



# Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 29 Number 1

January 2023

## Coming Events:

### Burns Night 2023

Robert Burns Night will be a live event this year and planning is underway. The event will be taking place on **January 21, 2023** at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage starting at 6 pm.

This year's dinner will be buffet-style, with choices of prime rib, salmon and haggis as the entrees, so no need to specify which entrée you prefer.

This evening will feature the traditional Burns Night toasts, an all-Burns performance by Anchorage Scottish Pipe band and plenty of chances to mix and mingle with other Scottish Club members.

The cost is \$85/person for members, and \$95/person for nonmembers. This includes a shot of scotch (or a nonalcoholic alternative) for the toasts. Rooms will be available to attendees who would like to stay the night. Please purchase tickets by January 16<sup>th</sup> so the food order may be finalized.

Contact Cathy Steen if you have any special dietary needs to pass on to the chef.



**Reminder: Club memberships expire December 31, 2022! Please remember to renew to get your Burns Night discount!**

**If you joined in or after August, your membership is good through December 2023.**

### Virtual Paint Night

The Club's Paint Night will be held on **February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**. When you register for the class, you will receive all the materials needed to create the evening's painting. The instructor will be Glenys Mee, owner of Palette. She is the same painter who helped us paint "the monarch of the Glen" in 2020, and the Highland Coo last year. Details of the price and an example of the painting will be posted later in January.

### ASHG Registrations Will Be Opening in Early January

## The Best of the ASHG: 2022

By Jeni McDaniel

As the year is winding down and we are starting to plan for the **2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games**, we wanted to take some time to look back at what a great year was had at the 2022 ASHG. We are starting our ASHG year end review with our Vendors.

Our Vendors put so much time and energy into bringing amazing foods and beautiful goods to our games, our event wouldn't be the same without them! We hosted a "Scottish Flare" contest for our vendors and the 2022 ASHG Vendor Awards go to:

### Best-In-Show Scottish Flare: Bitchin' Biscuits



Bitchin' Biscuits not only had WONDERFUL Scottish Breakfast food option (Which got a BIG thumbs up from the National Chef of Scotland, pictured here on the left), they also made a kilt for their food truck!! We have heard rumors that the kilt is almost large enough to break a Guinness book of world records!? Will they set a record next year??

### Best Scottish Food Vendor: Parley (Captain's Coffee Roasting Co.)



Parley (Captains Coffee Roasting Co) came up from Homer with a full Scottish Menu and were able to both serve

attendees and cater our VIP tent both days. Those Scotch eggs were amazing!

### Best Scottish Merchandise Vendor: Rebel Oddities and Design



Rebel Oddities & Design came stocked with tons of custom Scottish items, from homemade kilts, totes, buttons, phone grips, and more. What a great selection!

### Most Creative Scottish Flare: Northern Whimsy Art Studio



Northern Whimsy not only had some amazing Scottish art and gifts, they also created art kits you could take home to create your own Highland Coo or Loch Ness Monster Mosaics!

### Most Creative Scottish Food Offering: The Hungry Robot



The Hungry Robot was down from Fairbanks for our Games and created some truly Scottish Pizzas! Scotch Egg Pizza

or Neeps and Tatties Pizza anyone? They were AMAZING! Hopefully they will have them again next year.

### People's Choice: Alaska's Best Gourmet Dogs



Alaska's Best Gourmet Dogs won the People's Choice Award! This was an award voted on by attendees throughout the two days. Alaska's Best Gourmet Dogs not only had the only (and most adorable) Hot Dog we have ever seen in a kilt they also made some delicious Scottish treats like Macaroons and Tablet!

Thank you to ALL the vendors who have Scottish Flare at the games!

We are looking forward to what our vendors will be bringing in 2023! Registration for Vendors will open first of the year.

## Tug-o-War

Next up on our year end review we talk Tug-O-War (TOW) championships! TOW has become one of the most popular Saturday events, drawing HUGE crowds and more and more teams each year, not to mention more and more kids. If you have not seen the Kids TOW you are missing out. We are going to need a bigger rope for all those kiddos!

As always, we saw major battles on the TOW field this year, but in the end "Tug O Thor" came out as champions! We would also like to congratulate 2nd Place Team "Arctic Chiropractic" and 3rd Place team "Flicklin Cladhairean."

Special thank you to our 2022 TOW Sponsors Truog Consulting and [Beard Brother's Meadery](#) and to the best TOW Emcee around, Mark Truog!





Think you have what it takes to become the Champions of the [2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games TOW Championships](#)? Registration will open in the first of 2023. Start putting your teams together now!

## Recipe of the Month:

**Chef Gary Mclean**, the National Chef of Scotland, demonstrated the preparation of ten recipes from his cookbook: *Gary Mclean's Scottish Kitchen*. He has given permission for his recipes to be shared here.

### Ayrshire Shortbread

This recipe comes from a handwritten book that was sent to me from a family who wanted me to have their great-grandmother's recipes. Her name was Jessie Henderson and she was a student of the E. C. Training College in Edinburgh. This recipe is from her class notes dated 3 June 1893. The collection is incredible – it was written in impeccable handwriting, and we are still teaching lots of these recipes today. It is my honour to share some of her recipes with you. **MAKES 12 FINGERS**

#### Ingredients:

- 225g (8oz) butter 225g (8oz)
- plain flour
- 225g (8oz) rice flour
- 125g (4oz) sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons milk

#### Instructions:

1. Rub the butter with the dry ingredients until the mixture is like breadcrumbs.
2. Beat the egg and add it to the milk, add this to the dry mix and combine until you have a soft dough.
3. Turn onto a floured board and, with a floured pin, roll out thinly.
4. Cut into squares, prick with a fork, then bake in a 'quick oven' at 180°C (350°F) for 10 to 15 minutes.
5. Remove from the oven and dust with sugar



The Pipes are a staple of the Highland Games! Who is excited to hear them at the ASHG next year? Registration for piping and drumming competitions will open at the beginning of the year.

If you love this design, check out our online store, we have stickers with the design and will be adding limited edition pint glasses next year! Visit the Club store at:

<https://alaskanscottish.square.site/>

## Events with other Celtic Groups in Anchorage:

### Irish Club of Alaska



Mark your calendars for the much anticipated annual March stage show from the Irish Club of Alaska! Check [www.irishalaska.org](http://www.irishalaska.org) for more information about the theme, time, and venue.

### Celtic Community of Alaska

The Celtic Spring Festival plans to return as a live event in late April. Vendor and Instructor information will be posted in mid January at [www.akcelts.org](http://www.akcelts.org).



# Cryptids of Scotland

What, you may ask, is a “cryptid”?

Cryptids are animals that cryptozoologists believe may exist somewhere in the wild, but are not believed to exist by mainstream science. Cryptozoology is a pseudoscience, which primarily looks at anecdotal stories, and other claims rejected by the scientific community.

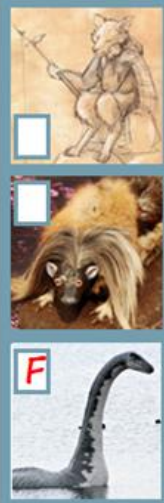
Examples abound in Scotland and elsewhere. The Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman.

Below is a map, with pictures and names of some of the common “cryptids” associated with Scotland. Can you figure out which is which and place them in the correct locations? One example (Nessie) is already filled in for you. Can you figure out the rest? The answers will appear next month. Enjoy!

CRYPTID	?
Nuckelavee	A
Wulver	B
Each Uisge	C
Wild Haggis	D
Ghillie Dhu	E
Nessie	F
Bean Nighe	G
Red Cap	H
Baobhan Sith	I



Match each picture to its name & the locality it is said to frequent (e.g., Nessie)



Cryptozoological Consulting, LLC

**Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:**

**Crow Creek Pipes & Drums**  
Practice every Monday, 6:00 p.m.  
First Congregational Church, 2610 E Northern lights Blvd.  
<http://crowcreekpd.com/>

**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](mailto:tim@terntech.com)  
**Find us on Facebook**

**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](http://www.alaskacelticpipesdrums.org)

**Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band**  
P.O. 82782  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
[www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org](http://www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org)

**Alaska Piping and Drumming Society**  
Contact Teddy Krogh at [krogh\\_teddy@hotmail.com](mailto:krogh_teddy@hotmail.com)

**City of Juneau Pipe Band**  
Juneau, Alaska  
[www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org](http://www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org)

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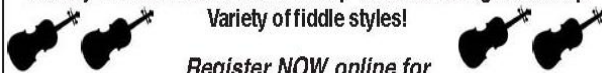
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Amanda Kerr holds State, Regional, and National titles for Fiddling and is teacher-certified in the Suzuki Method (Every Child Can, Suzuki Principles in Action, Violin Units 1 & 2), and Music Mind Games.



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# Club Calendar

**NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25<sup>th</sup>. Send to Cathy at [csteen@gci.net](mailto:csteen@gci.net).**

**Burns Night 2023**  
**January 21, 2023 6:00 pm**  
Embassy Suites Hotel

**Paint Night**  
**February 12, 2023 6:00 pm**  
presented via zoom

**Afternoon in Ireland**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**  
with the Irish Club of Alaska

**Celtic Spring Festival**  
**Late April**  
with the Celtic Community of Alaska

**Kirkin' o' the Tartan**  
**Date and location to be Announced**

**Alaska Scottish Highland Games**  
**June 24 & 25, 2023**  
Alaska State Fair Grounds, Palmer

**Tartan Tourney**  
**July 29, 2023**  
Settler's Bay

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Editor, Tundra Thistle, Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc.  
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Thanks to our contributors for the December Thistle: Cathy Steen, Jeni McDaniel, Chef Gary Maclean.  
Photos by [John@49mmcreative.com](mailto:John@49mmcreative.com)

## Alaskan Scottish Club

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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](https://www.facebook.com/AlaskanScottish) (Club page)  
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Instagram: [www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish](https://www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish)

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Dues (\$30 for family or \$15 for an individual) may be sent to: Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc. P.O. Box 244416 Anchorage, AK 99524-4416 or visit us at [www.alaskanscottish.org](http://www.alaskanscottish.org) and pay dues via Square.