

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIX, Number 4
July / August 2021*



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

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee

President: Jeremy Thorpe — president@rscdsboston.org

Vice President: Marsha Byrnes

Secretary: Susan Haines — secretary@rscdsboston.org

Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree — treasurer@rscdsboston.org

Members at Large: Bill Card, David Grubb, Linda McJannet,
Lance Ramshaw, Ted Randolph, Alena Taylor

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Ilene Goldstein

Membership & Directory Peter & Mary Olszowka — membership@rscdsboston.org

Highland Ball 2022 Marsha Byrnes & Elizabeth Anderson — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2021 MaryEllen Scannell

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

Pinewoods ESC 2021 *Contact:* April Birnie & Daniel Potter

Scottish Ceilidh 2021 Robert McOwen & Jen Schoonover (for Highland Dance Boston),
Linda McJannet & Cathy Crabtree (for the RSCDS Boston Branch)

NH Highlands (2021 cancelled) *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

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

TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

Equipment Thomas Howe – equipment@rscdsboston.org

Bookstore Laurie Somario • **Archives** Jeffrey Hopper

Mailing List & Database John Crabtree • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

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

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: TBD

Greenland & Nashua NH; Kennebunk ME: Bill Card

Chelmsford, Salem & Stow MA: Alena Taylor

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: TBD

The Tartan Times — tartantimes@rscdsboston.org

Editor Evelyn Murray • *Assistant Editor* Barbara McOwen • *Circulation* John Crabtree

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 September / October 2021 issue is **August 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

Pinewoods English - Scottish - Contra Sessions

ESCape is the place to be! We bring you the best of English Country, Scottish Country, and Contra dancing—and much more. Come enjoy your favorite traditions while perhaps sampling something new in a fun and friendly session. English, Scottish, and Contra dancing at ESCape will be taught and called using gender-free terminology.

July 5-9, 2021, ESCape returns with an exciting lineup of dance, music, and other fun! This year's staff includes: Dance

Teachers: Jenny Beer, Marc Hartstein, Maia McCormick, Nancy Barbour; Musicians: Peter Macfarlane, Adam Oleksa, Kristen Planeaux, Dan Emery, Lydia Ievins, Beth Murray, Terry Traub, and more!

For info and registration, go to rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-esc.html ➤



Pre-Ball Sherry Hour in the forest, 2008



Dance Party in C#, 2016

dancing beneath the tall pines. You'll enjoy dance and music classes during the day and a dance party every night, plus after-parties, auctions, ceilidhs (known to the outside world as talent shows), and more! We still have a few camper spots left in Session 1 and several in session 2 !

For info and registration, go to rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html ➤

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions

From Co-Chair Laurie Somario

Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods 2021: *Lost and Found* will be held July 9-16 (9-12 Session 1, 12-16 Session 2). Our teaching staff includes Ellen Ternes (Both sessions), Jennifer Schoonover (Both Sessions), Robert McOwen (Session 1), and Katherine Giacoletti (Session 2). Our Music Staff, led by Elke Baker, will include Andrew Imbrie, Tim Macdonald, Kate Barnes, Marielle Webster, Scott Weaver, Daniel Emery and Larry Unger.

Join us in the woods of Plymouth, Massachusetts for Scottish

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

From Patti Tillotson

We finished online class the first of June. We then did 2 weeks of in-person dancing before our usual summer break. We will start up in-person again the first Thursday in September. For any updates, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207-841-3232. ~

Albany, New York Online Class

From Lois New

Sunday night “Albany” class will continue all summer as hybrid. Fully-vaccinated dancers have been gathering at my house but we continue the zoom link with the wonderful team of teachers from the Boston Branch and others. I could not have continued without this generous team! I hope that our hybrid approach continues all fall as well. We have done such interesting dances. And had so much fun together. Contact me at Loisscd@gmail.com for more information about the class. ~

Great Barrington, Massachusetts Online Class

from Ted Rancolph

The Great Barrington class plans to meet via ZOOM over the summer at the current time. I’m out of town much of July, however, so we may only meet once (7/20). We haven’t had a lot of drop-ins, so I’m not too worried, but dancers can contact me at 413-822-0539 (mobile) or tedfr4@gmail.com ~

“Third Sundays” Presented by the Teaching & Music Committee

From Karen Sollins, TMC Secretary and Online Coordinator

Third Sundays is on summer break, but the videos are all available online in the Movie Gallery of the branch website. We would love to hear your thoughts on two questions. First, would you like to see these sorts of events continue in the fall, even if we are dancing in person (although that is not yet fully known)? Second, do you have thoughts, questions, or topics that we might include, if we continue? Please contact me, Karen Sollins, about these at thirdsundays@sollins.schlepp.org ~

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Online Class

After 16 months of newsletters, podcasts and classes, *Dance Scottish At Home* is going to be taking a Summer holiday – so there will be a break after our next issue on Friday 16th July. The classes will also be taking a break, and after the class on Wednesday 14th July there will be a special additional zoom session where dancers can put faces to the names they have been chat messaging with for over 60 classes. This will take the form of a meeting with breakout rooms, so that you can chat in small groups, in person, with dancers around the globe through the wonders of technology. Watch out for some new links in the RSCDS Class Mailings. ~

Virtual RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, 2021

Whilst our traditional Summer School event in St Andrews is not going ahead this year, we hope to bring a little of that magic direct to you via the internet!

From 8pm – 9.30pm (UK time) on Monday 19th July, Wednesday 21st July and Friday 23rd July you can expect a taste of the RSCDS Summer School atmosphere with a varied mixture of fantastic classes, dances, music and interviews.

Enjoy from a cosy sofa or dance around the living room!

Remember to check the RSCDS website - rscds.org/events/virtual-summer-school-2021 - for registration and updates over the next few weeks. ~

More Class News

Cambridge Class Online SCD Classes!

from Alex Bowers, on behalf of Cambridge Class Committee

Thanks to everybody who completed the Cambridge Class survey about preferences for dancing in the late summer. We received 62 responses!

Zoom dancing has kept our class alive during the pandemic and we have been delighted to welcome many new friends from remote locations each week. Since September 2020, we've offered a "Focus on Form" class at the start of each month, more traditional Scottish Country Dance classes on the second and third Mondays, and social hour dancing on the last Monday. We've enjoyed great teaching with wonderful recorded music (which we don't often get to hear) as well as awesome live music from Boston-area musicians.

Zoom dancing has been great, but we are now at a point where the majority of class members would like to transition back to in-person dancing. The survey responses showed a clear preference for outdoor dancing over Zoom classes.

After our End-of-Season Party on Monday 28th June, we will take a break and plan to start dancing again in late July or early August. We will start with outdoor dancing and hope to transition to indoor dancing in September. Our plan is to experiment with streaming the indoor classes over Zoom so that people who are not able to dance in-person will still be able to participate. We will require all in-person participants to be fully vaccinated.

Thank you all for your continuing support of Cambridge Class and we look forward to dancing in-person again soon. Please stay tuned for more details!

The Cambridge Class Committee: Lucinda Brandt, Alex Bowers, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Chris Gallagher, Alex Hall, Lance Ramshaw, Judy Reynolds Shaw, and Jen Schoonover ~

Bedford & Newton Classes Re-Opening

by Heather Day

We will be trying out dancing in the parking lot of the Bedford senior center, under a large canopy, starting next week. I had planned to start this week but canceled it because of the heat advisory and the fact that we are mostly older adults. The class is free, and will run from 10.30-11.30 am on Tuesdays.

I am not yet comfortable with the idea of indoor dancing although all attendees will be vaccinated, so we will not be dancing in Newton this summer. However, I am still hopeful that there may be dancing in Newton starting in the Fall. I will keep you posted. ~

News from the Canadian American Club

from Gordon Aucoin, Vice President

The Canadian American Club (the home of the Cambridge Class) is officially reopening starting with its weekly Friday open mic Ceilidh night on July 2nd, 8:30 to 11:30 pm. Live music, open bar and food will all be featured. Come celebrate Canada Day a day late. All ages, listeners & musicians, welcome. The Friday Night Ceilidh will be continuing through the summer.

The Gaelic Club and the Quebecois session will be starting again in September. Stay tuned for announcements of further openings and events. The website is canadianamericanclub.com ~



The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
15th Annual Autumn Social

TERRY TRAUB AND FRIENDS

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

*Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),
Students/Under 18 - \$5.00*

*For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact
Gary Apfel – (802) 439-3459 or GaryApfel@gmail.com*

Dance instructions will soon also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/event-calendar.html>

The Brunswick, Maine Dance Class Invites You To Join Us For Our
Annual Fall Dance Party

Saturday Evening, October 16, 2021

5:45 - 6:45 pm — Potluck Supper

7:00-10:00 pm — Dance Program

MUSIC BY: ED and NEIL PEARLMAN on fiddle and piano

*Topsham Grange Hall
47 Pleasant St, Topsham, Maine*

*Info: Patti Tillotson • ptillotson@gmail.com • 207-841-3232
Watch the Branch website for the dance program*

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

July

2	*	Canadian American Club Friday Night Ceilidh and Re-Opening Party, p 5
5-9	***	Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra Session, p 3
9-16	***	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 1 & 2, p 3
19,21,23	**	Virtual St. Andrews Summer School, p 4
28-31	**	TAC Virtual Summer School, p 12

August

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

September

17-19	**	New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, p 16
24-26		Scottish Weekend, Maryland, p 12
30	***	Boston Branch membership year ends, p 8, 13

October

1	***	Boston Branch new membership year, p 8, 13
16	***	Brunswick Annual Fall Dance Party, Maine, p 6
21-24	*	Boston States Fiddle Camp, Massachusetts, p 10
23	***	Fairlee Autumn Social, Vermont, p 6
23		Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York, p 12
29-31		SF Branch Asilomar Weekend, California, p 12

Save the Date, Just In Case

November 4-7, 2021: Fiddle Hell Online, p 10

November 20, 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 Loren Wright for the N.H. Highlands Committee

The NH Highlands Committee has decided not to hold the weekend event scheduled for August 27-29. I know many of you will be disappointed. Because all dance parties and classes are held inside we felt that the conditions would not be safe enough. Also, the event would have been scaled back because the camp could provide us only two dance venues this year. We hope to hold the event next year — August 26-28, 2022 — and to see many of you then. ☞

News from the Scottish Ceilidh Committee

from Robert McOwen

Save the Date! — The Scottish Ceilidh hosted by the Boston Branch, Highland Dance Boston, and the Scots' Charitable Society that was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic is back! It is being planned for Saturday, November 20, 2021 (not November 13 as previously announced) at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury. Watch for more details in the September issue of the Tartan Times. ☞

Notes from the Executive Committee

Welcome to summer! The AGM is behind us, and Pinewoods is happening very soon! Yes, things are starting to look more “normal.”

The Executive Committee is ready to start a new year. We would like to thank Karen Gansz and Winifred McGowan for their service on the Committee. It was a pleasure to work with you. As we say “good-bye” to Karen and Winifred, we would like to welcome new Committee members David Grubb and Ted Randolph. We look forward to getting to know you!

One project that was completed just before the AGM was the writing and approval of a non-discrimination policy. It will be posted very soon on the Branch website.

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, which has one change (Bedford class). For late-breaking news on summer activities by the classes, get in touch with each class contact, or check the Branch website.

Note to class contacts: please check over your info in the Class Listing and let the Keeper know of any changes. And, if there’s anything you’d like to say about fall activities (re-starting; in-person; special events etc), the Assistant Editor would be happy to print your info in the Tartan Times. – *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* ~

Membership Renewals

The new Membership Form is just now available – see page 13, and the website, or collect it at Pinewoods. The Boston Branch membership year runs from October 1st through September 30th. The deadline seems like a long way away, but if you renew in the summer time, you won’t have to worry about it when things pick up in the fall. It’s easy to slip off the membership list when you’re not looking, and your membership helps support the Scottish country dance community here in the northeast and beyond. You can contact Peter and Mary Olszowka, the Membership Chairs, any time, at membership@rscdsboston.org ~

Report from the Teaching and Music Committee

TMC has been excitedly busy as we complete final tasks before Pinewoods Scottish Sessions! We know, however, that the final Pinecones party will be here before we know it, and we are also starting to think about Pinewoods 2022. Mark the dates on your calendar: Friday, July 8th through Saturday, July 16th. We are thrilled to announce Tom Pixton as next year’s Music Director, and he is already hard at work putting together a stellar band with some highly accomplished and phenomenally fun favorites from across The Pond and across the country eagerly signed on. 2022 co-chairs Debbie Jarvis and Cat Scannell are ready to plan a session not to missed.

In other news, we are also looking forward to what we expect to be a normal (in the best possible sense) May Highland Ball and hope to announce a band in the coming months! Watch for updates regarding fall events as we continue to gather information and plan accordingly.

Remember to be kind to your body and soul as you ease back into in-person dancing, and allow others the same grace as we re-establish our community. TMC thanks you for your continued understanding and support as we work together to provide a safe and welcoming dance and social experience! — *With warmest regards, Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair* ~

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Year-round 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 Lavalley-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:** Year-round, 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, pandemics 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

Some Summer Scottish Music Camps

Heart of Valley of the Moon - August 27 - September 1, 2021, online, alasdairfraser.com

Swannanoa Gathering Celtic Week - July 11-17, 2021, North Carolina, hopefully in-person, swangathering.com

Jink & Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling, July 26 - August 6, 2021, online, fiddletree-music.com

Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp - August 1-15, 2021, Colorado in-person, rmfiddle.com

Gaelic College - 8 weeks starting July 5, 2021, online - Music, Dance, and Language Short Courses,
gaeliccollege.edu/session/seasonal-series

Boston States Fiddle Camp - postponed to an in-person camp weekend in Massachusetts, October 21-24, 2021,
bostonstatesfiddle.com 🏹

Fiddle Hell News

from Dave Reiner

We have greatly enjoyed hosting two online Fiddle Hells, and have welcomed attendees and instructors new and old. Online, the front row seats, comforts of home, and replays are a big plus, as well as the Whova platform that makes it feel that we're a community again. But many of us miss the in-person experience of Fiddle Hell - jamming and trading tunes, catching up with friends, and being right there with the instructors.

It's great that the world is starting to emerge now from many of the restrictions from the pandemic, although not uniformly. In 2021, we are not yet ready to host a 4-day, in-person event indoors at a hotel, given the logistics and evolving safety protocols.

In 2022 and following years, we plan to do just what many of you have been asking about, which is to run one Fiddle Hell Online in April and one Fiddle Hell In-Person in November in Westford, MA. Some of you may prefer one or the other, and some may like both.

Here's the schedule:

November 4-7, 2021 Fiddle Hell Online, with FOUR months of session replays

April 7-10, 2022 Fiddle Hell Online, with FOUR months of session replays

November 3-6, 2022 Fiddle Hell in Westford, MA

Go to the Fiddle Hell website for lots of info: fiddlehell.org 🏹



Flowers of the Forest

from Patti Tillotson

It is with sadness to let you know that MaryAnn Kotros passed away the morning of June 9 from cancer. She loved Scottish Country Dancing and was a member of the Brunswick and Kennebunk classes. She also participated in several Branch Workshops and attended some International Branch Workshops.

Here is link to Mary Ann's obituary: dcpatememorials.com/1760/Mary-Ann-Kotros-Memorial 🏹

Flowers of the Forest

by Duncan Smith

Julie Smith passed away peacefully on June 4 at her home in Newton. She was one of the earliest members of the Boston Branch, joining in the early 1950s. An enthusiastic dancer, and longtime RSCDS teacher, Julie treasured her connections with the SCD community in Boston and around the world. She had a close connection with RSCDS co-founder Miss Milligan, who regularly stayed at Julie's house on her trips to the Boston area.

Pinewoods was a very special place for Julie, and she attended every year without fail until into her early 90s, enjoying staying either at Grenoside or in the Square so she could be close to the action at C#. She was also a longtime English County and New England contra and square dancer, and as a recorder player and singer attended Chamber Music week in the 1960s and 70s. As the years went on, age was no barrier – a party in celebration of her 90th birthday in 2015 included dancing and shape note singing, and she made sure she did every dance and joined every chorus. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the “next generations” of dancers including her son Duncan, former Branch president, teacher, and musician, and beyond. One of her prized memories, and photos, was of her dancing Petronella one set below the Queen at a Ball in Edinburgh. The photo shows the lead up the middle, Julie valiantly trying to keep her overenthusiastic partner's hand from in front of her face so that both she and the Queen are visible!

Off the dance floor Julie was a longtime performer in and volunteer for the Revels organization, appearing in several Christmas and Spring productions, and was a regular shape note singer, performing with local groups until age 94. She was an ongoing subscriber to the Boston Symphony, the Boston Early Music Festival, and enjoyed theater and opera whenever she could. An enthusiastic world traveler, she gave frequent talks and slide shows about her travels in Europe, Africa, and Asia. She counted meeting the Dalai Lama in India among her most treasured memories. She was a member of Christ Church in Harvard Square for more than 60 years and was part of the bell ringers there. She also obtained qualifications in several aspects of nutrition and alternative medicine.

Julie was greatly admired for her energy, enthusiasm, and zest for life and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. A memorial service will take place at a later date. ~



Julie at age 90, Pinewoods



Duncan & Julie, Boston Ball, 2000

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)



Have Shoes Will Travel

• Scottish Weekend, September 24-26, 2021, at Camp Louise in Maryland. Scottish Weekend is ON for 2021! After much thoughtful deliberation and careful review of our survey results, we are delighted to announce that Scottish Weekend 2021 IS ON, again at beautiful Camp Louise in Cascade, MD! We welcome as our teachers this year Robert McOwen (Boston, MA) and Yvonne Yang (Annandale, Virginia), plus additional staff teachers. Scottish Weekend is known for its splendid musicians, and this year will be no exception! Details to come in the weeks ahead. For info & registration: scottishweekend.org

• Jeannie Carmichael Ball, Saturday October 23, 2021, at the historic Poppenhusen Institute in College Point, Queens, NY. At this time, the Branch is planning a magnificent in-person Ball, with music by Tullochgorum. Info: rscdsnewyork.org

• San Francisco Branch Scottish Dance Weekend at Asilomar, October 29-31, 2021 at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove (120 miles south of San Francisco), California. The band for the Ball is Reel of Seven. The organizers are planning a traditional in-person event; if the Conference Grounds or the SF Branch are unable to hold the event, applicants will receive a full refund. Info: rscds-sf.org 🏹

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

Branch Class eligibility and the membership directory are based on applications received by Nov. 8, 2021

Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)

Name(s) (1) _____ (2) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Primary Phone _____

Secondary Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Pronouns (optional) _____

Age Under 25 RSCDS Teacher Age Under 25 RSCDS Teacher

Communications Preference (please check one): (If none checked, you will receive electronic only.)

- ___ All Branch mailings, including the Tartan Times, in electronic form
- ___ Branch mailings in electronic form, but the Tartan Times in hard copy (\$10/year)
- ___ All Branch mailings in hard copy form (\$10/year)

Membership Type (please check one): (Couple memberships must have a single mailing address.)

- | <u>Regular</u> | <u>Sustaining</u> | <u>Benefactor</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| ___ \$92 Couple | ___ \$125 Couple | ___ \$170 Couple |
| ___ \$55 Single | ___ \$75 Single | ___ \$100 Single |
| ___ \$35 Single - Student / Limited Income | | |
| ___ \$25 Youth (17 & under) | | |
| ___ \$20 <u>Associate</u> (only for members of other Branches). Primary Branch: _____ | | |

Please list Boston Branch Class(es) you attend **“regularly”** : _____
(used to determine class eligibility for branch funds)

Check if you would like to volunteer for any of the events listed below:

- ___ Boston Highland Ball ___ Annual Concert ___ Pinewoods Benefit Ball
___ ESC @ Pinewoods ___ Pinewoods Scottish Sessions ___ New Hampshire Highlands

Make your checks payable (in US funds) to the “RSCDS Boston Branch” and mail to:

Peter and Mary Olszowka / Membership
15 Sartwell Ave
Somerville MA 02144

Email questions to: membership@rscdsboston.org

My Romance with Scottish Country Dance and Music – Part 2

Continued from Previous Issue

by Sylvia Miskoe

My second trip [to Scotland] was to the Summer Music School at Stirling University. My luggage was delayed. Jessie Stuart, a staff dance teacher, came to the rescue and found clothes for me. She taught the Country Dance class and invited me to join since I had a free day. I decided to make a trial run to the airport for my return home as I could not afford any mistakes. At the Stirling railroad station, I bought my ticket and asked about the train to Edinburgh. “Go up the stairs, there’s one coming in now.” I hopped on the next train. As we neared our destination, I noticed the signs were different and many were in Gaelic. “Well, I thought, it might be the inbound station.” When I saw a ‘hop-on’ bus I boarded it and asked the driver, “Where am I?” “Glasgow, Dear,” was the reply. I explained I was a tourist planning to spend the day in Edinburgh. He laughed and said Glasgow was a fine city and I would enjoy its sights. I did and got to see the Charles Rennie Mackintosh house. Back at Stirling I made arrangements for a limo to take me to the Edinburgh Airport when the course ended.

Each evening after practice time the groups gathered in a small auditorium for a jam session. Everyone had a fat tune book and the leader was the one who was first to get it open and pick a tune. A favorite tune was Ashokan Farewell. This tune was written by Jay Ungar who grew up in Brooklyn, NY. It was featured in the TV series *The Civil War* and became popular worldwide. One night we were playing it and a fellow said there was a mistake in the music. I looked at his music; it was a copy of the same music published in the US and I said “No mistake.” He challenged me and we went back and forth a few times as he insisted it was a mistake. In frustration, I finally said, “There is no mistake. I know the man who wrote it.” A momentary silence and we went on to another tune. The next afternoon the class was finishing lunch and the same person sidled up to me. “You know this man?” he asked. “Yes, I do” I replied. “He’s a pretty good fiddler?” was the next question. “Yes he is.” Jay is a wonderful musician and composer who spent some time learning from Tom Anderson, a Shetland fiddler. Jay told me he had structured Ashokan Farewell after some of Tom’s tunes.

The next trip was to the St. Andrews Summer School and was sponsored by RSCDS. I had reserved a taxi in advance and the driver picked me up in Edinburgh. As we walked to the car I instinctively went to the right side. The driver gently guided me to the back seat, left side. I’d forgotten that in the British Isles they drive on the left side.

The music class was enjoyable with three teachers. Angela taught piano, Gordon Simpson the fiddle and George Meikle the accordion. Often when we played an upbeat or a transition note, George stressed having one person play that note rather than the whole group so the music would be clear, not muddled by 10 versions. The penalty for forgetting was admonition by the teachers.

Scotland trip #4 was another SRSNH tour – 10 days, seamless. There were 19 of us, a more manageable group. As before, we met similar groups and our concerts were a mix of our arrangements and theirs. One afternoon we were in Ayr and the driver said he had a special stop for us. He parked the bus and led us inside a small building. It was Robert Burns’ Masonic Lodge! We were given a private tour, a nice tea and a dramatic recitation of Burns’ poem, *Tam O’Shanter*. Our last concert was the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra. We had met them before and it was great to renew acquaintances. We were asked to remind the Ayr musicians to smile as they joined us on stage. I think that is a request for all musicians! At the end we were given rousing applause and an encore was requested.

Class and Party Playing

I’ve always enjoyed playing for classes – sometimes they were for teaching certificate candidates, sometimes for party program reviews. Most of the time they were for regular classes. One must pay attention to the teacher for directions, i.e. ‘ready and’ to begin the phrase, the number of bars needed, and what part of the

Sylvia, cont. on p. 15

dance the teacher is working on. A good teacher will keep the group going without much talking so the musician has to stay alert.

One winter afternoon I was playing for a candidate class in Salem, Mass. The little room was very cold. I put on my coat and someone lent me a pair of fingerless gloves. While the dancers stayed warm by moving about, I had to stay still in my chair. At the end of the afternoon I discovered an open window! It was over the stairwell and impossible to reach. Now, fingerless gloves are always part of the equipment.

Mentoring Beginning Musicians and the Dancers

I was often asked by fellow musicians to explain how to play for a class. It is different from playing for a social dance. I first had to teach the dancers that one or two musicians would sound different from a recording which was carefully mastered and mixed with no error. At the same time, introducing new musicians to the art of class playing was a challenge. Fortunately I played weekly for a small forgiving class. I started with warmups which are easy. There is only one tune, usually a pipe jig, played until the teacher signals for a stop. This is followed by a waltz or two. When the novice musician was comfortable with the music, we played for the class. I always selected easy, melodic tunes to create a mini-arrangement. The teachers broke the dances into blocks of 8 measures. We played these 8 bars until the dancers had learned the figure and gradually the whole dance came together. Dancers are accustomed to the tunes changing after each round. It did not matter that we alternated between only 2 tunes. The dancers heard a change to start the next round. In this area, the standard format for an 8-round dance is 4 tunes, and to get 8 rounds the tunes are played 1-2-3-4-2-3-4-1. The dancers in the little class appreciated the live music and looked forward to our monthly appearances.



Tempo

This is always a touchy subject, Too fast. Too slow. I have two recollections, one at a monthly party and one at Pinewoods Camp. The White Cockade was playing for a party in Concord Mass. The dance was Fireside Reel, a driving minor song. A little way into the music, the Branch President who was also a musician approached us with 'too fast' and 'slow down gestures.' We put on the brakes and slowed the tempo. Immediately, the MC came up with 'too slow' and 'speed up' gestures. Which one do we obey? We speeded up.

Another time at Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, it was the same situation. Both leaders had impeccable credentials. One was known for her brisk tempi and the other was an older teacher from Scotland. I don't remember the outcome, I think it was a compromise.

Because there are now many good musicians available to play, I am less busy. However I take great pleasure knowing that I have mentored many beginning musicians, I was on the ground floor of the folk revival and was instrumental in introducing American musicians to the Scottish Country Dance.

As I look back on my musical journey I think the best part has been sitting on a stage playing dance music, alone, for a class or with friends for a dance, feeling the connection with the dancers and knowing it is my music that makes them move. ~

From: Tartan Times Circulation
c/o John Crabtree
9 Birchwood Lane
Lincoln, MA 01773-4907

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Loon News

from the website nhscot.org

September 17-19, 2021 at Loon Mountain Resort in Lincoln, N.H.

This year the 2021 New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival tickets will be sold as carload admission tickets. A carload admission ticket is \$200 per vehicle for one day admittance. This ticket includes up to 5 people per vehicle including children (ages 2 and under are free). All carload ticket holders will park their vehicles onsite and must have their tickets with them to gain entry. No walk-ins – everyone must arrive in a vehicle. *[And no bus lines! – ed.]*

This year, there will be a limit set on capacity and will include onsite parking only for all ticket holders. All attendees must purchase a ticket in advance. No tickets will be sold onsite. There will be no individual tickets available this year. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be limited. *[Tickets went on sale in late June, so you might have to move quickly to secure. – ed.]* If you are unable to secure tickets, contact info@nhscot.org to have your name added to our waiting list.

Featured for 2021: Pipes & Drums, Athletics, Celtic Bands, Sheep Dog Trials, Highland Dancers, Whisky Tastings, Clan Village, Scottish Vendors *[but alas no Scottish country dance or fiddle events – ed.]* 