

LATEST NEWS – July 7, 2008

HOT TOPICS – PLEASE READ EVERYTHING IN RED AND GREEN

THIS IS IT! TEN DAYS TO GO. I'M IN OBAN AND TAYNUILT, WHERE ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MY MOBILE OR CELL PHONE NUMBER IS:

From Overseas +44.7503.496.401

Within the UK 07503.496.401

E-mail: martin.macintyre@juno.com

Local cell phone charges are 30 – 60 US cents a minute (rounded up to the next full minute) and for overseas calls they may charge the person receiving the call (me) as well as the person making the call (you). Mobile to Mobile is also an extra fee. Therefore, if you need to call me, don't be offended if I keep it brief. I'm just being thrifty.

ASSIGNMENTS: Check the link to note and changes or corrections.

SHUTTLE B US PEOPLE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Those who have paid for the shuttle bus service and are arriving by bus, train or ferry, should send me this information once again:

- 1. Name and location of their lodging;**
- 2. Day, date, place and time of their arrival**

This will allow someone to meet you and take you to your lodging.

(If it is Wednesday or after there will be no additional charge. If before then you will have to pay.)

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Only half have completed their Banquet Form! I NEED TO KNOW YOUR ENTRÉE CHOICES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR YOU WILL GET THE DEFAULT ENTRÉE WHICH IS BEEF AND A CHILD'S PLATE FOR THOSE AGE 6 AND UNDER. THE OTHER CHOICES ARE HAM, FISH, VEGETARIAN.

ASSIGNMENTS UPDATE.

Some, if not all of you, have read the Assignment Update and some have made comments, requests or corrections. The latest corrections are attached. If you don't read it and make your suggestions known, there is nothing I can do about it.

EVERYONE SHOULD READ THEIR ASSIGNMENTS BECAUSE THERE CAN BE CHANGES IN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AS A RESULT OF CHANGING OTHERS (DOMINO EFFECT).

Scheduling is not an easy task and I'm asking you to double check your own assignments to be sure they can be physically accomplished by you aside from whether they are what you requested. I did my best under the circumstances. Even those who have a good priority number may find they have been changed for the good of the group, so don't always expect to get your first choice or even your second or third choices. Again, lay it all out and see if it can be done.

Go to the **ASSIGNMENTS** link. I had to prepare an abbreviation scheme so I could show all the information for everyone in a relatively small space. For example, WE = Wednesday Evening vs. WA = Wednesday morning (AM) vs. WP = Wednesday afternoon (PM). I now have some new one, e.g. F = First and L = Last.

The three most difficult assignments were the Galley Aileach, the Loch Etive Cruise and the Taynuilt Historical Guided Tour. Due to the demand, I've added a Guided Tour so now there are three, two on Wednesday (WL1 and WL2) and one on Thursday (TL2). Most places that I've made changes I've put in **red** but don't count on it.

MACINTYRE MOMENTOS

If you have a MacIntyre family momento that is small enough or light enough to bring, I would like to have it to display at the tent on Saturday and at the banquet or ceilidh. This will add meaning to our Gathering. If you have a family genealogy, please bring that as well.

BRING A FLAG FROM HOME

One of the many symbolic activities at the Glen Noe Final Gathering will be to add a stone from the shore of Loch Etive to the cairn that was started in 1976. I was going to ask each of you to bring a stone with you from your home to symbolize your return to your native home but I was quickly reminded that nasty critters can travel on stones and we shouldn't bring strange ones back to Scotland.

INSTEAD, bring a small national and regional flag (state e.g. Oregon, region e.g. Tuscany, province Queensland) from the place where you are presently living. When all of us parade around the Taynuilt Field, we will look like what we are – MacIntyres representing the world returning home to Glen Noe.

COMPLETE YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE

As soon as the ASSIGNMENTS are posted you should prepare your daily schedule. Go to the link, [Daily Schedule Form](#) and fill in the blanks. There is a sample.

All but two groups have submitted their Event Reservation form which I have used to assign dates and times based on your choices (1st, 2nd, 3rd), starting with the lowest priority number.

If necessary, changes can be made after you arrive. In the meantime carefully review your assignments and send me any information on duplicates or overlaps or “can’t dos”. Don’t send me information on “don’t likes” or “it wasn’t my first choice”. Relax, take a deep breath and say three times, “I’m going to have a great time.”

THE GALLEY AILEACH

The Galley is part of a Charity Trust and therefore, any money that has been collected on their behalf is a donation. The \$30 donation is the annual membership for their Trust and before boarding you will be asked to complete a membership form (yes, yet another form). The rides will start on Wednesday morning and are limited to 8 passengers per one hour ride. Each group must have enough rowers to control the boat along with the crew. Children should also make a donation.

LOCH ETIVE BOAT CRUISE

The owner, Donald Kennedy, has reserved the 10-12 Noon cruise and a special 5-7 pm cruise for MacIntyres on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. He has added Tuesday because of demand. The afternoon cruise will be open to the public as well as to MacIntyres. Mr. Kennedy has reserved 6 additional spaces on Friday afternoon and Thursday afternoon. That means that so far, we have reserved 84 places in the mornings and evenings on those days plus two afternoons. Mr. Kennedy doesn’t run the cruise on Saturdays and on Sunday, we have engaged his boat as well as three others to ferry people to Glen Noe.

Despite what it might say on his web site, Mr. Kennedy doesn’t want you to call him to make reservations. The £10 charge is paid when you board and includes a free hot drink and shortbread. There is a reduced rate for families. The fee is slightly higher for the afternoon 3 hr. cruise. If the weather is bad the trip may be cancelled at no cost to you since you don’t pay until you board.

TO-DO-LIST UNTIL 17TH JULY

Do all unfinished business and only you know what that may be.

Transferring from Glasgow Airport to Queen Street Station

This is a train website. <http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/en/pj/tt>

There is no train or subway link from Glasgow International Airport to the City. Look at the Airport's website www.glasgowairport.com and then click on "to and from our airport" The options are to take a taxi at around £18 - £20 which should take around 20 - 25 minutes to reach Queen Street Station, or to take the 905 bus from Bus Stance 2. The latter service takes about 35 to 40 minutes and the bus journey time should be no more than 35 - 40 minutes. This bus goes to George Square and, once there, it is only a few minutes walk to the Northwest corner of the Square to the Station entrance. The cost of the bus is £3 single, £5 return.

The planes from Dublin are small and I would not think that it will take more than 20/30 minutes to be through the luggage retrieval and immigration process. The airport is small and the taxi and bus stances are right at the entrance. Picking up the train tickets could take a little time - around 10 - 15 minutes should be allowed for their collection and getting on the train. If it is possible to make advance seat reservations for the journey to Oban I would definitely choose this option. I don't think that it costs any extra but it allows people to sit together with their companions.

FAERY PIPES

The oldest known playable Scottish bagpipes still in existence were originally the property of a MacIntyre and were played at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 AD. When the last MacIntyre owner left for America in 1810, he left them in safekeeping with MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart for whom he had been the piper. The Kinlochmoidart descendant loaned them for safekeeping and display to the West Highland Museum in Fort William who we understand have graciously consented to allow them to be displayed and played at our banquet on Friday night at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall. The last person to have played them, was our master piper, Archie McIntyre in 1984. He is a descendant of the MacIntyre pipers who owned by previously and will play then again for us. He will explain their significance as part of the Banquet program.

THE GOLF TOURNAMENT has been moved from the morning to the afternoon (2-5 pm) and the FLY CASTING TOURNAMENT moved to the morning, 10 – 12 noon. There are 31 registered for golf, 21 for

darts and only 13 for the fly casting tournament. There are 12 registered for all three tournaments which means one three of them can be our Triathlon champion. There will a male and female MacIntyre and one spouse/guest winner. The prize is symbolic and priceless.

ROOM CANCELLATIONS Due to last minute cancellations there are three excellent lodging may still be available:

Laggenbuie B&B in South Oban near Kilmore, 2 rooms

www.lagganbuie.co.uk Rosemary MacIntyre, T- 011 44 (0)1631 770 218

E - rosemary@lagganbuie.fsnet.co.uk Loch Feochan, Kilmore by Oban, Argyll PA34 4QT

Greencourt Guesthouse one twin

www.greencourt-oban.co.uk Michael & Joanie Garvin T - 011 44 (0)1631 563 987

E- relax@greencourt-oban.co.uk £35 ppn (per person per night)

Strathnaver Gueat House, Dunollie Road, Oban Argyll PA34 5JQ

Tel: 01631 563305 (E-mail StrathnaverOban@aol.com) The owners are John & Irene MacKay

A single and a twin are still available.

STATISTICAL UPDATE

There are 286 paid registrations, including children, for the Gathering out of an expected 300. These 286 they have made the following selections:

- 282 Taynuilt Highland Games
- 280 MacIntyre Ceilidh
- 230 Banquet
- 224 Final Gathering at Glenoe
- 205 The Stone with 63 hiking and 142 taking transport
- 182 MacIntyre Country Tour
- 175 Pig Roast
- 170 Taynuilt Ceilidh
- 154 Ecumenical service
- 133 Boat to Glen Noe
- 121 Macintyre Falls
- 86 Loch Etive Cruise
- 85 Using the shuttle bus
- 70 Ride on Galley Aileach
- 54 Trip to Eilean Munde and Glencoe
- 31 Golf Tournament
- 21 Dart Tournament
- 12 Fly casting Tournament

Saturday Night MacIntyre Ceilidh

The Glenhoulachan Midgie Club Ceilidh Band, *The Midgies*, will be playing for the ceilidh dancing. The following is from their website

“So, What's a Ceilidh then??? The word Ceilidh is Scottish Gaelic. It means to gather together or to visit. It also describes an evening of traditional Scottish entertainment of dancing and singing. A Midgie Club ceilidh combines both of these elements. The band likes to make the distinction between Ceilidh and Scottish Country dance. The latter is a more formal event, participants know the steps and insist the music be to a strict tempo. Scottish Country Dance can be fun but a ceilidh is different! Ceilidh is informal, ceilidh is letting the good times roll, ceilidh is having a laugh with friends. A Midgie Club Ceilidh is all of these things, only ten times more fun!!!

The Glenhoulachan Midgie Club Ceilidh Band have taken their unique sound all over Scotland and the British Isles and in more recent years; the Midgies have taken a little piece of Scotland to nearly every corner of the globe including Kuwait, Dubai, Romania, Russia and India. They've played in all sorts of venues, from tiny village halls to the largest auditoriums. They've played in the roughest barns and byres to the plushiest clubs, casinos and hotels. The Midgies have played on planes, trains, boats and ships, to audiences of several hundred or to only half a dozen. Their ability to stir up a good time in any venue has seen the Midgies appear on National TV and Radio both in the UK and overseas.” <http://www.themidgies.co.uk>

TAYNUILT CEILIDH

The Taynuilt Ceilidh, called *Meur Chruachain*, has been in existence for 77 years. It is held approximately once a month to showcase local talent and to provide wholesome entertainment that brings people of all ages together in this small village and the surrounding area. It is usually on Thursday night at the Village Hall which has a maximum seating capacity of 120.

The *Meur Chruachain* committee has decided to add an evening just for our MacIntyre Gathering and it is a good thing for us that they did because we already have 108 paid admissions out of 160 guaranteed.

1. There will be a ceilidh on Wednesday, 16th July with all 120 seats reserved for attendees of the MacIntyre Gathering. We have met that goal.

2. On Thursday, 17th July, there will be 40 seats reserved for MacIntyres and we have exceeded that number. For those who didn't get a reserved seat assigned, you can still attend because they have allotted us an additional 15 seats of which 10 are already taken.

3. Both nights will have MacIntyre performers. The rest of the performers will be from the local community which includes an adult who was a world champion dancer and many other talented performers.

WALKING TO THE STONE AND TO GLEN NOE

www.walkingenglishman.com/walktime.aspx is an excellent web site for calculating walking time. For example:

1. Estimating the walking distance up to the Stone is 0.5 miles, with uphill being 800 metres and downhill 50 metres and 5 minutes of rest time, it will take 1.5 hours to walk up. Going back down will be 1 hour or less. The roundtrip walking time is 2.5 hours.

2. At this moment, the best we can promise for the Glen Noe walk on Sunday, is to get you to the Inverawe Smokery. The estimated distance from the Inverawe Smokery to Glen Noe is approx. 2.5 miles. The calculator says that it will take you 1 hr and 12 minutes with a 5 minute break while walking at a moderate rate of 2.5 miles an hour. It assumes you will be wearing good walking boots and don't have any blisters from previously walking up to the Stone and back,

There is still a possibility that we can arrange for transport starting at the *Inverawe Country Park and Smokery* and going halfway to Glen Noe. This would reduce the walk to about 30 minutes each way. When and if that becomes a reality, I'll let you know.

Hiking to The Stone of the White Calf

This is a general reminder to all those registering for the hike to The Stone of the minimum you will require, or need to be aware of for the Hike. It has been prepared by your volunteer guides, Colin McIntyre of Edinburgh and Ian Simpson of Helensburgh, Scotland. This information has previously been posted under the "Glen Noe Walk".

Ian and myself are not qualified guides, we are not paid & we are not insured. We are just enthusiastic locals with extensive direct experience of this local area. We have hill walked and camped here in both summer & winter. We are trying to offer sensible suggestions to

others, however, only you know your own strengths and limits and basically everyone has to take full responsibility for their own actions and security.

As long as you are reasonably fit you shouldn't have any problem (what defines "reasonably fit" is your decision). The walk to The Stone should take approximately 1½ hour's with the return being slightly less, as it's mostly down hill. The terrain is rough vehicle track, 90% of the way, the last few hundred metres are directly across hillside, no path, rough grass, boggy in places.

Clothing

Waterproofs – yes, light and wicking tops if it is hot. The one thing we would totally advise against is denim, not because of any fashion police but when they get wet they get very heavy and sap the heat out of you at an alarming rate. People have ended up with hypothermia in the Scottish summer when wearing denims and getting wet.

I will probably be wearing my Kilt. The good thing about them is that they stay warm when wet, but remember that you could still have cold legs / knees and eight yards of wet wool can be heavy and can chafe! Remember also that if you do wear a Kilt and it gets wet / dirty, it may not dry out in time for other events, such as the Banquet. Again, not the fashion police, but we would advise against the cheap nylon kilts that are now available, for the same reasons as denim.

Footwear

Preferably walking boots, but PLEASE do not just buy a brand new pair just before this walk. If you do you will almost be guaranteed to have very bad blisters. Any boots must be properly "broken in" and you should be happy and comfortable in them. Strong walking shoes could also be used (but you will probably end up with wet feet!). We would strongly recommend against trainers, they may be OK for the London marathon and get a good grip on a normal road, however they are too smooth & next to useless on wet grass. Boots also protect you from skelping your anklebone on rocks.

Remember there are no "escape routes" off the side of this walk should you wish to cut things short. There is the way you go in, with the way out back the same way, with no option for dropping off on route (3000 feet mountains on both sides... this is a glen walk after all) so if you get bad blisters having got to the stone after 1 ½ hours walking, then you will still have to do another 1.5 hours walking to get out no matter which way you go. Blisters will not kill you but they

sure kill enjoyment. Given the right footwear it is perfectly possible to do walks much further than this with zero blister and 100% enjoyment so this jaunt can be an easy stroll (providing you are properly prepared... do it wrong & it could be a pain)

Water / Alcohol / Food

We would recommend you carry approx 1 litre of water PER PERSON for the full walk. If you just take a small 0.5l bottle you will be very thirsty. Regarding alcohol, there is nothing wrong with a hip flask for a nip when you have completed the walk, but be warned although alcohol may make you feel warmer it does this by dilating your blood vessels which actually increases heat loss (hence cooling). If it is cold, wet and windy, then drinking alcohol on the hill may temporarily make you think you are warmer but in reality is virtually guaranteed to speed up hypothermia (which can kill you).

You may also wish to bring a light snack / lunch. But remember that what you bring you carry yourself, including your litter.

Toilet facilities

None official, but one large airy toilet with superb view (out & in!), very few trees and in places very few rocks to hide behind... but given it will be summer the bracken will probably be quite high and ok to hide in.

If anyone wishes more information, or has any questions regarding the hike, you can use:

1. The Gathering Forum

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/macintyre_gathering/

2. Email

cmacantsaoir@yahoo.co.uk

See you at The Gathering.....

Slainte!

Colin McIntyre / Ian Simpson

[DAY TRIPS TO LISMORE and IONA](#)

There is room for 5 more on a day trip to Lismore on Tuesday, July 15th. Catch the 8:45 ferry in Oban for Lismore (5.05 pounds RT). The group will be met at the Lismore ferry port at Achnacroish at 9:35 by a van and volunteer driver. The route is flexible depending on participants. The first stops will be nearby at Baligrundle and Craiganich where some MacIntyres' ancestors lived at the end of the 1700s before immigrating to the US. Perhaps then we will travel down the southern roads to see the Lochs and castle ruins there. Around noon we will go to the Heritage Center near Achnacroish to see the exhibits, have lunch and be met by our afternoon driver who will show us the sights of the northern end of the island. The cost for the van will be split by participants (up to 10 people, ie 5 more), which is 40 pounds plus 50p per mile. Also plan on paying for lunch, tips for each driver and admission to the Heritage Center etc. We return to Oban on the 5:45 ferry out of Lismore, arriving back in Oban at 6:35 pm. Contact Sandy Smith at Sandymif@aol.com.

Side Trip to Iona. Without taking a car, you can go any day without reservations from the ferry terminal at Oban. Cost \$64 ea. for the day 9:30 to 5:45. More under Highlights.

HELP WANTED!!!

A number of you have commented on the difficulty I must be experiencing in putting together the Gathering here in San Francisco, 8000 miles from Taynuilt. Many have offered assistance and may wonder why I haven't responded. Well, wait no longer. I will need all the help I can get, both before and during the Gathering. Go to the HELP WANTED link, choose the area that you might want to assist, and send me an e-mail with your offer.

PASSPORT & TRAVEL INSURANCE

Check your passport one more time to be sure you know where they are and that it is up-to-date.

You might consider buying travel insurance if you are coming from overseas. I know this is an added expense to an already expensive trip, but with the airline situation, health considerations, and the kind of world we live in, it might be worth it if you don't want to risk the unexpected. Go to the web and enter "travel insurance comparison" to see what it would cost.

WEATHER FORECAST (FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH)

I've asked to predict the weather for the Gathering. Okay, I can hear the local Scots laughing. Here is what I've been told by the UK forecasters and I'm only putting it in print because the news is good. The temperatures are likely to be slightly higher than average in July which means in the mid 60s F and the rain fall slightly lower than average which means we might not experience meaningful rainfall.

That said, I would bring a waterproof windbreaker with a hood and at least one warm sweater to wear underneath if the weather turns colder than average. Since the daylight is near to the maximum, it is likely that it will be cool in the mornings and evenings even if it is warmer at mid day. Don't expect it to be hot (shorts or tank top), although it was hot one time when we were there -- hotter in Taynuilt than in Rome on that particular day. Regardless, all things pass including warm or cold weather and rain usually doesn't go all day or days on end (although it did one time that we were there).

If you are totally confused by the above, then blame the person who asked me, who shall be nameless. I won't send you to a weather web site because they will give you headaches and no better information than I just did.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS (See CLOTHING link)

CEILIDH

Go to the SATURDAY NIGHT CEILIDH link for more information. In future updates there will be more detailed information on the entertainment program.

TIME CAPSULE

Someone suggested that we place a time capsule within the Cairn at Glen Noe so a future MacIntyre Gathering (or explorers from outer space) can recover it in the next millennia (3000 A.D.). I'd appreciate hearing what you would put in the time capsule that might be of interest to intelligent beings a thousand years from now? For now, don't worry about the size or shape of the capsule. The first idea that was offered is a key to the original front door of Independence Hall, Philadelphia, as a symbol of MacIntyres who emigrated to the United States carrying the strong Scottish and MacIntyre desire for independence.

The next three responses have been:

1. Enclose the names of each attendee's ancestors as far back as known.
2. Enclose a photo of each attendee and the group photo.
3. A lock of each person's hair for future genetic analysis.
4. CD of your genealogy
5. A small flag from the nation, state, province, region, that you live.

Send your ideas to martin.macintyre@juno.com

MEMORIES

I would like there to be a record of the Gathering as a DVD. Rather than have an attendee do it, I am considering hiring a photographer, like one would at a wedding. This depends on how many of you and those who are not attending would like a copy of a DVD and be willing to pay for it. Assuming it would cost \$30 US plus postage and it would be ready by the 2008 year end holidays, let me know if you would be interested.

BACKGROUND OF THE GATHERING

I first announced this Gathering five years ago. It seemed so far off at the time but since then, over 700 people have expressed interest in attending. In the spring of 2006, over 40 potential attendees kindly filled out a survey. Many of them won't be able to attend but their responses helped me plan the event and arranging a post-gathering guided tour.

Last spring I asked for Pre-Applications with complete names/address; choices of activities; and degree of certainty in attendance. About 350 pre-applications were received. At the end of October, I requested a small refundable deposit. This request and dwindling time, helped most of you make up your minds.

ATTENDEE DATA

Go to the Attendee Data link for names and general lodging locations of your fellow attendees; group contact persons; requirements completed; and priority numbers. If your name isn't there and you know you have sent in an application and/or deposit, then send me an e-mail. If you are one of the 32 who have submitted an application but haven't sent in a deposit, please let me know your status (still definite, not so sure, OR cancel). Your name will be added to the

Priority List in the order the deposit is received. Also check the STATISTIC Link for interesting information.

FACTOIDS

Our Master Piper, Archie McIntyre, and our Ceilidh Master of Ceremonies (Fear an Taighe) Lorn Macintyre, were classmates in Oban high school a few years back.

There are no MacIntyres in the Taynuilt telephone directory and only one Wright. However, when the audience at the 2006 Taynuilt ceilidh was asked if any were related to, or personally knew, a MacIntyre, more than half raised their hands. Could it be that the MacIntyre women stayed in Taynuilt and the MacIntyre men left?

THE MIDGE

By Kirsty McIntyre Petre from personal experience.

This is in red to remind you of the menace of the West Highland Midge, undoubtedly the only reason MacIntyre Country isn't overpopulated.

Small in size, but huge in numbers, the midge is unequalled in ferocity and can put strong men to cursing flight!!! They will be out in force in Glen Noe in July and only too delighted to find large numbers of human beings on whom to feed. They are not fussy about where on a body they are prepared to bite - to put it bluntly, kilt wearers beware! Seriously, anyone coming to the West Highlands, especially rural areas and remote glens, should be strongly advised to have a large supply of midge repellent with them at all times, and to cover EVERY square inch of vulnerable flesh with it. My son recommends Deet and others swear by Avon's Skin So Soft. There are various aromatic herbal preparations available locally. I'll check with the Forestry Commission to see what they supply to their workers - they certainly take the midge seriously. If you aren't prepared, they really can turn an otherwise delightful outdoor event into misery. On a natural history note, it is only the females that bite as they need a meal of blood in order to lay their eggs.-Cave Feminas!. Females with young are always the most ferocious.

THE MIDGE by Angus Macintyre Courtesy of Famedram Publishers

I ken, we midgie, you're no' blest,
You've been to me an awful pest,

Yet still there's pity in my breast,
To hear them cry;
They'll pin a medal tae his chest,
Who mak's ye die.

It surely is a serious matter,
That, on the folks wh'are "Doon the Watter",
Yer wee bit carcass grows the fatter
In stinging jags,
That mak' them want tae run an' batter
Their heids on crags

Yer life is short an' fu' o' fun,
A midge's race is swiftly run;
Ye only come in summer sun
Tae gi've us pain;
When dreary winter's snow has come,
We're left alane.

The Tax inspector's worse than you,
He's biting folks the whole year through,
Till whiles they don't ken whit tae do,
Tae jink his flail;
An' if their "poverty's" no' true,
They're put in jail