THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

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Member Spotlight: Bert Shipley

Bert Shipley plays snare and bass drums for the band. His is a steady, reliable, positive presence at rehearsals and performances, and we're enjoying getting to know him. Here's what Bert said in answer to the Spotlight interview questions.

Joining the band gave me an opportunity to play the drums. I have always loved music but never had a chance to learn to play. After I retired, I needed to find something to do with myself. I saw an ad in the *Clay Today* inviting people to join the band, and they offered to teach you. Anyone who is interested in learning drums or bagpipes, this band will welcome you. You have to take the time to practice on your own. It will take time and patience, but you can learn it too. Eventually with help and practice you can join along and play with the band.

I was born in Belleville, Illinois. My father was in the U.S. Air Force. We moved all over the U.S. and lived in England twice. After he retired, we settled in Orange Park. I graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in Logistics. After high school I joined the army. I served for three years as a tank driver. Most of the time I was stationed in Germany. I spent 30 years working as a train dispatcher for CSX Railroad in Jacksonville.

I have been married for 44 years to my wife Lynn. We have two children and five grandchildren. I passed my love of music on to my kids. My daughter played in her high school band. My son played guitar. My oldest granddaughter is learning to play the piano. If you love music and want to play, come and join us.







First Coast Highlanders Recent Appearances



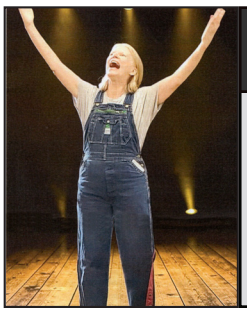
Members of the band play for the Jax Freebirds Heroes vs. Homefront Golf Tournament

Upcoming Events 2026

Sep 12th	**Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club**, (8:30 AM) Trout Creek Memorial Park and Marina, 6550 State Rd 13, St. Augustine
Oct 11th	**Kirkin of the Tartan at Geneva Presbyterian**, (9:30 AM)1755 State Rd 13 N, Jacksonville

First Coast Highlanders Elected Officers for 2026

President: Scott Young
Vice President: Scotland Boland
Secretary: Matthew McGahee
Treasurer: Evan Brown
Member at Large: Nikki Herbst
Member at Large: Marcia Winnard
Quartermaster: Jill Dean
Pipe Major: Arthur Tenney



In Memoriam: Brenda Cohn

To First Coast Highlanders:

Thank you for your unwavering support of Brenda and me as her illness progressed, especially over the last 2 years. Thank you for your kind words and lovely music at Brenda's memorial.

Band Member Steve Cohn

First Coast Highlanders Recent Appearances



Part of the lineup for Memorial Day at Turning Point at Calvary, St. Augustine

Summer Activities



Band secretary Matt keeping track of details



Rehearsal time



MaryAnn brings delicious food to a rehearsal



Kevin gets advice from Art during a lesson



Nikki tuning David's pipes before rehearsal

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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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