



The Virginia "Reel" News



June 2013

www.richmondscottishcountrydancers.org

New dancers: If at any time you feel the class is not for you, please let the teachers know as class lesson plans are structured to address the level of all dancers.

At the end of the six weeks the teachers may decide the new dancer/dancers are not progressing to the level to which they can be absorbed into the current class. If the new dancers wish to continue with the group, it is with the understanding that they will be asked to sit out when a dance is not suitable for their participation.

In class

Please check for information papers

New Dancers

Welcome, we are delighted to have you. If you have not already given us your information, please ask Carol, (our treasurer) for a registration and membership form. We need a contact number in case of time or venue changes.

Please note: To address the concerns of dancers, all Richmond classes and dance events are "Fragrance free".

All Dancers - If you know before any following Tuesday that you will not be attending class, please let me know at 804-282-5482 or 804-405-2725 or Sandy 804-678-8927

Class Dress Code

There is no mandatory dress code but I prefer ladies to wear a skirt or dress. If it is cold, wear leggings with your skirt. Gentlemen, it's nice to see kilts in class, not mandatory but one dances better if one dresses for dancing.

Please, check the newsletter for upcoming dates. Some dancers do attend out-of-town dances or dance events and at times it is useful to know they will be out-of-town and not available.

N.B. Summer dancing will begin on June 18th. There will be no dancing on July 30th and August 6th. Regular classes will resume on September 3rd

Birthday Congratulations in June

24	Carol
25	Mabel
30	Susan

We like to acknowledge birthdays. Please give your birthday and month to Barbara

Member at large

Margaret Murphy is "Member at Large" for the group. This means Margaret represents the group so please approach her if you have items you wish the board to discuss. Margaret is also our Webmaster, if you are having a problem with our website, please let her know.

Upcoming Events

June 8-9

Musicians:

Ball Programme:

Richmond's Silver Thistle Ball Ball & Brunch

"Thistle House" David Knight/fiddle – Dave Wiesler/piano & Dan Emery /pipes & flute

EH3 7AF-Wisp of Thistle-Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran-Napier's Index-Fhiona Martin's Strathspey-Davy Nick Nack-MacLeod's Fancy-Argyll Strathspey-The Mason's Apron-The Ferry Louper-The Silver Thistle Ball-Starlight-The Duke of Atholl's Reel-The Rose of the North-The Plantation Reel-The Raven's Dance-The Silver Tassie-The Reel of the 51st Division

Brunch Programme:

The Laird of Milton's Daughter-Alison Rose-The Sailor-The Flight of the Falcon-Mrs. Stella Fogg-The Montgomeries' Rant-Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel-Fair Donald-The Barmkin-A Capital Jig-Anna Holden's Strathspey-The Reel of the Royal Scots

July 7-12 Thistle School, Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, NC “Scottish Country Dance Gala”
Musicians: [The Luke Brady Band of Scotland](#)
Programme: Gala Night-Shiftin’ Bobbins- MacDonald of the Isles-The Dancing Bees-The Cranberry Tart-Chasing the Eclipse-Hebridean Barn Dance-Grandfather Welcome 2013-Sprezatura-Ythanside-Balgeddie Reel-Starlight-La Maestra-Triumph-Flying Cloud-Sweet Cianna-White Heather Jig-Netherby Hall-The Montgomeries’ Rant-Round Reel of Eight

July 14- August 4 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews Scotland

The Society holds an annual Summer School in St Andrews, Scotland. Approximately one thousand dancers from around the world attend this School each year to learn more about the dancing and dances, old and new; to enjoy dancing together; and to appreciate the wealth of Scotland's traditional music.

Summer School 2013 dates:

Week 1 14 July to 21 July
Week 2 21 July to 28 July
Week 3 28 July to 04 August
Week 4 05 August to 11 August

July 28-August 4 TAC Summer School, Canada

August 17 Carolina’s Branch Tea Dance, at Travelers Rest United Methodist Church, 19 South Main St. in Travelers Rest, S.C. – Information to follow

September 13-15 Timber Ridge Scottish Weekend, Highview, W. VA
Music staff: [Ralph Gordon/Earl Gaddis/Anne Hooper/David Knight/Becky Ross/Liz Donaldson/Melissa Running/Dave Wiesler/Dan Emery/Marty Taylor](#)
Teachers: Pat Houghton/Linda Gaul/Mel Briscoe

October 19 Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival
[Ceilidh on the Field – Richmond SCD](#)

October 26 Richmond Hallowe’en Dance Party – Church of the Epiphany 2-5:30
Musicians: [John Turner/fiddle & Susie Petrov/piano](#)

October 25-26 Reel Scottish Weekend Dance & Workshop, Charlotte, NC
Musicians: [Marian Anderson’s Scottish Dance Band](#)
Teachers: John & Ruby Wilkinson
Programme Friday: EH3 7AF-St. Andrew’s of Brampton-The Gentleman-Pelorus Jack-Staircase in Styria-Panmure Gardens-The Chequered Court-MacLeod’s Fancy-Inverneill House-Neidpath Castle-Mrs. Stewart’s Jig-A Trip to Bavaria-Snow on the Roof-Broon’s Reel (The Duke of Perth)
Saturday: Liquid Assets-Sueno’s Stone-Miss Gibson’s Strathspey-Best Set in the Hall-John of Bon Accord-Peggy Spouse MBE-IPFTA-Scott Meikle-Caddam Wood-Kelloholm Jig-The Peat Fire Flame-Anna Holden’s Strathspey-Napier’s Index-Midnight Oil-Asilomar Romantic-Bees of MaggieKnockater-Flowers of Edinburgh—The De’il Amang the Tailors

November 23 The Greensboro group notes that its St. Andrews Ball will be its 30th annual. Planning is underway for several special events, including an afternoon workshop and a Sunday brunch the day after the ball. More information on this event will be forthcoming

November 8-10 Argyle Weekend – Alexandria, VA
Teachers: Ron Wallace & Elaine Brunken
Musicians: [Paul Anderson- & “Waverley Station” – David Knight/fiddle, Liz Donaldson, piano & Ralph Gordon, bass & Cello](#)
Programme: TBA

December 14 Richmond’s Christmas Dance Party, Church of the Epiphany
Musicians: [David Knight/fiddle & Melissa Running/piano](#)
Programme: The Dillsburg Jig-Miss Gibson’s Strathspey-Happy Returns-Dunsmuir Strathspey-Trip to Gretna Green-The Black Mountain Reel-A Hame in the East-Mrs. MacLeod-EH3 7AF-The Peat Fire Flame-Adieu Mon Ami-Fair Jenny’s Jig-Blooms of Bon Accord-The Gentleman-Best Set in the Hall-The Reel of the 51st Division

June 14-15 2014

“Silver Thistle Ball” - Ashland, VA

Musicians:

“Tullochgorum” – Barbara McOwen. fiddle-Terry Traub/piano & Robert McOwen/ bass

Programme:

TBA

Set & Rotate

This formation is a method of progression. It is danced by two couples.

Steps: 2 setting steps & 6 travelling steps

No. of bars: 8

Hands: When travelling, hands are given at shoulder height with shake-hand hold, and while setting, nearer hands are joined at shoulder height.

Bars

1-2 1st and second couples, joining nearer hands on the sides, set to partners, beginning to pull back the right shoulder on the second step

3-4 1st man casts up and dances across the dance to finish in first place on the woman's side facing down, while 2nd man casts up to first place on his own side to face down.
At the same time, 2nd woman casts off and dances across the dance to finish in second place on her own side to face up
At the end of bar 4, 1st couple should be just inside the woman's side while 2nd couple are just inside the man's side.

5-8 1st and 2nd couples, giving right hands in passing, change places with partners and continue round clockwise in a chase to own sides, 1st couple finishing in 2nd place and 2nd couple in first place.

Our Dances.....

Who were the Wild Geese?

Following the Treaty of Limerick between the Jacobites and William of Orange supporters, the Wild Geese were Irish soldiers who went to join the Continental European armies to fight as mercenaries.

Who Wore Blue Bonnets?

The Jacobite army, who fought against the Hanoverians in 1745, wore the Blue Bonnets as part of their uniform. To the seventeenth-century tune “Leslie’s March to Scotland”, Sir Walter Scott wrote the song “Blue Bonnets over the Border.”

What was the White Cockade?

A Cockade was a knotted ribbon, usually worn on a hat, and its colour denoted allegiance. The White Cockade was worn by Jacobite fighters, against the Hanoverians who wore black

Reprinted from the Ottawa Branch Newsletter

Snippet!

I'm about halfway through "The Blackhouse," a detective novel by Peter May (Scottish, but lives in France). The protagonist, Fionnlagh (Fin) MacLeod, is a police detective based in Edinburgh who has been sent to Lewis, his birthplace, to investigate a murder there. In a flashback chapter, he is talking to his childhood friend Artair Macinnes. They are about seven years old:

We were almost at the school before he told me. Very casually, as if it were nothing. “I’ve joined the country dancing group.”

“The what?”

“Country dancing. You know. “ And he raised his arms above his head and made a funny little shuffle with his feet. “The pas de bas.”

I was beginning to think he’d lost his marbles in my absence. “Paddy bah?”

"It's a dance step, stupid."

I gawped at him in amazement. "Dancing? You? Artair, dancing's for girls!" I couldn't imagine what had come over him.

(Actually, Artair joined the group just to be with Marsaili, on whom both he and Fin have a crush. A dance competition in Stornoway involving teams from all the Lewis schools has taken place, and Fin and Marsaili are chatting:)

I said, "So, how did it go?"

"The dancing?"

"Yeh."

"It was a disaster. Artair panicked when he saw all the people, and he had to keep puffing on his inhaler and couldn't go onstage. We had to go on without him. But it was hopeless, because we'd practiced with six and it just didn't work with five. I'm never going to do it again . . ."

Reprinted from Mike Brigg's message on Strathspey

Thanks

Thanks to Margaret, Bern, Valerie, Robin, Rochelle and Sandy Miller for entertaining a group at a local retirement home. The audience was most appreciative and very happy to see such great dancing (as was I). . Due to unforeseen circumstances we could have had a longer slot to dance, however that possibility was not known at the time. However, it went very well and they all deserve a pat on the back.

Scottish humour

The day after his wife disappeared in a kayaking accident, a Scotsman man answered his door to find two grim faced policemen.. "We're sorry Mr. Bruce, but we have some information about your wife," said one of the men..

"Tell me! Did you find her?" Bruce asked.

The policemen looked at each other. One said, "We have some bad news, some good news, and some really great news. Which would you like to hear first?"

Fearing the worst, the ashen Mr. Bruce said, "Give me the bad News first."

The policeman said, "I'm sorry to tell you, sir, but this morning we found your wife's body in the loch ."

"Oh my God!," said Bruce. Swallowing hard, he asked, "What's the good news?"

The policeman continued, "When we pulled her up, she had 12 twenty-five-pound King crabs and 6 good-sized Dungeness crabs clinging to her, and we feel you are entitled to a share in the catch."

Stunned, Mr. Bruce demanded, "If that's the good news, then what's the great news?"

The policeman smiled and said, "We're gonna pull her up again tomorrow."

Sting in the Tail

Jimmy was about to tee off at the first hole at his local golf course when a stranger came up and asked if he could join him. Jimmy usually played alone, but on this occasion agreed to the request. After the first couple of holes the two golfers were getting along fine and seemed to be evenly matched. So the stranger suggested betting £5 on each of the remaining holes. Jimmy wasn't too keen but reluctantly agreed. Of course, the stranger then won all the remaining 16 holes and as they were walking off the last green, the stranger confirmed what Jimmy had suspected - he was a professional golfer. Jimmy nodded and then informed the stranger that he was the local minister! At that, the stranger got flustered and apologetic and offered to return his winnings. But Jimmy refused, saying that he had won fair and square - and it was his own foolishness to agree to the bet in the first place. That made the stranger even more contrite and he said "Is there anything I can do to make it up to you?" Jimmy replied: "Well, you could come to my church on Sunday and make a donation. Oh, and if you bring your mother and father along, I'll marry them...."