An Naidheachd Againne

The Newsletter of An Comunn Gàidhealach, America

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Gàidhlig in the Heart of Texas

Immersion Weekend Brings Gaelic Learners, Teachers to University of Texas

The 2007 ACGA Immersion Weekend was a friendly, comfortable event. It took place from May 31 through June 3 at the University of Texas, in Arlington.

This was the first time that annual event was held in Texas. No matter what Ed Miller says*, it's not a bad place.

We started Thursday evening, with a "Meet & Greet" session at a barbecue restaurant. The food was good, the company better, and the beer was free (that is, if you consider Coors Lite and Miller Lite to be beer).

Scottish Gaelic students at the Texas Immersion Weekend.

The Immersion Weekend was small this year, with 15 students, in addition to the four teachers who were there, but it was good throughout. In the morning each day, each student went to a class at a level suitable for him or her. **Ailig (Alec) MacDonald** (from Valtos, on Skye) taught the fluent students. Interestingly, this was the largest class, with six students — a change from the days when most students attending the IW were beginners.

Maureen Lyon (from Lewis and British Columbia), **Kathleen Reddy** (from Nova Scotia), and **Muriel Fisher** (from Skye and Arizona) taught the other classes, with two to four students in the classes.

Friday afternoon, Kathleen gave a workshop on Gaelic prayers, and everyone got some good exercise in a session on "Scottish Cèilidh Dancing" by Maureen. In the evening, we went to the Texas Scottish Festival, which took place at the same time at the stadium of the university itself. There were games, shops, food and lots of music there. We were there for a folk-music cèilidh, and a few of us sang a song or two.

In the workshops Saturday afternoon, Alec told us about "The days of my youth in Staffan," with lots of pictures.

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Go to http://www.acgamerica.org for more information on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.

Dealbh taing do Janice Chan

Beachdan bho'n Cheann-Suidhe

Enjoying summertime — and a broad choice of Gaelic events

A Chàirdean,

Bha e cho math a bhith am measg seann chàirdean agus a' tachairt air feadhainn ùr aig a' chùrsa-bogaidh ann an Arlington, Texas, anns an Ògmhiòs.

Mar a b' àbhaist, bha na clasaichean agus na bùthan-obrach dìreach sgoinneil (tha mi an dòchas nach eil a' bhideo far an robh mi a' feuchainn an "slosh Glaschu" a dhèanamh air YouTube fhathast!)

Tha mi airson taing mhòr a thoirt do Ailig "Bhaltos" a thug dhomh mòran abairtean anns a' Ghàidhlig ghnàthasach a bheir tuairisgeul air a' chorp aosda seo. An e rud math a th' ann? Chan eil mi cinnteach fhathast.

Tha mi a' smaoineachadh gu robh a' Choinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail gu math soirbheachail cuideachd. Bha an deasbad fosgarra, onarach agus ghlac sinn saor-thagraiche no triùir a bhiodh deònach an cuid obrach a dhèanamh airson ACGA. 'S e naidheachd mhath a th' ann gu dearbh air sgath 's gum bi tuilleadh obrach daonnan nar làmhan ri dhèanamh.

'S dòcha gum bi sibh a' dol gu tachartasan Gàidhlig eile as t-samhradh seo 's sinn cho fortanach ann an Ameireaga a Tuath gu bheil rogha cho mòr againn.

An deach sibh gu Beinn Seanair ann an Carolina no am bi sibh a' dol chun a' Mhòid Naiseanta ann an Ligonier? Mòran tàing do na comataidhean a chur na tachartasan seo ri chéile dhuinn. Carson nach sgrìobh sibh thugainn agus innis dhuinn mu dheidhinn? Cuiribh na dealbhan agaibh thugainn cuideachd!

Bha coinneamh aig a' bhùird stiùiridh an là eile agus chuir sinn fàilte air Cam MacRae agus Rudy Ramsey. Tha iad nam buill ùra air a' bhòrd ach chan eil an saoghal Gàidhlig no ACGA nan rudan nuadh dhaibh.

Tha sinn uile deònach 's deiseil — cuiribh ur smaoin-tean thugainn agus nì sinn an còrr.

Mar a theirear, "Obair obair Fhearchair!"

It was great to meet old friends and make new ones at the immersion in Arlington, Texas, in June. As usual we had excellent classes and workshops (I hope that video of me trying to do the Glasgow Slosh didn't make in on to You Tube yet!) Thanks to Ailig "Valtos" I now have a lot more phrases to describe this aging body in idiomatic Gaelic. I'm still trying to decide if that's a good thing.

The Annual General Meeting was very successful as well, I think. We had an open, honest discussion, and a number of people came forward to volunteer in some capacity for ACGA. Good news indeed, as there is always more work than hands to do it.

Perhaps you will be attending other Gaelic events this summer, and we're so fortunate here in North America that we have such a choice. Did you go to Grandfather Mountain or will you be going to the National Mòd in Ligonier? Many thanks to the committees that put these events together for us. Why don't you write to us and tell us about your experiences? Pictures are good too!

The board met the other day and we welcomed Cam MacRae and Rudy Ramsey. They may be new to the board but they are certainly not new to ACGA or Gaelic. We're all ready and willing — send us your ideas and we'll do the rest.

As they say, "No rest for the wicked!"

leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Janice Chan

An Naidheachd Againne

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An Naidheachd Againne welcomes submissions. Contact the editor for more information.

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After that, we went to the kitchen, in order to learn how to make scones. Unfortunately, I can't tell you how — I ate my notes.

We had our own cèilidh Saturday evening, and a good time was had by all. The annual ACGA general membership meeting also took place at the Immersion Weekend. Thirteen people came, and we talked about the event itself, plans for future IWs, and other activities of ACGA.

Many thanks to David Gressett (organizer of the event) and Janice Chan (ACGA president, who gave David a lot of help with an emergency or two). Special thanks to Julie Shank, a friend of David, who did many things for everyone during the event itself. She spoke no Gaelic at all before the IW, and we were pleased that she tried the beginners' class.

— by Rudy Ramsey

* Scottish singer Ed Miller's song, "The Devil Made Texas," is hilarious. Look it up if you haven't heard it.

Ailig "Bhaltos" a' teagasg ann an Texas.

Dealbh taing do Janice Chan

Ag Ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an Cridhe Texas

'S e tachartas càirdeal 's comhairteal a bh'anns an deireadh-seachdain bogaidh ACGA 2007 (an "IW" mar a chanadh sinn).

Chaidh a thogail bhon 31mh latha den Chèitein gus an treas latha den t-Ògmhios, aig Oilthigh Texas, ann an Arlington. B'e seo a cheud turas airson an tachartas bliadhnail seo a bhith ann an Texas.

A dh'aindheoin na thuirt Ed Miller, chan e àite dona a th'ann.*

Thoisich sinn feasgair diardaoin, le seisean "Meet & Greet" aig taigh-bidh barbecue. Bha am biadh math, an cuideachd nas fheàrr, agus an leann saor an asgaidh (uill, ma tha thu a' smaoineachadh gur e leann a th'ann an Coors Lite is Miller Lite, cò-dhiù).

> "Bha am biadh math, an cuideachd nas fheàrr, agus an leann saor an asgaidh."

Bha an IW beag am bliadhna, le 15 sgoilearan a bharrachd air na ceathrar tidsearan a bh'ann, ach bha e math gu lèir. 'Sa mhadainn gach latha, chaidh a h-uile sgoilear gu clas aig ìre a bha freagaireach dha. Theagasg **Ailig "Bhaltos" Dòmhnallach** (às an Eilean Sgitheathanach) na sgoilearan fileanta. B'e sin an clas as motha, le sianar sgoilearan.

Theagasg **Maureen Lyon** (à Leòdhas agus British Columbia), **Kathleen Reddy** (à Alba Nuadh), agus Muriel Fisher (às an Eilean Sgitheathanach agus Arizona) na clasaichean eile, le dithis gu ceathrar sgoilearan anns na clasaichean.

Feasgair Dihaoine rinn Kathleen buth-obrach air ùrnaighean Gàidhlig, agus ghabh a h-uile duine eacarsaich math ann an seisean air "Scottish Cèilidh Dancing" le Maureen. 'San oidhche, chaidh sinn gu Fèis Albannach Texas, a bh'ann aig an aon àm aig lann-cluiche na h-oilthigh fhèin. Bha geamaichean, buthan, biadh agus mòran ceòl ann. Bha sinne ann airson cèilidh ciùil-dùthchais, agus ghabh feudhainn dhuinn òran no dhà.

Anns na buthan-obrach feasgair Sathairne, dh'innis Ailig dhuinn mu dheidhinn "Laithean m'òige ann an Stafainn," le mòran dealbhan. An dèidh sin, chaidh sinn chun a'chidsin, gus ionnsachadh ciamar a dheanamaid sconaichean. Gu mì-fhortanach, chan urrainn dhomh innse dhuibhse – dh'ith mi mo notaichean.

Rinn sinn ar cèilidh fhèin oidhche Shathairne, agus bha "times mhath" ann airson a h-uile duine.

Chaidh coinneamh ballrachd bliadhnail ACGA a thogail, cuideachd. Thàinig 13 daoine, agus bruidhinn sinn air an tachartas fhèin, planaichean airson a leithid 'san àm ri teachd, agus gnìomhan eile ACGA.

Mòran taing gu Daibhidh Gressett (fear-stiùiriche an tachartais) agus Seònag Chan (bana-stiùiriche ACGA, a thug mòran chuideachaidh do Dhaibhidh le èiginn no dhà). Taingean sonraichte gu Julie Shank, caraid Dhaibhidh, a rinn mòran rudan airson a h-uile duine nuair an tachartas fhèin. Cha robh Gàidhlig aice idir ro'n IW, agus bha sinn toilichte gun do dh'fheuch i 'n clas airson luchd-tòiseachaidh.

— le Rudy Ramsey

Thall 's a-Bhos

News from the Growing Gaelic Community

Atlantic Gaelic Academy Readies for First Semester

They say that when you start something new you can expect the unexpected, and that's been the case with the starting of the Atlantic Gaelic Academy. Fortunately, the unexpected has been very positive for the AGA.

The launch of the academy was no sooner announced when they received a telephone call from the BBC Radio nan Gàidheal in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, wanting to do a radio interview (in Scottish Gaelic). It was just the first of a round of media interviews from across Canada and the United Kingdom.

> "The AGA has already surpassed its expected enrollment numbers for its first semester."

The founding of the school was announced in March simultaneously with the launching of its Web site, with classes to start in September. Within the first week the AGA said it received over a thousand hits on its Web site from a wide geographic area. Canada accounted for the largest majority of the hits, but there were many from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Visitors also were logged from Spain, Ireland, France, Russia, Australia, Slovenia, Korea, Chile, Italy and Argentina, just to name a few other countries. Within Canada, the Maritime Provinces, as would be expected, accounted for the largest portion of hits, but Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia were strong as well.

The response from the Maritime Gaelic Community has been excellent with practically all the key members of the community offering congratulations and many offering to assist in any way they could. The AGA also received many offers from native Gaelic speakers now living in other parts of Canada, the United States, and even Scotland, to participate in the school and to teach classes.

The academy said it was particularly surprised with the large number of enrollments it has received already. Most enrollments were expected to come around the end of August and the first part of September, but they have already surpassed the numbers expected.

In the Maritimes, with the number of students already enrolled, the academy expects to have classes in Halifax, Antigonish/New Glasgow, Baddeck, Mabou and Sydney, Nova Scotia and Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John, New Brunswick. There will also be regular online classes for those who can't attend a class in person.

Enrollments have been significant from outside the Maritimes as well. There have been many individual enrollments, and there will also be a number of complete classes, which have been operating on their own previously, that will be joining to access the AGA program.

It seems that the AGA is filling a void and providing something that has been needed but not available until now. It seems to have struck a chord with people who have made comments like "That's what's needed," "Tremendous," "What a great idea," and "This has been missing until now."

The school provides a unique structured program where continuous progress is being made towards the ultimate goal of being fluent in Scottish Gaelic, where the students can speak Gaelic with others at any time they wish, and that provides the numerous advantages detailed on their Web site at www.gaelicacademy.ca.

Dè tha 'Dol?

Sept. 7: One-day introduction to Scottish Gaelic at the Ligonier Highland Games, Ligonier, Pa. Contact Phil Smith at smith-phild@aol.com.

Sept. 7-9: ACGA's 20th Annual Mòd, at the :Ligonier Highland Games in Ligonier, Pa. Beathag Mhoireasdan, adjudicator, with special guests Alasdair Whyte, Kirsteen Macdonald and Catriona Parsons. Contact: Nick Freer neacalban1@aol.com.

Oct. 5-13: Celtic Colours festival in Nova Scotia. Concerts and workshops held at various venues throughout Cape Breton. Contact: http://www.celtic-colours.com.

Oct. 12-20: The Royal National Mòd, Fort William, Scotland. Contact: http://www.the-mod.co.uk.

Know of any other upcoming Gaelic events? Please write Glenn Wrightson at thegaelicguy@hotmail.com to have it listed here.

Faire Shunndach Chaluim Mhic Leòid

Thàinig film gu math goirid a-mach air DVD mu dheireadh, "Faire Chaluim Mhic Leòid," film ann an Gàidhlig bho dh'Eilean Cheap Breatainn.

Cha mhair "Faire Chaluim" ach sia mionaidean, ach theirinn gun do chuir iad tuilleadh anns na sia mionaidean na gheibh thu ann an iomadh film fada nas fhaide

Tha "Faire Chaluim" suidhichte ann an Ceap Breatainn. An toiseach, thachair sinn ri Calum nuair a bha e na dhuine òg, aig innse sgeulachdan mu dheidhinn Baran Mòr na Gaoithe dhan chloinn aige. Ach thionndaidh an suidheachadh ann an dìog gus an latha an-diugh. Tha Calum a-nist na bhodach (mar a tha e 'san dealbh seo). Tha a chlann sgapte, mar a thuirt e, "fad is farsaing," agus tha e na ònar.

Oidhche dhorcha, stormeil a th'ann agus tha Calum a' gearan leis a' Bharan.

"Dè am feum a th'ann an sgeul," a tha e ga fhoighneachd, "gun luchd-èisteachd?"

Geallaidh Calum gun stad e 'g innse sgeulachdan — "tha mi deis le innse sgeulachdan," tha e ag ràdh — agus an uair a chanas e sin, stad a chridhe — diùltaidh a chridhe a bhualadh — agus thuit e cho marbh ri sgadan air an ùrlar fuar cruaidh.

Agus cha b'e sin ach toiseach an fhilm!

Thig a chlann air ais gu Ceap Breatainn agus chì sinn Seumas, Uilleam agus Mòrag a' tighinn dhachaidh airson fàire a' bhodaich bhochd. Ach chuir iad car anns an sgeul nach innis mi dhuibh … chuir e clisg orm nuair a chunnaic mise e.

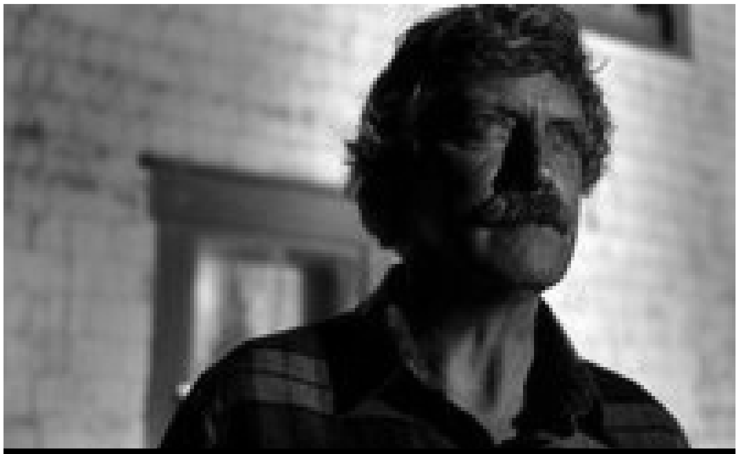
Dh'fhaoidte gu bheil sibh cho glic 's gum faic sibh e a' tighinn, ach cha chan mise an còrr.

Dè am feum a th'ann an sgeulachd? 'S dòcha gu bheil feum ann fhathast, à rèir coltais.

'S math an obair a rinn iad nuair a chuir iad an DVD seo ann an cruth. Tha fo-thiotalan ann anns a' Bheurla agus ann an Gàidhlig cuideachd. Tha tuilleadh do dh'fhiosrachaidh ann mu dheidhinn an fhilm, Gàidhlig, cultar agus ceòl Gàidhealach ann an Ceap Breatainn. Chuir iad na storyboards ann, agus bha iad gu math inntinneach.

Cò-dhiubh, bha "Faire Chaluim" 'gam chòrdadh gu mòr, mòr. Meal ur naidheachd dhan a h-uile duine a bha a' sàs anns an fhilm, gu h-àraidh Aonghas Mac Leòid — "Calum" fhèin.

Chan eil ach an aon gearan agam — 's gun robh e ro-ghoirid. Dh'fhaoidte gum faic sinn tuilleadh filmichean mar seo a' tighinn a-mach — à Ceap Breatainn agus à Alba.



Aonghas MacLeòid mar "Chalum.".

Agus cha bu chòir dhomh an ceòl dhìochuimhneachadh – tha ceòl uamhasach math bho Mhàiri Sìne Lamond anns an fhilm, agus fìdhleireachd bho Eòs Peadar MacIllEathain.

Ma's toigh leibh "Faire Chaluim Mhic Leòid" fhaicinn agus a cheannach, rachaibh gu www.gaelicbooks.com, an làrach-lìn aig Sìol Enterprises ann an Alba Nuaidh. Tha an DVD ri reic an sin airson seachd deug dollar Aimearaigeanach, mu fhichead dollar Canaideanach.

Tha fiosrachadh eile mu dheidhinn an fhilm ri fhaotainn aig www.wakeofcalummacleod.ca.

— le Liam Ó Caiside

"The Wake of Calum MacLeod," a short film in Scottish Gaelic from Cape Breton, is now available on DVD. Although it runs little more than six minutes, it packs more story in that short time than many much longer films. Through Calum, an aging man whose children are far from their father and home, the film poses the question, "What's the use in old stories?" The answer is "quite a lot." Stories and the memory of stories are enough to bring a family — and perhaps a community — back together, at least one more time. The film is available for $17 U.S. from Sìol Enterprises at www.gaelicbooks.com. More information is available at www.wakeofcalummacleod.ca.

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

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Linda C. Hopkins
PO Box 1418
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Muriel Fisher
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Arkansas

Christie Saunders
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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.
egclarsach@aol.com

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

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

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Denver, Colo. 80027
303-698-9023

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(Stella's Coffeehouse Study Group)
Denver, Colo.
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303-332-7643

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

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

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

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

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Callanish School Of Celtic Arts
Maggie Carchrie/Tom Leigh
1 Bridle 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 Kitty Macmillan.
studies@nycaledonian.org

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

John P. Barlow
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The Guilford Gaelic Learners
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