



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



June 2017

Welcome to our monthly report of events and activities of our Society. We are always looking for information to share with our members, so if you have a birth or wedding or know of a special event, please send a photo along with relevant information to president@macdougall.org.

Ashby's Reflections

Deagh-chàirdean
Good Friends

Seo a' chuairt-litir dheireannach a sgrìobh mi. Thig crìoch air an teirm-rèime agam an 7mh dhen Iuchar. Ge-tà tha mi fìor-thoilichte aithisgean dhà fhèis sònraichte a thaisbeanadh dhaibh am mìos seo.

This is my final monthly newsletter. My term as President of the Society ends early in the Grandfather Mountain Games gathering. I am very pleased, under the circumstances, to be able to provide reports on two festivals that are very special to me.

The Society has attended a small gathering, previously known as the McHenry Highland Festival, for many years. The late Alan Miles MacDougall, former Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioner and Chaplain for the Society, and his wife Jeanne, former Recording Secretary of the Society, were friends of the organizers and attended for many years. When I become Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioner, I continued the tradition for three years, after which our attendance lapsed. The games were held in a fairground near Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland and drew people from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. There were ground hard supports under the lawn just behind the tent area where a car could be parked, ready to receive delicate display items in the (likely) event of a storm, and depart after two days rain without spinning down to one or both axles. There were only a half-dozen tents at the Festival but sufficient visitors to make hosting fun. The fairground buildings housed crafts, authors, and prize animals. Bonnie Rideout held out on a large stage with violin, viola, and musicology. (Bonnie sings the viola as piobaireachd on the link [MacDougall's Gathering](#).) There were always other good performers as well. Some games are attended for the splendor. This one was to sustain the soul. Cathy and Bill McHoul, our current Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioners returned to these games this year, now moved a few miles down the road to Friendsville.

On May 27, we held the Society's annual general meeting at

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New Members

Charlotte Osborne
Saint Regis, MT

Gordon J. Duguid
Frostburg, MD

Volunteers

Our Society is a volunteer organization that needs contributions of time and skill from its membership. If you would like to help in our events or volunteer in another capacity, please contact your Regional Commissioner or your State/Provincial Representative listed on our web site or send an email to president@macdougall.org telling us of your interests.

Tents at Highland Games

the Scottish Fest on the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa California. It went very well, a testimony to the planning and work that Darleen Weisz put into this project. There are reports in this issue on various aspects of the events at the Scottish Fest and further comment here would be mostly superfluous. But I need to express my appreciation to Darleen for arranging that our events were supported by talented pipers, dancers, and a balladeer that were members or scholarship winners or just friends of the Society. It was a three-day cèilidh and great fun.

Le meas // Respectfully

Tòmas MacCòmhghan//Thomas Ashby McCown
Ceann-suidhe // President

Garrett County Celtic Festival June 3, 2017 Reported by Cathy McHoul

The Garrett County Festival is a small-town festival in Western Maryland, near the West Virginia and Pennsylvania lines, and very cute. The residents walk to the festival. We had people coming to the MacDougall/MacDowall tent all day. Everyone was very friendly and had lots of questions. The mayor came around to judge the clan tents. The pork food vendors were also the farmers that raised the meat and very proud of their sandwiches. If you are into music, there was excellent music until 8pm. There were activities for children along with a great playground. It is definitely a family-friendly festival. We signed up a member that is coming back from a brief absence. Two other MacDougalls showed a great deal of interest. As someone not from that area, it was easy to pick up good info about the surroundings, a great area to do all the tourist stuff.



The festival will be June 2nd next year. The area has multiple hotels/motels and restaurants. Maybe we will see even more of our clan then.

Scottish Fest Orange County, CA May 27-28, 2017 Reported by Darleen Weisz

June

3 - Garrett County Celtic Festival
Friendsville, MD

16-18 Pikes Peak Celtic Festival
Colorado Springs, CO

24 - Ohio Scottish Games and Celtic Festival
Wellington, OH

24-25 San Diego Highland Games and Gathering
San Diego, CA

July

1- Embro Highland Games
Embro, ON

6-9 Grandfather Mountain Games
Linville, NC

8- Kincardine Scottish Festival
Kincardine, ON

15- Cambridge Scottish Festival
Cambridge, ON

15- Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games
Farmington, MN

August

12- Fergus Scottish Festival
Fergus, ON

24- Argyllshire Gathering
Oban, Scotland

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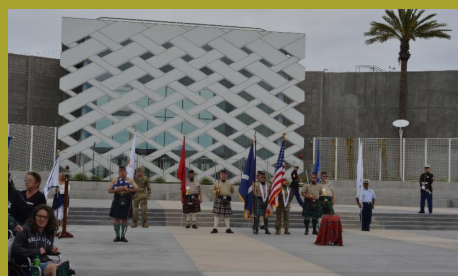
Facebook Page

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

<https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall/?>



It was a very special Scottish Fest in Orange County this last May when local MacDougalls and MacDowalls welcomed clan folks from all parts of the US and Canada as we gathered for the Society's Annual General Meeting. Friday night, a group met for dinner at the local Fireside Tavern and began a weekend of meeting, greeting, and sharing family doings and our Clan heritage.



Throughout Saturday and Sunday, Society officers and members gathered at our tents to meet with people and enjoy festival events, especially the march of over seventy clans with the pipe bands to

salute veterans of our uniform services on this Memorial Day weekend. Emma Schiff, a current world champion Highland dancer and John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship winner, came by to meet us and say thanks. Rafe Lopez, piper with the University of California at Riverside pipe band, expert on 18th century highland dress, and Clan MacDougall Society stalwart, dropped by our tents and piped our spirits high.



Rafe

Saturday night, we all celebrated our gathering together at the

[fref=ts](#)

Twitter

twitter.com/Clan_MacDougall

Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December. Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years through Paypal at:

<http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

Submissions

Persons wishing to submit articles, or photos, of interest to our newsletters may contact:

The Editor of The Tartan at
editor@macdougall.org

or

The Editor of the Monthly Newsletter

at:

president@macdougall.org

Your Contact Information

Please send your email, telephone, or postal address changes to:

records@macdougall.org

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Newport Mesa Hotel, hosted by President Ashby McCown and Pacific Crescent Commissioner Cuff Burrell. We began with a social hour, followed by a taco buffet dinner. We were delighted to have local Society member Tony Bird singing Scottish folk songs and telling stories, and Scholarship winner Beret Dembach dancing. Chrsy Orcholski piped us from dinner into the AGM Meeting that followed.



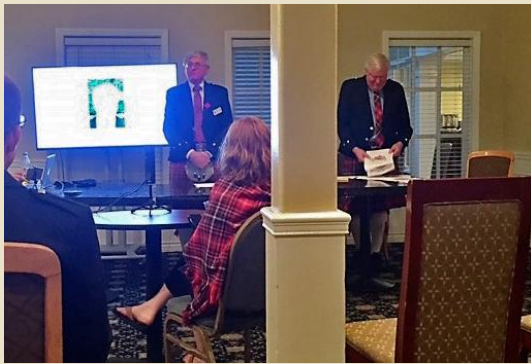
Tony.



Beret.

Annual General Meeting

It is the policy of the Clan MacDougall Society to hold its annual general meeting every other year at a different place than its traditional site in Linville, North Carolina, during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. This year the meeting was held in conjunction with the Scottish Fest on Memorial Day weekend at the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, California. It was felt that this site offered many advantages: California is home to more Society members than any other state (as it was in 1965, the year the Society was founded); transportation to the Games site is simple; there are many good hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions nearby; and the Scottish Fest is a major event for Scots in California. Our Southern California State Representative, Darleen Weisz coordinated the various parts of this gathering. It worked.



The meeting was streamed live to a private Facebook page, "Members Section - Clan MacDougall of North America", to which any of our members with Facebook accounts could be admitted. This represents a continuing effort to bring members of the Society into closer proximity. The video is still up for Society members, albeit in two parts, on this Facebook page which can be joined by emailing a request to president@macdougall.org. It will be necessary to remove this video shortly, due to space constraints on the Facebook page. However the Society would hope, if feasible, to post this as well as other recordings that may interest members in the Members Section of the Society website, www.macdougall.org.

Chrsy Orcholski piped us into the AGM meeting room. Her piping was inspiring. However, the pipes overpowered the microphone and so this could not be included in our recording of the meeting. The meeting itself covered a spectrum of administrative and informational topics. Some of the points raised include:

- Membership is off a little, generating less dues revenue than we initially anticipated. This meeting took place before the end of the fiscal year so that that end-of-year membership and expenses are not known with certainty. It is anticipated, however, that the Society's Operating Budget would be roughly in balance. Around one third of the Society's members are life members. Receipts from life member dues are eventually put into an investment account, with the Society only spending income from the account.

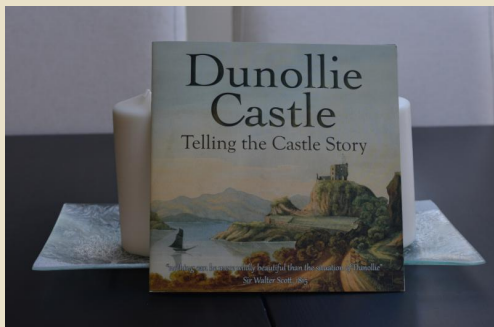
- The Scholarship Committee reported on new recipients of John A. McDougall Scholarships. Their report follows this summary of the Annual General Meeting.

- President-elect Scott MacDougald reviewed work underway on our internet site.

- Peter Clepper, Editor of the Tartan, reported that the third issue of the Tartan for this financial year was to be shortly circulated by email and a truncated version sent to the printer for those without email addresses. Peter made a plea that those who do not, for whatever reason, use modern communication instruments not be left out of the Society's communication.



- Ashby reviewed ongoing development work at Dunollie, stressing that the work on consolidating the Castle should be viewed in sync with work on other aspects of the heritage associated with Dunollie, Lorne, and the nearby islands. The structures in which we are interested have meaning because they were, and are, a venue for developing and exercising many parts of our heritage. A good review of this very old, and complex, culture can be found in the guidebook, Dunollie Castle - Telling the Castle Story, currently available for purchase at Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds and hopefully soon through Dunollie's on-line shop. The Society provided significant support to the preparation of this guidebook. Good reviews of this development work can be found in various issues of this Newsletter, Dunollie's Newsletter, and the World Wide Clan MacDougall newsletter. It is possible to join the World Wide Clan MacDougall, without charge, by visiting Dunollie's website, www.dunollie.org.



John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships for 2017

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that ten scholarships have been awarded for 2017.

All of the awardees are Highland Dancers with the exception of one fiddler, Connor Civatte, who has performed in the past at the GMHG. The scholarships are as follows:

Megan Ashworth, Simi Valley, CA
The Christensen children of Raleigh, NC:
Annabella, Clarissa, Regina, Quinten, and Juliana
Connor Civatte, Trenton, NC
Beret Dernbach, San Diego, CA
Waverly Noble, Raleigh, NC
Emma Schiff, Oak Park, CA

The North Carolina winners are students of our own Erin McDougal Bartow.

A total of \$3,000 has been sent to these fine young people who are promoting our Scottish Heritage.

The Scholarship Committee members are Nancy Kane, Buzzy Bramble, and Sarah Hereford, Chairman.

Beret Dernbach's Address at the AGM Dinner in Costa Mesa, CA May 27, 2017

My name is Beret Dernbach, and I am a Clan of the Highlands and Clan MacDougall scholarship recipient. I am here tonight to provide a little entertainment and to thank both of your amazing organizations for your generosity and support for my highland dancing career.

This past year has been pretty good. As I'm sure some of you know, I went to the US Championships in Grand Rapids, MI back in July, where I was 3rd runner-up in my age group. In 2017, I have already done 8 competitions and championships in the US and Canada. My most recent one was this afternoon, where I placed as Champion in the 14 and under 16 Premier age group. I won with straight firsts in all of the dances, and also was honored to win the City of Edinburgh Medal in a dance-off, which is a very prestigious award. Because of my results in today's championship, I will be attending the 2017 US Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will represent the states of CA, NV, AZ, and HI.

Before I go to Utah, I will be competing at the San Diego Highland Games, and will be attending the Canadian Championships in Prince Edward Island this June. This is all leading up to our trip to Scotland in August, where I will be dancing on the world's biggest stage, at the Cowal Highland games, in hopes of qualifying to compete in the World Championships. Over the past few years, I have watched the dancing on a livestream, but this year, I will be actually be able to experience the games in person, and participate in the competitions. It will be my first time going to Scotland, so I also look forward to meeting family I haven't met in person before, and seeing all the great things Scotland has to offer. I will be sure to update everyone on my summer later this year!

In addition to highland dancing, I am less than 3 weeks away from finishing my first year of high school at the San Diego School for Creative and Performing Arts. I have had an amazing first year. I got to take classes in ballet, modern, jazz, and tap every day, as well as perform in dance recitals in these disciplines. I get to spend 3 hours a day in school doing something that I love and I am passionate about - not many

kids get to say that, and I feel lucky to be able to say it.

The dance I will be doing for you tonight is the Highland Fling. The story behind this dance is that a long time ago, in ancient Scotland, warriors would put down their targes (which are shields with spikes) and dance on top of them. The goal was to stay in one place so as not to impale one's foot! It is still very important to this day that this dance is performed in one spot, and a part of what the dancers are judged on. It is also a dance always included in a championship, and the victors in a big championship often perform it together at the end of the day.

Once again, I would like to say a great big thank you to everyone in the Clans of the Highlands, and Clan MacDougall who are helping me to achieve my goals and pursue my passion for highland dancing. I will be dancing tomorrow morning during the Premiership at the games. If you have a chance, and would like to, I would love to have you come and watch me dance tomorrow as well!

Thank you for having us as your guests tonight!