



NEWS FROM THE HOUSE of SCOTLAND

“Sgeoil nan Taigh”: Scots-Gaelic for
“News From The House”

Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

March 2012

Highlights from the February Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Knight.

February celebrations: Beryl Clarke has a birthday in February

Thoughts and prayers: Mike Stewart reports that Holly has pneumonia and Wee Seamus is suffering with bronchitis. We wish them a speedy recovery. Jim Scrimgeour reports the death of both a brother and a brother-in-law during the first week in February. Our sympathy is extended to Jim and his wife. A moment's silence was observed for those members of our military serving in harm's way. A moment's silence was observed for those members of our military who are serving in harm's way.

Pipe Band Report: Scott Montgomery gave the Pipe Band report. The band will be competing in only the March Medley portion of the pipe band competition at the Queen Mary. A thank you note from the entire pipe band for the House of Scotland's contributions towards the production of the band's CD was circulated. Scott presented the House with a copy of the CD, which is titled “Taigh na h~alba,” or “House of Scotland” in Gaelic. The launch concert for the CD will be Sunday, May 6, at 2:00 P.M., at the Organ Pavilion.

Old Business: President Steve Knight moderates.

Hosting: Second Vice President, Heather Wilson reports that Sunday, May 6, is open. The hosting schedule was passed around.

. The HPR cottages will be closed on Earth Day, which is April 22.

Upcoming Events: Tartan Day will be observed on Saturday, April 7.

Ceilidh Band: David McSwain reports that the band is still working on new Scottish and Irish tunes. The band will be playing at Tartan Day.

Housekeeping: Everyone was reminded that we are no longer allowed to serve beverages in Styrofoam cups as of January 1, 2012. We were also reminded to let one of the trustees know when supplies are needed in the cottage. There was nothing new to be added

Other Old Business: None.

New Business: President Steve Knight moderates.

New Members: There were no prospective new members at the meeting

New TV: Courtney Wilson has agreed to help Cherie with the search for a flat screen TV to replace the TV we are now using.

Audit Committee: John Field reports that the House of Scotland books have been audited and no discrepancies were found. A signed letter to the effect was presented. The House of Scotland Pipe Band books were available to be audited today.

Other New Business: Cherie McGruer announced that Heather Wilson has volunteered to take on the task of creating our monthly news letter. Steve Knight explained the HPR's new automated phone system. The HPR phone number is 619-234-0739. The system allows people to contact HPR and also to contact the officers of the individual cottages. (see attached explanation sheet) The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Dianne Schultz, Secretary

Reminder: Membership dues of \$7 are due! Dues can be paid at the March meeting or mailed to Cherie McGruer at 65 E. Shasta Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Thank you.



Upcoming Events

- Mar. 11** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Mar. 11** Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show.
www.oldtoysoldierhome.com
- Mar. 31** North County Scotts Casino Night "Wear Green"
- Apr. 7** Tartan Day
- Apr. 15** HOS Meeting, 11:30 AM
- Apr. 21** North County Scotts Single Malt Whiskey Seminar and Flight Tasting. 7pm at Vista Masonic Lodge
- May 6** Pipe Band Launch Party 2pm. Organ Pavilion.
- May 12** Pub Crawl (moved from March 10)
- May 27** Food Fair
- June 24-25** Vista Highland Games



Hosting

- Mar. 11 Heather & Courtney Wilson
- Mar. 18 Joni Rossi & Doris Greeson
- Mar. 25 James Logan & James Scrimgeour
- Apr. 1 James Logan & Susan Self
- Apr. 8 Heather & Courtney Wilson
- Apr. 15 OPEN
- Apr. 29 Melissa & Andrew Keith
- May 6 Cherie & Graham McGruer
- May 13 Heather & Courtney Wilson
- May 20 OPEN
- May 27 FOOD FAIR
- June 3 OPEN

If you can host, please call Heather at (215) 421-8383 or send an email to: scottie1956@aol.com.

New Whiskey Glass a Combination of Aesthetics and Science

Whiskey drinkers, rejoice! Forget traditional shapes of glasses that direct *all* the whiskey's aromas to the nose; here's a scientifically-

designed glass that lets "the alcohol smell" escape, and emphasizes only the pleasant aromas.

The making and enjoyment of whiskey is actually more about its *aroma* than its taste. In Scotland, at least one Master Blender's nose is insured by Lloyds of London for north of one million dollars (no word on similar coverage for the palate).

Aroma is paramount when it comes to personal enjoyment, too, and the shape of the glass you're drinking from makes a big difference. Most glasses are wide at the bottom and narrower at the top, to allow the aromas to rise and meet the nose. In glass science, this type of design is called "convergent rim." Copitas, spirit nosing glasses, sniffers, or any of the many other designs currently on the market, do the minimum to create upward movement of the spirit, and almost nothing to enhance all the nuances of the whiskey's character. In fact, in most cases, they collect and focus significant alcohol directly to the nose, interfering with the wonderful aromas of the liquid.

A new glass design, meticulously researched in the USA at Arsilica, Inc., approaches the nosing and drinking experience from a scientific standpoint. Called NEAT™, the pot-still shape relies on Naturally Engineered Aroma Technology. Business partners George Manska and Christine Crnek, executives at Arsilica discovered that not all aromas *should* be collected at the nose. The prime example is ethanol, the "alcohol smell" in whiskey. Ethanol is

disagreeable, numbs and kills the olfactory neurons and obscures the desirable and pleasant aromas which occur naturally in fermented and distilled beverages. Maska explains, “The widely flared lip and its proximity to the surface of the liquid allows the ethanol to escape before nosing, and positions the nose directly over the concentrated vapors.” Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, back up this claim and prove the ethanol is dissipated, allowing only flavorful esters and aromas to remain.

Test marketing the NEAT™ glass at whiskey events around the country has evoked comments like “I can finally smell the earthy herbs my husband talks about”, “It’s so comfortable to hold”, and “This glass reminds me of the beautiful copper stills at the distillery we visited”.

Glass has developed over the millennia since it first appeared in Mesopotamia over 5000 years ago, as the material from which to drink liquids. For centuries, glass’s economy, neutrality to taste and aroma, and its ability to conform to beautiful designs have been taken for granted. The NEAT™ glass combines artisanal craft with scientific aroma technology to take spirits appreciation to new sensory heights. Forrest Cokely, Certified Spirits Specialist with Hi Time Wine Cellars in Costa Mesa, California says, “This [the NEAT™ glass] is definitely an advancement in the appreciation of whiskey, and other fine spirits. It’s a new way to enjoy, examine and understand your whiskey.”

NEAT™ glasses are hand-made, mouth blown in the USA in 100% lead-free Crystalyne™ crystal. Function and design patents are pending. Currently, the NEAT™ glass is sold on-line at www.theneatglass.com (enter *Special Offer Code* 50743 on the order form to receive a special introductory Internet price). For more information about this article, contact Ray Pearson through www.whiskytastings.com or 714.204.7689.

Written by: Ray Pearson

<http://whiskymeister.wordpress.com/2012/02/14/his-new-whiskey-glass-is-truly-neat/>



Hearth of the Kitchen

Tropical Snack Cake

- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 1 can (15ozs) crushed pineapple, packed in juice
- ¾ cup flaked coconut
- 6 – 8 ripe bananas
- ½ cup orange marmalade
- 1 box (18.5 ozs) white or yellow cake mix
- ½ - 1 cup nuts – (pecans, almonds, walnuts etc . can be used)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Grease a 13 x 9 baking dish.
Spread the pineapple on the bottom of the pan (with its juice).
Sprinkle the coconut over the pineapple.
Cut the bananas into slices about ¼ inch thick, and place them evenly over the dish.

Microwave the orange marmalade for 30 secs. on high, to make it easier to spread. Spoon the marmalade evenly over the bananas.

Sprinkle the cake mix evenly over the fruit. Melt the butter and drizzle over the cake mix.

Spread the nuts over the cake – if desired.

Bake 45 – 50 mins or until the cake is golden and bubbly.

Taken from: San Diego Scottish Highland Games
<http://sdhighlandgames.org/recipes/Tropical-Snack-Cake.htm>

Scottish Quotes

"Scottish by birth, British by law,
Highlander by the grace of God"
-Anon

"We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilization."
-Voltaire

For so long as one hundred men remain alive, we shall never under any conditions submit to the domination of the English. It is not for glory or riches or honours that we fight, but only for liberty, which no good man will consent to lose but with his life.

THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH, 1320

The Scots Character is Forged in Granite
That is no Timid Reed, shaken by the Wind.
- Geddes MacGregor

And a little for the Irish in us for St. Patty Day...

"St. Patrick... one of the few saints whose feast day presents the opportunity to get determinedly whacked and make a fool of oneself all under the guise of acting Irish."
Charles M. Madigan

"The Irish gave the bagpipes to the Scots as a joke, but the Scots haven't seen the joke yet."

Wherever you go and whatever you do, May the luck of the Irish be there with you.

"An Irishman is never drunk as long as he can hold onto one blade of grass to keep from falling off the earth."

And for the Irish in You:

**When we drink, we get drunk.
When we get drunk, we fall asleep.
When we fall asleep, we commit no sin.
When we commit no sin, we go to heaven.
So, let's all get drunk, and go to heaven!
--Old Irish toast**

Provided by: www.sayingandquotes.com

House Officers

President:	Steve Knight	(760) 741-3909
1st VP:	Courtney Wilson	(215) 588-3544
2nd VP:	Heather Wilson	(215) 421-8383
Secretary:	Dianne Schultz	(760) 717-5108
Treasurer:	Cherie McGruer	(619) 425-3454
Trustees:	Graham McGruer	(619) 425-3454
	David McSwain	(619) 528-1940
	James Logan	(619) 252-3780

Pub Crawl

May 12, 2012

Starting at

Maloney's Tavern 5:30 - 7pm

\$2 bud light/Coors light pints, \$3 wells,

1/2 priced chicken tenders, wings and nachos, \$5 Jamesons, 1/2 priced car bombs, single malts will be \$7 and import beers will be \$6.50

Patricks 7pm- 8:30ish

**\$5 - Glenfiddich and Glenlivet, \$12 MacCallan, \$5 Irish car bombs,
\$5 Guinness, harp drafts,\$3 Bud light drafts, \$2.50 Sam Adams Ultra
\$6 Irish flag, 2.50 peppermint schnapps, Special HOS Drink Available**

Dublin Square 8:30 ish - whenever

Live entertainmnet 9pm

Paddy's Pig Celtic band

Upbeat and fun dancing

\$5 Special HOS drink available

15% off entire order

End the night with a toast

After party at hotel

Breakfast place yet to come, as well as Hotel info



Casino Night

Vista Masonic Lodge
761 Eucalyptus Ave.
Vista, CA



March 31, 2012 ~ 7 pm – 11 pm

Come and join in some high-rolling, high-action fun!

Play Black Jack, Craps, and Roulette; win tickets for a chance to win the bucket prizes.

Theme: Wear Green, the color of money!

We are looking for table sponsors. You or your business can sponsor a full table for \$200 or a partial table for either \$50 or \$100.

We are also looking for donors for bucket prizes and opportunity drawings.

Advance ticket sales are \$15 and will be available through March 23.
Tickets at the door will be \$20.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of tickets: _____

Mail in ticket orders to: North County Scots, P O Box 1953, Vista, CA 92085-1953

THANK YOU!



San Diego Tartan Day

There's a wee bit o' Scot in everyone!

Eighth Annual Tartan Day/San Diego Festival

Balboa Park, International Cottages

San Diego, CA

Saturday, April 7, 2012

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM FREE ADMISSION

The San Diego Tartan Day Steering Committee invites you to join a celebration of Scottish heritage – and tartans, the national fabric and symbol of Scotland.

And you can find your own tartan too, at the
Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center

Explore displays by many Scottish organizations from all over
Southern California, including individual Scottish clans

Eat traditional Scottish fare, including the world's best bangers, and mouthwatering home baked desserts,
all at reasonable prices

Enjoy music and dance from 11:00 – 4:00 PM featuring some of
southern California's most exciting Scottish entertainers:

House of Scotland Ceilidh Band
House of Scotland Pipe Band
San Diego School of Highland Dancing

For more information, contact info@tartandaysd.com
or call (619) 425-3454

Thanks to these wonderful Scottish organizations:

House of Scotland

St. Andrew Society of San Diego

San Diego Burns Club

North County Scots

42nd Black Watch Highland Society

Clans of the Highlands

San Diego Scottish Highland Games

Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center

San Diego School of Highland Dance

SD-Edinburgh Sister City Society

Scottish Dance Beginner Class

When: Every Monday night from 7:30 to 9:30

Beginning March 5 and continuing through March and April.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park room 203 (northeast corner of the building, upstairs near the restrooms.) Map link: [Casa del Prado](#)

Who: Anyone is welcome (bring a friend!) and a partner is not required.

What to wear: A kilt is not required. Please wear comfortable clothes; ladies often like to wear a skirt.

Shoes: Please wear soft-soled shoes, preferably without heels. Flip-flops or loose sandals are not a good idea. We wear Scottish Ghillies, but if you have dance shoes (ballet or jazz shoes) you can use those as well. You don't need to buy anything special to start out with, but if you like our dancing (and we hope you will!) you'll eventually want to invest in some nice shoes. You can find information about dance shoes here:

<http://www.jamesseniior.co.uk/centinal.cgi>

<http://www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk/>

You can also find some simpler, cheaper dance shoes at a place like Capezio or any ballet/jazz supply store. Please don't wear stiff, ballroom dance style shoes.

More information about us, dancing, and our branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society can be found here: <http://www.rscds-sandiego.org/>

Thank you, hope to see you dancing!

--Amy Hoffman

Publicity Director

RSCDS-San Diego

Explanation of the New Phone Answering System

For House of Pacific Relations (IfByPhone System)

Basically, when you call the main phone number for HPR (619-234-0739) you get a choices menu:
For HPR Board press 1; HPR Committees press 2; Individual houses press 3; Special Events press 4; Auxiliary groups press 5; other HPR positions press 6.

When you press 3 for individual houses it takes you to a second menu:

Press 1 for Houses beginning with A through D; Press 2 for Houses beginning with E through H; Press 3 for Houses beginning with I through L; Press 4 for Houses beginning with M through P; Press 5 for Houses beginning with Q through Z;

When you press 5 for Houses beginning with Q through Z you reach a third menu giving you the choice for the houses:

For House of Scotland press 1; House of Spain press 2; House of Sweden press 3; House of Turkey press 4; House of Ukraine press 5; House of USA press 6.

When you press 1 for Scotland you get a fourth menu:

For House of Scotland President press 1; First Vice President press 2; Second Vice President press 3; Secretary press 4; Treasurer press 5.

When you press 1 to get to the House of Scotland President the caller hears a message that they are being transferred to that person. The call is transferred to the number listed in the HPR directory for that person. In this case it is 760-741-3909 (Steve Knight). When Steve answers his phone he hears a "whispered" message that the call is being transferred from the HPR phone and is then connected.

Before this was set up someone had to be at the Hall of Nations to answer the phone or the call would be recorded on the office answering machine and someone had to go in to find out who had called and who they were trying to reach. Then it was necessary to notify the intended recipient and give them the name and number so they could return the call.

As you can see it is critical that all the information in the HPR Directory be accurate so that the calls go to the correct person. When the 2012 HPR Directory comes out I need everyone to notify me by email of any changes or corrections ASAP so I can get them implemented right away.

I plan to suggest that everyone update me with the changes for 2013 by email as soon as they complete their elections in 2012. Then I can get the changes implemented and put in place so they will be active on January 1, 2013.

I also plan to implement as quickly as possible another part of the system that is included in the current price. We can set up the phone number on the website so you will need only to click on the phone number listed on the website and it will automatically dial the number and connect you. (That is if you are using a device that can dial the number from the internet and has sound output and audio input enabled).

I hope this explanation helps. The system has a lot more capabilities but this is all we are using at present. Most of the other services have some additional charges associated with them. One capability is to send out a "marketing type email" to everyone. Which is a very good capability for getting our short notice changes to all our members, not just the presidents. It also saves the presidents a lot of work since they are not the only ones receiving such notices.

Melvin Weekley mlweekle@cox.net

COLLEGE OF PIPING CALIFORNIA SUMMER SCHOOL OF PIPING AND DRUMMING



JUNE 15TH TO THE 22ND, 2012

AT THE ARMY AND NAVY ACADEMY
CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA



SMALL CLASSES • BEGINNING PÌOBAIREACHD
ADVANCED PÌOBAIREACHD • INSTRUCTOR RECITALS
PUB NIGHT • NIGHTLY LECTURES • BAND WORKSHOPS



Dugald MacNeill

A fine former competitive piper and a very experienced teacher. Principal of the College of Piping, Glasgow.



P/M Bruce Hitchings MBE, BEM

Formerly the assistant director of the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, Edinburgh Castle. Director of the Las Vegas International Tattoo.



D/S Andrew Hoinacki

Gold Medalist in drumming. Nationally renown judge and instructor. Former lead stroke for the U.S. Scots Grade 1.



Robert Watt

A former member of Field Marshall Montgomery and a world renowned professional solo composer as well as a piping teacher.



Aaron Shaw

One of California's top professional pipers, who won the 1998 Strachan Cup in London. An excellent instructor who is back by popular demand. Piper in the Wicked Thinkers.



P/M Iain Macey

Winner of many competitions both at home and abroad. He was Pipe Major to the Sultan of Oman's Air Force and Pipe Major of RAF Halton Voluntary Pipes and Drums. He now lives in Texas and teaches.

VISIT WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION, FEES AND REGISTRATION
WWW.BAGPIPESUMMERSCHOOL.COM | JOHN KEYS (760) 271-4823