

Rural Hill Scottish Festival & Loch Norman Highland Games

Special Bulletin - March 2010

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Huntersville, North Carolina

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The 17th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games will be held April 16 – 18.

Annual favorites return along with exciting new offerings for 2010! With professional Scottish heavy athletic competition, amateur heavy athletics, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, harp and fiddle competitions, children's activities, demonstrations and our famous historic encampment, the weekend will be fun for the entire family.

Complete information and advance tickets are available online at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net.

Saturday evening finds the return of our wildly popular music concert as well as music throughout the weekend on two stages. Saturday and Sunday offer Scottish heavy athletics and a wide range of competitions that anyone can enter including children's field competitions. With an additional grandstand on the field, the views keep getting better and better. Also, "Amateur Class A" Heavy Athletic Competition will now be held on Saturday along with the Professional Competition.

Scottish Clan & Family Information will be available through the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) along with the Scottish Tartan Museum. Also available will be genealogy information from Family Tree D.N.A.



We are proud to announce our expanded "Kids Zone" including Flex Flying (photo above) and pony rides.

Celtic Rock Music in the front yard of the house (near the main parking lot and entrance to the games) will feature Albannach from Scotland and the local favorite Sterling Bridge on the stage throughout the day. For complete music listings, see pages 2 & 3.

Whatever you love about the Festival and Games weekend, it will be there and more!

Albannach
HERE FOR THE SECOND TIME,
STRAIGHT FROM SCOTLAND.
"Outlawed tunes on Outlawed pipes"
albannachmusic.com
PLAYING SATURDAY APRIL 17TH
AND SUNDAY APRIL 18TH ONLY AT
THE RURAL HILL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
AND LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES
RURALHILLSCOTTISHFESTIVALS.NET

MUSIC INCLUDES INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TALENTS

One of the Joys of the Weekend is the Scottish and Celtic Music Performances - Two Stages All Weekend and a Special Saturday Night Concert

Albannach

Heart pounding drums and ancient strains from Highland Pipes will stir your heart for the Highlands and the smell of heather. Not just another Scottish 'Pipes & Drums' band, Albannach brings a new and exciting form of percussion and Celtic music and includes a championship winning piper, an extremely talented main drummer, bass drummers and bodhran musicians.



In an Amazon.com review, M. Wolf posts, "This band will have the blood rollicking through your veins! The drumming will wake up something primitive you forgot you had. Their music will grab you, enthrall you, excite you, lull you, haunt you...get in touch with your wild side..."

Albannach is Scots-Gaelic for "Scottish" or "Scotsman." The members of Albannach were all born and bred in Scotland and says, "...our purpose in life is to share our intriguing culture, history and heritage with you by means of our music. It is exciting, energetic and enchanting and we promise to leave you begging for more."

Brian McNeill

Now in his 40th year of a career that has established him as one of the most acclaimed forces in Scottish music. Brian has been described as "Scotland's most meaningful contemporary songwriter" (The Scotsman); add to that his work and influence as performer, composer, producer, teacher, musical director, band leader,



novelist and interpreter of Scotland's past, present and future and you have a man who has never stood still. He has performed around the globe, both as a soloist and with some of the era's most influential bands, including Battlefield Band and Clan Alba.

Brian was born in 1950 in Falkirk and began his musical training in his early teens with violin lessons, but soon forsook that for the electric guitar. There followed a comprehensive musical education and mildly misspent youth - until his student years brought him to Celtic music. As a direct consequence, in 1969 he formed the Battlefield Band, which became one of Scotland's best known ensembles. Brian plays fiddle, octave fiddle, guitar, mandocello, bouzouki, viola, mandolin, cittern, concertina, bass and hurdy gurdy..

Ed Miller

A native of Edinburgh, Scotland, now living in Austin, Texas, Ed Miller is a product of the 1960s folk revival in Scotland. He moved to the United States in 1968 to complete his graduate work in Geography, and later Folklore, at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to his singing career, Ed is the host of a folk music program on Austin's NPR station, KUT-FM. Ed Miller is a performer who has learned his craft in musical venues on both sides of the Atlantic.... and a folklorist who brings his love of Scotland to every performance.



"Ed is a wonderful example of the vocal tradition that means so much to the Celtic heritage and history. His wonderful voice as well as his treatment of the old and new folksongs (many of which he has authored himself) is inspiring to those who love the music. And while he takes the music very seriously, his humor and wit make his performances all the more inviting." - Don Hutchison, as posted on cdbaby.com.

Gary

Innes

Born in 1980, Gary Innes is from Spean Bridge in the Highlands of Scotland



and has been playing music professionally since 2003. He released his first album "How's the Craic" in 2005 under the Skipinnish label and has since has started his own record label PDP (Purple Dougal Production) with best friend and co-owner Ewan Robertson. The boys released their own album "Shouts" in April 2009 which has been featured on radio stations worldwide and was BBC Radio nan Gaidheal's album of the month in May '09.

Gary has traveled the world with some amazing tales of tours and travel. He is recognized as one of Scotland's finest young accordion players and has appeared in America, China, Kazakhstan and Europe. A highlight was his performance at a World Peace concert in Amman, Jordan for the Royal Family. Gary has been a part of Scots legendary "Runrig" and appears on the cover of their 2007 album "Everything You See." He currently plays in Scotland's widely demanded super group "Box Club."

Outside of music Gary is a Scottish Internationalist at Shinty and plays for Camanachd Cup champions Fort William. He holds every senior medal in Shinty and when not competing, does live match commentary for the BBC. Gary is also a Firefighter with Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue and a First Responder with the Scottish Ambulance Service. At anytime you could be enjoying his music onstage or happy he's come to help you out of trouble.

"Gary Innes is the latest in a line of young box players hailing from the Lochaber area. His 'locomotive' style has been wooing audiences up and down the country and he...will blow your socks off!" - Dougie Hunter, as posted on musicscotland.com.

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Jil Chambless

Jil Chambless is without a doubt one of America's top Celtic music vocalist and musicians. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, Jil was first introduced to

Celtic music in the 1980's when she met the Tuscaloosa-based band, Henri's Notions. The rest is history.

As the vocalist with Henri's Notions, Jil has completed four recording projects and performed nationally at concerts and festivals. Jil has just released her long awaited solo CD, "The Ladies Go Dancing," produced by the legendary Brian McNeill.

"Little did I ever think that one of the best singers of Scots and Irish songs I know would hail from Tuscaloosa, Alabama., but that is the case with Jil Chambless." - Ed Miller

Scooter Muse

With roots in Bluegrass Music, Scooter has been privileged to win eight State of Alabama & Tennessee Valley Championship titles for 5 String and Old Time Banjo. Scooter began to tap into the incredible world of Celtic Music about 25 years ago. After learning a flood of traditional jigs and reels on the banjo he began to explore the Celtic domain of open tunings for the guitar, and from was founder and leader of one of the country's finest Celtic bands, The Full Moon Ensemble. After the FME went their separate ways in 2002, Scooter was proud to join Henri's Notions after being a big fan of the band for many years!



Scooter has released his first solo guitar CD "Saddell Abbey." The CD includes 12 original compositions for acoustic guitar including music set to the poetry of Robert Burns, and three songs by the Full Moon Ensemble's Allison King and Jil Chambless of Henri's Notions.

"His talents as musician and composer/arranger have been an important part of the success both bands have enjoyed to date. But now, with the release of his first solo recording, Muse's own music

shares much of his journey on the Celtic music road. Saddell Abbey has all the earmarks of a project that has been a long time coming." - Paige Smith, *Celtic Alabama News*

John Taylor Originally from North-East Scotland, John has lived in San Jose, California for over 30 years, and during that time has become one of the most popular Scottish fiddlers in the US. In addition to solo work, he has



played with various bands over the years and currently leads a band called "Hamewith" (which means

"homewards" in the Scots dialect). He also plays regularly for Scottish Country Dancing and has recorded albums with Andy Imbrie and with the dance band "Fiddlesticks and Ivory." He has played for dance tours in Scotland and New Zealand, and regularly plays for dances and dance workshops throughout the US and Canada. He can also often be seen and heard accompanying singer Ed Miller or the Scots/Irish duo "Men of Worth."

In 2001, he released his first solo album "After the Dance," produced by Scottish folk music icon Brian McNeill and featuring John with backup from Brian, Ed, Rich Brotherton, Lawrence Drummond and John's son Stuart and daughter Lesley. It includes a wide variety of airs, marches, jigs, reels and strathspeys, both old and new, and is topped off by a couple of fiddle-related songs from Ed. John's latest album "The Road Ahead" was again produced by Brian and features an exciting mix of material - including John's first recorded vocal - and backup by Brian, along with members of Hamewith and John's family.

John says of his musical beginnings, "I was born in Aberdeen. The milk was delivered every morning by horse and cart. The vegetable man came later in the day with HIS horse and cart and we got to feed sugar lumps to the horse. The "scaffie" had a little maroon and cream hand cart that he walked around with, sweeping the streets. I used to get a ride to and from school on the handlebars of my father's bike. The beach was freezing, but we went anyway. There were "allotments" at the

end of the street and we used to pinch red gooseberries through the fence. I can't remember the last time I had a gooseberry. We had an attic in our house, and Auntie Dorothy and Uncle George lived there for a while. I learned to ride Neilly Anderson's bike and dreamed about getting a "Palm Beach Tourer" with butterfly handlebars. What I got was my Uncle Charlie's old bike with wood blocks on the pedals so I could reach them. When I was 7 or 8 years old, my Mum and Dad asked me if I would like to play a musical instrument. I was really excited - this was great. I said 'Yes, a trombone!!!!' They bought me a fiddle."

Stirling Bridge Rockin' the Celts - Carolina Style! Stirling Bridge blends classic bagpipe sounds with hard-driving Carolina rock 'n' roll. These four seasoned, professional musicians bring the party with a good-time, foot-stompin' Celtic rock show.



Stirling Bridge is comprised of musicians known individually or from other combined efforts such as Thistledown Tinkers and Cattletruck - Trip Rogers (Guitar, Vocals), Tom Eure (Bass, Vocals), Andrea Jones (Highland Bagpipes, Small Pipes) and Gene Mackall (Drums).

Thistledown Tinkers

Thistledown Tinkers, the powerful Celtic music duo featuring Trip Rogers and Tom Eure, make music that forces folks to stand up and take notice. This is not the fragile, romanticized Celtic music you hear in movie soundtracks, but the kind that makes you sing along and stomp your feet.

These seasoned music veterans from NC weave traditional Scottish and Irish music with original creations while adding a southern swagger that sets the stage on fire.



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Scottish Athletics

Rooted in History

The events of the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games are deeply rooted in Scottish history. "When celebrating in times of peace, the clansmen would go out into the mountains for a 'great hunt' and after, a feast and celebration would be held. The rival clansmen would relax by testing each other's prowess at various sports - running, jumping, wrestling, or primitive forms of weight putting with stones. Lastly the clansmen would vie with each other in piping and in dancing, the pipers taking it in turns to demonstrate their skills and the clansmen to demonstrate their agility and neatness of movement by dancing complicated steps to the pipe music." (Edited excerpts taken from *The Essential Guide to Highland Games*.)

Amateur athletic competitions include the Scottish heavy athletics, battle axe, climbing wall, long bow archery, highland wrestling, heavy stone lift and carry, track & field kilted races, lassies games and children's field competitions.

Saturday will offer one of the highlights of the Games - the Professional Scottish Heavy Events. *Note: Professional athletes are by invitation only.* Hometown favorites and athletes from across the country come to do their best and break world records in events that include the 16 lb Stone, 22 lb Hammer Throw, 28 lb Weight Throw, 56 lb Weight Throw, 56 lb Weight Toss for Height, Turning the Caber, and Tossing the Sheaf. "Class A" amateur heavy athletic competition will take place on Saturday with the remaining amateur classes competing on Sunday. Professional demonstrations will also take place on Sunday.



April 16, 17 & 18, 2010

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games



Thistledown Tinkers

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With an impressive arsenal of instruments including guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, and concertina, musicianship is at the core of Thistledown Tinkers. Their stage presence creates a rebel rousing party that not only draws fans in, but makes them feel like a part of the show.

Thistledown Tinkers deliver the beauty and tradition of Celtic music, new and old, with the guts, showmanship, and attitude of an arena rock band. You will find them wherever kinsmen are gathered and the craic is lively!

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games...

So Much To See and Do!

Sanctioned competitions include Professional Scottish Heavy Athletics, Individual Piping and Drumming, Pipe Band Competition, Carolinas Open Highland Dancing Championships, Highland Dance Competition National Dances, Scottish Fiddle Competition and Scottish Harp Competition.

Scottish Country Dancing **demonstrations and seminars** will be held throughout the weekend. Other demonstrations include the Scottish American Military Society, 78th Fraser's Highlanders, Dr. Ben Roy Ousley with his Border Collies, and the Highland Cows and other livestock.

Who are those lads and lassies over there near the cow pasture? Enjoy a brief journey back in the mists of time at the **Historical Encampment**. At the little tent village, see weapons displays and demonstrations, and a blacksmith and other fine craftsmen displaying their skills.

Rural Hill extends a special **thank you** to its community partners and supporters: Hauser Rentals, Bojangles, McIntosh Law Firm, Town of Huntersville, Charlotte's Got A Lot, Visit Lake Norman, EyeBenders, Redwood Creek, Arts and Science Council, North Carolina Arts Council and Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation.



COME SHOPPING!

Listed in alphabetical order are our 2010 vendors:

Bradley Imports
Caberdancer
Caledonia Fine Arts
Camus International
Celtic Exchange
Everything Scottish
Fletcher Pottery
Hi Ho Silver
Highland Bears
Highland Blades
Highland Brewing
Highland Games Apparel
Highland Heritage
Hyde and Heddle
Infamous Welsh Cookie Company
Lavender Lace
Near & Far Scottish
Pipe Makers Union
Potomac Leather
R. E. Piland, Goldsmiths
Scotia Metal Works
Scottish Banner
St. Kilda USA
The Compleat Knight
The Heelan Hound
Unicorn Limited
Union Jack

Want to Dance?

Friday Evening Scottish Country Welcome Dance

At Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Advance Gallery: \$3

Advance Participant: \$18

After 03/31/10 and at the door

Gallery: \$3

Participant: \$20

Saturday Evening Scottish Country Dancing Gala

At Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Advance Gallery: \$3

Advance Participant: \$18

After 03/31/10 and at the door

Gallery: \$3

Participant: \$20

Advance tickets for dances and event admission can be purchased online at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net.

"Kids Zone"



As part of the Festival and Games, a "Kids Zone" with special children's activities will be open all weekend. Located just inside the entrance, the "Kids Zone" will include the popular Passport to Scotland, flex flying, pony rides, music, storytelling and face painting.



There will also be smaller versions of the heavy athletics competition. The children's field competitions like the Kilted Mile for Lads (Boys) & Lassies (Girls) divided into age brackets: 12 & under, 13-15, 16-30, and 31 & over. There is also the Kilted 1/4 Mile Run for 7-12 year olds and the Kilted 1/8 Mile Run for 6 and under.

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games

Saturday & Sunday Advance Tickets

Advance 2-day Discount Tickets are \$25 each and include the Saturday Night Concert.
Advance discount ticket orders mailed until April 1, 2010.

Individual Tickets Purchased at the Gate

Saturday Only (includes Saturday Night Concert): \$20
Saturday Night Concert Only (after 4:30 PM): \$10
Sunday Only: \$10
Children 5-12 years (one day): \$7
Children 4 and under: FREE

Parking Saturday & Sunday: \$5 per day
Proceeds go to Huntersville Lions Club and Rural Hill Preservation.
Parking paid to attendant on day of event and includes one commemorative program per automobile.

Event Held Rain or Shine!

NEW! Online Tickets!
Order securely online at
ruralhillscottishfestivals.net

Rural Hill

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Where History Springs Alive

Facilitated in cooperation with
Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation

Historic Rural Hill

is located at 4431 Neck Road (off Beatties Ford Road) in Huntersville, 28078. The former homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson, the 265 acre site is maintained and promoted by The Catawba Valley Scottish Society (CVSS). Rural Hill features annual events such as the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, the Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze and the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials. Education programs and tours are available throughout the year. CVSS is a non-profit organization supported through membership and donations, and with proceeds from its events utilized for the preservation of historic Rural Hill and its education efforts. For more information on events or for financial support accepted securely online, please visit www.ruralhill.net.