

Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band
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a tax-exempt organization

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Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band Does Well in Summer Competitions

Competitions in Alaska and the Lower-48 have livened the summer for the Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band. "For the second time in our 30-year history, we competed Outside in addition to our regular participation in the Alaskan and Yukon Highland Games," according to Tamar Stephens, band president. "This was a great experience!"

The local bagpipers, drummers, and dancers acquitted themselves well, said Pipe Major Warren Fraser. Over the weekend of July 30-31, the band competed in the 59th annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games at Enumclaw, Washington. Twenty-two bands from the U.S. and Canada competed in five grades. In its grade, the Fairbanks band placed sixth. "The competition was fierce," Fraser said, "but the judges were encouraging and complimentary to us."

In individual events at Enumclaw, Kaylee Larson won a gold medal and Hailey Epstein placed fourth in their events against a strong field of competitors in Highland dance.

On June 25 at the Alaskan Scottish Highland Games in Eagle River, the Fairbanks band won two silver medals, competing against three other Alaskan bands in its grade. Individuals also did well. "It's rewarding to see the increase in confidence and technical abilities of our young pipers, drummers, and dancers that are now winning their categories at the games," said Bob White, pipe major emeritus. "The band played a very solid performance and was a crowd pleaser," he noted. "Our drummers were the gems of the competition this year, winning against even a Grade 3 band." The Red Hackles were awarded Drum Corps of the Day.

In individual competitions at Eagle River, Fairbanks pipers, drummers, and dancers who won gold, silver, or bronze in their events include:

Hailey Epstein, Nathan Epstein, Juli Gillispie, Kaylee Larson (also named Dancer of the Day and awarded the Beginning Dancer Trophy), Kris Larson, Stephanie Swaim, Veronica Swaim, and Brandon Thomas (also awarded Drummer of the Day).

The band regularly participates in local civic events, and an additional highlight of the Red Hackles' summer was winning the "Best Marching Band" citation in the Golden Days Parade.