

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIX, Number 3
May / June 2021



**A publication of the Boston Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**
rscdsboston.org

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Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, Alena Taylor

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Nominating Committee *Chair:* Gary Apfel

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Highland Ball 2022 TBD — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2021 *Co-Chairs:* Kat Dutton, Ellen Scannell-Woods, Laurie Somario
SCDpinewoods2020@gmail.com

Pinewoods ESC 2021 (not decided) *Contact:* April Birnie and Daniel Potter

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2021 MaryEllen Scannell

Joint Ceilidh 2021 (not decided) Robert McOwen (for Highland Dance Boston),
Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree (for the RSCDS Boston Branch)

NH Highlands (not decided) *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Boston Scottish Country Dancers *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

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The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Exec Committee Class Liaisons:

Brookline, Bedford & Newton MA: Linda McJannet

Cambridge MA: Lance Ramshaw

Salem & Stow MA: TBD

Brunswick, Blue Hill & Belfast ME; Burlington & Fairlee VT; Lancaster NH: Karen Gansz

Greenland & Nashua NH; Kennebunk ME: Bill Card

Chelmsford, Salem & Stow MA: Alena Taylor

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

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THE TARTAN TIMES is published electronically six times a year by the Boston Branch as a service to its members. At the time of their annual enrollment, members may elect to receive printed copies by US mail for an additional \$10. Affiliated organizations may subscribe for free by sending their email address.

— Copy due date for the July / August 2021 issue is **June 10th** —

CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR FALL & WINTER EVENTS

(including cancellation / postponement / online / wait-and-see information),
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR

Boston Highland Ball Weekend

2021 Virtual Boston Highland Ball



Although we could not gather in person as we originally planned, RSCDS Boston invites you to join us for an evening of Scottish country dancing and music!

Saturday, May 8, 2021, 7:30 PM, door opens at 7:15

*Music (mostly live) by Katie McNally, Shauncey Ali, Neil Pearlman
and Campbell Webster on pipes*

Registration required at <https://bit.ly/3fMsITr>

*Supported by Scottish Dance and Culture Education Association (SDCEA),
a 501(c)(3) organization.*

Donations accepted at <https://form.jotform.com/201155755575156>

*For more information, including the program and dance instructions, please visit
our website: <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>*

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

From Patti Tillotson

This takes place at their regular time, Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 pm, with their regular teacher, Patti Tillotson. The Zoom invitation is sent out to the class members but the class is open to all. To be included in the distribution, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207-841-3232. ~

Albany, New York Online Class

From Lois New

Dancing via zoom at 7:00 pm on Sundays, taught by Lois New and guest teachers. The class includes warmups, a mini-technique session, and a short program of 6 dances, danced 2-3 times through. Contact Barb Bemis at math.maniac.1@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. Contact Lois New at Loisscd@gmail.com for more information about the class. ~

Great Barrington, Massachusetts Online Class

From Winifred McGowan

The Great Barrington class meets Tuesdays at 11am via Zoom. People should contact Ted Randolph for the Zoom link – his email is tedfr@nnetworx.com. Thank you. ~

“Third Sundays” Presented by the Teaching & Music Committee

From Karen Sollins, TMC Secretary and Online Coordinator

The Teaching & Music Committee of the Boston Branch is hosting a series of online events in the afternoon of the “Third Sunday” of each month. These events feature a variety of topics of interest to Scottish country dancers. Time is generally 3:00-4:00 Eastern Time. All welcome! The Zoom link will be sent out to the membership the night before. Feel free to share this information with friends who may be interested, but please do not post the Zoom meeting information on any websites or social media. Contact: Karen Sollins, sollins@csaill.mit.edu. After the May event, we will be taking a break for the summer, but always welcome more ideas for the fall. Also, thoughts about whether to remain on Zoom even after dancing in-person resumes.

May 16, 3-4 pm EDT (doors open at 2:45): Jen Schoonover will explore the roots of present-day Scottish social dancing, including legacies from Dancing Masters and vernacular practices. Sometimes the dancing masters of historical Scotland get referenced generally, as if they all taught the same things in unified styles. However, varied repertoires and niches were important elements of this profession. In our May Third Sunday workshop, Jen will introduce you to some Scottish dancing masters including Joseph Lowe, Dancie Neill, David Anderson, and Dancie Reid. We will try out some dances they taught, from dances you may never have heard of to popular dances taught differently than today’s standardized versions. ~

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Online Class

This is a weekly class offered every Wednesday at 19:00 Scotland Time (which is 2 pm Boston Time), taught by a variety of teachers from a variety of international locations. The next class will be Wednesday May 5th, with a repeat on Friday March 5th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members (if you’re a member of a Branch, you’re a member of the RSCDS) but anyone is welcome to tune in, so if you don’t get the notification (for example, RSCDS Headquarters might have an out-of-date email for you), find a buddy who will send it to you.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society continues to email the weekly newsletter *Dance Scottish At Home* to all members worldwide each Friday. There are lots of fun features, and information on each upcoming weekly online class, and it’s a great way of connecting with our international family. ~

Dancing Online, cont.

Cambridge Class Online SCD Classes!

From Alex Bowers, on behalf of Cambridge Class Committee

In September 2020, Cambridge Class started a series of Monday-night Zoom classes. We have danced almost every Monday since then and it has been wonderful to share our classes with so many dancers from the Greater Boston area and far beyond. Please join us for a celebration of our community of Scottish Zoom Dancers at our End of Season party on June 28th!

May

- 3 Focus on Form Class led by Andy Taylor-Blenis
- 10 SCD class led by Howard Lasnik
- 17 SCD class led by Howard Lasnik
- 24 Social hour dancing led by Howard Lasnik with live music by Anne Hooper on fiddle
- 31 No class on Memorial Day Monday

June

Charles Liu will be teaching our SCD classes during June with live music by Elizabeth Anderson! And, don't miss our End of Season Party on Monday, June 28 with MC Charles Liu and live music by Elizabeth Anderson and friends.

July

As usual, we will take a break during Pinewoods ESC and Scottish Sessions. Plans for the rest of the summer are still being discussed – stay tuned and look for email announcements! 🍷



Cambridge Class Virtual End of Season Party



**Bring your ice cream sundae!
Join in the fun!**



Monday 28th June, 2021 @ 8 pm

MC: Charles Liu

Live music: Elizabeth Anderson and friends

Dance program and details will be posted on the Boston Branch calendar and sent by email

Questions: cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org

News from the Teaching & Music Committee

Greetings from the Teaching and Music Committee! It has been quite an uncertain time as we awaited (and continue to await) news from the Pinewoods Camp, Inc. board regarding when, how, IF camp would be happening, and we thank you all for bearing with us. Please rest assured that we know you have questions and we will provide you with answers as soon as possible. That said, we have some very optimistic news.

What we know: This year's dates will be July 9-16, with Session I remaining the same and Session II shortened by one day. The teaching and music staff will remain as unchanged as possible, but there will be some domestic, particularly local, talent taking the places of staff who are unable to come to camp this year. We will post a final, exciting roster as soon as we can, and we know this year's staff will not disappoint! Another crucial point of interest is that any and all persons who attend camp (including crew) MUST show proof of vaccination (allowing for the two week post-vaccine time period) in order to attend. There will be no exceptions.



What we don't know: What will afterparties look like? The dining hall? Can we be in the camphouse? The list goes on.

Camp will likely be 100 people, but much is still in flux, and camp must adhere to the state and to Plymouth's ever-changing guidelines. We know some people may not be able to dance in masks, and we will be as lenient there as the rules allow, but anyone who WANTS to dance in masks, gloves, etc will of course be able to. Again, we know you are eager for updates, and we will share information as soon as we have it. If you are a rollover and are not planning to attend camp, or if you are planning to attend camp (rollover or otherwise), please contact the Pinewoods co-chairs as soon as possible.

In other news, NEFFA was a hit thanks to Jen Schoonover's and Charles Liu's workshops as well as Tom Pixton's musical contributions; thank you to those who attended!

Our Third Sundays workshops continue to delight audiences worldwide. Barbara McOwen hosted a lovely discussion of Scottish Country Dance music in April, and this month Jen Schoonover will address the history of different types of Scottish country dances; you will have a chance to dance some of these as well.

Our Highland Ball weekend will once again be virtual this year, but unlike last year, this year's event will be truly participatory. Join us on Friday night for a purely social Zoom evening of catching up with friends and enjoying some fun Boston trivia. Then on Saturday, come listen and dance to mainly live music from our fabulous band. Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman, Shaunacey Ali, and Campbell Webster will surely liven your spirits however you choose to participate.

The end is in sight. – *Respectfully submitted, Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair* ~

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS AND CONCERTS - LOCAL AND AFAR

May

- 1 Kilts & Ghillies Virtual Ball, New Haven Branch
8 *** Boston Branch Virtual Highland Ball, p 3
15 *** Fairlee Spring Fling - cancelled
16 *** TMC Third-Sunday with Jen Schoonover, p 4
28-30 *** Belfast Memorial Weekend - postponed to 2022, p 12

June

- 7 *** Boston Branch Annual General Meeting, p 8
19 *** Downeast Fling at Kennebunk, p 11
28 *** Cambridge Class End-of-Season Party, p 5

July

- 5-9 *** Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra Session - pending
9-16 *** Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 1 & 2, p 6
28-31 TAC Virtual Event, p 12

August

- 21 ** Maine Highland Games, p 11
27-29 *** New Hampshire Highlands - pending, p 7

Save the Date, Just In Case

- September 17-19, 2021: New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, p 11
October 21-24, 2021: Boston States Fiddle Camp
October 23, 2021: Fairlee Autumn Social
October 23, 2021: Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York
October 29-31, 2021: SF Branch Asilomar Weekend
November 4-7, 2021: Fiddle Hell
November 13, 2021: Scottish Ceilidh, p 7

Code Breaker: *** an event sponsored by the Boston Branch, ** other SD events within the Branch area, and * of possible interest (perhaps a concert) within the Branch geographic area. The purpose of this Calendar is not only to provide a listing of current events, but also to note future events. This helps in planning an event to avoid clashes and conflicts. So it would be great if future planners of Branch and Class events would send to Evelyn and Barbara even just the date, name of event and if possible a contact name. When all the pieces are together then it would of course be put on the Branch website. – Ed.



News from the New Hampshire Highlands Committee

from Roberta Lasnik for NHH - rlasnik@verizon.net

Our reservation with St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center (Contoocook, N.H.) is still on for August 27-29, 2021. We had hoped that we could safely run camp in 2021, but we all realize that our plans depend on the virus. We expect to have a decision by May 2021. ~

Scottish Ceilidh

from Robert McOwen

The Boston Branch, Highland Dance Boston, and the Scots' Charitable Society are hoping to hold their Scottish Ceilidh on Saturday, November 13, 2021 with *A Parcel of Rogues* providing the music. Last year, we needed to cancel the event due to the pandemic, and whether we will be able to hold it this coming November is uncertain, but at least we have a date. Stay tuned for confirmation and more details. ~

Notes from the Executive Committee

So, it appears that things are looking up! If you have not already heard, Pinewoods Camp is planning to be open from June 25th through September 7th. Exec and the Pinewoods chairs have been looking at what that will mean for the campers and for dancing. Needless to say, state and local guidelines will need to be followed, and there are some details that still need to be finalized. Keep watching for updates as they become available. Thank you all for your patience and cooperation as we all try to make attending Pinewoods as safe of an experience as possible.

We are nearing the end of the year, and the AGM is just around the corner. Please save the date of June 7th and watch for the agenda and ballots to be coming soon.

That is all for now! Stay safe! – *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary* ~

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There have been no recent changes to the Class Listing, though I believe all in-person Boston Branch classes and events are presently in abeyance, til further notice. See the info on the online classes offered by the Brunswick, Albany, Great Barrington and Cambridge Classes. If you wish to check on the status of a class or class event, feel free to get in touch with the class contact. – *Barbara McOwen* ~

Important Note from the Webmasters

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website. 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* ~



Boston Branch at NEFFA

By Jen Schoonover and Charles Liu

The New England Folk Festival's annual Festival was held virtually on Zoom this year from April 23-25. There were Scottish music and dance offerings each day. Friday evening, singer-songwriter Jim Malcolm sang with his partner Susie as part of a multimedia presentation they hope to tour to the US in 2022. Charles Liu taught a Scottish Country Dancing workshop on Saturday evening geared for beginners, with technical support by John Crabtree and accompanied live by fiddler Elizabeth Anderson. On Sunday afternoon, Jen Schoonover led a session of Cèilidh Dances adapted specifically to the Zoom format. It attracted many dancers, including some families with young kids, who all enjoyed the fun program of music and dancing with a Scottish connection.

This year on Zoom, NEFFA ran 120 dance, music and performance events over nine Zoom rooms. Throughout the weekend, NEFFA also ran a "cafeteria" on Zoom for dancers to gather and catch up, and a help desk Zoom room to help with any Zoom issues. As in normal years, NEFFA relied on a corp of volunteers to make it run smoothly. This year, NEFFA recruited over 70 volunteers from U.S. and Canada to help with the festival. Although there were minor technical glitches, everyone took them in stride and enjoyed the gathering anyway. When Elizabeth lost her internet in Saturday's Scottish Country Dancing workshop, recorded music came through without a hitch until her return. When a band for a contra session on Saturday in California lost internet connection, the caller Lisa Greenleaf read aloud a series of really bad jokes to fill the ten minutes before the band regained internet connection. It was a great display of creativity and technical expertise to keep folk dancing alive during the pandemic. ~

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm, Bedford Senior Center (COA), 12 Mudge Way, Bedford (yellow bldg. behind Town Hall). Register at Senior Center as guest. All levels welcome. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. Contact Flo Hearn or Mary Olszowka, brooklineclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **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:** Year-round, First Fridays 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Beginner & family-friendly. Contact Rebecca Gore, chelmsfordclass@rscdsboston.org or 508-574-1533
 - * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org, Ted 413-698-2944 or Maria 413-344-3023.
 - * **Newton:** Sept to mid-June, Wednesdays 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton (park in the back parking lot). July-Aug at American Legion Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, newtonclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine Street, Florence (nr. Northampton). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407, or text to 413-210-8012.
 - * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays, 8-10 pm, beginners 7:30. The Bridge at 211, 211 Bridge St, Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
 - * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. Footwork/figures: 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, stowclass@rscdsboston.org

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Beginner: Sept-June: Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, Experienced: Year-round, Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact belfastclass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; Gayle Koyanagi, 207-322-7727; Donna Griffith, 207-785-2216
- * **Blue Hill:** Year-round, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm, Halcyon Grange #345, 1157 Pleasant St, Blue Hill. Contact Mike/Dawn Little, 207-702-9294 or 207-469-8747; bluehillclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, kennebunkclass@rscdsboston.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Tuesdays 7:15-9:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, 44 Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050 or Laurie Stevens, 603-501-9488, seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
- Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671
- * **Nashua:** Aug-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- Burlington:** Call to inquire. Contact Connie Kent, burlingtonscd@rscdsboston.org, 802-355-5901
- * **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

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 7:00 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New, 518-852-5274, albanyclass@rscdsboston.org

* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, www.rscdsboston.org.

NOTE: 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/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email classes@rscdsboston.org

Boston-Inspired Fiddle Sessions & Workshops

It seems to be a particularly rich season for virtual fiddle activities originating in the Boston area. Fiddlers might have to pick and choose among these; listeners can always sit in and get some inside information about the music.

- **Virtual Fiddle Workshop, Sunday May 2, 2:00-4:15** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club presents Anne Hooper teaching her latest favorite fiddle tunes. For info or to join the club, go to bsfc.org.
- **Virtual Gathering, Sunday May 9, 1:00-5:00** - Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H. For info - srsnh.org
- **Virtual Session, Saturday May 15, 4:00-5:30** - Raivlin Session, with Barbara & Robert McOwen taking tune requests for a moderate-tempo session. All welcome; contact Barbara for the link.
- **Virtual Workshop, Monday May 17, 2:00-3:30** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club presents Jennifer Wrigley teaching from her native Orkney repertoire. For info or to join the club, go to bsfc.org
- **Virtual Session/Concert, Wednesday May 19, 7:00-9:00** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club presents Katie McNally and Niel Pearlman taking tune requests for an advanced session. All welcome; go to the [bsfc Facebook page](#).
- **Hybrid Slow Session, Wednesday May 21, 7:00-9:00** - Lance Ramshaw will resume the Slow Jam in a combination in-person and virtual setting. All welcome; see ramshaw.info for more information.
- **Virtual Special Event with Workshop & Session, Sunday June 6, 1:00-5:30** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club celebrates its second non-Gala, with Allan Henderson and Barbara McOwen teaching their own compositions, then fun stuff including a recipe share, finishing with a moderate session.
- **Virtual Session, Saturday June 12, 3:00-4:30** - Remote Raivlin Session, with Barbara & Robert McOwen taking tune requests for a moderate-tempo session. All welcome; contact Barbara for the link.
- **Virtual Gathering, Sunday June 13, 1:00-5:00** - Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H. For info - srsnh.org
- **Virtual Session/Concert, Wednesday June 16, 7:00-9:00** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club presents Katie McNally and Niel Pearlman taking tune requests for an advanced session. All welcome; go to the [bsfc Facebook page](#).
- **Virtual Workshop, Monday June 21, 2:00-3:30** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club presents Gregor Borland teaching his Northeast and Highland specialties. For info or to join the club, go to bsfc.org



Gregor Borland plays for the New Hampshire Highlands, with Howard Lasnik, Robert McOwen and Ken Allen, August 2008

The Fiddle

by Robert (Secky) Stewart
[a fine friend of Aonghas Grant]

There's nothing like a Highland fling
Horsehair and a ringing string
Plenty rosin on the bow
A dram or two and off we go.

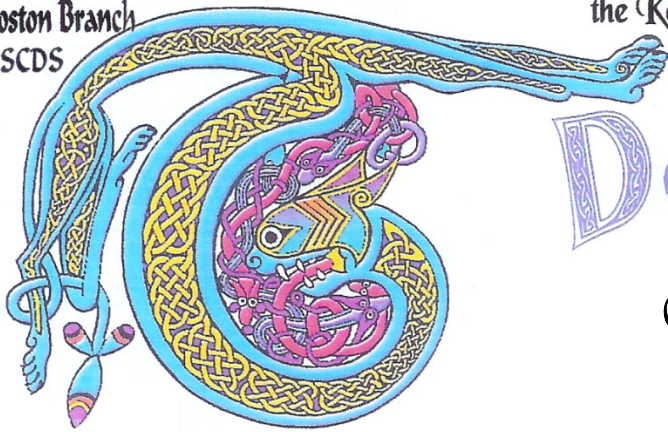
A Gaelic air or lullaby
Then a sprightly march tae try
To get you in the mood tae play
A dancin jig, another lay.

So draw the bow across the strings
And mak the very rafters ring
Vibrating strings across the middle
There's nothing like the aul scatch fiddle.

Its voice as fine as any human
Baritone, tae soprano woman.
And yet the body has no lung
But finest o' the tunes are sung.

Its widden body ultra slim
Fitted with a soonin pin
Gifted fae a power abeen us
The art, the craft, the music, genius.

Boston Branch
RSCDS



the Kennebunkport Scottish Country Dancers

welcome You to Our:

Downeast Fling

Saturday, June 19, 2021,

7:30 p.m.

*Brought to you by the wonders of modern
technology, stay tuned for details*



*Music by: Elizabeth Anderson and Anne Hooper, fiddle,
and Terry Traub, keyboard*



. For more information please contact Merrill 207-409-9050 or crone4702@gmail.com or consult the web site calendar listing



Maine Highland Games

The St Andrews Society of Maine has announced the return of the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival to Thomas Point Beach for the 2021 games. We are looking forward to the return to this venue. Put August 21 on your calendar. ~



New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain

NHSCOT is thrilled to announce that the 46th NH Highland Games & Festival is a go for September 17-19, 2021. While the event will be different from past years, Festival attendees will find many of their favorite aspects of the Games: hearing the pipes play, seeing athletic feats of strength and endurance, enjoying fantastic Celtic musical acts, sheep dogs, trying their hand at curling or sipping some whisky. Our friends at Clan Village and some of our fantastic vendors and so much more - will be there! This year, attendance must be capped at 4,000 people per day and will include onsite parking only for all ticket holders. All attendees must purchase a ticket in advance. No tickets will be sold onsite.

We have planned this event with current COVID limitations in mind as we cannot plan for what September might bring. We will offer an event focused on outdoor activities to ensure the safest conditions for all attendees, volunteers and staff. All current CDC guidelines, and Loon Mountain policies, at the time of the event will be adhered to and strictly enforced.

Tickets will go on sale in June. Stay tuned - nhscot.org - for more details. ~

For fun and friendship please join us at
TAC virtual summer school

July 28-31, 2021

Interactive events, musical interludes,
classes, ceilidh, auction and more with
grand ball to finish.

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions
for dancers of all levels



For registration information please check

tac-rscds.org

Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association
(Canada)

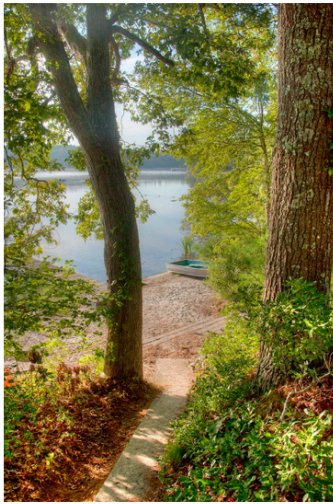
Belfast Memorial Day Weekend

POSTPONED to 2022

Party Information: Gayle Koyanagi 207-322-7727, gkoyanagi20@gmail.com

Hospitality: Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139, zephyrhill@fairpoint.net

Pinewoods



Dear Pinewoods Camp family,

Pinewoods is happy to announce that we are preparing to open this summer. Our camp season will begin on Friday, June 25, and conclude on Tuesday, September 7. We have negotiated an abbreviated summer schedule with our Program Providers. Please check with Program Providers about their dates and what programming they will offer given the uncertainty of changing regulations. Our PCI crew is hired; they all will be fully vaccinated by the time they come to camp.

The health and safety of Pinewoods staff and crew, campers, and the residents of the Six Ponds community are a primary concern. PCI will require that all campers and program staff be vaccinated. PCI's operation of Camp and the camp sessions run by the Program Providers will comply with the requirements of public health orders

issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Plymouth Board of Health. These mandatory safety standards will, of course, apply to program activities and PCI accommodations. The guidelines are subject to change; PCI will be monitoring the national, state, and local guidelines and health conditions closely. We have asked that our Program Providers do the same prior to the start of their respective sessions.

We are excited to safely welcome people back to Camp this summer, and appreciate everyone's patience and support as we work out the details!

Sincerely,
The PCI Board

Photo by David Cornelius

[Image description: The path from Ampleforth down to the Long Pond dock. The trees and leaves are brightly lit with sun, and there is an aluminum rowboat resting on the shore. The water on the pond is still.]



My Romance with Scottish Country Dance and Music – Part 1

By Sylvia Miskoe

I have always loved to dance. As a child I would dance while my mother played our piano. When I attended the University of New Hampshire in 1952 I joined the folk dance club. We did International, square dances, occasional contra. One summer my Mother enrolled in a one week course taught by Ralph Page and Gene Gowing. It included English Country and Morris dances as well as American contras and squares. The music was supplied by Beth Tolman who played the piano. I had been taking piano lessons and when I heard Beth and I made up my mind to be like her.

The Morris dances were lots of fun but I was disappointed that they were for men only. We could learn them in class but could not perform them in public. How things have changed!

Back at UNH, I was invited to join the N.H. Scottish Dance Group which danced in Exeter under the direction of Jean and Arthur Tufts. We danced to recordings, mostly Sir Jimmy Shand and later Stan Hamilton. Their music was exciting – going down the middle and up felt like flying. The figures were different from other dances. One evening we spent the better part of the class perfecting the first 16 bars of Deil Amang the Tailors.

The Tufts drove to Boston every Monday evening to dance with the Boston Branch. The Branch met at Sargent School, a part of Boston University. Jeannie Carmichael was the teacher. Very strict.

Marianne Taylor was the pianist for the class and records were used for the advanced group who danced after intermission. I had to watch this class and wondered if I would ever be good enough to be invited to join them. The New England Folk Festival was held in Worcester in 1956 and I sat in the bleachers as the Scots marched for their demonstration. To me, it seemed like a never ending procession and I made up my mind that the following year I would be dancing with them.

The RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society) published little volumes of 12 dances every year. Music was included with the dance directions.

I began learning the tunes and volunteered to play for some classes. My offers were met with silence. The prevailing opinion was that unless you were a born Scot, you couldn't play the music. I know now that is incorrect but one must spend a lot of time listening, practicing and dancing to learn the unwritten nuances of a tune. Strathspeys are only found in Scottish collections and while you may be an experienced player of jigs and reels you will need a good Scottish musician to teach strathspeys.

In the early 70's more and more musicians were coming into the music scene. They were good players playing both by ear and sight. I kept hearing complaints from the Scottish dancers about the awful musicians and threats to resign from the Branch unless something was done about them. Finally I and several others convinced the Branch to hire a well known Scottish band leader, Angus Mackinnon, to give a weekend workshop on how to play for dancing. He told the drummer to think of frozen peas dropping into the frying pan. He talked about creating sets. He said that when recording a dance, the band would play the last 8 bars with an ending chord. Then the sound engineer would erase those first 8 bars of music and the chord would be a perfect beginning chord. The workshop was very successful. There were several players from out of town, including Barbara McOwen from the San Francisco Branch. Cal Howard, Allan Chertok, Ralph Jones and I formed a band, eventually named The White Cockade. Vince O'Donnell joined us the second year. We were the first and, for some time, the only Scottish Country Dance Band on the East Coast.

Sylvia, Cal Howard and Vince O'Donnell

The White Cockade played for parties and dances in the Boston area for years. While we were novices in the beginning, we learned how to create good arrangements. When the N.H. Highland Games was formed we were the 'house band' for many years. I have fond memories of different situations that we dealt with. Here are a few:

I got a call from Alan Smith. He hoped that I would be willing to come to Concord, Mass. for an afternoon workshop taught by a teacher from Scotland. I don't remember the teacher's name but she taught regularly at St Andrews. She had always worked with a pianist and when she learned that the Branch was planning on using recorded music she firmly said she needed a pianist. Marianne Taylor was unavailable and Alan asked me if I could be the accordionist for the day. It was a successful day.

Miss Milligan examined the teacher candidates and I played for her. I learned a lot sitting and listening as she put them through their paces and decided that I could teach as well as they could. The next time the Candidate Class was held, 1985, I took the course. Evelyn Murray was our tutor. We met monthly. As the exam date neared, Evelyn said, "I've taught you everything you need to know about teaching. Now I'm going to tell you how to pass the exam."

It was a tense day but I think everyone in the class passed the exam. When Miss Milligan was the adjudicator the table setting included a small bouquet on a white cloth. Miss Milligan often made comments about the candidate, i.e. "That kilt hangs very nicely on him." At the end of the test each candidate had a private session with the adjudicator. I don't remember the name of my examiner but I do remember being astounded at all the things she had noticed. My heart sank lower and lower as she picked me apart. Then she smiled, patted my knee and said, "You are going to teach a lot." I knew then that I'd passed the exam. Two years later I passed the Full Certificate exam.

The Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire.

Barbara McOwen phoned with a great idea. She said that New Hampshire needed an outlet for musicians playing Scottish music so they did not have to drive to the Boston Fiddle Club. Would I help her set it up. She was also enlisting help from Marianne Taylor, Lezlie Webster, Viveka Fox and Evelyn Murray. The six of us got together and decided on a site, someone to manage money, a name and a mailing list for getting the word out. That's the beginning, 1988.

Today the SRSNH is an active organization, sponsoring workshops, and playing for concerts.

I have made 4 trips to Scotland. The first was a Strathspey and Reel concert tour. There were 39 of us! Marianne Taylor was the organiser and planner. For 10 days we traveled by bus and met similar Scottish groups, usually they played with us. Our first day was traumatic. We flew at night and were supposed to be housed in private homes after a supper at the local hotel.. Communications were scrambled and neither the hotel where we were having dinner nor the hosts for the night knew much about the 39 guests. Fortunately Barbara, Marianne and our coach driver sorted out the arrangements and we had a nice dinner and comfortable beds.



Sylvia dancing The Blooms of Bon Accord with John Drewry, Aberdeen, 1996; also with Marianne Taylor, Howard Lasnik and Barbara Thompson

After the last concert our driver told us how proud he had been, watching us play. “Your bows did not always move in synchrony but you played with great joy.”

Sylvia, to be continued, next issue



Note from the Editor – Some organisations are worrying about the lack of archives as so much of business is handled through the Internet and email. This should be of concern to all societies, including the Boston Branch. I left behind my collection which included such items as the first Tartan Times, information on early Pinewoods, demonstrations, etc., and tons of photos, with Nick Browse and Jean Farrington. To many this subject is not of concern; however, it is the history of our society and the people who were/are involved. That was what drove me to ask Sylvia to write about her memories. Would more people follow her lead? I hope so. — Evelyn Murray

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People News

From Robert McOwen — I'm participating in a six-hour online course run by the RSCDS to become a Trainer for the new Core Training for Instructors (CTI) program. The CTI program is designed for individuals who would like to teach social/general classes of Scottish country dancing, but who do not wish to go through the more rigorous Teacher Training courses that are run by the RSCDS. More information about the CTI program will be forthcoming. ~

From Evelyn Murray — I have had my two jabs (or jags which is the Scottish version) and slowly life is coming back in Britain. The government wants to take it in steps but people are beginning to get impatient. However, a third wave we do not want.

I have foxes in my small garden, three cubs which apparently are being left during the day, presumably while the vixen is off hunting. It is quite amusing watching them play. ~