

The GHILLIE CALLUM

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December 2013



The prize-winning teams and individuals from the Costume Contest at the Halloween Dance pose with their certificates. Dancers were asked to dress as the name of an dance. Additional photos on page 3.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Dancers,

Happy Holidays. While classes are getting ready to take a short break, there is still plenty of dancing over the next two months. The Orange County Branch has its annual Christmas Ball on Dec. 14 with Hood, Wink & Swagger providing the music. We follow with our Hogmanay party – a great way to celebrate New Year's Eve with friends.

Our next event is the Burns Supper and Ball, which we co-host with the Orange County Branch. The dinner-dance will be on Jan. 25 at Ports o' Call restaurant in San Pedro. Hood, Wink & Swagger will provide the music. Please note this change: The deadline for \$55 reservations is Jan. 15. Reservations after that date will cost \$60. Fliers are available from your teacher or at the LA Branch web site.

Now that it's nearly 2014, our Catalina Weekend is on the horizon (literally!). The deadline to turn in your remaining payment is Jan. 31. The weekend is fully booked with 47 attendees coming from the Los Angeles Branch alone.

I hope to see many of you at the Burns Supper.

Rosemary Abend

RETIRING

CAROL McOWEN

Your long-serving Ghillie Callum Editor Carol McOwen has decided to step down, beginning with this issue.

Carol contributed to the newsletter even before she became editor about 1994. During her tenure as editor, she oversaw the transition into the digital age, always updating her computer and its programs, and improving her computer skills to bring the LA Branch the best possible newsletter.

Many of you may never have met Carol, as problems with shoulders, hips, etc. have kept her off the dance floor in recent years. Carol credits her son for first making her aware of Scottish Country Dancing, which he discovered as a grad student at UC Berkeley. He's Robert McOwen, an SCD teacher in Boston and renowned Highland dancer. His wife is fiddler Barbara



Carol McOwen fondly recalls the time dance devisor John Drewry, left, visited here in the 1990s.

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PETE KIER

After Miss Milligan called from RSCDS Headquarters to inform that Los Angeles had been granted Branch status, David Brandon, the first elected chairman, contacted the Thistle Band to provide the first live music to celebrate the occasion. The first dance was held at Hollenbeck High School in East L.A. with Pete Kier providing the sound equipment he used for his Dixieland band.

C. Stewart Smith, a Scottish immigrant to San Francisco, had trained the first L.A. Branch teachers. He heard of the event and helped David and the band plan the first workshop weekend at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. Many dancers came from San Francisco because Stewart told his dancers about the joy of dancing to live music. Stewart taught the popular and exciting dance 1314 at this workshop.

Because there was no other Scottish

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CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

DECEMBER

31 Hogmanay Party, El Segundo Woman's Club, Mariposa at Standard, El Segundo. 8 p.m. Music: recorded.

JANUARY

25 Burns Supper & Ball, Ports O' Call Restaurant, San Pedro. 6:30 p.m. Music: Hood, Wink & Swagger. Reservations required.

FEBRUARY

22 Beginner Dance, First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City, 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MARCH

22 Beginner Dance, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona, 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

APRIL

27 Tea Dance, First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura. Music: recorded.

OTHER BRANCHES

DECEMBER

14 OC Christmas Ball, Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., 7 p.m. Music: Hood, Wink & Swagger.

JANUARY

4 OC Monthly Dance, Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St., Anaheim. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

FEBRUARY

1 OC Beginner Dance, Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St., Anaheim. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MARCH

15 SGV Back to Basics Workshop and Ball. Workshop teachers David Tague and Doug Macdonald; musicians Andy Imbrie and Judi Nicholson.

OCTOBER

OC's Christine Grobler is putting together another 10- or 12-day tour of New Zealand for six to eight people. Tour will include dancing, sightseeing and a farm stay. Contact Christine at chrisgrobler@cox.net or 949-412-2088.

HALLOWEEN DANCE



The Torrance class as Gypsy Weavers.



Jon Reeves as Swiss Lassie.



Jeff Altman as Casting Glances.



Steve Bryan, Edie Archibald, Linda Boucher and Pat Zschoche as Links (Lynx) with St. Peter(sburg).

Deresa Kenney as Just as I Was in the Morning.



RSCDS AGM

With the help of Elspeth Grey (the Society's secretary) the Los Angeles Branch had a representative to the Society AGM in November:

Rachel Shankland. She reported that Alastair MacFadyen has resigned as president of the Society. There was one motion at the AGM: to increase dues by 2 pounds. The motion passed 160 to 138. Los Angeles voted "no".

BEGINNER DANCE

February 22, 2014
 First Christian Church
 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City
 7 p.m. Recorded music

The Invitation Dance	J B	Auld Friends Meet
Sandy's Scotch Broth	S I	Katannuta
The Highland Lass	R B	Book 30
Largo Law	S B	MMM I
Scotia Sea	R I	Scotia Suite
Collie Law	J B	24 Graded and Social
The Barmkin	R B	2nd Graded Book
Christine M. Phillips	J I	Book 46
The Braes of Tulliemet	S B	Book 7
Forty-Five Years On	RA	5 For 2009
The Brudenell Jig	J B	2nd Graded Book
A Trip Around Salt Spring	RA	Katannuta
Her Majesty's Crown	S B	Central Kentucky
The Cocket Hat	J I	Book 44
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R B	2nd Graded Book
The Valentine	S I	5 Dances for 2009
Granville Market	J B	2nd Graded Book

BEGINNER DANCE

March 22, 2014
 Torrance Cultural Arts Center
 Torrance Blvd. at Madrona
 7 p.m. Recorded music

Granville Market	J B	2nd Graded Book
Petronella	R B	Book 1
Her Majesty's Crown	S B	Central Kentucky
Pelorus Jack	J I	Book 41
The Barmkin	R B	2nd Graded Book
New Abbey	S B	Graded & Social 2
EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
A Trip Around Salt Spring	RA	Katannuta
The Braes of Tulliemet	S B	Book 7
The Cocket Hat	J I	Book 44
Tomalena	R I	San Francisco Vol. 2
Collie Law	J B	24 Graded and Social
Hope Little's Strathspey	S B	Graded & Social 2
Duke of Perth	R I	Book 1
The Kelloholm Jig	J I	RSCDS Leaflet
Rakes of Glasgow	S B	Book 11
J.B. Milne	RA	Hugh Foss

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The Seaside Games are always fun for the Demonstration Team because so many dancers are in the audience. We make an effort to include dances that are familiar, and this year Roberta put together a medley using Border Meeting, which is currently on the LA program. She very cleverly worked out a way to blend that two-couple dance with a three-couple dance.

We are continuing to see a rotation along the men's side of the set. For the Seaside Games that meant Jim Bell, Randy Scherer and Doug Macdonald joined Larry Kanowsky, while the ladies' side consisted of the usual crew — Alison Divall, Carol Madden, Martina Hanson and Alice Allen. And, of course, Roberta Gotfried was at the head of the set handling the music and introductions.

For the 90th anniversary of the RSCDS, we also had an audience full of dancers and that really gave us a lift. The new guy in the set making his debut was Evan Avery, who dances in Jack Rennie's class. Once again Roberta's creativity allowed us to make the most of a set

of two men and four women, including a lively variation for Laich of Moray.

We have a little time to plan for the Queen Mary and Irish Fair next year. No doubt Roberta will continue to offer us new and interesting dances, but also continue to drill us on technique and presentation.

Alice Allen

March Ghillie Callum

Deadline for the March 2014 Ghillie Callum is Feb. 1.

NEW MEMBER

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new member Nikki-Sara Mitchell.

Melinda Brown

The Los Angeles Branch celebrated the 90th anniversary of the RSCDS with a bring-a-friend tea dance in October at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Palos Verdes Peninsula. Non-dancer guests were invited to join us for several audience participation dances, and the LA Dem Team performed.



RSCDS 90TH ANNIVERSARY TEA DANCE

The Los Angeles Branch held a tea dance Oct. 20 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

It was also a “bring a friend” event, held in a spacious hall at the lovely South Coast Botanic Garden in Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Total attendance was 34 dancers and 34 guests, who were quite game to get up on the floor and give SCD a try.

Branch teachers Roberta Gotfried, Aase

Hansen, Bill Hartung and Deanna St. Amand briefed and taught the audience participation dances.

Roberta directed the Demonstration Team, represented by Alison Divall, Carol Madden, Evan Avery, Larry Kanowsky, Alice Allen and Martina Hanson.

Yummy sandwiches, cookies and cakes brought by Branch members were served with hot and iced tea and other beverages.

SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES

October proved to be a busy month for Southern California dancers, and the fun began with the 2013 Seaside Highland Games.

Once again dancers from our local classes participated by presenting short programs of their choosing followed by audience participation. Judging by the number of visitors joining in, these programs are fast becoming a favorite activity at the Games. Thanks to Renee Boblette, Doug and Anthea Macdonald and Lisa Sage for bringing sets from their classes, and to Aase Hansen, Barbara Mackenzie and Deanna St. Amand for organizing mixed sets of dancers from various L.A. and O.C. classes.

In addition to the class dems, the L.A. Team and the Clan MacLeod Dancers presented programs on Saturday and Sunday. And our Seaside Street Dancers performed a simple dance outside McBride Hall inviting all present to join in the fun.

Saturday evening the dancing continued when more than 30 dancers had a fun-filled evening at the annual Scotch Hop.

On Sunday morning, Colyn Fischer and Shauna Pickett-Gordon worked with local musicians and dancers in hopes of attracting interest in playing for Scottish Country Dancing. Later that day a group of local musicians came together for a jam session in McBride Hall.

A special thank you to Donna Ingram and her committee for planning the dance activities at the Seaside Games and for transforming McBride Hall into a festive setting for our dance activities. Thanks, too, to Aase Hansen for scheduling the dancing in McBride and to Aase and David Key, our emcees, for keeping things running smoothly all weekend; to our booth workers who answered questions and handed out information; to Robb Quint for once again chairing the Scotch Hop, and especially to all of you who came and shared your love of SCD with our audiences. We couldn't have done it without you.

Deanna St. Amand



SCD activities at the Seaside Games ranged from class and team demonstrations to a street dance with local musicians.





Dancers from all four Southern California branches enjoyed a weekend workshop in August at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge in Mt. Baldy. Back row from left, Martina Hanson, Cloyd Duncan, Doug Macdonald, Jake Talbot, Anthea Macdonald, Jon Reeves, John Allen, Eric Fisher, Linda Boucher, Steve Bryan, Gail Halverson, Leslie Evans, Evan Avery, Betty Jalal (visiting from Ann Arbor, Mich.), Bob Brooks, Judy Fey, Melinda Brown, Doris Fisher; front row, Jeanne Moody, Bonnie Lassen, Sarah Stelck, Aase Hansen, Sondra Talbot, Dianne Wilson, Chris Brooks.

Carol McOwen Continued from page 2

McOwen.

Carol attended several weekly classes when still dancing and also was an eager dancer at many of our workshops in Southern California as well as the Asilomar weekend.

After a recent bout with pneumonia that landed her in the hospital for more than a week, Carol said she knew it was time to hand over the job of editor. I hope to maintain Carol's high standards, while wishing her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

Pete Kier Continued from page 2

band, soon the Thistle Band was playing up and down the West Coast and into Canada, and of course Pete kept expanding his equipment and skills to project the music to the dancers on the floor. He did this not only for the Thistle Band over 40 years, but for visiting groups of musicians to the Southland.

With all that in mind, kudos to life member of the Branch Pete Kier, as he now retires due to ongoing age and health issues. He has generously turned over his sound equipment to the L.A. Branch for the sake of continuing good live music at our functions in the future. His congeniality, generosity, good humor and cooperation over the years is appreciated and the Branch extends to Pete and Nancy congratulations, health and happiness in their retirement.

I first met Pete in the 1950s while attending a fraternity beer bust at UCLA. As we talked we found we both liked Scottish music, the friendship began and the music goes on.

Jack Rennie

CLASSES

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks Class went on to our typical six-week holidays break after class on Nov. 19. Class will resume on Jan. 7 and continue for 20 weeks uninterrupted through May 20, the Tuesday prior to Memorial Day Weekend, before adjourning for the summer. We were very fortunate during our autumn weeks to have consistent attendance of five or six couples.

Most of us attended the Seaside Games Scotch Hop, and a few of us were seen at the Halloween Dance and St. Andrew's Ball, as well. Also within the SCD world, Donna Ingram just completed yet another stint managing all of the SCD activities at the recent Seaside Highland Games. Deresa Kenney, extending her SCD participation east of the Rockies, was able to splice onto a summer trip of visiting friends a Boston Branch Weekend in New Hampshire, as well as a class in Arkansas. And our own Alan Hoff recently produced CDs for all L.A. Branch teachers of the music for all the new Branch dances as well as (nice guy, that Alan!) a whole set of cassette tapes for a certain Kilodrusionian dinosaur.

Beyond the realm of SCD, class members have been busy as well. Christa Wilk took a several-week trip with husband Bill to visit family in Basel, Switzerland, and take a river cruise along the Danube. Also in the boating department, Sandy and Madeleine Waddell enjoyed a round-trip sailing from Newport Beach to two locations on Santa Catalina in September. They plan as well to sail to the Catalina Weekend next May, just as they did to the dance weekend in 2007. Barbara Hoff took a hiking trip with several hiking buddies in the beautiful Cambria area. And our "Doc" Carolyn Williams has her dissertation (previously accepted and the degree recently awarded) in the final formatting stage to ready it for publication.

Three of our dancers have happily returned to class. Murray Bader was away from us for the entire previous dance-year owing to a heavy work schedule and a long commute from Ventura to Glendale. Now our attorney-dancer has a new position with a law firm in Westlake Village, just down the pike from class, which has become an easy stopover for him en route

home from work. We are SO glad to have Murray back with us after such a long absence! Angie Outmesguine was under the weather for several weeks prior to our summer break, but, happily feeling much better now, was able to rejoin us after the summer. Angela Tennyson, also out for several weeks owing to a leg injury at the end of the summer, has just recently rejoined the class. We're most happy to have our Angie-Angela duo back in class.

We had very pleasant visits from Shirley Coleman on two Tuesdays when her usual Culver City Class was not meeting. Come join us again any time, Shirley, and thanks to Christa Wilk for introducing her to the class. We were also delighted to welcome Claudia Pedersen, who made her first visits to our class in November.

And finally a personal mention from me: I have been literally overwhelmed by the exceedingly warm welcome over the past half year from members of the Los Angeles Branch since I became a Los Angeles Branch teacher. While I certainly was not expecting anything bad, something though just pleasantly neutral, it has been much more than that. So thanks very much to the many of you branch members and administrators who have made my transition into the Los Angeles Branch such an extremely happy one.

Robb Quint

North Valley

We'll begin with Terry and Jim Schaeffer who "summered" at home in Granada Hills and then took two enjoyable autumn trips: the first to the Southern Rockies in Colorado to visit his college roommate (with a side trip to Santa Fe) and the second to visit friends in the San Francisco Bay area (alas, no dancing included).

Audrey Prest has continued to pursue an interest in the city of Burbank's volunteer-built float for the Rose Parade. This year she is a member of the decorations committee ("deco" for short), which selects plants and flowers to be used based on color, texture, durability, shape and size. She expanded her interests this year to include cutting steel into appropriate lengths, then shaping and smoothing edges before pass-

ing them on to be welded. (I want a picture of her in those heavy gloves and protective goggles!)

Audrey has also taken over editing the Ghillie Callum from Carol McOwen, who has retired. She will be planning and doing page layouts, as well as printing and assembling. That's quite a few hats! If someone would write her a dance on that theme, her Halloween costume for next year would be oh! so easy.

The Seaside Games were enjoyed by many North Valley dancers. Deanna St. Amand selected three dances for our demonstration: EH3 7AF, Hana Strathspey and On the Quarter-Deck. Class members Claudia Pedersen, Laura Husman, Audrey Prest and Terry Schaeffer were joined by guests Alyssa Kennedy (Valley College), Karen Kerman (Long Beach), Linda McWade (Ventura) and Renee Boblette (Costa Mesa) on Saturday. We made a good team!

Laura Husman's husband Matt and younger son Peter danced later in the audience participation. The first dance, Master Peter, was written for him by Deanna after several visits to our Thursday night class. Peter also enjoyed Seaside's Children's Glen activities. Good job, Peter!

Claudia Pedersen

Long Beach

The dancing season has begun in earnest! Probably the event that marked the beginning of this was the Interbranch Dance at the end of September, but the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura seem to kick off the return from summer's doldrums and prime everyone for upcoming events.

Once again, this gathering lived up to its billing as the "premier Scottish festival on the Central California Coast." Last year's popular "flash mob" street dance returned. Many classes participated in demonstrations. "Music for Dancing Feet," a workshop open to all experienced musicians wanting to learn the ins and outs of playing for Scottish country dancing, was a new feature this year. Roberta Gotfried directed the dancing section, working in coordination with Shauna Pickett-Gordon and Colyn Fischer, the Peat Fire Flame duo.

Connie and Karen danced in mixed-class demos both days. Much fun and many old friendships renewed and new ones made. Always a pleasurable weekend!

Many events crowd our schedule as we resume class and work toward the St. Andrew's Ball, the Christmas Ball, Hogmanay celebration and the Burns Ball. Come join us as we have fun while we work.

Karen Kerman

Valley College

Excitin' times in the dance world these days with so many big (and small) fun events coming up!

Claudia's clan has had some excitement as well ... she summed it up for me saying that her daughter Erika's family lost a tooth (grandson Gabe's first) and gained a puppy (an Australian shepherd named "Hawkeye"). Claudia also danced with Terry, Audrey and Alyssa in class presentations at the Seaside Games, while Valerie and Lindsey joined the audience participation on Sunday. We were well accounted for!

Deborah gave me so much good information about how much fun she had at a Pine-woods workshop — how magical a setting it was, and how cool to dance in the outside pavilion in the woods — so I want everyone to consider it for next year. Talk to Deborah for more scintillating detail.

Dave and I had a wonderful time at his 50th high school reunion in the lovely little town of Nutley, N.J. It was a classic reunion, including the homecoming football game. It was a really fun time ... oh, remind me to show you Dave's year book picture! I still have his reunion name tag in my purse.

Kathrin continues her obsessive collecting of antique carousel horses with the addition of a third ... and we aren't talking miniatures here.

Audrey has, of course, been working, along with Jon Reeves, on the Burbank Rose Parade float. But not only with the decorating committee selecting plant materials to use on this year's float, but also with Jon's construction crew learning to cut steel and prep it for the welders. She insists she is not going to learn to

weld herself. We'll see.

Aase's daughter Lisbeth has moved from Virginia to Rockville, MD, close to Washington, D.C., where her husband Richard is now working at the Pentagon. Aase went to help with the move and says the new house is wonderful with deer roaming freely in the large front and back yard. (Add deer to Lisbeth's ever growing collection of animals.)

Terry, as you probably know, is retired, but seems busier than ever taking on projects at the museum that she's interested in but had no time for when she was actually working — not to mention all the projects at home ... like Jim for instance.

Robyn MacGarva

Ventura



Ventura teacher Lisa Sage was surprised with a cake on her birthday in August. Class members celebrating are, from left, Mike Tiffany, Gerry McGuire, Stephanie Tiffany, Deresa Kenney, Donna Ingram, Lisa, Jean McGuire, Carolyn Williams, Barbara Hoff and Yukari Hirayama.

2013-2014 DIRECTORIES

The new membership directory has been printed. Your copy should be in the mail or with your teacher, if you regularly attend class.

MEMORIAL FUND

The L.A. Branch has money set aside in a Memorial Fund, to be used for special equipment or special events. It can also be use for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something else related to Scottish Country Dancing but who cannot afford the whole cost on their own. Applications are available from Branch teachers.

RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

The Branch earns a contribution from the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program when members register to benefit the Branch, while continuing to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Go online to register or pick up a flier to take to to your store. You need to re-register annually, beginning Sept. 1. Our Organization Number is 93159.



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