

# THE CLAY PIPER

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

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

<https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders>

May 2022

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this issue we want to place the spotlight on First Coast Highlanders 'Canadian Piper', Rick Hearn. Rick is an accomplished piper and has been a big asset to this band.



**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:** I was born and raised in Winnipeg, completed high school in Ottawa, then attended university in Victoria and Kingston, Canada. Have lived in Halifax, Ottawa, Kingston, Winnipeg, Victoria and presently in Nanaimo so I am from all across Canada.

**WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING:** I joined the Canadian Navy right out of high school and attended Royal Roads Military College in Victoria for basic engineering then two years at the Royal Military College of Canada (Canadian equivalents to the US service academies) graduating with a BEng (Electrical) in 1982. Some Canada/US trivia - our service colleges are tri-service so no Army-Navy game, however, the college did compete yearly in hockey against West Point, that apparently, 'is the longest running annual international sporting event in the world'! I served as a Naval Combat Systems Engineer retiring in 2006 after almost 28 years then worked as a Defense Technician for 9 years mostly testing US torpedoes.

**CURRENT FAMILY:** My son and his family live in Courtenay just north of Nanaimo where he co-owns and manages a restaurant, Browns Socialhouse. My daughter and her family live in Ft. McMurray in northern Alberta (brrr, only visit them in the summer!) where they both operate heavy machinery for Suncor in the Canadian oil sands. I have 5 awesome grandchildren; Capriese, Royce, Bowden, Kason, and Gracelynn. I play the pipes for them whenever I can, hopefully at least one of them picks it up!

**DO YOU HAVE A SCOTTISH / IRISH CLAN?** My grandparents on both sides emigrated from England,

pretty sure one side has roots from Cork, Ireland though!

**WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING BAGPIPES ?** I was hooked on Scottish music at about age 10 from listening to a record my grandmother had of folk singer Andy Stewart, and that I would play while visiting during her Sunday dinners. Fast forward to first year university when I jumped at the opportunity when one of the new recruits, a piper, offered to teach us and start a pipe band. Once I could play solo, ships' captains had me play coming into foreign harbors even adding me to the ship's broadcast - "Special Sea Duty Party, Anchor Party Close Up, Piper Close Up on top Forward Gun Mount". Best experience was playing in a massed pipe band for the 2009 Homecoming (similar to the Tattoo) in Edinburgh Castle.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO First Coast Highlanders:** A few years ago, I was a volunteer at the annual Gamble Rogers outdoor music festival in St Augustine's Colonial Quarter and the sound of bagpipes could be heard over some of the performers. Not wanting to sit idly by, I went to find the source of this disturbance! I found two pipers (Art and Rob) playing in front of the Irish store, which is right next to the venue. I introduced myself as a piper, we worked out a solution, and that was it - Art had me in his claws! If I may add, it has been a privilege playing with the band and getting to know y'all and I'm thankful for being welcomed despite being only a part-timer.

**YOUR LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Other than my kids of course, nothing spectacular other than being alive after some poor decisions in my younger invincible mindset days; like while in Western Samoa, stopping a band (think rugby players!) in the middle of their set to 'serenade' diners at their tables with bagpipe tunes!

**YOUR FUTURE GOALS:** 1. To become a better piper! 2. Still have the dream of completing the work on the sailboat here and then to circumnavigate. May happen, may not, but in the interim having fun trying! 3. Perhaps write a book reflecting on today's societal norms entitled, 'Who Made That Rule?!'

=====

We are finally going to Scotland! Yes, First Coast Highlanders and a few of our supporters are headed over the pond to Scotland. After two years of delays from the pandemic, a lot of planning, and many fundraisers, it looks like a go. We will be headed out on June 21, stay ten days and return on July 1, 2022. Our Band Manager has been talking to many Scots and has organized three performances at different castles and venues while there. Organized tours have also been planned. Everyone going is excited and looking forward to this great adventure!



# First Coast Highlanders-Past Events



Pipers & Drummers at the NE FL  
Scottish Highland Games

← February 26th

Tuning before the Mass Band at the  
opening ceremony. →



Thanks to many different teams  
keeping the beer flowing at the  
St. Augustine Celtic Festival,  
March 12th and 13th.

Rick Hearn, Allison Carrick, Vince  
Hare, John Lynch, Emma Roberts



Kirkin of the Tartan January  
23rd at Saint Simons  
Presbyterian Church in  
St. Simons, GA

Pipe Major and Pipe Sergeant  
Leading the band out.

← Dennis, Scotland and Rob  
playing Highland  
Cathedral →



Pipe Major introducing Yuri Brown to the  
students of Oakleaf Village Elementary

Scottish Education  
for our local Students  
March 25th



Oakleaf Village Elementary School.  
4th and 5th Graders

## Next Events

May 14 (Saturday) -1:00 p.m.—**Music Performance**—Middleburg Library 2245 Aster Ave, Middleburg, FL  
May 21 (Saturday) - 10:00 a.m.—**Blue Star Marker Dedication**—Middleburg Library, 2245 Aster Ave, Middleburg, FL  
May 29 (Sunday) - 10:30 a.m.—**Memorial Day Church Service**—Turning Point at Calvary Church—St. Augustine, FL

# Scottish History—Great Highland Bagpipes

Some historians believe that bagpipes originate from ancient Egypt and were brought to Scotland by invading Roman Legions. Others maintain that the instrument was brought over the water by the colonizing Scots tribes from Ireland. Ancient Egypt does appear to have prior claim to the instrument; however, from as early as 400 BC the 'pipers of Thebes' are reported to have been blowing pipes made from dog skin with chanter of bone. And several hundred years later, one of the most famous exponents of the pipes is said to have been the great Roman Emperor Nero, who may well have been piping rather than fiddling whilst Rome burned.

What is certain however is that bagpipes have existed in various forms in many places around the world. In each country the construction of the basic instrument comprises the same component parts; an air supply, a bag with a chanter and one or more drones.

By far the most common method of supplying air to the bag is by blowing with the mouth, although some early innovations included the use of bellows. The bag, commonly made from animal skin, is simply an airtight reservoir to hold the air and regulate its flow, thus allowing the piper to breathe and maintain a continuous sound, both at the same time. The chanter is the melody pipe, usually played by one or two hands. Generally comprising two or more sliding parts, the drone allows the pitch of the pipes to be altered.

Most historians can only speculate on the actual origins of the *piob mhor*, or great Highland bagpipe, it was the Highlanders themselves that developed the instrument to its current form, establishing it as their national musical instrument both in times of war and peace.

The original Highland pipes probably comprised a single drone with the second drone being added in the mid to late 1500s. The third, or the great drone, came into use sometime in the early 1700s.

In the Scottish Lowlands, pipers were part of the travelling minstrel class, performing at weddings, feasts, and fairs throughout the Border country, playing song and dance music. Highland pipers on the other hand, appear to have been more strongly influenced by their Celtic background and occupied a high and honored position. It is considered that by the 1700s the piper had started to replace the harpist as the prime Celtic musician of choice within the Clan system.

As a musical instrument of war, the first mention of the bagpipes appears to date from 1549 at the Battle of Pinkie, when the pipes replaced trumpets to help inspire the Highlanders into battle. It is said that the shrill and penetrating sound worked well in the roar of battle and that the pipes could be heard at distances of up to 10 miles away.

Due to their inspirational influence, bagpipes were classified as instruments of war during the Highland uprisings of the early 1700s, and following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, the government in London attempted to crush the rebellious clan system. An Act of Parliament was passed which made the carrying of weapons, such as those vicious bagpipes, and the wearing of kilts a penal offence. Although the Act was eventually repealed in 1785, it was the expansion of the British Empire that spread the fame of the great Highland bagpipes world-wide. Often spearheading the various campaigns of the British Army would be one of the famous Highland regiments, the 'Devils in Skirts', and at the head of each regiment would be the unarmed solitary piper leading the troops into and beyond the 'jaws of death'.



## A PIPER'S PRAYER

*May my pipes be a gift  
I will lift to the Lord.*

*A grace note of praise in  
every lyric and chord.*

*May my tune be a prayer  
of renewal and light.*

*May my tune be a beacon  
which shines through the night.*

*And even when loss  
and grief come along*

*I'll have faith in the Lord  
and play him a TUNE.*



## Mansions of the Lord

To fallen soldiers let us sing,  
Where no rockets fly nor bullets wing,  
Our broken brothers let us bring  
To the Mansions of the Lord

No more weeping,  
No more fight,  
No friends bleeding through the night,

Just Divine embrace,  
Eternal light,  
In the Mansions of the Lord

Where no mothers cry  
And no children weep,  
We shall stand and guard



# SPONSORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## DIAMOND

St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville  
Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games • Orange Park Presbyterian Church  
 Susanne Tenney *in memory of* Beverly Radez • Cmdr. and Mrs. James Roberts

## PLATINUM

Dr. June Gentle • Romanza St. Augustine • First Coast Cardiovascular Institute  
 Will Wheeler • Arthur Tenney • Gayward Hendry

## GOLD

Alexis Malcolm Kilts  
 Stephen and Jane Romeo • Blanca Rios  
 John Lynch • Scott McClelland • Greg and Dora McClelland • Blane and Diane Wilson

## SILVER

Albert and Pat Syeles • Paul and Janet Stake • Brenda Parker • Paul and Annabelle Salter  
 Richard and Julie Causby • Shirley Thomson

## 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 and a band shirt, a band hat and signed band photo.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, &amp; our web site with a link to your site, a band shirt/hat, signed band photo &amp; a performance.</i>

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, 2022, 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.*