On July 3, 1984, the articles of incorporation and bylaws of An Comunn Gaidhealach America, as it was then known, were approved by the state of Maryland. It wasn’t really the start of ACGA — it had been around informally for some time, under the guidance of its founder, the late Dr. Ian Cameron. But incorporation marked a new beginning for what had been in origin a study group in the Washington area.

Over the next two and a half decades, ACGA would grow far beyond the “Potomac Celtic Corridor” that linked Scottish Gaelic enthusiasts around the Washington Beltway, to become a national organization with hundreds of members throughout the United States and Canada.

ACGA has come to play an increasingly important role in the international Gaelic community. That’s only partially through direct assistance for Scottish Gaelic-language projects (see our latest report on Gàidhealtachd support on page 3). Perhaps most important, ACGA has become a critical link between Gaelic-speaking heartlands in Scotland and Nova Scotia and a broader world of Gaelic learners, speakers and supporters from far beyond the Scottish Hebrides and Cape Breton Highlands.

Scholarships offered by ACGA and to its members by other groups — especially Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic College on Skye — have fostered connections that have strengthened both the community of Scottish Gaelic learners and communities where Scottish Gaelic is spoken.

ACGA thanks all those who have helped the organization grow over the past 25 years; those who have served on its board, volunteered for its committees, organized and participated in events, edited newsletters, manned tables at Scottish games, distributed flyers, donated money, attended classes and, through their membership, kept ACGA alive. Tapadh leibh uile agus beannachd leibh!
A Chàirdean,

Bha fios agam gum b’e daoine gasda a bh’ann am buill ACGA, ach dhearbh sibh ’sna mìosan sa chaidh e. Dh’innse mi dhuibh ’san litir ron-a-seo gu bheil suidheadhachd úr ionmhasail ann airson ACGA. Tha sinn ceart gu leòr, ach dhearbh sibh ‘sna mìosan sa chaidh e.

Chuir am Bòrd-Stiuiridh romhainn suirbhidh a chur a-mach gu gach ball airson maighinn a-mach dè ur beachdan mu dheidhinn ACGA agus na prògramman againn. Chan eil sin deiseil fhathast, ach seo a cheud aobhair a tha mi pròiseil asaibh: Tha 90 dhuibh na suirbhidhdean air cur air ais, agus tha iad a’ tighinn fhathast! Sin aireamh air leth math airson suirbhidh sam bith, agus tha e a’ ciachadhach gu bheil fior uideachadh againn anns a’ bhuidheann.

Chuir am Bòrd romhainn rud úr fheuchainn cuideachd. Gun airgead gu leòr ’san ionmhais agaisthd airson prògram-sgoilearachd agus prògram taic-ghàidhealtachd a chumail mar a bha iad, chuir sinn a mach iarrtas airson tabhartasan airgid. Smaoinnich sinn gu bheil fhathast, agus tha iad a’ cheud iris sonraichte seo. ’S e obair math a rinn e, agus tha sinn uile beagan nas fhérr air a shon.

Cuiribh faite air ar deasaiche ùr, Brooke Montgomery. Tha mi’n dochas gum bi mòran dhuinn a’ cur taic oirre le colbharsaion cuideachd.

I know the members of ACGA are fine people, and you proved that in the past few months.

I told you in the last letter before this that we had a new fiscal situation at ACGA. We’re fine enough, but we don’t have enough money coming in to maintain every program as it had been. The Board of Directors put out a survey to the membership to get your opinions on ACGA and our programs. The survey isn’t finished yet, but this is the first reason I’m proud of you: 90 of you have completed the surveys, and more are still coming in! That’s an excellent response rate for any survey, and it means there’s real interest in the group.

Another thing makes me proud as well. We have a very good newsletter. A hundred thousand thanks to Liam Ó Caiside, who has been the editor of An Naidheachd Againne for many years. He’s leaving the post with this special 100th issue. He’s done good work, and we’re all a bit better because of it. Welcome our new editor, Brooke Montgomery. I hope many of us will be helping her with columns and good news.

Rudy Ramsey
rudy@ramsisle.com
The Gàidhealtachd Support Committee is delighted that the past 12 months have been busier than usual. For those of you new to ACGA, we’re the committee that evaluates grant requests from other Gaelic organizations, particularly but not limited to those from Scotland and Nova Scotia.

Although there have been years when no groups have applied, this year we have received so many applications that we have had to temporarily announce on the ACGA website that we cannot consider any more requests until the next fiscal year (April 2009). Mar a tha an sean-fhacal ag ràdh, be careful of what you ask for.

In November 2007 the committee received a request from longtime ACGA friend and supporter, Catriona Parsons of St. Francis Xavier University, seeking support for perhaps the largest Gaelic celebration North America has ever seen. Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig, an international conference held every two years and which can attract over 100 scholars, was held July 21-24, 2008, and was coupled with Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal, which featured a variety of Gaelic-related events and ran July 24-26. We were pleased to be able to offer $750 for this huge event.

In spring 2008 we received three more requests, all of them very deserving of consideration. These were for support of a TIP class in Halifax, Nova Scotia; a summer festival event in Mabou, Cape Breton; and support of a Gaelic daycare in Islay in Scotland. We hated to say no to any of them, and thanks to an unexpected revenue stream we were able to make a donation to each.

Sgoil Ghàidhlig an Àrd Bhaile (The Gaelic Language Society of Halifax) was formed in 2005 to preserve Gaelic language and culture within the Metro Halifax community. They proposed a TIP (Total Immersion Plus) course that would provide 200 hours of Gaelic instruction over six weeks. TIP courses are entirely aural/oral with no reading, writing, or grammar, and are designed so that participants attain conversational fluency by the course’s end.

Fàs Mòr Ìle provides high quality Gaelic childcare for children aged between six months and five years. Operating as much as possible through the medium of Gaelic, children have the many benefits of a bilingual education while increasing their awareness of the heritage and culture of their community.

In an effort to stimulate additional interest in Gaelic culture, Comunn Féis Mhàbu has devised participatory/instructional Gaelic singing sessions called Eirich Air! to Gaelic Songs (Rise up! to Gaelic Songs). A multi-age group of singers rehearses songs at a milling table where visitors are invited to sit in and participate. The singing sessions are designed to take place twice weekly over 8 weeks.

Ideally, the program will generate new conversations and connections to Cape Breton’s Gaelic tradition while providing the opportunity for children to view Gaelic singing as part of their usual summer activities, to practice and participate in local cultural events (i.e., local concerts and ceilidhs), and encourage visitors to gravitate toward other Gaelic cultural events on the island.

We were able to give a grant in support of this last application thanks to a very generous donation from River House Publishing, an organization run by two ACGA members, Paul Pigman and Kathryn Price NicDhana. Due
to their interest in preserving Gaelic language and culture, they are donating 100% of the proceeds from the sale of *The CR FAQ — An Introduction to Celtic Reconstructionist Paganism*. This has already amounted to several hundred dollars.

In addition to evaluating grant requests, the committee also works with the Education Committee to award ACGA’s university scholarship. Each year ACGA offers a scholarship for $1,000-$2,000 to a university student whose main coursework is Gaelic or closely related and whose object is to enter into a Gaelic career.

We feel that encouraging and supporting those who want to dedicate their careers to advancing Gaelic is one of the best ways to support the Gaelic language revival in general.

The first two recipients of this scholarship were Megan Breece (MacKenzie) and Caroline Root of Colorado — two young women who were well on their way to becoming fluent in Gaelic and qualifying to teach it in the Scottish school system. Both women today are teaching Gaelic in primary schools in the Hebrides.

Last year’s winner was Emily MacKinnon of Cape Breton, who expressed similar professional aspirations. She used the scholarship to acquire her Bachelor of Education so that she can teach Gaelic in the Nova Scotia school system.

This year’s winner is Kelly Krawchuk, a Cape Breton University student who has enrolled in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig’s “Cúrsa Comais” certificate program.

In addition to being active in the local Cape Breton Gaelic community, she traveled to Scotland last summer to teach traditional Cape Breton crafting techniques.

Gaidhealtachd Support is ACGA’s way of providing assistance to the Gaelic world at large. If you know of anyone or any group not closely connected to ACGA whose Gaelic initiatives could benefit from our modest grants, you might let them know of this program and where on ACGA’s website they can find more information. Although ACGA members are not eligible for these grants, they can inquire about Outreach Support grants, which typically are designated for members.

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**Callan, Gillies, MacDonald at Song & Language Week**

Come to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, a state rich in Gaelic heritage, for the 2009 Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week July 5-10. Enjoy Scottish Gaelic language classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced speakers and singing classes covering a range of traditional Gaelic song forms, including waulking songs and mouth music.

This year’s program will consist of language and song classes at graduated levels. Other activities include special interest sessions in the afternoon, an evening cèilidh, Gaelic videos, a silent auction, hikes in the beautiful surrounding mountains and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd which is held during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the weekend following.

The workshop is housed at Lees-MacRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Information about the cost of tuition, room, and board is available at ACGA’s Web site: www.agcamerica.org.

We are pleased to announce the following instructors for 2009:

- Dr. Jamie MacDonald, a native of North Carolina who has spent many years studying Gaelic language and song. He earned his Ph.D. in Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh and has taught Gaelic and Gaelic song in Scotland, Canada, and the United States. Jamie was the first American to compete and win a prize in the Gold Medal competition at the National Mòd in Scotland for solo Gaelic singing. In addition, he has won medals at the Vancouver Mòd and at the U.S. Mòd, where he has won the men’s Gold Medal four times.

- Margaret Callan, a talented Gaelic singer and scholar from North Uist. She won the gold medal for traditional singing at the National Mod in 1994 and she has released two albums — “Faileasan Uibhist” (Reflections of Uist) and “An Lorg nam Bàrd” (In the footsteps of the bards). Margaret has contributed to a wide range of Gaelic radio...
Margaret Callan

Margaret Callan programs both as a performer and as a presenter and has appeared at Celtic Connections and at the Edinburgh Fringe. She is a member of the waulking song group “Bannal” and has a particular interest in women’s work songs.

Margaret is currently an Artist in Residence at the Department of Celtic & Scottish Studies where she lectures on Gaelic song and is compiling and editing a CD and accompanying booklet of Gaelic songs from the archives of The School.

Anne Lorne Gillies, one of Scotland’s most venerable artists. A fluent Gaelic speaker, she combines a passionate love of Gaelic song with a deep understanding of Scottish history and literature.

Anne won the Gold Medal for Gaelic Singing at the Royal National Mòd at 17, before leaving home for Edinburgh University, where she studied Celtic under the Rev. William Matheson, academic guru and renowned Gaelic tradition-bearer.

After a period of formal vocal training in London, she embarked upon a solo singing career which has lasted for almost forty years.

For ten years she was Gaelic song tutor at Stirling University’s Heritage of Scotland Summer Schools, where her students included Karen Matheson, Màiri MacInnes and Talitha MacKenzie.

Anne played a pivotal role in the establishment of Gaelic-medium education in schools across Scotland. After gaining a Ph.D. in Gaelic education from the University of Glasgow, she became Gaelic lecturer at the University of Strathclyde.

She now runs Brìgh, an independent multi-media publishing company specializing in educational resources for Gaelic-medium schools.

ACGA Immersion Weekend Heads for Colorado Springs

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach presents its 13th Annual Scottish Gaelic Immersion Weekend, held for the third time in Colorado and the first time in Colorado Springs, from June 4-7, 2009.

The immersion weekend is a unique opportunity for learners of Scottish Gaelic to come together with more advanced and native speakers in both a classroom setting and informal gatherings. The event will feature the some of the best Gaelic instructors from Cape Breton and the United States:

Lewis MacKinnon was born in Cape Breton and raised in Antigonish County, Nova Scotia. He’s an accomplished Gaelic singer, who also sings in Irish and English. He has recently published his first book, a collection of original Gaelic poetry. As CEO of the Office of Gaelic Affairs for the province of Nova Scotia, he’s helping point the way toward Gaelic preservation and development in North America.

Muriel Fisher grew up on the Misty Isle (the Isle of Skye) as a native speaker of Scottish Gaelic. She has been giving Gaelic lessons in Tucson for over 25 years, privately, at Pima Community College, and at the Critical Languages Department of the University of Arizona. During the summer, for the past 10 years, she has taught at Sabhal Mór Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye. In 2007, along with the Linguistics Department of the University of Arizona, she was the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant to continue her research into and publications concerning the Scottish Gaelic language.

Michael Mackay began studying Scottish Gaelic in 1997 and has become fluent through the help of ACGA-sponsored events and through the teachers and native speakers he has met through the organization. He has appeared on the BBC Radio nan Gaidheal station for occasional news interviews on Aithris na Maidne and the Coinneach Mòr program, and contributes to the Internet podcast program Gaelcast, together with Liam Ó Caiside and Ed Bradshaw. Michael has been teaching Gaelic to students across the country, both on behalf of ACGA and via Skype.

Go to www.acgamerica.org for more information.
Fèis: The First Twenty-Five Years of the Fèis Movement

Martin, Kate, ed.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland, 2006

The first Gaelic fèis was held in 1981 in Barra. This book celebrates a history of twenty-five years of Scottish fèisean, which now number more than 40 held throughout the Highlands and Islands. “Fèis” means “festival” or “feast” but has come to refer to a community-run cultural festival for children and young people which focuses on Gaelic music, song, dance, customs, and arts. Early fèis organizers were concerned that the traditional Gaelic songs, music and dance were disappearing and that there were few opportunities for children to learn these traditional art forms. Now, many current fèis instructors were themselves students of earlier fèisean, demonstrating the success these events have had in developing the traditional and cultural skills and interests of young people.

There are eight chapters in this 200+ page hardcover book. Each consists of first-person accounts and perspectives from people involved with various aspects of fèisean, from organizers to participants, from parents to tutors, from grant officers to volunteers. These perspectives are mostly in English, although there is a healthy number of Gaelic passages as well, summarized briefly in English for the Gaelic impaired. While these personal accounts are engaging, they are often redundant and general in their depiction of various fèis. On the other hand, the numbers of people who echo similar sentiments clearly reveal major values and issues associated with the fèisean.

The first chapter concerns the situation of the arts, social development, and Gaelic in the Highlands and Islands during the 1980s. The next three chapters are divided by decades (eighties, nineties, and the millennium) and chronicle the myriad Scottish fèisean by the year in which they started.

Thus, Chapter 2 documents Fèis Bharraigh (Barra, 1981), Fèis Rois (Ross and Cromarty, 1986), Fèis an Earraich (Skye, 1989), and Fèis Tir a’ Mhurain (South Uist and Benbecula, 1989). The development of the umbrella organization, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, is discussed in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 provides perspectives from several fèis tutors (I was surprised to see that none of the tutor’s narratives were in Gaelic although I know several of them are Gaelic speakers; this perhaps says much about the widespread criticism that fèisean do not do enough for the Gaelic language). Chapter 7 includes extracts from “The Participants’ Story,” a 2005 study conducted by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) and looks at some of the research carried out on the fèisean over the years. The final chapter looks at some ideas for future development of the fèisean drawn from interviews with contributors.

This is a very beautiful hard-cover book and it is a wonderful testament to the work of thousands of volunteers over the years, as well as to the achievements of fèis participants. Colour pictures are scattered on every page, although captions are relegated to the back of the book, presumably to keep the look of each page as “clean” as possible. The layout and look of each page is artistic, from the use of large quotations (magazine-style) and multiple columns of narrow text, to the funky page number font and graphics situated behind the text.

At the same time, it is not a coffee-table book, as it is still text-dominated.

Despite the lovely appearance of this book, I am a bit puzzled as for whom it is intended. As a university professor who researches Gaelic song, I find it a treasure trove of information. I’m especially delighted by the number of images of “primary documents” (newspaper articles, programs) that are incorporated amongst the personal narratives.

But I’m not sure that a general readership will be especially interested in this book. Parts, yes — but then you might as well get it from the library. In fact, good luck getting it any other way. Curious to see how much this book costs, I searched for it online and only found it available used through amazon.co.uk (it is not listed at all on either of Amazon’s American or Canadian sites) and another used copy available from the United Kingdom through abebooks.com.

Although the Gaelic narratives may appeal to language learners, they would have to be relatively advanced, as only an English summary is provided rather than a direct translation.

I am also disappointed that there is no documentation of fèisean outside of Scotland, such as the very successful Fèis an Eilein in Christmas Island, Cape Breton.

Overall, this is an attractive book that documents the twenty-five year history of the fèis movement in Scotland through interviews, pictures, and primary documents, but it is difficult to acquire and will likely only appeal to a limited audience.

— Heather Sparling
Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) is one of Scotland’s most celebrated authors, although he tended to be dismissed pejoratively as a mere author of children’s and horror stories by scholars and critics until this century. Two of his more famous works are Kidnapped and Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He published both in 1886, with the former intended as a boys’ novel, and the latter a horror novella.

The two books I am reviewing here are cartoon adaptations of these works, with the stories rewritten by Alan Grant, illustrated by Cam Kennedy, and translated into Gaelic by Iain MacDhòmhnaill. Alan Grant is a celebrated comic book writer, having written Judge Dredd and various Batman titles in the late 1980s and early 1990s, while Cam Kennedy is known for illustrations in Judge Dredd, Rogue Trooper, Daredevil, and Punisher. Iain MacDhòmhnaill works for the Gaelic Books Council. Given Stevenson’s status as a classic Scottish writer, these books are a welcome addition to the growing list of books translated into Gaelic. Their graphic format, together with their action-packed plotlines, will appeal to young Gaelic speakers, while the sophisticated language and complex grammar will prove to be a suitable challenge for advanced Gaelic learners.

Aside from being two good stories in themselves, these books have their own story. They were commissioned to promote Edinburgh as the first UNESCO City of Literature. To capitalize on the designation, the “One Book – One Edinburgh” city-wide reading campaign was initiated to unify Edinburgh’s population through the reading of a classic Scottish story. In 2007, that book was Stevenson’s Kidnapped, and 25,000 free books were distributed. Three versions of the novel were released, including an edition of the original, a simplified version for younger audiences, and a “graphic novel.” This latter was also translated into Gaelic and Scots and proved so successful that the same formula was repeated this year. In February 2008, the campaign focused on Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, distributing 10,000 free books.

Kidnapped revolves around 18th century Scottish events, particularly the infamous Appin murder, which occurred in Ballochulish in 1752 and which remains unsolved. The main character, David Balfour, is a teenager embroiled in numerous adventures. He is almost murdered by his uncle, kidnapped (obviously), shipwrecked, accused of a murder he didn’t commit, fights duels, gambles away his money, and ultimately collects his rightful inheritance. Stevenson wrote Kidnapped to explore the interplay of good and evil in humans. It is narrated by an observer who investigates the strange Mr. Hyde, who seems to have some control over his friend, Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Hyde is seen committing a murder and Dr. Jekyll becomes more and more reclusive in his laboratory. When Dr. Jekyll goes missing and Mr. Hyde is found dead in his laboratory, the narrator finds papers that explain the story. Dr. Jekyll had created a potion to separate the good and evil present in every person. However, the transformation starts to occur in him even without the aid of the potion. Dr. Jekyll ultimately discovers that he is unable to replicate the potion and, doomed to remain Hyde permanently, he commits suicide.

Given their graphic format, these books are relatively short, at only 40-50 pages each, and have a limited text. Both stories suffer a bit from their extreme compression; in the case of Kidnapped, the plot moves extremely quickly and in the case of Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, much of the psychological depth is lost. However, the images add a new dimension to the texts.

Despite their brevity, these are not books for the Gaelic beginner! The vocabulary is difficult partly because it is quite specialized (how often do words like “iargalta”/“forbidding” and “cianail”/“dreadful” occur in most Gaelic learning materials?) and so are the grammatical constructions (some sentences are long with complex structures and there is also quite a number of passive constructions). You’ll need to keep a good Gaelic-English dictionary beside you. But this is what makes these books ideal for the more advanced learner. The pictures definitely help to orient the reader, but a knowledge of the original storylines is indispensable. If you haven’t read these novels before, I recommend reading a plot summary online, such as on Wikipedia, before tackling them.

These books will be a useful and fun addition to any advanced Gaelic learner’s library, and even more appropriate for any teenaged Gaelic speakers you may know!

— Heather Sparling

Fo Bhruaid & Gnothach Annasach
an Dr. Jekyll is Mhgr. Hyde

Robert Louis Stevenson
Modified by Alan Grant, illustrated by Cam Kennedy and translated by Iain MacDhòmhnaill.

Waverley Books

"Their graphic format, together with their action-packed plotlines, will appeal to young Gaelic speakers.”
Learning Scottish Gaelic From a Distance (Part 4):

Internet Learning Sites, Lists

By Dr. Jamie MacDonald

The rise in popularity of the Internet in the 1990s brought a whole new dimension to Gaelic distance learning. The main advantage of Internet learning is that most Gaelic lessons and content are offered completely free of charge and can be accessed by anyone. It is only when tutors are involved that money is requested.

The Gaelic language discussion list Gaelic-L appeared in 1989, to be followed by similar lists like Gàidhlig-B and Gaidhg4U. The Internet discussion list is a format where learners can try out their Gaelic and receive help from other more experienced learners. One must first subscribe to join the discussion list. Once a member of the list, you are able to receive messages that other members post to the list and you are also able to post messages yourself. An administrator monitors the list to make sure that the discussions do not go off topic and that the rules of the list are followed.

Some lists allow you to post in English as long as the topic is related to Gaelic. Other lists are Gaelic exclusive – English is not allowed. On some learner lists they encourage you to post messages in Gaelic, but they also ask you to give an English translation of your posting. The big advantage of the Gaelic discussion lists is that most of them are free and one may come and go on the lists as you please.

Unfortunately, the anonymity afforded by the discussion lists allows people to be argumentative, aggressive and sometimes downright rude. The irony is that most of these individuals argue about Gaelic grammar or idiom in English, not Gaelic. They put themselves up as experts but they are unable to speak the language. True Gaelic speakers are often put off by these lists because of these self-proclaimed experts. For the most part, however, the lists are a helpful tool for learners.

To learn more about these discussion lists and to find out how to subscribe to them, see the following Web page: http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/liosta/.

In recent years, a number of Gaelic learning programs have appeared on the Web. Some of these are just lessons taken from old books that are out of print.

While some of these are actually written by Gaelic teachers, others are short introductions to Gaelic written by learners who want to share their love for the language with others. Probably the best of these programs is Beag air Bheag, which was produced and is hosted by the BBC.

This consists of fifteen lessons with tests at the end, a phrase book, and a song box. Audio files are also included with the lessons, phrasebook and songs. The BBC uses native Gaelic speakers to record the sound files as well. Access to the lessons is completely free of charge. The program is available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlan/beag_air_bheag/index.shtml.

Besides Beag air Bheag, another interesting Gaelic learning tool can be found at the BBC Web site. Ruairidh MacIlleathain, a fluent Gaelic learner, has a radio program each week called Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh (“Letter for Gaelic Learners”). He discusses a new topic each week drawn from many different areas of knowledge – Highland folklore, geography, history, etc.

These letters are targeted at intermediate to advanced learners, but they have recently added an additional letter called An Litir Bheag (“The Little Letter”) for those who find Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh too challenging.

The radio programs are included on the BBC Web site with an archive going back a number of years. Audio files as well as a transcript for each program are available for download. At the end of each week’s letter, the author give explanations for the grammar and some of the idioms in the story.

A translation is not given, however — that is up to the student. Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh is available at www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlan/litir/. These programs are also available in a CD and booklet for members of ACGA from the organization.

Another quite extensive online course is called Taic (“Support”). This was set up by Gaelic learners in Britain. The course is grammar-based and consists of 54 short text lessons. These lessons include sound files, but the files are not ideal, as the speaker does not appear to be a native Gaelic speaker. Taic can be accessed at taic.btinternet.co.uk.

Nova Scotia has two Gaelic learning sites on the Internet. Dr. John Shaw, now of Edinburgh University, developed a Gaelic course while he was teaching and researching Gaelic in Nova Scotia. These Gaelic lessons have been put online and are hosted by the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia at www.gaelic.ca.

Shaw’s course consists of 22 lessons that include vocabulary, phrases and sentences. Gaelic stories from Nova Scotia are also included. No grammatical explanations are given, however. Although the course is not accompanied by sound files, cassette tapes of his lessons may still be obtained.

Neil MacEwan, a Gaelic learner from Nova Scotia, has also created a learning site at www.contemporarypoetry.com/brain/lang/#Scots%20Gaelic. The lessons use examples gleaned from various grammars and textbooks. There are no audio files with these lessons, so learners have little way of knowing what the words sound like and the lessons include few readings.

[Since this article was written, a new Gaelic learning site has been launched in Nova Scotia – the Atlantic Gaelic Academy:]
There are now at least two Gaelic learning sites in languages other than English.

Gaelic lessons in Spanish are available on the Internet through a site called Leasain ‘sa Ghàidhlig (Lecciones Gaélicas) at www.terra.es/personal5/gaidheal/leasain.

German speakers can learn Gaelic through a program called Gälisch für Einsteiger (Gaelic for Beginners) at www.hp.europe.de/kd-eurotravel/gaelic/gaelic0.htm.

This is the fourth 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 fifth part will appear in our next issue.

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Dè tha ’Dol?

**Gaelic Events**

**June 4-7.** ACGA 13th Annual Scottish Gaelic Immersion Weekend (Classes at several levels). Colorado Springs, Colo. Teachers: Jamie MacDonald, Margaret Callan, Anne Lorne Gillis. (Event includes ACGA Annual General Meeting.) Further information: www.acgamerica.org

**June 25-27.** Mòd nan Lochan Mòra (Great Lakes Mòd). Wellington, Ohio. (Gaelic song and language competition held at Ohio Scottish Games.) Adjudicator: Beathag Mhoireasdan. Further information: Frances Acar, frances@kineta.com

**July 3.** ACGA 25th Anniversary. *We encourage ACGA members to organize local events to celebrate our 25th anniversary. In the Washington, D.C., area, attend the local Gaelic day—see listing below for more information.*

**July 4.** Washington D.C. Gaelic Day & July 4 Celebration. Further information: Nick Freer, neacalban1@aol.com

**July 5-10.** Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week (Song and language classes). Banner Elk, N.C. Further information: www.acgamerica.org

**July 11.** North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, N.C. Further information: Libit Woodington at LibitW@aol.com

**July 15-18.** Hebridean Celtic Festival. Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland. Further information: www.hebceltfest.com

**July 29-31.** Stòras a’ Bhaile at the Highland Village, Iona, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. (A three-day Gaelic immersion folk life school.) Further information: museum.gov.ns.ca/hv

**Sept. 11-13.** 21st Annual U.S. National Mòd (Scottish Gaelic song and language competitions). Ligonier, Pa. Further information: usmod.wordpress.com

**Oct. 9-17.** Scotland’s Royal National Mòd. Oban, Scotland. (Weeklong competition in Gaelic song, music, and language.) Further information: www.acgmod.org/nationalmod

**Oct. 9-17.** Celtic Colours Festival. Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. (Gaelic and Celtic music festival held in various locations on Cape Breton island.) Further information:


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

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**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
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

Duilleag 10

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

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

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 Carnehic/Tom Leigh
1 Briddle Path Circle
Sandwich, Mass. 02563
508-888-1007
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.
For information, call (212) 662-1083
and leave a message for Priscilla
Campbell or Kitty Macmillan.
studies@nycaledonian.org

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

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

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

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

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2220 Claremont, Suite 408
Montreal, Canada H3Z 2P8
514-485-1636
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Seumas Watson
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Port Hastings, Cape Breton
BOE 2T0, Canada
Phone: 1-888-4Gaelic
Email: gaeltalk@ctp.auracom.com

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

FOR MORE information on classes and distance learning opportunities, visit www.acgamerica.org.
### Clàr-Innse

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