

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle January 2015

Wake & District

Fall News

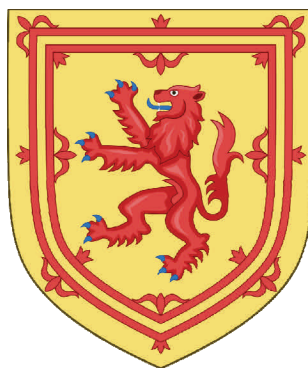
We played hot and determined this Fall with several competitions, gigs, and a workshop to get us ready for 2015. Catch up with what's been going on for Wake and District this Fall:

Competitions: Cooler weather in the South brings Scottish Games almost every weekend in September and October and this year was no different. September saw WanD fielding two bands and several solo competitors at the Charleston Games at Boone Hall Plantation. Awards saw our very own Jean Russell placing AGL (Above Grade Level) AND winning Tenor Drummer of the Day! Garret Justice did us proud with also earning an AGL and taking 2nd place OVERALL in junior piping. Not to be outdone, our Grade 4 Band won 1st place and the Grade 5 Band took 3rd. There was stiff competition on the field and but good friendly visits off the field. Great competition this year for the Southern bands.

October saw the Band on the road for 3 different Games! We didn't have time to sit still. First up was the Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg, NC on Oct 4. We had our share of problems that day but in the end, both our G4 Band (AGL) and G5 Band finished 2nd overall. Saturday, Oct. 18 at Stone Mountain, Georgia saw some truly brilliant performances throughout the day by all the regional bands attending. Our G5 band closed out the season at stone 7th of 11 and our G4 band finished 2nd. A week later we traveled to Richmond for the final games of the season. The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games were held under sunny skies on Saturday, 25 October 2014 and our Grade 4 Band placed 1st. We had a fantastic season – and learned so much. The competition circle is now empty and the skirl of the pipes and rattle of the drums has come to an end for the 2014 EUSPBA competition season.

(continued on page 3)

HISTORY OF SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE



On 18 September 2014, the eyes of the world turned to Scotland as the country voted on whether or not to remain a part of the United Kingdom, or become a completely independent nation. Pre-election day polls shifted back and forth and predictions were for a close vote. In the end, it wasn't: NO 55% - YES 45%. England had promised the Scottish people more power and autonomy in their own affairs. A commission headed by Lord Smith of Kelvin, known as "The Smith Commission" was charged with fulfilling that promise. In November, they issued a preliminary report on specific plans for "further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament." However, Scotland wasn't always a part of a union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland. So, when did this formal affiliation begin?

Scotland emerged as a kingdom separate from England slowly through the medieval ages. Then, in 1603, when Queen Elizabeth I died childless, her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots' son, James I, assumed the throne for both countries. Still, it wasn't until over a century later, in 1707, that Scotland and England united their parliaments through the Acts Of Union.



Wallace statue by D. W. Stevenson on the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, [Edinburgh](#)

(continued on page 4)

Beer Tasting

Burns Night 2015



January 24th will be our 14th Annual Burns Supper



November 16, 2014

Many thanks to all those who attended this year's beer tasting at the NickelPoint Brewery in Raleigh. This is a fairly new microbrewery specializing in European style ales.

Those lucky enough to attend were treated to a detailed discussion of the brewing process by the Master Brewer, Bruce Corregan, while a flight of five of their ales were enjoyed. The five ales included a Blonde Ale, a Belgian Golden Ale, an India Pale Ale, a Porter and a Marzen.

Marzen is the German word for March, the time of year when they would stop brewing. They would then finish off what was left of the beer in October, hence Oktoberfest!

Once again a wonderful meal was provided by Susan Tower of "Deli-icious Truck" (and a SCOT member). Thanks go to Greg Weerasinghe (owner of NickelPoint Brewing Co.), Bruce, and Susan for providing a great evening of fun and fellowship!

SCOT is once more proud to participate in the Burns Supper held at The Country Squire in Kenansville, NC, in true Scottish Tradition.

Once more a great evening of food and entertainment is in store. Come along and enjoy this Celebration Honouring Scotland's National Bard.

The Country Squire has unfortunately had to increase the price of the tickets this year to \$48.00 per person, which is still a bargain for the great food and entertainment provided.



Haggis

Wake and District

(continued from page 1)



Graduations: On Thursday, 25 September we honored the Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy 39 at their Graduation at the Duke Energy Center. On Friday, 26 September we marched in the cadets of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol 135th class — and marched them out as Troopers. On behalf of the members of our band — we wish North Carolina's newest troopers — and the City of Raleigh's newest fire fighters — all the best in the days, weeks, months and years ahead of them.



Service: Along with being on the road for competitions, October also saw WanD traveling to join other bands and public service members from around the USA on October 11, at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Maryland. This is an annual gathering honoring those brothers (and sisters) who gave their lives in service of others. We from North Carolina played for all but most particularly for the five firefighters from NC who died in the line of duty in 2013. Playing the pipes and drums is how we honor our fallen; no spoken words — just music burning dignity and solemnity into the soul.

On Saturday, 08 November 2014 members of Wake & District have the privilege to march in the 2014 North Carolina Veteran's Day Parade. Thank you to the Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations, Inc and the North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution for once again inviting the band to perform in the parade — and giving us the honor of being up front to lead the way.

In a ceremony November 18 at the State Highway Patrol Training Academy, Colonel Bill Grey, SHP commander, recognized Wake and District with the **Colonel's Appreciation Award** on behalf of the *North Carolina State Highway Patrol*. Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry was on hand to present the awards.

Comments from the Colonel's speech: "*W&D member's, have a passion for what they do and the public safety community they serve. W&D has been not just ambassadors to public safety but ambassadors for the patrol, always being happy to assist at a moment's notice.*" We are honored and humbled by this award.

On Nov 22, members of Wake and District were honored to participate at the North Carolina Auxiliary — Wives Behind the Badge — *3rd Annual A Night In Blue Officer Appreciation Gala*. The North Carolina Wives Behind the Badge Auxiliary Chapter is dedicated to providing resources and emotional support to North Carolina law enforcement families. Our performance has always begun with a solo piper playing Amazing Grace in honor of our fallen; this year's solo piper was Ashby Spratley.

In the quiet of the season, may you reflect on the joy and love in your life and that which you give to others. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy 2015.

Joe Brady and Ginny Kent



HISTORY OF SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

(continued from page 1)

The modern independence movement was born in the 1980's from displeasure by some Scots at some of the privatization and taxation policies of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The Scottish National Party was founded. Then, in 1995, the film "Braveheart" which told the somewhat true story of William Wallace, a Scottish leader who fought English domination at the end of the 13th century, was released.

It further energized the nationalist movement, which steadily gathered steam culminating in the formation of a Scottish Parliament in 1999.

It is now up to these 2 parliamentary bodies to provide the Scottish people with the level of control over their own affairs promised in the wake of the historic and nearly successful drive for Scottish Independence in the Fall of 2014.

-Catherine McKinley



Calendar of Events

January 2015

Burns Dinner at McGregor Downs (Cary) - 01/23/2015

Burns Dinner at The Country Squire (Kenansville) - 1/24/2015

Burns Dinner at Tir na Nog (Raleigh) - 1/24/2015

February 2015

Whisky Tasting at Prestonwood Country Club (Cary) - date TBA

March 2015

St. Patrick's Day Parade - march in parade with float

Burns Night 2015

(continued from page 2)

The Menu

Haggis Neeps & Tatties

Followed by
Salad with choice of Dressing

Entrée Choices:

Spinach Stuffed Chicken w/ Cream Sauce
8 oz. Ribeye

Broiled Flounder

Scottish Steak Pie
(Served with Potato and Vegetable)

Anyone wishing a side order of Haggis
with their entrée, add \$5.

Dessert:
Scottish Trifle

All dinners include a glass of wine, tea, and coffee.

Reservations can be made directly to The Country Squire
910-296-1727 or <http://www.countrysquireinn.com>
Or contact Donald Ross welake87@gmail.com
919-934-1915

For the past several years all SCOT members have received a ticket for an extra glass of wine or beer, and this tradition will continue as a token of thanks to our members for their support.

The program will include some great entertainment from The Port City Pipes and Drums, along with some of our own SCOT members, including Ben and Cage Bullard, the young fiddlers who were such a great hit last year, ... you do not want to miss this event!!

I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Donald Ross

Tastes of Scotland

Skirlie

“Along the coastal lowlands of the Moray Firth is the fertile, low lying area known as the Latch of Moray. Here the climate is a good deal warmer than out in Buchan and also there are deposits of the very valuable red sandstone soils so useful for arable farming. Moray has the highest percentage of woodland in Britain. Sheltered by the forest, vegetables, soft fruits, apples and pears mature and ripen well here.”

Skirlie or skirlie in the pan was originally a cheap sustaining meal sometimes served on Sunday to give women a break from weekly duties. It can be used as a stuffing for fowl or as an accompaniment to other roast meat. Skirl means loud noise and comes from the sound the suet makes in the pan.

2 oz suet
1-2 medium onions finely chopped
6 oz medium oatmeal
salt and pepper

Chop the suet and melt in a heavy pan. Add the onions and fry until golden. Add enough oatmeal to make a thick mixture. Season to taste and heat thoroughly.



Morayshire Apples is a warm pudding, good for the cold of winter. The topping is a kind of Skirlie mixed with nuts.

1 lb cooking apples (3-4)
1/2 gill water (1/3 cup)
3 oz granulated sugar
4 cloves
For the topping
2 oz fresh beef suet
4 oz brown sugar (1/2 cup)
4 oz medium oatmeal (3/4 cup)
1 oz finely chopped hazel nuts (or other nuts) (1/3 cup)

Preheat the oven to 350°. Bring the water to a boils and add the cloves. Cover for 10 minutes. Stir the sugar into the water until dissolved.

Peel, core, and slice the apples and put into a pie pan. Strain the syrup and pour over the apples.

Chop the suet finely and mix with half of the brown sugar. Mix in the rest of the topping ingredients. Spread the topping evenly over the apples and sprinkle with the remaining brown sugar. Bake for 1 hour. Serve hot with whipped cream (or ice cream).

Scottish Regional Recipes, Catherine Brown, Chambers, Edinburgh, 1995.

- Carolyn McDonald Graf



President's Corner

Dear Members,

We are now at the start of a New Year with a very successful year behind us, and we have plenty to look forward to in 2015.

There are three Burns Nights this year. There is our long-standing event at “The Country Squire”, there is a new event at McGregor Downs Country Club, and The Tir Na Nog Burns Night. Unfortunately the Tir Na Nog Burns Night is the same night as our Country Squire event so you have plenty to choose from.

We have a Whisky Tasting in February at Prestonwood Country Club and many more events that I trust you, our members, will enjoy.

With the close of 2014, and the start of 2015, I would like to thank our Board Members for all their hard work and support. I wish each of them and their Families all the very best for The New Year!

Once more I will encourage you to let us know what we can do to make your experience in SCOT all that you want it to be. We are unable to read your minds, so please keep us informed of ways that we can help. I of course continue asking you to encourage young people to get involved in SCOT, as they are our future.

God Bless and have a great New Year!

Donald Ross

welake87@gmail.com

SCOT

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The Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle (S.C.O.T.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing and educating the public about the history, culture, and heritage of Scotland and the Scottish people.

Board of Directors:

Thom Bowie
Doug Cruikshanks
Diane Hill
Patricia Johnston
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Cheryl Jones

Ginny Kent
Lynn McElroy
Catherine McKinley
Donald Ross
John Sprague

Wake & District Successfully Challenges Grade 3

Over the past few years, an idea has been gaining strength amongst our Grade 4 Band members and leadership. The desire to move the Grade 4 band up to Grade 3 drove the band to push themselves individually and as unit towards this goal with ever more successful competition seasons as the years went by. Finally, this was the year to push limits and strive to move up. Our scores this year:

- ◆ Loch Norman: 2nd place with an AGL (above grade level) in piping
- ◆ Greenville: 2nd place
- ◆ Charleston: 1st place
- ◆ Scotland County: 2nd place
- ◆ Stone Mountain: 2nd place

And then came the Richmond Games. We won the Grade 4 competition and then made the decision to CHALLENGE UP to Grade 3. Our nerves were strung tight as we entered the circle in the warm sunshine. Then

we *challenged up* against the MacMillan and Richmond Pipe Bands (both *excellent* programs) and finished 3rd! We received some really positive comments from the judges and the other Grade 3 bands. As noted by one of the G3 judges — “best tenor | bass line today!”



and now we are a Grade 3 Band. Come watch us and listen to us next year!

Joe Brady and Ginny Kent

We celebrated then and again when the formal paperwork arrived from the Eastern US Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA) formalizing our move up to Grade 3! Eight years building this program from the ground up. Eight years of success and stumbles on and off the field. One wonderful performance in Richmond

We welcome your contributions to this quarterly newsletter! Please forward news of any achievements, births, marriages, or graduations to Amy Mooney (danceramy@aol.com) to be included. If you have an article, story, artwork, or bit of Scottish lore to share, please submit it to the Editor (SCOT.triangle.news@gmail.com).

S.C.O.T.

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