

It's a Scots-Irish celebration

Dandridge hosts annual festival this Saturday

BY GAYLE PAGE

Standard Banner Staff Writer

Come along now all ye bold lads and fair lasses and enjoy the fifth annual Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival on Saturday, September 24.

The Scots-Irish Festival is an old-fashioned Main Street music festival presented on the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Douglas the last Saturday in September in historic downtown Dandridge.

Although the festivities began years ago as a way of honoring the town's earliest Scotch-Irish settlers, this colorful celebration of rich Gaelic heritage now attracts and thrills folks from near and far, and most who have been here for its return year after year. The traditional music and dance, Celtic merchandise such as swords, dirks and clan crests, the cultural delicacies like haggis and whiskey cakes, and all the fun-filled Highland demonstrations and activities make this cheerful festival unique and totally unforgettable.

The entertainment will be excellent and wide-ranging, from the plaintive whine of bagpipes to Scottish balladeer and guitarist Colin Grant-Adams to the wild and wooly local Celtic rock band Cutthroat Shamrock.

The Dandridge festival audiences will be among the last to enjoy Coyote Run in their farewell tour. Coyote Run's Celtic rock sound is at once fierce, dramatic and stunning as they master their bagpipes, guitars, accordion, whistles, didgeridoo,

SCHEDULE: SCOTS-IRISH FESTIVAL

- 10 a.m. - Street festival vendors open for business
- 10 a.m. - First round, Highland Dance Competition
- 11:15 a.m. - Colin Grant-Adams opens entertainment, which runs continuously until 6:30 p.m.
- 11:45 a.m. - Dance demonstrations, Lowland Stage
- 12 noon - Opening ceremonies, featuring Knoxville Pipes and Drums
- 12:30 p.m. - Martin Family Band
- 12:30 p.m. - Second round, Highland Dance Competition
- 1:15 p.m. - Coyote Run
- 2 p.m. - Cutthroat Shamrock
- 2:45 p.m. Martin Family Band
- 3 p.m. - Dance demonstrations, Lowland Stage
- 3:30 p.m. - Pipers On The Dike
- 4 p.m. - Coyote Run
- 4 p.m. Dog Show and Parade begins
- 4:45 p.m. - Colin Grant-Adams
- 5:30 p.m. - Cutthroat Shamrock
- 6:30 p.m. - Evening Ceilidh starts. Evening line-up includes Knoxville Pipe & Drums, Colin Grant-Adams, The Martin Family Band, Coyote Run Celtic Rock Band, Champion Irish Step Dancer Katie Carver, Champion Highland Dancer Claire MacMillan, and finally, the Lone Piper on the Dike.
- Ongoing activities: Civil War re-enactment & encampment; Highland athletic demonstrations; and a 'jamming tent,' where musicians can meet and play.



electric bass and killer drums.

And, winning the hearts of audiences everywhere is the Martin Family Band. This talented, melodic group of musicians plays Irish and American folk fiddle tunes, as well as performing numerous Irish step dances. Rounding out this memorable day of celebration is the haunting lone piper on the dike playing Amazing Grace in the moonlight.

"We are proud to present a lineup that truly offers something for everyone – from dancing and piping to nationally known performers of both modern and traditional Celtic music," said Mark Murray, Festival Entertainment Chairman.

The Scots-Irish Festival is the creation of the Dandridge Community Trust, the nonprofit organization that sponsors the Town of Dandridge's participation in the National Main Street program.

Admission to this fantastic fes-

tival is free and all entertainment is provided free of charge courtesy of generous sponsors and patrons. Dedicated volunteers work year round to produce the Scots-Irish Festival, which has become nationally and internationally known for its high-quality entertainment, vendors and pleasant small town atmosphere.

"The Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival is known nationally for its high quality entertainment, vendors, and quaint downtown atmosphere," said Tina Murrow, Director of Main Street Dandridge. "East Tennessee residents look forward to attending this Festival each year because it offers a free, fun and unique learning experience for the entire family."

The Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival has been featured in national publications and on the BBC Northern Ireland television and radio series "Santer." The

Town of Dandridge was recently named one of 2011's "Dozen Distinguished Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Competitions, events

Individual piping competition sign-in starts at 8:30 a.m., and the pipers' order of performance will be determined by date of entry. The last entry plays first.

Highland dance competition sign-in starts at 9:30 a.m. and begin at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Dance demonstrations will be on the Lowland Stage at approximately 11:45 a.m. and again at 3 p.m. Local dance schools bring out their students to demonstrate Highland and Irish dancing.

The Dog Show and Parade – a not-too-serious event with lots of prizes and a chance for entrants to show off their pet pooch – starts at 4 p.m.

For more information, go to www.scots-irish.org.