

The GHILLIE CALLUM

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March 2012

BURNS SUPPER AND BALL

The Old Scots dialect proved to be alive and well at our annual Burns Supper & Ball on Jan. 21.

Jim Bell began the celebration of poet Robert Burns with the now-familiar lines “Fair fa’ your honest, son-sie face, great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race!” He recited “The Address to the Haggis” with such flair that listeners could grasp the meaning, even without the English translation.



Jim Bell reciting “The Address to the Haggis.”

Piper was John Cahill. Lucy Napolitano had the honor of carrying in the haggis as Poesie Nancy. And the Henchmen were Chuck Olsen, Dave Speakman and John Ziegler. John also served as the evening’s master of ceremonies.

More than 100 of us danced to the lively music of Andy Imbrie and Deby Benton Grosjean, in a dance program devised by Shirley Saturensky and Deanna St. Amand. Dances were briefed by Renee Boblette, Roberta Gotfried and Barbara Mackenzie. Grand marshals were Linda Boucher and Ann McBride.

Norm McCallum treated us to Robert Burns’ “Tam O’ Shanter” in its entirety. There was no translation for this epic tale, but his collection of props, including a near-life-size horse, easily illustrated the story of poor Tam and his terrifying encounters on a night of too much drinking. Norm prefaced his performance with the explanation: If you’re drinking and your path takes you by a woman in a short skirt — watch out!

To open the evening, Richard Juzix recited Burns’ Selkirk Grace. Robert Olinger brought his guitar and sang a beautiful rendition of Burns’ “Afton Water” during the second break.

This year’s Toast to the Lassies and the Reply were given by Bob Patterson and Renee Boblette. They let us in on a sample of typical dialog when two Scottish Country Dance teachers share both a home and a class.



BRANCH INVENTORY

I am in the process of conducting an inventory of Branch “stuff” that may be occupying space in members’ garages, etc. The goal is to find out exactly what is “out there” with a view to renting a public storage facility for it, if needed. We seem to have a pretty good collection of Ghillie Callums. I am especially interested in any minutes, pictures, correspondence, etc. that pertains to the founding of the branch. Any videos you might have (except for the 25th and 45th anniversaries) can be transferred to a DVD format. Do any of you have class banners (past and present)? Please contact me at rabend7731@verizon.net.

Rosemary Abend

The Ports o’ Call dinner was heartily — and deliciously — augmented by traditional haggis prepared by Jon Reeves.

Many, many thanks to Linda Boucher and all her helpers, including Rosemary Abend, Christine Grobler, Doris Fisher and Linda McWade. Frank Ibbott printed all the fliers, cue books, table programs and huge, easy-to-read dance programs that sat on easels throughout the evening.

Audrey Ramsay Prest



ANNIVERSARY BALL

The Los Angeles Branch celebrated 45 years with a gala evening in November 2011 combining our traditional St. Andrew’s Ball with a nostalgic look back at all that’s happened since the founding in 1966.

Nearly 100 danced to the music of Fiddlesticks and Ivory on a spacious dance floor at Ports O’ Call restaurant in San Pedro. Branch scrapbooks from several years past brought back many memories, as did a video of photos and music prepared by event chair Kristine McGinnis.

Early members attending included Mary Brandon, Pete Kier and Jack Rennie. The Demonstration Team, led by Ann McBride, performed Mary’s “Los Angeles Suite,” a collection of dances she devised during her term as team director.

A clever logo designed for the occasion by our graphics expert Frank Ibbott appeared on fliers, cue books, table decorations and place cards. It merged the number 45 with the Branch logo of two dancers in formal attire.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES

2012

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;

SD = San Diego; SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch

MARCH

24 Beginner Dance. 7 p.m., First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Recorded music.

APRIL

28 Monthly Dance. 7 p.m. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Recorded music.

MAY

26 Costa Mesa Games Dance. Hosted by LA, OC and SGV branches. Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St. Buffet supper 6 p.m., dance 6:30 p.m. Dancers \$15, non-dancers \$10. Recorded music.

JUNE

23 AGM. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Potluck 5 p.m., Annual General Meeting 6 p.m., Dance 7 p.m. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Recorded music.

MARCH

10 OC. Beginner Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7:30 p.m.
17 SGV. St. Patrick's Day Dance. Pasadena City College 7:30 p.m.
31 SD. Spring Fling Workshop. Class 1-3 p.m., High Tea 3:15-4:45 p.m., Tea Dance 6 p.m. San Diego War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, 2125 Park Blvd.

APRIL

21 A joint venture by OC and SGV. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7:30 p.m.

MAY

19 SGV. AGM. St. Barnabas Church, Eagle Rock. Dinner 5 p.m. followed by meeting, dance 7:30.

JUNE

9 OC. AGM. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. AGM and dinner 5:30, dance 7:30.

DEMONSTRATION TEAM REPORT

The Demonstration Team ended the year with a performance for The Netherlands Returned Servicemen's Association. It was a unique experience with a delightful group. Imagine doing the walk-through with a western swing band in the background performing classic Elvis tunes in Dutch and Indonesian. They were an appreciative audience and enthusiastically joined in for audience participation.

We want to extend condolences to Larry Kanowsky on the recent death of his mother. We are also wishing a speedy recovery to Anthea Macdonald after her recent surgery. We also extend "get well" wishes to Mary Brandon after a recent attack of Bell's palsy.

We would like to welcome Sara Guernsey and Arthur Baum who have recently joined us and will performing with us at the Queen Mary Festival. We welcome inquiries from other Branch members who might be interested in dancing with us. Just give Ann McBride a call at 818.841.8161 or via email at mcbridea@cshs.org.

Alice Allen



Photo of group touring New Zealand in November. See Karen Kerman's article on page 4.

NOVEMBER IN NEW ZEALAND



Touring New Zealand together in November: from left, Karen Kerman, Stephanie Meyer, John Allen, Heidi Afschar and tour leader Christine Grobler.

Scottish Country Dancing truly is a universal language! Go anywhere in the world and dance — as five of us who traveled to New Zealand in early November discovered. Representing four RSCDS branches in California, John Allen, Heidi Afschar, Stephanie Meyer, Christine Grobler and Karen Kerman experienced an 11-day excursion, which was built around an SCD theme. Planned and coordinated by Christine, this allowed us to take advantage of four opportunities to dance with Kiwis. In addition, there were detailed tours of four cities and the countryside from an expert guide and driver, Christine herself.

Beginning in Auckland, we hit some of the museums and tourist places to get an overview of New Zealand culture, history and natural wonders. However, nothing can prepare you for the scenic beauty or the beauty of the generous people who hosted us.

All of New Zealand is a single branch with

each group throughout the country called a club — similar to our structure of classes within the branches. Highland Park Club, in a suburb of Auckland, was our first chance to mix. This was indeed a class situation with no set program and a teacher giving instructions. We had a perfectly marvelous time, dancing some old favorites and trying other unfamiliar titles. Since another club, meeting on the same night, joined with Highland Park to create a larger group, we had five to six 4-couple sets. The evening ended with a rousing “De’il Amang the Tailors.”

Napier held the dancing highlight of the trip — a ceilidh Friday night, Nov. 11, and a ball Saturday night, Nov. 12. Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin from Scotland provided live music each evening. Of course, the ceilidh’s program contained fewer dances, but all were interspersed with acts, music and a raffle. A solo dancer and a group of four Highland dancers performed, and a woman sang solo songs. Stephanie, one of our five, told the story of the Clan MacLeod Fairy Flag, followed by Ian who entertained with fiddle solos.

Saturday evening’s ball included a longer program of dances, broken by a light supper of all kinds of foods. So much fun to dance, mix and talk with these wonderful people! How about dancing “The Bees of Maggieknockater” with Ian, solo fiddler from the ceilidh?

At Eketahuna, mid point between Napier and Wellington, we dined with Glenn and Rodger who are also dancers. Who but Scottish country dancers would move furniture, roll up the rug and practice a dance? We became familiar with “The Barmkin.”

Lower Hutt, a suburb of Wellington, provided our final opportunity to dance. Monday evening, Nov. 14, was the club’s final meeting for the season in the transition to summer. There was a program of dances, however, it was similar to Highland Park Club with teacher-led warm-ups and walk-throughs when needed. Four musicians provided delightful accompaniment.

Many memories gained and a wonderful experience to dance with our SCD colleagues from around the world. Staying with native hosts was an added bonus!

The traveling group offers a sincere thank you to Christine for her hard work in planning and organizing this special excursion. Maybe interested in a future trip? Definitely contact Christine!

Karen Kerman

APRIL 28, 2012

Monthly Dance
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City
7 p.m.

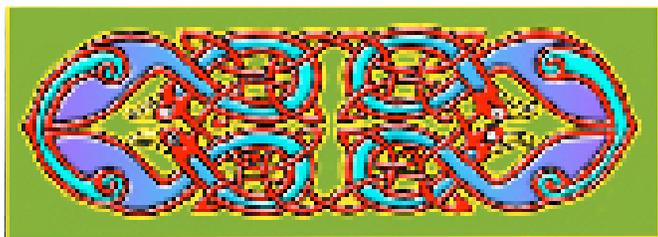
MAY 26, 2012

Costa Mesa Gams Dance
Tustin Senior Center
200 C St., Tustin

Buffet supper 6 p.m., Dance 6:30 p.m.

Laggan Bay	JB	2nd Craigievar Bk
Sueno's Stone	RI	RSCDS 4 for 2008
Strathcare	SI	Skye Collection
The Hazel Tree	JA	Brodie Book
Lochindorb Strathspey	SB	Aberdeen Colletion
Anniversary Reel	RI	Book 36
Upper Tarr	JI	2nd Kirkbrae Coll
Corn Rigs	RB	Book 4
May Yarker's Strathspey	SI	Book 42
The Rothesay Rant	JB	Birmingham Bk. '73
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	RA	RSCDS Leaflet
The Brudenell Jig	JB	2nd Graded Book
Lochalsh Reel	RI	Skye Book Vol 2
The Spirit of the Dance	SA	TAC 50
The Golden Apple Jig	JI	Chris Ronald
Gramachie	SB	MMM1
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran	RI	Bon Accord

Tribute to the Borders	J B	RSCDS Leaflet
Gardener's Fantasia	S I	Book 46
Scott Meikle	R I	Book 46
The Valentine	S I	5 for 2009
Reel of the Royal Scots	R B	RSCDS - Leaflet
Jennifer's Jig	J I	Silver City Book
Castle Douglas	S B/I	Goldring 12 SCD
Postie's Jig	J I	R. Clowes
Neidpath Castle	S I	Book 22
The Dancing Bees	R B	24 Graded and Soc.
Mary Erskine	R B	2nd Graded Book
A Capital Jig	J I	RSCDS-5 dances 2009
Glasgow Lasses	S B	Book 34
Last of the Lairds	J I/A	Book 22
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	R I	Lothian Collection



JUNE 23, 2012

AGM Dance
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City
Potluck 5 p.m., Meeting 6 p.m., Dance 7 p.m.

Granville Market	JB	2nd Graded Book
Lochalsh Reel	RI	Skye Book Vol. 2
Rakes of Glasgow	SB	Book 11
Equilibrium	JA	Ian Barbour
The Valentine	SI	5 Dances for 2009
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran	RI	Bon Accord
The Brudenell Jig	JB	2nd Graded Book
Forty-Five Years On	RA	5 For 2009
Asilomar Romantic	SI	S.F. Collection Vol. 2
The Blue Route	RB	Delaware Valley
Links With St. Petersburg	JI	Book 46
Sueno's Stone	RI	RSCDS 4 for 2008
New Abbey	SB	Graded & Social 2
Christine M. Phillips	JI	Book 46
Dancing Master of Moncton	SA	Mel Briscoe
The Pawling Porch	RB	Elaine Brunken
Pete & Marilyn's Welcome	J I	Delaware Valley

FRANK IBBOTT

Teacher Frank Ibbott was hospitalized after a fall at home, which followed a severe respiratory infection in January. Tests revealed five small tumors in his brain, called gliomas. The good news is the condition is treatable. Frank will be receiving treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where his son Geoffrey works.

Frank said he appreciates all the cards and messages sent to him. He was unable to reply due to lack of Internet access in the hospital.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

BRANCH STORE

Have you ever considered shopping while you dance? The Branch Store sells CDs of dance music, dance books, cue books and other "essentials" such as RSCDS license plate frames and the silicone non-slip product known as "shoe goop" for giving your ghillies more traction.

Although some dance venues lack the space, the large upstairs hall at the First Christian Church in Studio City does have a spot for Aase Hansen to set up a table for the store. She will be bringing the store to the March beginner dance there, and to other dances in the future.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

CLASS REPORTS Long Beach

After a brief hiatus at the end of the year, Long Beach class begins a new session as well as a new year. Of course, Asilomar, St. Andrew's Ball, Christmas Ball and Hogmanay saw many participants rounding out 2011. Nine class members enjoyed the Burns Ball in late January. Plus we are blessed with two new dancers. Connie Walker, attracted by the Costa Mesa Scotsfest demos, joined us in late October. Mickey Alvaraz, familiar with clog dancing and line dancing, acted on Joyce and Stephen's suggestions, and began in January. Welcome aboard, Connie and Mickey! May SCD bring you much pleasure and happy companionship.

On a personal level, Eric and Pete, Roberta's sons, both completed graduate studies at their respective universities, and Eric is engaged to be married. Congratulations, Eric and Pete on achieving advanced degrees and to Eric and his fiancé. Meanwhile, Sara is a full-time political science major (emphasis on international relations) in her junior year at UCLA with SCD on the side. Joyce and Stephen enthusiastically continue to pursue their newfound passion. Asilomar fuelled this, as well as the various monthly dances and seasonal balls.

The day of the Burns Ball, Roberta heard from a former member of our class. Christina Butler, now of Charlottesville, Virginia, spent Burns Day dancing, capped by a huge dinner. "Thank you for introducing me to this wonderful world of Scottish Dance and I hope your day is fantastically fun!" was her word from the East Coast.

Be sure to ask Jim about his new car! No report on the make or model; you'll have to go directly to the source for additional info. Karen enjoyed an 11-day trip to New Zealand in November, returning with many photos and memories of the people and SCD in another part of the world.

As we gear up for spring and its abundance of events, join us Saturday mornings at El Dorado Park. Happy dancing!

Karen Kerman

ST. ANDREW'S BALL 2012

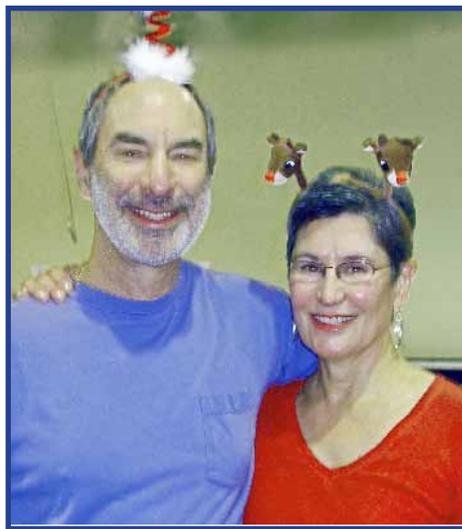
Next fall's St. Andrew's Ball will return to the Masonic Lodge in El Segundo on Nov. 24. Musicians will be announced at a later date. There will be one major change, however: Instead of a buffet dinner before the ball, refreshments will be served at the first break and dessert at the second break.

There are several reasons for this change. First, the Branch Committee wants to hold steady or reduce the cost of the event. Since we can't compare with this past 45th anniversary/St. Andrew's event, let's go back to 2010 and earlier. When 44% of the ticket price goes toward the cost of food, it's time to make a change!

Second, the major event of the dance year has always been the Burns Supper. To offer dinner before St. Andrew's seems to detract from Burns. Third, there is the work involved in preparing the hall: setting up tables, centerpieces and let's not forget the kitchen clean-up – all of which falls on the shoulders of a half dozen people. We hope you can all embrace this change, which may, we hope, increase participation in an event that has always been a part of the Los Angeles Branch traditions.

Rosemary Abend

Valley College



Really getting into the holiday spirit at the Valley College class Christmas party are Jeff Altman and Judy Fey. We could say "On Dancer, on Prancer ..." but which one is which?

MACLEOD RANT

The Clan MacLeod Dancers have decided that they will no longer host the Rant as an annual event.

Instead, we have entered into an arrangement with the San Gabriel Valley Branch in which the MacLeods and the San Gabriel Valley Branch will host events in alternate years.

Since the Rant was last held on June 4, 2011, our next scheduled event is being planned for June 2013.

This year San Gabriel will be hosting a Ball on June 16 at the South Pasadena War Memorial.

Deanna St. Amand

Torrance

The Friday evening prior to the Anniversary Ball, Mary Brandon visited Jack Rennie's class and joined in the warm-up session. The class also celebrated Jack's 80th birthday and enjoyed a cake brought by Marion Reeve.

Kris McGinnis



Mary Brandon, center, joins Kris McGinnis, left, and Val Rodgers for warm-ups at the Torrance class in November.

RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

Many thanks to all of our members who have signed up with the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program. In the fall quarter of 2011 the Branch earned \$39. These members continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points, as well as help the Branch.

If you're a Ralphs shopper and have not yet registered your card to benefit our branch, please go online to do so or pick up a Ralphs flier at class or the next dance and take it to your store to have your shopping count!

Audrey Ramsay Prest

North Valley

The North Valley dancers are off to a busy 2012. Linda McWade looks forward to celebrating her daughter's wedding on St. Patrick's Day. Hats off to her (green, of course) for planning the upcoming celebration and we send best wishes to the newlyweds.

Our teacher, Deanna St. Amand, not only teaches our Thursday night class and coaches the Clan MacLeod Dancers but has now added square dancing to her weekly list of activities. She was very active at one time and is having fun shaking out costumes and remembering steps and patterns.

Audrey Prest is enjoying retirement thoroughly. In fact she is not sure how she ever had time to fit work into her schedule. Aside from interests in genealogy and Daughters of the American Revolution, she has joined two other L.A. Branch dancers, Jon Reeves and Gail Halverson, to work on the annual Burbank float, which won the Mayor's Trophy in this year's Rose Parade competition.

We are very happy to have Amateo Seno dancing with us again. He is feeling much better and is making up for time lost last fall by attending classes and not missing any local RSCDS functions. He looked great in his tux, and I was told has a kilt on order.

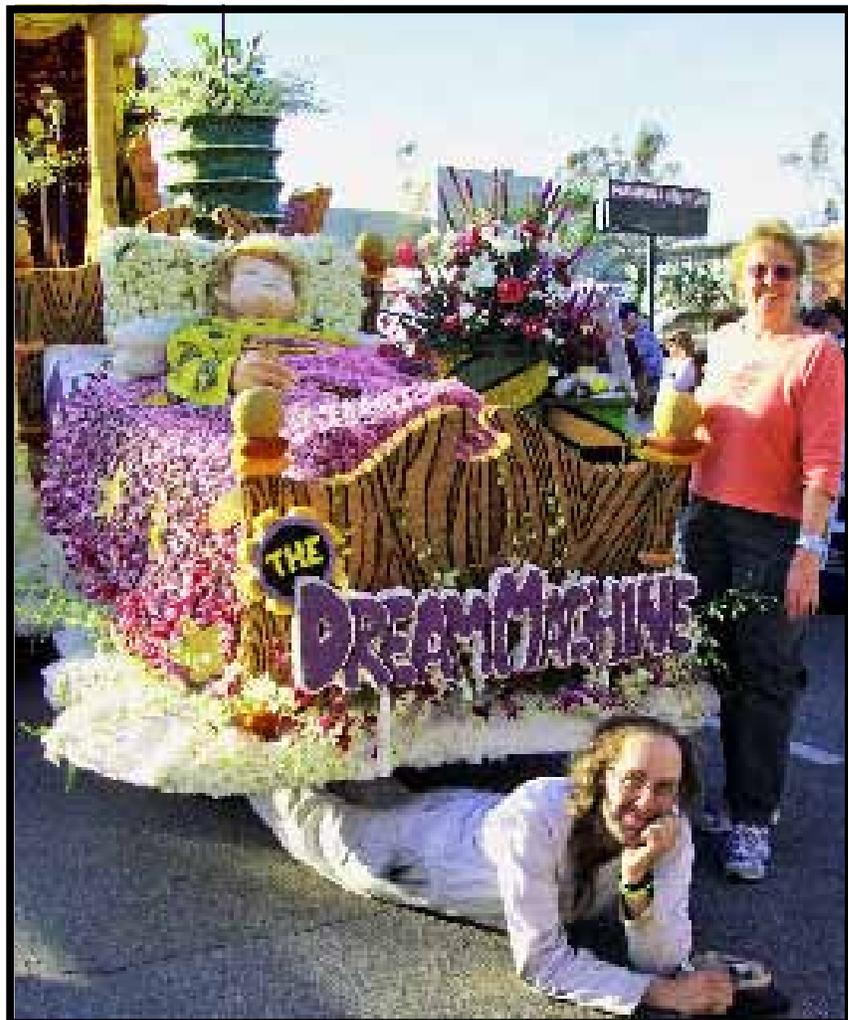
We have also welcomed Norm Plotkin back after about with bronchitis, and we hope Angela Tennyson's shoulder continues to heal so she can join us again very soon.

Claudia Pedersen



SCOTTISH DANCERS AND THE ROSE PARADE FLOAT FOR BURBANK

Among L.A. Branch members who volunteered many hours to build the Rose Parade float for the city of Burbank are Jon Reeves and Audrey Prest, seen below at the post-parade float viewing in Pasadena. Jon did hours and hours of welding, wiring and repairing hydraulic lines as part of the construction crew. He even rode inside the float to run the animation. Along with Gail Halverson, Audrey worked with the deco crew, including gluing green and yellow split peas — one by one. Gail, not pictured, was in charge of details such as the “gear shift” levers, top left.



FACEBOOK

The Branch is pursuing the idea of setting up a FaceBook page so that we can spread the word to even more people about Scottish Country Dancing in the Los Angeles area.

We have one volunteer to help with the project, Amateo Seno from the Chatsworth class. It's been suggested that we have two administrators, so we're looking for another branch member, already familiar with Facebook, to work with Amateo on this project.

If you would like to help, please contact Deanna St. Amand at 818.761.4750 or by email at DGSA@pac-bell.net.

Deanna St.Amand



The Ghillie Callum

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