



**Clan Donald, USA Central Pacific
Volume 31 Number 2 Lammas 2011**

From the Regional Commissioner:

Salutations Members of Clan Donald,

We are now entering the end of the Games season with three gatherings left throughout the region. Of course, every one knows about the games in Pleasanton over Labor Day weekend. If you have an interest in all things Scottish, and even things outside of Scotland, this event is not to be missed. It is truly impossible to fit everything there is to do, see, and hear into one day. At some point over the weekend, the Clan will be meeting within our tent to discuss a Glencoe Timeline in preparation for next year's annual trip to Glencoe in the motherlode area on February 10, 11, and 12th, 2012. Any and all members are encouraged to take part so that we may best put together an event that will be encouraging for all to attend.

Following the Pleasanton Games, the newly rejuvenated Dixon games happen for one day. Lately, the trend has been more inclined to games closing or going dormant. As such, I implore everyone to support the games that have found the ability and courage to start anew in an effort to encourage them to continue to do so. On the first weekend in October, the Reno Celtic Festival closes out the games season in our region. I had the opportunity to attend this gathering last year, and even with some inclement weather it was one of the better gatherings of the year. The grounds on which the festival is held is quite charming and incredibly easy to navigate. Many of the local establishments carry on the Celtic theme throughout the weekend as pipes and celtic music can be seen and heard throughout the downtown bars and pubs. Our very own Nevada Commissioner, Willie Puchert, is part of the planning committee for the festival so you are certain to receive a very warm welcome as a member of Clan Donald.

Finally, I am incredibly pleased to announce that Clan Donald has a new Editor for the Lymphad. Ms. Dakotah Walmsley has literally grown up within and been a lifetime member of Clan Donald since before she can remember. Since last year's Glencoe Gathering, I have come to learn that Ms. Walmsley

has an incredibly rich knowledge and understanding of the Central Pacific Region's history and tradition. I am quite sure that she has made it to Glencoe nearly every year since she has become a member. Ms. Walmsley has a passion and a desire to take part in the growth and development of our region and has been ever ready to assist in bringing Clan Donald back to prominence. Furthermore, I wanted to give our invaluable Ms. Bonnie Thompson the opportunity to wear one less hat in an effort to extend her fortitude and maintain her constitution.

In closing, I want to welcome all of our newest members that have joined the Clan this last year. I want to thank the past members that have come back to the Region as we will endeavor to make you glad that you did. Equally, if not more so, I want to express my deepest love and appreciation for the lifetime members and regular annual members that have maintained their membership. Your strength and support continues to be an inspiration in my life and has taught me that the more I put into Clan Donald, the more I get out of it. I hope that you will all come to feel the same way, if you have not already. I greatly look forward to seeing any and all of you at the upcoming events.

Slainte,

Justin Gingery
Central Pacific Regional Commissioner
Clan Donald, USA

Games of 2011:

With the first weekend of August, and the Monterey Games, behind us, we are nearing the final stretch of our Games season. Less than a month until one of the biggest games in the world; The 146th Scottish Highland Games in Pleasanton, hosted by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, which will be during Labor Day Weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. As is tradition, Clan Donald will have it's tent. We will be able to be social, catch up, and pay our dues.

However, I would like to suggest two things to our entire clan and the members who are looking into coming to Pleasanton, and I would love to see *everyone*. First, if there is anything you miss about our old newsletters, our old games, our old events, let me or the Regional Commissioner, Justin Gingery, know. A closed mouth will not get fed, and we want to make all of our events as fun and friendly as possible.

Secondly, I would love to see more interaction between us, particularly between those of us who may not get together otherwise. We are a clan, a family, and I want to feel it. I am sure you all want to feel it as well. Maybe go see some of the actual games, go to the shops together, or just sit and eat some fish and chips together. We need to band together and become what we once were. It won't just happen, we have to make it happen.

However, remember that first and foremost the games should be a fun, social experience for all in attendance. You can get your tickets in advance here; <http://www.caledonian.org/games/tickets.html> or buy tickets at the gate.

Going to the website <http://www.caledonian.org/> you can find directions, vendors, prices, and the

answers to most questions you may have regarding the weekend, though I do believe all of us are experienced in Pleasanton.

The Dixon Scottish Cultural Association is having their games in Dixon on the 24th of September. Tickets are quite reasonable, as you can see here: <http://scotsindixon.org/dsca/games.html> and while it is only one day, it should prove fun.

Our Nevada Commissioner, Willie Puchert, will be at the Reno Celtic Celebration, which is October 1st and 2nd. This marks the very end of our gaming season, and while it may be out of reach for some of us, there will be fun for all there as well. Information regarding the Reno games can be found here: <http://www.renoceltic.org/index.html>

While I would love to end our season on a great note, I believe we have had a great run this season with our games. Woodland was fun and I was surprised to see a few more people than are normally there. We were slated to have a tent at the Modesto Games, but due to weather it was canceled.

Stepping Up Within the Clan:

Unfortunately, Clan Donald was not able to hit too many games this year, mainly due to the fact that so many games are disappearing from our calendar. That just means that we really need to make the games we attend, and have a tent at, count all the more. We may need to take matters into our own hands and hold our own gatherings. If you would be interested in participating in a BBQ or gathering at a residence or a public park, let us know.

We should not be restricted to seeing one another just for large gathering and games. I remember when most of my summer and early fall was completely devoted to Clan Donald. We were at all the games, we had great dinners together, caught breakfast with each other at the hotel or nearby, had dances and watched the children grow. We have fallen from where we once were, and it is up to us to fix it. Unless we do something about it, and soon, Clan Donald very well may disappear in our region. I don't want the only time I see my family to be Glencoe.

So again, I urge you all to send suggestions to me. Do not be afraid to be honest and open. We need to know what is wrong, so we can fix it and bring back attendance. Bring back a time when we knew everyone and could tell you if the shortbread on the table was made by Angus or not. Bring back the children of the clan being completely involved, learning the history and seeing how good this clan can be.

If you feel like you are the only one fighting to bring back the old days, I assure you, you are not alone. If we all miss it, why aren't we working that much harder? Why aren't we treating this next generation like we treated mine? By the time I was 5 I knew the entire story of Glencoe, I knew all the words to the song, I knew who the Fox was, I knew who signed the orders, and I knew why so many were able to escape, even in the snow. I still know. Who else can, off the top of their head, answer those?

We cannot allow Clan Donald to fall by the wayside. Our games may be dying but WE don't have to. If you live more in the East Bay, get together with others in the East Bay. If you are closer to Sacramento, get with others in the greater Sacramento area. Together we'll fix this, and we can only fix

Lammas:

Many of you may remember the Lymphad's of not-long-ago were categorized not by month, but by the holidays of our common ancestors. They were Imbloc, Beltane, Lammas, and Samhain. August 1st, for the Northern Hemisphere, is the day of Lammas, or Lambess. This is the festival of the wheat harvest, and it is the first harvest festival of the year.

As with the other celebrations the orders of the Lymphad were named after, this was observed by the Scots, and is still observed today by Pagans. It is often called Lughnasadh to the Pagans of today, and it is one of the 'cross-quarter' holidays, marking the halfway point between Litha and Mabon, or the Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox, respectfully.

The Christians, as they have with many Pagan holidays, have taken this holiday and put their own spin on it. They celebrate it as Saint Peter's deliverance from prison. They also took several traditions with the Hebrew celebration 'First Fruits'. All of the celebrations have to do with the first harvest, or the first fruits of the harvest, and making bread from your labor.

A Moment in History:

August of 1560 was an extremely important moment in Scottish history, for it was August 17th of 1560 that the Scots Parliament approved the "Reformed Confession of Faith", otherwise known as the "Scots Confession".

The Scots Confession was written by the six leaders of Protestant Reformation in Scotland. The Confession is seen as the first Subordinate Standard for the Protestant church of Scotland, which would completely alter the wealth and faith of the country.

However, it was Mary, Queen of Scots, who refused to agree to the Confession, and was able to stall it being enacted as law until 1567, at which point Mary Stuart was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, and her young son James (as King James VI of Scots, later he became King James I of England) ascended the throne at just thirteen months of age.

Despite her refusal, Scots Parliament was able to approve three Acts on the 24th of August 1560 that did away with the old faith in Scotland. The acts approved this day annulled all previous acts that did not conform with their Confession. Sacraments were reduced to just two (Baptism and Communion) and they could only be preformed by preachers. Celebrating Mass could get you killed.

Helpful Links:

With the internet growing more and more popular, we now have access to great resources, just at our fingertips. Here are a few great websites for Donalds.

<http://dna-project.clan-donald-usa.org/> - This is a DNA project that has been going on for nearly a decade.

<http://www.clandonald.info/> - This is a website that has just about everything for Clan Donald. Tartans, history, badges, names, castles, books, historical sites, and much more.

<http://www.clandonald.com/> - Offers information on Armadale Castle, which is a famous castle for Clan Donald of Isle of Skye. If you are unfamiliar with the Isle of Skye, not only were the Donalds of Sleat there, but after the Jacobites failed in their uprising (Remember the Jacobites from Glencoe? Yep, they were pretty important) in 1745, Flora MacDonald saved Bonnie Prince Charlie (Prince Charles Edward Stuart) from the Hanoverian troops by getting him to Skye.

<http://www.clandonald.info/clandonaldnames2.html> - Has a list of the branches and septs of Clan Donald.

<http://www.clandonald-heritage.com/> - A heritage site for Clan Donald. Has some great information on legends, tartans, origins, and branches.

Important Clanmember Information:

If your dues have expired, you should receive a notice from either Bonnie or Laura, as both of them are joint running membership. Pleasanton would be a great place to repay your dues, which are \$25.00 a year. However, if you will be unable to make it to Pleasanton or pay your dues at that time, you can always send them in.

Simply make your checks payable to "Clan Donald USA" and mail them to our treasurer at:

Laura Isaeff
2200 Turk #1
San Francisco, CA 94118

Remember, you can always purchase a life time membership, which is a single fee of \$500.00. If you already have paid your dues for membership and still want to help Clan Donald, remember you can always donate. Something as simple as some snacks during a games, or something as large as a new tent. Every little bit helps and counts.

If you would like to know how to help further, have any suggestions, wish to contribute, or any comments regarding any part of this newsletter, feel free to contact any of the members below.

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