



WELCOME (BACK)!

Gary Thomas

Our new season has started and we have many new faces in our midst, as well as a newly certificated teacher, Robert Sargent. It's wonderful to see so many dancers on the floor, and there is always room for more. So, if you know of anyone else who may be looking for an evening of fun, exercise, wonderful people and live music, then please encourage them to try us out now. New people are welcome anytime through December. (Starting after December can be a bit of a challenge unless they have some dance experience.)

The Santa Rosa class has been in existence now for over 20 years, but we are just a small part of a larger organization. Locally, we are connected to the San Francisco Branch of the RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society), one of the largest branches in North America. All branches (as well as affiliated groups who do not have certificated teachers) of the RSCDS are connected to headquarters in Scotland. You can find Scottish dance groups just about anywhere in the world. It is very popular in Japan, the Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, and there's even a group at the South Pole.

However, getting back to our own class, let me introduce you to some of the members:

We have a class committee of five people who meet periodically to discuss class issues:

Emily Evans, who serves as Class Manager
Lisa Strouse
Kathy Faherty, co-editor of "The Jig's Up"
Susan Scott, our treasurer
Gary Thomas as music/teacher's rep, also co-editor of "The Jig's Up"

(If you have any concerns, questions, ideas, or would like to be involved in any way, please feel free to contact any of these people.)

Our teachers include:

Emily Evans
Robert Sargent
Gary Thomas
Ron Wallace

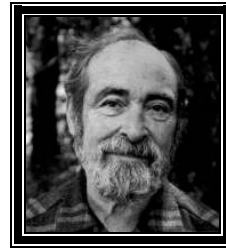
Our class musicians are:

Scotland Bonnie (for the Youth and Family Class)
Janette Duncan
Regan Hemphill
Gary Thomas
Ron Wallace

Some critical information: Please make sure you sign in every time you attend a class. This is for insurance purposes. If you are injured during class, our insurance may cover the cost of any necessary medical intervention. However, if your name isn't on the sign up sheet, then you are out of luck.

Our class now has a website (www.santarosascottishdancers.org) thanks to Tovar and Chard Louden. We encourage you to visit it often for updates and to read "The Jig's Up". The site will include a calendar of events for our class, links to other events of interest, as well as other information you may find of use. We are also working on a pictures gallery. If you have pictures you would like to share, please send them to Chard, but only select pictures, not your whole album. We'll even include snippets of dance performances.

Again, "Welcome" or "Welcome back"! Enjoy the dance!



DEREK EVANS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

John Derek Evans, who passed away in 2001, was instrumental in building the Santa Rosa Scottish Country Dance class. Derek loved dancing and he loved sharing the joys of dancing with fellow dancers. His, spirit, kindness and generosity were inspirational. The Derek Evans Scholarship Fund was established to honor his memory.

The Scholarship Fund is available to class members to help subsidize the cost of RSCDS membership, dance class fees, dance shoes or costumes needed for dance classes or performances, and any other Scottish dance related events.

If you would like to find out more about the scholarship, please see Emily Evans.

If you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, checks can be made out to RSCDS-SF-Santa Rosa. Donations to the fund are tax deductible.

WHAT WAS THAT!?

Gary Thomas

By this time you have a few classes under your belts. A lot of new terminology has been thrown your way, and hopefully it will stay with you. But how do you spell it out? Following are just some of the new words you may have heard, along with a brief description:

You have already danced some **reels** and **jigs**, but the slow dance unique to Scotland is called the **Strathspey** named after the district where the dance form is thought to have originated.

The setting step in quick time uses the **Pas de Basque**, usually done on the spot, but also used when turning two hands or traveling when instructed.

The equivalent in Strathspey time is the **Strathspey Setting Step** or **Common Schottische**.

Some figures have straightforward names, such as Rights and Lefts, Lead Down the Middle and Back, etc., but other figures may be less familiar, such as **Allemande**, **Poussette**, and **Rondel**.

We'll throw more tidbits your way in future issues. In the meantime, take partners and form a set.

BISHOP'S RANCH 2007 *Emily Evans*

(Reprinted from Fall, 2005)

Mark your calendars for our next retreat: January 19-21, 2007. Bishop's Ranch, or El Rancho del Obispo, is on Westside Road in Healdsburg. This is where the members of our dance class, friends and significant others have gone once a year since 1994 to dance, hike, eat and generally have a great time. Ron and Gary will be our teachers again this year, with live music provided for our classes and evening parties.

Flyers will be available soon with more details, and also the fees that we pay to cover the cost of our dance instruction and live music, five delicious meals prepared by the staff of Bishop's Ranch, and two nights' stay.



Here's a quick idea of how the retreat is organized: Friday evening we have a potluck then a dance party. On Saturday morning and early afternoon there are dance classes that are full of surprises. Saturday afternoon there is a break. Some people hike at this time; others just "hang out." Around 5:30 or so we have a wine and cheese party, then we're escorted to dinner before our Saturday evening dance party. The partying goes on into the wee hours. We have our last classes Sunday morning.

Here's what one of our dancers wrote after her first experience at Bishop's Ranch: "What finally tipped the scales for me was Bishop's Ranch. If you're a beginner and aren't so sure about Bishop's Ranch...get off that fence and go. You'll never be the same. It was amazing. It was fun. It was like a medieval slumber party! Oh, and the dancing...well. It doesn't get better than that. I fell in love with Scottish Country Dancing at Bishop's Ranch."

We'll see you there!

THE PLEASANTON GAMES *Ann Glenn*

The 141st Annual Scottish Highland Games took place on September 2-3 in Pleasanton, CA. This annual event is produced by The Caledonian Club of San Francisco whose intention it is to blend some of the traditions and heritage of ancient Scotland with more modern athletics, Celtic Rock, merchandising and good fun.

Our Santa Rosa Scottish Dancers were well represented with a group performing on Sunday from the Monday Social Dance Class. They did a brilliant job and looked like they were having lots of fun. Maybe some of you might think about joining in next year. The Friday night performance group danced on Sunday as well. Two of the dances were written by our talented Ron and Gary.

On Saturday we did two shows with the Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers from the Bay Area and also with dancers from Monterey. The show included Cape Breton hard shoe dancing, highland dancing and ladies' step dancing. It was wonderful dancing with so many people and the music was stunning!

Folks enjoyed many aspects of this festival--from shopping to the gathering of the clans, the games, pipe bands and (one of my favorites) the sheep dog trials. Jack Mathieson had two dogs entered that I hear did very well!

Come join us next year!

ADJUDICATION *Cathy Azevedo*

"You had me at 'hello'" is a pretty good way to describe how I feel about Scottish Country Dance. This was evident by the fact that I couldn't help showing up, to sacrifice my dignity, every Monday evening for the last 10 months.

The first time I heard the word "adjudication" mentioned in announcements I thought, that sounds very official. Obviously something meant for the advanced dancers, who made everything look so easy, as they gracefully glided from step-to-step in perfect time to wonderful live music; definitely not for a double left-footed creature like myself with no short-term memory.

But...in a moment of weakness and after much convincing that the adjudication really was a safe place for beginners, I gave in to a plea from one of the above mentioned “advanced dancers” (thanks Chard!) and signed up to become part of the Pleasanton team.

We started practicing the first week in August. This was wonderful! That meant getting to start back a month early from the summer break. Plus, the three dances Gary chose were ones I already (kind of) knew and liked. We worked hard that month. I went home every Monday tired but curiously satisfied that this just might turn out all right after all.

Let me note at this point- Do I own a skirt, yes. A peasant blouse maybe; but a Scottish plaid rosette? Definitely not! I had many fears as the date approached. But we had worked hard and were ready.

By the time we arrive in Pleasanton we were comfortable with each other and I was confident that I wasn't going to do anything to embarrass myself or my fellow dancers. Then we arrived at the fairgrounds and for a brief few minutes I questioned why in the world I had volunteered for this. A button went flying off my blouse while getting dressed and my stomach was in my throat.

But then I walked into the dance area with its raised wooden floor and excited spectators watching from nearby bandstands. Bagpipes could be heard from the nearby grandstands. The energy was almost palpable. There was our group practicing on the lawn nearby. Just seeing all the beaming, familiar faces calmed the butterflies, reminding me why I was here - to dance and have a great time in wonderful company.

It was an honor to perform with such an accomplished, fun-loving group; but more than that, I walked away a better dancer and with the thought that we are so fortunate to have such gifted, selfless teachers and musicians. Really we are a reflection of them.

Thank you!

THE YOUTH AND FAMILY CLASS

Katherine Salinger

Our class started again in September and is going very well!

Maddy Smith and I were in the Step Dancing show at the Highland Games in Pleasanton this year! We performed “The Flowers of Edinburgh”, and we also danced some of the jigs. We really enjoyed that!



Several of us also performed Country Dancing and Step Dancing at the Celtic Festival in Sebastopol. Everyone had fun there!

Morgan and Wesley Nilson and their family, who had attended this class since the very beginning, are moving to Texas and just recently attended their last class. Wesley, who joined the class when he was very young, was seldom seen without his baseball cap during class and was a really good partner. Morgan is an excellent musician and fiddle player! She also has a remarkably good memory; she could sometimes remember the name of a dance that we hadn't done in over a year!

Kyle Cadena, who plays the recorder, also had to leave our class because he started public school this year. Along with Mr. Wallace and Scotland Bonnie, Kyle and Morgan usually played music for our Step Dancing class. Sometimes Kyle was seen dancing with only one shoe on, because the other would fly off unexpectedly! He and his mom, Nancy, always added a fun attitude to the class when they were there.

They are all great people to know and were great to have in the class!

We miss them already!

MY FIRST MONTHLY SCOTTISH DANCE PARTY *Chuck Levine*

I really didn't know what to expect. I was about midway through my first year of Scottish County dancing and this was to be my first experience outside the (relative) comfort of our Monday night class. I felt like I was barely hanging on with my fingernails to the dances we were learning for this night. Why was I doing this?! Would I encounter bemused tolerance from others in my dance sets? Or worse, would I catch a rolled eye in my direction?

Sara (also nervous) and I arrived fairly early to the downtown San Rafael dance hall. We took a seat inside and observed people gaily arriving in their kilts and gowns, donning their ghillies – as I sat there in my ridiculous pants and clunky street shoes ready to do I don't know what. But as the people arrived, I began sensing a very fine energy. Before I knew it, the musicians began filling the hall with music and we were dancing.

One wonderful dance followed another. Although I was far from perfection, I was thoroughly enjoying myself. The mature gathering of experienced dancers not only kindly tolerated my lack of expertise but made me feel like they were actually enjoying dancing with me.

The energy generated by that gathering together with the magic of the truly accomplished musicians is impossible to describe. How could such a level of music and dance be happening right here in our small local community? I felt very lucky and grateful to be a part of it.

I have tried to explain to friends what this is like. You can't. It is impossible. There are no words or language that can express what happens in a gathering like this. It has something to do, I think, with the coming together of a highly developed genre of music and dance with the work the performers put in to giving as much justice as possible to manifesting this creation. No one

can really explain it, but I know everyone there experienced it. And this is probably the deepest satisfaction of such an event – knowing that you are experiencing something very fine with many others – even mostly strangers – and, if only for that evening, you are not so alone in this universe.

(Editor's Note: The San Francisco Branch hosts a monthly party throughout the year in various locations around the Bay area. A list of where, when, how you get there, and what dances will be done are all available on the San Francisco Branch website www.rscds_sf.org.)

VALLEY OF THE MOON FIDDLE CAMP

Kathy Faherty

What would dancing be without music? We are so fortunate to have live music for our Scottish Country dance classes. But who will carry this on in generations to come?

Alasdair Fraser, a well-known Scottish fiddler, is doing all that he can to ensure that this tradition of live dance music continues. Over twenty years ago he established a week long camp for fiddlers and other related musicians (guitarists, cellists, mandolin players, percussionists, etc.) where they could receive instruction and jam with other like-minded souls to their hearts' content.

The original location of this camp was here in Sonoma County at a facility in the Valley of the Moon. Due to its popularity, the camp was moved to various larger locations until settling quite a few years ago at Camp Campbell, a Boy Scout Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Boulder Creek. However, it retains its original name of Valley of the Moon, or VOM.

My first time at VOM was this summer from August 25 until September 2nd. Two of my nine roommates were Janette Duncan and Regan Hemphill. Janette attended the first camp at the original Valley of the Moon location and has been a regular ever since. She has instituted some great traditions, such as "Midnight Soup" on Tuesday and a "Happy Hour" from 5:30-6:30 outside our cabin each afternoon. One day we counted 65 people at Happy Hour and other cabins are now picking up on the idea. Cabin 13 hosted a great Margarita party, and The Instructors Cabin hosted a Happy Hour one night as well. There were 230 people at camp. The rustic cabins were nestled in huge redwood groves alongside a winding creek. The hub of camp was the dining room/recreation center, but there were other lodges where classes and activities took place. Oh, did I mention that the food was really good as well?



The three main instructors this year were Alasdair Fraser, Andre Brunet, a 29 year old dynamo from Quebec, and Laura Risk, a fiddler raised in the Bay Area but now living in Montreal. Everyone in the moderate and fast groups had these three teachers on a rotating basis for an hour and a half class each day. Yes, that's four and a half hours of fiddle class each day! In between there were optional classes in singing, dancing, percussion, piano, etc. Following Alasdair's suggestion to "find your inner drummer," Janette and I did percussion in a circle of redwoods with Gary Campus, and Gaelic singing with Christine Primrose from the Isle of Skye. Regan did piano classes.



As if the days weren't busy enough, there was something special going on each evening after dinner. One night our talented instructors gave a concert; Pate Thompson showed his slides of reconstructing a High School in New Orleans; there was a lively ceilidh with serious musical performances and hilarious skits; Thursday night was Mardi Gras – everyone wore costumes and we dined on shrimp jambalaya; the teenagers hosted a Beatles party. Every night there was contra dancing in the dining room, and, of course, small and large jam sessions wherever you went. The culmination of the week was a concert given in Santa Cruz on Friday night. (At this point, are you wondering when we slept? You can probably guess the answer to that!) In addition to all the prepared and spontaneous activities, there was a constant focus throughout the week on creative ways to raise funds for the VOM Scholarship Fund. This fund enables young people to attend camp and inspires their music education. At the beginning of the week the fund hovered around \$6,000.00, but by week's end, it topped \$13,000.00! During lunch and dinner we were entertained by those who had received scholarships to camp. I wish I had started at their age, but it's never too late to begin!

As camp closed on Saturday morning, many campers departed for home, but others trekked over to Pleasanton and did three performances with Alasdair Fraser and the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers on Sunday. It was an experience I will never forget and hope to repeat for many years to come!

ALAS, NO CEILIDHS THIS YEAR

Gary Thomas

Regretfully, the committee has voted to discontinue once-a-month ceilidhs due to low attendance and loss of revenue. We thank you for filling out the evaluation forms. The most prevalent response was that the first Saturdays of each month was inconvenient due to work schedule or other conflicts. Unfortunately, the first Saturday was the only available night we could get Monroe Hall.

That said, it doesn't mean we can't have ceilidhs in the future. The questionnaires led us to believe people who did attend (or wanted to) really enjoyed them. We will have the occasional party in Monday class, but the ceildhs were a chance for the Monday class, Wednesday Youth and Family class, and the Thursday step class to get together for an evening of fun and dancing. So, put on your thinking caps, and if you have an idea of when and where, we're all ears.

Scots English

Kelpie

Scottish legend says that a kelpie is a spirit, usually in equine form that inhabits lochs and rivers and lures unsuspecting travelers to a watery grave.

Out in the marsh in the black of night, it was, with nary a rider. Maddest-looking horse I've ever seen. I half-took it for a kelpie.

The Jig's Up

Published quarterly (sort of)

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