



The Virginia "Reel" News



February 2014

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 804-405-2725 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.

February Birthday Congratulations

6	Linda
13	Jeanne
14	Craig
18	Laurel
	Peg

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

February 8 Valentine Tea Dance, Durham, NC – sponsored by Durham & Chapel Hill SCD groups

2-5 followed by soup supper

Musicians: [Mara Shea & Ted Erhard / fiddlers & Dean Herrington/piano](#)

The Happy Meeting-A Trip to Bavaria-Orwell Lodge-The Flight of the Falcon-Bratach Bana-City of Belfast-The Reel of the 51st Division-The Peat Fire Flame-The Best Set in the Hall-The Highland Rambler-The Sands of Morar-Blue Bonnets-The Fiddling Preacher-Chasing the Eclipse-Maxwell's Rant-The De'il Among the Tailors

St. Columba's SCD Cherry Hill, MD

Musicians: [Terpsichore – Elke Baker/fiddle & Liz Donaldson/keyboards](#)

Programme: Tine's Jig-The Kissing Bridge-Bedrule-Follow Me Home-The Lover's Knot-Da Rain Dancin'-The Laird of Milton's Daughter-Gypsy Weaver-Polharrow Burn-The Starry Eyed Lassie-The Gentleman-The De'il Among the Tailors

- March 1**
Musicians: Northern Virginia's "Snowdrop Ball" Trinity Presb. Arlington, VA
Programme: **David Knight/fiddle & Neal Pearlman/Keyboard**
 The Lady Wynd-The Sailor-The Sauchie Haugh-Napier's Index-Glastonbury Tor-The Shores of Solway-Blue Bonnets-Sleepy Maggie-Mrs. Stewart's Jig-The Royal Deeside Railway-Sands of Morar-Fair Jenny's Jig-Crockett's Victory Garden-Adieu Mon Ami-The Luckenbooth Brooch-The Reel of the Royal Scots
- March 22**
Musicians: Richmond's St. Patrick's Day Dance, Church of the Epiphany
Programme: "Terpsichore" **Elke Baker/fiddle & Liz Donaldson/piano**
 The Frisky-Miss Milligan's Strathspey-The Royal Deeside Railway-The Wild Geese-City of Belfast-The Irish Rover-Fair Donald-J.B. Milne-Pelorus Jack-Davy Nick Nack-Moment of Truth-Cranberry Tart-Let's Have a Ceilidh-Bonnie Stronshiray-Follow Me Home-The Montgomeries' Rant
- March 28-30**
Teacher: A Capital Weekend – Cherry Hill Park, MD
Musicians: **Antoine Rousseau**
Programme: - Friday: "Thistle House" – **David Knight/fiddle, Dave Wiesler/keyboard & Dan Emery/pipes & flute**
 Joie de Vivre-Seann Truibhas Willichan-On the Morning Tide-The Chequered Court-The Robertson Rant-The Castle of Mey-The Duke of Atholl's Reel-The Australian Ladies-The Silver City-Bill Clement MBE-Mrs. MacLeod
Saturday Ball: EH3 7AF-Lady Lucy Ramsay-Davy Nick Nack-Memories of Mary Ann-Shiftin' Bobbins'-The Cranberry Tart-Adieu Mon Ami-The Mason's Apron-Collie Law-Bridge of Nairn-The Punch Bowl-Flights of Fancy-The Sauchie Haugh-Bobby Brown's Canadian Breakdown-Fair Donald-The Reel of the 51st Division
- April 11-12**
 Loch Norman Highland Games Dancing, Charlotte, NC
 \$25 each evening or \$23 if paid ahead. For information on hotel group rates etc. contact:
 Eilean Yates email: edgyates@gmail.com
Musicians: **Luke & Adam Brady (from Scotland)**
Friday Programme: Mrs. Stewart's Jig-Castle of Mey-Gang the Same Gate-Tribute to the Borders-Peat Fire Flame-Orwell Lodge Strathspey-A Capital Jig-Red House-Montreal Rendezvous-The Chequered Court-Culla Bay-A Reel for Alice-The Duke of Atholl's Reel-City of Belfast-Mairi's Wedding-Reel of the Royal Scots
Saturday Programme: EH3 7AF-The Ladies of Dunse-Anna Holden's Strathspey-Scott Meikle-Quarrie's Jig-James Senior-Best Set in the Hall-Sleepy Maggie-Davy Nick Nack-MacLeod's Fancy-Barbara's Strathspey-The Magic of Merrill-Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder-Chasing the Eclipse-The Montgomeries' Rant
- June 14-15 2014**
Musicians: "Silver Thistle Ball" - Ashland, VA
 "Tullochgorum" – **Barbara McOwen/ fiddle/Terry Traub/piano/ & Robert McOwen/ cello &bass**

St. Andrews Summer School – booking open

It's not too soon to be thinking about Summer School 2014! Booking is now open and, to make it even easier, you can book and pay simultaneously online. There is immediate availability for a choice of weeks, and the School runs from 20 July to 17 August.

[Book Online](#)

And, if you're not sure about your level of ability, there is a helpful class selector to help you choose – [click here](#).

Also:



Teachers' Association (Canada)
 affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

**T.A.C. Summer School, Candidate Course, Music Course and
Teachers' Conference weekend 2014**
Registration is open online!

**Summer School & Music Course for all dancers & musicians - July 27 -
August 3**

Candidate Course for teacher training - July 20 - August 3

Teachers' Conference Weekend - July 25 - 27

Teaching staff: **Helen Russell, Marjorie MacLaughlin, Graham Donald, Keith Bark & Tim Wilson**
Incredible music by: **Marian Anderson, Keith Smith, Isobelle Hodgson, Judi Nicolson, Max Ketchin,
Graham Bell & Steve Carcary**

Experienced tutors for the candidate course: **Elaine Brunken & Ron Wallace**

Plan now to attend 2014 events in the exciting, new location of Greeley, Colorado. Don't miss the opportunity to dance to great music, learn from top teachers and share your love of Scottish country dancing with enthusiasts from all over North America and the world.

Dancers

TAC Summer School is dance camp for adults in a university setting. Just because it is organized by teachers from across North America does not mean it is only *for* teachers - far from it. Summer school is for dancers, whether they have danced for a year or for ten years or more. Teachers do attend also, because they love SCD or they would not be teaching. There will be a level of morning class right for you. Afternoon sessions offer a wide range of optional choices. On Wednesday afternoon, you may choose a sight-seeing tour in the area. Evening activities involve social dances, a concert, a ceilidh and a banquet and ball. Think about a week of the dancing you love in the company of other addicts. Why would you miss out on all that fun? If you have attended TAC Summer School previously, meet up with dancing friends again in Colorado. If you have never had this memorable experience, 2014 could be your year.

Teachers

SCD teachers – Summer School is where you get your batteries recharged. There are wonderful opportunities to observe excellence in teaching, pick up new ideas and share your experience with others. During the dancing year, depending on your group, you may not have many chances to actually dance. Imagine a week of dancing with experienced dancers to superb musicians. (SCD teachers who attend the Teachers' Conference weekend just before summer school, pay a reduced rate.) Plan to come to Colorado with some of your dancers and re-energize them too. If you cannot be there yourself, do inform your class that TAC Summer School is for dancers and encourage them to attend.

Teacher Training

In alternate years, the TAC offers 2 week teacher candidate courses in conjunction with Summer School. The next opportunity for aspiring teachers to be tutored by experienced tutors, **Ron Wallace** and **Elaine Brunken** and tested on the various units of the RSCDS exam process is 2014 in Colorado. Do encourage any potential candidates in your area to consider this rewarding possibility. To continue to thrive, SCD everywhere needs a steady supply of new teachers. Check the deadlines for applications to the course on our [website](#). Unit 5 candidates need to apply right away, **January 10th** is fast approaching! Medal Test Assessor Training

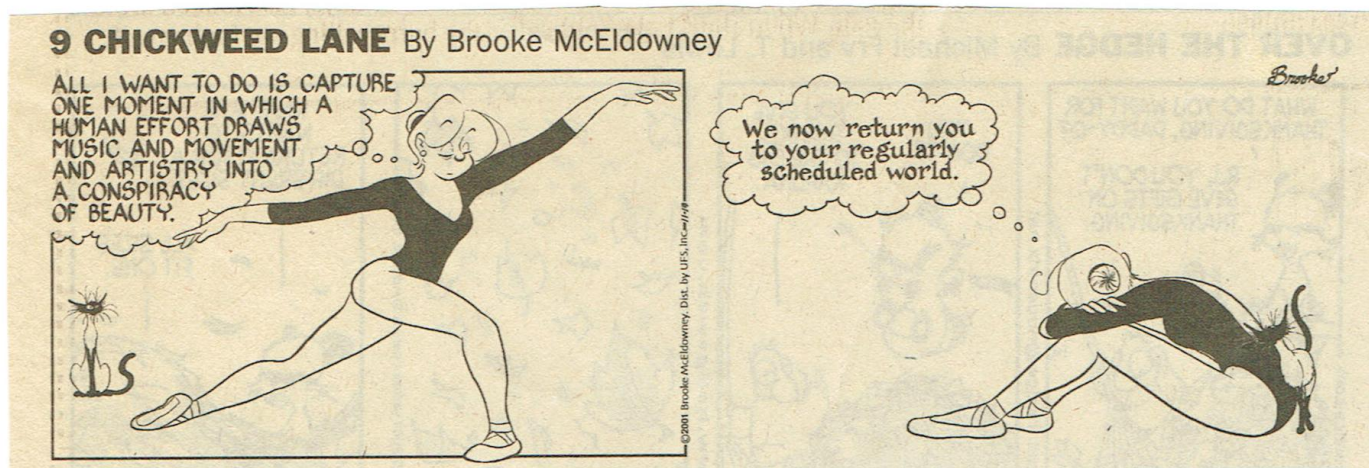
Teachers who would like to further their skills have a new opportunity to become trained to be Medal Test

Assessors. For the first time in 2014, TAC is pleased to offer training sessions for Medal Test Assessors during 2 afternoon sessions. **Anne Smyth** will be teaching the course. Application forms will be available shortly on the [website](#), and need to be submitted to the RSCDS in Scotland by April 30th.

Bob Blackie Scholarship

The Bob Blackie Memorial Endowment was set up to provide, as far as possible, a full scholarship annually to a Scottish Country Dancer to enable the dancer to attend a full week of the TAC Summer School. The scholarship must be used toward the cost of tuition, meals, and lodging for any given year's Summer School. In the event the interest produced by the Bob Blackie Memorial Endowment becomes sufficient, the award may also be applied toward travel costs for the recipient. The selection criteria is available on the [website](#). Applications are due by March 1st.

For more information and to register online, visit our website, www.tac-rscds.org.



Scottish country dancing

As we start a new year, we should step back and look at why we are in Scottish country dancing. Of course, we wouldn't be dancers unless it was fun, but there are certainly less structured types of dance in the area. A certain part of the challenge of Scottish country dancing is the formal technique, the emphasis on form, footwork, and phrasing that the RSCDS was founded to emphasise.

Nobody (well, almost nobody!) wants a class devoted entirely to pas de basque practice, but wouldn't you like to know how you measure up to the Platonic ideal pas de basque enshrined in Edinburgh, and what you can do to get closer to it? A brief part of the evening devoted to work on technique, including footwork, can certainly help. We learn the dances, in part, as a means of demonstrating what we can do. The learning process depends on everyone making an effort to improve, or to keep from lapsing.

An increased attention to technique places a responsibility on everyone in the class to work on what is being covered. It also places an obligation on the teacher to look at all the dancers. If the teacher is going to pay attention only to the less-proficient dancers in the class, then no one will get the opportunity to progress beyond the undistinguished. Dancers with a wide range of abilities are present in most classes. All of us can polish our technique, if we get the chance.

Reprinted from "Once and to the Bottom" 1990

Dancing is "good for health"

A Scottish government-commissioned study, based on data from the Scottish Household Survey 2011, showed that activities such as dancing, reading and going to the theatre have a "positive impact" on the health of Scots. The research, carried out among 14,358 households, found that regardless of factors such as age, economic status etc, cultural participation was positive for health and wellbeing. Those who participated in dance were 62% more likely to report good health than those who did not. But you knew that already, didn't you?

January classes

We had just begun to new year when the snow got us this past month, cancelling two classes. However, a make-up class was held and there was a wee party to allow us to wish Sumner "Bon Voyage". Sumner was a great asset to the group and he will be sorely missed. I don't think he will be away from dancing for very long as there are groups in Connecticut. Keep those shoes handy Sumner and we may see you at the New Haven or Boston Ball.



The Commonwealth Ceilidh

To celebrate the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow, Creative Scotland has commissioned the RSCDS to create a two-hour dance programme. The *Commonwealth Ceilidh* was launched officially by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture & External Affairs, on 12 December in Edinburgh. It will be a mass event **on 21st June 2014**, starting at **7.30pm local time**, and performed as widely as possible throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere. More details will follow but note the date!

[Click here to listen to a sample of their music.](#)

Scottish humour

Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning:

"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back:

"Gently pour some lukewarm water over it."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later:

"Computer really screwed up now"

Hamish had just met Angus and after wishing him "Happy New Year" told him, he had just bought a new hearing aid.

It cost me four thousand pounds, but it's state of the art, It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered Angus, . 'What kind is it?'

' Twelve thirty"

At the morning service in a Presbyterian Kirk in the North, a visitor from the South had made his appearance. It was soon evident that he was accustomed to a less severe atmosphere during worship, and from time to time disturbed the normal calm by exclaiming 'Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!'

This went on for some time until an old Elder moved forward to the interrupter, tapped him on the shoulder and warned him, 'look here, ma mannie, we dinna praise the Lord here.'

It's a New Year and Stella has lots of new shoes to sell, ghillies and pumps.