



The Petronella Paper

May - August 2009

Newsletter of

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Atlanta Branch, Inc.

www.mindspring.com/~atlbrnch

Chairman's Message

by Dawn Dorsey

(Taken from the Chairman's report as submitted to the AGM)

Greetings to all Atlanta Branch members, and thank you for your involvement in Scottish Country Dancing in Atlanta. Here is a brief overview of the Branch activities over the past year. You will find more detailed information in the individual reports submitted by other officers and committee chairmen.

Membership

Membership decreased slightly this year, but not as much as we feared when we were forced to raise annual dues last year. On that front, our Honorary Treasurer has recalculated what we need based on an improving exchange rate since last year, and we are glad to propose a reduction in membership rates for the coming year. We have also revised our membership categories to coincide with new Society classes, and are introducing a reduced rate to encourage young dancers, ages 18-25, to join.

Classes

The Branch has not sponsored any classes for several years, except for an occasional limited-run basic class. However, there are several regular classes meeting in the general Atlanta area, in Athens, LaGrange, Buckhead, and Marietta. A new beginner class in Cartersville started in January, and has been doing well. The Cartersville class hosted the June social with a beginner-friendly program, and was very well attended. The Leafmore class hosted our AGM with their second "home alone" social in three months, carrying on their class without their regular teacher of many years.

Socials

Rhonda Raye has kept busy in her new job as Vice Chairman, finding us teachers and dance halls, and we have held monthly socials throughout the year. We have danced in Athens, Cartersville, LaGrange, Marietta, Tucker, Roswell, Union Hill, Woodstock, and even in Atlanta. The class near the location, or the class of the teacher planning the program, acts as host for the social.

Stone Mountain

Once again the Stone Mountain Games weekend dances were popular, with many out-of-towners joining us at the Briarcliff Woods Beach Club. Friends of Stone Mountain Highland Games produced the Gala (on behalf of the Branch), and the Tartan Ball (on behalf of SMHG), and we were glad to see so many dancers there. This year we are excited to be bringing Fred Moyes from Canada to play for the Stone Mountain dances.

Unicoi

Our spring workshop and balls at Unicoi were well-attended, and we welcomed The Music Makars back for the first time in many years. They just get better every time we hear them! We were expecting two musicians to play for the workshop, but were thrilled when we discovered that all five of them played for us all day, as

well as each evening. Thank you to Bob Messner for again providing and managing the sound system. Next year we will enjoy dancing to the music of Mara Shea and Nicholas Williams again.

Communications

It takes several people to keep us all posted on our wide-ranging activities, and I thank everyone who has worked on these projects

Web site: When we asked him for advice, Richard Walker of Pensacola generously offered to handle it for a while, and help some of us learn to maintain the site. Since Richard is not a Branch member, all matters for the web are to be directed to Bob Messner, who will be our direct liaison with Richard. Nancy Kidd, who has posted current information, maps, dance cues for upcoming programs, application forms, articles, and anything else related to our activities involving socials, workshops, demonstrations, classes, and whatever else we get ourselves into, helped us transition to a new webmaster, allowing her to retire, at least partially, from the time-consuming maintenance. Keep your information and comments coming to Bob, so we can have a useful and up-to-date site.

The Petronella Paper: Rhonda Raye has been busy in her dual roles as Vice Chairman and editor of *The Petronella Paper*. Since it is now published primarily on the web, with hard copies mailed to many fewer, she has been able to make it much more colorful and eye-catching. Rhonda accepts articles, pictures and dates from dancers, organizers, and other newsletters, and continues to review old issues of *The Petronella Paper* for interesting articles and cartoons. Please help out by submitting anything of interest to Rhonda as well as Bob. You never know; your news might appear in *The Petronella*, on the web site, or both.

E-mail: Sylvia Priest somehow keeps all the upcoming dates in her head and sends out timely notices to us all by e-mail, with directions, programs, links, and whatever else we need so we don't miss an event. If you have an announcement to go out to the Branch, Sylvia is the one who has the mailing list and puts it out there for us.

Distribution: Susan Tumlin manages distribution of everything that must be mailed out from the Branch. If you got a Unicoi flyer, a *Petronella Paper*, or a notice for this meeting (the AGM), you can thank Susan for getting it to you.

I thank my fellow officers for their hard work during the year to accomplish the aims of the Branch, specifically to preserve and perpetuate traditional Scottish dance and music in our little corner of the world. Thanks also are due to Lewis Tumlin and Sylvia Chandler, for their work on the Nominating Committee, and Christine Transue, who often retrieves our mail from the Branch post office box, and accepted nomination for another two years in harness. We look forward to another year of dancing and sharing our hobby with our friends and neighbors!

News of Members

Please welcome new member **Millard Adcock** who attends the LaGrange class. Millard's contact information can be found in the updated Membership Directory which was sent with the *Petronella* e-mail notification.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Ann Short on the death of her sister, Fay Patrick, who passed away on June 7th in Scotland.

Member Birthdays

May

01 Jaime Graham
04 Bob Gordon
05 Fran Morrow
05 Ted Blaschke
09 Susan McDaniel
10 David Cullison
18 Lewis Tumlin
31 Dessie Montgomery

June

20 Jim Short

July

14 Sylvia Priest

August

02 Dawn Dorsey
07 Maxine Parrish
09 Jason Freeman
14 George Taylor
18 Deborah Clague
20 Claudia Adams



Please let me know when you have any changes in your contact information by sending me sending an e-mail to sapriest at mindspring.com or calling 770-377-5114. Thank you for your help in keeping our membership information current.

From Your Editor

I want to thank everyone that has contributed to this *Petronella Paper* and earlier issues. It is you that keep others informed of what is happening within the Atlanta Branch and other places where members travel. Without your articles and pictures, this would be a dull newsletter indeed – please keep them coming!

On a more global scale, Elspeth Gray sent an article some time back (*March/April 2008 issue of "The Petronella Paper"*) about contributing pictures to "*The Scottish Country Dancer*;" I just wanted to remind everyone that it is also "our newsletter." If you have pictures of dancing, please choose a few of what you think are the best and send to the editor of that newsletter. Andrew Kellett, at mag.editor@rscds.org would love to have them. It would give him a larger selection to choose from when he puts together that newsletter. Sending them to me does not guarantee they will also get to him. I do not mind sending them on, but I have been so busy that they might not make it there in a timely manner.

Thank you all and keep the articles and pictures coming!

July Social Program

Saturday, July 18th, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
St. Bede's Church, 2601 Henderson Mill Rd., Tucker
MC: Becky Sager

EH3 7AF	32J3	RSCDS Book 40
On the Quarter-Deck	32R2	Boyd, Harbour City
Fair Donald	32S3	RSCDS Book 24
The Isle	32J3	RSCDS Graded Book
Angus MacKinnon's Hornpipe	32R3	Dickson, Lothian Coll.
The Belle of Bon Accord	32S4	Drewry, Deeside 2
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	32J3	RSCDS Book 22
The Australian Ladies	32R3	Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
~intermission~		
The Merry Reapers	24J3	RSCDS Graded Book
Never at Sea	48R6	J. C. Haddow
Snow in Summer	40S3	Boyd, Southern Cross
Tribute to the Borders	32J3	RSCDS Leaflet
Culla Bay	32S4sq	RSCDS Book 41
Quarries' Jig	32J3	RSCDS Book 36
The Deil Amang the Tailors	32R3	RSCDS Book 14

Please bring finger foods to share.

Atlanta branch members \$5/Non-members\$8/Under 16 \$1

The long awaited sequel to Werner Linz's *Doggerel* is now out. It is titled *Doggerel Two, Doggerel Too*. To obtain your copy it is at present available only from "Stephens Printing" 108 Church Street in LaGrange or from Werner. If anyone would like a copy they can email Werner and he will deliver to the class in Marietta or at Covenant. The price is \$20.00, tax and delivery charges included

THE SCOTTISH DANCER CRITIC

I'm a perfect dancer when sitting on the side
All mistakes no one, from me, can hide.
But when I'm in the set
The figures I can't get
And my styling is no source of pride.

(from "*Doggerel Two, Doggerel Too*")

Atlanta members having fun at Loch Norman



photo courtesy of Ron Gemmell

Stone Mountain 2009 Dances

Our musician this year is Fred Moyes, from Canada. An accordionist/one-man-band, Fred is playing here for the first time, but many of us have danced to his music in the past, at Loch Norman and English Mountain.



The Fall Gala – Friday, October 16th, 8:00 pm

Hooper's Jig	32J3	MMII
A Reel for Alice	32R5	Goldring, A Reel for Alice
Cape Town Wedding	32S3	Book 39
The Isle	32J3	RSCDS Graded Book
On the Morning Tide	32R3	Boyd, Island Bay Coll.
The Braes of Tulliemet	32S3	RSCDS Book 7
Gothenburg's Welcome	32J3	RSCDS Book 37
1314	64S/64R4csq	Drewry, Rondel Book
Angus MacKinnon's Hornpipe	32R3	Dickson, Lothian Coll.
The Grassmarket Reel	32R,3s,RR	RSCDS 5 for 2009
Tribute to the Borders	32J3	RSCDS Leaflets
The Belle of Bon Accord	32S4	Drewry, Deeside 2
The Frisky	32J3	RSCDS Book 26
Jessie's Hornpipe	32R3	RSCDS Book 8
Gang the Same Gate	32S3	RSCDS Book 36
Mrs Stewart's Jig	32J3	RSCDS Book 35
The Highland Rambler	40R3	Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee



The Tartan Ball – Saturday, October 17th, 8:00 pm

The White Cockade	32R3	Book 5
Roaring Jelly	32J3	Foss, Glendarroch
The Byron Strathspey	32S3c	Drewry, Deeside 2
The Australian Ladies	32R3	Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
The Flight of the Falcon	32J3	Priddey, Anni.Tensome
The Robertson Rant	80S4sq	Book 39
Peat Fire Flame	40R3	Drewry, Bon Accord
The Reel of the Royal Scots	32R3	RSCDS Leaflets
A Trip to Gatlinburg	32J3	Shengzhang Tang
Montreal Rendezvous	32R3	Montreal Moments
Monymusk	32S3	Book 11
The Montgomerie's Rant	32R3	Book 10
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	32J2	Graded Book
The Minister on the Loch	32S3c	Goldring, 24 Graded & Social Dances
The Piper and the Penguin	88R4sq	Goldring, Scotia Suite
The Clumsy Lover	32R3	Ian Richardson



Both dances will be held in the same place as last year, Briarcliff Woods Beach Club, 1830 Morris Landers Drive, Atlanta. It is a convenient location with good parking, and the clubhouse has been renovated since last year.

September Social

Millard and Myrtice Invite You
To
Supper and
A Sweet-Apple-Cider Making
Saturday, September 26th,

Plan now to come to LaGrange for the Scottish Dance Social, emceed by Randy Allen.

Following the Social you are invited to Supper and Cider Making at Millard and Myrtice's home; 171 Stewart Rd, LaGrange, GA

Your admission to the Supper and Cider Making is a glass container with threaded lid. Bring two – one for the Adcock's and one for you to take home full of Apple Cider. Glass is preferred but plastic is okay also. Gallon, half-gallon or quart container is a good size. Please be sure they are clean and ready to fill.



We expect to journey to Ellijay, GA, to get a truck load of apples – the kind suitable for good, sweet cider. Last year, our first experience to use the cider press which Millard made from a kit, we used two bushel of apples. This quantity yielded four to five gallons of cider. Plan to help grind the apples, twist the press, and wheel-barrow the pulp to the pasture. You will definitely want shoes other than your ghillies for tip-toeing through the cow chips! We look forward to a good time together and making enough cider for each household to have Cider to take home.

Regarding Supper: The outdoor, picnic type meal will be catered. Please RSVP by Friday, September 11, so we will know how many for supper and how many tables to set up. Email m41m33@wirelesshometown.com. The LaGrange Class members will bring desserts. If you want to bring apples, that's okay. We'll keep the press going as long as we have apples and you to help!

Directions to our home: From the Social, travel East on GA 109 which is Lafayette Parkway (same as Exit 18 on which you turned right to travel West if coming from Atlanta). Just after you cross the bridges over I-185, Stewart Rd. is a Right Turn. Look for a Scottish flag at the mail box at 171 Stewart Rd.

We look forward to having you at our home!

Millard and Myrtice



The Haywood Scottish Dancers are hosting an afternoon Tea Dance Sunday September 13th. Contact Marshall McLaughlin (mclaugh@madison.main.nc.us) for details.

Comments from an Interested Reader

by a different Andrew Smith

Very many thanks for sending a copy of The Petronella Paper to me, as your Management Board contact. I must congratulate you most sincerely on a colourful and attractively illustrated newsletter. I am afraid that my own Branch, Bristol, UK struggles to get pictures for its newsletter, because the photographers are usually so busy dancing that they forget the urgent pleas from the editor, and we have virtually no spectators.

It brought back memories for me too - although it is now more years ago than I care to admit. I can still remember my first RSCDS ball at 16, run by the Bath Branch in Bath's Georgian Guildhall (with its three magnificent chandeliers), and what a terrible anti-climax life seemed to be on the following morning. At that time I did not have formal dress, but at that age it was accepted, and the band, while a competent trio, during the day normally played background music in one of the smartest restaurants in Bristol. For Scottish functions in the locality they became "The Bristol Reels Orchestra", and indeed had the monopoly. [The Committee were frantic a few years later when Miss Milligan, at an early Bath anniversary ball, stormed off up to the band, saying that they were playing far too fast for "Petronella" (as it happens) and beat time in front of the band, but they were delightful gentlemen and did not take offence, much to everyone's relief.] My first full-dress function was the Celtic Society Highland Ball at St Andrews University in the Younger Hall. It cost me half a term's pocket money to hire the jacket, but it was worth it. It was also the first time that I had danced to a live [as opposed to Jimmie Shand on 78rpm records] SCD band, the "Gie Gordons" from Dundee, and the music was so wonderful that I had shivers up and down my spine virtually all evening. That is still my measure of a good band.

I share Marshall's views and thoughts about Auld Lang Syne as well, and find it becoming more poignant with every year that passes. The memories of Jane Thomaston very much reminded me of my partner, Lesley, who died very suddenly two and a half years ago. They were obviously kindred spirits, as real people-persons, looking out for the new or neglected, and full of life and vitality. Lesley instituted the Branch's Burns' Supper, and I was interested to see the picture of the procession (*the Rome, GA Burns Night picture of Jim Gawlas in the January-April issue*)

To round off the coincidences I see that you have another Andrew Smith as a teacher - I have this last weekend taken my Stage 2 teachers certificate exam, but must wait for the results. There are too many of us, as I was interested to see in a bookshop recently an American cookery book by 'Andrew F Smith' which is my usual identifier, but they did not have mine on the archaeology etc of the Nailsea Glassworks. (Archaeology was my other lifetime interest, which I was not able to really indulge until I retired, as SCD, and highland when I was younger, was always my primary interest; So much so that I was oblivious to the 'Swinging Sixties'.

I will be at St Andrews this year during the second week - if any of your members are over please look me up. Indeed if anyone ever finds themselves in the West of England and is looking for dancing, broadly speaking September through to June, either let me know or look on the Bristol website <http://rscdsbristol.info> or the Carswellian <http://carswellian.net> for a wider view. You will be very welcome.

Dogwood Festival Demo Thank You Letter

Dear Ms. Behmke,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of the Atlanta Dogwood Festival, I would like to thank you for the wonderful performance that you and the members of the Royal Scottish Country Dancers provided on our first-ever International stage at this year's Festival. The visitors to the Festival loved the performances, and we had wonderful feedback from them. This was a real highlight for this year's Festival and we are grateful for your support.

We are excited about the opportunities to expand our International presence next year, and hope that we can use you as a role model as we attempt to gain additional support from the International community here in Atlanta.

Thanks again for your enthusiastic support this year, and we hope that you will be part of the future growth and development of the Festival as we approach our 75th year celebration in 2011.

Sincerely
Brian Hill
Executive Director

Dogwood Festival

photos courtesy of Michael Jarrett



Audrey and Bernard's Birthday Bash

by Becky Sager

Where do the years go? It seems only yesterday we drove up to Knoxville for Bernard Kaiman's 80th birthday celebration, and now this year March 14th was the date of Audrey's 90th birthday, with Bernard's close behind at the end of the month.

Cynthia Atkins-West and the Johnson City SCD group planned a surprise dance party for the occasion. The location was a great one, the Jonesborough TN History Center, a new building with a wood-floored hall, just round the corner from the Kaimans' Main Street home.

As late as the Unicoi Weekend just two weeks before, it had seemed that the dancing would be to recorded music. However, Etienne Ozorak of the Music Makars, who played at Unicoi, was miraculously able to put together a group for the event. He came back down with award-winning fiddler Melinda Crawford, his western PA neighbor, and dancer Elissa Hock from eastern Ohio on keyboard – her first time playing a full dance program.

A good crowd of old dancing friends assembled, and when word was passed that Audrey and Bernard were in the building, the lights in the hall were turned off – and we really surprised them! Good job, Johnson City group! It's not easy to keep a secret like that, and to get the honorees to the right place at the right time.

We enjoyed an afternoon of dancing. Most of the dance briefers took the opportunity to share memories of Bernard and Audrey. Catherine Shaw, who was at Unicoi too, had also made a second journey south from Canada – this time driving with her husband John.



John and Catherine Shaw with Bernard

The Shaws were frequent attendees in years gone by at Bernard's dance events in Gatlinburg and at English Mountain. Catherine briefed her dance Well Done Bernard!! which she wrote in 1999 to recognize his being awarded the RSCDS Scroll. She also presented a tune, a lovely strathspey titled "English Mountain", composed for this birthday event by Fred Moyes. The music had been sent to Etienne ahead of time, so we were able to dance Alison Rose to it.

Bernard reminisced about the first time he saw SCD, at the Grandfather Mountain Games. He was so thrilled he had to seek out someone to teach him this dancing, and found the Blaschkes in Atlanta.



Ted Blaschke with his former student

After the dance, a group adjourned to a local restaurant called The Cranberry Thistle for a southern supper with the Kaimans. Sitting next to Bernard, I couldn't resist asking him "How did you end up here?" He's so obviously not a native of this far corner of Tennessee. I learned he was born in Nebraska, and his uncle was a cowboy. The family moved to Milwaukee when Bernard was quite young. After high school he went on to the university, majored in playing cards and dropped out. However, after the War, with a more mature attitude, he tried again on the G.I. Bill at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and this time he graduated.

While at he was at UW Bernard bought a trombone and a banjo, paying a dollar each for them. He looked around for someplace where he could combine postgraduate studies in psychology with learning more about playing the banjo – how about the University of Tennessee at Knoxville/Oak Ridge? The rest, as they say, is history.

To add a pleasant finish to a good day, Rhonda and I invited ourselves to the Shaws' hotel room. We gathered up Etienne and Elissa too, and had a very informative couple of hours. Among the topics discussed were how musicians can play a dance program without having a chance to practice together; the effort and expense of producing recordings of SCD music (Catherine had just been involved in TAC's production of the 50th Anniversary CD with Bobby Brown) and how the basic decency of Scottish country dancers makes it possible to run TACSound (and the Atlanta Branch Library) on the honor system. Interesting stuff!

Cotton Pickin' Demo
 photos courtesy of Werner Linz



Scotsmen Like Corn,
 Even on the Cob

Bulloch Hall demo

Everyone loved your performance and enjoyed participating as well. I can't thank you enough for coming Friday night to perform at the Magnolia Ball. People have been calling all week saying how much fun they had. I hope you had a great weekend in Blairsville. I would love for all of you to come to Bulloch Hall for a tour when ever you get a chance. We would love to show you our site.

Thank you again,
 Pam Billingsley

(Editors note: The photographer Duane Stork has posted proofs of his photos of the Magnolia Ball here: <http://www.photorelect.com/scripts/prsm.dll?eventthumbs?event=08B50090> The Scottish country dancers are on page 3.)



Blairsville Demo

photos courtesy of Ron Gemmell, Jessica Behmke, & Hal Parker



One way not to dance your feet off!



More than little ones like Prince of Orange!



Athens, Marietta, and North Carolina dancers show how much fun Scottish country dancing can be!



Hmm-m-m-m Looks like they have danced this before!



Oops! The camera doesn't lie. How many of you can spot the problem here?



The music is "ready to go" even if the dancers aren't!

Don't Forget to Pack Your Ghillies

by Susan Tumlin



This was the advice given to us by Barbara Gemmell just before we packed up and headed out to Santa Fe, New Mexico for our family vacation at the end of May. I wondered, "Scottish Country Dancing in New Mexico???" But we quickly checked on line before heading out and found that indeed a class was offered in Santa Fe. Upon arriving, I called Marilyn Thayer about the Friday night class in Santa Fe. She gave us directions and warmly invited us to come.

After enjoying a week of breathtaking views, historic sites, and mouthwatering Southwestern cuisine, we headed to class.

We were greeted by both Marilyn and Jane Lataille, the instructor, both

of whom drive from Los Alamos every Friday to dance in

Santa Fe. Jane warned us that they never knew how many would show up for class, but was prepared with many dances for as few as two or three dancers – many of which she had devised herself.



As the dancers arrived, we were glad to see we had a full set. Jane was able to teach several dances that will be on the New Mexico Branch's 25th Anniversary Gala Weekend this September including The Laird of Atherton, Clutha, and The Source. We also learned one of Jane's three person dances with variations of the Rondel and Rights and Lefts for three.

At the break, we got to talk with the class members who were impressed that we had not given out of breath at the 7000 foot altitude of Santa Fe. Since we had been there since Sunday, we felt somewhat acclimated to the height. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed meeting new friends and learning new dances.

If you've never been to Santa Fe, I highly recommend it! We enjoyed mild temperatures, tons of art and culture in the many museums and galleries, great shopping, and as I mentioned before – fantastic meals with both red and green chile.

We have all been invited to the 25th Anniversary Gala Weekend, including a concert, workshop and Grand Ball in historic Santa Fe, NM on September 18-20, 2009, featuring musicians Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith and teachers Elinor Vandegrift and Bill Zobel. For more information contact Rob Sanders at RobTaosSCD@aol.com

Road Trip anyone?!

Editor's Note: The Tumlin's were off dancing in New Mexico, the Gawlas took their ghillies to Scotland (read on), and your editor stayed a good bit closer to home and dragged her relatives to a class taught by Sandy Gallamore in Richmond, Virginia.

Why Don't We Get a Tea Break?

by Jim Gawlas

Having been absent from SCD class for 2 months, Donna and I were pleasantly surprised by the warm reception from our Marietta classmates upon our return.



We might also have wondered about our return to the SCD class we last visited in Scotland 7 years ago. The village of Inverinate on Loch Duich, where we stayed a week in a turf-roofed cottage, is blessed with, not only spectacular

scenery, but also a fine village hall. Of course, the dancers remembered us and were quite welcoming. We enjoyed both the dancing and the tea at intermission.



We generally try to hook

Having tea in Inverinate

up with dance classes when we travel in Scotland, but they can be scarce in the highlands, where we usually travel. Another week, we stayed within walking distance of the village hall in Invermoriston, while volunteering with Trees for Life, where the SCD had just been suspended and ceilidh dancing would be offered later in



the summer. But our legs needed no further exercise than the hills we climbed to plant trees, and we were quite content working amidst the heather, beholding the vistas high above Glen Affric and Loch Ness.

Our third week was in Forres, within striking distance of Nairn, but our activities at Findhorn conflicted with Nairn's SCD class. On our return to Inverness, we were determined, if not to dance "The Bridge of Nairn", then to visit it. After much search and research, we concluded that "The Bridge of Nairn", with its history back to 1632, is the very one over which we drove coming into town.



As elusive as the opportunities may be, joining the locals for SCD makes for a memorable visit to Scotland. Thankfully, we have opportunity every week to dance with dear friends back home.



view from the cottage

Dancing in Cartersville

by Susan Tumlin

We had a great social at Heritage on Saturday. Several dancers from Athens and LaGrange participated as well as many from the Marietta class and some of our newer dancers in Cartersville. We even had one North Carolinian with us.

Great job to Jim, Bettye, Harry, Christy, and Rosaline – first timers at a social. And by the way, the kilts looked great guys! By now Steve and Cheryl are "experienced" dancers in spite of the fact they've only danced around 7 months. Thanks to Bob and Dawn for devising and running the program.

I'm looking forward to our next social.

For July, the Cartersville class is taking the month off due to scheduling conflicts. Never fear, however, we will be back in strong force on August 7th. Invite a friend or two or three. We will resume our 1st and 3rd Fridays then.

July Social

photos courtesy of Linda Lovejoy



Some Cartersville dancers attending their first social – along with their teachers.

The Lobster – Quadrille and SCD

(reprinted from the 1989 Jan/Feb issue of "The Petronella Paper")

Lewis Carroll's poem "The Lobster-Quadrille" from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* contains a question which should sound very familiar to members of RSCDS:

'Will you walk a little faster!' said a whiting to a snail,
'There's a porpoise close behind us, and he's treading on my tail
See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance!
They are waiting on the shingle - will you come and join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?'

Won't You Join the Dance? is, of course, the title of Miss Jean Milligan's manual on Scottish Country Dancing, which should be part of every member's library. The dance itself, as described in *Alice's Adventures*, is certainly a longwise country dance, though probably not Scottish. According to the Mock Turtle and the Gryphon, all couples advance twice, set to partners, and then change partners, after which the nature of the dance changes to something of which Miss Milligan certainly would not have approved. The "first figure" concludes with throwing the lobsters into the sea, swimming after them, turning a somersault, and swimming back to land.

The dance might, in fact, be a sort of strathspey, for in demonstrating it, the Mock Turtle and Gryphon "began solemnly dancing round and round Alice, every now and then treading on her toes when they passed too close," while the Mock Turtle sings the words quoted above, "very slowly and sadly."

One final point – there is perhaps a link between the Lobster-Quadrille and the Auld Alliance with Scotland, for the third stanza contains these lines:

'What matters it how far we go?' his scaly friend replied,
'There is another shore, you know, upon the other side.
The further off from England the nearer is to France;
Then turn not pale, beloved snail, but come and join the dance.'

Perhaps readers of the *Petronella Paper* can find other allusions in the great works of literature which might be of relevance to lovers of country dance. Send us your ideas.

Susan's Rule for the Pousette Right Round

(reprinted from the 1989 Nov/Dec issue of "The Petronella Paper")

If you have ever had trouble remembering which foot to begin on when you dance into the diagonal line on Bar 1 of the Pousette Right Round (the full Strathspey Pousette), it might help to think of it in the following way. If you are on the right side of the two couples who will be dancing the pousette (i.e., first woman or second man's position), then start on your right foot. If you are on the left side (first man or second woman), start on your left foot. Try it; it works. That is, it works if you know the difference between your right foot and your left, and that can be hard to remember in the middle of a complex dance. (We always remember how to do Bar 4 of the *Tournee* by recalling that you keep right hands at the top and left hands at the bottom – unless it's the other way around.)

*Editor's Note: I was thankful when someone pointed out in the *tournee* 'retain top hands at the top and bottom hands at the bottom!'*

**Atlanta Area
Scottish Country Dance Classes**

Wednesday

Social Class: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

LaGrange School of Ballet

212 Bull Street, LaGrange

Teachers: Myrtice Adcock – (706) 882-9655
[m41m33 at wirelesshometown.com](mailto:m41m33@wirelesshometown.com)

Randy Allen – (706) 663-2545
[raallen at mindspring.com](mailto:raallen@mindspring.com)

Contacts: Anne Short – (706) 845-0503

Werner & Catherine Linz
[walinz at mindspring.com](mailto:walinz@mindspring.com)

Thursday

Beginner/Intermediate: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

189 Church Street, Marietta

Teachers: Walt Ligon
[wligonmd at bellsouth.net](mailto:wligonmd@bellsouth.net)

Becky Sager
[bsager3 at juno.com](mailto:bsager3@juno.com)

Contact: Sylvia Priest – (770) 974-4642
[sapriest at mindspring.com](mailto:sapriest@mindspring.com)

Beginner/Advanced: 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

2461 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta

Teacher: Andrew Smith
[Andrew-Smith at gsu.edu](mailto:Andrew-Smith@gsu.edu)

Contact: Trish Bolton – (770) 442-5423
[tabhome at mindspring.com](mailto:tabhome@mindspring.com)

Please call or e-mail for details/schedule.
Novice dancer instruction is scheduled in
September

**Beginner/Intermediate: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
(The Thistle & Kudzu Dancers)**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens

780 Timothy Road, Athens 30606 (off of Loop 10)

Teacher: Jesse Behmke
Contact: Carrie Slayton 706-255-1010

For more information, please email [info at thistleandkudzu.net](mailto:info@thistleandkudzu.net)

Friday Evenings (First and Third of Month) :

Beginner: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Heritage Baptist Church

1070 Douthit Ferry Rd., Cartersville, GA

Teachers: Dawn Dorsey
Bob Messner

Contact: Susan Tumlin (H) 770-386-3656
[susantumlin at yahoo.com](mailto:susantumlin@yahoo.com)

Before attending a class for the first time, or for more information, please contact the person(s) indicated.

You don't need to bring a partner.

Flat, soft-soled shoes are recommended!



**RSCDS Atlanta Branch
Committee of Management**

Chairman	Dawn Dorsey	770-934-1561 bionicelt at comcast.net
Vice-Chairman	Rhonda Raye	770-606-0356 Rstarthistle at gmail.com
Hon. Secretary	Sylvia Priest	770-974-4642 sapriest at mindspring.com
Hon. Treasurer	Becky Sager	770-427-4642 bsager3 at juno.com
Scribe	Christine Transue	770-952-3704 ctscot1 at comcast.net
Mem.-at-Large	Bob Messner	770-457-3973 rmess61412 at bellsouth.net
Mem.-at-Large	Susan Tumlin	770-386-3656 susantumlin at yahoo.com
Editor	Rhonda Raye	770-606-0356 Rstarthistle at gmail.com

The Atlanta Branch Committee of Management meets on the first **Thursday** of each month at **6:30 PM**, at First Presbyterian Church, 189 Church Street, Marietta. All members are invited to attend and may speak on any issue. The next meeting will be held on Aug 6, 2009.



The Atlanta Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society publishes the *Petronella Paper* six times a year. Full-year subscription (mailed to US address) is \$6.00, half-year is \$3.00. The newsletter may be accessed on the Branch website. Articles, subscription requests and other correspondence regarding the *Petronella Paper*, should be addressed to:

Editor, The *Petronella Paper*
RSCDS – Atlanta Branch
P.O. Box 33905
Decatur, GA 30033

Articles for the Sept/Oct issue should be received by the editor **on or before Aug 21** and may be of any length: typed, neatly handwritten, or e-mailed to [rstarthistle at gmail.com](mailto:rstarthistle@gmail.com). Any material submitted becomes the property of the *Petronella Paper* and will not be returned. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted. All letters must be signed. All articles may be edited (as required by limitations of space and appropriateness) before publication.



Upcoming Events 2009

July

18 Social – St Bede’s Church – Tucker, GA 2:00pm

August

15 Carolina’s Branch Tea Dance – Greensboro, NC

September

11-13 Sebring SCD weekend – Sebring, FL

13 Tea dance – NC (*Marshall’s class*)

18-19 Charleston Highland Games & Dance

26 Social – the ballet studio – LaGrange 2:00 pm

October

16-18 Stone Mountain Highland Games

24 Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival –
Richmond, VA

November

13-15 North Florida Workshop & Ball – Gainesville, FL

21 St Andrews Day Dance – Greensboro, NC



If undelivered, return to:
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Atlanta Branch
Post Office Box 33905
Decatur, GA 30033
U.S.A.