



# GAELIC GAZETTE

Monthly newsletter of the Tucson Celtic Festival Association  
Tucson, Arizona



July 2022

## Help our club tent at July 16 & 17 Flagstaff festival

Our Tucson Celtic Festival Association's information tent will be at the July 16 - 17 Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Helpers are needed to greet visitors and tell them about our Nov. 4 - 6 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games. We will also be selling delicious Welsh cakes from our tent, as a club fundraiser.

If you can assist at our Flagstaff tent, please e-mail: [TucsonCelt1@gmail.com](mailto:TucsonCelt1@gmail.com)

**Activities:** Athletics, music, dance, piping, kids' activities, clans and Celtic society booths, genealogy and other workshops, and food and merchandise vendors.



**Location:** Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff, Arizona (257 miles north of Tucson).

**Open hours:**

- ♦ July 16, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ♦ July 17, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Activities:** Athletics, Celtic bands, children's activities, Celtic dancing, piping, clan and society booths, genealogy workshops, food and gift vendors, beers, and whiskies.

**Admission:**

- ♦ Adults: 1 day, \$20; and 2 days, \$30.
- ♦ Seniors (60 and older): 1 day, \$15; and 2 days, \$25.
- ♦ Children (age 5 -12): 1 or 2 days, \$5.

**Website:** [nachs.info](http://nachs.info)

## Show Low Renaissance fest slated July 8 - 10 Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire

**Activities:** Medieval combat shows (Saturday only), food, medieval reenactors, craft booths, Celtic music, and dance performers.



**Location:** Frontier Field Park, 650 N. 9th Place, Show Low, Arizona (188 miles northeast of Tucson).

**Open hours:**

- ♦ July 8, Friday, and July 9, Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ♦ Saturday concert: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday, July 10: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Daily admission:**

- ♦ General: \$15
- ♦ Kids (ages 5 -13): \$7
- ♦ Saturday night concert: \$10

**Website:** [AzMayhem.com](http://AzMayhem.com)





## Editor's corner:

For kilt wearers, such as myself, one can spend a small fortune investing in kilts, jackets, sporrans, ghillie brogues shoes, dirks, sgian dubhs, and other kilt accessories.

I recently discovered an international Facebook page, where anyone may share suggestions and/or ask about Scottish attire at:

**Facebook.com/USAKilts**

Hosted by two owners of a Pennsylvania kilt store, the quality of recommendations is extremely useful.

These kilt store owners host monthly live-discussions on their **Kilts & Culture** Facebook page. Audience members may submit their questions online, which are quickly answered during the live video programs.

— Don Burns, *Gaelic Gazette* editor



## Support our festival partners



Please patronize our 2021 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games sponsors, who might return this year if you thank them in-person:

- ♦ **Claymore Imports** (Celtic wear and gifts), Scottsdale, AZ
- ♦ **Trident Grill** (four Tucson locations)
- ♦ **Trident Pizza Pub**, Tucson
- ♦ **Quail Construction**, Tucson
- ♦ **Simply Bits** (Internet support), Tucson
- ♦ **Tucson Weekly** (news publications)

## Who we are:

The Tucson Celtic Festival Association is a total volunteer, 501(c)(3) association that is exempt from federal income tax under Title 26 of the United States code. Our Celtic association was established in 1986.

We are dedicated to family-friendly entertainment, athletic competition, and cultural education; hosting four major annual events to fund our mission.



## Celtic association officers:

- ♦ **President:** Elizabeth Warner
- ♦ **Vice President:** Bruno Brunelle
- ♦ **Secretary:** Christina Garza
- ♦ **Treasurer:** Angela Nelson
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Tracey "Tray" Hargrove
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Ildefonso "Ponch" Green

## Committee chairpersons:

- ♦ **Athletics director:** Daryn Herzberg
- ♦ **Athletics liaison:** Ildefonso "Ponch" Green
- ♦ **Children's activities:** Christina Garza
- ♦ **Clans and societies:** Joe Warner
- ♦ **Entertainment:** Tray Hargrove
- ♦ **Festival t-shirts:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Fields:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Media:** Tray Hargrove
- ♦ **Membership:** Lee Ann Brydges
- ♦ **Newsletter:** Don Burns
- ♦ **Operations:** Bruno Brunelle
- ♦ **Pipe bands:** Renee Brollini
- ♦ **Program editor:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Public address announcers:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Scholarships:** Alexandra MacPherson-Munro
- ♦ **Vendors (food and crafts):** Elizabeth Warner
- ♦ **Volunteers:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Webmaster:** Derek Vanover



Our Tucson Festival Celtic Association newsletter deadline to submit text and photos is **July 28** for the August 2022 issue at:

**kiltguy@aol.com**

## Contact us:

- ♦ **Website:**  
TucsonCelticFestival.org
- ♦ **Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 40665, Tucson, AZ 85717
- ♦ **General inquiries:**  
TucsonCelt1@gmail.com
- ♦ **Newsletter:**  
kiltguy@aol.com
- ♦ **Facebook (nearly 6,000 followers):**  
facebook.com/TucsonCelticFestival



## *From our Association President. . .*

**Hello and happy summer!,**

The summer just seems to be flying by! Monsoons are rolling in and that spells crazy driving, overflowing washes and amazing lightning for all of Tucson.

As the overwhelming heat beats down we are busy calling vendors, planning all new activities, contacting clans, and making tons of plans.

I'm so excited about this year's Nov. 4 - 6 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games. There will be new things to do and see in every area of the festival.

As I am sure I have said before, we run 100% on volunteers. We have some of the best volunteers in Tucson!

Everyone who volunteers with us receives an exclusive Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games T-shirt, free admission to the festival, lunch and/or dinner, and a volunteer party on Sunday night, Nov. 6 after the festival.

Did I mention the best part of volunteering with our festival association? You get to hang out with some of the best people ever! Our volunteer family is the heart that brings this festival to life for 36 years now, and I am so proud to be a part of that. I know you'll enjoy it, too.

I am truly grateful for all of the hard work our volunteers put in to make last year such a success. This year is on track to be even better; so, if you want to join us for a great weekend please contact us. We have tons of opportunities and accommodations!



**Your friend,**

**Elizabeth Warner, President  
Tucson Celtic Festival Association**



*Glimpses of our past Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games*  
**Photos by Bill Vaughn/TucsonSentinel.com**





## Meetings and events

Our Tucson Celtic Festival Association's four major annual events are: **Robert Burns Supper** (late January), **Tartan Day** (early April), **Mother's Day Tea Party** (mid May), and **Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games** (early November).



**Monthly membership and festival planning meetings:** 9 a.m., on the second Saturday of the month, in the Northminster Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 2450 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson: **July 9; Aug. 13; Sept. 10; Oct. 2, 9, 26, 23, and 30; and continuing.** No meeting in May.

- ♦ **July 8 - 10:** Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire, Frontier Field Park, 650 N. 9th Place, Show Low, AZ.
- ♦ **July 9, Saturday, 9 a.m.:** Our Tucson Celtic club membership and festival planning meeting.
- ♦ **July 16 & 17:** Arizona Highland Celtic Festival, Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff, AZ.
- ♦ **Aug. 13, Saturday, 9 a.m.:** Our Tucson Celtic club membership and festival planning meeting.
- ♦ **Sept. 24 & 25:** Prescott Highland Games & Celtic Faire, Watson Lake Park, 3101 Watson Lake Road, Prescott, AZ.
- ♦ **Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Saturdays, 9 a.m.:** Tucson Celtic Festival membership and planning meetings.
- ♦ **Nov. 4 - 6: Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games, Rillito Raceway Park, 4502 N. 1st Avenue, Tucson, AZ.**

**More events to come.**



**Gaelic Gazette editor Don Burns poses with a few of the Celtic Steps dancers after their June 25 Tucson show.**

## Arizona's Irish step-dancers showcase their dazzling talents

Celtic Steps of Arizona put on a fantastic June 25 Irish step-dancing show at Tucson's Berger Performing Arts Center. Nearly 30 male and female dancers kicked and tapped their feet to classic Irish folk tunes and the pop songs of Michael Jackson, Abba, and Queen.

The troupe is based in Tucson and Chandler, whose dancers range from ages 5 to adult.

One Tucson male adult dancer was ranked second-best in the world at the 2022 Irish Step-dancing Championships in Belfast, Ireland.

**From the dancers' website:** "Over the last 15 years, students have enjoyed major success both in competition and in performance. Celtic Steps has won innumerable regional and national



championships, and has placed first in the world in figure choreography.

"Many of the dancers have pursued successful performance careers, including joining the cast of Lord of the Dance, Riverdance and Heartbeat of Home, among others."

For upcoming Celtic Steps shows, visit: **ArizonalrishDance.com**



## Celtic Lore:

### Celtic contributions to our freedom and liberty

Come Sundays nearest the Fourth of July, I preach not on the customarily appointed Biblical scripture, but on the scripture of freedom and liberty in our country's founding document, *The Declaration of Independence*. Specifically, its preamble which posits the reasons why we celebrate our Independence Day.

#### **Preamble to the Declaration of Independence:**

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*

*That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute New Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."*

Many of the signers of the *Declaration*, our founding fathers, were of Celtic heritage. These words were *lingua franca* to them. Particularly, the red-headed author of *The Declaration of Independence*, Thomas Jefferson. He was of Welch-Scottish heritage: his father's line back to North Wales, his mother's to the Hebrides.

Moreover, Jefferson's muse derived from the Scot's declaration of freedom: *The Declaration of Arbroath* (1320), which concludes: *"It is, in truth, not for glory nor riches nor honors that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."*

So, while celebrating the Fourth of July this year, raise your glass, and with this Celtic toast thank God and our Celtic forbears for bestowing on us such blessings of freedom and liberty:

*Thanks be to you, O God of grace, Creator of all that is,  
For reviving in us today the spirit of freedom and liberty.  
Re-kindle in us that mighty flame of love and perception  
So that we may see and remember your many wonders,  
And live always praising your glorious Name.*

**Most Rev. Fr. Doug Knox**

*Tucson Celtic Festival Association historian*

## ***Tickets still available for our club's truck raffle***

Tickets are still available for our best yearly Tucson Celtic Festival Association fundraiser: Jim Click Automotive Team's *Millions for Tucson Raffle*. We are one of several community non-profit groups selling raffle tickets for your chance to win a **2022 Ford Maverick Lariat Hybrid pickup truck**.



Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100, and our club keeps 100-percent of the ticket sales.

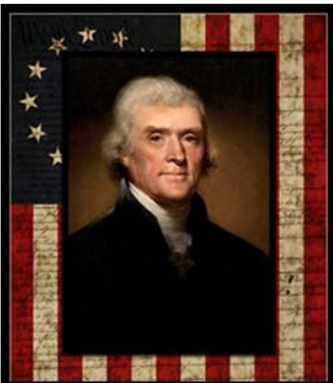
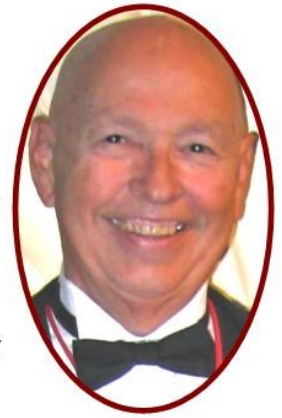
Our club earned \$1,125 during eight weeks of ticket sales. We also received another \$1,000 from Jim Click for participating.

"It has been one of our most profitable fundraisers," said Angela Nelson, club treasurer.

"I'm selling 100 tickets to benefit our Tucson Celtic association. Please contact me at (520) 822-4779 or by e-mail at **TucsonCelt1@gmail.com**."

Ticket sales deadline is Dec. 8; but only 100 are being sold through our Tucson Celtic Festival Association. So, buy them while they last.

A complete list of raffle details and rules are online at: **MillionsForTucson.org**





## SAMS: Have kilt, will march . . . and more fun!

American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts attract military veterans, but the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS) offers another camaraderie option.

Since 1981, the national non-profit organization preserves and promotes Scottish and American military customs, traditions, and heritage.

The SAMS Post 81 honor guard is widely known for its kilts with military shirts. The marching team regularly appears in community parades; memorial and funeral services; dedication and military retirement ceremonies; Kirkin' of the Tartan church services; and

area festivals, including our Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games.

"Even if you are not a marcher, our SAMS post has several yearly social events for our members and their families to enjoy," said Guy Peabody, Post 81, A Company leader. Recent fun activities have been weapons firing, skydiving, group trips, and formal Scottish dinners.

"Our society was founded as a military-themed organization, composed primarily of honorably discharged men and women veterans or active duty servicemembers of

Scottish ancestry," Guy stated.

The overall purpose of SAMS is:

- ♦ Providing a forum for exchange of military history and genealogical information.
- ♦ Conducting public education programs.
- ♦ Presenting military student honor awards.
- ♦ Supporting Scottish activities at Highland Games.
- ♦ Making appropriate charitable contributions.
- ♦ Providing a fraternal atmosphere for members.

The SAMS unit also participates in veterans' outreach projects, including *Operation Prevention 22* to combat and bring awareness to veteran suicide.

Post 81 has an A and B company unit in Tucson and Sierra Vista, respectively. The local group meets at 6:30 p.m., on the third Monday of the month, at CattleTown Steakhouse, 3141 E. Drexel Road, Tucson.

For details, please telephone (520) 266-5146 or e-mail: [SamsPost81@gmail.com](mailto:SamsPost81@gmail.com). Visit the Post 81 website for more information and photos of past events at: [SamsPost81.com](http://SamsPost81.com).





## Remember *Isle of Man* when you see a Manx cat

Isle of Man, one of the seven Celtic Nations, is also spelled Mann; Manx-Gaelic Ellan Vannin or Mannin; or in Latin, Mona, or Monapia. The island lies between England and Ireland. The Isle of Man is not part of the United Kingdom, but rather is a crown possession (since 1828) that is self-governing in its internal affairs under the supervision of the British Home Office.

The island is about 30 miles long by 10 miles wide, with a 2,036-foot-tall mountain range. Man's coastline is rocky and has fine cliff scenery. The grass-covered slate peaks of the central massif are smooth and rounded as a result of action during various glacial periods. The island's landscape is treeless except in sheltered places. To the southwest lies an islet, the Calf of Man, with precipitous cliffs, which is administered by the Manx National Heritage as a bird sanctuary.

The domestic Manx cat, a distinctive tailless breed, is traditionally believed to have originated on the island.



*Isle of Man flag*

The Isle of Man has been inhabited by humans since the Mesolithic Period (10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) It became the home of many Irish missionaries in the centuries following the teaching of St. Patrick (5th century). Among its earliest inhabitants were Celts; and their language, Manx, which is closely related to Gaelic, remained the everyday speech of the people until the first half of the 19th century.

The number of Manx speakers is now negligible, however. Norse (Viking) invasions began about 800, and the isle was a dependency of Norway until 1266. During this period Man came under a Scandinavian system of government that has remained practically unchanged ever since.

In 1266 the king of Norway sold his suzerainty over Man to Scotland, and the island came under the control of England in 1341. From then on, the island's successive feudal lords, who styled themselves "kings of Mann," were all English. In 1406 the English crown granted the island to Sir John Stanley, and his family ruled it almost uninterruptedly until 1736. (The Stanleys refused to be called "kings" and instead adopted the title "lord of Mann," which still holds.)

The lordship of Man passed to the dukes of Atholl in 1736, but, in the decades that followed, the island became a major center for the contraband trade, thus depriving the British government of valuable customs revenues.

In response, the British Parliament purchased sovereignty over the island in 1765 and acquired the Atholl family's remaining prerogatives on the island in 1828.

The government consists of an elected president; a Legislative Council, or upper house; and a popularly elected House of Keys, or lower house. The two houses function as separate legislative bodies but come together to form what is known as the Tynwald Court to transact legislative business. The House of Keys constitutes one of the most ancient legislative assemblies in the world. The Isle of Man levies its own taxes.

Though fishing, agriculture, and smuggling were formerly important, offshore financial services, high-technology manufacturing, and tourism from Britain are now the mainstays of the island's economy.

The island's farms produce oats, wheat, barley, turnips, and potatoes, and cattle and sheep graze on the pastures of the central region.

The principal towns are Douglas, the capital; Peel; Castletown; and Ramsey. There is an airport near Castletown, and packet boats connect Man with the British mainland.



*Traditional Manx folk wear*