Start your new year off right!

Don’t miss the 12th Annual Olde Towne Scottish Walk and Hogmanay Celebration!

The 12th Annual Olde Towne Scottish Walk and Hogmanay Celebration will take place on Thursday, December 31 in downtown Portsmouth.

All events Free! Parking Free!

All are welcome to participate in the Scottish Walk. Hear tales of colonial history. HONOR Our Nautical and Military History. Thank our merchants for service in the Holiday Season, and Wish all good luck For Auld Lang Syne.

Special participants this year are:
◆ The Boy and Girl Scouts of America
◆ Revolutionary War Re-enactors
◆ Lighted Boat Display
◆ Carriage Rides
◆ Newport News Police Pipes, Drums, and Dancers Corps
◆ Tidewater Pipes and Drums.

11:00 AM Kirking of the Tartans Monumental United Methodist Church.
Line up at 10:45 to process.
3:30 PM Gathering Corner of Queen and Washington Streets.
4:30 PM Step off Behind the St. Paul’s Catholic and Monumental United Methodist Churches.
Singing of “Auld Lang Syne” following the walk.
5:30 PM Pipe Music Barons Pub & Bier Garten

For more information e-mail Susan Cooke, Christmas Walk Coordinator, at susancocke@cox.net

‘Tis the Season!

SST Christmas Ceilidh & Silent Auction

What a wonderful party! If you missed this year’s Christmas Ceilidh and Silent Auction - you missed a good one! Plenty of delicious food, and tons of items to bid on. Thanks to everyone who donated and/or bought items, and thanks to everyone who contributed to the pot luck dinner.

The hall at Ascension where we had our feast was beautifully decorated by June and Bob Lockwood. Marcey Hunter and Terri Woodward helped to set up the auction table. Trish Young made an emergency “drink run,” which we appreciate! All members of the Board helped to organize and set up. I think we did a pretty a pretty good job!

Our new “home” was perfect for this event. We had the use of Ascension’s big and beautiful kitchen, and had access to plenty of tables and chairs.

Don’t miss next year’s Ceilidh! And it’s never to early to start stashing your gently used Scottish and/or Christmas-themed items for next year’s auction.

Merry Christmas to all! Have a safe and joyous holiday!

Nancy Miller, left, and Nancy Montgomery enjoyed the chance to “catch up” during this busy holiday season.

Continued on page 8
The Scottish Society of Tidewater exists to promote the preservation and study of Scottish culture, including music, language, art, history, folklore, dance, literature, athletics, and all other things distinctively Scottish among interested persons in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area and to cooperate with like-minded persons, groups and organizations here and abroad.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Church of Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446. Social time begins at 7:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and history is invited to attend.

P.O. Box 3733, Norfolk, VA 23514-3733
www.tidewaterscots.org

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The SST Board of Directors
Sunshine:
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A Few Words from the President

Thanksgiving is over and the Holidays are upon us with full force.

Our move to Church of The Ascension seems to be working out very well. We have lots of room and the folks there are very accommodating. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for their Food Pantry to each meeting. Since we use the facility free of charge, it’s nice to be able to give back. They help quite a few families each month, so the need is always there; not just during the Holidays. Thanks!

Our November meeting was a success and Vice President John McGlynn presented a program on his favorite (and not so favorite!) Scottish foods from his growing-up years in Scotland. Thanks John, for an excellent presentation. He and Donna also provided some nibbles for after the program.

Our December meeting and Christmas Ceilidh are fresh in my memory, as I write this. Thanks to all who brought all the yummy goodies and to those who helped with setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterward. I truly appreciate your hard work. I haven’t heard, so far, how much was raised from the Silent Auction, but I think we did pretty well. All proceeds from the auction go to support the Richard & Olive Baird Scholarship.

On the horizon … I have been notified that The Band of The Irish Guards / Royal Regiment of Scotland will be putting on a show at the Ferguson Center at Christopher Newport University on Sunday January 21 at 7:30pm. The St Andrews Society, and by extension, The Scottish Society, have been offered a group ticket rate of $20 each. St Andrews will be handling the ticket purchase, so if you are interested please mail me your check and I will be sure to get you in. Tickets for this event will make excellent Christmas presents. This exciting event is also list in the Calendar of Events on page 14.

St Andrews Society’s Burns Nicht will take place on Saturday, January 30 at Princess Anne Country Club at the oceanfront. Stay tuned for details. The flier will be posted on our website soon.

In March, we will hold our Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers. Please consider getting involved, either by running for an office, by serving on a committee, or even by giving a presentation at a meeting. The four Officers are up for election, as well as three Directors. Since I am not running for re-election, I will serve as Nomination Committee Chair, so if you’re interested please let me know. Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhana Mhath Ur!

Yours Aye for Scotland,

Rob
Looking For a Few Good Candidates: SST Elections to be Held in March

The SST will be electing a new slate of officers at the Annual Meeting in March. Now is your chance to be part of the SST leadership. We are looking for enthusiastic candidates who are willing to bring forward some new ideas and new energy for the coming year.

Up for election this year will be the one-year terms of the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer and the two-year terms of three (3) positions on the Board of Directors.

Any member who is in good standing is eligible to run for office and vote at the Annual Meeting. A member in good standing is one whose membership is current and dues are paid to date.

Interested? Contact Rob Lockwood at 467-1984 or piobmor@juno.com

Call for Applications: Richard & Olive Baird Scholarship

It's that time again! The deadline to apply for the Scottish Society of Tidewater’s Richard & Olive Baird Memorial Scholarship is fast approaching. All scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1.

The purpose of the Baird Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study of Scottish culture. This includes, but is not limited to, Scottish music, dance, language, literature, history, genealogy, politics and religion. Only applications relevant to Scottish culture will be considered.

Applicants must be at least 12 years of age; there is no upper age limit. Preference will be given to residents of Hampton Roads, however all interested students are encouraged to apply.

If you would like to submit an application, please visit the SST website at rg, or contact Nancy & Dave Montgomery at 463-1108 or davemontg@aol.com nancymontg@aol.com

Membership news

♦ Scott MacGregor’s son-in-law in Kansas, SGT Grover, Donald C., is once again back on the ground in Iraq. He shipped out of Kansas on Veterans Day and will be over there for another year-long tour. Scott’s daughter, Jamie, and her two sons, Logan and Brennen, will be home here over the Christmas holiday. Please keep SGT Grover in your thoughts and prayers.

♦ Think good thoughts for Norm Albright, who was hospitalized recently with a heart ailment. Get well soon, Norm! We missed you at the Christmas Ceilidh!

♦ Rob & Jan Lockwood are new grandparents, and June and Bob Lockwood are new GREAT grandparents! Ryan Jacob Lockwood was born on Thanksgiving Day. He was a healthy 9 lb 4 oz and 22 inches. Rob says that “Since he was born on Thanksgiving, I’m calling him ‘Butterball’.”

♦ Earlier this year, Nancy Miller was installed as President of the Fort Norfolk Chapter of the National Society of the United States Daughters of 1812. She’s also finishing up her second year as Virginia DAR State Scholarship Chairman. Thanks for all the great work you are doing, Nancy!

♦ Edward, Lynnette & Sarah Brash will be celebrating Hogmanay in Kingston, Ontario with Edward’s parents. They’ll miss all the Hogmanay reindeer games this year!
One of my most memorable days while attending the Homecoming Gathering in Edinburgh was on Friday, 24 July 2009 when I spent the day with fellow representatives from our clan and those from over a hundred other clans who were in attendance for the Clan Convention in the New Scottish Parliament building.

Thanks to the efforts by Sir Malcolm our contingent of representatives reflected not only our clan in Scotland but also representatives from both Clan Gregor societies in the United States.

The convention was an all-day meeting which took place in the debating chamber of the parliament building and was overseen by the Parliament’s Presiding Officer, Alex Fergusson MSP. We MacGregors found ourselves seated directly on the chamber floor itself. During the morning session several speakers enlightened everyone on Scotland’s history, heraldry, Scots abroad, etc. The afternoon session had everyone divided into eight different working groups, followed by a question-and-answer period in the chamber. The purpose of the convention was multi-faceted with emphasis on “how to get our young people more involved,” “what role does the Clan Chief play in today’s society,” “getting more people to visit Scotland,” etc.

The afternoon workgroups found us MacGregors divided up among five different groups with me being involved with one concerned with getting our young people involved. This group was chaired by Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Chief of Clan MacLaren, whose clan lands include the area surround Balquhidder Kirk, the burial place of our own Rob Roy MacGregor.

From this workgroup several good ideas were presented to include:

- Provide age oriented areas at events like grouping people together by generation. People are more open to engage in things with others who are into the same things and speak the same language.
- Create “Grandparent Kits.” Boxes of items with our Clan or general Scottish interest. They could contain things like: children’s books, puzzles, tartan, etc., that would give the grandchildren exposure to their heritage. The kits could be loaned out to grandparents who would be visiting their grandchildren, providing them with activities to do that emphasize their Scottish heritage.
- Encourage the teaching of our Clan and Scottish heritage in grade schools. This was a very strong point. It was noted that in America we teach more of this than is taught in Scotland. Another aspect is to become involved with your local Scottish society in support of their efforts to bring a little bit of our Scottish culture to school children.
- A youth exchange of a month or two between two branches of the clan in different countries. One year an individual, usually a young adult, goes to the other country. The next year an individual from that country comes back to the original country. So the expenses for each branch are spread out over two years. The participants live with society members in the hosting country.

It’s hard to keep young adults involved with our societies, clan, and Scottish culture as they are...
extremely busy with many other aspects in life. They're extremely busy with college, starting a career, a family, and have limited financial assets. The real thing is for the older generation to plant the seeds of interest in their heritage and what is available out there. Once the young people's life slow down a bit they'll remember those things about their heritage and will once again want to become involved and will seek out the societies. With young children of their own they will want to share their family’s lineage with the next generation.

During an unexpected brief break, thanks to a fire alarm, I found myself having a one-on-one discussion with the Chief of Clan MacLaren concerning the recently published article about having Rob Roy’s grave dug up and removed from the Balquhidder Kirk yard. In actuality he would not be against a DNA test being done to prove whether Rob Roy is truly buried at Balquhidder. The animosity expressed by Clan MacLaren towards Clan Gregor is a bit understandable as a week later our own clan Gregor bus captain noted during our trip to Balquhidder that in 1558 members of clan Gregor killed eighteen families of clan MacLaren in the glen, then moved into their homes. The incident was investigated in 1604 and Clan Gregor was cleared of any wrongdoing against Clan MacLaren.

It was wonderful to hear from the Chief of Clan MacLaren, the recognition that our Clan Gregor which just a couple hundred years ago was on the brink of annihilation and struggling for survival as a clan; to today where our clan is one of the most recognized and a flourishing clan. This was evident in the size of our parliament contingent, the strong number of clan members in attendance at the Homecoming Gathering Games and Parade up the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

We are a very fortunate Clan in that even while we were persecuted for nearly one hundred seventy years, we still held strongly to our clan ties and when the proscription was lifted many MacGregors reclaimed their name. Other MacGregors kept their new names while still supporting the clan’s efforts. Today a lot of our clan’s strength can be attributed to both clan societies: American Clan Gregor Society and the Clan Gregor Society, and especially to our chief Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bart. who works endlessly to lead our clan forward. Sir Malcolm is a fine example of the new generation of clan chiefs who makes himself available to his clan members, keeps a good line of communications, travels around the globe attending numerous Scottish events, and supports both societies just to name a few items.

Following our Centennial Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia a committee member expressed the following which exemplifies our Chief and our clan:

“I thought Sir Malcolm and his Lady did a caring and intelligent representation, as leaders of the Clan. His speech was informative and thoughtful. Hooray for us MacGregors.”

I sometimes wonder about our validity as a clan anymore, but now I know. We are strong. We are colorful. And we can unite!”

If you hadn’t picked up from this article my day in parliament was very thought provoking on many topics concerning our Clan and Scotland. I could go on but it would never match experiencing events like this first hand. Should you ever have an opportunity to see Sir Malcolm in person or to attend one of the International Clan Gregor Gatherings in Scotland I’d recommend that you not miss either.
Every time I travel to Scotland, I run across a piece of information that leaves me saying "Who Knew?" On a trip in 2007, I traveled to the Isle of Mull to do some genealogical research on my great, great grandfather, Archibald MacDonald, who was born and raised on the Ross of Mull. The Ross of Mull is the peninsula of Mull that extends towards Iona. The main village on the Ross of Mull is Bunessan, meaning "at the foot of the waterfall." I didn't see a waterfall, but I did see a modest monument by the side of the road to Mary MacDonald, which peaked my interest. Come to find out that Mary MacDonald, born in 1789 near Bunessan, lived with her husband and ten children in a basic croft dwelling, enduring all the hardships of the time. In her spare time (!) she was a bit of a poetess. Her most famous poem, called "Leanabh an Aigh" (Child in a Manger) was set to a tune entitled "Bunessan." Some sources attribute the tune to Mary and some sources attribute the tune to an unnamed person. Needless to say, this song became a well-known Gaelic Christmas tune and is found in hymnals of many denominations. In 1931, Eleanor Farjeon was requested, by the editors of the hymnbook "Songs of Praise," to write a further hymn text to the tune. In 1971, this version gained worldwide fame when pop star, Cat Stevens, recorded it..........and for several weeks, Mary MacDonald's Gaelic tune topped the charts in Britain and America. The song........"Morning Has Broken". Who Knew???

Mary's original words (and the phonetics for the first verse, in case anyone wants to give the song a try, a la Mary) and the English translation are on the next page.
Sources


MacDonald, Donald F., (December 1978). *Scottish Field*, "Scotland's Favourite Carol"

Al Cowan, left, and Manny Willis sample the delicious feast. Thanks to everyone who brought a tasty dish to share.

SST members Charles Murla, left, and John McGlynn, right, played many traditional Scottish tunes, to the delight of Ceilidh attendees.

There were many items donated to this year’s Silent Auction.

Attendance at this year’s Ceilidh was very good. Many old and new friends came out in the rainy and windy night to share in Christmas fellowship.
Many SST members generously donated canned goods and other food items to Ascension’s food pantry. Ascension donates many food baskets to families in the community.

Ray McGarr, left, and CG Miller shared some laughs and a good meal.

Treasurer Jeanne Rider counts up the loot. Proceeds from the auction help to fund the Baird Scholarship.

Three Wise Men or Three Wise Guys?

President Rob Lockwood and Board Member Trish Young worked hard to make this year’s Ceilidh a success.
On Sunday, November 15, 2009, Society members attended a Ian Bruce evening of entertainment at Conklins Pub. Ian Bruce is from Glasgow Scotland and now resides in Edinburgh and travels extensively through out Europe performing. Ian’s return to the area was long awaited by those of us who have known him from many of his previous performances.

The evening was well attended by many society members all of whom are not shown in the picture. Society members pictured L to R , Al Cowan, Trish Young, Ian Bruce seated with his guitar, Linda Lucas, Terri Woodward, and Joyce Cowan.

When the performance was over all stayed to socialize and renew old acquaintances and many fond memories until the pub closed. A really great time was had by all. We look forward to his return.

As many of you may know, Ian Amorosi is a student this year at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. His parents Carol and Dave are living in Italy, but they miss the SST! Carol sent this report on Ian’s first couple of months of school:

“After a difficult time getting his student visa due to new immigration laws, Ian finally arrived. He missed orientation and the first week of classes, but is all caught up now and loving it there. He’s studying medieval history and archaeology along with Scottish history. So far he’s gotten involved with a trekking group, Scottish country dance group and fencing. He even played his fiddle at an open mic night at the hall pub. Can you believe each hall has it's own pub in town! My dorm at uni was never like that!” Good luck Ian! Make us proud!

At left, Ian takes a break from his studies to visit the Castle of St. Andrew in Fife, Scotland.
It's a Gaelic Christmas!

Christmas and New Year's aren't originally "Celtic" holidays, but they are two of the most important holidays of the year to all the Celtic peoples. In Scotland, New Year's Eve has particular importance. In Gaelic Scotland it is called "Oidhche Challainn" while in Scots it is known as Hogmanay. Christmas is known in Gaelic as "Nollaig," and sometimes "Nollaig Mhór" or "Big Christmas." New Year's was sometimes called "Nollaig Bheag," or "Little Christmas."

Christmas in Gaelic Scotland was primarily a religious holiday - many of the modern trappings of secular Christmas, such as Christmas trees, didn't arrive until the Victorian era or later. There are many religious prayers or blessings associated with Christmas and the New Year. Alexander Carmichael recorded some of them in the 19th century his Carmina Gadelica. Here's a portion of one:

Beannaicht an taigh 's na bheil ann,       Bless the house and that which is in it,
Eadar chuall, is chlac, is chrann,           Between rafter and stone and beam,
Iomair do Dhia, eadar bhrat is aodach,      Give all to God from rug to linen,
Slàinte dhaoine gun robh ann.               A health to those herein.

Religious services played an important part in the celebration of Christmas, particularly Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in Catholic areas. But the holiday season was not entirely devoted to solemnity! There was certainly a great deal of merriment among families, friends and neighbors. In some places, celebrations once lasted the entire twelve-day season of Christmas.

Scottish folklorist Margaret Bennett gave a fascinating account of how some Gaelic settlers in the New World kept the Twelve Days of Christmas in her book "The Last Stronghold: The Scottish Gaelic Traditions of Newfoundland." For the Gaels of the Codroy Valley in western Newfoundland, the holiday season began on Christmas Eve and ran through Jan. 6, or "Old Christmas Day."

One of Margaret Bennett's informants was Angus MacNeill. He described the Twelve Days of Christmas for her: "They would arrange to have a big 'time' in a different house every night during the Twelve Days of Christmas ... there would be the biggest kind of a time with Grandpa playing the pipes, and people singing and playing the accordion and the fiddle, and with dancing and step-dancing. And of course there would be plenty to eat; the women would make a big 'feed' with bottled meats and pickles and jams, bannocks, breads, pies and Christmas fruit cakes ... of course there would be lots to drink all through."

Another custom common in the Codroy Valley was mumming - all during the Twelve Days people would disguise themselves in old clothes and masks and go from house to house to play music and dance. The people they visited would have to guess who they were. This custom seems to have been remembered in America and Australia long after it was forgotten in Scotland.

A special night for the Newfoundland mummers was Oidhche Challainn - New Year's Eve. This was true in Scotland and Cape Breton as well. In old times, people would dress in cowhides and sheep skins and go from house to house, circling houses "deiseal" or sunwise, beating on the walls - driving the old year out to let the new year in. Then they would go to the door and recite a special rhyme, Rann na Callainn, requesting entry and food and drink. Here's an example that Allan MacArthur of Codroy Valley gave to Margaret Bennett:

Oidhche chullainn Challainn chruidh
Thaing mise le m’ dhuan gu taigh.
Thubhairt am bodach rium le gruaim
Buailidh mi do chluais le preas.
Labhair a’ chaileach a b’fhear na'n t-òr
Gum bu chòir mo leigeil a-staigh
Air son na dh’ithinn-sa de bhiadh
Agus deuran beag sìos leis.

On a cold frosty Night of the Callainn
I came with my rhyme to a house.
The old man said to me with a frown
I'll hit you on the ear with a briar.
Said the old woman who was better than gold
That I should be let in
For all the little food that I would eat
And a little drink to go with it. From ScottishRadiance.com
NEW SCOTTISH BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUALS
At the Virginia Beach Public Library

ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKS:


ADULT FICTION:


- Submitted by Nancy Miller, MSLS, Virginia Beach Public Library

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Booklist Editors’ Choice 2009

“Deeply felt, illuminating.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Spanning three centuries and three seas, from Scotland and Ireland to colonial Chesapeake Bay, then across the expanding nation into the Pacific Northwest, *Middling Folk* makes the compelling case that the experiences of the middle classes—those who “quietly, century after century, conducted the business and built the livelihoods that made their societies prosper”—reveal a great deal about the founding of the United States and the ways in which customs and traditions are perpetuated through the generations.

Matthews combines meticulous research and deft storytelling to show how the Scots-Irish Hammills—millers, wagon makers, and blacksmiths—lived out their lives against a backdrop of the American Revolution, the Civil War, and westward expansion. Readers will come away with a newfound respect for the ordinary families who helped shape this country and held their own through turbulent times.

Now available from:

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Borders
MUSIC

Newport News Police Pipe & Drum Corps
Tom Crouch waylon23703@aol.com
http://newportnewspolicepipe.homestead.com

Pipers For Hire
Rob Lockwood piobmor@juno.com
http://www.roblockwood.com

Harper
Rita Hamilton celticharp@cox.net

Scottish Gaelic Song Performances
Edward Brash brash99@hotmail.com

CELTIC DANCE

Scottish Highland Dancing
Scottish Ceilidh (Social) Dancing, &
Scottish Step Dancing
Lynnette Fitch Brash l.fitch.brash@gmail.com

Southside Ceili(dh) Class &
Irish Ceili Dancing
Lisa Hunt lhunt23@cox.net

MISC.

Kilts, Alterations
Christine Lawler vakilter@juno.com

Photography - British Isles
Manny Willis robinandmanny@cox.net

Photography - Scotland
Linda Lucas lj lucas@cox.net

Scottish Gaelic Lessons
Scots Gaelic Society of Tidewater
Marcy Hunter marcey9@cox.net

Travel in Scotland
Highland Ways
Arthur & Anne Korff 757-596-6063

Scottish Whisky Tasting
Mike Lawler william.lawler@verizon.net

SST member Skip Hunter, far left, and former SST Vice President James Taylor, center, participate with John Cosby at the Battle of Great Bridge re-enactment. The lads re-enact the 76th MacDonald Highland Regiment of Foot, which was part of Lord Dunmore’s forces. The Battle of Great Bridge was fought December 9, 1775, in the area now known as Chesapeake, Virginia, during the American Revolutionary War. The victory by the Continental Army was responsible for removing Lord Dunmore and any other vestige of British Government for the Colony of Virginia during the early days of the Revolution. Shortly thereafter, Norfolk, (at the time a Tory center) was captured and destroyed, cementing Continental hold on Virginia. (Wikipedia)
Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 31
12th Annual Olde Towne Scottish Walk & Hogmanay Celebration
Old Towne Portsmouth
11:00 AM Kirking of the Tartans
Monumental United Methodist Church.
Line up at 10:45 to process.
3:30 PM Gathering Corner of Queen and Washington Streets.
4:30 PM Step off Behind the St. Paul’s Catholic and Monumental United Methodist Churches.

January 6
SST Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road. Social time 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm.

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Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road. Social time 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm.

January 21
The Band of Irish Guards/
Royal Regiment of Scotland
Ferguson Center, Newport News, 7:30pm
Special SST ticket rate of $20
(Regular $40+)
For tickets, contact Rob Lockwood at piobmor@juno.com, or mail him a check at 703 Gemstone La, VB 23462-1189. Hurry! Tickets won’t last long!

January 26
Masters of the Fiddle
Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy
American Theatre, Hampton, VA
7:30 pm
Come and hear two of the world’s most celebrated fiddlers. They also happen to be married! Known for her flamboyant skill and trademark step dancing, Natalie MacMaster is a master of the Cape Breton fiddle style. Donnell Leahy is part of the band Leahy.

January 30
Burns Night Supper
Hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Tidewater
Princess Anne Country Club
3800 Pacific Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA
$45 per person; reservations MUST be made in advance. For more information, contact Rob Lockwood at 467-1984 or piobmor@juno.com

February 3
SST Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road. Social time 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm.
Program: TBD

February 12-14
18th Annual Philly Midwinter Celtic Music Festival
http://www.eohebrides.com/

March 3
SST Annual Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road. Social time 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm.
Program: annual meeting and elections.

March 6
Tinsmith
7:30 pm, $20 general admission
Tinsmith is a high-energy folk band playing traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, and Appalachia.
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA

March 13
Ocean View St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Norfolk, Virginia
A Taste of Whisky
Enjoying the Uisege Beatha, the “Water of Life”

Scotch whisky protected against 'inferior' copies

From BBC News, 11/21/09.

New guidelines to protect whisky from foreign imitation, including new rules on labelling and bottling were recently implemented in Scotland.

There will be a new requirement to only bottle Single Malts in Scotland, and tighter rules on the use of distillery names on bottle labels.

There will also be better protection of traditional regional names such as "Highland" and "Lowland".

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) described it as "landmark legislation".

The regulations have been drawn up by the UK government.

Secretary of State for Scotland Jim Murphy said: "It is vital that we protect our key industries. We cannot allow others to trade off our good name and to pass off inferior whisky as being produced in Scotland.

"These regulations will help protect whisky customers across the globe.

"New labelling rules will also mean that customers will have a clearer understanding about precisely where and how their drink has been produced. This will enhance the education of many whisky drinkers as well as their enjoyment."

SWA chief executive, Gavin Hewitt said: "This is landmark legislation for Scotch Whisky delivering important benefits for consumers, distillers, and the economy.

"Additional protection, including the requirement to bottle Single Malt Scotch Whisky in Scotland, helps safeguard Scotch from unfair and deceptive practices; the new labelling rules provide a unique opportunity to promote consumer understanding of Scotch worldwide.

"These regulations have the strong backing of the Scotch Whisky industry."

Some of the details of the new legislation include:

♦ Five categories of Scotch Whisky are defined for the first time; Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Single Grain Scotch Whisky, Blended Malt Scotch Whisky, Blended Grain Scotch Whisky, and Blended Scotch Whisky.

♦ These compulsory category sales terms will be required to appear clearly and prominently on all labels.

♦ A requirement to only bottle Single Malt Scotch Whisky in Scotland.

♦ New rules to prevent the misleading labelling and marketing of Single Malt Scotch Whiskies.

♦ A ban on the use of the term "Pure Malt".

♦ A ban on the use of a distillery name as a brand name on any Scotch Whisky which has not been wholly distilled in the named distillery.

♦ Protection of five traditional whisky regions of production; Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown.

♦ A requirement that Scotch Whisky must be wholly matured in Scotland.

♦ Clear rules on the use of age statements on packaging.

♦ Designation of HM Customs & Excise as the verification authority for Scotch Whisky.

Did you know..?
Whisky is probably the best known of Scotland’s manufactured exports contributing around £800 million to the Scottish economy, supporting 41,000 jobs as well as adding £2 billion to the balance of trade making it one of the UK’s top five manufacturing export earners[20]. The whisky industry also generates a substantial income for the government with around £1.6bn raised in duty each year[21]. The principal whisky producing areas include Speyside and the island of Islay where there are 8 distilleries providing a major source of employment for the island. In many areas the whisky industry is closely related with tourism, with many distilleries also functioning as tourist attractions.

From Wikipedia
Remember, the SST monthly meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Ascension Community Center 4853 Princess Anne Road Virginia Beach VA