



Tundra Thistle

The Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

Volume 26 Number 1

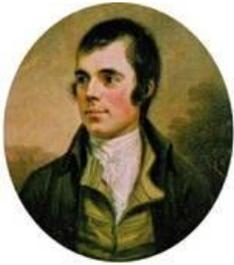
January 2020

Coming Events:

Hogmanay

The Alaskan Scottish Club's Clans and Families group invites you to join us for a Hogmanay celebration at Reilly's Irish Pub on **January 4 from 7 – 10 p.m.** The Pub will be providing a hearty soup, and the Scottish Club will provide sandwiches to complement the libations. There will be piping and a "first-footing scavenger hunt." Come enjoy this Scottish New Year celebration with your club!

Burns Night 2020



Have you RSVPed for Burns Night 2020? **You must RSVP by January 20th** so that we can give the meal count to the hotel. **The event is at 6 pm on January 25** at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Bensen Boulevard. The hotel is offering discounted hotel rooms, just mention that you're attending our event.

Here is the menu for the evening:

Appetizer: Individual Bite Size Haggis

First Course: Green Salad: Mixed Greens, sliced cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, carrots and house dressing (dressing preset on tables)

Choice of Second Course:

Grilled New York Steak topped with a Scotch Demi-Glace. Served with Clapshot and Seasonal Vegetables

OR

Crab Crusted Halibut topped with a Lemon Herb Beurre Blanc. Served with Clapshot and Seasonal Vegetables

OR

The Haggis with Clapshot and Seasonal Vegetables

Third Course: Berry Trifle

The ticket price includes dinner and a shot of scotch (or a nonalcoholic substitute) and entertainment includes a performance by Alaska Celtic Pipes and Drums, the toasts to the haggis, the Rabbie Burns, and to the Laddies and the Lassies. Dress is formal, with men in kilts and women in gowns – sometimes even in period costumes from our Scottish heritage. Tickets are \$70 for Scottish Club members, \$75 for non-members. See RSVP form on page 3 to sign up.

Please contact Rod or Cathy for more information!

Happy Hogmanay! How to Celebrate with Scottish Flavor!

Rev. Amberle Wright

Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year, and Hogmanay celebrations are actually bigger than Christmas in Scotland! Some would even call it "The Biggest Day of the Year".

The origins of Hogmanay date back to the Winter Solstice among the Vikings and their celebration of passing the shortest day of the year. The word may come from the Scandinavian word for the feast preceding Yule, "Hoggnott".

Scottish New Year's Eve celebrations are probably as old as those Norsemen who once trudged the heathery Highlands, and are as much beloved by modern Scots as by their ancestors. Many ancient superstitions and traditions are still practiced today.



So how can you celebrate?

Hogmanay is an incredibly individualistic holiday. Each family and each city or village have their own treasured traditions – but always with a party and singing Robert Burns' Auld Lang Syne at the Bells.

Continued on page 2

Games Meetings Begin

The 39th Annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games is June 27, 2020! Are you interested in getting involved? Well you are in luck because the Planning for the 2020 Games is getting ready to start! We have an amazing group of volunteers with the games each year and we would love to have you join the team!

The first planning meeting will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6:15 pm at Orchard Park, 2903 Tanglewood Drive Anchorage, AK 99517. Please do not plan on arriving earlier than 6 pm as this is a place of business. We will be discussing open volunteer positions along with planning the timeline of future meetings. Can't make the meeting in person? Feel free to call in, 602-359-4893.

Even if you don't take a lead position, there is plenty of work to be done and we can always find something for you to do. If you are interested in helping on the Games Planning Committee or would like more info please contact Games Coordinator Jeni McDaniel by email at ashgcoordinator@gmail.com or 602-359- 4893."

Hogmanay, continued from page 1

Here are ways you can begin or continue celebrating your New Year's Eve with a touch of Scottish flavor:

Give cakes (Black Bun) to tall, dark, and handsome strangers. But watch out for the redheads.

Go first-footing after midnight, visiting friends, family and neighbors, bringing gifts of shortbread and whisky to wish the householder good luck for the New Year.

Join revelers in Dundee by decorating herrings to bring to your neighbors.

Clean house! Pay special attention to your fireplace, and when you've scooped out all the ashes look them over carefully for prophecies of the year to come.

Bless your house and livestock or pets by sprinkling water everywhere, purifying with burning juniper branches, and opening all of your windows. Once you've finished coughing and gasping and shivering, take a swig or two of whisky.

Make your own swinging fireballs like they do in Stonehaven! Just make a cage out of chicken wire—and stuff it with some flammables (paper, rags, etc.). Attach a chain and at midnight, swing it around your head before throwing your ball into the nearest harbor. Doesn't that sound like fun? Or just have a bonfire at home.

Drink plenty of whisky. And then, if you're really in the Hogmanay spirit, you'll make a New Year's Resolution and say, "Ne'er again!"

Create your own torchlight procession, like those in Falkland, Fife and at the Edinburgh street parties.

Partake in lots of Scottish food with such delicacies as haggis, venison pie, a Scots crumpet or two, rumbledethumps, shortbread (served with cheese), girdle scones; finish off with Drambuie ice cream and a cloutie dumpling.

On January 1 it's common to have a steak pie dinner.

Complete your celebrations with a jolly rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Robert Burns is responsible for the lyrics that we all know and love, but according to him it was, "an old song, of the olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man."

"Auld Lang Syne" may be translated "Old Long Since", or "Long, Long Ago", "Days Gone By", or "Old Times".

However you choose to celebrate, Have a Safe and Joyous Hogmanay!



Notice: Memberships expire December 31 each year. Dues are due January 1. If you haven't paid your 2020 dues, you may do so online at alaskascottish.org, or by filling out and mailing the form on page 5.

Recipe of the Month:

Amberle mentioned black bun and steak pie as being two traditional Hogmanay dishes. In searching for recipes, I found that black bun should be made a week or two before eating and allowed to age – so here is a steak pie recipe found at allrecipes.com in the Scottish Hogmanay food section. It can be made with beef or game meat – I'm going to try it with caribou!

The recipe was created by JIMZGRL, and here is her introduction to it: "This recipe was created by trying to copy a steak pie made at the 'Butt and Ben' Scottish Bakery in Pickering, Ontario. My husband says it's better! You could also add 2 calf kidneys (well washed and de-veined and cut into bite sized pieces) to make Steak and Kidney Pie!"



Steak Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 (1 ounce) package dry mushroom gravy mix
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pinch salt and pepper to taste
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water

Directions:

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef stew meat, and cook until browned on the outside. Add the onion; cook and stir until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in the mushroom gravy mix and 1 cup of water. Season with Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Turn heat to low, and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Transfer the beef mixture to a casserole dish. Roll out the puff pastry to cover the top of the casserole dish. Press edges onto the rim of the dish to seal. Whisk together the egg and 1 tablespoon of water in a small cup using a fork. Brush over the top of the pastry.
3. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until the pastry is puffed and golden brown.

December Board Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2019, at the Petroleum Club of Anchorage

Attendance: Joan Massart-Paden, Lisa Caress-Beu, Ron Norris, Rod Finkle, Cathy Steen, Amberle Wright, Jeni McDaniel, Meg Voss

Guests: Preston McKee, Tracy Turner

Call to order: 6pm

Approval of the Minutes: Rod moved that the minutes be approved, Cathy seconded with one correction. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Ron Norris presented the treasurer's report. Lisa moved that the report be approved, Meg seconded. Discussion: Cathy suggests that the Bank of America CD/Credit Card be listed in the Treasurer's Report in the future. Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Vote on Board Member: Rod moved that Preston McKee fill the vacant position on the board. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Preston will fill the position vacated by Becky Bartels. It was suggested that a policy be written for filling board positions that have been vacated mid-year.

Committee Reports:

ASC Clans and Families Group: Amberle reported; the Clan Brunch in Palmer was small but successful. Hogmaney is January 4, 2020 at Reilly's Pub. Jenny Stewart will be the bagpiper. Amberle moved that the ASC support this AK Highland Clans Committee event by contributing \$200.00 to the costs of the event. Jeni seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dottie McKee made tartan shopping bags out of the tartan fabric that Dan Henderson donated. Bags are for sale for \$25.00.

St. Andrews Night: November 30, 2019 @ Petroleum Club: Joan reported. The event was a great success. 78 people attended. The silent auction was nice.

Burn's Night: January 25, 2020

Cathy and Rod reported that the event location is the Embassy Suites Hotel on Benson Blvd. They presented the budget for the event – the event cost was raised to \$70.00 for members and \$75.00 for non-members. Speakers for all speeches except the "Toast to the Laddies". There are two people that have expressed some interest.

Alaska Scottish Highland Games: Jeni reported. She has started contacting former committee chairs and volunteers. Cathy has some concerns that some club expenses are being paid out of ASHG funds, but that perhaps they can just be shown as transfers to the club from the games.

Thistle Editor: Cathy Steen continues to do a great job with our AS Club newsletter. She encourages members to submit items of interest to the club.

Scholarships: Jeni McDaniel's application that was approved was given to Ron Norris so that she can be reimbursed for her expenses involved with her research/education trip.

Old Business:

1. All Budgets: ASHG projected budget was discussed. The budget is slightly higher than in the past.
2. Trail Clean-up– Preston McKee reported that he is still waiting to hear back from Muni of Anchorage.
3. Website: Jeni reported that she had contacted 4 other companies besides the one that Ron had contacted. She recommends that we go with the company that Ron had contacted. Rod moved that the board approve the website committee's suggestion of Alopex Inter-Design. Cathy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Holiday Gift Exchange was fun!

Next Meeting: Monday, January 20, 2020 at 6 pm at the PCA.

Adjournment: Ron moved to adjourn. Rod seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.



Scottish Fun Facts

Interesting facts about Scotland and the Scots

Researched and submitted by Rod Finkle

- Scotland has the highest waterfall in Britain, with a height of 658 feet which is four times more than that of the Niagara Falls. The Waterfall is called *Eas Coul Aulin* which is situated in the county of Sutherland, Scotland.
- Tiree is the windiest place in Scotland having an average gust of over 100 miles per hour
- 11% of Scottish people have red hair – a higher percentage than in any other country.
- 61% of American Presidents are of Scots or Scots-Irish descent.

RSVP Card – ROBERT BURNS DINNER – January 25, 2020

Name _____ E-mail address _____ Tel # _____

I have enclosed my 2020 club membership dues: \$15 Individual () or \$30 Family () OR

I have already paid my 2020 dues().

() I will have _____ 2020 member guest(s) at \$70 each: Total \$ _____

() I will have _____ non-member guest(s) at \$75 each: Total \$ _____

[Tables accommodate 8 guests]

Total enclosed \$ _____

Meal Choice (select for each guest):

_____ Steak _____ Halibut _____ Haggis _____ Vegetarian

() My check is enclosed.

Mail to: Cathy Steen, Burns Co-chair, 23622 Greatland Drive, Chugiak, AK, 99567

OR to pay by credit card, call Cathy at (907) 440-6540

To guarantee a seat, RSVP by 20 January

Contact Information for Alaska Pipe Bands:

<p>Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band P.O. 82782 Fairbanks, Alaska www.fairbanksredhacklepipeband.org</p>	<p>Trinity Pipe Band Meets Tuesday, 6 pm Trinity Presbyterian Church Contact: Danny Koch @ 907.230.6430 Email: pipeband@trinityceltic.org</p>
<p>Alaska Celtic Pipes & Drums Lessons on Tuesdays - 6:30 pm - Mat-Su College; Lessons on 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 Meets on Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 Lutheran Church of Hope, 1847 W. Northern Lights Find us on Facebook</p>
<p>Crow Creek Pipes & Drums Every Saturday, 9 am – beginners, 10 am – band First Congregational Church http://crowcreekpd.com/</p>	<p>Anchorage Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band Find us on Facebook: Anchorage Fire Fighters Pipe & Drum Band</p>
<p>City of Juneau Pipe Band Juneau, Alaska www.cityofjuneaupipeband.org</p>	<p>Pipe bands – to update your information, please contact Cathy Steen at csteen@gci.net</p>

Scottish Club Supporters

 <p align="center">Joan Massart-Paden, CAS 907-229-0022 Email:adstrategies@icoud.com</p>	<p align="center">AK Natural Stone Craft <i>Quality Custom Granite & Marble Design</i> Rafal Markiewicz 1341 E. 70th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99518 Phone: 907.344.2158 Cell: 907.351.8881 aknaturalstonecraft@yahoo.com</p>
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Club Calendar

Hogmanay Celebration

January 4, 7 – 10 pm
Reilly's Pub, 317 W. Fireweed Lane

Games Meeting

January 15, 6:15 pm
Orchard Park
More information on page 1

Scottish Club Board Meeting

January 20 6 pm
Petroleum Club of Anchorage

Burn's Night

January 25, 2020 @ 6 pm
Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 E. Bensen Blvd

Annual General Meeting

February – details next Thistle!

Alaska Scottish Highland Games

June 27, 2020

NOTE: Thistle information gratefully received at all times. However, to make the monthly deadline, please submit by the 25th. Send to Cathy at csteen@gci.net.

The Tundra Thistle, the newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club, is published approximately 11 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

Thanks to our contributors for the January Thistle: Lisa Caress-Beu, Amberle Wright, Rod Finkle., Jeni McDaniel

Alaskan Scottish Club

Board of Directors

Joan Massart-Paden	President	907-229-0022
Rod Finkle	VP	finkle@arctic.net
Lisa Caress-Beu	Secretary	info@celtictreasuresak.com
Ron Norris	Treasurer	ronldnorris@gmail.com
Cathy Steen	Thistle ed.	csteen@gci.net
Jeni McDaniel		jenimcd@icloud.com
Amberlee Wright		amberle1112@yahoo.com
Meg Voss		mediagirl52@gmail.com

Board Emeritus: Robert J. Dickson

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/alaskashq (Highland Games page)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/alaskanscottish

Alaskan Scottish Club
PO Box 244416
Anchorage, AK 99524

