

# McPHERSON (KS) SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

**Contact:** Kathy Kajinami, festival publicity; 620-241-8507; e-mail: [kajinami@yahoo.com](mailto:kajinami@yahoo.com)  
**Festival Website** <http://www.macfestival.org/> Photos posted at website.

## 2009 Facts at a Glance

**What:** 16<sup>th</sup> annual McPherson (Kansas) Scottish Festival

**Named to:** America's 100 Best Events for 2009 by the American Bus Association (ABA)  
<http://buses.org/2009Top100> Only Kansas event listed for 2009.

### When:

Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 7 p.m. evening concert and clan fire ceremony, Scottish balladeer Alex Beaton. Family movie follows. Free admission

Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; plus evening events at 7:30 p.m., admission charged

Sunday, Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission charged

### Where:

McPherson, Kansas (between Wichita and Salina on I-135 in central Kansas), pop. about 14,000 people

Festival map: <http://www.macfestival.org/travel.html>

- Lakeside Park, US 56 and Lakeside Drive, McPherson, Kansas (daytime activities)
- Best Western - Holiday Center, 2211 E. Kansas Ave., McPherson (Saturday evening Headliner Concert)
- Lakeside Park Cabin, (Saturday evening Scottish Country Dance Gala)

**Why:** ▪To attract visitors to the city of McPherson. ▪To celebrate the heritage of Scotland, Ireland and the other Celtic nations. ▪To encourage persons of Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and English family heritage and interest to connect with others of similar interest. ▪To educate adults, youth, and children to appreciate their own and other cultural heritages. (*According to U.S. Census data, more than eleven million Americans claim Scottish and Scots-Irish roots, making this the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States.*)

**What to expect:** Two full days of family entertainment in a shady city park.

Music, dance, athletics, hands-on kids' activities, reenactors, and other events reflecting the heritage and traditions of Scotland, Ireland and the other Celtic nations. Good selection of food and drink, including some ethnic specialties. Fun and learning for everyone, whether Scottish or not.

### National and Regional Musicians:

*Celtic language vocal harmonies, a Scottish balladeer, a player of the Irish bouzouki plus a Kansas Celtic harpist.*

**Alex Beaton** delights audiences with his rich baritone voice, virtuoso guitar playing and engaging stage presence. Alex's repertoire includes a wide range of musical expression from poignant ballads to rousing Celtic classics. [http://www.alexbeaton.com/index.htm?g\\_id=1807&inc=9&id=13027](http://www.alexbeaton.com/index.htm?g_id=1807&inc=9&id=13027)

**Navan:** Celtic language harmonies. Navan has been performing and recording for over a decade bringing new harmonies to old Celtic songs. Paul Gorman, Sheila Shigley, and Elizabeth Simcock return with Amy Curl bringing Navan back to four voices. Their love songs and laments, lullabies and work songs will transport you, and before you know it you'll forget there's not an instrument in sight.

Image here: [http://www.macfestival.org/attractions/music\\_entertainers/](http://www.macfestival.org/attractions/music_entertainers/)

### Beth Patterson

Images: [http://www.littlebluemen.com/b\\_media.asp](http://www.littlebluemen.com/b_media.asp) Multi-instrumentalist Beth Patterson is foremost a player of the eight- and ten-stringed Irish bouzoukis. She has an eclectic repertoire of original and traditional songs. Beth integrates her quirky, progressive sound with Celtic music and other ethnic styles, resulting in her own

sound she dubs "SWAP" "Songwriter/World/Acoustic/Progressive". Beth has performed in eleven countries. Over sixty of her original compositions have been recorded, either by herself or by various artists Celtic folk harp artist **RoJean Loucks** of Salina, KS. [www.roharp.com](http://www.roharp.com)  
Performer information from Andy Aitken, 316-689-0753.

### **Featured in 2009:**

**Honoring the clans and families of Scotland**, with Clan Henderson as the host clan. Clan Stewart Society in America will hold their national Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the festival, with attendees expected from across the U.S. Clan Stewart information from Stewart Cummins at <http://www.clansstewart.org/AGM/2009agm.html>

Visitors learn about the history and heritage of Scotland by chatting with the representatives at the various clan tents. See the list of past attending clan representatives here:

[http://macfestival.org/attractions/clans\\_and\\_geneology.html](http://macfestival.org/attractions/clans_and_geneology.html)

For those interested in studying their individual family's history, members of the local genealogical society will give pointers for finding family history, whether Scottish or any other ethnicity.

Clan information is available from Kim Clark, 620-241-7216, [kimcl@cox.net](mailto:kimcl@cox.net)

**Talk by Tom Averill: "Burns, Bagpipes, and Barley Corn"** a talk by noted Scottish enthusiast, poet and writer Thomas Fox Averill. Averill will talk of reconnecting with his Scottish roots as he wrote his novel *The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson*. He is known for his work in Kansas literature, folklore and film and the voice of William Jennings Bryan Oleander of Here, Kansas, featured on Kansas Public Radio. Mingenback Theatre, McPherson College, just a few blocks east of the festival grounds on Euclid St. 2 p.m. Sunday. No admission charge. Further information from Steve Gustafson, (620) 242-0524.

**Children's activities:** Safe and fun crafts and games for kids include hands-on activities such as spin art, face painting and temporary tattoos. Ride a miniature train. Passport Game where children pick up a passport game card, visit the Scottish clan tents, then receive a prize bag and balloon. Highland Games for Children - a miniature version of what the "big guys" do at the Highland Games venue.

### **Demonstrations:**

Sheep Herding Demonstration, on the hour; Highland Cows; Falcons and Raptors

British Cars

Rugby match (Sat. 2 p.m.) Wichita Barbarians vs. Salina Crusaders

Dance: Sunday: Clogging; Scottish Country dance; Irish dance

Renaissance sword fighting reenactors

**Also: Food court** with choices from savory Scottish meat pies, German sausage, Haggis pups, plus Celtic cream puffs, scones, and buttery bits of Scottish shortbread.

**Vendors** with Celtic products from tartan kilts to reproduction swords.

Colorful **mid-day parade** of tartan-clad clan representatives and marching pipers and drummers (Sat.).

Bring your dog and march in the Sunday mid-day parade.

Kirking of the Tartan church service Sunday morning.

**Competitions:** ■Bagpipe, Drum and Pipe Bands (Sat.). Major Midwest venue for pipe band competitions.

Information from Ty or Chris Kaufman, 620-241-2551

■Highland Athletics, including the turning of the caber. Information from Dave Glasgow 620-222-1981

■Highland Dance (Sat.), competitors are from age 4 to adult. Information from Andy Aitken, 316-689-0753

**Who runs the festival?** A team of dedicated volunteers works year-round. Website

<http://www.macfestival.org/participants/leadership.html> lists committee chairpersons. The festival is a project of the McPherson Scottish Society, a 501(C)3 organization with a mission to promote Scottish arts and culture.

**How many attend:** Public attendance at the 2008 festival was nearly 5,000.

**Tickets:** By mail, online ([www.macfestival.org](http://www.macfestival.org)), or at the gate. Children aged 12 and under, with accompanying adult, are admitted **free of charge** to day and evening events.

**Parking & Accessibility:** Free parking at McPherson High School; free trolley shuttle service to festival grounds run Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Limited on-street parking near festival gates.

Individuals with valid handicapped parking permits may park at the Water Park lot on Simpson St. From Kansas Ave. turn north on Hartup to Simpson; turn east on Simpson to the Festival gate.

Maps at [www.macfestival.org](http://www.macfestival.org).

**More to do in the McPherson area:** Contact Anne Hassler at the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau for other visitor and lodging information, 620-241-3340 or 1-800-324-8022 or [cvb@mcphersonks.org](mailto:cvb@mcphersonks.org). Website: <http://www.mcphersonks.org/>. Specialty shops on McPherson's Main Street feature everything from original art to antiques to kitchen wares to pancake mixes. McPherson Main Street 620-241-7430 or [mainst@mcphersonks.org](mailto:mainst@mcphersonks.org).

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