



Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 31 Number 1

January 2025

Happy Hogmanay!!

Coming Events:



Burns Night Murder Mystery Dinner

By Sheri Borchert

A traditional Burns Night with a startling twist!

Details:

- **Date:** Saturday January 25, 2025
- **Time:** 6pm-9pm
- **Location:** 49th State Brewery Theater
- **Tickets:** \$90 (Scottish Club Members, \$100 for nonmembers)
- **Theme/Dress Code:** This is great opportunity to sport your family tartan

Step into a world of suspense, intrigue, and delicious dining! Our upcoming Murder Mystery Dinner promises an evening filled with thrills and laughter as you become part of a live, interactive whodunit.

In the quiet Scottish Island of Islay about nothing ever happens. Life goes on, much as it has for countless years, springtime, tourist season, harvest, Hogmanay, Burns Night. Island life is tranquil and the islanders peaceable. At least they all *thought* they were.

This afternoon, the whisky baron of Glen Frick Whisky distillery, Toby Mory, was found in a vat full of his finest malt! And he wasn't treading water while he sampled the latest batch. Oh no! He was dead – murdered no less!

Not only has the news of his death rocked the island, but it now appears one of the more colorful local residents could be the person responsible for Toby Mory's untimely demise. The question is, which one is it?

Throughout the evening, clues will emerge, secrets will be revealed, and everyone will have a chance to play detective.

Between courses of a delectable meal, you'll unravel riddles, interrogate suspects, and try to solve the case before the final reveal. Whether you're a sleuth at heart or just looking for a fun night out, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Get ready to laugh, strategize, and immerse yourself in a night of entertainment that will keep you guessing until the very end. Reserve your spot today—spaces are limited, and you don't want to be left out of this thrilling evening!

Who will crack the case? Maybe it'll be you!

Save the Date:

Fur Rondy Frostbite Footrace

By Amberle Wright

The Clans of the Alaska Scottish Club are gearing up for a frosty adventure! Join us as Team Frosty Scots in the 2025 Frostbite Footrace in Anchorage, Alaska.

📅 When: February 2025 (Exact Date TBD)

📍 Where: Anchorage, AK

🎭 Costume Theme: Snowmen with tartans and kilts – a blend of frosty fun with Scottish flair!

Let's represent our heritage, spread some cheer, and have a snow-filled blast! Stay tuned for more details.

Get your tartans ready and your scarves wrapped – the Frosty Scots are here to race!

We've won the costume competition 3 years in a row – let's make it four! We plan to walk or run the 2 ½ K (one-lap) route, although team members are totally able to sign up to run the 5K and still be on the team!

Obituaries:

Tim Kincaid



By Meghan Card, Tim's daughter,
Written on December 19, 2024.
Shared with permission.

My heart is shattered. This morning after a short battle with pancreatic cancer, my dad died. I'm thankful the end was quick but I wanted just a little more time.

My dad was a larger than life man and one of many talents - a loving husband, fantastic bagpiper and pipe major/instructor, king of both fish stories and the best homemade smoked salmon, an excellent father and grandpa, independent and stubborn to a fault, chef in his own right who could make magic in the kitchen without a recipe, beginning woodworker, an author, a generous friend, a former Scottish Highland Games director who gave many their start in the sport and built a community and successful event that still continues today, a self made business man and world traveler, owner of a smile that could light up a room and a voice so similar to his twin's that it confused everyone, a card shark, and more.

But to me, the most important thing is he was my dad...the man who taught me to work hard, love well, and to fish as often as possible, and believed in me and loved me.

Fishing was "our thing" - my dad had me out fishing almost as soon as I could walk. Every year from my 13th birthday on, he would take me on a fishing charter for my birthday. He often had a heavy workload in the summer but we would be sure to get a number of trips out to the rivers and lakes in addition to our marine charter. He liked to tell people that I would catch my limit before he even got his waders on...though in all fairness, I think it only happened twice.

I love you dad, and I'll keep teaching the boys the lessons you taught me. Wishing we'd had more time but thankful for

all the years we got. I don't know how I'm going to fish the Russian alone this year, have your birthday without you being there to request my homemade strawberry rhubarb pie, try to smoke fish without your guidance, hear bagpipes without sobbing, play a game of cribbage or pinochle without hearing your voice, or step on the Games field knowing you're not there to give me a hard time about talking too much. ❤️

No parents are perfect but you and mama were a pretty dynamite pair and you made fabulous grandparents too. Love and miss you forever.

Tim Kincaid's Celebration of Life will be January 4th at 2pm at Eagle River Grace Church in Chugiak. We will have a reception afterwards with light appetizers and desserts (if you want to bring anything, please text Anne Kincaid at 907-230-1407). The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend.

Words from Larry Brock:

Years ago I was introduced to Tim Kincaid and he invited me up to compete in the First Professional Class at the Alaska Scottish Games. We were in Eagle River at that time and the games became one of my all-time favorites. I looked forward to going every summer and spending time with Tim and Meghan Card and Anne Kincaid. My last games ever was in Alaska and that also was because of Tim he invited me back up to retire when I was well past my prime.

He taught me how to fish the Russian river, he took me Halibut fishing along with many other great memories in Alaska. He introduced me to so many great Alaskans like Bill Sharlow and Sharon Sharlow and Dave and Linda Wallace and many other throwers and judges and Volunteers . The games have grown by leaps and bounds in Alaska and a lot of that had to do with Tim.

I still remember the fishing trips with Greg Bell and James Parman and Harrison Bailey III and Andrew Hobson and Ryan Stewart and Jason Sharlow many years ago. As time passed I would talk to Tim from time to time the last time I saw him I was lucky enough to bring my family up and he got to fish with my kids on the Russian.

I still laugh about the first time he met me and he said "You're not as big as I thought you were" hahahaha I still hear him saying that in my mind and the memories are still there of all the fun times camping and fishing.

So lucky to have known Tim and his family and I am honored to have been associated with the Alaskan Highland Throwers and the Alaska Highland Games. Tim is in Heaven and he is looking down on us. I love you Tim and thank you for everything. Rest in Peace.



John Renwick Stachan

John Stachan passed away at his home in Morgantown, N.C. on October 30, 2024 with his wife Joyce and his son Don by his side. After graduating from University of Virginia School of Law, John moved to Alaska seeking new opportunities at the cusp of growth of this new frontier. He spent the next 45 years as a partner at various law firms before going into private practice. He watched buildings sway from his Fourth Avenue office during the 1964 earthquake.

He was an active member of the Anchorage Lion's Club, the Anchorage Bar Association and the Alaskan Scottish Club. He was also the co-founder of the Celtic Community of Alaska as it graduated from its protégé relationship with the Alaskan Scottish Club.

Keen to learn new skills and proud of his Scottish heritage, John learned to play the bagpipes, a test of patience that was not inherent to his personality. He was always amazed that the Alaska Highlanders let him play with them.

John married Joyce Epley Lanier in 2004, closed his law practice, and the two built a home in Morgantown.

John was a man of dry humor and wit. He enjoyed reading, particularly historical non-fiction. He was an avid reader of first edition material about Captain Cook's voyages. He restored vintage cars, including his grandmother's 1923 Buick and his 1966 Austin Healy, both of which he drove in 4th of July parades.

Graveside services were held at Burke Memorial Park, N.C. with Reverend Logan Miller officiating.

The Tundra Thistle Transitions to Quarterly Publication

Dear readers of The Tundra Thistle,

We have a significant update to share regarding our publication schedule. After careful consideration and in response to evolving reader feedback and changing industry trends, The Tundra Thistle will be shifting from a monthly publication to a quarterly one starting in January 2025. Time-sensitive information, such as event updates will be shared via email, facebook and other media to keep members informed in the intervening months.

This decision was not made lightly. Our editorial team has always been dedicated to delivering timely, insightful, and impactful content to you, our loyal readers. By moving to a quarterly schedule, we believe we can enhance the depth and breadth of our articles, bringing you even more comprehensive and well-researched features.

This change allows us more time to delve into the stories that matter most, providing you with richer narratives, in-depth analysis, and a wider range of perspectives. We are committed to maintaining the high standards of journalism you expect from The Tundra Thistle while also adapting to the ever-changing landscape of media consumption.

Our upcoming issues will be released in March, June, September, and December, each packed with the quality content you've come to love and expect. We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to continuing to serve you with even greater excellence.

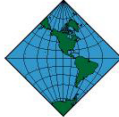
We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we make this transition. Our mission remains steadfast: to be your trusted source of news, insights, and stories from the tundra and beyond.

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team at The Tundra Thistle

Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:	
<p>Crow Creek Pipes & Drums Practice every Monday, 6:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2610 E Northern lights Blvd Piping and Drumming lessons Tuesday 6-7pm Contact Chris Walker at aewalker@mtaonline.net for further information. http://crowcreekpd.com/</p>	<p>Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org</p>
<p>Alaska Celtic Pipes & Drums Lessons Tuesdays - 6:30 pm - Mat-Su College; Lessons Fridays - 5:30 pm - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chugiak: Band Practice to follow. Contact Richard Christiansen - 907-315-9838 www.alaskacelticpipesdrums.org</p>	<p>Anchorage Scottish Pipe Band Practices Monday, 6:00 to 8:00pm (Anchorage) and Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30pm (Eagle River) Lessons: Thursdays, 6:00pm (Eagle River), or by appointment Contact: Kerry MacMillan Howard, 907-250-3459; Email: arcticmac@gci.net Find us on Facebook</p>
	<p>City of Juneau Pipe Band Juneau, Alaska www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org</p>

Scottish Club Supporters/Club Contacts

<p>MAPPING SOLUTIONS</p>  <p>Custom maps and graphics (907) 561-4627 Mapmakers.com</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>AMANDA KERR SUZUKI VIOLIN & FIDDLE STUDIO Weekly Private Lessons and Group Classes for Age 3 and up Variety of fiddle styles!</p>  <p>Register NOW online for Spring Semester Jan. 14th - May 21st</p> <p>Complete information available on the website: www.amandakerrmusic.com</p> <p><small>Amanda Kerr holds State, Regional, and National titles for Fiddling and is teacher-certified in the Suzuki Method (Every Child Can, Suzuki Principles in Action, Violin Units 1 & 2), and Music Mind Games.</small></p> </div>
<p>RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP</p>  <p>online to www.alaskanscottish.org and click the membership link. Mail a check to ASC, PO Box 244416, Anchorage, AK 99524. Call 907-602-0901 and provide payment information. Visit the ASC booth community events to pay in person.</p>	<p>Club Scholarship Program</p> <p>The Alaskan Scottish Club Education Assistance Program offers individual grants up to \$500 per applicant for schools or workshops and up to \$1,500 for a post-secondary educational institution. See the club's website for more information and to access the application https://alaskanscottish.org/club-membership/</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Committee chair, Christa Wallace at Volunteers@alaskanscottish.org</p> <p>Back Issues of the Thistle</p> <p>Ever wanted to check out old issues of the Thistle? Maybe to find that steak pie recipe from two years ago, or see who won the tug-o-war at last year's Games? Back issues may be found at: https://us11.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=6523ba4c42aca618e88eb6b99&id=f54a8e4ad1</p>
<p>Gaming Permit</p> <p>The ASC possesses an Alaska Gaming Permit. This Permit allows the club to hold our fundraising raffles and auctions. The ASC is allowed to use our permit to sponsor raffles for other Non-Profits for their events and fundraisers. If you are in need of a gaming permit for an upcoming event please let us know.</p>	<p>Alaska EasyBiz</p> <p>The Club can earn airline miles at the same time you earn your own! The Easy Biz program allows the club to earn 1 mile for every dollar spent on the base fare portion of ticket purchases made online through the EasyBiz® website. Simply sign in to EasyBiz for your travel purchases and each purchase will automatically be credited to the Club's account along with your own! Interested in signing up? Send Jeni an email and she will get you on our account! jeni@alaskanscottish.org</p>

Club Calendar

<p>Tim Kincaid Memorial Service January 4th at 2pm Eagle River Grace Church in Chugiak</p>
<p>Scottish Club Board Meeting January 20 6 pm Blood Bank of Alaska Board Room</p>
<p>Burns Night January 25, 2025 49th State Theater</p>
<p>Scottish-American History Month April 2024 Stay tuned for more information</p>
<p>Alaska Scottish Highland Games June 28 and 29, 2025 Alaska State Fairgrounds, Palmer</p>
<p>Tartan Tourney July 26, 2025 Settler's Bay Golf Course</p>

The Tundra Thistle, the newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club, is published approximately 4 times each year. Subscription is by membership to the Alaskan Scottish Club. Send articles for publication, membership info, and advertising rate inquiries to:

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Thanks to our contributors for the November issue: Cathy Steen, Jeni McDaniel, Sherri Borchert, Georgia Barkwood, Christa Wallace, David Wallace.

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The Alaskan Scottish Club is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) 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 with questions. Facebook and Instagram contacts are:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlaskanScottish (Club page)
www.facebook.com/alaskashg (Highland Games page)
Instagram: www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish

NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25th. Send to tundrathistle@alaskanscottish.org



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