #28
The Minister on the Loch	3x32S	Goldring, Graded & Social Dances
The Deil Amang the Tailors	8x32R	RSCDS Book 14

Reception 5:30

Dinner 6:30

Grand March 8:00

Ball 8:15

Admission includes \$1 for Memorial Hall Restoration Fund

\$75 Branch members \$80 Nonmembers

\$50 Full time students/Non dancers

See <http://rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html> for application, directions, cribs, Welcome Dance and Sunday Brunch information. Or contact Sara Pokrass (spokrass230@comcast.net)(508-362-5861)

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
14th Annual
SPRING FLING

MUSIC BY
VIVEKA FOX, PETER MACFARLANE & SUSIE PETROV

Saturday, May 2, 2015

Walk-through at 2:30 pm, Potluck at 5:30 pm, Dance at 7:00 pm
Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (Branch Members); \$13.00 (Non-members); Under 18: \$5.00

For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459

MONTPELIER SCOTTISH SOCIAL

MUSIC BY
PETER MACFARLANE, JOANNE GARTON & AARON MARCUS

Saturday February 28, 2015

Walk-through at 12 noon. Dance at 2 pm. Potluck supper to follow.
Capital City Grange, 6612 Rt. 12 (1/2 mile south of Rt. 2), Berlin VT
Admission \$13 RSCDS members, \$15 non-members.

[Flier](#) and [Minicrib](#) are posted!

Northampton Class
End of Season and 25th Anniversary Potluck and Dance

Saturday June 6, 2015
5:30 potluck, 7:30 dance

Location: First Churches Lyman Hall in Northampton

Music by Earl Gaddis and friend

contact: Karen Lavalley-Tente, tom.and.karen@earthlink.net



We are excited to announce a new session at Pinewoods next summer: ESCape!

ESCape will fill the former ESS slot (July 6-10) in 2015, and is being redesigned from the ground up to offer an integrated program of English, Scottish, and Contra dancing. The teachers and musicians are being chosen for their energy, enthusiasm, and facility with two or more of the ESC dance forms, and the classes are being tailored to explore the strengths, differences, and similarities of the three traditions.

We hope ESCape will provide a new home for some of the former E&A attendees, as well as attract some of the many contra dancers who don't attend Pinewoods yet and are looking to try something new.

ESCape will be open to dancers age 13 and up (under 18 requires a parent or designated guardian at camp), with discounted admission for all dancers under 25.

Most importantly, it's going to be a blast. Come join the party, and ESCape to Pinewoods!!

Meghan Murray, Dan Blim, and Stephen Thomforde (ESC 2015 co-chairs).
ESCape is co-sponsored by CDS-Boston Centre and the RSCDS Boston Branch.

Memorial Day Weekend Party

May 23, 2015 American Legion Hall, Belfast, Maine



Featuring Special Guest Musicians from the San Francisco Branch



Susan Worland Bentley, Fiddle, & Lyle Ramshaw, Piano

3:30	Tricky Dance Walk Through	
6:00	Potluck Supper	\$1.00 plus a Pot
7:30	Dancing	\$10.00 RSCDS members; \$12.00 nonmembers

☘ *Welcome to Belfast*

Julia's First Jig
Wellingtonia Reel
The Golden Years
The White Heather Jig

Around the room dance

8x32J3C—Lois New The Kissing Bridge
8x32R3C—Mervyn Short The Spirit of the Dance
8x32S3C—Book 48 Mrs. Stewart's Jig
4x40J4C—J Cosh 22 SCD The Magic of Merrill

8x32R3C—Book 47
8x32S3C—TAC 50th Ann Coll
8x32J3C—Book 35
8x32R3C—Lyle Ramshaw

☘ *Gay Gordons*

Pint O' Ale is Fain
Fusilier's Dream
Orwell Lodge Strathspey
Best Set in the Hall

☘ *Intermission and Desserts*

8x32J3C—Devil's Quandy Adieu Mon Ami
8x40R3C—Jean Patrick Coll. Mary Erskine
3x32S3C(3Cset)—2005 Dia Jub Anna Holden's Strathspey
8x32J3C—Book 46 The Highlandman Kissed His Mother

8x32S3C—Book 24
8x32H3C—2nd Bk Grd SCD
6x32S2C(3Cset)—Book 42
8x32R3C—MMM1

☘ *Waltz*

*Ceilidh and Potluck Brunch, Hosted by
Gayle & Drex, 3 Maple Street, Northport
Sunday, May 24, 10-2*

*For Party Information
Donna Griffith 207-785-2216 or
dwados@hotmail.com*

*For Hospitality Contact
Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139 or
belfastclass@rscdsboston.org*

Sponsored by the RSCDS Boston Branch, www.rscdsboston

CHALLENGE

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

**Friday, March 20th — SPECIAL Guest teacher
From Philadelphia - Cecily Selling**

Cecily's topic is "Dancing beautifully, whether the dance is easy or hard, working on formations that require excellent handing"

Location: The Calvary Church

300 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

Big white church, same side and between the cinema and Arlington Centre; ample parking on the street

Cost \$10.00 (\$5.00 students) • Time 7:30-9:30 pm

Info call Evelyn at 617-864-8945 or Roberta at rlasnik@juno.com

***Please save these dates for this class: May 15 & June 19
with Howard Lasnik as the teacher.***

ANNUAL NORTHEAST BRANCH OF CLAN DONNACHAIDH DINNER, Saturday, April 25th.

As part of their entertainment they are repeating last year's popular program with a Scottish Country Dance workshop by Jeanetta McCall in the afternoon and Parcel of Rogues musicians Susie Petrov and Dan Houghton for evening music and dancing.

Scottish Country Dancing - What is it?

Jeanetta writes that it is a form of dance which is appealing to any age as it provides much social contact as well as being good for one's physical and mental well being. Don't let the footwork deter you. If you can walk to be in the right place at the right time you will be fine. It could be that you might like to try this at some time but feel that you are alone with no partner. This does not matter as everyone is encouraged to mix with everyone else. In all my sixty-eight years of dancing, I have been to a function once with a partner.

The dance goes back at least three hundred and fifty years but during the 1920s was in decline. Two women, Jean Milligan and Ysobel Stewart, decided to teach, standardize, and record the dances of their forebears. Since that time many new figures and dances have emerged, particularly after WWII. One cannot dance without music and this is of great importance to the enjoyment of SCD. Traditionally the major instrument was the fiddle, but was superseded by the accordion in the early 20th century. Now you have SCD bands which use both of these instruments and others. So listen to the variety of reels, jigs, and strathspeys, and enjoy.

[Jeanetta's piece was published in the Northeast Donnachaidh Doings, Winter 2015]

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2015

Session 1 – July 10-13 • Session 2 – July 13-18

Making memories once again!!



Teaching Staff

Linda Henderson
Graham Donald
Kathy Giacoletti

Music Staff

Barbara McOwen, Anne Hooper, Tom Pixton,
Terry Traub, Robert McOwen, Campbell Webster,
a Special Guest Fiddler from Scotland, and
a Special Guest Pianist from Canada

Session 1: \$310; Session II, \$415; Sessions I and II, \$675 (\$25 off for RSCDS members)
Scholarships and work exchanges available.

For more information and to download an application form, visit:

<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-pinewoods.html>

or contact the co-chairs, Beth Birdsall and Linda McJannet at

scdpinewoods@rscdsboston.org

Hope to see you at Camp!

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2014-15 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
MARCH 2015			
21	Scholarship Benefit Dance	First Parish, Weston MA	Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, 978-897-3997 Trink68@uwalumni.com
28	Salem Class Party	Bolles Hall, Salem, Massachusetts	Mary Ellen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org
APRIL 2015			
17	Boston Highland Ball Welcome Dance	First Parish, Weston MA	Ed and Sara Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net
18	Boston Highland Ball	Memorial Hall, 590 Main St, Melrose MA	Ed and Sara Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net
19	Boston Highland Ball Brunch	Lincoln, MA	Ed and Sara Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net
MAY 2015			
2	Fairlee Spring Fling	Town Hall, Fairlee, VT	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459
23	Belfast Class Memorial Day Weekend Party	American Legion Hall, Belfast, ME	Donna Griffith, dwados@hotmail.com
JUNE 2015			
6	White Mountain Scottish Country Dancers Spring Frolic	Lancaster Town Hall Lancaster NH	Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671, billtobinharp@gmail.com
6	Northampton Class End of Season & 25 th Anniversary Party	First Churches, Northampton, MA	Karen, 413-527-3407
13	Downeast Fling	Kennebunk Town Hall, Kennebunk, ME	Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050
JULY 2015			
10-13	Scottish Session I	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Beth Birdsall 802-989-3147 and Linda McJannet 617-492-8180
13-18	Scottish Session II	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Beth Birdsall 802-989-3147 and Linda McJannet 617-492-8180, scdpinewoods@rscdsboston.org

PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO Jean Farrington, jffar@verizon.net

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 410 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact Jean, 518-672-4243 or Ted, 413-698-2944
- * **Cambridge:** 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 rgore@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, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Civic Center, 90 Park St. (enter on Cosmian), Florence (nr. Northampton). 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, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net, 978-897-2466
- 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, 207-409-9050, crone4702@gmail.com
- Stonington:** Year-round, Wednesday 7:00 pm; Island Community Center, off School St., Stonington. Contacts Mike / Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; mjlittle2318@hotmail.com; sugarmaple111@hotmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Tuesdays 7:15-9:15 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:** August through June, 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, mdkent@comcast.net, 802-879-7618

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 of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, 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

Alasdair Fraser's Summer Fiddle Camps, 2015 - Sierra: June 20-28 Nevada City, CA. Applications and information at www.sierrafiddlecamp.org, or call 530/478-9004. Applications are open, priority deadline is 3/1/15. **Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School:** August 28-Sept 5. Applications and information at www.valleyofthemoon.org, or call 707-537-8677. Applications are open, priority deadline is 3/1/15
Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School: August 9-15, 2015, at Thompson Island, Boston, Mass. Visitors Day is Tuesday August 11. Contact the Folk Arts Center, www.scottishfiddleschool.org, 781-438-4387
Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H. - Meetings: March 29 with Roger Treat; April 19 with TBA; May 31 with Lissa Schneckenberger; June 28 with the Music Committee. **Concerts:** April 13 - Bass Hall Concert; April 25 - NEFFA; May 21 - Portsmouth Library concert.

MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF A CLASS MUSICIAN - by Don Bartlett

The advantages of a class musician over records are;

- a faster-paced and more interesting class
- the possibility of doing unusual things such as “coming in” and altering the tempo
- the livelier sound of live music
- use of original tunes and the right amount of music and the right bars

The musician should be an extension of the teacher, in the sense that the teacher should not have to use teaching time to give anything but the simplest instructions to the musician. To achieve this the teacher must anticipate his/her musical need and speak to the musician before getting the dancers on the floor. Possible subjects to cover are:

- name of the dance
- lesson plan
- number of bars
- tempo wanted
- reel, strathspey, jig or waltz
- rhythm changes
- any special requirements

Remember that the musician may need some time to get the correct music and to plan what to play.

A teacher must understand music beats as well as dance rhythms. Waltzes have 3 beats to the bar, reels and jigs have 2, and strathspeys have 4. Because reels and jigs both have 2 beats to the bar, dancers can dance the same steps to the two rhythms; however, because the rhythms are different, the steps are executed slightly differently. This is why skip-change is usually taught to jig (6/8) music, and pas de basque is usually taught to reel (2/4 or 2/2) music. (Can you explain the choice?)

When a teacher is walking steps, or moving to a count and wants to bring the music in, the correct tempo, music beats and rhythm must be the teacher's voice and/or motions. The musician will pick up the desired tempo from the teacher. The area of most difficulty for many teachers is distinguishing between reel and jig rhythms. Some pointers:

- remember one jig (e.g. New Rigged Ship) and one reel (e.g. The White Cockade)
- don't try to bring in jig music while counting “hop step together step - replace “together” by “close”
- when counting slowly it is more natural and therefore easier to count in reel time

To bring the music in, either ask the musician to come in on his own initiative, or give “ready, and.” Be careful that the music starts for the step with the right foot, especially if you are “mirror teaching.”

[to be continued next issue]

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS - local & afar

February

28 *** Montpelier Class Party p 4

March

7-8 * New Haven Annual Ball Weekend

14th Montreal Br. A&P Dance Party p 12

20 *** Challenge Class w. Cecily Selling, p 6

21 *** Scholarship Benefit Dance p 13

28 *** Salem Class annual Dance Party

April

11th Montreal Br. Annual Spring Tea Dance p 12

17-19 *** Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, p 3 & 16

18-19 Ottawa Br Annual Ball weekend p 12

24-26 ** New England Folk Festival, Mansfield, MA (inc. Demo team presentation)

May

2nd *** R & S Fairlee VT Spring Fling, p 4

15th *** Boston Br. Challenge Class with Howard Lasnik Teaching p 6

15-17 New York Br. annual Pawling Weekend, p 12

23rd *** Belfast Class ME annual Memorial Day Dance Party & weekend p 5

June

6th ** White Mountain SCD Spring Frolic

6th *** Northampton Class Potluck & Dance p 4

13th *** Kennebunkport Class DownEast Fling

SAVE THE DATES

July:

6-10 *** English-Scottish-Contra see p 5

10-18 *** Scottish Pinewoods Sessions p 7

Aug. 22-28 Wolfville NS SCD Workshop week. p 12

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.....!

News From Stow, MA class.

The good news is that Gregor Trinkaus-Randall has again been able to secure cultural Council Funding to support live music. The dates are Feb 27, Mar 27, April 24, May 22, June 12, Sept 25, Oct 23, Dec 11 & Jan 15. The bad news is that the Stow Town Hall is closed for 30 days as of this week, for necessary repairs caused by the unusual amount of snow that has fallen this past month in the eastern Massachusetts area. This has caused ice dams, etc. etc. As soon as classes can resume, emails will go out to members.

HAVE SHOES.....WILL TRAVEL!

Montreal Branch coming events: A & P Dance Party March 14, at the Kildonian Hall, Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul (see below for directions). Dancing starts at 7:30 pm, cost is \$10 members, \$12 non-members.

Montreal Branch Spring Tea Dance, on Saturday April 11, at the Kildonan Hall Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, 3419 Redpath, Montreal (corner of Sherbrook Street West & Redpath). Dancing starts at 1:30 pm, High Tea at 5:30 pm. Walk-through of harder dances 12:00-1:00 pm.

Montreal English Country Dances in the afternoons of March 15, April 11, May 10 & June 7.

Vancouver Golden Jubilee Ball on March 21 rscdsvancouver.org/home/50th-anniversary

Ottawa Branch Annual Ball weekend April 18-19

NY Branch Pawling weekend May 15-17, location is the Circle Lodge in Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers are Jim Scott (Aberdeen) Marjorie McLaughlin (San Diego), and Fred DeMarse (San Francisco). The exciting music of Scotch Mist with guest artist Calum Pasqua will play for the Saturday evening Ball. Class groupings will be Basic, Social and Technique with a Teachers' Workshop Saturday afternoon with Jim Scott.

Applications and payments must be received by May 4th. Go to rscdsnewyork.org for the application form.

This year's Pawling Weekend is dedicated to the memory of Sheila Wilson.

Wolfville Nova Scotia SCD Workshop Week August 22-28. Info at keppie@eastlink.ca This week in Nova Scotia comprises 5 1/2 days SCD classes Intermediate and Advanced levels, plus half-day excursions into the past 350 million years of beautiful shore line and river localities, plus one-hour massage designed to keep you dancing through the years. Location is the Old Orchard Inn, 153 Greenwich Rd., South Wolfville, Nova Scotia, with Duncan Keppie, dance instructor.

THE SCOTS' CHARITABLE SOCIETY

The Scots' Charitable Society is a charitable organization founded by Scotsmen to come to the aid of Scottish people in need. Founded in 1657, it is the oldest charitable organization in the Western Hemisphere still operating.

On January 6, 1657 twenty-eight "Scottish Men" signed the Laws, Rules and Orders of the Poor Boxes Society in Boston and formed the Scots' Charitable Society. It is likely that the Society was founded in part to assist a specific group of Scots - those captured by Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, and those captured exactly one year later at the Battle of Worcester. Prisoners from both battles were sold as indentured servants to the London Company of Undertakers, a venture capital group in London investing in the first successful iron works in the American colonies. Bound to the iron works at Lynn (now Saugus) in Massachusetts, most of the indentured Scots were required to complete seven years of labor for the company. It seems the indentures began to expire between 1655 and 1657.

Its original charitable work was to relieve the effects of ill-health, those who were destitute, and aid to widows and children when the breadwinner was unable to work. The organization came to the aid of many native Scots away from their homeland as well as Americans of Scottish descent. Today this purpose has changed to the granting of scholarships for undergraduate college education, and in 2014 they gave out 77 such scholarships. Visit the Scots' Charitable website or contact Alan McCall, scholarship Committee chair for scholarship details and how to apply.

A further activity was formed in 2013 when a cultural committee chaired by Jeremy Bell was formed with the mission to preserve all aspects of the Scottish culture, including the music, dance, food, literature and dress. They awarded their first-ever trophy for winners in the Disabled Games competition at Loon Mountain in 2013, and that will continue to be an annual award. Membership is still confined to men, with an active women's group working with the Society. For more information contact Chris Young through contacts at www.scots-charitable.org

[info from the Scots' Charitable 3-fold handout.]



SDCEA Scholarship Dance



7:30 pm, March 21, 2015
First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA
Donation: \$20 (\$15 Students)

MCs: MaryEllen Scannell and Martha Kent

Music : *The Wisp of Thistle* (Jerome Fung, Catherine Miller, and Nora Smith)

Joie de Vivre	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 39
Royal Deeside Railway	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 40
Invercauld's Reel	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 11
The Flight of the Falcon	8 x 32 J	Priddy, Anniversary Tensome
Portnacraig	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 36
The Minister on the Loch	3 x 32 S	Goldring, 24 Social Dances
Craigleith	1 x 88 R (square set)	RSCDS Graded Book 3

Intermission

Roaring Jelly	8 x 32 J	Glendarroch #8
The Westminster Reel	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 45
This is No My Ain Hoose	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 15
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 35
Maxwell's Rant	8 x 32 R	RSCDS Book 18
Dalkeith's Strathspey	8 x 32 S	RSCDS Book 9
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32 J	RSCDS Book 22

All proceeds benefit the RSCDS Boston Branch scholarship funds.

[This article is part of a longer article first published by the RSCDS San Diego Branch and republished in The Rant, of Hunter Valley Branch, Australia]

What makes Scottish Country Dancing Scottish? by Marjorie McLaughlin

TUNES: In 1733 in London, John Walsh published “Caledonian Country Dances.” But the book is called Caledonian because of current popularity of Scottish tunes, not because the dances were distinctly Scottish in their figures. Dances at the time were known by their tunes. The particular figures didn’t make up the dance; the tune gave the dance its name and its character. Scottish tunes were very popular in England in the 1730s and became part of dance publications.

FIGURES: The figures “set and turn corners, reel of three” first appeared in Country dances in Scotland. It began to appear in English publications after 1780! The figure had been adapted from the native Highland Reels, which continued to be danced in the north of Scotland. Around 1800 the Highland Reel itself becomes fashionable in England when Thomas Wilson introduced it to polite society. But the reel of four from the Highland Reel never appears in English Country dancing (the closest figures are “chain for four” and “four changes of circular hey” - more like our modern rights and lefts).

The Reel of four is another distinctive Scottish addition to Country Dancing.

MUSIC TEMPI: Reels, jigs and hornpipes (English, Scottish and Irish) were used for most Country dance tunes during the 17th and 18th centuries. The “Strathspey Reel” appears first in the Menzies manuscript in Scotland in 1749 in the still-popular “The Montgomeries’ Rant.” At that time there was little difference in tempo between strathspeys and reels, but the fiddle form of the music was developing in Scotland during the 18th century. It was adapted musically to Highland Reels on the bagpipe and made its way as a dance step into Country dancing with the development of the fiddle form. Like the “set and turn corners” figure, it is a Scottish contribution to the development of Country dancing. Around 1780 English dance manuals began to talk about strathspey musical tempos, but the strathspey dance form we know today never became part of English Country dancing. This distinctive Scottish Country dance step and musical tempo was adapted from the native Highland Reels.

HIGHLAND REELS: The Reel as a dance made its way to England around 1800 in the publications of Thomas Wilson, but it never gained the same popularity as Country dances. But the Reel as a dance had its influence as part of the Scottish Country dance repertoire. The “Eightsome Reel” was a late 19th-century attempt to save the old Highland Reels.

To which the Editor added the following piece.

THE ATHOLL EIGHTSOME: This dance was devised at Blair Castle by a group of young dancers - the ladies were the four beautiful daughters of the then Earl of Moncrieffe and it was based upon the dancers’ memories of the Highland Reel. The formations were very much the same as we dance today. The publication “Blair Atholl Eightsome Reels” was dedicated to the Atholl Highlanders and arranged by Helen, Lady Forbes.

The cover has the Duke of Atholl’s crest (a demi-savage holding a dirk and a key). Two Atholl Higherlanders in full dress, and the motto ‘Furth Fortune & Fill the Fetters’ arranged around a picture of Blair Castle. Published in Aberdeen by J. Marr, Wood & Co., 180 Union St. Price 2/-. As far as I can discern the publication date was in the 1870s. — *Evelyn Murray*

A review of “A Book of Perth Dances” – by Heinz Duewell

When a new book of dances appears and one opens it, this is equivalent to entering a garden composed of well-arranged beds. Some are well-arranged in familiar patterns, but then one meets with new patterns including ones which at first appear impossible to follow in a dance, and therein lies the challenge. How does one perform the new shapes? Sometimes there appears no solution. Have we reached the limit of our imagination? “*A Book of Perth Dances*” contains some such questions. When I received my copy from friends who are resident in Perth I was delighted. It was the thing I needed at that very moment. A problem with my right leg had made it impossible for me to dance – I had not given up and was looking forward to returning to dancing. Every week I attended classes, and was able to watch. I felt encouraged that sooner or later I would return to that activity and I would have a new book of dances to teach. The dances in the book present a great deal of variety.

“Oakbank’s Tribute to Christian” – this 3-couple 32-bar jig includes half rights and lefts and half reels of 4. The combination of figures flow well which proved very popular with the class.

“The Blooms of Perth” – a 128-bar Strathspey-Reel medley in a square set features Schiehallion Reels, a half double ladies chain and a half double men’s chain, which proves to be an interesting combination.

“Miss Macpherson of Scone” – is a 4-couple 32-bar strathspey in a 4-couple longwise set. It very cleverly combines reels of 4 across the dance, and half hands-across, ending in grand chain. The dance is dedicated to Miss Mary Macpherson, a long time teacher (1946-86) of Scone Country Dance Club.

The “Two Inch Race” devised by Roy Goldring is a 32-bar reel for 5 couples in a 5-couple longwise set. A series of diagrams is a great help in guiding one through the central pattern of the dance - which contains an interesting sequence of 2 bar passes and changes. Though it still leaves you to wonder - what is a “Two-Inch race”?* It certainly is a fun dance.

“The Silver Walk” is a 64-bar square strathspey, exploiting half ladies and half men’s chains in the design of the dance.

“The Vale of Atholl” – a 32-bar jig by Evelyn Murray, was first published in 1986 in the “New Atholl Collection” commemorating the bicentenary of Robert Burns’ Highland Tour in 1787. It has been popular with us for all that time because of its pleasant combination of simple figures.

The Perth Book with its variety will give great pleasure for dancers and it will make them think. We still have to try out some of these dances, and we feel excited at the prospect. Be sure to also read the review of the accompanying CD Music for 12 Perth Dances by Elaine Arthur of the Canberra Branch in the *RSCDS Scottish Country Dancer*, April 2009.

[* I wonder whether the title refers to the fact that the City of Perth can be described as lying along side the banks of the river Tay between the north and south Inches? Refer also to the RSCDS dance published in Book XI no. 4 *Inch of Perth*? I’d be interested if that thought is correct or not. – *The Tartan Times Editor*]

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
The Folk Arts Center
10 Franklin Street
Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
(781) 438-4387

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**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2015 ISSUE IS APRIL 1st.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR
AND TO JEAN FARRINGTON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep**

RSCDS Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend

Welcome Dance

Friday, April 17, 2015 at 8:00pm

MC: Lois Ann New

Music By the Highland Soles Trio (Ed, Neil, and Lilly Pearlman)

Location: First Parish Church in Weston, 349 Boston Post Road Weston, MA,

Cost \$13 (RSCDS members) \$15.00 (non-members)

Program

**Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel, 32J; John McAlpin, 32S; Scott Meikle, 32R; Ellie's Jig, 32J;
Gang the Same Gate, 32S; Mrs. MacLeod, 32R; Pelorus Jack, 32J;
The Lammermuir Hills, 32S; Miss Johnstone of Ardrossen, 32R; Mrs. Stewart's Jig, 32J;
Bob Campbell, 32S; and Falls of Rogie 32R.**

**INFO: Sara and Ed Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net or 508-362-5861
or the Branch website rscdsboston.org**