

The Ghillie Callum

Volume 38 No. 4

June 2007

CATALINA WORKSHOP WEEKEND

Twenty-six miles across the sea, Catalina Island was a-waiting for us, 148 of us, the first weekend in May. It gave us blue skies and sunny weather, an incredible ballroom and an all-around fabulous time.

Dining and dancing amid the art deco opulence of the historic Casino Ballroom was an experience not to be missed! The excellent Music Makars came from Pennsylvania to play for us, as they did at the Catalina Workshop of 1997.

We repeated the parade from the center of Avalon to the Casino, led this time by two pipers (Ron Wallace and Patrick Fly) and a drummer (Bill Hartung) — attracting a throng of curious locals and tourists as we wound along the bay in our evening finery.

A special highlight of the ball was the Mary Stewart Strathspey, a round-the-room dance devised by our own Mary Brandon. The circular ballroom suited the dance perfectly!

On a personal note: I have been told that my great uncle, James Ramsay, a carpenter from Scotland, was among the workers who installed the ballroom floor in 1929. Every time I looked down at that intricately inlaid wood, I thought of him and wished he could know how his work was being used that night.

We are all so grateful to Doris Fisher for having the inspiration to hold another Catalina workshop and for putting in the hours of planning and coordinating to make it happen. Her hard-working committee — who called themselves “the executioners,” for executing Doris’ plans — included Eric Fisher, Nancy and Bill Hartung, Susie and Ray Tucker, Marjorie McLaughlin, Anthea Macdonald, Andy Perry and Lisa Gaskill. Many, many others lent a hand before and during the weekend to make it such a pleasure for all.

The festivities began Friday evening with a ceilidh at the hotel, coordinated by Ann McBride. It led off with a Scottish hula and included Highland, Victorian and hambo dancing, bagpiping and a flute and recorder duet, ending with a sing-along of Scottish songs. We all stayed at the Catalina Canyon Resort and Spa, which facilitated socializing around the pool and gardens and at breakfast. Shuttles and taxis to and from the hotel were coordinated by Eric Fisher, Bob Harmon and Richard McLaughlin.

Workshop teachers on Saturday and Sunday morning were Marjorie McLaughlin and Ron Wallace. Ball reviews were taught by Aase Hansen and Deanna St. Amand. Emcees at the ball were Marjorie, Ann, Doug Macdonald and Bob Patterson, representing the four host branches.

One surprise delight of the weekend was that the after-ball party was a midnight chocolate buffet, created by Robyn George, Jeff Altman and Alice Allen. It was delicious and great fun.

Thanks to the skillful photography of Kyle Stephens (and the speed of digital equipment), we were able to take home professional-quality portraits from the ball. With the help of some willing hands, each photo was framed in a commemorative foldover featuring the beautiful artwork that Deborah Graham created for the weekend. She sent her designs from Boston, and Bob Harmon did all the printing and assembling of programs, cue books and more.

Although the sea had been rather rough on the trip over to the island on Friday, it was calm going home. Do you suppose Doris could have had a hand in making that go smoothly too?

Audrey Ramsay Prest



LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2007

June

23 AGM and dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Potluck 5 :00 p.m., meeting: 6:15, dance: 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. \$10 member, \$12 non-members.

July

28 Summer Dance. Culver City Senior Center. 4095 Overland, Culver City. 7:00 p.m. Recorded Music. \$10 members, \$12 non-members.

August

25 Summer Dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7:00 p.m. Recorded Music. \$10 members, \$12 non-members.

September

29 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Senior Center. 7:30 p.m. Music: Susan Worland and Lyle Ramshaw. Details to be announced.

OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2007**

June

2 MacLeod Rant. Beverly Hills Woman's Club. Grand March 5:30. \$35. Music: Calum MacKinnon and Lisa Scott.

9 OC AGM & Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 Center St., Anaheim. Potluck: 5:30 p.m., meeting: 6:30 p.m., dance: 7:30 p.m. Recorded music.

16 SGV Branch Solstice Dance. Hillcrest Thousand Oaks Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

July

6-14 Pinewoods 2007 sponsored by RSCDS Boston Branch. July 6-9, Session I, July 19-14, Session II. Information & application forms at www.rscdsboston.org/events-pinewoods.

22 SGV Branch Picnic & Dance. Palisades Park, Pacific Palisades, 12:00 noon.

22-Aug. 19 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland. Contact: Brenda Hurst brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416.925.6982 or visit www.rscds.org

August

18 SGV Branch Luau. St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Eagle Rock, 7:30 p.m.

18 - 25 DANCE WEEKEND, PRAGUE - CZECH REPUBLIC. Registration and details: www.dvorana.cz or email: dvorana@dvorana.cz



St. Patrick's Day Party held by Torrance & Lomita classes at Torrance Cultural Arts Center on March 17.

Photos - Kyle Stephens



RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

Well, maybe my thoughts are not so random as I sit here writing this little column for the last time. It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as your chair for the past three years, and I thank each and every one of you for that privilege.

When I assumed the chairmanship, I had two broad goals in mind, but had no specific ideas as to how they would be attained. The first of these goals was simply to increase the number of dancers in our branch. To accomplish this, we had a dual task. First, we needed to actively recruit new dancers, and secondly we had to keep our current members active and dancing. In the first task, we were quite successful. Many of our members worked to recruit and encourage new dancers with beginner tea dances, new class startups, publicity items and participation in Scottish events. As a result, we had over 30 new members join us over the past three years. However, while we saw more active participation in our events by the members, relocation and attrition took a toll on our member base, and even with the influx of new members, our membership stayed nearly constant at about 160 members. On the bright side, that is better than a decline in membership.

My second broad goal was to foster more interbranch activity among our Southern California branches. In this endeavor we have been very successful, continuing our annual Fall Interbranch Dance and adding the Queen Mary Games dance, and the Pomona Games dance has become an inter branch event. Then last January we held the first Tri-Branch Burns Ball.

Now, discussions have been initiated among the interbranch representatives to consider pooling our resources and put on, perhaps, four interbranch affairs each year, with sponsorship rotating among the branches. We all enjoy the gala affairs such as the Christmas balls, St. Andrews ball and, of course, the Burns ball. However, increasing costs coupled with generally dwindling membership are making these affairs more difficult to put on. By pooling our resources and jointly sharing the costs, we can stage three or four gala events each year while keeping our individual branch identities and monthly dances intact.

For me, this has been a truly wonderful three years, and I look forward to working with the new branch management team to make our branch grow and to enhance the dancing experience for each of us.

Happy Dancing,
Ray

SPECIAL NOTICE!!

Annual Meeting
JUNE 23, 2007

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks
Senior Center

5:00 p.m. meeting
6:15 p.m. pot-luck dinner
7:00 p.m. Dance,
recorded music.
\$10 members, \$ 12 non-members.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**DEADLINE
FOR
SEPTEMBER
GHILLIE CALLUM
July 23, 2007**

June 2007

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Frank Ibbott and Marion Reeve. They have nominated the following for the Management Committee for 2007-08.

Chairman	Doris Fisher
Vice Chairman	Bill Hartung
Treasurer	Russell Ham
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Ash
Recording Secretary	Audrey Prest
Four Members-At-Large	

Irv Cohen
Sue Higgins
Claudia Pedersen

In addition, nominations from the floor will be accepted for any of the above offices.

Frank & Marion

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GHILLIE CALLUM

VOLUNTEERING

During any one year, I am sure most of us go to functions run by different nonprofit organizations. For us, it mostly has to do with Scottish country dance classes, dances, balls and workshops. I have a feeling that a lot of times we take the organization of these events for granted.

It is so easy to grumble about a class not having been that good, a dance not being run well, the food not too plentiful at a ball, a disaster of some kind happening at a workshop or a newsletter article having the wrong information.

But have you ever thought about who runs all of these functions? It is the unpaid volunteers. For them, the rewards they receive are the smiles from the dancers and the kind words they might hear.

However, the purpose of this article is not to have everyone rush up and tell the organizers how good they are, it is to include YOU in being one of them.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) is coming up in June. The nominating committee consisting of Frank Ibbott and Marion Reeve has been busy asking members to please take a position on the board. The rewards of being on the managing board are many. For one, you gain an insight into the many aspects of running an organization — actually job skills you may use later in life. You get closer to the other members of the board and make new friends. Lastly, you have a say in what we do and how we do it.

I believe we still have an opening for member-at-large (MAL). Please consider the opportunity to be a supporting member of the group that ran all the wonderful events you have enjoyed this past year.

If you don't find you can commit to being a member of the board, there are other ways to help. As you fill out your membership form, please look over the list of areas where we could use help. If you check one of them, we will be sure to call on you when the time comes.

Aase Hansen



Summer Dance

July 28, 2007

Culver City Senior Center

Recorded Music 7:00 p.m.

\$10 member, \$12 non-member

Miss Welsh's Reel	J B	Graded Book
The Royal Yacht Britannia	R I	Book 43 3
Bridge of Ballachullish	SA	Bridge of Earn
Quarries' Jig	J I	Book 36 3
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1 6
Knotwork	J I	Book 44 2
Andrew's Fancy	S B	L.A. 25th Anniv.
Founders' Reel	RA	Dances/Difference
Glasgow Country Dance	M I	Book 23 6
Fifty Years On	JA	Book 43 1
Kelso Races	RB	MMM II
The Silver Strathspey	SI	Book 44 3
Gloria's Wee Jig	J B	The Devil's Quandary
It's About Time	SI	TAC Leaflet
The Tri-Mariner	RI	Ann Dix Bk 2
Macleod's Fancy	JA	Book 33 3
Selkirk Settlers	R B	Let's All Dance

Summer Dance

August 25, 2007

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center

Recorded Music 7:00 p.m.

\$10 member, \$12 non-member

Napier's Index	J B	Book 45 8
The Piper and the Penguin	R I	Scotia Suite
The Celebration Strathspey	SI	Book 43 2
Macleod's Fancy	JA	Book 33 3
The Auld Gray Cat	R B	Let's All Dance
Collichur	J B	Book 30 1
The Corian Strathspey	SA	Book 43 8
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1 6
Glasgow Country Dance	M I	Book 23 6
Fifty Years On	JA	Book 43 1
Founders' Reel	RA	Dances/Difference
Jimmy's Fancy	S B	Book 14 1 1
A Trip to the Drakensberg	J I	Book 38 8
12 Coates Crescent	S B	Book 40 5
Whigmaleeries	R I	Imperial Bk Vol. 2
Flights of Fancy	J I	Boston 50th
Kelso Races	R B	MMM II

TRIO VISIT PHOENIX



Look closely down the middle and you can see Wilma Fee teaching an outdoor RSCDS set!

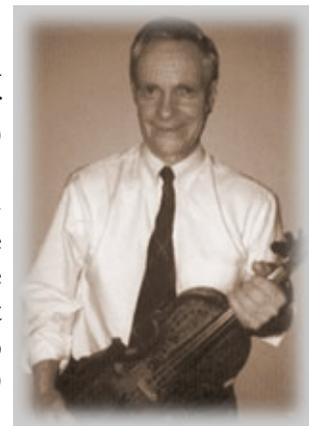
Wilma Fee, Roberta Gotfried and Carol Johnson flew to Phoenix in late February, to be part of a dance demonstration at the Scottish Games. Demonstration leader was Joan Baker, formerly a teacher in Redondo Beach for years. Several dancers from her new class in Mesa, AZ, were also in the demonstration, as was Maggie Manchester, who moved there from Culver City.

The three visitors and Joan attended the Friday evening ball held by the Phoenix Branch of RSCDS, as did several visitors from Tucson. We had a lovely hall, recorded music, and nice refreshments. Dancers were polite and helpful. All the dances were done by the book, which was refreshing.

Roberta and Carol stayed to attend Joan's class on Monday evening. Roberta taught the beginners strathspey steps, the 3-couple allemande and a dance devised by Brenda Burnell. Maggie and Carol were busy helping their beginner partners but it was an enjoyable evening. Joan is to be congratulated. When both danced, we had two full sets, with many young people.

At the Games, we met two fiddlers from UK, who were in Phoenix to arrange a visit by the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra (a youth orchestra of 100 children, 7 to 19 years). One was Wallace Galbraith, founder of the AFO (Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra) in 1982 and the only one allowed to play and travel with the fiddle, once owned by William Gregg, that Robert Burns used to compose music for his songs. This fiddle is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland at Culzean Castle. The other fiddler was Alistair McCulloch, musical director of the AFO and former National Fiddle Champion. Alistair's accomplishments can be read at his website; www.alistairmcculloch.com. We used these two fiddlers to play for the morning portion of the audience participation at the Scottish Games and they were great musicians, playing anything we ask for.

When Wilma and Roberta asked if the orchestra was coming to L.A., they said only for a few of days of rest! We said "you cannot come to L.A. and not play for us Scottish Country Dancers." Later Wallace suggested that perhaps the AFO could put on a short concert with a ceilidh, for all attendees to participate. Wilma and Roberta received a DVD of their latest concerts and are trying to arrange an evening concert on Saturday, July 14. Their accommodations have already been set at the Hilton Garden Inn in Valencia, and the AFO will have buses to take them around. Wallace and Alistair were surprised at the amount of SCD dancing going on in Europe and North America; they keep running into Scottish Country Dancers everywhere they visit. (The website for the AFO is www.Ayshirefiddleorchestra.com.)



Wallace Galbraith & fiddle.

To help organize this visit, please contact Wilma Fee: 310.252-2223 or fee-wilma@mattel.com, or Roberta Gotfried 310.373.1478, email rgotfried@alum.vassar.edu. We'd like a hall for 73 violinists and 200 audience with space to dance. If you know of such a place, please contact either of us.



Members of the Los Angeles and Orange County branches participating in the clans parade and SCD demonstration at the Queen Mary on Feb. 17, 2007 Photo by Audrey Prest.



The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra (AFO) described in the article on the preceding page. (Two photos sent by fiddlers.)

CLASS REPORTS

SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley class is moving along very well. We have three new and very enthusiastic members, who have already attended one dance party in Van Nuys.

We usually have six couples in class, enough for two three-couple sets. After the beginning class (attended by all members) we break for the intermediate group, and some of the beginners join in for that. In all, we're having a great time. Two of our group (Traci and Ed) and their families will be leaving for Italy next week, so we will be shorthanded for a couple of weeks. Mary Lund is still our teacher. We meet Monday evenings at the recreation center in Simi Valley. All are welcome!

Don Cutler

AGOURA HILLS

The Scottish Country Dance (Basics) class, in Agoura Hills began in September 2003. As the class was intended primarily for newcomers to the art, it has had more than its fair share of potential dancers who quickly have had second thoughts and decided that perhaps this form of self expression was not for them after all. This accounts for the rather lengthy list of names in the sign-in book of those who briefly pounded the floor of the dance studio and have never been seen again. However, there have been a worthwhile number of students who continued on, became members of the Society, and progressed to more advanced classes.

The 2006 Seaside Games in Ventura produced an infusion of new dancers and there will be a major effort to repeat this success in October of this year. The class, which meets at 1 pm on Sundays, is currently on a firm footing with a core of reliable members. These include: Audrey Prest, Linda McWade, Ken Evans, Jenny Proctor (currently off with a twisted ankle), Zelda Shaffer (currently off due to the demands of her job – why does work so often interfere with important things, such as SCD class?) Michelle & Dane Baylis, and Debra & Charlie von Bernuth. Inquiries about the class continue to be received, so we are looking forward to even greater successes.

Frank Ibbott

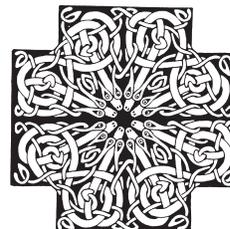
June 2007

LONG BEACH

The new Long Beach class, taught by Roberta Gotfried, had a rousing beginning on March 31st in El Dorado Park. There were two full sets of students, thanks to the supportive attendance of a number of experienced dancers including Jack Rennie, Wilma Fee, Ray Tucker, Anne Dwyer, Marion Reeve, Jim Bell and the Gotfrieds (thanks to you all).

There were eight new dancers, some brand new to Scottish Country Dancing. The class is making rapid progress and is taught as a combined Beginner / Intermediate class. This session runs through May 19, and will also be held as an 8-class session during the summer. Feel free to join us for a class or to send your friends who live in the area. The class meets Saturday afternoons noon to 2: p.m. at 2800 Studebaker Road.

Roberta Gotfried



NORTHRIDGE

The spring activities were enjoyed by all and were highlighted by the weekend dance workshop on Catalina Island over May 4th, 5th and 6th. Eleven of our class members attended to enjoy a ceilidh, two workshops, and the highlight, a dinner followed by the Catalina Island Ball, which were held in the Casino.

Travel has been on the agenda for two of our class members. In March, Audrey Prest went to Iowa to visit her daughter Julie and family over their spring break. This trip replaced the one planned in December that had to be postponed due to blizzard conditions. The trip was a success and Audrey returned with family news and endearing photographs for her scrapbook.

Claudia Pedersen enjoyed a trip to Hawaii in April to see daughter Erika and her husband Steve. They came from the island of Guam, where they will be living for about three years. The couple expects their first child toward the end of July (it's a boy) and the visit allowed for lots of fun and catching-up time.

Claudia Pedersen

GHILLIE CALLUM

BAKERSFIELD

What an eventful winter and spring we have had so far. Two sad events occurred: on February 10th Barbara Mackenzie's mother, Grace Moss, passed away in Langley, British Columbia. She'd had many good years, and Barbara had faithfully visited her many times and had to return to complete the final arrangements. Nancy McMaster's mother also passed away, in February, in the San Diego area. Some of you may know Nancy; she's a pastor and when she left San Diego to move to Bakersfield her dancing friends made up a dance for her called "Pastor McMaster." Nancy's husband Ken, has been suffering heart problems.

The Bakersfield Group has called itself "The White Heather Dancers," (for good luck!), and on Friday evening of Saint Patrick's Day weekend three couples danced at Stockdale Country Club. We were treated to dinner and after we had demonstrated a couple of dances we got tons of people on the floor for Cumberland Reel, Kingston Flyer, and Boston Two Step. They loved it!

At the Highland Games held here on March 31st we had 17 demonstrators. We looked very colorful in our "tartan" skirts and plaids and people remarked how they'd enjoyed our dancing. We stuck pieces of white heather in our brooches and danced away. Our group stresses enjoyment of the dancing above all else. Proper foot positions are not so important to everyone and if they are, there is ample opportunity to learn from Barbara and me.

Barbara and Mike had a dance party on April 1st in their beautiful Tehachapi Mountains home, attended by dancers from Bakersfield, Lancaster and other desert towns. It was a great success and you can see we're very active!

A couple of teenagers and their mother have joined us, as well as a man from Hawaii, who is also Highland dancer. His wife has to get a babysitter and then she'll be able to come. So, we are looking forward to a very good year. Everyone is enthusiastic, and here we go again.

Some of our group will be coming to dance at Pomona. Be sure to make their acquaintance and help them feel welcome.

Dorothy Hill

LANCASTER CEILIDH

The Lancaster Children's Class and Family Class combined for their end-of-the-year ceilidh April 13. Three demonstration dances were performed by the children's class. The advanced children demonstrated their dancing skills by performing the Hebridean Weaving Lilt and the Last of the Lairds. The girls looked great, especially in the Weaving Lilt that they had practiced since September. The beginning level dancers ably demonstrated Lady Home's Jig.

Family and friends interested in dancing, took part in approximately ten audience participation dances throughout the evening, and it was rewarding to see the kids ask their parents to dance. There was also a great abundance of food and drink for everyone to enjoy. The Lancaster family class has traditionally ended the evening with everyone dancing the Circle Waltz and this time was no exception. Since this was our last meeting, we finished with an enjoyable ceilidh and brought the end of these classes to an appropriate conclusion before the Byers' impending move.

Kathy Byers

LANCASTER CLASS

After having taught the Lancaster class for 8 ½ years, it is now time for me to take a break. Although I have enjoyed every minute of it, and actually even enjoyed the long drive out there (61 miles each way) through beautiful hill country, it seems like this is a good time to stop.

The dancers there, young and old, have been great. I have my regular group of adult dancers and a large group of teenagers, whom I don't all see that often, since they have many other things to do. I will miss them all but especially the children I have seen grow up during these eight years.

The class wants to continue! They may try to find another hall with a more forgiving floor. We have been very lucky, though, to have had the church hall we have used all these years. It has a linoleum floor but is bright and clean, and we only give a donation to the church to use it.

Look for more information about the class in the fall.

Aase Hansen



Photos by Kyle Stephens.



Photographs of Lomita and Torrance classes of St. Patrick's Day party at the Cultural Arts Torrance Center on March 17.

LOMITA

Most of the Lomita class has been on vacation, fortunately not all at the same time!

Rose and Joe Peters went to Colorado for the birth of their first grandchild, Regan, a beautiful, healthy girl. Unfortunately, this event was followed by the death of Joe's mother who lived in Arizona. To Rose and Joe, we offer our joy for the birth of Regan and our sympathy for the death of Joe's Mother. Rose and Joe are now headed back to Colorado to hug Regan again and then on to Illinois for the graduation of their youngest daughter from vet school.

Anne Dwyer went to Hawaii to spend time with her grandson, Fionn, almost 6 months now. A good time was had by all!

Anneliese Grohs is also in Hawaii now in the company of visiting friends. She just returned from a five-week trip to Germany to visit her sister and lots of friends and family.

Roz and Gil Gotfried are the next vacationers to go. They will start on a cruise around the Medi-

terranean Sea, visiting all sorts of interesting places, seeing the sights, eating tasty local foods, and learning about that part of the world.

We will all be back here for summer dancing, so if your dance class is having a vacation, come and join us on Monday nights. Good floor, air conditioning, and we try out lots of new dances in summer!

Marion Reeve

TORRANCE

It's too bad that St. Patrick's Day only comes once a year! We had a great party, with several of our beginners enjoying their first dance and five new people who came with friends to try Scottish Country Dancing.

Ruth Fleming-Stephens is back after her second bunion surgery and enjoys dancing on both feet now. Doris and Eric Fisher have survived another tax season and have been catching up on dances for the Catalina Workshop.

We still have a great beginner group as well as our ongoing intermediate class. The Torrance class is a part of the City of Torrance recreation program, so it continues through the summer, with a 10 week session starting Friday, June 29. New beginners and more experienced dancers who want to dance through the summer are very welcome to join us. The City of Torrance requires that people register for the class, instead of just dropping in. If you would like to come, call 310.618.2720 for information.

Marion Reeve



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July 23, 2007**

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Photo by Kyle Stephens

Flo Stephens at the St.Patrick's Day Party held by the Torrance & Lomita classes at Torrance Cultural Arts Center on March 17.