

# THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

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MAY 2019

## Member Spotlight

First Coast Highlanders has had some new members join and we are bringing back the Member Spotlight segment letting everyone know just who is in our band. This quarter we will highlight Robert Arthurs, one of our newer members to First Coast Highlanders. He is a piper and here is his story;

**Name:** Robert Arthurs, AKA-Rob. His students call him Mr. Arthurs



**Where are you from?** New Orleans, Louisiana

**What do you do for a living?** I am a substitute teacher for the Clay County School system. I mostly sub math classes but have been known to teach the other subjects as well. I am very comfortable with math and love teaching those students with a desire to learn those most important math skills that will get them through college.

**Do you have a family?** Wife, Allison of 37 years, son, Tristan currently a junior in high school and daughter Evangeline a sophomore at UNF

**What is your Scottish Clan?** MacArthur / Arthurs / Reilly

**When did you start playing the Bagpipes?** August 2016

**How did you come to know and join First Coast Highlanders?** During a Kirkin of the Tartan service at Saint Giles Presbyterian in 2010, where the bagpipes were being played by Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums, the bagpipes stirred my interest.

At the time I was playing guitar and singing in an Irish Pickup Group, having fun with the Irish Celtic music. Around 2013, I was approached by Arthur Tenney who told me I needed to learn some Scottish music on the bagpipes. I thought I didn't have the time or the skill to learn the bagpipes, however, with my musical background, music reading was easy, the bagpipe mechanics a different story, it was a challenge. Bagpipes are a little more difficult to learn than other musical instruments. I am still thrown by the complexity of the tunes we have to learn. I'm getting better with every practice.

**What are your Life Achievements?** I was able to travel and live in Europe as a young kid and experience other cultures and languages. I lived for a bit in Sevilla, Spain and it was there that I learned to love the sound of a classical guitar which started me on this musical journey that I enjoy today. Because I like music, and it has been very enjoyable and rewarding to me. It's the smiles on the faces the toe tapping of those listening that I enjoy the most. My library of the different Celtic tunes that I know and am learning is growing all for the enjoyment of the listener. It is my goal to be always counted on to play music, one of my best achievements, and I can truly say bagpipes have been added to that goal.

**What are your future goals?** My big future goal right now is to get to Scotland and play my pipes in 2020. The band has been invited back to Sterling to play. I would also like to spend more time in Scotland and Ireland. My immediate goal is just continuing to get better on the BAGPIPES.

*May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, angels protect you,  
And Heaven accept you*

# SCOTTISH HISTORY-

## Bonnie Dundee

In 1672, John Graham, 1st Viscount of Dundee began his military career in a Scots Regiment in the service of the French King, Louis XIV. John Graham was called "Bluidy Clavers" (Bloody Claverhouse) by his opponents but was regarded as humane and fair by his followers among the Jacobite supporters.

In 1674, during the Battle of Seneffe, he rescued the



young Prince William of Orange when his horse fell in marshy ground. Two years later, following an unsuccessful siege of Maastricht, John Graham resigned his commission and returned to Scotland.

In 1689, after the overthrow of King James VII of Scotland, he became a fervent

supporter of the Stuart cause. Viscount Dundee raised his standard on Dundee Law in support of the Jacobite cause. His greatest victory was at the Battle of Killicranckie (on 27 July 1689) against much greater Williamite forces led by General Hugh Mackay. The Highlanders were completely victorious, but their leader, in the act of encouraging his men, was pierced beneath the breastplate by a musket ball of the enemy and fell dying from his horse.

John Graham reputedly asked a soldier "How goes the day?" The man replied, "Well for King James, but I am sorry for your lordship." The dying Graham replied, "If it goes well for him, it matters the less for me."



Killicranckie Pass and the soldier's leap

The battle, disastrous as it was to the government forces, was the end of the insurrection for the controlling and commanding genius of the rebellion and was no more.

Killicranckie had little overall effect on the outcome of the war. Without their leader the Jacobite forces were scattered at the Battle of Dunkeld the next month. The Battle of Killiecrankie made a deep impression. The government drew the lesson it had to build roads to secure and move their troops faster. Between 1725 and 1737 general Wade directed the construction of some 250 miles (400 km) of road, plus 40 bridges, a formidable task which still constitutes the

backbone of communication channels of Scotland. The Jacobite's immortalized their victory a century later in a poem by Walter Scott where John Graham of Claverhouse received the posthumous nickname of "Bonnie Dundee".

First Coast Highlanders plays the tune "Bonnie Dundee" and if you care to sing along be our guest. The song has been used as a regimental march by several Scottish regiments in the British army and was adapted by Confederate troops in the American Civil War (the song "Riding a Raid" takes place during the 1862 Antietam Campaign). The lyrics are as follows;

### Bonnie Dundee

To the Lords o' Convention

'twas Claverhouse spoke

Ever the King's crown goes down

there are crowns to be broke

So, each cavalier who loves honor and me

Let him follow the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee

Chorus

Come fill up my cup, come fill up my can

Come saddle my horses and call out my men

Unhook the West Port and let us go free

For it's up with the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee

Dundee he is mounted and rides up the street

The bells they ring backward,

the drums they are beat

But the provost dose man says just let it be

For the toon is well rid o' that devil Dundee

Chorus

There are hills beyond Pentland

and lands beyond Forth

Be there lords in the south,

there are chiefs in the north

There are brave downie wassles

three thousand times three

Cry hey for the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee

Chorus

And awa tae the hills, tae the lee and the rocks

Ere I own a userper I'll couch with the fox

So tremble false whigs in the mid'st o' yer glee

For ye've no seen the last o' my bonnets and me

Chorus

### SCOTLAND 2020



First Coast Highlanders are going to Scotland, June 25 through July 2, 2020. We are celebrating 10 years as a Bagpipe Band. If you are interested stay connected to our web site and future

newsletters. Also see the flyer in this issue.

## Pipe Majors Music Stand

Welcome to the new quarter. I can't tell you how proud I am of all our band members from the students to the performing members and how they have improved over the past couple of months. They all are dedicated. Just goes to show you what a bunch of practice can do. Since the last issue of "The Clay Piper" our performing members have played in the NEF Scottish Highland games in February, piping and drumming all day. Then during the month of March, everyone participated in several St Patrick's day events including the St. Augustine Celtic Festival, playing bagpipe music and serving beer which lasted not one but two days. Six pipers and two drummers were STARS for the evening while we played with the Irish folk band "The Chieftains" in concert at Gainesville. I couldn't be prouder of all the pipers and drummers of First Coast Highlanders, they have dedicated a big share of their free time and efforts to entertain the crowds. We are incorporating some new music to our already large music library. With a little extra practice, we all will be up to speed. The month of May is busy for First Coast Highlanders with Memorial Day services. Those events are on the calendar, which can be found on our website <http://firstcoasthighlanders.com>. Don't forget to LIKE us on our FACEBOOK page too. ***Thanks to all of you for your hard work and support, keep yourselves healthy and your mind charged.*** RCS

There is no  
glory in  
practice, but  
without practice,  
there is no  
glory...  
—Unknown  
curiano.com

## Scottish Funnies

**Would you believe my neighbor  
was knocking on my door at 2:30  
in the morning?**



**Luckily, I was still up  
playing the bagpipes.**

## FCH Upcomming Events

May 5, 2019 – Sunday 3-6 PM  
**Cinco de Mayo Irish Style**  
Meehan's Irish Pub and Restaurant  
St. Augustine, FL

May 8, 2019 – Weds. 10:00 AM  
**Clay Co. Sheriff's Office Memorial**  
Spring Park, Green Cove Springs

May 23, 2019 - 8:30 till 2:00pm  
**International Day Elementary Style**  
Chimney Lakes Elementary School  
Oakleaf – Jacksonville, FL

May 26, 2019 – Service 10:30 AM  
**Memorial Day Church Service**  
Turning Point at Calvary  
Highway 16, St Augustine, FL  
=====

## FCH Past Events

First Coast Highlanders performed in several events during the past quarter. Here are a few pictures.



Glenn Ellison and Brooklyn



Brooklyn with her  
new pipes during the  
Kirkin at St Giles.

WHAT WOULD  
LIFE  
BE WITHOUT  
A LITTLE  
BAGPIPE?



The last weekend in February performed at the North Florida Highland games at the Clay County Fair Grounds  
Parading of the Clans at the Highland Games



The final concert for the day



Saint Augustine Celtic and Music Festival during the Saint Patrick's Day Celebration  
Allison, JoJo, Mikaila & Brooklyn



Steven, Bob, Art on pipes with Brooklyn practice Chanter



A great way to end St. Patrick's Day with Vespers at  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church



Art with a Scotsman  
Marsh Landing, NF Highland Games Golf Tournament



First Coast Highlanders

## SCOTLAND OR BUST

First Coast Highlanders is returning to Scotland to perform in 2020. We are working on plans to perform at three or four different historical sites while in Scotland. We want to enhance the bonds between the people of Scotland and USA

Fund raising has begun and you can help send the band to Scotland by participating in one or all of the events below.

If you like coffee you can purchase 12-ounce bags of coffee beans from band members. Our coffee beans are from Guatemala.

One of our sponsors donated a "5-day, 4-night cruise for two" This offer will be given to the winner of a purchased raffle ticket. You will have your choice of departure from six different cities: Los Angeles, Galveston, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Port Canaveral or Miami. You can choose to go to the Bahamas, Western Caribbean, or Mexico.

Barbecue chicken dinners will be sold at various sites throughout the year.

For those of you who liked our 2014 and 2015 calendars, we will be publishing a 2020 calendar (The Bands 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary). They will go on sale October 2019.

First Coast Highlanders will be hosting a "Car Show" during the fall of 2019 and will be held at Moosehaven in Orange Park, FL.

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So, as you can see, we will have many fundraising events for you to help us raise the funds we need for this trip.

You may also send a tax-deductible contribution to us marked "Scotland Trip." When making this type of contribution, your name will be listed in our quarterly newsletter, on our web site, and Facebook page.

INFORMATION CONTACT:

<http://firstcoasthighlanders.com>

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## SPONSORS — THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM — BECOME A SPONSOR!

| SILVER (\$100 - \$249)                                                         | GOLD (\$250 - \$499)                                                                                 | PLATINUM (\$500 - \$999)                                                                                        | DIAMOND (\$1,000 & UP)                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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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.

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**