

The Clay Piper

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Sept. 2016

NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PIPING AND DRUMMING

This past July six band members and two students attended the North American Academy for Piping and Drumming. We want to thank the Northeast Florida Scottish Games, the Saint Andrew's Society of Jacksonville, Clan MacCallum and Clan Campbell for their scholarship support to send our members to the school.



The Hill: only way to classes and chow hall.



TESTIMONIALS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PIPING AND DRUMMING

Some kind words from our student attendees...



The North American Academy of Piping and Drumming in North Carolina was very fun and I learned a lot. The instructors were great! I thank the Clan Campbell for sending me. I hope to go again next year!

— Blake Buterbaugh

At the academy I had three excellent teachers who taught me a lot: Greg Abbott, Jon Shell and Katy Rashid. Greg taught me the value of piping exercises. Jon taught me some finer points of bagpipe maintenance and my first reel. Katy worked with me on fingering techniques. I would like to thank Clan MacCallum for their scholarship and support provided to help send me to NAAPD.

— Scotland Boland



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer is really flying by. I trust that each and every one of you are enjoying the heat here in North Florida and possibly a little vacation time off from work.

Eight of the First Coast Highlanders took a little vacation the first week of July, enjoying a break from the heat going to Valle Crucis, North Carolina (the mountains of Boone, NC). Each year, for the past six years, someone or a group from the band has made the annual trip to the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming, aka: Band Camp. Pipers and drummers from coast to coast attend. This week long training tests your skills and improves them as well.

Each time I send out an email to my pipers and drummers I always sign off by asking, did you practice yesterday, how about today and will you practice tomorrow? Well, at the academy you would have to answer that question with a big "YES." We practiced and played our pipes and drums from sun up to sun down and sometimes we would be practicing with our chanter and drum pads in bed just before we turned the lights

out. I woke up one morning with my practice chanter on my pillow!

Wow, what a great week, even though there was cell phone service available I don't think I made or received the first phone call all week. All eight of us had a great time learning under the great instructor staff of Grade 1 or above pipers and drummers.

I told you that we were deep into the mountain range. Our sleeping quarters were located at the base of the mountain. In order to attend the three daily classes and go to meals we had to climb the mountain. For attending Floridians, the climbing was great exercise.

Thanks to all of the donations and scholarships that were generously provided allowing the eight of us to attend. Thanks to you all.

First Coast Highlander members and students continue to grow with several changes in processes and leadership challenges and we all have stayed the course through it all, and I thank you. With all of that hard work and dedication First Coast Highlander band members and students are taking a couple



of weeks off to clean and repair their bagpipes and drums, regroup ourselves and prepare for another active season starting in September with our many scheduled performances.

To all of our performing members and students, work hard and don't get discouraged. Keep practicing those tunes. Like one of my instructors told me at Band Camp, "Practice, Practice and Practice again. If you can't get it right the first time practice again. Practice until you CAN'T get it wrong."

Pipe and Drum On
Bob Simpson

SCOTTISH BAGPIPES



Any traditional Scottish ceremony would not be authentic without Scottish bagpipes. It is said that bagpipes provoke mixed reactions. For example, Alfred Hitchcock said that the inventor of the instrument was inspired by seeing a noisy, indignant pig being carried under a man's arm, but unfortunately the man made object never equaled the purity of sound of the pig.

Most people assume that the bagpipe is essentially a Scottish instrument. However, its long history reveals that there are about thirty countries worldwide with similar instruments. The Romans probably were the first to introduce the pipes to the highlands. Emperor Nero was famous for fiddling while Rome burned. However, he also performed on the bagpipes to encourage his troops before battle.

Love or hate them, you certainly cannot ignore the stirring sound of the bagpipes!

CLAN BADGES

In ancient times, a Chief wore in battle a distinguishing badge on his helmet, a device which his followers could recognize in the turmoil of battle. This is known as the crest of the chief and appears at the top of his full coat of arms.

Any person bearing the same name as a Scottish Chief is a clansman of the Chief. This clansman has the privilege of wearing the

Chief's crest surrounded by a strap and buckle garter to denote his clan allegiance.

The Scottish clans are made up of families who bore a different surname but were descended from the Chief through the female line. They are called septs. Therefore, anyone who has an ancestor bearing a sept name or the clan name itself may legitimately wear the crest badge.



AROUND TOWN



Upper left:
Greg, one of our students, working hard to learn the techniques of piping.

Upper right:
The re-dedication of Lee Airfield in Green Cove Springs, with Congressman Ted Yoho at far right.



Lower left:
Concert on the Green at St. John's Country Day School.

Lower right:
St. Andrews Society Pub Night at Meehan's Irish Pub in St. Augustine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Concert

Saturday, September 17 - 2 PM
The Allegro
US 17

University of Phoenix Commencement

Saturday, September 24 - 1 PM
Veterans Memorial Arena
Jacksonville

Navy Ball

Saturday, October 1 - 7 PM
Renaissance Convention Center
World Golf Village

Marine Corp Half Marathon

Saturday, October 8 - 8 AM
Metropolitan Park
Jacksonville

CalaVida

Sunday, October 23 - 6 PM
Spring Park
Green Cove Springs

Veteran's Day Service

Friday, November 11 - 11 AM
Magnolia Cemetery
Orange Park

Kirkin of the Tartan

Sunday, November 20 - 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville
Jacksonville



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