
THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

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SCD Featured in Library Display

By Susan Shaw

Be sure to check out the big display window at the **Fort Vancouver Library** during the month of January. The Vancouver USA SCD group gathered photos of various events from the past two years, to show how accessible Scottish Country Dancing is to young and old, as well as those dressed in kilts, shorts, and even trousers. You might hurry down to see a picture of yourself caught dancing.

The universality of our dancing shows up in pictures from our group's tour to Japan as well as pictures of Scottish Country Dancing from Australia and Italy. There's lots of information about what Scottish Country Dancing is and where to do it in Southwest Washington.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed their Scottish tartans, ghillies, books, maps, dolls, stuffed animals and flowers. The nine-foot long display case is colorful and interesting. It has already succeeded in attracting lots of onlookers. Our special thanks to Liza Halpenny for creating the beautiful banner and posters, and for scanning in all those photos that came out so well!

Calendar of Events

- Jan 6 **First class of winter term**, Vancouver USA SCD. 7:30 PM in the Oak/Elm rooms, Marshall Center, Vancouver.
- Jan 9 **Portland SCDance Party**: 7:30 PM, Odd Fellow's Hall, 13720 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard, OR.
- Jan 16 **Burns Dinner**, Willamette High School, Eugene, OR
- Jan 23 **Seattle Burns Night Celebration**; Congregational Church of Mercer Island 4545 Island Crest Way (on Mercer Island); Dress: semi-formal; refreshments: dinner; \$9.00. For info call Elizabeth Miller 206-782-8345 brmiller@gte.net
- Jan 25 *Robert Burns Birthday*
- Feb 20 **Vancouver USA SCD 14th Annual Dinner Dance**, Rudy Luepke Center (adjacent to the Marshall Center), 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Vancouver; for info call 360-834-3757 or 360-576-5678
- Mar 13 **Portland RSCDS 20th Anniversary Workshop and Ball**; workshop in Tigard, banquet and ball at Smith Ballroom, Portland State University; for info call Don Gertz 503-692-5963 or Keith Swingruber 360-887-4479



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*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:
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Christmas Ceilidh Comes Calling

By Liza Halpenny

On the evening of December 16th (happy birthday, John), the Vancouver group combined its last class of the fall session with a Christmas Ceilidh. A fine time was had by all, including a visitor from Hawaii, and class-member spouses and children. Dances were interspersed with talent sharing, followed by a mouth-watering holiday repast.

Our mighty leader, Lisa Scott, warmed us all up with **A Scottish Jig** and **Kendall's Hornpipe**. At the first talent break, Kevin Scott's name was pulled out of the hat. He amused us with a poem, "The Scottish Country Dance Beginner", which bemoaned that tricky Pas de Bas. Heels were flying with **Postie's Jig**, which we repeated so visitor's (who did a great job on everything) could join in.

After a poem, "Sea Fever", read by Liza Halpenny, we graced each other with **The Marquis of Lorne**. Gayle Graham then sweetly flouted "Go Tell It on the Mountain", "We Three Kings", "Silent Night", and "Angels We Have Heard on High". A merry chase through the **Flowers of Edinburgh** brought us to an amazing rendition, by John Shaw, of Robert Burns' "Tam O'Shanter". He recited the whole poem from memory, in the vernacular, with a Scottish accent. Weel done, Cutty Sark!

Bart Moore shared his shuttle pipes with us, crooning "O Come, Emmanuel", "We Three Kings", and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Answering audience questions, Bart explained the pipes, and demonstrated the addition of the drone with "The Drummer Boy" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful". Then, with her nightingale hands, Valerie Moore sang "The Star Carol". The talented couple finished with a duet on tin whistles, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".

Back on the dance floor, we saluted **An Officer and a Gentleman** before Lora Allred regaled us with a tall tale about being snowed in with Grover, and a pine tree that turned into a toothpick. While Lisa opened her Christmas present from the class, Fred Van Nus (who had been fetched straight from the airport by Robert Stuart mid-evening, and who handed out to everyone macadamia nuts which kept falling on the floor during performances), John Peck, and Kyle Scott entertained us with jokes. "The second mouse gets the cheese."

All that merriment put us in the mood for **The Oslo Waltz**, with one of the biggest circles we've ever had. Epicurean delights awaited us, sweetening an already delicious evening of warm friendship, wild dancing, welcome entertainment, and well wishes. *A very happy New Year to all of you.*

February Dinner Dance Program

February 20th, 1999

A Scottish Jig
Delvine Side
Flowers of Edinburgh

Kendall's Hornpipe
Marquis of Lorne
Maxwell's Rant

Kelloholm Jig
Wind on Loch Fyne
Australian Ladies

St. Andrew's Fair
Miss Milligan's Strathspey
Round Reel of Eight

Postie's Jig
Dalkeith's Strathspey
An Officer and a Gentleman

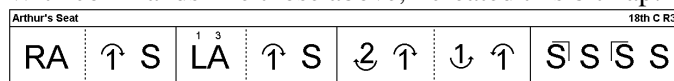
A Very Cool Software Tool!

By John Shaw

I just downloaded from the Web a program called DanceMaster. It is sooo cool! After all the hours I've spent with MS-Paint, hand-drawing the bitmap diagrams for dances -- now, in 10 minutes, I can write a small file of SCD commands, and DanceMaster will draw the diagram!

```
Box()
Title(Arthur's Seat, 18th C R32)
HandsAcross(R)
Bar(4)
Cast(1,O) Set()
Bar(8)
TextOver(1 3) HandsAcross(L)
Bar(4)
Cast(1,O) Set()
Bar(8)
...
```

With commands like those above, I created this bitmap:



For those who are interested, you can visit the DanceMaster web page at:
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/D_Taeger/dmaster.htm