

Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.



## The Scottish Thistle Newsletter



Summer 2016

Volume 1 Issue 3

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### Scottish Events Reports

#### Eugene Scottish Festival – May 28, 2016



**WSCMS members in front of the tent at the Eugene Scottish Festival – (L to R): Norm English, Barbara Gard, Margaret English, and Penny McLaren**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Eugene Scottish Festival was held at the Irving Grange, and it was very well attended. In addition to clan tents and a number of vendors, there were athletic and sheep dog demonstrations, a kids area, entertainment on the indoor stage, and wagon rides. A dozen clans were in attendance. In the WSCMS tent, we had lots of visitors inquiring about the society and they had questions about their Scottish heritage and were eager to learn about how they may be connected to their Celtic roots. Several membership application forms were handed out to interested individuals, and this event was one more opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the beautiful hand-crafted mountain dulcimer made by member Bob Sewell. Many, many folks stopped to look at our display board showing the Clan MacLaren-connected list of names, and several were also interested in the map of Scotland that we had on display, wanting to see what part of Scotland Clan MacLaren was from. Society members were very encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest shown by visitors.



Visitors to our tent at Eugene Festival



MacLaren athlete Ray Mabey doing the sheaf toss

### **Dulcimer Raffle Tickets are Being Sold**

Raffle tickets for the hand-crafted mountain dulcimer made by WSCMS member Bob Sewell are being sold at each event where there is a society presence. So far this Spring, we have sold tickets at Albany and Eugene, and are looking forward to the Kelso Festival in September, where we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of WSCMS. Later in September will be the Treasure Valley Celtic Festival in Boise, Idaho. Unfortunately, the Newport Celtic Festival and the Albany Festivals have been disbanded, so it looks like those venues will no longer be available. Please continue to look for opportunities to sell raffle tickets, since that is an opportunity to raise funds for WSCMS. The winner of the dulcimer is to be announced about October 1, 2016, and the plan will be to post the winner's name on our society's website when the winning ticket is drawn. Remember that the value of the instrument is approximately \$300.00. Tickets are being offered for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

### **Message from the President**

Hello Everyone:

What an interesting quarter we've had! With election escapades, terrorist tragedy, curt discussions with Russians and Brexit – it seems the whole world has gone nuts. Now if the whole world would just sit down for a second with the members of our clan, I think we could calm some of the hullabaloo.

After all, what is there not to like? We are a generous, gregarious, goofy people. We like good food and strong drink, wild get-togethers, toe-tapping drum and pipe music, and sheep dog competitions. I think an afternoon with us, at any highland games, just might calm the frenzy. And if not, we have the heavy-man competitions to knock some sense into them – caber anyone?

Alas – I feel sorry for those who don't have our sense of family, or our abiding pride in our ancestors (with all their faults), or our unique appreciation for old traditions and new memories – our shared history, our shared identity. Within our clan family, there is always someone to share a joy or help shoulder a sorrow.

In a world full of chaos – what we have is valuable – please don't forget that. Don't abandon it. Nurture it, feed it, love it – share it.



I came across the following proverb. It is reported to be Scott's Gaelic – I am not sure, but I appreciate the sentiment. It speaks of us.

“Is soan gach cuid an comaidh; is mairg a ehromadh ‘n a aonar” – Happy is that which is shared; pity him who fares alone

Talk to you again soon,

Nina

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**Coming Events in 2016**

- July 29-30-31, 2016** 70<sup>th</sup> Pacific NW Scottish Highland Games – Expo Center, Enumclaw, WA
- August 20-21, 2016** Celtic Highland Games & Clan Gathering – Riverside Park, Winston, OR
- September 3-4, 2016** 151<sup>st</sup> SF Caledonian Club Scottish Highland Games – Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA
- October 1-2, 2016** Reno Celtic Celebration – Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, NV  
McKenzie Highland Games – Eugene, OR
- November 15, 2016** Celtic Thunder in Concert – Keller Auditorium, Portland, OR

**WSCMS members will be at these events**

- September 10-11, 2016 Kelso Highlander Festival – Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, Washington  
*Join us for our Annual Meeting in Kelso; Meeting will include minutes from 2015 Annual Meeting, review/report of last year's activities, & plans for 2017*
- September 24, 2016 Treasure Valley Celtic Festival – Expo Idaho, Boise ID

**Check out our website and get the word out about WSCMS**

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

WSCMS Membership as of July 1, 2016

<u>Washington</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>California</u>	<u>B.C.</u>	<u>Total</u>
4	5	7	2	2	20

**Welcome New Member!**

Denise Beasley

Oregon City, Oregon

Reminder to Members: Beginning January 1, 2017, annual dues are \$10.00

**The deadline for the next issue of The Scottish Thistle is October 1, 2016**



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**Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.**  
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non-profit organization incorporated in 2015 under  
the laws of the State of Idaho  
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publication printed expressly for WSCMS members