



# Western States Clan MacLaren Society

Spring/Summer  
Volume 4, Issue 1

## The Scottish Thistle



### SEE YOU AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES?

The games season is upon us in the West. Let's hope you can answer the call of these great venues:

McMinnville June 8 & 9

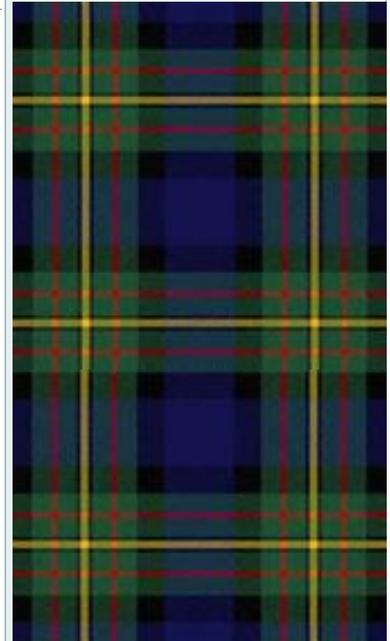
Portland July 20

Kelso September 14 & 15

Boise September 28 AGM

Details are at right. How about any others?

Can you attend as part of the Western States Clan MacLaren? That is the big question to be answered as our society works on a quest for growth.



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##### CALENDAR DATES FOR 2019

- McMinnville Scottish Festival, McMinnville, Oregon, June 8 and 9
- Portland Highland Games, Gresham, Oregon, July 20
- Kelso Highland Festival, Kelso, Washington, September 14 and 15
- Treasure Valley Highland Games and Celtic Festival, and **WSCMS Annual Meeting**, Boise, Idaho, September 28

## BARBARA GARD GIVES THE IMMORTAL MEMORY ADDRESS AT BURNS DINNER

Barbara Gard has given many an address to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns in many Burns events throughout many years. So she was the perfect choice to give the address at the Burns Dinner January 26 in McMinnville, Oregon. The program was presented through the Celtic Heritage Alliance which is headed by Chris McLaran, who also leads the McMinnville Festival.

A sold-out crowd was on hand at the Barberry Restaurant on 3rd St. in McMinnville to hear Barbara's talk and to enjoy all the festivities of the evening. A sumptuous dinner of Scottish fare was served followed by music and talks. Barbara's address toward the end of the program was a highlight. She kept the entire audience quiet in rapt attention and tugged at their hearts with pride with her words.



Photo right: Wearing the MacLaren tartan for the Burns Dinner in McMinnville, (from left):

Tim McLaren, Penny McLaren, Barbara Gard, Norm English, and Margaret English.

Above: Barbara Gard at the podium giving the address.



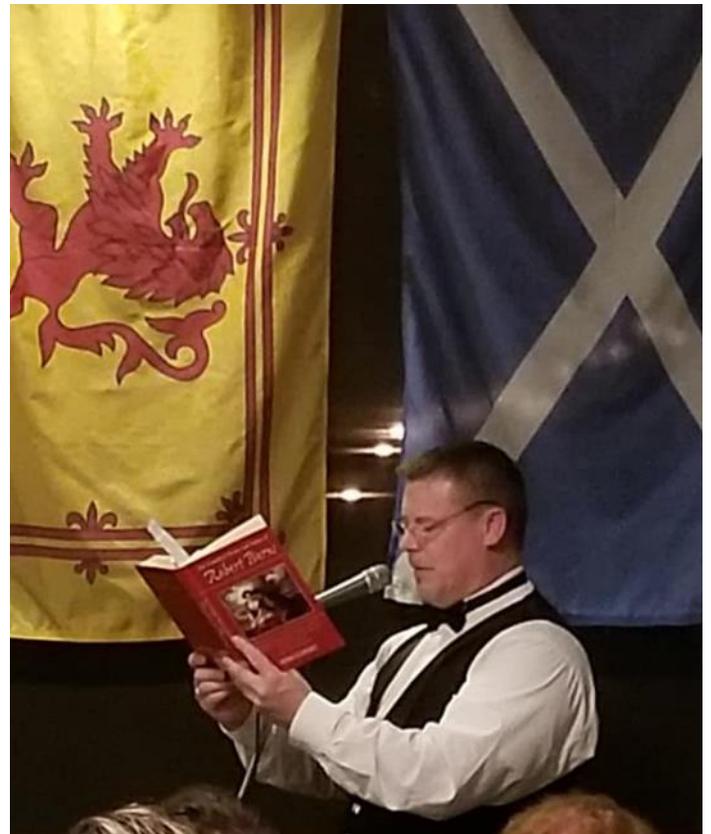
## BURNS SUPPER PHOTO REVIEW



The family pride of mother and son was evident on Burns Supper night. Hal Gard gives his mother Barbara a big hug after she completed her moving tribute to the memory of Robert Burns.

Below is Ray Mabey reading Burns poetry.

Also fostering a their special bond of family is the board of the Celtic Heritage Alliance that put on the Burns Dinner (bottom photo). Included on the board and with WSCMS are Chris McLaran, second from left, and Ray Mabey, third from right.



## A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MARGARET ENGLISH



MacLarens—and lots of family members—were on hand to help Margaret English celebrate her 70th birthday. The event was on Saturday, May 11 at the Live Local Café on Water Street in Silverton, Oregon.

How wonderful it was to see so many of Margaret's and Norm's family on hand to celebrate with her. Norm took on the challenge of making this celebration a surprise for Margaret. He tried to include both her Scandinavian and Scottish backgrounds in the décor and invitations. Everybody managed to keep the event a secret, even her grandchildren. While everyone gathered at the café, Norm went back home to fetch Margaret, and, when she arrived, she was surprised! The photos show some of the family and friends gathered for the celebration.

Margaret must surely know just how special she is to everyone, from this outpouring of love and good wishes!



Top photo, Norm at left, and Margaret center, with their family members. Center photo, Norm narrates Margaret's story on a video slide show he compiled. Bottom photo, Their granddaughter gets in line for the first piece of cake. Right photo, Margaret and Barbara Gard.

## RAY MABEY WINS AT WOODLAND HIGHLAND GAMES

Everyone is always happy to hear that Ray Mabey is competing at Highland games decked out in the MacLaren kilt, but more than that it is great to hear about his achievements in the athletic competition.

Ray was at the Woodland Celtic Games and Festival, held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, California, on April 27 and 28.

Ray competed against 12 other athletes in the Men 50-59 group there. He placed first in sheaf and first in heavy weight for distance. The group competed in all nine events. The others are stones, weights, hammers, weight over bar, sheaf and caber.

That resulted in Ray placing second overall in his group! Congratulations to Ray!

He took time to tell the rest of the story of the games. "It was a typical beautiful warm sunny day there," says Ray. "It was good to see friends I hadn't seen for a couple of years. ( I was out last year from elbow surgery). The elbow fared well, as I wear a brace on it now. "

"One fun note," he adds. "We stopped in Medford for lunch on the way, at the Four Daughters restaurant, and ran into Hal Gard!" (Ed. note: Hal was not able to be at the games that weekend. He was in Medford as a result of a work assignment. That's quite a chance meeting!)

WSCMS members can be proud to hear of Ray's success as the season gets underway. Here is hoping that he will see more wins in whatever competition he is in this season.



Photo details: Above, the athletes enjoying breakfast on the field at the Woodland games, with Ray at far right. Below, the crew with Highland athlete royalty, none other than world champion Spencer Tyler, at center.



## KEEPING UP WITH KEVIN AND KENNA



*as reported by Carol Halsey*



WSCMS member Kevin Halsey and his wife Kenna reside in Polebridge, Montana, where they live off the grid.

Sometimes, though, they are out of the country. Mercy Corps has hired Kevin and Kenna's company, Ecosystems Management, to work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, specifically with the food situation. There are so many issues with this, but they are currently working on solving the erosion problems that overwhelm the water "systems" and erode the growing areas as well as the villages. Kevin and Kenna provide a running travelogue on Facebook with lots of pictures. When they are out on the road or anywhere near the Uganda border, they have nine armed rangers with them, not to mention at least two translators and two or three guides.

When in Montana, they join the residents, the North Forkers as they call themselves, at a yearly snowshoe softball game. (Notice Kevin in his kilt, in the top photo at right.) Kevin always wears his kilt for any sporting event or "formal dances" at the center. It's contagious! There are several kilts showing up each year now since he "broke the ice, so to speak.

That's Kevin and Kenna in the photo at right. The dance was the North Fork New Year's dance this year. Kenna is wearing her Sorrel boots with her dress.

If they're in the country they always host a Burn's Night dinner, complete with haggis.

While they're at home, they spend much of their time hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking. Kevin hasn't had much chance to work out for athletic competition, as his collarbone is still a bit iffy due to an injury last year. (That's him at a previous games in photo at left above.) Anyone want to see a picture of his latest x-ray next time?



## CARS THAT BEAR THE MCLAREN NAME ARE FAST

If you are into cars, fast cars, you surely know that May is a big month. That's when the industry experiences the running of the Indianapolis 500 on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. That's also when you are likely to hear the McLaren name mentioned.

The McLaren Racing Team is based in Woking, Surrey, England. That's also the home of McLaren Automotive, and their brand of luxury road cars.

According to the publication Drag Times, the car known as the McLaren 720S is "among the fastest cars on the planet." Their stats say it achieves speeds that "should only be possible by race cars."

For those who follow cars, here are the car's stats: It has a 4.0 twin turbo V8 engine that makes 710 horsepower. It has been seen to reach 60 in 2.39 seconds. Base price is \$284,745.00 (given in dollars).

Motors.com says that the acceleration power of the McLaren helped it to beat two Dodge

sportsters, Dodge Challenger Hellcat and the Dodge Challenger Scat Pack, in a contest between the cars reported on May 20.

Watch a short video of the half-mile contests here:

<https://www.motor1.com/news/350512/mclarens-drag-races-dodge/>

Drivers can take a driving program called Pure McLaren offered at some selected race tracks, including in the U.S. It has been held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, and at the Thermal Raceway in Palm Springs, California, as well as in tracks in Europe since 2017. Here is how it is described by Jeff Perez for motor1.com:

"Your cheapest ticket to tossing McLarens around a track is the Pure McLaren Experience 570S. Half a day behind the wheel of a 570S costs \$1,550, and includes three 20-minute sessions with an instructor, hospitality, and lunch. The Performance Academy – a full-day experience that includes one-on-one time with a driving coach, six on-track

sessions, a night at a hotel, and dinner – costs \$5,700 for the 570S (Novice level), and \$9,750 for the 720S (Advanced). The Advanced level also includes an extra half day of driving, as well as more class time."

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Is this a note for being absent, like the kind parents used to write when kids missed school? Any particular reason for the absence?

For months this issue has languished on my computer, half-started, but unfinished, waiting for some news, some activities, some inspiration. But none seemed to come along.

The real news, though, I realized, is here, in all that members—those pictured here—are doing. That is worth sharing.

There is a bit of MacLaren tartan that weaves your stories together, figuratively, of course. So the real story was there all along. You are part of this group, WSCMS.

Thanks for all you are doing.  
*Penny McLaren*



**Please share the word about WSCMS.**

**If you can attend a Highland Games in 2019, and are willing to convene a WSCMS clan tent, let us know and we will provide support and display ideas and materials.**

Current Website: (and please note spelling)

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

Facebook Page:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/maclarensofidaho/>**

## WSCMS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks for being a member of WSCMS. We hope you will share information about this group with others who want to get together with MacLarens in the western parts of the U.S.

Please contact Tim McLaren, via the contact information at right, if you would like him to send information to a prospective member, or if you have any questions. Dues are \$10 per year.

Have you changed any of your contact information? Email, phone number, address? If so, please send your changes to Tim McLaren, membership, at the contact information listed.



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