

# RSCDS, Chicago Branch

## The Blethers

Greg Canfield, Chair

September 2006  
<http://rscds-chicago.org>

Sue McKinnell, Editor

**The Start of the Dancing Season:** It's time to start the dance season again! Loch Mich dancing starts Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at St Josaphat's Parish Hall. Silk & Thistle danced all through the summer and is back at the Kuhn Barn at Fermilab starting Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. The Loch Mich Open House will be Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to put the flyer (enclosed with this Blethers) up in a public space to invite/encourage others to come try out Scottish Country Dancing. Make copies - put several up! Let's let lots of other people know how much fun this dancing is!

**Membership:** Since it's the Fall, it's time once again to sign up as a member of the Branch. Your membership dues support the Branch and help with dance events, such as Fall and Spring dances, the Holiday party, the New Year's Ball, and summer dancing. A copy of the membership form is included with this Blethers. Don't forget to fill it out and send it in with your dues!

**2007 New Year's Ball:** The New Year's Ball is scheduled for January 13, 2007 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Barbara McOwen, Anne Hooper, and a pianist will perform. Watch the website for more information; the dance program, crib sheet, and registration form will be available there soon.

**Weekend Workshop 2007:** We will return to Beloit College for the annual Weekend Workshop June 8-10, 2007. Elaine Brunken will be the main teacher this year. More information will be posted to the website and included in future Blethers as it becomes available.

**Upcoming Parties:** Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year, so Silk & Thistle plans to throw a big party during the regular class time. This is always fun with most dancers devising outrageous and amusing costumes. (You are not required to come in costume, however; just come dance.) The Loch Mich Holiday Party will be Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Silk & Thistle will celebrate the holidays at the December 19<sup>th</sup> class. There will not be a *Frolic on the Fox* this year, but the Branch is investigating options for a Fall Dance. Watch the Blethers and website for more information.

**2007 SAGM:** This year's SAGM will be held Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> before the regular Loch Mich class. The main purpose of this meeting is to approve the Treasurer's report. You must be a member of the Branch to vote, but all are welcome to come to the meeting.

**Expanded Web Presence:** There is a plan to expand the presence of the Branch on the web. One thing to be added to the website is the set of all *The Blethers* currently available. These go back to the start of the Branch and are interesting and fun reading. Once these have been converted to PDF and uploaded, the plan is to place each Blethers on the web once the next issue comes out. Another goal is to post officer duties and the Branch constitution to the web so they are available to all interested in the Branch. This will complement the effort Doug Jensen is currently working on to archive all Branch documents to preserve them. If you have ideas about what to save, either to the archive or to the website, or if you have documents pertaining to the Branch or copies of older Blethers, please let Doug, Sue, or a member of the COM know.

**News from Headquarters:** Headquarters no longer publishes an annual book of dances. Each member will now receive the *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine twice a year. Members should receive these magazines at their home address; if you are a member and do not receive your magazines, check with Noel Chávez.

**2005-2006 Committee of Management:** Greg Canfield, Honorary Chair; Noel Chávez, Honorary Secretary; David Neuffer, Honorary Treasurer; Corinne McArdle, Mady Newfield, and Mary Pankonen - Members at Large.

Upcoming Events in the Midwest	
Event	Date
Silk & Thistle returns to the Barn	September 5, 2006
First Loch Mich Class	September 10, 2006
<i>Chicago Celtic Fest (demo 12:30 September 16)</i>	<i>September 16-17, 2006</i>
Loch Mich Fall Open House	September 24, 2006
<i>Midlothian Scottish Fair (demo)</i>	<i>September 30, 2006</i>
<i>Milwaukee Halloween Dance</i>	<i>October 28, 2006</i>
Silk & Thistle Halloween Party	October 31, 2006
SAGM	November 12, 2006
<i>Twin Cities Failte Ball (tentative date)</i>	<i>December 9, 2006</i>
Loch Mich Holiday Party	December 17, 2006
Silk & Thistle Holiday Party	December 19, 2006
New Years Ball Walkthrough	January 7, 2007
<b>New Years Ball</b>	<b>January 13, 2007</b>
Loch Mich - no class	January 14, 2007
<i>Twin Cities Annual Grand Ball (tentative date)</i>	<i>March 10, 2007</i>
<i>Madison Ball</i>	<i>April 7, 2007</i>
AGM	May 6, 2007
<i>Iowa Ball</i>	<i>May 12, 2007</i>
<b>Weekend Workshop</b>	<b>June 8-10, 2007</b>
<i>Highland Mist Ball</i>	<i>June 23, 2007</i>

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Here's a website that tells the story behind the song Mairi's Wedding and the woman for whom it was written:  
<http://www.standingstones.com/songorg.html>

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#### The Talented Octopus

A guy walks into a bar with an octopus. He sits the octopus down on a stool and tells everyone in the bar that this is a very talented octopus. "He can plan any musical instrument in the world."

Everyone in the bar laughs at the man, calling him an idiot. So he says that he will wager \$50 to anyone who has an instrument that the octopus can't play.

A customer walks up with a guitar and sets it beside the octopus. Immediately the octopus picks up the guitar and starts playing better than Jimi Hendrix. The guitar owner pays up the \$50.

Another customer walks up with a trumpet. This time the octopus plays the trumpet better than Miles Davis. The trumpet owner coughs up the \$50.

Then a Scotsman plonks some bagpipes on the table. The octopus fumbles with the bagpipes for a minute, then backs off with a confused look. "Hal!" the Scot says. "Can ye nae play it?" The octopus looks up at him and says. "Play it? I'm going to more than play it as soon as I figure out how to get its pajamas off."

**2005-2006 Committee of Management:** Carlyn Bromann, Honorary Chair; Noel Chávez, Honorary Secretary; Greg Canfield, Honorary Treasurer; Doug Jensen, Mady Newfield, and Mary Pankonen - Members at Large.