

# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

Busy times since I last wrote to you, with one major "first" to report! Fourteen of us walked in one or both St. Patrick's Day parades - cold, exhilarating & exhausting! Marching courtesy of our friends in the John Ford Highlander and Invera'an pipe bands, we handed out 7500 flyers promoting Society & Games activities.

Alex Sutherland & I made new friends when he performed at Webster U's international evening. Then he, his Cronies & Highland Mist dancers put on a fine show at *Celebrate the World* in Maryland Heights Center. They and others are just back from the Celtic Festival in Arcadia Valley, which honored St. Louis by naming me "Chieftain of the Day" for even greater support to them this year.

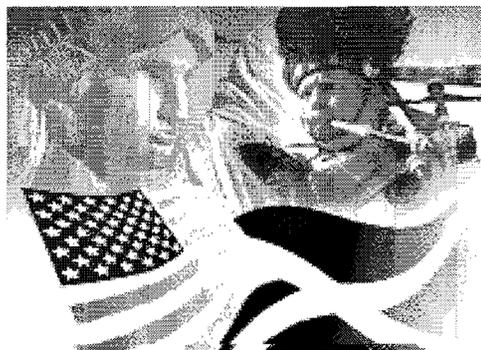
See other pages for Tartan Day (Apr 6) info - first such Parade in this area, followed by our Ceilidh that evening; then *A Celebration of Scotland* (Apr 30) to kick-off the *Friends of the Games* 2002 program. I hope you've sent Editor Jim some *Membership News* for that new section. The board is still pleased to review new requests for charitable donations, having already voted to sponsor *Dance Caledonia's* local workshop again this summer. The Folklore Federation's festival slated for May at Westport will now be held June 8-9 in Clayton

Yours aye, Bill Nicoll.

# THIS IS THE TIMES

MAR 2002  
ISSUE 10.4

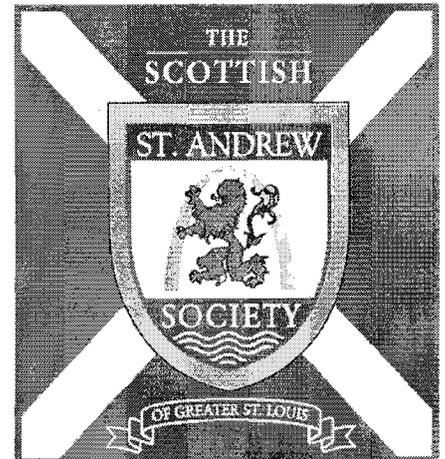
## US NATIONAL TARTAN DAY



# TARTAN

★ ★ ★ *day* ★

6<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL



### inside...

- Upcoming Events*
- The Shepherds' Dogs*
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- Membership News*
- Toasts & Things*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

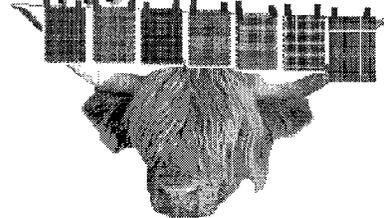
Saturday, April 6th, 2002.

## Ceilidh and Tartan Day Celebration

at the Whispering Hills Club House

To reserve, use flier from the previous Thistle Times, or call D. McCullough 314 773 4195

Happy Tartan Day



Other exciting events for this year....

April 30th, 7:30pm: **A CELEBRATION OF SCOTLAND**

At the Sheldon Concert Hall (pay at the door)

An evening of Scottish music and song, poetry and dance.

*To benefit the Scottish Games and Cultural Festival*

Featuring Alex Sutherland and His Cronies, Dance Caledonia, the Invera'an Pipeband, Duddybreeks, Highland Mist, and some surprise guests...

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If you would like  
to help out, call  
Diane McCullough  
314 773 4195

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May: Annual Picnic — to be confirmed (at the Wentsville Renaissance Faire)

**Alex Sutherland and His Cronies** — have lots of upcoming events. Next performances at "Borders Bookstores": April 12, 8-10pm @ Sunset Hills, April 19, 8-10pm @ Ballwin.

For detail, please check out their web site at [www.alexutherland.com](http://www.alexutherland.com) or call Alex at (314) 771 0119

What's on elsewhere....

**Folklore Federation** — multi-cultural event in Clayton, June 18-19.

Interested in the Irish version of Celtic music?

See the **Mississippi River Celtic (Irish) Music Festival** April 12-14. More details can be found at [www.tionol.org](http://www.tionol.org)

**Summer School of Gaelic music, song, dance, and culture** (Ed Miller will be there)

For more information call (314) 516 7299

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## APRIL 6th — TARTAN DAY PARADE — All Welcome.

Geoff Chaboude and friends have organized a parade to march along Main Street, St Charles, MO, on April 6th.. Parade participants should form at 12:00 at the Goldenrod Showboat. At 12:30 the parade will proceed up South Main to First Capitol Drive.

Historic St. Charles was the first State capital of Missouri, and it's first Governor was Alexander MacNair who was of Scottish descent.

# The Shepherds' Dogs

Recall the fascinating performance by the shepherd dogs at the Scottish Games — even in the rain they were superb. The modern sheep-herding collie was first improved in the nineteenth century, from dogs favored in the Scottish sheep areas. The genetic refinement of the outstanding working skills continues today, around the world. Breeders try to balance a dozen heritable working traits to produce the best dog for their purposes, factoring in climate, terrain, and livestock type. Several types of super working dogs were around in Scotland and the famous Border Collie name was used only from the early 1900s onwards. Because Border Collies are bred for intelligence and working ability and not for looks, there is a great deal of diversity in appearance. For example, the Border Collie comes in a remarkable variety of colors. Black-and-white is the most common color and often preferred by shepherds, along with tri-colored (black, white and tan). Red-and-white, and red-white and tan, is not uncommon. Red in a Border Collie (which is called chocolate in Australia), is often a liver or brown color. These, and several less common color variants, usually come with varying amounts of white, the traditional "collie markings", such as a white blaze on the face, a white collar, feet, chest, and tail tip. The true Border Collie is known by how well it works sheep and cattle, and not by appearance. You can read everything there is to know about these dogs at the US Border Collie website at [www.bordercollie.org/core.html](http://www.bordercollie.org/core.html)



*A Border Collie in a familiar pose*

Other working dogs have also arisen from Scottish origins. Recently, Chuck McNab provided me with an interesting story of the "McNab Dog", excerpted below. This breed is a "cousin" of the Border Collie and is recognized as a working stockdog in the US National Stockdog Registry.



*McNab Dogs*

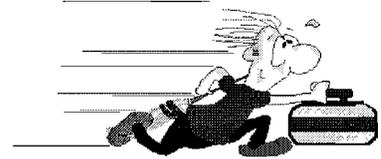
Alexander McNab left Glasgow (1868), and settled in the McNab ranch in Mendocino County, California. Around 1885, he brought two working dogs over from Scotland — they were Fox Shepherds from the Grampian region. These dogs were subsequently bred with females that had originated from the Basque sheep area in Spain. The results of that cross were called the McNab Shepherds. In the early 1900s, two Red Fox Shepherds were imported from Scotland and bred into the McNab Shepherds line — resulting in an occasional red pup. Around 1915, a Mr Ed Brown bred the popular McNab dogs using known stock, and never outcrossed to any other breed. That effort led to the modern McNab dog known throughout Northern California as a forceful working dog, a great hunting dog, and a natural protector.

If you are interested you can find more about the McNab Dog at [www.wolfweb.com.au/acd/mcnab.html](http://www.wolfweb.com.au/acd/mcnab.html)

# Caledonia Corner

## Scots Sweep to Curling Gold

It was four Scots women curlers who won the first British gold medal at a winter Olympics for 18 years and the first Scots to win a gold in the winter games since 1936. One of the more satisfying aspects of this winning team was that they followed the original traditions of the Olympics and were "amateurs" in the sense that they all make their living at other jobs. In the earlier matches, the Scottish girls beat Canada who had started the competition as favorites. A record-breaking number of television viewers stayed up till after midnight to watch the end of the nail-biting final against Switzerland. Over 5.6 million viewers in the UK were watching the match at just before midnight - 49% of the total TV audience in the UK at that time. Prime Minister Tony Blair and Prince Charles were amongst the many who sent their congratulations to the team in Salt Lake City. Rhona, the team Captain, carried the UK flag at the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics.



Curling is said to have originated on the frozen lochs of Scotland. The game is now played all over the world: it requires 138 feet of ice per rink (one game length), and the curling stone is pure granite weighing in at 42-44 lbs. The sport's ruling body is the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Most high quality curling stones are made from granite mined on a small island called Ailsa Craig that lies just off the Firth of Clyde. Thanks to efforts to portray the game as "curling is cool" in Scotland, more youngsters are taking up the sport than ever before.

## Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. What was the name of the loch around the island prison that held Mary Queen of Scots?
2. What is in a Scotch egg?
3. What is The Duke of Perth?

Congratulations to Stephen Clark who was first with the correct answers (again!)

### Answers:

1. Battle of Prestonpans was in 1745 .
2. K. MacMillan invented the peddling bicycle
3. Textiles & wool are processed on the Tweed

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986  
Fast e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com)  
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

## OOPS!

Sometimes things don't run on schedule and sometimes the coincidence is amazing...

Consider, for instance, this tale from Scotland's rail system. The scene was Dundee railway station on Friday morning when a forlorn passenger was informed that the train he was waiting for no longer existed on the emergency timetable introduced during the ScotRail drivers' pay dispute. So, Mr Tom Winsor, the stranded passenger, had to resort to motor car to get to Grangemouth to visit a rail container terminal.

Mr Winsor is Scotland's rail regulator.

## WANTED FOR JOBS

Two schoolmasters are wanted in the district of Kintyre and county of Argyll. They must be qualified to teach English, writing, arithmetic in all of its branches, navigation, church music, and Gaelic.

From the Glasgow Herald 200 years ago

# Membership News

Thanks to Jessie Gober, who won the response to the empty space, by submitting these curiosities:

Notice spotted in an Ayrshire Cemetary...

“Parking for residents only!”

Sign seen under an advert for a weight-loss club in Inverurie...

“The management are not responsible for any losses!”

Postcard in Edinburgh shop window under work wanted....

“Reliable lady needs washing twice a week!”

Sign pinned on notice board of Dumbarton Church...

“Weight watchers meet Friday 7:00 pm. Please use the large double doors at the other entrance!”

Notice behind the bar in a Paisley pub...

“If you are drinking to forget, then please pay first!”

Jim Duffy took the other place with these translations (of course, some are the Fife version only):

aye = always	brae = hill	lum = chimney	reekin = smoking	stray = straw
lug = ear	gied = gave	moo = mouth	broo = brow	fun = found

At a recent meeting at East Central College, The River Valley Writers' Guild, were enlightened by the following gentlemen: Geoff Chaboude gave a talk on aspects of Ancient Scotland, while Kirt Beckman spoke on “Modern Scotland”.

## SSAS PAST PRESIDENTS

1972-77 William “Bill” Stirrat  
 1977-80 Alex Sunter  
 1980-82 Tom Forrester  
 1982-84 Tom Brennan  
 1984-86 Alex Sunter  
 1986-88 Tom Forrester  
 1988-90 Bob McCallum  
 1990-92 Agnes Stirrat  
 1992 Hugh McLaughlin (deceased in office)  
 1992-94 Tom Brennan  
 1994-96 Keith Parle  
 1996-98 Dr. Jim McLaren  
 1998-00 Denise Duffy

## Show your Society Pride with newly designed Polo Shirts...

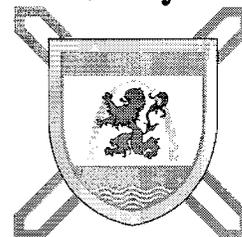
100% Cotton polos made by Munsingwear. Herringbone weave. Two colors available:

- Navy with contrasting oatmeal colored collar and sleeve bands, and
- Oatmeal with contrasting black colored collar and sleeve bands

Full color embroidered Society Logo  
 Sizes available (Small thru 3X)  
 Cost: \$40.00 each

To place your order, contact Chris Fulton at (314)962-1478

**Scottish St. Andrew Society**



**St. Louis**

## WELCOME TO RECENT NEW MEMBERS

James Fournier, Maryland Heights, MO  
 George & Angela Gordon, Edwardsville, IL  
 Spencer McIlvaine, Columbia, MO  
 George & Shirley Johnson, St. Louis, MO

# TOASTS & THINGS

## The Wallace Award for President Bush and Prime Minister Blair

The American Scottish Foundation is planning to present this year's Wallace award at the Tartan Day celebrations in Washington DC (ceremony on April 9th). The joint winners are President George Bush (who spent time in Scotland as a young man) and Prime Minister Tony Blair (born and educated in Scotland). Both have shown great leadership under the recent terrorist attacks and have worked together to protect the free world.

## St Andrew Society Board It's a Scottish Thing

If you've always wanted to participate with a lively and enthusiastic group toward a good cause, then consider putting your name in for the Scottish St Andrew Society Board for the next session — starting in the Fall.

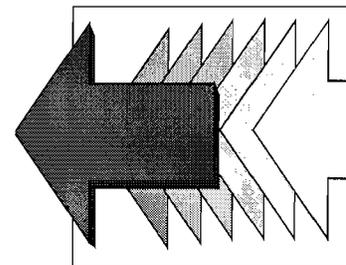
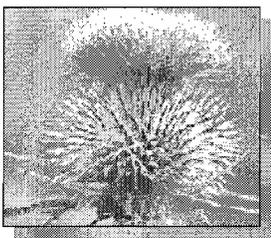
If you are not sure and would like to talk about it then feel free to call me (in confidence) — see contact info below.



We hope you've all got your tours booked for Bonnie Scotland. It'll be a good summer, what with the new sighting of the Loch Ness Monster and all.

## Know anyone interested In joining the Society

**Call Geoff Chaboude**  
**At (636) 519 7979**  
**E-mail: [jeffcktj@aol.com](mailto:jeffcktj@aol.com)**



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. **Please send comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:**

**Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017**  
**or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com).**

**Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>**  
**The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979**