



Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 29 Number 11

December 2023



Scottish Club Board celebrating our Club's 50th year at Saint Andrew's Night. Happy Christmas and a Joyous Hogmanay to all (from left to right, Tonda Scott, Cathy Steen, Jeni McDaniel, Christa Wallace, Nelson Alger, Michael Miller, Sherri Borchert, not pictured: Chris Chisholm, Christina McCoskey and David Wallace) See more great photos on page 7

Burns Night 2024

Saturday January 27

Lakefront Hotel, 6 pm – 10 pm



Come experience this traditional night of Scottish revelry as we celebrate the National Bard of Scotland, Robert Burns! There will be piping, poetry, haggis, men in kilts and the traditional humorous toasts to the lads and lassies. Choose from an entrée of tenderloin, salmon or haggis (everyone will get a taste of haggis as an appetizer) at this semi-formal sit-down dinner.

Cost is \$85/person (members), and \$95/person (nonmembers) so it's a good time to make sure your dues are paid! Discounted rooms will be available at the Lakefront, use code **2401SCOTTI** .

Speakers still needed for the lad's and lassie's toasts! Contact Sherri or Cathy if interested!

Hogmanay Grams

A New Way to Celebrate an Old Tradition

WHAT IS A HOGMANAY GRAM YOU ASK? IT IS A BOX FULL OF SPECIALLY-CURATED GIFTS, ASSEMBLED BY THE ASC TO BE OPENED ON NEW YEAR'S, PREFERABLY AT MIDNIGHT. IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST-FOOTING GIFTS YOU MIGHT BE PRESENTED WITH DURING HOGMANAY IN SCOTLAND. THIS YEAR'S GIFTS REPRESENT PROSPERITY, FLAVOUR, LONG LIFE, WARMTH, NOURISHMENT, AND GOOD CHEER!

SHHHH! WHILE NORMALLY A SECRET, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S BOX IS "THE MYTHICAL BEASTS OF SCOTLAND" BY ARTIST NEIL PARKINSON (PUCA PRINTHOUSE) AND WILL INCLUDE A LIMITED EDITION NUMBERED PRINT!

Only 100 Will Be Sold

\$45.00

GRAMS CAN BE SHIPPED ANYWHERE (\$15.00) OR PICKED UP (NO CHARGE) IN ANCHORAGE SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN SPECIAL FIRST-FOOTING DELIVERY!

Order Now at <https://alaskanscottish.square.site/>

Colony Christmas in Palmer

Come visit the ASC booth at the Colony Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair in the MatSu Borough Gym in Palmer. Hogmanay Grams for order, the Coo Corner featuring highland-coo-themed items and Welsh Cakes are among the holiday offerings.

Saturday December 9 10am-7pm and Sunday December 10 11am-4pm

Holiday Events



Come visit the Alaskan Scottish Club booth at the Irish Holiday Market Presented by our friends with the Irish Club of Alaska. Enjoy Harp Music, Shopping, Baked Goods, Crafts, Books, Singing, Chance.

Vendors! We will be featuring some of your favorite Irish and Celtic Vendors like Ancient Celtic Scribes, Armoured Wolf, Molly's Collectibles, Mystical Forrest Creations, Guided Dragonfly Pottery, Pepper's Palate Gluten Free, Celiac's Delights Gluten Free, the Alaskan Scottish Club and more. You can come and get all of your shopping done in one place, or stock up on treats for that next party you are going to from the ICA Bakesale like decorated sugar cookies, Irish Whiskey Balls, Christmas Cake, Irish Soda Bread and more.... Enjoy the sounds of local Harpists while you shop.

Shopping! ICA will have an ICA Store featuring our members' work: tiny stockings and sweater ornaments and jewelry, gnome cookie/candy jars, beautiful cross stitch, and some hand painted ornaments. Find a selection of tea towels from Ulster Weavers, and a few Tiny Ireland paper models to name a few of this year's treats.

Chance! Stop by the White Elephant/Mystery Gift Fundraiser with over 30 gifts new and gently used, beautifully wrapped for you to take your chances with! Give a gift to yourself or surprise yourself and a friend!

Books! Stop in with that Irish, Scottish, Celtic, Fantasy, Mystery or Alaskan book you just read, and swap it for a new one at our **Book Swap/Sale**. Don't have a book to Swap? No problem, we have over 50 books to swap or sell! Some are beautiful Irish books collected over decades by our members donated specially for this event.

Crafts and More! For those looking for a festive activity outside of the house that is not shopping, come decorate a tiny house, color some holiday pages, make a St Brigid's cross ornament, join our song circle (2-4pm) or learn to crochet granny squares(12-2)

AK Piping and Drumming Society News:

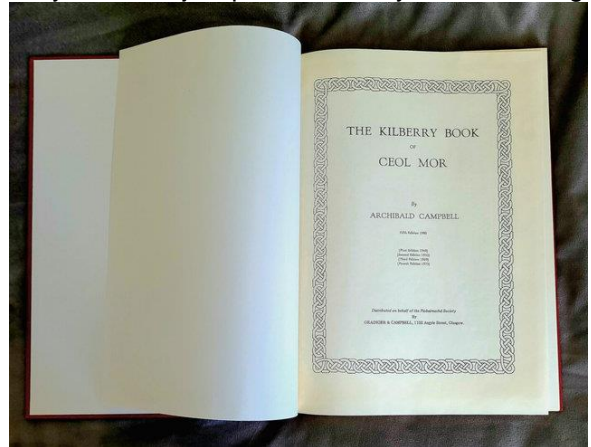
Hugh Dowell's Piobaireachd Help

OG AKPADS member Hugh Dowell has very kindly offered to help with some piobaireachd prep for AKPADS competing in the upcoming Alan Walters medal. He has offered to have a Zoom session with anyone interested this Saturday morning to go over a few of the set tunes. If you are an AKPADS member and are interested in connecting with him

for a little more guidance please email him directly at hpdowell@gmail.com so you can get in on the session! Hey Hugh, make sure the members have paid their dues! Grrr!

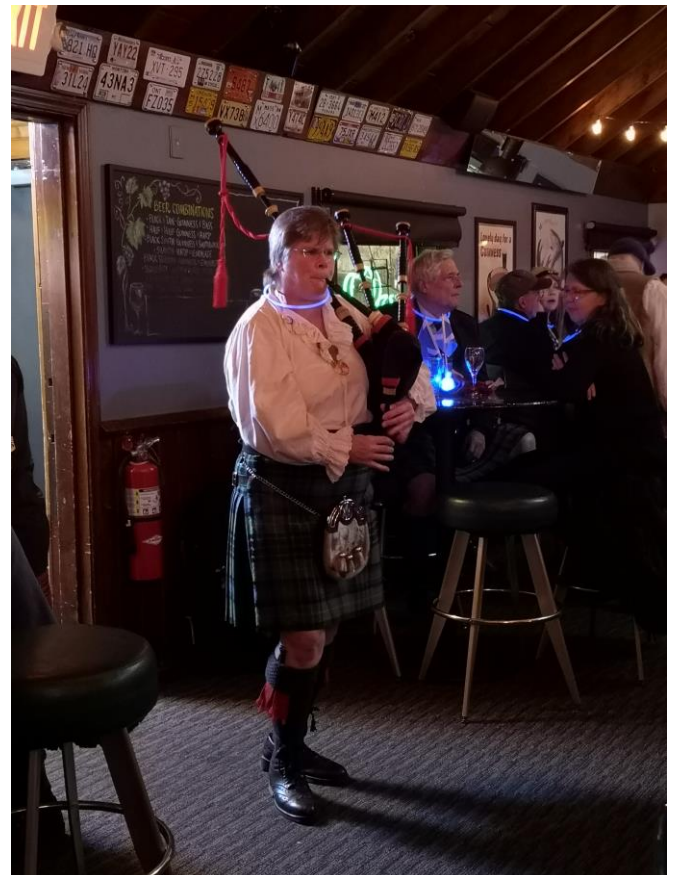
Piobaireachd Night: December 30th

The Piobaireachd Night lives on and will be Saturday, December 30th! This will be a great time to try out a set tune in front of a friendly group of supporters. Please be sure to click the button below to sign up. This is such a wonderful time to try out even just part of a tune you are working on.



50 Years of Memories:

Member Photos and Remembrances



Jennie Stewart piping in the New Year at Rielley's Pub: Hogmanay Celebration 2020 (photo by Laura Bozeman)



Burns Night 2020 Seated – Thom Eley and Cheri Northon, Cathy Steen As Mary Queen of Scots (Photo by Laura Bozeman)



Thanks to Rev. Amberle Wright for the suggestions for "Honoring Those Who Came Before Us." I've attached a photo of an altar I set up that includes my favorite Clan Fraser and other ancestors that also helps me celebrate the fall anniversaries of many recently deceased ancestors. Just thought I would share. Thanks. - Hal Frazer-Shepherd, Clan Fraser of Alaska.

The following photos and information were submitted by Tim Kincaid:



Anchorage Scottish Pipe Band, about 1986
 Back Row – Ian Hepburn, Annette banks, Sean Brady, Phyllis Stirling, Pat Ryan (Sorenson), Chuck May, Jerry Riggan, Dan Henderson, Karel Freeman, Gretchen Fiorella, Frank Carroll, Bruce Atkinson. Front Row, Suzi Peri, Max Guiley, Eric Hansen, Rob Frank, Davy McGillivray

I include this photo as most everyone pictured were Scottish Club Members. There are 4 Founding Club Members, 4 Club past Presidents, 1 past Games Chairman, 4 Scots of the Year and 1 Order of the Thistle recipient. Hepburn, Carroll, McGillivray, and Atkinson were founding members of the



Emma Park at the Scottish Club photo booth at the Pirate Cove, September, 2023

club. Davy McGillivray was Scot of the Year in 1977 and served as Club President in 1975. Dan Henderson was Club President in 1981 and was awarded the Club's "Order of the Thistle" in 1997. Frank Carroll's wife Dory was Scot of the Year in 1990. Phylis Stirling's husband, Jim, was Games chairman for 9 years 1983-1991 and Scot of the Year twice 1983 & 1989. Pat Ryan was Scot of the Year in 1991. Chuck May served as Games Co-chair with Jim Stirling in 1983. Jerry Riggan was Scot of the Year in 1980 and was Club President in 1989. Bruce Atkinson was the club's very first Scot of the year in 1973 and served as club President in 1988.



Dan Williams, first ever to turn the new larger challenge caber, 2010 AK Games in Palmer



Jim McGoldrick, 5-time World Champion, first ever to turn the original challenge Caber, 1993 AK Games in Eagle River
(Note – I was there – he tossed it like a toothpick! – editor)



Before the club started sponsoring the Highland Games we sponsored a winter piping, drumming and dancing competition for a couple of years (1981-82). This was done during Fur Rendezvous. Attached photo shows Piping Judge Colin Gemmell (Spokane, WA) and Dancing Judge Anne Johnson (Beaverton, OR) going for a dogsled ride on the park strip during a break from their judging obligations.



Brian (? - 2005) and Shirley (1925-2010) Davies at their 50th wedding Anniversary (around 1995), Brian and Shirley were joint Scots of the Year in 1979. Shirley served as Club Pres. In 1987



Chris Kilday Caber Tossing. This photo is from about 1998. I include it because Chris is still throwing at our Games in the 70's and over age group!



Dust Devil, 1996 AK Highland Games, Anchorage



Caitlin Kincaid – Highland Dancer, 1997 AK Highland Games, Eagle River



Massed Fling at 2000 AK Highland Games in Eagle River.

I got this out of my daughters scrapbook. Looks like about 16 dancers: Back Row - Rabbecca, Cindy, Emily, Michelle, Karin Middle Row – Alexa, Alyssa, Caitlin, Cristy, Meg, Hope, Front Row – Ronwen, Haley, Teagen, Bronwen, Cardy



Joan and Dennis Morgan. Dennis passed away earlier this year. Joan and Dennis were joint Scots of the Year in 1986 and Dennis was Scot of the Year again in 1991. Dennis served as Club President 1985 and 1985.



John Morrison (1924-2010). John and wife Jodie were long time Scottish club members. John was named Scot of the Year in 1988. He served as Club President in 1986

Thoughts on the 50th year

I asked the board to either send a photo of themselves 50 years ago, or let us know where they see the club in 50 years. Here are the responses.

50 years from now...I would love to see the Alaskan Scottish Club thriving with chapters all over Alaska. I would love to see more Highland Games for local athletes that don't have the opportunity to travel "outside". And I would love for the Club to have an office and storefront space of our own where members can shop for merchandise, look through historic memorabilia, and gather for community get togethers.

- Sherri Borchert, Arctic Thistle Bakes, Board Member



BEMA Construction Tug-O-War Team. They won a number of Championship in the mid 90's



Before starting the Highland games the club also used to participate in the annual Renaissance Fair in Anchorage. Attached photo shows some of the pipers marching through the fair. Left to right are: Carol Hierigs, Chuck Burgin, Ian Hepburn, Dan Henderson, Goerge Moerlein, John Adams and Frank Carroll. Hepburn and Carroll were founding members of the Scottish Club. Henderson is a long, long, time member. Note: Burgin was awarded "Piper of the Day" at the last club sponsored winter competition February 1982.



Cathy Steen on the Washington-Lee High School drill team, 1973

Christa Wallace – early 1970s



I don't know how I'm going to get a photo, as I would have been -5 years old that year!
- Chris Chisholm

It's exciting to think about the future of the club. But personally, I'm excited at the dream of my little guy finding a passion for the games the way his dad and I did. Whether it's athletics, piping and drumming or highland dance, I dream of lots of years cheering him on as he competes and carries on the traditions our club holds so dear.
- Jeni McDaniel

St Andrews Night 2024



Getting ready for the knobby knees competition – Lady Maggie (Wallace) judging and Dixine Schiavi assisting with hand placement.



Down to the final two in Heads and Tails (renamed Crowns and Kilts)



Heads or Tails? Laurel Osbourne decides



Alaska Celtic Pipes and Drums performed an amazing set for us, including Christmas Carols!



Rhett Rayburn competes in heads or tails.

Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:	
<p>Crow Creek Pipes & Drums Practice every Monday, 6:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2610 E Northern lights Blvd. http://crowcreekpd.com/</p>	<p>Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org</p>
<p>Alaska Celtic Pipes & Drums Lessons on Tuesdays - 6:30 pm - Mat-Su College; Lessons on Fridays - 5:30 pm - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chugiak: Band Practice to follow. Contact Richard Christiansen - 907-315-9838 www.alaskacelticpipesdrums.org</p>	<p>Anchorage Scottish Pipe Band Practices Monday, 6:00 to 8:00pm (Anchorage) and Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30pm (Eagle River) Lessons: Thursday, 6:00pm (Eagle River), or by appointment Contact: Tim Kincaid, 907-360-2585; Email: tim@terntech.com Find us on Facebook</p>
<p>Alaska Piping and Drumming Society Contact Teddy Krogh at krogh_teddy@hotmail.com</p>	<p>City of Juneau Pipe Band Juneau, Alaska www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org</p>

Scottish Club Supporters

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ADVERTISING STRATEGIES LLC</p> <p><i>Joan Massart-Paden, CAS</i></p> <p>907-229-0022 Email: adstrategies@icloud.com</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OSHA 10-and 30-hour training Awareness training – Asbestos, Lead, Silica and Respiratory Protection Written Tool box talks, Mitigation Plans, Small Business Management Plans</p>  <p>A. Wright Perspective Occupational Safety Training and Consulting</p> <p>Amberle Wright 907-231-0870 amberle1112@yahoo.com</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>MAPPING SOLUTIONS</p>  <p>Custom maps and graphics – (907) 561-4627 Mapmakers.com</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Steven Blades Associate Broker ABE, MRP, CNE, GRI, AHWD, FairHaven, Ally</p> <p>@stevenblades kiltedAK@gmail.com www.stevenblades.com +1 209 6020686</p> <p>1174 N Leather Loop, Suite A Wasilla, AK 99654</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>AMANDA KERR SUZUKI VIOLIN & FIDDLE STUDIO Weekly Private Lessons and Group Classes for Age 3 and up Variety of fiddle styles!</p>  <p>Register NOW online for Spring Semester Jan. 14th - May 21st</p> <p>Complete information available on the website: www.amandakerrmusic.com</p> <p><small>Amanda Kerr holds State, Regional, and National titles for Fiddling and is teacher-certified in the Suzuki Method (Every Child Can, Suzuki Principles in Action, Violin Units 1 & 2), and Music Mind Games.</small></p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MOLLY V. MANAUGH A TARTAN WEAVER</p> <p>CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS HAND WEAVING TARTANS IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA</p> <p>WWW.TARTANWEAVER.COM 907-479-5772</p> </div>

Club Calendar

Scottish Club Board Meeting

December 18, 6pm
Wallace Residence, Chugiak

Irish Holiday Market

Sunday, December 10 12pm-4pm
at The Nave Spenard

Colony Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday 12/9 10am-7pm, Sunday 12/10 11am-4pm
MatSu Borough Gym,
350 E. Dahlia Ave, Palmer

Burns Night

January 27, 6 – 10pm
Lakefront Hotel, Anchorage

Alaska Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans

June 29 – 30, 2024

Tartan Tourney

July 2024
Settler's Bay Golf Course

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Thanks to our contributors for the November: Cathy Steen, Christa Wallace, Jeni McDaniel, Dawn Berg, Tim Kincaid, Hal Shepherd. Photos by Laura Bozeman, Emma Parks, Tim Kincaid John at 49mmCreative, Maggie Wallace

Alaskan Scottish Club

Board of Directors

Cathy Steen, President	president@alaskanscottish.org
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Nelson Alger, Secretary	secretary@alaskanscottish.org
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Executive Director: Jeni McDaniel, jeni@alaskanscottish.org
Cell: 907-602-0901

Board Members Emeritus: Robert J. Dickson, Rod Finkle, Tim Kincaid

The Alaskan Scottish Club is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity and can accept cash and services. Cash donations are welcome at any time of the year. For those with corporate matching programs, we are eligible for those funds. You can contact the Board of Directors at the above address with questions. Facebook and Instagram contacts are:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlaskanScottish (Club page)

NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25th. Send to tundrathistle@alaskanscottish.org



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