



THE ARIZONA SCOTS CELEBRATE 47 YEARS IN THE VALLEY!



WHEN

February 26 & 27, 2011

Gates open from 9a-5p both days

Celebrate Opening Ceremonies on Saturday at noon!

WHERE

Steele Indian School Park

300 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix

NE Corner of Indian School and Central

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

FREE PARKING at the VA Medical Center just steps away!

650 E. Indian School in Phoenix

Light Rail Valley Metro (Light Rail)

Route 41 ~ Indian School at Central

www.ValleyMetro.org

FREE parking & FREE shuttle service

TICKETS

Adults: \$16 * Seniors: \$14 * Military: \$14

Children \$5 (5-15) * Under 5 FREE

Available online www.ArizonaScots.com

Submitted by: J. Carro

On Saturday & Sunday, February 26 & 27, 2011 the Arizona Scottish community and about 20,000 of their closest friends from the four corners of the world will gather at Steele Indian School Park in central Phoenix to celebrate their culture.

The Glenmorangie Scottish Highland Games is comprised of many things: world-class athletic competitions, Highland dance, reenactment presentations, educational seminars, clans, food, live music, bag-pipe & drum bands from all over the globe and lots of fun for the wee lads & lasses.

Have you ever seen a big burley man in a kilt toss a telephone-pole-like caber? The tradition of the athletic competition goes back to the days when rival clans or kings would meet. Competitions were organized to keep down the brawling and "street fighting", to impress one's rivals with displays of strength and skill and to gain honor and prestige. The games came to America with the immigrants but today, the competition is between individuals and not clans. Others believe that they are the tests that were required of squires and other recruits before they were sent to battle. Many of the various athletic strength and skill requirements are the same as those that were required to successfully win a battle against a fortified position, whether it was a Roman night camp or a walled city.

Did you know that the origination of pipe bands comprised of pipers, side drummers, bass-drummers and occasionally a tenor drummer occurred sometime after the battle of Waterloo in 1815? Historically, the components of competition among the members of a Pipe Band have fallen into four categories. These competitions are the solo competitions for pipers and drummers, the pipe band competition and the competition for the drum majors. Over the years and for a variety of reasons modifications and local changes have been made to these basic segments but the fundamental categories have remained with little alteration since the early 1900's. They are Solo Piping, Solo Drumming, Drum Major and Pipe Bands. Or how about, that right along with the ancient stories of daring warriors and master pipers you will find dance as a crucial part of celebrations and ceremonies of the Highlands? Nothing can compare with the graceful power of a Highland dancer recalling a glorious victory. Highland dancing is of military origin, some dances such as the Highland fling, dating back to the time of the Roman occupation of ancient Caledonia. Once considered an athletic event, these solo dances of the Highland men were so vigorous that one had to be in top physical shape to perform them. Most competitors today are female, but the remaining Scottish regiments are still represented by male dancers who continue to perform the traditional dances.

You can even research your family roots at the Games and learn about the significance of a family tartan. "Tartan" is cloth: most kilts are made of tartan. The tartan is one of the two great symbols of Scotland, along with the bagpipes. Each clan has a tartan, sometimes more than one member can be identified by the tartan they wear. In addition to clan and family tartans there are also tartans for districts and special organizations. At the Games you will see the official tartan of the United States Marine Corps along with the Arizona State tartan. The "Arizona State Tartan" was officially recognized in December, 1995 by a proclamation by the Governor. Colors in the Arizona tartan are green, tan, white, red, black, yellow, and azure, all significant to the state's history. Many Arizona citizens were involved in creating this newest symbol of our State with the common goal of celebrating a part of our Scottish heritage.

While you are attending the Glenmorangie Highland Games this year, make it a point to visit the Clan tents. You will have no problem finding them. Look for brightly colored flags, tartans and banners flying. You'll be as welcome as you can be and you will find many gracious and interested folks who will be more than happy to help you with any questions you might have! The Scots and their descendants are extremely proud of their long and colorful history. If you have any Scottish ancestors you will almost certainly find your family name among the list in one of the Clan tents.

This year's entertainment committee proudly presents two stages featuring Angus and DidgeriDrew: Brother. The duo are known for their hypnotic sound together, both of them playing several different instruments during a show. Mesmerizing beats blend with didgeridoos, looped guitars and astral keyboards, inspiring listeners to dance and sing. Bagpipes, whistles and vocals weave captivating melodies in the BROTHER tradition, staying with audiences long after a show. Arizona-based Traveler will perform, playing a unique fusion of Celtic world rock as well as traditional Celtic songs electrified and done with the signature Traveler twist. Traveler combines ethnic styles and instruments from around the world with elements of rock to create a unique new musical experience. On the traditional stage, enjoy the musical styling of Scottish balladeer Alex Beaton, and listen to the beautiful melodies of Tramor peppered with story-telling, poetry and music you can "fling" to! Guess what kids (and adults)? Christopher Yates is back! Our favorite red-headed stilt-walking, juggling, magical Scotsman extraordinaire! He'll be roaming about ~ just look for the "crowd" and he'll be right in the center!

Check out the British minis, reenactment groups and Scottish Country dancers who will demonstrate and perform throughout the weekend!

Come hungry! In the mood for some haggis? Fish & chips? Shepherd's Pie? Find all of that (and more) in the food court! Thirsty? Refreshingly icy cold Kiltlifter brew abounds at the Four Peaks Kiltlifter beer truck. Friendly servers can't wait to pour you a cold one!

And you can't have a Scottish Games without ... well...Scotch! And not just any Scotch ~ but our favorite Glenmorangie Single Malt Scotch has once again partnered with The Caledonian Society making this their second year as title sponsor. Robert Anderson, director of trade development and marketing with Alliance Beverage has worked closely with The Caledonian Society of Arizona to cultivate this partnership. When asked about why "Glenmo" was a good fit for the Games, Robert replied, "Glenmorangie Single Malt Scotch Whisky is proud to be the Title Sponsor for this year's Highland Games where thousands of people will come to celebrate all things Scottish. I'd say there's no better way than to do it with people who love Scottish heritage and know how to have some fun with good music, good food and good drink (with drink being the operative word!)"

Look for the Glenmorangie Scotch Education tent where the official Scotch Ambassador will educate and be available for scheduled tastings throughout the day.

For more information or to buy tickets online go to: www.ArizonaScots.com. Don't miss the 47th Annual Glenmorangie Scottish Highland Games! We'll see you there!

About Robert Anderson: Mr. Anderson was born and raised less than a mile from 7 million barrels of Scotch whisky, in Stirling, Scotland which led me to earning the title of Director of Trade Development & Marketing with Alliance Beverage. Into his 20th year as a Scotch "educator" ~ and being a born and bred Scotsman, I guess you could say, it gives Robert full license to go 'round the country talking to people about one of his favorite drinks...and also to wear full Highland regalia! Ever wonder what the Scotsman wears under his kilt?