

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2

www.firstcoasthighlanders.com

www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders

May 2025

Member Spotlight: Vince Hare



Vince Hare had thought for some time that he wanted to learn to play the bagpipes, and luckily for the First Coast Highlanders, he chose to do it with us. As Vince tells it: “Many years ago, the band opened for the Symphony at Concert on the Green, and at the end Art Tenney said, ‘If anyone wants to learn to play bagpipes or drums, come out to Orange Park Presbyterian Church on Thursday night—it’s free!’ Now how could I pass that up? It sounded like a challenge.”

Here’s a little bit about Vince’s background. He was born and raised in the rural town of Mays Landing about 12 miles west of Atlantic City, New Jersey, number 2 of 8 children (7 boys and one girl). His mother is first generation from Germany, and his father was Irish. Vince recalls, “Dad loved to listen to bagpipes. I was glad that I was able to play ‘Amazing Grace’ for him before he passed.”

Vince received his B.S. in Biology at Stockton University in Pomona, NJ, where he also studied IT. Having worked many summers on a local farm, he knew that farming was not the career path he wanted to follow. He worked as a Computer Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at a research and development facility in Pomona from 1984 to 1989. The facility provided the software for the Enroute and Terminal facilities throughout the U.S. In 1989, Vince went to work as a contractor (NYMA, Logicon, Loral, then finally Northrup Grumman) at the Jacksonville Enroute Air Traffic Control Center, in Hilliard. In 2007 the FAA hired Vince again, to do the same work sitting at his old desk! Vince is coming up on 41 years on the job and says he still enjoys the challenges it presents him.

Vince describes his family life with obvious happiness: “I married my college sweetheart, Ellen, in 1984. We had our first child, Allyson, in 1987, and our second daughter, Melanie, a Floridian, in 1990. Allyson and her husband Troy have blessed us with three granddaughters, Elyse, Rosalyn and Twyla, and Melanie and her husband Seth have recently blessed us with our first grandson, Jake!

Something of interest about me: besides being left-handed, I am also red/green color blind. I’ll have to keep an eye on Jake to see if I passed that on to him.” (Editor’s note: Be careful, Vince—admitting this might bring out the jokester in some of your bandmates. I wouldn’t accept a kilt trade with anyone unless you have it checked by someone you trust.)

Vince says that in addition to the fun and challenge of playing music with the band, he really likes the comradery of his fellow musicians. His advice to anyone who wants to learn to play the Great Highland bagpipes is “Practice, practice, practice,” and “Do not get discouraged; it takes time.”

We’re glad Vince is part of the band!



The Scottish Flags

The Scottish national flag, also known as the Saltire or St. Andrew's Cross, is believed to have been first used in 832 AD. According to legend, it appeared in a vision to King Óengus II before a battle and was seen as a sign of divine support.

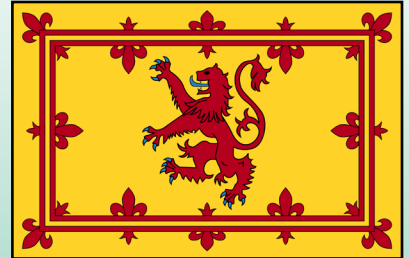
However, in terms of official adoption, the Saltire has been associated with Scotland for centuries and is considered one of the oldest national flags in the world. There's no exact formal adoption date like modern flags, but it was widely recognized by the 13th century and firmly established by the 15th century.



Red Lion Rampant

The Royal Standard (or the Rampant Lion) is the flag of the Kings and Queens of Scots. Technically the Lion Rampant should be flown officially by specified people representing the Queen of Scotland. In the United States, the purists look the other way because it is so colorful and representative of Scotland.

In 1165 AP, William succeeded his brother Malcolm, III as king of Scots. He was called William the Lion and he went into battle with a standard consisting of a red lion on a yellow field. The red lion rampant on a yellow field was adopted as Scotland's royal standard.



Upcoming Events 2025

Apr 22nd

Band fundraiser for trips in 2026

Culver's Middleburg

May 25th

Memorial Day Church Service (10:30 AM)

Turning Point at Calvary Church, St. Augustine

First Coast Highlanders Elected Officers for 2025

President: Scott Young

Vice President: Scotland Boland

Secretary: James Roberts

Treasurer: Evan Brown

Member at Large: Will Wheeler

Member at Large: Nikki Herbst

Quartermaster: Natasha Durrance

Business Manager: Arthur Tenney

KNOW YOUR PIPERS



HIGHLAND BAGPIPER

Strict military tradition and discipline

Wears skirt

"You did a light D-Throw but I like a heavy..."

"Don't even think about blowing a set of pipes until you've spent an entire year on the practice chanter."

Extremely competitive

Uniform costs more than instrument

50/50 chance people are glad they're around

Hearing Loss



UILLEANN PIPER

Chill dude

Sits to play

Plays well with other instruments

"Standard settings of pipe music?"

Second mortgage to pay for instrument

Can drink while playing

Knows where the cool pubs are

"This is how I play it but you do whatever works for you."

Can actually play the song from 'Braveheart/Titanic'

First Coast Highlanders Recent Appearances



Drummers at the St. Augustine Celtic Festival



Fun at the Stand Up & Stride for Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, Jacksonville



At the night stage, Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival



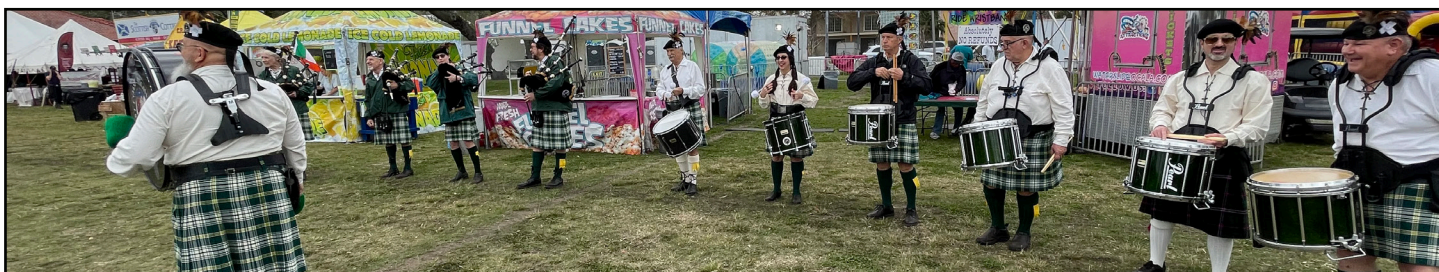
St. Patrick's Day celebration at The Lodge Ocala



Playing the Star Spangled Banner, with massed bands on the field at the Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival



Playing outside St. Giles Presbyterian Church following a Kirkin o' the Tartan



One of many performances at the St. Augustine Celtic Festival

SPONSORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

DIAMOND

[St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville](#)
[Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games](#) • [Orange Park Presbyterian Church](#)
 Susanne Tenney • Cmdr. James Roberts in memory of Priscilla

PLATINUM

[Romanza St. Augustine](#) • Will Wheeler • Arthur Tenney • Gayward Hendry
 Matthew Harrell • Greg and Dora McClelland • St Kilda, USA • Vince and Ellen Hare
 Jane Romeo in memory of Stephen Romeo

GOLD

Blanca Rios • Blane and Diane Wilson
 Clay Chamber Finally Friday Networking Council • Brenda Parker

SILVER

Albert and Pat Syeles • Richard and Julie Causby • Mark Carillon • Carolyn Smith

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 website with a link to your site.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our website with a link to your site and a band shirt.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our website with a link to your site and a band shirt and a band hat.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter & our website with a link to your site, a band shirt/hat, signed band photo & 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.

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



Yuri does some home-work between festival performances, with his mother looking on