

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

March 2014

St. Patrick's Day Parade



SCOT member Craig Hill strikes a pose on parade float.

On Saturday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m., Raleigh will again celebrate the Wearin' o' the Green with its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The SCOT float, with its imposing standing stones, will again be part of the festivities. Come out and cheer us on, then stick around Moore Square for demonstrations of Scottish Highland Dancing. If you would like to wear your Scottish regalia and ride on the float, contact Carolyn Graf at cmcdgraf@aol.com.

Cary Indoor on Mar. 29

SCOT is putting on the highly regarded Cary Indoor Highland Dance and Solo Piping Competition on Saturday, March 29 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary. There will be a Highland Dance Competition all day with the pre-premiers dancing in the morning and the premier competition in the afternoon. Piping runs all day as well, and we welcome you to watch, listen, and support our area's Scottish dancers and pipers. Tickets are sold at the door, making it a fun and inexpensive way to introduce your family to Scottish Arts and share our heritage with them. Registration forms for piping and dancing are available on the SCOT website: www.scot.us.

The solo piping competition is held on the second floor of the school and is open to anyone wishing to hear some excellent piping. Around 30 competitors from all over the southeast will play marches, strathspeys and reels, and piobaireachds. The judges this year are Cary's own Jerry Finegan and Ed Krintz of Charlotte. The judges listen carefully to each piper and take time to write out constructive comments, encouraging each piper to strive for a higher level of playing. Awards are given for the top performing players in each of the five amateur grades.

We also need your help this year. The Cary Indoor Competition is one of SCOT's signature events, and it takes volunteers and money to put on. Being thrifty Scots, we hold this at Resurrection Lutheran Church where volunteers set it up, take it down, and clean the church after we are through.

We raise some of the operating funds through donations, sponsorships, and a silent auction with donated gifts (a bottle of wine, whisky or Scottish Ale), gift baskets, gift cards from area restaurants, hotels and such, that cover most of the other expenses. We still need items for the auction, sponsorships, and cash donations to help pay for this year's competition. If you would like to make a donation or purchase, please contact Carol Muth at swollocks@mindspring.com.

If you would rather share your time to help make this a success, contact Pat Johnston at PatriciaTJ@aol.com or Ginny Kent at splitrock@nc.rr.com to volunteer. We would love to have you come and help us, enjoy the music and dancing, and have a good time.

- Virginia Kent

Scottish Movies

Do you love Scotland? Do you enjoy movies? Do you appreciate good food? SCOT has come up with a way to enjoy all three with our newest event: "Scottish Movie Night and Dinner."

Tir na nOg has offered to let us use The Cottage with the big screen TV to watch our Scottish Movies. Admission is FREE, but partaking of Tir na nOg's food and drink is highly encouraged.

We'll start with Episode One of "Monarch of the Glen." The movie shown will be: "I Know Where I Am Going!"

This event will occur in March or April. Be on the lookout for more information about the exact date and time. RSVP will be required as the seating is limited.

- Amy Herman



Save the Date of May 31
for the 11th Annual
SCOT Golf Tournament
at Crooked Creek Golf Course.
Watch your email for details!

Tartan Day Celebration

National Tartan Day is a US observance on April 6 each year. It commemorates the signing of the Scottish Declaration of Independence on April 6, 1320, on which the American Declaration of Independence was modeled. It also recognizes and celebrates Scottish culture and the role it played in the development of America. Since 1998, Scottish Americans have celebrated National Tartan Day with parades, traditional songs, dance, poetry readings, playing of bagpipes and wearing of tartans to honor our shared Scottish culture.



This year SCOT will hold its Tartan Day celebration on Saturday, April 26 in conjunction with Cary's Spring Daze Arts & Crafts Festival. Plans are in the works to celebrate our Scottish heritage by sharing our rich culture with the community. Our SCOT booth will be there in all its "Standing Stone" glory, where everyone is welcome to gather to sing songs, tell stories, share a tasty dish or just get to know other folks with a passion for all things Scottish.

Come dressed in your tartan or kilted best and be a part of the Parade of Tartans or the Bonnie Knees Contest. We will have a wonderful gift basket for the winner! For the children, we will have a mini Highland Athletics experience (complete with cabers), coloring, face-painting, dancing and even kilted foot races.

I look forward to celebrating with everyone from our SCOT clan and if you would like to help make this very visible community event a success, please contact me at 919-210-7314 or celticgirl@mindspring.com. If everyone participates for a short time, this event will be a great way to share your passion for Scottish Culture with the entire community. Who knows? We may even see SCOT grow in numbers!

- Lynn McElroy

May Tea

You are cordially invited to an elegant Mother's Day Tea on Sunday, May 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in West Raleigh Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall at 27 Horne Street in Raleigh.

A variety of delicious teas, scones, shortbreads, tea sandwiches and other savory and sweet goodies will be served.

Each attendee is encouraged to bring a favorite tea cup and saucer. Attendees may also add their collectible tea cups to a display for a program on the history of tea cups. The cost for each attendee will be \$10.00 for SCOT members and \$15.00 for non-members.



Please RSVP by May 3 to Susan at 919-210-6542 or susan.cruickshanks@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you, your family members and friends for a wonderful afternoon of fun, fellowship and excellent food and tea!

- Susan Cruickshanks

Volunteer of the Year

Our Volunteer is an all-around wonderful person who cares deeply about SCOT and Scottish cultural activities. So, for her extraordinary dedication to the Scottish community and for giving of her time and talents to promote Scottish Heritage, the SCOT Volunteer of the Year for 2013 goes to D'Nise Hefner. (Read the full article in the Oct. 2013 issue of Great SCOT!)



Emily Sprague presents D'Nise Hefner with a Certificate of Appreciation and engraved pewter Quach.

All Things Robert Burns

Burns Supper at The Country Squire

I told you in our last newsletter that this 13th Annual Burns Supper was going to be good, but it was even better than I had hoped for. We had over 150 people in attendance again this year. I truly believe that no where else in the world is the celebration of Burns carried out with more dignity and obvious love of Burns and Scotland than at The Country Squire. It was a wonderful group of people giving their full attention to all that was going on.

There was the usual great performance by Port City Pipes & Drums under the direction of Andy Simpson. Young fiddlers Ben & Cage Bullard entertained us for the first time (and not last, I'm sure) and were a great hit with the audience. We also had our long-time favorites - Julia Cobley performing and playing the harp, Bill McCulloch accompanied by William Simkiss, and our Scottish Country Dancers - all giving polished performances. Our speakers all did a wonderful job, not only honoring Burns, but also entertaining the audience. My sincere thanks to everyone who took part!

I would be remiss if I did not tell you how much my sister Iris appreciates the support of SCOT members and their guests each year at our Burns Supper. Remember, if you missed the event this year, I can assure you next year will be just as worthwhile, so mark your calendars for January 24, 2015, and we will look forward to seeing you then.

- Donald Ross

Burns Night at Tir na nOg

It was a cold and blustery January night, with fore-warnings of the weather we would see the next week, that found Scots and other Burns admirers gathered at Tir na nOg in Raleigh for a toast to our famous poet.

The night started with an introduction by Annie Nice, publican, of the evening's festivities, raffles, and stories. Triangle Highland dancers put on a great show, with SCOT member Pat Johnston telling the history of each dance and running the music, that closed with a group Highland Fling. Pipe Major Joe Brady from Wake and District piped in the Haggis and SCOT President Donald Ross gave a stirring address including knife thrusts into the Haggis and a final toast of whisky raised in Burns' honor. SCOT member George Birrell read and interpreted a few Burns poems to the enjoyment of the gathering, and finally, a large contingent of Wake and District Pipe Band played a set to round out the evening.

Annie Nice had our dancers and Lynn McElroy winding through the crowded pub selling raffle tickets for the dancers and giving out information about SCOT.

SCOT sends a big thanks to Annie for hosting us and making the warmth of the pub carry us back out into that cold night. We'll meet there again next year!

- Virginia Kent

Robert Burns (1759 - 1796)

Robert Burns was born on January 25, 1759, in Alloway, Ayrshire, the son of a farmer who worked on a (leased) farm in Mount Oliphant, then his own farm in Lochlea. The immensely hard work took its toll on his health and he died when Robert was only 25. Robert's occupations, besides that of farmer, included surveyor, flax dresser (preparing flax for linen-making) and excise officer (collecting taxes on certain goods). He became a Mason at the age of 22, which proved very beneficial.

His first book, "Poems Chiefly in the Scots Dialect," was printed when he was 27 by his fellow Mason, John Wilson of Kilmarnock. Interestingly, it was his desire to leave his native Scotland which inspired him to seek publication of his poems. He planned on emigrating to the West Indies and needed to raise money for travel expenses. However, when his first book proved commercially successful, he decided to stay in Scotland and pursue more writing, of both poems and song lyrics.

He collaborated with James Johnson, who owned The Scots Musical Museum, and then with George Thomson, whose "Thomson's Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice" contains the bulk of Burns' songs. Robert Burns' most famous song, "Auld Lang Syne," was written in 1788 as a poem set to a folk tune. It quickly became a part of Hogmanay traditions, later spreading elsewhere and becoming a mainstay of U.S. New Year's Eve festivities in 1930. Disputes abound over its English translation, but many scholars agree it means something akin to "Old Long Ago."

Robert Burns was married to Jean Armour in 1788 with whom he had 8 children, including two sets of twins. Annual tributes, Burns Suppers, were first held in memoriam at the end of the 18th century. Initially held on the anniversary of his death (July 21), the date was soon switched to his birth date of January 25.

- Catherine McKinley

Wake and District

You would think that the cold would bring a time of rest and calm for the Band, but nothing is ever that easy. December 2 was the Oath of Office ceremony for the newly-elected Raleigh Mayor and City Council at the Raleigh Convention Center. Wake and District Public Safety Pipes and Drums once again had the honor to play the Council's processional for Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane and elected government officials. On Saturday, December 7, band members participated for the 4th time at the Flowers Plantation Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. And sadly, just before Christmas, on Monday, December 23, band members were privileged to participate in the honors funeral service for Cary Fire Department Captain Jon Schondelmayer, who died in the line of duty after falling ill while working with the Swift Creek Fire Department.

Pipe Major Joe Brady piped in the Haggis at the Raleigh Tir Na nOg Robert Burns celebration on January 24 and the band played a spirited set later in the evening. See the Burns Night article in the newsletter for more details. The rest of the month was spent practicing, building and getting our large band ready with new music, parade and concert sets upcoming in the next few months. Now, with over 70 members on our roster, we are a BIG band. Rehearsal on Monday, January 27, was a clear reflection of how we convince by our presence.

February found us digging out of the snow for practice and getting ready for a rocking March! On Friday, February 2 at Tir Na nOg, the band began celebrating March early with our Pipe Band PINT NIGHT. The band opened for the internationally acclaimed Makem and Spain Brothers and, as a band fundraiser, had limited edition FOFrock pint glasses for sale.

March will be busy with The Kilted Run occurring on Saturday, March 1. Wake and District will join forces with the nOg Run Club for an attempt at breaking the World Record Kilt Run. Ok, it's only 2 blocks – but it is a **WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT**. Joining us will be Seamus the Leprechaun King at Moore Square in downtown Raleigh starting at noon for a day full of shenanigans.

We will be **IN TOWN** for St. Patrick's Day this year – so be sure to come on down to Moore Square on Saturday, March 15, and join in the fun!

- Joe Brady and Virginia Kent



Calendar of Events

March

- 4 Chieftains in concert with NC Symphony, Raleigh, NC
- 15 Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 29 SCOT Cary Indoor Dancing and Piping Competitions
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC
- 30 Cary Indoor Highland Dance Workshop

April

- tbd Scottish Movie Night & Dinner, Tir na nOg, Raleigh, NC*
- 6 National Tartan Day
- 12-14 Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC
- 26 SCOT Tartan Day Celebration

May

- 2-3 Triad Highland Games, Greensboro, NC
- 10 Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA
- 11 SCOT Afternoon Tea, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church
- 16-18 Smokey Mountain Highland Games, Maryville, TN
- 24-25 Gallabrae Highland Games, Greenville, SC
- 31 SCOT Golf Tournament at Crooked Creek Golf Course,
and Family BBQ at location TBD*

June

July

- 10-13 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC

August

- tbd SCOT Annual General Meeting*
- 30-31 Virginia Scottish Games & Festival, Great Meadow, VA

*to be confirmed



Tastes of Scotland



Regional Recipes: The Borders



This area has seen many battles between the Scottish and the English. The Cheviot Hills did not prevent the intrusion of the English, but did provide a vantage point for the English to peruse some of the richest and most productive land in Scotland. Cistercian and

Benedictine monks built monasteries there during the 11th and 12th centuries and brought new farming techniques to the Scots in the area. At the height of their wealth and power, the border monasteries created a land of plenty with wheat, oats, barley, cows, pigs, and sheep.

Sir Walter Scott was later a champion of the area and strove to preserve the stories of the border in his writings. He created the fictional character of Meg Dods, a landlady at the Cleikum Inn. Her cookbook, "Meg Dods Cookery" was created by Mrs. Isobel Johnston and was considered an authority on traditional Scottish cooking in the nineteenth century. This recipe is an example of the kind of fare served at the Cleikum Inn.

Friar's Chicken

1½ pint chicken and/or veal stock
4 oz. cooked chicken finely chopped
3 eggs
¼ pint cream
1 Tbs. parsley, finely chopped
Salt and pepper

Put the stock into a pan and bring it to a boil. Remove it from the heat. Beat together the eggs and cream in a separate bowl. Gradually add ½ cup of the hot stock, stirring constantly. Strain it through a sieve and add back into the remaining stock. Add the chicken and heat carefully. Do not allow it to boil or the eggs will curdle. Add the parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

According to Meg Dods, some liked more eggs in this dish and liked them curdled, so you may choose.

Scottish Regional Recipes, Catherine Brown, W&R Chambers Ltd. Edinburgh, 1995.

- Carolyn McDonald Graf



President's Corner

Dear Members,

I trust everyone survived the winter storm safely. It certainly created havoc around the area for quite some time. I was forced to abandon my car and walk the last couple of miles to home on Wednesday of the snow storm, after already being on the road for almost 5 hours.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will have completed several events this year and will be headed into another busy season. The St. Patrick's Day parade, Cary Indoor Dancing & Piping Competition, Tartan Day, May Tea, and Golf Tournament are just around the corner.

Ceud mile failte - one hundred thousand welcomes to our new members from all over the Triangle: Diane Hill, Margaret Klein, and Louie Rouse, Jr. We are delighted you have joined SCOT and look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming SCOT events.

I am most impressed with some of our new members offering to get involved and helping with some of our events; many thanks to all of you! Of course, the more members who step up and get involved not only brings more diversity to our events, but also helps to lighten the load of those who have done so much over the years.

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. Of course, I want each of you to encourage young people to get involved in SCOT, as they are our future.

Watch your inbox for email updates!

God bless and have a great year,

Donald Ross

welake87@gmail.com

SCOT

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www.scot.us

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:

George Birrell	Cheryl Jones
Thom Bowie	Ginny Kent
Doug Cruikshanks	Lynn McElroy
Patricia Johnston	Catherine McKinley
Carolyn Graf	Donald Ross
Pat Johnston	John Sprague

2014 Scottish Art Camps Scholarships

You may wonder what the Board does with the money SCOT raises every year — besides put on entertaining events, competitions, send out a newsletter, and such (we are very busy!). One of the most important things we do each year is to offer \$150 scholarships for North Carolina residents to attend a summer camp in the Scottish Arts. Some of the past winners have attended The Jink and Diddle Fiddling Workshop, The North American Academy of Piping and Drumming, and The School for Scottish Arts (Highland Dance Camp). January's issue of SCOT had thank you notes from some of last year's winners and an entertaining report of a student's experience at Jink and Diddle.

We think it is important to foster growth and interest in Scottish Arts and the thank you notes we receive each year give testament to the success and appreciation of the scholarships. This



year we are doing the same and have posted the scholarship application on the SCOT website (www.scot.us) for you or someone you know who would be interested in attending a camp to learn or improve their skills.

It's a simple process — just submit a completed application and a reference from a current Scottish Arts teacher or mentor before the April 15 deadline. The Board will carefully consider each submission and then award up to 10 scholarships for use in 2014 programs.

These scholarships are for adults as well as children! If you have any questions about the process or need advice, please contact one of the Board members for assistance. Remember: all the parts of the application must be completed to be considered, especially the teacher/mentor reference.

Good luck to this year's applicants!

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 Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

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