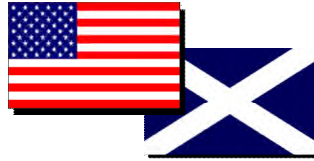




THE THISTLEDOWN

Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.



SPRING 2015

VOLUME 32, ISSUE NUMBER 1

2015 Tartan Day Ceilidh Set for April 1

Your Tartan Day committee is finalizing plans for marking Tartan Day this year. The celebration will take place in our usual place - the Ascension Church hall at 6:30 PM to 10 PM on Wednesday April 1st, with the first hour set aside for meeting, greeting and eating a pot luck meal. Then we will move on to a program of music and social dancing. The Ceilidh dances will be called so no one needs to sit out! There will be live Celtic music for all to enjoy.

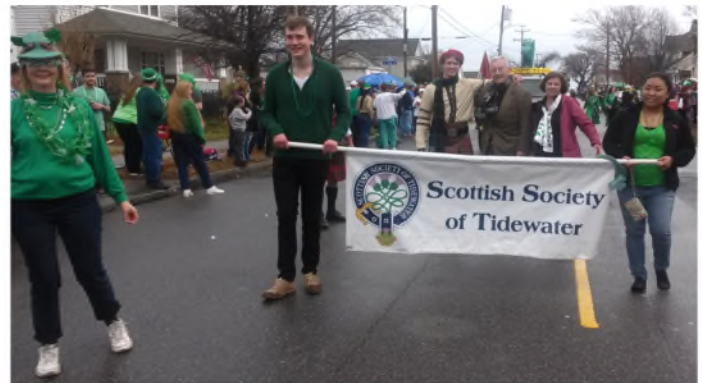
It would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know whether or not you will be attending, and also how many guests you will be bringing for place-setting purposes. It would also be helpful to know what appetizer, covered dish or dessert you will be bringing so we will know what serving and eating utensils will be needed. SST will provide the coffee/tea, water, and soft-drink and you are invited to bring along a cooler for your own favorite beverages.

We have decided not to sell tickets, but instead to have the raffle tickets available for the many lovely gifts and baskets of goodies our membership so generously typically shares. And, speaking of that, please let us know if you do have an item for the raffle table.

Please e-mail your RSVP and your planned food item to Laurie Macpherson macphersonlaurie@yahoo.com
C'ead Mile Failte!



SST Shows Scottish Pride in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



A little rain didn't stop enthusiastic members of the SST from marching in the 48th Annual Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Parades on the East Coast, and it brings over 10,000 revelers to the Norfolk streets. It's a great time!



Lindsay Goodwin, granddaughter of SST founders Nancy McKay and the late Sam McKay, takes good care of our Nessie float. "It's a tradition!" says Lindsay. Yes it is, lass!



See more parade pics on page 4



About the Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.

The 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

SST Executive Board

President:

Stacy Apelt sapelt@cox.net

Vice President:

Manny Willis mannyandrobin@cox.net

Secretary:

Marcey Hunter marcey9@cox.net

Treasurer:

Ruth Fraser RHFraser@vbgov.com

Board of Directors:

Tom Chenoweth cgbosn@centurylink.net

Donna Looney loontoon@msn.com

Nancy McKay nancymck1@gmail.com

Cliff Gimbert gimbert.est@verizon.net

George Phillips gpphish@aol.com

Connie Smith caus10smith@hotmail.com

SST Committees

Webmaster:

Scott MacGregor mcgregor@exis.net

Membership:

Marcey Hunter marcey9@cox.net

Program:

The SST Board of Directors

Newsletter Editor:

Marcey Hunter marcey9@cox.net

A Few Words from the President

Fellow Scots,
2015 has started well...if you are a mammoth. Thankfully Spring is upon us and I know you join me in looking forward to warmer temps and spending more time outdoors.

Since our last newsletter, we had a great Burns Supper, and are off to our new year. Things to look forward in the coming months, besides warm weather, are the Tartan Day Celebration on Wednesday April 1st, the Virginia International Tattoo on Saturday, April 25th and the joint picnic with the SST and the St. Andrew's Society of Saturday, May 30. All should be lots of fun and fellowship.

I had a knee replacement on Feb. 23rd, and took a day or so off, but was shoveling snow a few days later. Just kidding. But I made it back in time for the St. Paddy's Day Parade. It was great fun and a big THANK YOU to our marchers.

We also need volunteers to take some officers spots, including the President, this year. Elections are held during the AGM on May 6th. I urge you to think about it and speak to a board member if interested.

Stacy Elliott Apelt, FSA Scot, President Scottish Society of Scotland.



Stacy Apelt
SST President

CALL FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Want to contribute to the newsletter?

I am looking for a few good ideas.

Some suggestions:

- ◆ History/Re-enactments
- ◆ Book and/or music reviews
- ◆ Photos, both old and new (do you have a vintage SST photo to share?
We would love to see it!)
- ◆ Gathering & Games information
 - ◆ Poetry/Fiction
 - ◆ Recipes

Please e-mail Marcey at marcey9@cox.net

**Remember: This is
YOUR newsletter!**

This and That

- Our president **Stacy Apelt** recently underwent his second knee replacement in late February. And you know Stacy, he was up and driving and back to work in no time. He even pulled the Nessie float in the parade! Can't keep a good Scot down, can ya Stacy?!
- Former presidents **Manny Willis** and **Larry McCauley** are also recuperating from surgery. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to you both!
- Former president **Skip Hunter**, who recently retired from the USN after 21 years, has landed a great civilian job at Tecnico Corporation, a local ship repair company. He really likes it and is looking forward to the challenge of learning a whole new skill. And it keeps us in the area! Congratulations, Chief.
- Get ready for our semi-Annual Wallace Day celebration on Wednesday, August 5th. Our Guest Speaker will be longtime SST member and former Vice President **John Wallace**, all the way from South Carolina! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.
- Past Baird Scholarship recipient **Sean Heely** and SST member **Bart Tuthill** are, at press time, soaking in the Scottish music culture on the Isle of Skye! Both are excellent musicians and we hope that they will be enriched by this experience, and that we may enjoy their music for years to come!
- Congratulations to **Colin McGlynn** who recently advanced to a green belt in Karate. Way to go, Colin!
 - ***Do you have news to share? Contact Marcey Hunter at 480-4217 or marcey9@cox.net***



The Scottish Society has purchased a block of discounted tickets for the Virginia International Tattoo performance on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 pm. The tickets are for SST members only, and are \$29.75. This is an AMAZING performance that seems to get better every year. If you are interested, contact George Phillips at gpphish@aol.com. Hurry, while the tickets last!

More St. Patrick's Day Parade pictures...



Many thanks to Stacy Apelt for commandeering Nessie through the crowded streets of the annual Ocean View Parade.



Scott MacGregor's granddaughter Emmy gives Nessie a boost.



Always up for a party, the Hampton Roads Hurling Club, ready to rumble.



SST Scholarship recipient Sean Heely, right, and Corey Roy provide spirited Celtic music at the Parade after party.



SST member & Irish Society President Lynnette Fitch Brash, right, and Jackie Trudell of the Irish Society welcome Gov. Terry McAuliffe, the Grand Marshall of the 2015 parade.



Clan MacGregor Aids in the Fight Against Childhood Cancer



"Before" and "After"

Longtime SST member and past Vice President Scott MacGregor was recently recognized as a Knight of the Bald Table by the St. Baldrick's Foundation for his many years of participation as a "shavee" in their annual fundraising efforts. Over the years, Scott has raised over \$10,000 for the fight against childhood cancer. He participated again this year, with his daughters and grandchildren, and underwent the annual head shaving ritual on the morning of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14.

"We've all been looking to this date since last year and collecting funds for a few months," explained Scott, "Many of you have graciously supported our cause. We thank you each for this support. All donations BIG and small count towards finding a cure for the different children's cancers.

"While the girls were not shaved bald they each gave at least ten inches to Locks-of-Love. Each of us boys were shaved as bald as they could legally go. Our heads are now lighter and very much cooler. Little Emmy (granddaughter) is getting the biggest kick out of her new hair style.

"For those curious to know, to date for this year: I have raised \$695, Darcie and grandchildren: \$500, Jamie and grandsons: \$500. This was my 8th year of participation, 3rd year for my grandson WESS, 2nd year for grandsons Logan and Brenny, and 1st year for Jamie, Darcie, and Emmy."

Scott and his family dedicate their efforts to the memory of Jose Hernandez, who many of you remember. 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 all miss him.

It's not too late to add to Scott's 2015 total. You can contact him at mcgregor@verizon.net. Or you can donate online at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/748085/2015>

Thank you, Clan MacGregor, for all you do!





SST Elections Set for May 6

The SST will elect a new slate of officers at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 6. Be sure to come out and vote, and let your voice be heard. It's IMPORTANT!

Also, now is the chance to get involved in the SST if you would like to run for office. It's a great experience and lots of fun. But it's time for new blood! GET INVOLVED IN YOUR SCOTTISH SOCIETY!

Up for election will be the one-year terms of the president, the vice president, the treasurer, the secretary, and the two-year terms of three (3) positions on the Board of Directors.

President: None announced.

Vice President: None announced.

Candidates for Treasurer: Ruth Fraser (incumbent)

Candidate for Secretary: Marcey Hunter (incumbent)

Candidates for the Board of Directors: Donna Looney (incumbent) and George Phillips (incumbent). **At least one more candidate is needed for the Board.**

Any member who is in good standing is eligible to run for office and vote at the Annual Meeting. A member in good standing is one whose membership is current and dues are paid to date. You may pay your dues at the April and May meetings.

For a listing and description of the offices, see the Bylaws included on our website at Tidewaterscots.com

Interested? Contact Stacy Apelt at sapelt@cox.net

**GET INVOLVED!
VOTE!**

REMINDER: Membership Dues 2015

ATTENTION: Scottish Society of Tidewater Membership dues are due for 2015.

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.

You should have received a membership form in the mail from our Treasurer. They were also sent electronically and posted on 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

Marcey Hunter

301 E. Randall Ave.

Norfolk, VA 23503

marcey9@cox.net 757-480-4217



SST Membership Spotlight

Let's Meet...Cheryl Brown

Welcome to a new feature in The Thistledown, "SST Membership Spotlight."

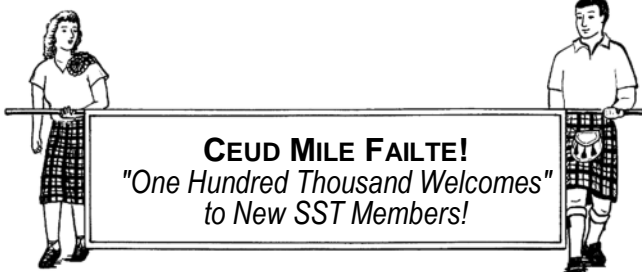
Our first featured member is Cheryl Brown, an SST member for six years. Cheryl hails from Massachusetts and has been living in Hampton Roads for about 20 years. (I guess she likes it!) She and her husband Randy live in Virginia Beach, and they have three children, ages 27, 20 and 19. Her son David served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and just got out of the Army. Cheryl is the proud grandma of three grand children, ages nine and six. She also has three "furry babies," including a Jack Russell named Shnitzel, a rescue dog who only has eyes for Mama.

Cheryl has a strong Scottish pedigree with three of her grandparents directly from Scotland. While she hasn't yet visited Scotland, she hopes to some day soon with her sister Heidi, who many of us have met at various SST functions. Cheryl is of the MacGregor Clan stock.

Cheryl is learning to play the flute and hopes to play at a future SST Christmas Ceilidh with the other session musicians. She volunteers at almost all SST functions, and helps out also with the Irish Society and Bayside High School. She started playing Camogie (the female version of hurling) last fall and loves it!

When asked what her perfect day off would be, she replied "swimming in the pool and lounging in the sun." Sounds perfect... And what are the three words she would use to describe herself? "Caring... courageous...funny." We agree, Cheryl!

"My favorite thing about being a member of the SST are the events, like Tartan Day, and the people. I always try to believe that people are genuinely good and the people in the Scottish Society demonstrate that to me on a regular basis."



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

Henry F. & Dylan Harris Jones
 Virginia Beach, Virginia
henryjones64.hj@gmail.com
 Clan McLeod

Jean Madden
 Virginia Beach, Virginia
jbc523@cox.net
 Clans Cameron / Henderson / Grant



NEWS FLASH! A Plaque which may depict the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath has been found in the Angus fishing village of Easthaven

Read more: <http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/heritage/declaration-of-arbroath-plaque-found-in-easthaven-1-3706064>

SST Out and About



A wonderful way to ring in 2015! Members of the SST gathered for the Annual Hogmanay Walk in Olde Towne Portsmouth.



The 76th McDonald Highland Regiment of Foote, with potential recruits Colin McGlynn and Sean Heely.



Bob and Caryl Felty at this year's Burns Night Supper, hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Tidewater. Bob was named the "Scot of the Year" for his many years of dedication and service.



From right, Donna & John McGlynn and Bart Tuthill at the Burns Night Supper.



King of the snow forts! Colin McGlynn enjoyed the recent break from school.



From right, Manny & Robin Willis, and Scott MacGregor in attendance at the Treaty of Ghent Gala (War of 1812) hosted by the Norfolk Historical Society. Photo by Magali deVulpillieres



Happy grandma Carol Amorosi with grandson Huxley Baker. Ain't they adorable?



Celtic Session band Glasgow Kiss perform at a recent fundraiser at Murphy's to promote the CnamB Camogie Team. CnamB is a new team, and it includes Lynnette Fitch Brash, Cheryl Brown, Connie Smith, Heather Warren, and Lisa Hunt Burgess, among others. Camogie is the female version of Hurling. It was a very successful fundraiser for the team. Up CnamB!



Past SST President Nancy Miller, who currently serves as the District 1 Director of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at the recent Annual George Washington Birthday Luncheon .



Connie Smith, center, with her band Third Degree Bern at a recent St. Patrick's Day gig in Newport News.

Flowers of the Forest



RIP Sandy Dyer
*Beloved wife of Jim Dyer
Norfolk, Virginia*



RIP Donald L. Austin
*Beloved father of Connie Smith
Gloucester, Virginia*



RIP Mark Walker
*Beloved Husband of Eileen Walker, Father to
Heather Warren, and Grandpa to Liam Warren
Portsmouth, Virginia*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Tartan Day Ceilidh

Church of the Ascension

Community Center

POT LUCK!

FREE!

Music, dance, special programs!
PLEASE RSVP!

Laurie Macpherson macpher-
sonlaurie@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 25

Virginia International Tattoo

Norfolk Scope, 7:30 pm

Tickets are for SST members only
\$29.75

Contact George Phillips at
gpphish@aol.com

Sunday, April 19

Kirkin of the Tartan

Traditional Scottish blessing & celebration.

12:30 p.m.

Historic Christ Church

420 Christ Church Road, Weems, VA 22576

Wednesday, May 6

SST Annual Meeting & Elections

7 pm social, 7:30 pm meeting

Ascension Community Center

4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach VA

Please bring something tasty to share

Saturday, May 30

Scottish Society / St. Andrew's Society Picnic

Apelt home: 8076 Moose Ave., Norfolk, VA

1:00PM until 4:00PM

BBQ, Chicken, Hot dogs, Hamburgers, sausages
provided. Beer, wine, and sodas provided &
BYOB

Bring a side dish or a desert.

Bring folding chairs if possible

Bring musical instruments, if you play one, as
there is often a Celtic jam Session.

For more information, directions, and to RSVP
please contact Stacy

At sapelt@cox.net or 757-583-5872

JUNE

**PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO SST JUNE
MEETING, IN LIEU OF THE PICNIC ON MAY 30**



At the recent Philly Mid-Winter Celtic Music Festival, Lynnette Fitch Brash, right, conducted a workshop on Scottish Dance. Here she is with two of her students. Fun times!



Cheryl Brown made quite the fashion statement at the Philly festival, sporting a pair of earrings made by her husband Randy. Can you tell they are beer caps?

Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.
c/o Marcey Hunter
301 E. Randall Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23503

www.tidewaterscots.org

