

Jan – Mar 2010

Volume 6, Issue  
1

# Tulach Ard

*Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas*

***Special Interest Articles:***

- Games & Festival List
- New Officers
- 2010 Advanced Booking

***Individual Highlights:***

Chieftain's Corner	2
AGM Report	3
AGM Photos	4
MacKenzie Athletes	5
Recipes/Cookbook	6
Waxhaw Games	7
Society Officers	8
Ancestor Search	9
Edinburgh Tattoo	10
Stone Mt Games	11
NH Games	12
New Members	13
One Final Gift	14
Piping Scholarship	15
Gathering 2010	
Booking forms	
Hotel Deal	
Events Calendar	
More!	



Our front cover tells it all: The biggest news for the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas is the Worldwide Gathering of Clan MacKenzie in Strathpeffer, Scotland this year!

Throughout this issue, you will see information on the Gathering and events surrounding it. You'll also see information on reserving your Edinburgh Military Tattoo tickets – you simply cannot buy tickets once in Scotland, and the Tattoo runs for two weeks after the conclusion of our own Gathering.

Our hosts in Scotland are working very hard to create the best event ever, but they need your support. As once can imagine, advanced notice of your intent to be there will help immensely.

Finally, not to be outdone by the Gathering, we are excited to welcome a new President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Southern and Eastern regional VPs to the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas.

You'll find the list on page 8, so give them a call and let them know how you can support them. Your help at a Burns Night event or the nearby Tartan Day activities will be greatly appreciated. If you're not sure about what events are taking place in your area, give them a call, and they'll point you in the right direction.

## Chieftain's Corner

Don McKenzie, our outgoing President reminded me that it was my time to write the "Chieftain's Corner" message. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to voice my comments in this capacity.

We are now in the midst of the Holiday Season here in the United States. Thanksgiving, a time of remembering and giving thanks for the many blessings, both great and small, that we have received has just passed.

In a few days we will be celebrating the Christmas Season. I like to think of Christmas also as a time of thanksgiving and as a time of looking forward.

Under the superb leadership of Don McKenzie, the Clan Mackenzie Society in the Americas has enjoyed another very successful year. Don set some high standards but with the help of each member and each officer in the Society, I am looking forward in the upcoming year to building upon and expanding Don's great programs.

Looking back over my years as a member, I can see a continuing pattern of growth and improvements, in leadership, membership growth and in fulfilling our stated objectives.

Our founder, Gibson McKenzie must be proud of our Society's progress. We need to continue this. As everyone is aware, our Articles of Incorporation state that, the Society's primary objectives and purposes include providing "educational, charitable, cultural, recreational, and social benefits to the general public and



to Mackenzie descendants, and descendents of the septs of the Clan Mackenzie in the areas of Scottish culture."

All our Society activities must be conducted with these objectives and purposes in mind. In today's uncertain world, we need a strong understanding of our heritage to fall back on. After all, it is much easier to plan for the future if we know where we are and where we are from.

Looking forward, the Society faces many challenges. Not the least of these is maintaining and increasing our membership and improving our financial situation. We must recruit new members, particularly young members, retain old members, and as with our cookbook program, we need to continue to take advantage of our tax exempt status for fund raising.

With an increase in membership, and with more funds, we can accomplish much. To meet these challenges, the Society must constantly evaluate and update our goals and operational techniques. To stay competitive as a "Not for Profit" organization, we must constantly adjust to fit the times.

To help our Society compete in today's world as a "Not for Profit" organization we have many new tools at our disposal including, computers, the internet, and our DNA project. So that we can make the best use of these new tools, I invite your suggestions. Once again, I need and ask for your help in leading the Society into the future. Please contact me by email or telephone with your suggestions or if I can be of help.

With the 2010 Mackenzie International Gathering occurring in Scotland, it is going to be a great year for our Society. Attending the Gathering will be a once in a lifetime event and a learning experience that you, your family, and your friends will never forget. Please make every effort to attend. Detailed information may be found at [www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/](http://www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/).

In the coming year Annette and I are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at various Festivals. We sincerely hope each of you and your families have a safe, happy, great, and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Yours, Aye

Gene



## Life Members, the Hornsby's, Give One Final Gift – a Bridge



The safety and well-being of a community came at a high price.

On the day after what would've been the 57th wedding anniversary of Scott Hornsby, 75, and Gloria Hornsby, 73, city and county officials, family and friends gathered on the bridge that was built in memory of the late couple.

Dressed in traditional Scottish garb, the Hornsby's five children paid homage to their late parents Friday at the new Hornsby Memorial Bridge on Arrowhead Drive.

On May 24, 2007, during heavy spring rains in the Central Texas area, the couple was traveling to their home in the Big Valley subdivision when their minivan was swept off the road by floodwaters.

Debbie Fester, the couple's daughter, said the constant flooding of the creek had been a problem her parents dealt with for more than 30 years. "Many times they were stuck and couldn't get home because the water was so high up," she said.

Before the new bridge was built, the two low-water crossings that led into the Big Valley residential community were impassable during heavy rains. The Hornsby Memorial Bridge will now allow residents of the community to travel to and from their homes during storms.

After the family spoke during the ceremony, attendees walked two-by-two across bridge — leaving an open space between them for Scott and Gloria.

Many in attendance at the dedication ceremony agreed that giving back to the community had been a priority for Scott and Gloria. "They made it a point to give back to the community," Fester said of her parents.

Known to many as "Rocket Man," Scott would travel to area schools to teach children about rocket propulsion. "My father built rockets when they were first beginning to build them, so he brought his knowledge into the schools hoping to touch one of those children to go into the science field," Fester said. Coryell County Judge John Firth said the students, "more than anything else, enjoyed them coming to the schools."



## MacKenzie Piper Receives Scholarship

*Over the very busy months leading to our past Summer of festivals, the Officers of the Clan MacKenzie were asked to support a member and piper in his quest to excel on the bagpipes:*

Recently I found a note in the "Highlander" magazine about the Clan MacKenzie Society being one of the clan organizations that give scholarships. I thought that this might be a way I could raise some or all of the Funds I need to attend a program in June. I have been talking with John McKenzie about the possibility of becoming a commissioner for the clan and have been reviewing a CD sent to me by Don McKenzie. When I asked John about a scholarship he thought it would be a good idea for me to send in a request.

Under normal conditions I wouldn't ask for a scholarship, however; the 10% pay cut imposed on me as a California State employee would make it impossible for me to go to the bagpipe school for another year, to year-and-a-half without help. The cost of the week-long school is \$925.

So far I have about two thirds of the money I need. Ideally I would like to receive a scholarship for \$250 to \$300. The larger the scholarship, the easier it will be for me to attend.

Bruce Locken  
Fair Oaks, CA

Dear Bruce,

I am delighted to inform you of the Clan MacKenzie's support of your bagpiping school in the amount of \$275.00.

We also look forward to having you submit a photo of yourself during the school session as well as a report from you as to your experience at the school. We will publish these in the Tulach Ard.

We are glad to be able to help you with your piping endeavors and hope to have you play for a Clan MacKenzie event in the near future as well as having you continue to represent the Clan MacKenzie at Highland Games and Festivals.

B. Donald McKenzie, President

To All MacKenzie Society Members,

Fortunately I was awarded a scholarship and was able to attend the week-long piping program. The Balmoral School employs some of the very best pipers and drummers in the world for their instructors. I had the great fortune to study under James MacColl, Brian Donaldson, and Alasdair Gillies.

These three incredible pipers are also great instructors. I had three one-hour classes a day with them in groups that were as small as two or three students. In between classes I practiced like man possessed. I ate breakfast lunch and dinner with them in the cafeteria, and made a few late night burger runs with them. I ate, slept, and drank bagpipes for 5 days. I was totally immersed in the world of piping and my instructors were totally focused on making me a better piper.



There were three classes a day, one each after breakfast and lunch. There was a 30 minute massed band practice in between lunch and the afternoon class each day. And there was a seminar type lecture after dinner each night. In between classes I would practice in my room or outdoors in the shade of huge redwood trees with other students. I encountered every age and level of experience among the other students.

My instructors were incredible. They pushed me to the limits of my ability and helped me to develop new skills. I literally sweated over my pipes, chanter, and sheet music all week. I left every lesson excited about what I had learned and eager for more. I left Sonoma State a much better piper than I had been the previous week. I've improved so much that later this summer, not next year, I will start playing for the Caledonian Club color guard in parades. I would absolutely recommend this program to anyone of any skill level who wants to learn something new or improve his or her existing skill set.

I would very much like to thank the Clan Mackenzie Society for their scholarship, which helped to pay for the cost of attending this school. If you'd like to contact the Balmoral School you may reach them at <http://www.bagpiping.org/> If you should have any interest in my genealogy or information to share about a common ancestor please feel free to contact me at [sbgorilla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbgorilla@sbcglobal.net)

All the best,  
Bruce McKenzie-Locken