A passing downpour from Hurricane Hanna drenched spectators but didn’t dampen spirits at the 21st annual U.S. National Mòd. Sheltered by the Mòd pavilion, competitors sang through the rain Sept. 6, which only lasted about two hours on an otherwise sunny Saturday in Ligonier, Pa.

They were joined by many spectators at the Ligonier Highland Games who came to get out of the rain and stayed through the end of the competitions. Among the visitors at the Mòd pavilion and nearby ACGA information center this year were Gaelic learners from Pittsburgh, other parts of Pennsylvania and as far away as Russia.

Although the number of competitors was smaller than usual (eight in the largest competition), “we were pleased with the turnout, considering the state of the economy and fuel prices, which may have discouraged some people who usually attend the Mòd from traveling to Ligonier this year,” said Neacal Freer, Mòd Committee chairman.

The Mòd began Friday night with bàrdachd (poetry) and storytelling competitions. On Saturday, participants competed in the Òran Mall (slow song), Òran Obrach (work song), Puirt-à-beul (mouth music), Seinn Còmhla (unison singing) and Òran Luaidh (waulking) competitions and the song finals.

Adjudicator Paul McCallum of South Uist, Scotland, was pleased by what he called a high level of quality achieved by competitors in Scottish Gaelic song, poetry and storytelling at the three-day event.

“It was very good to see the progress people have made since my first visit to the U.S. National Mòd five years ago,” said McCallum. “You’re doing great work.”

McCallum led a workshop Sunday on songs collected in South Uist by American folklorist Margaret Fay Shaw. He led a discussion on how traditional songs change in transmission from generation to generation.

We welcomed Scottish Royal National Mòd Gold Medalists James Graham and Jean Mackay, as well as Kirsteen NicDhòmhnaill, the 2006 gold medalist. Our own gold medalists this year were Liam O Caiside of Virginia and Ellen Beard of Maryland. Jean Pendergast won the distance learning competition and a short course scholarship from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland’s Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.
Is e seo mo cheud litir mar cheann-suidhe ACGA. Agus tha naidheachd mhath agam dhùibh, agus naidheachd nach eil cho math.

Tha ar comunn ann an deagh chor. Tha litir-naidheachd air leith math againn, no sin no bheachadh fhìn cò-dhùi. Tha lárach-linn cuideachail againn, ged a tha feum againn uile air mòran obair a chur ann. Bha’n seachdainn oír anx's cànain Ghàidhlig ann an Carolina a Tuath math gu dearbh. Bha Mòd Naiseanta ACGA ann an Ligonier math, mar as ‘abhais. Tha sinn a’ dèanamh plana airson Deigh-charachadh Saighdeanna Bogaidh ann an an àite gu math breagha ’san ath-bhliadhadh. Tha program scoilearachd agann airson ar balloichean. Tha e comasach airson gach dhùinn a’ bhith a’ gabhail pairt anns a’ Mhod-Phuist bho’n taigh. Bidh feumhainn dhùinn ann sás ri seiseanadh Ghàidhlig air an eadar-linn. Cuiridh sin na teagmhail a thogar ar progràmam Ghàidhlig ann am mòran aiteachan ann an Ameireagaidh a Tuath agus Alba. Ba chò diùn dhùinn bhith proiseal air ar oidhirpean còmhla ri cheile. 

Cò-dhùi, chan eil sin a’ ciallachadh nach eil duilghheadas sam bith ann. O chionn beagan bliadhna, bha barrachd airgead anns a’ chunntas blàth a’ chionn, bidh feumhainn dhùinn an eadar-linn. Cuiridh sin na teagmhail a thogar ar progràmam Ghàidhlig ann am mòran aiteachan ann an Ameireagaidh a Tuath agus Alba. Ba chò diùn dhùinn bhith proiseal air ar oidhirpean còmhla ri cheile. 

Ann an dòigh sin, dh’fhàs sinn cleachdte ri tuilleadh a chaitheamh, gach bliadhna, na bha a’ tighinn a-steach. Cha robh sin dona ’s docha, nuair a bha uireadh mòr de dh’airgead againn fhathast. Ach cha bha sin comasach dhùinn ’sna laithean airson a chaitheamh a-chuit a’ chò diùn dhùinn bhith proiseal air ar oidhirpean còmhla ri cheile.

Ann an dòigh sin, dh’fhàs sinn cleachdte ri tuilleadh a chaitheamh, gach bliadhna, na bha a’ tighinn a-steach. Cha robh sin dona ’s docha, nuair a bha uireadh mòr de dh’airgead againn fhathast. Ach cha bha sin comasach dhùinn ’sna laithean airson a chaitheamh a-chuit a’ chò diùn dhùinn bhith proiseal air ar oidhirpean còmhla ri cheile.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Rudy Ramsey
rudy@ramisle.com

Sypnosis:
In his first letter as president, Rudy Ramsey says the state of ACGA is good.

We have a good newsletter, a helpful Web site, and good events in the Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week, the U.S. National Mòd and the annual Immersion Weekend. In recent years, we have been able to provide scholarships and assistance for many of our members and help for Gaelic programs in many parts of North America and Scotland.

That doesn’t mean we don’t face challenges. In recent years, we’ve had a surplus in our bank account. The ACGA board of directors decided to spent part of that money on membership services. We’ve grown accustomed to spending more than we take in each year. That wasn’t bad when we still had a large surplus. But we won’t be able to do that in coming years. Although we’re financially secure, we need a narrower budget.

For that reason, there are choices ahead of us. Should we cut back services? Should we increase membership? In any case, we need to find ways to operate more cost-effectively. What’s the best way forward? We’d like the membership to tell us. This is your organization. We plan to send out a survey to members via e-mail and the Web site, and we hope you’ll think hard on it and return it to us with your best advice.

Beachdan bhon Cheann-Suidhe
Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year
Distance Learning Competition

Luchd-toiseachaidh (Beginners)
1. Brenna NicIlleMhoire

Luchd-Adhartaich (Advanced learners)
1. Jean Pendergast
2. Scott MacIlleMhoire

Aig a’ Mhòd (at the Mòd)

Bàrdachd (Poetry Recitation)
1. Micheal MacAoidh
2. Ellen Beard

Ag Aithris Sgeulachd (Storytelling)
1. Caitlinn NicAoidh
2. Liam Ó Caiside
3. Neacal Freer

Co-fharpaisean nan Òran
(Song Competitions)

I. Òran Mall (Slow Song)

Boireannaich/Women
1. Frances Acar
2. Ellen Beard
3. Anne Alexander

Fir/Men
1. Liam Ó Caiside
2. Micheal MacAoidh
3. Rudy Ramsey

II. A’ Seinn Mar Aon (Unison Singing)
1. Anne Alexander, Bobbie Hovarth

III. Oran Luaidh (Waulking Song)
1. Mac-Talla & Friends (Maryland)
2. The Great Lakes Gaelic Singers (Ohio)
Special Mòd Awards

♦ Marietta MacLeod Quaich
Presented by Donald F. MacDonald in memory of his wife to best over-all female singer: Ellen Beard

♦ Herbert P. MacNeal Quaich
Presented by the Clan MacNeil to best over-all male singer: Liam Ó Caiside

♦ Duais Sgoilearachd Sabhal Mor Ostaig
A scholarship presented by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland’s Gaelic college, for excellence in the Distance Learning Competition: Jean Pendergast

♦ Searrag-Ghlainne Mhic Dhomhnaill
Edinburgh Crystal decanter presented by Donald F. MacDonald of Edinburgh and North Carolina for best poetry recitation at the Mòd: Micheal MacAoidh

♦ Duais Dhaibhidh Mhic Risnidh
The David MacRitchie Award for best recitation of a traditional tale in Gaelic: Caitlinn NicAoidh

♦ SCOTS Shield
Presented by the Scottish Club of the Twin States for best Waulking Song Demonstration: “MacTalla & Friends”

♦ Duais Leòdhais agus na Hearadh (Lewis & Harris Award)
Presented for the best performance of a song from the Lewis and Harris traditions: Micheal MacAoidh

Blogging the Mòd


The blog will feature the latest news about the Mòd throughout the year. Visitors will be able see Mòd results and download the Mòd bulletin and Mòd registration materials when they become available.

T-shirts and other merchandise sold to support the Mòd will be available for purchase online as well at a “Mòd Store.” A gallery will showcase photos from the Mòd and a press section will hold press releases and articles.

“...The blog will complement the ACGA Web site and we hope draw more attendees and participants to the Mòd,” said Liam Ó Caiside, U.S. Mòd publicity director.
What an honor it was to receive the notice that I had won the competition (at the beginner level) for the 2008 ACGA scholarship to attend the Immersion Week and Gaelic Song and Language Week in Banner Elk, N.C. I couldn't have been more pleased — or surprised!

At the time of the competition, I had only been studying Gaelic for a little more than a year and I was not very confident in my knowledge of the language. I had never attended a Gaelic event of any kind, nor competed in any competitions, and was unsure of what to expect.

As it was, the translation exercises for the competition were more difficult than I had anticipated, but I was much relieved to know that we could use our books, dictionaries, etc. to complete the exercises.

I had previously made my plans to attend the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, regardless of the outcome of the competition, but hearing that I had won, and then receiving comments and suggestions from the adjudicator, helped eliminate most of my uncertainties.

Upon arriving in the Banner Elk area, I was immediately impressed and awed by the beauty of the High Country. The breathtaking views, clean air, and easy feeling were such a refreshing change from the bustling, fast-paced, desert city in which I reside. I came to Banner Elk a full day and a half before classes were scheduled to begin for the sole purpose of affording myself some time to see the sights and take some pictures. And that, I did! Finding Virginia Hall, Sunday afternoon, on the campus of Lees-McRae College was not very difficult — I only had to follow the sounds of Gaelic.

Registering for the week was easy as well, and I was assisted in finding my room. The orientation meeting on Sunday night was quite helpful, as this was my first time attending this event, and I was pleased to learn that the students could pick and choose which classes and/or levels that they wished to participate in, regardless of which level they registered in.

The teachers were awesome, and the classes were fun and informative. I had chosen to attend Level 1 and Level 2 language classes, and was most impressed by the teachers, Jamie MacDonald and Maureen Lyon. Additionally, I had gone to one of Gillebride MacMillan’s song classes, an informative talk and video by Calum Martin on Gaelic psalms, and a seminar on the connection between Celtic song and the history, culture, and politics of the Celtic nations, by Rudy Ramsey.

I had hoped to be able to visit the other classes as well, but there just wasn't enough time to do it all. Fortunately for me, the Wednesday night Ceilidh made up for any classes I had missed. What talented members and friends we have in the ACGA! Poems, jokes, songs, stories, skits. The list goes on. I truly did not expect such remarkable and diverse deftness. There was never a dull moment.

All in all, I had an unforgettable week. Though I can't say that time and money will permit me to go to all future immersions or song and language weeks, I do plan on attending as many as possible. The knowledge, experience, and support gained, are just too rewarding to overlook. I would (and will) recommend the ACGA and their events to anyone with an interest in Scottish Gaelic.

— Deborah Beach
When asked by others how I spent my summer vacation, I surprised many by saying that I spent a week learning Gaelic in the mountains of North Carolina.

Who would have thought that a young teacher from Canada would be learning a language that is rarely spoken outside of Cape Breton or Scotland?

Nevertheless, I packed my bags and headed across the U.S. border for a week in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and ACGA’s Song and Language Workshop and Gaelic Immersion Week took place in the quaint setting of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, a small town near Grandfather Mountain and the larger town of Boone, N.C.

The college offered a beautiful setting with scenic views of the mountains and the dorm room accommodation and cafeteria food brought me back to my own University years.

As a beginning learner and the youngest person to stay on campus for the week, the other students were friendly and encouraging. Everyone came together with the common purpose of preserving Scottish Gaelic language and culture. We all enjoyed participating in the cèilidh and tasting “Atholl brose.”

Although there was a lack of activities during the evening, the days were filled with lectures and classes.

There were many different language levels and song levels and skilled teachers to choose from.

Because I was a beginner, I was able to experience the Ùlpan style of learning. This style allowed the class to repeat phrases orally in order to learn the language and it also offered familiar games such as BINGO at the end of every class.

As a musician, I was excited about learning Gaelic songs from three renowned musicians. I love the language but it was the songs that originally drew me to Gaelic.

From Mary Ann Kennedy, I learned the intricacies of Puirt-a-beul and was taught a Gaelic rendition of the song “Down to the River to Pray.” From Gillebride MacMillan, I learned how hard it was to learn the mouth harp!

From Calum Martin, I learned how to sing in the Gaelic Psalm singing style. All three of these teachers were passionate about preserving the traditional style of singing and I was able to appreciate the intricacies of learning these songs.

Because the immersion week ran during the same time as the Highland games, I was able to participate in the North Carolina Provincial Mòd. This singing competition gave me an opportunity to sing to a crowd of people who may never have heard Gaelic before.

Other highlights of the games were seeing the opening night with the gathering of the clans, seeing the heavy weights and dancers and hearing the amazing Celtic rock band, Albannach. Probably not the wisest concert to attend right before I sang.

The immersion week allowed me to interact with other Gaelic speakers and learners. I came to realize how lucky I am to be able to take Gaelic classes in Toronto whereas many other people have to learn online.

An immersion week given you an opportunity to experience the language and get encouragement from others. I am looking forward to continuing my language studies in Toronto and furthering my musical song repertoire.

— Gabrielle Brydges
‘Latha na Gàidhlig’ Brings Learners Together in D.C.

A song workshop led by Gillebride MacMillan of South Uist was the highlight of the first “Latha na Gàidhlig” — Scottish Gaelic Language Day — held in the Washington area.

The July 5 event also offered language lessons at three levels to nearly 20 students from Maryland, Virginia and Washington.

MacMillan’s morning workshop (above) focused on the Jacobite song tradition in Scottish Gaelic.

Using songs by several Gaelic poets, he explored the history of the Jacobite movement from its inception following the so-called “bloodless” revolution of 1688 until the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden in 1746.

The songs were “Òran do Phrionnsa Teàrlach” by Rob Donn MacKay; “Am Breacan Uallach,” “Teàrlach mac Sheumais” and “Òran eile don Phrionnsa” by Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair; “Blàr na h-Eaglaise Brice” and “Òran don Èideadh Gàidhealach” by Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir, and “Òran eile air Latha Chullodair” by Iain Ruadh Stiubhairt.

After lunch, classes were led by MacMillan, Nick Freer, Mike Mackay and Liam Cassidy.

The event was held in room secured for the purpose by Suzanne MacDougall.

Busy Year for ACGA Reps; Two New Reps Needed

ACGA’s regional representatives have been busy in 2008, and that’s a good sign for ACGA and for Scottish Gaelic in North America.

From attending local and regional events and making their presence known, to offering classes and workshops, to attending classes for their own improvement, our reps have taken up the banner — “We Will Not Be Unknown.”

The Tutorial CDs program has slowed to a stop. The CDs are still available, but I’m not getting orders. Hopefully that’s because the season is winding down and we may expect an upturn in the spring of 2009. If you’re interested in ordering one, please send me a request for information at hwebb@zoominternet.net.

We do have two regions without any representation, New Jersey/Delaware and the Gulf Coast.

If you know of anyone who would/could/should fill these positions we would very much like to hear from you. If you are unsure as to what is asked of a regional representative, contact any one of the current reps or drop me an e-mail at hwebb@zoominternet.net and we’ll do our best to let you in on the “secret.”

All in all, I’m happy to report that we don’t seem to be sitting around waiting for someone else to “get the message out there.” We are here and we are important. Want to know “why?” Just ask!

Harry Webb
ACGA Outreach Committee
In the 1970s, the medium of television began to be used to facilitate Gaelic learning at a distance. The addition of a video component to distance courses allowed the learner to observe the speaker's mouth and body language, an important part of learning a language.

The program “Can Seo” (“Say This”) first aired in 1978 and consisted of 20 half-hour programs. Produced by the BBC, it was designed to bring complete beginners up to the level of a relatively good understanding of Gaelic. Humorous skits, dramas and monologues were used to introduce the language. The programs also included material on Highland culture.

Although it has been 30 years since this series was produced, the BBC is still reluctant to release these programs for sale to the public. They can be obtained on loan in the NTSC format from An Comunn Gaidhealach Ameireaganach at http://www.acgamerica.org. In addition to the television program, a set of books with tapes drawn from the program was also available.

“Speaking our Language” was the next Gaelic course made for television. It was produced in the early 1990s and consisted of 72 half-hour shows, divided into four series. The programs are marketed by a company called Cànan, located at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in Skye. There are two videotapes per series. Cànan also publishes workbooks and audio videotapes to accompany the series, all of which must be purchased separately.

The videotapes include little grammar, but the series is a good conversation-based course. Additional grammar explanations are provided by the workbooks and the audiotapes afford additional listening practice.

Although the dialogue is quite repetitive and slow, many students have sung the praises of Speaking Our Language because it gives them a chance to both hear and see Gaelic spoken at the same time in everyday situations. The program also presents a number of different Gaelic dialects as well.

Cànan currently offers the first two series in the North American NTSC videotape format. The last two series can be obtained in NTSC format from Sìol Enterprises in St. Andrews, Nova Scotia, through their Web site: http://www.gaelicbooks.com.

Another television series for Gaelic learners produced in 1990 is called “Abair!” (“Speak!”) Written by Annie MacSween, it was specifically produced for the intermediate to advanced Gaelic learner. Not much grammar is included in this course. Instead, emphasis is placed on listening skills and gleaning Gaelic idiom. The texts of the dialogues are included with the course, so the student can read along as the dialogue is presented.

The videotapes for this program have been available for sale in Scotland, but they were never produced in the NTSC format used in North America. Unless a student has a decent grasp already of the language, the Gaelic on these tapes will be difficult to understand at times. The dialogues are true to the way native speakers speak, without slowing down or simplifying the language for beginners.

CD-ROMS and DVDs

One of the most recent formats for distance learning is the CD-ROM and/or DVD. This allows for instant access of multi-media learning materials on disk. CD-ROMs and DVDs combine aspects of audio, video and textual learning formats and the more recent programs even allow students to compare their own pronunciations to that of a native speaker. Cànan, the media company that markets the videotapes of the television series “Speaking Our Language,” produced a CD-ROM a few years ago at the beginner’s level based on the first five lessons of the “Speaking Our Language” course. This CD has not see the commercial success that their videotapes have. Another CD-ROM based course to appear recently is “Talk Now! Learn Scottish Gaelic,” produced by EuroTalk Interactive, who also produce CD-ROMs for many other European languages. The “Talk Now!” course does not include any grammar, but it teaches simple everyday vocabulary through games and quizzes. It was designed for those who simply want a basic taste of the language; it does not go into great depth.

Probably the best CD-ROM Gaelic course to date is “TeachMe! Gaelic,” part of the “TeachMe!” series produced by Cambridge Educational. The course consists of a package containing a CD-ROM, an audio CD and a short booklet. There are 20 levels of grammar exercises with an explanation of the grammar for each level.

There are also 20 levels of vocabulary exercises. In the vocabulary exercises, the student is presented with a
word or phrase in English. If he/she does not respond by typing the correct Gaelic equivalent, the student sees the word/phrase written and hears it pronounced. He/she must then type the correct response into the computer.

The next time the word/phrase is presented, hopefully the student will remember and type in the correct Gaelic answer without prompting.

For practice in speaking Gaelic, the learner is presented with a Gaelic word — both in written and spoken form. The learner must then repeat the word into a microphone, trying to match the pronunciation of the native speaker on the program. After the response is given, the learner is able to see the waveform that their voice produces on the screen. This is compared with the waveform of the native speaker’s pronunciation using voice recognition software and the learner can quickly see just how good his or her pronunciation is compared to the model.

The audio CD which is included contains nine short readings from the small booklet which are used for listening practice. After listening to the stories and reading along, the CD-Rom presents the learner with the stories in incomplete form and asks him or her to fill in the blanks left in the story by dragging and dropping the missing words into the correct place in the story.

The stories on the audio CD are followed by 20 additional tracks. These tracks contain content similar to the 20 grammar lessons on the CD-ROM, so you can listen while you are in the car or otherwise engaged.

The “TeachMe!” program allows you to see the words to be learned, hear them and write them. This multisensory approach to learning has been proven quite successful. Another advantage of this format is that you receive immediate feedback and are retested on the items that you missed initially to make sure that you have learned them before moving on. The stories are also quite helpful.

Although the “TeachMe! Gaelic” CD-ROM has a few advantages over other learning formats, there are still some improvements to be made in order to match some of the other courses currently available.

One thing missing in as overview of the course or even a proper introduction. In order to find out how the course operates, you have to access the “Help” menu, but nowhere in the program does it instruct you to do so.

There are many mistakes in the program and bugs that need to be ironed out as well. For example, sometimes the text and the spoken word do not match. Sometimes you get the written word without the expected audio. When you consult the dictionary, sometimes the word is provided and sometimes not. The audio function on the dictionary does not operate consistently.

A few of the vocabulary words given are not what would be commonly used and many native Gaelic speakers and fluent learners would not recognize them. The majority of the vocabulary words are common and useful, however, so the occasional strange word should not put one off from using the program.

“TeachMe! Gaelic” is very good for learning vocabulary and can be somewhat helpful in learning basic grammar. It also offers valuable listening practice. For the most part, the Gaelic pronunciation is good and the CD-ROM provides an interesting format for learning.

The program just needs a little debugging, polishing and editing. I anticipate that this type of learning format will only continue to get better in the future.


This is the third part of an article originally published in the Journal of Celtic Language Learning in 2006 by the North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers in association with the Center for Irish Language Acquisition Research and the CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies. We thank NAACLT and the other organizations for permission to republish this article. The fourth part of the article will appear in our next issue.

Gaelcast

Podcasts anns a’ Ghàidhlig
Podcasting in Scottish Gaelic

Programs filled with news, interviews and music in Scottish Gaelic broadcast over the Internet at www.gaelcast.com

Duilleag 9
Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

A listing of classes, groups and individual teachers. 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@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.
egclarsach@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@speakgaelic.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. 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

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

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: Michael Newton
http://www.saorsamedia.com/gaelicclass/
Ohio
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
2374 Madison Road #4F
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208-1073
513-321-6781
MacAoidh@eos.net

Frances Acar
234 Lowell Drive
Kent, Ohio 44240
frances@kineta.com

Oregon
Geoff Frasier
3722 SE 15th Ave #6
Portland, Ore. 97202
503-234-1582
gfrasier@eleport.com

Pennsylvania
Kevin McLaughlin
46 Huffman Ave.
Washington, Pa. 15301
412-228-3154

Harry M. Webb
380 Central Drive
Cranberry Twp. Pa. 16066
724-776-4382
hwebb@zoominternet.net

Tennessee
Cate Stewart
Nashville, Tenn.
catestewart@myway.com

Phil Smith
Cookeville, Tenn.
931-526-6194
smithphild@aol.com

Texas
David Gressett
Hurst, Texas
res.lmtf@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

Virginia
Nicholas M. Freer
20 East Linden Street
Alexandria, Va. 22301
703-836-5654
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.
Croileagan DC (children’s playgroup)
Liam Ó Caiside
703-717-0074
liam@gaidheal.com

James F. Goff
3405 34th Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
202-244-6867

Washington
SLIGHE NAN GAIDHEAL
Richard W. Hill
#212 400 Harvard Ave. East
Seattle, Wash. 98102
206-322-3604
www.slighe.com

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

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

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

ACGA Officers

President
Rudy Ramsey: rudy@ramisle.com
Vice President
Rachell Blessing: rachell-blessing@comcast.net
Treasurer
Rachell Blessing
Co-Treasurer
Cam MacRae
cam.macrae@comcast.net
Book Keeper
Heather Sparling
heather_sparling@cbu.ca
Recording Secretary
Jeanne Pendergast:
jeannep99@yahoo.com
Membership Secretary
Janice Chan: ruadh@idirect.com
Webmaster
Shannon Duncan:
webmaster@acgamerica.org
U.S. National Mòd Chair
Nick Freer: Neacalban1@aol.com
Immersion Weekend Chair
Rudy Ramsey (Acting)
Naidheachd Editor
Liam Ó Caiside: liam@gaidheal.com

ACGA Board of Directors:

Rudy Ramsey (’10)
Rachell Blessing (’09)
David Gressett (’10)
Harry Webb (’09)
Christopher Willborn (’09)
Ilona Schmidt (’11)
Heather Sparling (’09)
Cam MacRae (’10)
Shannon Duncan (’11)
## Clàr-Innse
### Table of Contents

- ACGA Celebrates 21st U.S. National Mòd .................................................. 1
- President’s Letter ......................................................................................... 2
- 2008 U.S. National Mòd Winners ............................................................... 3-4
- Blogging the Mòd ......................................................................................... 4
- ACGA Immersion, Workshops: An ‘Unforgettable Week’ ......................... 5
- A Teacher’s Learning Experience in North Carolina ................................. 6
- Gaelic Day Brings Students Together in D.C ............................................ 7
- Busy Year for ACGA’s Regional Reps ....................................................... 7
- Learning Gaelic: TV programming, CD-ROMs ......................................... 8-9
- Directory of Classes and Study Groups ................................................. 10-11
- ACGA Officers & Directors ..................................................................... 11