

# The Clay Piper

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

[www.firstcoasthighlanders.com](http://www.firstcoasthighlanders.com)

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May 2016



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to personally thank all of our Performing Members for all of the dedicated hours that each of you have provided to this bagpipe and drum band, attending all of our performances. Recently we have removed our sheriff's badges, collar devices, and patches from our uniforms, however, we are still the same bagpipe and drum band under our new name "FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS." Personnel come and go however nothing has changed, same proud moments and a new name. We will continue to Pipe and Drum On.

To our student members, always remember "Stay the Course." Everyone in the piper's circle, pipers and drummers alike, have been in your shoes. We have experienced your frustrations to get into that pipers circle and enjoy the fun. Patience and lots of practice will get you there. Thanks for all of your efforts. Pipe and Drum On.

To our associate members, and the wonderful volunteers, those of you that don't play an instrument, and don't get to stand in the pipers circle and get the applause when we finish a tune, I applaud you for providing that behind the scenes support and finishing glue that holds us together. You have provided your talented support and financial dollars. Thank you very much.

In closing I always like to ask, "Have you practiced today? How about yesterday, did you practice? Tomorrow, are you going to practice?"

Everyone have a wonderful quarter and  
Thanks to you all  
PIPE & DRUM ON.  
Bob Simpson  
President, First Coast Highlanders.

### WELCOME TO THE FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

Our newsletter probably looks a little different this quarter. That's because we are different. As of April 15 we are no longer affiliated with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. and are in the process of rebranding the band. Our new name is FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS. Even though our name is new our mission and our goals stay the same and we will remain a Clay County community band. We invite you to visit our changed website at [www.firstcoasthighlanders.com](http://www.firstcoasthighlanders.com). We also changed our facebook page and you can find us on [www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders](https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders). If you like our new name please like us on our facebook page. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past. We hope that you, the Clay County community, and surrounding communities will continue to support us.

# WHO ARE THE HIGHLANDERS?

Do you know people with the name Campbell, McNeill, or Stewart? Everyone has seen a Presbyterian church. These names and this religion denomination are two of the legacies of Highland Scots.

The highlands are a rugged land of mountainous, rocky terrain and harsh winters. The people who inhabited this remote wilderness were known as Highlanders. Highlanders are descendants of Celts who settled in the northern mainland and islands of Scotland. They were self sufficient and independent and the landscape promoted isolation and independence.

Because of the remoteness from trade routes it was a poor region where oatmeal and beef were staple foods. Up to and into the early 1700's Highland society was structured along a close knit tribal clan system. Clan members were related by blood to the clan chief who provided land for them to farm. In turn they gave him obedience, military service and land rents. They became proficient cattle breeders. Their wealth lay in the clan, its fighting force, and their cattle.

In the mid eighteenth century Scotland experienced changes that resulted in a mass exodus of highlanders to other

countries. It began with the defeat of the Highland army of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" at Culloden Moor in 1746 at the hands of English forces. After the battle the English took weapons from the highlanders forbidding clan members to give military service to their chief. Clans were put under the jurisdiction of English law, rather than their chief. They were forbidden to wear Highland native tartans, or plaids. All schooling was required to be conducted in English rather than their native Gaelic language. The playing of bagpipes was not allowed. This and other forces contributed to the emmigration of many Scots from the Highlands.



## ST. AUGUSTINE'S ROMANZA FESTIVALE OF THE ARTS

**ALL OVER DOWNTOWN ST. AUGUSTINE MAY 6-15**

St. Augustine Cultural Events: Music, Dance, Theater, Art, Cuisine... and Romance!

Romanza promotes and produces cultural events that showcase St. Augustine's vibrant living culture, that enhance the quality of life for residents, and that create a positive lasting impression of the Nation's Most Romantic City for visitors.

# AROUND TOWN



*Left & Top Right: At the St. Augustine commemoration of the Irish Easter uprising in 1916. Bob, Romeo and Steve Cohn*

*Bottom Right: Clay county fair main street parade*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **PUB NIGHT**

Saturday, May 14 - 6 PM  
Meehans Irish Pub and Restaurant  
St Augustine

### **LEE AIR FIELD DEDICATION**

Military Museum Fundraiser  
Saturday, May 21 9 AM  
Green Cove Springs Military Museum  
SR 16

### **MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH SERVICE**

Sunday, May 29, 10:30 AM  
Turning Point at Calvary Baptist Church  
SR 16, St Augustine

### **CONCERT ON THE GREEN OPENING CEREMONY**

Sunday, May 29, 6 PM  
St John's Country Day School  
Doctor's Lake Road

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Monday, May 30, 10:00 PM  
Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery  
Sandridge Road, GCS

### **SAINTS ALIVE**

Thursday, June 30, 6:30 PM  
Russell Baptist Church  
Sandridge Road, GCS



# SPONSORS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## DIAMOND

Clayton and Harriett Kicklighter • Joseph Esposito • Mrs. Beverly Radez  
Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games

## PLATINUM

Arthur and Susanne Tenney • Navy League of Women • Orange Park Medical Center  
Russell Haven of Rest Funeral Home and Cemetery • Sigma Marketing • Will Wheeler

## GOLD

Alexis Malcolm Kilts • Ameris Bank

## SILVER

Emil and Barbara Albertini • BJ's Warehouse • Diane Banks State Farm Insurance  
Hagan Ace Hardware • Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home  
Hardage-Giddens Rivermeade Funeral Home • Orange Park Furniture  
Fleming Island Golf Club • G's Slow Smoked BBQ

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<i>Listing in our newsletter and on our web site with a link to your site.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site and a band shirt.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site, a band shirt and a framed signed band photo.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site, a band shirt, a framed signed band photo and a performance.</i>
FOR \$25 YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB, and receive the newsletter by email.			

Please complete the coupon below and mail with your check to the **First Coast Highlanders**,  
P.O. Box 2639, Orange Park, FL 32067. We are a 501 (C) (3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.  
Thank you for your donations.

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**By giving them your business you are sponsoring us!**

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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☐ SILVER ☐ GOLD

☐ PLATINUM ☐ DIAMOND

**THANK YOU!**

*Mail with your check to First Coast Highlanders, P.O. Box 2639, Orange Park, FL 32067.*