

PROGRAM DETAILS – June 2, 2008

- **Registration and Welcome Activities at the Taynuilt Field and Surroundings**

History, Geology, Geography, Culture – singing, pipes, poetry, storytelling.

Fly Casting, Golf, and Dart tournaments (Thursday only. see below).

Boat ride on Loch Etive (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) see below).

Taynuilt Walk - Bonawe Furnace, Lord Nelson's Monument, Churches, Graveyards. (any day or time)

- **Gathering Shuttle Bus Service**

For those without cars or who don't want to drive, there will be a shuttle bus service to take you to and from the various events. Taking the bus at the Gathering is thrifty and less stressful than driving, but there are no free bus passes, except for children age 15 or under. Service will be from Wednesday through Sunday. The price for a 5-day MacIntyre shuttle bus pass is \$50 for adults.

The shuttle bus pass doesn't cover the MacIntyre Tour, the Eilean Munde/Glencoe side trip, transportation up Ben Cruachan to the Stone or the transportation to Glen Noe on Sunday.

For those who have a car and don't need a bus pass but still want to use the bus on occasion, it will be on a space available basis with a pro rata charge of \$5 per ride, which will be collected on the bus using the MacIntyre honor system, what they call the "honesty box" in Scotland.

The shuttle bus may not meet everyone's needs all of the time. You still have the option of using the public buses if they come first and going where you want. There will also be the hospitality of clanspersons who have room in their cars and are going to the same place at the same time.

The \$50 price for a custom 5-day adult shuttle bus pass is reasonable (\$25 for attendees age 16-20 and free for children age 15 and under). It certainly is a lot less costly and safer than a car.

- **Tour of MacIntyre Country** (All transportation and entrance fees included)

Ardchattan Priory and Garden. Grave of Duncan (I) of Glenoe

Views of Loch Etive and Ben Cruachan from the west

Falls of Lora (depending on the tide)

Dunstaffnage Castle, Chapel and Firth of Lorne

Pass of Brander/Glen Awe/River Awe

St. Conan's Kirk – MacIntyre Choir Stall with Coat of Arms.

Dalmally Kirk where James V of Glenoe was married and many MacIntyres are buried.

Duncan Ban MacIntyre Memorial. Views of Loch Awe and Ben Cruachan from the east

There are seven choices for the 4-hour tours spread over 3 days using 33 seat buses.

July 16th – Wednesday afternoon – one bus

July 17th – Thursday, one bus in the morning and one bus in the afternoon

July 18th – Friday, two buses in the morning and two buses in the afternoon

If we get demand for different days we can adjust accordingly. The above arrangement seems to be the best given all the activities on each day.

- **Walk to the Stone of the Fatted Calf**

This is the very large stone where the MacIntyres delivered a snowball and calf to the Campbells on Midsummer's Day either as death duty for a fatal altercation c. 1440 or as rental payment for Glen Noe. It is on the other side of the mountain pass from Glen Noe and is a steep climb, although most of it is on a road. We will hire four-wheel vehicles or high carriage minibuses to take you to within about 60 yards of the Stone. Since it takes some time for a round trip, the total numbers are limited. To maximize the

participation, we have trips on three days, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. For those using the transport it will be 1.5 to 2 hours. This transport isn't covered by the shuttle bus pass. For those hiking all the way up and down it will take a full half-day. Either way, it will be by reservation and the numbers will be limited.

For the hikers, check

www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macintyre/glennowalk.htm

The road actually belongs to the Cruachan Hydroelectric plant that is literally beneath Ben Cruachan. The transport cost will be \$20 roundtrip.

• **Taynuilt Walking Tour**

The 1-2 hour walking tour can be done anytime, with or without a guide but there are now two guided tours (See Latest News). At the entrance to Taynuilt there is a memorial to the soldiers who died in WW I. At the first side street on the right, there is a Church of Scotland with many MacIntyres buried in the graveyard. Near to the church there is a large standing stone memorial to Lord Nelson. The main street has a post office, butcher, florist, antique shop, general store, unisex hair dresser, and famous tea room (owned and operated by MacIntyres). At the end of the short business section is the train stop and medical clinic. Continuing over the train bridge you come to the Village Hall on the right and the Athletic Field and Golf Course on the left where the Highland Games are held. Next is a new residential area followed by an older residential area, which begins at the Catholic Church. Past this residential area is the Bonawe Furnace that has been wonderfully restored by the Government agency, Historic Scotland. Past the Furnace is the road to the boat pier where you can have a tour of Loch Etive.

• **First MacIntyre World Triathlon: Fly casting, Golf, and Darts**

These are three skill and perhaps the most frustrating of all sports which is why they were chosen for the extremely unique MacIntyre Triathlon. All equipment will be provided and no substitutes allowed.

Fly casting Tournament – Thursday at the north end of Taynuilt

For those who want to experience the early morning Scottish passion of fly casting, we have reserved Hugo's Pond at the Inverawe Smokery to you to learn and then test your skills in friendly competition. See Highlights for information on this sport. Prizes will be awarded and you can only win the triathlon championship if you enter all three tournaments.

Golf Tournament in the center of Taynuilt

Since Taynuilt has a 9-hole, honor system golf course I decided to have a golf tournament in conjunction with the Gathering. Over 40 applicants have indicated they want to play. There are a few questions to be answered but we have a Golf Tournament committee headed by Murray MacIntyre Sim who is Treasurer of the Taynuilt Golf Club.

To those who have said they want to play, I want to make one thing perfectly clear: this will not be a normal competitive golf tournament with normal playing rules. It is specifically designed for this event to meet the conditions on the course and the players who are participating. We will provide the clubs, balls and tees. To make this feasible, we will be limiting the number of clubs to a putter plus a few irons. This will minimize time spent selecting a club and, as much as possible, avoid balls leaving the course.

It will be a SHOTGUN start with a group starting at each hole. It will be a SCRAMBLE where all player hit from the location of the "best ball" in that group. The intent is: to share clubs, keep the play going smoothly, avoid looking for balls, minimize damage to the course, keep playing time to a minimum, and allow as many attendees to play, as possible. Tees will be allowed on the fairways to ensure that most players will at least hit the ball most of the time and to save the fairways. Hopefully, we will have clubs for left-handed players (if there are any). We will devise a system of awards that will ensure everyone will receive at least one prize (participation?), some will receive many prizes, and a few will get first prizes from among a large number of categories according to age and prior skill. The range of player's age and skill is already known to be immense. We hope the good players will be tolerant of the rest of us and play in the spirit of MacIntyre kinship. At the end of play, everyone can revel in the fact that they played in the first tournament of its kind and only pros who are MacIntyres are eligible. We briefly considered having

MacIntyres compete against the best from Taynuilt but 'scotched' that idea because so many want to play, MacIntyres from Taynuilt would have to make a difficult choice, and there was a slim chance that a MacIntyre might not win. We're considering having monogrammed balls and tees for mementos.

- **Dart Tournaments at the south end of Taynuilt**

The evening sport is dart, conveniently played indoors to avoid the midges and to be close to liquid refreshments. We are tentatively scheduled at the Taynuilt Hotel pub.. You can learn more about this ancient sport in the Highlights.

- **Two Loch Etive Boat Trips**

The Galley Aileach There will be a working reproduction of an ancient galley, like the one used by the founder of our clan in 1150 A.D. that you can sail and row, with most of the participants rowing. The galley master is Gordon McIntyre and the galley is owned by the Galley Aileach Trust. A donation of \$30 per adult and \$15 per child will be collected and donated to the trust. Go to the web site to see photos of the Aileach, its history and activities. Our Gathering is listed under 2008 News. We have just learned that the galley will be available for rides starting on 16th Wednesday. The galley will be part of the final Gathering on Sunday at Glen Noe.

http://www.galleyaileach.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=44

LOCH ETIVE BOAT CRUISE

A number of you have indicated you want to take the Loch Etive boat cruise. It is a commercial licensed boat that boat holds 12 passengers and has a restroom. The £10 charge is paid when you board and includes a free hot drink and shortbread. There is a reduced rate for families.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the owner, Donald Kennedy, has reserved the 10 am -12 Noon cruise and a special 5-7 pm evening cruise for MacIntyres. The 3 hour afternoon cruise will be open to the public, as well as MacIntyres. That means we have reserved 72 places which should fill our needs. Mr. Kennedy doesn't run the cruise on Saturdays. On Sunday we have engaged his boat as well as others to ferry people to Glen Noe.

In spite of what it says on his web site, Mr. Kennedy doesn't want you to call him to make reservations. When you are asked to fill out your event selections on the final reservation form, just put a "0" in the appropriate cell for the Loch Etive cruise, but don't send any money. In this way, if the weather is bad the trip may be cancelled at no cost to you. Many of you will be going on this boat or a similar one to Glen Noe for the Sunday gathering but that is only a 10 minute trip. Here is what it says on Mr. Kennedy's web site.

Do not call and make a reservation for the times and dates that are already reserved for us.

Current fares are as follows (subject to change):

	10AM & 12N 2-HOUR CRUISES	2:00PM 3-HOUR CRUISES
ADULTS	£10.00	£15.00
KIDS 5-15	£ 8.00	£12.00
FAMILIES (2 adults+2 kids)	£28.00	£42.00

The Priority Number will be used if there are too many requests for the same time slot.

BOAT TRANSPORTATION TO THE GLEN NOE GATHERING ON SUNDAY.

168 people have indicated they want transportation to the final gathering at Glen Noe. The only practical way to transport this many people is by licensed boats. It will cost **\$30 per person round-trip (\$15 for children age 16-20)**. Each of the four boats will take 12 people to Glen Noe and then return for the next group. The boats will start leaving at 11:30 am followed by 12 Noon and 12:30 pm with the possibility of a

fourth trip so everyone can be at Glen Noe by 1 pm. The return trips will start at 3 pm immediately after the Gathering ceremonies and they about 6 pm after the pig roast.

High tide on July 20th will be at 10 a.m. which is perfect for off-loading and on-loading. By 2 pm there should be plenty of stones available on the shore to add to the cairn.

For those very few with special needs who can't walk, bike or go by boat, land transport will be arranged.

- **Banquet**

The Banquet has reached its capacity attendance for a gracious and comfortable evening. New requests will be placed on a wait list for cancellations. The Banquet is for those who like a more formal type of special occasion. It will be held in the beautiful Argyllshire Gathering Hall in Oban. www.argyllshiregathering.com. There will be live traditional Scottish music by Joanie Garvin (violin) and Michael Garvin (accordion) and some special presentations.

Information on food selection will be in later updates. After dinner or between courses, there will be introductions of those who have helped make the Gathering possible, and performances with a MacIntyre connection. Following dinner will be a country dance demonstration and MacIntyre memorabilia on display. Men in kilts and ladies with tartan sashes are encouraged to add to the ambience. For the men, a coat and tie is preferred and certainly one or the other. We know that the luggage weight limitations make it difficult to bring kilts and jackets from overseas but this is a special trip. Maybe the men who have them will wear them on the plane to save on the weight and give the other passengers something to talk about? This will ensure that the kilt doesn't become "lost luggage"? Just be sure to not wear a Skean Dhu or even a kilt pin on the airplane. If you wear a kilt every day at the Gathering no one will dare remark that you're always wearing the same clothes.

For those who aren't keen on attending the relatively expensive affair or don't want to dress up, there are plenty of other things to do Friday evening. If there is interest, a special bus tour might be arranged to see sights not on the present schedule. Fortunately, on 18th July 2008 the sun will set at 9:50 p.m., the full moon will rise at 9:51 pm with twilight at 10:45 pm (if it doesn't rain).

For those who are interested, kilts and jackets can be rented in Oban. Go to: Geoffrey the Tailor or Chambers-Hector Russell. Neither of them have MacIntyre tartan as rentals.

- **Taynuilt Highland Games**

The Taynuilt Highland Games are one of the oldest in the world. They are the essence of the games – combining competitions in athletics, piping and Highland dancing with an annual meeting of family and friends. They begin at 12 noon with a parade down Main Street to the Games field and there are many activities for children. Unlike, Highland games in the United States, there are no clan representations. However, this summer will be an exception with a large MacIntyre tent. There will be a many activities at our tent which will also provide shade from the sun (we hope). Chairs and tables will be provided. There are at least one MacIntyre interested in competing in Highland dance. There will be piping and singing at our tent along with information and discussion about all aspects of MacIntyre history and culture.

- **Side Trip to Glencoe & Eilean Munde on 16th Wed. and/or 18th Friday**

Eilean Munde is the burial grounds of the chieftains of the MacIntyres of Camus-na-h-Erie, the only recognized cadet branch of Glenoe. It is on an island in Loch Leven across from the site of the infamous Glencoe Massacre. Until quite recently, the Highlanders felt that the devil couldn't pass over water, so an island was the best place to be buried. On the north shore is the remains of the Camus-na-h-Erie village. The Post-Gathering Tour will visit Glencoe and have a brief stop at the Camus-na-h-Erie village but it will not visit Eilean Munde. For those who aren't on the Post Gathering Tour and planned to visit Glencoe, this would be an excellent opportunity. Only 48 can be accommodated and only if there are three groups of 16 that are staggered during the day, morning, noon and afternoon or split between two day. The bus can hold 32. People going in their own cars will have to go in the afternoon after the bus people have left or on another day. While 8 people are going to and from the island, the bus can leave 16 at Glencoe and take 8 to the Camus-na-h-Erie village. The groups can alternate at these three sites until everyone has been to all three.

The trip will take three+ hours. Transportation costs will be \$40 and can only accommodate 32. The boat to the island holds only 8 passengers and the boatman, who happens to be Ian MacIntyre, charges £5 (\$10) per person and is included in the \$40 fee.

- **Ceilidh**

The original Gaelic meaning of 'ceilidh' was a visit. This came to mean a house party, with guests providing the entertainment: singing, instrumental playing, and storytelling. Now it means any event with Gaelic entertainment. Here is something I found in the newsletter from www.electricscotland.com

By The Rev. Canon R. C. MacLeod of MacLeod (1920's). Here is how Chapter X starts...

"I should imagine that no country in the world is richer in folk-lore than the West Highlands. The ceilidh was an institution, and our people loved to gather together on a winter's evening, and to tell each other again and again the old stories which they had received from their forbears."

The Taynuilt Ceilidh has been a village institution for over 75 years. They are generally held once a month and allow people of all ages and abilities to entertain each other. The week of the Highland Games it is held on Thursday night in the village hall that can hold 120 people. Wednesday night has been added with all 120 seats reserved for Gathering attendees. 40 seats are reserved for MacIntyres on Thursday. The Priority Number may have to be used to sort who will go on what date.

The MacIntyre Ceilidh will be held on Saturday night at the largest venue in Oban, the Corran Halls that can seat 600 with room left for dancing. Lorn MacIntyre will be the *fear-an taighe* (master of ceremonies). The first two hours will be performances by talented MacIntyres/Wrights, including story-telling, poetry reading, singing, instrumental music and Highland dancing. This will be followed by two-hours of ceilidh group dancing and socializing. Mary MacIntyre, Lorn's wife, will be mistress of the dance. She says anyone can do it and there will be plenty of help from others who have done it before. All we will need is for you to get off your duff and join the fun.

Here are Mary MacIntyre's tips for making a ceilidh dance enjoyable:

Wear flat(tish) shoes with a plain flat sole which can move easily over the floor. High heels are dangerous both to the wearer (going over on one's heel) and to other dancers (because they are sharp).

Metal bangles are dangerous too as they can catch another person when swinging.

Wear cool clothes - Scottish dancing evolved in a cool climate and is vigorous. One does become hot and there is rarely air conditioning or fans in Scottish halls. Any style of clothing is fine but swirly skirts always look good on the floor.

Tartan is nice to wear at a dance even if it is only a bit of ribbon somewhere on one's person.

For the timid - get up and have a go. The dances are not difficult and very repetitive. Even if you only want to look upon it as a workout to nice music. No-one ever shows disapproval of another person at ceilidh dancing, and indeed you will find that many of the Scottish MacIntyre are not that good at this form of dancing either so don't be intimidated. Remember it is also very gratifying to the band if people get up and at least have a go.

Those who aren't dancing can enjoy watching and socializing (the primary purpose of a ceilidh). Lorn's bio is at <http://www.lornmacintyre.co.uk> The biographies of the entertainers will be posted in later updates.

- **Ecumenical Service**

It seems appropriate for each in their own way to give thanks for our Gathering, to remember those who came before us and those who wanted to attend, but couldn't. We will have people of all religious persuasions who I hope will participate at the Taynuilt Field on Sunday morning. Any can make a brief statement but try to prepare your thoughts before hand. Either I, or someone else, will represent those who aren't members of a particular religious group. I hope this will give us a moment to reflect on what has already occurred during the Gathering; what will occur in the afternoon at Glen Noe, and what the future holds for Clan MacIntyre.

• **Glen Noe Gathering**

This will be **The Gathering**, the finale of the four-day whirlwind of events. The first challenge is to get everyone to Glen Noe. To do this we are planning as many routes and modes of transportation as possible with the two major ones - walking and boat - the same ones that were used for centuries before there was horsepower i.e., horses or motor vehicles.

Walking to Glen Noe can be done by most people who are relatively fit. The road bed is rough in places, single lane, and unpaved so good walking shoes and socks will be needed. For the very fit, you can walk there in about 1 to 1.5 hours or bike there in much less time. We are exploring the use of a small bus to get the semi-fit half way followed by a 30 – 45 minute walk. For the remaining persons (the majority), we have reserved four, twelve-passenger boats that take ten minutes from the Taynuilt pier to Glen Noe. For those few individuals with special mobility needs, arrangements will be made to travel all the way by vehicle. See Glen Noe Boat above.

Once at Glen Noe, the official activities start at 1 PM and end at approx. 3 PM:

1. Viewing Ben Cruachan, Loch Etive, and Lairig Noe
2. Hiking to MacIntyre Falls on the River Noe (limited number before and after the main festivities)
3. Arrival of the fittest MacIntyres who have come to Glen Noe via Lairig Noe, the mountain pass below Ben Cruachan. This mountain and mountain pass protected MacIntyres from the rest of the known world. They will be led by a piper and cheered on by their waiting clansmen who have assembled upon hearing the pipes. The piper will lead the hearty group to the cairn with their clansmen following behind singing the MacIntyre March. They will all assemble in the meadow adjacent to the cairn on the shore of Loch Etive. Then the Galley Aileach will approach in the distance with galley master Gordon MacIntyre at the helm bring the MacIntyre armigers. It will be flying MacIntyre banners and have a piper at the bow. Those on the galley will alight and greet their cheering fellow MacIntyres on shore, awaiting their arrival.
4. The main festivities are at the meadow on the shore of Loch Etive where the memorial cairn is located.
 - a. a time capsule will be place on the cairn.
 - b. each of the assembled MacIntyres will added a stone to the memorial cairn until the time capsule is well within the cairn.
 - c. Performances: piping (newly composed piobaireachd, **Gathering of the MacIntyres**), the Highland fling and singing of the MacIntyre March.
 - d. Dedication of a new plaque, banner or other commemorative device at the cairn (e.g., time capsule)
 - e. A few introductions and short speeches
 - f. Group photo taken from a boat on Loch Etive.

Keep tuned to www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macintyre/2008.htm as the program develops.

• **MacIntyre Falls**

Those arriving early or leaving late can spend the extra time hiking to the MacIntyre Falls and to the location of the ancient village (Laroach-na-ba-Baine / Site of the White Cow). MacIntyre Falls isn't the official name for this exceptionally beautiful site but I can't think of a better one or what more fitting name could there be? A souvenir poster of MacIntyre Falls suitable for framing is planned as the registration gift and the cover of the Gathering program. The number of people who can visit this site is limited and will depend on the time available. The path could be muddy so appropriate shoes are recommended.

• **Pig Roast at Glenoe after the Gathering**

The MacIntyre renting Glenoe suggested a traditional pig roast after the final Gathering activities and there are already over 120 who have indicated they want to attend this event. The cost will be **\$30** per adult. It will take place about 4 pm, approximately one hour after the Gathering officially ends. For those who aren't leaving immediately on Sunday this might be an ideal way to wind down the emotions after four days of continuous activities.

Spit Roasted Pig served with Apple Sauce Stuffing & Crispy Crackling

Bread Rolls and Selection of Sauces

Chefs Choice of Two Freshly Prepared Salads

(Green Leaf, Mixed Salad, Sundried Tomato & Basil Pasta Salas, Greek Salad, Potato Salad, Tomato & Basil Salad, Coleslaw, Caesar Salad, Lemon & Coriander CousCous)

Warm New Potatoes in Herb Butter.

Non-alcoholic drinks and beer

Food served as a buffet