NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 80, No. 4

To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." T.E. Brown

Winter 2009

NAMA Convention 2010



The New Year has rolled around and once more it's a Convention year with our hosts this time being the Rocky Mountain Manx Society in Denver, Colorado.

The Society is working hard to finalize the program of activities and the costs for this year's Convention and more details on the program and other Convention information will be available in the next Bulletin.

Denver was established in 1858 by a party of gold prospectors and the town founders named it for James W. Denver, the governor of what was then the Kansas Territory. The city's rich mining history will be a part of this year's Convention activities which will include a trip to a mountain mining park.

Watch the NAMA website and future Bulletins for further news on the 2010 Convention.

Viking Ships in the USA

It turns out the DC Manx aren't the only ones with a Viking ship in their backyard. For more on where this one was sighted, see the Society Notes.



Manx Cheese in the USA

While wandering the aisles at the Costco in Madison, Wisconsin, last weekend Beth Ravenscroft was surprised to see the cheese selection pictured below on display.



NAMA Notes

NAMA President's Message



Greetings all Manxies and friends!

As we emerge from a cold winter in the northern U.S. and on the Isle of Man, we find the 2010 NAMA convention only months away. The warmth of the Colorado sun, its beautiful mountains and flowers will be welcomed as the snow begins to melt away.

What are you doing on August 5-8, 2010? I don't know about you but I will be descending upon the Sheraton Denver Tech Hotel outside of Denver for the convention of the NAMA Manx. The details are tentative but we hope to include the usual President's Reception, Grand Banquet and genealogy presentation as well as a trip to the mountains by railroad to view a mining park, a magic show, a church service, and tons and tons of time to reconnect and make new Manx friends.

Jim Corlett and his Rocky Mountain Manx crew are working hard to create a fun and educational NAMA convention, and will announce registration information in the next NAMA Bulletin. For those members who can't wait, please watch the NAMA website for details as they develop at http://www.northamericanmanx.org.

With the 2010 convention in sight, it is time for us to reflect on our membership. Who are we, and where are we going? How do we find new members and keep the old ones? These are questions that the North American Manx Association asks each year and wonder who will we be in 2023...

It is time to send a Valentine's Day membership gift to your child, grand child, nephew, niece or cousin. In addition, you may go to http://namanx.blogspot.com/, the Manx Scrapbook, to learn about everything Manx including news from the Island as well as Manx-related stories from around the world.

Please join the contest for those individuals or societies that gather the most new NAMA members between July 6, 2009 and August 6, 2010. Winners will receive a fun traveling award to hold until the 2012 NAMA Convention.

Ideas, sources, family, and friends...can you find our Manx and interest them? Impress us with your efforts and share with us your accomplishments! Details for reporting your NAMA membership numbers will be forthcoming in our next NAMA Bulletin.

Also, it is time to encourage our younger generation to submit materials for the NAMA Youth Award for under 21 year olds which includes a \$250 prize. For more details, go to www.Faceboook.com, Groups: NAMA Youth or email kelly@mustgoto.com. The NAMA Youth Award will be presented at the 2010 NAMA Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Don't forget the call for NAMA members to provide us with your email addresses. We want to have our membership involved in planning, working, event coordination, and membership.

Keep in contact between Bulletins and Conventions by sending your information to Brad Prendergast at *beeves@juno.com*. We love to have you involved as we know that some of you are unable to attend the conventions or homecomings but would like to help us with your Manx knowledge and volunteerism.

Finally, we are working on a summary of the NAMA Officer and Directors positions to post on our website and in the Bulletin in March. We will provide a short statement of the NAMA Board positions that will be vacant and need filling in August, 2010.

We encourage all of you to consider serving on the NAMA Board. It is fun, it's interesting, and it's Manx!

Best of all you will meet Manx from around the world.

See you in Denver in August, 2010.

Sally Dahlquist NAMA President



NAMA Notes

Notes from the Editor

I've been editing the Bulletin for about three years now and it's been enormous fun. Unfortunately, due to family and work commitments, I've been finding it increasingly difficult to keep to my own publication deadlines. Those commitments are going to increase in 2010 due to some work changes and so it is with a great deal of sadness that I will be stepping down as Bulletin Editor after the 2010 Convention this August.

This means of course that we will be needing a new editor in time for the Fall edition of the Bulletin! If you are interested in being nominated for the position of Editor, please contact Sally Dahlquist at sdahlqu@inverhills.mnscu.edu.

For further information on what's involved in being the Bulletin Editor, please see the feature below.

Andrew Ravenscroft

NAMA Bulletin Editor

Would you like to edit the NAMA Bulletin? Ever wondered what's involved? Read on for a digest of what you need to know.

The position of Editor has three main components to it:

Firstly, encouraging contributions from members and rounding up the society reports. This is largely done by email, although there is the occasional written submission.

Secondly, the editing and layout of the Bulletin. Although I use a free desk top publishing program called Scribus, there are a variety of ways to do this.

Thirdly the printing and mailing. This last part is actually the easiest since we use a mailing house to take care of the US-based mailings, which are the majority.

I'll work with the new Editor to transition smoothly and make sure we take care of all the handoffs. If you're considering putting your name forward for the post of Editor and you'd like to know more detail please contact me at *aravenscroft@charter.net* or phone me on 608-236-2170.

NAMA Website

The NAMA website continues to grow with submissions from member manx societies and associations, and you can go there for up to date news between bulletins. Please drop in and visit at www.northamericanmanx.org.

The password-protected Members Only area is accessible only to paid up members of NAMA. The log in is:

User name: nama
Password: tynwald

NAMA Officers and Directors 2009 - 2011

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Basking Shark Hunt

The Great Manx Shark Hunt

The Isle of Man is home to a diverse wildlife population, some of it permanent and some of it temporary. Among the temporary population, the basking shark is one of the largest of the visitors.

Although I spent my childhood on the island, and have returned numerous times to visit family, I'd never actually seen a basking shark until my most recent visit. This is not that surprising, really, since unless you make an effort to get out on a boat at the correct time of year you're not that likely to run into one.

There are stories of the sharks coming in close to land, though. I recall in years gone by it being a big sensation at school when one or two sharks would swim into Peel Harbour but I was never lucky enough to be around when one did, and I had to listen enviously to my school friends' gripping stories of how some fishing boat was almost sunk by the 300 foot leviathan that leaped over the breakwater.

Schoolboy exaggeration aside, basking sharks are fascinating creatures and I'd always wanted to see one close up for myself. On our recent trip back to Peel we decided to take the girls out on a boat and see if we could get a good look at one.

Local skipper Mal Kelly has built a reputation for finding basking sharks in his boat the Foilan Beg. When I called him one Tuesday evening he was all too happy to take us out and see what we could find. He'd had good luck finding sharks that week and thought that we had a great chance of running into some. "See you on the breakwater at 10am" he said.



Mal Kelly's boat: the Foilan Beg.

We went down to Peel harbour the next morning, boarded the Foilan Beg and set off to look for sharks. As we left the breakwater we rounded the three viking boats tied up alongside. Unlike the old Viking boats that were used in the Peel Festival back in the 70's these boats are made of fiberglass but they look like the real thing and they play a major role in the revived Peel festival.



ABOVE: Viking boats tied up at Peel breakwater.

The west side of the island is a prime spot for basking sharks, and we cruised round behind Peel Castle and down the back of the Peel Hill towards Stroin Vuigh and Niarbyl. Peel Castle is an imposing sight from the rear and I can only imagine the impression it made on would-be troublemakers when they approached it from the sea.



ABOVE: Peel Castle from the sea. Fenella Beach is to the right.

The western side of the island is a rugged stretch of hilly coastline with contorted slate cliffs dropping down to the sea. Here and there it is accessible through beaches such as at Niarbyl, but for the most part it is left to the local wildlife. Along the way we saw groups of seals sunning themselves on the rocks and cormorants diving for food.

Basking Shark Hunt



ABOVE: The cliffs behind Peel Hill are mainly made of twisted and contored bands of Manx slate punctuated by caves.

RIGHT: Olivia spots her first shark. You can see the fin as a small dark triangle almost exactly in the centre of the picture, a little above and to the right of the bow of the boat. In the background is the view looking south along the west coast of the island towards the Calf of Man (not in view).

It didn't take long for us to find sharks. Olivia was the first to spot one, its dorsal and tail fins breaking the surface of the water not far away. By law boats must not approach closer than 100m from the sharks, so we moved in as close as we were allowed and cut the engines.

The sharks weren't shy, though and soon there were five of them swimming around the boat, feeding on the plankton that is present in the water this time of year. A few times they swept in close to the boat and we were able to get a look at the large dark shapes moving through the waves below. Unfortunately they're not easy to photograph below the waves but we have lots of photos of fins!

Basking sharks are a slightly eerie sight from the front with their ghostly white mouths wide open as they harvest the plankton and to see that large tail fin sweep by is a thrill to anyone who's seen Jaws, even if these sharks don't eat people.



BELOW: Three shark fins show the presence of basking sharks between us and the Manx coastline. The two fins on the right belong to a single shark. The distance between the dorsal (front) and tail fins is about 8 feet, making the shark about 12 feet long.

We stayed out for about an hour, watching the sharks going to and fro before heading back to Peel for tea and ice cream on the breakwater. In the corner formed by the castle and the breakwater and next to the ice cream kiosk, there is a notice board with lots of information on marine visitors to Manx shores and the sheer diversity is surprising.

If you would like more information on the habits of basking sharks in Manx waters and the best time to look for them go to www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com.

Mal Kelly operates his shark watching tours from Peel Harbour and you can find his contact information at www.manxcharters.co.uk.

Even if we hadn't sighted any sharks, the trip down the west side of the island would have been worth it for the views alone. I highly recommend it to any NAMA members visiting the island during basking shark season.

Andrew Ravenscroft



BELOW: Rounding Peel breakwater after the shark hunt. To the immediate left of the breakwater is the harbour side of Peel Castle, with the bulk of Peel Hill rising up in the background.



Ellan Vannin Centenary



ABOVE: The Ellan Vannin tied up in harbour. Image courtesy of Manx National Heritage.

The 3rd December, 2009, marked a century since the tragic loss of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's vessel 'Ellan Vannin'. Sailing from Ramsey loaded with cargo and a small number of passengers she headed towards Liverpool, but worsening weather conditions made the journey difficult.

The small vessel, which was originally an iron paddle steamer named 'Mona's Isle II' was known to Manx sailors as 'Li'l Daisy' and reached the Bar Lightship in the teeth of a raging storm, but sank approximately fourteen miles from the Liverpool landing stage. Thirty five people lost their lives with many of the bodies never recovered. The wreck itself was later blown up by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board to avoid any danger to other shipping.

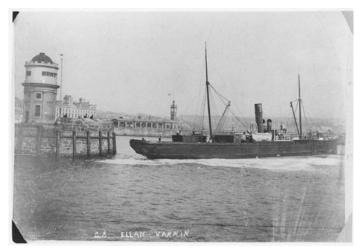
It was considered by many, including the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, and highlighted on the initial divers' report that the 'Ellan Vannin' had been in collision with another vessel. This was also supported by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, but as the inquests progressed this theory began to lose credibility, and the Board of Trade Enquiry which followed arrived at the conclusion that the 'Ellan Vannin' had been sunk by heavy seas. However, rumours persisted that there were vested interests for pursuing this theory.

The 'Ellan Vannin Disaster Fund' set up to aid the dependants of those who had lost their lives organised many fund raising events, including concerts in Peel by the Douglas Male Choristers and the Peel Choral Society, and in total raised the huge sum of £12,997 6s 3d by the spring of 1910.

There are a number of connections with this story to the west of the Island including Captain James Teare who originally came from Peel, but was at the time of his death domiciled at Palatine Road in Douglas. Taking charge of the 'Ellan Vannin' in 1904 Captain Teare had previously sailed in foreign waters for many years, initially as an ordinary seaman before his promotion, but 'The Ellan Vannin Story' tells us that nothing is recorded against Captain Teare's name on the Lloyd's Register. This suggested that he only sailed as a captain in waters off the UK, and that his certificate of competency applied to home trade only.

During the summer of 1909 Captain Teare took command of 'King Orry II' an iron paddle steamer that was much bigger and faster than the 'Ellan Vannin'. He is remembered as being one of the most cautious, capable and safest of the company's captains and never away from his post. Seen to be one of nature's gentlemen, Captain Teare was also a lifelong teetotaller and said to be 'married to the company'.

As the busy summer months receded Captain Teare began a month's winter work, as did every captain involved in the company, on the 2nd December, 1909 on board the 'Ellan Vannin'. His cautiousness signalled to others that he would be the last man to leave port if he considered the conditions too dangerous. But others did criticise Captain Teare later, questioning whether he should have carried on with his journey to Liverpool, suggesting that he should have returned to the Island, or sought shelter until the worst of the storm was over. Others in authority noting Captain Teare as a man of experience in these matters felt the criticism was unwarranted.



ABOVE: The Ellan Vannin leaving harbour. Image courtesy of Manx National Heritage.

Ellan Vannin Centenary

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company backed their man convinced he was on a navigable course at the time of the sinking and in a statement remarked that no living sailor could have made a better passage. However, Lieutenant Mace, the Marine Surveyor and Water Bailiff of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, and a highly respected figure in Liverpool also criticised Captain Teare at the Board of Trade Enquiry; suggesting that he should not have tried to cross the Bar Lightship under such conditions, but waited for daylight so as to steer the vessel into deeper water.

Captain Teare's body was washed ashore at Birkdale, near Southport on the 16th January, 1910, and was brought back to the Island aboard the Steam Packet vessel 'Douglas' with Captain Cowley, his widow's uncle, Master for that day. He left a widow aged 33 and four children aged between 10 and 2, but in the Liverpool Express and Echo of 22nd April, 1959 a correspondent incorrectly reported that Captain Teare's wife and his twin babies drowned in their bunks on board the 'Ellan Vannin' that fateful night. None of his children were twins.

His widow was the daughter of William Cowley who had been Chief Officer of the 'King Orry' and niece of Captain Cowley of the 'Queen Victoria'.

It was noted at the time that Captain Teare's wages were £4 per week and that he had a house to the value of £200 and was in possession of an insurance policy also valued at £200.



ABOVE: The gravestones of John Craine (left) and Captain Teare. Photo courtesy of Valerie Caine.

First Mate John Craine was interred alongside Captain Teare in Douglas Borough Cemetery, his widow being the daughter of Mr. Teare the Douglas to Peel carrier. It was reported that approximately 5,000 people stood to watch the funeral procession which included seven captains, the General Manager, crew members, Chairman and two of the directors of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. Members of the Masonic Lodge who were also present dropped a sprig of acacia on Captain Teare's grave.

Able Seaman John Cook was a Peel man by birth and lived in Patrick Street; aged 53 he left a widow and three children. Said never to be a deep sea sailor, Cook would follow the fishing trade during the off season.

His body was recovered from the shoreline at Blackpool on the 16th February, 1910, approximately 25 miles from the scene of the disaster and the furthest away

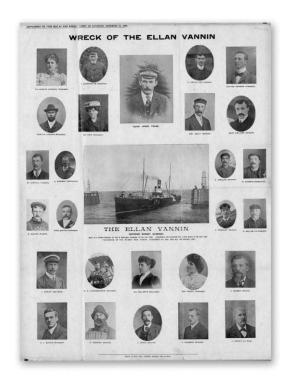
As a crew member of Peel lifeboat Cook took part in the historic rescue of 23 people from the 'St. George' which went ashore at Peel Castle, and he was awarded a medal by the Norwegian Government.



ABOVE: A lifebelt from the Ellan Vannin. Photo courtesy of Valerie Caine.

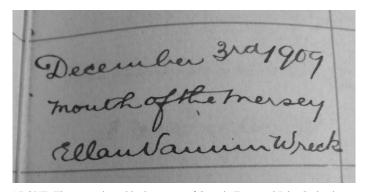
John Cook also holds a little mystery. Each week he was said to go ashore when the 'Ellan Vannin' reached Ramsey to collect a letter at the agent's office, which would always be waiting for him and was addressed to 'Mr John Cook c/o SS Ellan Vannin'. One of these letters was waiting for him on the 3rd December, 1909, but it was never collected. Who left the letters has always remained a mystery.

Ellan Vannin Centenary



ABOVE: Commemorative supplement published in the Isle of Man Weekly. Image courtesy of Manx National Heritage.

It was also reported in the 'Isle of Man Examiner' on the 4th December, 1981, by his niece Edith Chandler of Peel that her uncle, John Cook, was very proud of the 'Ellan Vannin' and that it would upset him to hear others joke that the 'Ellan Vannin' could be put down the funnel of the 'SS Lusitania'. Her uncle, Harry Hough, had also been a captain of the 'Ellan Vannin' and only took a back seat when failing eyesight forced him to retire.



ABOVE: The entry alongside the names of Captain Teare and John Craine in the burial register. Photo courtesy of Valerie Caine

A poignant postscript to this tragic episode concerns John Cook's unopened pay packet which was still in his pocket and his name still visible. His niece was given a sixpence out of the man's wages which was taken to a Douglas jeweller and engraved in the centre with the Three Legs of Man and the date of the sinking around the rim. She wore the pendant for fifty years before handing it into the care of the Manx Museum.

Two other crew members who also perished were Mrs. Eliza Collister (Stewardess) and Joseph Crellin (Fireman) who both lived at Glen Vine.

Mrs. Collister was formerly Miss Thomson who lived in Glen Vine before her marriage where she was well known and highly respected. She was responsible for the female passengers and it was said that her kindly manner made her very popular, particularly on rough crossings.

Aged about 40 and the widow of Louis or Lewis Collister of East Foxdale she left behind an orphaned daughter aged nine. Other references refer to Mr. & Mrs. Callister and state that he died in 1907, suggesting that they had a son rather than a daughter. Mr and Mrs Collister had lived in the USA and South Africa, but his failing health had forced them to return to the Island. Both Mr. & Mrs. Collister are buried in St. Runius churchyard in the parish of Marown.

Joseph Crellin had been a Fireman on the 'Ellan Vannin' for many years. Living in a cottage at Glen Vine with his family for a number of years he was actively involved with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Crosby where he was a teacher in the Sunday school.

A staunch teetotaller, he was married to the former Miss Collister of Ballamodda and was a member of the Good Samaritan Rechabite Tent. He left a widow and three sons all under the age of ten.

Valerie Caine October 2009

BELOW: Commemorative plaque at Ramsey Harbour. Photo courtesy of Valerie Caine



Society News

Cleveland Manx Society

Our July meeting was held at the home of our secretary Elizabeth Duncan where the Manx Flag was flying in honor of Tynwald. We began with a potluck meal, and then had our business meeting and program. We displayed a large map of the Island and asked the members to mark the place their families were from. We discussed the different surnames and histories. It was interesting to see how many places were represented by the Cleveland Manx.

In August our annual picnic was held at the Red Barn. After lunch we played a few games. Then we enjoyed visiting and catching up with the latest news. In September we met at the Colony Dining Room. After a buffet lunch we had our meeting.

In October we met at an East side restaurant and then in November at a West side location. We had good attendance at both locations. Our annual Christmas Party will be at a Holiday Inn. Our entertainment will be Holiday Music-Island Style. We always collect new mittens, socks, gloves, etc. to donate to the Salvation Army. We like to share the Season's good will with others as well.

Alice Cannell

Chicago Manx Society

The Chicago Manx held their last meeting on Sunday November 15 at the home of Florence Abbinanti in Evergreen Park on the south side of Chicago. We had a very nice pot luck dinner followed by a short business meeting and cooish. We had a report on the Chicago Celtic Fest held in Grant Park on Sat and Sun, Sept 12 and 13. Our next meeting is scheduled for March at the home of Dorothy Gawne in Niles, IL.

Robert Kelly NAMA

Northern California Manx

The *Nollick Cooish* for the Northern California Manx had to be postponed due to illness. We have tentatively rescheduled to January 24, 2010. *Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa.*

Rocky Mountain Manx Society.

On October 18th The RMMS met at a new location and attracted twice as many persons as usual. We spent most of the time eating and having discussions on the elements of the 2010 NAMA Convention which we are hosting in August of next Year.

We established the dates for the planning/decision making meetings in 2010 and set up groups to lead on specific components of the Convention.

Afterwards, we had seconds of the food and watched a video of the IOM.

Jim Corlett

Vancouver Manx Society

In early September we planned to go sailing on the Viking ship *Munin* in English Bay, however due to inclement weather the trip had to be cancelled; but the following Saturday proved to be beautiful, with a blue, cloudless sky and a clear view of the North Shore mountains.

After receiving instructions, our hearty souls were ready to row! A good time was had by all. The smaller second group encountered slightly windier conditions and had less rowing power, resulting in sore muscles later.

However we're going to do it again next year!



Society News



ABOVE: On board the Munin, named for one of Odin's ravens.

Our "Back end do" was held in late October. The event was well attended and we were delighted to welcome members who travelled to Vancouver from Quesnel, Kamloops and Kelowna, which, if you know B.C. is practically a day trip. To beat the band they encountered the first snow of the season!

One highlight of the evening was the first door prize... a sightseeing trip on a Cessna 140, which was won by Sam and Noreen Roud.



The children did a super job carving the pumpkins and were rewarded with a bag of Halloween candy.



In memoriam

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Joan McCaffrey, wife of Terry McCaffrey our Past President, passed away on September 14th, 2009 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Joan was born in Douglas and she and Terry came to Vancouver B.C. in 1953.

Joan served on the Manx Committee for several years and her warm smile and pleasant manner will be sorely missed by her friends in the Society.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Terry and his family.

Fenella Deakin President, Vancouver Manx Society, B.C.

Washington DC Manx

The following item from Jim Kneale is a holdover from last September but I thought it might be a nice way to look forward to spring and a new growing season.

Jim writes: A number of our members have been growing a variety of heirloom tomato called Manx Marvel, started from four seeds acquired by Mary Kelly of the Wisconsin Manx. The juicy tomatoes are about the size of a handball, but are prolific producers and resistant to disease. They have an excellent flavor, unlike the bland things masquerading as tomatoes in the grocery store.

They are hardy plants and resistant to the Verticillium Wilt fungal disease, as described in the following references:

Vegetable diseases and their control by Arden F. Sherf, Alan A. MacNab: "Resistance is the most widely used control for Verticillium wilt. Two sources are a single dominant gene (Ve) detected in 1932 in the accession Pru Wild and multi-genic resistance observed in Manx Marvel in 1921 and interpreted in 1964."

And then in *Diseases of Glasshouse Plants* by W. F. Bewley: "It is commonly held by pathologists that plants exhibiting hard growth are more resistant to disease than the more succulent types, but observations on wilt disease show in this case the reverse to be true, the harder growing varieties succumbing more readily than the more succulent ones.

Manx Notes

The only variety, Manx Marvel, which so far has proved highly resistant to Verticillium shows a distinctly free growth with thick stems and large leaves."

Unfortunately they have not come up with a tomato that is resistant to deer (or our golden retriever who has developed a taste for tomatoes).

If you would like seeds, contact Jim Kneale in the contact info under "webmaster" on page 3 of this bulletin.

Note that seeds produced by plants in close proximity to other varieties may result in characteristics from both, so assure that you either keep them well separated, or get the next years seeds from a pure source.

Jim Kneale

The photo below is one plant, which is bending over several tomato stakes and threatening to detach the gutter from our house to which it is tied.



Promote and Protect our Manx Heritage Please print your information and mail with your check to John Prendergast at the address below Name _____ Spouse_____ Street ____ City ____ State/Prov __ Zip/PC_____

NAMA Membership Enrollment Form

Phone _____ email____

Individual Membership		Dues	Amount
<u>I</u>	Annual	\$ 15	
	<u>Life</u>		
	Under age 50·····	\$250	
I	Age 50 to 59	····-\$175	

Family Membership

Annual \$ 20

Life (2 adults, based on age of youngest)
Under age 50 \$325

Age 50 to 59 \$235

Age 60 and over \$200

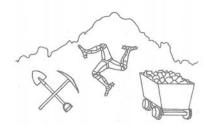
Total remittance in US dollars or equivalent amount

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, please send this form and your check or money order to:

John Prendergast, NAMA Treasurer 10251 South Bell, Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2010 NAMA CONVENTION



Mt. Sneffels 14150' San Juan Mountain Range, Colorado

Trog-ym seose my hooillyn gys ny croink

The Rocky Mountain Manx Society Looks forward to seeing you at the

50th NAMA Convention August 5-8 Denver, Colorado

2010 NAMA Convention - Denver, CO August 5 - 8. Save the date!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

6330 Inner Drive Madison, WI 53705-4303

North American Manx Association