

---

---

# THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

---

---

Volume 17, Issue 5

March/April 2001

---

---

## *Manager's Message*

By Geri Stuart

Hello Everyone!

Hope you are enjoying all the dance classes, dances, and workshops, and balls in the area. There is so much to choose from and not enough time! If there is anything special you'd like the group to do, please let me know.

And if you know of any events where we could participate, go ahead and ask.

We try to keep you posted via the web page as much as possible in addition to the announcements during class. And don't be afraid to bring someone new with you!

I just want to add a special "Thank you" to all of you who helped make our annual Dinner/Dance such a special event. I think we had a great time, thanks!

See you on the dance floor!



## DANCE TECHNIQUE

By Marge Van Nus

"sounds daunting"

"sounds like work"

"it's-not-for-me-I'm-a-social-dancer"

1. Scary, it's not! It is simply good posture with arms comfortably at our sides. And how easy it is to raise a hand (on extended arm from the shoulder) to greet those we meet in the dance with a handshake. It is knowing where to be, how to phrase formations, with the music. It's being considerate of other dancers when giving hands, either at our own shoulder level or at the level of the shorter dancer. It is moving in unison with a partner.
2. Work, it could be—depending on each individual's desire to dance well, or to the Dance Standard. Turnout of the leg, closing in third position, dancing on the balls of the feet, dancing up over the floor, perfecting a three beat Pas-de Basque takes concentrated effort. We all work at our own

physical capabilities, striving for improvement. Once technique becomes second nature the ease with which we dance adds greatly to our enjoyment and frees us to converse with our partner.

3. "It's-not-for-me-I'm-a-social-dancer." We are all social dancers! - who enjoy Scotland's traditional dance, which spans many centuries. "Social" implies a gathering of people, enjoying each others company with polite manners and thoughtful consideration, no matter their age, expertise, or physical ability. We give helpful hands, we speak with our eyes as well as our voices and, sometimes, with a slight nod of the head. Because we all enjoy the dance, smiles come easily and automatically. What a joyful way to leave our daily cares behind, live the moment, meshing motion and music, among friends.



## *Irish Ceili Tour 2001*

For all you dancing travelers, here's another kind of "dancing" tour. Kevin O'Callaghan and Ginger Aarons are hosting "Irish Ceili Tour 2001".

The preliminary itinerary shows the travelers leaving for Dublin on August 8, 2001. In the following two weeks, you feast, dance, and party your way from Dublin, to Kinsale (gourmet capitol of Ireland), to Killarney, to the farewell Medieval feast at Bunratty Castle. Along the way, there will be Irish dancing and music sessions, and lots of opportunities for exploratory side trips, sightseeing, and shopping.

According to the brochure, the hosts can also *individualize* the tour by booking an earlier arrival time or extending the stay.

The cost is \$2900 per person, based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$250 per person is required by March 30, 2001 with the balance due no later than June 8<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, contact **Time Travel**, 14335 SW Allen Blvd., Suite 100, Beaverton, OR, 97005, or call toll-free: 877-787-7807, or 503-646-3700. You can also email Time Travel at [GDAA@aol.com](mailto:GDAA@aol.com).

## Calendar of Events

- Mar 24 **Spring Ball - Ashland, OR** - Britt Ballroom, Southern Oregon Univ., 1250 Siskiyou Blvd. - A mixed program of Scottish and English Country Dances! - Review 12:30-4:00pm, Ball 7:30pm - \$16.00 admission, please register by March 16 - Music: Glenn Freese (guitar), Kimberly McKittrick (fiddle), Nancy Spencer (recorder, flute, whistle) - info: Betty Shotliff, 541-482-3120
- Apr 6 **National Tartan Day**, recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States.
- Apr 11 **Vancouver Class Spring Session** -- Rudy Luepke Center (adjacent to the Marshall Center), 7:45 – 9:00pm
- Apr 14 **Portland, OR - SCDance Party** – Tigard Grange, 7:30pm. \$4. For info: John 503-635-3885 blackjohns@aol.com, or Debbie 503-620-3034 mdmcrib@integrityonline.com
- Apr 20-22 **The Pearl Holmberg Workshop for Teachers and Musicians** -- Presented by the RSCDS Vancouver Branch, in Vancouver, BC Master Classes with incomparable instructors -- planned especially for Scottish Country Dance teachers and musicians. For more information, contact: Angela Gauld at (604) 270-4241 or email [angelag@intergate.ca](mailto:angelag@intergate.ca) or visit their website: <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/>
- May 19 **Vancouver Spring Dance** – Oak/Elm Room at the Marshall Center). Dance 8-11PM. For info, contact Geri 360-834-3757.
- Sept 7-9 **Fort Worden 2001** – Workshop and Ball. Additional details will be available in the coming months. Or check the Seattle website: [www.scn.org/arts/scottish](http://www.scn.org/arts/scottish).

### While Surfin' the Scottish Web

Would you believe... SCD *cartoons*? Or, to put it another way, have you ever wished that the squares and the circles in the Pilling diagrams would just move around on the page a bit to give you hint of how the dance flows?

I found a website where a fellow (James Smith) has created just that: animated diagrams of over 100 dances, in which the squares and the circles move around in time to music! As Mr. Smith describes them:

“Learn new dances or refresh your memory with easy to follow animated diagrams. Coloured squares & circles move to music in the patterns of the dances. 168 dances now available on CD ROM (Windows only, sorry) or videotape. The selection is based on dances popular in the Vancouver area.

“They are presented in two versions: the first shows one or two repetitions of the dance with music; the second has pauses between formations with a spoken description; both versions have captions. Any part of the action can be stopped and replayed. There is also a selection of formations alone.

“There is no attempt to illustrate steps or technique, only patterns and formations.

“I am a member of Gleneagles SCDC in North Vancouver, BC, and have been working to develop

these animations since shortly after starting to learn SCD a few years ago, as a logical improvement on printed dance directions in the computer age.”

According to his web page, you can order a CD-ROM of these dances from:

James Smith  
44 - 1001 Northlands Drive  
North Vancouver, BC, V7H 2Y3

The price of the CD is US\$25. More information is available on his website:

<http://members.home.net/dancimation/scd.html>

His web page also has a couple of demo animations which you can view before buying the CD.

Enjoy!

*Do you have an item of Celtic interest you would like to see in print?*

You can contact me in any of the following ways:

By mail:

John Shaw - SCD  
PO Box 2438  
Battle Ground, WA 98604-2438

By email: [bcjs@pacifier.com](mailto:bcjs@pacifier.com)