



Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.



Spring 2016

## The Scottish Thistle Newsletter



Volume 1 Issue 2

### A Message from Nina

Hello All!

Here we are, starting our first full year of enjoying all things Scottish. Regardless of what tickles your individual fancy, whether it's band activities, athletic meet-ups, highland games, Celtic festivals, or simply dinner with like-minded friends, I ask each member to be cognizant of one crucial fact. You can be enthusiastic, excited, and even boisterous about what you're doing – it's not worth being otherwise!

Additionally, I ask that regardless of what CMSNA is up to and about, we continue to take the high road and basically ignore them and their political intrigue. Please, no disparaging remarks – they really are irrelevant to us and our quest for fun and friendship. Bring on the year – and don't forget, we want pictures of the good times.

We will be having our Annual Meeting this year at the Kelso, Washington Highlander Festival, being held on September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be there and would love to meet everyone, so if you can go, don't be shy.

Go forth and be merry – see you all soon (or at least most of you).

Nina

### **Scottish Events Reports**

***WSCMS wishes to cover as many events in the West as possible; if you'd like to help at a tent in the future, please let us know; we'll help you determine the display/materials needed.***

### **Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival in Albany – April 9, 2016**

The Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival held in Albany, Oregon at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center on the second Saturday of April helps to kick off the games and festival season for those of us living in the Western Oregon/Washington area. This festival began in 1992, and except for a two-year absence, has run continuously since then. Sixteen clans signed up to participate in this year's event, with a number of other participating societies and groups also there to enhance the Scottish and Irish flavor for the day. In addition, a demonstration schedule was included in the day's events, especially the following: Medieval Interactive Dance, Knight Time in Scotland, Learn Gaelic, Wool Waulking Demonstration, Discovering

Your Ancestry, and Irish Dancer's. And there were a total of 26 Vendor Booths as well, marketing a wide variety of Celtic products. Entertainers on the Main Stage included, Tiller's Folly, The Fire, D-n-A Celtic Due, and Kitchen Ceilidh. For a one-day event, there was lots to partake of, and a nice crowd attended. Our WSCMS tent was manned by six members, and we handed out brochures, information on Scottish heritage and Clan MacLaren, and sold several raffle tickets for the dulcimer raffle.



WSCMS members (L to R): Norm English, Tim McLaren, Barbara Gard, Karen Woodall, Pete Woodall, & Margaret English sitting in the tent at the Albany Festival

L to R: Norm English, Margaret English, Denise Beasley, and Barbara Gard in front of WSCMS tent in Albany

### Robert Burns Supper – Newport, Oregon – January 30, 2016



WSCMS members at the Robert Burns Supper in Newport, Oregon (L to R): Peter Woodall, Karen Woodall, Norm English, Margaret English, and Barbara Gard – January 30, 2016

This year's Robert Burns Supper in Newport, Oregon was held at the Shilo Inn, and included live music by "Pipedance", a wonderful five-course meal, some thought-provoking Robert Burns readings, a great trivia game involving everyone in attendance, whiskey tasting, and finally a silent auction. There were nearly a hundred in attendance for this lovely evening, including five of our own WSCMS members. Put a 'Burns Supper' on your 'To Do List', if you've never been to one of these events.

**Raffle Being Held at Scottish Events This Year**



WSCMS member Bob Sewell with his hand-crafted mountain dulcimer to be raffled off to one lucky person –  
Photo by Jean Christodoulou

A hand-crafted mountain dulcimer made by WSCMS member Bob Sewell is being offered as a raffle prize to those purchasing tickets from WSCMS members at select Scottish events throughout the events season, with the drawing to be held approximately October 1, 2016. Bob is a 9<sup>th</sup> generation mountain dulcimer maker. This instrument does not represent an exclusive Scottish heritage, but did involve Scots/Irish settlers in the Appalachian region, along with their many other crafts. Value of the instrument is approximately \$300.00. Tickets are being offered for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

**Coming Events in 2016**

- |                            |                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>April 23-24, 2016</i>   | <i>140<sup>th</sup> Sacramento Valley Scottish Games/Festival – Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, CA</i>       |
| <i>May 7, 2016</i>         | <i>Inaugural Ammon Scottish Festival – McCowan Park, Ammon, ID</i>                                              |
| <i>May 21-22-23, 2016</i>  | <i>153<sup>rd</sup> Victoria Highland Games &amp; Celtic Festival – Topaz Park, Victoria, B.C.</i>              |
| <i>May 28, 2016</i>        | <i>14<sup>th</sup> Eugene Scottish Festival – Irving Grange, Eugene, OR</i>                                     |
| <i>July 8-10, 2016</i>     | <i>118<sup>th</sup> Athena Caledonian Games – Athena, OR</i>                                                    |
| <i>July 16, 2016</i>       | <i>64<sup>th</sup> Portland Highland Games – Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR</i>                        |
| <i>July 29-30-31, 2016</i> | <i>70<sup>th</sup> Pacific NW Scottish Highland Games – Expo Center, Enumclaw, WA</i>                           |
| <i>August 20-21, 2016</i>  | <i>Celtic Highland Games &amp; Clan Gathering – Riverside Park, Winston, OR</i>                                 |
| <i>September 3-4, 2016</i> | <i>151<sup>st</sup> SF Caledonian Club Scottish Highland Games – Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA</i> |
| <i>October 1-2, 2016</i>   | <i>Reno Celtic Celebration – Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, NV</i>                                          |

**In addition, WSCMS members will be at these events**

- |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>June 11-12, 2016</i>      | <i>Newport Celtic Festival &amp; Highland Games – Toledo, OR</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>September 10-11, 2016</i> | <i>Kelso Highlander Festival – Tam O’Shanter Park, Kelso, Washington</i><br><i>This year’s WSCMS Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with this event – In addition to having our meeting at Kelso, we will enjoy the festivities and athletic events and visit with our Scottish kinsmen; plan on joining us!</i> |
| <i>September 24, 2016</i>    | <i>Treasure Valley Celtic Festival – Expo Idaho, Boise ID</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



**Check out our new website**

**<http://westerstatesmaclaren.weebly.com/>**

A huge THANK YOU to our Webmistress Tracey Martin for putting this together – it looks GREAT!

*WSCMS Membership Breakdown as of April 1, 2016*

<u>washington</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>california</u>	<u>B.C.</u>	<u>Total</u>
4	4	7	2	2	19

*19 Members Strong – and Growing*

*Deadline for Next Issue is July 1, 2016*



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**Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.**

WSCMS, Inc. is a duly registered non-stock, non-profit organization incorporated in 2015 under the laws of the State of Idaho

The Scottish Thistle Newsletter is a quarterly publication printed expressly for the purpose of exchanging information and announcements among WSCMS members