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Grandfather Mountain 2013



Interested in Scottish Gaelic, the ancient and revered tongue of Scotland that's still spoken today? Please join us for the 15th Annual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, July 7-12, 2013, at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC.

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (The American Scottish Gaelic Society, ACGA) brings you three distinguished Gaelic Instructors for a week of educational and fun-filled classes. James Graham and Kirsteen MacDonald are both Scottish Royal National Mòd gold medal winners for song. They will be teaching the intermediate and advanced classes. Dr. Jamie MacDonald, who was instrumental in founding the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week and the NC Provincial Mòd, will be teaching the beginners' classes.

This year's instructors



James Graham is from Lochinver in the far Northwest corner of Sutherland. In 2004, James won the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Award – the first male and first Gaelic singer to do so. In 2007, James won the gold medal in Gaelic singing at the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber. James is a talented singer as well as an accomplished piper and he has released two acclaimed solo albums. Here's a sample: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm-UhubHMZw>. James works with

many artists in the Gaelic music scene, including Mary Ann Kennedy, Fiona Mackenzie, Brian Ó hEadhra, and Rachel Walker.

Kirsteen MacDonald is an award-winning singer and is a well-known BBC Gaelic



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television broadcaster. She has worked on the children's show *Dè a-nis?* and is now BBC's first ever Gaelic weather reporter. Kirsteen also presents the weekly news review programme, *Seachd Là*. In addition to teaching language and song, Kirsteen will also be covering the week's activities and the Highland Games for the BBC.



Here's a sample of Kirsteen's music: http://www.musicinscotland.com/acatalog/MP3_Kirsteen_MacDonald_CDs.html.



North Carolina's own Dr. Jamie MacDonald will be teaching the beginners' classes this year. Jamie holds a Ph.D. in Scottish Studies from the University of Edinburgh and a DipHE in Gaelic and Related Studies from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in the Isle of Skye. Jamie has taught Gaelic language and song in the U.S. and Scotland, and was Professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada.

Gaelic song and language classes will range from absolute beginners to advanced, so everyone can join in the fun. Every afternoon there will be additional activities, such as special topic workshops and hikes along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain Trails.

For those who choose to stay on for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the following weekend, there will be plenty of Gaelic heard at the Gaelic Tent, including the Gaelic sing-alongs. The 17th Annual North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd will be held Saturday afternoon. The Mod is a Gaelic song competition that is open for anyone who wishes to take part.

Cìsean [[Fees]]

All instruction, lodging for 5 nights and 3 meals a day from Sunday evening dinner to Friday lunch are included. There are options for tuition only for those not staying at the college and family members not attending classes as well.

Both single and double rooms are available and anyone wishing one can have a single room at the same price as a double. Cafeteria meals are quite good and provide a good selection to cater to most diets. A salad bar is offered at almost every meal and an ice cream bar is always available as well. Further meals and additional dorm room nights are available for a reasonable charge from the college for those staying for the Highland Games.

Please note that all fees are required to be paid by mail or by PayPal prior to the event. Except in extreme circumstances, we do not intend to receive payments at the event itself.

Clàr-Ùine [[Schedule]]

Check in will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be available for those who arrive before 6 pm. Classes will begin Monday and run through noon on Friday. There are a variety of special interest sessions being planned for the afternoon and opportunities for fellowship with other Gaelic learners in the evening.

Fiosrachadh Tèicneolach [[IT]]

Those wishing to bring laptops, the wireless network at Lees-McRae College will be available; however, in order to connect to it, one must have already downloaded or be willing to download from Lees-McRae the current version of Microsoft Live Update and an active anti-virus program. We are told that if you do not have either of these that you may download them from Lees-McRae College. They provide a free download of AVG Anti-virus, by Grisoft.

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For people using Macintosh computers, you will no longer have to go to LMC's Tech Services; you will be prompted to download them as well, if you don't have the required software and updates. Vista will also work, we are told.

Here's a link to the Lees-McRae College FAQ on IT: http://www.lmc.edu/student_life/technology_services/faq.htm

Siubhal [[Travel]]

If you will be flying, the nearest airports are Tri-Cities, Tennessee, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Take a look at the Town of Banner Elk Web site.

Van Service from Charlotte Airport to Lees-McRae College Banner Elk

Contact Dan with Air Haven Limo

Dana@airhavenlimo.com

828-265-2504  828-265-2504

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, from Johnson City, TN, and the Tri-Cities Airport area:

Take 321 northeast from Johnson City to Elizabethton. From Elizabethton continue east on 19E across the state line to Elk Park, NC. At Elk Park go left on 194 to Banner Elk. As you come to the top of the hill and enter Banner Elk, Lees-McRae College is on your right. Total driving time from Johnson City is about one hour. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, from Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Charlotte Douglas International airport:

NOTE: These directions are not the same as Mapquest or Yahoo! but are better suited to those not familiar with mountain driving.

Directions to Lees-McRae College from Charlotte airport:

When you come out of the airport, head for Interstate 85 NORTH. Interstate 85 N will soon junction with Interstate 77.

- Take Interstate 77 north. Follow this until the junction with US Highway 421.
- Then take US Highway 421 West until you reach Boone, NC. You are almost there now.
- Simply take Highway 105 south in Boone until you get to the Scottish Shopping Village of Tynecastle where you will see a big sign for Grandfather Mountain.
- There will also be signs there telling you to turn right on Highway 184 to get to Banner Elk. Banner Elk is only a few miles from there and the town is so small you cannot miss the college. When you come to the T-junction at the traffic light (the only one in Banner Elk), turn left and the college will be on your left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Scenic directions:

From Charlotte Douglas International Airport, take I-485 to I-85 West. Take I-85 to 321 North, at Exit 17. Follow 321 through Hickory and Lenoir to Boone. At Boone, turn left onto Rte 105 at large intersection. Take Rte 105 approximately 15 miles and turn right at the traffic light onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy). Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194 in Banner Elk. Turn left. Lees-McRae College is on the left.

From Rte. 421 in Boone, NC:

Take Rte 105 South approximately 15 miles and turn right at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

From Rte. 221 in Linville, NC:

Take Rte 105 North and turn left at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Directions to Hemlock Village – our lodging for the 2013 GS&LW:

*** Banner Elk is a small town, and you should have no problem finding the college. After you make the left turn onto 194, take the very next left onto Banner Road SW. It is a small street between buildings. Continue down this road past the parking lot on your right, through the next intersection, then turn right onto Chestnut Way SW. Take the next left and go past the Student apartments on your right and the Recreation Center (Old Gym) on your left and then you will reach Hemlock Village on your right. Fàilte!

For those who know the Lees-McRae campus well from previous years, here is a short cut! Before you get to the light at the intersection of 184 and 194, turn left as if you were going to the Avery Dorm parking lot. Turn left past the post office, go through the next intersection, then turn right onto Chestnut Way SW. Take the next left and go past the Student apartments on your right and the Recreation Center (Old Gym) on your left and then you will reach Hemlock Village on your right. Fàilte!

Here's a link to the Lees-McRae College campus map:

http://www.lmc.edu/students/prospective/visit_us/files/lmc-campus-map.pdf

Hemlock Village is in Section E5 of the map.

An Aimsir [[The Weather]]

Temperatures usually range in the low 60's to mid 80's during July. The weather is normally beautiful and cool. However, it can be hot, and it can be cold. It is advisable to bring both a fan for your room and a blanket for your bed. Shorts and lightweight long pants are both appropriate as are short sleeved t-shirts and light weight sweaters. A raincoat or umbrella is also advised just in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

Rudan Feumail [[Useful Things]]

Dorm Room Items:

- ▶ Bed linens and pillow (Those who drive are encouraged to bring their own. If you wish to rent these, \$25.00 will be due upon arrival at college. Rentals should be requested in advance. Do not add to fees.)
- ▶ Blanket for your bed
- ▶ Towels and washcloths
- ▶ Fan for your dorm room
- ▶ Desk lamp

Personal Items:

- ▶ Laptop computer, if you wish to use one during the week. Service is wireless. Have your computer updated with all Windows Updates and be sure that all programs are legal. See IT section above for further information.
- ▶ Casual clothing for both cool weather and warm (see the weather section)
- ▶ Walking or hiking shoes
- ▶ Swimsuit or fishing equipment
- ▶ Raincoat
- ▶ Camera
- ▶ Flash light (needed for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games)
- ▶ Cell phone if you want to make a call. Pay phones are not available on campus.


Classroom items:

- ▶ Gaelic reference books
- ▶ Tape recorder or pen and paper for taking notes

Other items:

- ▶ Props for cèilidh
- ▶ Musical instruments

- ▶ Items to donate for Silent Auction
- ▶ Cash or checkbook for Silent auction—great bargains!
- ▶ Dancing shoes if you are a dancer and would like to attend any of the evenings of social dancing at the Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance \$5.00 per night.
- ▶ Gaelic Language videos to share with the group at night (examples of videos watched in the past are An Ceasnachadh & The Blood is Strong)

The workshop ends just as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (July 11-14) are getting underway down the road in MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain. As usual there will be a Gaelic tent at the games, and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd will take place at the games on Saturday, July 13, 2012. If you would like to stay over for the Games and for the Gaelic Mod on 828-898-3311  Saturday of the Games, contact Lees-McRae College at 828-898-3311 to make a reservation for Friday and/or Saturday. If you don't reach anyone, leave a message and some way to get back with you. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Gaelic workshop the week before.

Claradh [[Registration]]

To register, click on your preferred option:

- ▶ [Register by email, paying by PayPal or credit card](#)
- ▶ [Register by ordinary mail, paying by check](#)

To find out more about the Gaelic Week, you can contact Dr. Jamie MacDonald at 902-386-2072 or 902-386-2072  917-756-3643  John Grimaldi at 917-756-3643. You may also contact us by email at gaelteach@gmail.com or jainmartainn@aol.com

Please join us!

A' cumail na Gàidhlig Beò – Keeping Gaelic Alive!



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