



Dunsmuir Games

by Lori Farrell

Early one recent Saturday morning, as the sun peeked through the clouds and the birds sang in this sleepy East Oakland neighborhood, the demanding whine of a pipe drone shattered the quiet. The Prince Charles Pipe Band was tuning up.

As it has for the past 25 years, the Dunsmuir House and Gardens held its annual Highland Games on the weekend of July 8 and 9. Visitors to the games enjoyed a host of traditional entertainment. Along with the Prince Charles Pipe Band, visitors watched and listened to the dexterous musicians of the Piedmont Highlanders, the MacIntosh Pipe Band, the Alameda County Sheriff's Youth Pipe Band, and the Prince Charles Jr. Pipe Band. Those interested in vocal music gathered at the main stage, at the Royal Mile Tent, and at the carriage house to listen to Tempest, the Wicked Tinkers, Sally's Gap, Men of Worth, and the Browne Sisters with George Cavanaugh and John Allan. Heavy athletics, such as the caber toss, the hammer throw, and the stone throw, took place on the main lawn, just beyond the majestic 101 year old mansion. Adjacent to the athletic field was a smaller area where small children could imitate their favorite athletes by tossing junior-sized cabers and stones. Throughout the grounds, Living History Encampments such as the Gordon Highlanders "Bydand Forever," the East India Club, and Clann Fraser of Glenn Orrin entertained and educated visitors with reenactments of Scottish and British history. The Birds of Prey exhibition featured several hawks and falcons, courtesy of the Lindsay Museum. Highland dancers competed for this year's coveted trophies. The Morgan Sports Car Club of Northern California showed off many of their gleaming classic automobiles. On and around the Pond Meadow, clans such as Anderson, Blair, Ferguson, MacPherson, O'Brien, Fraser, Gordon, Campbell, Donald, Farquharson, and many others gathered to help people research their family histories. The vendor area showcased a variety of goods from the British Isles, including kilts, prints of castles, music on tape and CD, jewelry, books, and weapons. And, of course, the food vendors provided bangers, Celtic rolls, and fish and chips to complete the Scottish experience.

On Saturday evening, crowds, drawn by the hearty drum and pipe music of the Wicked Tinkers, gathered for a ceilidh in the new Pavilion. Performers included Tempest, the Browne Sisters, the Wicked Tinkers, and a special performance by the Piedmont Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band and Highland Dancers. During the evening, attendees were invited to try a bit of haggis. Late into the night continued the loud music and dancing.

Did I mention dancing? Of course, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was well represented at the games. On Saturday, audiences were treated to the graceful and delicate dances of Cairngorm, Jo Hamilton's dancers. The Gleanmhor Dancers of Stockton performed a variety of country, step, and Cape Breton dances. The

Lafayette Scottish Dancers, the Stanford Class, the White Heather Dancers of Sacramento, and the Deely Irish Dancers also put on exciting performances, to the audience's delight. Those groups not using pre-recorded music had the pleasure of dancing to the music of Daves and Babes, which included David Newitt, Heather McKay, Janet Kurnick, Patti Cobb, Bruce Herbold, David Gold, Joelle de Jonge, and Erin Wilcox. When they were not onstage performing or backstage changing, the Lafayette Dancers joined the Wicked Tinkers for an energetic rendition of "Blue Bonnets." The sole bittersweet note of the day was the announcement that Dottie Carr, instructor for the White Heather Dancers, would retire after these games. While we will all miss Dottie's charm and style, she leaves her dancers in the capable hands of Lynne Lockwood.

On Sunday, performing groups included the Red Thistle Dancers and the Berkeley Dancers. The White Heather Dancers performed both step dances and country dances, and invited the audience onstage to dance a few easy jigs and reels. The McBride Dancers blanketed the stage with an army of slip-jigging Irish dancers. As an added treat, both the Lafayette Youth Dancers and the Berkeley Children's class performed in the afternoon. For many of these children, this was their first performance on stage; they all did a wonderful job, and even encouraged classmates and parents to join them for audience participation. The musicians for these dancers were Plaid Attitude, which included Janis and Ned Dairiki, Ken Thompson, Dave Mavity, Susan Coleman, Nettie Wijsman, and Paul Costa.

The dancing at the games was a rousing success, for both the dancers and the audience, and grateful thanks must be given to those who helped make this weekend possible:

Stage setup and tear-down: Sparky Gregory, Jonathan Lovell and Elaine, Dave Gord, Pat Lowers, Harry Butler, Jim Pell, Paula Jacobson, George Gates, Michael Howard, Eleanor Hotchkies,

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Michael Suckow, Linda Baptiste, and Sheila, Ingrid, Kelin, Tristan, and Haley Burke.

Volunteers who worked the information desk: Connie Wai, Larry Wakeman, Steve Wyrick, Michael Howard, and all others who answered questions of passers by.

Changing tents: Michael Howard and George Gates

Banners and fliers: Susie Langdon Kass

Program article: Ingrid Burke

Thanks to all the dancers, teachers, and coordinators.

Many thanks to all the musicians who gave their time to play for the dancers.

Special thanks to Alastair Brown for arriving before everyone else, staying late, and surviving for two days on water and fish and chips to provide a sound system that made all the music, taped and live, sound great.

And finally, thanks to Eleanor Hotchkies and Sheila Carter-Burke for all your work and support!

Dixon Highland Games

by Lori Farrell

Many of you may remember when the Sacramento Highland Games were held, not in Woodland, but at the Dixon Fairgrounds. A scheduling conflict prompted the Games to move to Roseville for five years, then to Woodland, where they have been held for the last few years.

For the past three years, Alex Henderson and Doug Hicke have been trying to bring highland games back to Dixon. In 1999, the Dixon Fairground Committee accepted their proposal, the Scottish Cultural Association was formed, and the new Dixon Highland Games were born!

Although new, these games promise to offer all the trappings of the well-established highland games. The day will begin with opening ceremonies at 10 AM. Entertainment throughout the day will consist of a Grade 4 pipe band competition, individual piping and drumming competitions, and athletic events such as the caber toss and hammer throw. There will also be live bands performing at various venues. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be represented by several groups performing both country dances and step dances.

So, whether you haven't quite gotten your fill of fish and chips, you still have Christmas presents to buy, or you just can't get enough of bagpipe tunes, come to the Dixon Fairgrounds on September 30. Show your support for the newest highland games in the area!

General admission is \$8.00; admission for Seniors and Young people ages 9-17 is \$6.00; and children under 9 are free. For more information, contact Lori Farrell at (925) 934-1928 or firenite@ix.netcom.com.

Lost and Found!

The following items were found at the Scottish Country Dance area at the Dunsmuir Games: a green, long-sleeved shirt, ladies' size small; a white bodysuit, ladies' size large; a notebook; a hand cart. If you lost any of these items, please contact Lori Farrell at (925) 934-1928 or firenite@ix.netcom.com.

Dance Stages Used by the RSCDS-SF Branch: An Historical Perspective

by Doug McConnell

People are talking about the need for one or more dance stages in the Branch, for use at various Games and other functions. In view of this, it is probably useful to have an historical summary of facts as a basis for discussion.

History of the RSCDS at the Games

In the period up to and including 1986, the Scottish Country dancers typically went "cap in hand" to organizers of the various Games and sought free and/or reduced price admission tickets—all of this for the privilege of dancing on a corner of grass somewhere on the grounds. The principal Games in the area was (and still is) that organized by The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, and was, at that time, held in Santa Rosa.

As the Red Thistle Dancers danced in the opening grandstand show, Jennifer Kelly usually also asked the Caledonian Club for admission tickets for dancers to dance on the grounds.

In 1985, I took on the task of obtaining free admission tickets and organizing the country dancing at Santa Rosa. I obtained 20-25 free tickets and dancers were permitted to dance inside the main gate on the grass. The Branch Committee asked me to do this again in 1986. That year I asked the Caledonian Club for, and was given, a platform on the grass and permission to dance also in the main building where the vendors were located, sharing Alex Beaton's platform. The dancers attracted good crowds, to the point that vendors asked that they be excluded from the hall as they were distracting people from shopping.

In 1987, The Caledonian Club asked me to develop an annual Scottish country dance competition as an integral part of the Games. After considerable discussion, the RSCDS Branch Committee and the Caledonian Club reached an accord on the format (adjudication and evaluation, but no place getters or prizes) and on sponsorship of the event. The Caledonian Club and the Branch both contribute to cover costs, as did the Royal Bank of Scotland and the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco. The Bank has since withdrawn from the Californian market. I joined the Caledonian Club, on the premise that insiders are more effective than outsiders. The Caledonian Club asked me to be their Country Dance chairman on the Games Committee and I was also designated the RSCDS liaison to the Caledonian Club. The event in 1987 drew 80 dancers in 14 sets and has continued to build since then. This year there will be some 260 dancers in 26 sets and other dance performing groups, 55-60 fiddlers, around 25 Celtic harpers and 3 vocalists.

The ARF

Bud Wisecarver owned a mobile, over the highway, houseboat platform he had designed and built. By the mid-1980s, he had converted this to a dance platform. Bud generously offered the use of this amphibious recreational facility (the ARF) to the Caledonian

Branch Scholarships

Scholarships are available for all kinds of dance/music workshops and events. Contact Paula Jacobson at (408) 688-8295 for more information.

Club and the Branch for the Games. The ARF has been used at every Caledonian Club Games since then.

In 1988, the Caledonian Club asked Doug McConnell to include the fiddlers and harpers in a combined Celtic Heritage program, so a second stage became a necessity. This second stage, supplied by the Caledonian Club, was constructed of 2 x 4s and plywood sheets. It proved far too light for dancing, as Alan Twigg will attest.

The integration of these three art forms, with the addition of vocalists, enabled the Celtic Heritage program to run two days of continuous entertainment on two stages on both days of the Games. Each year, we added to the physical plant used by Celtic Heritage, with the materials being paid for by the Caledonian Club, but stored at Charles Hastings' home, and later at Bud Wisecarver's business. Bud modified and improved the canopy and other aspects of the ARF each year, and generously paid for these materials himself.

In 1996, Bud expressed to the Branch that he was intending to design and build a mobile dance stage for the Scottish country dance community, with the Caledonian Club's Games as its primary, but not only, use. To assist in this process, and to cover some of the cost of materials for the new stage, the Caledonian Club purchased the ARF. Bud had originally hoped to have the new stage completed in time for the 1998 Games, but business pressures slowed the construction so that it is still not completed. The trailer has been built and Bud has the materials for the platform and canopy. This stage will not be finished in time for the 2000 Games.

San Jose Stage

When Joel Theriault designed and built a stage for the San Jose Class, somewhere around 1988 or 1989, he asked about using it at Santa Rosa as well. The Celtic Heritage program accepted his offer at once. It replaced the platform constructed by the Caledonian Club, comprising a 2 x 4 frame and plywood sheets. The San Jose stage has always been the property of that class and the checks covering its rental have always been paid to the San Jose Class. The San Jose Class has brought the stage to the grounds and provided a work crew to set it up. By the time this stage has arrived at the fairgrounds, the set up of the RSCDS tent and the ARF have usually been completed, so there are other volunteers willing and able to help with its assembly. The San Jose stage is used at the Monterey, Campbell and Dunsmuir Games as well as at Pleasanton, but I am only able to speak knowledgeably about Pleasanton. The San Jose stage is wonderfully solid and well built; however, it has the drawbacks of being very labor intensive to set up, extremely heavy to move around, and requiring a 3/4 ton truck with trailer hitch. Recently, volunteers from other classes have assisted-Harry Butler, with his truck, being just one case in point.

Future Needs

The Celtic Heritage program (Scottish Country Dance event, fiddling and harping) at Pleasanton will continue to have a need for two, and possibly three, quality dance stages. The present ones are currently being used to capacity. The one that Bud has under construction will replace the ARF, for which the Caledonian Club has other plans.

Now is probably the time to begin planning for the replacement of the San Jose stage over the next few years, rather than considering any major investment in re-furbishing it. This situation and the stage being constructed by Bud, prompt a number of questions

requiring answers.

Who will own the stages? Does the Branch want to be in the asset owning and maintenance business? Does San Jose want to continue to be the proprietor of a dance platform? Does the Branch desire to be the owner/operator of one or two stages?

Where will the new stages be stored? In someone's back yard or place of business? In the open or under cover? The stage under construction is some 40 feet long so is unlikely to fit in the typical suburban driveway. Any new stage will need (as Bud is providing) a protective cover to shield it from the elements, as free warehouse covered storage is probably not available. Stages need a place where they can be stored securely when not in use, i.e., most of the time. The Caledonian Club has secure outdoors storage space available with its container trailers at Pleasanton.

Any new stage will need to conform to the regulations pertaining to over the highway trailers, and then be registered annually and insured, if it is going to be used at several events a year.

Liability is a major issue these days, and the stages, while at the Pleasanton Games, come under the Caledonian Club's insurance coverage. If new stages become Branch property, liability would rest with the Branch and its Board of Directors (i.e., the Branch Committee).

In summary, for dance/performance purposes, stages need to be readily conveyable by trailer over the highway, easy to assemble and disassemble, relatively light weight, have a canopy to provide shade for the dancers, and accommodate a square set safely on a non-slip, durable surface. These are some of the functional aspects to be incorporated in any design. Fortunately, the Branch has a wonderful resource in Bud Wisecarver.

While this list is far from exhaustive, it is sufficient to start people thinking about the many dimensions of such a project.

Class Managers, Teachers & Event Committee Chairs: 2001 Facility Location Information for Branch Insurance Certificate, due September 30, 2000

Please send all year 2001 Class and Party location information to our Insurance Contact Person, Jim Pell, 1995 Garden Bing Circle, San Jose, CA 95131, 408-263-7902, <jimpell@sjm.inf.net>. Send your information even if you think we already have it. Facility name and location, day of week of class or date of event must be submitted to the agent for each calendar year. All street names must include the designation 'street,' 'avenue,' 'drive,' or 'blvd.' In addition, if your facility requires it, we must have the Name as Additional Insured and the correct address.

Please send information on changes for your class as soon as you know a change will be made. Please don't wait until the last day. A long lead-time is needed to get documents back from the insurance agents. If you are changing your class schedule, planning a party or special event that will happen on a different day, or at a different place than your regular class, be sure to let Jim know in advance or you may not be covered.

All Branch classes and event committees must send in information each year about regular classes or events. If you do not have a form in your Class Manager's packet, please request one or simply send in the information.

Challenging Dances & Technique Class

Taught by Bruce Herbold

Sundays, October 1-November 19, 6-8 PM

\$46 (7 weeks, no class 10/29), Drop-in fee: \$9

Here's your chance to do dances that are fun and challenging. Many good dances require more ability and technique than can be covered in a normal class. This won't be a normal class! The aim of the course is to improve teamwork and technique to make both obscure and common dances more fun. Full acquaintance with Scottish Country Dancing is required.

The session will be held at UCSF Millberry Fitness & Recreation Center in a wonderful dance studio with a springy wood floor and mirrors. This class is offered in the fall quarter only. A new beginner class starts here in January.

Prerequisite: At least 2 years of regular class attendance, ability to dance all basic and intermediate formations, and consent of the instructor.

Parking in the garage is just \$1 for the evening.

Contact Bruce Herbold, teacher, 415-826 2287, Bherbold@aol.com, before you register. For more information, contact Susie Langdon Kass, class manager, 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu. Please let us know in advance that you are interested in signing up for the class. Thanks.

Class code: # 4612.201.

Register in person or by mail or fax starting September 18. Send to Millberry Fitness & Recreation Center, 500 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0234, San Francisco, 94143-0234 (checks payable to UC Regents). Fax: 415-502-7413 (include credit card number, expiration date, & signature). Call 415-476-1115 for a catalog.

Flyers and registration forms will be available at events and classes.

Pleasanton Games

The Labor Day Games are fast approaching. Many teams will be participating in the SCD Adjudication. This event is a great way to demonstrate what SCD is, as well as a fun and educational activity for the dancers.

An information tent is set up near the stages where spectators can pick up class flyers. People are needed to staff the tent and answer questions. This is an opportunity to sit in the shade and relax, while helping to promote SCD. A good time to volunteer is right after your team performs before you go off for food or shopping. Please sign up for one or more 1-hour shifts. You can sign up in advance if you want a particular time, or at the tent that day. Help the classes recruit new dancers!

Thanks.

Susie Langdon Kass, Publicity Committee, 415-333-9372

Planning Ahead!

In October, 2001, enjoy Scottish Country Dancing with Marjorie McLaughlin while cruising the Greek Islands, and exploring Athens and Istanbul. The tour also features talks on Greek Mythology from Richard McLaughlin, Professor of Humanities and Mythology.

Contact Gillian Buchan at 858-549-4257 or e-mail GillianJoe@aol.com

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 may have 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

San Diego Branch 25th Anniversary Ball

Date and time: Saturday, October 7, 2000 at 7:30 P.M.

Location: Silver Gate Masonic Temple, 2795 Utah St., San Diego. (This is where Marjorie and Richard McLaughlin were married.)

Musicians: Muriel Johnstone and John Taylor.

Admission: Dancers \$25.00, Spectators \$7.00.

Directions: From I-5 South take I-805 south to North Park Way exit. Go straight on North Park Way to Utah Street (North Park Way dead ends at Utah). Silver Gate Temple is on corner of North Park Way and Utah Streets.

For Information contact: Gillian Buchan at 858-549-4257 or e-mail GillianJoe@aol.com

For Hospitality contact: Sandy and Jim Mosteller at 619-222-2514 or e-mail Jimmos@aol.com or Sandyagorn@aol.com. The After party will be held at Jim and Sandy's in Point Loma.

Web site: www.RSCDS-SanDiego.org



MONTHLY PARTIES

OCTOBER MONTHLY PARTY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2000
Alameda Masonic Temple
 2312 Alameda Avenue, Alameda

Hosts: Berkeley Monday and Friday Night Classes

Dance	Level	Type	Source
Collichur	B/I	8x32 J3	30/1
A Reel for Jeannie	B	4x32 R4	40/1
Alltshellach	A	8x32 S2	23/2
The Button Boy	I	8x32 H3	Allanton
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	I	8x32 J3	22/10
Rory O'More	B/I	8x32 J2	1/9
Donald Bane	I	8x32 S3	17/12
Knit the Pocky	B	8x32 R2	11/1
A Dance Called Irene	I	4x32 S4	Wallace leaflet
The Hamilton Rant	A	8x48 R3	22/2
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	B	8x32 J2	Graded Book
The Deacon of the Weavers	I	8x32 S3	25/4
The Diamond Jubilee	A	4x32 J4	31/1
The Byron Strathspey	I	3x32 S3	Deeside Book II
The Falls of Rogie	I	8x32 R3	Attwood – Alexander I

NOVEMBER MONTHLY PARTY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2000
Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School
 Waverly and East Meadow, Palo Alto

Hosts: Stanford Class and Red Thistle

Dance	Level	Type	Source
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	B/I	8x32 J3	22/10
Donald Bane	I	8x32 S3	17/12
Knit the Pocky	B	8x32 R2	11/1
The Byron Strathspey	I	3x32 S3	Deeside Book II
Airie Bannan + Glendarroch	I	5x32 J5	
Isle of Skye +	B	8x32 R3	10/7
The Maine Medley +	I	8x32 M2	Boston 50th
The Diamond Jubilee	A	4x32 J4	31/1
12 Coates Crescent +	B	4x32 S4	40/5
The Button Boy	I	8x32 H3	Allanton
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	B	8x32 J2	Graded Book
Bonnie Stronshiray +	A	8x32 S3	Glasgow Assembly
Collichur	B/I	8x32 J3	30/1
The Robertson Rant +	I	80 S4	39/8
The Hamilton Rant	A	8x48 R3	22/2

+ New this month

DIRECTIONS TO THE ALAMEDA MASONIC TEMPLE,
 2312 ALAMEDA AVENUE, ALAMEDA
 (between Park and Oak Streets).

FROM THE SOUTH: Take 880 North, exit at High Street (south of the Bay Bridge) and drive west across the High Street bridge into Alameda. Continue on High Street for about six blocks and turn right on Central Avenue. Go for another 10 blocks to Park Street (with traffic light, past Park Avenue). Turn left on Park Street, go one block and turn right on Alameda Avenue. The Masonic Temple is on the left about 1/2 block before Oak Street.

FROM THE NORTH: Take 880 South and exit at 23rd Avenue. When you have crossed the bridge going west, you will be on Park Avenue. Continue on Park until you come to Alameda Avenue and turn right. There is free parking after 6:00 p.m. in a city lot, right across the street from the Temple, but accessible only from Central Avenue, one block east. You can turn right from Alameda onto Oak, right on Central and right into the lot, after about 1/2 block-or just drive straight across Park to the lot after about 1/2 block, and walk to the Temple at the far end of the lot. The party will be in the Banquet Room on the fourth floor. There is an elevator.

DIRECTIONS TO JANE LATHROP STANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL,
 WAVERLEY & EAST MEADOW, PALO ALTO.

FROM 101 : Take the Oregon Expressway exit and drive west to Waverley. Turn left on Waverley. The entrance to the school is on your left just as you cross East Meadow Drive.

FROM 280 : Take the Page Mill Rd. exit (Page Mill becomes the Oregon Expressway), and go east until you come to Waverley. Turn right and proceed as above.

News from The Red Thistle Dancers

by Sue Anderson

In May, we participated in an International dance program at a city celebration in downtown Sunnyvale, organized by the City of Sunnyvale. Susan Worland and Michael Bentley provided music, and the program included both Highland and Country dancing. In addition to our own performance, two of our kilted own, Alan Twihigg and Armin Busse provided last-minute support for the German dancers' maypole! Now that's REAL international dancing!

At the Dunsmuir Games on July 9th, two sets of Red Thistles joined other groups on the well-sprung San Jose dance platform. In the sunny meadow, across the little footbridge from the Dunsmuir mansion, we gave medley performances at 11:30 and 3:00. Cathy McAdam Bertics roped her mom, Kathleen, into announcing for us, and she gave her usual sparkling intro. Thanks, Kathleen. Thanks also to Plaid Attitude who provided the music!

On July 15, we performed at the 10th Annual Dance Mosaic Performance series in the Theater at the Cubberly Center in Palo Alto. Our two 10-minute programs opened both the first and second halves of the evening show, and we had wonderful music (provided by Lyle Ramshaw, Susan Worland and Michael Bentley, with Matt Anderson playing the bagpipes for Highland dancing) to give a spirited start to the proceedings. The Red Thistle Dancers shared the program with three other dance companies, whose more contemporary styles—one was a Jazz dance company—contrasted well with Scottish dancing. All our performances were well received by an enthusiastic audience. Our thanks to Fred DeMarse, who once again flew in from Los Angeles to join us, and performed both Highland and Country dancing.

Branch Committee Actions

June 2000

The Branch Committee met on June 4 at Paula Jacobson's house in Aptos. The following items were discussed:

Preliminary Certificate Class: The Branch Committee approved the appointment of Ron Wallace as candidate tutor for the 2000-2001 class, with Alastair Brown serving as treasurer. Patti reported that the Teachers' Committee had instigated a process to better define the role of the candidate tutor, and the procedure for selection.

Briefing Poll: The Committee discussed the results of the membership poll regarding briefing at balls. It was noted that the sense of the membership seems to be clearly in favor of briefings, and that many of the written comments were very instructive. Larry will write a summary of the results, including a representative sample of the comments for publication in the *Reel & Strathspey*. The entire package of data will be provided to the committee chairs of Branch events, to the Teachers' Committee, and to other members of the Branch who express interest.

Music Fund: The committee discussed uses and administration of a Branch fund to support live music. Gary Knox has volunteered to administer the fund. Dan Shapiro agreed to investigate potential uses.

Jean Patrick Dance: Larry reported that the budget for the Jean Patrick dance as approved at the last meeting remains unchanged, and that the event is on track.

Location of Santa Cruz Monthly Party: At Dan's request, the

Committee reviewed the reasons for holding the monthly party at the Soquel Grange. The salient point was that an 11:00 PM exit deadline has a serious negative impact on the party, and should be avoided whenever possible.

Financial Reserves: The committee reviewed the financial reports that had been presented to the branch at the AGM. There was much discussion about appropriate reserve levels, and it was the sense of the Committee that the Branch is somewhat over-reserved. Based on this review, it was proposed that an ad-hoc committee be formed to propose a reserve policy to the board. The B.C., by motion duly made and seconded (Dan, Paula) and carried by unanimous vote adopted the following:

Resolved: The Branch Committee appoints Patti and Greg as an ad-hoc committee that will devise a Branch Reserve Policy for presentation to the Branch Committee at the next meeting.

Support of TAC Summer School: The B.C. then discussed the request from TAC to assist with deposits required by Mills College for the Summer School to be held there in 2001. In recognition of the value of having Summer School in the area, the B.C., by motion duly made and seconded (Dan, Paula) and carried by unanimous vote adopted the following:

Resolved: A representative of the Branch Committee will negotiate a loan agreement with TAC to loan them up to \$5,000 to pay for facility deposits associated with TAC Summer School 2001, with clear payment terms, payable out of first receipts, and subject to 5% interest that will be waived if repaid by March 1, 2001.

Membership: Connie Wai presented a plan for the Membership committee. The B.C. supported the plan and made suggestions regarding recruiting committee members. The committee was asked to consider who should be targeted for new members, as well as how to recruit from target groups.

Election of Officers: The committee elected the following to serve during the 2000-2001 season:

Chair: Patti Cobb

Vice-Chair: Paula Jacobson

Treasurer: Alastair Brown

Recording Secretary: Greg Reznick

Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Page

Insurance Chair: Jim Pell

The committee appointed Marva Morris to the post of Class Manager Coordinator.

The Branch Committee's next meeting will be held in October, 2000.

Branch Committee

All RSCDS-SF Branch members are welcome at Branch Committee meetings. The committee usually meets at about 2:00 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.

Minutes of the San Francisco Branch Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 6, 2000

Masonic Temple, San Mateo, California

The Branch Committee Chair, Larry Wakeman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the meeting was recessed to count ballots.

The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.. It was announced that the following had been elected to the Branch Committee: Alastair Brown, Nancy Page, Dan Shapiro, and Larry Wakeman. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved as read. No further business being raised, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RSCDS, SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH CLASS REPORT, 1999-2000

Soquel

by Bob McMurtry

It has been a fun year in Soquel. Many of our students went to Asilomar for the first time and were delighted at how much fun it was. We encouraged many to go to watch the ball; the ones who did were sold on Scottish Country Dancing.

The tag team of Paula Jacobson and myself kept the class on their toes. I used many dances of my own devising that will soon come out in the form of two books, one for beginning dancers and the other for more advanced dancers. I was a little like the mad scientist performing his crazy experiments on the students. Now I know how the Christians being thrown to the proverbial lions felt as I waited for the classes to give me a thumbs up or down.

We topped off the year with the June Monthly party, hosted with great success by the Monterey, Santa Cruz and Soquel classes. Charleen Pace did a great job decorating and coordinating the transformation of the Soquel Grange. The food provided by all the classes was awesome. It was a little crazy because of the last minute theme: Tie-dyed and Hawaiian Shirt Night was different from most parties in the past. We all had some laughs over it and enjoyed many colorful pieces of clothing. There were even some prizes given for the most outrageous or colorful outfit. The prize of a grass skirt went to Alan Twigg and Bruce Anderson for their unique shirts. They both wore their skirts during the dance. I won't tell you which was the outrageous one, either. Janet Kurnick also won a palm tree balloon for her outrageous outfit. Janet told us that she wears it to work all the time. Nothing dull about Janet!

Soquel is looking forward to another semester starting September 8. Classes start at 7:00 p.m. for beginners and 8:30 p.m. for more experienced dancers. All are welcome to come and dance with us.

Calendar

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 2000

Pleasanton Highland Games

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 2, 2000

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance, Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m., Andy Imbrie and Friends.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Teachers' Committee meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Alex Harvey's Birthday Party

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Dixon Highland Games

All class and party locations for calendar year 2001 due for insurance coverage purposes to Jim Pell, jimpell@sjm.infi.net.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Monthly Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Concert with Laura Risk and Athena Tergis, Celtic fiddlers, 8:00 p.m., aboard the historic ship Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Call 415-561-6662.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 28, 29

Asilomar Weekend

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

November Monthly Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

December Monthly Party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

SF Class Winter Solstice Party

**Alex Harvey's 70th Birthday
Dance Party
Friday, September 22, 2000
8:00 p.m.
Greek Orthodox Ascension Community Center
Lincoln Ave., Oakland
Music by Alasdair Fraser and Muriel Johnstone**

Besides dancing, please take part in the festivities by providing the snacks for the refreshments at the end of the evening. Help would also be appreciated for set-up before and clean-up afterwards.

Flyers, providing directions (but, see below!) and the program for the evening, have been sent to teachers. All are welcome; it's a wonderful hall. Many of the dances are well-known, and they will ALL be briefed.

Start the dance year with another taste of that incredible energy generated between Musicians and Dancers, and congratulate Alex at the same time!

Questions? Marianna Harvey (650) 967-8475 or aharvey240@aol.com .

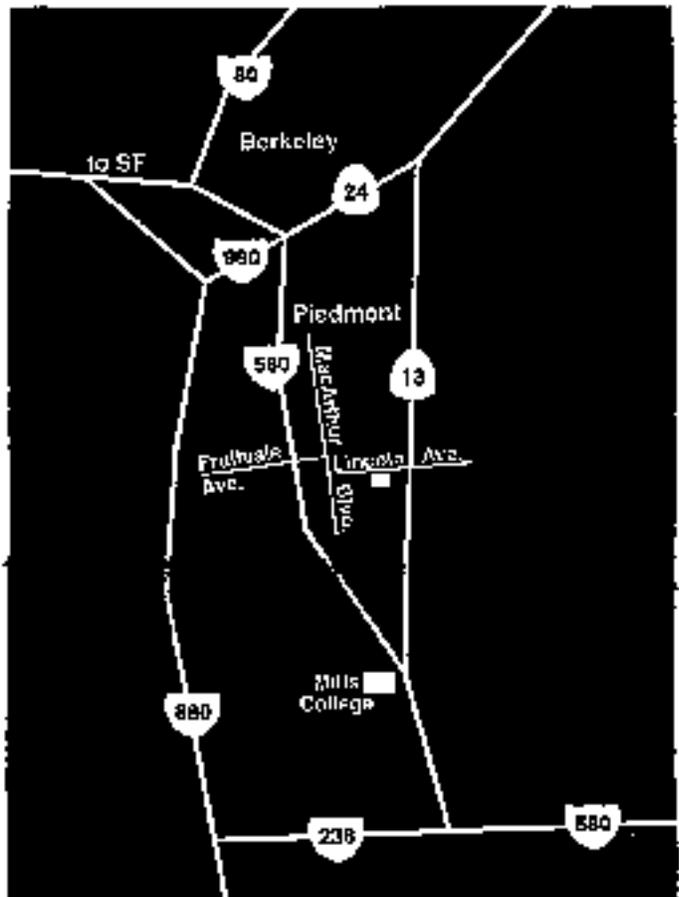
Directions to the Greek Orthodox Community Center

From the north:

Take 580 east to the Fruitvale Avenue exit. Cross Fruitvale Avenue and go straight 2 blocks on Harold Avenue. Get into the left lane and turn left onto Champion. Follow Champion uphill a few blocks, crossing MacArthur Blvd. at the light. You are now on Lincoln Avenue. Take this all the way uphill. The center is on the right.

From the South:

Take 580 west to Highway 13 north. Exit at Joaquin Miller Road/Lincoln Avenue. Follow Lincoln Avenue downhill. The center is on the left.



SCOTTISH DOINGS ELSEWHERE

SEPTEMBER 2000

Fri-Sun, September 15-17

Port Townsend (WA) Ft. Worden 2000 Annual SCD Weekend: Steps through History at Ft. Worden State Park and Conference Center. Music by Calum MacKinnon, Mike Saunders, Ralph Gordon, John Taylor, and Brian Stinson. Teachers: Ron Wallace, Marjorie McLaughlin, Cil Pierce, and Sue Truman. Price: US \$80. Sponsored by Seattle Branch RSCDS. Contact: Tonna Kutner, fax (206) 575-1019, or tonna@serv.net, <http://www.scn.org/arts/scottish/>

FRI-SUN, SEPTEMBER 22-24

Darlington (MD) Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood. Sponsored by Scottish Weekend, Inc. Teachers: Allison Russell, Andrew Smith, and Ellie Briscoe. Music: Anne Hooper, Liz Donaldson, Dan Emery, Earl Gaddis, Ralph Gordon, and Steve Hickman, Price: US \$185. Contact Moire Queen at 703-960-7455, moire@ogc.si.edu, or John Bartholomew at 301-565-3650, John_L_Bartholomew@nih.gov. Web page: <http://www.scottishweekend.org>

FRI-SUN, SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1

Winnipeg (MB) Step Dance Workshop. Teachers: Jo Hamilton (Menlo Park, CA) and Ron Wallace (Santa Rosa, CA). Price: CN \$65, includes Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch. Contact Cheryl Durnin (Workshop Registrar) at 204-253-4213, 11Pembroke Bay, Winnipeg, Mb. R2M 4H1, or Doug Durnin Doug_Durnin@UManitoba.ca.

OCTOBER 2000

SAT, OCTOBER 7

San Diego (CA) RSCDS San Diego Branch 25th Anniversary Ball at Silvergate Masonic Temple, 3795 Utah St. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sponsored by RSCDS San Diego Branch. Music by Muriel Johnstone and John Taylor. Dress: Formal. Refreshments will be provided at the dance. Price: US \$25.00. Contact Gillian Buchan at 858-549-4257, GillianJoe@aol.com, or Marjorie McLaughlin at 619-280-5855, marjoriem@home.com, www.RSCDS-SanDiego.org

FRI-SUN, OCTOBER 20-22

Houston (TX) Fall Workshop and Ball at Rice University, Main and Sunset. Fri. night Ceilidh, 7:30 p.m.; Sat. Classes 9:00-3:00; Ball 8:00 p.m.; Sun. Classes 10:00-12:00. Sponsored by RSCDS Houston and District Branch. Teachers: Bill Zobel and Ruth Jappy. Music by Muriel Johnstone, Susan Worland, and Alec Jappy. Dress: Formal Ball. Price: US \$85.

Carol Palmer at 713-776-8531, fax 713-988-6067, carolhpalmer@hotmail.com, or Moon Weiss at 713-465-9650 mland121@aol.com. http://www.geocities.com/fergus_mchaggis/HoustonRSCDS.htm

SUN, OCT 22

Columbus (OH) Scottish Country Dance at OSU Student Union Ballroom, 1739 N. High Street. Sunday afternoon 1:30-4:00 p.m. Sponsored by Heather 'n' Thistle, Columbus RSCDS. Music by Earl Gaddis (fiddle) and Jacqueline Schwab (piano). Dress: Casual. Price: US \$10.00. This dance is part of the John Shaw 25th Anniversary Country Dance Weekend. For further details and registration form for the full weekend of American-English-Scottish country dancing, see our Web page. Contact Sue Wartell at 614-263-9501 swartell@cas.org., <http://www.bigscioty.com/shaw.html>.



Kilchurn Castle, Summer 2000

RSCDS-SF BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2000-2001

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

Patti Cobb, **CHAIR**: 415-826-2387, patticobb@aol.com (99-01)
Paul Jacobson, **VICE CHAIR, SCHOLARSHIPS**: 831-688-8295, PJacobson@kreb.org (99-01)
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Marian Mueller: 415-648-5052, mimmueler@juno.com (99-01)
Larry Wakeman: 925-676-1058, lwakeman@netnetnetworks.com (00-02)

OTHER RSCDS-SF BRANCH VOLUNTEERS

you may want to contact:

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MUSIC FOR MONTHLY PARTIES: Andy Sherry: 408-296-8493, andy-sherry@mundspring.com
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BRANCH ARCHIVES: Virginia Bassell: 525-837-9483
TEACHERS' COMMITTEE CHAIR: Aileen Busse: 408-555-8478, aileenbusse@national.com. *Teacher's information packet
TEACHER TRAINING TUTOR: Ron Wallace: 707-795-2185, RonaldCWallac@aol.com
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CHILDREN'S CLASSES LIAISON: Kathleen McAdam: 925-934-8148
INSURANCE CONTACT: Jim Pell: 408-263-7902, jimpell@sjinfi.net
WEBSITE MANAGER: Greg Reznick: 925-494-2629, greg@reznickfamily.com. Website: www.rscds-sf.org
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: program aids, brochure, info text: Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372, susiek@isa.uclsf.edu;
for classes: Class Managers: publishers: *volunteers needed!*
CLASSES LIST & VOLUNTEERS LIST (R & S): Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372, susiek@isa.uclsf.edu
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alistair@earthlink.com; Dan Shapiro: 650-854-3789, dgs@leland.stanford.edu
NOMINATING COMMITTEE/BALLOTS: Susie Langdon Kass, Greg Reznick, Jim Pell, Larry Wakeman, Nancy Page
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VALENTINES BALL: Cindy Sobierm: 925-417-0735; Celia Gomez: 510-247-9204; Melinda Retchke: 408-613-7179
PLEASANTON GAMES DANCE (Jean -ette's Memoria): Larry Wakeman: 925-676-1058, lwakeman@netnetnetworks.com
SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES: Monterey (May): Sam Graham: 831-384-4783, SBGraham@aol.com; Campbell (June):
Starky Gregory: 408-257-2294, KEN13-gregory@lp.com, or Len Pettengill: lin@pette.gillan.g: Oakland/
Dunsmuir (July): Lou Janel: 925-934-1928, ljanels@ix.netcom.com, Eleanor Hatchkie: 510-339-8705,
whistleblow@aol.com; Pleasanton (September): Doug McConnell: JDouglasMcConnell@compuserve.com, 650-
493-5974; Information text: Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372; Dixon (September): Lori Barkle: (see above)

Rev. 31, 941-94

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH CLASSES

Berkeley

FRIDAYS: Youth Class 7:00 pm. Call Kathleen McAdam 925-974-9148. **Beginners:** 8:00am; Gray North Church, 2138 Cedar at Walnut. **Experienced/Technique:** 7:30 pm; **Social:** 8:00 pm; Call George Gales 925-709-1046 or Heather Morley 510-979-2669. All South Episcopal Parish, 2020 Cedar at Spruce. **Teachers:** Youth: Kathleen McAdam; Adults: Jevel Quimby, David Osborne.

Berkeley

MONDAYS: **Intermediates:** 8:00 pm; St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 2837 Clement Blvd. at Russell near Ashby. Call Françoise Morley 925-529-2662. **Teacher:** David Newitt. **Socials:** available.

Burlingame (affiliated class)

TUESDAYS: **Basics:** 7:00 pm; **Experienced/Socials:** 8:00 pm; Call to confirm! Call Anne MacIver 650-347-5893. **Teacher:** Anne MacIver.

Lafayette

THURSDAYS: Children's Classes (3 levels): 6:00 pm; **Basics & Socials:** 8:00 pm; Call Kathleen McAdam 925-974-9148. **Steps:** **Beginners:** 6:30 pm & **Experienced:** 7:00 pm; Call Françoise Gyle 510-526-8152. **Veterans:** Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at East Street. **Teachers:** Eugene Hissell, Claudette Sagg, Kathleen McAdam, Cathy Bettles.

Livermore

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:30 pm; Call Anne Holladay 925-447-1771. **Family Class:** **FRIDAYS:** 7:00 pm; **Children's Class:** **MONDAYS:** 6:30 pm; Call Shanna MacQueen 925-677-1873. **Livermore Presbyterian Church,** 2020 Fulton Street at J Street. **Teachers:** Anne MacIver, Shanna MacQueen, Paul MacQueen.

Monterey

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:30 pm; **Experienced:** 7:45 pm; Monterey Senior Center, 280 Dickerson at Lighthouse. Call Kathy Wendell 831-663-3227 or Brian Campbell 831-656-9223. **Teachers:** Sara Gravel, Brian Campbell.

Mountain View

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:45 pm; Mountain View Sports Pavilion, 1155 Caslar Avenue. Call Denise Daniels 510-773-7873. **Teachers:** Alan Tveding, Annin Busse, Bob McMurtry, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Fandler.

San Francisco

THURSDAYS: **Beginners & Experienced:** 8:00 pm; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Call Laverne Johnson 415-812-9456 or Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-6372. **Teachers:** Susie Langdon Kass, Bruce Herbold, Tricia Weinman.

San Francisco (affiliated class)

SUNDAYS: *October-November:* **Advanced (call for permission):** 6:00 pm; **Teacher:** Bruce Herbold 415-826-2867. *In January 2001:* **Beginners:** 6:15 pm; **Teacher:** Susie Langdon Kass. **Millberry Recreation & Fitness Center** at UCSF, 500 Parnassus Avenue. Call Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-0377.

San Jose

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:30 pm; **Experienced:** 8:30 pm; American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Avenue. Call Quenby Gregory 408-257-7794 or Josephine Louch 408-465-6789. **Teachers:** Marjanna Halpern, Jo Intringill, Don Pettigill.

Santa Cruz

THURSDAYS: **Intermediates/Beginners:** 8:00 pm; East Congregational Church, 350 High Street. Call Eileen MacQuarrie 831-479-1655. **Teacher:** Howard Leach.

Santa Rosa

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 pm; **Intermediates:** 8:15 pm; **CLASSES:** **Advanced (call for permission):** Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Berkeley Valley Road. Call Emily Evans 707-674-7637. **Teachers:** Emily Evans, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace.

Soquel

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 pm; **Intermediates:** 8:30 pm; Soquel Village Hall, 2800 Foster Street. Call Mary or Bob McMurtry 831-315-7459. **Teachers:** Paula Jacobson, Bob McMurtry.

Stanford

THURSDAYS: **Basics & Experienced Socials:** 7:30 pm; call Mike Armstrong 408-946-6777 or Dorey or Gloria McConnell 650-493-9474. **WEDNESDAYS (once a month):** **Team:** 7:30 pm; call Janet Johnson 608-733-9075. **J.L. Stanford Middle School,** 480 East Meadow Drive. **Teachers:** Rebecca Davis, Doug McConnell, Terria McConnell, Juliet Emerson. **Beginners:** anytime.

DEMONSTRATION TEAMS

Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers

TUESDAYS: 7:30 pm; **Advanced (by invitation only):** Call Shari Sells 510-558-0644 or Ron Wallace 707-705-2185. **Teacher:** Ron Wallace.

Red Thistle Dancers

THURSDAYS: 8:00 pm; **Advanced (by invitation only):** Call Jennifer Kelly 510-327-1356. **Teacher:** Jennifer Kelly.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH CLASSES

Sacramento

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 5:30 pm; **Combined classes:** 7:30 pm; **Intermediates:** 8:00 pm; Call Bill McClosky 916-454-9917; **Technique & Demonstration Class:** **MONDAYS,** 7:30 pm; Call Lynne Lockwood 916-491-4957; **Youth classes:** **SUNDAYS:** **Beginners (10 yrs. +):** 5:00 pm; **Experienced:** 10:15 am; **White Heather Dance Club:** 11:45 am; Call Lorraine Lockwood 916-491-6026. **YLC Clubhouse,** 3400 27th Street. **Teachers:** Lynn Lockwood, Peggy Hamilton.

Stockton

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:30 pm; Jefferson Church, Basal & Pauline. Call Charles Wood 209-465-8877. **Teacher:** Carolyn Hunt.

Truckee

THURSDAYS: **Basics:** 7:00 pm; **Intermediates:** 7:30 pm; Call to confirm! **Truckee-Donner Recreation Center,** Green Street. Call Barbara Sullivan 530-581-5076. **Teachers:** Dave Wilson, Nancy Wilkins.

OTHER CLASSES

Arcata

FRIDAYS: 4:00 pm; **SATURDAYS:** 10:00 am; **Experienced Social:** Arcata Presbyterian Church, 11th & C Streets. Call Helen Macpherson 707-827-1058 or Virginia Dumble 707-822-2824. **Teacher:** Ann McCarty.

Berkeley (North)

SUNDAYS: **Beginners/Intermediates:** 7:00 pm; Call to confirm! Call Ben or Kathy Kennedy 510-527-1397. **Teachers:** Ben Kennedy, Kathy Kennedy.

Grass Valley

MONDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 pm; Call Ed Johnston 530-822-1519. **Teacher:** Ed Johnston. **Beginners:** anytime.

Merced

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 pm; Merced High School. Call Merced Recreation & Parks Department 209-385-6833 or Lisa Kasper-Coyne 209-384-2050. **Teacher:** Barry Lewis.

Mill Valley

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 pm; **Experienced Social:** 8:15 pm; Alameda Hall, Victoria Way at Alameda. Call Mike Hill or Marghur Goff 415-884-2735. **Teachers:** Marghur Goff, Kim Robertson, guests.

Redding

THURSDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:30 pm; **Experienced:** 7:00 pm; Call Margaret Anne Schickelmeier 530-522-2154. **Teacher:** Margaret Anne Schickelmeier. **Beginners:** anytime.

Reno, Nevada

- New day & location!

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 pm; McKinley Arts & Culture Center, 925 Nevada Drive. Call Martha Morris 775-879-8681. **Teacher:** Martha Morris. **Beginners:** anytime.

STEP DANCING CLASSES

Palo Alto

TUESDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 pm; **Carriage House, Atherton;** **THURSDAYS:** **Experienced:** 7:00 pm; Call Jo Permitt 650-328-0676. **Teacher:** Jo Permitt.

Petaluma

2nd SUNDAYS: **Scottish Step & Cape Breton:** 12:00 noon, Hermann Voss Hall, 860 Westcott Avenue. Call Ron Wallace 707-795-2165. **Teacher:** Ron Wallace.

Scottish Step or Cape Breton Step classes are held 4x/yr: Lafayette, Monterey, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Stockton and Santa Rosa. Call Claudette Gyle 520-526-8792, Sara Griffin 831-344-4791, Jo Sampson 530-378-6474, Bob Scholdberg 209-745-9363, or Ron Wallace 707-795-2165.

Class Managers & Teachers:
CHANGES DUE OCTOBER 1
 Contact Susie at 415-333-9372
 susie@rcsf.org

Visit the S. F. Branch website at:
www.rcsf-sf.org

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