



Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 29 Number 7

July/August 2023

Coming Events:



Galway Days with the Irish Club

Saturday August 12th from 11am-6pm
Anchorage Town Square Park

Amelia Hogan Concert: 49th State Brewery, 7 pm

Join the Irish Club for a day of music, dance, workshops, sessions, storytelling, baked goods, history, vendors, food trucks and more!

This is a day to celebrate all things Irish, Alaskan and Celtic with our friends from the Alaskan Scottish Club, Celtic Community of Alaska, Anchorage Folk Festival, Ancient Celtic Scribes, Celiac's Delights and Pepper's Palate Gluten Free Baked Goods, AK Yummy Choice and Jerome's Kitchen (he will have curry sauce from Ireland for those who like it on their chips!) Mini workshops on Harp, Bodhran, Fiddle, DADGAD for Guitar, Celtic Knotwork, History, Song and more...

Enjoy nonstop entertainment provided by our friends, Irish Dance Academy of Alaska, the Derry Aires, Philip Price and Natalie Harrison, Jim Kerr and Denise Martin and friends, Laughing Molly, The Good Old Good Ones, Mary Schallert, Linda Yarborough, Colum the Shanachie, and Joan Cullinane

Experience the beautiful rich sounds of Amelia Hogan in person! She has provided Zoom performances for Irish Club, CCA and Scottish Club functions during the pandemic and performed at last year's Galway Days. She returns this year just having put out a new album called "Taking Flight" and brings with her Autumn Rhodes and Jimmy Murphy to round out her set, give you a little of the studio album but live feel, and to teach some workshops during the day.

Join us for an evening Concert with Amelia Hogan and friends at 7pm 49th State Brewing. Find tickets at Irishalaska.org, at the ICA store during the festival day or at the door. See poster on page 10 for more information.

Fill out our survey during the day or at the concert to get a chance to win an Anchorage Concert Association 3 pack of tickets. You need not be present to win! (Though I may have some prizes just for those who are present...)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for Spotlights on all of our Vendor, Workshops and Performers!

Trail Cleanup August 19th

The club adopted a section of the Campbell Creek trail a number of years ago, and we meet monthly in the summer to do a trail cleanup. Please join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9am to walk the Campbell Creek trail and keep our section cleaned up. We will be picking up rubbish from our section of the trail and spending some time outside in the fresh air with a friendly, lively group of people.

Please bring a trash bag, dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes and gloves. Bring "trash grabbers" if you've got them. Club or Highland Games shirts and tartan encouraged.

We meet in the parking lot at the trailhead off Dimond and Victor, next to the Fred Meyer gas station. Our section of trail extends to the Taku Lake pavilion and can be accessed from Stormy Place and Diamond at the Taku Lake end of the trail. Since this is a monthly occurrence, you will find that different people may be there each month with no one particular person heading it up each time. Questions? contact Preston McKee starkepm@gmail.com.

Inside this issue:

- Maggie Wallace shares her experience as a Highland Athlete, page 2
- Event Results, throughout
- Photos from Games, throughout
- Photos from Tartan Tourney, page 9
- Member Benefits and Policies, page 2

Membership Policies and Benefits

By Cathy Steen and Tonda Scott

Benefits:

As a member, you have first access to events hosted by the club, and you get discounts on tickets to these events. If you have attended any of these events in the past, you know how much fun they are. For new members, you are in for a treat!

You will receive the Tundra Thistle eleven times per year to keep you up-to-date on events and club news. As a member, you may submit articles to the Thistle, including articles advertising upcoming Scottish and Celtic-themed events, at no cost to you or your organization.

Would you like to get more involved? Your time and talents are always appreciated to help make these events the best possible experience for you, the club and those that attend. So, if you are contacted and asked about volunteering a few hours of your time in some way, please say you will!

- Thank you, from the membership committee.

Education Assistance Program

The Alaskan Scottish Club created **The Education Assistance Program**, which encourages and assists interested applicants in developing an understanding, appreciation and study of Scottish lore in music, sports, dancing, traditions, heritage, literature and art.

The Education Assistance Program is a major activity of the club providing education grants to selected applicants. Individual grants may be up to \$500 per applicant for schools or workshops (focusing on arts and athletics), and up to \$1,500 for a post-secondary educational institution. See the club's website for more information and to access the application <https://alaskanscottish.org/club-membership/>

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the Committee chair, Christa Wallace at ashgvolunteers@gmail.com.

Renewal Policy:

The membership committee has been busy processing new and renewed memberships! We want to thank all the new members for joining our great organization, and to past members for renewing their memberships.

Our current membership policy is that individuals or families may join any time during the calendar year upon receipt of a completed application and payment of dues. The membership remains in effect until the anniversary month of the following year, when an updated application and dues will be required to remain a member in good standing. For example, if you joined in May 2023, your membership would last until May of 2024. You will receive an email reminder when your membership is due or past due.

A Day on The Field

By Maggie Wallace

A day at the Highland Games as a female thrower will probably start with locating the coolers full of energy drinks, taking a screenshot of last year's distances, trying to set reasonable goals for yourself and finding all your friends from games past.

Before the safety meeting, the requisite Zumba lesson will start so you can shake out any nerves you may have before learning which event you will be starting with. Once you're a little more limber, you laugh your way through remembering why you throw things and why you're not a professional dancer. Once you're at your first trig of the day and you throw the first weight of day, you remember why you should be practicing way more than have so far this summer. But no matter how you throw your weight, the rest of the women's flight you're with will cheer you on like you just set a new field record.

As the day progresses and you start wandering through the different events, you'll feel some ups and some downs. Some of those throws you'll be so happy because you PR'ed (i.e., set a personal record) or you'll just be happy you didn't scratch on that one throw by stepping outside of the box. Someone will inevitably snap a picture of you putting on your best Olympic gymnast impression while trying not to step over the line. Nothing says you managed to stay inside the lines like throwing your arms in the air like Simone Biles. All the while your judge is smiling at you and just happy you managed to keep it together in the box.

Once you've thrown all your events for the day and it's time for awards. No matter if you got first or last place, the women around you are cheering just as loudly for each other, creating an amazing environment that's welcoming and uplifting. Plus, I'm biased. The women's team has some the most supportive and loudest fans who try to learn every competitor's name so they can correctly shout and cheer for them. But I might be talking about my parents.

If you've ever thought about participating in the heavy athletics but just were never sure, I'd tell you to do it, even if you only ever do it once, because I don't know of any other sport where you can have this type of fun with such supportive competition. Behind the trig you give it all you've got, then you go stand out in the field and yell and cheer on your flight until everyone loses their voices. Plus, there's nothing like seeing the dumbstruck faces of people when you tell them not only do you throw "the heavy things" but you throw "all the heavy things" not just one event.



Games Results:



Lightweights Elite athletes prepared for weigh-in at Palmer Alehouse

Lightweight Elite Invitational

This year we invited six of the top athletes in the United States in the newly-recognized Lightweight Elite Level class to compete at our highland games. This class is defined as professional-level athletes weighing under 200 pounds. They were required to weigh in the night before the event, and Palmer Alehouse hosted the evening weigh-in. The Harp Twins and Celtica Nova then performed, giving guests a preview of the weekend's festivities.

These incredibly powerful and dynamic athletes did not disappoint! After two days of competition in nine events, the final standings were:

1. **Scott Farr**
2. **Jacob Langworthy**
3. **Matt Adams**
4. **Willis Graves**
5. **Anthony Barrasso**
6. **Nicholas MacPhee**

Standings for all the athletic events are found starting on page 7.



The Lightweight Elites pose with the salmon-toss salmon

From left to right, Willis Grave, Anthony Barrasso, Nicholas MacPhee, Scott Farr, Jacob Langworthy, and Matt Adams



*The Clans march to opening ceremonies
Honor guard by Service High School Navy JROTC*

Vendor Awards

People's Choice (Voted on by Attendees)

Bitchin' Biscuits

15 ft Tall Smoking Bagpipes

Vendor awards voted on by the Clans

Best-In Show: Scottish Flare

Women Warrior Event Planning

Weddings, Renewals, Handfasting, Photo Booth

Best Scottish Food Vendor

Alaska Mac Shack

Mull of Kintyre Mac, Bannock Cookies, Tattie Soup, Edinburgh Wraps and Cheese Toasties

Best Scottish Merchandise Vendor

Molly's Collectibles

All things Celtic and Scottish

Most Creative Scottish Flare

Alaska's Best Gourmet Dogs

AK Throwing Bears, a Hidden Loch Ness Monster, and a Hot Dog in a Kilt playing Bagpipes!

Most Creative Scottish Food (TIED)

Mosquito Eatery

Vegetarian Haggis aka Falafel

Taco Love

Haggis Tacos

Scottish Strongman

Novice Women

1. Christine Smith
2. Jenny Smith
3. Amberle Wright

Novice Men (Single Class)

1. Jaden Lewis
2. Samuel Denton
3. Raven Kahula
4. Ricky Brown

Open Men HW (275-)

1. Paul Eckman

Open Men SHW (+)

1. Wyatt Revelle

Teen Men LW (220-)

1. Alex Brown
2. Noah Douglas
3. William Douglas

Open Women SHW (242-)

1. Sara Keane

Masters Women

1. Shannon Davenport

Open Men MW (220-)

1. Tyler Smith
2. Robert Campbell
3. Tyler Svedin

Open Men SHW (308-)

1. Daniel Van Slyke
2. Jacob Gavulic

Masters Men

1. Daniel Keane
2. Ryan Smith

Teen Men HW (220+)

1. Marcus Brown
2. Caiden Peterson



Tug-O-War

History was made at the 42nd Annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games on June 24th as **Tug-O-Thor** was crowned back-to-back, repeat Tug O War champions! With a strong returning core from 2022, along with a few new key additions, Tug O Thor marched through the competition to the championship undefeated.



Tug o Thor: 2023 Tug-o-war champs!

Arctic Chiropractic, who took 2nd place, gave the champions all they could handle in the title match, but the repeat champions would not be denied. The spirited crowd was treated to a full two-hour spectacle complete with six teams and an abundance of eager children ready to provide entertainment breaks at the drop of hat. Thank you to all who attended or participated in the event and we look forward to seeing if Tug O Thor can complete the three-peat in 2024! Until then...3...2...1...PULL!

Shortbread Competition

A multigenerational panel of judges decided the results of the 2023 Shortbread competition. Out of fourteen entries, the winners were:

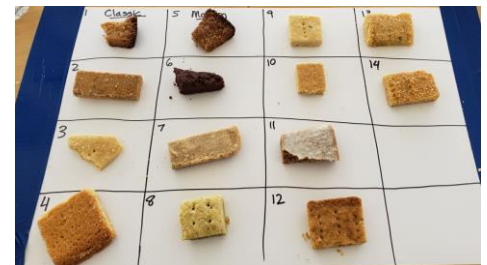
Classic shortbread:

1. Kathleen Paul Donley
2. Sherri Borchert
3. Dawn Berg

Modern shortbread:

1. Carly and Alex Quast, chai masala shortbread
2. Dawn Berg, lavender shortbread
3. Michaela Belliston, spruce tip lemon shortbread

Thank you to Maisie and Mark Truog and Jamie Almon for judging the contest, and to all the bakers who entered!



Kilted Mile



Adult (20-55) Division – Women : Kary Hafen, 6:27; Victoria Kost, 6:43; Melissa Cherry, 7:10; Rebecca Kopp, 7:15; Men: Caleb Kopp, 4:04; Jacob Patapoff, 4:54; Ziven Witczak, 5:08; Chris Seelig, 6:31; Shane Stewart, 6:55; Jonah Lotze, 7:12, Charles Knefelkamp, 8:33

Senior (56+) Division – Hal Shephard, 5:32; Ray Hafen, 6:01; Stuart Goering, 10:57

Youth (6 – 12) Division – Boys: James Hamilton, 6:29; Daran Campbell, 7:00; girls: Izzy Kost, 6:37; Zoja Witczak, 6:45; Makayla Holle, 6:49; Aella Stewart, 6:53; Kalisson Holle, 7:45; Kylah Moon, 8:30; Penelope Moon, 8:33; Aliyah Campbell, 8:37

Teen (13-19) Division Boys: Stephen Hafen, 3:52; Owen Hayes, 3:57; Jonathan Ford, 4:49; Griffin Campbell, 6:35; Girls: McKinley Hafen, 4:51; Harriette Kost, 6:59

Midnight Sun Spurtle Competition

In this, it's first year, the Spurtle Competition was great success. Two rounds of competition were held, one for parent/child, and one for adults. The competition had two segments, one in which traditional porridge (aka, oatmeal) was prepared, and the second in which a specialty oatmeal was prepared. This could contain whatever flavorings or additions the contestants chose to furnish.

Four judges took on the challenge of choosing which combinations were best. Judges based the scores on texture, flavor and hygiene (i.e., how well the contestant kept their stations clean).

The finals resulted in two teams neck-and-neck. Both had brought their flavor additions and the presentations were beautiful. One point separated the winner, Linda and Kieth Barkwood, from second place Mylisa and Jesse Zacharof.

This competition will continue next year, so start working now to perfect your technique, and join us at the Games in 2024!

Thank you to our sponsors, Alaska Restaurant Supply, who supplied all the cooking supplies, and Bob's Red Mill, who provided the oats!

Haggis-Eating competition

Sponsored by Clan MacKay, and by [Macski's Highland Foods and Gear](#), who provided the haggis, the haggis-eating competition was open to all comers. The first to down a pound of haggis was the winner!



Twelve hardy souls prepare to demonstrate their haggis-eating prowess. Eric, from Clan MacTavish (fourth from the right), won the day!

Photos from the Games:



Massed bands perform for the opening ceremonies



Beard Brothers Meadery sponsored the mead tastings, which were sold out before the games began!



The baby Highland cow charms the crowd.



Nicholas McPhee competes in the sheaf toss



Celtica Nova performs at Palmer Alehouse



Fairbanks Red Hackles compete in the pipe band competition



Scottish Highland Dancers entertain on the Celtic stage

2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games

Heavy Events Results - Saturday June 24th

Invitational Class

Men's Lightweight Elite

1. Scott Farr
2. Jacob Langworthy
3. Matt Adams
4. Willis Graves
5. Anthony Barrasso
6. Nicholas MacPhee

Men's A

1. Danny Autrey
2. Chris Carr
3. Dan Parks
4. Timothy Dommek
5. Charles Kneflkamp

Women's A

1. Emily Adams
2. Gabriella Rinhart
3. Katie Vaudrain
4. Morgan Ashcraft
5. Jessie Dommek
6. Kate Langworthy

Men's C (Flight 1)

1. Sawyer Graber
2. Jacob Williams
3. Jason Simmons
4. Clayton Cornelius
5. Joseph Townsend
6. Conrado Walsh
7. David Allison
8. Caiden Mitchell
9. Aaron Cooper
10. Jeremy Lowell
11. Brandon Swisher

Men's C (Flight 2)

1. Raven Kahula
2. Ethan Harlan
3. Sean Opdahl
4. Justin Gilfus
5. Paul Eckman
6. Brian Blazovic
7. Jacob Thompson
8. Dylan Stefani
9. Jake Larson
10. Kameron McBride
11. Jonathan Ford

Women's C

1. Meredith Gutierrez
2. Heather Paddock
3. Ellen Wallace
4. Jennifer Lee-Hogan
5. Colleen Doyle

Juniors 15-17

Girls

1. Ainsley Cooper
2. Erin Rageth
3. Joyelle Dixon

Boys

1. Justin Delaney
2. Spencer Whipple
3. Jameson Hall
4. Gabriel Simmons
5. Michael Brownwood
6. Aiden Simmon
7. Ezekiel Kepler

Men's Masters 50-59

1. Les Wallace
2. Mel Steinberg
3. Kurt Langworthy

Men's Masters 60-69

1. Bret McDonald
2. Kevin Dolan
3. Michael Looney
4. Scott Wells

Men's Masters 70+

1. Chris Kilday

2023 Alaska Scottish Highland Games

Heavy Events Results - Sunday June 25th

Men's B

1. Blake McDowell
2. David Hancock
3. Stephan Sammons
4. Clint White

Womens' B

1. Sarah Howard
2. Jill Parks
3. Jenny McLaughlin
4. Chehalia Walsh
5. Amber Stotts
6. Breanna Love
7. Maggie Wallace

Juniors 12-14

Girls

1. Haylee Cooper

Boys

1. Titan Campbell
2. Chase Hall
3. Kenan Dixon

Men's Lightweight

1. Rabun Fox
2. Nelson Alger
3. Jerrod Dolan
4. Ruairi Tuite
5. Wesley Clark
6. Gregory Rouse

Men's Masters Lightweight

1. Chris Moore
2. Justin Mattson
3. Hal Shepherd
4. Scott Mitchell

Women's Lightweight

1. Jessica Nichols
2. Heather Dolan
3. Kaylee Walter

Men's Masters 40-49

1. Robert Moody
2. Chris Carr
3. Sean Fabanich
4. Jason Kepler
5. James Martin

Women's Master

1. Morgan Ashcraft
2. Meredith Gutierrez
3. Marie Abbott
4. Dawn Lesperance
5. Emily Keck

Photos from Tartan Tourney:

It was a rainy day, yet all 21 teams turned out for the second annual Tartan tourney. Mary, Queen of Scots (aka, Amberle Wright) opened the Tourney with an appropriate blessing. Anchorage Scottish Pipe band and Crow Creek Pipes and Drums along with Teddy Krogh, provided music through the afternoon.



Clockwise from top left, Golfers dressed for the day, Ian White performs, Highland dancer, Tallying the scores, "Spin to win", Mary Queen of Scots



Top 10 Global Folk Artist,
Spring 2023 - FAI "Hogan is a Master"
- Jerry Clark, Rambles.net

"Buoyant, Distinctive..."
- AM Kennedy, Irish Music Magazine

"the Clarity of her voice
Mezmerizes" - KBCS Seattle
"Pure Enchantment"
- D. Kidman, FATEA



- Evening Concert 7:00pm
49th State Brewing
Anchorage, tickets: \$25
- Alaska Glacier Lodge
Knik, AK Aug 13, 5- 9 PM

Festival Mainstage

kids' program

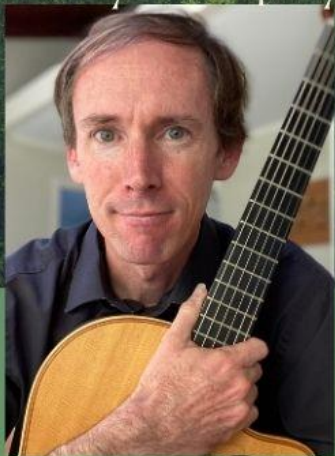
Workshops

Presents

Galway Days Irish Festival, Aug 12

Amelia Hogan

Jimmy Murphy



Autumn Rhodes



ATWOOD
FOUNDATION



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | San Francisco
Consulate General of Ireland | San Francisco






<https://www.irishalaska.org/events.html>



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

 <p align="center">Joan Massart-Paden, CAS 907-229-0022 Email: adstrategies@icloud.com</p>	<p align="center">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 align="center">A. Wright Perspective Occupational Safety Training and Consulting</p> <p align="center">Amberle Wright 907-231-0870 amberle1112@yahoo.com</p>
<p align="center">MAPPING SOLUTIONS</p>  <p align="center">Custom maps and graphics – (907) 561-4627 Mapmakers.com</p>	 <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>Signature REAL ESTATE ALASKA 1174 N Leather Loop, Suite A Wasilla, AK 99654</p>
<p align="center">AMANDA KERR SUZUKI VIOLIN & FIDDLE STUDIO Weekly Private Lessons and Group Classes for Age 3 and up Variety of fiddle styles!</p> <p align="center">Register NOW online for Spring Semester Jan. 14th - May 21st</p> <p>Complete Information available on the website: www.amandakerrmusic.com <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>	 <p align="center">MOLLY V. MANAUGH A TARTAN WEAVER</p> <p align="center">CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS HAND WEAVING TARTANS IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA</p> <p align="center">WWW.TARTANWEAVER.COM 907-479-5772</p>

Club Calendar

Galway Days (Irish Club)

August 12, 11am - 6pm
Free, all-ages event
Town Square Park, Anchorage

Trail Cleanup

August 19th, 9:00 am
See page 1 for details

Scottish Club Board Meeting

August 21, 6:00 pm
BP Energy Center

Samhain Fire Festival (CCA)

October 28, 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Anchorage Senior Activities Center

St. Andrew's Night and Christmas Ceilidh

November 25
Embassy Suites Ballroom

Robert Burns Night

Late January
More information to come

NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25th. Send to Cathy at csteen@gci.net.

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:

Editor, Tundra Thistle, Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 244416 Anchorage, AK 99524-4416

Thanks to our contributors for the July/August Thistle: Cathy Steen, Jeni McDaniel, Christa Wallace, Tonda Scott, Dawn Berg, Maggie Wallace, and Preston McKee. Photos by John Whipple

Alaskan Scottish Club

Board of Directors

Cathy Steen, President	president@alaskanscottish.org
Amberle Wright, Vice President	vicepresident@alaskanscottish.org
Nelson Alger, Secretary	secretary@alaskanscottish.org
Christa Wallace, Treasurer	volunteers@alaskanscottish.org
Sherri Borchert	ak_snowangel04@yahoo.com
Preston McKee	starkepm@gmail.com
Michael Miller	aksctsmn@mtaonline.net
Tonda Scott	membership@alaskanscottish.org
David Wallace	akmedic2000@gmail.com

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)
www.facebook.com/alaskashg (Highland Games page)
Instagram: www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish



Alaskan Scottish Club
PO Box 244416
Anchorage, AK 99524