

Carolinas Branch News

Vol. 8, No. 1

Winter, 2018

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. Our new year is just getting under way, and we have high hopes for it. Included here is information about a unique retirement project (for older dancers only), and news about the reorganization that must take place next year. The next newsletter will come out after the AGM in the spring. Deadline for copy is May 1, 2018. Please send PICTURES! And write LETTERS!

Tom Dillon, editor (tdillon27127@earthlink.net) or (336) 725-2760

To access the Website for the Carolinas Branch, visit:

www.rscdscarolinasbranch.org

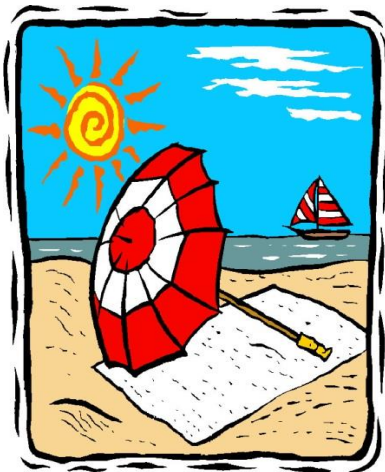
Group Seeks Dance/Music Retirement Community

This is the text of a letter sent recently from a group in the North Carolina Triangle. It is presented here for those who might be interested. The proposed home was also the subject of a story in a recent issue of the Country Dance and Song Society newsletter.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are a group of musicians and dancers and organizers in the Triangle area who want to age in a community centered around music and dance. We are inviting you to join us.

For several years, we've researched options and decided to create our own: a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) that emphasizes self-determination and autonomy, purpose and meaning, music and dance. We are incorporated as a 501(c)3 educational non-profit organization under the name "Triangle Traditional Music and Dance Retirement Society" (TTMADRS; aka '2T') as we continue to pursue a plan to create a new way to live in retirement.



At first, we reached out to our friends from traditional music and dance groups, particularly Contra and English Country Dance. Then, we extended our outreach to people from a broader variety of traditions and interests. You are receiving this either because you've expressed interest in our project or someone in

our group knows you and thinks you may be interested. Whether you are a dancer, musician or someone who enjoys being surrounded by either, we would like you to know more about us and our vision.

Many of us already help each other during illness and adversity through informal acts of kindness and a system of “care teams” that provide help when one of us is sick or injured. We also gather together in various celebrations, music jam sessions, song fests, performances. We don't want to give up these pleasures as we age and we know that eventually it will be harder to leave our homes to enjoy the traditions and each other's company and caring. The combination of privacy, frequent congregate socializing, and organized support makes a retirement community an attractive option for many of us.

This type of community would contribute valuable resources to the surrounding area by providing new jobs and by attracting actively engaged retired volunteers who have skills as musicians, teachers, mentors and organizers. We intend to include a dance hall with performing space for our own use as well as for the wider community, as a source of operating funds.

Here are some of the actions we've already taken to reach our goals:

1. Designed and presented over a dozen educational workshops about the realities of aging in the United States and how we can respond to those realities.
2. Hired a specialist to conduct a feasibility/market study. It determined that we could confidently move ahead.
3. Selected development consultants (<http://actionpact.com/>) to help us create a development plan. (Currently setting up dates for design meetings.)
4. Engaged in a fundraising campaign to pay Action Pact and other professionals to guide us through the design process.

Does this seem interesting to you? If so, please join us at our next educational workshop. Or visit the web site at www.dancingintoretirementnc.org.

Chairwoman's Letter: A New Year Beckons

Hello Scottish Country Dancers!



Spring will soon be here. The Valentine's Dance sponsored by the Durham-Chapel Hill Scottish Country Dancers will be behind us by the time you read this. The two wonderful dances at the Loch Norman Highland Games April 20 and 21 will still be ahead and greatly anticipated. Once again, Eilean Yates has arranged for two fine musicians to come from Scotland, Luke Brady and Scott Cunningham, who will be playing with our own Mara Shea on fiddle. This is a wonderful event, not to be missed. On that following Sunday morning, April 22 at 9:30 AM, the Carolinas Branch will hold its Annual General Meeting at Hopewell Church where the

dances are held.

There is important business to consider at our AGM. Next year will be an election year and I will not be standing for office. We need to have those interested to come forward to serve as officers. New candidates need to submit a signed statement of their willingness to serve and also have two other members recommend them for office. For the purposes of nomination, a personal email will be considered as a signature. Also, Tom Dillon has done a wonderful job as our newsletter editor, and he wishes to have a replacement. If you enjoy dancing, consider how you might contribute to its ongoing activities and lend your talents. We now have funds to use to help with dance events. At last year's AGM, there was not a quorum to approve the request for funds from individual groups to be approved by the Board. The President has a small amount to grant in our discretionary fund only. Since we cover such a large geographic area, a request to the Board for funds from local groups seems to me to be the fairest way forward for the Branch to support dance activities. This will be an agenda item this year. Please attend our AGM, as it rarely exceeds one hour.

Branch activities come from the members. What ideas would you like to see come into fruition? Together we can do things that no single person can. What is your dream for the future?

See you on the dance floor. Happy dancing!

Mary McConnell

And a Little More About this Newsletter . . .

The newsletter is currently coming out three times a year – in the winter to preview the year, in the spring to report on the AGM and to preview the summer, and in the fall to preview what's coming through the winter. To anyone who's interested: I have other things I want to do, but I don't intend to stop writing for it. That should, I hope, help take care of the problem all letters like this have of not being able to get people to contribute.

Tom Dillon

How to contact the officers

Here are names and addresses for the Carolinas Branch officers:

Chair

Mary McConnell

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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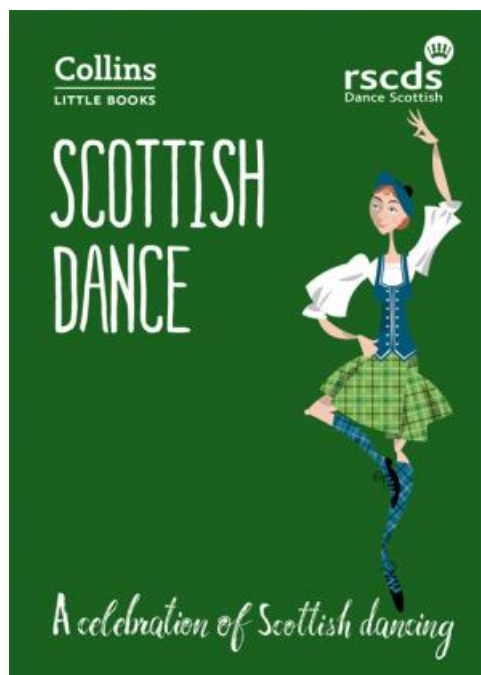
Bits and pieces

■ Since we're late with this edition (Apologies!), here's a brief report on the **Valentine's Dance** sponsored by the Durham-Chapel Hill group Feb. 17. It took place in the new social hall at the Chapel in the Pines, Chapel Hill, N.C., with music by Copious Notes, **Julie Gorka** on keyboards and **Mara Shea** on fiddle. **Barbara Youngman, Eilean Yates** and **Pam Stephens** did the calling. That's the same church that has played host to an end-of-the-year dance for the Chapel Hill beginners' class the last two years, and it really is in the pines, on a still-unpaved road (Hurrah!) south of town. Some old ((The Wild Geese), some new (Gothenburg Welcome), and a fine soup supper afterwards. Great dance on a good new floor.

■ Thanks to Richmond and Greensboro dancers who evaluated dances submitted for the upcoming **RSCDS Book 52**. The evaluations were consolidated and submitted to Headquarters by the August 31 deadline. When the book is published, we will discover if any of our favorites made it in. RSCDS has also uploaded videos of dances from the **RSCDS Book 51** to YouTube

for everyone to watch and enjoy! Please [go to YouTube to see the full playlist](#). In addition, RSCDS Music Director Ian Muir has created a set of teaching track files for the dances from Book 51. These are aimed primarily at use in class and break down the original tune in to the correct bar-sequences for each part of the dance (for example, Bars 1-8, 9-16, 1-16, etc.)

■ The **Collins Book** has been updated and re-designed. Some new dances have been added, and the distinction between RSCDS dances and dances from other sources has been dropped. There is a note on the history of Scottish dancing, and a helpful guide to steps and formations. If you have been asked to call at a ceilidh or help to run a new group, this little book is ideal, RSCDS says. It is also the perfect present for friends who are taking to the dance floor for the first time. You can get your copy via the RSCDS website.



■ Summer School booking is now open. Early bird pricing is available, but only for a short time, so be sure to book your spot now. For more information [please visit our website](#). If you have any questions please get in touch with Events Manager [Moira Thomson](#).

■ For a handy **Membership Form** to join or renew your membership in RSCDS and the Carolinas branch, go to the Branch Website (at the top of this newsletter) and click on Membership Application. Dues are \$40 for single memberships, \$66 for two adults at the same address, \$33 for young adults age 18 to 24, and \$5 for associate members from another branch. Send forms and dues by June 30 to Brian Youngman, 702 Newport Circle, Cary, N.C. 27511.

■ We hope that everyone in the branch is receiving the newsletter. If you're not, you will have to get this notice second-hand, of course, but we still hope you will respond. If you're not getting the newsletter, please let either the editor or branch secretary know. **If you don't have email**, telephone the editor (see the number at the top) and let him know. We'll be glad to print out copies and send them to you by U.S. mail.

2018 Calendar

February 17, 2018	Valentine's Dance	Chapel Hill, N.C. (919) 467-3390 or culzean20002@gmail.com
February 18-23	RSCDS Winter School	Pitlochry, Scotland www.rscds.org or moira.thomson@rscds.org
February 25	Liz Donaldson Celebration	Columbia, Md. www.rscds-greaterdc.org
March 10	Snowdrop Ball	Arlington, Va. www.rscds-greaterdc.org
March 16-18	Atlanta Branch Spring Workshop	Helen, Ga. www.rscds-atlanta.org
March 23-24	34 th Spring Fling (Florida)	Cocoa Beach, Fla. 321-255-2756 or jamesekutzner@gmail.com
March 24	St. Patrick's Day Dance	Richmond, Va. (804) 678-8927 or www.richmondscottishcountrydancers.org
April 7	John Middleton Ball	Hamilton, Ontario (905) 522 2151 or www.rscdshamilton.org
April 20-22	Spring Fling	Glasgow, Scotland www.rscds.org/events or www.springfling2018.com
April 20-22	Loch Norman Highland Games	Huntersville, N.C. (704) 857-3113 or www.lochnorman.com
April 22	Carolinas Branch AGM	Huntersville, N.C. (336) 282-6507 or www.rscdscarolinasbranch.org
May 11-13	54 th Pawling Weekend	Copake, N.Y. (917) 912-3372 or www.rscdsnewyork.org
May 11-13	Capital Weekend	Kensington, Md. (301) 564-0097 or www.rscds-greaterdc.org
May 18-20	Highland Ball Weekend	Weston and Melrose, Mass. www.rscdsboston.org

May 19-20	Smoky Mountain Highland Games*	Maryville, Tenn. www.smokymountaingames.org
May 26	Greenville, S.C., Scottish Games*	Greenville, S.C. www.Gallabrae.com
June 9-10	Blairsville Highland Games*	Blairsville, Ga. www.rscds-atlanta.org
July 2-6	English-Scottish Sessions	Plymouth, Mass. www.rscdsboston.org
July 6-9, 9-14	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions	Plymouth, Mass. (518) 316-1234 or www.rscdsboston.org
July 8-13	Thistle SchoolXXXVIII	Banner Elk, N.C. www.thistleschool.com
July 12-15	Grandfather Mountain Games	Linville, N.C. www.gmhg.org
July 15-August 12	RSCDS Summer School	St. Andrews, Scotland info@rscds.org or www.rscds.org
July 29-Aug. 5	TAC Summer School (Canada)	Minneapolis, Minn. www.tac-rscds.org
September 14-16	Timber Ridge Scottish Weekend	Highview, W.Virginia (301) 622-5945 or www.scottishweekend.org
October 19-21	Stone Mountain Games/Dances	Atlanta, Ga. www.rscds-atlanta.org or www.smhg.org
October 26-28	Asilomar Weekend	Monterey, Calif. www.rscds-sf.org/events
November 17	35 th St. Andrews Ball	Greensboro, N.C. (336) 282-6507 or www.gsosclds.org

Web sites and phone numbers are those available to the editor at the time of publication.

*Dancing on the field only