



July 2014 Newsletter

A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

They say "time flies when you're having fun" and so it seems as the **4th annual Newport Celtic Festival and Highland Games** has come and gone already! The question on everyone's lips: "how did it go [at this year's Celtic Festival & Highland Games?]"

At this time we have an estimated head count of **3,468** through the gates this year and, although this is less than anticipated, we figure that Father's Day, for many, means they don't have to do any heavy lifting; to include a sheaf or caber. Feedback from two other nearby events, which happened on the same weekend, had similar reports in reduced attendance.

Using the calculator provided by the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, this event boosted the local economy by an estimated \$283,000 based on out of county visitor numbers.

While CHA typically nets less than \$15,000 per year from this event, as a charitable non-profit organization, 100% of that money goes right back in to growth and improvements. We are entrusted to be good stewards with the financial and in-kind support we garner from our sponsors and donors and we appreciate the time and hard work our team of unpaid volunteers put into making this event a positive and successful event for the community. Without these elements, our events would be unable to continue.

We wish to sincerely thank those who performed, attended, supported, volunteered for, and sponsored this year's 4th annual Celtic Festival & Highland Games.

FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS

We had **10 Celtic music and dance groups** consisting of **155 performers** in all, which included **2 pipe bands**.

Our Friday night **Ceili Community Dance** was attended by **45 people**.

Our Athletic Director Ray Mabey and our judges did a great job running the games

this year consisting of **55 Highland Games athletes** who took to the field for competition - the most there have been to date. The scores for the athletes can be found on the "North American Scottish Games Athletics" (NASGA) web page: <http://www.nasgaweb.com/dbase/main.asp>

Vendor Team Leader Stephen Farish wrangled vendors for us this year. Included in the count of **55 Vendors** were 13 local small businesses in addition to **12 Scottish & Irish Clans** and **6 Celtic societies** who attend to offer education and information to patrons.

Family Events Team Leader Chris Burns reported **60 ladies** who participated in the **Welsh Skillet Toss** this year - another record number.

1st Place - Vashina Donnell of Joyce, WA with a 79' throw
2nd Place - Elizabeth Dahlke of Forest Grove, OR with a 72' throw
3rd Place - Rashaya Donnell of Port Angeles, WA with a 68' throw
The average throw for this competition was 38.25'. Each throw is judged and corrected based on how far off the center line the throw is.

Chris also reported that our **Kilted Kilometer Fun Run** (aka "Running for Shelter") had 10 runners aged 4 to 53.

1st Place - Inge Medboe of McMinnville, OR with a time of 4:01
2nd Place - Mak Hadziomanovic of Altadena, CA with a time of 4:23
3rd Place - Chris Collura of Newport, OR with a time of 4:51

Pet food and cash donated as entry fees were given to the Lincoln County Animal Shelter.

We also had several entries for the Sand Sculpture Contest this year and all were winners in our book!

Information from our surveys have been collected and tallied. We appreciate hearing from you as this is an important part of our decision-making and improvement process and all feedback was discussed with our volunteers and Executive Committee at our upcoming debrief on July 1st.

Feedback regarding the area, visitor statistics and suggested improvements to the facilities will be shared with the City, County and the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce.

Responses to specific comments and concerns will be posted on our web page between now and August 1st, 2014.

CHA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Like all volunteer organizations, we fluctuate on the number of volunteers available to assist us in carrying out our events each year. Described below are the many "hats" I have been wearing behind the scenes. The growth and popularity of our events dictate the need for additional talent to fill these positions which will allow me to concentrate on the overall organization of the CHA and its mission.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Congratulations to Barb Dudley on accepting this position!

Makes frequent trips to check mail at post office and collect and sort incoming mail. Opens mail; scans and e-mails incoming applications to appropriate team leaders (i.e. vendor, performer, athlete, volunteers, etc.)

Checks festival "info" e-mail and responds as needed or forwards e-mails to appropriate team leaders.

COMMUNICATIONS - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees the objectives of CHA Communications and Marketing and coordinators to promote, market and brand the organization and its activities through photo, video, media, news releases, PSAs, and other methods, and to direct volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other team members including Administrative Assistant, Graphic & Web Page designers.

COMPLIANCE - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees the objectives of the Legal Team and its subcommittees to obtain permits and authorizations, prepare and negotiate contracts and agreements, interact with OLCC and other regulatory agencies as needed, and guides volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other Team Leaders.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees the objectives of the Education and Outreach Team and its subcommittees to seek out opportunities, facilitate education and outreach, develop materials, programs and ideas, initiate opportunities and to guide volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other Team Leaders and is a member of the organization's Executive Team. (i.e. ceili dances, history presentations, suppers, events, etc.) Collaborates with other team members including Administrative Assistant, Graphic & Web Page designers.

FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees the objectives of the Fundraising and Sponsorship Team and its subcommittees to seek out fundraising opportunities, apply for grants, garner sponsorships and guide volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission Collaborates with other Team Leaders.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER - Congratulations to Karen Timme on accepting this position! Creates official festival materials with attention to branding. Formats for upload to web page and for e-mail transmission. Collaborates with other team members including Administrative Assistant, Communications & Web Page designers.

HOSPITALITY - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees the objectives of the Hospitality Team and its subcommittees to create and develop a meaningful experience for VIPs, sponsors, volunteers, staff and other direct participants which include transportation, accommodation and other forms of hospitality for each organized event and guide volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Leads event check-in operations. Collaborates with other Team Leaders.

PARADES & PIPE BANDS - Congratulations to Brian Timme & Chris Burns on accepting this position!

Works in conjunction with the Entertainment Team Leader to seek out pipers and pipe bands to perform, coordinate piping performances, coordinate parades and guide volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other Team Leaders as needed.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS ORGANIZER - POSITION VACANCY!

Carries out the objectives, organization, format, and operations of children's events and activities as dictated by the Director (Allison Keith). Recruits, trains and guides volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other Team Leaders.

VOLUNTEER TEAM LEADER - POSITION VACANCY!

Oversees recruitment, reviews and screens applicants, organizes, tasks, trains, mentors, and rewards volunteers as they carry out the duties and assignments dictated by the needs of the organization and its mission. Collaborates with other Team Leaders and schedules volunteers according to the needs and times of the event.

WEB PAGE MISTRESS - Congratulations to Karen Timme on accepting this position! Manages and updates official festival web page. Formats photos and logos, uploads documents and creates links to various media on web page as needed. Collaborates with Administrative Assistant, Graphic Designer and Communications Team Leader on content.

JULY CELTIC HERITAGE & TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS

July 3rd - North Wales Bluegrass Festival (Wales)

July 6th - Tynwald Day/Manx National Day (Isle of Man)

July 8th - International Eisteddfod Folk Songs & Dancing (Wales)

July 12th - Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne (Ireland)

July 14th - Bastille Day (Brittany)

July 23rd - The Commonwealth Games (Scotland)

July 25th - Feast of St. James (Galicia)

If you know of any Celtic holidays or traditions that we don't have listed, please let us know at info@newportcelticfestival.com.

UPCOMING CHA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Volunteer BBQ - Sunday, July 13, 2014 @ 11:00 am @ Pig Feather's (Toledo)

Executive Committee Meeting - Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6:00 pm @ NOAA

CHARITABLE GIVING

Did you know there are now several ways to support CHA? Now you can show your support through sponsorship, volunteerism, and charitable donations to our 501(c)3 charitable organization including shopping at **Fred Meyer** and purchasing our official gear on eBay! [Click here](#) to see all the ways you can help!

We appreciate your continuing support for the Celtic Heritage Alliance!

Until next time...

Belinda Goody

President, Celtic Heritage Alliance &

Executive Director of the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games

belinda@newportcelticfestival.com

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