

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

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February 2024



At the 2024 Saint Andrews Society of Jacksonville's Robert Burns Dinner

2024 Events

- January 12th **Ron Parker Memorial Service** (11:00 AM)
Ron Parker Park, St. Augustine Beach
- January 20th **Robert Burns Dinner** (6:00 PM)
Hilltop Restaurant, Orange Park
- January 28th **Kirkin of the Tartan** (10:30 AM)
St. Simons Presbyterian Church, St. Simons Island, GA
- February 18th **Kirkin of the Tartan** (10:00 AM)
St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Orange Park
- February 24th **NE Florida Scottish Games** (8:00 AM)
Clay County Fairgrounds
- March 9/10th **St. Augustine Celtic Festival** (All Day)
St. Francis Field, St. Augustine
- March 14th **International Day** (8:30 AM)
Chimney Lakes Elementary School, Jacksonville
- March 17th **St. Patrick Mass & Joe Paddy Festival** (Afternoon)
John Paul II Parish, Ponte Vedra
- March 17th **Jazz Vespers** (5:00 PM)
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, St. Augustine
- March 23rd **Penney Farms Old Fashion Farm Day** (TBD)
Penney Farms
- May 26th **Memorial Day Church Service** (10:30 AM)
Turning Point at Calvary, St. Augustine



THE WEARING OF THE KILT

Kilt wearing is a serious business alive with tradition and etiquette that you must always consider before unfurling those tartan yards of wool around your waist.

The kilt is inexorably bound up in a rich cultural and historical weave of Scotland, once banned by the British Government such was its potent symbolism and motivational power. I feel very different when I wear a kilt. I'm never more proudly Scottish, whether it is for its more traditional modern uses at a ceilidh or wedding, or the rugged delights of a football match, or even a party. In Scotland you can wear a kilt for multiple occasions, though it's probably best to stop short of walking the dog in one for fear of committing a cardinal sin in Scotland—showing off.

Let's look at where the kilt came from. The simple answer is: the Highlands. Historically, though, clansmen were bedecked in huge 'great kilts' up to 6m in length, which provided warmth and shelter. Today we have a much shorter kilt—in Gaelic, the filleadh beg.

So who can wear a kilt? The answer is anyone who wants to. A note of caution on tartans—unless you have specific clan ancestry, it's best to stick to one of the more universal tartans, like the Scotland Forever or the Black Watch; otherwise you risk an awkward conversation with a staunch clan member.

If it's a party, sports match, or other informal gathering, what you wear with your kilt is up to you, bar the sporran that should dangle from your hips as a wallet for your pocketless kilt. Pushing it up, you'll need a sturdy kilt belt with a shiny buckle and proper kilt socks; brogue shoes too. For black-tie events, add a kilt pin, white shirt, black bow tie, and a black Bonnie Prince Charlie jacket.

To complete the look and add a dash of Braveheart thrill, slip a sgian-dubh (in English, black dagger) in your socks, a relatively innocent-looking weapon that clansmen would have kept so they could disembowel friends over dinner if they'd politely left their claymore (the Scottish two-edged broadsword) outside. It is a real knife and technically legal to carry in the UK for ceremonial purposes.

Excerpted and adapted from "Etiquette of Wearing Yer Kilt" by Robin McKelvie, Scotland magazine, March 2024



We are sorry to share the news of the passing of Priscilla Roberts, wife of First Coast Highlanders tenor drummer and Board secretary James Roberts. Jim wrote the following:

Jim met his love of 57 years, Priscilla, in San Francisco in 1966, and they were married on April 29th of that year. Jim and Priscilla had four wonderful children, one son and three daughters. These four children gave them 17 grandchildren! What a wonderful blessing! Priscilla was able to be a caring Mother and Homemaker while Jim was in the Navy. Priscilla was a true loving friend to all she met. She had very good close friends for a lifetime. I will miss her! I know she is in Heaven with her Mother, Father and our sweet grandson Knox. I am thankful that Priscilla is roaming around in Heaven's glory out of her bed of three years. Amen! We are blessed by all of the love people have given us at this time. Rest in Peace my love!

An Invitation from the First Coast Highlanders

We are a performance and entertainment band, a teaching organization, and a cultural group. Our goal is to encourage and support the Celtic culture in our community by providing instruction free of charge to anyone interested in learning to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or Highland Drums.

If you are committed to playing the finest in traditional Scottish and Irish music, we want you!! Playing an instrument or reading music is not a requirement, as we have some of the finest pipers and drummers as teachers.

We meet every Thursday evening at Orange Park Presbyterian Church, located at 1905 Park Avenue, Orange Park, FL. Lessons begin at 5:00 p.m.

We invite you to come and check it out for yourself! You have nothing to lose, and you'll gain a wonderful understanding of the Scottish culture.



Jacksonville Iceman Hockey Game 2024



Kirkin o'the Tartan
St. Simons Presbyterian Church 2024



St. Augustine Celtic Fest 2023

First Coast Highlanders Elected Officers for 2024

President: Scott Young

Vice President: Stephen Romeo

Secretary: James Roberts

Treasurer: Will Wheeler

Member at Large: Evan Brown

Quartermaster: Natasha Durrance

Business Manager: Arthur Tenney

*The 10th of March is International Bagpipe Day. Inaugurated by the Bagpipe Society, it is a grassroots celebration of all the world's bagpipes. There are celebrations across the UK, but also in Greece, America, Kenya, and even Iran. Pipers of every kind gather, put on concerts, visit schools, play on the streets or for dancing.
From clan.com*

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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.

FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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