



Orange County Ceilidh



Newsletter of the Orange County Branch of the RSCDS

Volume 44, No. 3

May/June 2026

Visit our website at www.rscds-oc.org

“For naught can cheer the heart sae weel, As can a canty Highland reel” — Robert Fergusson

Greetings from the Chair

It's almost time for the Catalina Workshop and Ball! Event Chair Doris Fisher and her committee have been hard at work putting together this event which is sure to be memorable. It will start with a demonstration of Scottish County dancing in the main plaza of Avalon, so residents and visitors to Catalina will have a chance to see why there are kilt-clad people wandering around town all weekend. Stop by and cheer them on if you are on the island Friday afternoon.



The Orange County Branch also provided demonstrations at the Cerritos International Festival of Friendship in February and at the Bowers Museum Celtic Festival in March. Our major demonstration event, the ScotsFest at the Orange County Fairgrounds Memorial Day weekend is coming up.

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on June 13. All members and associate members are eligible to vote. The slate of officers is below. It's also time to renew your membership. Thanks to everyone for supporting our branch and I hope you will continue to do so next year. The membership form is attached — you can turn it in to Flora Morgan at an event or pop it in the mail.

I hope to see many of you at our special beginner dance on April 11. It has lots of easy dances to make beginners feel comfortable - please encourage them to come. Meanwhile, if I don't see you at that dance, I'll see you at Catalina!

Terri Speakman, Chair

Slate of Officers for 2026-27

Chair	Terri Speakman
Vice-Chair	Karen Kerman
Treasurer	Connie Walker
Corresponding Secretary	Eddie Archibald
Recording Secretary	Randi Kraemer
Members at Large	Steve Bryan, Connie Learn, Norm McCallum, Flora Morgan, Pat Zschoche

Orange County Classes

TUESDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Intermediate: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Pat Zschoche: swisslassie@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Basics: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
Beginner: 8:15-9:30 p.m.
Connie Walker: samanthasem@yahoo.com

FRIDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Experienced: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Connie Walker: samanthasem@yahoo.com
Pat Zschoche: swisslassie@hotmail.com

Note: Classes require enrollment through Tustin Parks and Recreation (www.tustinca.org)

The Next Big Event
*Catalina Workshop
 & Ball*
 May 1-3, 2026
 Music by
Thistle House
 Teachers: Gary Coull
 & Jeanne Moody

Calendar of Events

(See branch website rscds-oc.org for flyers of upcoming dances.)

HERE

April 2026

- 11 Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Area Senior Center, recorded music

May 2026

- 1-3 Catalina Workshop and Ball. Teachers Jeanne Moody & Gary Coull, Music by Thistle House. Information & registration form at www.scottishdancecatalinaworkshop.com

- 23-24 Scottish Fest, Orange County Fairgrounds

June 2026

- 13 Branch AGM, Potluck & Dance, Potluck at 6:00, AGM at 6:30, dancing at 7:00 p.m., Tustin Area Senior Center, recorded music

July 2026

- 11 Branch Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Area Senior Center, recorded music

THERE

April 2026

- 18 San Gabriel Valley Branch Catalina Ball Review Dance (entire Catalina Ball program danced), 4:00 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, recorded music

June 2026

- 20 SGV Branch AGM & Dance, St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, recorded music
- 27 LA Branch Potluck, AGM & Dance. Potluck 5 p.m., AGM 6 p.m., dance 7 p.m. First Christian Church, Studio City, recorded music.

July 2026

- 18 SGV Branch Scottish Luau, 4:00 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, music by the SO-CALedonians
- 25 LA Branch Summer Dance, 7:00 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, recorded music

ELSEWHERE

May 2026

- 29-31 RSCDS Youth Branch & TAC Weekend Away, New York City, tac-rscds.org

July 2026

- 5-11 Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School, Appalachian State University, Boone NC; blueridgesds.org
- 10-18 Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, Plymouth, MA, rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html

- July 19-Aug 16 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland

- July 24-Aug 2 TAC Teacher's Weekend and Summer School, Medicine Hat, Alberta; info and registration at tac-rscds.org

A Trip to Georgia

David and I traveled to Cartersville, GA, about 50 miles from Atlanta, to help celebrate the branch's 50th anniversary from March 5-8th. We arrived a day early to join the Marietta class' dance review Mike and Kris McGinnis also joined the weekend's festivities. Upon arriving, we were treated like old friends with a warm welcome even though we had just met them last summer at the Blue Ridge Mountain Summer School at Appalachian State University.

The weekend's program consisted of a Friday night welcome dance followed by an informal afterparty. Saturday we were treated to a wonderful class taught by Blaine Peet. Included was a delicious barbecue lunch to fortify us for the afternoon ball review! We all had time to explore Cartersville, rest, or catch up



with friends. The evening ball began with the dancers being piped in followed by an exciting dance program with many of the dances devised by branch members.

Sarah Craighead and Rick Shireman hosted a delicious after-ball meal of grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup augmented by donations. To wrap up the weekend, Susan and Lewis Tumlin hosted a yummy Sunday brunch and garden tour. Who knew that Lewis is a garden designer extraordinaire in addition to his dancing abilities! David and I stayed an extra two days and joined Cartersville's dance class which was also attended by Susan and Lewis' grandson. After each class, we were also invited to a Mexican restaurant to enjoy the companionship among the other dancers. David and I feel we have forged life long friendships through Scottish Country Dancing. I would highly recommend anyone to attend Blue Ridge Mountain's Summer School or next year's Atlanta Branch's Dance weekend!

Flora Morgan

Orange County Ceilidh

February Dancing



Orange County dancers performed at the Cerritos International Festival of Friendship



Orange County Ceilidh

Catalina: Another Angle

In addition to being a playground for boaters and tourists, Santa Catalina Island serves as a natural conservancy. Successive owners worked hard to turn Avalon and the island into a resort destination, but tourism, music and conservators worked together to preserve the unique flora and fauna.

Since Catalina was never been connected to the mainland, it began with no terrestrial life. Whatever native species are found there now either swam, flew, or blew onto the premises. Some other species were introduced by humans, intentionally and accidentally, starting with the native Pimungans. “Catalina is home to at least 50 endemic species and subspecies that occur naturally here and nowhere else in the world.”



Five native land mammals— Island fox, subspecies of California ground squirrel, Santa Catalina Island harvest mouse,



Santa Catalina Island deer mouse, and ornate shrew—inhabit the chaparral, sage scrub, island oak-ironwood woodlands, and grasslands. Mule deer are also abundant, and the center of a current controversy: should all the mule deer be culled since they are too numerous and destroying the native plants? The sea otter, often plundered and pushed toward extinction, also played a role from the earliest of times.

Often seen grazing on the interior grasslands is a modest herd of American plains bison, introduced for the filming of the



movie *The Vanishing American* in 1924. These numbered as many as 600 at one time. This was reduced to 150 in 2009 when a birth control program was introduced.

Birdlife also abounds. Thirty-seven resident species populate the island as well as marine, open-ocean, and migrating birds, who frequently stop to rest and feed. Many times, you may be greeted by flashy acorn woodpecker’s talk or see Pacific coastal flycatchers hover as they snatch airborne insects. A live-camera feed features a bald eagle nest, active February to July. Ada and William Wrigley Jr. constructed an aviary in the 1930s. This was deemed one of the largest aviaries of that time.

Of course, all the surrounding sea life is valuable too. Quite a variety of sea creatures can be observed!

Since its discovery and development, Catalina became a backdrop for “hundreds of movies”, including *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Clark Gable (1936). After Wrigley deeded 88% of the



island to the Catalina Island Conservancy in the 1970s, it remains “undeveloped and wild”, much like the “back lot” of Hollywood’s early days.

Legendary director Cecile B. DeMille brought his latest films to the Casino Theater for private screenings. Supposedly, author Ernest Hemingway was inspired to write *The Old Man and the Sea* after deep sea fishing with members of the Tuna Club. Other noted residents are several authors, including William Faulkner and Zane Grey, whose former home is now the Zane Grey Pueblo Hotel. Marilyn Monroe as 16-year-old Norma Jeane Baker married and briefly lived on Catalina.

Special events held at Catalina Island Country Club are always a treat.

Dancing at the Bowers Museum Celtic Festival



Chicago Cubs' fans and movie buffs can absorb displays of memorabilia and photographs there.

The Catalina Island Yacht Club, founded by members of the previously mentioned Tuna Club, celebrated its centennial in August 2024. Lots of opportunities for boating and sailing

Catalina Island presents more than what real estate developers fantasized about. It is truly a gem on earth, and all of its history—from the earliest Pimungan residents, to the Mineral Hill Gold Mine (1860-1874), to movie mogul influence and to Big Band music—reflects this. But these are human influences. Nature lives on to also dazzle us with a few surprises now and then. All this shaped the island into what it is today, giving us a rich, natural world beside the clutter of modern life. Santa Catalina Island is truly a gem of many facets. Let's consider all the angles as we enjoy our time dancing in the midst of history. See you at the Casino!

Karen Kerman



March Dance with music by the SO-CAledonians



Orange County Ceilidh

	Name	Type	Level	Cpls/Set	Reps	# Years	# Times on a Program	Yes	No	Maybe
1	Alan J. Smith	J	B	3/4	8x32	3	2			
2	Burns Night	J	B	2/4	8x32	2	1			
3	Fair Enough	J	B	4/4	4x32	3	2			
4	Gloria's Wee Jig	J	B	2/4	8x32	3	1			
5	Lamb Skinnet	J	B	3/4	8x32	1	3			
6	Postie's Jig	J	B	4/4	4x32	1	3			
7	St Andrews Fair	J	B	3/4	8x32	1	3			
8	Best Set in the Hall	J	I	3/4	8x32	3	2			
9	Bill Clement MBE	J	I	3/4	8x32	1	2			
10	Quarries' Jig	J	I	3/4	8x32	1	3			
11	City Lights	J	I	3/4	8x32	1	1			
12	The Cranberry Tart	J	I	3/4	8x32	2	0			
13	Maitland to Manchester	J	I	3/4	8x32	3	2			
14	Waverley/Fugal Fergus	J	I	3/4	8x48	3	2			
15	Aird of Coigach	J	A	4/4	4x48	1	1			
16	Vintage Simon	J	A	5/5	5x32	2	3			
17	The Ship in Full Sail	J	A	5/5	5x32	2	2			
1	The Barmkin	R	B	4/4	4x32	1	4			
2	Crom Allt	R	B	3/4	8x32	2	1			
3	Davy Nick Nack	R	B	3/4	8x32	1	2			
4	Hedwig's Reel	R	B	3/4	8x32	2	2			
5	Mary Erskine	R	B	3/4	8x32	1	2			
6	The Pawling Porch	R	B	3/4	8x32	2	1			
7	The Sailor	R	B	3/4	8x32	1	1			
8	The Waipu Wanderers	R	B	3/4	8x32	2	0			
9	Beth Wilson's Delight	R	I	3/4	8x32	1	3			
10	Blooms of Bon Accord	R	I	4/4	4x32	3	1			
11	Broadford Bay	R	I	3/4	8x32	1	2			
12	Da Rain Dancin'	R	I	3/4	8x32	3	2			
13	Glastonbury Tor	R	I	3/4	8x32	2	0			
14	The Black Leather Jig	R	I	3/4	8x32	1	2			
15	Smiling Lila	R	I	3/4	8x32	2	3			
16	Starry Night	R	I	3/4	8x40	2	1			
17	Toast to the Mousies	R	I	3/4	8x32	2	2			
18	Elsbeth Gray's Reel	R	A	3/4	8x32	1	3			
19	Inverneill House	R	A	3/4	8x32	1	2			
20	The One O'Clock Canon	R	A	4/4	5x32	3	2			
1	Bedrule	S	B	3/4	8x32	1	1			
2	Dear David	S	B	3/4	8x32	1	2			
3	The Dundee Whaler	S	B	4/4	4x32	3	0			
4	The Falkirk Lass	S	B	3/4	8x32	2	1			
5	First Love	S	B	3/4	8x32	1	2			
6	Invercauld's Reel	S	B	3/4	8x32	1	1			
7	Midsummer Moon	S	B	2/3	6x32	2	1			
8	Sandy O'er the Lea	S	B	2/4	8x32	2	1			
9	Ardnahoe	S	I	3/3	3x32	2	1			
10	Aberdeenshire Meets Argentina	S	I	3/3	3x32	2	1			
11	The Compliment	S	I	2/4	8x32	1	2			
12	La Famiglia Graziani	S	I	2/3	6x32	3	1			
13	Porchester Hall	S	I	3/4	8x32	2	2			
14	Sandy's Scotch Broth	S	I	3/3	3x32	1	3			
15	Tulloch Gorm	S	I	3/4	8x32	1	2			
16	The House Keys of Lisbon	S	A	3/3	3x32	2	1			
17	Something in the Air	S	A	2/4	8x32	1	2			
18	Tuolumne Tournee	S	A	4/4	4x32	2	3			

1 year on program
2 years on program
3 years on program

Anyone who has attended our dances is encouraged to let us know how you like them. Please return to Connie Walker

April Branch Beginner Dance

April 11, 2026, Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

SPECIAL BEGINNER SECTION

The Hospitality Circle	J B	Nus/Let's All Dance 2
Virginia Reel	R B	Collins Little SCD
Circle of Cheer	R B	Hamilton/Let's Dance 2
Fair Enough	J B	RSCDS Book 51
The Loch Ness Monster	R B	Boyd/Happy to Meet
Bridge of Athlone	R B	Collins Little SCD

EXPERIENCED SECTION

Postie's Jig	J B	Clowes/30 Pop Vol 2
Dear David	S B	Fogg/Emigrant Scot
Davy Nick Nack	R B	Campbell/Glasgow Assy
Tulloch Gorm	S I	RSCDS Book 8
The One O'Clock Canon	R A	RSCDS Book 47
Lamb Skinet	J B	RSCDS Book 14
Beth Wilson's Delight	R I	Mitchell/Whetherly 3
Braes of Tulliemet	S B	RSCDS Book 7
Vintage Simon	J A	RSCDS Book 47
Toast to the Mousies	R I	RSCDS Book 53

Catalina Ball Program

May 2, 2026, Grand March 4:45 p.m.
Casino Ballroom, Avalon, Catalina
Musicians: Thistle House

Looking for a Partner	J B	Haynes/Carnforth 6
The Aviator	J I	RSCDS Book 52
Longborough Lanterns	S B	Shaner/Delaware 50
Capelthwaite	R I	Sigg/SF Collection 2
The Dream Catcher	S A	RSCDS Book 45
Mairi's Wedding	R I	Cosh/22 SCD
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	J A	Drewry/Canadian Bk
The Braes of Tulliemet	S B	RSCDS Book 7
J.B. Milne	R I	Foss/Angus Fitchet
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	J A	RSCDS 30 Pop V2
The Gentleman	S I	RSCDS Book 35
The Black Leather Jig	R I	Selling, Delaware 25
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	J B	RSCDS Book 35
The Library of Birmingham	S A	RSCDS Book 49
The Montgomerie's Rant	R I	RSCDS Book 10
Vintage Simon	J A	RSCDS Book 47
John McAlpin	S I	Foss/Galloway Album
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	R I	Dickson/Lothian Coll.

Orange County Ceilidh

June AGM, Potluck & Dance

June 13, 2026, Potluck 6:00 p.m., AGM 6:30 p.m.,
Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

Gloria's Wee Jig	J B	McMurtry/Devil's Q
Porchester Hall	S I	Meyer/London Jubilee
The One O'Clock Canon	R A	RSCDS Book 47
Bedrule	S B	RSCDS Book 33
Da Rain Dancin'	R I	Wallace/30 Popular

Alan J. Smith	J B	RSCDS Book 45
La Famiglia Graziani	S I	Landon/Woodhall V3
Blooms of Bon Accord	R I	Drewry/Deeside Vol 2
Vintage Simon	J A	RSCDS Book 47
Tulloch Gorm	S I	RSCDS Book 8
The Pawling Porch	R B	Brunken/Moments

Waverley/Fugal Fergus	J I	RSCDS Book 15
Tuolumne Tournee	S A	Saturensky/50 Yrs LA
Hedwig's Reel	R B	Phillips/RSCDS Gr 2
Quarries' Jig	J I	RSCDS Book 36
Toast to the Mousies	R I	RSCDS Book 53



OC BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Revised 2020

The Branch has established a scholarship fund to encourage the development of Scottish Country Dancing teachers, dancers, and musicians in Orange County, and to provide opportunities for Southern California Scottish Country Dancing dancers to experience high quality live music both as listeners and as dancers.

To be eligible for a dance scholarship, the applicant must be a current member or associate member of the Orange County Branch and be presently attending class regularly for at least one year. Preference will be given to applicants interested in pursuing teacher training.

To be eligible for a musician scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Southern California, have demonstrated an interest in playing Scottish Country Dancing music, and should play an instrument relevant to Scottish Country Dancing, such as accordion, fiddle, keyboard, piano, recorder, etc.



Applications are available on the branch website and at branch dance classes. Applicants must provide information on how the funds will be used and will need to provide documentation of attendance. Requests must be received at least 30 days before the funds are needed. Awards will be limited to a total of \$500 a year. Requests and awards will be confidential. Scholarships will be granted without attention to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, nationality, ancestry, age, or place of origin.

The dance scholarship is in honor of Orange County Branch founding member and long-time dancer Dorothy Craik. The musician scholarship is in honor of Andrew Rankine, a noted accordionist, composer and renowned Scottish Country Dancing band leader.



If you are interested in applying, send your application to Scholarship Committee, c/o RSCDS-Orange County Branch, 8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 or email to chair Terri Speakman at tjspeakman@verizon.net.

If not deliverable, return to:

The Orange County Branch of the
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646

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Editor: Terri Speakman

Email: tjspeakman@verizon.net

Branch email: rs cds.oc@gmail.com

Thanks to all contributors!

**THE ORANGE COUNTY CEILIDH IS
PUBLISHED 6 TIMES PER YEAR.**

Deadline for the July/August *Ceilidh* is
June 1, 2026.