

Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 26 Number 2 February 2020

Coming Events:

Annual General Meeting

Greeting Scottish Club members! Join us for tea and refreshments, and hear an update about the Club and our activities. We will be voting to fill the four Board positions up for re-election. We will report on the financial health of our Club as well as the success of our club events. This is a nice event and social mixer as well.

The 2020 AGM will be held Sunday, March 1 from 2:00 until 4:00 pm at the Moose Lodge at 4211 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, call Joan Massart-Paden, President at 907.229.0022.

Save The Dates! 2020 ASHG Planning Meetings

The 39th Annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games will be on June 27, 2020! The planning for the 2020 Games is underway! Like last year, our Games meetings will be switching between Wed and Thurs so that the schedule will work for more volunteers.

All of our meetings will start at 6:15pm. Our Next Meeting will be held at Orchard Park (2903 Tanglewood Drive) However, starting on February 19th meeting, there will be a venue change. This location is in the works right now, so check out our Facebook Page for updates or contact Jeni McDaniel directly. In the March issue of the Thistle, the location of all the remaining meetings will be announced.

Can't Make the Meeting in Person? We will be using Zoom Video Conferencing for our meetings this year. Use the Link https://zoom.us/j/3373120407 to join the meeting!

From a lead position to a minor role, there is plenty of work to be done and we can always find something for you to do. If you are interested in helping, please contact me and we can find a place for you: ashgcoordinator@gmail.com or 602-359- 4893.

2020 Games meeting dates:

2/6/2020 (Thurs) Location: 2903 Tanglewood Drive

Anchorage, AK 99517

2/19/2020 (Wed) Location: TBD 3/5/2020 (Thurs) Location: TBD 3/18/2020 (Wed) Location: TBD

Continued on page 3

2019 Scot of the Year: Meg Voss

By Joan Massart-Paden



The Scot of the year award exemplifies the spirit of the club through participation in club events and assuming leadership positions for varies events. The Scot of the year award recognizes significant contribution of time, effort and energy on a consistent basis always ready to help.

This year, my selectee has promoted club events, especially our highland games. She has been an active board member for the club for many years. She accepted the responsibilities of marketing and advertising our games for several years and has done a fantastic job. Meg has done an amazing work on the 2019 Game's program. She has been a positive influence in board deliberations and discussions and provided a common sense approach to solving problems. She has consistently supported club events to an exemplary degree. Her positive attitude has made her a valuable asset to the club's achievements. She has given her time, efforts and resources helping the club achieve its goals.

Our Scot of the year has lead by example, always reflecting a positive can do attitude. She is a shining example of a very valuable board and club member. It is our privilege and honor to designate Meg Voss as the 2019 Scot of the Year.

A short history of Imbolc and St. Bride in Scotland

Rev. Amberle Wright

Imbolc, the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox, is **celebrated on the 1st of February**, and is one of the cornerstones of the Celtic calendar. In Scotland, for rural Highlanders, the success of the new farming season was of great importance. As winter stores were getting low, Imbolc rituals were performed to ensure a steady supply of food until the harvest six months later. The Highlanders and the Celtic peoples in the Outer Hebrides were very reluctant to lose such an important part of their culture and over time the church adapted and melded many facets of this festival and Imbolc became

Candlemas and the Celtic goddess Brighid associated with it became St. Bride.



In the Catholic Church, Candlemas is the day of the year when all the candles, that were to be used in the church during the coming year, were brought into the church and a blessing was said over them – so it is the "mass" of the Candles. It is celebrated as a purification holiday and a celebration of the return of light.

St. Bride, according to the church, was a historical person, with accounts of her life written by monks dating back to the 8th century. Brigid (or Bridget) is the patron saint of nuns, newborns, midwives, crafts, dairy maids and cattle. St. Bride also governs over moral guidance, virginity, purity, the household, and livestock.



Like the goddess Brighid, St. Bride is associated with milk and fire. Born in Ireland around 453 A.D., St. Brigid was the daughter of a slave and a chieftain who was celebrated at an early age for her agricultural knowledge.

In the Gaelic speaking parts of Scotland in particular, the original Goddess Brighid was still held in high esteem and it is there that the customs and associated rituals took longest to die out.

On January 31st Óiche Fheil Bhrighide which means the Eve of the festival of Brighid in Gaelic, the last sheaf of

corn from the previous harvest would be dressed as Brighid and taken from house to house by young girls. They dressed and decorated this effigy with sparkly shells and crystals and any small flowers and greenery growing at that time of year. A very bright shell or crystal was placed over her heart. This was called reul iuil Brighde, the guiding star of Bride. The girls, dressed in white with their hair down, carried the Brighde in a procession, singing a song to her and visiting every house. Everyone was expected to revere her and make an offering. Mothers gave her a Brighde Bannock, cheese or roll of butter. Finally they went to one house to make a feast, the men being allowed in after a while. Much of the food was kept and distributed later to the poor.

In another tradition, the older women of each household made a cradle called the bed of Bride. They made a figure of her from a sheaf of oats decorated with ribbons, shells and crystals. The woman would come to the door and called softly in Gaelic "Brighde's bed is ready" or "Brighde, come in, thy welcome is truly made". In so doing, they invoked the spirit of Brighde and she was truly present in the figure they had made. They then placed Brighde in the bed with a straight stick beside her (the slachdan Brighde). Then they smoothed over the ashes of the hearth, protecting them from draughts. In the morning they would eagerly examine them. They were very pleased if they found the mark of Brighde's wand, but were overjoyed if they found her actual footprint, as that proved she was truly with them that night and they would have good fortune throughout the coming year.

A more common custom that has survived in many rural areas is the weaving of St Bride's crosses from rushes. These would be constructed the evening before and hung up around the house for good fortune.

Holy wells were also traditionally visited on this day, visitors would pray for health while walking sunwise around them and would leave scraps of cloth dipped in the water on nearby trees.

In Barra, lots were traditionally cast for the best *iolachan iasgaich* or fishing-banks, on Bride's Day. After church and a sermon on the virtues and blessings of St. Bride, the priest would urge upon the congregation to avoid disputes and quarrels over their fishing. Having come out of church, the men would then cast lots for the next year's fishingbanks right at the church door.

Simply put, Imbolc is a celebration of the end of winter and the impending light half of the year. The hardest part of the year is over. For our ancestors this meant that adverse weather, cold temperatures, food rationing, and of course, no warfare would soon be a thing of the past. Farmers were getting ready to go back to work, preparing animals for breeding, warriors were picking up their weapons again, and the political and social aspects of life that had been put on hold for winter were also beginning again.

So while you are dreaming of spring, get a little crafty, light a fire or candle, bake some bread, take a walk in nature, or start planning your garden, in celebration of Imbolc and Brighid.

Recipe of the Month:

Recipe and the information below are from the website gathervictoria.com.

Oatcakes or Bannocks were traditionally eaten on old-world feast days to mark the changing seasons. And roundabout Feb 1st or 2nd, they were known as "Bannoch of Bride" in honor of St. Bridget or Brìghde. This goddess (and later saint) of Ireland, Scotland & the Isle of Man, returns to the earth on the eve of her feast day, also known as Imbolc, to herald the arrival of spring. To honor the occasion, bonnach (bannocks in Scotland) were baked and left out in the hope she would leave her blessings of fertility, prosperity, and good health in return.

Rosemary Oat Bannock

Makes two small Bannock cakes (or eight pieces total)

Ingredients

1 cup rolled oats

1 cup oat flour

1/4 teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled

1/2 cup cream or milk (plus one extra tablespoon for the caudle)

2 tablespoons minced fresh rosemary (1 tablespoon dried)

1 tsp. of grated orange zest (optional)

3 tablespoons of sugar (and three more tablespoons for sprinkling)

1 egg yolk (for the caudle)

Directions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Grease a cast iron skillet or baking sheet.
- 2. Place the oats, flour, salt, sugar, rosemary and orange zest in a large bowl, mix together with a fork. Cut the cold butter into the flour mixture. Stir in the cream until all the flour is absorbed.
- Gather the rough dough together and place on a surface lightly dusted with oat flour. Knead until the dough holds its consistency (but don't overwork).
- 4. Divide the dough in half and roll out each half into a circle about 1/4 inch thick.
- 5. In small jar, vigorously mix your egg yolk with a tablespoon of cream. Then brush the mixture over the top of the bannock. Sprinkle with sugar.
- 6. Cut each circle into 4 wedges and arrange the wedges 1/4 inch apart on the baking sheet.
- 7. Bake about 20 minutes or until golden and crisping at the edges.

Athletics Registration will open February 1st for Alaskan Athletes

Last year, our Heavy Events Athletics SOLD OUT of spots months before the games. We ended up with over 100 athletes on our field! With such high demand, we want to make sure that all local Alaskan throwers are able to register and don't miss out on a spot, so registration for the Heavy Events will open of Feb 1st to Alaskans and Feb 8th to athletes who will be joining us from the lower 48 and beyond! Along with registering for the Heavy Events, you will also be able to register for our Spring Clinic and our June Clinic.

https://2020ashgathletics.eventbrite.com

While there may still snow on the ground, there is a lot of excitement for the throwing season which is just around the corner! Looking to meet other athletes and find local practices? Join the Alaskan Highland Throwers Facebook page and connect with fellow athletes across the state. https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlaskanHighlandThrowers

The Women's throwing groups at the Highland Games in Alaska continues to grow! Sometimes it's intimidating as a woman to get into the sport, luckily there is a group of women throwers who have come together to train, help each other and get ready for the Games! For any women who might be interested in learning how to throw, join their Facebook page also at https://www.facebook.com/groups/AKLADYHAMMERHEADS

Registration for the 2020 Piping and Drumming Competitions and Piping and Drumming Seminar will Open Feb 1st

https://2020ashgpandd.eventbrite.com

Games Meeting dates, continued from page 1

April 2 (Thurs), 15 (Wed) and 30 (Thurs) Location: TBD

May 13 (Wed) and 28 (Thurs) Location: TBD

June 3 (Wed) Location: TBD; 11 (Thurs) at 2903 Tanglewood Drive, Anchorage; 17 (Wed) Location: TBD and 25 (Thurs) at 2903 Tanglewood Drive Anchorage

Scottish Country Dance Class

By Vivian Mendanhall

Dancing will be at the Fairview Recreation Center, on Mondays at 7-8:30 pm, on the following Mondays: **February** 3, 10, 24; **March** 2, 9, 16, 23; and **April** 6, 20. It costs \$40 for the whole season, or \$5 per evening. (Sign in at the front desk.) Please bring soft, non-marking indoor shoes (or dance in socks), to protect the dance floor.

All abilities are welcome - we teach dances. Ages 12 and up.

January Alaskan Scottish Club Board Minutes

Meeting held January 20, 2020, 6:00 pm at the Petroleum Club of Anchorage

Attendance: Joan Massart-Paden, Lisa Caress-Beu, Ron Norris by phone, Rod Finkle, Cathy Steen, Amberle Wright, Jeni McDaniel, Preston McKee

Absent: Meg Voss

Guests: none

Call to order: 6:00 pm

Approval of the Minutes: Rod moved that the Minutes be approved, Jeni seconded. Minutes were approved

unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Ron Norris presented a short treasurers report that he sent via email to board members. Rod moved that the report be approved, Lisa seconded. Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Burn's Night: January 25, 2020

Cathy reported that 84 people have signed up for this event. There is still some space available. Ian White will provide the music (violin) for the event. Some Scottish country dancers are attending. Jeni will help with check-in. Joan and Mary Anne (Ron's wife) will sell raffle tickets. Budget is on track.

Alaska Highland Clans: Amberle reported: Hogmanay event was successful, although the location was not ideal with no fire area. She will be looking for a different venue for next year's event. Rod proposes that the ASC purchase clan tartan flags for the clans that are members of the club and participate in the Alaska Scottish Highland Games. Rod has investigated numerous vendors for the flags and presented his suggestion. Lisa will see if she can get them wholesale from a vendor with a USA warehouse to avoid customs and duties charges.

Alaska Scottish Highland Games: Jeni reported. The first meeting has been held. There are already some new volunteers. Several bands are being considered. The committee is already looking forward to the 2021 Games which will be the 40th. There will be a demo from the Alaska Curling Club and a "Mas" wrestling demo. Alaska Magazine wants to do a feature article on the Games.

Annual General Membership Meeting: March 1, 2020. We will be at the Moose Lodge again. Set-up is at 1pm. Meeting will start at 2pm. Lisa will do check in. Board positions that are up for re-election are: Rod's, Meg's, Cathy's, and Preston's.

St. Andrews Night: Scheduled for November 28, 2020

Thistle Editor: Imbolc is coming up (also known as the Feast of St. Brigid)

She encourages members to submit items of interest to the club.

Scholarships: Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

- 1. Trail Clean-up: Preston McKee reported that he is still waiting to hear back from Muni of Anchorage about picking up the signs.
- 2. Website: Jeni reported she presented draft posters of what the new website will look like.

New Business:

- 1. Board Emeritus Nomination. Rod proposed that the Board approve Tim Kincaid for this position. Jeni seconded. Motion passed.
- Executive Director Position: Jeni presented a proposal to the board to have an "Executive Director" of the Alaska Scottish Club and make it a paid position. She will be contacting board members to discuss this personally with everyone.
- Cathy asked if ASC wants to provide an instructor or clinic for the Celtic Community's Celtic Fest. Board members will consider ideas.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6pm at the PCA.

Adjournment: Rod moved to adjourn. Preston seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Candlemas Proverb



If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another flight
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain
Winter won't come again

If Candlemas Day be dry and fair,
The half o the witner's to come and mair
If Candlemas Day be wet and foul
The half o the winter's gane at Yule.

Activities with other Celtic Clubs in AnchorageIrish Club of Alaska

The Inish Club of Alaska Presents

A Celtic Munden Mystery Evening

Sacurday, february 1sc 5:30 Reilly's pub 317 fineweed lane

www.irishalaska.org







Burns Night Photos

Photos (clockwise from above): Mary Queen of Scots greets guests,

Bruce Finlay presents the toast to the Haggis, Kaelan Paulson presents the toast to Rabbie Burns, Maggie Wallace presents the toast to The Laddies, Rev. Rick Cavens presents the toast to the lassies, with the help of Dorothy, the puppet.









39th Annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games June 27, 2020 2020 Sponsorship Application

Sponsorship Type:	Individual(s)		Corporate					
Individual(s) Name:								
Business Name:								
Mailing Address:								
City, State, Zip:								
Phone:	e: Email:							
Sponsorship Amount:	\$ Event Sponsorship:							
			(If Ap _l	plicable-Please	see next page	for event specific	sponsorship oppo	rtunties)
Sponsorship Premiums	Clansman \$75	Man-at-Arms \$150	Chieftain \$250	Laird \$500	Baron \$1,000	Viscount* \$2,500	Earl* \$5,000	Marquis* \$5,000+
Gate Passes	2	2	4	6	8	10	12	12
Program (Deadline May 20, 2019)	Listing	Listing	1/4 Page (5.25" x 2")	1/2 Page (5.25" x 4")	Full Page (8 x 5.25'')	Full Page w/ Premit	Full Page w/ um Advertising Plac	Full Page w/ ement
VIP Access Passes		2	4	6	8	10	12	12
VIP Parking Passes		1	2	3	4	5	6	6
Inside the Games								
Reserved Camping					•	•	_	
Membership to the								
Alaskan Scottish Club Event Poster and Social		•	•	•			1	4
Media Advertising								
Recognition at Opening						1		
and Closing Ceremonies						~	>	~
Banner Display in								
Prominent Location							•	•
Business Specific								
Customized Premiums					,			•
VIP Access i	ncludes compl	imentary food a	nd beverages a	at the VIP Tent		*Additional	Premiums may be	e requested

(Children above the age of 5 years old will be charged as an adult in the VIP Tent)

Deadline for Inclusion in the Program is May 25, 2020. Ads can be emailed to ASHGProgram@gmail.com Sponsorships can be paid via Check or Credit Card*

If Paying by Check, please make check payable to:
Alaska Scottish Highland Games
Mail Application and Check to:
ASHG/Sponsor
PO Box 244416

Anchorage, Alaska 99524-4416

If Paying by Credit Card, please Email application to: ASHGSponsor@gmail.com

Credit Card:		CVV Code:	
Exp Date:	Zip Code:		
Signature:			

*3.5% Convience/Processing Fee Applies to Credit Card Payments

Questions? Email us at ASHGSponsor@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and see you at the Games!

Your donation to the Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc. is tax Deductible. Federal ID Number 23-7286794



39th Annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games June 27, 2020 2020 Event Sponsorship Options

Specific events may be underwritten by an individual or business. Your sponsorship of the event will be listed in the program and announced during the event and awards ceremony. If you have specific requests for an event specific sponsorship we will do our best to accommodate. Sponsorship of an event at an amount less

than that listed below will allow multiple sponsors for the same event, underwriting allows exclusivity and advertising options

Athletic Event Sponsorships					
Event	Amount	Sponsor			
Kilt Bib Numbers (Heavy Event Athletes)	\$ 500.00				
Athletic T-Shirts (Heavy Events Athletes)	\$ 1,500.00				
Professional Athlete	\$ 1,000.00				
Breamar Stone Throw	\$ 500.00				
Open Stone Throw	\$ 500.00				
Light Weight For Distance	\$ 500.00				
Heavy Weight For Distance	\$ 500.00				
Weight Over Bar	\$ 500.00				
Light Hammer Throw	\$ 500.00				
Heavy Hammer Throw	\$ 500.00				
Sheaf Toss	\$ 1,000.00				
Caber Toss	\$ 1,000.00				
Pro Men's Challenge Caber	\$ 1,000.00				
Pro Women's Challenge Caber	\$ 1,000.00				
Men's Challenge Stone	\$ 500.00				
Women's Challenge Stone	\$ 500.00				
Spring Throwing Clinic	\$ 1,500.00				
June Throwing Clinic	\$ 1,500.00				
Tug-O-War	\$ 1,000.00				
Alaskan Salmon Toss	\$ 1,000.00				
Kilted Mile (Includes Kilt Bib Numbers)	\$ 250.00				
Children's Throwing Event	\$ 250.00				
In-Kind Donations					
Value					
Alaska Airlines Mileage					
Alaska Airlines Companion Pass					
Rental Vehicle(s)					
Other:					

IS.	
ming Sponsorships	
Amount	Sponsor
\$ 1,000.00	
\$ 1,000.00	
\$ 500.00	
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\$ 500.00	
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\$ 500.00	
\$ 500.00	
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Events	
\$ 500.00	
\$ 1,000.00	
\$ 1,000.00	
\$ 5,000.00	
\$ 500.00	
\$ 2,000.00	
\$ 250.00	
\$ 250.00	
hments	
\$ 1,000.00	
\$ 500.00	
	### Sponsorships Amount

Thank you for your support of the Alaska Scottish Highland Games!

Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:				
Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org	Trinity Pipe Band Meets Tuesday, 6 pm Trinity Presbyterian Church Contact: Danny Koch @ 907.230.6430 Email: pipeband@trinityceltic.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 Meets on Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 Lutheran Church of Hope, 1847 W. Northern Lights Find us on Facebook			
Crow Creek Pipes & Drums Every Saturday, 9 am – beginners, 10 am – band First Congregational Church http://crowcreekpd.com/	Anchorage Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band Find us on Facebook: Anchorage Fire Fighters Pipe & Drum Band			
City of Juneau Pipe Band Juneau, Alaska www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org	Pipe bands – to update your information, please contact Cathy Steen at csteen@gci.net			

Scottish Club Supporters



Joan Massart-Paden, CAS
907-229-0022 Email:adstrategies@icoud.com

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Place your ad here for \$75 per year.

Club Calendar

Celtic Murder Mystery Night with the Irish Club

February 1, 5:30 pm Reilley's Pub

Games Meeting

February 6, 6:15 pm Orchard Park1

Scottish Club Board Meeting

February 10, 6 pm Petroleum Club of Anchorage

Annual General Meeting

March 1, 2 – 4 pm Anchorage Moose Lodge

Alaska Scottish Highland Games June 27, 2020

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.

Alaskan Scottish Club PO Box 244416 Anchorage, AK 99524



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 January Thistle: Lisa Caress-Beu, Amberle Wright, Joan Massart-Paden, Jeni McDaniel, Vivian Mendenhall and Dawn Berg. Photos by Jeni McDaniel and Randy Steen

Alaskan Scottish Club Board of Directors

907-229-0022 Joan Massart-Paden President Rod Finkle finkle@arctic.net Lisa Caress-Beu Secretary info@celtictreasuresak.com Ron Norris Treasurer ronldnorris@gmail.com csteen@gci.net Cathy Steen Thistle ed. Jeni McDaniel jenimmcd@icloud.com amberle1112@yahoo.com Amberlee Wright Meg Voss mediagirl52@gmail.com Preston McKee

Board Emeriti: Robert J. Dickson, 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/alaskashg (Highland Games page)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish

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