

Chief: Robertson of Struan
CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

The Northern California Branch
Robertson Duncan Reid

THE ATHOLL TIMES
DECEMBER 2011

Web site: <http://www.donnachaidhnorcal.com/>



Virtutis Gloria Merces
(Glory is the Reward of Valor)

FROM VICE PRESIDENT, ALICE DUNCAN

Com in a hou!

Thank you all so very much for allowing me to be of service to you this last year as Vice President of the Great Clan Donnachaidh! I hope to see some of you at events throughout the year and at the games and gathering of the Highlanders of course! Remember, there can be more than one! LOL! Highlander humor!

We meet soon to discuss game participation for the gatherings next year. I believe we will be at a few more games, to not only represent the Clan but to support our Scottish Heritage.

The Highland Games and Gatherings were used as a Scottish Army Enlistment ceremony. When a lad turned 13 or so, his parents would have a tork made for him, which he would wear around his neck with his Clan's Celtic animal molded at the ends which would be his entrance into the competition of the games. The caber toss; if he could make it turn to a perfect 12:00, then he was to toss poles up on the castle walls or forts of the enemy. If he was able in the stone or hammer throw or the weight over the bar, than he was able to toss theses stones at the enemy's fortress. The dancing would follow after the battle to show the victories and the cleverness of the Clans victories! And of course the pipes, to lead, and withdraw the troops and to help the dancers tell the stories!

Our Celtic culture means so much to me! My elder brother, God rest his soul, would often turn to me and say, "Remember, lass, you are Scottish!" Yes, Yes, I would say, but never did I truly understand the power and strength of the blood that courses so warmly through my veins. Oh what a great and mighty people we Scots truly are! When my father played the fiddle and we all danced the Highland Sword dance, I had no idea that King Duncan's son

Malcolm was creator of and first danced the Sword dance! It tells the story of his victory over the tyrant and murderer, Mac Beth, who murdered his cousin, Malcolm's father, King Duncan, during a family visit. Mac Beth and his wife were hunted down and then killed and beheaded by Malcolm's general and his father's, King Duncan's, loyal friend McDuff! So when you see the Sword dance, you can stand proud and know it is in honor of your first king, King Duncan, a fair and loving man, and created by his son, and heir the great Malcolm, Mac Donnachaidh, Malcolm, son of Duncan!

I really hope you all had as much fun as I did and do at these events. So start your planning now, for I hope to cover the areas from the mountain highlands to the cool coastal regions and down within the warm valleys, of California (Caledonia) to proclaim the culture of the Scottish Highlanders is well and alive!

Oh, and I have a news flash for the Clan. When Marj was still with us and healthier, we used to do **a walk in Volcano to kick off Christmas. They still have it and I am going! It will be held Saturday, December 10. We meet at 3:30pm** in front of the Inn and walk around the town with a candle lit and then meet at the church for a blessing and then over to the hall for some hot apple cider and goodies! You can dress in Highland wear or your snow clothes. But come, it will be fun! Here is the website for the event: <http://motherlodescots.com/walk.php>

And, don't forget to look for the following events being held by the Caledonian Clubs in your area:

St. Andrew's Day is the 30th of November and the club usually puts on an event for that here in Sacramento; we used to have a parade downtown. Remember St. Andrew was the Apostle who brought the Gospel to the Scots.

Hogmany is on Dec 31st, a time of story telling and gift giving and a feast! Maybe some of the members would be willing to open their home for one of these events.

Robert Burns night is Jan 25th; the Daughter's of Scotia usually put on a supper here in Sacramento. It will be on the Caledonian Club of Sacramento website at: <http://sacallie.org>

I'd like to thank all the officers and Council members for their help, loyalty, and patience, especially Peggy! And to all the Clan Donnachaidh members and family for making 2011 so much fun!

Have a wonderful holiday season! I hope to see you at some of the events! If not we will surely meet at the games next year! ...In His Love and Service, Alice Duncan, Your VP; Donnachaidh, Mac Donnachaidh, Vic Donnachaidh! Garg uhn de' ush gear! Duncan's own, daughter of Duncan, Grandchild of Duncan, Fierce when roused!

FROM TREASURER, JOHN DUNCAN

It's that time of year again, to renew your annual membership in Clan Donnachaidh. Attached to this newsletter is the 2012 Membership Renewal form.

Please fill it out and send it the following address: Clan Donnachaidh, 110 San Benito Avenue, Aptos, CA 95003. Do it now, before you forget!

WE HAVE LOST A SPECIAL PERSON



Our Northern California Branch of Clan Donnachaidh was formed in 1980 by a handful of people. Last year we lost Marj Hale and November 10 we lost our first Branch President Wally Banks.

Born June 4, 1925, Wally was son of Walter K. Banks, Sr., a native of Scotland who had served in the Black Watch before moving to America. Wally had a distinguished career in the U.S. Military, as a tail gunner on a B29 in World War II, then as a Marine in the Korean War. Wally was one of the "Chosin Few" one of the "Men of Chosin" one of the fiercest battles in history during the Korean War at Chosin Reservoir.

After an honorable discharge Wally joined his father as a watch maker and jeweler in Stockton for 42 years. We have never found anyone who could maintain our antique mantle clock since Wally retired. After retiring from the jewelry business Wally become the oldest person to go through training as a Correctional Officer for the California Prison System. Wally loved to tell stories of his service years and often told how he became an honorary member of the Tokagawa clan (think Shogun) of Japan by returning a "liberated" Samurai sword that had come into his possession.

Wally served as our first Branch President and hand carried the papers to get our incorporation. Wally departed this life November 10, 2011 surrounded by his family. Wally is survived by his wife Rose and many children and grandchildren. He represents an era in our Society's history that is moving towards an end. We will miss him deeply. --John L. Duncan

NEXT NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1

As mentioned previously, newsletters will be published on/about Mar 1, Jun 1, Sep 1, Dec 1. Following is the schedule for receiving input for the next newsletter:

- Deadline for sending input to me (by regular mail) is February 17.
- Deadline for sending input to me (by email) is February 24.

Thank you, Peggy Reid, 1510 Topanga Lane, #202, Lincoln, CA. 95648; 916-209-3347

2012 GAMES AND FESTIVALS CALENDAR

Events still listed in **RED**: those organizations have not yet determined their 2012 dates.

With Clan Branch Participation

Apr 28-29: Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Gathering, Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland; website: <http://saccallie.org>

TBD (Aug. ?) Monterey Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Toro County Park; website: <http://www.montereyscotgames.com>

TBD (Sep. ?): Caledonian Club of SF Highland Games, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton; website: <http://www.caledonian.org>

Other Games and Festivals

Mar. 9-11: Sonora Celtic Faire, Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora; website: <http://www.calaverascelticfaire.com>

TBD (Apr. ?): Tartan Day 2010, Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont; website: ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood

TBD (May ?): The Shasta Dragonwood Celtic Renaissance Faire, Anderson River Park, Anderson; website: <http://www.shastafaire.com/>

TBD (Jun. ?): Modesto Highland Games, Toulumne River Regional Park; website: <http://www.standrewsmodesto.org>

TBD (Jun. ?): Campbell Highland Games & Celtic Festival; website: <http://www.campbellgames.com>

TBD (Jun. ?): Loch Lomond Highland Games (hosted by the Scottish Renaissance Festival of Santa Cruz), Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Watsonville; website: <http://www.lochlomondceltic.org/games>

TBD (Jul. ?): Oakland Scottish Highland Games, Dunsmuir House & Garden; website: <http://dunsmuirgames.com>

TBD (Sep. ?): Fresno Highland Gathering & Games; website: <http://www.scottishsociety.org/>

TBD (Sep. ?): Dixon Scottish Games & Gathering, Fairgrounds; website: <http://www.scotsindixon.org/dsca/games.html>

Clan Branch Social Activities

Jun 23: Clan Donnachaidh AGM, Pitlochry Area, Scotland

TBD (Sep. ?): Picnic, Alameda County Fairgrounds (camping area)

AGM SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

From Christy Duncan Lange, International Vice-Chairperson

Long before the AGM, the clan branches determined they wanted to send a special "thank you" to Clan Secretary, Ginnie Wilkie, for her work on their behalf. It was decided to provide a lovely silver bracelet with a charm to represent each branch. Suzi McNutt from California took on the management of this project and presented it, with The Chief's blessing.

Below is a photo of the bracelet. Ginnie was surprised and wore it proudly for the rest of Gathering events, showing it to everyone. The charm for our Florida Branch is a palm tree with a banner which reads "Florida". The charm for Northern California Clan Donnachaidh is a Miner panning for gold (second photo).



The second presentation went to Clan Council Chairman, Andrew Duncan. I had previously consulted with James Irvine Robertson and Donald Reid on a tribute to Andrew for his work "above and beyond the call of duty" during the hard Winter months dealing with the problems created by the cold and snow at the Clan Centre with the pipes and furnace, plus his diligence in keeping the society going in the midst of difficult financial issues.

James felt that a framed certificate signed by the clan leaders would be appropriate. So James wrote the prose for the certificate while I collected signatures of our Chief, the Executive Committee members, and the presidents of the clan branches. A friend of James' from Aberfeldy put it

all together by computer and an impressive certificate was produced. Andrew was totally surprised and honored as Chief Gilbert presented it to him (see photo below). The meeting attendees provided a hearty round of applause in appreciation of Andrew's leadership and dedication.

Andrew Duncan, Chief Gilbert, Christy Duncan Lange



Northern CA Clan Donnachaidh Board of Officers

President - Michelle Andersen:
[celticmamabear4\(at\)aol.com](mailto:celticmamabear4(at)aol.com)

Vice President - Alice Duncan:
[alice_duncan\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:alice_duncan(at)comcast.net)

Treasurer - John Duncan: [injduncan\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:injduncan(at)yahoo.com)

Secretary - Roy Manning: [roymanning\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:roymanning(at)yahoo.com)

Clan Council Members

Sara Jane Aseltine: [awa\(at\)lostsierra.net](mailto:awa(at)lostsierra.net)

James M. Brandmueller: [jbrandmu\(at\)nvbell.net](mailto:jbrandmu(at)nvbell.net)

Larry Carter: [ltcarter\(at\)nemurikuma.com](mailto:ltcarter(at)nemurikuma.com)

Anne Louise Collier: (831) 384-7721

Janet Duncan: [injduncan\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:injduncan(at)yahoo.com)

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John Hassenplug: [hassenplug1\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:hassenplug1(at)comcast.net)

Gwen Piercy: (707) 745-2030

Wesley Reed: [zandddad\(at\)msn.com](mailto:zandddad(at)msn.com)

Donald Roberts: [trailleg\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:trailleg(at)comcast.net)

James Robertson: [jmrobertson2\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmrobertson2(at)sbcglobal.net)

Newsletter

Peggy Reid: [phr07\(at\)aol.com](mailto:phr07(at)aol.com)

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

The Northern California Branch

Web site: <http://www.donnachaidhnorcal.com/>

2012 Annual Membership Renewal

Note: please print and complete this renewal form, and mail it in with your check to the address below, right.

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH WAS ORGANIZED IN 1980 TO FOSTER THE HIGHLAND SPIRIT, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. THE SOCIETY REPRESENTS THE CLAN AT MOST HIGHLAND GAMES AND GATHERINGS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, PUBLISHES A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, AND HOLDS DINNERS AND EVENTS FOR MEMBERS.

Our annual membership subscriptions are renewable as of **January 1st**, in accordance with the following schedule:

- \$35.00 --- Individual membership

_____ x \$35.00 = \$ _____

- \$10.00 --- Branch only with Life or 5-year memberships *

_____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

- \$10.00 --- Branch only Associate membership

_____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

* Life or 5-year members please indicate your Society membership number _____

Any member wishing to give a (personal) tax deductible contribution to our Clan Society and/or Museum projects, may do so by sending a check payable to: *The Atholl Rannoch Society*. Please enclose any such checks with your renewal form.

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

(_____) _____

Email address:

Please make check payable to:

C.D.S., No. Calif. Branch

Please mail Renewal form and check to:

Clan Donnachaidh
110 San Benito Avenue
Aptos, CA 95003