



Clan Donnachaidh

Society of the Rocky Mountains

"Glory is the Reward of Valor"

Winter 2023/2024

Happy Hogmanay!



Yule Time Celebration 2024

A Happy New Year when it comes!



RockyMountainScots.com



2024 Council Members

- President - Heather Hidalgo (New)
- Vice President - Kathy Robertson (New)
- Treasurer - Lisa Johnson
- Secretary - Nancy Bigley
- Membership Coordinator - Jim Robertson (New)
- Events Coordinator - Jeff Kohr & Kristina Root
- Historian - Michael Keehn (New)
- Newsletter Editor - Jake Reed
- Webmaster - Pat McConnaughay

Calendar Events

- Robert Burns Event
- Colorado Tartan Day
- Highland Sweetheart Tea
- Colorado Tartan Day Festival

Renew your membership

Membership Renewal

Newsletter Highlights

Greetings To All!	3	Moab Adventure	9
Robert Burns	4	Society Chairman Message	10
Colorado Sweet Hearts	4	In Loving Memory	
Birthday Shout Out!	5	• Troy (Ann) Robertson	11
December 2023	6	• Mark Moomaw	12
November 2023	7	Membership	13
October 2023	8	AGM Meeting Minutes	15





Greetings to All!



As we bid farewell to the old year and step into the promising embrace of the new one, it is with great joy and anticipation that we extend a heartfelt welcome to each and every member of our esteemed Donnachaidh clan.

The past year has been a journey filled with shared moments, celebrations, and the strength that comes from our collective spirit. Together, we've faced challenges, celebrated victories, and strengthened the bonds that define us as a clan.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the achievements and memories we've forged together. From clan gatherings to virtual events, every interaction has contributed to the rich tapestry of our shared history. Your dedication and commitment have been the driving force behind our success, and for that, we express our deepest gratitude.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the laughter shared, and the bonds that unite us. May the coming months be filled with prosperity, good health, and the continued camaraderie that makes our clan truly special.

Together, let us embark on this new chapter with optimism, unity, and a shared determination to make it a year to remember. Whether near or far, each member is a vital thread in the fabric of our clan, and your presence enriches our community.

Here's to a fantastic year past and an even more incredible year ahead. May the winds of fortune favor us, and may the spirit of the Donnachaidh clan continue to thrive.

Slàinte mhath! (Good health!)

Rocky Mountains Society of Clan Donnachaidh

Robert Burns Night

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Denver Marriott West

1717 Denver West Blvd.

Denver, CO 80401



**Please
join us!!**

- Tickets:** \$90.00 per person
Menu: Buffet Dinner
Socializing: 6pm - 7pm (Cash Bar – no outside alcohol permitted)
Dinner & Program: 7pm – 11pm
Drawings/Prizes: Throughout the night
Entertainment: Haggis, Piper, Live music, Prizes, Kilt line, Ceilidh dancing
Accommodations: Discounted Rooms are Available (\$136+tx) mention Robert Burns. Dinner at (303) 279-9100

RSVP BY JANUARY 22, 2024

Highland Sweatheart Tea

Saturday - February 10, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

St. Brigit Episcopal Church 110 Johnson St.

Frederick, CO. 80504

<https://www.coloradotartanday.com/>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

To all of those Clan Members that Have/Had Birthdays in October, November or December we wish you all a Belated Happy and Healthy Birthday!



December 2023

YULE TIME!



The month started off with the Clan AGM followed by the annual Clan Yule Party which traditionally happens every 1st Saturday of December. This year's party was again Hosted by our very own Kathy Robertson and her partner Jay Lazorishak. We had an amazing turn out of around 50 people. It was such a delight to see so many new faces joining us and having such great conversations and connection.

There was so much food and drink I am absolutely positive not a single soul left that night feeling hungry. I truly hope we see everyone again for the Robbie Burns dinner in January.

PLEASE JOIN US AND GET SIGNED UP BEFORE JAN. 23, 2024

ROBERT BURNS SUPPER



November 2023

Colorado Tartan Day

Our Clan Member George Grove (Amber Doobie-Grove's husband) participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Jackson, TN. George is part of the Color guard for Capt. Jack Hollander Marine Corps. League detachment 735. Thank you for your service George!



Colorado Tartan Day- hosted the Fall Harvest tea at St. Bridget's Church in Fredrick, CO. On November 6th. A fabulous time was had by all. Our own Nancy Bigley, Becky Robertson, Jim Robertson and Heather Hidalgo participated and also helped with hosting and leading the event. This event helps to support our local Colorado Tartan day Festival in April, this is a free event due to donations collected by these events. Thank you to all who attended. There is also the Colorado Tartan Day fundraiser Sweetheart tea that happens in February, many of the ladies of the Clan enjoy wearing their tiaras and enjoy being waited on hand and foot by the gentlemen. The Donnachaidh Gents prove to be a hit every year when they come together and show what hospitable gentlemen they can really be. If you wish to join us please Sign up, as these events tend to sell out quickly.

[HTTPS://WWW.COLORADOTARTANDAY.COM](https://www.coloradotartanday.com)



October 2023

HAPPY SAMHAIN



A small Clan Gathering came together pre Coffin Races eve at Jack Quinn's Irish Pub. In Colorado Springs. We took advantage of having so many Clan members together in one place for this event that we figured...why not make it a gathering!

The Rocky mountain Scottish athletes (RMSA) were invited to the 29th annual Emma Crawford coffin races in Manitou Springs, CO. Oct. 28h, 2023. We came in 22nd out of 70 participants/teams. I learned later, through the grape vine that certain teams hired pro runners/sprinters to be part of their team to insure a win. Makes you wonder whats the big prize? Sponsored By Clan Ramsey (Michelle and Steve Williams of Manitou Springs, CO.) Our own Heather Hidalgo walked in the Parade and rallied around the pride of the Scottish heritage we all hold so dear. FREEDOM!!! We want to thank you all for a fantastic weekend of entertainment. Several other ladies of Clan Donnachaidh RMS also joined in for a night of music and dancing. Costumes were had by all. Well done! The Ramsey Clan asked that we consider having a bigger Clan presence in 2024, I will keep you updated as we get closer to the event if you might be interested in participating, it is such a blast if you love Halloween and getting into the spirit of the season!



MOAB ADVENTURE

For several years have not been able to attend the Scots on the Rocks Celtic Festival in Moab, Utah. This year gave me the opportunity to attend. It was the first time in all the years I have lived in Colorado and been to festivals that had even been to Utah. Therefore, it was a really great experience. Fall was a great time to travel to the western slope and see all the fall colors. Utah has a different topography than Colorado, so the beauty was also amazing.

Moab was filled with many sights and sounds. But it was not difficult to find the Center Street Ballpark due to the sounds of bagpipes and following the tartans. Although I was the only Donnachaidh attending this year, I was graciously adopted by Clan Johnston/e. We marched in the parade, shared shortbread, watched the piping contestants, had some tasty food especially the Guinness stew, and shared some drams.

Throughout the day I discovered that there were several familiar faces from Colorado representing. Clan Campbell, Clan MacKay, Clan Fraiser, and Clan MacLean plus several more. As with all Celtic festivals there were plenty of vendors, dancers, wonderful music, and of course the games. It was a great day and I recommend that if you have not been it should be on your list of Festivals to attend. Submitted by Nancy Bigley, Past President of Clan Donnachaidh, and current Secretary.





Message from Clan Donnachaidh Society Chairman Jonn Duncan



Greetings all

It is with deep sorrow that I reach out to notify you of the recent passing of Andrew Duncan, a life member and past Chairman of the Clan Donnachaidh Society. Andrew died peacefully at his home in Pitlochry, Scotland on the morning of Sunday, 12th November.

Many of you will have met Andrew and if so, I have no doubt he made a lasting impression. Andrew was full of life and always had a kind word to whomever he encountered. He was the sharpest of dressers and had a quick wit to match. Andrew and his wife Mary were loyal supporters of the Clan Donnachaidh Society. If there was a Clan Donnachaidh Society event, you could always count on Andrew's presence. His passing leaves a huge void and Andrew will be greatly missed by his family, his friends and colleagues within the Society and the local Pitlochry community.

Andrew's funeral will be held at Perth Crematorium, Perth, UK on Tuesday 28th November at 2.00 pm to which Clan members and friends are warmly invited.

Please keep Andrew's niece Louise Wroth - and family - in your thoughts and prayers.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Louise at 4 Newhill Way, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6FL, UK or by e-mail to louise.wroth@gmail.com

Jonn Duncan

Chairman

Clan Donnachaidh Society



In Loving Memory



[Troy Ann Robertson](#)
[Obituary](#)

Troy Ann Robertson **January 29, 1942 — October 4, 2023**

Troy Ann Robertson, age 81, died peacefully on October 4th, 2023 at Swedish Hospital under the care of Denver Hospice in Denver, CO. She was born on January 29, 1942 in Texas. She married George Robertson on January 28, 1967.

Ann loved many things. God, family, and friends were at the top of the list. She enjoyed crafts of all kinds, including sewing, crocheting, and knitting. She was an avid reader and love book club. Other activities that she was a part of was Red Hats, singing with the Joy Bells and Choir, and tutoring children with Whiz Kids. You can't forget that she was a huge Bronco fan as well.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Margaret; her sister, Nancy; and her husband, George. She is survived by her son David; daughter-in-law Dani, her sister, Tina; and her grandchildren, Megan, Troy, and Zander.

In Loving Memory

Marc Moomaw

July 29, 1969 — November 27, 2023 Aurora



Marc A Moomaw, 54, passed away November 27, 2023, at his home in Aurora, CO after a valiant fight against cancer.

Marc was born on July 29, 1969, in Bowling Green, OH to Robert and Mary Anne (Shank) Moomaw.

He married the love of his life, Lisa, in 2010.

Although their time together was cut short, Marc and Lisa filled the years with love and adventure. Culminating in a spectacular trip to Europe this fall. Lisa helped Marc fulfill his dream of walking where his ancestors once did.

Marc was active, along with Lisa, in Clan Scott. He competed in the Highland games at festivals and threw a pretty mean caber.

He was attending the University of Colorado Denver majoring in Engineering.

Marc enjoyed the outdoors and could be found hiking, biking and camping as often as possible. While indoors he was an excellent, albeit a bit messy, cook.

Marc is survived by his wife, Lisa, brothers Doug and Will (Amy) Moomaw, sister Nicki (Matt) Sabin, 14 nieces and nephews, mother-in-law Mary James and sister-in-law Kim Moomaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Robert Moomaw

Marc credits his loyal canine companions, Wuulfgar and Jake, with helping him through some tough times during his illnesses. They made sure to get Marc outside and active as much as possible.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership year for international membership runs from January 1st - December 31. We aim to process as many renewals and memberships as possible by March 31st to ensure the Clan Annual is distributed directly from Scotland to members from the publisher. This helps to keep administrative costs at the Clan Center- and in particular postage costs-to a minimum. If you wish to be a local and international member or to renew your membership please visit our web site between now and March and get signed up.

[**You can also sign up or renew at the Robert Burns Supper on January 27th, 2024**](#)

[Become a Member/Renew
rockymountainscots.com](http://rockymountainscots.com)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO JIM ROBERTSON AT: INFO@ROCKYMOUNTAINSCOTS.COM.

The Benefits of Membership

A question that is often raised is “What do I get for the cost of the membership?” A very good question since there are many places you can spend your hard-earned money. Here are just a few.

Local membership dues go to:

-Fees for the 5-7 annual events the Society participates in annually. Each event charges a fee to set up a tent space and this fee can be anywhere from \$35 to \$250+. Events are our largest cost per year.

-Maintenance and upgrade of the Society’s trailer, tent, tent materials, event consumables. A large cost each year involves purchasing consumables for the events (i.e., ice, water, scotch, cups, beads and candy). Additionally, the cre-

ation. Ordering and purchase of new signage or renewing old/outdated materials for the tent can be substantial. Annual registration of the Society’s trailer.

-Society’s operations costs. Membership cards, mailings, paper and ink, etc

-Access to The Society’s newsletter. Our newsletter is typically published twice per year to keep members up to date on what’s happening with regard to events, Council activities and other information we want to share.

-Robert Burns Dinner. Cost involved with the basic operations of the dinner are often absorbed by the Society to help reduce ticket costs. Members may receive a small discount on dinner tickets as well.

There are no paid members of the Rocky

Mountain Scots. All positions are strictly voluntary. Above all, membership allows those interested in researching their heritage, enjoying the wonderful cultural history of Scotland and sharing others'

International membership dues go to fund the operations and maintenance of Scotland's Society:

-A Yearly Clan Annual. The Annual includes information about the Clan and reports from the various Clan Branches around the world. Articles relating to clan history, archaeological digs with a Clan connection are featured as well as articles about battles, and various aspects of Scottish life.

-Your dues help to maintain the Clan Centre and Museum which preserves and promotes the Clan's heritage and artifacts. In addition to the artifacts preserved, there is a Reading Room where members can discover more about the Clan, the Society and its history.

-The International Society gives grants to various bodies which have a bearing on the Clan. Examples include sponsorship of the Poet Chief's archery medal at St. Andrews and a Donnachaidh memorial stone at the recently opened Visitor Centre at Culloden.

-The Clan Secretary works in the Clan Centre by answering queries from members and non-members alike, helping to spread the word about Clan Donnachaidh.

-An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held each year, attended by Clan members from the four corners of the earth. A report of the year's accomplishments is given and plans for the new year voted on. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the Chief and his family, Donnachaidh cousins from around the world, and to experience the joy of being in Scotland, to bask in the joy of being "home".

In summary, the job of the Clan Society in Scotland and the Society of the Rocky Mountains here locally, is to maintain the heart and spirit of our heritage. This affords us a unique view of our family roots as more than an excuse to don a kilt. Your annual dues are needed to preserve this evidence of our heritage for our children and grandchildren.



Become a Member

Membership Renew

AGM Meeting

The AGM turned out to be a huge success in voting in new council/board positions as well as taking care of many other old and new business items.

President- Heather Hidalgo (New)

Vice President- Kathy Robertson (New)

Historian- Michael Keehn (New)

Membership- Jim Robertson (New)

Events Coordinator- Kristina Root (new) helping Jeff Kohr

Secretary- Nancy Bigley (until March) *We Will need a new person, Please let us know if you are interested. (Kathy Robertson has offered to help in the meantime)

Treasurer- Lisa Johnson (continuing)

Webmaster- Pat McConnaughay (Continuing)

Newsletter- Jake Reed (Continuing)

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AGM ELECTION COUNCIL MEETING 12-02-2023

ATTENDEES: Jim Robertson, Lisa Robertson, Kathy Robertson, Jay Lazorishak, Jeff Kohr, Pat O'Rorke, Rachel Bessette, Michael Keehn, Marie Keehn, Tiffany Whetstine, Johnthan Whetstine, Kay Wetteman, Sarah Wetteman, Andrew Wetteman, Scott McConnaughay, Jenny McConnaughay, Pat McConnaughay, Judy Salkind, Lisa Johnson, Heather Hidalgo-Norris, Jorge Hidalgo, and Nancy Bigley. Kathy Robertson & Jay Lazor hosted us. 5 p.m.

SECRETARY—Huge thank you to Kathy Robertson for filling in for Nancy. Minutes from previous council meeting of 10-08-2023, Approved as submitted by Kathy Roberston. Reminder to everyone, the minutes are sent to Jake Reed to send out in newsletter. Also, Pat McConnaughay posts them on the website.

President's Report—Jim Robertson submitted his official resignation as RMS Clan Donnachaidh President. He has had a great ride as President, but his workload has changed. He also feels that after 5 years it is time for someone else to take the helm. He would like to take over the Membership position and will be able to assist the new President as Liaison since he will be a member of the Council in Scotland. We will have

elections of officers later and will explain the Vice President's Report—Heather Hidalgo-Norris welcome everyone to Yule Party. For new attendees, the first Saturday of December is the typical date every year for our party. Remember we need people to help at events in 2024. We cannot represent the clan unless everyone steps up to help. So please contact us Events Coordinator(s) to sign up and come have some fun. Let's enjoy the party tonight and see you at Robert Burns Dinner.

TREASURERS REPORT—Lisa Johnson shared The Robert Burns Night is coming along nicely. Please encourage more people to come join the fun. We have paid our first deposit to the hotel \$2,300 for the event space. Next payment is due on Dec 29 of \$2,000. The Jan 23rd the \$2,000 final.

We are changing our accounts because of problems with PayPal so in researching the best option is to select Venmo. Easy to use for everyone and will work well with our new website.

Pat is getting a new website host. Easy to put Venmo on the site and user friendly.

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Nancy Bigley is looking for the original Guide material but believes these should be in the binder that has the By-laws, the Charter informa-

tion and includes the descriptions for Officers. However, these will need to be updated to reflect many of the changes. Some duties have shifted, we have large display items, tents, trailers, etc. and we should possibly include pictures to assist people.

Thank you, Kathy Roberston, for covering the previous meeting as I was out of town.

MEMBERSHIP—Reminder: Lisa is resigning as Membership chair. Jim shared we have 41 families/individual members, want to really focus on increasing our membership. Jim would like to take over membership.

Events—Jeff Kohr: Tartan Days space is a 10 x 10 scheduled. Kristina Root is very interested in taking the Event Coordinator.

NEWSLETTER—Jake Reed is going to take over the newsletter. Would like to send out quarterly. Please send articles and pictures to him. It doesn't have to be long articles, just little paragraphs. Can include birthdays, volunteer work people are participating in, new jobs, and so forth.

Webmaster—Pat McConnaughay has researched and found a better website for the Clan. It is less expensive for a yearly subscription. It will have a new look as well.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON—Jim Robertson is writing the Annual Report to Scotland and will include our advertisement. He will continue to assist with this and keep us updated. He is also now a member of the Clan council in Scotland.

HISTORIANS REPORT—Michael Keehn is going to start helping Rachel Bessette. Michael shared some books for us to consider reading.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—

Robert Burns Night committee shared the basic overview of the evenings program, donations needed for our drawing, the date for final count is January 23 to give the hotel. Buffet will have servers, will include chicken, beef, veggies, potato, the special diets are taken care of, bar will be cash bar and it will accept credit cards

this time, decorations, Heather is making our haggis.

NEW BUSINESS—

Elections: Jim explained our process for the elections. He will read the description of the office. Nominations will be open for the position. If there is only one candidate, (the individual may or not leave), members may/will discuss, then a member will make an official nomination of a person for the position and have a second. The membership will be asked to say "Aye" for the person as President. The membership will be asked to say "Nah" for the person as President. "Aye" will have the position. Jim will ask the individual if they accept the position.

President: Nancy Bigley nominated Heather Hidalgo-Norris for President.

No discussion was indicated. Jim as all in favor of Heather being President say Aye. All acceptable for Heather being President. One person's response was Nah. Heather accepted the position.

Vice President: Rachael Bessette nominated Kathy Robertson to be Vice President. No discussion was indicated. No one opposed. Kathy accepted the position.

Secretary: Nancy Bigley agreed to continue as Secretary. All in favor of Nancy continuing as secretary, say "Aye" opposed "Nah". Aye's have it Nancy accepted the position.

Treasurer: Lisa Johnson agreed to continue as Treasurer. All in favor of Nancy continuing as Treasurer, say "Aye" opposed "Nah". Aye's have it. Lisa Johnson accepted the position.

Elections are closed.

Next Council meeting—Will be on January 14th at 2:00, at Kathy Robertson's.

ADJOURNED: 5:47 P.M.

