

# THE SCOTSMAN

## NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTTISH FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

[www.scottishfoundation.org](http://www.scottishfoundation.org)

**March/April 2010**

**Volume 7, Issue 2**

Dear Members:

Who'd have thought two years would have gone by so fast??? This will be my last article as President of the Foundation and I want to thank you all for the privilege. I think the Board has made many positive steps in the last two years, and we can hopefully continue to improve the Foundation for everybody's benefit.

I also need to include an apology.....several members approached me at Burns' Nicht and offered their services as Board members. I kept business cards with the relevant contact information, but somewhere between Lexington and Roanoke they disappeared. So please don't think I ignored your offer; I simply misplaced your information!!! Please contact either myself, Ed Scott, the incoming President, or Maggie with your information.

So where do we go from here? More member support for activities, particularly the concerts, is essential. The Foundation spends a lot of money to present high quality Celtic entertainment for everyone, but I must say the reception for most of the concerts is unfortunately no better than lukewarm. Fortunately we've been fortunate to enjoy donations from various Foundation members to cover a lot of the costs associated with the concerts, but we should all take some share in trying to cover these costs. I know the concerts aren't always convenient, but showing up is the easiest way I can think of to help out!! Perhaps you can consider becoming a sponsor – there are packets available for anyone interested.

Similarly, our Burns Nicht is one of the absolute best I have ever attended anywhere in the world, and yet we struggle every year to make money from the event. I know the economy has been hard on everyone, and the Board, Maggie in particular, works very hard at trying to get services and products donated to keep costs down. But in the end, as we'd say in Scotland it's "bums on seats" that pay the way. The Foundation doesn't seek to make a fortune at the events we put on, but it's only responsible of the Board to see that we don't spend your money foolishly. So, please, try and participate more fully at the Foundation events and concerts. The only alternative is to cut back on what we present, which of course would be contrary to our stated mission.

We have two general membership meetings per year, and I for one would be delighted to see standing room only for these meetings. These two meetings in particular, but any of the monthly Board meetings throughout the year, are your vehicle for presenting concerns and suggestions. Please make use of them!!!

In closing, please welcome Ed Scott as our new President and wish him the best of luck helping guide our Foundation to bigger and better things.

Thanks again for the last two years!!!!!!

Yours,  
John Morman

ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER  
VA HOSPITAL  
5PM

Please come out and help us with the annual St Patrick's Day dinner being served to our veterans. We will begin setting up at 5pm and dinner will be served at 6pm. VHP&D will provide the music and Anne Sampson will dance for us. Further info from Ed Scott – [ejs24018@yahoo.com](mailto:ejs24018@yahoo.com).

**PUB NIGHT - FLANARY'S  
JEFFERSON STREET (old Gunther's/Kara's)  
FRIDAY, MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Come on out and join us for some great music, food and fun! It's **NON SMOKING!!** Food is great. Musicians bring your instruments. Our April pub night on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> is cancelled due to the concert (see below) and a lot of us going to the Loch Norman games. Our May date will be Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Further info from Maggie [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com).

**TARTANS  
Blue Ridge Highlands Heritage &  
Scottish Foundation of the Virginia Highlands**

Please consider placing an order the cost is \$60 per yard for members and \$75 per yard for non members. We need 27-yards ordered to get these prices. This is a medium weight fabric (13 oz), good for kilting, sashes scarves etc. When placing an order, please specify either the Blue Ridge Highlands Heritage or the Scottish Foundation tartan. Contact Jean Oxley, [djoxley@rbnet.com](mailto:djoxley@rbnet.com) at 540-992-4979 to be added to the order; a 50% deposit is required.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SATURDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> AT  
SCOTS IRISH FESTIVAL, LEXINGTON  
2PM at the SFVH tent**

We will, again, hold our meeting during the Scots Irish Festival at Maury River Middle School, at the SFVH tent 2pm. Members please plan to attend this meeting as we will be discussing the continuation of Burns Nicht.

Anyone wishing to nominate members for board positions, we currently have 5 positions, please contact Maggie or John Morman so we can announce them before the meeting and they can be voted in at the meeting. People wishing to be nominated for board positions must be present at the meeting. Ed Scott will be stepping up to the President position and Dave Kendrick will become Vice President. Treasurer and Secretary remains the same.

**SCOTS IRISH FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm  
MAURY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL, LEXINGTON**

Come on out and join us for this small festival, we will have a tent please stop by and help out, entertainment is Carl Peterson and Mary Smith. Parade will begin at 9:45am along Wallace Street to the Festival site. Grand Opening is 10am with the pipe bands marching in. There will be food and craft vendors, Antique & Vintage British Cars, Highland Games, closing ceremonies at 6pm. Directions from [www.lexcelts.com](http://www.lexcelts.com).

**AISLING AGNEW & MATTHEW McALLISTER  
FLUTE & GUITAR DUO FROM IRELAND & SCOTLAND  
COLONIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3550 POPLAR DRIVE, ROANOKE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:30pm-9:30pm**

Irish flautist Aisling Agnew and Scottish classical guitarist Matthew McAllister will play traditional Scottish and Irish music. Also, Aisling will conduct a Flute Workshop and Masterclass on Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Church, for info about the workshop and class contact Gretchen – [wghkm@cox.net](mailto:wghkm@cox.net). Concert info contact Maggie. Tickets at the door – SFVH, CPC, PFC & Seniors \$12, non members \$15, Students \$8 and under 10 free. Doors open at 7pm concert begins at 7:30pm

**Upcoming concerts in 2010 – all concerts performed at Colonial Presbyterian Church:**

**May 22nd – Saturday - Paddy Keenan – outside pavilion**

Legendary Irish Uilleann Piper formerly with the Bothy Band will be accompanied by John Walsh

**September 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, Maidens IV - outside pavilion**

A group of 4 sisters who play fiddle and sing – similar to Celtic Women

**November 20th – Saturday - Jim Malcolm**

Phenomenal Traditional Scots Balladeer, former lead singer for Old Blind Dogs, returns to Roanoke.

Further info on the concerts from Charlene – [cdhut@aol.com](mailto:cdhut@aol.com) or Maggie – [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com)

**LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES  
FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup>, SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup>, SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
8am-6pm  
HUNTERSVILLE, NC**

We will have a booth here too, stay overnight and have fun at this 2 day event, there is so much to see and you can watch the pipe bands competing. They will have a Genealogy tent so you can find out more about your ancestors, children's activities, entertainment by Ed Miller, Albannach, Sterling Bridge.

**SEDALIA CENTRE  
BIG ISLAND, BEDFORD  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>  
10am-8pm**

SFVH have a booth at this games also, they are concentrating on making the festival all Celtic this year, entertainment is Enter the Haggis and Virginia Highlands Pipes & Drums will be playing. There will also be athletics for the first time, lots of activities, food and craft vendors. Contact Maggie if you want to help with the booth.

## EVENT REPORTS

### BURNS NICHT Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 Holiday Inn, Tanglewood

Thanks to all the people who helped make this event happen we could not have done it without you!!!

**BURNS NICHT, Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Holiday Inn, Tanglewood, Cocktails 5:30pm Cash Bar**  
Mark your calendars now for our **Burns Nicht & Silent Auction in 2011!!!** Further information please contact Maggie - [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com).

Feedback from the 2010 Burns Nicht:

While everyone had a great time our numbers were way down for this annual event and we lost quite a lot of money. If this event is to continue members need to invite friends, neighbors, anyone who would enjoy the camaraderie, fun and entertainment. People must come out and support us otherwise we cannot afford to continue having the event. The 2011 event may be the last one if we do not have the numbers to support it, we just want to break even on this event and at the moment we are not able to do this with such low attendance!

Feedback forms: we had 49 forms returned the ratings are as follows.....

**1 (unsatisfactory) 2 (good) 3 (really great) 4 (WOW!)**

**VMI Pipe band: 4 - (2) 3 (45) - everyone loved the pipe band!**

**Length of Immortal Memory presentation: 1 (1) 2 (18) 3 (29) - a few said it was too long!**

**PRYDEIN: 4 (1) 3 (40) 2 (4) 2½ (1) - majority of people enjoyed the band**

**Length of evening - 1 (too long) 2 (too short) 3 (just right) : 2 (1) 3 (45) - mostly everyone thought the length of the evening was 'just right'**

**Some mentioned that the MC was great although they could not understand him - it would not be Burns Nicht without the Scottish accent!**

The note below is from a former chairman of Burns Nicht:

#### **ROBERT BURNS NIGHT - WHITHER THE MONEY?**

Robert Burns' Night is the premier event of the SFVH. Many of us can recall the time, not so long ago, when the Society held a much smaller event, and had a much lower price. Typically, that event was held at a venue that served a buffet dinner, had a very short music program, and a very short Immortal Memory. With such a limited program in 1993, the cost was \$17 per person (1993 dollars; \$40 adjusted 2010 dollars). A conscious decision was made by the board of the Society, and later affirmed by the Foundation, to have a better event.

An initial move was made to the Patrick Henry Hotel. Later events moved to the Hotel Roanoke, the Wyndham, and the Holiday Inn Tanglewood. However, the decision was more than venue – we elected to have a better meal and better entertainment. That has been the pattern of the program since that time. However, costs have steadily increased, and we hear your complaints about the event cost.

Before moving on to specifics, here is the bad news. The Foundation is paying you to attend Burns' Night. That's correct; we lost money on each and every one of you, money that is made up through dues and fund raising. How much do we lose? The actual per person cost in 2010 was \$90.46 PER PERSON. The ticket costs were \$60 members, \$80 for non members.

### **What are the cost points for the event?**

- Meal cost per person \$ 42.12
- Pipe Band \$500
- Entertainment band \$1600
- Haggis \$510
- Wine \$1014
- Scotch \$1300

### **And another important question, how much is a comparable night?**

- St Andrew's Society of Washington DC Burns' Night - \$100 per person for a similar event, but without the wine and scotch supplied, and without a dance band.
- Black and White ball, Roanoke \$45 (no meal).
- Dinner at one of the better restaurants in Roanoke with a glass of wine, no appetizer or dessert, would be in the range of \$25-40 per person.

Therefore, the questions seem very clear: To continue the type of event we have, we will either have to support the event out of dues (which will ultimately cause an increase in dues), raise the prices to meet the increases from suppliers, or reduce the scope of the event (eliminate cost points) – as examples, no more free wine or scotch on the tables, try to hire less expensive bands, have a simpler dinner, and/or eliminate the pipe band.

We are blessed with a very good event, but the membership should be prepared to address this question with the board at the next membership meeting, if ticket price reduction is a goal. Costs will continue to rise, and of necessity, prices will go up. Do we, as an organization, wish to continue with a first class event, or to reduce the scope and color of the event as we have known it for over 15 years. The question is simple, the answers are not.

Bob Hutcheson  
Burns Night Former Chairman

**BLUE RIDGE CELTS CONCERT SERIES**  
**Saturday, February 20, 2010**  
**Colonial Presbyterian Church, 3550 Poplar Drive, Roanoke**

**No Strings Attached** – great concert but not many people turned out for this.....again we need people to support these events!!!!

**PERSONALS**

This space is for you to communicate with others in SFVH. Offer items to sell, tell us of a great service, etc. **Send your information to Maggie by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for our next issue.**

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* CAFÉ PRESS SHOP** – the SFVH have opened a shop online where you can buy a variety of items with the SFVH logo, to access the account go to [www.cafepress.com/sfvh](http://www.cafepress.com/sfvh), this is a fund raiser for us to help with our scholarships and concerts. There are a lot of great gifts; children's clothes, tote bags, sweatshirts, hooded shirts, mugs.....please check it out.....members have been buying things!

**\*\*\*The sale of our T-shirts supports many of our events and projects, inclusive of the concert series and the tents at various Highland Games and festivals. These shirts are sold as a fund-raiser making a very modest profit for the Foundation.**

**\*\*\*We still have several lovely pastel colors, short and long sleeved, mostly V-neck, but also mock-turtleneck (long sleeves only) and scoop neck. These are in "misses" S-XL and "womens" 1X-3X. The cost remains \$20 each for S-XL; \$24 for 1X-3X and long-sleeved. There are traditional men's Ts (S-XL) in dark tan, gray, and a few XXL and XXXL in several shades of blue and a few other colors. Cost for the men's Ts are \$20 S-XL; \$24 for 2XL and 3XL and long sleeved. "Scottish Foundation" is tastefully printed on the upper left front and our logo is on the back. To place an order, please contact Maggie [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com) or see us at one of our events. Think birthday and Christmas presents! ...or just because...**

**\*\*\*We also have denim chambray shirts available with the SFVH logo embroidered on the left side, Sizes are S-XL - \$35; XXL-XXXL - \$40. To place an order, please contact Maggie [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com).**

**SFVH BOARD MEETINGS**

Our Board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. All members are welcome. Contact Maggie for location and directions. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. ***The Board of Directors would like to thank Doug Densmore and Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore for allowing us to use their offices for our monthly meetings.***

**Officers & Board of Directors:**

President: John Morman – [celtictides@embarqmail.com](mailto:celtictides@embarqmail.com), Vice President: Ed Scott – [ej24018@yahoo.com](mailto:ej24018@yahoo.com), Secretary: Maggie Brall – [mbrall@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mbrall@jetbroadband.com), Treasurer: Jean Oxley - [djoxley@rbnet.com](mailto:djoxley@rbnet.com), **Directors:** Dave Kendrick, Phyllis Mardian – [irishmother1@verizon.net](mailto:irishmother1@verizon.net), Alan Silver – [laphroaiglover@aol.com](mailto:laphroaiglover@aol.com).