



# Clan Donnachaidh News

ROCKY MOUNTAIN *Branch*

SEPTEMBER 2006

## FRAE THE PRESIDENT

By Becky Robertson

### **Greetings to Everyone,**

Our active, fun filled summer is over. Can you believe it? I myself am sorry to see it pass. We have such a wonderful Clan to play with and the past few months have shown to other clans that we enjoy ourselves and can get a crowd of Donnachaidh's out for any event. Well done my Friends!

Both the Highland Ranch and Estes Park games had a high turnout of clan members. My thanks go out to everyone that helped. A larger number of volunteers came out to man the booths than in the previous years and the set-up, takedown groups were great. This year, at the Estes Park games, Clan Donnachaidh won the Best in Field award which to me reflected all the hard work that was put into the booth displays, table items, banners and enthusiasm of the people at the booth. Great work everyone! I'm proud of you. It was noted to me by several clans just how large a group we have and the fact that we were having so much fun! It's not a surprise to me. (I think they're all jealous). Towards the end of the games I stood with the Murray Clan across from ours and counted twelve of our clan at our booth. I was very pleased.

The next event coming up is the October AGM. I am presently sitting at my computer writing my last presidents letter for this newsletter and putting together an agenda for the council meeting set for September 15<sup>th</sup>. That's right; I'm stepping down as president. Rich Matthews will also be stepping down as Vice President. With this in mind, we would like to see a large group at the AGM to vote in officers and council members. (The new council is already looking very promising). Come on out to socialize, meet new members, vote, enjoy the program and good food.

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Take a look at the following pages and jot down the dates for the AGM, Yule Party and Robert Burns Dinner. The next few months are going to be great!

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your love and support during my two years as your president. I've enjoyed it immensely. And as always, call me or email me with your thoughts and concerns. (You haven't seen the last of me). Love to each of you,

Becky Robertson  
President, Clan Donnachaidh



## HIGHLAND GAMES 2006 REVIEW

**The Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Highlands Ranch Games, Highland Ranch, CO** was held on August 5-6th. This year's event was earlier originally due to conflict with the International Golf tourney and then the Renaissance Faire added an additional weekend so we thought there might again be a low turnout. However, it seemed to us that it was a very busy weekend for the festival.

On Saturday the Robertson women and children represented our clan in the parade. Megan and Troy Robertson and Raelynne Shelite carried the banner proudly as our "trainees". Their painted faces and arms were a hit. Amanda Robertson carried the standard and yes, she remembered to lower it at the main stage. The trainees deserted us for Sunday but Dennis Smith and Bob Robertson joined the ladies in the parade. Dennis really got his sunburn for the summer while displaying the standard during the ceremony. Donald Robertson held down the duties of our booth on Saturday which was busy with everyone stopping by to say hello. Our new booth mascots are Kiera, 3 yr old black Scottie, and Duncan, a 5 yr old Wheaton Cairn terrier. (See the picture.) And a big thanks to Sean Sullivan for visiting and sharing these loveable tail wagers with us. Many of people remarked that our booth always seems to be the busiest and we always seem to have the most fun. We agree! Dennis Smith wins the prize (if we had one) for signing up new and renewal memberships, added some ads for the newsletter and learned an expensive lesson regarding kilt pins. Travis and Molly again competed in this year's piping contests too. And David Robertson, our resident paramedic and the committee's "Head of First Aid", made sure we had our sunscreen, drank our water, and helped with transporting when needed. The Chisholm's shared their Chisholm's Highland Crème. It's a chilled, refreshing, Scotch and chocolate treat. We'll find time to share this treat and recipe with all.

A big thanks to Donald, Alice & Rich, Bob & Sylvia, friends Margaret & Nelson, Sandy & Dick, Maureen, Charlene, Hope Charles, Amanda, Christina Shelite, Ann Robertson, Dennis S., Angie, Becky and Mindy & Dennis for assisting with the setting up and taking down of the booth, stamping passports, handing out membership information and collecting donations dollars, bringing donuts, coffee, tea, and scones to keep us all going. I think our new

membership kit was a hit. Please forgive me if I have forgotten to mention anyone that assisted. We were definitely busy and we much appreciate everyone's assistance. That is what makes these events so successful. We tried to take pictures to add to our scrapbook. If you took some pictures and would like to share a copy please let us know. We're going to work on adding this year's photos to our book. Again, thanks to all who helped with and visited the booth. It was also great to see people we have not seen for a while and hope to see you again soon!! There was fun and laughter enjoyed by all. Mark your calendars for next year, August 11 & 12, 2007.

Submitted by,  
Nancy Bigley,  
Council Member.



**KIERA & DUNCAN**

## The Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Highland 2006 Festival was September 7-10th in Estes Park, Co.

Rain, rain and more rain was the main weather (that's an understatement) for the weekend. However it did not dampen the fun, spirits, camaraderie and enjoyment of this year's festival. Friday was filled with setting up the booth and shopping for sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets or capes for keeping warm and dry. We had several visitors stopping by which was nice since in past years not many do on this first day. Several of us enjoyed the Friday night Tattoo under the dry covered grand stands while the performers entertained us in the pouring rain. I believe it was drier at Saturday night's Tattoo? The new jumbo screen and fireworks display added a high tech twist.

The parade stepped off at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The clouds broke just for the parade with a little sunshine and blue sky. And whew, we lucked out again, the horses were behind us so no side stepping was necessary. This year we brought baskets of candy to share with the children along the route. Thanks Holly, Nettie, Karen and Emma.

Although the candy was a hit with the wee ones along the way it was a challenge to keep up with our clan. Some of us met different clans during the parade because when we looked up from sharing the candy we were seeing different faces and tartans. There was always someone from the crowd that would say "they went that a way" and point the direction for us so we could quickly catch back up to our group though. Our Dennis's once again carried our Donnachaidh/Robertson banner and Rich carried our standard. If you haven't walked in the parade come join us next year. It is actually a nice walk and fun to share the laughs and waves with the viewers.

This year our new items for purchase included pub glasses etched with our clan crest. We added some additional bookmarks with the Reid spelling (or is the correct spelling Reed?); some laminated FAQ information sheets for new volunteers and for those of us who tend to go blank when we are asked the questions. (Ahhh, Donald we missed you!) The mini-bottles of bubbles again brought smiles to tired little faces while getting their passports stamped. Our clan youth helped us out by taking over the stamping of the passports while we chatted with the parents and deserve a huge thank you. So Thank You Alan,

Megan, Ian, Alex and Lauren and Graham. You all rock!

Thanks to Nancy Mac Bride for making us more Tammies. Thanks to Dennis & Shelley Smith for the new poles and to Rich Matthews and Alice Wood for our beautiful crystal top.

And a special thanks to all those that brought the variety of Scotches (Becky, Ray, Maureen,) muffins (the Dennis & Shelley), AWESOME shortbread cookies (Alice), waivers (Fiona), nuts, fried chips, funnel cakes, Scotch eggs, oh the chocolate liquors, and of course, the "beer fairies" (Hope, Ray & Robin) who thoughtfully left coolers full of Harp and Guinness...

Next time could they leave a bottle opener rather than opening them with knives and teeth?! All were tasty treats to keep us going.



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We had many special visiting family members that were fun to meet. Robin Ward's mother Madge Stone and brother Ryan and Christie Coslett, Nancy Bigley's extended family Jan Kearbey and son Travis, wife Lauren from Austin, Texas and Becky's sister Phyllis from North Carolina, Carol's friend Margaret, Dennis and Mindy's family Zach, Katie and Hunter and their friend's Joelle, Kameron, and Koleman Conger and "Iris and Rose". They braved the torrential rains and hail with us and made our time very enjoyable.

On Sunday we were once again lucky to be where the pipers came to play. We were in the south tent this year which turned out to be the "drier" tent on Sunday when the rain created a river ankle deep in

(continued...)

the north tent. Many of you took pictures throughout the weekend events. We hope you will share a copy

of them with us so we may add them to our scrapbook. If you have duplicates of your pictures or an extra CD copy, please send or give them to any council member (with the dates and events) and we'll see that they are printed and put in the book. Or just e-mail them to us at our website [info@rockymountainscots.com](mailto:info@rockymountainscots.com) !

This year our wonderful clan was awarded we were given the Field Award. (Kathleen's pitch to the judges must have worked!) Many of us were proud to receive this award and as we had a congratulatory toast we kept asking "but what's the field award for?" Some answers we received were that "the booth was well organized, had great answers to the questions of visitors, always seemed

to be busy, there were so many of us there to greet our visitors and we were having the most fun greeting people."

So a big **Thank You** goes to the Hall's, the Earle's, the Ray Wards, the Smith's, the Bolen's, the Sullivan's, Kathleen Calhoon, Joel Conger, Maureen Silva, Hope Charles, Becky Robertson, Carol Chesney, Rich Matthews and Alice Wood for your support. Please forgive me if I have forgotten to mention anyone that assisted. We were definitely busy and we much appreciate everyone's assistance. That is what makes these events so successful. It's fun to get more acquainted with everyone and makes it more enjoyable to have the participation.

There were many renewed friendships and new people to meet. We hope to see all of you soon at the Annual General Meeting, the Second Annual Yule Party and/or the Robert Burns Dinner as well as at next years games. Those that were not able to attend this year, know you were missed and we hope you will join us next time. Mark your calendar for Long's Peak Scottish Irish Festival for September 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

by Nancy Bigley,  
Council Member.  
(Thanks Mindy for the assist in editing too.)



**CHISHOLM'S HIGHLAND CRÈME**  
*Shared at 2006 Colorado  
Scottish Festival*

- 8 oz Scotch (optional)
- 3 eggs
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 10 oz. heavy cream
- 2 Tblsp. chocolate syrup
- 2/3 tsp. coconut flavoring

Blend well and keep chilled.  
Serve in shot glasses



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## CLAN HISTORY (AS I HAVE LEARNED IT) BY DONALD ROBERTSON

My first knowledge of our Clan was in about 1990. I learned that Donnacha Reavar in Gaelic meant Stout or Fat Duncan. He was chief of the Robertsons in the early 1300's. Because Robert the Bruce became King of Scotland at this approximate time, he was chased by the English to try to destroy his very being. He became friends with Donnacha who hid him from the English in Clan country around Loch Rannoch. After the Bruce moved to the west coast of Scotland he went into a cave hiding near the seashore. While in the cave he noticed a spider trying to build a web. The spider had a difficult time constructing the new web and Bruce observed him trying time and time again before finally completing the web. It gave Robert the courage to try again to conquer Scotland from the English.

Eventually he fought for the freedom of Scotland in 1314 at Bannochburn against Edward II who was not near being the hammer of the Scots as Edward I had been. He came into Scotland across the English northern border and destroyed Castles and Churches at will, laying waste to towns as well. It was a horrible time for Scotland.

Our Clan traveled from Loch Lomond and Mt. Shiehallion with fighting men and their women as well. It was a long trip to Bannochburn and on night when they camped, they stuck the Clan's flagpole into the earth. When they removed it the following morning they found that the staff had pierced a jewel like stone that affixed itself to the staff. This was a very good signal to the Clan and became known as Clach na Bratatch or Stone of Good Luck.

The Clan arrived at Bannochburn on the second day at the height of the battle. The English saw all the people coming over the hill and thought they were all fighting men. This convinced them that they were outnumbered and retreated from the field as the story goes. Following the victory when Robert the Bruce met with Donnacha Reaver he said something to the effect because of contributing to his victory our clan would always be called Sons of Robert. Our name eventually became Robertson. Nice story, but probably pure imagination.

At one time our Clan had miles of territory in the Highlands. This led to many instances of other Clans trying to drive us out and take our lands from us. They were always repulsed and driven off or the lost land was eventually retaken. We were fierce warriors fighting for our homes and life.

We survived many years in our lands, but it was a very difficult time for all involved, not an easy life at all.

The Clans also were very well known for stealing cattle from each other. We became accomplished cattle thieves ourselves. Many of our men were killed during some of these raids, but new births always kept our numbers at about four thousand people centered around Loch Rannoch.

When I joined Clan Robertson in the spring of 1990, Bob Baskin was the president of the Rocky Mountain Branch. Curtis Roberts was the assistant Chief. Unfortunately Bob passed on in the summer of 1991 and Curtis became president and I became newsletter editor and all around handyman. When I joined I became the seventh member that we had signed on the roster. Thank goodness that we have come a long way since then.

Many of you are probably unaware that my darling wife Margo and I went for my first time to Scotland in May of 1995. We landed at Glasgow and as I was terrified at the thought of driving on the opposite side of the road, we took a bus to Edinburgh. That started a wonderful two weeks in Scotland which was beyond my wildest dreams of what Scotland would be like. We stayed in nothing but bed and breakfast establishments as I wanted to meet and talk with the Scots. One of my most memorable things that happened was that I told the Scots that my name was Donald Robertson and over 400 times I heard exactly the same response, "Och, thas a guid Scottish name." And so it is.

As I was terrified of driving over there, we rode busses until it was time after four days to finally head north into clan country. We took the train north across the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay to Perth, the southern

most of Clan Robertson country. At Perth, I finally rented a car, a three door Vauxhall made in France. The wheel was on the right and it was a stick shift which I hadn't driven for over 20 years. Big whoopee!!!!

The next lesson will be based upon our travels and learning of Scottish ways...

Donald

## CHEYENNE CELTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

Wyoming is known as the 'cowboy state' for a good reason. If you want to attend an authentic outdoor rodeo or hear popular country music, Wyoming is your state! It's a place where cowboy hats are as numerous as bikinis on a beach, and you can still see ranchers moving cattle through the center of the city as they travel from one place to another. Last June, however, things were a bit different. For the first time ever, the heart of Cheyenne was filled with men in kilts...not cowboy boots, and the sound of pipes echoed through the streets. It was amazing as I saw people from the 'cowboy state' so intrigued and interested in things of a Scottish/Celtic nature. "What's a kilt?" they asked, "What is that bag in front?" "Do the colors of the kilt have any meaning?" on and on the questions came. People up here are truly interested in our heritage!

A little boy came up to me with a pad of paper and a pen asking for my autograph. "Um...I am not in a band" I told him. "I don't care", he said, "could I please get your autograph?" Of course I felt stupid giving it to him, but who knows...it may be worth something some day. Riiggghht!!!

What a weekend though! There was plenty of Celtic music being played, with bands such as Canned Haggis, Parting Glass, and The Greenes (all from Colorado), Cheyenne's own Celtic band Musical Chairs, and plenty of pipers and pipe bands as well. Irish and Scottish dancers preformed for the crowd and the clans who were represented offered loads of information to curious and interested.

The good news is that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual event, meaning that there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual event whose dates are already set for June 29-July 1, 2007. I know that's far off into the future, but wouldn't it be great if Clan Donnachaidh was one of the first clans being presented to the interested community of Cheyenne? Mark the dates on your calendar, make plans to come to Cheyenne and stay with Robin and me for the weekend. When I get more information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cheyenne Celtic Music Festival, I will let you know!

Ray Ward,  
Council Member

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## UPCOMING CLAN EVENTS

### October 15, 2006 - Annual General Meeting

We will elect officers for 2007 and discuss both old and new business, so if you'd like to get more involved with the clan and think you'd like to be on the council or an officer, please let one of the current council members know.

The clan will provide the entrée, coffee and iced tea and asks that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share with your fellow clan members. If you are going to bring a guest, we ask that you let us know early to ensure we have enough food for all.

The Donnachaidh Clan continues to be active and informed. We are pleased to announce that Gary Mitchell, officer with the Saint Andrews Society and member of a Civil War Reenactment group will make a presentation of the Scots in the Civil War, both North and South, at our AGM on Sunday 10/15/2006. The AGM starts with socializing at 2:00 pm, business meeting, including election of officers, at 3:00 pm, followed by the presentation around 4:00 pm and then the pot luck dinner around 5:00pm.

Location again is:

*Washington Park United Methodist Church  
1955 E Arizona Ave,  
Denver, CO*

(See Attached Map)

**Must** follow one of these two directions to reach the church with minimal amount of frustration.

1--Take I-25 to Downing St. Exit; turn north on Downing St. to Louisiana; turn east (right) on Louisiana to S High St.; turn north (left) on S High St. to E. Arizona Ave; church parking lot is on the northeast corner.

OR

2--Take I-25 to University North Exit; turn north, get in left lane ASAP--turn west (left) on Arkansas (must take Arkansas); take Arkansas to S York turn north (right) to Arizona Ave.; turn west (left) on Arizona Ave. approximately 4 blocks; church parking lot on right.

### December 2, 2006 - 2nd Annual Yule Party

Just a quick reminder to everyone to block off December 2<sup>nd</sup> for the clan's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yule Party. This year, it will be held at Dennis and Mindy Bolen's ( ). It will be a "potluck" style party, so pull out your recipes for your best hors d'oeuvres. Dennis and Mindy will have coffee, tea, eggnog, beer (domestic) and some wine on hand along with the plates, napkins, cups and utensils. If you'd like anything else, please feel free to bring it. Be prepared for some wonderful Yuletide fun... maybe some Scottish trivia? And don't forget the raffle which helps fund some of our activities! Also, please feel free to bring your children as they have a basement equipped with pool table, television, DVD and stereo system to keep them entertained. The festivities will begin at 5:00 pm and will continue until whenever! We hope to see some of our Northern and Southern members for this fun event.

### January 20, 2007 – Robert Burns Supper

It will be buffet again this year, more details will be in the next newsletter.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

November 3, 2006 – Mindy Bolen's home  
January 5, 2007 –Mindy Bolen's home

## NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be published on December 15, 2006

## OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

**October 27, 2006 – St. Andrews AGM**

**November 18, 2006 – 44<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Andrews Ball**

## CLAN BOARD 2006

**President:** Becky Robertson

[brob9inco@yahoo.com](mailto:brob9inco@yahoo.com)

**Vice President:** Richard Mathews

[richmatthews@mho.net](mailto:richmatthews@mho.net)

**Treasurer:** Mindy Bolen

[Mindybolen@hotmail.com](mailto:Mindybolen@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Amanda Robertson

[madrobertsonsmom@yahoo.com](mailto:madrobertsonsmom@yahoo.com)

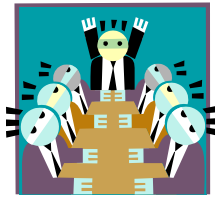
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Nancy MacBride

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Charlene Sullivan

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Ray and Robin Ward

[wyodonnachaidh@hotmail.com](mailto:wyodonnachaidh@hotmail.com)

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Mark Donnachaidh,  
Curtis Roberts,  
Bob Robertson,  
Charlene Sullivan

## NEW CLAN WEBSITE

<http://www.rockymountaincots.com>

We have been in the process of developing a new website for our Clan. We are trying to keep it updated with all the current events and happenings for our area. Please take a look and let us know what you would like to see. We will be adding our promotional items for sale on the website in the near future. The newsletters are also available for download.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact:

Dennis Smith

[dennis@rdsmith.us](mailto:dennis@rdsmith.us)

## SITES OF INTEREST:

### THE SCOTTISH LION

An online catalog of fine Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh products

<http://www.scottishlion.com>

### TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH RECIPES

Here is a collection of traditional recipes from Scotland

[http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe\\_in dex.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_in dex.htm)

## TREASURES REPORT

Account Balance: \$ 2,066.00  
(approx \$380.00 will be sent to Scotland)

Membership To Date: (06-07)

Renewing: 15  
New: 8

We'd like to give a great big welcome to our newest members:

Donalda Bond (Estes Park)  
Patrick Carver (Highlands Ranch)  
Damon Carver (Highlands Ranch)  
Hope Charles (Estes Park)  
Ginny Schoetzel (Estes Park)  
Jack Strong (Estes Park)  
Mike Duncan (Highlands Ranch)  
Melvin Good (Highlands Ranch)

## AT THE BAR

### Whisky A-GO-GO

*Shudder, single-malt Scotch snobs:*

Three pals from the U.K. are out to make fine whiskey-ahem-“FUN.” And with cheerful marketing and tasty spirits, Jon and Mark Geary and David “Robbo” Robertson, onetime master distiller for the famed single malt Macallan, may do it. Last year they issued three malt whiskey blends, each named for its flavor. The Smokey Peaty One compares to Islay Scotch, without the cloying fossil fuel taste; the Rich Spicy One has the nuts-and-cloves notes of Speyside malts; the Smooth Sweeter One is 70 percent Irish whiskey, deepened with Scotch. All are priced to make any Scot smile: \$30.



## YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Do you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew under the age of 21 that would enjoy becoming a member of Clan Donnachaidh and learning more about their Scottish heritage? If so, you can nominate them into the clan by completing the attached form and sending it off. They will become honorary members and receive a beautiful certificate of membership all free of charge until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.



And since I'm in a bragging mood, check out our newest member, Hunter James Bolen in his first kilt!



The membership nomination forms may be mailed to:

Cheryl Robertson  
P.O. Box 8434  
Portland, ME 04104

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Hello all! It's that time once again. Clan Membership Dues are due by the end of October. As a reminder, we changed the membership dues at the AGM last year to \$40 for renewing members and \$45 for new members.

This increase was to help defray some of the clan costs such as the clan booth costs at Highlands Ranch and Estes Park and the newsletter. As many of you know, approximately \$20 of our dues is sent to Scotland for membership in the International Society which helps keep our clan museum running.

So, if I didn't get to "nag" you at Estes Park about renewing your membership, please remember to send your check in!

Please complete the following form and send it, along with your check for \$40.00 made payable to:

## Clan Donnachaidh,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

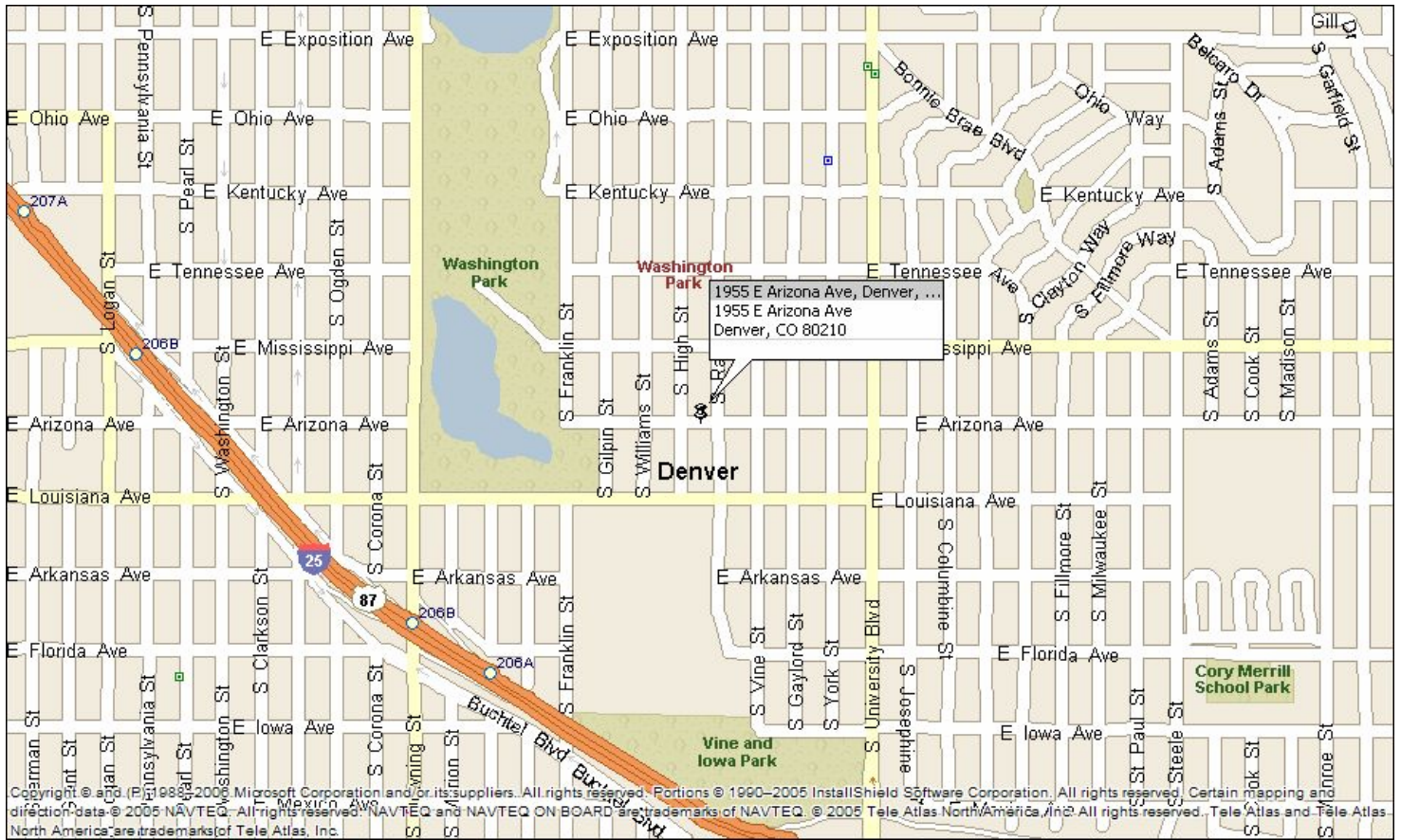
**Birthday:** Member \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD) Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD)

**Anniversary:** \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD)

For those who have already renewed or started their new membership, would you please take a second to complete the date(s) section and email address and send it along to me either by email to: [info@rockymountainscots.com](mailto:info@rockymountainscots.com) or by "snail mail" to the above address?

We would like to collect the "important dates" from our members in order to recognize them in the newsletters.

# MAP TO AGM



**Must** follow one of these two directions to reach the church with minimal amount of frustration.

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