

Tulach Ard

AGM 2017

Join us at the MacKenzie Games in Eugene, Oregon this September for our annual meeting.
<http://www.mckenziehighlandgames.com/>

Calling all Commissioners

With all the recent changes within the Scottish community, the Clan MacKenzie Society in the US, Inc. needs to update our files and our web presence. Changes to Scottish Event dates, names, locations, etc. all need to be updated and documented to better serve the Society and its members. Changes are ever present in the mobile society we live in, so membership addresses need to be current to insure that we keep up with the ever changing landscape. Newsletters can be emailed or snail mailed, if we have current contact info. Other important info can be viewed at www.clanmackenzie.com.

To quote a line from Blue Bloods, the TV show... "The Commissioner serves at the pleasure of the Mayor." As President, I would love to hear from each commissioner personally and discover your passion for the Society. Commissioners are the backbone of the Society and we need to thank them for all the hard work they do as Clan Tent Cavaliers, making the Scottish Games a fun time for all. I believe that we need more communication between the executive board and the members and cannot do that if we don't have each other's current contact info.

Current commissioners are requested to identify themselves, fill out the commissioner application form and send them in to the President. With this info, we can formally recognize you as a commissioner and let us know which games you host. We receive inquiries on a regular basis asking the local commissioner's name? Which games will Clan MacKenzie host a tent? Who can I talk to about hosting a tent, if we don't have one at my local games? Etc. It is great to have answers to questions... even better when the answers are correct!

It is a great feeling to know that the membership is alive and well and wanting more "MacKenzie" than ever before! Add to the growing interest in heritage and genealogy to the popularity of the Outlander series on Starz Network and you can see how popular we are. At nearly every event, I am asked if I will pose for a picture? It is usually a coed who wants a photo with a "real MacKenzie". Knowing which events will have a MacKenzie tent would help tremendously. Thank you in advance for filling out and returning the info. Thank you for all you do for the Clan MacKenzie Society as it is appreciated more than you know. Thank you for supporting our friends and family both domestically and abroad.

Yours aye,
James Mounce
President and Lt to Cabarfeidh



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Special points of interest

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2016 AGM Review

What a great event! Nicole Harrison hosted a beautiful tent at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, which anchored the event for locals and visitors from across the fruited plain. The actual Annual General Meeting went well with close to 20 members in attendance covering much of the business needs for the society and moving us forward in 2017 and beyond. The President's dinner was well attended by 26 members and the brew master event went even better!

Thanks go out to a number of members who made it all happen. Past Presidents Bob Harrison, Don McKenzie and Ron MacKenzie for their participation, support and hard work to make sure that everything went as planned. (If you ever want info on the society, or Clan MacKenzie in general, you cannot find a better more passionate and knowledgeable group of historians and gentlemen than these men.) Thanks to Barbara MacKenzie for all her hard work as Treasurer and President Elect. Without her, CMS would not be able to do what we do. Thanks to Victoria MacKenzie, our Secretary, who both attended the games as an officer and competed/ represented the clan as a individual Piper.

Special thanks go out to Jim and Ginny Kinney for putting together the after party idea, home brewing the Black Stag Stout and White Stag Ale, commemorating the event and helping to create a unique and fun experience. Graeme Mackenzie entertained the group with stories of heraldry and history of Scotland and of Clan Mackenzie in particular while his partner Carol let us know about the coming events in Scotland and the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh August 4-26, 2017. Clan MacKenzie will be a prominent player at the televised event this year. Graeme also

brought greeting from Cabarfeidh himself which will be printed in the Tulach Ard. What a great Chief we have to care about our AGM and CMS in the US personally and to send greetings in his own hand.

Regional VPs Larry MacKenzie and Kirk MacKenzie were a great help and support. Don and Debbie McKenzie hosted the raffle prize table and did a great job both as raffle master and entertainers. Don't know what we would have done without Don and Debbie. They kept the party going and made sure everyone had a great time. Most of all I wish to thank my bride, Dodi Mounce, who puts up with my nonsense and keeps me grounded when I get carried away. She built the gift bags for the attendees of the dinner and after party from the gifts donated and/or discounted for the society.

Lastly a great big thank you goes out to our sponsors who donated and/or discounted gifts, food and prizes for the event. Highland Brewing Co. in Asheville, NC who donated beer, key chains, bottle openers, bumper stickers, posters and koozies. Near and Far Scottish donated an embroidered MacKenzie golf shirt and offered special AGM discounts in their booth at the games for MacKenzie members. (Many of whom took them up on the deals and for that they are thankful.) Great Scot International donated Scottish tea bags, Haggis Chips, Irn Brew, Barr's Cloudy Lemon Soda, shortbread fingers and other items for the raffle that made it a great event.

Be sure to attend the AGM at the MacKenzie Highland Games in Eugene, Oregon September 15-17, 2017 and be sure to offer suggestions for a dinner location and after party ideas.

AGM 2017

This year we will have our AGM at the MacKenzie Highland Games in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday, September 16, 2017. These games are fairly new and being the Clan of record should draw a crowd wanting to mix and mingle with the MacKenzies. Please refer to their website for more information on tickets and the games schedule. We plan on having the AGM on that Saturday afternoon with a gathering and dinner at the Ceilidh Saturday evening. Stay tuned to the Clan FaceBook page for more concrete information as the event approaches.



Graham MacTavish and James Mounce , Grand father Mountain Games July 2016

Letter from the Cabarfeidh

Cromartie Estate

Castle Leod

Strathpeffer

Ross & Cromartie IV14 9AA

A big welcome to all my Mackenzie Cousins and I know that Graeme will be an excellent ambassador from Scotland to you in the United States. I wish you well for your AGM and hope that besides the business of the day you will also have a great time meeting up with friends and family which is very much in the spirit of what kinship within the clan is all about.

Now I am sure Graeme will have already alerted you to the Tattoo next year and one which, if you can, you should try to get across 'The Pond' for. It promises to be quite a show and for those of you who have not been to the Royal Military Tattoo in Edinburgh before, it has to be seen as a unique experience, perhaps even a once in a lifetime's experience. The date is fixed for the 15th August 2017 when our clan will march up the final part of the Royal Mile and into Edinburgh castle and the Arena, where as Chief I will be presented to officials. What excites me is the fact that the clan will be there, an opportunity to show our colours to the world as it will all be televised with an audience of millions. There are only three nights of BBC TV coverage and we are lucky enough to be on one of them.

On the 12th August our own Strathpeffer games takes place and we are still in the planning stage, we are hoping that our Committee can organize something a bit special around that too. Given the numbers, we might even hire a bus to take us down to Edinburgh and book a hotel outside the town to save expense and to bus us all in to the Tattoo.

Before I get too carried away I fully realize this is a big commitment for anyone, not cheap or necessarily easy to organize, but it is unique - a word I rarely use - opportunity for our clan, *your clan*, to participate in something that is globally recognized as truly unique.

In the meantime, may I wish you from all my family at Castle Leod a great day and I look forward to seeing as many of as possible back in Scotland next year.

Slainte Math!

Tel/01997 421337 email:Cromartie@castleleod.org.uk

State of the Society

Our AGM was held at Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, GA which was well attended. The games were terrific; the meeting went off without any issues, a new Secretary, Jennifer McKinsey, was appointed and the President's dinner and after party was a smashing success. One of our local Atlanta members is a brew master who created a special "Black Stout Stout" and "White Stag Ale" to commemorate the event. The popularity of Stars network television series, **Outlander**, has helped as well. Graham MacTavish (Dougal MacKenzie, war chief and brother of Cabarfeidh on the TV show) attended the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina this summer and spent a couple hours in the Clan MacKenzie tent posing for photos and signing autographs. It was great fun to see and speak to him and he could not have been more gracious to us all. In conclusion, we have a positive outlook for the future with a strong team of leaders taking office in 2016 and re-election of some excellent officers. This provides a mix of new energy and ideas with continuity and stable leadership. We will strive to boost membership and plan to grow our society with increased use of social media. We have added the Facebook page "Clan MacKenzie USA" and made updates to www.clanmackenzie.com. We are planning to be able to accept dues online with an online store as well before the AGM. Submitted by, James Mounce US President and Lt. to Cabarfeidh

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McKenzie Highland Games & Celtic Gathering Eugene, Oregon September 15-17, 2017

These games are relatively new. And contrary to popular opinion are named after the McKenzie River that runs through the region, not just the best Highland Clan out there!

Enjoy the aroma 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!

We plan on hosting our AGM at these games to hopefully help them gain some notoriety and to visit with our fellow clansmen in the Northwest. We will gather Saturday afternoon for the meeting and then again Saturday night at the Ceilidh for dinner, dancing, drinks and merriment. We figured why not

take advantage of the merriment already planned in lieu of a formal offsite President's dinner.

Please visit the website for the games to register and then our website and FaceBook page to let us know you'll be joining us!
<http://www.mckenziehighlandgames.com/>



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games near Linville, NC July 6-9, 2017

One of the oldest games, celebrating it's 62nd year, The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 6-9, 2017. These games are quite popular with the Southeastern regime of the clan.

These games are held on MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain which is located near Linville and Boone, NC. These games are a little interesting as the start of the games on Saturday begin at 6:30am with the start of the Mountain Marathon, called the Bear, one of the most strenuous marathons in the nation. The runners race up the mountain to join the clans, bands and spectators at MacRae Meadows.

Please visit the games website to purchase tickets. And again let us know on FaceBook if we can expect to see you there! <http://www.gmhg.org/homepage.shtml>

St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games Detroit, Mi August 4-5, 2017

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is proud to present its 168th Annual Highland Games. Our games are the oldest continuous games in North America.

Founded in 1849, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Scottish heritage through its arts, customs, dress, literature and national games.

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit would like to invite you and your family to attend and enjoy our Highland Games on Saturday, August 5th, 2017.

The Games will begin with a traditional Ceilidh on Friday Evening, August 4th at 5:00 pm.

Highland Games—History

The highland games are festivals held throughout the year in Scotland and other countries as a way of celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture and heritage. In their original form many centuries ago, Highland games revolved around athletic and sports competitions. Through these competitions the king would select the finest athletes to be his personal guard and entourage. The games were also a way for the clans to demonstrate their relative strength to each other without actually having to go to war. Some of the implements used in the games were created as alternatives to traditional weapons when England forbid any Scotsman from bearing arms. Though other activities were always a part of the festivities, many today still consider Highland athletics to be what the games are all about—in short, that the athletics are the Games, and all the other activities are just entertainment. Regardless, it remains true today that the athletic competitions are at least an integral part of the events and one—the caber toss—has come to almost symbolize the Highland games. Although quite a range of events can be a part of the Highland athletics competition, a few have become standard.

The Caber is a tree that has been cut and trimmed down so one end is slightly wider than the other. It can vary length from 16 to 22 feet and between 100 and 180 pounds. The smaller end is rounded off so it will be easy to cup in the thrower's hands. The caber is stood up for the thrower with the large end up. The thrower hoists the caber up and cups the small end in his hands. He then takes a short run with the caber and then stops and pulls the caber so that the large end hits the ground and the small end flips over and faces away from the thrower. The caber is scored for accuracy as though the thrower is facing the 12:00 position on a clock face. A judge behind the thrower calls how close to the 12:00 position the small end of the caber lands, 12:00 being a perfect toss. If the caber is not turned, a side judge calls the degrees of the angle the caber makes with the ground.

Source cited:
Wikipedia, Highland Games Wikipedia, 2012



2017 Loch Norman Games Recap

Greetings Clan MacKenzie members, friends and family! The weekend of April 8 and 9 kicked off the Carolina Scottish Game's Season at beautiful Loch Noman in Huntersville, NC. This year the Catawba Valley Scottish Society celebrated the 24th year of these games. And what a weekend it turned out to be! Cold enough for a sweater and coffee at 8 am, the 40 degree start gave way to a sunny 75 degree afternoon. No rain and little wind made for a fantastic event. No world records broken in the Heavy Athletics but fun none the less.

Clan MacKenzie tent was a buzz of activity all day. Jennifer McKinzie (Clan Secretary) and her mother Margie (Happy birthday Margie!) joined James Mounce and held down the fort on Saturday. Kirk

MacKenzie (VP of the SE region) joined James and Dodi Mounce to man the tent on Sunday. PJ MacKenzie and family, including adorable 3 year old daughter Zora, stayed all weekend and kept us all entertained and laughing. Shortbread and whiskey fudge welcomed the visitors along with passports for the kids. All in all a great kick off to the season. When in Charlotte around tax time, be sure to attend the Loch Norman games if you can. You will be glad you did!





Castle Leod—News

Castle Leod is a grand old lady, a landmark worthy of saving and will become a great asset and attraction for the local community and the local economy when restored.

The Castle is under the protection of the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust, the CMCT, a registered charity. We need £962,000 for the external repairs to this historic grade A- listed building which is of national and international importance.

Our eventual goal is a total of £2,174,000 to complete restoration to both the external and internal fabric of the building, work that started in 1991, work that will save the castle and its landscape for future generations.

Castle Leod was re-roofed in 1991 after the roofed failed, this had allowed water to damage the upper floors of the old tower. The roof was successfully repaired and since then we have managed to maintain the status quo but have not managed to fully move forward with the next stages of restoration. The next stage is to continue with the restoration work , with the ultimate aim of creating a visitor centre, a community led educational facility and restoration of the upper floors of the old tower. These re-furbished rooms would not just be display rooms , they would be available to hire out to groups and individuals who would like to stay in the Castle.

Be sure to find them on FaceBook or <http://www.castlelead.org.uk/>

Your Organization

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

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Mailing Address Line 5