Immersed in Ohio
Five teachers, more than 30 learners attend 9th ACGA Immersion Weekend

The weekend of May 19-22 saw 33 Gaelic learners and five instructors gather in the beautiful Southern Ohio park of Burr Oak for ACGA’s ninth annual Immersion Weekend. In contrast to last year’s cosmopolitan setting in the heart of Toronto, the site for this immersion was our most rural to date, and attendees took IW Chairperson Frances Acer’s advice to heart when she urged folks to arrive before darkness set in!

For instructors we had some familiar faces along with one new entry. After an absence of several years as a teacher, David Livingston-Lowe returned to our faculty, along with his wife Deborah. Ailig Valtos, back by popular demand from last year’s IW, flew in from Scotland to join fellow Sgitheanach Muriel Fisher, now of Tucson, Ariz., who had taught at several previous IW’s.

The new face was that of Sorley (Somhairle) MacDonald, a native speaker also from Skye who has been living in Toronto the past year and teaching Gaelic there. Very few Gaelic events offer five levels of instruction at any one time, and with an average ratio of less than seven students per teacher this year, cha b’ urrainn na b’ fhéarr!

Things got started Thursday night with a laid-back, informal “meet and greet.” And it was just as well that it wasn’t much more than that, as many of us were beat from a day of traveling. Quite a few made the eight-plus hour drive down from Ontario, and in fact Ontario was the most represented of the states and provinces.

However, the prize for the longest trek went to Jeff MacDonald of Texas, who for good measure stopped in St. Louis and talked his brother into coming. Jeff was attending the IW courtesy of the ACGA scholarship program, in which he garnered the top honor at the beginners’ level.

Friday morning we got down to business with two sessions of Gaelic instruction lasting 75 minutes each with a coffee break in-between. The afternoon started out with your choice of two workshops during the first 75 minute block of time, and then after a break, there was a set of two other workshops. Saturday had the same basic schedule with...
Gaelic classes in the morning and the workshops from Friday repeated in the afternoon.

In this way everyone had a chance to attend each of the 4 workshops over the two-day span. Note that these afternoon sessions were open to everyone and not specific to any morning class level.

Each instructor was responsible for presenting a workshop on a subject of their choice. David Livingston-Lowe did his on Irish Gaelic, which was not only enlightening about that language but also shed light on how our Gaelic had developed differently. Sorley MacDonald did a talk/demonstration of the Gaelic game of camanachd or shinty, as it’s known in English. Sorley himself is a player, and this was a fun workshop, what with his insider’s stories and irrepressible humor.

Deborah Livingston-Lowe’s workshop was unique. She has collected every issue of the Gaelic magazine Gairm, and from those many years of issues she culled some of the more interesting pieces for us to read and discuss. One thing she included was Siorap Ina, a skit by Fionnlagh MacLeoid about a young child asking her mother too many questions concerning reproduction. Janice Chan and Heather Sparling were at this workshop on Friday and later decided to perform Siorap Ina at the céilidh Saturday night, where it was received with much glee.

Finally, Muriel Fisher did a terrific workshop on the inverted nominal construction in Gaelic. This is the kind of subject that is perhaps best delivered as a workshop, as it’s something that students at every level can benefit from.

One of the IW offerings that attendees look forward to each year is the Gaelic book and CD sale. This year’s sale didn’t disappoint with wares provided by Trueman Mutheson of Stol Cultural Enterprises in Nova Scotia. The sale was held after classes and workshops were done on Friday in the large meeting room downstairs, and merchandise was tactically spread out on tables the length and breadth of the room. This helped alleviate congestion from the feeding frenzy that would soon follow!

The book sale went on for a good hour and was repeated on an abbreviated basis the following day.

After dinner on Friday there was held what was billed as an “Olde Tyme Dance.” Thanks to a special donation, we were able to arrange for a professional Scottish dance instructor to come and help those of us with two left feet sort out “The Gay Gordons,” “Canadian Barn Dance,” and other céilidh dances.

Having a dance early on in the weekend was something that was pioneered last year in Toronto and is a good idea for several reasons. After a serious day of classes, it’s nice to have something a bit physical and completely different from the language routine to relax with. And it helps to get people mixing together, and the social interaction at an IW is nearly as important as the Gaelic instruction.

After the workshops had ended on Saturday, ACGA’s Annual General Meeting was held. Vice-President Janice Chan chaired this meeting, filling in ably for President Mike MacKay who couldn’t attend the IW. Then after dinner, there was the traditional Saturday night céilidh, which has been part of the IW landscape since its inception in Annapolis. This year’s edition went very well, and it was observed that there were more group performances than in the past. This may have been because the IW started on a Thursday for the first time, and people had more time to coalesce. The céilidh raffle was particularly entertaining, with Frances Macar’s grand nieces, Grace (13) and Olivia (8), pulling the winning raffle numbers and announcing them in Gaelic. Ailigh Valtsos started out by coaching them on how to say their numbers, but after a few rounds, he decided they were good to go on their own.

As the old proverb goes: An t-ionnsachadh òg, an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach! (“The young learning, the best
“Playing Thoir Seachad na Mucan’ (this involves little pig dice and doing math in Gaelic while consuming pints) in the wee bar Saturday with the MacDonald brothers, Sorley, Christine and a brave Campbell.”

(Continued from page 2)

Sunday was a half-day session, which allowed attendees to hit the road following lunch. After a very nice Gaelic church service that was put together by David Livingston-Lowe, there was one session of classes, and then after the break, a single workshop was given by Ailig Valtos entitled Geasagan is Gobagan. This was held downstairs in the large meeting room, which is windowed on three sides. For the first 2 days of the IW, all that those windows had revealed was fog and rain. By Sunday morning the weather had cleared, and against a backdrop of a beautiful lake and burr oak woods Ailig told us about the superstitions that still persist in his part of Skye.

Do you know what you should hold up to the new moon when you’re outside? Or where the family Bible is placed in the coffin? Or under what circumstances will Ailig suddenly go tearing after a hare? These and much more were revealed in his captivating talk before the entire assemblage of students and teachers.

Ailig ended his talk by putting on a CD of prescenting (Gaelic Psalm singing), and the emotion in those voices seemed to match our feelings at the end of three days together. It had been a great Immersion Weekend, as attested by many wishing it wouldn’t end. Frances Achar is to be thanked and congratulated for making it happen, as well as those in the supporting cast.

As was announced at the AGM — though we don’t have all the I’s dotted or T’s crossed — it looks increasingly like the tenth annual Immersion Weekend will be in Texas, probably around the Dallas area. There have been several successful local IW’s held in the Lone Star State in recent years, and it seems to be a logical place for ACGA to go next.

“Ciamar a howdy,” here we come!

BY GLENN WRIGHTSON
thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

Còmhlan Luchd-Ionnsachaideh Cranberry Township attended the ACGA Immersion Weekend in Ohio.

Cranberry Township’s Còmhlan Attends IW, Highland Games

Nancy Steffey, our newest member, attended the level 1 Group with some trepidation but later admitted she was very glad we’d encouraged her to be there as she enjoyed it all very much. The class work and the people she met were very helpful in her study.

John Boyd and Donald Campbell took the level 2 Group and found it a good experience, as well. I “braved out” the level 5 Group and although not always right on top of it all, I managed to get through without bruises!

It was my first time to work with Ailig MacDonald and am happy for the experience.

June 3rd this year was dry, hot and sunny. ACGA and CLI Cranberry Township attended the McHenry Highland Games.

Donald Campbell, left, and John Boyd prepare the Gaelic display at the McHenry Highland Games.

Games near Deep Creek, Md., and — “surprise!” — it did not rain. Donald, John, their wives and I must have spoken to about 100 people during the day. Most responses were positive about the importance of preserving the language. Donald and I, both retired teachers, accosted passersby with "Ciamar a tha sibh?" Some of the responses were funny; i.e., "Muy bien, gracias."

The games are small but impressive for the locale. The pipe music and the ambience are as great as any. Birds of prey and sheep dog demos along with dancing, piping and country dancing (clogging) rounded out the events. We opted out of the ceilidh that evening; went home tired, hot, hungry, and ready for a cool shower.

BY HARRY WEBB
hwebb@zoominternet.net
A Chùirdean,

Tha mi ‘n dòchas gu bheil sibh uile comhfhurtail an-drasda, agus an Samhradh a’ dol mar ionadh Samhradh cile—tha e air a bhith cho fior theth far a bheil mise a’ fuireach ‘s gu bheil mi a’ toirt beannachdan gach latha air an fhear a chruthaich an t-inneal miobhraileach sin a tha toirt teas a-mach as an taigh—air conditioning! Gu dearbh, tha AC a’ toirt faochadh dhomh ‘s t-Samhradh mar a tha (‘s a bha) an fhuirneis ‘sa Gheimhradh. Smaoinichibh air sin—an drasda, tha sinn (a tha fuireach far a bheil e gàbhaidh teth) a’ ruith bho’n taigh dhan chår, mar eiseimpier, a’ cur air an AC, agus ag urmaidh gun bi aidhear fionnar a’ tighinn a-steach cho luath ‘s a ghabhas. Nuair a ruigeas sinn ar ceann-uidhe, bidh sinn a’ ruith a-steach far a bheil tuilleadh AC. Ach ‘sa Gheimhradh, nach eil sinn a’ dearnamh an aon rud—a’ ruith bho bhìthas an taighe dhan char, a’ cur an teas air agus a’ feitheachadh gus teas a’ tighinn a-steach, agus, nuair a ruigeas sinn an t-àite far a bheil sinn ag iarraidh a dhol, a-mach leinn gu sgiobalta dhan togalach far an cum sinn sinne fhein blàth! Ach bidh fuachd a’ Gheimhradh a’ tighinn oirn aithghearr gu leòr. Tha am Foghar a’ tighinn, agus tha sin a’ ciailachadh gu bheil sinn a’ coinheadh air adhart gu tachartasan mar am Mòd Nàiseanta againn ann an Ligonier, agus toiseach clasaitheir air fedadh na duthcha. Tha mi ‘n dòchas gun gabh sibh pàirt ann—agus mholaing-sa gu mòr a thiginn dhan Mhòd, eadhon ged nach biodh sibh airson ghabhail pàirt ann—chi sibh agus cluinnidh sibh tòrr rudan a tha inntinneach, agus bidh spòrs mhòr aig a h-uile duine a bhios an làthair. ‘S t-fhiaich a dhol ann ach, mura h-eil comas agaibh sin a dheanamh, nach smaoinich sibh air taic a thoirt dhan a’ Mhòd agus dhan ionairtean eile a th’againn—taic airgid, no taic cuideachaidh. Cuiribh post-dealain thuagam nu gu duine sam bith eile air a’ bhòrd ag innse gu bheil thu “deiseil is deònach” - bhitheamaid fada nur conam!

Friends,

I hope you are all comfortable, with this Summer being much like many others before—it’s been quite hot where I live, so hot that every day I bless the name of the man who invented that marvelous instrument that takes heat out of our houses—air conditioning! Indeed, AC gives me the same relief in the Summer as the furnace does in Winter. Think about it—we, who live where it’s unbearably hot in the Summer, run from the house to the car, turn on the AC, praying for the cool air to come out of the vents as fast as possible. When we reach our destination, we run inside where there’s more air conditioning. But in the Winter, don’t we do the same thing—run from the warmth of the house to the car, turn on the heat, and wait for the warmth to come in—and then, when we get to where we’re going, we run inside to keep warm!

But the cold of winter will come soon enough. Fall is coming, and that means that we are looking forward to events like the National Mòd in Ligonier, and the start of Fall classes all over the country. I hope you will take part in these, and I recommend highly coming to the Mòd, even if you are not going to take part—you will see and hear a lot of interesting things, and everyone who goes will have a great time. It’s worth it for sure, but even if you can’t, think about supporting the Mòd and the other events we have—monetary or volunteering. Send me an email, or send one to anyone on the board saying you are “ready and willing” - we’ll appreciate it!

Le spèis / sincerely

Micheal MacAoidh
Ceann-suidhe/ President
The May 1 meeting of the ACGA board of directors was called to order by President Mike MacKay. “Present” on the conference call were board members Jamie MacDonald, Janice Chan, Anne Landin and Glenn Wrightson, Membership Secretary Wes Mangus, and Recording Secretary Cam MacRae.

Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer Jana Blue was having phone problems and was not able to be at the meeting. Her e-mailed reports were quite positive, however. She noted that membership and contribution receipts exceeded budget projections for the year and that the self-supporting areas of ACGA last year were successful. The extra funds available from the very successful Immersion Weekend (in Canada) helped support the Mòd and the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Workshop.

Membership Report
Wes reported that we have 170 active paying members and 13 permanent members. Permanent memberships do not pay dues and are those which we give to organizations and individuals whom we would like to interest in our activities. After some discussion it was decided to change the designation “permanent membership” to “complimentary membership.”

Immersion Weekend 2006
It looks like we might be going to Texas for the IW next year. Mike MacKay has been discussing the possibility with David Gessel, who has run his own immersion there for the last few years and David is enthusiastic about the idea. Possible sites for the immersion in the next few years include Washington, D.C.; California; and St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.

Budget
Mike noted that there are several budget areas that were underspent in the last fiscal year and pointed out that we don’t do ourselves any favors by not spending the money we have budgeted. There must be ways that we can make a difference by spending our money.

Gaidhealtacht Support
The committee is working with the education committee on the new scholarship for university students studying Gaelic or in Gaelic. It is disappointing that there were no applications this year, but at least we now have the scholarship in place for the future. Glenn Wrightson and Jamie MacDonald will discuss the possibility of reopening the competition and changing the application deadline.

Grandfather Mountain Song Workshop Committee
Glenn pointed out that the Grandfather Mountain workshop brochures looked a lot like the immersion weekend ones and we probably need to do something to make them look more distinctive next year. We could use a different color or a different font or even a special logo. It was suggested that perhaps Rhiannon could come up with a logo for the workshop.

Scholarship
Announced the winners of this year’s scholarships. They are: advanced – Eve Gordon, intermediate – Cam MacRae, and beginner – Jeff Donald. We had more letters of intent this year than last but three of them decided not to follow through with the competition. Anne hopes that now that we provide a more constructive critique, we will attract more competitors in the future. Glenn suggested that a big article in Naidheachd on the scholarship, the adjudication process, and the winners, just before the competition begins next year might encourage more people to enter.

Mòd Naiseanta Aimeireagaidh
ACGA’s annual Mòd will be held at Ligonier again this year, and Máirí Sine Chaimbeul is coming back as adjudicator.

Outreach
Mike reported that the audience for the Cathy Ann McPhee concert we helped to support was small but enthusiastic. Kate Herr was able to hand out a lot of ACGA and SGEIR material. It was agreed that this is the kind of event that the Outreach Committee wants to continue supporting.

Membership
The committee has had some good discussions over e-mail about why people become members of ACGA and what they want from it. There seems to be a dichotomy in our membership. There are those who are members because they believe in the mission of ACGA yet are not interested in learning Gaelic, and there are those who want the opportunities to learn Gaelic which we offer. It was agreed that we should think about more ways to appeal to those of the classes but for the cause of supporting Gaelic. Mike said that the Mòd might serve as a model in this respect as it seems to appeal to both kinds of ACGA members. He will draft a discussion outline for the Membership Committee so they can continue to work on this issue. Members of the committee are Anne Landin, Janice Chan, Jana Blue, and Mike MacKay.

Old Business
Election committee results
The race for the three board positions was close. The winners were Janice Chan, Jamie MacDonald, and Rachel Blessing. Glenn e-mailed the board before the meeting with some ideas for reaching out to people who ran for board positions but did not win. We don’t want to lose touch with these people who are interested in being part of ACGA.

Glenn also asked for discussion on who might make up the new election committee. There will be a number of board vacancies in the next few years and a strong election committee will be important in putting together a good board.

— Submitted by Recording Secretary Cam MacRae
This year, ACGA began to award a university/college scholarship to support a student of Gaelic. Megan Brece from Colorado was awarded this first scholarship, and she is worthy of it indeed.

Megan is going to start a degree in Gaelic Medium Education this year at Aberdeen University.

Here is a piece that Megan wrote about herself for the scholarship committee:

“I have been interested in Scotland and Scottish culture for years. I went to Scotland on holiday six years ago and I tried to learn some Gaelic on my own before I went there. But when I was in Scotland, I did not find anyone who spoke Gaelic and I stopped studying it.

“Two years after that, I was helping with the Scottish Festival in Colorado when I noticed a tent where there was a Gaelic teacher. His name was Glenn Wrightson and I attended his Gaelic class for two years.

“My interest in Gaelic increased greatly and I went to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Scotland to learn the language so that I could be a Gaelic teacher. I received a diploma in Gaelic in the two years that I spent at Sabhal Mòr.

“In the Fall of 2005, I will begin a teacher training course in Gaelic through the University of Aberdeen. After graduation, I hope to be teaching elementary school through the medium of Gaelic in Scotland.”

Submitted by JAMIE MacDONALD

‘Gaelcast’ Launches Biweekly Podcasts

A biweekly Gaelic-language talk show featuring news, interviews, stories and music is being “podcast” over the Internet from the United States.

Gaelcast is the creation of ACGA members Michael Mackay, Ed Bradshaw and Liam Cassidy. Mackay and Cassidy, frequent commentators on BBC’s Radio nan Gaidheal, are the program’s hosts; Ed Bradshaw is producer, technician and Web site manager for the program.

The first podcast features a report from Mòd nan Lochan Mòra in Ohio and an extensive interview with BBC Radio nan Gaidheal’s Coinneach MacIomhair.

Future programs will feature interviews with Gaelic speakers and learners in the United States, Canada and Scotland as well as reports from events such as the U.S. National Mòd and the Scottish Royal National Mòd.

For more information, go to www.gaelcast.com.
Scottish Gaelic Poet, Learner Wins Major Prize in Ireland

A Skye-based Gaelic poet won a major prize at an Irish international poetry competition.

Rob Kerr (Rob Calum MacIlleChiar), a former writer-in-residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, scooped the top award in the Scottish Gaelic verse category of the 16th Annual Féile Fìllochta organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in Ireland.

The competition attracted over 6,000 entrant poems in nine languages, including Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Welsh and Scottish Gaelic.

Kerr beat off strong competition to take the first prize of £800 euro in the Gaelic section, notably from Meg Bateman, who took second place, and former Scottish Writer of the Year Aonghas Macneacail, who finished in the bronze medal slot.

These results underscore Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's connections with this award. Bateman is a lecturer at the college and Macneacail is also one of its former sgriobhdairrean (writers-in-residence). Since the Scottish Gaelic category at the Féile Fìllochta was first introduced seven years ago; only one winner has not been linked to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

As well as his own individual work, Kerr also specializes in translating the poetry of other languages into Gaelic. A recent visit to the Northwestern United States introduced him to the poetry of the River Indians of Washington State. "With the help of phonetic dictionaries I was able to make translations of their work," he said.

"As ever, there were clear links between Gaelic and world poetry. In the case of the River Indians, their regard for the salmon — upon which they depend to survive — was strikingly similar to the old Celtic mythology of the wise salmon."

Kerr is part of a long line of literate Gaelic speakers — both native and taught — to have held the post of sgriobhdair, or writer-in-residence, at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. His predecessors included Sorley Maclean, Aonghas Macneacail, Angus Peter Campbell and Rody Gorman.

He was born in Kames, near Tighnabruaich (where "my grandparents were Gaelic-speakers but my parents had lost the language"). He began to learn Gaelic after attending an immersion course in Fort William.

"Then I spotted an advertisement in the West Highland Free Press," he said, "for a course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. I took it up, and that led to a BA course in Gaelic Language and Culture."

Royal National Mòd Receives Funding to Attract More Visitors

The Royal National Mòd secured funding worth approximately £80,000 from EventScotland, Scotland's national events organization.

The three-year investment is intended to help raise the profile of the Mòd in the lead up to the Highland 2007 Year of Culture, when the event takes place in Fort William.

The Royal National Mòd approached EventScotland for financial assistance to help attract more visitors from outside Scotland after research showed that 4% of visitors to the event travel from outside the country.

"The Royal National Mòd is a national treasure and one which has great potential to build its reputation and profile with our international visitors," David Williams, Chief Executive of EventScotland.

"I believe that it is one of Scotland's best cultural events and yet still has great potential to grow and develop."

The investment is conditional on the Mòd achieving a number of key performance indicators geared around increasing visitor numbers and achieving a higher profile for the event in the United Kingdom and abroad. EventScotland provided support for Mòd 2004, held in Perth.

Murdo Morrison, promotion manager for the Royal National Mòd said, "We are delighted to have the support of EventScotland. The funding from EventScotland will enable us to undertake a number of initiatives both within the U.K. and abroad with a view to strengthening the position of the Mod as Scotland's premier celebration of the Gaelic language, music and culture."

Mod 2005 will take place from Oct. 14-22 in the Western Isles. The event moves next year to Dunoon.

Further information on Mod 2005 is available from the official website on www.the-mod.co.uk.

Plan Now for ACGA Mòd in Ligonier

There still is time to register for ACGA's National Mòd, which will be held Sept. 9-11 in Ligonier, Pa., during the Ligonier Highland Games.

The three-day event features competitions in Gaelic song, poetry and storytelling, as well as workshops, meals and cèilidhs. Scottish Mòd Gold Medallists Gillebride Mac 'IlleMaol and Iseabal Nic an t-Sagairt will perform at the Mòd, which will be adjudicated by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's Màiri Sine Chaimbeul.

For registration information, contact Pamela Page at 215-295-5773, or pamela.c.page@verizon.net.
The Highland Association of Chicago held its first semi-annual gathering on the 22nd August last. The Society is mainly composed of ladies and gentlemen who have retained the Gaelic language, and is at once social and literary in its character. Its ultimate object is to secure for its members a library of Gaelic works, which it can obtain from no other library. The gathering was not as large as it will be on the next occasion, but was sufficiently so to encourage the members in continuing the organisation. The programme embraced a medley, purely national in character, as follows: A selection of Highland music on the bagpipes, by Joseph Cant; address of Mr. MacPherson, the chairman, read by Mr. McLaughlin; a Gaelic song, quartette, by the Messrs. Mackays and Macleans; selection of Highland music on the piano by Mrs Macpherson; the Highland Fling, by Gilbert Robertson; an address to the Society, by the Rev. Mr. McLaughlin; and a recess and refreshment by all the party; a similar programme for the second part, containing, besides, the sword dance, and concluding with "Auld Lang Syne." The evening was one of real enjoyment [of?] the members. It is interesting and gratifying that our countrymen across the Atlantic retain so much of their national character.

It was curious to me at first that the songs of Robert Burns would feature in Highland society meetings. A huge cult formed around Burns in the United States as well as Scotland, however, and because of this popularity, he was seen as an icon worthy of veneration among Highlanders as well as Lowlanders. The distinctions between Highland and Lowland poets remained in the minds of many people, however, as we see in an article (Scottish-American Journal, July 29, 1875, “The Scotch in Chicago”), which included a description of the chairman of the Highland Association of Chicago, George McPherson:

"Now containing human samples of almost all the countries of the globe, we are not surprised to find in Chicago the Gael from the mountain ranges, and the Saxon from the rich vales of Old Caledonia. ... And there is Mr. George McPherson, a true Highlander, with whom it would be heresy to depart even one jot from his country's customs; and who in this far West, on gala days of Scottish societies, prides himself in donning the garb of his native heather. Ossian is dearer to him than Burns. Gaelic lore is his delight."

I will conclude with one final note about Gaelic in Chicago from an article published in Mac-Talla Dec. 2, 1893, describing a clan gathering of the Macleans, where Gaelic songs were sung:

"Bha mi aig a' chruinneachadh mhòr aig Cloinn Ghillelain ann an Chicago. S'e a chuid deaire air son a dhaighniachd mi an t-Urramach [ALasdair] M[ac]Lean Sinclair. ... Bha mac aig mo sheanar bu shine na Lachainn na Gaidhlig. Se Murchadh a b'ainm da. ... Bha cóigeanr de 'chuid mac aig a' choinneimh Leathanach. Sheinn fear dhiubh, Iain, òran Gaedhlig dhuinn aig a' churdm mhòir a bh' againn."
Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

A listing of groups and teachers known to ACGA. If you have information on study groups, classes or teachers you would like to submit, please contact the editor at liam@gaidheal.com

Alaska
Linda C. Hopkins
PO Box 1418
Palmer, Alaska 99645
907-373-6339

Arizona
Muriel Fisher
722 W Vanover Rd.
Tucson, Ariz. 85705
520-882-5308
skye@idaiotacom.net

Arkansas
Christie Saunders
1701 N Bryant, Apt. 4
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
501-663-8434

California
Dominic Macdonald
P.O. Box 607
Citrus Heights, Calif. 95611
916-723-6320

David G. Williams
480 30th Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94131

Claudia Ward
22651 Equipoise Road
Monterey, Calif. 93940
408-373-5069

Tris King
Scottish Gaelic Learners
Association of the Bay Area
(925) 283-8029
tris@speakinggaelic.com

Deborah (Gobnait) White
2125 Peterson Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 545-6676
gaidheal.DISTANTOAKS.com

Colorado
Glenn Wrightson
2673 S. York St.
Denver, Colo. 80227
303-698-9023

Kyri Comyn
5060 S. Washington
Englewood, Colo. 80110
303-781-0553

Sue Hendrix
4590 Darley Avenue
Boulder, Colo. 80303
303-499-4927

Florida
Steven McBride
7904 Capwood Avenue
Tampa, Fla. 33637
813-980-0017

Illinois
Dr. William R. Roy
2404 Brookens Circle
Urbana, Ill. 61801-6621

Joshua Wilson
707 W. Melrose (right door)
Chicago, Ill. 60657
773-929-8119

Massachusetts
Callanish School Of Celtic Arts
Maggie Carchrie/Tom Leigh
1 Bridle Path Circle
Sandwich, Mass. 02563
508-888-0107
info@mermaid-productions.com

Kira McGanni
330 Acton Road
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
978-244-0237
kiracliff@mediaone.net

Maryland
Fred Bosworth
248 Inlet Drive
Pasadena, Md. 21122
410-437-7090

Ken Campbell
69 Burr Hill
Berlin, Md. 21811
410-208-0524

Minnesota/Wisconsin
Robert L. Hoyt
913 15 St. East
Menomonie, Wis. 54751

Missouri/Kansas
Greg L. McCoy
3605 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Independence, Mo. 64052
816-737-5979

New Mexico
Kathy Lare
8715 Silvercrest Ct. NW
Albuquerque, N.M. 87114
505-890-6572

New Jersey/New York
Brenda Steele
44 S. Main Street, Apt. 5K
Lodi, N.J. 07644
973-614-0848

Donald Mackinnon
26 Miller Drive
Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533
914-221-9404

John P. Barlow
951 Sunnyside Drive
Oswego, N.Y. 13127
607-687-3272

Ohio
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
2374 Madison Road #4F
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208-1073
513-321-6781
MacAoidh@eos.net

Frances Acar
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This list is based on the best information currently available to ACGA. We acknowledge that there may be errors and certainly omissions, and we apologize beforehand. We plan to publish an expanded version of this directory twice annually, and would appreciate any suggestions, addresses, names, etc., that you can provide. Please send any such to An

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ACGA Membership Fees for New and Renewing Members:

Please fill out this form and send your check in US funds to:
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PO Box 17004
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Membership fees should be made payable to ACGA.

() I am a new ACGA member  () I am a renewing ACGA member

Name:__________________________________________
Street:________________________________________
City:________________________________________
State/Province:___________________________ Zip/Postal code:__________
Country:_________________________ Telephone: (___)_______-________
E-mail address:__________________________________________

My current Gaelic language level is (check one):

() Beginner  () Advanced Beginner  () Intermediate

() Advanced Student  () Fluent  () Native Speaker

If advanced, would you be willing to teach or lead a study group? _________
Would you be willing to host or help with local activities? _________

Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh—A Letter to Learners!

ACGA offers booklets for the BBC’s weekly program in Gaelic to our members, in a series of booklets with accompanying CDs. Hear Ruairidh MacIlleathain—Roddy Maclean—as he talks about subjects as varied as Bats, Himalayan Tea, and am Fear Liath Mòr—a ghost living on a mountain—in 5-minute talks that are loaded with new words, expressions, and grammar—with lots of explanations at the end of each letter.

ACGA offers twenty letters in each booklet, and you can get letters from 1 to 60, with more to come! Each booklet is $7 US plus postage—usually about $2 in the U.S.

Contact Mike Mackay, mackay@progeny.net, for more information. If you’ve loved listening to Ruairidh on Rèidio nan Gàidheal, now’s your chance to have those letters available to you at any time. Let Ruairidh and ACGA help improve your Gàidhlig!
Clàr-Innse

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