

Céilí Dances Are Back!

By Susan & Michael Harrison

Get out your dancing shoes...The 2006/2007 SCMA céilí season starts this fall!

Folks in the Dallas area are still learning what a céilí is all about, where to put their feet, and so forth. This season features seven workshop-style céilís in addition to two party céilís. The workshops will be the place to learn everything from basic steps to intermediate dances, which will progress as the dancers learn. The two party céilís will be held in a terrific new venue in Carrollton: the Plaza Arts Center, where family and friends can dance, socialize, and enjoy refreshments. (BYOB allowed.) Teaching will be minimal at these events; we will dance what most people know and teach simple dances that are easy to pick up, so everybody can dance as much as possible. The emphasis will be on having a great time!

As to the particulars, the dances will run from September through May on one Saturday each month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, with live musicians and calling. The cost for all but the finale party céilí will be the same as last year: \$5 for SCMA members and \$7 for non-members. The last event will be a big season finale held on a Saturday in May, which will cost a little more but will be well worth it. The workshops will be held at the Move Studio at the southeast corner of Preston Rd. and Campbell Rd. This is a lovely studio with a sprung floor, colorful lighting, bubbling fountains, and plenty of room to stretch your legs. The Plaza Arts Center, where the party céilís will be held, is a fabulous new dancing space recently renovated from a historic movie theater in old downtown Carrollton. It is owned by a dance enthusiast who installed a beautiful, floated wooden dance floor and a splendid stage facing a terraced relaxation area with bistro tables for visiting and watching the dances.

The organizers are doing everything possible to make these dances fun and get you hooked on this unique activity. Most of the feedback from last season's participants suggested continuing in the same vein, with a few tweaks, and the organizers took the ideas to heart in crafting this second season. Keeping it exciting depends in part on hearing from you, both the new and the experienced dancer, so please email irishdance@dragonseye.com with your questions and suggestions. We love hearing from you!

Check out the SCMA's web site (www.scmatrix.org), the Yahoo! Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scmatrix/>) or the callers' web site (ceili.dragonseye.com) for the exact dates and other particulars. Most of all, mark your calendar, tell your friends, and come out to dance!