

# THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

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MAY 2020



We dedicate this issue of "The Clay Piper," to all of our members and students through pictures. This crazy corona virus pandemic entered our lives at the end of February, but, not before First Coast Highlanders could perform at the NE Florida Scottish Highland Games. It was a wonderful Scottish day at the Clay County Fair Grounds. Two of our students, Brooklyn Harrell and Alyson Rios dressed out, gathered up their newly issued bagpipes and marched with us throughout the day. Thanks to Kathy Zimmerman Robertson for designing and managing the bands promotional table selling our products and promoting the band. The band would also like to thank all the dedicated band supporters who helped out at this marvelous event. In January, band members participated in the annual "Ron Parker Memorial ceremony at Saint Augustine Beach. This is always a fun event working with their police department, along with Mrs. Parker and friends.





## Look who's Practicing

During our isolation/stay at home quarantine, First Coast Highlanders have maintained their practice schedule and continue to learn additional techniques at home. Thanks to all of our bagpipers, drummers and students for their continued dedication to their talent. When we finally get back together it will be as if we were never apart. Keep up the practice!



Scott Front yard



Vince Living Rm



John Backyard



Alyson marching in Driveway



Brooklyn working her music memory



Steven Dog Tail Beat



Marcia



Alyson and Brooklyn - 6 ft Girls Distance



Bob on his Chanter



Will working on Technique



Rick in Canada



Then there is Hamish who says he can't Practice because he has a case of Corona In Saint Augustine. Stay safe !



Evan Brown in his music room





## Pipe Majors Music Stand

The two months we have been apart, because of the Virus, seems to be a lot longer. Even though, I continue to work from my home office, I feel empty or missing something. We as band members have stayed in touch through emails and text, maintaining our social distancing staying at home. It's the gatherings of our family and friends and that personal contact I'm missing. It is just not the same as getting together at practice and events. Those in the head shed tell us it will be over soon and we can all get back together. We all miss our togetherness. The Board of Directors and members collectively postponed our Scotland trip to be rescheduled for next year 2021, all due to the Coronavirus and its worldly effects. Many of us were heartbroken however, first and foremost we must stay safe and healthy. Our marvelous band members and students, through all of this isolation and no group gatherings, continue to practice individually at their homes keeping their bagpiping and drumming skills true. When we finally get together, for our first group practice, we should sound pretty good. I know of no one in the band that came down with the virus, with the exception of Hamish Calder (See his picture) 😊. A big thank you to everyone for maintaining your sanity and keeping the band together through this tough time. Your dedication and hard work will not go unnoticed. It is First Coast Highlanders 10-year anniversary. Let us all celebrate with a big party when we get back together soon. "Pipe & Drum On" RCS

## Scotland-In the Past



On the island of Eriskay in Scotland's Western Isles. There grows a small pink flower. Unique to the island, this frail little Convolvulus flower has a link with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Before he reached Glenfinnan to raise the Jacobite standard in 1745, the 'young pretender' first arrived at the island of Eriskay. He had travelled on the French Frigate La Doutelle. The weather was typical for the area and time of year and the small frigate was buffeted by harsh weather. Charles made the decision to land on the island and a small party rowed ashore.

The tiny boat made landfall at a small inlet which has come to be known as 'Coilleag d'Phrionnso' (The Prince's Strand). As the Prince stepped ashore, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of flower seeds. These he scattered



close to the shore. The seeds grew by the beach and these rare pink flowers grew at the spot. They have come to be known as the "Prince's Flower" for this reason. It has been observed that when anyone tries to move the plants from the island to another location they never flourish.

The Prince also brought something else with him which was more than welcome. When he met the [MacKinnon's](#) of Skye he gave them a recipe for a whisky liqueur. This liqueur was Drambuie which has become famous all over the world.



FCH Pipe Major drinks "Rusty Nails" which combines Drambuie and Scotch. This combination makes him tuff as nails. 😊

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## Up-Coming Events

Would like to confirm that the event/s listed below will happen, but as the COVID-19 "Social Distancing" and "Stay at Home" requirements continue to be in effect, our events will be subject to change. Stay in touch by logging into our website where you can find our calendar of events. After the Memorial Day services the band will continue with Thursday evening practices as permitted through the summer months. If you would like to join us for practice on Thursday evenings check the calendar or text us on Facebook, we would love to have you join us.

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 9AM – 4PM **Military Appreciation Day** Military Museum Route 16, Green Cove Spring  
Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> - 10:30AM **Memorial Day Church Service** Turning Point at Calvary, CR16 St Augustine, FL.

## DIAMOND

[St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville](#)  
[Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games](#) • [Orange Park Presbyterian Church](#)  
[Kelly Tomlinson, Realtor](#) • Susanne Tenney *in-memory of* Beverly Radez

## PLATINUM

[Dr. June Gentle](#) • Will Wheeler  
[Romanza St. Augustine](#) • Arthur Tenney

## GOLD

Cmdr. and Mrs. James Roberts • Stephen and Jane Romeo  
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John Lynch

## SILVER

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