

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

The Blethers

Mike Millin, Chair

September 2002

Sue McKinnell, Editor

<http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper/branch.html>

Class News: *Loch Mich* dancing starts Sunday, September 8, 6:00 –8:30 p.m., at St. Josaphats Parish Hall Gym on the southeast corner of Belden and Southport, Chicago, IL. *Silk and Thistle* classes continue every Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:30 p.m. – the **big** news is that the class returns to the Fermilab Village Barn Tuesday, September 3rd! Fall dates for *ScotReel* are September 26, October 3, 17, & 24, November 7 & 21, and December 5 & 12, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Fall Open House: The Fall Open House is Sunday, September 22nd at St. Josaphats Parish Hall. Class instruction at fall classes will be geared toward everyone who is dancing, newer dancers included. Come dance and bring friends and acquaintances that you think might like to try Scottish Country Dancing!

Fall Dance: The Fall Dance will be Saturday, November 16th 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Community Center, 101 South Second St., St. Charles, IL. This year's dance is hosted by Silk and Thistle and is *Frolie on the Fox 7*. The musicians are "O'er the Border" and guest musicians. The band is offering a workshop for musicians from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the 16th at the home of Susan Conant in St. Charles. Program suggestions are being accepted at folkdance@fnal.gov; you may call (630) 840-8194 or (630) 584-0825 for more information.

Semi-Annual General Meeting: The Branch will hold its Semi-Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Josaphats at 6:00 p.m. The main item on the agenda will be review and approval of the treasurer's report. You must be a member of the Chicago Branch to vote at the meeting, but all are welcome to attend.

Membership Form: The 2002 Branch membership form is enclosed with this edition of *The Blethers*. Note that some rates have changed. If you have questions, contact Mike Millin, Carlyn Bromann, or any other member of the COM.

2003 New Year's Ball: The 2003 New Year's Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, January 11th at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. There will be a Brunch and Tea Dance on Sunday, January 12th at the Irish American Heritage Center. The Musicians for the weekend are Earl Gaddis, Dave Wiesler, and Hanneke Cassel. Contact Jeanne Millin at (847) 446-6591 (scotfarquhar@msn.com) or Carlyn Bromann at (630) 469-6029 (Carlyn@core.com) for more information. Dance details and instructions will be available on the Branch website.

Holiday Party: The Branch will hold a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15th at St. Josaphats at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

Possible Dancing Location Changes: St. Josaphats Hall may not be available for classes 10/13, 12/1 or 12/8. Watch for information about alternate class location(s) if required. If you know of any available suitable site for these dates, contact Mike Millin.

Weekend Workshop 2003: The 2003 Weekend Workshop will be May 30-June 1, 2003 at Stronghold in Oregon, IL. Musicians for the event are *The Music of Spey* (Calum MacKinnon, Andy Imbrie, and Ralph Gordon). Watch this space for further information and mark your calendars.

2001-2002 Committee of Management: Mike Millin, Honorary Chair; Katherine Andrefsky, Honorary Secretary; Carlyn Bromann, Honorary Treasurer; Jeanne Millin, Liz Stake, and Noel Chávez - Members at Large.

Demo Team Events: The Demo team would like to invite you to their upcoming demos: Saturday, August 31st, Saegerfest in Blue Island, IL at 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, September 1st, Fox Valley Folk Festival in Geneva, IL at 2:00 p.m.; Saturday, September 14th at Celtic Fest, Grant Park, Chicago, IL at 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 28th at the Midlothian Scottish Fair in Midlothian, IL at 2:30 p.m.; and Saturday, December 14th at the Museum of Science and Industry at 12:24 p.m. It's always nice to see a familiar face in the audience!

RSCDS Chicago Branch 2002-2003 Schedule	
Silk & Thistle class moves to the Fermilab Barn	Tuesday, 9/3 7:30 p.m.
Loch Michigan Class starts, St Josaphats Hall	Sunday, 9/8 6:00 p.m.
<i>Madison Social Dance</i>	Sunday, 9/8
Chicago Celtic Fest demo, Grant Park	Saturday, 9/14 12:30 p.m.
Chicago Branch Open House	Sunday, 9/22 6:00 p.m.
ScotReel fall classes begin	Thursday, 9/26 7:30 p.m.
Midlothian Scottish Fair Demo	Saturday, 9.28 2:30 p.m.
<i>Milwaukee Halloween Dance</i>	Saturday 10/26
Semi-Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 11/3 6:00 p.m.
Fall Dance: Frolic on the Fox 7, St. Charles	Saturday, 11/16 7:30 p.m.
<i>Madison Social Dance</i>	Saturday, 12/14
Chicago Branch Holiday Party, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 12/15 6:00 p.m.
NY Ball Walkthrough, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 1/5 6:00 p.m.
2003 New Year's Ball, Ukrainian Cultural Center	Saturday, 1/11/03
2003 Tea Dance, Irish American Heritage Center	Sunday, 1/12/03
<i>Madison Ball</i>	Saturday 3/29
Chicago Branch Spring Dance/Tartan Day, St Jo's	Sunday, 4/6 6:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 5/4 6:00 p.m.
<i>Iowa Ball</i>	Saturday – Sunday, 5/10-5/11
Workshop Walkthrough, last class St. Josaphats	Sunday, 5/18
Weekend Workshop 2003, Oregon, IL	Friday-Sunday, 5/30-6/1

A Couple of Interesting URLs: If you have access to the Internet, you might want to check out these URLs:

- Pictures from Avril's Quarrie's 60th birthday party: <http://homepage.mac.com/drquarrie/Avril60th>
- Pictures from the "first-ever" underwater SCD, specially composed for 3 dimensions by Mel Briscoe for a combined SCD and scuba diving week on the island of Bonaire in the southern Caribbean: <http://www.buddydive.com/News.html>

A Pinewoods Postoperative: Martha Phillips of the Madison group attended Pinewoods for the first time this year and posted the following to the Strathspey mailing list. I extracted bits that seem to convey a lot of how we feel about SCD.

I find writing of Scottish Country Dancing to be, ultimately, as unsatisfying as trying to take photographs of Scottish Country Dancers. My photographs come out flat, sterile, unable to capture the lightning bolts of energy in the air, the joy and hint of tension as we wend our way through a dance. A photograph certainly cannot capture the sheer explosion of noise and ferocity during the final six-hands-round during the final dance, once-and-to-the-bottom. A photograph cannot capture "the look," if you are ever lucky enough to receive it from someone. It makes the heart stop.

Admittedly, the problem may be with my photography. *grin* Even so, I often try to write to my family and friends and convey what I've experienced. Upon proofing it, I realized that it's the best I can do - and I haven't done nearly enough.

We are a unique family, those of us who haunt the halls and cities of the RSCDS. We often squirm against the rigid rules and guidelines that govern our art, and yet these rules and guidelines allow us to travel the world and join a dance anywhere, regardless of differences in culture or language. We obsess for the next event, the next dance, practise next week, and yet we struggle to improve our membership, to make the newbies 'stick,' to avoid scaring them away. We are devoted to and filled by this dance, and yet we find ourselves hard-pressed to adequately explain it to those not of our ranks.

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