

Scottish Country Dancing? What's that?

Scottish Country Dancing is the social and ballroom dance of Scotland, enjoyed by many people worldwide. Although reaching its present basic form in 18th century Scotland, it has continued to evolve and spread in popularity through the centuries.

Dance Types and Forms

Scottish Country Dances include jigs and reels (in quick time), strathspeys (in slow time) and medleys of both quick and slow time. The strathspey music and dance is unique to Scotland having originated in the Spey valley south of Inverness.

Most of the traditional dances are made up of three- or four-couple sets, where men and women line up facing each other. Some dances are formed with four couples in a square and others are circle dances, where each couple faces another couple and during the dance everyone progresses around the room.

Building Blocks

Scottish Country Dancing has a group of specific formations that are the basis for most dances. The combination of formations, together with how they are blended one to the next, plus the particular music associated with the sequence, makes each dance unique. Many dances have a story, a place, a person, or an event associated with them.

Energy and Precision

Scottish Country Dance is energetic with precise figures and footwork. It is great exercise for the body and the mind. The figures and footwork are taught in class by trained and certified teachers. The dancing is fun even before you learn all the nuances.

Scottish Dance Music

Scotland's musical tradition has a wealth of wonderful tunes. Most Scottish dance bands use a combination of fiddle, accordion, piano, flute and drum. Dance musicians take great pride in combining tunes perfect for a given dance. The bagpipe might be used when a dance has a military or highland connection.

Dancing Worldwide

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) is headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland, and is a worldwide organization for Scottish Country dancers. Under the auspices of the RSCDS, Scottish Country Dancing is done the same way all over the world. The New Mexico Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society sponsors classes taught by teachers trained by the RSCDS.

More information:

www.losalamos.com/nmrscds

Scottish Country Dancing in Northern New Mexico



RSCDS New Mexico Branch
P.O. Box 63
Los Alamos, NM 87544-0063

Come Join Us!

All are welcome to come and try Scottish Country Dancing. Our dances are vigorous and fast moving.

- No experience required. We will teach you what you need to know.
- Come alone, or bring a friend. We're very friendly!
- You don't have to be Scottish!
- No kilt needed. Wear one if you wish!
- Wear comfortable clothes.
- Wear soft-soled shoes. Sneakers or tennis shoes work well until you're ready to think about purchasing dance shoes.
- Bring a fun-loving spirit!

Please verify the class time and place with the class contact. All classes are subject to change.

Albuquerque:

Enchantment Scottish Country Dancers

Fridays, 7:30 - 10:00

Friends Meeting House

1600 5th Street, NW, Albuquerque

Corner of 5th and Bellamah

Contact: Ken Armstrong (505) 294-0042

Email: karmstrong00@comcast.net

Cost: \$5.00 per class

Los Alamos:

Los Alamos Class

Monday Evenings, 7:30 - 10:00

Fuller Lodge, Pajarito Room

2132 Central, Los Alamos

Contact: Nancy Ullmann (505) 662-7573

Email: NUllmann@aol.com

Cost: \$25 per four-month session

\$3.00 per class

Los Alamos Teens and Youth Class

Thursday Afternoons

White Rock Activities Center

Los Alamos

Contact:

Eileen Green (505) 672-9763

Email: eileen_green@cybermesa.com

Cost: \$25 per four-month session

Santa Fe:

Friday Evenings, 7:30 - 10:00

Odd Fellows Hall

1125 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe

Between Cordova and Baca

Contact: Dorothea Migliori (505) 983-2671

Email: admin@sftbs.org

Cost: \$4.00 per class

Taos:

Contact: Rob Sanders (505) 751-0191

Email: RobTaosSCD@aol.com



New Mexico Branch Activities

Dance Parties: Individual classes as well as the Branch sponsor regular parties in northern New Mexico throughout the year. The party dances are taught in classes.

Regional Workshop and Ball: Once every three years the New Mexico Branch organizes a weekend workshop for dancers. This event includes classes and a grand ball, and often includes a concert or musicians workshop. The weekend highlights live music and teachers with international reputations. On the alternate two years, the Phoenix Branch and the Scottish Dancers of Colorado each take a turn in putting on a workshop. The New Mexico Branch supports and encourages attendance at these regional events.

Annual Demonstrations:

- Celtic Festival and Highland Games, May, Albuquerque
- Burns' Night Celebrations, January

Memberships: Annual memberships are available to support these activities. For information on the RSCDS New Mexico Branch, and our local activities, contact: Kenneth Armstrong (505) 294-0042
Email: karmstrong00@comcast.net