

SCOT

Scottish Cultural Organization
of the Triangle

newsletter

september 2005

dancers excel at usir

Nine dancers (and SCOT members) from the Jo Kalat School of Highland Dance in Cary represented us well in the US Inter-regional Scottish Highland Dance Championship this July in Mount Vernon, Washington (Scottish Highland Dance's equivalent of a National Championship). Kathleen Black, Hannah Clendenin (under 12); Shannon Anfindsen, Helen Oddone (under 14); Ania Oddone (under 15); Cameron Oddone (under 17); Amanda Jones, Megan Kimsey, and Erin McDougal (over 18) qualified to represent the Southeast Region at the Regional Championship in Savannah, Georgia in April. This is an amazing testament to the high quality of Highland Dancing in our backyard as these dancers comprised half of the Southeast Regions' representatives (an 11-state area).

Our competitors danced in a series of events with the best Highland Dancers from around the country and world in cool, picturesque Mt. Vernon. Leading the way was Shannon Anfindsen who was champion in the under 14 group. This was Shannon's second national championship in the last three years! Kathleen Black finished 5th place, Cameron Oddone was 4th place, and Megan Kimsey was 3rd place in their respective age categories. An added treat was the highly competitive choreography competition. "Tell Me Ma," danced with Shannon Anfindsen, Kathleen Black, Hannah Clendenin, and Helen Oddone came in 2nd place; although it was clearly the crowd favorite. Congratulations to them all!

Several of our dancers also represented us well at the Atlantic International Highland Dance Championship at Grandfather Mountain on the same weekend. Megan McElroy and Rachel McPherson won in the pre-championship and Susan Tapp won her age group in the Championship with Sandy Kennedy placing second overall. Susan also won best dancer over two days.

- Grace Couchman



ghost town of ayr

Most of you already know about Ayr, Scotland, the home of the poet Robert Burns. But did you know there was an Ayr, North Carolina?

According to the *North Carolina Gazetteer* (William S. Powell, UNC Press, 1968), the North Carolina Ayr, NC was founded on the site of a Civil War era tannery by a Scotsman, Francis Reynolds. It was located in western Rutherford County, near what is now Lake Lure. The community of Ayr flourished from 1880, when a U.S. Post Office was established with Francis Reynolds' wife as Postmistress, until 1911, when the tannery closed as a result of the chestnut blight which dried up the tanbark supplies.

Francis Reynolds was the maternal uncle of my paternal grandfather, Thomas Andrew Johnston. My grandfather came with Francis and other members of his mother's family (grandparents, uncles and aunts, and cousins) to America in 1876, when he was nine years old. The Western North Carolina Grange recruited Francis to run the tannery, which had made saddles for the Confederate Army during the Civil War but had since lost its market. Within a couple of years the family bought the tannery, and a couple of years later named the community Ayr after their hometown in Scotland.

Pat and I visited Ayr several years ago with members of the Rutherford County Historical Society. We drove to the end of the paved portion of Bible School Road and hiked approximately 1/2 mile to the site. The old building that housed the Post Office and general store was still there but in poor condition, as were the footings of the tannery and the footings of several other buildings and houses. I'm glad we visited in April, because I suspect that Ayr could be nicknamed "Copperhead City" in the summer.

During this visit, I was given a copy of a newspaper article entitled "The Ghost Town of Ayr" which was written by feature columnist John Parrish and published in the *Asheville Citizen* in the mid-1950s. The article stated that "in its heyday, Ayr was the party capital of Western North Carolina", and "nobody could party like those Scots could." It went on to explain that visitors would travel many miles from the hills and mountains all around to party in Ayr during the weekends. The word "ceilidh" was never mentioned in the article, but I have to believe the visitors were participating in one. While it's sad that such an obviously wonderful place carrying on such a great Scottish tradition had to pass into history at such an early age, maybe it will reappear on occasion as our own version of Brigadoon.

- Steve Johnston



sponsored events 2005-06

- Oct. 1 **SCOT Booth** at Flora MacDonald Highland Games in Red Springs. Contact Carolyn Graf if you'd like to help spread the word about SCOT, CMCDGraf@aol.com.
- Nov. 5 **Scottish Beer Tasting.** Ever taste Fraoch Ale, whose roots are traced to the Picts in 325 BC? Come join us for a tasting of Scottish Brews old and new, hosted by Importer and SCOT member Bruce Wright. Location to be announced shortly, gene.oddone@duke.edu.
- Nov. 17 **Lost Voices of the Afro-Celts.** SCOT member Dr. Michael Newton will lead a lecture at the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC-CH on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 3:30 pm, location TBA; see page 3 & <http://www.unc.edu/depts/csas/centering/index.html> for details.
- Jan. 28 **Burns Night Dinner** at the Country Squire Inn in Kenansville. The first 50 SCOT members who sign up will enjoy a lively bus trip from Cary to Kenansville. Contact Donald Ross for details, nondo@dockpoint.net.
- February **Whisky Tasting.** Craig Hill will organize this year's event: chill@rti.org
- March **3rd Annual Family Ceilidh.** Bring your family for an evening of great food & drink, dance, song, and skits.
- April 1 **Cary Indoor Highland Dance Competition & Scottish Fiddle Workshop** at Cary Academy. Over 100 dancers from four states competed in last years' event and many stayed for a special workshop on Sunday. We will also build on the success of the Scottish Fiddle Workshop and demonstration. Contact Pat Johnston for dancing, patriciatj@aol.com, and Ian Dunbar for fiddling, thedunbars@mindspring.com.
- April **Tartan Day** in the SCOT booth at the Renaissance Faire on April 1-2 and 8-9 at the NC State Fairgrounds. Contact Judi Lloyd for more info & to volunteer: jlloyd@a4healthsystems.com.
- May **Scottish Tea.** SCOT member Emily Sprague will organize a proper tea & social gathering with award-winning shortbread recipes, sprague3@bellsouth.net.
- June **Mark Johnston Golf Classic & Pig Pickin'.**
- July **Afternoon Tea** at the SCOT booth at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
- August **Annual General Meeting.**

golf recap

This year's Mark Johnston SCOT Golf Classic was held at Crooked Creek Golf Club. The weather was perfect for low scoring conditions. The tournament format was a 2-person superball scramble. There were prizes for the longest drive (Men: Stacey Anfindsen, and Women: Sharon Riccobono); Closest-to-the-Pin (Men: Iain Kelly, and Women: Katie McDaniel) and high gross (Team: Amy Johnston and Sharon Riccobono). Donald Ross won the Best-Dressed category with the English Fox Hunt outfit. Several teams surged early on the front nine, and everyone held on as the back nine bared its teeth.

When all was said and done, Team Sprague—John Sprague and Raymond Sobosinski—were declared winners with the lowest score. Participants ranged in all age groups (juniors, amateur, senior and super senior). We doubled the number of participants from last year. Everyone enjoyed the day and made haste to Chuck and Amy Mooney's for a fantastic BBQ & Ribs dinner. The tournament committee is already looking at courses for next year!

- Chuck McDougal



scot volunteers

Although we are only four years old SCOT has already benefited from the resourceful work of many volunteers. In fact, we are an organization only because of our collective willingness to pitch in. This year the SCOT Board chose to single out two individuals whose hard work has furthered our mission.

George McDaniel is a founding member of SCOT, a previous board member, and father of a Highland Dancer and Dance Teacher (Katie). SCOT has benefited greatly from his efforts at creating, tending, and updating our website (www.SCOT.us). His expertise keeps us informed, allows us to use credit cards to pay for events and make donations.

Jane Dunbar is also a founding SCOT member, mother of a Highland Dancer (Jillian) and a Scottish Fiddler (Andrew), and expert editor and publisher of our newsletter. Her skills bring us interesting news about all things Scottish. The Board recognized George and Jane at our Annual Meeting with an engraved quaiach.

- D'Nise Hefner

ncsu pipes & drums win contest

The NCSU Pipes and Drums won the Grade IV contest at the 2005 Triad Highland Games in Greensboro on August 20. The band was also named Band of the Day and presented with two beautiful trophies. The competing band, made up of 11 pipers and 7 drummers, played a medley of melodic marches and toe-tapping dance tunes.

The three performing units within the Pipes and Drums have engaged in a variety of events in the last couple of months. The Beginner Band has performed for a horse show in the Equestrian Center at the Fairgrounds and for an international event at Exploris in downtown Raleigh. The Grade IV Band has performed in Robbins, NC for the Farmers Day Parade and at the St. Raphael Church Fair in Raleigh. Both the Grade IV and the Grade III bands piped up the 18th fairway at the annual Macgregor Downs Golf Tournament. The fall continues to be busy with the Grade III band competing at the Charleston (SC) Scottish Games and the Stone Mountain Highland Games (GA) and the Grade IV band appearing at the Flora Macdonald Highland Games in Red Springs and the Richmond Highland Games (VA). We hope to report more first place finishes!

- Emily Sprague

SCOT

215 SE Maynard Road
Cary, NC 27511
www.scot.us

The Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle (S.C.O.T.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing and educating the public about the history, culture, and heritage of Scotland and the Scottish people.

Board of Directors:

Carolyn Graf	Judi Lloyd
D'Nise Hefner	Cheryl McDougal
Craig Hill	Chuck Mooney
Patricia Johnston	Eugene Oddone
Cheryl Jones	Donald Ross
Leslie Kennedy	John Sprague

lost voices of the afro-celts

**“Centering the American South” lecture series on
Thursday, November 17 at 3:30 pm at UNC-CH.**

Summary: Modern American consciousness is highly racialized: we are told implicitly and explicitly that our skin color determines our race, our identity, to whom we belong and what belongs to us. The reality of American history, even in the South, is not so easily segregated, however. There have been

clottie dumpling

Making dumplings or boiled puddings made sense in cottages where a fire burned on the hearth all day. This fire kept the cottage warm and was the center of all cooking. A pot hung over the fire with water was easily kept on a simmer. Clottie Dumpling is a bit like gingerbread and as with most traditional recipes, there are many variations. “Clottie” refers to the cloth wrapped around the batter, holding it together as it cooks. Here is a traditional recipe for adventurous cooks looking for a taste of the past.

- 4 oz. whole wheat flour (1 cup)
- 4 oz. fine breadcrumbs (1½ cup)
- 4 oz. finely chopped beef suet (or 1 stick butter)
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp. ground cumin (optional)
- 4 oz. sultanas (raisins)
- 4 oz. currants (optional, may substitute more raisins or mixed candied fruit)
- 2 Tbs. black treacle (molasses)
- 2 eggs
- 1 large apple, chopped
- Orange juice to mix
- A square of cotton or linen cloth about 22” square, a tea towel works well

Bring a large kettle of water to a boil. Boil the cloth for a few minutes and then use tongs to spread it on a table. Sprinkle cloth with flour, coating the center thickly. Mix treacle and eggs and combine with other ingredients to make a soft dough that will hold a ball shape. Place in the center of the cloth. Bring edges up and tie with string. Allow a few inches for the dumpling to expand. Place it in kettle and let simmer gently for three hours. Check frequently and add water if necessary. When pudding is finished, dip briefly in cold water to help release from cloth. Roll out of cloth onto plate. Put in hot oven for 10 minutes to set the outside. Serve hot with custard, brandy butter, ice cream, or whipped cream.

- Carolyn Graf

many fascinating exchanges and interactions between people of African ancestry and people of Scottish Highland ancestry. This lecture will explore some of the forgotten connections between African-Americans and Scottish Highlanders and remind us of the rich cultural interactions between people of all ethnic origins in our complex nation.

Lecturer: SCOT member Michael Newton has a PhD in Celtic Studies from the University of Edinburgh. He has written several books and numerous articles on Highland history and tradition, and has become the leading scholar on the culture and history of immigrant Highland communities in the United States. He is a fluent Gaelic speaker, a proponent of Highland song and dance, and a published creative writer in the Gaelic language.

annual general meeting 2005

On August 28, 55 SCOT members packed the “Cottage” in downtown Raleigh’s Tir na Nog Irish Pub for the 2005 SCOT AGM. Dinner was preceded by a lively social time accompanied by live Celtic music and the chance to bid on Silent Auction items—a Thistle china set donated by the Evans family (bid won by Donald Ross) and a beautifully embroidered tartan jewelry organizer made by Barbara Youngman (bid won by the mysterious “Daddy Warbucks”)

AGM organizer D’Nise Hefner put the fox in charge of the hen house, so-to-speak, for this year’s “Are you a SCOT” annual Pub Quiz and asked Pat Johnston to prepare a quiz to entertain and educate (and stump Donald Ross’s table). Despite the fact that the rest of us had multiple choice quizzes and the Ross/Birrell/Newton table had fill-in-the-blanks, the native Scots and scholars prevailed yet again—their history teachers should be very proud!

Following dinner, Gene Oddone presided over the business portion of the AGM as SCOT members voted in the upcoming year’s slate of board members. SCOT welcomed Craig Hill onboard, as we said goodbye and “thank you” to retiring board member Crawford Crenshaw. Volunteer of the Year quiaichs were awarded to George McDaniel and Jane Dunbar for their many hours of time and fine service to SCOT.

SCOT members were dazzled with Chuck McDougal’s media show of images and music from the many SCOT events throughout the year—from the Annual Mark Johnston Golf Tournament to our first ever Whiskey Tasting—we’ve been busy! Be sure to take pictures of SCOT events this year and send them to Chuck to be included at next year’s AGM.

Door prizes of a bottle of Scotch donated by Don Ross, a Rhythms of Scotland DVD, a TNN brunch for two and a TNN dinner donated by TNN Pub went home with happy AGM attendees. To join the fun, be on the lookout for next year’s AGM date in a future edition of the newsletter!

- D’Nise Hefner

Name tags &
door prizes
galore!

Sweet desserts
& scintillating
conversation,
too!



We welcome your contributions to this quarterly newsletter! If you have an article, story, artwork, or bit of Scottish lore to share, please submit it to Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

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