ACGA Relaunches Web Site

Member forums, photo gallery add interactivity to society’s Web presence

A
n Comunn Gaidhealach, America has maintained a Web site for many years that has not only been a place where members can go to learn more about our organization and the services we offer them, but where anyone in the world who is interested in Scottish Gaelic can find information about the language, as well as possible learning opportunities.

Over the past year, we have been redesigning and updating the site. Some of these changes are not obvious to the user, but are related to administration and how the site is hosted. Over the next few months, more obvious changes in content and appearance will take place as links are updated and reorganized and the entire format of the site changes. The “Learn Gaelic” section for example, will be revamped so that it provides more useful information to ACGA members and visitors alike. By restructuring and reorganizing the site we hope to reflect that Gaelic is a modern, vibrant language by using the technology at our disposal to make access to the language through our site easier, clearer and more concise.

We are introducing other new features as well. A photo gallery has already been added with pictures from the very successful 2006 joint Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week/Immersion Weekend. We would like to expand that with member pictures of Scottish Gaelic events held throughout the year, for example. A new member forum, where visitors can browse the Upcoming Events forum, but only members can access all other categories, is also up and running.

On the forums, members can browse and participate in online discussions on topics such as Luchd-Iomnachaidh (learners forum for questions and discussion of the language in Gaelic or English), Òrain Gha’idhlig (for discussion of and sharing of Scottish Gaelic songs in Gaelic or English), Gaelic Culture, Ann’s a’ Gha’idhlig (Gaelic only please!) and Eachdraidh (history).

There are also forums for suggestions for the webmaster and ACGA Board if you have an idea for a feature or forum you would like to see on the website or an idea you would like the board to consider. In addition, there are several forums reserved for the ACGA Board and committee members that cannot be viewed unless someone is a member of the board or of the committee in question.

ACGA members are required to register to view and post in the forums. You will need to create a user name and password. You might want to write that information down and put it in a safe place, but no worries: should you forget it an email to Shannon Duncan at webmaster@acgamerica.org will get you back on track.

There is a FAQ section on the site that should answer all of your questions, but you can also follow the tutorial below. A tutorial on how to use the new site follows.

Duilleag 1
A Chàirdean,

Chan eil an samhradh ann fhathast, ann an Toronto co-chìù, ach bidh e an seo a dh’athairhear thar mi an dòchas! Tha an là fhìuch fionnmar agus tha mi a’ sgriobhadh seo. ‘S e an seorsa là a th’ann gum bu toigh leat a bhith a-staigh leughadh leabhar mATH Gàidhlig ’s docha. Tha dà no tri air a’ngaelg agam nach do leugh mi fhathast.

Ach tha obair agam ri dhèanamh cuideachd. Tha an obair seo a’r air fad saor-thòileach ach thà i a’ còrdadh rium glan. Tha feadhainn agaibh a’ cuideachadh leis a’ phróiseact seo cuideachd, tha fhios ’am, ach bidh an feadhainn eile nach eil eòlach air a’ ghnòthach seo, tha mi cinn-teach.


Ach thà pròiseact mhòr eile aig Trueman — a’ cló-bhuailadh “Dwelly” às ur, agus tha mi an sàs anns a’ phróiseact sin. Feumaidh gach duileag a bhith clò-sgribhde agus feumaidh sinn na mearachd a chur ceart (seadh — tha mearachd ann!) Chan eil mi math air clò-sgribhadh, agus tha mi slàdach gu dearbh, ach ’s e obair air leth inntinneach a th’innite.

Gu tric, ‘s i an obair as cudthromaisce an obair gun dioladh (uill, gun airgead co-chìù.) Tha mi ag ionnsachadh facail ùra feumailleach gach là. Sin mar a tha e leis ACGA cuideachd — tha an obair cudthromach inntinneach agus tha riarchadh mòr ann a bhith ga dhèanamh.

Ma bhios agaibh uair no dhà gach mòr bhiodh sin direach sgoineil! Bu toil leinn chluinninn bhuaibh! Cha bhi sibh a’ faighinn beartas, ach bidh sibh a’ faighinn toil-eachas.

Friends,

It isn’t summer yet, in Toronto anyway, but it will be here soon I hope. It’s wet and cool as I am writing this. It’s the sort of day that you would like to be inside reading a good Gaelic book, perhaps. I have two or three on my shelf that I haven’t read yet.

But I have work to do as well. This work is totally voluntary but I enjoy it a lot. I know that some of you are helping with this project too, but there are some others that don’t know about this undertaking I’m sure.

Some of our members will be familiar with Trueman Matheson from Nova Scotia. He’s a Gaelic publisher. In 2004 he republished “An t-Òranais/The Gaelic Songster.” “Treasure Island” and a poetry book will be coming out at the end of the year.

But Trueman has another big project — republishing “Dwelly,” and I am involved with that project. Each page must be typed, and we must correct the errors (yes — there are mistakes!) I’m not good at typing and I’m slow, but it’s particularly interesting work.

Often, the most important work is work without recompense (well, without money anyway.) I’m learning a lot of useful new words though. That’s the way it is with ACGA too — the work is important and interesting and there is great satisfaction in doing it.

If you have an hour or two every month, that would be just great! We’d love to hear from you. You won’t get rich, but you’ll find satisfaction.

leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Janice Chan
ruadh@idirect.com
ACGA Board Meeting: April 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by teleconference by President Janice Chan, all board members in attendance.

Membership Report
The renewal reminders that Membership Secretary Wes Mangus has been sending out seem to be working. According to the most recent count, ACGA has 153 members.

Committee Reports

* Administration
We are now legitimately registered as a non-profit in the state of Texas, with new articles of incorporation reflecting the change of our official address from Maryland to Texas. Our new accountability system, including a division of the treasurer’s duties, is in place and seems to be working well. All mail is sent to the PO Box in Denver, where Glenn Wrightson collects it and sends it on to the appropriate person. We continue to need volunteers to help with various committees that seem to be a bit more labor intensive than others. The Immersion Weekend, Outreach, Publications (print and Web) and Election Committees especially require extra help.

* Election
We have a total of six candidates for the three board openings. Ballots have been printed and are ready to be sent. It was agreed that the IW (first weekend of June in Texas) would be a good place to recruit people for the next election committee, with the hope that at least one person from the present committee will stay on to guide the committee’s work next year.

* Gaidhealtachd Support
In the last fiscal year, the committee supported Trueman Matheson upcoming publication of the Nova Scotia Keppech Bard book and the university scholarship. (See below.) There are no pending grant applications at this time. We know, however, that there are worthy organizations around that don’t even know we exist, and they might be doing projects we would like to support. Rather than solicit actual applications, the committee is drafting a letter to send to selected organizations telling a little about ACGA’s purpose and programs.

The committee is also preparing posters that people can use at events to raise awareness of ACGA. These will be put on the website for local groups to use.

* Grandfather Mountain
Arrangement are on track for this year’s Song and Language Workshop in North Carolina at the beginning of July. This year’s teachers will be Beathag Mhoireanad, Gillebride MacMillan, Margaret Bennett, and Jamie MacDonald.

* Immersion Weekend
Arrangements are also well underway for the IW at the University of Texas in early June. Teachers for this year’s IW will be Ailig MacDonald (advanced), Muriel Fisher (Beginner II), Kathleen Reddy (Beginner) and Maureen Lyon (Intermediate). Since the Scottish Texas Festival will take place on the same campus on the same weekend, we are investigating combining some evening activities with the festival.

* Outreach
The board discussed efficient ways of recruiting new members. Promoting membership in connection with our specific events (IW, Grandfather Mountain) seems to work, and the committee will experiment with advertising these events in local publications in addition to or perhaps instead national Scottish publications. The committee is drafting an awareness-raising letter which will be sent to targeted smaller local Scottish organizations.

* National Mòd
Arrangements are coming along for this year’s Mòd which will be the 20th U.S. National Mòd, to be held in early September in Ligonier, Pa., with many special guests attending. The committee are preparing t-shirts with the new Mòd logo to be sold as a fundraiser.

* Publications
The website continues to improve and evolve. Shannon Duncan, the webmaster, would welcome help in updating materials. As always, Liam welcomes submissions for Naidheachd from ACGA members, especially news of local events or study groups.

* Scholarship / Education
Seven ACGA members entered the scholarship competi-
Mountain Song and Language Workshop will again be combined into one grand event to be held in early July in North Carolina.

Moran Taing

Anne Landin and John Fraser are both stepping down from the ACGA Board of Directors, after completing two terms each. Janice thanked them for all the work they’ve done in the years they’ve served, and the board gave them a round of applause.

The next meeting of the ACGA board will be July 22, 2007.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Cam MacRae

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Tutorial for Registration

First, point your browser to http://www.acgamerica.org/forum. You can do this by typing this address exactly as printed here into your browser’s address bar and selecting “Go” (Firefox users click the green, right-pointing arrow at the end of the address bar) or press “Enter” on your computer’s keyboard.

Next, you will see the forum’s “front page.” Across the top you will see several links directly under the heading of the forum, “An Comunn Gàidhealach America – ACGA,” FAQ, Search, Memberlist, Usergroups, and Register. The last link in the first row is “Register.” Click “Register.”

The next page you see will be called “Registration Agreement Terms” giving you all the legalese to do with users not holding ACGA as an organization responsible for material on the forum users might find objectionable and to do with users not posting objectionable material of specific kinds. Please read it, then click “I Agree to these terms and am over or exactly 13 years of age.”

The next section is the most important part. It is an online form you fill out, section by section, in which you specify your username, password, and specific settings regarding the use of your e-mail address and other relevant items. Select a username that is easily remembered. Your first initial, middle initial, and last name works extremely well and makes it easier to find, modify, and help you when the occasions arise that problems accessing one section or another (or the entire forum) occur. This is, however, a suggestion; you can use whatever you please. Just be sure to keep track of it.

Let’s go through each section one at a time. The first section is labeled “Registration Information” and contains 6 blanks, one each for your username, your real name, your e-mail address, your password, a place to confirm the spelling and capitalization (if any) of your password by retyping it, and a place to type the Confirmation Code printed in the fuzzy, gray area. For the first 5 blanks simply fill out with the information required. For the sixth blank, look inside the fuzzy, gray area and type into the Confirmation Code blank the sequence of letters, numbers, or both printed inside the fuzzy, gray area.

The next section is called “Profile Information” and mainly consists of your contact information that doesn’t pertain to the forum itself as well as personal information about you that you may share (or not). This information will be displayed underneath your name when you post to the forum in the left-hand column. None of this information is required to register, so you may leave it blank if you wish.

The next section is labeled “Preferences” and determines how you interact with the forum itself. Each selection changes what you can and cannot do when using the forum pages. The best advice for this section is if you don’t know what it does, don’t change it.

At the very bottom is a set of buttons, “Submit” and “Reset.” When you are finished entering all the information you plan on using, click “Submit.” If you have entered everything properly, the forum will display a message saying that your account has been created but needs activation by the administrator. Your account will be activated as soon as your ACGA membership status has been checked, generally 24-72 hours.

If at any time during the registration process you need help, send e-mail to webmaster@acgamerica.org and Shannon will respond as soon as he can, usually within 24-72 hours. When e-mailing, please include as much detail as you can about the problem(s) you are experiencing so Shannon can take the appropriate measures or give you the best and fastest instructions to help you.

— by Shannon Duncan and Janice Chan
Two years ago, at the 2004 ACGA Mòd, I won a prize for original prose composition in Gàidhlig. I had written a story about some of my Scottish ancestors as part of the mail-in Mòd, because I thought it would be both fun and educational. I had no idea there was a real prize, and was surprised and delighted to win a scholarship for a short course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye. The prize was donated to the Mòd by the college itself.

I fully intended to submit the story for publication in An Naidheachd, but didn’t, because of some combination of: (1) procrastination, and (2) an acute awareness that there were many grammatical errors still in the story.

Early in August 2006, I actually took the course I’d won, and thought take the opportunity to report on the course itself and publish the story at the same time. That should take care of problem 1. And problem 2 is less of an issue now. Not only have my own skills improved in the meantime, but I’ve had some help with the story itself, from my two excellent long-distance instructors, Jamie MacDonald (of Saint Francis Xavier University) and Gillebride MacIlemhail. Any remaining errors will simply demonstrate that I still haven’t absorbed everything they’ve taught me.

First, I’ll tell you about SMO. The story follows.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is, indeed, a special place, as the title of this article suggests (you’ll understand the strange wording later). Founded in 1973, SMO is a small college, the only one in the world in which the college is run, and the higher education courses taught, entirely in Gàidhlig. It offers its college curriculum to some 100 students, its distance-learning program to 160, and its week-long summer short courses to about 900. It’s a very pleasant, modern facility, set in a beautiful location. Eventually, almost every truly serious U.S. student of Gàidhlig goes there.

And indeed, I was there once before, for a very satisfying course at level 5 (8 is the highest) that marked the beginning of real conversation for me. But there’s a special satisfaction associated with taking the level 8 course for the first time. It isn’t smugness — no such attitude could possibly survive the humbling experience of an actual class. But it does have a certain “I have finally arrived” feeling about it. I suspect it will turn out to be a lot like earning a black belt in the martial arts — an important?

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stepping stone, but one that marks the beginning, not the end, of the real journey.

Be that as it may, it was a very helpful course, taught by Beathag Mhioireasdan. There were eight students (six stayed the whole week). This is a fairly typical size for the week-long short courses at SMO. The other students were all from Scotland, but folks come from all over for these courses, and there were three other Americans there, in other Gàidhlig classes. My classmates were very able Gàidhlig speakers, and I've never sung with such a strong group of singers. There were several music courses going on at the same time; accordion was a focus in this particular week, with several great box players teaching.

I was lucky enough to be at SMO during one of the two weeks of Fèis an Eilein, the Gàidhlig festival on Skye.

There were concerts every night at the college, and many other events both there and in neighboring towns. I heard a lot of good tunes and songs, discovered a great new band, and generally had a fine time. This festival occurs every year, and planning your class for this time is worth considering. Make your reservations early, though, and don't expect to get a lot of sleep.

All in all, SMO was a great experience which I heartily recommend to anyone interested in taking a leap forward in Gàidhlig. Thanks very much — to both ACGA and SMO — for the opportunity, and to Beathag and my classmates for making it a good one.

And now, let's move on to a very different place and time...

Ann an Àite Nach Eil na Àite

le Rudy Ramsey

Rinn mi mòran rudan, na mo bheatha, a chuir air bhioran mi — rudan mar càr-reiseadh, aerobicics, marathons, taekwondo. De na tachships a bu mhatha a chuir air bhioran mi? Uill, mar as trice, cha b'e na rudan sin idir, ach na làithne samhach, nuair a gheibhinn a-mach piosan ùr de dh'fiosreachadh dhèidh mun dheichinn mo shinmearan. Sin rud a chuirceas air bhioran mi gu flor! Innisid mi dhuibh mun dheichinn latha mar sin. 'S e sgeulachd fhior a th'ann mun dheichinn mo shinmearan fhìn agus cânain nan Gàidheal.

Tha ceistean air bhith agam air a' chuspair seo córr air fichhead bliadhna. Mu dheireadh thall, lorg mi na freagairtean. Agus seo tòmabhseach dhuibh. Fhuair mi na freagairtean nuair a bha mi ann an àite nach eil na àite, ann an às nach eil againne. Cait an romh mì?

'S e fear-sloinniteachd a th'annam — rannsachadh eachdraidh theaghachtach, gu flor. Tha mòran shinmearan agamsa a dh'imrich a Alba a dh'Eireann a Tuath, a dh'fhuirich an-sin iad ginealachd, agus a rinn eiltheachd gu Carolin a Tuath às deidh sin. Sin slighe chumanta, air a bheil "Albannach-Uladh", 's dòcha, nu "Ulster Scots" 'sa Bheurla co-dhiubh. Tha mu chòig sloinnideach deug anns a' chreach-bhinealaich agam a rinn imrich 'san aon doigh.

Tha aon teaghlach a rinn imrich mar sin anns a bheil úidh shon-rafichte agam, leis an t-sloinneadh "Kealey" 'sna làithne seo, nu "MacKeachey" no "MacGeachie" anns a th-sean dùthaich o chionn fhada. Dh'imrich iad a Alba a dh'Eireann a Tuath ron a' bhliadhna 1749. Tha fios agam air sin oir gun d'rugadh an trúr mhac ann an Eirinn a Tuath anns a' bhliadhna sin, nu anns na tri no ceithir bliadhna às a dheichd. Tha amharas agam gun do

In a Place That's Not a Place

by Rudy Ramsey

I've done many things in my life that I found exciting — things like sports-car racing, aerobicics, marathons, taekwondo. Which events were the most exciting? Well, often, they weren't these things at all, but quiet days when I discovered new pieces of interesting information about my ancestors. Now that's exciting! I'll tell you about a day like that. It's a true story about my own ancestors and the language of the Gaels.

I had questions on this subject for more than twenty years. At long last, I found the answers. And here's a riddle for you. I found the answers when I was in a place that's not a place, in a time that's not our own. Where was I?

I'm a genealogist — a family historian, really. I have a lot of ancestors who immigrated from Scotland to Northern Ireland, lived there for a generation, and then emigrated to North Carolina. It's a common pattern, known as "Ulster Scots." I have perhaps 15 surnames in my ancestral tree with this immigration pattern.

There's one family with which this has a special interest for me, with the surname "Kealey" these days, or "MacKeachey" or "MacGeachie" in the old country long ago. They emigrated from Scotland to Northern Ireland before 1749. I know this because their three sons were born in Northern Ireland in that year, or the three or four years thereafter. I suspect that they left Scotland after the Jacobite Rebellion, but I'm not yet certain.
They came to North Carolina, reportedly in 1767, but in any case before the American Revolution. They lived nearly 50 years in a Scottish part of North Carolina. I always wondered whether they were Gàidhlig speakers, and if they were, I wondered how long they retained the language in America. But I didn't think I would ever find such information.

My interest in these questions increased after I started learning Gàidhlig myself, for reasons unrelated to family history. But even so, I didn’t find the answers quickly.

But there came, at long last, a very special day. I was in a place that’s not a place, in a time that’s not our own. Well, I was on the Internet, anyway — a thing that’s everywhere and nowhere at all. And I was in a time far, far away from the present. I was reading the history of an old church that was in Mississippi long ago. And there were — my ancestors and my answers.

Here’s the history. In the year 1816, the three sons emigrated from North Carolina to Mississippi. This wasn’t possible for them before then, because their father’s health was too poor for such a trip. But their father died, and after a short while, the whole family left to seek their fortune in the new state. The sons were old men by then. They themselves had never lived in Scotland; they had spent nearly half a century in this country; would there have been any trace of Gàidhlig still with them?

Well, as it happened, they formed a new church in Mississippi — a church called the Philadelphus Presbyterian Church, the name of an old church in North Carolina, where they had lived. According to the history of the new church, it was created in the house of one of my ancestors. And eight of the eleven founding members were my own ancestors. But here’s the most important thing to me: Scottish Gaelic was used in the founders’ meetings. The minutes of the meetings were written in Gàidhlig. They built a new school, too, after a year or two. And there, in Wayne County, in Mississippi, in the true deep south of the United States, every class was taught in the language of the Gaels. And that remained true for several years, until new people came to the area who spoke no Gàidhlig at all.

A better answer to my questions would not be possible — or that’s my opinion, anyway. I don’t know yet whether there are papers still surviving from the early days of the church. If so, I’ll have an opportunity to read Gàidhlig written by my own ancestors — ancestors who were in the United States before there was such a place. In a way, they, too, were in a place that wasn’t a place — yet.

Duilleag 7
New Gaelic Learning Options in Nova Scotia

Gaelic education is taking several important steps forward in Cape Breton this year.

Not only is the Gaelic College strengthening its programs through a partnership with Cape Breton University, but there are several new options for language students as well. For one, a new institution, the Atlantic Gaelic Academy, is being launched to offer Gaelic instruction throughout the Maritimes. Another new group, Seanchaidh Gaelic Education and Promotion, or S.G.E.A.P., will offer immersion courses using the Total Immersion Plus teaching method developed in Scotland by Fionnlagh Mac Leòid of Comhairle nan Gòidheal Aras (go to www.ti-plus.com).

With the proliferation of online courses and resources and immersion programs, more Gaelic learners may be drawn to Nova Scotia, which is striving to maintain and increase its Gaelic-speaking community.

The Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Nova Scotia, is expanding its 10-year partnership with Cape Breton University. Over the past five years, students enrolled in the annual Gaelic College Language Immersion have been able to apply for university credit for their studies via the Distance Education department at CBU. That accreditation is being extended to cover the Beul An Tobair online Gaelic language series, providing a valuable addition to CBU’s distance offerings and allowing the Gaelic College to serve its students on a level not previously possible.

The second level online course, Beul An Tobair II, was offered as a joint effort between the two institutions. As with the first level course, the Gaelic College developed the course content and Web site. However the second course comes with an enriched syllabus. Cooperations made it possible for Gaelic College staff and staff from the Academic Support, CBU to get out and visit with Cape Breton Gaelic tradition bearers to record video footage specifically for the course. This will enrich the learning experience for students and bring Cape Breton Gaelic culture to a worldwide clientele.

This year, in addition to its traditional immersion week Aug. 19-24, the college will offer two three-week Gaelic immersion sessions; the first session, level I, will run from July 16-Aug. 3; the second, level II, from Aug. 5-Aug. 24. Both will use the T.I.P teaching methodology. In the first session, all work will be oral. The second session will make use of some texts.

For more information, visit the college’s Web site: www.gaeliccollege.edu.com.

Two one-week immersion programs will be offered in Cape Breton this summer by S.G.E.A.P.: the first in Glendale from July 9-13, and the second from July 23-27 in Judique. S.G.E.A.P.’s instructor, Goidrídh Domhnallach (Jeff MacDonald) of Kingsville, has considerable experience teaching Gaelic and has been trained in the T.I.P. methodology. He is currently instructing Sgoiltean Gàidhlig (Gaelic in the Home groups) in Glendale/Kingsville, Creignish, Judique, Port Hawkesbury and St. Andrew’s.

Ten to 15 students will be accepted in the Judique course, which is filling up, he said. During the days, tea, coffee and snacks will be provided and a lunch may be purchased on site. The Glendale class is full.

Tuition is $150 for the week which will give a total of 30 hours instruction. As well, there will be two Gaelic cultural evenings during the week — a session of singing, tunes and storytelling on Tuesday evening and on Thursday evening a short session dealing with dancing followed by a convoy to the dance at Glencoe Mills. For more information, send an e-mail to sgeap@yahoo.ca or call Goiridh at 902-625-0202.

As its name suggests, the Atlantic Gaelic Academy aims to promote Gaelic beyond Cape Breton. Its mission: to increase the number of Scottish Gaelic speakers across the region, which includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

“We created the Atlantic Gaelic Academy to bring this historic language to a whole new generation of interested students of the culture,” said AGA President Angus MacLeod of Goose Cove, Cape Breton. “It’s something we’re very proud of and we look forward to serving many thousands of students of Gaelic in the years to come.”

The academy will offer a three-year program for beginning, intermediate and advanced students, with 75 percent of class time devoted to conversation in Gaelic. CDs and online sound files by fluent speakers will be available to students on a continuous basis, and students will be able to study and speak the language together online, MacLeod said. Part of its aim is to help students living in remote areas, far from traditional learning centers, become proficient in the language.

Each level of the course runs from September through May of the following year. There are 30 sessions during this period, and each session is three hours duration. There are scheduled

We look forward to serving many thousands of students of Gaelic in the years to come.”
weeks off for breaks and to give students the opportunity to attend Gaelic Immersions.

At completion of the advanced level, students may be tested for a “Certificate in Gaelic Language Studies.”

The AGA’s courses are available throughout North America, and there are AGA representatives across Canada and the Northeast United States. The regional director for Ontario is AGA President Janice Chan.

MacLeod is well known to many Gaelic learners for his work at the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Ann’s, Cape Breton. He has run an online course for the college for several years. Other officers of the non-profit academy are Michael Linkletter, vice president, who teaches Celtic studies at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia; and Bob Leonard, treasurer, of Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Catriona Parsons and Muriel Fisher of Saint Francis Xavier University and the University of Arizona, respectively, are advisors to the academy. Additional information is available on the AGA website at: www.gaelicacademy.ca.

Gaelic Class at Ligonier Games To Precede ACGA National Mòd

A one-day class in Scottish Gaelic will be offered at the Ligonier Highland Games, Ligonier, Pa., on Friday, Sept. 7 by former ACGA board member Phil Smith, a professor emeritus in language and linguistics.

“Introduction to Gaelic” will be an all-day look at Scottish Gaelic — its history, sounds and vocabulary, basic sentence structure and “cracking the written code.”

Students will learn a few songs as well, including the Gaelic versions of “Morag of Dunvegan” and “Amazing Grace.”

It’s a good chance to brush up on your Gaelic before attending the ACGA U.S. National Mòd, which begins that evening and continues through Sunday, Sept. 9. The main song competitions will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Ligonier Highland Games.

The cost of the one-day seminar will be $30 for a bundle of a book, handouts, and cassettes. Professor Smith also plans to start a Gaelic study group in Cookeville, Tenn. For more information on the seminar at Ligonier, or the study group write to smith-phild@aol.com.

Busy B.O.G. Spreads Gaelic Word

It’s been a busy year so far for the Buidhean Obrach Ghàidhlig of Cranberry Township, Pa.

In January, B.O.G. Cranberry celebrated Burns Dinner with the MacDonald Pipe Band in Southside Pittsburgh.

Harry Webb was asked to give an “old Gaelic toast” they group found on the Internet. “It impressed a few, frightened a few and was received well by the crowd in attendance,” Harry said. “We got a list of names and info of some interested persons at the St Andrew’s Tartan Day celebration in Pittsburgh where we presented a 45 minute introduction to Gaelic to a class of about 15 people.

“I am currently arranging a time and place for these classes closer to the city proper for those who can’t (won’t) travel,” he added. “I expect to get started in June.”

In May, the B.O.G. went to the Edinboro Highland Games in Edinboro, Pa. “True to its name, Edinboro enjoys a lot of Scottish weather,” Harry said. “We began selling T-shirts in Edinboro, with Gaelic slogans on them. They sell quickly.”

In June, the group went to the McHenry Games in Maryland. “It was small but very well attended. More t-shirts and a sunburn,” he said.

As at Edinboro, the group provided a free introduction to Gaelic and a list of Internet sites. “One young woman returned this year and began speaking to me in Gaelic,” said Harry. “She had stopped by last year and is now in contact with Internet ‘pen-pals’ in Glasgow. She’s doing quite well for not having an instructor near by.”

Dè tha ’Dol?

July-August: Weekly Gaelic courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye, Scotland. Contact: http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/

July 7: North Carolina Gaelic Mòd at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Contact: same as Language Week directly below.

July 8-13: ACGA Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Contact: Libit Woodington at LibitW@aol.com, Cam MacRae at cam.macrae@insightbb.com, or Jamie MacDonald at jmacle- don@stfx.ca.

July 23-27: Week-long T.I.P. Gaelic Immersion in Judique, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. This will be led by Jeff MacDonald (Goiridh Dòmhnallach) and limited to 15 students. Contact: sceapat@yahoo.ca or phone Jeff at (902) 625-0202.

Aug. 13-18: Fèis an Eilein, Christmas Island, Nova Scotia. Contact feisailein@ns.sympatico.ca or meaghan.feisaelie-in@ns.sympatico.ca or phone Jeff at (902) 622-2627.


Sept 7-9: ACGA’s 20th Annual Mòd, in Ligonier, Pa. Contact: Nick Freer neacalban1@aol.com.


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
520-882-3308
skye@dakotacom.net

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

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

Eva Gordon
Celtic Arts Center
Studio City, Calif.
egclareach@aol.com

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@speakaega.com

Colorado
Glenn Wrightson
2673 S. York St.
Denver, Colo. 80027
303-698-9023

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

Rudy Ramsey
(Stella's Coffeehouse Study Group)
Denver, Colo.
rudy@ramisle.com
303-332-7643

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

Florida
Steven McBride
7904 Capwood Avenue
Tampa, Fla. 33617
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 Carhrice/Tom Leigh
1 Bridge Path Circle
Sandwich, Mass. 02563
508-888-0107
info@mermaid-productions.com

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
New York Caledonian Club
Don Ross, instructor
Ripley-Grier Studios, 520 8th Avenue, New York, N.Y.
Fpr information, call (212) 662-1083
and leave a message for Priscilla
Campbell or Kit Macmillan.
studies@nycaledonian.org

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

John P. Barlow
951 Sunny Side Drive
Osweego, N.Y. 13827
607-687-3272

North Carolina
The Guilford Gaelic Learners
Greensboro, N.C.
Contact: An Phillips
angelwyn@aol.com

Asheville Gaelic Study Group
University of North Carolina
Asheville, N.C.
Contact: Leigh McBride
lmcbride@unca.edu
828-253-0442
Ohio
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
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catestewart@myway.com

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Cookeville, Tenn.
931-526-6194
smithphil@aal.com

Texas
David Gressett
Hurst, Texas
res1mmt@verizon.net
(940) 384-6249

Jonquelle Jones
Fort Worth, Texas
jonquelle@flash.net
817-294-5901

Utah
Rachell Blessing
Salt Lake City, Via Skype
rachell.blessing@acgamerica.org

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Nicholas M. Freer
20 East Linden Street
Alexandria, Va. 22301
703-836-5634
neacalban1@aol.com

Stuart Morrison Stone
3079 S. Buchanan Street, C-2
Arlington, Va. 22206
703-845-7740

Fairfax County Study Group
Rhett Lowery
540-786-4895

Michael MacKay
Classes via Skype
3860 Dumfries Road
Catlett, VA 20119
mackay@progeny.net

Washington, D.C.
James F. Goff
3405 34th Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
202-244-8687

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Richard W. Hill
#12 400 Harvard Ave. East
Seattle, Wash. 98102
206-322-3604
www.slighe.com

Toronto, Canada
Toronto Gaelic Learners Association
c/o Janice Chan
43 Norbrook Crescent
Etobicoke, Ontario M9V 4P7
ruadh@idirect.com

Montreal, Canada
Donald Macdonald
2220 Claremont, Suite 408
Montreal, Canada H3Z 2P8
514-485-1636
donaldm@megaweb.ca

Nova Scotia, Canada
Seumas Watson
P.O. Box 600
Port Hastings, Cape Breton
BOE 2T0, Canada
Phone: 1-888-4Gaellic
Email: gaeltalk@ctp.auracom.com

Nova Scotia Gaelic Council
P.O. Box 29035
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4T8
Contact: Lewis MacKinnon
Phone: (902) 826-9662

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Duilleag 11
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