



Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 17

November 2011

Piobaireachd Night

**Sunday, November 6th
4:00 p.m.**

Anchorage Lutheran Church

All pipers are invited to come play a tune in a friendly, low-pressure, informal environment. Family and friends are also welcome to come, listen, and support their local pipers.

If you are a piper interested in playing with the group, please e-mail Teddy Krogh at Krogh_teddy@hotmail.com.



The Alaskan Scottish Club is Going GREEN

November and December will see The Thistle delivered by both regular mail and an e-mail link. As of January 2012, we will no longer be sending The Thistle via regular mail to those for whom we have a valid e-mail address. If you are not receiving The Thistle link via e-mail and have a valid e-mail address, please send your e-mail address to jameylynn@live.com

St. Andrew - The Patron Saint of Scotland

Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were fishermen casting nets into the lake when Jesus saw them. Jesus said to them, "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Andrew became a missionary to Asia Minor Macedonia, and southern Russia. Having many converts, he was feared by the Roman governor who, in 70 AD, had him crucified on an X-shaped cross known as a Saltire Cross. Approximately 300 years later some of Andrews relicts (bones) were brought to Scotland by St. Rule. In a dream he was directed, by an angel, to take what relicts of Andrews that he could to the "ends of the earth" for safe-keeping. St. Rule was able to acquire a tooth, an arm bone, a kneecap and some fingers.

The Battle of Athelstaneford

According to this legend, an army of Picts under Angus mac Fergus, High King of Alba, and aided by a contingent of Scots, had been on a punitive raid in Northumbrian territory, but were pursued and then confronted by a larger force of Angles and Saxons under one Athelstan. Defeat seemed almost certain, but after Angus and his men had prayed for deliverance, the appearance in the blue sky above them of a white cloud in the shape of a saltire or St Andrew's Cross seemed to promise that their prayers had been heeded. Thereupon Angus vowed that if they were victorious that day, St Andrew would forever after be their patron saint. Victory was indeed theirs, Angus remembered his vow, and so Andrew became our patron saint and his cross our flag. The date is believed to have been 832AD.

The battle is commemorated by a monument in the churchyard at Athelstaneford. Attached is a tall flagpole on which a Saltire is flown permanently, even during the hours of darkness when it is floodlit, as a reminder of the flag's origins.



Monthly Recipe

Glasgow Cod

1 lb of skinned and filleted cod,
3 oz of medium oatmeal,
2 oz of butter (the traditional recipe calls for 1 oz of butter and 1 oz of finely shredded suet),
1/2 teaspoon finely chopped chives, salt, pepper,
1/2 pint of hot (but not boiling) milk,
1 teaspoon chopped onion,
1/2 teaspoon chopped parsley.

Using cloth, pat the fish dry and put into greased dish, seasoning with salt and pepper. Dot the top of the fish with one ounce of butter, and pour the hot milk around it. Mix the oatmeal, remaining butter or suet, onion, chives, and parsley to a firm paste, seasoning to taste and using a little of the hot milk if it is too dry. Form the mixture into balls around the fish and bake at 350F for around half an hour (it took about 20 minutes on site in the cast iron oven).



Monthly Book Selection

Fishing a Highland Stream

by John Inglis Hall



Fishing a Highland Stream was originally published more than thirty years ago under the title How to Fish a Highland Stream. But it has substantially transcended its "how to" genre. It is an intimate and affecting memoir of a thoughtful man's long relationship with a river. Hall loves the Truim, "a hard little burn," more each season that he fishes it. But he also loves Dalwhinnie, the nearby village, the rugged country through which the river flows, the lochs that lie near it, and the unique inhabitants of the region, with whom he develops close relationships. What we have, then, is the finest kind of memoir: the enchanting portrait of a place of remote beauty, a fascinating river that reveals its secrets only after much effort, and the account of an inveterate dry-fly fisherman who revels in the experience of a river filled with a haunting, "lonely magic."

Clan of the Month

Anderson

Means "son of Andrew" or "devotee of St. Andrew". The name Anderson is primarily in the Lowlands and Central Scotland. The variant MacAndrews is used in the Highlands.

There is a tradition of scholars in the Anderson Clan. Alexander Anderson published works on geometry and algebra in Paris between 1612 and 1619. His cousin, David Anderson of Finshaugh had skill in mechanics and math. These he applied to removing a large rock that was obstructing the entrance to Aberdeen harbor. This earned hi the nickname "Davie-D-a'-Things". William Anderson published a biographical history of the people of Scotland call *The Scottish nation* in 1863 that became quite famous.

The clan motto is "Stand Sure". Our very own Chris Anderson exemplifies her clan motto each year as our Games Chairman.



Scottish Invention

The Macintosh (Raincoat)

Charles Macintosh (1766-1843) began work as a clerk. At age 19 he decided to pursue his interest in chemistry and science.

He started by buying all the ammonia and tar waste byproducts from the Glasgow coal-gas works. The ammonia was used to manufacture dyes. The tar, he distilled to product naphtha – a volatile, oily liquid hydrocarbon mixture. While investigating ways to utilize naphtha Charles develop a process of using a solution of india-rubber in naphtha soaked between two layers of cloth forming a sandwich that was pressed together. The rubber interior provided a flexible layer that is impermeable to water. His patent included instructions to waterproof hemp, flax, wool, cotton, silk, leather, and paper, as well as other items.

Of the many inventions and discoveries Charles Macintosh made, he was most successful with his waterproof fabric.

This Month in Scottish History

John Knox, considered to be the greatest Reformer in the history of Scotland died on November 24th in 1572.

John Knox is the author of "The History of the Reformation in Scotland." Ordained a priest by the Church of Rome, he first publicly professed the Protestant faith around the end of 1545 while at St. Andrews.

During his life he was a French galley-slave, the minister of the English Church, a member of the Calvin's counsel in Frankfurt, minister of the refugee English congregation in Geneva, minister of the Church of St. Giles and the main church of Edinburgh.

His writings include The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regimen of Women, The Pulpit and the Reformation, and A Faithful Admonitions to the Professors of God's Truth in England.

At John Knox's burial, the Earl of Mortoun, Regent of Scotland pronounced, "Here lyeth a man who in his life never feared the face of man, who hath been often threatened with dagfer, but yet hath ended his dayes in peace and honour."

John Knox's books and books about him are easily found as free downloads from sites such as [Project Gutenberg](#) and [Classicy](#).



Top 5 Fishing Spots in Scotland

1. River Tweed – The "Queen of Salmon Rivers"
2. Loch Fitty – Best known for its Rainbow and Brown Trout
3. River Tay – There is a salmon season and a brown trout season
4. River Findhorn – Salmon, grilse, and sea trout
5. River Spey – Scotland's second longest river



Travel Scotland

The Scotch Whisky Experience

354 Castlehill, on the Royal Mile.

Open 7 days

This spirited insight into the world of Scotland's most famous export takes you from its very beginnings as a cottage industry through to the global success it is today.

The whisky tour starts with a swirling, bubbling barrel ride through a replica distillery as you become part of the whisky making process.

Along the way you'll hear the stories behind this magical craft. Throughout your interactive tour our expert guides and whisky advisors are with you every sip of the way.

The tour finishes with a close-up look at the world's largest collection of Scotch Whisky.

<http://www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk/>



Word of the Month

Bucksturdie: Obstinate

buk sturdi

Scottish Humor

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and he will sit in the boat all day drinking beer."

Lachlan McLachlan



There was a young Scotsman named Fisher
Who was fishing for fish in a fissure.
Then a cod, with a grin,
Pulled the fisherman in.
Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher.

E-mail from a former member

Thank you for sending the most recent Thistle to me. I see that the Celtic New Year is coming up shortly and I expect it to be another huge success. I miss it, but I am still trying to start one here in North Carolina.

Please inform all those that were involved with that and with the Highland games that I keep them all in my heart and I may be back there next summer.

John R. Strachan



Membership Dues

Update your contact and family information. Be sure to note your Family/Clan background. Circle the areas of activity you are interested in. Volunteer to help with the Alaskan Highland Games. Fill out the form on the next page and send it in with your dues. [Or go to the Alaskan Scottish Club website to print an application.](#)

BE INVOLVED!

Board meetings are **OPEN** to all members and visitors. Come let your voice be heard! Volunteer to be on a committee for the next event. Upcoming events: St. Andrew's Day, Burns Supper, Clan Gathering, and, of course, the Games

2012 Alaskan Scottish Highland Games

Come to the next Games meeting, November 17th, 2011. All are welcome. There are jobs, some small, some large. Some you will be great at! Come and shine. This is a great experience.

My first year of involvement, 2011, was a great time of learning and making great friendships. I had the opportunity to use my skills, to develop new skills and to grow.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN ANCHORAGE FALL 2011

The Anchorage Scottish Country Dancing group is currently meeting at the Fairview Recreation Center every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. everyone is welcome, from total beginners to experienced dancers. We'll teach new people everything you need to enjoy dancing, plus we have plenty of harder dances for experience people!

Our dates this Fall are September 12 through November 14, at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The cost per session is a bit higher than formerly the whole 10-night session is \$40.00, and you can attend one evening for \$7.00. Sorry for the price increase, but it's happening at all municipal facilities.

Please bring a pair of shoes with soft, clean soles (not the shoes you arrived in), or you can dance in your socks. This is to protect the good dance floor. Also, if you wish to bring a child younger than 12, please contact us beforehand.

Scottish Country Dancing is a traditional activity throughout Scotland. It's an ancestor of square dancing and clogging. We do dances that date from the early 1700s to just last year. There are many groups in North America and worldwide, so you can use your skills if you travel. SCD is not as demanding as Highland Dancing, but it will get your blood moving! We like to learn and improve our dancing, but most of all, to have fun.

For more information, contact:

Vivian Mendenhall

fsgadair@attalasc.com – 345-7124

Amber Rose

arosaich@hotmail.com – 333-4982



Membership Form

Alaskan Scottish Club, PO Box 244416, Anchorage, AK 99524-4416.

Email info@alaskascottish.org

Website www.alaskascottish.org

Membership Type: Single \$15.00 Family \$30.00
 New Renewal (due yearly in January) Update Information

SURNAME: _____ FIRST: _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HM PHONE: _____ WK PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU: _____

FAMILY/CLAN BACKGROUND: _____

I am interested in: (circle all that apply)

(The Alaska Scottish Club will provide your contact details onto groups concerning these activities)

Membership Activities	Event Management	Assisting at Club Events	Fund Raising
Website Management	Newsletter Editor	Researching Events	Committee Member
Bagpipes \ Drumming	Highland Dancing	Country Dancing	Kilting
Scottish Food \ Recipes	Scottish Literature	Gaelic \ Scots Language	Travel to Scotland

Providing short-term day care for members working on club actives

Other: _____

We are always looking for assistance with the organization of the Highland Games along with assistance in the setting up and day of the games. If you are willing to assist us with the highland games please circle that apply and a member of the games committee will contact you.

Assisting with Games Organization
Assisting at the Games

Assisting with Setup or Pull Down of the Games
Hosting Officials and Athletes for the Games

The Alaskan Scottish Club is a nonprofit 501© entity and can accept cash and services. Cash donations are welcome at any time of the year. For those with corporate matching programs, we are eligible for those funds. You can contact the Board of Directors at the above address regarding sponsor relationships and specific questions.



Alaskan Scottish Club
 PO Box 244416
 Anchorage, AK 99524

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October 2011

NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 22th. Send to Jamey at jameylynn@live.com.

Club Calendar

Welcome all new members!
 We hope to see you at our next event.

Open Board Meeting

November 14th, 6:00 p.m.
 2550 Denali Street, 13th Floor

Games Meeting

November 17th, 6:00 p.m.
 2550 Denali Street, 11th floor
 Contact: Chris Anderson @ 868-5389

Burns Night

January 21st, 2012
 Watch for details.

Scottish Country Dancing
 Fairview Recreation Center
 Mondays – 6:30 p.m., Sept 12-Nov 14, 2011
 Cost: \$7 per session

The Tundra Thistle, the newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club, is published approximately 6 - 8 times each year. Subscription is by membership to the Alaskan Scottish Club. Send Articles for publication, membership information, and advertising rate inquiries to:

Editor, Tundra Thistle
 Alaskan Scottish Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 244416
 Anchorage, AK 99524-4416

Editor: Jamey Lynn Cordery

Alaskan Scottish Club

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