

WELCOME!

Welcome to Scottish Country Dancing, a world of fun, fitness and friendship. We're glad you're here! We are the Southwest Washington State Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) which is headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland and is the worldwide umbrella organization for Scottish Country Dance.

Scottish Country Dancing has been a source of joy to its participants for over three centuries.

- It is high energy and sociable – sometimes challenging, but always fun.
- You don't need to be Scottish to enjoy the dancing.
- You don't need a partner, either – everyone dances with everyone.
- Certificated Scottish Country Dance teachers teach the local classes. What you learn here can be applied in Scottish Country Dance classes, workshops, and dances offered all over the world.

Get the Most out of your Class

- Arrive a few minutes before your class begins, to sign in, pay, and put on your dancing shoes. Don't worry about special shoes - sneakers are fine or any shoes that are close-fitting, flat, and flexible, with clean soles.
- Start moving around so that your muscles are warmed up when the class starts.
- You may want to bring your own water, although water fountains are available.
- Different teachers may have different methods, but all will teach steps and formations along with dances.
- Listen carefully to the teacher, and if you have questions, ask the teacher (not the dancer standing next to you).

There's MORE to it than Classes

- There is a Social Dance almost every month in the Portland/Vancouver area!
- Bring the skills you have learned in class to join in dancing with others. The dance programs always include a mix of dances for beginners and experienced dancers to enjoy and each dance is walked through as a memory aid.
- At dances, folks bring finger food to share. Taking the time to enjoy tea and snacks after a dance is a great way to relax and learn about your fellow dancers. (There isn't much time for a chat during the dance.)

Getting Further, Faster

- Practice makes perfect! Try to attend class every week and if you can go to some additional local classes you'll progress that much quicker.
- When you're ready for it, there are other opportunities like one day or weekend or week long workshops.

Useful local links

Local weekly classes in Portland and Vancouver WA.

- RSCDS Portland, OR Branch – www.portlandscottishdancers.org/
Monday evening class-1st hour for newer dancers; 2nd hour for more experienced dancers

Teachers:

Linda Mae Dennis – lmae@comcast.net

Don Gertz – dlgertz@frontier.com

Lin Pettengill – ldpettengill@gmail.com

Melissa Whitson – mawhitson@ameritech.net

- RSCDS Southwest Washington State Branch - rscds-swws.org/
Friday evening class, suitable for beginners

Teachers:

Linda Mae Dennis – lmae@comcast.net

Liza Halpenny – lizabah@msn.com

Melissa Whitson – mawhitson@ameritech.net

Tuesday evening dancing, for experienced dancers to practice skills learned in classes, led by fellow dancer Tom Halpenny gnitened@yahoo.com

Interesting links from further afield:

Welcome from RSCDS Headquarters: www.rscds.org/get-involved/new-scottish-country-dancing

History of Scottish Country Dancing: www.rscds.org/about/history/history-scottish-country-dance

Steps and Techniques: www.rscds.org/learn/steps-techniques

Instructions for Dances

Scottish Country Dance Database – my.strathspey.org/dd/index/

Lots of information here along with LOTS of videos of individual dances.

Scottish Country Dance Dictionary - www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/

Lots of information here also – check out the list on the right of the page.

And here's a place where you can buy actual paper and e-books of dances.

TACBooks - www.books.tac-rscds.org/

Music for Dancing

TACSound – www.sound.tac-rscds.org/

Listen to snippets and buy CDs of Scottish Dancing Music!

Workshops:

Examples of some one day and weekend workshops:

San Diego: www.dancescottishsd.org/spring-2023-workshop-dance/

Sacramento: www.rscds-sacramento.org/

San Francisco: www.sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend