

First Coast Highlanders “The Clay Piper”

A Bagpipe &
Drum Band
Newsletter

Member Spotlight

First Coast Highlanders would like to Spotlight one of our favorite drummers. He provides the backbone beat for all of our tunes. Not only is he our primary bass drummer, but he has been known to pick up the sticks and support the band on the snare drum.

Name: John Lynch

Where are you

from? Warren,
Massachusetts (about
75 miles west of
Boston)



What do you do for a living? I am a retired US Navy Corpsman/Surface Warfare Officer. Also, a retired High School Science Teacher and in my spare time I am a Freelance Photographer.

Do you have a family? Kathy (Significant Other), along with her grandchildren Zarek-8, Sammi-7

What is your Scottish Clan? My maternal grandmother emigrated to the US in 1920 from County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. My paternal great grandfather emigrated to the US in 1893. I am mostly Irish, I don't claim any specific clan.

When did you start playing Drums?

I played the Tympani and bass drum in high school, several years ago. I have been on the snare and bass drum since joining First Coast Highlanders in 2017.

How did you come to know and join

First Coast Highlanders? Early 2012, I was president of the St. Augustine Chapter of the “New World Celts.” New World Celts and then, Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums, attended the same events. While showing an interest for the band and an interest for Celtic/Scottish music, I was convinced by several members of the pipe band to check them out. After a 4-year trip to Massachusetts to take care of my sick mother, now I am a performing member in the pipers' circle.

Member Spotlight (cont.)

What are your Life Achievements?

I am retired from the US Navy, serving 10 years as an enlistee, then I received a Commission as a US Naval Officer. I have run a full 26.2-mile marathon at the age of 50, and as an active member of the Lions Club, I was nominated for the position of Northeast Florida District

Governor for the local Lions Club. It is a great honor just to be nominated.

What are your future goals?

My number 1 future goal right now is to be a better base drummer keeping a steady beat. Two, to receive and hold the position of Lions Club District Governor. And, while I'm doing all that I'll take some great pictures along the way.

Pipe Majors Music Stand

I am excited for those who attended the North American Bagpipe and Drum Academy, aka Band Camp. Please read their article provided. Sounds like they all had a grand time and learned a lot. When I last attended, I played my chanter and bagpipes all day and into the evening, good Stuff. Upon the reading of this newsletter we will be preparing ourselves for a very busy 2019/2020 performance year. Everyone continues to work hard at learning new music and perfecting those Celtic tunes that we know. Our students are also putting in the extra time learning their music and perfecting their technique. Two of our students have received their first set of bagpipes and are learning to keep the octopus under control. Please continue to check out our website <http://firstcoasthighlanders.com> to find out where we are performing. Don't forget to LIKE us on our FACEBOOK page. **Thanks to all for your hard work and support, keep yourselves healthy and your mind charged.** RCS

"The wise musicians are those who play what they can master."

Duke Ellington

SCOTTISH MUSIC

Cock O'the North

A well-known drinking or bawdy song using the *Cock of the North* tune is known as Auntie Mary. First Coast Highlanders has been playing this tune for several years and has fun with it in many venues. There are a great number of versions of varying degrees of obscenity within the tune, maybe that's why we don't sing it. The tune was also used by the Scots poet Robert Burns for his song "Her Daddie Forbad and Her Minnie Forbad." Historically, the Clan Gordon has a little history with the tune. Since the early 15th century, the Marquis has lived in Aboyne castle, selected for its strategic position near the River Dee and controlling the northern end of one of the mouth crossings. The Gordons, major landowners rather than a traditional tribal clan, were famed for their championship of Catholicism and their mastery of horse-breeding. The Gordons grew without great challenge and at the height of their power, the Gordons ruled virtually an independent kingdom in the northeast of Scotland (Aberdeen Shire & Banff Shire). As tribute to the clan's immense power and influence, their near-regal chief was invariably known as "*The Cock of the North*." This nickname, still proudly used, personifies the cock's pride and bravery, its proud and boastful noisy cry and its bravery in battles to the death.

If you listen carefully as the bagpipe play, you can hear the cock crow within the tune.

The Origin of the tune "*Cock o' the North*" is a 6/8 military march; bagpipes tune and jig. The original version is evidently English. The earliest mention of a piece of music called "Joan's Placket is Torn" was in Samuel Pepys' diary for June 1667. At least, it has been persistently rumored, (without any verification), that a trumpet version of the tune was played at the execution of Mary Queen of Scots in 1587.

In England, Andrew Bullen suggests there is some evidence to think that "*Cock of the North*" was the tune traditionally used in the famous Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, played in the village of Staffordshire and currently performed at most Christmas Revels pageants. In Newfoundland "*Cock o' the North*" was known by the title "Auntie Mary," by which it is known in Ireland. The tune has always been a march used by the Gordon Highlanders, however, it did not become the official regimental march until 1933, when it replaced "Highland Laddie."

In 1897, during an attack by the Gordon Highlanders on the Dargai Heights, which were held by Afridi tribesmen, Piper George Findlater won the Victoria Cross for continuing to play a regimental march while wounded in both feet. The official statement did not give the name of the tune he played; some accounts state that it was "Haughs of Cromdale" which was the Regimental

Charge-tune, others claim it was "*Cock of the North*". Finlater's own account says that he did not hear an order to play "*Cock of the North*", and played "Cromdale" on his own initiative.

Because this is a family-oriented Newsletter, I won't publish the lyrics of the tune. If you are interested here is the link to view for yourself.

<http://cornemusique.free.fr/video/cotbasel.mp4>

Band Camp 2019 in Review



Seven First Coast Highlanders attended aka Band Camp this year and reports are in, all did well. There were six pipers and one drummer in attendance; Art T, Vince H, Marcia W, Jim R, Brooklyn H, Steve C (not in Picture) and Scott Y. our drummer.



All members stayed very busy with each having three classes a day for five days. The amount of information was intense but useful. The instructors provided some marvelous piping and drumming recitals prior to each of the lunch and dinner sessions. There were additional specialty sessions on pipe maintenance, reed identification, proper tuning and many other instructional settings. This was Brooklyn's and Marcia's first year at Band Camp, they were like sponges soaking up everything they could on the art of bagpiping. The other members have been to band camp in previous years and it was great getting together with friends from years past. I'm sure Brooklyn and Marcia made many friends this year and look forward to next year to rekindle new found friendships. Weather was marvelous in the mountains of Valle Crucis, NC near Boone, with only one day of rain, which saturated the mass band field, on

Thursday. No one brought their waders so we all gathered in the main hall and had a good ole Scottish Ceilidh with lots of fun entertainment. A talent show was also held in the dining-hall one evening, which produced a lot of talented performing bagpipers and drummers,



not to mention the fun skits by many of the Band Camp attendees. We couldn't find Brooklyn one day and after an extensive search we found her off in a quiet location sitting on a bench with a new found friend practicing their piping technique on their practice chanter. That is the way it was all week long, finding an area where you could practice with your chanter, bagpipes or drum by yourself or with a fellow student between classes or meals. Speaking of food, we were all well fed and hydrated. It wasn't all work and no play, there was a camp bonfire with some great stories and a little adult beverage (for the adults). Art brought his home-made Irish Cream and while sitting on the porch of the Mission House, (a place to lay our heads) more stories were told into the evening after a good ole day of great piping and drumming instruction. Overall on a scale from 1-10, lets rate this a BIG 10. Looking forward to next year. Now let's take what we've learned and apply it to the First Coast Highlanders. *James Roberts*

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Up-Coming Events

Check the Calendar on our website

August 10 – Saturday 10:00AM
Vets for Vets Gathering
Veterans Memorial Stadium
Jacksonville, FL

Sept. 28 – Saturday
Veteran's Appreciation Day
Moosehaven
Orange Park

October 19 – 8:00 AM to Noon
USO All Services Half Marathon
Metropolitan Park
Jacksonville, FL

August 14 – Weds
Active After 50 Expo
Thrasher Home
Orange Park

October 13 – Sunday 9:00 AM
Kirkin Of the Tartan
1st Presbyterian Church
118 E Monroe St
Jacksonville, FL

Nov 11 – 11:00 AM
Veteran's Day Memorial
Magnolia Cemetery
Orange Park, FL

Scotland or Bust

As you all may have recognize by now, First Coast Highlanders and friends are going to Scotland next year, June 23 – July 3, 2020. Details are continually being developed by a special committee. We are currently conducting several fund raisers to defer the cost to our performing band members. Everyone is looking forward to this trip. Many people are working very hard in putting this trip together. This will be a 9-day trip to enhance the bonds of ancestral and national character between the people of Scotland & USA.

SCOTTISH HISTORY

In August

5 August 1600

The foiling of the Gowrie Conspiracy, a supposed plot against King James VI, soon to become King of



England. According to the King, whose self-serving account is the primary record of this odd event, he rode with Alexander, the Master of Ruthven, brother of John, Earl of Gowrie, to Gowrie House in Perth to speak with a man who had found a pot of gold. Once there, afraid he was about to be murdered, he summoned help

and the Earl and his brother were killed. James' story was not widely believed as many thought he was jealous of the brothers' close friendship with his wife, Queen Ann. Others, suspicious of his conduct towards Roman Catholics, suspected he was motivated by a desire to remove the Gowries, who were Protestants stalwarts. James may have been concerned by the arrival at Gowrie House of the sons of the first Earl of Gowrie, a participant in the Ruthven Raid of 1582, which had imprisoned James. He was not renowned for his courage so their presence may have caused an excessive reaction and his cry of 'treason' which resulted in their doom. This conspiracy, whatever its origins and extent, was the last attempt against the King before he left for England. King James VI and I was King of Scotland as James VI from 24 July 1567 and King of England and Ireland as James I from the union of the Scottish and English crowns on 24 March 1603 until his death in 1625.

19 August 1745

Charles Edward Stuart, otherwise known as 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' and 'The Young Pretender,' raised the

royal standard of his exiled family at Glenfinnan on the shores of Loch Shiel in the western Highlands, thus beginning the last and greatest Jacobite Rebellion.



Charles, who was born in Rome in 1720, was the son of James Edward Stuart, 'The Old Pretender,' and grandson of the Roman Catholic King James II and VII, who had been deposed in 1688. Though poorly supported by France and landing in Scotland with only seven men, Charles' invasion was well timed as substantial numbers of British

forces were engaged on the continent against the French in the War of the Austrian Succession. Several clans came out for Charles and Edinburgh was quickly occupied. Early military success, could not offset the lack of support for the Rebellion in the Scottish Lowlands and especially in northern England where the march of the Highland army on London was aborted near Derby. By this time, British reinforcements had gathered and the Jacobites final defeat in April 1746 at the Battle of Culloden near Inverness. Charles was able to escape, hiding in the Highlands. He spent the remainder of his life in exile, dying at Rome in 1788.

-----CONGRATULATIONS-----



First Coast Highlanders spent the afternoon of June 30th at Meehan's Irish Pub in Saint Augustine to entertain the crowd and sell our **Cruise Vacation for Two Raffle tickets**. At 4:00 pm we drew Cindy Callaway's ticket as our winner. **"Congratulations"** goes out to Cindy from Lawty, FL. The ticket was sold by our President Evan Brown. We hope Cindy will have a marvelous cruise.

~ Bon Voyage ~

Thanks goes out to Kelly Tomlinson Realtor Florida Home Realty for donating this opportunity.

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Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games • Orange Park Presbyterian Church
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FOR \$25 YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB, and receive the newsletter by email.

For more information about hiring a piper or the band, or becoming a sponsor, call Art Tenney at (904) 368-8177.

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, 2019, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



Car and Bike Show



Proceeds to benefit the Military Museum of North Florida.
and

The First Coast Highlanders Pipes and Drums.

Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) Organizations

Date: November 2, 2019

Location: **North Florida Military Museum**

1 Bunker Ave(SR 16) Green Cove Springs, FL. 32043

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**All Years, Makes and Models Welcome, Foreign or Domestic
Muscle Cars, Street Rods, Customs, Jeeps, Trucks, Motorcycles**

**Food, 50-50, Best in Show Trophies
\$20.00 Pre-registration - \$25.00 Day of Show
Free Admission to all spectators**



Please Print Clearly and Sign

Entry Fee: \$20.00 Pre-Registration (before 10/2/2019)

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Name: _____ Phone: _____
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Disclaimer: The Military Museum of North Florida, and the First Coast Highlanders Pipes and Drums, will not be held responsible for personal injury, theft or damage to vehicles and or personal property.

Signature: _____.

No Refunds

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