



# The Petronella Paper

May 2012

Newsletter of

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

[www.RSCDS-Atlanta.org](http://www.RSCDS-Atlanta.org)

## Atlanta Branch Spring 2013 Workshop

Over the years, we've shared many memories and a lot of fun at our Spring Workshops at both Unicoi State Park and the Dillard House. Unicoi will soon be undergoing a massive remodeling program updating the lodge and restaurant facilities as well as the rooms in the "A" thru "D" Buildings. They are also going to add another 100 lodge rooms which will increase the capacity of the facility for housing guests.

With all of the construction and renovations at Unicoi next year, we are moving to another facility in the North Georgia area. We will be going to "The Forrest Hills Mountain Resort and Conference Center" located an hour north of Atlanta outside of Dahlonega and beautiful Amicalola Falls and just 45 minutes from Helen. Please check [www.foresths.com](http://www.foresths.com) for pictures of the new location.

The facility has an exposed beam ceiling and a wooden floor in the conference room where we will be dancing. Yes, a wooden floor! The rooms are in separate buildings on the property arranged as 8 - 16 room lodges with each building having its own separate common area for gathering after the evening dances. All meals beginning with dinner Friday evening through breakfast on Sunday will be provided and included in the overall cost of the workshop weekend along with the cost of your lodging room. Room reservations will be made through the Branch, which should make checking in and out much easier.

Our teaching staff next year will be Stella Fogg and Sandy Gallamore both of the Richmond, Virginia area. Both are familiar faces in the southeast and the Atlanta area. Our musicians for the weekend will be Nicholas Williams on keyboard along with Laura Risk and Mara Shea on fiddle. Mara Shea from the Greensboro, North Carolina area and Laura Risk and Nicholas Williams from Montreal, Canada will provide our dancers with amazing energy on the floor, beyond compare in the southeast.

Make plans to join us next year on March 1-3, 2013, at Forrest Hills Mountain Resort & Conference Center in Dahlonega, Georgia. And also note that it's not a time change weekend.

Thank you for all the past years and see you next Spring

Bob Messner and Dawn Dorsey

And your workshop committee

Sylvia Priest, Susan Tumlin, Becky Sager

## More on the Forrest Hills Mountain Resort & Conference Center by two who have been there.

### **from Barb Gemmell:**

My sewing guild has had a sewing retreat at Forrest Hills the last couple of years and the ladies have been so satisfied we're booked again for this year. We had a lovely lodge that accommodated twenty ladies, each with their own bed, two to a room with private bath. It also had a large lounge and full kitchen. The bedrooms are very roomy and so are the beds. But maybe that was because I got to have a whole bed to myself (Ron stayed home and minded the home fires). It had two meeting rooms which we utilized to set up our sewing machines. I could visualize using these as small class rooms, or not so small if you take out all the tables. I don't know if all the lodges are set up the same way. The buffet food was plentiful and quite nice and the staff couldn't seem to do enough for us. I understand there are a lot of activities but we kept to our machines and didn't leave the lodge except to eat dinners and breakfasts. We brought our own potluck for lunch so we didn't have to keep to any schedule. You know we had to have more time to sew.

### **from Kay Barrow:**

My quilt guild has gone there for several years. Besides the lodges that Barb describes so well, the location is beautiful; set in the foothills. There are many paths and roadways to hike or horseback ride. Last year, when I was there, there was a wedding, with the bride and groom in a horse drawn carriage. So after dancing you can then go hiking and relax in nature. Did I mention the hall has a wooden floor!!!

## 2011 Tsunami Victims – Update!

from a message to Yoshi Yukishige from Yutaka Shimizu, the leader of the Sendai Happy Meeting SCD group

This is the status (as of January 2012) of the three dancers whose houses were destroyed in the tsunami last March.

1. Ms. Hiroko Kawabata of Higashi-Matsuyama City is living with her mother-in-law at a temporary house in the city that has been provided by the government. She works for a contracting company and, as you can imagine, she is extremely busy. The SCD group meets Friday nights and she sometimes comes and dances with friends. The land where her house once stood was bought by the city and in a couple of years they plan to move into a house built on a higher ground within the city.

2. Ms. Shizuko Komatsu of Ishinomaki City now lives with a younger sister in Sendai City, the capital of the Sendai Prefecture. Her son lives in a temporary house in Ishinomaki and continues to work in the city. She attends dance classes and also makes Japanese Calligraphy art for which she has recently received an award (she has attained a very high teaching level in Japanese Calligraphy). She has been participating with other residents of her former neighborhood in discussions to move all of them to higher land than where they were previously living. This is because the land where her house once stood has been recognized as "Dangerous area due to the Tsunami" and no one can build there now.

3. Ms. Masako Suzuki of Tagazyo-City is living in her house that had been submerged by the tsunami. Her house foundation, floor, and poles have been replaced with new and it is almost as if a totally new house has been built. She has been attending her SCD group regularly, which meets on Wednesday afternoon. Her husband is also fine and works for Japan Railroad Tohoku.

These three dancers are fortunate in that they, along with their husbands or sons have jobs, thus no government monetary aid is necessary. However, what they have lost is beyond description. Mr. Shimizu states that they seem more and more tired as time passes. He is willing to help them and support them in the future.

## SYLVIA FULL OF GRACE

### **(3x32 Strathspey for 3 Couples in a 3 Couple set)**

Note: A slightly longer than normal set will add to the grace

Devised by Marshall and Anne McLaughlin 2/13/12 for Sylvia Gilliland Chandler on the occasion of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The dance begins with 2<sup>nd</sup> Cpl active

1—8 2<sup>nd</sup> Cpl turn RH once around and then LH once around **while** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Cpls chase CW around back to place. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cpls finish in center ready for Allemande. *Note: 1<sup>st</sup> Lady will have to push the end of the chase slightly and loop around pulling back on her RSh to finish in the center ready for the Allemande*

9 – 16 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cpls dance Allemande

17 – 24 1<sup>st</sup> Cpl dance a full Figure of 8, Lady up around 2<sup>nd</sup> Cpl and Man down around 3<sup>rd</sup> Cpl.

25 – 32 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Cpls dance the Knot. Finish in order 2, 3, 1

Repeat from new positions

Music: Strathspey set from album *Terpsichore* by Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson

Figures: RH and LH turns; Chase; 2 Cpl Allemande; Figure of 8; The Knot

Objective: Fun



To Sylvia On Her Birthday

Who is our Sylvia? What is she  
That brings together such as we?  
To some a Scottish dancer fair  
With style and grace that is most rare.  
Or a singer with Collegium Vocale  
Where her voice is full and she is jolly.  
She's a reader, we hear, of many books.  
Her Pilgrims give her loving looks.  
Then she's a birder extraordinaire  
Even sees birds that aren't there.  
When she travels, we've been told  
She goes alone, she's mighty bold.  
So since we are an adoring crowd  
Sing Happy Birthday Sylvia, really loud!

Werner Linz



### **Speaking of Birthdays....**

Margaret Claire Nasmyth (Meg) was born at home on Feb 24th at 11:52pm. She was 9lbs even and 20 inches long. Margaret and mother Melanie are doing well.

### **Far Flung Friends**

For those of us who have danced with Molly Glenn and have wondered what she has been doing up there in the "frozen north", I had this from her mother Margaret: Molly is living in Dearborn Heights in Detroit. She is doing well and dancing on Monday nights with a class in Ann Arbor. Here's a link to her SCD class blog: <http://a2scottishdancing.blogspot.com/>

### **Membership**

Are you a member of the RSCDS? If you enjoy SCD, remember it is the contributions in time and money of members in the past that is the reason you can learn SCD today. Sounds like a commercial for public broadcasting doesn't it, but they do have a point. A tangible benefit currently is *The Manual* available in the 'members only' section of [www.RSCDS.org](http://www.RSCDS.org). *The Manual* tells you how a figure is done. It is often broken down bar by bar and with pictures when it is thought that will clarify ambiguities. If you are serious about SCD or just didn't understand in class because 10 people were talking over the teacher, *The Manual* is a must have on your bookshelf real or virtual. For assistance in logging into the "members only" section of the website, contact Sylvia Priest at [sapriest@mindspring.com](mailto:sapriest@mindspring.com) for the initial log-in procedure.

### **Demo for The Atlanta Branch of the American Sewing Guild**

by Sylvia Priest

Many times when we perform a demo, our audience is either non-existent or not really that interested. It is rare that we dance for a captive audience and one that is very appreciative and shows it. Several weeks ago Barb Gemmell, who is a member of the Sewrifics Neighborhood Group of the Atlanta Branch of the American Sewing Guild, asked if we could possibly perform at their "Spring Fling" workshop which was held on Saturday, April 14, the same day as our April social. Several dancers volunteered and a short program of dances was performed just before their lunch break. The room was packed and everyone seemed to enjoy the performance, many clapping in time with the music. After finishing, we received a rousing round of applause. We were invited to stay for lunch, which was catered by On the Border and Sweet Tomatoes. Needless to say, the performers who comprised Barb and Ron Gemmell, Bob Messner, Becky Sager, Rhonda Raye, Kate Mathewes, Colleen Anich, Sylvia Priest, and Dawn Dorsey, who ran the sound from her wheelchair, all enjoyed themselves. It seems that the audience did as well as Barb received the following e-mail from Jacquie Munoz, vice president in charge of programs:

*A big THANK YOU to Barb, Ron and the ROYAL SCOTTS, you are amazing! During your performance I looked back to see the audience, I saw people standing so they could see more, clapping and huge smiles! Everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you so very much and to think you guys did all that work for a taco! Jacquie*

### **Challenge**

After Janet Walker's class at the Unicoi Spring workshop, a challenge has been issued: "How many can refrain from clapping until AFTER the final chord". It is much harder than you think.

### **Things not to do in class or at a dance**

Do NOT stand in a set without a partner. It is rude to the people counting, to those who don't know if they need to move to another set when there are multiple incomplete sets, and to other couples wanting to join. If there is another couple wanting to walk on, they have the "right of way" and the individual insisting on standing alone should sit down. I've always seen dancers willing to ask others to dance but once you are past the "new" stage, you must do just as much asking. Even those who have been dancing awhile get asked to dance less and less as they also quit asking others to dance. Yes it is nice to be asked, but remember those doing the asking would like to be on the receiving end also.

### **From the Editor**

Please note that *The Petronella Paper* has not been on a regular schedule. I appreciate all the articles and pictures dancers and others have sent me over the last several years. Please continue sending them. The Newsletter will come out as often as I have stuff to fill it with. If there is not enough for a newsletter, remember that your articles will be added directly to the website [www.rscds-atlanta.org](http://www.rscds-atlanta.org) under the NEWS link where you will also find this newsletter and older issues of the Petronella. This way articles can be read by others while they are still current. If you haven't checked out the website lately you might take a peek. Things are being added all the time. If you have any good photos of events or videos of dances, we now have plenty of space to add them. If you have photos of dancers that have passed on please pull them out and send them to Bob Messner, for a new "Flowers of the Forest" link

## **Upcoming Events**

### **2012**

#### **May**

- 18-20 Maryville Highland Games and dance – Maryville, TN  
18-20 [Midwest Scottish Weekend](#) – Beloit, Wisconsin  
19 **Branch social and AGM** – St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Tucker, GA 2:00pm  
26 [Greater Greenville Scottish Games and Highland Festival](#) – Furman University, Greenville, SC

#### **June**

- 2 Greenville dance – Travelers Rest, SC  
2-3 [Silver Thistle Ball](#) – Ashland, VA  
2-3 [Flying Ghillies Workshop and Ball](#) – Wright State University, Dayton Ohio  
9-10 [Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games](#) – Meeks Park, Blairsville, GA  
16 **Branch social** – First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA 2:00pm

#### **July**

- 8-14 [Thistle School](#) – Banner Elk, NC  
12-15 [Grandfather Mountain Highland Games](#) – Linville, NC

#### **September**

- 14-15 [Charleston Highland Games](#) and dances – Charleston, SC

#### **October**

- 19-21 Stone Mountain Highland Games – Stone Mountain, GA  
26-27 A Reel Scottish Weekend – Charlotte, NC

### **2013**

#### **March**

- 1-3 **Atlanta Branch Spring Workshop** – Dahlonega, GA



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