

Tulach Ard

Clan MacKenzie Society in the United States Inc

Volume 10 Number 2

Spring 2014

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FRONT PICTURE

Howard Mackenzie-Wright, President and Janel McKenzie Urban reviewing posts to the Societies Face Book Page during a quiet moment on Saturday afternoon.

AGM in Hamilton MT August 23-24th

Clan MacKenize Society is Honored Clan in Montana

The 2014 AGM was held at the Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival in Hamilton Montana. This is a small event - a true family event, with loads of MacKenzie's present for the weekend

Friday - The Montana folks were busy setting up the Clan Tent on the grounds. Members of the Society Board met together in the afternoon and made a number of Society business decisions. Friday evening, Rocky Mountain VP, Barbara MacKenzie hosted a Welcome Western Style Chili Dinner. There were lots of folks helping with the preparations throughout the day and everyone pitched in on the clean up and pack out ritual at the end of day.

Saturday - Dawned a perfect rainy Scots day. Rain coats and umbrellas were in high demand. President Howard led us in the AGM during morning. The members of the Clan were the lead clan at the mid-day parade. The President's Dinner was held in the evening.

Sunday - Began with a Kirkin' Ceremony. Members attended an Honored Clan Luncheon sponsored by the Daly Mansion Volunteers. The Youth and Amateur Athletes competed on Sunday, and the

MacKenzie's had a number of hopefuls taking part. For more on the AGM see pages 13-14 in this issue.



President's Letter

Our General Meeting was held this year in Hamilton, Montana, the first to be held in the Society's Rocky Mountain Region. The meeting and games were held on the ground of the Daly Mansion, which is a beautiful site. The host for the meeting was Montana Commissioner Larry McKenzie, who was a great host and made us all feel welcomed and at home.



It was very much a family affair at the games because Larry had four generations of his family in attendance. In addition, a couple members for Larry's family have volunteered to take on jobs in the Society where additional help is badly needed. Thanks to the Montana McKenzie's!

On the Friday before the AGM there was a very productive officer's meeting followed by a chili dinner for all the Mackenzie's. This fantastic meal was prepared for us by our Treasurer, Barbara MacKenzie, with help from Ruth Mackenzie, Barbara Reichardt, and Victoria MacKenzie. Following the AGM and games, the Saturday President's Dinner was held at Bradley O's Steakhouse just

outside of Hamilton. It too was a fantastic meal. To those who were responsible for these fine meals, many, many thanks!

While we were assembled for the AGM, I received an e-mail from Graeme Mackenzie, our friend in the Society in Scotland and the UK. This outlines the activities for the two extra days of the Gathering in 2015. We had known previously, that the Highland Hotel in Strathpeffer would give us a better room rate if we stayed for a full week rather than just five days. The information on these additional days is shown in this issue of the Tulach Ard. Graeme assures me that bus transportation for all of these activities will be included in the registration price. The registration form should be available soon, and we will forward registration information to you as soon as possible.

I cannot encourage you too strongly to plan on attending next year's Gathering. The Clan MacKenzie World Gathering is a remarkable event. It is a wonderful opportunity to see Scotland if you have never been there before, and if you have, to see places you might not have seen on previous trips. Best though, is the time to spend with clansmen from around the world. It is a "most do" opportunity.

As games season draws to a close, I want to thank each of you who have volunteered at a highland game this year. Your participation is more valuable than you know.

Many Thanks! Howard



Clan Mackenzie International Gathering in Strathpeffer Scotland 3 - 9 August 2015

Provisional Programme 2015

Certain elements of the proposed programme are dependent on grants and sponsorships currently being pursued (please see comments overleaf), but the dates are now fixed and most events should be as here. The final programme will be sent out in January with booking forms to be returned with deposits by March.



Accommodation is available at the Highland Hotel (above) in the heart of the village of Strathpeffer.

They are offering gathering participants B&B with dinner at £278 per person for the seven nights of 3-9 August inclusive. Book hotel rooms yourself as soon as possible. Tel : +44 (0)844 824 6351 Web Site:

www.shearings.com/scotland/northern-highlands/hotels/highland-hotel

N.B. Since the Hotel are offering this special deal for the whole week, there will not now be any pre-gathering tour.

MONDAY 3 August 2015

Late Afternoon: Registration begins. In early evening Cabarfeidh welcomes High Council (Lieutenants, Commissioners, Society Presidents, Chairmen, etc) to Castle Leod, while Pipes & Drums, hopefully of Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth's & Cameron's) Assoc. entertain clan in village square. Torch lit and taken by runner to Castle to signify to Chief that clan is gathered. Torch used to light Gathering Flame on castle ramparts, and Cabarfeidh travels by horse & carriage to village to greet his clan.

TUESDAY 4 August 2015

9.00AM: Registration to continue.

10.00AM: MacKenzie Parliament in the Pavilion.

PM: Workshops & Seminars at Community Centre. Early

Evening: Buses to Inverness for tour of the Highland Archive & Registration Centre, followed by Civic Reception at the historic Town House.



Strathpeffer Spa Pavillion



Inverness Historic Town House

WEDNESDAY 5 August 2015

AM: Buses to Culloden for tour of Battlefield & Visitor Centre conducted by NTS Property Mgr at Culloden, Andrew McKenzie (pictured outside the Visitors Centre). Followed by lunch at the Visitors Centre.



Andrew McKenzie at Culloden Visitor Centre

PM: Buses to Ardersier for Tour of Fort George and Museum of the Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforths & Camerons). Evening: Buses for Tour and Supper at Dalmore Distillery (once owned by Mackenzies).

THURSDAY 6 August 2015

AM: Buses to West Coast, stopping at beautiful Plockton (right) home of TB's Hamish Macbeth - on the way to the Isle of Skye to visit the Clan Donald Centre and Museum of the Isles (upper right next page) at Armadale.



Plockton

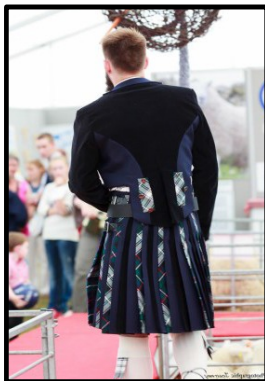
THURSDAY 6 August 2015 - Con't



Clan Donald Centre &
Museum of the Isles

PM: Lunch in restaurant at Clan Donal Centre, then bus to Kintail for tour of the ancient Clan MacKenzie stronghold, Eilean Donan Castle (above) - now in the care of Clan MacRae.

Evening: Fashion Show featuring Siobhan Mackenzie's "Clan Mackenzie Collection" (examples below).



Mackenzie Collection

FRIDAY 7 August 2015

Morning: Walk to Loch Kinellan to view crannog (artificial island) where MacKenzie chiefs had early residence, and nearby site of Battle of Park where the MacKenzie's and friends defeated the Macdonald's.

FRIDAY 7 August 2015 - Con't

Afternoon: Lunch followed by Seminar at the Community Centre on the Battle of Park and its context (relations of the Crown, MacKenzies, MacDonalds, and other clans at the time).

Evening: Clans march to Strathpeffer Village Square for "The MacDonald Encounter" (dramatized by historical re-enactors) and then march together to Castle Leod for "The Reconciliation Ceilidh" and BBQ.



SATURDAY 8 August 2015

Morning & Afternoon: Strathpeffer Highland Games in castle grounds
(Cabarfeidh takes salute in 2014 above).

Evening: Grand Clan Banquet & Entertainment in the marquee in castle grounds.

SUNDAY 9 August 2015



AM: Religious Service & Kirking of Tartan; AGM of the CMSSUK

PM: Group photos, tours of the castle, and tea in the marquee.

Evening: Farewell Supper; Closing Ceremony with Pipes & Drums Beating Retreat on castle lawn, Quenching of Gathering Flame; Lone Piper on the Battlements.

A Note From GRAEME MACKENZIE

In terms of spectacular events, this is the most ambitious MacKenzie Gathering yet attempted. The fact that the Highlander Hotel is offering their special rate as a seven night package means we have had to expand our days of activities to fit. Now, since people taking up that offer will be arriving Monday evening and staying through Sunday night as well, we have decided to top and tail the Gathering with colourful events for Monday evening and Sunday evening.

However, for those who have already booked to arrive Tuesday morning and leave Sunday lunchtime or afternoon, the business elements of the gathering will still be on Tuesday morning/afternoon (the Parliament) and Sunday morning (AGM of the CMSSUK). Those not wishing to book for the whole week should still be able to get rooms at the hotel for fewer nights - though not at such a favourable rate - and gathering booking arrangements will allow people to book individual days, half a week, or the whole week.

Our ability to bring off all of these events as envisaged will depend on our success in generating sufficient income from grants, sponsorships, and - above all - from MacKenzie's around the world. So, if you are thinking of coming, please register your intent, and tell us how many may be in your party, as soon as possible:

treasurer@clanmackenziesociety.co.uk

or by post to the address below. If you cannot come, you might like to consider making a personal donation towards the Gathering or suggesting that the MacKenzie society in your part of the world makes a branch donation towards it.

**Clan Mackenzie Society, Lynemore Cottage, Moy,
Inverness-shire, IV13 7YE, Scotland.**

WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT:

www.clanmackenziesociety.co.uk

www.strathpeffer.org

www.highlandarchives.org.uk

www.nts.org.uk/culloden

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/ Fort George

www.thehighlandersmuseum.com

www.eileandonancastle.com

www.castleleod.org.uk

www.strathpefferpavilion.org

www.glenmoristontownhouse.com

www.thedalmore.com

www.skye.co.uk

www.clandonald.com/heritage

www.plockton.com

The Gathering at a Glance:

Monday 3 August - Registration,
Cabarfeidh meets with the High Council then travels to the village to meet the Clan

Tuesday 4 August - Registration,
MacKenzie Parliament, Workshops & Seminars, Tour to Inverness

Wednesday 5 August - Tour to Culloden, Tour to Ardersier Fort George & Museum of
The Queens Own Highlanders, Tour & Supper at Dalmore Distillery

Thursday 6 August - Tour to West Coast: Plockton, Isle of Skye & Clan Donald Centre
& Museum of the Isles, Tour to Eilean Donan, Fashion Show "Clan Mackenzie
Collection"

Friday 7 August - Walk to Loch Kinellan, Lunch & Seminar at Battle Park, Clans
march to Strathpeffer Square for re-enactment of the "The MacDonald Encounter"
followed by joint clan march to Castle Leod for Reconciliation Ceilidh & BBQ

Saturday 8 August - Strathpeffer Highland Games at the Castle & Grand Clan
Banquet

Sunday 9 August - Kirking O'The Tartan, AGM CMSSUK, photos, farewell Closing
Ceremony & Quenching of the Gathering Flame



Clan MacKenzie



MEMBER APPLICATION & INFORMATION FORM

- ✓ **MEMBERSHIP** Application for **NEW ANNUAL MEMBER** \$25 _____
 RENEW ANNUAL MEMBER \$25 _____ MEMBER # _____
 Application for **LIFE MEMBER** (see below) \$ _____

✓ **ADDITIONAL DONATIONS**

\$ _____ CASTLE LEOD RESTORATION

\$ _____ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

\$ _____ MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM

in the Name(s) of: _____

\$ _____ OTHER USE AS NEEDED - OR

DESIGNATED FOR _____

LIFE MEMBER RATES – CURRENT AGE

21 TO 30 = \$500

31 TO 50 = \$400

51 TO 70 = \$300

OVER 70 = \$200

TODAY'S DATE _____

✓ **MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

BIRTH DATE _____

- ✓ **PLEASE SUBMIT TO:** Clan MacKenzie Society US

Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer
PO Box 20454
Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011
307-214-4817
CMSUSTreas@gmail.com

Clan MacKenzie



MEMBER APPLICATION & INFORMATION FORM

MEMBER COMMITMENT TO THE SOCIETY

✓ LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

YES! My level of involvement is being a Member and reading the **Tulach Ard** when it arrives

_____ Serve in my Community – Parish/County – State – Region – Nationally

✓ DINNERS – GAMES – FESTIVALS – TEAS

_____ Attend our local Scottish Event & lend moral support to other members

Location _____ Date _____

Name of Event(s) _____

_____ Assist with a table or tent at our local Scottish Event

_____ Sponsor a table or tent at our local Scottish Event

✓ NEWSLETTER **Tulach Ard** & www.clanmackenzie.com WEB SITE

_____ Share a story of interest to other Society members

_____ Assist writing a story (yours or someone else's) of interest to other Society members

_____ Research a story of interest to other Society members

_____ Assist the Editor of the **Tulach Ard** with ideas, writing, layout, publication, or mailing

_____ Assist the Web-Master of the www.clanmackenzie.com with ideas, writing, or design

✓ MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS – My Favorite ways to receive communication are as follow:

_____ US Mail _____ E-Mail _____ Phone Call _____ Text Message

_____ Social Media – which services to you use? _____

_____ Use the Web Site _____ No Internet _____ Didn't know CMS had a web site

Would you use a secured link from the CMS web site to do any of the following:

_____ pay my annual dues _____ make a donation _____ cast my CMS election ballot

✓ PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS: _____

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

Southern Region

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was held over the weekend of July 11th through the 13th, 2014. The Clan MacKenzie Society was represented by our Convener Kirk MacKenzie with assistance of Jim Sane and Tim Arney. See photo below.



The 2014 Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering was held on the Boone Hall Plantation just outside of the city of Charleston, SC on the 3rd weekend of September.

The MacKenzie tent was hosted by Col. Wayne Morgan, Donald McKenzie and Jim McKinney. The Honored Clan this year was the United States Military and Col. Morgan was included in the Parade of Honored Guests representing the United States Army.

Last year the Clan MacKenzie and our Chief made a BIG hit with the fellow clansmen and women as many stopped by to comment on how wonderful

last year's games were with the MacKenzie's as Honored Clan and Honored Guest. Several asked when Cabarfeidh could come back for another visit.

North Eastern Region



Claire Tobyne, NE Region VP, sent this picture of a couple young lads just learning how to wear the Kilt. These fellows were seen at the Maine Highland Games. Claire wrote that attendance at this game was off this year, and hopes that it will pick up in future years.

The Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival was held on a beautiful day and was well attended. Many thanks to the Robert MacInni's for their help during the day and during the parades! Claire shared a sentiment - that comes from all Tent Conveners - "We are always delighted to see our members when they stop by the tent, & offers to help are most appreciated!"

EASTERN REGION

The 2014 Virginia Scottish Festival and Games, held over the Labor Day weekend in The Plains, VA, were a huge success for Clan MacKenzie! CMS Eastern Region Vice President Jonathan MacKenzie Gordon and family organized the Clan Mackenzie Society tent at the largest Scottish event in Virginia. Thanks to some amazing weather, the event achieved record attendance.

The CMS tent was staffed by Jonathan's wife Kate, daughter Maggie Mae, young Liam MacKenzie and friends. The wee ones made a formidable recruiting team and, through sheer determination (and pure cuteness), signed up several new CMS members and made visitors sign the CMS Guest Book. CMS tent was buzzing with visitors talking about their MacKenzie lineage and rich history of Clan MacKenzie. Of note, the new Outlander series on STARZ brought forth a host of curious attendees looking to meet "the MacKenzies".



The CMS tent was co-hosted by the Virginia Academy of Fencing (VAF) and Jonathan and his team of Historical Fencers (Tom Connolly, Walker Skaggs, and Kevin Comer), tried to pack as much action into their demonstrations as possible while

giving the crowd a little bit of history and a great show. The team demonstrated both Scottish and German fencing styles while adding Italian fencing to the mix (Princess Bride, anyone?). Several weapons were put to the test, including Claymores, Basket-hilts, Targes, Italian Rapiers and German Longswords – making for a highly entertaining demonstration.



This was the fourth year that Jonathan and his family hosted a CMS tent at the Virginia Scottish Games, making it an official Labor Day weekend tradition. Next up on the Eastern Region calendar is the Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games (Formerly the Richmond Games) at the Richmond Raceway Complex on October 25 and 26.

If you are interested in volunteering at a CMS Tent, or know of an event in the CMS Eastern Region that needs a CMS tent, please contact Jonathan at cms.easternregion@gmail.com and we will work with you to get someone on location.

Tulach Ard!

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

Rocky Mountain Region

The months of August and September in the Rocky Mountain Region are filled with events! The **Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland** was held August 9 - 10th. Roy & Lynn Poole have convened this event for year's, but had other family matters to attend to. So, Barbara MacKenzie, WY, filled in, with assistance from new tent Host's Ron & Melody McKenzie from Highlands Ranch, home of the event. Saturday was warm and then windy & rainy. Sunday was a nice day in the Rockies. We had a number of Mackenzie's stop by to visit and help out in the parades.



This is such a fun event. Big enough to offer a lot of entertainment and choices, but small enough to still be a real family event. And, very affordable with many events still free (Scotch Whisky Tasting) where most venues charge extra for the side events, workshops, and seminars.

Montana Commissioner, Larry McKenzie has been promoting the MacKenzie Society at events in Montana. The **Kootenai Highland Games** in Libby MT is an up and coming game with two years track record. In Montana, the athletic competitions are big, and this event will grow.

Pacific Western Region

Rod McKenzie of Washington reported specifically on the Enumclaw, WA Pacific Northwest Highland Games. We had a very busy MacKenzie tent on the last weekend of July. Sandy & Victoria MacKenzie were present as well. We had good visits with lots of people.

This is just one of the many games and festivals held in the State of Washington throughout the summer months.

AGM in Hamilton MT August 23-24th

Clan MacKenize Society is Honored Clan in Montana



Larry McKenzie, Montana Commissioner & Chieftain of the **Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival** in Hamilton MT 2014.

Now folks, this is another small game, but it is simply an awesome setting and great time for all! The gate count Sunday was 700 plus a few. We

had at least 50 MacKenzie's on hand during the two days, not counting the wee ones. If you want to talk about membership gain - how is this for a percentage to aim at? New members to the MacKenzie Society 8! Wow!! One percent of the gate as new members. Good Show Montana!

Friday afternoon, the officers present met to discuss the business of the Society and made a number of changes to the By-Laws.

(Minutes of the meetings and year end reports will follow in the Fall Issue of the TA.)

A Friday Evening Welcome (Western Style Chili Feed) was sponsored by Barbara MacKenzie, Rocky Mtn Region VP & Treasurer. Barbara was assisted by Victoria MacKenzie, Barbara Reichardt, & Ruth Mackenzie, (all Western Region members!). After enjoying a relaxing evening, everyone pitched in to help clean up and pack out.

Saturday dawned a perfect rainy Scots day. But, we didn't let that stand in our way. Being the honored Clan at the event, we were lead clan for the mid-day parade. Larry McKenzie, Chieftain provided welcome comments at the mid-day parade for both days. The AGM was held at the tent on Saturday.

Saturday saw a lot of activity outside of the actual AGM. The Montana McKenzie's, have offered to help out with the Societies Communication needs. (Translate: Face Book, Tulach Ard, Web Site)

Way to go Montana McKenzie's!!

Alexander "Sandy" MacKenzie, Pacific West Region VP, was Drum Major for the Saturday Parade, and won the Drum Major Competition!

Saturday evening was the President's Dinner held at Bradley O's Steakhouse, just south of Hamilton.



**"Who cares about rain - we're Scots."
Sandy MacKenzie**

This was a wonderful setting for a fun, quite, informal dinner with friends from around the country. Lots of time to meet new folks and welcome them into the Society, and for old friends to "catch up".

Sunday saw the professional athletes stand down to the amateur's and youth. The MacKenzie's fielded a number of amateur and youth athletes. One of the most notable performances was by Crissy McKenzie (Larry's daughter) who threw the hammer 51 feet. Dad says she's been training at home and is becoming a formidable opponent.

We were treated to true Western Hospitality throughout our stay in Hamilton. On Sunday the Daly Mansion Volunteers treated the MacKenzie's to a special Honored Clan Luncheon

The Daly Mansion volunteers make Pasties each year to sell during the event as a fund raiser for their organization. These funds are used to help with the up-kept of the Mansion. Docents were present for a guided tour as well as providing a wonderful lunch.

**"We All Had A Wonderful Time!
Thank You Montana!!"**

Bean Counter's Corner



2015 Membership Dues are now payable

Annual ReNewal Members

Your dues remain at \$25 per year. The Dues year runs from October 1 through September 30 of the following year.

Life Members

At the Board Meeting held prior to the AGM in Hamilton, MT, it was voted to increase the Life Membership Dues. The new fee structure is below.

Please let this publication stand as official notice.

Age 21 - 30	\$500
Age 31 - 50	\$400
Age 51 - 70	\$300
Age 71 and over	\$200

If any Tent Convener's are holding Member Applications - Send them to the Treasurer so Member Cards, Certificates and Pins can be mailed.

FLOWERS of the FOREST

The Clan MacKenzie Society lost a great friend. Gloria Mackenzie, wife of Past President Blair Mackenzie, passed away in August, from complications from a stroke.

Gloria and Blair were married for sixty-five years, and we remember that she was always with Blair as he represented the Clan at highland games. Gloria was a delightful lady who told interesting stories about the places she and Blair had lived around the world. She had a welcoming smile and made everyone she talked to feel like a friend.

Gloria will be greatly missed by her family and her many friends in the Clan MacKenzie Society. Gloria's burial place is Arlington National Cemetery.

Comments on the Special Election for Pres-Elect

A number of your current Officers and Commissioners have been asked to serve as President Elect. We all feel a sense of duty to the Society, or we would not be serving in our various current capacities.

We have a collective idea, as well as individual visions, of where the Society needs to be heading in the years to come.

While we are all willing to continue in our current positions, for various personal reasons, none of us is able to step up to the position of President Elect of this Society at the present time.

This shortfall has to be addressed. We need ALL members to give your input to your local Regional VP and to Howard Mackenzie-Wright, President.

By-Laws Requirement for President Elect:

Any member proposed for elective office must have been a member of the Society for at least four years and a Commissioner for at least two years.

SOCIETY OFFICERS - Spring 2014

PRESIDENT

Howard Mackenzie-Wright, FSA Scot

PO Box 300603
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PRESIDENT ELECT

vacant

SECRETARY

Victoria MacKenize (Sandy)

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clansecretary@comcast.net

TREASURER

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PAST PRESIDENT

Asa Gene McKenzie (Annette)

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REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

HEARTLAND

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REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS - Con't

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PACIFIC- WESTERN

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN

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The Montana McKenzie's

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