



This month's Minnesota Scottish news and events.



Scottish News in Minnesota



September 2016

EVENTS

September - October | RSCDS at the MN Renaissance Festival

Come join the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival! We perform every Saturday and Sunday of the festival run (August 20 through Oct 2), except Labor Day weekend. We'd love to see you there! Look for us four times a day (usually at the Bear or the Shepherd's Green) and in the parade.

September 11 | New Pearl Buttons at Historic LeDuc Estate Civil War Weekend

Sunday, September 11th from 11:30 AM on - Historic LeDuc Estate Civil War Weekend: 1866-Homecoming

The New Pearl Buttons (mid 19th century American music, with John Wenstrom on mandolin, banjo and vocals joining our usual trio) celebrate the end of the American Civil War, along with

scores of costumed reenactors providing demonstrations, historical vignettes and entertainment suitable for all ages. This is one of the best early fall festivals in the region. Modest admission gets you into all events (free to Dakota Co Historical Society members). LeDuc Estate 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings (right on Highway 61, halfway through town). The event takes place both Saturday and Sunday, but the New Pearl Buttons are there Sunday afternoon ONLY.

For more information or maps to events, go to www.sherryladig.com.

September 16-17 | Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games (Aberdeen, SD)

The ninth annual Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games will have plenty of new features and excitement for this year. The Faire will open with a Friday evening opening at Centennial Village, on the Brown County Fairgrounds, at 5:30 PM for VIP's and Sponsors followed by a 7 PM opening for the General Public. Friday's event will feature musical entertainment by the Long Nines; Celtic Improv with the Aberdeen Community Theatre's Improv Group; A (comical) Conversation with Pope Malarkey the 1st, Meet & Greet with Al Stagner, Three Time World Highland Games Champion; Early Bird "Empty Mugs" sales for Aberdeen Empty Bowls, featuring Finnegan's Beer and Root Beer from the Dakota Territory Brewing Company; and a Celtic Music Session featuring any and all musicians scheduled for the Saturday Stage shows.

Saturday, September 17, doors open at the Brown County Expo Building at 9 AM with the day's festivities beginning at 10 AM. Bringing a full day of excitement and fun featuring Highland Heavy Games, pipers, dancers, Celtic music, food, animals, heritage information and vendors.

Saturday's events include the Heavy Games Competitions, a full day of entertainment, including the The Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band, Northerly Gales, the Mactir School of Irish Dance, The Hounds of Finn, Twin Cities Scottish Dance Academy, along with local favorites, The ARCC Cloggers, and The Long Nines. Clan and Celtic Heritage groups will be on hand to answer questions on tartans, clan history, immigration information and other questions concerning Celtic history and ancestry.

The "Empty Mugs" event will continue this year, a collaborative effort between Empty Bowls Aberdeen, The Celtic Faire, and Finnegan's Brewing Company of Minnesota, and the Dakota Territory Brewing Company of Aberdeen will giving a new twist to raising funds for local food banks. In Empty Bowls tradition, collectible stoneware drinking vessels will be made and sold for a \$15.00 donation. However, in this case, instead of traditional soup, the contents of the mugs will be a 12 ounce pour of Finnegan's beer or root beer produced by the Dakota Territory Brewing Company. Finnegan's, which is known for donating all profits to food banks will be donating the beer for the

event. Stop by the Empty Mugs booth early for the best selection of hand-made mugs - a limited edition of only 150 mugs have been created for the event.

In addition to providing the root-beer for the "Empty Mugs" event, the Dakota Territory Brewing company will host the FIRST public tasting for Dakota Territory Brewing Co!! For a \$5 donation to the Celtic Faire, adults over 21 years of age may taste some Celtic Style beers brewed right here in Aberdeen!! Even better, bring a canned food item for the Finnegan's Reverse Food Truck and get \$1 off the entrance fee to the beer tasting!

This year will mark the second anniversary for the Wee Lad and Lass Contest. This contest is open to kindergarten students in the Aberdeen area. Winners, by luck of a draw, will represent the Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games in the Gypsy Day Parade, the County Fair and other events in 2016-17. Contestant sponsorship is \$35.00 and applications to enter the contest may be found on the Celtic Faire website at www.nesdcelticfaire.com.

Celtic animals, such as Highland Cattle, Clydesdales, Gypsy Ponies, Southdown Babydoll Lambs, and the beloved Celtic Dog Parade will be another part of the weekend sights and activities. Returning this year is the sheep herding demonstrations by Tim Naasz, from Platte, SD.

Children's Highland Games will be held at 3:30 PM on the north field. The games, a scaled down version of the Heavy Games will have awards for all competitors. Registration for the events begins at 3 PM. In addition to the Highland Games, children may participate in the Children's Craft area inside the Expo Building; Medieval Fighting Technique workshops by Mike McClelland.

Food vendors will have their many varieties of snacks, meals and drinks for the crowd, and O'Bleary's Pub will once again be serving Celtic beers, mead, and wine coolers to the over 21 crowd. Speaking of food - once again, the public is invited to participate in the Soda Bread contest. Those interested in entering the contest should follow instructions on the Faire's website. Free samples of soda bread will be available throughout the weekend after judging is finished.

Main Stage entertainment is scheduled for the entire day on Saturday from 10 AM through 11 PM with a Celtic Jam session for anyone left standing at the bar. Saturday's featured performers are the Hounds of Finn, a high-energy folk-rock group forged from the roots of Celtic and American traditions. Based in St. Paul, MN, the Hounds perform both original and standard material inspired by Celtic, Americana, Bluegrass, and folk/roots music from around the world; topped off with a sprinkling of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes.

Preceding the Hounds of Finn on Saturday evening will be Northerly Gales. The Northerly Gales is a

Twin Cities-based acoustic folk quartet. Voice, guitar, fiddle, and bass augmented by harmonica, whistle, pipes, and bodhran.

Make plans to attend this region's only Celtic celebration, in Aberdeen! Faire Hours are Friday, 7-11 PM at Centennial Village; and Saturday, 10 AM to 11 PM (and until 1 AM in O'Bleary's Pub) at the Brown County Expo Building. Admission fee for adults is \$10.00; youth ages 13-17 is \$5.00 and children ages 12 and under are admitted free. For more information, visit www.nesdcelticfaire.com.

September 17 | Scottish Heavy Games workshop led by 3X's World Games Champion Al Stagner

Three times Masters World Games Champion, Al Stagner from Greeley, Colorado, will be conducting Scottish Heavy Games workshops at the NESD Celtic Faire & Games on Saturday, September 17, 2016.

Mr. Stagner has been involved with the Masters World Championships in the traditional Scottish Highland Games for nine years. He actually began competing in athletic events as a youth in the 7th grade throwing shot put and discus. Al started competing professionally in 2008 in Senior Olympics (five events) but wanted to compete in more events so he switched to competing in the Scottish Highland Games (nine events) in the 50-54 years age category. He now competes in the 55-59 age group and normally competes anywhere from five to nine Heavy Games events each year. His favorite events are the sheaf toss and hammer throws.

To keep in shape for the Heavy Games events, Al works out at the local gym and throws at the practice field as often as he can. He states that it is sometimes hard getting up at 3 AM to go to the gym or the practice field, but it is important to keep fit for competition. Mr. Stagner has twice competed at the European Scottish Heavy Games in Scotland. In 2014 at Inverness, Scotland, Al placed 3rd overall in the international event when he participated in the Heavy Weight Throw (42 lb.), Light Weight throw (28 lb.), Open Stone (16 lb.) Braemar Stone (22 lb.), Traditional WOB (42 lb.), Heavy Hammer (22 lb.), Light Hammer 16 lb.), and Caber (55°). Al has earned three Masters World Championships and has received various awards including trophies, swords, and etched-glass, big stone carvings for his efforts.

Competing in the Heavy Games is a family event; Al's daughter participated for a period of time and this year his wife started to compete. When not preparing for the next event, Al works as a Transportation Specialist for an energy company and enjoys fishing, camping, golf, bowling, tennis, 4-wheeling, football, classic car shows and many other interests.

When asked what is next goal is and how long he plans to compete, Mr. Stagner states his next

goal is to achieve a 4X's Masters World Championship and that he plans to compete as long as his body will let him. He informed us there is an 81 year-old man that is still throwing in Heavy Games competitions in Colorado.

Come to the NESD Celtic Faire & Games to meet Al Stagner and learn proper techniques that may help you win a championship, too!

September 17 | Elite Rabble (aka Dunquin) performs at the Festival of the Voyageur/Northwest Co. Fur Post's Fall Gathering

Saturday, September 17th afternoon into evening: Festival of the Voyageur/ Northwest Co. Fur Post's Fall Gathering. Join Elite Rabble (Dunquin in late 18th c./early 19th c. disguise) for a day of demonstrations, trading, games, voyageur canoe rides (in BIG canoes!) and more. Elite Rabble will play in the interpretive center in the afternoon, and play for the big dance outside from 7-9 PM (by torchlight as the daylight fades!) The fall rendezvous were annual celebrations where traders, natives, settlers, voyageurs, anyone in the area gathered to feast, trade, and make merry. Modest admission charged (free to MNHS members).

For more information or maps to events, go to www.sherryladig.com.

September 19 | Try Scottish Country Dancing with the RSCDS

Whether you are curious about Scottish country dancing or have done it before and already know how much fun it is, come along (either alone or with friends) to our annual fall kick-off event. It's a FREE evening of fun and easy Scottish country dances that will give you a taste of what it's all about. Enjoy live music by the Talisker Collective.

No need to bring a partner and no previous dance experience required! Wear clean soft-soled shoes and comfortable clothes.

Regular classes start the following Monday.

See <http://www.rscds-twincities.org/classes.html>.

First six weeks are free for newcomers!

When: Monday, September 19, 2016, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Where: Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

More info: www.rscds-twincities.org



Scottish Cèilidh

Friday, September 23, 2016 at 7:30 pm

The Celtic Junction

836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul

\$7 at the door • Cash bar

7:30 - 8:30 pm

Open cèilidh - Come give us a song,
a story, play a tune (sign up at the door)

8:45 - 10:00 pm

Enjoy Scottish cèilidh dancing with music
by Neil Gunn & The Gunn Slingers!

For more information,
contact Laura at
laura@lauramackenzie.com
or 651-398-5055



This activity is made possible by the voters of
Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State
Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from
the arts and cultural heritage fund.

September 23 | St. Andrew's Pub Night

Our final Pub Night of the season will be on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 4:00 PM at Cooper in St. Louis Park. Please join us for a fun afternoon/evening of food, drink and good company.

Cooper is a wonderful pub. If you haven't been there give it a try with us on the 24th. Hope to see you there!

Watch for more information about our upcoming St. Andrew's Day event, as well as our traditional Kirkin' on Wednesday, November 30 for St. Andrew's Day. Also remember to save the date of January 28, 2017 for the St. Andrew's 41st Burns Dinner.


NEWS

Doug Stewart

The Scottish community lost a great friend early this month. Our thoughts are with Doug's family and friends.

Stewart, Douglas E. of Minneapolis and Duluth, age 65 passed away peacefully on August 3rd. He had long endured many health issues due to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Doug is survived by his loving wife Eileen; daughter Sayleen Schmeling (Paul) and their children, Brooke and Blake; his son Raymond Stewart (Tonya) and their children Morgan and Cameron; his sisters Della Ann Bjornstead, Rosalie Herricks and Elaine Elliott. Doug was very active in the Scottish community and various Veteran's organizations.

<http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/150021/?fullname=douglas-e-stewart>



Please verify details before attending events.

The SNIM is sponsored by the Scottish American Center. We welcome news from all variety of Celts. Please send news, announcements, questions and concerns to scottishnewsinmn@gmail.com. Please note, editorial pieces may be subject to approval by the Scottish American Center board before posting.

Thank you!
Tiffany Esau-McCracken
Scottish American Center

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