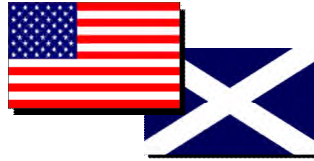




# THE THISTLEDOWN

**Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.**



EARLY SPRING 2016

VOLUME 33, ISSUE NUMBER 1

## Upcoming Fun You Won't Want to Miss!

### Show the Irish How It's Done! St. Pat's parade Saturday, March 19

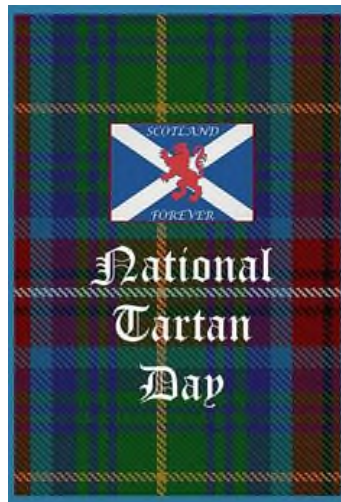
Join us at the Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade on **Saturday, March 19**. You can march or ride with the SST, and all are welcome! Parade assembly time is 9:00am with kick-off at 10:00am. Our assigned form up area is **Section 1, Position 126**, on Granby Street in front of Northside Middle School in Norfolk.

Parking is available at the terminus of the parade route with shuttle buses running from Ocean View Elementary School, at Government Ave. and Mason Creek Rd., to the Parade area between 8:00 and 9:45AM. Parade marshalls will be available to assist you, just look for the green jackets.

Don't forget to bring individually wrapped candy for distribution to our many young spectators. Let's put a smile on their faces. It often takes about 50 pounds to cover the whole



### SST Tartan Day Ceilidh Set for Wednesday, April 6



Be sure not to miss the April monthly meeting of the SST when we will be celebrating National Tartan Day, a day set aside by Congress to celebrate Scottish-American culture.

The event will be on **Wednesday, April 6** and will begin at 7 pm.

There will be Scottish music, dancing, Gaelic song and other activities.

This is a FREE event; no ticket required.

There will be door prizes, too! And perhaps a couple of raffle items.

This will be a potluck event, so please bring a side dish or dessert. The SST will provide a main course.

You may bring a cooler should you desire.

If you can help set up, or if you can donate a gift basket or other door prize, please let Marcey Hunter know at [marcey9@cox.net](mailto:marcey9@cox.net).

Don't miss this fun chance to celebrate our culture and to show your tartan pride!

### It's the Tattoo! Saturday, April 23

Always spectacular, the Virginia International Tattoo rolls around again in April at the Norfolk Scope.

If you've not been before, this is an amazing, stirring event.

This year the Tattoo welcomes its largest cast of over 1500 performers. This includes bagpipers, military bands, drill teams, drummers, Celtic dancers, choirs and more from all over the world.

The SST has discounted tickets available for the **Saturday, April 23** show at 7:30 pm. The tickets are \$29.75 (regular \$35).

Interested? Contact George Phillips at [gpphish@aol.com](mailto:gpphish@aol.com)





## About the Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.

**T**he Scottish Society of Tidewater exists to promote the preservation and study of Scottish culture, including music, language, art, history, folklore, dance, literature, athletics, and all other things distinctively Scottish among interested persons in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area and to cooperate with like-minded persons, groups and organizations here and abroad.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Church of Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446. Social time begins at 7:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and history is invited to attend.

301 E. Randall Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503  
[www.tidewaterscots.org](http://www.tidewaterscots.org)

### SST Executive Board

**President:**

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**Vice President:**

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**Secretary:**

Marcey Hunter [marcey9@cox.net](mailto:marcey9@cox.net)

**Treasurer:**

Ruth Fraser [RHFraser@vbgov.com](mailto:RHFraser@vbgov.com)

**Board of Directors:**

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Donna Looney [loontoon@msn.com](mailto:loontoon@msn.com)

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Connie Smith [caus10smith@hotmail.com](mailto:caus10smith@hotmail.com)

### SST Committees

**Webmaster:**

Scott MacGregor [mcgregor@exis.net](mailto:mcgregor@exis.net)

**Membership:**

Marcey Hunter [marcey9@cox.net](mailto:marcey9@cox.net)

**Program:**

The SST Board of Directors

**Newsletter Editor:**

Marcey Hunter [marcey9@cox.net](mailto:marcey9@cox.net)

## A Few Words from the President

**T**ime flies! Here it is spring already, and time to turn the clocks ahead.

We have been blessed with a mild winter and the spring flowers have taken off. My bluebells are getting ready to bloom and the daffodils and hyacinth are all up and happy. Don't let the weeds get ahead of you, so take the next weekend or two to get the yard ready for this year.

The springtime holds a lot for the local Scots and Celtic Community.

Don't forget to join us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Norfolk. Always fun! See page 1 for details.

The Virginia International Arts Festival Tattoo is coming up in a month and the SST has a block of tickets. Contact George Phillips for getting yours. This is one of the best events in the area for Celtic and Military celebration. See page 1 for details.

The Tartan Day dinner will be held again at the regular SST monthly meeting on April 6, 2016. It is a pot luck dinner, so bring dishes, sides, and deserts. There will be food, music, singing, and fellowship ... who knows, maybe dancing will break out and we'll have a "hoolie." This is a good event to invite a friend to, so they can see how much fun and tradition locals Scots have. See page 1 for details.

May brings the SST elections. We have most openings covered, but still can use more help on the board and other positions. Anyone interested in starting to train as the secretary please contact Marcey. She has faithfully been the secretary for 16 years, and wants to step down before it becomes 20 years. She will take the time to train a new secretary and won't abandon you as you take over the position.

I will present the program for the May meeting on "The History of the Telephone, and its Scottish Connections." I will be displaying my extensive collection of around forty rare antique telephones and discuss the development of the modern phone. The phones and equipment on displays will be between 90 and 150 years old. This is one of the most extensive collections in the region. Invite a friend, as this is a chance to see things close up that are normally only seen behind glass in a museum. Included in the discussion will be my personal family tie in the modern dial telephone and display of the original patents of these inventions.

The joint spring Picnic for the SST & SAST will be held on Saturday May 28, 2016 from 1-4PM at the home of Judy and Stacy Apelt. Bring side dishes, salads, and deserts. The meats, sodas/water, and some beer is provided. Bring a pack or two of your favorite beer if you would like. There is lots of cooler space. A flyer with all the details will go out in early May.

We will take a break in June and in July we are planning a brewery tour as the monthly meeting. August will bring the Wallace celebration and a Wallace Night pot luck supper.

September will bring the joint fall picnic, hosted by the SST. More details to follow. Yours Aye,

*Stacy Elliott Apelt, FSA Scot - President SST*



Stacy Apelt  
SST President



**WE  
NEED  
YOU!**

## **SST AGM and Elections to be held on May 4**

Our Annual General Meeting and the all-important ELECTIONS are just around the corner (May 4th). Would you like to run for a spot on the Board? It's a great way to get involved and meet people. Any member in good standing (i.e., dues are paid for 2016) can run for a position.

Contact Stacy Apelt if you are interested at [sapelt@cox.net](mailto:sapelt@cox.net)

**And don't forget to come out and VOTE!**



**CEUD MILE FAILTE!**  
"One Hundred Thousand Welcomes"  
to New SST Members!

**Corey Roy**  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
[scottishcorey@yahoo.com](mailto:scottishcorey@yahoo.com)  
Clan Anderson

## **Calling All Tartan Scraps!**

If you've been to our Tartan Day or Christmas Ceilidhs, or any number of events in between, you know our favorite and most festive way to decorate tables is with bright and colorful tartan runners and table cloths. Sadly, our tartan collection is looking a little "well loved" lately, and it's time to start replacing it.

If you have any tartan scraps or remnants about, please consider donating them to the SST. We'll do our best to put them to good use at future functions.

Have something to donate? Contact Donna Looney at [loontoon@msn.com](mailto:loontoon@msn.com) and we can add it to the mix.

*Thanks in advance!*

## **This and That**

- The SST wishes our deepest sympathies to the families of former members **Robert Lockwood** and **Belinda Nash**. RIP Robert and Belinda, you are missed.
- **Cheryl and Randy Brown** suffered a horrendous house fire on Christmas Eve. The house was heavily damaged and will not be habitable for some time. And sadly, they lost one of their beloved dogs in this tragedy. The January raffle at the monthly meeting was donated to Cheryl and her family to help them get through this transition. Our warmest thoughts and best wishes for normalcy soon.
- **Lynnette Fitch Brash**, who is accompanying Edward while he teaches a semester at the University of Glasgow, has herself been asked to present two papers on Scottish Literature to the University. This is an exciting opportunity at such a prestigious school. I'm sure Lynnette will do us proud!
- **Connie Smith & Eileen Walker** are busy planning their upcoming trip to Scotland! They plan to visit **Lynnette and Edward Brash** in Glasgow, then head up to the Isle of Skye for a Gaelic workshop at the famed Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Sleat. And Connie plans to spend a good deal of the trip hiking the Highlands with her brother! It is shaping up to be an AMAZING vacation.
- At press time, there were four applicants for the **Baird Memorial Scholarship**, with **Connie Smith** serving as Chair. The recipients will be recognized at our Tartan Day Ceilidh on April 6. Just another reason to attend!
- Our wonderful Treasurer **Ruth Fraser** will be quite the busy bee (well, busier than normal) in the upcoming months, as the 2017 Sister Cities International Conference will be held in Virginia Beach. Ruth is an integral member of this association, so you can be assured this conference will be a major success. Please know the SST is standing by to help in any way we can, Ruth!

# Flowers of the Forest



*John L. "JJ" Johnson*  
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*



# Flowers of the Forest



*Arthur "Art" Korff*  
Newport News, Virginia



# SST Christmas Ceilidh & Silent Auction 2015



From left, Catriona Dunphy, wee Ruairidh Dunphy & Laurie McPherson



The Bair Family



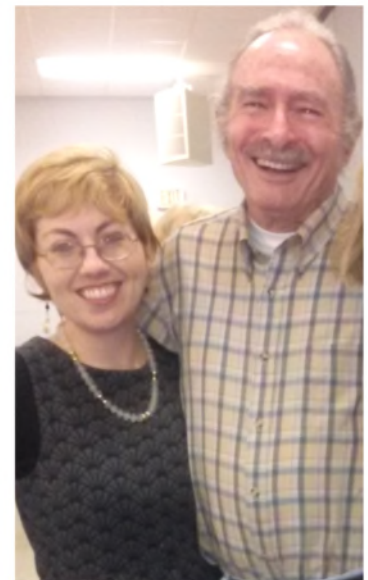
George & Kathleen Hoffman



From left, Stacy Apelt, Ginny Zaun & Eleanor Unger



From left, Session Musicians Edward Brash, John McGlynn, Colin McGlynn & Connie Smith



Andrea McGlynn & Jack Kennedy

# Hogmanay Happenings 2015



Colin McGlynn was the Grand Marshall for the Olde Towne Scottish Hogmanay Walk. Great job, Colin!



A great outing for the SST folks who braved the weather for Hogmanay 2015



"For Auld Lang Syne, my dear..."



Goofin' 'round in Olde Towne...



A wonderful evening with good friends, good music, good spirits and good times.

# SST Out and About



*Jeff Christman, The St. Andrew's Society  
"Scot of the Year." Congratulations!*



*Happy 98th birthday, Geraldine! Wishing you many more!*



*Corey Roy creating havoc on the slopes!*



*Manny & Robin Willis, with their grandson Chris West, cruisin' aboard  
the Steamboat Natchez in New Orleans last December.  
Laissez les bons temps rouler!*





*Donna Looney getting ready to start off the new year with the 2.106 mile run at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. What a coincidence, her number is 2016...*



*More marathon mania! This time it's Dave & Nancy Montgomery in Fredericksburg. Well done both of you!*



*Dale & Laurie Walker enjoying a night at the opera.*



*Edward & Lynnette Brash recently visited the "Marriage Anvil" at Gretna Green. Fun times in Glasgow!*

Many of you may remember that for several years, we had the pleasure of knowing a special young man named Jose Hernandez. Jose was fascinated with Scotland and the Loch Ness Monster, and, through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, he and his family travelled to Scotland, and the Scottish Society of Tidewater adopted Jose as our "Nessie Ambassador." The Hernandez family attended several of our events, including the Tartan Day Ceilidh, and we all became very fond of them. Sadly, Jose lost his struggle against cancer in 2009. He was an extraordinary young man whose strength and bravery were inspirational, and we miss him.



Jose and his dad.

To help raise funds for the fight against childhood cancer, Jose's father Javier started the, "Yes Way, Jose!" team in conjunction with the St. Baldrick's Foundation. St. Baldrick's is a volunteer organization that is committed to finding a cure for childhood cancers.

Our own Scott MacGregor has once again joined the efforts by volunteering to be a "Shavee," (i.e., he will be shaved bald!) to help raise money for "Yes Way, Jose!" For a front row view, join Scott and others on Saturday, March 12 at the Westin Hotel in Virginia Beach town center from 9 am to 1 pm. If you would like to help Scott in this effort, contact him at [mcgregor@verizon.net](mailto:mcgregor@verizon.net). Or you can donate online at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/813303/2016>

online at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/813303/2016>

**Good luck Scott!**

## **REMINDER: Membership Dues 2016**

ATTENTION: Scottish Society of Tidewater Membership dues are due for 2016. Your support is CRITICAL if we are to continue to provide monthly meetings, programs, special events, a website, newsletters, etc., that keep you engaged and informed about the

Scottish-American community in Hampton Roads.

Renewal forms will be mailed to you soon. They were also sent electronically and posted on our Facebook and the SST website.

PLEASE DON'T DELAY IN RETURNING THEM.

If you've already sent yours in THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

[www.tidewaterscots.org](http://www.tidewaterscots.org)

Marcey Hunter

301 E. Randall Ave.

Norfolk, VA 23503

[marcey9@cox.net](mailto:marcey9@cox.net) 757-480-4217

## **Tartans & Tie Dyes**

*Watermen's Museum to host a celebration for Relay for Life April 9th*

Put on your fanciest tartans and tie dyes and join the Watermen's Museum in a celebratory mosaic of music to raise awareness and funds for The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life on Saturday April 9th, 12- 8pm. The event will feature regional Celtic, folk, and rock bands on two stages. Vendors, crafts, and family activities, ice cream, craft beer, food and beverages available on site. Join us for a day of celebration and remembrance on the beautiful York River.

April 9th, 2016, 12pm – 8pm, Watermens Museum, 309 Water Street, Yorktown, VA 23690, 757-887-2641, [Watermens.org](http://Watermens.org)

\$15 for adults at the gate. All proceeds to go to the American Cancer Society.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 19

### Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade

9:00am with kick-off at 10:00am. Our assigned form up area is **Section 1, Position 126**, on Granby Street in front of Northside Middle School in Norfolk.  
www.tidewaterescots.com

April 6

### SST Monthly Meeting & Tartan Day Ceilidh

Scottish music, dancing, song and much more.  
This is a potluck event, so please bring a side dish or dessert. You may bring a cooler if you like.  
Church of the Ascension, 7 pm

April 9

### Tartans & Tie Dyes

Waterman's Museum, Yorktown  
Pipes, Celtic & folk music and much more.  
[Watermens.org](http://Watermens.org)

April 23

### Virginia International Tattoo

Norfolk Scope, 7:30 pm  
Discounted tickets for SST members.  
Contact George Phillips at  
gpphish@aol.com

April 30

### Tannahill Weavers Concert

Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach 7:30 PM  
General \$25; Seniors, ALL Military, Students w/IDs \$23.  
One of Scotland's premier traditional bands.  
<http://tidewateracoustic.org/>

May 4

### SST Annual General Meeting & Elections

Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach  
7 pm social hour, 7:30 pm meeting  
Please bring a tasty dish to share, and/or something for the Church food pantry.  
Elections first, then a presentation by Stacy Apelt: "The History of the Telephone, and its Scottish Connections."

May 28

### Spring Picnic hosted by SST & St. Andrews Soc.

At the home of Stacy & Judith Apelt  
1 pm - 4 pm  
Contact Stacy for more info at [sapelt@cox.net](mailto:sapelt@cox.net)

## Hampton Roads Hurling Club Lands Major Sponsor

When members of the Hampton Roads Hurling team hit the tournament circuit this season, they'll be wearing the familiar logo of everyone's favorite Irish beer – Guinness! That's right – the HRHC has landed a major sponsor.

"We couldn't be more pleased," said HRHC president Ryan Norman. "This raises our team to a whole new level."

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of HRHC player Jason Hall, Guinness representatives were eager to lend their brand to this up-and-coming local team.

"It's a good fit for us," said TJ McCutchen, the District Distributing Manager for Diageo Guinness USA. "We are pleased to support the HRHC. They are a promising team, and we are excited about this partnership."

The HRHC continues to grow in size. Nearly forty players have signed up for the Spring League, which starts April 3rd. Games will be played most Sundays, and will be held alternately on the Southside and on the Peninsula.

The team enjoyed some success last year, winning a tournament in Charleston and placing second in the shield match division at the Nationals in Chicago. And in partnership with Cumann na mBan Camogie Team, the team also co-hosted their first tournament, the Coastal Virginia Cup, in Virginia Beach last July. The 2nd Annual CVC is set for July 23, 2016.

Hurling is a three thousand year old sport, and is the national sport of Ireland.

Several SST members are active players in the HRHC and Camogie Teams, including Skip Hunter, Edward Brash, Corey Roy, Brenden McSweeney, Jason Wilson, Steve Bugaji, Donna Looney, Lynnette Brash, Heather Warren, Cheryl Brown, and Connie Smith.

So please be sure to support the HRHC and drink your Guinness! [Hrhurling.com](http://Hrhurling.com)



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Braveheart Kitten haz a



on the edge of tradition

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Clothing Co.

Scotland  
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