

The White Cockade

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society

<http://www.pittsburghscottishcountrydance.org>; <http://www.pscds.org>
September 2017



LET'S GET STARTED!

Dancing is off and running and we hope to see you all back on the dance floor! Here's the current schedule:

Mondays: September 11, 18, 25 and then regularly thereafter.

Saturdays: First Saturday dancing is September 30, and then regularly thereafter.

REHEARSALS FOR THE LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES

The Ligonier Highland Games are coming up fast, on Saturday, September 23.

SHOWTIMES

11:00 a.m. Raccoon Stage (45 minute show). We need everybody for this one!

1:00 p.m. Raccoon Stage (some demo, but mostly audience participation: 45 minutes)

4:00 or 4:30 p.m. Highland Dancing Pavilion (30 minute show)

7:00 p.m. Carriage Hall at the Ligonier Country Inn, Laughlintown (6 miles further east, through Ligonier): 30 minute show during the evening ceilidh.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond to Janet Walker's inquiry regarding your availability and willingness to dance at any or all of these performances, please get in touch right away (412-835-4602, walker@chatham.edu).

REHEARSALS

We will be performing our usual "favorites" at all these shows. Arthur McNair has kindly agreed to circulate a briefing sheet of all the dances (not all will be used at all performances). You are responsible for being familiar with the dances in which you dance; there will be brief walk-throughs, time permitting, on the day of the shows.

We have been rehearsing *some* of the dances already, on August 21 and 28, and will continue to do *some of them* on September 11 and 18. **There will be a full rehearsal on Thursday evening, September 21, at Grace Church, at 7:30 p.m. Please be sure to come to class and to attend the September 21 rehearsal in order to prepare for our performances.**

Dances for 11:00 a.m.: The Barmkin, The White Cockade, Shiftin' Bobbins, The Piper and the Penguin, The Minister on the Loch, Catch the Wind, On the Quarterdeck, The Flirt, The Robertson Rant, The Flowers of Edinburgh, The Drunken Sailor [also The Scotsman's Choice, 3 dancers only]

Dances for 1:00 p.m.: This demonstration is designed as a workshop for the general public. In the past, we have danced The Prince of Orange, The Welcome Dance, The Loon Mountain Reel, The Hospitality Circle, Circle of Cheer, Tam o' Shanter, The Machine without Horses, Espie McNabb, and others made up on the spot, like Peanut Butter and Jelly. No special preparation or walk-throughs are planned for this demo. Please just show up and help our guests to have a good time!

Dances for 4:00 /4:30 p.m.: This is a slightly shorter performance (30 minutes) including audience participation at the end. Program TBA, may include: The Piper and the Penguin, Back to the Fireside, MacDonald of the Isles, The Clansman, The Robertson Rant, Starlight.



Dances for 7:00 p.m.: A short show TBA, depending on the availability of dancers. The floor is finished concrete; we will do all strathspeys and audience participation.

Directions to the Ligonier Country Inn in Laughlintown: When leaving Idlewild Park, turn right (east) on to Route 30 and continue through Ligonier about 6 miles (20 minutes) to Laughlintown, past "Ligonier Beach" and signs for Linn Run State Park. Watch for the Compass Museum on your right: it has several US flags hanging out front. The Ligonier Country Inn is immediately after it, on your right. The Inn comprises several buildings and you may park anywhere convenient, behind the museum on the grass (the area will be floodlit), or behind any of the other buildings. The Carriage Hall is the furthest building from the Museum.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, 15-17 September—Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, WV

Saturday 23 September—Ligonier Highland Games



Saturday 28 October—Halloween Dance

Saturday 16 December—Christmas Party

Saturday 6 January 2018—Classes resume

Saturday-Sunday 24-25 March 2018—Pittsburgh's 37th Annual Highland Ball. And we'll be back at the George Washington Hotel on Main Street, in Washington, PA, with Highland Square as our music, once again.

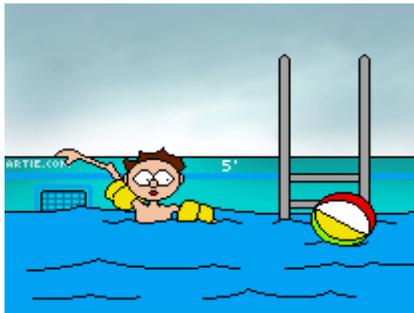
WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY

Saturday 20 May—Jacobite Night at Grace Church. We had a lovely Jacobite Night and danced our 18th century favorites

to candlelight. Many thanks to all who brought lots of delicious refreshments.

Saturday 10 June—Annual General Meeting, Sylan Canoe Club. We held our AGM out on the sunny porch and enjoyed a potluck supper, with dancing afterwards. We congratulate the new officers for 2017-18 and thank them for their work on behalf of PSCDS:

President: Lisa Klemmer
Vice-President: Lyn Orr
Secretary: Arthur McNair
Treasurer: Joyce Moore
Social Chair: Ruth Martt
At large: Kay Donovan



Saturday 5 August—Diana Galbraith’s Pool Party. Nineteen of us came to Diana’s party and, as always, we enjoyed the lovely pool, the great potluck lunch, dancing on the front porch, and some musical and poetical recitations! Thank you so much for having us, Diana! [Bottles of forgotten sunscreen—Coppertone and Hawaiian tropics--may be retrieved from the white cabinet at Grace!]

“DON’TS” FOR DANCERS

From *Advice for Dancers*, London & Black, Co., 1925, reprinted in the Orange Co. Branch Newsletter and the *Tartan Times*, vol. lx, no. 5, May-June 2012, 6. Amended by the editor.

*Don’t imagine you will never make a dancer because you are by nature clumsy. Dancing will cure you. It will train you to

move and hold yourself gracefully. It will conquer your self-consciousness.

*Don’t say you are too tired to dance because you had a tiring day. Your mind and your muscles need change of exercise, and dancing gives you this in a happy atmosphere. The exhilaration of the music and the stimulus of your fellow-dancers’ society will make you forget that you are worn out.

*Don’t say you can’t afford to dance although you love it. Try economizing on something less healthful. You’ll find it worthwhile.

*Don’t stay away from a dance because you happen to be feeling glum. Don’t look glum, that’s all. Dancing will cure any fit of the blues.



*Don’t be too shy to dance. You will be surprised, once you have taken the plunge, how quickly the shyness wears off.

*Don’t say your dancing days are done. Your dancing days are never done until you are confined in a bath chair for exercise. If you can walk to the office in the morning and play a game of golf on Sundays, there is no reason why you shouldn’t foot with the best every night of the week. A person is only as old as he feels, and under proper conditions, dancing is such a wonderful rejuvenator that there is no reason why anyone should feel old at all. Moreover, don’t forget that dancing is a splendid anti-fat. It will cure that middle-aged spread you are getting alarmed about.



*Don't hesitate to speak up if someone makes you uncomfortable in the dance, either by pulling you or pushing you into place, wrenching your arm, or gripping your hand too tightly. Say "ouch!" And do report any particular problems to the teacher. Let's be careful with each other.



SCOTTISH SUPERLATIVES

The longest steep hill in the UK is the road from Lochcarron to Applecross. In six miles, it rises from sea-level to 2054 feet, an average gradient of 1 in 15.4.

The highest driveable "road" in Britain is the unclassified estate track reaching to the Cairngorms summit of Ben a'Bhuird (3860 feet).

The highest golf course in Britain is one of nine holes at Leadhills, 1500 feet above sea-level.



The earliest recorded rock climb in Britain was of Stac na Biorrach, St. Kilda, by Sir Robert Moray in 1698.

The highest classified road in Britain is the A93 Cairnwell Pass between Blairgowrie and Braemar. It reaches a height of 2199 feet.

The lowest population density in the UK is found in the Highlands and Islands, with many places having only four to five people per square mile.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASSES IN PITTSBURGH



We welcome all beginners, all the time! Instruction given from 7-8 p.m. almost every time we meet.

Place: We dance at Grace Church, 319 West Sycamore Street, Mt. Washington, Pittsburgh PA 15211 (corner of Bertha and Sycamore Streets). Parking on the street.

Times: 7:00 p.m. Steps and Formations: beginners always welcome.
8:00 p.m. Social Dancing (until 9:15 p.m. on Mondays; 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Mondays:

September 11, 18, 25; October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11. Classes resume January 8, 2018.

Saturdays:

September 30; October 7, 14, 21 (TBA), 28 (Halloween Party); November 4, 11, 18, 25; December 2, 9, 16 (Christmas Party).

DUES ARE DUE NOW



Please remit your annual dues to our treasurer, Joyce Moore, either at dancing or by mail (3242 Beechwood Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15217). Fees have not changed: \$20 for an individual, and \$30 for a family. Checks payable to "PSCDS Inc." Don't delay, so that we may distribute a new address list! Thank you!

In addition to signing up to bring refreshments on Saturday evenings, you may now also sign up dances that you would like to do again, and dances you would like to suggest for the ball.

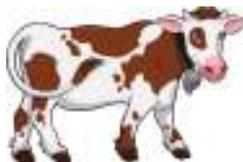
FASCINATING FUN FACTS!

From *The Scots Magazine*, June 2016, 128-29.

Football was introduced to World Cup winners in Argentina by Alexander Hutton, a Scottish teacher, in 1892.



It is still an offence to be intoxicated and in charge of a cow in Scotland. It allegedly carries a penalty fine of up to 1500 pounds excluding the costs of looking after the cow.



Scotland established the world's first skating club in Edinburgh in 1742. To qualify as a member, applicants had to prove their ability to skate a complete circle and to jump over three hats.

The grand piano was invented by John Broadwood, a carpenter from East Lothian in or around 1777. He also came up with the foot-pedal method for varying the sound of the keys.



Alexander Graham Bell wanted to name his second daughter Photophone after a wireless phone he invented that was powered by sunshine. His wife objected to the name and she was called Marion instead.

American President Franklin D. Roosevelt made his Scottie dog an honorary private in the US army, with his own press secretary. His full name was "Murray the Outlaw of Falahill" in honor of one of Roosevelt's Scottish ancestors.



The world's first infant school was founded in 1817 in New Lanark.

"Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott" is an anagram of "A novel by a Scottish writer."

When the potato was introduced to Europe in the early 17th century, Scots refused to eat it because it wasn't mentioned in the Bible.

The buttons on the sleeves of a traditional Highland dress have their origins in the British army. They were introduced to stop soldiers wiping their noses on their sleeves.

The penguin parade at Edinburgh Zoo began in 1951 when a keeper accidentally left a gate open.



The world famous Beatles *Abbey Road* cover was taken by Scottish photographer Iain Macmillan.

Sanquhar in Dumfries and Galloway is home to the world's oldest post office, established in 1712.

PSCDS Contacts

Website: www.pscds.org or www.pittsburghscottishcountrydance.org

Webmaster: Arthur McNair
412 915 0585
Arthur.mcnair@verizon.net

President
Lisa Klemmer
412 364 0124
lklemmer3@comcast.net

Vice President
Lyn Orr
412 782 2957
lynreedorr@gmail.com

Secretary
Arthur McNair
C 412 915 0585
Arthur.mcnair@verizon.net

Treasurer
Joyce Moore
412 445 9141
Jm5h000@gmail.com

Social Chair
Ruth Martt
412 854 4122
remartt2@gmail.com

Ball Chair
Linda McNair
H 412 782 3226
C 412 860 4300
sevenofvelvet@gmail.com

Demo Contacts
Arthur McNair
412 915 0585
Arthur.mcnair@verizon.net

Demo Coordinator
Janet Lois Walker
412 835 4602
walker@chatham.edu

TEACHERS

Janet Lois Walker
412 835 4602
walker@chatham.edu

Arthur McNair [also photographer]
412 915 0585
Arthur.mcnair@verizon.net

The White Cockade
Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society, Inc.
Letters, comments, suggestions to the Editor
Janet Lois Walker, 412 835-4602 walker@chatham.edu