

# The Clay Piper

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

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MAY 2017

### WELCOME!

*From the desk of the President, our performing members and students, welcome to the "First Coast Highlanders" bagpipe and drum band Newsletter "The Clay Piper." The band has been very busy since our last publication.*

**NE Florida Scottish Games & Festival.** On Sunday, February 19, we played for the Kirkin' of the Tartans at **St Giles Presbyterian Church** in Orange Park, and was the prelude and dedication to the clans prior to the games. Our Pipe Major Will Wheeler led the band



*Kirkin' of the Tartans at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Orange Park.*

with outstanding enthusiasm and a professional attitude. On Saturday, February 25, the FCH was the host band for the 22nd Annual **Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival**. Eight pipers and four drummers performed six times throughout the day. For the first time, we played a joint performance with the Clay High School Band, and it was a wonderful performance. We marched throughout the fairgrounds, played in the arena, and gave a 'concert in a circle' in front of the exhibit buildings. The official chiropractor of First Coast

Highlanders, June Gentle D.C., was there to ease our aching muscles.

### **IHOP National Pancake Day.**

On Tuesday evening, March 7, Steve C, Scotland, Bob, and I played at IHOP – International House of Pancakes – on Blanding Blvd., in Orange Park in recognition of National Pancake Day. Any and all tips/donations go to the Children's Miracle Network. This is an event that we have played for many years. We played for about a half-hour to a packed restaurant. The line was out to the parking lot, waiting to be seated. We were greeted by many who had seen us perform in years past. We received thunderous applause, and were asked to return for Pancake Day in 2018. The management and staff were very appreciative and complimentary of our performance. After playing, we enjoyed free pancakes with warm syrup and whipped cream. A good performance, great food and wonderful fellowship.

### **Saint Augustine Celtic Festival.**

March 11th and 12th the band participated in the two-day event that kept us all very busy. On Saturday, we marched in "Northeast Florida's only Saint Patrick's Day Parade", then held an impromptu jam session with three other pipe and drum bands. Later we paraded and played through the vendor area and along

Clan Row. When we stopped in front of the McPherson tent to honor them with their clan tune, they rewarded us with a wee dram of refreshment. Sunday morning, two pipers and a base drum marched through the vendor tents with stirring early morning tunes. Played pipe and drum tunes as



we led the Clan Parade to the main stage for their Clan awards. Later that afternoon, we received a windy shower, but recovered to play in front of the beverage tent to attract damp and thirsty customers. THANKS to everyone who participated and helped in this exciting two-day event. Thanks to the friends and family who served in the beverage tents—Bonnie, Pat, Alexis, Allison, Eva, Deb, and Jane. Rob, Scotland, Evan, Hamish, Steve C, Greg, Bob, Art, Will, and I had a great time playing for the crowds and are looking forward to having all band members, supporters, and family participate again next March.

*There is no time to relax. FCH will continue to practice, because our Memorial Day events in May are around the corner. If you see us on the street or in a piper's circle, come up and say hello. Shake our hands and maybe we can get you to join the band?*

## WHAT IS YOUR TARTAN?

Everyone has a surname and mine is SIMPSON. If you have been to the Scottish Games and Festival, there are usually a couple of vendors that will do the research for you to see if you have any Scottish heritage. I was fortunate many years ago, my uncle went to Scotland and came back with all kinds of memorabilia. He told us that we belonged to the Fraser of Lovat clan. He had a piece of tartan, our clan plaque or badge. He also had all kinds of information related to the Simpsons and their relationship to the Fraser of Lovat clan. I have a descendant of the family that migrated from Scotland in 1861 to fight for the Union army as an infantry soldier during the Civil War.

*Here are some additional tidbits about the Fraser of Lovat clan:*



The Commemorative Tartan shown here was produced by the House of Edgar for the Fraser Gathering at Fraser Castle, Aberdeenshire, 1997. It was based on the tartans of Clan Fraser and Buchan District, the

area around Fraserburgh. There are many tartans dating back to the early 1800's. I wear a Fraser of Lovat kilt that is called the modern version. When I wear my bonnet or Balmoral (hat) I proudly display my clan crest, shown here. The Je Suis Prest imprinted on the badge states "I AM READY."



The Fraser of Lovat clan continues to exist today in Scotland where Simon Fraser, 18th Lord Lovat presides over the clan from Aberdeenshire. Fraser of Lovat has a castle called Beaufort Castle located near Beauly in Inverness-shire, northern Scotland. A great read is a book entitled "The Last Highlander" and talks about the story of the "Old Fox" The 12th Lord Lovat in the 1700's.

*If you have Scottish heritage and you can tell a story about what you know about your clan and surname. Write it up or get with me and we may publish in the next Clay Piper!*

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the year 1306 King Robert I ("The Bruce") was crowned at Scone. Bruce was crowned by Bishop William de Lamberton in front of the banner of the kings of Scotland, wearing royal robes which had been hidden from the English.



*Robert the Bruce statue, at the monument for the Battle of Bannockburn.*

Image: Martin Kraft (photo.martinkraft.com)  
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In the year 1642, The Scots Guards Regiment was formed when King Charles I issued a commission to the Marquess of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, authorizing him to raise in Scotland a regiment of 1500 men. The Kings 'Lyfe Guard of Foot' became the Scots Guards.



*Scots Guards drummer, piper, bugler and bandsman, circa 1891.*

## 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.





## PICTURES FROM PAST EVENTS



*Top left:*  
Kirkin' of the Tartan at St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

*Top center:*  
Scotland Boland playing the Stop Rain ceremony at the Celtic Festival.

*Top right:*  
Deborah Johnson and Robert on St Patrick's Day.



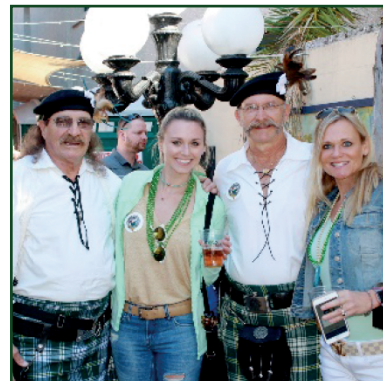
*Left:*  
Saint Cyprian's Episcopal with Father Ted.

*Right:*  
I have one more question about those bagpipes...

*Bottom left:*  
Upstairs at Meehan's Irish Pub.

*Bottom center:*  
Romeo and Robert love taking pictures with those that love bagpipes & drums.

*Bottom right:*  
Performing at the 2017 Scottish Highland Games.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Avile Street Procession

Saturday, May 6, 2 PM  
St. Augustine

### Clay County Sheriff's Office Memorial Service

Tuesday, May 9 - 10 AM  
Clay County Sheriff's Office  
US 17, Green Cove Springs

### Harry Potter Event

Saturday, May 13 Noon - 8 PM  
St. Francis Field  
St. Augustine



### Armed Forces Day Car Show

Saturday, May 20 - 10 AM - 2 PM  
Military Museum of North Florida  
SR 16, Green Cove Springs

### Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 28 - 10:30 AM  
Turning Point at Calvary Baptist Church  
SR 16, St. Augustine

### Concert on the Green

Sunday, May 28 - 6:30 PM  
St. John Country Day School  
Doctor's Lake Road, Orange Park



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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, 2017, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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