

Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

May 2023

Volume 29 Number 5

Coming Events:

Nessie Paint Night



Where: Your House

When: Saturday, May 13, 6 pm

Cost: \$47, includes all supplies needed to complete your painting.

Register at: https://paintwithsara.com/paintclasses-1/1120-5-pm-northernpolar-bear-p3673-ekkar-erclcraxek-7xlhg-nb6kl-8z6ce-9slj7

Join the Alaskan Scottish Club as we host a virtual paint night featuring a "created just for us" painting, Loch Ness Monster Sighting!

Grab your partner, family, or come as a party of one, while you explore this great chance to put your artistic skills to work in the comfort of your own home. Pour a glass of wine or a dram of Scotch, and paint your very own masterpiece!

Paint kit can be picked in Anchorage or Wasilla or have the kit shipped to you for an additional \$12.

Our host for the evening will be Paint Nights with Sara & Co.



Games News and Updates:

Opening Ceremonies Moved to 10am Saturday

This year the planning committee for the Alaskan Scottish Highland Games has decided to change the time of the Opening Ceremonies at the games. The Opening Ceremonies have traditionally stated at Noon, this tends to be a planning nightmare for many involved as things are just getting going and have to be stopped to participate. By moving the Ceremony to 10 we hope that more folks will be able to attend this also opens up the schedule for many other events to happen at noon. We will be releasing the Full schedule in next months thistle, but start making plans now for this change.

Musical Guests 2023:

All musical performances are free with purchase of your Games entry ticket!



The Harp Twins

They have entertained our crowds the last 2 years and are back by very popular demand: Camille and Kennerly - Harp Twins with special guests the Volfgang Twins! You can catch them both Saturday and Sunday on the Cèilidh Theatre Stage! <u>https://www.harptwins.com/</u> <u>https://www.volfgangtwins.com/</u>

Celtica Nova

We are thrilled to announce the return of Celtica HVA! They rocked the ASHG stage in 2013 and 10 years later they are making their return! You can catch them both Saturday and Sunday on the Cèilidh Theatre Stage! <u>https://www.celtica.us/</u>





Special Guests: Marine SandPiper

We are excited to be welcoming Marine Sandpiper this year! Hailing from the greater metropolitan area of Twentynine Palms, CA, Marine Sandpiper is a rock & roll bagpiper! With over 26 years of bagpipe experience, Marine Sandpiper can cover everything from traditional bagpipe music to classic rock and pop music. He will be rocking out around the Games on both Saturday and Sunday! We can't wait to hear those pipes! <u>https://www.marinesandpiper.com/</u>

Tickets on Sale!

Use this link to purchase Games tickets, family packs, and tickets to the Scotch and Mead tasting events:

https://alaskanscottish.ticketspice.com/2023ashg

Scotch and Mead Tastings

Scotch

The Scotch Tastings are generously sponsored by Republic National Distributing Company Alaska, BenRiach, GlenGlassaugh and GlenDronach. Straight from Scotland, the Scotch Tastings will be hosted by Brand Ambassador Rory Glasgow. Scotch Tasting tickets are \$65 in advanced and \$75 at the door (If not sold out)

Scotch Sessions Include:

- Saturday 24th 1:30 pm Featuring: BenRiach
- Saturday 24th 4pm Featuring: GlenGlassaugh and GlenDronach

- Sunday 25th 1:30 pm Featuring: GlenGlassaugh and GlenDronach
- Sunday 25th 4pm Featuring: BenRiach

Our High-End Scotch Tasting is back and will feature 6 tastes! Featuring: BenRiach, GlenGlassaugh and GlenDronach Tickets for this tasting are \$150 in advance and \$175 at the door (if not sold out) There is a limit of 50 seats for this tasting and tickets are already going fast for this unique experience. This tasting only takes place once and is on Saturday 24th at 5:30pm



Mead

Mead Tastings are generously sponsored by Beard Brothers Meadery and Hosted by the Beard Brothers themselves. Mead Tasting Tickets are \$55 in advance and \$65 at the door (if not sold out)

Mead sessions will be held:

- Saturday 24th 11:30am
- Sunday 25th 11:30am

All Tastings are Educational Tastings. Tasting tickets do not include ASHG entry, Entry ticket(s) must be purchased separately. Must be 21+ to attend



Registrations Open!



Tug-O-War Championships

1-2-3-PULL! Join the fun at the Alaskan Scottish Tug-O-War Championships Saturday June 24th on the Scottish Strength Field! Can you form a team that's capable of dethroning the 2022 Champions, Tug-O-Thor? Team Registration is now open! <u>https://alaskanscottish.regfox.com/2023ashgtow</u>

So far, we have 2 Teams who have risen to the challenge, Arctic Chiropractic Rehab & PT and Frickin Ficklin. We have room for 6 teams total, so don't wait to register!

Proudly Sponsored by Truog Consulting and Beard Brother's Meadery



Heavy Events

We want YOU to be part of the ASHG. Registration is open, and there are still spots in all of our athletics classes for the Heavy Events (Throwing Events). We offer athletic classes for all, from our Junior Classes (ages 12-14 and 15-17) to our Masters Classes (ages 70+) and everyone in between. If you have ever wanted to try your hand at throwing in the games, DO IT! Don't miss out as classes do fill up. Register now to throw and/or attend our clinics at: https://alaskanscottish.regfox.com/2023ashgheavy

Not sure where to start? We offer Highland Games 101 Clinics in both Anchorage and Fairbanks.



3rd Annual Alaskan Strongman

Our Strongman competition is presented by Anchor of Iron and Northside Athletics and sanctioned by United States Strongman.

This year, the event will feature a Keg Press Ladder, Dinnie stone Hold, Husafell Sandbag Carry, Loading Medley and Odin Sledgehammer Slams!

The Strongman Event will also be host to a Record Breakers Event featuring the infamous ASHG Farmers Walk!

The Strongman event will be held Sunday on our Scottish Strength Field! Register now at:

https://ironpodium.com/.../event/alaska-scottish-strongman





Piping and Drumming

Registration for the Piping and Drumming Competitions at the 2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games are now open! We will be hosting Trios, Band Competitions and Solo Competitions this year. We are excited to be partnering with the Alaska Piping and Drumming Society (AKPADS) to run these competitions.

Register at: https://www.akpads.com/

The Alaska Piping and Drumming Society (AKPADS) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the promotion and support of Highland Bagpiping and Pipe Band Drumming in the state of Alaska through performance, competition, education, and fraternity. Learn more Here: https://www.akpads.com/

Weddings at the Games





We are excited to offer walk-in weddings, handfastings, renewals, and legal civil marriage services at the 2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games, located at the Alaska State Fairgrounds.

JUNE 24 - 25, 2023

Our walk-in wedding package includes a legal service with an officiant, photography with the Alaskan kilted photographer, floral choices, a sweet treat, and sparkling cider. This package is priced at \$300.00 for the legal ceremony.

For those looking to renew their commitment, we offer a recommitment package for \$150.00. This package includes all the essentials for a beautiful ceremony to reaffirm your love and commitment to each other.

Contact Women Warriors Event Planning for more information about our wedding and commitment ceremony services, and let us help you plan the perfect celebration. inquiry@womenwarriorsep.com or call 907-841-0767



Sponsorships Available

For over 40 years, the ASHG has showcased our heritage and culture with the people of the State of Alaska. It would not be possible to hold the event without the sponsorship of people like you. Sponsorships help keep our gate fee low, making this an affordable community event. Sponsorships help us bring up excellent musicians from throughout the US and the world, and pay local performers to entertain us throughout the day.

You can even be a sponsor (or jointly sponsor one of your favorite events!) Love that Tall Tales competition? Sponsor it! This year, you can even sponsor one of the lightweight elite athletes who are coming from around the nation to compete at our Games.

You can also sponsor the games through donating a companion pass or airline mileage. This helps us to defray the costs associated with bringing athletes, performers, and judges to our games.

All of our sponsorship packages include 2-day access to the ASHG, and to the Sponsor Hospitality Tent, where food and beverages are available throughout the day. Thank you for your consideration of sponsorship of the ASHG. If you have any questions or comments, you may contact us at 907-229-0022 or sponsors@alaskanscottish.org



Gathering O' The Clans

Calling all Clans! Calling all Clans! Registration for The Gathering O' The Clans at the 2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games is now open!

There are numerous events planned for the Clan area during the games and we want you and yours to be a part; Haggis Eating Contest, Haggis Toss, Kirkin O' the Tartan. Tall Tales Contest. and the return of the Grand Parade of the Clans just to name a few!

The Culloden Memorial Stage will be packed with amazing entertainment all weekend! Be part of all the fun and register your Clan, Family or Society today!

https://alaskanscottish.regfox.com/2023ashgclans



ASHG Planning Committee

The Games Planning Committee is hard at work planning what will be another fantastic year at the Alaska Scottish Highland Games! If you are interested in giving input and helping out with the planning of this event, we would love to have you join our team! Please join us at one of our upcoming meetings either in Person or over Zoom:

Upcoming Planning Meetings:

Meeting Times: 6:15pm

Meeting In-Person Location: Eureka Space 405 W 36th Ave

Meeting Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2372867941

2023 Meetings:

- May 11, 25
- June 8, 22 (1st Volunteer 101 Training)

Highland Games Promo and Community Outreach Events

April 29: CCA Celtic Spring Fest

May 6: 2023 ABATE of Anchorage: The Gathering & Bike Blessing 9am-3pm Dimond Mall

May 12: Lake Hood Elementary School-Multi Cultural Night 5:30-7:30

May 15: FBI Crowd Management Training

May 22: Lake Hood Elementary School-Scottish Field Day-Pending

June 1: ASHG Volunteer 101

June 9-11: Colony Days Marketplace (Booth)

June 10: Colony Days Parade

June 15: ASHG Volunteer Training - Q & A

June 16: Friday Fling Booth

June 23: Live @ The Library Event

Second Annual Tartan Tourney

THE ALASKAN SCOTTISH CLUB



It's Back! The Tartan Tourney will be on July 29 at Settlers Bay Golf Course. Our first year was a HUGE success and fun was had by all. You won't want to miss out this year! This is not your average golf tournament. This tourney is one of the most entertaining golf events in Alaska. The event hosts up to 30 teams of 4 golfers each and features all things Scottish before, during and after the tournament. Behold bagpipers and drummers, Highland

Dancers, Scotch toasts, and multiple Scottish-themed games, your day will be filled with Scottish amusement. After a day out on the course, golfers and non-golfers are invited to join us for a dinner Ceilidh (Scottish party) which will include delicious food options, Scottish entertainment, and a Scotch tasting.

Registration and Sponsorships are open now:

https://alaskanscottish.regfox.com/2023tartantourney

Tartan Day at the Blarney Stone

The ASC get-together at the Blarney Stone in celebration of Tartan Day on April 6th was a great success. Over 20 members and prospective members gathered to feast and imbibe! The Blarney Stone was an amazing host! If you have not gotten a chance to stop by, please be sure to do so. I think everyone who attended can agree that the food was wonderful, especially the Pretzels and wings!

Alaskans Compete in Hawaii's Highland Games

Dubbed the "Non-contiguous States" Challenge

By Brandi Neuterman

Highrise hotels and apartment buildings surrounded the throwing field, spectators arrived in board shorts and slippahs (sandals or flip flops), and Alaskan throwers slathered on the sunscreen. The scene was a little different from the mountains we are used to, but the buzz on the field was very familiar. Eight Alaskan throwers made the journey and took the field in Oahu to complete in the 40th Annual Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games. At the end of the day, five of those athletes had won awards.

Chris Carr, honorary Alaskan, and athletic director for the Hawaiian games, has been inviting Alaskan throwers to the island for several years. Last year, Gabriella Rinehart took him up on his offer and this year many more joined her. I guess we needed a little break from all the snow and cold temperatures. Chris and the Hawaiian Scottish Association were incredible hosts and their efforts to grow the events in Hawaii could be seen on and off the field. There were several new throwers on Saturday and more signed up throughout the day. Sunday's events were an introduction for novice throwers and a great time for athletes to talk to spectators about the sport.

As the events of the day got underway, the crowd and the excitement grew. Women athletes were front and center first thing in the morning, throwing weight over bar and sheaf, while grunts from the back corner of the field from the men throwing stones echoed through the school grounds. Spectators, who had been listening to the band play, suddenly turned their heads to see what had happened. We caught their interest and held their attention for the rest of the day. The athletes on the field cheered for one another and helped get the crowd hyped, after all this isn't golf, the louder the better!

By the end of the day, we were all tired but in good spirits. Athletes milled about the festival grounds waiting for scores to be tallied and awards to be announced. Other events of the day included a children's throwing field, miniature golf, face painting, Scottish history lessons, and a phenomenal band. Awards were announced and 5 of the 8 Alaskans were going home with souvenirs almost as sweet as the pineapples.

Most Highland Games athletes are able to practice and throw year-round but for us, this event was a season opener and still there were a few personal records. Both Danny Autrey and Gabriella Rinehart set new personal bests. Gabriella outdid her previous records in both the light and heavy weight for distance and Danny extended his record in the open stone by just over a foot but crushed his Braemar record by 2 feet 7 inches. Way to go!!!

I think it's safe to say, we all had a good time and are already planning our next trip. We were all sad to learn Chris won't be hosting the games in the future, but he is leaving the event in the capable hands of the Hawaiian Scottish Association. Hopefully some of the Hawaiian athletes make it to our event this year and we can continue the noncontiguous United States challenge. Throw high and throw far!



From top Left Gabriella Rinehart, Chehalia Walsh, Morgan Ashcraft, Spencer Whipple, Charles Knefelkamp, Danny Autrey, Kneeling: Brandi Neuterman, Krystal Autrey

Braveheart Showing for Tartan Week

The Scottish Club took over the Beartooth on April 2nd in celebration of Scottish-American Heritage Month and Tartan Day on April 6th. The event was a huge success and we were able to raise \$699 for a day out at the movies. We had many dress up in costumes and kilts and paint their faces with warrior paint (provided)! Even the Beartooth staff had some fun and threw on warrior paint. Four brave souls got up on stage and participated in the Freedom call contest which really pumped up the crowd! There were approx. 200 in attendance for the movie and we are looking forward to our next Scottish movie day at the Beartooth!



Scott Landrum of Talkeetna won the "Freedom Call" contest. The prize: 2 tickets to a Games Scotch Tasting!

ASC Gaming Permit

In 2020, the ASC received our Alaska Gaming Permit. This Permit allows the club to hold our fundraising raffles and auctions. The ASC is also able to use our permit to sponsor raffles for other Non-Profits for their events and fundraisers. If you are in need of a gaming permit for an upcoming event please let us know.

Support the ASC at No Cost to You:

Alaska Airlines Easy Biz



Booking Summer Travel? Did you know that you can help the Alaskan Scottish Club earn airline miles at the same time you earn your own? The Alaska Airlines Easy Biz program allows the club to

earn 1 mile for every dollar spent on the base fare portion of all ticket purchases made online through the EasyBiz® website. Simply sign in to EasyBiz for all your travel purchases and each purchase will automatically be credited to you're the Clubs account along with your own! Interested in signing up? Send Jeni an email and she will get you on our account! jeni@alaskanscottish.org

Flowers of the Forest



Dennis Morgan

Former ASC President, Games Chair and Leprechaun Extraordinaire Passes at Age 81

Dennis Zane Morgan – longtime Alaskan, devoted husband, beloved Dad Too & Papaw passed into

eternal life with his Savior on April 2, 2023 in Anchorage.

He attended high school in Fairbanks, when his dad was stationed at Eielson AFB, and when his dad got transferred, he stayed on in Fairbanks to finish high school, then attended UAF, earning his degree in civil engineering.

He was very active in community and social organizations, such as Alaska Jaycees and the ASC, where he served as President (1984, 1985) and Games Chair (1992, 1993). He was awarded Scot of the Year in 1991.

He loved his Scottish heritage, and he and his wife of 41 years, Joan, and their family traveled to Highland Games in various states. He also enjoyed playing the St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun for many years at the McMac Shoppe and Celtic Treasures, where he greeted visitors and gifted them with little embroidered shamrocks.

Dennis was a kind and generous man, who gave of his time and skills not only to this club, but to many other organizations. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Condolences and memorial donations to his church, Redeemer United Reformed Church may be sent to Joan Morgan, 6921 Dickenson Dr, Anchorage, AK 99504. Activities with other Celtic Groups in town:

Irish Club of Alaska

May Irish Song Circle Saturday, May 6th, 4:00pm-6:00pm New Sagaya City Market 900 W 13th Ave., Anchorage

Join the Irish Club of Alaska and come sing an Irish song, a song of spring, May or whatever you'd like to share. You can sing your party piece, lead a sing-along song, join in the chorus, request a favorite song (if anyone knows it) or just stop in and listen. No experience required.

This is not a performance, but an opportunity to join us to enjoy singing and song, all ages and experience levels are welcome! Feel free to bring lyrics sheets if you prefer, we will have some song books available or you can use your phone.

Parking is great, there is food and drink available for purchase, or you may bring your own water bottle. Our April session was so much fun, with 18 participants - 8 who led songs, that we didn't stop singing until 7pm.



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/	Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org	
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	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: <u>tim@terntech.com</u> Find us on Facebook	
Alaska Piping and Drumming Society Contact Teddy Krogh at krogh_teddy@hotmail.com	City of Juneau Pipe Band Juneau, Alaska www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org	
Scottish Club Supporters		
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907-229-0022 Email: adstrategies@icloud.com MAPPING SOLUTIONS	aknaturalstonecraft@yahoo.com	
Custom maps and graphics – (907) 561-4627 Mapmakers.com	Brown Bear Shrink Wrap & Self Storage We Shrink Wrap Anything 1341 E. 70 th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska Phone 344-2158 Fax 344-2148 Cell 351-8881 <u>aknaturalstonecraft@yahoo.com</u>	
AMANDA KERR SUZUKI VIOLIN & FIDDLE STUDIO Weekly Private Lessons and Group Classes for Age 3 and up Variety of fiddle styles! Register NOW online for Spring Semester Jan. 14th - May 21st Complete Information a valiable on the website: WWW.amandakerrmusic.com	MOLLY V. MANAUGH A TARTAN WEAVER CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS HAND WEAVING TARTANS IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA WWW.TARTANWEAVER.COM 907-479-5772	
Stevenblades www.stevenblades.com 1 209 6020686 SUMMARY AV 2005	OSHA 10-and 30-hour training Awareness training – Asbestos, Lead, Silica and Respiratory Protection Written Tool box talks, Mitigation Plans, Small Business Management Plans Take 5 for Safety Compational Safety Training and Consulting Amberle Wright 207-231-0870 Amberle 1112@yahoo.com	

Club Calendar

Scottish Club Board Meeting May 15, 6:00 pm BP Energy Center	The Tundra Thistle, the newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club, is published approximately 11 times each year. Subscription is by membership to the Alaskan Scottish Club. Send articles for publication, membership info, and advertising rate inquiries to:
Nessie Paint Night May 13, 6:00 pm Virtual event via zoom	Editor, Tundra Thistle, Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc. P.O. Box 244416 Anchorage, AK 99524-4416 Thanks to our contributors for the May Thistle: Cathy Steen, Jeni
Colony Days Parade June 10 Be ready to march with us!	McDaniel, Christa Wallace, Amberle Wright, Brandi Neuterman, the Morgan family Alaskan Scottish Club Board of Directors
Alaska Scottish Highland Games June 24 & 25 Alaska State Fair Grounds, Palmer	Cathy Steen, President president@alaskanscottish.org Amberle Wright, Vice President vicepresident@alaskanscottish.org Nelson Alger, Secretary secretary@alaskanscottish.org Christa Wallace, Treasurer treasurer@alaskanscottish.org Sherri Borchert ak snowangel04@yahoo.com Preston McKee starkepm@gmail.com Michael Miller aksctsmn@mtaonline.net
Kachemak Bay Highland Games July 1 Homer, Alaska	Tonda Scott membership@alaskanscottish.org David Wallace akmedic2000@gmail.com Executive Director: Jeni McDaniel, Cell: 907-602-0901 jeni@alaskanscottish.org
Tartan Tourney Saturday, July 29 Settler's Bay Golf Course	Board Emeriti: 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: <u>www.facebook.com/AlaskanScottish</u> (Club page) <u>www.facebook.com/alaskashg</u> (Highland Games page) Instagram: <u>www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish</u>
NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25 th . Send to Cathy at <u>csteen@gci.net</u> .	

Alaskan Scottish Club PO Box 244416 Anchorage, AK 99524



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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 <u>www.alaskanscottish.org</u> and pay dues via Square.