



Clann Wolf

Florida Sept

News and Upcoming Events in Florida and Beyond

Fall 2011

Florida Sept to gather Oct. 1 in Tampa

In the last six years, we've had bonnie knees contests, body signing, an auction and a general good time. We've met in Lakeland, St. Cloud and Tampa. We've enjoyed each other's company and maybe even raise a glass ... or several.

On Oct. 1, the Florida Sept will do it all again when it meets for the annual Clann Wolf gathering at Bilmar Station, 8501 W. Hillsborough Ave. in Tampa.

Hosts and bar owners Curt and Denise Bills invite all their clanfolk near and far to join the fun starting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 1.

"Curt and Denise have offered their establishment to us again at the customer's request," said Sept Chief Jeff Bills. "I guess I must be buying a lot of rounds."

Appetizers will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner buffet of Guinness stew and fish and chips at 7 p.m. Music (courtesy of Sept member Jim Hull and friends) will start about 8:30 p.m., and drink specials will run all night long. The cost is \$10 per person.



Dana Bearry and Debbie Sands at the 2009 Gathering in St. Cloud. This year's event will take place Oct. 1 at Bilmar Station in Tampa.

For those needing accommodations, the chief recommends the Holiday Inn Express at 3990 Tampa Road in Oldsmar. The phone number is 813-854-5080.

The October gathering will actually be the third gathering of the year (our upfront apologies that not everyone heard about them — see the message

from the cadet on page 2 concerning our communication problems). An East Coast dinner in May brought about 20 Sept members to Cocoa Beach, while the West Coast dinner in August brought about 25 members to Tampa from as far away as Georgia. The two extra dinners were part of the Sept's effort to offer Florida's far-flung members more opportunities to get together throughout the year.

In both cases, the dinners drew the curiosity of local pub patrons. In Tampa at least one bar regular tried on a spare kilt, while in Cocoa even visiting Brits were asking about the traditional garb.

It's hoped that as many Sept members as possible can make it to the Oct. 1 event. We're hoping to be joined again by George and Patti Strickland of Georgia, and we understand National Cadet Russ Berry of Ohio has also made arrangements to return. All Clann members are certainly welcome!

For more details — or even a spare kilt — contact Chief Bills at jeffery.l.bills@boeing.ksc.nasa.gov.

Time to choose our Sept Cadet and future Chief



Curt Bills, shown with wife Denise, is a candidate for Florida Sept Cadet.

It's an odd-numbered year, which means it is time for the Florida Sept to select a new cadet to serve for the next two years. The person chosen will then be next in line to become Sept chief in 2014.

So far, Chief Jeff Bills has received one nomination — for his brother, Curt Bills. Curt and his wife, Denise, own Bilmar Station in Tampa, where they will be hosting and catering the Sept gathering for the second year this October. Curt has been an active member of Clann Wolf for several years, even traveling with our Chief to national Clann Wolf events.

As some of you know, we initially opened nominations in August. However, not everyone received the e-mail (see the Cadet's Message on page 2 — there's definitely a theme forming). To make certain that every member of the Clann

has the opportunity to participate in the cadet nominations and potential election, we have decided to reopen the nominations from now through the Sept Gathering on Oct. 1. A cadet election can then take place in late October if necessary. (Many thanks to Curt for agreeing that reopening the nominations is the only fair way to proceed.)

To make a nomination, please contact Jeff Bills at jeffery.l.bills@boeing.ksc.nasa.gov. Please make sure you have your prospective nominee's permission first.

To all of you who have talked to me about the cadet's position, you have my eternal thanks. I hope those who chose not to run this year will consider serving sometime in the future.

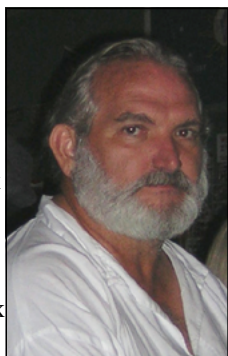
— Cinnamon Bair

FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, my wife Karen was in Joplin, Mo., when a tornado struck in May. She had gone up for her niece Carol's graduation, and the tornado struck just an hour after the ceremony. Karen's sister Cindy, their Mom and Cindy's two girls lost their home, and 26 of Carol's classmates perished.

When the cry for help went out, you responded. Each of you in your own way have done what you could to help a friend and family member and for that words cannot express our gratitude. Too many times I watch the news and get disgusted with the pain and suffering we as a human race cause upon one another. But you all have truly shown the positive side of



mankind.

The recovery process goes on as we speak and will continue for years. Karen's family is slowly putting their lives back together. The hospital that Cindy works at, the one that was destroyed, has set up trailer trucks and temporary buildings in the parking lot to continue operating. Cindy has been working there part time.

Cindy, Mom and the girls were able to move into a rental house in June. Cindy signed the release to allow the National Guard to clear the lot where the house once stood. All the debris is taken to a nearby area where it goes through a process to reclaim and recycle as much of the debris as possible. And Carol was able to go on the graduation trip to Europe with her classmates.

Again, thank you all who sent donations and help to Joplin. We are so blessed to have such wonderful family and friends!

Love You All,
Jeff

FROM THE CADET

Greetings, Clanfolk!

If you're reading this message, congratulations. It means we may finally be getting our Sept communications back on track.

We've had two on-going problems in recent months, and they both revolve around communications. The first has been the lack of a comprehensive Sept e-mail list for the Sept. The second has been the lack of a regular newsletter.

With help from national officers, we hope we've corrected the first problem. The lack of a good e-mail list caused us to miss some of you this summer at our informal dinners, and for that we're truly sorry. We've sent this newsletter out via e-mail to the most comprehensive e-mail list we've been able to gather. If you're seeing this newsletter in your snail mail



rather than your e-mail inbox, please consider sending us your e-mail address so we can be sure occasional e-missives sent out by the chief (such as dinner invites) still make it to you.

The second problem has been the newsletter, and that falls squarely on me. "Spare time" (or more specifically, the lack of it) has been a problem for a while, but I recognize how important regular communications are to keeping the Sept strong. So keeping the newsletter going is a priority as I prepare to become chief in January. If you who wish to help — or even take the newsletter on — I'd welcome it.

So send us your news and photos! It doesn't have to be a big clan event to make the newsletter — if you've traveled to Scotland, published a book, come up with the perfect camp dish or done something else of general interest to the clan, let us know!

Many thanks to all!

Alba go brach,
Cinnamon

Thank you to our volunteers

Clann Wolf owes a debt of gratitude to its volunteers. In fact, the group couldn't function without them.

Every time you attend a dinner, watch or play in the Highland Games or take part in some other event, a small army of volunteers has been working in the background to make it possible. These are the folks who sell the dinner tickets, keep the books, gather the prizes, haul the toys, judge the events, record the scores, cook the dinners, play the music, decorate and even open their doors to fellow clan members.

To print a list of our active volunteers would be akin to publishing the mailing list — many of you in the Florida Sept have been generous with your time, and to you we say thank you.

If you haven't been involved, however, and would like to volunteer, there are plenty of ways to become more active. You could help organize a dinner, take photos, help gather prizes or play a song at the Alafia ceilidh. Heck, we'll even let you become newsletter editor if you really want to! Simply talk to Chief Jeff Bills or Cadet Cinnamon Bair to find out how to help.

No matter what role you play in Clann Wolf, we're glad to have you here. Thank you so much for making Florida our largest and strongest sept.

Clann Wolf Florida Sept

Sept Chief:

Jeffery Bills, Merritt Island
jeffery.l.bills@boeing.ksc.nasa.gov

Cadet:

Cinnamon Bair, Gainesville
cinbair@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Pam McSheehy, Miami

Annual memberships expire each January. Dues are \$15 per household. Please send your check to Larry Clark, Clann Steward, 9649 Barker-town Rd., Dalton, NY 14836.