



Royal Scottish Country Dance
Carolinas Branch News

Autumn 2026 Vol. 16 No. 3



Carolinas Branch Officers



Chair

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thecarolinasbranch@gmail.com



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shannah.steel@gmail.com

Please send submissions and advertisements of events for the Winter Newsletter by January 6, 2027 to the Editors:

Craig & Sherri Davis

carolinasbranchnews@gmail.com

What's Happening
in the
Carolinas Branch



From the Chair's Desk

Episode 10

I have just returned from two weeks at the University of St Andrews Summer School. I completed Unit 5, the final step in my training, and am now a Fully Certified Scottish Country Dance Teacher. It took five years to complete the process, and along the way I learned some things beyond how to be a better teacher.

The RSCDS is like one big family.

One of the things I have come to appreciate most is the sense of community within the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. My tutor was being shadowed by Andrew Timmins, who earned his Teacher's Certificate at the same time as Mary McConnell. He told me to tell her hello. We are all connected by our enthusiasm for Scottish country dancing.

Travelling to dance events makes the world smaller.

I have met dancers and teachers from all over the world. I remember dancing *Old Nick's Lumber Room* for the first time with Claire Cunin. We became immediate friends, and a few years later she invited me to join the North American competition team. A few more years and we were fellow candidates at our Unit 5.



Candidates all now fully certified

Tutor: Eric Finley

Musician: Judith Muir



Learning never really ends.

I have discovered that certification is really the beginning of another stage of learning. Every dance presents a new challenge, and every class teaches me more about how people learn, how to communicate clearly, and how important it is to be patient-with others and with myself.

Five years teaches perseverance.

There were times when completing all five units seemed a long way off. Life happens, schedules change, and some things take longer than expected. Sometimes perseverance simply means taking the next step, then the next, and continuing to show up.



Scottish country dancing is, of course, about steps, formations, timing, technique, and music. At its heart, it is about people. It asks us to pay attention to one another, trust our partners, and work together as a set.

I am most grateful for the journey-the teachers who taught me, the dancers who encouraged me, the friends I have made, and the many miles traveled along the way. I went to St Andrews to complete my teacher training and came home with something much more valuable: a deeper appreciation for the community that makes Scottish country dancing so special.

Congratulations

Caz

On competing your

Scottish Country Dance Training

from

The Carolinas Branch Dancers



20th Anniversary

Carolinas Branch Book of Dances

The Carolinas Branch is creating a 20th Anniversary Book of Dances. Please send submissions to Brian Carr at climberbri@gmail.com during the first two weeks of September.

Dance devisors can contact Michelle Wilcox at 5mmw5a@gmail.com if they are interested in commissioning original tunes for the dances they have devised. Historically the fees have been no more than \$200. Michelle will be the go-between for the devisors and whichever musicians they prefer. If there is no preference, she will try to spread the requests around to different musicians that we know and love.



The Asheville Group is looking for a new location to meet.

We typically meet on Fridays 7:30-9:00pm, but this may change.

**For more information, please contact Kate Mathewes
at**

dancingsct@gmail.com or 828-215-8624

Check us out in our [Facebook Group](#)

Asheville Scottish Country Dancers



Charleston dancers at
World Dance Showcase p/o the North Charleston Arts Fest

Our Teachers:
Irene Stancik and Caroline Freeman

We meet Mondays 7:00 – 8:30pm
Studio 149
149 Westminster Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445

We also meet the first Sunday
of every month
2:30 – 4:00pm *unless there is a conflict*
Northwoods Community Gym
8348 Greenridge Rd.
North Charleston, SC 29406

For more information email us at CharlestonRSCDS@gmail.com
or text 843-810-7797

Like us on Facebook [Charleston Scottish Country Dancers](#)

Charleston Scottish Country Dancers



Resident Teacher: Andrew Peterkin

Classes: September 3rd through the end of May
excepting Holidays

When: Weekly on Thursdays from 6:00-8:30 pm

Where: Providence United Methodist Church
2810 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC

Cost: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students

**New dancers and seasoned dancers are welcome.
If you know of anyone in the Charlotte area who
would be interested, please let them know about
the class.**

*For more information, please email Andrew Peterkin
abpeterkin@gmail.com*

Charlotte Scottish Country Dancers

“We are very pleased to welcome Arthur Baum as a new member of our group and to our teaching staff”

Teachers: Pam Stephens and Arthur Baum

On Sept. 14, 2026, we will be dancing on **Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM**

and

returning to our old location at the

Triangle Dance Studio, 2603 S. Miami Blvd, Durham NC 27703



For more info, email us at
dancescottishdurhamnc@gmail.com or
call 917-763-2418

—or—

find us on Facebook
Durham Chapel Hill Scottish Country Dancers

Save the Date

Saturday Feb. 13, 2027
DCHSCD Valentines Dance



Durham/Chapel Hill Scottish Country Dancers

Our Teachers:

Esther Leise *Lead*

Sam Moffitt & Jacquelyn Trost

RSCDS CTI program

We meet on Tuesday nights

Classes resume on September 8th

7:30-8:30pm beginners

7:30-10:00pm members

**The Guilford Grange
4909 Guilford School Road
Greensboro, NC 27410**



For more information email us at gsoscds@gmail.com

or

check out our website www.gsoscds.org

Greensboro Scottish Country Dancers



Our teacher is Brian Carr

**We continue to meet on Tuesday nights
at St. James Episcopal Church
6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Find us on  acebook

**For more information please
contact:
Brian Carr gillescd@yahoo.com**

Greenville Scottish Country Dancers

Our Instructors:
Colleen Walker & Jory Fleming

We meet on
Mondays 6:00-8:00pm

at

Eastminster Presbyterian Christian
Life Center
3200 Trenholm Rd,
Columbia, SC 29204

For more information contact Michelle Wilcox
at 5mmw5a@gmail.com



Our long-time dancer, Marguerite, is moving to Massachusetts and we had a farewell celebration for her on Aug 10th. Marguerite has been dancing with the Palmetto Scottish Country dance group for about twenty years. She is also an International Folk dance instructor and was on the organizing board for Contra Dancing in our area. She traveled with us to Greenville and Charleston Scottish events and other places over the years, so many will recognize her smiling face and bouncy energetic dancing. We will miss one of our 'regular set' but she will continue to spread the joy of dancing in MA.

Palmetto Scottish Country Dancers

COME JOIN US FOR SOME "REEL" FUN



Tuesday nights

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**The Dance Space
6004A W. Broad Street,
Richmond, VA 23230**

**For more information about
class or an event
please contact:
scdrichmond@gmail.com**

**Please visit our website for more information at
www.richmondscottishcountrydancers.org**

Richmond Scottish Country Dancers

Carolinas Branch Scottish Country Dance Groups

Asheville, NC

Looking for a new location

Fridays 7:30pm-9pm (*may change*)

Kate Mathews

dancingsct@gmail.com

828-215-8624

Charlotte, NC

Providence United Methodist Church

Thursdays 6pm – 8:30pm

Andrew Peterkin

abpeterkin@gmail.com

Greensboro, NC

The Guilford Grange

7:30pm-10pm Tuesdays

gsoscds@gmail.com

www.gsoscds.org

Barnwell, SC

Taking a break from classes

Columbia, SC

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

6pm-8pm Mondays

Colleen Walker

5mmw5a@gmail.com

Greenville, SC

St James Episcopal Church

6:30pm-8:30pm Tuesdays

Brian Carr

[gvillescd@yahoo.com](mailto:gvillescdd@yahoo.com)

Charleston, SC

Studio 149 Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

Northwoods Community Gym

1st Sundays 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Irene Stancik & Caroline Freeman

CharleslestonRSCDS@gmail.com

843-810-7797

Durham/Chapel Hill, NC

Triangle Dance Studio

7pm-8:30pm Mondays

Pam Stephens

dancescottishdurhamnc@gmail.com

917-763-2418

Richmond, VA

The Dance Space

6pm-8pm Tuesdays

Moirra Turner

scdrichmond@gmail.com

www.richmondscottishcountrydancers.org



Complete your collection!

50th anniversary 1976-2026

Atlanta Branch 50th Anniversary Book & Album

Book: rscds-atlanta.org/50th-anniversary-book

Album: rscdsatlanta.bandcamp.com



Enjoy the wonderful music of Copious Notes
(Mara Shea and Julie Gorka).

The album features 27 tracks, including 14
original tunes that cannot be found elsewhere!
An arrangement has been made for every
dance in the 50th anniversary book. Complete
your collection today!

Check it out!





Upcoming Events



RSCDS ATLANTA BRANCH
September Social
Saturday, September 12, 2026, 2 p.m.
Heritage Baptist Church
1070 Douthit Ferry Road, Cartersville
MC: Susan Tumlin
Program

(B) Fairfield Bridge	R32 Round the Room	Ruary Laidlaw, Dancing Feet
(B) Gloria's Wee Jig	J8x32 2C/4C Set	Bob McMurtry, Devil's Quandary
(I) MacDonald of Keppoch	[M-(564+R64)] Sq.	Chris Ronald, RSCDS Book 49
(B) The Lady Wynd	J8x32 3C/4C Set	Roy Goldring, G & S Dances 2
(B) There's Something About Thirty	S3x32 3C Set	Lindsey Ibbotson, RSCDS Book 50
(I) Dancing Forth	R8x32 3C/4C Set	Bob Grant, RSCDS Book 54
~~~~INTERMISSION~~~~		
(B) Stone Mountain Golden Gala Reel	R4x40 Square Set	Holly Boyd, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
(I) The Horticulturist	J8x32 3C/4C Set	Lewis Tumlin, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
(I) The Compliment	S8x32 2C/4C Set	Roy Goldring, 12 More Social Dances
(B) Hello-Goodbye	S8x32 3C/4C Set	Chris Ronald, RSCDS Book 51
(I) A Smile Says It All	J8x40-3C/4C Set	Rebecca Fant, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
(B) The Highland Rambler	R8x40 3C/4C Set	Roy Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee
~~~~EXTRAS IF NEEDED~~~~		
(B) Galloway House	R8x32 2C/4C Set	Unknown (1797), Book of Graded SCDs
(B) Come What May	J8x32 2C/4C Set	Romaine Butterfield, RSCDS Book 51

Punch and water provided, please bring finger food to share.

Social Pricing Policy
Atlanta Branch Members - \$5.00 / Non-Branch Members - \$8.00
Under 11 - No Charge
Youth (12-17) - \$1.00
Young Adult (18-24) - \$3.00
Atlanta Branch Member Family Maximum - \$15.00
Non-Branch Member Family Maximum - \$20.00



Printable program

Crib Sheet



Greensboro Scottish Country Dance Society

Open House

When: Tuesday September 15, 2026
7:30-8:30pm

Where: The Guilford Grange
4909 Guilford School Road
Greensboro 27410

Check out our website for more information:



www.gsoscads.org



Scottish Country Dancing at Stone Mountain, 2026

Music by Mara Shea, Julie Gorka, and Tom Pixton



THE FALL GALA Friday, October 16th at 8:00 pm Presented by Atlanta Branch RSCDS

A Trip to Glasgow <i>Danced in 3 Couple Sets</i>	J8x32-2.4	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 1
Stone Mountain Golden Gala Reel	R4x40 Sq.	Holly Boyd, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
The Braes of Breadalbane	S8x32-3.4	Thomas Skillern (1795), RSCDS Book 21
The Fisherman's Dancing Daughters	J8x32-3.4	Denise Peet, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
The Stone Mountain Reel	R4x32-4.4	Alan Smith, Atlanta Fare
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S8x32-3.4	Golden Jubilee Dances
Postie's Jig	J4x32-4.4	Roy Clowes, Ormskirk 5
~~ Intermission ~~		
The Lady Wynd	J8x32-3.4	Roy Goldring, G & S Dances 2
Dancing Forth	R8x32-3.4	Bob Grant, RSCDS Book 54
The Swans of Atlanta	M64 Sq. Set	Catherine Shaw, Atlanta Branch 40th Anniv.
Gloria's Wee Jig	J8x32-2.4	Bob McMurtry, Devil's Quandary
Mount Pinatubo	R8x32-3.4	Deborah Millier, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
Asilomar Romantic	S8x32-3.4	Tom Cuthbertson, San Francisco Coll. 2
The Highland Rambler	R8x40-3.4	Roy Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee

Program by Jessica Behmke and Deborah Millier

THE TARTAN BALL Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 pm Presented by Friends of SMHG

The Cherokee Rose	R32-2RR	Robert Messner, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
A Smile Says It All	J8x40-3.4	Rebecca Fant, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
The Wind on Loch Fyne	S3x32-3 Tri.	John Bowie Dickson, Dunedin 1
The Frisky	J8x32-3.4	Robert Bremner, RSCDS Book 26
Oh My America!	R88 Sq.	Elizabeth Lee Barnes, Clipper Ships & Other Dances
St. James' Courtyard	S3x32-3.3	Hidemi Graves, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
Crockett's Victory Garden	R4x32-4.4	Harry C. Ways, Bicentennial Book + 7 SCDs
The Machine Without Horses	J8x32-3.4	David Rutherford (1772), RSCDS Book 12
~~ Intermission ~~		
The Black Cat	J8x32-2.4	John Drewry, Summer Collection 2
Ghosts of Dancers Past	S5x32-5.5	Robert Messner, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
Ferla Mor	R8x32-3.4	John Drewry, Deeside Book 1
The Horticulturist	J8x32-3.4	Lewis Tumlin, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
Neidpath Castle	S3x32-3.3	Derek Haynes, RSCDS Book 22
Sylvia, Priestess of Atlanta	R8x32-3.4	Susan Tumlin, Atlanta Branch 50th Anniv.
Follow Me Home	J8x32-3.4	Ellie Briscoe, RSCDS Book 38
The Reel of the Royal Scots	R8x32-3.4	Roy Goldring, RSCDS Leaflet Dances

Program by Kate Mathewes and Bob Messner

Disclaimer: The above programs are preliminary and are subject to change or resequencing.

The location for both dances is The Hilton, Atlanta Northeast Hotel (the Games host hotel)

5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, Georgia 30092 / (770) 447-4747

Tickets for both dances can be ordered as a package with an *"early bird" discount*: \$25 for each dance or \$50 for package of two dances, good until October 1, 2026; otherwise tickets will be \$30 for each dance at the door.

----- *There will be more dancing on the SCD Platform at the Games both Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:00 pm - come join in the fun!* -----

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

		Quantity	
Friday Night Dance:	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Night Dance:	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Both Dances:	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Total:			\$ _____

Phone Number: _____ or _____

Remember, the early bird discount is good until October 1, 2026

Make checks payable to RSCDS Atlanta Branch and mail to Hidemi Graves, 419 Birchwood Drive, Temple, GA 30179

Your name will be added to the "prepaid" list and checked off at the door on the night of the dance.

6/27/2026



41st Annual St. Andrew's Day Dance
with
Mara Shea and Julie Gorka

Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Redhead Hall, First Presbyterian Church
617 North Elm Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401

Tickets are \$25 per person

For more information see links below or contact Esther Leise

estherleise@bellsouth.net

or Tom Dillon tdillon27127@earthlink.net

For program and crib sheets
visit our website

gsoscds.org/upcoming-dances

[Link to Program & Crib](https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/71464/)

[https://my.strathspey.org/
dd/list/71464/](https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/71464/)

Greensboro Scottish Country Dance Society
41st Annual

***St. Andrew's Day
Dance***

with
Mara Shea and Julie Gorka
Program devised by Esther Leise

Saturday, November 21st, 2026
Redhead Hall, First Presbyterian Church
617 North Elm Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401

The evening will begin with a Grand March at 7:30 PM

At the Studio	J	Corson, Kent. Branch, For Dancing Pleasure
Saachie Haugh	S	Emmerson, RSCDS Leaf. Dances 29
The Piper and the Penguin	R	Goldring, Scotia Suite
MacLeod's Fancy	J	Dewry, RSCDS Book 33
Gramachie	S	MMM 1
Bratach Bana	R	Dewry Bon Accord Book
Linton Ploughman	J	RSCDS Book 5
Sugar Candie	S	RSCDS Book 26
Crum Creek Hornpipe	R	Delaware Valley Gold 50 th Anniv.
Catch the Wind	R	Butterfield, RSCDS Book 45
Flower of Glasgow	S	Taylor, RSCDS Book 46
Quarries' Jig	J	Smith, RSCDS Book 36
The Montgomeries' Rant	R	RSCDS Book 10
Paisley Weavers	S	Haynes, Carnforth Collection 6
MacPherson's Jig	J	Bestwick, Rannoch Sheets 5
Highland Rambler	R	Goldring, Leeds Silver Jubilee

For further information call Esther Leise at 336-676-0939 or Tom Dillon at 336-725-2760

Check our website for this event: www.gsoscds.org

Email: estherleise@bellsouth.net or tdillon27127@earthlink.net

Tickets are \$25 per person

Greensboro group invites you!

Scottish Country Dance-at-a-glance

2026

Date	Event	Location	More information
September 12, 2026	Atlanta Branch Monthly Social	Cartersville, GA	https://rscds-atlanta.org/events
October 16, 2026	The Fall Gala	Norcross, GA	https://rscds-atlanta.org/stone-mountain
October 17, 2026	The Tartan Ball	Norcross, GA	https://rscds-atlanta.org/stone-mountain
November 15, 2026	Alanta Branch Monthly Social	Athens, GA	https://rscds-atlanta.org/events/month/2026-11
November 21, 2026	St. Andrew's Day Dance	Greensboro, NC	https://gsoscds.org
December 13, 2026	Alanta Branch Monthly Social	Athens, GA	https://rscds-atlanta.org/events/month/2026-12
February 13, 2027	Valentine's Day Tea Dance	Chapel Hill, NC	dancescottishdurhamnc@gmail.com
February 14-19, 2027	RSCDS Winter School	Pitlochry, UK	https://rscds.org/events
March 12-13, 2027	Atlanta Spring Workshop	Cartersville, Ga	https://rscds-atlanta.org/

Please verify all events / dates before traveling