



# Clan Donnachaidh News

Rocky Mountain Branch

November 2005

## Frae the President

By Becky Robertson

It's that time of the year when we look back and smile at the memories of summer fun and games, plan for the holidays ahead, and settle into the winter ahead of us. I hope this reaches everyone in good spirits and health.

For those not able to attend the AGM you missed some great food and company! This year we have a new Vice President. Rich Matthews was elected in the VP position and is bringing great ideas to the post. Rich, it's great to have you back on the council! I want to THANK Russell Robertson for his work as the VP during the past two years. He has stepped down from the council to concentrate on his busy schedule. We also have new members to the council, Ray and Robin Ward from Wyoming. It's great to have you on board.

I am hoping this winter will see much progress with the start of new projects and committees. The council has started two new committees in addition to the Promotional committee that is concentrating on Donnachaidh items like pins, books, etc. (Contact Nancy Bigley if you would like to join this fun group). The first of the two new committees will concentrate on our Clan history, both branch and heritage. We want to get the vast knowledge Donald Robertson has stored in his head on tape. At this time, we are arranging a date at Donald's home and we are writing "interview questions". If anyone has topics or questions they would like included or would like to attend the taping please contact Rich Matthews. I also encourage the other "historians" in the clan (you know who you are) to contribute what they know in whatever form they choose. It will be a great addition to the clan library for future years and generations.

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The third committee we have started is for recruitment and the growth of membership. We have lots of ideas. I will say that the group signed up for this committee is a pretty heavy party group. It will be a fun group to join! One of our projects will be to contact those that have fallen off the paid membership list. Anyone knowing of new addresses or phone numbers for people who have moved or we might have missed, please contact Mindy Bolen or myself. Anyone paid up for the past year that has not received the newsletter, I sincerely apologize. It was not intentional. Please contact me with your comments.

So, in closing, you can see the Clan is heading in many different directions and we need your help, creative minds and enthusiasm. Please join any or all of the groups noted above, even if you can only attend occasionally. Everyone is invited.

I send my heartfelt thanks to Clan and Council for their hard work through this busy summer.

Becky Robertson  
President

## Upcoming Events

**December 3, 2005**- Yule Party (early in the month, date to be announced later)

**November 17 2005**, Clan History at Donald Robertsons @ 7:00pm

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006** – Council Meeting at Mindy Bolens, 7:00pm

**January 21, 2006** - Robert Burns Supper, Radisson Graystone Castle

\*\*Council meetings have been changed to the 1st Friday every other month at Mindy Bolen's home unless otherwise noted.

## Additional Scottish Events-2005

**January 28, 2006** - St. Andrew Robert Burns Supper

## Upcoming Highland Games

**2006 Season to be announced later!!**

## Yule Party

I guarantee you'll have a good time at the first annual Clan Donnachaidh Yule Party! Dress casually and join us at Charlene Sullivan's new house, 2804 S. Heather Gardens Way, Unit A, Aurora, CO, at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday December 3, 2005 for a kickoff to the winter holiday season.

Bring your own beverage and an appetizer. We'll dine divinely on our shared fare, burn a small Yule log, learn a legend or two and learn more about our old and new clan members. See ya there (map below) snow or shine.

Charlene Sullivan

## Burns Supper Info

The dinner will be buffet style this year.

Price per person - \$40

Gobs of Phun for our entertainment both before and after the dinner

Grace will be said by Donald

Address to the Haggis to be said by Russell

Cash Bar

Raffle Items

Set of 4 glasses

Full 12 months of Whisky Magazine

Clan History Book

Other Books

Bottle of Glen Fidich

Large basket with goodies for silent auction!!

More to come!!

**Order form (included below) for tickets must be received by January 14, 2006**

**November 5, 2005** Dave and Amanda Robertson celebrate their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and it seems like just last month we were at their wedding. J



## Highland Games 2005 Review

The **Rocky Mountain Highland Games**, Highland Ranch, CO was held on August 13-14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone felt the connection with Scotland this year because the weather reminded everyone of the north UK. Yes, it was raining most of Saturday and cloudy on Sunday. Although the parade ground was a little soggy, we displayed our flag high. However, despite the weather, everyone who came had a good time.

Donald Robertson was able to join us again this year on Saturday. The booth was very busy with everyone stopping by to say hello. He shared a wealth of history with those of us who enjoyed visiting with him as well.

Congratulations to Travis Roberts and his new bride Molly who stopped by to say hello and meet everyone. Molly and Travis competed and played in the mass bands. Travis and Ryan Dean both competed in this year's individual pipe contests too.

Our booth was next to the Knights Templar booth. We wondered who had a hand in that?! It was both fun and educational. The kids that stopped by the booth for passports were also treated to mini-bottles of bubbles which were a hit with them. Maureen Silva shared her father's beautiful plaque and Becky Robertson along with several of us accompanied her to meet other clans and share some "wee drams".

Thanks to all who helped with and visited the booth. It was fun getting to know more about clan members. Mark your calendars for next year's games held August 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> 2006.

The **Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival** was September 9-11<sup>th</sup> in Estes Park, Co. Estes was a beautiful setting even though we had the usual variety of weather. Saturday's parade was fun although our turn out was not as large as it has been in the past. We were fortunate to be ahead of the horses in the parade so we didn't have to watch our step too much. The Dennis's (Smith and Bolen) carried the Clan banner and created the Donnachaidh/Robertson banner twirl, which was a hit with the crowd. They promised they'd work on perfecting it for next year. The many announcers did a very good job of pronouncing our name correctly

this year. Think they were coached?

We were sandwiched between the Hay's and the Henderson's in the Clan tent, which made for some rowdy times. The steady stream of visitors kept the clan members manning the booth busy both Saturday and Sunday, with a total of 54 signing the book. "Wee drams" of Glenfarclas were passed back and forth, giving a little internal warmth and a lot of smiles. Attending members celebrated birthdays, went to the Tattoo, concerts or just socialized. Of course, there were lots of calories shared and the vendors were glad to see us, especially Mike Duncan's Celtic Fine Arts and the Murphy's truck! We had a variety of new booth items including three handing banners by Nancy Bigley, a tartan display board by Mindy Bolen, and new membership information and forms by Dennis Smith. The clan was able to offer the new James Irvine Robertson Book "The Robertsons", to visitors and quickly sold out of the copies available. We also were able to offer bookmarks and the great buttons Dennis Smith created for us. And, of course, the mini-bottle of bubbles again brought smiles to tired little faces. Some of us learned how much we still do not know about our clan history because of the many questions put to us by interested visitors, but the new books and display items helped. We all agreed that we were in need of some education and/or cheat sheets before the next event.

Thanks to the many, many people that helped keep the information and the fun flowing. Those that were not there were missed and we hope you will join us next time. Mark your calendar for September 8-10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Game reviews by Nancy Bigley, Council Member.

### HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY BY ALICE WOODS

For those of you planning to attend the Yule Party at Charlene's, Alice will bring her beaded ear rings, eye glass chains and silver or gold wire wrapped pendants of pretty stones. Prices range from \$10 for ear rings and eye glass chains, and \$20 to \$50 for wire wrapped stones.

thanks,  
Rich Matthews

## **The Robertsons, Clan Donnachaidh in Atholl** By James Irvine Robertson

The first history of the Clan for more than half a century with over 100 pages, which includes maps of Clan country and 45 illustrations. The author, James Robertson, has edited the Clan Donnachaidh Annual for ten years and has written several Histories of aspects of Atholl and its clans.



The clan has made several copies available for purchase for our members. The cost of this wonderful history is \$15.00, cash or check made out to Clan Donnachaidh. If you'd like a copy of your own, please send your check to:  
Mindy Bolen,

If you'd like it mailed to you, please add \$1.50 for cost of media mail postage and envelope. (Please include your current mailing address!) These will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so get yours while they last!

### **CLAN HISTORY LESSONS WITH DONALD**

Donald Robertson is preparing lessons on the history of the Clan. He will be presenting the first of four Clan History lessons on Thursday November 17 at 7:00pm. If that week does not work out then we hope that Donald can have a class the week after Thanksgiving. Please contact Donald @ 303 337 1143 if you plan to attend so that he can prepare the necessary handouts in advance. If you have not been to Donald's house before please call him for directions. If you have a video cam or tape recorder please dust them off so that you can record any of the lessons that you attend. This is our first step in getting our own records of clan history together. Rich Matthews is heading a committee on Clan History, if you are interested in joining this

committee or helping out please contact Rich Matthews @ 303 986 2608.

### **Youth Membership**

Do you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew under the age of 21 that would enjoy becoming a member of Clan Donnachaidh and learning more about their Scottish heritage? If so, you can nominate them into the clan by completing the attached form and sending it off. They will become honorary members and receive a beautiful certificate of membership all free of charge until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

And since I'm in a bragging mood, check out our newest member, Hunter James Bolen in his first kilt!



The membership nomination forms may be mailed to:  
Cheryl Robertson  
P.O. Box 8434  
Portland, ME 04104

## Clan Board 2004-2005

**President:** Becky Robertson

**Vice President:** Richard Matthews

**Treasurer:** Mindy Bolen

**Secretary:** Amanda Robertson

**Newsletter:** Dennis Smith

Nancy Bigley

Kathleen Cahoon

Nancy MacBride

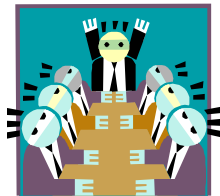
David Robertson

Maureen Silva

Charlene Sullivan

Ray and Robin Ward

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## **Past Presidents**

Mark Donnachaidh,  
Curtis Roberts,  
Bob Robertson,  
Charlene Sullivan

## **Marriage Announcements:**

Dennis and Mindy Bolen would like to announce the marriage of their son Zachary T. Bolen to Katherine A. Province, October 5, 2005. The kids surprised us by announcing they wanted to move their date up from May, 2006 to the first of October due to Zach's impending departure for the Navy. (He is on hold now, as he still has a few pounds to lose before they'll let him go, which is ok with mom.) Dennis, Zach and Hunter all wore their kilts, which creates looks and comments, as you well know.

## **Email Change**

Bill Robertson, our International Vice Chairman located in Maine, has notified us of the change in his email. The new address is:  
[cbrobertson@myway.com](mailto:cbrobertson@myway.com)

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I received an e-mail from Curtis Roberts. Aside from a very short note to me personally here is a short note from Curtis to the Clan:

To the Clan:

I do not have a telephone here on the ranch. Maybe next year I will get a telephone. I am using a borrowed computer with a satellite hook-up....when it is available. I am still fighting health issues and the government bull.

Love,  
Curtis

I would like to add that Curtis's e-mail address is:  
[c\\_w\\_Roberts@hotmail.com](mailto:c_w_Roberts@hotmail.com)

Richard Matthews

## Treasurer's Corner

Just a short "State of the Clan" for everyone...

Current Membership: 34 Paid members

I would like to take a second and welcome our newest members to our family:

Karen Damm (and her three beautiful children)

Laurie Duncan

Jeanne Fiske-Swanson

Ken and Cheryl Reid

Ray and Robin Ward (Our newest Council members as well)

I will be sending out reminder cards for those clan members who've forgotten to send in their dues. WE MISS YOU!

Current bank balance: \$2,589.62

Scotland has not taken our dues yet which will reduce our balance by approximately \$680.00 depending on exchange rates.

As many of you know, I often put in a plea for donations of money for our coffers or paper/postage to help defray the newsletter costs. Last year, we were blessed with an anonymous donation to take care of the registration fees for the Estes Park games. This year, at the AGM, Donald Robertson gifted us with \$1000.00 to help defray those pesky expenses we seem to keep coming up with. With this donation, we are able to move ahead with some ideas for fundraising as well as purchasing additional copies of the Clan Donnachaidh books. (For those of you who ordered and paid for copies, they're on order and will be shipped as soon as I get them. For those of you who haven't purchased but want one of these great books, we'll have them available at the Yule Party and at the Burns dinner for \$15.00 each.)

Lastly, I just wanted to say, without the continued generous donations from our clan members, we would be unable to do a lot of the wonderful activities we do throughout the year. So, to everyone who donates money, supplies, items for the clan booth and time, THANK YOU!!! You are what make this clan the best.

Happy Holidays!

Mindy Bolen

Clan Treasurer

## Sub Committees added at AGM

- Promotional Committee

This committee is pulling together "Clan Specific" items that we will have available to members and friends alike. Some of the items that this committee have already made and provided include the buttons, and bookmarks, as well as tartan ribbon and pint glasses with the Clan Crest on the front. This is an excited group of people, and they would love any input from other members. Contact Nancy Bigley for more information

- Recruitment Committee

This group will be concentrating on the membership numbers and how to increase them. They will also be doing some investigations into other events, including Highland Games other than just Highlands Ranch and Estes Park, and evaluating them to see if we should spend more time at them. We have members in the Cheyenne area that will also be looking into the number of "northerners" we have and how to get as many of our Clans folk involved. Please contact Becky Robertson or Amanda Robertson for more information.

- History Committee

This group is going to be taking on the daunting, but wonderful task of documenting the history of our clan in 2 interesting ways. The first historical icon they will tackle is our own Donald Robertson. Committee members will be spending evenings or weekend days with Donald, recording with audio and video the tales of our history that have attracted so many of us to the Clan from the beginning. Donald has said he welcomes anyone to come by, and visit with him, and we all know that he never lacks a story to share. The second historical work this group will tackle is the genealogical work, another thing that interests so many of us. There has been talk of trying to start "at the top" and working our way down, and maybe meeting up with some of the folks that have gone back as far as they could. Our New VP Rich is the contact for this committee.

## Charitable Contributions

At the November Committee meeting there was mention of the clan getting involved in some charity work. With the holidays approaching, we are once again reminded of those that are less fortunate than others, and the different ways we can help.

Not all charities require financial help, although it is always appreciated. Some charities ask for your time, your back, or your used clothes, toys and household items. Here is a list of the ideas we came up with, and we would love to hear from anyone else about any ideas they have, or favorite charities you already support, and how we could contribute.

- Habitat for Humanity
- Rebuilding Together (similar idea as Habitat, only this is refurbishing homes of the ill or elderly to make them safe for them to continue living unassisted)
- Lung Cancer Association
- Diabetes Foundation

We also have a charity that Dave Robertson already works with, Samaritan House, downtown Denver. The organization that Dave belongs to does a semi-annual donation to the Samaritan House, and will be making his drop after the Yule Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Charlene's house. If you have any new or used clothes or toys that you would like to donate, and clear out of your house before Christmas, please feel free to bring them to the Yule party, and Dave will be happy to take them off your hands for you!

## New Website

We have started developing a new website for the Clan Donnachaidh.

Our new domain name and website link is:

<http://www.rockymountainscots.com>

The page is a work in progress and Dennis Smith and Nancy Bigly would like your input .

Please check it out and let us know what you would like to see incorporated into it!!

Keep in mind that it is in progress. If you see things that don't make sense just check back in a few days.

Dennis Smith