

Piob Rocks!

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

While the Society had no events scheduled during the month of May, we more than made up for it during the month of June. On June 10th, The Society sponsored an amateur solo piping competition. This competition featured 24 events across 6 separate amateur grades of piping. The event attracted 42 amateur pipers from eight different states.

Also, on June 10th, the Society also hosted a Judge's Recital. Three Professional Pipers, Scot Walker, Patrick Regan, and Chris Hamilton filled the Hackman Auditorium with some fantastic pipe playing. Each piper played for approximately a 1/2 hour each.

The following weekend, several members of the Society attended the US Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, Delaware. Scot Walker and John Bottomley competed in the Professional event against some of North America's best players. The Overall winner is generally invited to compete at the Glenfiddich Championships at Blair Castle. Those who attended the competition were treated to a full day of high quality piping.

The next day, the Society held a workshop with Ian Whitelaw of California. The workshop was held in Newark, Delaware, courtesy of Maclean MacLeod, President of the USPF.

The Society continues to grow as Piobaireachd enthusiasts and supporters continue to find out about the things we are doing here in Central Pennsylvania. Our membership includes pipers from Pennsylvania, as well as members from New Jersey, Maryland, and even, Maine.

The Society has taken a few months off as everyone is busy attending competitions or taking vacations. However, we are busy planning ahead for future events. Some of our future events include a 2007 Set Tune Workshop with Jimmy McIntosh, MBE, a Beginner's Workshop for pipers new to piobaireachd, a workshop of Piobaireachd in the Cameron Style, and many more events. A list of upcoming events is posted later in the newsletter.

Our website continues to post some great resources for the Piobaireachd player. On our Resources Page, we have posted both the 2006 & 2007 Set Tune Lists as provided by The Piobaireachd Society (UK). You can also find a Schedule of Events and Links to other Piobaireachd-related websites. Visit our website at www.geocities.com/pennpiob.

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We support Piobaireachd in Central Pennsylvania!

- "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshops for pipers new to piobaireachd.
- Provide a forum for piobaireachd players to perform Ceol Mor "Great Music" of the Highland Bagpipe.
- Provide workshops for the Study of piobaireachd

SET TUNES—2007

In the last newsletter, we presented the 2006 Set Tunes. Since that issue, The Piobaireachd Society has issued the 2007 Set Tune list. A copy is available from the website for download, but a list of the tunes is also available here.

The Highland Society of London Gold Medals have long been considered the top prizes in solo competition. The Highland Society of London Gold Medals are the top prize offered at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban and at the Northern Meeting, formerly at Inverness, and now currently being held at Aviemore. A piper can only win the gold medal at each of these competitions once. After winning the gold medal, the piper is eligible to compete in the Senior Piobaireachd events (The Senior Piobaireachd at Oban or The Clasp at the Northern Meeting).

In the 1970's, the field of competitors for the Gold Medal became too large to handle so the Silver Medal competitions were created as a stepping stone to the Gold Medal.

The Piobaireachd Society has been charged with creating a list of Set Tunes for these competitions. They change the tunes from year to year so that different tunes will be guaranteed play time. The list of Set Tunes also defines the expected level of difficulty for each of the three contests.

James McIntosh MBE, has invited the members of the Society to attend a Set Tune Workshop in Greensburg, PA. This workshop will be held the weekend of November 19-20, 2006. You can visit the Society website for more information on this opportunity.

NEWS GROUP

In order to maintain a working E-mail Newsgroup, we have created a new Yahoo! Newsgroup specifically for The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania. If you are interested in keeping up to date with the latest information on the Society, please subscribe to the newsgroup. There is no charge to receive the e-mail. Only the Society administrator will have access to send you e-mail through the group so there is no un-solicited, broadcast messages.

There are two ways to subscribe to the newsgroup. First, if you are already a Yahoo! Member, add "pennpiob" to your Group list. Log into Yahoo! using your user name & password, click on "Groups". Find "pennpiob" and join. You can also join Yahoo! for free.

The 2007 Set Tunes

Senior Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must Submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. Scarce of Fishing
2. The Red Speckled Bull
3. Lament for Hugh
4. Good Health to You Donald
5. Lament for the Duke of Hamilton
6. The Bells of Perth

Gold Medal Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute
2. Lachlan MacNeill Campbell's Fancy
3. Prince's Salute
4. Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay
5. Lord Lovat's Lament
6. MacNeill of Barra's March
7. Battle of Waternish
8. Rory MacLeod's Lament

Silver Medal Competition Tune List

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. MacGregor's Salute
2. Parading of the MacDonalds
3. Castle Menzies
4. The Bicker
5. Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
6. The Groat
7. Lament for MacSwan of Roaig
8. MacLeod of Raasay's Salute

The second way to join the newsgroup is to send a blank e-mail to pennpiob-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This will automatically add your e-mail to the newsgroup.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by sending a blank e-mail to pennpiob-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We will be using the Newsgroup to relay information about upcoming events and news. Be the first to know by signing up now.

U.S. PIPING FOUNDATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. Piping Foundation was founded in 1986 to promote a superior standard of piping for Professional Players in the United States. To ensure competitiveness in the international arena, piping standards were set at the highest level accepted in Scotland, and Senior Members of The Piobaireachd Society's Panel of Judges were invited to adjudicate the Open Competition.

The professional competitor with the highest point accumulation from both competitions may qualify for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship, next October at Blair Castle, Scotland, subject to approval by the Glenfiddich organizers and the USPF judges' opinions. The round-trip airfare to Scotland will be provided by the USPF. The overall winner also receives the USPF Silver Buckle.

In 1993 the USPF established a second competition for U.S. Grade 1 Amateurs, again with standards exceeding those normally played at the time. Amateur standards have increased dramatically during the intervening years and the present requirements are those set for the professional Silver Medal contests at the Northern Meeting and the Argyllshire Gathering in Scotland. This competition is now open to all Grade I Amateur players.

This year's competition was held on June 17th at the Amy E. duPont Music Building of the University of Delaware. Piobaireachd Society of Central PA members Adam Green (Baltimore, MD), Thompson McConnell (Lititz, PA), Adam Schaller (Hershey, PA), and Thomas Thomson (Lebanon, PA) attended the competition. Also, John Bottomley, Scot Walker and Ian Whitelaw were among the professional competitors.

Professional Piping

The Professional competitions are restricted to winners of designated USPF regional contests, the Gold Medal from Maxville, Ontario and the Silver and Gold Medals from Oban and Inverness. Each contestant submitted six Piobaireachd selections of his/her own choice, and six of each type of tune for the March, Strathspey, and Reel. There were 12 competitors competing in the Professional Piping competition.

Professional Piobaireachd

1. **Alasdair Gillies:** The End of the Great Bridge - \$700
2. **Ann Gray:** Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute - \$600
3. **Michael Rogers:** The Earl of Seaforth's Salute - \$500
4. **Ian Whitelaw:** Lament for Donald Duaghall MacKay - \$400
5. **Graham Mulholland:** MacNeill of Barra's March - \$300

Professional MSR (twice over each tune)

1. **Bruce Gandy:** Major Manson's Farewell to Clachantrushal, The Islay Ball, The Little Cascade - \$700
2. **Michael Rogers:** The Edinburgh Volunteers, Lady

- Mackenzie of Gairloch, Major David Manson - \$600
3. **Ann Gray:** Conon Bridge, John Roy Stewart, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran - \$500
4. **Andrew Rogers:** MacLean of Pennycross, The Caledonian Society of London, Sandy Cameron - \$400
5. **Ian Whitelaw:** The Argyllshire Gathering, Cabar Feidh, John Morrison of Assynt House - \$300

Professional Overall Championship

1. **Ann Gray** - wins a silver belt buckle and travel expenses to play at the 2005 Glenfiddich Championship in Blair Atholl, Scotland if she is invited to play
2. **Michael Rogers**
3. **Alasdair Gillies**
4. **Bruce Gandy**
5. **Ian Whitelaw**

Also competing, but not in the prize lists were John Bottomley, Paula Glendinning, Roderick MacLean, Doug MacRae, and Scot Walker.

Amateur Piping Competition

The amateur piping competition was held in the morning with 14 competitors competing in both the MSR & Piobaireachd.

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. **Ben McClamrock:** Weighing from Land
2. **Dan Lyden:** Weighing from Land
3. **Kevin Wiegand:** MacCrimmon Will Never Return
4. **Laura Neville:** Weighing from Land
5. **Larson Stromdahl:** The Battle of the Strome

Amateur MSR

1. **Andrew Walker:** Arthur Bignold, The Caledonian Society of London, The Sheepwife
2. **Robbie Beaton:** Leaving Lunga, The Piper's Bonnet, John Morrison of Assynt House
3. **Dan Lyden:** The Clan MacColl, Caber Feidh, Lt. Col. D.J.S. Murray
4. **Kevin Wiegand:** The Knightswood Ceilidh, Lady Loudon, Sandy Cameron
5. **Dan Cole:** Brig. Gen. Cheape of Tiroran, Susan MacLeod, Major Manson

Amateur Overall Championship

1. **Dan Lyden** - wins a silver belt buckle and receives round trip airfare to Scotland and two weeks tuition at an approved venue in Scotland
2. **Ben McClamrock** - \$600 scholarship to any piping school
3. **Kevin Wiegand** - \$600 scholarship to any piping school
4. **Andrew Walker** - \$300 scholarship to any piping school
5. **Robbie Beaton** - \$300 scholarship to any piping school

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA SOLO PIPING COMPETITION

Thompson McConnell has been running a solo piping competition in the central PA area since 1998. However, this is the first year that the competition was held under The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania. This year's event had 42 amateur solo competitors coming from 8 different states.



One of the draws to the competition here in central PA is the wide-range of sanctioned events offered. We offer the full gamut of events. In addition to the standard Piobaireachd & March, Strathspey & Reel events, we also offer 6/8 March and Hornpipe/Jig events, as well as, Slow March for Grade IV. The events are sanctioned by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association.

Some decisions needed to be made on the date and where to hold the competition. The previous competitions were held in conjunction with the Scots-Irish Festival in Elizabethtown and the Pipes & Drums Festival in Harrisburg sponsored by the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania. The Pipes & Drums Festival was required to change their date in order to keep their venue. The new date conflicted with other area piping events, so the Society decided to keep the 2nd Saturday in June, but find their own venue. A special thank you goes out to the Hempfield School District for allowing us to hold the event on their spacious fields.

When you think of June, warm summer days usually come to mind. However, that was not the case on June 10th. With the temperatures in the low 60's and winds around 15-25 mph, the morning competitors were trying to keep warm and not get blown over during their competition. Despite the weather, it was a great day with lot's of good piping. A complete prize list is available on the Society's website including tune titles. www.geocities.com/pennpiob/competition.htm



The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the competition happen: Thompson & Betsy McConnell, Tom & Jeanine McConnell, John & Sylvia Smrz, Tom & Margaret

Thomson, Roxanne Dean, Troy Hafer, Ruth Fisher, and the Hempfield School District.

The Judges for the competition included David Bailiff, Chris Hamilton, Patrick Regan, and Scot Walker. Following the competition a Judge's Recital was held which featured Scot Walker, Patrick Regan, and Chris Hamilton.



Plans are in the works for next year's competition including venue, concessions, and additional events.

RESULTS

Grade I Piper of the Day
Thom Moore (New Jersey)

Grade II Piper of the Day
Stephen Linsky (Pennsylvania)

Grade III Piper of the Day
Andrew Tice (New Jersey)

Grade IV (Senior) Piper of the Day
David Mucklow (Virginia)

Grade IV (Junior) Piper of the Day
Danny Chevront (New Jersey)

Grade V (Practice Chanter) - Eli Clemens (Maryland)



JUDGE'S RECITAL

Following the Solo Piping Competition on June 10th, we asked some of the Judge's to perform in a brief recital. Each of the three Judge's performed for a 1/2 hour each giving the audience a fantastic 1 1/2 hour-long concert of fine piping.



The recital was open to the public and was held in the Hackman Auditorium of the Hempfield High School. The Hackman Auditorium provided a nice facility for the event. There was a stage for the performance and tuning rooms for each of the pipers.

Scot Walker got things started for us with a variety of marches. He played several tunes that were submitted during the competitions earlier in the day. He also played a variety of strathspeys, reels and

other light music. Scot is the Pipe Major of the Lehigh Valley Pipe Band from Bethlehem, PA. He is also on the Music Faculty of Moravian College in Bethlehem where he teaches the bagpipes. Scot has also taught a workshop for the Society in March.

Following Scot Walker's performance, we took a few minutes to recognize some of the prize winners earlier in the day. Andrew Tice & Stephen Linsky were attendance to receive their "Piper of the Day" awards.



Next up was Patrick Regan. Patrick is a member of the Carnegie-Mellon University Pipe Band in Pittsburgh, PA. He also founded and instructs the Steel Thistle Pipe Band. Patrick entertained the crowd with not only his piping ability, but also told some jokes throughout his performance. In addition to playing several light music pieces, Patrick also played two

piobaireachds, "The Munro's Salute", and "Rory MacLoud's Lament".



Last, but not least, Chris Hamilton took the stage. Chris is a former Pipe Sergeant of the Grade I City of Washington Pipe Band. He is currently the Pipe Major of the MacMillan Pipe Band in Rockville, MD, and instructs several pipe bands, including Guilford & Glencoe District Juvenile Pipe Band. Chris also played a variety of light music including several compositions that he and some of

his students have written.



The Recital was a great way to end the day. For those pipers who attended, I hope that you left inspired. All three of the pipers who performed at the recital have shown us why they are in the Professional (Open) grade.

It has always been one of the goals of the Society to provide opportunities to hear great piping. Some of the opportunities have required traveling (Metro Cup, USPF) while other opportunities have been in Central Pennsylvania. At each of our workshops we like for the teacher to play a tune or two. Keep an eye on our schedule as other professional recitals and competitions are added.

IAN WHITELAW WORKSHOP

Ian Whitelaw is a piper from Redondo Beach, California. Ian has over 35 years experience as an accomplished soloist, competitor, band leader, and teacher. Ian claims Andrew Wright, President of The Piobaireachd Society, and the late Bob Nicol, Piper to King George, as his personal mentors.

Some of his recent accomplishments include winning the U.S. Gold Medal at the 2006 Winter Storm contest and the 2005 P/M Angus MacDonald Western Regional Championships (1st Place in Piobaireachd & MSR).

Ian has played with the World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, and his piping has appeared in *The Simpsons*, *West Wing*, and *The General's Daughter*. He has recently recorded a CD entitled *Angels of Atlantis*.

The U.S.P.F. Championships fell on Father's Day weekend. This coupled with the fact that many area bagpipe camps were starting on June 18th, attendance was quite low. Those who attended, however, were treated to a great workshop none the less.

The following people were in attendance of the workshop: Adam Green (Baltimore, MD), Thompson McConnell (Lititz, PA), Adam Schaller (Hershey, PA), and Thomas Thomson (Lebanon, PA).

The Society would like to thank Maclean MacLeod, President of the U.S. Piping Foundation, for graciously offering the use of his house for the workshop. The workshop was held on the patio surrounded by his wooded and nicely landscaped lot.

Ian started the workshop reviewing many of movements found in piobaireachd. He went over a few exercises and emphasized the importance of the timing of these movements within piobaireachd. It's important not to slam fingers and execute like you are playing a strathspey. He helped us develop some finesse with our movements and pointed out the attention to detail in good piobaireachd playing. The movements we reviewed included echo beats, hiharin, cadences, edres, throw on F, crunluaths, taorluath a mach,

crunluath a mach, and dithis movements.

Ian pulled out what is considered to be a very old tune, "I am Proud to Play a Pipe." This tune is considered to be an ancient piobaireachd due to the use of the tri-tonal (or the Devil's Interval) from low G to C. Very few piobaireachds use this tri-tonal due to the influence of the church.

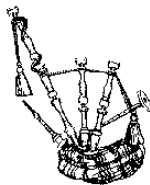
There seems little doubt about the name which Angus MacKay had for it "Dastirum gu sein im Piob." He also supplied the English translation which was useful since "dastirum" is not a normal Gaelic word. Angus MacKay

described this tune as "John MacKay's favourite", but we do not know whether he was referring to his father or brother.

During the lunch break, each person took turns playing a tune. Ian also spent a little bit of time working on the setup of the pipes. Thomas Thomson got things started by playing the Ground of "Glenarry's Lament." Thompson McConnell played "The Marquis of Argyll's Salute." Adam Green played "Beloved Scotland." And Adam Schaller played the Ground of "The Pretty Dirk."



Following lunch, Ian went over the playing of "Lament for Mary MacLeod." This tune is unusual but very attractive in both the taorluath and crunluath variations. In the latter there is a pattern that is a further development of the breabach form and is only found in this tune. Fionn (Henry Whyte) describes Mary MacLeod as a poet or "bardess" who also nursed several of the chiefs of Dunvegan. She had a period of banishment to Mull for some kind of bardic offence which is rather intriguing. She forgave the chief who had banished her but the ignominy lasted all her life and she made a death-entreaty that she should be buried face down in recognition of her shame. She was much loved and admired for her poetry in which she refers to the playing of Patrick Og, who composed this beautiful tribute to her.



**THE PIBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

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*Piobaireachd players do it with
variations on the ground.*

We're on the Web!
www.geocities.com/pennpiob

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4, 2006—Introduction to Piobaireachd Workshop

Are you a piper who has heard about piobaireachd, but never made the plunge? Join us for our 2nd Annual “Introduction to Piobaireachd” workshop. This workshop is designed for pipers who have little to no experience with piobaireachd.

November 18-19, 2006—Advanced Piobaireachd Workshop with Jimmy McIntosh

Jimmy McIntosh, MBE, will be holding his Advanced Piobaireachd workshop in Greensburg, PA. He is inviting Professional & Upper Amateur Grade competitors to attend his annual workshop.

December 2, 2006—Piobaireachd Workshop with Jimmy McIntosh

This workshop will be geared to the amateur piobaireachd player and will be held in the central PA region.

Winter/Spring 2007 — "Piobaireachd in the Cameron Style" Weekend Workshop

We have been working with Jay Close to resurrect the Williamsburg Ceol Mor Workshop right here in central Pennsylvania. We are making arrangements to bring Jim Barrie of Vancouver, Canada, and William Connell of London, Ontario, to run a weekend workshop in the Cameron Style.