



TCFA Chuairt Litrí

(TCFA Newsletter)



Tucson Celtic Festival Association

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This is my first attempt at the inaugural Tucson Celtic Festival Association (TCFA) quarterly newsletter (**Chuairt-Litrí**).



Acting Chief of Clan McBain and TCFA President Dale Pederson

When I became a member of TCFA, I found I knew very little about the Celts and their culture and even after a few years of membership, I knew little more. I also found it was very hard to learn the intricacies of each part of the games while volunteering. That helped me decide to become the Membership Chair. That, and the announcement by

Greg Landers that I had just volunteered. (Greg and I both have been longtime Kiwanis Club members).

Preparing for the games, I Googled the subject and put together a binder to help me talk with prospective members. And now I will do my best to put this education plus other subjects into a quarterly. Areas of interest I'd like to include will be: History of the Celts,

TCFA, Tucson Hammerheads, our four major

events, an occasional member's biography, some snippets from Scottish, Irish, Welsh famous people. That said, let's get started.

TCFA is a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) Association that is exempt from federal income tax under Title 26 of the United States code. The association was established in 1986. We are dedicated to family-friendly entertainment, athletic competition and cultural education and host four major events each year to fund that mission.

The TCFA has a Board of Directors and their election occurs every January. Each member is elected for a 2-year term. Currently, the board members are:

President Dale Pederson, V.P. Greg Landers, Secretary Erin Haugen, Treasurer Sarah Mackie, Members-at-Large are Don Appleton, Bruno Brunelle and Jack Hamilton. Sergeant-at-Arms is Mike Foley. Reminder – Elections for next year will be held at our "Annual Meeting" in January. If you are interested in running for a position, contact Secretary Erin Haugen at secretary@tucsoncelt.org.

All members are invited to the monthly meeting and their suggestions are welcomed. The meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of each month with an occasional adjustment for planning meetings as an event nears. The meetings are from 9AM to 11AM. Generally, they are held at St. Pius Catholic Church, 1800 N Camino Pio Decimo in Tucson.



Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and President Dale Pederson



Opening ceremonies with the Scottish American Military Society Honor Guard

First Annual Halfway to Highlands Golf Tournament – Saturday, May 11, 2019!

Robert Rules are the standard: a motion, a second, a discussion and a vote by the Board members.

The 32nd Tucson Celtic Celebration & Highland Games are now history and it is time for all of us to help with the 33rd Edition. Considering that it will be the Men's Master World Championships with at least 150 of the world's best and selected athletes, all of us will have to promote the event. Now is the best time to acknowledge the many hours expended by all to make this year's event a success but to Erin, Sarah and Greg we owe the most thanks.



Pipe Major Kevin Conquest leads the Opening Ceremonies parade.

DID YOU KNOW...

Members can help subsidize the cost of office supplies by including the Sustaining Member amount with their due's payment. It is only \$50 per year and it is tax deductible as a charitable donation. (Always confirm with your tax advisor).



Save the date **January 26, 2019** for the dinner to celebrate the birth of Scotland's Poet Laureate, at our annual **Robert Burns Dinner**. It will be held at the Omni Tucson National Resort, 2727 West Club Drive, Tucson.

The story that some believe is that Robbie Burns wrote Auld Lang Syne, which is not entirely true. Robbie wrote parts of it, but some was taken from previous authors so in essence, parts were collected and assembled into what is now sung around the world and the closing of many events.

"The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, or promis'd joy"

Robert Burns' poem To a Mouse, 1786

It tells of how he, while ploughing a field, upturned a mouse's nest. The resulting poem is an apology to the mouse.

Here are some other photos from the 32nd Festival and Games to close out our first newsletter edition. If you have photos, suggestions or comments for the newsletter, please email me. My address is listed on the front.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans with Most Rev. Doug Knox



CELTICA PIPES ROCK

TCFA membership booth with Jack Hamilton





TCFA is now a much larger organization. In our search for major sponsors for the 2018 Celtic Festival program, Kiwanis Club of Tucson stepped up and filled the vacancy. While our program master Greg Landers and Kiwanis' Tim Young were working on the ad, they discussed that both organizations should be helping each other. Out of their discussion arose a great idea. We should both become corporate members of the other's organization. It came to pass and now they have access to our volunteers and we have access to theirs. Another Kiwanis corporate member – Salvation Army of Tucson helped us on Festival Cleanup Day with volunteers from their group. It was the quickest cleanup we ever had!

Kiwanis meetings are held each Friday at the Viscount Hotel, 4855 East Broadway Blvd at noon for lunch. Any TCFA member is welcome and only pays for their lunch.

The first opportunity to volunteer is here. Yearly, at Christmas time, Kiwanis of Tucson volunteers to ring the bells for the Salvation Army for donations. Anyone who would like to participate, contact Greg Landers for information.

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CLAN McBAIN - In a picture on page one, you may have noticed that Richard McBain was titled the "Acting Chief." The reason is that his father has decided to retire from being Clan Hereditary Chieftain. There are only about 90 Scottish Highland Chiefs in the world. Only five of these live in the United States. James McBain of McBain, 22nd Hereditary Chief of the Ancient Clan McBain is one them. Richard took this opportunity to highlight all the myriad of ways that James and his wife, Peggy, have contributed to the Scottish community over the years.

Peggy McBain of McBain has been a positive force for decades in the Scottish community. She danced in the Seven Pipers Country Dance Performance group for over two decades. She oversaw the "Seven Pipers in Print" newsletter for 14 years and started the well-known "Taste of Scotland" in Tucson, Arizona. She attended many

Highland Games, Scottish events and Ceremonies with the McBain all and across the world.

James McBain of McBain, is the 22nd Hereditary Chief of the Ancient Clan McBain. He became Chief in 1977 upon the death of his father, Houston McBain of McBain, who was the 21st Hereditary Chief of Clan McBain. Upon becoming Chief, Chief McBain chose to study and learn both country dance and the Gaelic in order to better perform his duties.

On the subject of Gaelic, once Chief McBain was traveling through Colorado, with Lachland MacIntosh, Chief of MacIntosh, who was born and raised in Scotland. During their travels they were asked to give a speech at the opening of an event. The organizers thought it would be great if Lachland spoke in the Gaelic and Chief McBain spoke in English. While the TV cameras were being setup, Lachland confided in Chief McBain that he could not read, or speak, Gaelic. So, the American Chief, James McBain, read and spoke the Gaelic, and Lachland spoke in English, to Lachland's relief. After the ceremony, James was approached by an extremely grateful Irishman who said that it was the first time in 50 years that he had heard his native tongue spoken (Irish Gaelic is very similar to Scottish Gaelic).

Chief McBain created 2 tartans during his time as Chief, namely the dress tartan and the hunting tartan, at the request of the members of Clan McBain, and with the assistance of Jamie Scarlet of Moy in Scotland, an authority on Scottish Tartans. Chief McBain is author of a book entitled "The Clan McBain-MacBean, A History of an Ancient Family".

James is an FSA Scot, a member of the Society of Antiquities, and a member of the Standing Council of Chiefs. Over the years, Chief McBain was President of "The Seven Pipers" group 3 times. James was also Vice President of Clan Chattan in the United Kingdom. Since its inception, James (and Peggy) have never missed a Tucson Highland Games. James (and Peggy) have been at every Phoenix and Prescott Highland Games, save the

first, and have been at every Flagstaff Highland Games other than 2009, when they were in Scotland performing various duties there.

Chief McBain (and Peggy) have attended Highland Games in Golden, Colorado Springs and Estes Park, Colorado, in North and South Carolina, and in Santa Rosa, Pleasanton, Berkeley, Queen Mary, Ventura, and Sacramento, California. They have also attended Highland Games in Alma, Michigan, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Stone Mountain, Georgia and Kentucky. Outside of the country, James (and Peggy) have attended Highland Games in Calgary, Canada, and numerous events across Scotland.

James has been involved in countless correspondences over 4 decades. James (and Peggy) have hosted numerous Scottish Events at their home over the years. They have also attended numerous McBain Gatherings across the country, including Kansas City and Wichita, Kansas, Golden and Denver Colorado and Williamsburg, Virginia. James has been to Scotland perhaps 15 times over 30 years, frequently to attend The Standing Council of Chiefs meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, and sometimes the Moy sports Fair near Inverness, Scotland.

In short, Peggy and James McBain of McBain have been Ambassadors of good will, and a huge and sustained benefit to the Scottish community, having given over 4 decades of dedicated service. Today the Chief is stepping back from his duties as Chief and his son Richard McBain of McBain Younger, the Tanist of Clan McBain is taking them on.

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Do you know who the Hammerheads are?

Started in 2006 by Doug Mostyn, who desperately needed a hobby and friends, it grew to be a team of people, young and old, many who started out of curiosity and were quickly hooked on the sport and have become great friends. Some will say, "I didn't really intend to compete in the Highland Games" or something similar. But you can find them at all the competitions in Arizona, California, New Mexico and even Scotland!

In general, because it is an individual sport, people who compete in heavy athletic events are

on their own. They must get own equipment and places to throw and often practice by themselves.

The Tucson Celtic Hammerheads not only practice together and share their equipment, but the more seasoned throwers are happy to tutor the new athletes. Take a tour through our pages and see how much fun we have! Our camaraderie is priceless!

Besides all of that we get to wear a KILT!

The Hammerheads are members of KASA – Kilted Athletes of America. TCFA and KASA have teamed up to present the

2019 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Masters Heavy Events World Championship Games,

here in Tucson. This is a phenomenal opportunity to present the games, not only in the United States, but in Tucson, Arizona! Planning is already underway. We are going to need *LOTS* of help and *LOTS* of volunteers for this event. It's time to spread the word and invite your friends, family and co-workers to join our TCFA team for 2019! Organization is still in process, but for now, see Dale Pederson or Greg Landers with questions, or to volunteer.



Doug Mostyn and admirers



A sky to end all