

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 40 Number 4

June 2009

LOS ANGELES DANCERS ATTEND WINTER SCHOOL PITLOCHRY, SCOTLAND

Madeleine and I attended Winter School February 26 - March 3 in Pitlochry, Scotland. Of the 160 dancers attending, we were the only ones from the Americas. Most attending were from Scotland and England. Many there attended regularly and the atmosphere was more like a reunion. But even though we were the new kids on the block everyone we met was welcoming and helpful. We made lots of new friends. The Atholl Palace Hotel (a Victorian spa hotel which we took over) was perfect. The morning workshops, the social dances, and the Ceilidh were fun, and the last-evening ball at Blair Castle was truly memorable.

Because of the limited space, it has been hard getting into Winter School. Starting in 2009 there will be two sessions, both five days running back to back. The school chairman, George Meikle, told us the goal was to make Winter School accessible to all that wanted to



Sandy and Madeleine Waddell at the ball

attend. We can recommend that LA Branch dancers take George up on this offer.

And we should add that Scotland is truly beautiful in the late winter. There was snow on the mountains, but the early spring flowers were blooming and it was even warm enough for a boat ride on Loch Katrine.

Sandy Waddell



Sandy Waddell in front of Blair Castle, where final ball was held.



The Atholl Palace Hotel.



LOS ANGELES BRANCH
SCHEDULE OF DANCES
2009

June

27 AGM Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Potluck dinner: 5 pm. Meeting: 6:00 pm. Dance: 7:00 pm. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15. Free to members who attend meeting.

July

25 Summer Dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

August

21-23 Harwood Lodge Workshop & Dance. Sierra Club's historic Harwood Lodge Mt. Baldy. Cost: \$ 90 per person. (See enclosed flyer.)

September

26 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Senior Center. San Diego hosts.

October

24 Beginner Dance Costume theme. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2009

July

19-August 16. RSCDS Summer School. St Andrews, Scotland. Registration forms at www.rscds.org.

26-August 2. T.A.C. Summer School. Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada. Registration forms at www.tac-rscds.org. Click on "Summer School".

2010

July

28-Aug 1. Nova Scotia School. Windsor, Nova Scotia, (NS of Halifax), Canada. Fliers and Registration forms: http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/ISCDS_2010/ISCDS10.html
A very special opportunity: a musicians' class with Keith Smith. Questions: email directly: lydiahedge@accesswave.ca



JACK RENNIE EARNS
"2009 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD IN DANCE"
BY TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA!

By the time members read this announcement, Jack Rennie will have received the 2009 Excellence in Arts Award in the Dance category of the City of Torrance. He was nominated for this award by Commissioner Kathryn Endo-Roberts.

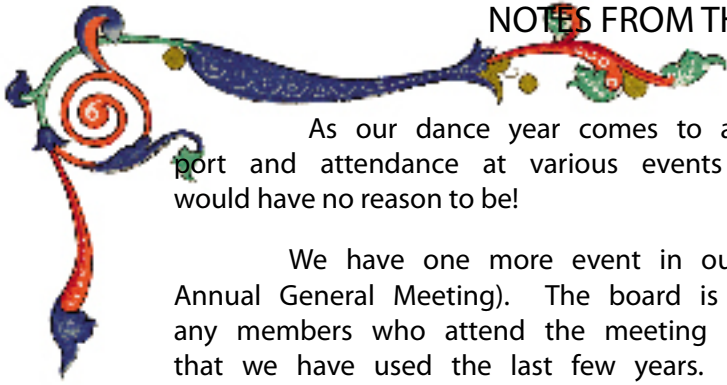
An award certificate will be presented to him at a special free public reception on Sunday, May 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center Toyota Meeting Hall at 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance.

Jack received an announcement of this award in April and would have sent out special invitations to people to attend the reception and see the ceremony. Hopefully someone will attend and take photographs for the next Ghillie Callum.

We in the L.A. Branch of the RSCDS know how much Jack Rennie has contributed to our group and to the RSCDS worldwide, so we are not surprised! But it is great to know that Jack has received such honor within the larger community of Southern California!

Congratulations, Jack!!

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR LADY...



As our dance year comes to a close, I would like to thank you all for your support and attendance at various events during the year. Without your participation, we would have no reason to be!

We have one more event in our dance year (July-June), and that is our AGM (aka Annual General Meeting). The board is happy to announce that this dance will be free to any members who attend the meeting before the dance. We will follow the same format that we have used the last few years. The AGM will begin with a potluck at 5 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6 p.m. and will conclude with the dance at 7 p.m. The AGM is the opportunity for us to present a recap of the year's activities and our financial condition, as well as to offer you an opportunity to vote on the new slate of officers and make comments and suggestions to the membership at large.

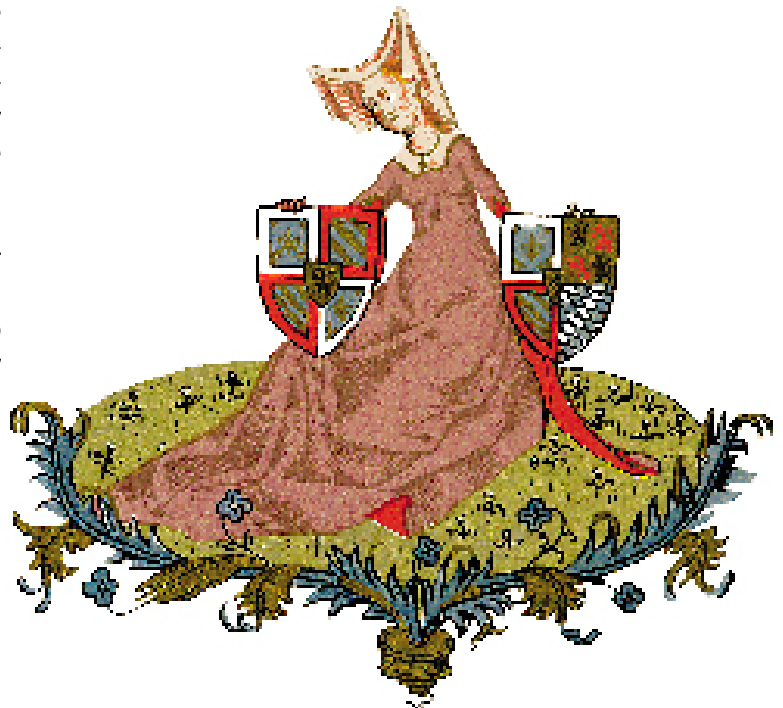
We are lucky to have many dedicated volunteers who have served on the board this past year, and many of them have agreed to continue on for another year. I am especially happy to say that Bill Hartung has agreed to be nominated for the chairperson slot. Bill has worked hard on the board for seven years; first as an MAL for two years, then as corresponding secretary for two years, followed by three years as our hard-working vice-chair. Bill is a man who chooses his words carefully and has excellent instincts; he will make a terrific chairperson.

Deborah Ash (corresponding secretary), Linda McWade (recording secretary), Sandy Waddell (treasurer), Irv Cohen, & Barbara Hoff (members at large) have all agreed to take on another year in their positions, and we are very grateful for that! We thank Tove Olafsen and Sue Higgins for the two years they have both served as hard-working MAL's and we know that due to the demands of their jobs, etc., they have declined the offer to stay on the board. Ann McBride has done a great job of leading the Demonstration Team and will continue to represent them at the board meetings.

Aase Hansen has been serving in some capacity on the board for 24 of the last 25 years, and she has decided to take a well-deserved break from the "joy" of board meetings! Aase began her stint on the board in 1984 as treasurer for five years, followed by the position of MAL, followed by chairperson of the teachers' committee, then chairperson of the branch for seven years, followed by yet more years again as chairperson of the teachers' committee. Compared to Aase, I'm afraid we are all "lightweights"! We hope that this will just be a temporary break from a leadership role, as Aase tries out the new role of "grandmother".

We look forward to the summer and our usual July dance, followed by our first-ever Harwood Lodge weekend in August. I'm looking forward to working on the Catalina Workshop and to many more opportunities to dance with you all.

Your (soon-to-be former) Chair Lady....
Doris Fisher





CATALINA ISLAND WORKSHOP & BALL... coming soon to an island near you!

Plans are now well underway for the next Catalina Island Workshop & Ball. This Interbranch event will take place April 30-May 2, 2010, in the picturesque town of Avalon on Catalina Island. A brochure about the weekend and registration forms are available on the interbranch website at rscds-interbranch.org



We are extremely pleased to announce that our music for this weekend will be provided by Fiddlesticks & Ivory from San Francisco. The four musicians for this event will be Lyle Ramshaw (piano & band leader), David Mostardi (accordion), John Taylor (fiddle) and Susan Worland (fiddle).

Our teaching staff will be equally outstanding. We are grateful that our own marvelous Marjorie McLaughlin of San Diego has agreed to once again be a teacher for this event. She will be joined by Elaine Brunken of Laurel, MD, a favorite workshop teacher of many years. We are



also happy to announce that we will be introducing the teaching talents of Eric Finley to the West Coast; he will travel all the way from Glasgow, Scotland, to join us for this weekend.

We will be dividing the dancers into three groups of about 40 dancers per group and the goal will be to have each dancer experience each teacher. Dancers must be at least 16 years old and have at least one year of dancing experience, including a good grasp of the fundamentals. The event will begin Friday night with a light supper and fun mixer. There will be two workshops on Saturday morning, followed by free time in the afternoon to explore the town and get ready for the formal ball in the historic, circular ballroom known as the Casino. Sunday morning will feature the third workshop class, ending with a casual dance session taught by all three teachers in the high school gym.

Cost per person is \$395 and includes double occupancy accommodations in the hotel, the evening ball and most meals. You will arrange your own transportation to the island. There are discounts available for three or four to a room. If finances are an issue for you, and you have been an active member of the branch, consider applying for a scholarship. This is a fun and fabulous event. Don't miss it!

Doris Fisher, Chair of Catalina Event

Photos above were taken by Audrey Prest at the RSCDS Interbranch Workshop on Catalina Island in 2007. The two photos of the dancers were from the ball in the wonderful round ballroom and dark because the Casino has very subtle lighting. Remember how hard it was to keep the lines of the set straight, because the inlaid wood design of the dance floor radiate out from the center!

DANCE PROGRAMS

Summer Dance Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center July 25, 2009

Napier's Index	J B	Book 45
Swiss Lassie	R E	Book 39
Lady Lucy Ramsay	S B	MMM II
Lady In Red	J E	Ruby Anniversary
Casting Glances	S E	Solstice Party Bk
Starlight	R E	Book 44
Quarries' Jig	J E	Book 36
Bonnie Charlie	R B	Let's All Dance
It's About Time	S E	TAC Leaflet
La Flora	J B	Book 27
Preston Mill	R E	Book 45
The Chairman	R E	Dunedin Book 4
Glasgow Lassies	S B	Book 34
IP's Farewell to Auchterarder	J A J E B.	Hamilton Leaflet
The Silver Tassie	S E	RSCDS Leaflet #30
Ferla Mor	R E	Deeside Book Part 1
Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD Book

Harwood Lodge Dance Mt. Baldy Harwood Lodge August 22, 2009

The Rover's Rant	J E	Goldring 12 More
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45
The Cashmere Shawl	S E	Strathtay Album
Follow Me Home	J E	Book 38
Swiss Lassie	R E	Book 39
The Cabrach	M B	Goldring
Best Set in The Hall	J E	Greenwood Leaflet
Starlight	R E	Book 44
Pete & Marilyn's Welcome Home	J E	Delaware Valley
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	S E	3 For 2006
A Trip to Bavaria	R E	Collins SCD Book
Balmoral Strathspey	S B	Book 22
Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD Book

Plus dances taught at workshop

SPECIAL NOTICE!!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 27, 2009

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5040 Van Nuys Blvd.

Potluck Supper 5 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

Dance 7 p.m. Recorded Music

Members \$10 Non-members \$15

Admission to dance free to members who attend meeting.

EVERYONE WELCOME

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Frank Ibbott and Valerie Rodgers. They have nominated the following for the Management Committee for 2009 – 2010.

Chairman	Bill Hartung
Vice Chairman	No nomination
Treasurer	Sandy Waddell
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Ash
Recording Secretary	Linda McWade
Four Members-at-Large	Irv Cohen, Barbara Hoff, Meg Hume, Mike McGinnis

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

As you can see, we have been unable to make a nomination for Vice Chairman. If you believe you could help manage the Los Angeles Branch affairs by giving just a few hours of your time each year, please come forward. Send an email to frankibb@aol.com or call 805-373-9905. The Committee meets six times a year on Sunday afternoons at Stoner Park in West Los Angeles.

CLASS REPORTS

SIMI VALLEY

Quick notes from the Simi Valley class. Our numbers are holding at three couples: Don, Linda, Phyllis, Ed, Alan, and Deresa. Marguerite has been taking night classes working on a teaching credential. We have enough dancers for most dances (two- and three-couple dances). We are experienced and enthusiastic, so we pick up on new dances rather quickly.

Deresa Teller has been attending weekly instructor classes, working on a teaching certificate. She has been practicing her teaching techniques on the class, and we are willing guinea pigs. It's been fun, and she is coming along well on the intricacies of teaching. As a retired high school teacher, I know there's much more to teaching than meets the eye.

Some of our members have attended parties and balls quite regularly, so we have some class representation. Several (all?) of our members are nursing one ailment or another: knee problems, slipped disks, pulled muscles, damaged tendons, sprained ankles - you name it, but we are game and attend with a good attitude.

Don Cutler, aka fairdonald

SANTA BARBARA

The Santa Barbara class has had its ups and downs over the last few years, but is currently experiencing one of its very best periods. In the last half-year or so, five new members have increased our ranks, two of whom were recruited at the Seaside Games last October. In addition, three English Country dancers joined our group earlier. So, once again, we felt strong enough to put on an hour's entertainment at the Santa Barbara Scottish Club's St. Patrick's Day Supper meeting, with dances that we hoped would have some visual as well as musical attraction for the audience. Following an introductory comparison of the dance with the actual article, The Dreamcatcher provoked interest, and Swashbuckling Iain - with a little clowning - went over very well. After a very successful audience participation dance, we finished on a high note with five couples dancing Fisherman's Reel.

It was an especial pleasure to have one of our Branch's founder members in the audience, as Mary Brandon, who has recently retired to Santa Barbara, was able to attend the event, and have a very enjoyable evening that included chatting with some old friends.

Frank Ibbott



SANTA BARBARA CLASS

From the left: Frank Ibbott, Ilse & John Gilbert, Susan & Biff Copeland, Susan McNeill, Gary Shapiro, Deedy King, Eileen Gray, Mary Brandon, Robert Winokur, Charles King, Bob & Rachel Watkins.

June 2009

LONG BEACH

Members continue to be active, attending dances and demonstrating their skills. On February 21 Roberta attended a Valentines Ball in Oakland. This featured a seven-piece band and more than 200 attendees. February also included the Queen Mary Scottish Festival in Long Beach, and Jim Bell and Roberta danced with the L.A. Demonstration Team. Karen attended and took part in the audience participation.

This year is the 51st anniversary of the Honey Combers square dance group to which Roz and Gil Gotfried belong. What better way to celebrate this than with the "Reel of the 51st Division"? Roz and Gil, Roberta, Jim, Mary and John Cahill presented "The Reel of the 51st", "The Dream Catch-

er", and "Polharrow Burn" on March 7 at Torrance Masonic Center. John piped in the dancers, and the aforementioned six are members of the Long Beach class. What an enjoyable way to promote Scottish Country Dancing!

Five members represented Long Beach at the March 28 Beginner Dance in Torrance. This was Karen's first social dance, and judging from her comments, she will return.

April is the end of our spring term, but we are looking forward to May, the beginning of the next session. We continue to be challenged and inspired each Saturday. Come join us if you are near!

Karen Kerman



To the left: "Reel of the 51st:" Irv Cohen, Jim Bell, Norm Auslander, Bob Brooks, Gil Gotfried and John Ziegler.

Below: "The Dream Catcher": Chris Brooks, Roz Gotfried, Carol Johnson, Irv Cohen, Pat Ziegler, Roberta Gotfried, Jim Bell and John Ziegler.



VALLEY COLLEGE

Aase Hansen became a grandmother for the first time when her son, Christian, and wife, Karla, had a baby girl in February. The little girl is named Freya for a Nordic goddess. The name is very popular in Denmark, second only after Emma, and also in the U.K. In late May, Aase's daughter Lisbeth will be coming to California to visit her new niece. She plans to attend class while here.

ports that design work is nearly complete for next year's Tournament of Roses float.

Sue Higgins' son is graduating from UCLA, and they are planning a houseboat vacation at Lake Powell.

Audrey Prest has returned to class after having knee replacement surgery in February. She's starting cautiously, just doing strathspeys to begin with.



Lisbeth Hencke pins an award on husband Richard's uniform. The award shows that Richard is now in charge of that particular squadron for the next year.

After taking a two year respite from performing, Kathrin King Segal and her Kat Band have returned to the stage for a series of gigs. Steve Kaplan is edging ever closer to achieving his masters in theater arts and plans to write his thesis over the summer.

Robyn MacGarva George is flying (on reserve this month) and has started taking her master's classes in clinical psychology, which she both loves and hates. The classes are great, as are the teachers and the other students but "if there were 40 hours in every single day, I would never, ever get through all the reading and writing....

In April, Aase flew to Texas to attend a change of command ceremony for her son-in-law Richard Hencke, Pat Ziegler's son.

It will be her only chance to see Lisbeth and Richard's home in Corpus Christi, for after only 15 months in Texas they will be packing up again and moving to Norfolk, Virginia, for the last nine months of Richard's current tour-of-duty.

After almost three months in escrow, Tove Olafsen was finally able to move into her new townhouse. The move ended up coming at a very busy time for her, right between a planned skiing trip and a combination business/family trip to Norway and Sweden. She is looking forward to getting settled when all the traveling is behind her.

Jon Reeves helped build a float for "Burbank on Parade"; he dressed as a movie usher for a snack bar float. And he re-

and I don't know anything anymore...school is technical now! You have to be a computer genius. With a lot of time on your hands."

Robyn is looking forward to Jess coming home the beginning of next month and to doing the cooking show with Brian again in August.

Kathrin King Segal



GHILLIE CALLUM



LANCASTER (above at games)

April 4 was the Bakersfield Highland Games. This event is organized by the Kern Scottish Society around this time every year. This year the Lancaster RSCDS class joined the Bakersfield class on stage for a few country dances. Then the stage filled up with folk from the audience dancing Cumberland Reel, Kingston Flier and Dashing White Sergeant.

The picture is missing three dancers - Sheryl, Heather and Cody Ferguson - as they had to rush back to their clan tent, which had been busy most of the day.

Both classes will be taking a break in June until September as many of us have vacations planned. Mike and Barbara Mackenzie are off to Scotland for two weeks; Dorothy and John Hill have a cruise to look forward to.

Classes will resume at the same locations in September.

Barbara Mackenzie



BEVERLY HILLS (new class!)

Thanks to the efforts of Roberta Gotfried, the Los Angeles Branch is pleased to announce a new Scottish Country Dance class in Beverly Hills on Wednesdays 7:30-9:15 p.m. at Roxbury Park, 471 Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. This dance class is offered by Beverly Hills Parks Department and is taught by Roberta. All levels of dancers are welcome. Please call Roberta at 310-490-9594 for additional information.

There is plenty of free parking in a lot and on the street.

NORTHRIDGE

Spring is a time for new beginnings and new outlooks. Two of our Northridge dancers have taken this very seriously. Audrey Prest is up and dancing again after undergoing knee replacement surgery on Feb. 16. She is back to dancing twice a week now and doing well. Welcome back, Audrey!

Deanna St. Amand, teacher for our Thursday class, is viewing dancers in a new light after her cataract surgery on April 2. Her

vision has definitely improved and she plans to have surgery done on the second eye after this season's RSCDS activities.

It has also been learned that Deanna will be the teachers' representative on the Branch Committee of Management for the 2009-2010 year. She never quits and her consistent contributions are appreciated by all.

Angela Tennyson's husband is recovering from surgery and we send best wishes to them from the Thursday evening class.

Claudia Pedersen

**THE DANCE AT THE QUEEN MARY
DOWN THE MIDDLE AND BACK!**



Jim Bell and Susan Copeland

DEADLINE FOR
THE SEPTEMBER
GHILLIE CALLUM
JULY 20, 2009



The official newsletter of the Los Angeles Branch of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Published quarterly and distributed free of charge to current members of the Los Angeles Branch. There is an annual subscription fee of \$8 for those who are not members of the Branch (outside USA - \$10).



Angela Tennyson and Claudia Pedersen

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