

# The Clay Piper

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

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AUGUST 2017

### WELCOME!

Welcome from the First Coast Highlanders bagpipe and drum band. Thank you everyone for the great support and continued donations to the band. In this edition of "The Clay Piper," you will see the band has been busy since the last publication. May is usually busy with the many Memorial Day events. Here is a rundown of our recent events.

#### April 22nd

It was again our privilege to perform for the residents at the **Allegro Assisted Living** facility for our eighth year. Many residents attended the concert and we were asked to return and perform in September. Thanks to **Sue Tenney** who distributed our quarterly newsletter, answered questions and assisted many of the residents during our visit. A special thanks to the **Allegro staff** for their support and refreshments afterwards.

#### April 25th

The **Reinhold Corporation** invited us to perform at the **Celebrate Clay Awards Presentation at Thrasher Horne Conference Center** in Orange Park to entertain the crowd. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast before the awards were announced. We appreciate the many compliments and encouraging comments from the Reinhold Corporation.

#### May 6th

We had a fantastic time! Greg, Bob and I, accompanied by Dora, Deb, and Jane, along with two volunteer banner carriers, marched in the "**Romanza Procession on Aviles Street**" from the St. Augustine City Gates along the length of St. George Street to the Gazebo on King Street and along Aviles Street. Locals and tourists alike enjoyed our music.

#### May 9th



*The band with Sheriff Darryl Daniels at the Clay County Sheriff's Office Police Memorial.*

We returned to the **Clay County Sheriff's Office** for their **Police Memorial**. This event is held annually during May to remember and honor the eight Clay County Sheriff Officers who were killed or died in the line of service.

#### May 12



*Time for some questions and answers at Chimney Lakes Elementary.*

Art, Bob, Rob, Greg, Steve C and I entertained five classes of children during the **10th Annual International Cultural Fair at Chimney Lakes Elementary School**. Students asked many questions and were interested in learning about Celtic history and culture. Band members spoke about uniforms, instruments and history too. We autographed students' passport books to authenticate their attendance at the Fair. This was an exciting opportunity to share Celtic and Scottish culture.

#### May 13

Band members along with some of our supporters worked the adult beverage tent at **St Francis Field** for the "**Romanza St. Augustine**" sponsored first annual "**Harry Potter Event**". Fans of all ages were in attendance and lines were long and snaked across the grounds for those wanting to wear the sorting hat, meet actor Chris Rankin



*Serving up adult beverages at the Harry Potter Event at St. Francis Field.*

who played 'Percy Weasley', and purchase butter beer. We stayed busy keeping our lines short. We were positioned so that we could see Quidditch games throughout the day. At random times, various band members would play next to our tent, and attract even more customers. We had a great time playing requests and posing for pictures with our fans.

#### May 20

The band performed for the **Military Museum of North Florida** in Green Cove Springs at their annual celebration of **Armed Forces Day**. We played before the ceremony began again after three sky-divers landed and a bi-plane fly-over. Many vendors offered military memorabilia and events scheduled for a full day of family fun.

**Memorial Day weekend** started on Sunday morning at **Turning Point**  
*(continued on page 2)*

*Welcome! (continued from page 1)*

at **Calvary Church** in St Augustine where we support their memorial service. A barbecue chicken lunch was provided after.



Turning Point at Calvary Church.

After a short break the band escorted in the colors for the annual **Concert on the Green at St. John Country Day School**. A great crowd listened to wonderful music by the Jacksonville Symphony

On **Memorial Day**, band members, students, friends and families enjoyed a fun day and picnic at **Spring Park in Green Cove Springs**. Band members played a short time. A special request for Amazing Grace brought out several video recorders and many people stopped as we played the Military Set. Later we enjoyed steaks, hot dogs, and burgers grilled by **Doc Scott**. Thanks to family members and sup-

porters who prepared the sides and deserts to make for a wonderful day.

We now get a break for the summer months. However, we will still get ready for a busy fall schedule.

*I cannot express my deepest honor and pleasure in being a member of this band. Every member and family member, along with band supporters, have dedicated time, talents, and personal resources in support of the First Coast Highlanders. I sincerely hope you will continue your loyalty to this, our band and extended family of musicians.*

*Thank you. See you at our next event! — Romeo "The Prez"*

## WHAT IS YOUR TARTAN?

Greg McClelland, our youngest (newest) piper to the circle, has provided us with a little bit of information about his clan.

Clan MacLellan is an ancient, highly respected family and is not a sept of any other clan. The spelling of MacLellan has evolved from the Gaelic "MacGillifillan" which means "son of a servant or follower of Saint Fillan." "MacLellan" was chosen as our clan name because the original owner of the castle at Kirkcudbright (pronounced cur-COO-bree) was MacLellan. Scottish history most often uses this spelling in referring to the Lords Kirkcudbright and other knights bearing the name in Galloway, particularly the Stewart of Kirkcudbright. Membership in Clan MacLellan is open to all who bear the name MacLellan and anyone with MacLellan ancestry or interested in MacLellans, however it is spelled.



Members have concentrated on ge-

nealogy research by the collection of family histories to preserve the records of our heritage. Materials collected are housed at the Odom Library in Moultrie, GA. For more information, visit [www.electricscotland.com/familytree/about\\_odom.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/about_odom.htm)

The name MacLellan was mentioned in a lost charter of King Alexander of Scotland in 1217 and is identified with Galloway as early as 1273. The MacLellans became so numerous and prosperous around the beginning of the 15th century, that there were no fewer than fourteen knights of the name at that period living in Galloway. The "Scottish Diaspora" dispersed MacLellans throughout the world; the largest number of them settled in Ulster, Ireland, then Nova Scotia and the United States. Some made their way to Australia.

Hugh McClelland & Crawford McLellan founded the Clan in 1981 to promote all things MacLellan. The structure has evolved into eight US regions and an international region with members in Canada, Scotland, and Switzerland. Ma-

cLellan's database contains over 18,600 clansmen that can be contacted.

The Motto for Clan MacLellan is "THINK ON" and has a short story which goes like this: apparently there was an Irish/Moorish bandit terrorizing the neighborhood in Galloway. The king at the time, who may have been Bruce, promised whoever could bring him the bandit's head would be granted lands in Galloway. A MacLellan took up the challenge, killed the bandit, and brought the king the man's head on a sword (hence the crest). The king said, "Thank-you very much," and was about to dismiss the MacLellan, when the MacLellan had the temerity to tell the king to "think on" (i.e., "think on your promise"). We don't know how the king reacted to this, but MacLellan was granted lands in Kirkcudbright.



*"Think On"*



### MISSION STATEMENT

The First Coast Highlanders is a Highland Bagpipe and Drum Band based in Clay County, Florida.

We are a performance and entertainment band, a teaching organization, and a cultural group. We are a community based band and promote Celtic culture through music. We are committed to playing the finest in traditional Scottish and Irish music for both private and public audiences.

Our goal is to encourage and support the Celtic culture in our community by providing instruction to anyone interested in learning the great highland bagpipe or highland drums. Lessons are provided free of charge to anyone that is willing to commit the time and self-discipline to learn.





## DID YOU KNOW?

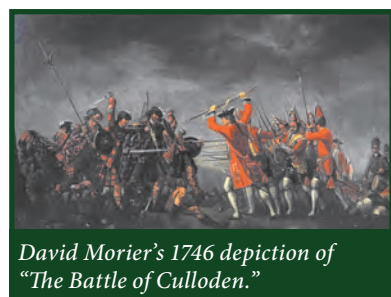
Each year on the third Saturday in May throughout the World is “Whisky Day.” Notice the spelling, there is no “e” in whisky. That indicates Whisky from Scotland. American whiskeys are pretty good too. So, whatever your preference, mark it on your calendar and enjoy the holiday! One of our pipers wears a belt buckle flask and from time to time, prior to a performance, we will celebrate “Whisky Day” with a wee dram.



The most famous bagpiper of WWII is Bill Millin. He grew up in Scotland, and was a member and unit piper of No. 4 Commando. He was later appointed as the personal piper for his commanding officer, the 15th Lord Lovat, Simon Fraser. His unit took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy Landing 30 minutes behind the initial assault and under heavy fire, Lord Lovat asked Bill to play the troops ashore, and against regulations, he agreed. Bill was one of the first off the landing craft, his only weapon his sgian-dubh. The soldier next to him was killed almost as soon as the ramp came down. Bill waded through water 3 feet deep and then proceeded to march back and forth across the beach, three times, while under heavy fire, as the rest of the unit came ashore. He played “Highland Laddie,” “The Road to the Isles,” and “Blue Bonnets Over the Border.” A captured German gunner later said they didn’t shoot him because they thought he had gone mad.



*Bill Millin playing his bagpipes in 1944.*



*David Morier's 1746 depiction of "The Battle of Culloden."*

The final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. April 16, 1746. Jacobite supports to Stuart monarchy fighting the Duke of Cumberland British troops. In less than an hour 1300 men were slain at Culloden.

The role of bagpipes on the front lines of war came to an end after the First World War. The high death toll inflicted on pipers relegated them to duty behind the front line in the camps.

Later, his unit secured Pegasus Bridge, and Bill played “The Nut Brown Maiden” as they crossed.

After the war, Bill worked on Lord Lovat’s estate before becoming a psychiatric nurse. His D-Day bagpipes are on display at the Dawlish Museum, and a statue of him playing was dedicated at a memorial on Sword Beach. *For more on this story, go to DoJoUniversity.com.*

## PICTURES FROM PAST EVENTS



*Left: Pipe Major Will Wheeler be having fun with Romeo at the Fun Day in Spring Park.*

*Right: Jane Argo Romeo and Bob Simpson at the Harry Potter event.*

## NEW BAND MEMBERS



Greg McClelland



Rob Arthurs

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**University of Phoenix Commencement**  
Saturday, September 30, 1 PM  
Veteran’s Memorial Arena, Jacksonville

**Marine Corps Half Marathon**  
Saturday, October 14, 8 AM  
Metropolitan Park, Jacksonville

**CalaVida 2017**  
Sunday, October 22, 7 PM  
Spring Park, Green Cove Springs

**Veteran’s Day Service**  
Saturday, November 11, 11 AM  
Magnolia Cemetery, Orange Park



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Please complete the coupon below and mail with your check to the **First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091.**

We are registered under s.496 405, Florida Statutes, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, registration number CH36692, expiration date June 15, 2018, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

# FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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