



## Branch Committee Actions

June 2005

Reported by Greg Reznick, Recording Secretary

### Events

**Asilomar:** Cameron reported that the waiting list is very short this year, suggesting that the workshop may not be full. This would cause a loss of two to three thousand dollars.

**Jean Patrick Dance:** Larry reported all plans for the event are on track.

**Branch Gala:** Witsie reported that 110 tickets (and 52 t-shirts) have been sold to date. All other plans are on track. Greg reported that a press release had been sent to a number of local publications and that the SF Chronicle was planning on covering the event. The committee discussed plans to take pictures at the event for forwarding to HQ.

**Spring Workshop:** Greg reported that the workshop had gone well overall, but that because of lower-than-hoped-for attendance, the event had lost approximately \$250. He noted that the street fair made the logistics more difficult than expected. He provided the committee with a summary of the evaluations. In general, the attendees' comments were very positive.

### Reports

**Treasurer's Report:** There was no treasurer's report at this meeting as delinquent reporting by classes made it impossible for the treasurer to provide a report. The committee agreed to leave unchanged the current reserve level (\$30,600). The chair reported that several classes had not submitted their financial reports in a timely manner making it very difficult for the treasurer to file 1099 reports in the timeframe required by law, and impossible for him to prepare annual financial reports for the AGM in May as is customary. It was suggested that making the annual class managers' meeting mandatory might help to address this problem. The committee established that, henceforth, *as a condition of maintaining good standing as a Branch Class, each class manager or their designate must attend the annual Class Managers' Meeting. Should the class manager choose to send a designate, the class manager retains responsibility for acquiring any information or materials which might be distributed at such meeting.* Additionally, the committee established that the *Branch Chair is responsible for*

*organizing proactive follow-up with classes not in compliance with financial reporting requirements.* Finally, Greg agreed to draft a letter to class managers (with a copy to class teachers) reiterating these issues and policies.

**Website:** Greg provided the latest website report. Usage trends continue upward. He also reported that it is now possible to place a bookstore order online and pay with a credit card (via a Paypal account).

### Other Items

**Reel & Strathspey Editorship:** Paula reported that Mike Hird has volunteered to continue as Editor. The Branch Committee expressed great relief and suggested that we continue to search for someone to serve as understudy and backup.

**Use of Branch Directory for commercial purposes:** Greg reported that a branch member has been using the Branch Directory in violation of the "no commercial use" policy found on the back of the Directory. Paula agreed to speak to the offending party and ask that he refrain from such use.

**Printing of flyers in R&S:** Greg reported that some event managers have been submitting flyers to the R&S editor for inclusion rather than providing printed copies. This adds to the cost of printing and might result in the need to raise the price of hard-copy delivery. The committee agreed that it would be appropriate to ask event coordinators to provide printed copies unless inclusion would have no impact on printing cost.

**Request for recognition of new branch class:** The committee considered an application for a new class to be held in Pleasant Hill in Tuesday nights. The class will be taught by Lori Howard and managed by Greg Reznick. The committee discussed the merits of the application together with its potential impact on other classes. Witsie read a letter from Kathleen McAdam expressing some concerns. Having found that requirements for notification had been met, the application was put to a vote and was accepted.

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## New Class News

### New class format/expansion in San Mateo

The San Mateo class, sponsored by San Mateo Parks and Recreation, will have a new expanded format starting in September.

There will be two classes offered and they will run back to back on Tuesday evenings. The first class is for new beginners; the second class is for dancers who have completed one year of instruction. Each class lasts one hour.

More experienced class members may attend both classes, to review their basic figures and technique and to actively help the newbies, before spending their second hour concentrating on more advanced formations and dances. Or they can choose to attend the second class as a standalone. Dancers who do opt to enroll for the entire session for both classes are offered a substantial discount, but only if they register by mail or walk-in, as on-line registration is unable to accommodate the discount process.

Please tell the beginners and beginning intermediates in your classes about this opportunity for extra practice. The new session begins September 6.

Drop-ins are still very welcome in either class. The drop-in fee is \$8 per class and you just register and pay at the front desk before coming into class. Unfortunately, no discounts can be given for drop-ins.

We are a relaxed and welcoming group and we all have a lot of fun. We meet on Tuesdays, at the Beresford Recreation Center, 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. Basic class 7:30–8:30 p.m.; Basic II 8:30–9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the San Mateo Parks and Recreation web site: <http://www.erecreg.com>. Or call the teacher, Lin Pettengill (650) 728-9105.

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**Livermore class manager:** The committee accepted the appointment of Michael Gregg as the class manager in Livermore. Warm thanks were extended to Gale Holladay for his many years of work and dedication to the class.

**Victoria Branch request for support:** Larry reported that the Victoria Branch had requested support in their recommendation to HQ to provide publications electronically. Larry agreed to share our experience in such matters with them and to bring the matter back to committee in October.

**Election of new officers:** The members of the incoming branch committee elected officers to serve for the next year. They are:

**Chair:** Larry Wakeman

**Vice Chair:** Michael Janousek

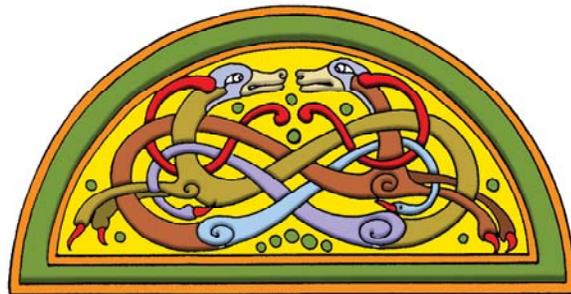
**Treasurer:** Louise Brewer

**Corresponding Secretary:** Nancy Page

**Recording Secretary:** Dotty Lieber

Witsie McKelvy agreed to take on the role of Class Managers Coordinator.

*Note from retiring secretary:* As this is my last submittal of a Branch Actions report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch for allowing me to serve and for the warm and supportive community that the San Francisco Branch provides to all of its members. Thank you.





## Monthly Parties

### OCTOBER MONTHLY PARTY

7:30 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

PALO ALTO ART CENTER, 1313 NEWELL ROAD, PALO ALTO

Hosts: Red Thistle/New World

Miss Hadden's Reel	23/5	32J3	I
Invercauld's Reel	11/10	32S3	B
The Loch Michigan Rant	Mulligan/Chicago 10 <sup>th</sup>	40R3	A
The Fete	25/1	32S3	I
Shifftin' Bobbins+	Clowes/Ormskirk	32R3	I
The Merry Oddfellows+	MMM I	32J2	B
Leslie's Strathspey	Campbell/Glas Assembly	32S3	A
West's Hornpipe	5 for 1965	32H4	I
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir	Winter/Dunsmuir coll	32S3	B
None So Pretty+	19/1	40R3	I
A Gift for Mamie+	Dances w/ a Difference/132J3		B/I
Foxhill Court	Drewry/Canadian	32S3	A
The Roselath Cross	41/10	32J3	I
Dalkeith's Strathspey+	9/6	32S3	I
The College Hornpipe+	20/12	32R3	I

### NOVEMBER MONTHLY PARTY

7:30 P.M., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004

ALAMEDA MASONIC

2312 ALAMEDA AVENUE, ALAMEDA

Hosts: Livermore/Lafayette

The White Cockade+	5/11	32R3	B
Invercauld's Reel	11/10	32S3	B
A Gift for Mamie	Dances w/ a Difference/132J3		B/I
The Minister on the Loch+	Goldring/24 Graded	32S3	I
None So Pretty	19/1	40R3	I
Follow Me Home+	38/3	32J3	I
Dalkeith's Strathspey	9/6	32S3	I
The Loch Michigan Rant	Mulligan/Chicago 10 <sup>th</sup>	40R3	A
Sandy O'er the Lea+	MMM II	32S2	B
The College Hornpipe	20/12	32R3	I
The Merry Oddfellows	MMM I	32J2	B
The Double Eighty+	45/2	32S4	I/A
The Roselath Cross	41/10	32J3	I
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir	Winter/Dunsmuir coll	32S3	B
Shifftin' Bobbins	Clowes/Ormskirk	32R3	I

+new this month

### Directions to Palo Alto Arts Center:

From 101 South: Take Embarcadero Road exit south. Follow Embarcadero to Newell Road. Turn right onto Newell. Arts Center is on left, about a block.

From 280 South: take Sand Hill Road exit, north. Follow Sand Hill Road to Arboretum Road. Follow Arboretum to Embarcadero Road, and follow Embarcadero Road to Newell Street. Turn left onto Newell.

### Directions to Alameda Masonic Hall:

From the North: Take 880 S, exit at 23rd Ave exit. Continue going south on Kennedy Street to the bridge at 29th Street and turn right. Upon crossing the bridge going west, you will be on Park Street. Continue on Park to Alameda and turn right.

From the South: Take 880 N, exit at High Street and drive west across the High Street bridge into Alameda. Continue on High Street for about 6 blocks and turn right onto Central Ave. Go for another 10 blocks to Park Street. Turn left on Park, go 1 block and turn right on Alameda.

Park on the street or in the free parking lot across the street from the hall. It can be entered from Alameda or from Central. The dance floor is on the top floor. Walk up or take the elevator.

# CLASS REPORTS ROUNDUP

## Livermore Class Report

by Sheena MacQueen, Livermore Class Teacher

For the second time in as many years, the Livermore class is facing an uncertain future with regard to location. Our current home, Foresters Hall, has been sold, and we don't know yet if the new owners will have us stay. This is in sharp contrast to our initial 26 years in one location—how nice that was!

We recently performed at the Livermore Highland Games. Parents and children danced together in the first dance, with music provided by the *Kid's Ceilidh Band* (two fiddles, flute, and cello, with many thanks to Gary Thomas for helping out on keyboard). Next, twenty children performed a raucous *Swashbuckling Ian*. The adults demonstrated a stirring strathspey and the experienced children finished off the performance with a crisp *Mrs. Stuart Linnell*. We had the audience join us for a simple dance.

We usually perform at the Ardenwood Tartan Days and Dixon Highland Games. We are looking forward to filling the stage at Pleasanton. Last year, members of the *Kid's Ceilidh Band* played for the first adjudicated dance, after which three of the four musicians put down their instruments to join the dancing. James MacQueen played violin for the remaining dances, with Linda Henderson, crisp and lively, on piano. They tackled *Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh* at an invigorating tempo.

*Hornswoggled*, an informal band led by Heather MacKay and David Newitt and filled out by several Livermore class members, played for the children's holiday party in December. *Plaid Attitude* played for the adult holiday party. The *Kid's Ceilidh Band* opened both parties with a quick and lively *Hollin Buss*. Everyone wishes we had time to schedule more parties.

Gale Holladay is retiring as class financial manager. He has given the class many, many, years of loyal service, which are deeply appreciated. His duties were varied—being my right hand man in organizing the Jean Patrick Event, dancing on the little girls side to fill in a set in the children's class, searching for new halls, searching for cookies on sale, and posting flyers, as well as keeping the teacher happy with a cup of tea and electrical power. Years ago, I asked the children to write the name of their favorite holiday on the floor with their toe (as a warm-up exercise). A young voice piped up "How do you spell 'Gale'? He is my favorite Holladay."

## Monterey Class Report

by Kathy Wendell

The little class by the Monterey Bay began its year with a record number of beginners. We also had a record number of experienced dancers attend the Asilomar workshop (enough for a class picture)! Our new dancers hosted the sherry party and poured punch throughout the evening, quite taken by the energy and enthusiasm of the dancers. But our usual attrition factors, school and military transfers along with other commitments, left us with a small handful of eager novice dancers by the end of the year.

Our experienced members have enjoyed sharing the dance floor with our beginners, as well as with the occasional visitor. We've had dancers from Santa Cruz, Sacramento, and even England. We especially enjoy having Asilomar participants stay in the area an extra day and join us for our regular class. Sara Gratiot's structured yet personalized approach, mixed with patience and humor, accommodates all levels of proficiency, even at the same time.

We've been a little less active in the last few years after having lost venues for our Hogmanay party and our Scottish-Victorian Ball. Our demonstration group, White Heather, has taken the year off to spend more time dealing with injuries and family issues. Happily, that includes two engagements!

Our class continues to meet every Monday night throughout the summer, so please drop in if you find yourself near our bay.



## New World Scottish Dancers Report

The New World Scottish Dancers had another busy year, including a performance at Dunsmuir House in December and a wet day at the Woodland Games in April. We've also had some major changes. Our teacher and director of many years, Claudette Sigg, decided to retire from teaching. Claudette is not only an accomplished teacher and dance devisor, she is also a poet. In recent months she has achieved both personal satisfaction and recognition through the publication of several of her poems. She has decided to focus her energy on her poetry, but has left us in good hands. Lori Howard, with a freshly minted full certificate in hand, has taken over the teaching responsibilities. She is being assisted by Sandra Schultz, who received her prelim pass this spring. Lori's first outing as Director, at the Dunsmuir games, was a great success. (At least that's what Claudette, now in the audience, assured us!) We continue to focus on Scottish Dancing as performed in California and embrace modern music, together with more traditional styles.

In another new development, we will be offering an advanced country dance class on Tuesday nights in a location in or near Pleasant Hill. This class is open to all who wish to dance with focus on technique. This will allow Lori a chance to focus on step dancing on Thursdays and country dancing on Tuesdays. We will continue to offer step dance classes on Thursdays at the Diablo Light Opera Company in Pleasant Hill.

We're looking forward to an active season of dancing and performing. Lori is off to a great start, and we're a lucky bunch to have her as our teacher. We have also been fortunate to have benefited from so many years of Claudette's guidance. We wish Claudette much luck in her new endeavor and look forward to seeing her at events and dances in the future.



## Red Thistle Dancers—Class Report

by Sue Anderson

2004-05 has been a very busy year for the Red Thistle Dancers, and continues to be so. In addition to regular appearances at Livermore, Campbell, Dunsmuir, and Pleasanton Games, we have danced for any number of celebrations, including a 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and a colorful and tasty food festival to help a Los Altos church rebuild after a devastating fire.

Special mention goes to a performance in January for a local Girl Scout sleepover. Our pianist, Lyle Ramshaw, says he now has some feeling for what it must be like to be a rock star (think over 100 Girl Scouts and chaperones). And it was a delightful challenge for both teachers and dancers to draw the girls into a few participation dances.

Another memorable occasion was a weekday performance for employees of Lawrence Livermore Labs: part of the fun was the elaborate and thorough check-in procedure.

Director Jennifer Kelly was invited to teach at the Stockton Dance Camp in late July, and many of the Red Thistles made the trek on the last night for a performance, a wonderful dinner, and the final dance party. The Camp was also the occasion for the release of a new CD by our faithful and talented musicians, Lyle Ramshaw, Susan Worland-Bentley, and Michael Bentley. Entitled "The Breakdown", it includes several dances which Jennifer taught at Camp, plus others which make regular appearances in Red Thistle medleys.

One of our most recent performances was at the June "Dance of the Decade", where we demonstrated a medley of three dances (The Anniversary Suite) written by Jennifer to commemorate the San Francisco Branch's 40 eventful years. The first, to honor the administrators of the branch, is the jig "Kathleen and Walter McAdam"; the second, in recognition of our dance teachers, is a strathspey "Mr. Smith's Delight"; and last, but of course not least, for the musicians is the reel, "Fiddlesticks Frolic". For those more newly come to Scottish Dance, C. Stuart Smith was the first professional teacher in the branch, and he set an excellent standard for those who have followed.

In addition to hard work, we continue to have spring garden parties and Christmas Carol sings at the Kellys and the rollicking Hogmanay celebrations at the Pettengills. Many thanks to both John and Jennifer as teachers and directors, and for the many other Red Thistle teachers who keep us working and performing when the Kellys are away. Our musicians, as always, keep us aware of "what to do" both in person and via recordings. We especially appreciate their attendance as a "live" presence at our rehearsals at least once each month.

## Santa Rosa Class – 2005 Report

by Kathy Faherty

It's been another successful and fun-filled year for the Santa Rosa class! An enthusiastic group of beginners is being thoroughly trained by Gary Thomas every Monday evening at 7:00 in our spacious room at the Veterans' Memorial Building. After being sure that all couples in the set know and practice each figure, Gary then proceeds to introduce us to the nuances and "finer points" of presentation in Scottish Country Dancing. His attention to detail and infectious good humor has us all dancing and enjoying ourselves, and the first 90 minutes are over in no time at all!

Experienced dancers are then turned over to Ron Wallace, who teaches the last hour. Ron gets right to it and matches his high expectations of the dancers with his high caliber of teaching. (Yes, we do know how lucky we are up here!)

There are other busy nights for dancers in Santa Rosa. The Country Dance Performance Group, taught by Gary Thomas, meets on Friday evenings at the Church of the Oaks in Cotati. Ron Wallace teaches the Cape Breton Hard Shoe and Scottish Step classes on Thursday evenings at the Church of the Oaks as well. Ron has been expanding their repertoire and building on steps previously learned. The Friday night classes performed at the Pleasanton Games, the Sebastopol Celtic Festival, and the Paulin Creek Senior Center.

We are so fortunate to enjoy the musical talents of Janette Duncan, Ron Wallace, and Gary Thomas, who bring us the live music each week of "Wild Rose!" Another excellent fiddler, Regan Hemphill, has joined them again this year.

Co-editors Gary Thomas and Kathy Faherty are now producing our class newsletter, "The Jig's Up," quarterly. This newsletter is a great way to keep us all connected to local events and to the travels and other interests of our local dancers as well.

We had our annual weekend retreat at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg Jan 23-25. That is always a memorable occasion and this year was no exception. For beginners, the intensity of dancing all weekend really advances their skills to the next level and binds them more closely to the dance community. For all of us, it is a time of fun and camaraderie. The facility is beautiful and the meals are both healthy and delicious. It just doesn't get better!

We hosted seven Ceilidhs on Saturdays at the Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma this year. Members of the Country Dance Classes and the families of the Children's Class enjoyed them as well. We plan to continue these party/potlucks next year at the Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa, and would like everyone to feel welcome to attend.

Gary Thomas taught many sessions of Vintage Dance at the Hermann Sons Hall from 2:00-4:00 on Saturdays. These classes consisted of couple dances from the 1800's, including

Waltz, Mazurka, and Polka; plus Quadrilles, Cotillions, and Scottish Reels.

This group never misses an excuse for a party! We celebrated Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, the Preliminary Teaching Certification of Jim Passage, and going away parties for our beloved Karen Maitland and Sandra Craig.

The end of the year finds us involved in preparations for the Beginners' Ball on June 18 at the Mt. McKinley Gym at Sonoma State University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

**Subject: Children in our branch**

In response to two letters in the last issue, I would like to go on record to say that the children/youth in our area are very lucky indeed.

Our Branch has 165 children enrolled in six classes, taught by a total of eight or more teachers who are willing and able to do this very important work.

This year we held out SEVENTH annual Children's Ball to which all ages 7 to 18 years, enrolled in a class, are invited. They may also attend the Beginner's Ball, all monthly dances, the Jean Patrick Dance and many adult classes welcome them.

There are only TWO events at which an age limit is suggested: the Valentine Ball and Asilomar week-end. The Valentine Ball is primarily an adult event and many attending do not necessarily want children there. In regard to children, it should be noted that if children/youth are included that means that ALL children/youth would be included (even an eight year old who is not a competent dancer). In a previous letter it stated "so long as a child is a competent dancer, can do the ball dances and is also well behaved on the dance floor..." We do not give report cards and will not exclude some children while letting others attend. It is up to the parents' discretion whether or not to bring their child to an event and by setting the age limit this helps to guide the parents as to the nature of the event.

The Asilomar event is limited in the number of dancers allowed in Merrill Hall for the Saturday Ball. It should be noted that at both these events alcohol is served.

On attaining their 16th birthday, young people may join the R.S.C.D.S., and are allowed to attend St. Andrew's

Summer School. In addition they may now attend ALL of our Branch events. It is heartening to note that many of our young dancers have chosen to become Branch Members

I would be happy to talk with anyone regarding our goals for young dancers.

*Kathleen McAdam*

*Youth Co-ordinator S.F. Branch*

*(925)934-6148*

P.S. having just returned from Scotland I am excited about what we are doing for the children/youth of our Branch, we are way ahead of the Scots in many regards.

The Editor,

*Reel & Strathspeyper*

Dear Sir,

**Age Limit at Asilomar**

I would like to respond to the letters regarding an age limit for Asilomar. I agree with the decision of the Committee to set an age limit for this event. However, I also feel that the Valentine's Ball should have the same age limit. Certainly some children are more mature at 12 than some adults are at 32, however you cannot judge each child on an individual basis. (Have you tried telling a parent that his or her child is deficient in some way?)

My reasons:

- All other branch events are open to children, monthly parties, the Jean Patrick Dance, etc.
- I would like to have at least one "adults-only" event (personally, I think the minimum age should be 18 years old)
- Children have their own ball, "The Children's Ball" which I am not allowed to attend as a dancer. They are also encouraged to attend the "Beginner's Ball".
- If someone "rather enjoys" dancing with children, they may attend a family class, which is open to all ages
- Some parents like to have a weekend (just one!) away from their own children, and the children of others. I have heard from some who teach children's classes, and they would like a break from dancing with children for one event.
- Even mature children can turn immature on the dance floor. Or they may not have the judgment to sit out a dance that is too difficult for them. My set at the

Valentine's ball a couple of years ago had 3 or 4 teens who got in over their heads. Try as we might to get them through the dance, they became flustered, then frustrated, then marched off the floor and wouldn't come back... and an encore had been called!

- Flirting occurs! No, we are not contributing to "the delinquency of a minor"; however alcohol is consumed, and should someone happen to "glance" just a tad bit long, (or low), or hold on a bit too long for an immature person, that could cause misunderstandings or more serious charges

I do enjoy children, and I enjoy spending time with my nieces and nephews, and friends and their children. But I do not want them at every dance event. If all children were allowed at Asilomar, I would seriously consider not attending the event.

Very truly yours,

*Cecilia Stolzer-Grote*



Editor's Note:

The Volunteer List, Classes List and Branch Calendar will re-appear in the next edition of the Reel & Strathspeyper.

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All articles submitted should be on diskette in a word processing format or sent by e-mail. Please send contributions to:

Mike Hird, Editor  
81 Flicker Drive  
Novato, CA 94949-6674

Phone: 415.884.2716  
e-mail: randsnewsletter@comcast.net



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