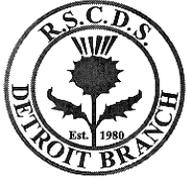


# NEWSLETTER

## DETROIT BRANCH

OCTOBER, 2011



RSCDS - Detroit Branch  
P.O. Box 931 Royal Oak, MI 48068  
www.rscdsdetroit.org

### OUT AND ABOUT .....



Everybody loves the parade of the Clans !

*Alma 2011*



THERE MUST BE SOME RECRUITING  
GOING ON BETWEEN  
RSCDS & SASM

*Renfest 2011*

### E-Mail .....



From: Catherine N Graham  
[mailto:cng650@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 8:58 PM  
To: drjohnston1@live.com  
Subject: Re: Branch Newsletter

I think I accidentally erased your last message regarding the newsletter/ I thought I would drop a few notes about my activities to add to your latest edition.

Tom and I attended the Prescott Highland Games in May. There was a ceilidh the night before and I taught some audience participation dances. We have joined a "Scots of Prescott" which is a cultural club. At one of the meetings I taught some dancing and gave a brief history of Scottish Country Dancing.

I went down to Phoenix and visited with Ethel MacNaughton for a couple of days. She is doing fine but misses Archie very much. She just came back from a visit to see great grand babies 5 & 6. She gave me a tour of the area with its golf courses, activity center etc. The weather in Phoenix was HOT! (105 degrees).

I am not doing any Scottish Country dancing. The nearest class is in Mesa 125 miles away. I am planning to do some Contra Dancing which seems to be quite popular around here. There is also a large folk music community.

I joined a garden club as planting is so different here. We do have 4 seasons though. I am also singing in a choir. We will be doing a Community Christmas Concert in December. I am trying to keep busy. I miss all my friends in Michigan and hope they are well.

Bye for now.  
Catherine.

*Catherine,  
Thank you so much for the note. Always glad to  
share with our members. DJ*

Grant was busy trying to get the music fired up and missed the picture.



Timm, Rhett, Griff, Diane, Heather, Glenna, Linda

Always a few last minute instructions before the group started to arrive.



Bruce..... lending moral support

## RENAISSANCE CENTER - DETROIT

The evening of October 7, 2011 found our Demo team in downtown Detroit to perform at a Ceilidh which will “showcase the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society” at the “102nd. Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society” in the Marriott Renaissance Center hotel. Their group was in town for the better part of five days and included tours of Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory, Windsor, the DIA., and Greektown.

Our own Laurel Paterson acted as the MC to open the program and lead the singing and joke telling interspersed with our performances of “The Heid O’ The Brae”, “Bonnie Stronshiray”, “Reel of the 51st. Division”. Our portion of the program was concluded with audience participation dances “Come to the Ceilidh” and “The Dhoon”

Our team included, Grant Rutilla, Glenna Washburn, Griff Evans, Heather Simmons, Timm Kelly, Linda Johnston, Rhett Heberling, and Diane Cliff. They were supported by Bruce Paterson and yours truly. A great time was had by all ..... navigating around the *Ren Cen* to get back to the parking structure to go home proved to be a bit of a challenge.

*Don Johnston*



With this group we could have danced all night





## Ruth on the Road.....

Dancing in Edinburgh, Episode One: The Gay Gordons

Most SCD groups in Edinburgh don't dance in the summer. I came across one exception my first week here, though: The Edinburgh Gay Gordons. As the name suggests, this is primarily an LGBT group—in practice, the great majority of the participants are gay men; I was one of three women—but anyone who doesn't care what role he or she dances is welcome. They dance on Monday evenings in St. Stephens Centre, a fine Georgian church that the parish, which has merged with another nearby, now uses as a community hall. The teacher is an RSCDS-certified teacher, but the mood is a little different from a regular class. Clothing went from jeans to kilts, shoes from gilles to trainers (athletic shoes); there were four sets (recorded music).

Everyone on the usual "women's side" wears a ribbon on their sleeve, so that the two sides are "ribbons" and "arms." To warm up, we danced St. Bernard's Waltz, and I danced the man's role with a man as my partner. Then we did a dance from the children's book, "The Dhoon." Even this simple dance was walked through for each couple—it is a very beginner-friendly group. Then we did Duke of Perth. The

teacher had us do corner-partner turns with a forearm grip, where you cup your hand around the other's elbow, which I thought was a great idea. It is much easier to get around on time, not only for the beginners but for someone like me with an injured knee in a brace. We went through eight times, and then once and to the bottom, partly for a few dancers who had had to sit out, and partly to help everyone learn it. Then the teacher went into the next room with the beginners to do footwork, while the rest of us danced Cranberry Tart. The person teaching at first suggested we would just dance it, because "we all know it so well," but I asked for a quick walkthrough, and it became clear that many needed it more than I did. Then the whole group came together again and we danced Ann Arbor's perennial favorite, Shifftin' Bobbins.

Not a high level of dancing, but it couldn't be more welcoming and fun-oriented, and I don't know whether I'll switch to a regular class once they start—there is one nearby with recorded music on Mondays, and one with a longish bus ride but live music. I might just stick with the Gay Gordons.

*Ruth Scodel*



# RENFEST 2011.....

Huzzah!

This year the RSCD demo team was there for all to see at the Renaissance Festival in beautiful Hollygrove on the weekends of August 27 and 28 and September 10 and 11. A grand time was had by all.

Dancing in August at the Highland Fling weekend were Cynthia Niedbalski, Jim Watson, Al Cook, Rhett Heberling, Jen Moroschan, Corrie Cortez, Timm Kelly, Heather and Derrick Simmons and Diane Cliff. They were accompanied by Susie Lorand from Ann Arbor on the fiddle on Saturday and Caleb (Gilbert) the Piper on Sunday. Thanks to Jamie McFarland for keeping the beat on her bodhran and playing host to our audience. Special thanks also to Sue Boczek for watching our stuff and being our greatest fan.

On the September weekend our performers were Grant Rutila, Glenna Washburn, Corrie Cortez, Rhett Heberling, Jim Watson, Al Cook, Griff Evans, Dolores Silver and Heather and Derek Simmons. This amazing group was privileged to dance in the Castle during the Queen's Tea accompanied by the lovely Susie Lorand on the fiddle. Special thanks to Heather Simmons who was our commentator along with dancing: Wonder how she wasn't completely out of breath by the time they were finished! Ray Cortez, Chuck Boczek and Joe Silver, husbands of the dancers, worked at gathering a crowd each time we danced.

The team performed Celtic Dreaming, Gypsy Dreams, The Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division, Espie McNabb, Trip to Aphrodisia, Bonnie Stronshiray, Come to the Ceilidh and the Barmkin which we then taught to the audience. Saturday we shared the Wylde Wood stage with the Zingara Music & Dance group.

Thankfully the weather cooperated both weekends!

*Diane Cliff*



Jen, Timm, Heather, Rhett, Diane with Jamie on the bodhran.



Griff, Corrie, Grant, Glenna, Delores, and Jim

## Remembering Those Who Loved the Dance

In May 2010, we dedicated a memory tree at MacKenzie Hall for beloved members we have lost. Next time you are at MacKenzie Hall take a minute to stop and see the tree dedicated to Those Who Loved The Dance

Reprint from THE COCKADE



## In Memoriam

Members of the Detroit Branch, Timm & Bonnie Kelly, Rachael Harrer, and Linda & Don Johnston traveled to Windsor to take part in the "Memorial for Phyllis Oxley." The attendees were escorted by a piper to the gazebo and memorial tree on the grounds of MacKenzie Hall where a ceremony was conducted by members of the Windsor Branch.

Following the ceremony, a light lunch was served followed by the Memorial Dance. Phyllis was remembered as their Secretary and Editor of The Cockade but most of all as a person who loved to dance.

*Don Johnston*

Space going to waste & available for your newsworthy article!!





## Upcoming Events ..... 2011 & 12

Saturday  
October 29, 11

**Windsor RSCDS  
Annual Ball**  
Masonic Temple  
Windsor, Ontario  
Music by the Scottish Accent



Wednesday  
Feb. 29, 12

**Leap Year BD Dance**  
*Contact Ruth Scodel*  
Ann Arbor, MI



Saturday  
March 24, 12

**Border City Workshop**



Thursday  
May 24, 12

**AGM**  
Detroit Branch



## Executive Committee

Chairperson: Sue Boczek (248) 398-2921  
Past Chair: Don Johnston (586) 228-7370  
Vice-Chair: Diane Cliff (313) 846-1711  
Treasurer: Don Sarna (248) 637-2824  
Secretary: Carrie Carnes (313) 554-0002

### Members at Large:

Rachael Harrer (248) 544-9231  
Ruth Scodel (734) 761-6172  
Linda Johnston (586) 228-7370  
Margaret Sarna (248) 637-2824  
Membership: Bonnie Cook (248) 626-2340  
Teacher Rep: Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329

### Demonstration:

Publicity: Margaret Sarna (248) 637-2824  
Music, Webmaster: Don Sarna (248) 637-2824

Newsletter: Don & Linda Johnston (586) 228-7370  
*drjohnston1@live.com*

Teachers: Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329  
Robin Warner (AA) (734) 426-0241  
Helen Welford (AA) (734) 426-0241  
Dan Blim (AA)

## Class Contacts

### Detroit Branch

Thursday PM 7:00 - Basic  
7:30 - 8:30 Combined  
8:30 - 9:30 Experienced

First United Methodist Church of Troy  
6363 Livernois  
Troy, MI 48098

Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329  
Linda Johnston (586) 228-7370

### Roseville - "Red Hackles"

Tuesday PM 7:30 - 9:30 Experienced

Erin Presbyterian Church  
Gratiot at Common Rd. (12 1/2 Mile)  
Roseville, MI

Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329

### Ann Arbor - "Tartan and Thistle"

Monday PM 6:30 - 7:30 Basic  
7:30 - 8:30 Combined  
8:30 - 9:30 Experienced

Gretchen's Barn  
2625 Traver Rd. Ann Arbor, MI

Joan Hellman (734) 769-1052  
Mary Wessel Walker (734) 996-0129

### Windsor Branch - Ontario

Wednesday 8:00 - 10:00 PM

June Dey (519) 974-1363