



# Tundra Thistle

*The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club*

Volume 25 Number 8

September 2019

## Welcome to New and Renewing Members!

By Joan Massart-Paden, Membership Chair and Club President

I would like to thank all the Scottish club members who have renewed their membership as well as welcome all new Scottish Club members to our club.

It occurred to me that many of our club members have not realized the all the benefits of being members. I would like to highlight just a few of the advantages of being members of our club:

1. You receive a discount on tickets to our major events. Both St. Andrews Night & Christmas Ceilidh in November and Robert Burns Night dinner in January have a member's discount of at least \$10.00 per ticket.
2. If you are a sponsor of our Highland Games, there is a \$50.00 discount on the Men At Arms level of sponsorship.
3. Members only Club Picnic and Annual Meeting and other events, such as Hogmanay.
4. Monthly newsletter with information on our club and related community events. As a member, you may submit articles and notices into the Thistle for pertinent activities and events.
5. Educational Assistance grant eligibility (see article on page 2 for details)
6. Free swap meet opportunities.
7. Members-only cloisonné pin.
8. Volunteer opportunities at the club tent, Highland Games and on the Board of Directors.

That's not too bad for a mere \$15.00 per year for individual or \$30.00 per year for a family member.

What's even better are the lifelong friendships that develop through the camaraderie of the multiple activities that surround our love of Scottish culture and heritage. Our Athletes, Pipe Bands, & Highland dancers inspire us to really delve into our past and learn more about how the Scot's have influenced our individual families. It is really quite remarkable.

Once again, welcome to our club, I hope to see you soon at one of our events!

## Education Assistance Program

*By Cathy Steen*

A major member benefit for Alaskan Scottish Club members is Club's Educational Assistance Program. Individuals and groups are now eligible to apply for grants of up to \$500 to hold or attend schools or workshops involving activities that encourage and assist in the understanding and appreciation of Scottish lore in music, sports, dancing, traditions, heritage, literature and art.

Up to \$1,500 grants are also available for post-secondary education at an Alaskan post-secondary education institution.

To apply for a grant, the applicant must submit an application (available on the club website) at least 30 days in advance of the planned activity. The applications are then evaluated by the Educational Assistance committee, who make recommendations to the board for approval.

After attendance at the school or program, the applicant may be asked to share what they've learned by means of a performance, talk, or short (one-page) written report.

## Coming in November:

### St. Andrew's Night & Christmas Ceilidh

*By Joan Massart-Paden*

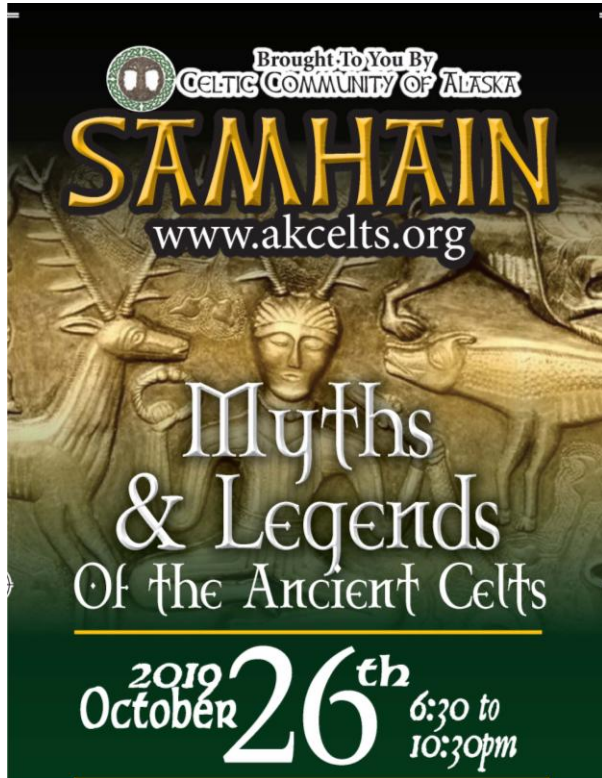
The Alaskan Scottish Club has a long history of celebrating St. Andrew's Night. Here is a short history of the event as it is celebrated in Scotland:

The feast day of Scotland's patron saint, Saint Andrew, falls just before the real flurry of Christmas excitement sets in, on 30th November. Similar to Christmas Day in Scotland, the traditional St Andrew's Day celebration was only relatively recently given national holiday status, with it also being set as an official 'flag day', giving the country an opportunity to fly the Saltire in patriotic fashion. It's also a good excuse to annually revel in the more high energy elements of Scotland's culture, with dinner parties, *ceilidhs*, music and other celebratory events all taking place around the evening of the 30th.

The ASC celebrates with a ceilidh, usually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We generally include live music (including piping) and a Christmas-themed silent auction. Stay tuned for more details as the date approaches.

## More Coming Events:

### Samhain: Celebrate the Celtic New Year



The third harvest festival of the Celtic year is Samhain, which is also the Celtic New Year. Each year, the Celtic Community of Alaska hosts a Samhain celebration, which the Scottish Club proudly sponsors.

This is a night of revelry with an old- and new-year's fires (weather permitting), live music and dance, storytelling, and a costume contest for all ages. Held at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center, the Arctic Rose restaurant will prepare some harvest meals using traditional Celtic recipes, which will be available for purchase along with their normal dinner menu.

The theme of the night is Myths and Legends of the Ancient Celts, although any Celtic-inspired theme is perfect for the costume contest!

Tickets are available from CCA members (Cathy Steen and Amberle Wright are CCA members), on eventbrite, <https://samhain2019.eventbrite.com> or at the door.

## "Not Burns" Night

By Warren Fraser

Tickets are still available for the Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band "Not Burns Night," so named because we have it in September when the weather is pleasant, not -40 degrees, but on the same general format as a Burns Night. It is a fun night and we usually sell out! Information can be found on the band website and facebook page, and tickets can be purchased on line and held for you at the door.

### *Dinner and Silent Auction*

*Presented by the*

*Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band*

*Saturday, September 14, 2019*

*Drinks at 5pm - Dinner at 5:30pm*

*No Host Bar*

*Pike's Waterfront Lodge*

*Binkley Room*

**\$45.00 per person**

Ticket purchase and more information may be found at <http://www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org/>

## Recipe of the Month:

### Celebrate the Harvest: Mabon

Mabon is the second harvest celebration on the Celtic Wheel of the year, and is celebrated on the autumnal equinox, September 22. Your Mabon feast might include squash (or, in America, pumpkin), apples, root vegetables, berries, fresh fish or game. Below is a recipe from the Dyke Primary School cookbook, *Dykes Delights*, used with permission of the authors.

### SCRUMMY SQUASH SOUP

#### Ingredients:

- 2 oz butter
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 squash, chopped (approx)
- 7 oz potatoes, chopped
- 1 pint chicken or vegetable stock
- Salt & pepper

#### Method:

1. Heat butter and cook the onion until soft.
2. Add cumin and stir for 1 minute.
3. Add the squash and the potatoes, cook for 1 minute.
4. Add stock and seasoning.
5. Cover and simmer for 25 minutes.
6. Cool and season to taste.
7. Puree in blender



Scrummy Squash Soup, photo by Dykes Primary School

## Baked Apples

This recipe is from Celtic Folklore Cooking by Joanne Asala. When you core the apple, don't cut all the way through – that way the filling and sauce will stay in the apple!

### Ingredients:

- 6 large apples
- ¾ cup fruit and nut mixture (currant or raisons, chopped nuts, lemon rind, etc.)
- ½ cup dark brown sugar, packed
- ½ cup water
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- Whipped cream

### Method:

1. Core the apples and place in a baking dish large enough to accommodate the apples without them touching.
2. Fill the apples with the fruit and nut mixture
3. In a small saucepan, combine the brown sugar, water, butter and spices. Bring to a boil, and pour into and around the apples.
4. Bake, uncovered, for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Baste occasionally with sugar mixture. They will be done when they are fluffy and slightly burst.
5. Serve with whipped cream.



## Scottish Fun Facts

### Interesting facts about Scotland and the Scots

*Researched and submitted by Rod Finkle*

- Though Scotland is a part of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain, its legal system is still separate from that of England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.
- Scots law, derived from the Roman law, consists of both civil law and common law.
- The unique legal system of Scotland consists of three verdicts: guilty, not guilty, and not proven. There is no retrial for not guilty and not proven, and they also result in acquittal.

### Member Corner:

Would you like your clan to be featured here? Submit a write-up to the Thistle editor at [csteen@gci.net](mailto:csteen@gci.net). Thank you to Amberle for providing this history of Clan Stewart,

## Clan Stewart

By Amberle Wright, State Commissioner for Clan Stewart Society, Alaska

The Stewarts and their supporters can be found in every aspect of Scottish history. Known as "The Protectors" the name in one of its many versions is the most common surname in modern Scotland.

The Stewarts are not a clan in the usual sense (though there were Highland branches, principally the Stewarts of Appin), nor are they a family. The origin of the Stewart structure was Alan fitz Faald. the Celtic Breton, who came to Britain with or shortly after William the Conqueror. Two of his sons entered the service of David I of Scotland, and one of them, Walter fitz Alan, became Hereditary High Steward of Scotland. Thus, the family name originates in an occupation, like so many others.

At least eight variations of the name are known. One common spelling, Stuart, is incorrectly assumed to be "royal." This spelling is the result of many Stewarts who lived in France either due to exile or choice during the struggles for succession to the throne with both the Tudors at the beginning of their dynasty on the British throne and with the Hanovers during the Jacobite rebellions at the end. These Stewarts adopted the French spelling and there is no "w" in the French or Gaelic alphabet.

At one time or another, Stewarts have held dukedoms, at least 17 earldoms, scores of other noble positions, and have been identified with more than 160 Scottish localities. Among the major branches that developed across the expanse of Scotland were Stuart of Bute and the Stewarts of Galloway, Appin and Atholl. The Stewarts of Appin were strong supporters of the Jacobite rebellion to the very end on the moors of Culloden.



Many families and towns affiliated with the Stewarts for fame, fortune, or protection. So many other tradesmen associated with the Stewart family that it is also known as the Clan of Tinkers and Kings.



# August Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Lisa Caress-Beu

**Meeting held August 5, 2019, 6 p.m. at the petroleum Club of Anchorage**

**Attendance:** Joan Massart-Paden, Jeni McDaniel, Lisa Caress-Beu, Ron Norris, Rod Finkle, Meg Voss, and Cathy Steen by phone.

**Absent:** Amberle Wright

**Call to order:** 6:00pm

**Approval of the Minutes:** Jeni moved that the Minutes be approved, Meg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Ron Norris presented the treasurers report. Rod moved that the TR be approved, Lisa seconded. Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

## Committee Reports:

**Alaska Highland Games:** Jeni presented. The Games were a great success. No major problems. We need more volunteers for next year. Approximately 8,000 tickets sold.

**Club Picnic:** July 20<sup>th</sup> at Orchard Park. Even though the picnic was a week later than last year, it was well attended. Great atmosphere and great food!

**St. Andrew's Night:** Tentatively November 30 (Saturday after Thanksgiving). Meg and Lisa will assist Joan with this event. Looking at changing the Saturday to a Friday. No decision has been made yet.

**Burn's Night:** January 25, 2020. Cathy has been looking for other venues for this event. The Library has a very nice room that would accommodate our group. It would need to be catered, but the Library has recommendations for this too.

**Thistle:** Thank you to Cathy Steen for her continuing hard work to keep ASC members informed and connected.

**Website:** Nothing new to report. Jeni will report on the planned website redesign in September.

**Education Assistance Program:** We have not awarded any this year, but are looking at some possible recipients.

## Old Business:

**Trail Clean Up:** Tabled until Amberle returns from Scotland.

## New Business:

- 1. Board Emeritus Nomination:** Per Policy #9, Rod nominated a long standing member for this award. Discussion ensued. Tabled until September meeting, Board will vote on this at the September meeting.
- 2. Celtic Classic:** Jeni presented. This event takes place September 26, in Bethlehem, PA. It is a huge Scottish Highland Games event. Jeni has been invited by the Celtic Classic Games Coordinator. Jeni would be spending her time with the Games Coordinator and

learning about this kind of event. She would like to apply for a ASC Education Assistance Program grant for some of the expense of attending. Since our Games are growing so fast, she will learn a lot about hosting a two day event.

The Board agrees that attending this event will provide a lot of information that can help our own event. Jeni will submit a budget to the ASC Education Assistance Program Committee for approval. Our Policy on this says that we can award \$500.00 to an individual and we can also award a grant for additional funds. Ron moved that the Education Assistance Program Committee approve a \$500.00 grant to Jeni for this event, as well as a one-time only grant not to exceed \$1000.00 to help cover Jeni's expenses to attend this event. Meg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- 3. ASHG Budget:** Tabled until next month's meeting.

**Next Meeting:** September 23, 2019 at 6 pm at the PCA.

**Adjournment:** Rod moved to adjourn. Lisa seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm

## Events with Other Celtic Groups

### Irish Club of Alaska

**Traditional Music Seisiún (Session)** Every Thursday, 7:30 pm at McGinley's Pub, 7th Ave. & G St.

**Song Circle** Usually the last Saturday of every month. Email ICA for place and time

Find the Irish Club of Alaska at [www.irishalaska.org](http://www.irishalaska.org)

## The Fire Releases new Album





The Fire is absolutely delighted to announce the release of their new collaborative album featuring Gaelic singer, Stacey Giermann. The album is called Meòrachadh/Reflection (the cover is pictured here!) and includes 11 tracks of Gaelic songs from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

The CD or download may be purchased at CD Baby

**Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:**

<b>Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band</b> P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska <a href="http://www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org">www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org</a>	<b>Trinity Pipe Band</b> Meets Tuesday, 6 pm Trinity Presbyterian Church Contact: Danny Koch @ 907.230.6430 Email: <a href="mailto:pipeband@trinityceltic.org">pipeband@trinityceltic.org</a>
<b>Alaska Celtic Pipes &amp; Drums</b> Every Friday 5 pm & 7 pm Eagle River Presbyterian Church <a href="http://www.alaskacelticpipesdrums.org">www.alaskacelticpipesdrums.org</a>	<b>Anchorage Scottish Pipe Band</b> Meets on Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 Lutheran Church of Hope, 1847 W. Northern Lights Find us on Facebook
<b>Crow Creek Pipes &amp; Drums</b> Every Saturday, 9 am – beginners, 10 am – band First Congregational Church <a href="http://crowcreekpd.com/">http://crowcreekpd.com/</a>	<b>Anchorage Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band</b> Find us on Facebook: Anchorage Fire Fighters Pipe & Drum Band
<b>City of Juneau Pipe Band</b> Juneau, Alaska <a href="http://www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org">www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org</a>	<b>Pipe bands – to update your information, please contact Cathy Steen at <a href="mailto:csteen@gci.net">csteen@gci.net</a></b>

**Scottish Club Supporters**

 <b>Joan Massart-Paden, CAS</b> 907-229-0022 Email: <a href="mailto:adstrategies@icoud.com">adstrategies@icoud.com</a>	<b>AK Natural Stone Craft</b> <i>Quality Custom Granite &amp; Marble Design</i> Rafal Markiewicz 1341 E. 70 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99518 Phone: 907.344.2158 Cell: 907.351.8881 <a href="mailto:aknaturalstonecraft@yahoo.com">aknaturalstonecraft@yahoo.com</a>
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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.

Place your ad here for \$75 per year.

## Club Calendar

### Not Burns Night (Fairbanks Red Hackles)

September 14, 5 pm (see page 1 for details)  
Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks

### Scottish Club Board Meeting

September 23, 6 pm  
Petroleum Club of Anchorage

### Samhain (Celtic Community of Alaska)

October 26, 6:30 – 10 pm  
Anchorage Senior Activity Center

### St Andrew's Night

Last weekend in November  
More details to come

### Burn's Night

January 25, 2020 6 pm  
Location TBA

### 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 25<sup>th</sup>. Send to Cathy at [csteen@gci.net](mailto:csteen@gci.net).

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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 information, 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: Joan Massart-Paden, Warren Fraser, Amberle Wright, Rod Finkle. Photos by Douglas Sisk Photography, used with permission.

### Alaskan Scottish Club

#### Board of Directors

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Ron Norris	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:ronldnorris@gmail.com">ronldnorris@gmail.com</a>
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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)  
[www.facebook.com/alaskashg](https://www.facebook.com/alaskashg) (Highland Games page)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish](https://www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish)