

# THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 3

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August 2025

## Member Spotlight: Scott Young



Pipes & Drums workshop,  
St. Augustine Celtic Festival

In this issue we shine the spotlight on First Coast Highlanders drummer and President of the Board Scott Young. Scott's cheery presence and steady leadership are valued by everyone in the band.

When asked what he likes best about being a member of First Coast Highlanders, Scott responded, "I love to see the whole process of recruiting new members and observing their growth from no clue to expert level playing, the diversity of our membership and the many walks of life that make us up, and most of all the satisfaction of performing for those events that either recognize one's accomplishments, or an event that educates the public on Celtic Music and Heritage." He noted especially enjoying the band's trip to Scotland in 2022, when they played at Stirling Castle and Inveraray Castle.

Scott joined the band 8 years ago, and it happened this way: "My late wife, Denise (Past FCH Secretary), and I were attending the Clay County Fair. We approached the FCH Table and were greeted by our late tenor drummer and founding member, Steven Romeo. He asked if I'd played any musical instruments before, and I told him I had played drums since I was 13 years old. The rest, as they say, is history."

Scott was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Virginia and Maryland. He attended Crossland Vocational/Technical High School, where he specialized in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. He attended Fire College at the University of Maryland and got Emergency Medical Services training at the University of Chicago City College.

Scott joined the United States Navy out of high school with a specialty in Aircraft Launch and Recovery. He served on board the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), at the Correctional Facility at the Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), and at Naval Air Station Key West. After his Navy service, Scott continued working as a DoD civil servant as a Firefighter/ Emergency Medical Technician and Subject Matter Expert in Key West and at Naval Base Mayport. He will officially retire at the end of December 2025 with 47 years of service to our Nation.



*(continued on next page)*

## Member Spotlight: Scott Young

Service to others is an important part of Scott's personality. He was a volunteer firefighter prior to joining the Navy and remained active, eventually holding all positions in the fire service. He retired as a Fire Chief in 2012 and continues to retain his active EMT status.

A few years ago Scott became the Vice President of the Board, and that led eventually to his filling the President's position. He actively encourages younger band members to get involved with the administrative side of the band. He also has some encouraging words and advice for anyone who wants to learn to play drums as part of a Highland band: "Commit to practicing 30-60 minutes a day. Don't shortcut. Attend all practices. Volunteer to assist the band at events to learn our routines. Most of all, HAVE FUN!"

It's always more fun when Scott is at a gig or a rehearsal, and we're so glad he is in the band.

--Tribute and photographs by Nikki Herbst and Ralph Canapa



Saluting the flag on  
Memorial Day 2025



## 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

## Upcoming Events 2025

Oct 19th	Kirkin of the Tartan (10:30 AM) Geneva Presbyterian Church, Fruit Cove
Nov 8th	Military 5K Run (10:00 AM) Oakleaf High School Parking Lot, Orange Park
Nov 11th	Veterans Day Memorial Service (11:00 AM) Magnolia Cemetery, Orange Park



## Fastening Ghillie Brogues – Now You Know How to Do It!

1. Put your shoe on and tighten the laces as normal
2. Hold the laces at the end and do one twist
3. Pull the laces tight, still holding them at the end
4. Cross the laces over by putting the lace into the opposite hand
5. Do four to six twists, keeping the tension in the laces (the twisted part should be about 1-2 inches or 3-5cm long)
6. Take the laces and cross them behind your leg
7. Bring the laces back to the front and tie them in a normal knot, then double knot



# First Coast Highlanders Recent Appearances



Memorial Day celebration at Turning Point at Calvary, St. Augustine



Waiting in the green room at Florida Gateway College for the EMS graduation ceremony



Fundraising for our Scotland 2026 trip



Several members of the First Coast Highlanders went to the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming in Valle Crucis, North Carolina, this summer for weeklong sessions. (Photo by Steve Dean)

# SPONSORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## DIAMOND

St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville  
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  
Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games • Jane Romeo in memory of Stephen Romeo

## GOLD

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

## SILVER

Albert and Pat Syeles • Mark Carillon • Carolyn Smith

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<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 &amp; our website 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.

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

### SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:

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THANK YOU!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



Yuri holding our rehearsal donut offering, with homemade muffins ready, too

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!