

# The Clay Piper

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

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

[www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders](https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders)

FEB 2017

### THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

The Kirkin' of the Tartan service today celebrates the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church. It is a North American custom many believe is based on the history of the Scots in Scotland during the days of the Act of Proscription of 1743. At that time the wearing of the kilt was banned in the Highlands. Stories have been told that the Highlanders hid pieces of tartan and brought them to church to be secretly blessed in the service. Such a practice would have been dangerous. We do know that during the Second World War, before America joined the war, Rev. Peter Marshall, originally from Scotland, was the minister of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He also served as Chaplain of the United States Senate. Many may remember seeing the movie "A Man Called Peter" which recounted his life.

Desiring to draw attention to the threat that war brought to the British

people, Marshall held the first Kirkin' of the Tartan service in 1941. The sermon title was "The Kirkin' of the Tartan" and in it, he spoke about the oppression of the Scots during the days of the Act of Proscription and drew the attention of the congregation to the dangers of the Nazi dictatorship. Funds raised from the service went to purchase a mobile kitchen for Britain.

Some scholars believe Marshall's inspiration for the service was not the Act of Proscription but the story of the Covenanters in Scotland during the 1660's and 1670's. During that time people attended secret outdoor services. The Covenanters posted armed look-outs at these meetings to warn of approaching government forces coming to break-up the meeting and arrest the participants.



The Alexander Carse painting *Covenanters in a Glen*, showing an illegal conventicle.

Persons who attended the illegal gatherings, instead of the services held by the State Church, could be fined, jailed, tortured and in some cases, executed. Given Marshall's Presbyterian background, and the fact that he came from Scotland, one could argue the Covenanters provided more of the inspiration for the origins of the Kirkin' service than the Act of Proscription.

*Reprinted by permission of  
Rev. Dr. Robert L. Morris, Jr., Pastor,  
First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville*

### SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT – NORTHEAST FLORIDA SCOTTISH GAMES & FESTIVAL

February 25, 2017 is the date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival held at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

Once again we will have the First Coast Highlanders as our house band and we are looking forward to new and exciting things from the band. Along with our house band we will be presenting Nashville recording artist Ashley Shannon singing the traditional three National anthems at the beginning of the opening ceremonies.

During the day and for our evening concert we will be



Also for the first time this year attendees can take a crack at fencing, so let your inner Earl Flynn come out and have a go at it.

As always there will be heavy athletics, dance competition, pipe band competition and children's activities plus much, much more.

So make your plans to bring the family out for a day of Scottish fun. Tickets are \$15.00 for 10 years and up at the gate, under 10 gets in free or get your tickets in advance for \$12.00.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Holidays' are over, the Christmas Tree is down, all the ornaments are packed away for another 11 months. Celebrations to ring in the New Year are complete and we have made our new year's resolutions. I trust everyone had a wonderful time. Now it is time to remove the cobwebs from the pipes and drums.

Let's kick it in gear and prepare ourselves for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual North-East Florida Scottish Games and Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. This is always a time for great Scottish heritage demonstrations, wonderful food and time to be with friends that we have made from previous years' games.

January 12th the band members elected their officers to serve on the executive board. Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant was selected at the Annual General Meeting and the band is on its way to another very busy and wonderful year in 2017.

This will be my last newsletter article as president. What a great time we had during 2016. I advised the executive board that I would not be a candidate for president in 2017. I am not one for excuses but with a full-time job and many months of travel during the year I am not able to provide the 110% attention required to take First Coast Highlanders on to the great heights required of its members. I will continue to perform as a bagpiper in the band and will continue to provide web site and Facebook support.

Be sure to check-out our Facebook page [facebook/firstcoasthighlanders](https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders) and don't forget

to LIKE US. Our web-site is continually being updated with pictures of events. Check it out at [firstcoasthighlanders.com](http://firstcoasthighlanders.com). Put the two sites on your favorites page in your computer, tablet and/or phone.

If you have joined us at an event and you took a picture or two, please share and send them to me or the band manager and I'll get them posted. If you do come to any of our events, please stop by our piper's circle or display table to shake our hand. Be sure to sign-up to receive our quarterly newsletter via email on your electronic device. You can also read the current and past newsletters on our web-site

***See You at  
Our Next Event!***



Pipe and Drum On  
Bob Simpson  
[Rcsimpson95@gmail.com](mailto:Rcsimpson95@gmail.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

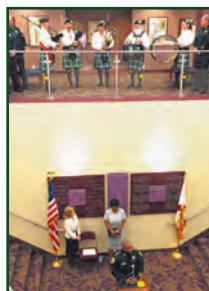
We are a performance and entertainment band, a teaching organization, and a cultural group. We are a community based band and promote Celtic culture through music. We are committed to playing the finest in traditional Scottish and Irish music for both private and public audiences.

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.





## AROUND TOWN



*Top left:*  
Our drummers diligently rehearsing.

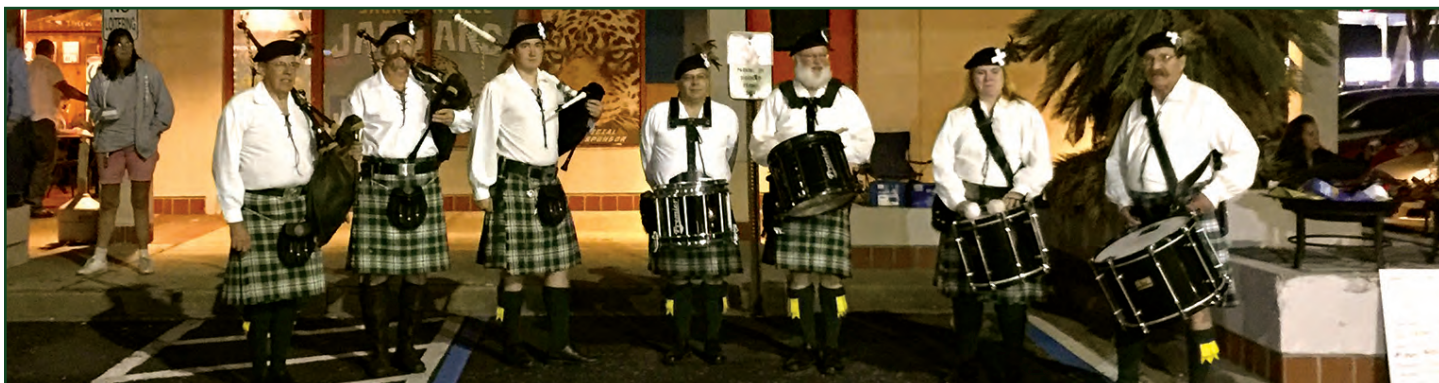
*Top center & right:*  
Romeo and the band perform at Sheriff Darryl Daniels' swearing in ceremony at Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts.



*Left:*  
Dinner at the band's Christmas party.

*Right:*  
Santa giving President Bob Simpson some advice...and a gift.

*Bottom:*  
Performance at Prevatts Sports Bar for the Firemen Order of Leatherheads' fundraiser for first responders with PTSD.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kirkin of the Tartan

Sunday, February 19 – 10 AM  
St. Giles Presbyterian Church  
Orange Park

### NE Florida Scottish Games and Festival

Saturday, February 25 – All Day  
Clay County Fairgrounds  
Green Cove Springs

### Special Olympics

Friday, March 3 – 9 AM & Friday, March 10 – 9 AM  
Ridgeview High School  
Orange Park

### St. Patrick's Day Parade & St. Augustine Celtic Festival

Saturday, March 11 – 10 AM  
St. Augustine

### St. Augustine Celtic Festival

Sunday, March 12  
St. Francis Field  
St. Augustine

### St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 17 – 2-6 PM  
Meehan's Irish Pub and Restaurant  
St. Augustine

### Clay County Fair, Main Street Parade

Thursday & Friday, March 30-31 – 4 PM &  
Sunday, April 1 – 2 PM  
Clay County Fairgrounds  
Green Cove Springs



## SPONSORS — THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

### DIAMOND

Joseph Esposito • Mrs. Beverly Radez  
Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games • St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville

### PLATINUM

Arthur and Susanne Tenney • Dr. June Gentle  
Will Wheeler • David King Law Firm  
Russell Haven of Rest Funeral Home and Cemetery • Sigma Marketing

### GOLD

Alexis Malcolm Kilts • Ameris Bank • Orange Park Furniture  
Jim and Kathi Overby • Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home  
Hardage-Giddens Rivermeade Funeral Home

### SILVER

Emil and Barbara Albertini • BJ's Warehouse  
Clayton and Harriett Kicklighter • Julieann Smith  
Fleming Island Golf Club • G's Slow Smoked BBQ • Gwendoline Wilson

*Please take a few minutes to look at our sponsors.  
By giving them your business you are sponsoring us!*

## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM — BECOME A SPONSOR!

SILVER (\$100 - \$249)	GOLD (\$250 - \$499)	PLATINUM (\$500 - \$999)	DIAMOND (\$1,000 & UP)
<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, 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, 2017, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

# FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

### SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:

☐ BOOSTER CLUB ☐ SILVER ☐ GOLD ☐ PLATINUM ☐ DIAMOND

**THANK YOU!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with your check to First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**