

# Tulach Ard

## 2017 Annual General Meeting

Join us at the McKenzie Games in Springfield, Oregon for our AGM.  
<http://www.mckenziehighlandgames.com/> Dates: September 15-17, 2017.

## McKenzie Games in Eugene, Oregon

This is the place to be for the Clan MacKenzie! Enjoy the flavors of Scottish, and local Eugene food trucks, listen to the skirl of Highland bagpipes, the beat of the drums, the impressive showing of massed bands, the elegant moves of Highland and Irish dancers, smell the aroma of American, Irish and Scottish foods, witness the raw strength and agility of the athletes and the feeling of nostalgia!

Friday night kicks off with a candlelight bagpipe recital featuring Piobaireachd, the Classical music of the pipes. Clan MacKenzie has also been asked to put together the beginnings of a "Call of the Clans" for Friday evening, to help start a new tradition at these games. The field opens at 10am on Saturday with events going until 10pm. We plan on attending the Ceilidh at 6pm on Saturday evening after we've gathered earlier in the day to take care of business at the AGM. Of course, we'll close out the weekend by attending the games again from 10am-4pm on Sunday. We really hope this event is on your calendar as it is sure to be one of the best AGM's we've ever had! Again, please check out <http://www.mckenziehighlandgames.com> to purchase tickets.

## Grandfather Mountain Games, July 6-9, 2017

Slainte mhath to All,

The 2017 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was a fantastic event. The weather was spectacular this year. Up on the mountain was a very pleasant place to be this year. This was my first year as the Convener for the MacKenzie tent. It's not an overly demanding responsibility and I enjoy doing it. I must mention James Mounce and Kirk MacKenzie, both helped man the tent again this year. I refer to us as the "Three Amigos." I'll remind my wife, Sylvia, again; it's not the "Three Stooges", as she likes to call us. We absolutely bear no resemblance to those wacky guys.

If you're Scottish, and a MacKenzie, you should have been on the mountain this year. I stand corrected, you don't have to be Scottish to enjoy the Highland Games. We did have a great year at the MacKenzie tent this year and enjoyed meeting and greeting all that stopped by. We are thrilled to educate and entertain the guests that are interested in their heritage. I attempt to impress upon all how important I feel it is to involve your children or grandchildren. It's a great opportunity to teach them about their heritage, ancestry, and the awesomeness (is that a word?) of being Scottish. If you don't believe me, read the book "How the Scots Invented the Modern World," by Arthur Herman.

We signed up a few new members. I want to do much better next year. The success of the Clan MacKenzie Society of America is dependent upon a having a strong member base. Members that will volunteer to work at events and represent our great clan. We had twenty-five people sign our visitor log. I hope to see many new faces next year. I look forward to seeing all the friends I made this year again in 2018. Tulach Ard, Jim Sane



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### Special points of interest

- Website/Social media handles
- Officer Listing



James Mounce and Uncle Jeff @  
Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Event

## Website/Social Media Revamp

As we make our way to a new decade, the society's officers have been doing some work behind the scenes to move the Clan forward onto new platforms to engage new members as well as our current membership.

Today, it is important to be available and present at the fingertips of our membership. We recently did a revamp on the website. Check out the fruit of our labor at [www.clanmackenzieusa.com](http://www.clanmackenzieusa.com). If you have the old website saved as a favorite, please make sure you update your settings.

**WE HAVE A STORE!** Have you always wanted a cool clan T-shirt? Did you miss out on the goodie bag at the last AGM? Spend all your cash on Iron-Bru? Well good news, we have a store front on our website! All your Clan MacKenzie needs can be met by a few simple keystrokes. You can sign up for membership as well as renew your membership from the comfort of your home with a credit card!! Gone are the days of mailing in your check and waiting... we're now in the business of instant gratification. There are still a few things we do manually, but we're getting hip on all this technology available.

We have also been working hard on getting the FaceBook page updated and have been trying to regularly post. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/clanmackenzieusa/>. We have an updated events calendar that shows the various games in which the Clan has a presence. Are we missing the games you represent? Send us an email, [cmsussec@gmail.com](mailto:cmsussec@gmail.com), and we'll get you added. This is a great way to send invites to all your FaceBook friends and get people out to enjoy all that is Scottish! We encourage you to

post your photos and videos to the page too. How else can we be jealous of all the fun you're having?

Interested in seeing what the games are about? Or need to convince a friend to attend a games? Check out the Gallabrae Scottish Games in Greenville, SC video on YouTube or on our Facebook page @ ClanMacKenzieUSA. It is 19 minutes of Scottish Games eye candy including ... border collies, children's activities, clan tents, a military fly over, shopping, food vendors, ice cream, British car show, the Parade of Tartan, Massed Pipe Bands and other streams of interest. Images are from Memorial Saturday May 27, 2017.

We are still working on other Social Platforms such as Instagram and Twitter, so stay tuned for updates.

**MailChimp:** We have started using this service to keep databases of our members hoping to make communication via email easier. Hopefully some of you have seen an email generated from this service. Feedback and suggestions on how we can be in touch with you more easily are welcomed. Attention: Commissioners and Conveners – please remember to have a sign in sheet at your tent and encourage visitors and members to sign in. Send a photo or scanned copy of the sheet to [cmsussec@gmail.com](mailto:cmsussec@gmail.com) so we can thank everyone for coming out. We will send out a note from MailChimp thanking them for stopping by and we can use the database in years to come to encourage them to come back and visit at the next games or another games in the area.

### Website/Social Media

Check us out on the following platforms:

[www.clanmackenzieusa.com](http://www.clanmackenzieusa.com)

FaceBook:  
ClanMackenzieUSA

Email:  
[cmsuspres@gmail.com](mailto:cmsuspres@gmail.com)  
[cmsussec@gmail.com](mailto:cmsussec@gmail.com)  
[cmsustreas@gmail.com](mailto:cmsustreas@gmail.com)

Twitter:  
Coming soon...

Instagram:  
Coming soon...

## Greetings from the Lt. to Cabarfeidh

Greetings MacKenzie! Great to see all the activity and passion out there at Highland games across the fruited plain. Just returned from a terrific Memorial weekend event, with my wife, to Greenville, SC and am looking forward to the Grandfather Mountain games next month as well as the AGM in September. Special thanks to all the commissioners out there who “clan tent cavalier” for us and host the tents and entertain our members at Scottish events all year long.

Wanted to let the membership know about things happening “behind the curtain”, so to speak. We have launched a new website and Facebook page to better connect with members. Be sure to check out Facebook Clan MacKenzie USA and the new website [www.clanmackenzieusa.com](http://www.clanmackenzieusa.com). Not to worry, our original site is still operational at [www.clanmackenzie.com](http://www.clanmackenzie.com). We will continue to keep it going until we decide on exactly what we want our social media marketing campaign to represent for the society. That said, look at the new platform and let us know what you think? We believe that you will be impressed.

Some of the features and functions of the new social media platforms include an online store for MacKenzie specific items, being able to sign up and pay annual dues online, easier access to Clan MacKenzie info and events, etc. We have a calendar showing the games and events where we know MacKenzie will be represented. It is not a complete list of games but a detailed list of the games where WE will be represented. Monthly we receive questions and requests for info on local events and we love to be able to personally direct inquiries. Without our commissioners leading the way (and letting us know they will host a tent) we don’t always know which events are covered.

As an incentive, we are offering a free gift to all tent hosts who fill out and send in the commissioner application/renewal sheet and email or send it to me. As you know, commissioners serve at the pleasure of the President and I am happy to reappoint commissioners who serve faithfully. Postcards were procured as a giveaway, which I am happy to send to our commissioners, just for sending in the form. (Not a bad deal.) The AGM this year will be at Springfield, OR near the beautiful University of Oregon. It is the first time we have been to the West Coast in a while and we are looking forward to a great event and catching up with our members in the Pacific Northwest. After all, where better to hold the Clan MacKenzie Annual General Meeting than at McKenzie Highland Games? Save the weekend of September 15-17. It is sure to be a fun event. Lastly, we want to say thank you to all the people who have offered kind words and encouragement and shown their excitement for the Clan MacKenzie Society. It is a lot of fun to represent the Society and I look forward to meeting many more of you across the nation as the Summer fun continues.

Yours aye, James



### **WHERE DO YOUR DUES GO??**

Ever wonder what the Clan MacKenzie Society in the US, Inc. does with the dues money paid by members?

Pretty simple, transparent list of expenses. First, the society has no employees, nor are wages paid to anyone. The dues money supports the society and local highland games, as best we can. Second, our tax forms are filed annually with or without help from an accountant.

Third, the Society publishes and mails the Tulach Ard to members. Forth, office supplies, primarily for correspondence.

Fifth, reimbursement of game’s fees, for commissioners who send appropriate documentation.

Sixth, scholarship requests are considered to help individuals studying Scottish cultural pursuits including Highland Dance and Gaelic language studies.

Seventh, Upkeep of social media platforms.

Eighth, Clan MacKenzie Society in Scotland is supported, including ongoing Castle Leod Restoration and maintenance.

Ninth, Various expenses incurred to put on the AGM each year. That is about it!

All profits from Clan MacKenzie goods purchased on the website will be donated to the general fund. CMSUS is incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit. Our By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation posted on the website.

If you would like to donate to the Clan MacKenzie Society in the US, Inc., or love your society enough to include us in your will, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always looking for ways to grow the society and fulfill our mission of promoting all things Scottish and things related to Clan MacKenzie specifically.

## 2017 Clan Officers

### Society Officers:

President and Lt to Cabarfeidh:  
James Mounce (Dodi)  
Phone: 704- 560-4994  
Personal Email:  
[jmounce@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jmounce@carolina.rr.com)  
Email: [cmsuspres@gmail.com](mailto:cmsuspres@gmail.com)

President-Elect and Treasurer:  
Barbara MacKenzie  
Phone: 307-214-4817  
Email: [cmsustreas@gmail.com](mailto:cmsustreas@gmail.com)

Secretary:  
Jennifer McKinzie  
Phone: 704-301-7963  
Email: [cmsussec@gmail.com](mailto:cmsussec@gmail.com)

Regional Vice Presidents:  
Heartland:  
Douglas MacKenzie-Wright  
Phone:  
Email: [dougw22@comcast.net](mailto:dougw22@comcast.net)

Northeast:  
OPEN

Eastern:  
Jonathan MacKenzie Gordon  
Phone: 571- 334-2885  
Email:  
[cmsus.easternregion@gmail.com](mailto:cmsus.easternregion@gmail.com)

Southern:  
Kirk MacKenzie  
Phone: 704-806-9810

Southwest:  
OPEN

Pacific-Western:  
Victoria MacKenzie (open 2018)  
Phone: 503-969-4396  
Email: [vmac3205@comcast.net](mailto:vmac3205@comcast.net)

Rocky Mountain:  
Barbara MacKenzie  
Phone: 307-214-4817  
Email: [mnsustreas@gmail.com](mailto:mnsustreas@gmail.com)

## Scottish Highland Gathering & Games Pleasanton, CA — September 2-3, 2017

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Scottish Highland Gathering and Games have taken place every year since 1866. They have survived World Wars, earthquakes, economic depressions and Bay Bridge closures.

Today, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Scottish Highland Gathering and Games are the largest in the USA. This year's 152nd Games is a 2-day event that will take place on September 2-3 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. It features Heavy Events Championships, the US Drum Major Championships, the Western U.S. Open Highland Dancing Championships and various grades of Pipe Band Competitions. Other competitive events include the Kilted Mile Race and Soccer, Shinty and Rugby competitions. Visitors to the Games can enjoy Scottish Country Dancers, the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers and other traditional entertainment on the Celtic Heritage stages. Other events include Birds of Prey and Archery

exhibitions, historical reenactments, historic British cars and motorcycles, sheep dog trials, the Clan Glen and Children's Glen, Clydesdale horses and Highland cattle. In addition, there is more entertainment in the Irish Pavilion, Traditional and Celtic Rock Bands on the Entertainment Stages and whisky tasting and master classes with 'Whisky Live'. Finally, each day, the Games Grandstand Show features the ceremony, competition and entertainment of the Games including the hugely impressive March of the Massed Bands with over 600 pipers and drummers.

The annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games are produced entirely by volunteers from the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, and does not take government funding or apply for foundation support.

Visit <http://www.thescottishgames.com> for tickets and more information.

## New Hampshire Highland Games Loon Mountain—September 15-16, 2017

The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival was born out of the Clan Picnic organized by the Capt. John D. Murray, Evelyn Murray and Tom Lenthall, held on the first Sunday in August 1975 at Loon Mountain. The Games have grown to become one of the most diverse commemorations of Scottish art and culture in North America. It was the initial success of that picnic which led to the founding of the first New Hampshire Highland Games in 1976.

The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival (NHHG&F) is one of the largest and most diverse Highland Games held in North America and the largest cultural event. This celebration of Scottish heritage is held the third Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of September each year at Loon Mountain Resort in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

For tickets and more information please visit <https://nhscot.org/>

## Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering Charleston, SC — September 16, 2017

The Scottish Games and Highland Gathering, featured each September at Boone Hall Plantation, is another one of the special events held at the plantation that makes Boone Hall one of the most unique venues in the Charleston, SC Low country. It features a day packed full of various activities and events that has something for everyone – Scottish style. Whether you're looking to experience Olympic type competition of the heavy athletics sporting events or the mastery of Scottish music, the Scottish Games and Highland Gathering will offer all you're looking for and so much more.

The visual experience of this event promises to leave an impression that will be long remembered. Last year, over 6,000 people from all over the world attended these games, put on for charity that benefits the Scottish Society Of Charleston.

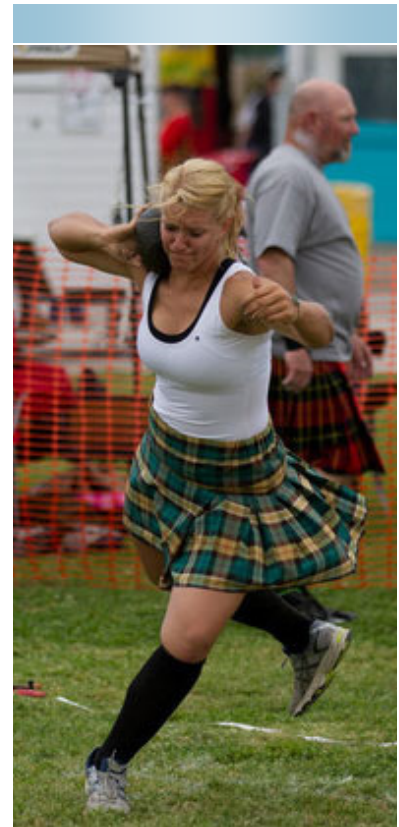
For tickets and more information please visit <http://www.charlestonscots.org/the-games>



## Highland Games—Stone Put, Hammer Throw

**Stone put:** This event is similar to the modern-day shot put as seen in the Olympic Games. Instead of a steel shot, a large stone of variable weight is often used. There are also some differences from the Olympic shot put in allowable techniques. There are two versions of the stone toss events, differing in allowable technique. The "Braemar Stone" uses a 20–26 lb stone for men (13–18 lb for women) and does not allow any run up to the toeboard or "trig" to deliver the stone, i.e., it is a standing put. In the "Open Stone" using a 16–22 lb stone for men (or 8–12 lb for women), the thrower is allowed to use any throwing style so long as the stone is put with one hand with the stone resting cradled in the neck until the moment of release. Most athletes in the open stone event use either the "glide" or the "spin" techniques.

**Scottish hammer throw:** This event is similar to the modern hammer seen at track and field competitions, though with some differences. In the Scottish event, a round metal ball (weighing 16 or 22 lb for men or 12 or 16 lb for women) is attached to the end of a shaft about 4 feet in length and made out of wood, bamboo, rattan, or plastic. With the feet in a fixed position, the hammer is whirled about one's head and thrown for distance over the shoulder. Hammer throwers sometimes employ specially designed footwear with flat blades to dig into the turf to maintain their balance and resist the centrifugal forces of the implement as it is whirled about the head. This substantially increases the distance attainable in the throw. Source Cited: Wikipedia



## 2017 Gallabrae Games (Greenville) Recap

The Memorial Saturday weather behaved beautifully for hot weather people, who love the mid- 80s, while a nice breeze blew all afternoon for those who prefer a cooler climate. The smell of Scottish food was in the air and the sound of the pipes rang out all day. The only complaint is that it is a one day games so we did not have a second day of fun in the sun!

Clan MacKenzie tent was staffed well with Jim Sane (commissioner for Grandfather Mountain Highland Games), The Schaffer Family, Greg, Valerie and Arianna (local family who attend each year and always help) along with James and Dodi Mounce. Lots of MacKenzie' came by as well as visitors seeking a Scottish connection. Looking up surnames and family tartans was the order of the day. We were busy all day researching family names for folks looking for a Scottish connection... most of whom we were able to find!

Chief Alexander and Miranda Leslie were the Honored Guests. Really nice people, who are a pleasure to speak with, we met at the host hotel on Friday night then again at the games on Saturday. Chief Alexander is a personal friend of Cabarfeidh and will take greetings from the USA back to Chief John and Eve for us. Both chiefs serve on the Standing

Council of Scottish Chiefs together. They are gracious and loving couple who served the games well as Honored Guests.

Highlights: The Royal Fusiliers, "on loan" from her Majesty, the Queen, served attired in full military regalia. A moving fly over and missing man tribute by vintage WWII aircraft. The South Carolina National Guard Precision Jump Team parachuted in the colors, landing on the center of the athletic field, in dramatic style. The USMC Marching band played "taps" for those who gave their lives in service to our nation.





## Castle Leod— the story

After the last ice age the sea level began to rise and the area of ground in what later became Dingwall and Castle Leod was flooded. By the time the Vikings and the local inhabitants, the Picts, had settled in this area, the only low lying dry ground was in the areas of the Moot Hill in Dingwall and the mound that Castle Leod would be later built on. The Viking, Thorfinn II had based himself in the area having won the Battle of Torfness (c:1030) which took place on the slopes beneath Knockfarrel in which MacBeth slew King Duncan and subsequently took the throne of Scotland.

The former Pictish fort on the mound was replaced by the Norse Earls with a stone built keep in the eleventh century by Liotr or Leod or by his kins-

man, Jarl Olaf. Both the hill behind the castle (Knock Aulaidh or Olaf's Hill) and the current golf course (Ulladale or Olaf's Dale) are reminders of the Norse presence.

It is not known what further building work was carried out over the centuries except that by the late 15th century it looked much like it does today with further alterations carried out by the famous '[Tutor of Kintail](#)', Sir Rory Mackenzie when the pitched roof and the current front door was added ,between 1605 and 1616 . We think there was a lower story to the old tower that was filled in, by Sir Rory's who raised the level of the mound to it's current level. The walls are in places 2.4m thick and taper toward the top. Gun loops and arrow slits line the walls, especially to the south and traces of a curved lower wall on the west are probably the remains of battering ram defenses. Assuming a now buried lower story, the original front door was on the current first floor with access by a ladder and the gun loops and arrow slits would have then been much higher above the ground. Today they are more suitable for firing at peoples ankles!

Remember to visit the Castles FaceBook page or [www.castleleod.org.uk](http://www.castleleod.org.uk) for more updates

Clan MacKenzie Society in the US, Inc.

PO Box 403  
6704 Blackwood Lane  
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Phone: 704-560-4994  
E-mail: [CMSUSSEC@gmail.com](mailto:CMSUSSEC@gmail.com)

