

April 2009



President's Message

Jon Lang

The 33rd Annual NH Highland Games offered its spectators some of the best Scottish entertainment, athletics and competition that can be had for the price. Band concerts every hour in the Big Tent, professional athletes from around the world, massed bands on Saturday, a first-time Sunday band competition, dance competitions, and many more entertaining events throughout the weekend. As an additional treat, John Wallace, a world class trumpeter, acted as our honorary Chieftain and closed the Games with a fantastic rendition of the "Last Post".

With enough said about last year, planning for the 34th annual Highland Games is well under way and I can already tell you that it will surpass last year. Plans have been finalized for the Scots Guard 1st Battalion regimental band from Scotland to be the guest band, and some new entertainment acts including The Red Hot

Chilli Pipers (a must see!) direct from Scotland, will fill the venues.

We are in tough economic times and depend on ticket sales and sponsorship for the success or survival of this event. I encourage everyone to recommend sponsors and to talk up the games with your friends and associates. Sponsorship can be as simple as funding a trophy, or as involved as being a major event sponsor. The NHHG Membership Program is a great way to support the Games and take advantage of the program privileges. If Highland Athletics are your interest, consider joining The Friends of Athletics. Friends receive tickets, a special shirt, picture opportunities, and more. Every bit of support that we receive is crucial to the success of the Games. Call or email the NHHG office to ask about all the many sponsorship opportunities that we offer.

Thank you in advance for your support in making the 34th Annual games a success. See you in September!

Jon Lang - President
NHGSC Board of Directors



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2009 Guest Band
 Scots Guard 1st Battalion

The Scots Guard, 1st Battalion will be the guest band for the 34th NH Highland Games. Based in Catterick, North Yorkshire, the Battalion is an armoured infantry battalion. When not on operations, the pipes and drums role in the Battalion is purely piping and drumming. A lot of the time is spent practising, perfecting new selections and learning new tunes.

The Scots Guards were officially formed in 1642, with the issuing of a commission to Archibald 1st Marquess of Argyll by King Charles I. There was a drum major and drummers in the Regiment at this time with possibly as many as 12 Drummers and Pipers by 1644. The first positive glimpse of pipers in the Regiment was as late as 1670, with each Company having a piper paid for by his Captain.

The pipers and drummers would go everywhere with the Regiment, and play on long marches to spur on the troops. It was on these long marches, around the 1800's that pipers and drummers started to experiment by playing together. These experiments worked and the pipe band was born.



It was also around this time that the army started to employ men as pipers and drummers and a wage structure was put in place, in line with what other soldiers were getting paid. Extra privileges were paid to pipers for them to play outside their normal working hours. Whoever was paying the piper would get to choose what the piper played, hence the phrase "He who pays the piper, names the tunes".

When the Battalion is posted to the London District the pipes and drums performed at the changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle on a regular basis. They are also involved in Trooping of the

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New Performers at the 2009 New Hampshire Highland Games

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are coming the NH Highland Games! Featuring a fusion of traditional pipe tunes and modern anthems, the Chilli's brand of "bag rock" have cemented their well-earned reputation as one of the most exciting acts around. Members of the Chilli's include founding member and musical director Stuart Cassells, who as well as rocking all over the world in recent years, was the recipient of the BBC Radio

Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2005 and the first person to gain a degree in bagpipes from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Joining Stuart and proving that three pipers are always better than one, are Grade 1 pipers Kevin MacDonald and Willie Armstrong. Twice world champion snare drummer Steven Graham and Malcolm McEwan make up the band's percussion section with back up from rock 'n' roll drummer Steven Black. Completing the line up are the youngest Chilli and new kid on the block Chris Russell on keyboards and Gregor James (otherwise known as The G-Man) on guitar. Known for his funky riffs as well as a passion for all things electro, the G-Man spices things up by adding his own unique twist to the Red Hot Chilli Pipers' live shows.



The Red Hot Chilli Pipers

The MacLeod Fiddlers

This talented group of young musicians has evolved from the MacLeod School of Fiddling in Glengarry, Canada. They have performed locally for concerts, dances and charity events in their communities as well as taking an active roll in the Glengarry Highland Games. Additionally, the group has performed at the Mid-Winter Scottish and Irish Festival in Philadelphia and has traveled to Cape Breton and immersed themselves in the musical mores of the island, performing at Festival of Cape Breton Fiddling at St. Ann's College. This is the group's first trip to the NHHG!



The MacLeod Fiddlers

North Sea Gas

North Sea Gas has enjoyed great acclaim for their high standards of professionalism. With a combination of instruments including guitar, mandolin, bodhran, banjo, whistle, mandola, bouzouki, mouth organ complementing fine vocals, harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is guaranteed. Over the years their exciting blend of Scottish and Irish music has appealed to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, Canada and the United States. For years, North Sea Gas has attracted large audiences to concerts held during the Edinburgh Festival. It has been a while since they have played at NHHG so come and enjoy!



North Sea Gas

Special Thanks to all of our sponsors for the 2009 New Hampshire Highland Games!

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Meet New Board Members



Anne Donlan

Anne has been involved in Highland Dancing since the age of 10, when she started taking lessons from Jeannie Brauns of Broadalbin, New York. In 1981, Anne passed her Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance (SDTA) Members Exam and started teaching dancing in Burlington and Shelburne, Vermont. She added to her dancing qualifications by passing the SDTA Fellows Exam and British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) Members Exam. Most recently she became a Member of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (SOBHD) Worldwide Judges' Panel.

Anne's service to The Federation of Highland Dance Teachers and Adjudicators (FUSTA) began in 1995 when she became Eastern Region Delegate, a position she held until 1997 when she was elected as FUSTA National Secretary. In 2001, she was elected FUSTA Vice President, a position she continues to hold. As Vice President Anne developed the FUSTA Competition Organizers Manual and implemented the registration and renumbering of all Highland Dancing competitions in the United States. In addition, she is a FUSTA Scrutineering Certification Instructor and conducts classes to promote certification of teachers and dance parents throughout the United States.

As a Member of the FUSTA Executive Board, Anne has represented FUSTA at several SOBHD Liaison Meetings in Edinburgh, Scotland and attended the SOBHD Annual General Meeting in November 2008.

Anne was the Chair of the United States Highland Dancing Championship (USIR) and North American Championship in July 2006 in Saratoga Springs, New York. She has also re-created the USIR Organizer's manual which supplies future Organizers with many suggestions, schedules, FUSTA rules, and guidelines they will need when organizing the U.S. Championship.

In the past two years, as Chair of the Highland dancing events at the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, the Championship has become one of the largest dance contests in the United States, with over 130 Premier dancers participating in 2008. Anne was recently elected to a three year term on the New Hampshire Highland Games Board of Directors. As a Board Member, her knowledge of Highland Dancing and competition organizations will be helpful in promoting the competitive and non-competitive events at the NHHG.



Wayne Hill

Wayne is an engineer who says he is an "expert in chaos, which could be useful," and is serving his first term (2008) on the NHHG board. Interested in sea kayaking, strength training and Highland Games athletics, Wayne has been involved in highland games in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine for the past 5 years, serving as Athletic Director or providing equipment and/or judging. He has also competed as a Highland Games masters athlete. Particularly interested in athletics, Wayne feels that a "festival isn't complete without all the aspects: pipers, dancing, clans, food, vendors, all are important to the continued well-being of the games as a cultural tradition." Wayne believes that his experience from visiting and participating in other games provides useful perspectives to the Board. Wayne resides in Westborough, MA. with his wife Nancy.

Meet New Board Members

Amy Nichols

Amy Nichols assumed the role of Treasurer in 2008. A long-time volunteer for the NHHG, Amy brings her combined expertise as a CPA and MS in Human Resources to the Board. Amy is no stranger to not-for-profit organizations as she has served as the Treasurer for the NH Association for the Blind since 2005. In her role as a CPA, a main focus of her work was in audits of non-profits and governmental agencies.

Amy, and her guide dog Sheba, have been a fixture at the Games since 1999 where she has volunteered in the Games business office and helped with the many items and problems that confront that office. Her volunteer experience throughout the years, as well as her business experience allows her to effortlessly understand the needs of the Games.

As a volunteer, Amy does not limit herself to just the Games. She serves on the Governor's Task Force for Special Education and a state-wide employment committee for vocational rehabilitation, works with the Lions Club and the Guide Dog Users of NH. She formed a support group for families of the Concord, NH Police Department and was instrumental in the passing of a blind pedestrian safety law in NH. In 2006 she was honored by the New England Patriots for her community service with several organizations.

Amy and Sheba live in Epsom, NH with her husband Scott who also volunteers for the Games.

Sue Butman

The newest member of the NHGSC, Inc. Board has been a familiar face around the Games for many years. Sue Butman began her involvement with the NHHG in 1996 and has been both volunteer and a staff member. In years past you could find Sue working with the many NHHG volunteers or helping with the myriad of details that make the Games happen.

Ask Sue where she has helped out at NHHG and she will likely tell you that it is easier to say where she has not been involved. Whether it is volunteer management, competitor registration, crowd control, tickets or concerts Sue has worked hard wherever she was needed. In fact she was such a good volunteer that she was soon invited to join the staff part-time.

Sue works as Office Manager for the NH Humanities Council in Concord, NH. During the year she works on several committees to help the Games run more efficiently. Sue brings a different perspective to the NHGSC Board, in that she has worked in so many places behind the scenes.

Sue and her husband, Ian, reside in Concord, NH with their daughters Skye and Hailey. For the Butman family, the Games are a family affair as Ian, Skye and Hailey are all NHHG volunteers!



Bruce's Spider

Are We Worthy of the Challenges?

While contemplating a meaningful contribution to this issue of the Highland Highlights, I came upon a legend I had long forgotten. Many a Scottish household has shared the story of King Robert the Bruce and his legendary experience with the spider in cave on some unknown shore or wilderness in the countryside of Scotland. As the story goes, The Bruce and his armies had been defeated by the English at least six times and the Scottish King was at a low point in his life and contemplating leaving his country forever. While exiled in the cave, he caught sight of a spider building a web across a seemingly impossible wide gap. As Bruce watched, the spider tried and tried and tried at least six times. "Foolish spider" thought Bruce, but as he continued to watch, the spider succeeded in leaping across the gap with its thread. Bruce considered the persistent effort of the spider and took it as encouragement that he, too, should continue to persevere regardless of seemingly hopeless circumstances. He eventually came out of hiding and militarily won Scotland's independence from the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Whether the legend is true or not does not diminish the lesson of persistence in the face of an uncertain or challenging outlook. In the midst of our uncertain economic times, what are we trying and willing to do?

- Our **gate prices** and **event tickets** have remained the same for the last three years.
- In the true spirit of Scottish thrift, we consistently strive to manage the "thin red line" of the Games' costs.
- We seek new opportunities for **sponsorship** of any sort and continue to foster a positive relationship with our Lincoln and Woodstock partners. These communities provide us with many unseen resources that are critical to the Games' success each year.
- Maintaining our **core traditions** is foremost in our planning, but we also challenge ourselves to bring a fresh look to our Games and make them memorable for both our experienced attendees and newcomers. Last year we introduced the mass Highland Fling, the Sunday pipe band contest, and the Tenor drum line demonstration. This year we will have new entertainers in the form of Scotland's Red Hot Chilli Pipers, the Town Pants from Vancouver, BC, Canada, the young MacLeod Fiddlers, and the return of a Scottish regimental pipe band in the 1st Battalion Scots Guards.
- We **alter our events** in response to direct feedback and fluctuations in popularity as evidenced by attendance. This year, the Maritime or Cape Breton program will give you the option of a meal and the show or just the show at the Indian Head Resort.

What do we hope our faithful attendees will do or are they willing to do?

- **Word-of-mouth advertising** produces results that are as good or exceed what we can do in print and/or radio. Bring as many friends as you can.
- By the end of May, **NHHG brochures** can be picked up at any rest area in NH, conveniently downloaded from the NHGSCOT.org website, or requested directly from the office.
- Attendance at ticketed events for the **entertainers** can be done totally independent of purchasing a gate ticket.
- Any **direct sponsorship** or **sponsorship leads** of any size will contribute directly to the economic health and survival of the NHHG.

Difficult times are facing all the highland games and some have already closed at least for the year while others are cutting back in what they can offer. For at least this year, the NHHG will practice the lessons from Bruce's spider and persevere. I once read in a Boston Globe Sunday Magazine insert from a few years ago about the influence of the Scottish people and their tendency to "retreat, but never surrender!"

Continued from p. 1
2009 Guest Band

Colours and Beating the Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, and accompany the Regimental bands on Guards of Honour for visiting Heads of States.

During these State visits the pipers of the Battalion will be asked by HM the Queen to play at State banquets at Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle. When the Battalion is on a Royal Guard a piper will always play at St James Palace to entertain the Captain of the Guard and his guests.

As mentioned before, the pipes and drums travel wherever the Battalion go, however the pipe band also partakes in many overseas trips without the remainder of the Battalion. Places that the pipes and drums have visited recently include the USA, Canada, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Norway, France, Ghana and many other locations worldwide.

The Scots Guards have also been very fortunate to be invited to Bangkok, Thailand every year in November to play for the Bangkok St Andrew's Ball. This is always a welcome break from everyday duties and is an engagement the Battalion has had since they were based in Hong Kong in 1982.

Pipers wear the Royal Stewart Tartan in full ceremonial dress and barrack dress. The Regimental pipers were granted the privilege of wearing feather bonnets in 1928 by King George V. Feather bonnets have 5 Tails, 1 for each Foot Guards' Regiment. The spats have 16 buttons and the doublet has 42 depicting the year the Regiment was formed, 1642. The pipers' star is made of silver. Drummers wear the same uniforms as the remainder of the Battalion, with the exception of the "Fleur De Lys" which is embroidered on the tunics. This is a tradition dating back to the French being defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. Ribbons and cords on the Bagpipes are made of Royal Stuart Tartan and the bag covers are made from Government Tartan.

Look for the Scots Guard throughout the weekend of the Games!



Meet Up With John Carmichael in Scotland

Thinking of a visit across the pond next year? The NHHG, in connection with Collette Vacations and AAA Northern New England are organizing a tour of Bonnie Scotland in August 2010. Part of this great tour of Scotland will be through the eyes of John Carmichael—an opportunity not to be missed!

Tentatively scheduled for August, the suggested itinerary could include visits to Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews, Dunrobin Castle, Orkney Islands, Loch Ness, the Isle of Skye, Stirling Castle and more. From a welcoming reception to Edinburgh’s underground city to Inverness and Clava Cairns to Falkirk – Scotland’s history and charm wait for you! Spend nine great days touring the land of our fathers. To receive additional information and discuss this exciting travel opportunity, contact Christian Leibl-Cote at cleibl-cote@collettevacations.com or call 401-727-9000, ext. 4031. Plan now for this great opportunity!

Trophies and Awards

Did you know that one of the largest budget items of the Games is the amount spent of trophies and awards for the many competitors? Think about how many medals, trophies and cash awards are given out to the dancers, pipers, drummers, fiddlers, harpists, pipe bands and runners. It really is mind boggling.

Anyone can help to support the Games and one these competition areas with a donation of as little as \$25.00! That amount provides a medal set for a group of aspiring competitors! It takes so little to provide such encouragement and recognition.

And speaking of recognition, your donation is recognized in the annual program book. Want to know more or sign up? Email to info at nhscot.org or call 603-229-1975 and the NHHG staff can assist you.

Your Information

During the past several months, the NHHG has converted its database to a new system. We are working hard to eliminate duplications and to have complete and accurate information. If you receive more than one copy of a mailing, if you have moved recently, have a winter address or you might like to receive email notifications from the NHHG please notify the office so that we can update our files. Thank you!

September 18-20, 2009

**at Loon Mountain
New Hampshire Highland Games**

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