



Playing Scottish: The Roots of Live Music in the San Francisco Branch, Part I

by Heather Mackay.

Welcome to the first in a series of articles drawn from an interview with Barbara McOwen, one of the sparks behind live music in the San Francisco Branch, and now a well-known Scottish Country dance musician, bandleader and arranger residing in Boston. This article explores Barbara's beginnings as a musician and the start of live music for SCD in the Bay Area.

Heather (H): When did you start dancing and playing?

Barbara (B): Well, we can go back to age sixteen, which would have been in about 1964 or 1965. I was at Berkeley High School, and I started violin lessons and folk dancing at the same time, but they had nothing to do with each other. The two just toddled along as completely separate activities.

Then, in about the late '60s or 1970, I discovered Scottish Country dancing from Stewart Smith at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp and Mendocino Folklore Camp. And then the violin playing and the Scottish dancing very gradually got closer. I really couldn't play very well! But there were people—Stewart Smith, Mark Post and others—who were saying, "Hear this music you're dancing to? It's really supposed to be played on the fiddle."

Stewart really encouraged me and Mark Post gave me the means—he [told me I could order] the RSCDS books, with the music. So I did that and that was the first huge door. It was all piano arrangements, right hand and left hand. I was at that time about equally proficient on piano and violin, but the tunes were very hard to play on piano. Then I tried playing them on violin, and they just seemed to fit! They fit on the strings so beautifully that what Stewart had been saying just hit home—that this was really violin music.

H: Was there much live music for dance classes or parties then?

B: There was some. One of the people most involved was Chuck Ward, who played piano. I heard him very rarely, and got to play with him rarely, because at the time we were dancing at All Souls Church and there was no piano there! The other person was John Austin, a fiddler who now lives in New York. He and Chuck had played for Stewart's classes and they were fairly active, but by the time I was really ready to play, they were both gone.

So, I had to start over from nothing and figure out how to do it from recordings and from sheet music. Meanwhile, I was

in college and getting a music degree from U.C. Berkeley so I was learning about things like harmonic progressions. So these three things—my education, my violin/fiddle playing and my dancing—were all kind of converging.

Then I did a seminal trip to St. Andrews in 1973. They had nothing but live music there and after St. Andrews, I stayed a couple of months and I collected a lot of music books.

Within a month after I got back, I met Robert [McOwen] at Scottish Country dancing, and one of the first questions I asked him—maybe before "Do you have a girlfriend?"—was "Do you play the guitar?" and he said, "Yes!" Playing [for class] got to be a pretty important thing; Robert and I and a pick-up crowd of 5 to 10 people were coming a lot. That's how Paul Machlis came on the scene. He had started dancing and then he came up to me and said, "You know, I do play the piano." And just about that time we got a piano in the hall.

The teachers were Ken McFarland and Linda Korsan (who was Linda Long at the time), and both of them were extremely encouraging. They said things like "the worst live music is better than the best recorded music." And even though that really maybe wasn't true, they were extremely helpful and encouraging to me and to everybody. Just a very welcoming nurturing atmosphere. And the dancers LOVED it. They loved doing the same dances over and over every week for the dances we knew how to play. It was just a great scene in which to find myself.

H: You had a lot of other musical and dance experience. What was it you liked about Scottish?

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Classified Announcements

Lost and Found

A camera was left behind at the Sacramento Branch Spring Workshop/Ball.

If it's yours, contact Bob Schuldheisz and identify it so that it can be returned: (209) 745-9063, or bobschul@softcom.net

New Classes

A NEW Children's Class is planned for San Francisco—Starts in the Fall

Oliva wants a Scottish Country Dance class, so she can continue to do one of her favorite things. So, her mom, Daphne, and I are trying to get a class started.

It will probably met on Wednesday afternoons in a dance studio Daphne has found. We are planning to have the class for kids 8 years old and up. The class will be part of the San Francisco class.

Please tell your friends with kids to give us a call.

For more information contact me at 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu.
Susie Langdon Kass

Election Results, etc.

Branch Committee Elections

By Susie Langdon-Kass

Congratulations to the Branch Committee Members, our "Board of Directors", elected in May. Five members were elected. "Welcome" to our new board member, Sandra Fritts! New officers will be appointed at the June Branch Committee meeting. The Board positions will be announced at the June Monthly Party.

For other volunteer positions, please see the Branch Committee/Volunteer list at the back of this issue. It is designed to be copied or cut out to fit in your Branch Directory.

All RSCDS-SF Branch members are welcome at Branch Committee meetings. The committee usually meets in the afternoon of monthly party days. Call one of the Committee members to find out the location.

If you would be interested in being on the board in the future or volunteering in

another way, or could suggest someone, please let a Branch Committee or a nominating committee member know.

Our organization is run entirely by volunteers. Can YOU help out?

Volunteers Needed!

Pleasanton Games

The Pleasanton Games are happening Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Many teams will be participating in the SCD Adjudication. This event is a great way to show to the audience what SCD is, and for the dancers to have fun at the same time.

Our information tent is set up near the stages so spectators can pick up class flyers. People are needed to staff the tent and answer questions. This is an opportunity to help promote SCD, while sitting in the shade.

Please sign up for one or more 1-hour shifts. A plan that works for many is to do a shift right after your adjudication. Contact me to sign up in advance for a particular time slot, or sign up at the tent when you arrive,

Please help spread the word about Scottish Country Dancing!

*Susie Langdon Kass
Publicity Committee
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Other Events

The CROSS-STEP WALTZ workshop will take place Sunday, September 21, 2003, 1 to 5:30 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Santa Cruz (postponed from June 15, the originally announced date.) Joan Walton, assisted by Angela Elsey will teach Beginning and Intermediate Cross-Step Waltz; these classes will be followed by open Couple Dancing, DJ'd by Joan Walton. Cost is \$12. for the whole afternoon, or \$5. for each session. The sponsoring organization is Traditional Dancers of Santa Cruz. For more information, please contact Dotty Lieber, dotty1@cruzio.com or 831/423-6165.

Dixon Scottish Games & Gathering

by Jane Samuelson

The fourth annual Dixon Games will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2003, at the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First Street, in Dixon, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is a complete program of Scottish events with 11 bagpipe bands, athletics including soccer and shinty, living history, animal exhibits, clan tents, many vendors, and Highland dancing. Most importantly, there will be demonstration dancing from many local classes of Scottish country dancing. Dancers from Sacramento, Livermore, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill, and Berkeley will be there, as well as musicians from Berkeley.

This event has been a special pleasure for me, because I grew up in Dixon. I have been so pleased to see it grow every year. It is a nice, smaller Games that is great for families. There are children's activities, as well.

Branch Scholarships

Scholarships are available for all kinds of dance/music workshops and events. Contact Paula Jacobson at (831) 688-8295 for more information.

(Continued from page 1)

B: I liked Scottish dancing because it was very challenging and I liked that there's always more to learn. And the people teaching it really knew what they were doing. Stewart himself was a huge inspiration, he seemed to be just the essence of Scottishness and of dance. He was extremely inspiring, although in 1973 he moved away from the Bay Area to Texas, and he died about 10 years later. But his legacy lives on in the dancing scene in San Francisco and the whole of California.

As for the music, I liked it again because it is a challenge, but I also liked the lift to it, the back-beat. Both the dancing and the music are very much up in the air. And [I liked] the history—the fact that you could buy these old books and that the books were published in a constant stream from 1750 on until today. It is an extremely alive, still developing, art. So it's really historical and it's also current.

H: How did you learn to play "Scottishly?"

B: There was very little [to learn from]! Now that I live in Massachusetts, I realize how very far San Francisco is from Scotland! In San Francisco, there was no Scottish fiddling. Absolute zero. Zilch. So I was picking up crumbs from the books. There were some accordion dance band recordings, notably Stan Hamilton, Jimmy Shand, and others. There were also some non-dance fiddle recordings by Ron Gonnella, and some older 45s that the RSCDS put out. They were very nice but they were an older style so they weren't really like the current bands. There were also some even older recordings of violin orchestras in the 1940s. It was two main groups—the Scottish Country Dance Players, led by John Robertson, and the Tim Wright Band. They sounded very much like the big swing bands of the 40s. They were wonderful arrangements and wonderfully played, but again, it wasn't anything like Stan Hamilton's sound.

Now that I'm looking back, what I was trying to recreate was something like the Stan Hamilton or Jimmy Shand sound, except with fiddles instead of accordions. In those bands, the accompaniment becomes very important, because the sound of the band is the strong upbeat lift on the piano and the other instruments. So how do you get that with bass and drums and guitar? I'm still working on that one. But I'm getting closer, especially when I work with different pianists and hear how different pianists play.

Then [Shetland fiddler] Aly Bain came through in about 1975. He taught some workshops and people asked, "what is this strathspey thing?" And he was literally unwilling to teach us—he didn't say this, but he could have—"strathspeys ain't for sissies!" It's not just a tune, it takes a lot more than that to play a strathspey. I think he taught half of the *Laird of Drumblair*, and then decided the bowing was too particular and too [difficult]. But hearing him play and hearing the ornaments and the bowing, that was very, very helpful.

By this time Jack Rennie's band [in Los Angeles] had a fiddler named Mary Anne Sereth, and she's a very good player. And later on, Jack Rennie's band had Colin Gordon, who is actually from Scotland. So I was rubbing shoulders with as many people as I could. Then there was a workshop put on by the Boston Branch, with Angus MacKinnon, a Scottish fiddler from Toronto, and the San Francisco branch gave me about half my expenses to go; I learned a lot about fiddling and bands from him in that weekend.

And so I would toddle along like that with the pick-up band. These were the pieces of the puzzle but none of them were really the whole puzzle. I was picking up crumbs and pieces of the puzzle everywhere, but I was still putting them together myself, and really not knowing what I was doing.

[Stay tuned for our next article, in which our little pick-up band gets a big gig and gains fame as the **Berkeley Scottish Players!**]

Annual General Meeting

Reported by Greg Reznick, Recording Secretary

The Annual General Meeting of the San Francisco Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, May 3, 2003 at the Masonic Temple in Alameda.

Paula Jacobson, Branch Chair, presided over the meeting. On the agenda were two propositions from the Branch committee, and the annual election of Branch Committee members.

The first proposition was to raise the Branch dues by \$4 per year to cover increased administrative costs. The membership in attendance approved the increase, and the Branch portion of the annual membership fees will be increased from \$18 to \$22.

The second proposition was to approve a substantial amendment to the bylaws of the Branch. The Branch Committee had conducted a thorough review of the existing bylaws and identified many sections that need updating. The membership in attendance approved the amendment. The new document can be found on the Branch website (<http://www.rscds-sf.org>).

The results of the election were also announced. Patti Cobb, Paula Jacobson, Gary Knox, Greg Reznick and Sandra Fritts were elected to two-year terms on the Branch Committee, commencing in July of 2003.

In addition, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded as follows:

- To J. Douglas McConnell for his long dedication to the creation of the Celtic Heritage exhibit at the Labor Day Games.
- To Victoria Williams for her many wonderful years of editing the Reel and Strathspey.
- To Alan Twigg for his superb work as Monthly Party Program Coordinator, a role wherein he has set a standard of excellence by which all to follow

will be measured.

- To David Newitt for his stellar work as sound engineer for major Branch events, a job he fulfilled with the highest degree of professionalism, sensitivity and class
- To Greg Reznick for his outstanding work developing and maintaining the Branch Website.

Branch Committee Actions, March, April 2003

Reported by Greg Reznick, Recording Secretary

Events

Valentine's Ball: In March, Art presented a written report regarding the Valentine's Ball held in February. Expenses, in total, were near budget and event revenues exceeded expenses by a small amount. The chair thanked Art for organizing a wonderful evening and appointed Art to chair the event in 2004.

Asilomar: In March, Cameron McDonald provided an early look at Asilomar 2003. Teachers this year will include Mel Briscoe, and Reel of 7 will provide the music for the ball on Saturday. The committee thanked Cameron for taking the position and her work so far.

Jean Patrick Dance: In April, Larry provided his final budget. He expects to break even. The dance will be held at the Pleasanton Veterans' Hall and music will be provided by Andy Imbrie and Friends.

Treasurer's Report

In March, Gary presented a proposed budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The committee discussed the budget with special attention to the proposed dues structure for next year. It was decided to propose an increase in the branch portion of the dues to \$22/year for regular members. This is expected to close the gap between the dues and the cost of member services. The proposal will be put before the membership at the AGM.

Committees

Membership: In April, Bradley distributed a proposal to fund the printing of the membership manual. The proposal included an overview of the manual, a production timetable and a budget. The committee agreed to provide \$600 as requested and to provide each class with a copy of the manual and the branch directory.

Other Items

Amendment of Bylaws: In March, the committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the branch bylaws as prepared by the subcommittee formed at the last meeting. After substantial discussion, the committee arrived at an amended document to be placed before the membership at the Branch AGM to be held in May. In April, the committee reopened the discussion of the bylaws to address issues brought up by the membership since the last meeting, and made several changes to the proposed amendments before arriving at the final proposal.

Youth Guidelines: At the request of the Teacher's Committee, the words "physical, emotional and developmental well being, as well as their" were added to paragraph 1f of the Youth Guidelines adopted in January

Request for grant from the music fund: The committee approved a request from the SF class for \$75 to pay for the live music at the Valentine's Ball review.

Distribution of Reel and Strathspey: In April, Alex reported that Marge Henry had volunteered to organize the mailing party for the *R&S*. Witsie and Patti offered to help facilitate the transition. Witsie proposed that the branch move to offering the membership a choice of receiving the *R&S* electronically, or by first-class mail, thereby eliminating the bulk-mail option. This will be done during a transition period over the next year.

Request for Branch policy regarding fragrance: Patti reported that a member has requested that the Branch consider a formal policy regarding the use of fragrances at Branch events. Although the Branch Committee was not ready to make a formal policy at this time, it was agreed that the next appropriate step would be to publish an article on the subject in the *R&S*.

E-mail to the Editor

From: Bruce Hamilton

Subject: RSCDS HQ Web page

Mike,

There is a "Members' Section" on the RSCDS web page (www.rscds.org). It requires a username/password combination. Here's what HQ says:

"Dear Bruce,

The username is "*****" and the password is "*****" for the member's site.

Those names are case-insensitive.

As you know the site is for members, therefore if your newsletter is restricted to members only, then you can give the password.

Happy dancing.

Eileen Watt

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

12 Coates Crescent

Edinburgh, EH3 7AF

E-Mail info@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk "

Editor's Note: As the *R&S* is NOT restricted to members only, I have not included the username and password in this item. Members wishing to view the restricted portion of the HQ site may email me (randnewsletter@pacbell.net) to that effect, and I will forward the information to them.

THE DUNSMUIR SCOTTISH DANCERS

are delighted to announce the publication of “Dunsmuir Dances”, a book of 22 Scottish country dances and 12 original tunes written by or for past and present members. The book is 40 pages and costs \$8.00 US, plus shipping and handling.

To order, visit our web site:

http://www.dunsmuirscottishdancers.org/our_dancebook.htm

The book is also posted on our branch web site: <http://www.rscds-sf.org/bkstore.html>

For those who would like a little more information, the contents are listed below:

DUNSMUIR DANCES:

Name of Dance	Type of Dance	Music
Crowcombe and Stogumber	32 bar hornpipe for 3 couples, by Ron Wallace	Tune “Crowcombe and Stogumber,” by Dave Wiesler
The Diamond Quarrie	32 bar reel for 3 couples, by Elaine Brunken	Tune “Avril Quarrie,” by Gary Thomas
The Dunsmuir Eightsome	160 bar reel for 4 couples, by Ron Wallace	
Fair Ronny’s Reel	32 bar reel for 3 couples, by Tim Wilson	Tune “Gramercy Park Reel,” by Shari Salis
The Fiddlehead	32 bar strathspey for 2 couples, by Tom Winter	Tune “Balra Strathspey,” by Shari Salis
Hanna’s Pride	32 bar jig for 3 couples, by David and Avril Quarrie	Tune “With a Bow and Curtsey,” by Shari Salis
Margot’s Love	32 bar jig for 3 couples, by Claudette Sigg	Tune “Mark’s Jig,” by Muriel Johnstone
Maurice	32 bar strathspey for 2 couples, by Gary Thomas	Tune “Inukshuk,” by Ron Wallace
Linnea’s Strathspey	32 bar strathspey for 3 couples, by Tim Wilson	
Midnight Tryst at Haunted Manor	32 bar strathspey for 4 couples, by Tim Wilson	
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir	32 bar strathspey for 3 couples, by Tom Winter	Tune “Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir,” by Ron Wallace
Ratty’s Hornpipe	32 bar hornpipe for 3 couples, by Tom Winter	Tune “My Left Thumb,” by Ron Wallace
Mole’s Frolic	32 bar jig for 3 couples, by Tom Winter	
Robert’s Reel	32 bar strathspey for 3 couples, by Melinda R. Palmer	
The Seamstress	40 bar strathspey for 3 couple set, by Claudette Sigg	
Sinclair’s Chief	40 bar jig for 4 couples, by Trina Merriman	
Sleepers Awake	32 bar reel for 3 couples, by Tom Winter	
The Stolen Kiss	32 bar strathspey for 3 couples, by Claudette Sigg	
Sunday Afternoon Jig	32 bar jig for 3 couples, by Shari Salis	Tune “Sunday Afternoon Jig,” by Shari Salis
The Sylvan Strathspey	32 bar strathspey for 2 couples by Tom Winter	Tune “The Sylvan Strathspey” by Gary Thomas
Toad of Toad Hall	32 bar reel for 3 couples by Tom Winter	
The 10th of May	40 bar reel for 5 couples by Tim Wilson	
Sweet John’s Waltz	Waltz by Shari Salis (tune only)	

FYI

Included in the program for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance, on Saturday, August 30, is the popular reel, “J.B. Milne.” Have you ever wondered about the person behind the name? Here is some information, courtesy of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch newsletter, *via* Seattle Branch’s “The Puget Scot,” thence *via* Sacramento Branch’s “Am Feile Beag”:

“John Bannerman Milne was born one of three sons of Charles Milne, a Dundee coal-merchant, in 1902. When he was nine, he bought his first violin. By the age of sixteen, he was working at Dura Works (a jute mill) from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., teaching the violin from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and then

playing in a dance-hall until midnight.

His first entertainment job was at the Variety Theatre, Dundee, as a 19 shillings a week “musical director and cleaner.” He eventually bought the theatre in 1925, for £360, installed “talkies,” and never looked back. Within ten years he ... presided over a theatre, cinema and bingo empire that stretched from Stornoway to Galashiels....

The dance was devised by Angus Fitchet, who dedicated it to J.B. Milne as “the man who gave him his start in his show business career.””

Ninth Annual Jean Patrick Memorial Dance

by Larry Wakeman

The Ninth Annual Jean Patrick Memorial Dance will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 30th at the Pleasanton Veterans’ Hall in Pleasanton. The Veterans’ Hall is located at 301 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. Hanneke Cassel and Andy Imbrie will provide the music. The Program will be:

The Moudiewort	32J3	Book 11 #7
Margaret Parker Strathspey	32S3	Book 31 #3
The Sutherland Reel	40R3	Book 29 #5
Invercauld’s Reel	32S3	Book 11 #10
Lady Susan Stewart’s Reel	32R3	Book 5 #9
Light and Airy	32J3	Book 4 #5
Gang the Same Gate	32S3	Book 36 #4
Bees of Maggieknockater	32J4	Drewry, Canadian Book
Village Reel	32S2	Book 20 #4
Milton’s Welcome	32R3	Book 33 #8
Collichur	32J3	Book 30 #1
MacDonald of the Isles	32S3	Haynes, Glendarroch
J.B.Milne	32R3	Foss, Angus Fitchet S.D. Album
Monymusk	32S3	Book 11 #2
The Highlandman		
Kissed His Mother	32R3	MMM #1

I am also trying to collect photos and memories of Jean. If you have any photos of her, please send them to me at PO Box 3352; Walnut Creek, CA 94598. If you can find the negatives, that would be even better. You can send a memory to me at the above address or email it to me at lcwakeman@aol.com.

Class Reports Still Accepted

Class Managers & Teachers:

Written class reports were due June 1 for this summer issue of the newsletter, however, if you did not get yours in then, please submit it now for the next issue. Mike may be able to fit it in. The reports are fun to read, and keep dancers informed about other classes. Please send them by e-mail. If you are late this year, make a commitment to get it in by June 1 next year!

Send to: Mike Hird, the *Reel and Strathspeyper* newsletter editor, randnewsletter@pacbell.net.

The Class Managers Committee

Post Time!

Dancers...It’s that season of the year! Time to post flyers and recruit new dancers for our fall classes. Please...TAKE flyers and POST them or GIVE them TO FRIENDS! If everyone helps post and distribute, we’ll get lots of nice new dancers. The Branch yellow brochure and beginners’ classes flyer (listing all new beginner classes) are available at class, at games or from Susie. Your class has its own flyer to post too. Ask your class manager.

Places to post flyers:

- Dance studios
- Laundromats
- Hardware stores
- Grocery stores
- Cleaners
- Variety stores
- At church
- College campuses
- At work
- Bookstores
- Libraries
- Coffee houses
- Bakeries
- Ice cream stores
- Music stores
- Record stores
- Bike shops
- Gyms
- Bulletin boards everywhere. Keep your eyes open for them!

Take along a stapler, tacks or push pins, and tape. Ask permission to post when necessary. Keep a supply of flyers in your purse and car. Get more at class or call Susie at 415-333-9372, e-mail: susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu.

Friday, August 29, 2003, at 8:00 pm. The Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School presents its 20th annual concert at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St., in Santa Cruz. This exciting show, with a cast of 150 musicians, features fiddle masters: Scotland’s Alasdair Fraser, Sweden’s Ellika Frisell, and America’s Bruce Molsky, plus, Mats Melin, Swedish and Scots step dancer, Muriel Johnstone, piano, and percussion, and MORE! Tickets info call: 831.420.5260—also available at the door. Advance**: \$15 Adults, \$12 Students/Seniors, \$10 Group (10 or more—advance sales only). Day of Show**: \$18 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors. **Ticket prices do not include box office service charges.

Directory Additions

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A Note from the editor

My apologies to everyone, particularly class mamagers and representatives, who may have attempted to e-mail material to me, for inclusion in this edition of the *R&S*, and who used the email address shown in the last edition (viz., randседitor@pacbell.net) Unfortunately, SBC/Yahoo, who now have responsibility for Web servers handling PacBell e-mail accounts, have made that address unavailable, for no declared reason. However, in their wisdom, they omitted to advise me of that fact until late May, with the result that some of your material never arrived, or was returned to you as undeliverable. If you are among those affected, please re-submit your item to the new (and working!) e-mail address: randnewsletter@pacbell.net, and I will include the material in the next edition, space permitting.

Thank you,
 Mike Hird
R&S Editor

Pleasant Hill Step Dance Class Report

by Lori Howard

Another year has passed for the step dance class in Pleasant Hill. And what a year it has been.

Students in the beginner class started with the basic steps and traditional dances such as “Merry Meaghan”, “Shepherd’s Crook”, and “Blue Bonnets”. As time passed and their skills improved, they danced “Merry Meaghan” in pairs and in groups of four, and learned a modern version of “Blue Bonnets”. Next, it was on to the waltz-time dance “The Thistle”, which they learned both solo and in a new variation for couples. Finally, they were ready for the challenge of trebles for the elegant “Flowers of Edinburgh”.

While the beginner class learned the basics, the intermediate class perfected their technique, reviewed class repertoire dances such as “Bridget’s Suggestion” and “Winter Moonbrooch”, and learned new dances. This year gave the newer dancers the opportunity to learn other dances that had been in the repertoire for some time. Among these class favorites were “Reel of the Blackcocks”, “Scotch Measure”, “My Love She’s But a Lassie Yet”, and “Over the Water to Charlie”. New challenges for all the students were “Variations on a Theme of Charlie” and “Mountain Madness”, which the class dubbed Claudette’s Revenge.

Throughout the season, the dancers learned a lot about dancing and teamwork. As we head into summer, all the students of the Pleasant Hill class look forward to more dancing and more fun.

Lafayette Class Report, May 2003

Lafayette’s Children’s and Youth classes worked hard all year and their efforts culminated in a wonderful Children’s Ball in April. The venue was moved to the beautiful Veteran’s Hall in Livermore, which was able to accommodate increased numbers of dancers and proud spectators. With three levels of children’s classes, the annual Children’s Ball has become an exciting event for young people in the area and even draws children (and their parents and grandparents) from out of the area.

We were also glad that some of the parents of those same children enrolled in our adult beginner’s class. To our delight, we have some dedicated beginners and we look forward to their continued participation.

Lafayette’s Tween Party is an annual event held on the Saturday beTWEEN Christmas and New Year’s, featuring live music, good food and fun. This time around we danced to the music of Plaid Attitude, and enjoyed a program that didn’t tax all the holiday-weary dancers! Lafayette also continues the tradition of informal parties on those occasions when a 5th Thursday occurs in a month and it seems like a good time for a party.

Dancing for adults continues all summer long, rain or shine, in Lafayette. Everyone is welcome!

The New World Scottish Dancers: The Year of Broken Limbs

by Claudette Sigg

The year 2002–2003 was the Year of Broken Limbs. Indeed, we got through most of the year in fine shape—but on February 13, while setting up for the Pleasant Hill beginner step class, I stepped back without looking where I was going, fell over my own backpack, and broke my wrist. Then a little more than a week and a half later, Lori Howard, who had been substituting for me, phoned and said we would have to go to “Plan C”—because she had broken her ankle skiing! Nevertheless, and thanks to many good friends and the wonderful dancers in the NWSD, both she and I survived, kept the classes going, and prepared for the upcoming shows.

On Sunday, March 16, the NWSD had a tailored-to-fit-our-needs workshop with Ron Wallace. One of the criticisms given by the adjudicators of the 2002 Pleasanton Games had been that we had not sufficiently differentiated the tempos in the jig and the reel. Ron gave a succinct and educational lesson dealing with the differences and how to dance them properly—both in country dance, on which we worked in the morning, and in step dance, on which we worked in the afternoon. One left the workshop with the sense that one had learned something immensely useful, as if information that most people skim over without thinking about it had been finally articulated. Of all the workshops I have been to in years of country and step dancing experience, this one, taught by Ron Wallace, I can say, without hesitation, was the best.

As to performances, it has been either feast or famine. When there has been a dearth of performances, we have concentrated on developing better technique. To quote Miss Milligan from the 1976 edition of *Won't You Join the Dance*, “To have a really beautiful performance the footwork must of necessity be correct in detail and elegant in movement. All this precision, however, must be looked on as a means to an end, *i.e.* a dance delightful to watch, easy, natural and full of social grace and delightful to perform.” Thus, while going over the program for the Valentine’s Ball, we concentrated on how we would dance each dance as a performance dance—all those things that make a dance a joy to watch—as well as developing those “social” skills which make a dance “social” in the best sense of the word.

In the final six months of 2002, we danced at a number of highland games, beginning in August with the Monterey Games at Toro Regional Park. In continuing our development of the theme of Scots in California, some of our younger dancers danced their first solos. Alternating in “Tulloch Gorm,” Catherine Berner and Zuriah Meacham danced the role of the Fairy Star, Lotta Crabtree, of Gold Rush fame. Claire Tongue, in the role of an opera dancer from Edinburgh making her fortune by mining the miners of their gold, danced

an enchantingly wicked “Flowers of Edinburgh,” assisted by Steve Wyrick in his role as a besotted miner.

Over Labor Day, on August 31 and September 1, we danced two performances on the lower stage at the Pleasanton Games, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Both dealt with our theme of Scots in California. We also had two adjudication sets, which included the new dancers, Clara Ackerman and Tristanne Kuharski, as well as Bridget Sousa, Claire Tongue, Lori Howard, Julie Carapanos, Sheila Sousa, and Linda Baptiste. The men dancing were Charles Clear, Steve Wyrick, Greg Reznick, and Michael Howard. The NWSD was featured on the cover of the Caledonian Club’s Official Souvenir Program, the women in ballgowns derived from a Frederic Worth of Paris design (adapted by Mary McQuilliams from an Oakland Museum gown) and the men in their Prince Charlie jackets and kilts—all very elegant.

After Pleasanton came the John Muir Ranch Days in Martinez, where we danced three twenty minute shows, all late Victorian in music, dance, and costume. The audiences were to capacity or close to it for each show. Steve Wyrick played his violin for the dances “Happy Meeting” and “Corn Rigs”; in the latter he was accompanied by the singing of the Burns’ poem by Linda Baptiste. Charles Clear danced his first solo, “Tulloch Gorm,” and he and Steve Wyrick danced “Blue Bonnets” to the music of Alasdair Fraser, the first time we cast this dance with men only. The Dixon Games, also in September, was our cutting-edge-modern show—women in short panné velvet dresses, men in black peasant shirts and kilt hose.

The Dunsmuir House Christmas show of Sunday, December 15, occurred over a rainy weekend, but fortunately this year we were located in the Pavilion instead of the garden. The first half of our show was late Victorian and traditional, a family *ceilidh* party where the adults danced country dances and the children showed their skill with step dances, such as a threesome “Scotch Measure.” Clara Ackerman danced her first solo, an elegant “Scottish Lilt.” The last half of the show, a tribute to modern dance devisers of the “grace and elegance” school, emphasized how Scottish dancing, both country and step, had developed in the intervening one hundred years, yet retained the basic elegance for which Scottish Dancing is known. The manager in charge of entertainment requested us to do a second show and sent the Dunsmuir House photographer to photograph us in action!

After a period of winter dormancy with regard to performances, we began our Spring season with a surplus of them. In the space of a week and a half, we did the Sacramento Games at Woodland on April 27th; then on Saturday, May 3, we participated in a show to benefit the Camel Barn Museum by dancing with the group “Molly’s Revenge” at the Clock Tower in Benicia; the next day, we danced in a Cultural Awareness Event put on by the San Carlos Park and Recreation Department; and Thursday, May 8, we were the Scottish

representatives for a multicultural week at California State University at Hayward.

The introduction of new dancers, including Edith Summers and Christopher Berner, has had an influence on the direction in which our programming is developing. Some dancers brought highland dancing expertise with them, and for the first time we began to include highland dances as a regular part in our programs—particularly, but not exclusively, in our late Victorian scene. For instance, Christopher Berner, in his first performance with us, danced “Barracks, Johnny,” while taking on the role of the son in a Scottish-American family, while young Catherine Berner and Zuriah Meacham along with Clara Ackerman—as the teenage daughter—danced a classic and elegantly feminine version of “Blue Bonnets.” We also developed “the family country set,” where everyone—parents, friends, and children—participated in “The Duke of Atholl’s Reel,” the point being made to our audience that Scottish Country Dancing is an activity which everyone can enjoy and do together.

Highland, in modern guise, also entered into our performance with the group Molly’s Revenge: their “Pipe Set from Hell” began with the music for the “Fling” which Zuriah and Catherine danced with exquisite precision; the musicians then shifted into another tune, to which Charles Clear danced “Dancer’s Delight.” A third shift of tune brought a dynamic Bridget Sousa dancing “My Love She’s But a Lassie Yet” to stunning effect.

My younger dancers as well as some of the newer dancers have had an effect on choreography. My latest step dance, “Mountain Madness” —known to the dancers as “Claudette’s Revenge” and now renamed “Revenge!”—was reworked in one section to take advantage of their technical skill and youthful energy as well as to better reflect the brilliant character of Alasdair Fraser’s playing. Charles Clear, Bridget Sousa, and Christopher Berner danced the new version at Woodland. Lori Howard taught her dance “Variations on a Theme of Charlie,” choreographed to the music of Seelyhoo; it was danced for the first time by Catherine Berner and Zuriah Meacham at Woodland. Lori is now in the process of teaching her dance “Through the Spiral Doorway,” to the music of the Wicked Tinkers; this dance will be moving into the repertoire by late summer or early fall. I have brought back another of my step dances, “Sandpiper,” a twasome to the music of Dougie Maclean; Claire Tongue and Steve Wyrick danced it at Woodland; Bridget Sousa and Charles Clear were added to the mix at the performance in Hayward, the result being some interesting configurations between the four dancers. Heather Farquhar’s “Caelan’s Fancy,” to the music of Brother, remains an important part of our modern repertoire.

The New World Scottish Dancers is known for its integration of young dancers into its classes and programs. Their participation has brought a youthful vitality as well as an

increase in the general sense of delight and joy in dancing. Miss Milligan wrote that “Spirit, gaiety, energetic movement give complete and harmonious expression to the joyous feelings of the dancers...” She writes of “abandon” as a positive virtue in dancing. As the younger dancers approach an age where integration of them within the larger community becomes both desirable and natural, we need to remember that this youthful energy is a blessing to all of us. And having spread our own wings a generation or two ago, we need to allow them that same right of self expression—in terms which are meaningful and relevant to them.

Monterey Class Report, 2002-2003

by Kathy Wendell

Greetings from the southern end of the Branch. Our 35th year finds us a small but loyal group of dancers. Sara Gratiot continues to provide unending patience, encouragement, and instruction to make us better dancers.

The Monterey Class dancers weren’t the only ones to enjoy Sara’s expertise. She taught at the Asilomar workshop, also introducing some to Cape Breton step dancing in the afternoon elective. Class members who didn’t attend the workshop made and poured punch at the Saturday night ball, enjoying the music and dancing from the balcony.

We didn’t know it at the time, but we probably rang in the new year for the last time in front of the stone hearth at the Scout House in Carmel. The building has been closed by the city, so we’ll have to start a new class tradition in the coming year.

This spring, we put on our tenth Victorian-Scottish Workshop and Ball. Once again, Scottish and Victorian dancers shared the dance floor and their traditions, dancing everything from *pas de basques* to polkas to the inspired music of Andy Imbrie, Deby Benton Grosjean, Susan Worland, and Janet Kurnick. Following the workshops taught by Barry Lewis, Stan Isaacs, and Marjorie McLaughlin, dancers in their finery entered the transformed hall. Barry Lewis, also our regal master of ceremonies, directed an elaborate grand march and the dance talk-throughs. At the end of the evening, Barry and Sara presented an antique thimble to the event’s creator, Kim Jorgensen, as “a thimble of appreciation” for a decade of this unique experience.

Many of our White Heather demonstration dancers are traveling to exotic places this summer, from Mexico to Orkney to Paris, so we’re performing only at the Monterey Games the first weekend in August. We will continue to have our regular Monday night class throughout the summer. If you are ever in the Monterey Bay area on Monday night, please join us!

Santa Rosa Class - 2003 Class Report

This has been a good year for the Scottish Country Dance Class in Santa Rosa. The regular highlights of the Scottish Country Dance calendar were made even more special because there are a large number of beginners dancing this year. Every Monday night at the Veterans Building in Santa Rosa there are people learning which way is up, the meaning of the word “cast”, as well as all of the basic steps. And, wonderfully, many of them who were tentative about Scottish Country Dancing last fall have now become enthusiastic about our special passion. Ron Wallace is a master at teaching at a pace that develops skill and confidence.

This annual report is being prepared, of necessity, before the highlight of our year—the Beginners’ Ball. There will be a number of new faces on the Beginners’ Ball dance floor this year, so the purpose of the ball (to reward and welcome new dancers) will be most appropriate.

The country dance performance group and the step dancing group rehearse on alternate Friday nights. These groups show off their skills at the Sebastopol Celtic Festival. Also this year Scottish dance skills were demonstrated at Brush Creek Elementary School, Kiwi pre-school, Mattie Washburn School, the May Day celebration at Waldorf Summerfield School, and at a function for the Council on Aging.

In Santa Rosa we dance to the music of Wild Rose, which includes Ron Wallace, Gary Thomas, Janette Duncan, Duncan Mackintosh and Carleen Duncan. Canned music is strictly taboo in this county. The music just gets better and better, and we love it.

As has been reported in previous SR class reports, the class holds a weekend retreat at Bishop’s Ranch in the Russian River Valley. This year was no exception. The music and dancing were superb, while a friendly party atmosphere prevailed. Occurring again this year to coincide with Robert Burns birthday, we toasted the lads and laddies, piped in the haggis, and generally had a rousing good time. Any rumors of playful shenanigans after hours are to be disregarded.

The Santa Rosa class co-hosted, with the Dunsmuir Dancers, the monthly party in April. That was a lively party, for sure. Gary Thomas and Emily Evans provided lots of jokes and foolishness.

Our class newsletter, “The Jig Is Up,” continues to act as a very good medium for bringing us together as a tightly knit dance community. Published a few times each year, it includes interviews with selected dancers, reports of other dance events attended by class members, schedules and the like. Paul and Bette Rice having edited and published the newsletter for a few years have given responsibility for the paper to Karen Maitland. The first issue published by Karen, with assistance from Jane Marx was issued this spring, and is nicely laid out with graphic designs by Charles Rennie Macintosh.

Meanwhile plans are afoot for another class picnic on the Fourth of July. Serious dance instruction was interrupted during Monday night class for parties to celebrate Halloween, Christmas, St Patrick’s Day, and other important occasions.

Do come join the excitement in Santa Rosa, if you are in the area.

Santa Cruz Class Report, 2003

by Sonya Newlyn, Class member since 1997.

Another dance year has rolled by for the Santa Cruz Class, and we class members thank Juliet Davoren, our wonderful instructor, for bringing so much fun and vitality to class each week! Thank you, Juliet, for continuing to believe in us through the waxing and waning of class attendance, through the sometimes feeble response of members to your untiring efforts to make us better dancers, and through the various other ups and downs that go with driving once a week from Sunnyvale to Santa Cruz to teach us. Your cheerfulness and smile are a bright spot in my week that I have come to rely upon!

I also thank the following members for their consistent attendance and support of the class: Dotty Lieber, Jill Perry, Lin Wyant, and Tom Cuthbertson. Dotty Lieber is especially consistent and punctual and a frequent juice and snack provider. She attends many a monthly party and special dance, volunteers for demonstrations, and contributes much of her own time to do things for the class, such as making and distributing flyers to advertise the class. She worked this past year with Soquel class member Alisa Pura to provide two dance workshops in Santa Cruz on the waltz and hambo. In September, she and Judy Belden hosted a joint birthday party dance in Santa Cruz that was a wonderful dancing event. The Santa Cruz class and entire San Francisco Branch have benefited greatly from her enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of the class and the Bay Area Scottish country dancing community. Bravo, Dotty!

We’ve continued to have occasional live music and are much indebted to our various musicians: Patti Cobb (piano) and Sofia Ramos (fiddle), who often travel a long way to play for us; George Grasso, who plays for our class and also played for the March Monthly Party with Andy Imbrie and company; Jim Oakden, who manages to fit us into his busy schedule from time to time and who will play for the June Monthly Party; and Andy Imbrie, who came “over the hill” in his Branch Music Coordinator role to meet and play with those musicians he did not already know. It’s a privilege to have these musicians play for us.

Juliet Davoren continued as our regular teacher this year, but was occasionally relieved while away by substitutes Sara Gratiot, Paula Jacobsen and Marianna Harvey. The class has more regular newer dancers, so the technique portion of the evening has progressed beyond basic steps and figures to

some of the finer points of footwork, arms and handing. We showed off some of our work last summer at the Campbell and Pleasanton Games and also at two other public events last fall. We had a large representation at the Valentine's Ball this year, and many of our class were regular attendees at many other branch functions.

In April, we tried something new: a talent show! On Maundy Thursday, we're not able to use our usual hall, so we held a non-dancing evening at an alternate venue. It was a big success. We had instrumental performances, dance performances, story-telling, recitations, and Jill Perry thrilled us with her presentation on heritage roses. We have continued our tradition of Family and Friends Night on the fifth Thursday of the month. The January Family and Friends Night included Tom Cuthbertson and Juliet Davoren's dramatization of Burns' "Tam o' Shanter." We are now preparing for our annual Summer By the Sea Dance and look forward to seeing many of you there. Dancing continues all through the summer, so you are welcome to join us at any time.

Letter to the Editor

As I prepare to step down from my post on the Branch Committee, I wish to thank the 2001 membership for giving me the opportunity to work for the Branch. I have enjoyed serving on the Branch Committee and would have liked to continue this work. As an indication of my enthusiasm, I have a perfect attendance record for Branch Committee meetings.

At Branch Committee meetings, I always tried to speak out for those parties that otherwise may not have been represented. For instance, when the ticket price was raised again for the Valentine's Ball, I rallied for a discount for beginner dancers. Unlike the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball, which is part of the Asilomar weekend workshop, the Valentine's Ball should be accessible to all Branch members. I also tried to get a work exchange program implemented to assist Branch members with financial hardships. Unfortunately this program did not pass, as the Committee felt there wasn't enough time to put such a program in place. Hopefully there will be a work exchange program next year. Every Branch member should be able to attend the Valentine's Ball.

While on the Branch Committee, I served as the Class Managers' Committee Coordinator, a role that no other Branch Committee member wanted. The Class Managers' Committee Coordinator is the liaison between the Class Managers and the Branch Committee. Having been the Class Manager for Berkeley, I was happy to accept this assignment. As such, I did whatever I could to facilitate communication between the two committees. I had the Class Managers' list posted on the Branch Website with e-mail addresses and a browser button created for this page so that any Branch member could easily e-mail all the Class Managers.

Addressing the need to have documents requiring action by the Branch Committee submitted in a timely manner, I drafted a protocol document requiring committees or persons to submit their documents to the Branch Committee fourteen days in advance of the Branch Committee meeting. Passing with unanimous approval, this allows Branch Committee members sufficient time to review a document before taking action on it.

Perhaps my biggest project with the Branch Committee was getting the Bylaws updated. While there was work done to correct the section on classes, I looked at the whole document and found numerous errors, omissions, inconsistencies and out of date information. Chairing a sub-committee, we carefully reviewed the bylaws and updated them, insuring accuracy and readability. The last time the bylaws were revised was May 1985. I am pleased that the current membership approved the latest revisions at the AGM.

Last but not least, I got the Membership Committee installed as a standing committee of the Branch Committee. This committee supports the Branch in terms of new member recruitment and member retention.

I have enjoyed serving on the Branch Committee, and regret that my seat expires in June. There is more work to be done, and I was looking forward to doing it. New members and officers will be installed at the June meeting. I am sad that I will not be working alongside them, but wish them all the best.

Bradley Hobbs

RSCDS-SF Calendar of Events, 2003-04

Revised 05/31/03. Compiled by Dotty Lieber:
dottyl@cruzio.com

July 2003

- 12, Sat, and 13, Sun: DUNSMUIR HIGHLAND GAMES
Lori 925/934-1928
- 26, Sat, and 27, Sun: RENO CELTIC CELEBRATION:
Dave Wilson: 775/825-6867
- 31, Thur: 7:45 p.m. Santa Cruz Class FAMILY NIGHT:
Juliet 408/733-9035

August 2003

- 2, Sat, and 3, Sun: MONTEREY HIGHLAND GAMES at
Toro Park. Sara 831/384-4783
- 10, Sun: 6 p.m., UCSF Class hosts SUMMER-BY-THE-SEA
DANCE REVIEW Call to confirm: Susie 415/333-9372
- 15, Fri: Campbell Class hosts JEAN PATRICK DANCE
REVIEW, Part I. Rebecca 408/378-3817
- 16, Sat: 7 p.m.: SUMMER BY THE SEA DANCE, 1st
Cong. Church, Santa Cruz: Karen 831/479-1615
- 22, Fri: Campbell Class hosts JEAN PATRICK DANCE
REVIEW, Part II. Rebecca 408/378-3817
- 24, Sun: 6 p.m. UCSF Class hosts JEAN PATRICK DANCE
REVIEW, call to confirm: Susie 415/333-9372
- 30, Sat: evening JEAN PATRICK DANCE Larry 925/676-
1058
- 30, Sat and 31, Sun: PLEASANTON HIGHLAND
GAMES: Doug 650/493-5974

September 2003

- 5, Fri: SOQUEL CLASS RESUMES: aliSat,
alioop@juno.com
- 12, Fr: 14, Sun: FORT WORDEN WORKSHOP:
rscds-seattle.org
- 14, Sun: SOLANO STREET FAIR, Berkeley. All dancers
and musicians welcome. Contact Zoe 510/234-8985
(dancers) or Janis 510/525-9563 (musicians)
- 19, Fri: 8p.m. BERKELEY BEGINNERS' PARTY Free, Live
music. Grace North Church, 2136 Cedar at Walnut. Zoe
510/234-898
- 20, Sat: 2 p.m. (video at 1:30) TEACHERS COMM. MTG.
Location TBD. Bruce Hamilton 650/328-0474
- 27, Sat: SEBASTOPOL CELTIC FESTIVAL
- 27, Sat: DIXON HIGHLAND GAMES: Jane 707/746-0810

October 2003

- 4, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Soquel Grange: Sandra 707/
643-9162
- 30, Thur: 7:45 p.m. Santa Cruz Class FAMILY NIGHT:
Juliet 408/733-9035

- 31, Fr: Nov. 2, Sun: ASILOMAR WORKSHOPS
AND BALL: Cameron 650/365-5574, Julee julm-hcs@pacbell.net

November 2003

- 1, Sat, and 2, Sun: ASILOMAR WORKSHOPS AND BALL
see October listing
- 8, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, San Mateo Masonic. Sandra
707/643-9162

December 2003

- 6, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Mountain View Masonic
Temple: Sandra 707/643-9162
- 27, Sat: 8 p.m. : LAFAYETTE TWEEN PARTY
witken@astound.net

January 2004

- 3, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Park School, Mill Valley:
Sandra: 707/643-9162
- 10, Sat: 2 p.m. (video at 1:30) TEACHERS MTG. Location
TBD Bruce Hamilton: 650/328-0474

February 2004

- 14 Sat: VALENTINE'S BALL atarsa@lsil.com

March 2004

- 6, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Lucie Stern Center, 1305
Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto Sandra: 707/643-9162

April 2004

- 3, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Alameda Masonic Temple,
2312 Alameda Ave., Alameda,
Sandra: 707/643-9162

May 2004

- 1, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY place TBA Sandra:
707/643-9162

June 2004

- 5, Sat: MONTHLY PARTY, Alameda Masonic
Hall, Sandra: 707/643-9162

NON-MEMBER DANCERS:

**Won't you
please join
the RSCDS-SF Branch?**

FOR ONLY \$37 YOU GET:

- The Reel & Strathspeyer (newsletter)
- The S.F. Branch Directory

(Join by August 1 to include your name)

- Lower monthly party fees
- Lower special event fees
- A RSCDS Dance Book
- The RSCDS Bulletin
- Insurance benefits

AND YOU HELP:

- The Branch comply with its insurance requirements
- Support a great organization!

❖ Please fill out a new member application form and turn it in with your check or mail it to the membership registrar. Thank you.

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San Francisco Branch Classes

Berkeley

Fridays: 8 PM; starts September 19. Call Zoe Pollock 510-234-8985 or Claudette Sigg 510-526-8192. **FREE introductory party:** September 19. **Youth Class:** 6:30 PM; starts September 19. Call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148. Grace North Church Fellowship Hall, 2138 Cedar at Walnut.

Lafayette

Thursdays: 8 PM; starts September 18. Call Witsie McKelvy 925-676-3637. **Children's Class:** 5 PM; starts September 18. Call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148. Veteran's Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard at First Street.

Livermore

Mondays: 7:30 PM; starts September 8. Call Gale Holladay 925-447-5771; First Presbyterian Church, 5th & L Streets. **Fridays:** 7 PM; **Family Class:** starts September 12. Call Sheena MacQueen 925-447-1833. Location: TBA.

Monterey

Mondays: 6:30 PM; starts September 8. Monterey Senior Center, Lighthouse & Dickman Avenues. Call Kathy Wendell 831-663-3227 or Brian Campbell 831-656-9923.

Mountain View

Wednesdays: 7:45 PM; starts September 3. Mountain View Sports Pavilion, 1185 Castro Avenue. Call Denise Francis 510-713-7813 or Anita Geleynse 408-262-9705. **Bring-a-friend night**—September 3.

San Francisco

Thursdays: 8 PM; starts September 4. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Call Linnea Johnson 415-841-9456 or Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372. **Introductory party**—\$3: September 4.

San Francisco

Sundays: 6 PM; starts October 12 or January 18. UCSF Millberry Recreation & Fitness Center, 500 Parnassus Avenue. Call Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372.

San Jose

Mondays: 7:30 PM; starts September 8. American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Avenue. Call Sparky Gregory 408-257-2294 or Jonathan Lovell 408-924-4437. **FREE introductory party:** September 8.

Santa Cruz

Thursdays: 8 PM. Beginners: **5th Thursday Family night**, July 31, Oct.30, or anytime. First Congregational Church, 900 High Street. Call Karen MacQuarrie 831-479-1615.

Santa Rosa

Mondays: 7 PM; starts September 8. Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. Call Emily Evans 707-874-2512. **Wednesdays:** 11 AM; **Children's Class:** starting date TBA. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue. Call Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.

Soquel

Fridays: 7 PM; starts September 5. Soquel Grange Hall, 2800 Porter. Call Alisa Pura 831-469-8313 or Bob McMurtry 831-335-7459.

South Bay Children's Class

Mondays: 4 PM; starts September 8. Zohar Dance Studio at Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call Connie Wai 650-906-6219.

Sacramento Branch Classes

Placerville

Sundays: starting date TBA. Call Sandra Kesler 530-295-4989 or City of Placerville Parks & Rec 530-642-5232.

Sacramento

Fridays: 7:00 PM; starts September 12. Call Lynne Lockwood 916-455-5343. **Saturdays:** 9 AM; **Youth classes** (10 yrs.-Teens): starts September 6. Y.L.I. Clubhouse, 1400 27th Street. Call Cherylyn Larsen 916-429-9170.

Stockton

Wednesdays: 7:30 PM. Beginners anytime starting September 10. Unitarian Church, Bristol & Pacific. Call Charles Wood 209-465-8871.

Other classes

Arcata

Saturdays: 9 AM. Beginners anytime. Call Helen Macpherson 707-822-3056 or Virginia Rumble 707-822-1854.

Campbell

Fridays: 7 PM. Sessions start September 19 and November 7. Call Rebecca Davis 408-387-3817.

Grass Valley

Mondays: 7 PM; starts September 8. Beginners anytime. Call Ed Johnston 530-622-1519 or Jean Hoy 530-265-9714.

Merced

Mondays: 7 PM; starts September 8. Merced Multicultural Arts Center, 645 W. Main Street. Call Lisa Kayser-Grant 209-384-1016.

Mill Valley

Fridays: 7:30 PM; starts September 5. Almonte Hall, Wisteria Way at Almonte. Call Marghie Goff or Mike Hird 415-884-2716.

Rancho Cordova

Thursdays: 7:30 PM; starts September 11. Call Ed Johnston 530-622-1519 or R.C. Rec. and Park District 916-362-1841.

Redding

Thursdays: 6:30 PM. Beginners anytime starting September 4. Call Margaret Schlobohm 530-472-1154.

Reno, Nevada

Wednesdays: 7 PM. Beginners anytime starting September 17. Mckinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. **Call to confirm!** Call Marian Stroh 775-825-1224 or Martha Norrie 775-829-8680. **Children's Class:** TBA; call Crystal Goodwin 775-747-6421.

VOLUNTEERS

Cheers to all our volunteers, those listed below, other committee members, our class managers, and other helpers not listed. Your commitment, effort, and time given to Scottish Country Dancing in the Bay Area is invaluable! Thank you.

✂ Copy and cut out to fit inside Branch directory ✂

RSCDS-SF BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2003-2004

If you have any concerns about the S.F. Branch, or would like to attend a Branch Committee (Board of Directors) meeting, please contact one of the members. Branch Committee meetings are usually held in the afternoon before Monthly Parties.

Paula Jacobson, **CHAIR, SCHOLARSHIPS**: 831-688-8295, pjacobson@myprimus.com (03-05)
Larry Wakeman, **VICE CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**: 925-676-1058, lcwakeman@aol.com (02-04)
Gary Knox, **TREASURER**: 519-223-4201, gary@gknox.net (03-05)
Nancy Page, **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**: 510-835-5853, Fax: 510-839-5417, NPageLaw@aol.com (02-04)
Greg Reznick, **RECORDING SECRETARY, WEBSITE MANAGER**: 925-484-2629, greg@reznickfamily.com (03-05)

Alex. Harvey, **INSURANCE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**: 650-967-8475, alex4541@attbi.com (02-04)
Witsie McKelvy, **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**: 925-676-3637, witken@astound.net (02-04)
Patti Cobb, 415-826-2287, pkcobb@pacbell.net (03-05)
Sandra Fritts, **MONTHLY PARTY VENUES/SCHEDULING COORDINATOR**: 707-643-9162, sl.powell@prodigy.net (03-05)
New officers of the Branch Committee will be elected at the June B.C. meeting.

• Please consider running for the Branch Committee next year, or suggest candidates. Contact any board member or Susie Langdon Kass.

OTHER RSCDS-SF BRANCH VOLUNTEERS you may want to contact:

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