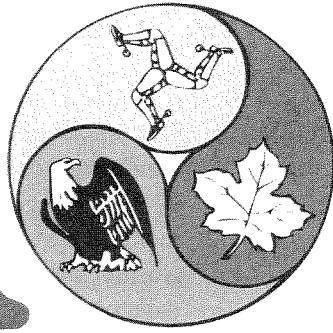


NAMA



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 79, No. 2

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

Summer 2008

Manxman competes in the Tour de France and the Olympics



Manx-born Mark Cavendish is one of the most accomplished athletes to come out of the Isle of Man.

The 22-year old cyclist has already made his mark on the world of competitive cycling with his wins in two stages of the Giro d'Italia, becoming known for his fast performance in the sprint stages.

The intense and straight-talking young rider came close to winning a stage on the Tour de France in his debut in the event last year. Unfortunately, he was put out of competition when a spectator stepped into his path. Brimming with confidence, he has no doubts about his ability to win in the future. As he puts it:

"The hardest thing was getting the opportunity. When you're a young pro from an undeveloped country in road cycling then you're on the back foot. But I was given the opportunity and took it with both hands."

Cavendish is unusual in being an accomplished cyclist on both road and track, and he's not short of ambition. As he told the British newspaper, *The Guardian*: "I'll be the best sprinter on the Tour and me and (cycling partner) Brad will be the best Madison team in the Olympics. So why shouldn't we win? I know how hard I work and how hard Brad and my team work."

Mark's progress in the Tour de France can be followed on his website www.markcavendish.com

2008 NAMA Convention is just around the corner

The Minnesota Manx are in the final stages of preparing for the 2008 NAMA Convention which is only a month away.

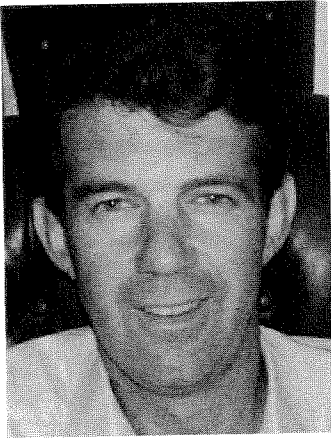
There's still time to register for the Convention, but time is running out, so don't delay if you are thinking about attending but haven't yet sent in your paperwork!

You can get the registration form from the previous issue of the Bulletin, or by visiting the Minnesota Manx web site: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnms/namaconvention.htm or by contacting Joan Gill directly at the address shown on p.3 of this edition of the Bulletin under the listing of NAMA Officers.

This issue of the NAMA Bulletin contains an update on the program for the event (see p.6), and the Convention raffle (see p.11), as well as some reminiscences on conventions past.

NAMA Notes

NAMA President's Message



Summer is almost upon us and the convention in Bloomington, MN is excitingly near.

I know the bookings are going well and it truly promises to be a fantastic event.

The weather on the Isle of Man has been exceptional recently and for Islanders we are all hoping it will remain for the TT festival. With nearly 45,000 visitors expected and a good percentage camping fine weather will make it so much more enjoyable. It's truly amazing how the Island transforms for these two weeks. The tranquil little Island as we know it becomes a mecca for bikers of all sizes, ages and nationalities. The spirit and atmosphere around the Island is electric and there is a real buzz for everyone to enjoy. Of course, not everyone likes the TT races so many locals escape the Island for their own holidays. It can be a holiday paying for itself as locals can easily rent out their house for the festival for handsome sum.

Tynwald day (5th July with the national holiday/ ancient event being on 7th July) will be the next big event after TT on the Island with special guest this year being the Princess Royal. Please contact me directly if any member is visiting this year and we will arrange grandstand seats for you on the day.

Another big event during Manx National Week (5-12th July) will be the presentation of the North American Manx Awards for the local school children. These awards have been presented to Manx school children since 1979 with the categories evolving over time and now representing 5 different areas of interest. Manx Music, Manx Arts & Crafts, Manx Language, Outstanding Contribution to Manx Culture and 2 others split between Outstanding Contribution to Manx Community and Overcoming a Disability.

Each award is a specially minted silver crown for the 1st 4 categories and the remaining two get a brand new £50 Manx pound note.

Our thanks goes to the Department of Education who administer the event and are well supported by the Island's top government ministers and officials. Special mention and gratitude should go to Mrs Betty Hanson (former MHK) who helps pick the winner in each category and gives a detailed bio on each student before their award is made. She has been doing this valuable duty on our behalf since the awards began. Mr President of Tynwald, Noel Cringle, always delivers an excellent vote of thanks and highlights the importance of the Island's link with NAMA while additionally pointing out how the Manx public should be grateful to NAMA for having the foresight to invest in the Manx youth nearly 30 years ago.

NAMA's own award for "American Manx Youth" that is given each convention and kindly donated by Isle of Man Department of Education is equally important. It is still in its infancy but its recognition for North American youth who have displayed a strong interest in their Manx heritage is extremely valuable and should be rewarded. Mary Kelly will appreciate your interest in putting forward recommendations for this award in the future.

It has been some time since I mentioned the "Manx Million" and have little to report on its progress with IOM Government. To remind you, it's a project I suggested that the IOM Government help us (NAMA) in building our membership. We are acutely aware that our membership is dwindling and has been so for quite some time. However, we also know that there are over a million Manx descendents living in North America. Finding a way to make contact with these folk to inform them of their Manx heritage will reap benefits to NAMA, in the form of new members, and the IOM Government with potential visitors and investors to the Island.

Even if the IOM government agrees to fund the project over a long-term (5 plus years) it's important to note we are only volunteers in a non-profit organization and have limited resources. Therefore the funding must include the direct employment of a professional mail-house company to manage the project on our behalf. My next step is to suggest a joint feasibility committee be formed with IOM government to investigate and form a detailed report for both parties to consider. I welcome any suggestions and comments you have on the matter.

In closing I look forward to seeing you all again in August.

Yours truly,
Laurence Skelly

NAMA Notes

Genealogist's Notes

Get in Touch With Your Roots

A good time to let your children/grandchildren appreciate their Manx heritage is this summer. The NAMA convention is coming up and they have a whole slate of activities just for youth.

They not only get to find out about their ancestral home, they get to do it with other youth who also have Manx background.

So, this is the time to get them involved by attending the convention. It is just possible that they could get excited about it, as did one of my young sons who came away from a convention wanting to learn Gaelic Manx. At the very least, they should have some knowledge and warm memories.

Who knows, the adults might learn something, too!

Lucy Peterson
Genealogist

2008 North American Manx Youth Award

The Manx Youth Award, created for the Isle of Man Department of Education and presented to a North American boy, girl, or a group of youth under the age of 18 who showed special interest in Manx culture, will not be awarded at the upcoming 2008 NAMA Convention as planned. Unfortunately, this is the first time since 2000 that we have not received a single letter of nomination for this prestigious beautifully-carved black *Pooill Vaaish Manx* marble prize.

The Spring 2008 NAMA Bulletin carried a full-page story that was intended to remind people to submit nominations for worthy youth by May 30th, but none were received. Last fall, letters were sent to all registered local societies to encourage entries. Since that time, the topic has been discussed at state meetings. The NAMA Executive Board will be considering this matter at Bloomington, MN. Please give it some thought and send your ideas to: Mary Kelly, P. O. Box 425, Platteville, WI 53818 or kelevans@centurytel.net or other board members.

NAMA Website

Remember that you can stay up to date with the latest news and join in discussions on Manx matters at the NAMA website www.northamericanmanx.org.

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

User name: **Manxman**

Password: **Competes**

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NAMA Notes

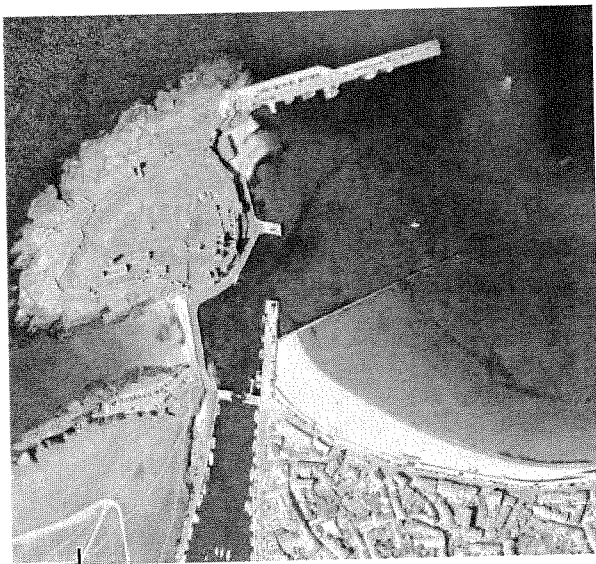
Fly over the Isle of Man...by Internet!

Many members have access to the internet, and I thought it might be fun to report on a way you can fly over the Isle of Man without ever having to leave your house.

Like many people, I use Google's Maps page to get directions and maps of places I need to go. One day, just for fun, I put in "Peel, Isle of Man" in the search box. I wasn't really expecting to get a map of Peel, thinking that my little home town probably wasn't going to be somewhere that Google would bother with. To my surprise, I was not only able to get maps of Peel, but satellite photographs too!

What an interesting perspective on things you get when you view them from above. All my childhood haunts were laid out in a way I couldn't have imagined them back when I was a little boy sliding down the grassy slopes of the headlands on a piece of cardboard.

As you can see from the image of Peel harbour and beach below, the pictures are quite sharp and show a great deal of detail.



Peel Bay and the Castle

At the top left of the picture you can see Peel Castle and the breakwater extending out to the right. Peel Hill is at the lower left, and the town of Peel sits on the bay to the right.

The resolution gets even sharper than the pictures shown, to the point where I could zoom in on my Dad's driveway and see his car parked there.



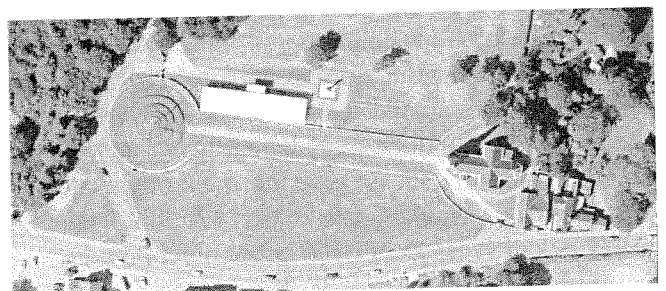
The Isle of Man on a sunny day. Note the few clouds floating over Douglas at the centre right of the image.

The satellite photographs are of fairly recent origin, and it's interesting to do a bit of detective work and try to figure out what time of year they were taken. In the image of Tynwald Hill at the bottom of this column you can see the grandstand (the white rectangular object) where the various guests sit on Tynwald Day. Since this grandstand is only erected for Tynwald Day, it's a far assumption that the picture was taken either late June or early July.

The entire Island is available online, and it's a lot of fun to pick features such as the Lady Isabella in Laxey, and the Tower of Refuge in Douglas and see what they look like from above.

It's hard to do justice to the extraordinary quality of the pictures in black and white, but it's a very exciting way to visit the Island from your desktop.

To get to the maps feature in Google, simply type maps.google.com into your internet browser window, or click on the Maps link on Google's home page.



Tynwald Hill (left) and the Chapel of St. John (right)

Manx News

Convention Memories

Kelly McCarthy forwarded the letter below from Avril E. Quiggin Shipman, in which she reminisces about NAMA Conventions past. As the 2008 Convention approaches, we thought it would be an appropriate occasion to share Avril's memories.

The NAMA Convention in 1972(?) was organized by Ed Sayle in Arlington, VA. To my surprise I got a phone call from my Manx friend Phyllis Costain Crozier living in Canada. We were at Douglas High School for Girls and in the Girl Guides (Scouts) together. Of course, we got together, she was with her husband, son and daughter. They were attending the NAMA convention. I knew nothing of NAMA until then and Phyllis persuaded us to attend, so me and my son (age 5 years) did and I met two ladies from the IOM who knew my older sisters, Ruth and Jean. I think I joined NAMA that time and it was during the following years that Ed Sayle, Mr. & Mrs. Camaish and Mary Hayslett nee Karran started our local Manx group in Washington D.C. Area and I've been with them ever since.

In 1986 Bill Bridson arranged for the 1986 Convention in Williamsburg, VA. Dirk Ramsey Spencer* planned the entertainment for the Convention. We contacted groups who could perform Manx songs and dances and music for us. When we heard that Charles Guard was planning to attend we found a lady who loaned her Celtic Harp for Charles to play. Dirk came across the Longship Company, a Viking re-enactment group, so we arranged a "surprise" breakfast and the Vikings "raped and pillaged" us! We built a Fairy Bridge to walk over so everyone going to dinner could greet the "Little People". Julie Christian dressed up as a Manx Fairy and greeted people (Jack and Margie's daughter). My sister Jean came over from England and helped me decorate the Bridge with greens and fuchsia.

I contacted Audrey nee Gore (can't recall her married name), who was Mayor of Douglas at that time. (Audrey and I graduated from Douglas Preparatory School, known as "Stannies and Chappies" after Miss Stansfield and Miss Chapel). [Charles Guard also went there but many years after us] Audrey spoke in Manx for us. Sir Charles Kerruish was our main speaker. Gary Lightowler (an old boy** of King William's College) wrote and delivered "The Manx Fairy Times"; slipped under people's doors after they had gone to sleep. I believe we had in attendance at least 300 people and we all had a good time.

In 1992, Ron Quayle organized a NAMA Convention in Douglas, IOM. I remember a lovely concert at the Gaiety Theatre and a fun coach trip. My eldest sister Ruth and her husband Morewood Johnson attended the concert (they lived in Onchan).

In 1998 Don Quayle organized an interesting NAMA Convention in Arlington, VA. He organized a panel who discussed the future of the IOM. I believe Tim Cullen who was with the World Bank in Washington D.C. headed up the panel. He is also an old boy of King William's College.

These are the only Conventions I have attended because I was visiting the Land of my Birth and members of my family every year and I couldn't afford the other conventions.

Good Luck to NAMA's next Convention 2008.

Most sincerely,

Avril Quiggin Shipman.

*Dirk was from Douglas; my sisters taught him at Rosemount Methodist Sunday School. He also was an Old Boy at King William's College in Castletown.

** Old boy = Alumnus

PhD researcher seeks North American musicians

I am a fiddler from the Isle of Man, and I am currently researching my PhD (with Liverpool University and the Centre of Manx Studies) on the identity of the fiddlers of the Isle of Man in the twenty-first century.

I am currently in the process of conducting fieldwork with the fiddlers on the Island, and also plan to perform them recording as well. As well as the fiddlers on the Isle of Man, I am also interested in getting in touch with fiddlers outside the Island who play Manx music.

If you are a musician in North America who plays Manx music, I would very much appreciate it if you could email me at L.R.Payne@liverpool.ac.uk.

Thank you,

Laura Payne

GREAT IN '08

Sails Are Set For Minnesota NAMA Convention!

Three, Two, One...Bang! The North American Manx Association Convention is off to a spectacular start on August 1-3 in Bloomington, Minnesota. We have lots of Manx kids signed up for a jam packed weekend of swimming, games, art projects, Manx music, dancing, storytelling and the history of sword fighting!

The Convention commences with a presentation by Rebecca Billman on the History of Tynwald from a Manx Youth's Perspective. Becky is the grand daughter of Rev. Devore Craine Smith and his wife, Ruth of San Diego. A 1920-30's vintage glass slide show of scenes from the Isle of Man follows. These beautiful hand-painted slides were once used by the Walter Stevenson Family to educate Chicago residents of Manx heritage and the Isle of Man.

Next, NAMA Convention attendees will board a bus for the President's Reception at the James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota. We will view an historical exhibit celebrating the immigration of the Manx to Minnesota that coincides with Minnesota's 150th year of statehood. Contacts have been made with the University of Minnesota's Immigration Research Center and our Minnesota Manx members to document our oral and written histories of Manx immigration. The exhibit will focus on the history of the Isle of Man, its Tynwald, the political and legal processes, finance, nature, tourism, education, and entertainment. A rich and interesting display of Manx memorabilia including IOM maps, paintings, photos, hangings, jewelry, and books will be on view.

Upon return to the Sheraton Hotel, the Convention goes on to be dazzled with authentic Welsh and Manx dancing presented by *Traed y Ddraig*. This Minnesota Welsh dance group includes Minnesota Manx members, Audrey and Mike McClellan with special appearances by John and Jenny Dowling of *Perree Bane*, the renowned Manx folk dance group from the Isle of Man.

When we awake on Saturday, the Manx Sale table and raffle will be in full swing with souvenirs from the Isle of Man as well as a game of Manx Bingo. Our genealogists, Lucy Peterson and Marilyn Anderson, and James Hibbard, Archivist of the Manx Museum at University of Wisconsin-Platteville will assist us in finding and

preserving our Manx heritage. As our luncheon is served, John Dowling will delight us with a scenic presentation of sailing on the Isle of Man. To follow, Mike McClellan will give a lively demonstration for all ages about becoming a swordfighter in the Middle Ages.

Our Saturday Banquet will be "Grand" and includes a humorous opening by Fran Shimmin on Manx Names, a special address from Edmund "Eddie" Lowey of the Legislative Council from the Isle of Man, an exuberant live auction hosted by Past President Larry "Duke" Fargher, a Manx/British singing performance by Good Show Productions, and the presentation and passing of the swords to the new NAMA Officers.

Reverend Devore Craine Smith will conduct the NAMA Memorial Service honoring our NAMA and Minnesota Manx prior to Sunday morning hot buffet brunch. Also, Andrew Ravenscroft of the Wisconsin Manx will excite our imaginations by telling Manx stories and fairy tales.

Our convention will conclude with a history of the TT Races, a display of English Motorcycles in the convention hotel parking lot, and an informal dinner at the Mall of America in the evening.

Naturally, we will hold our General Meetings to hear society reports, elect and install new officers, encourage participation of our youth, preserve our heritage, plan for the 2010 convention, and discuss a possible homecoming to the Isle of Man.

After many years of planning, the Manx Society of Minnesota is ready! We are on the final leg of the race and look forward to crossing the finish line together first...the first of August, that is, of 2008!

Sally Dahlquist
1st VP NAMA



The Sculpture Garden is one of many attractions awaiting you in the Twin Cities area.

Society News

Chicago Manx Society

On a very beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, April 13, 2008, the Chicago Manx Society held a lively meeting at the home of Mary and John Prendergast in Chicago, IL. There were 16 people in attendance.

A delicious baked ham pot-luck lunch was served with all the good side dishes that were brought by our members.

Our dessert was a birthday cake with candles as it was John's birthday and a new-comer, Mrs. Martinson, as she was 92 years old the next day. Everyone then sang "Happy Birthday" to our birthday people.

After the lunch we all gathered in the living room and the meeting was brought to order by Florence as Bob Kelly was absent. I then turned the meeting over to Brad. Brad had everyone introduce themselves. The minutes from the previous meeting and the treasurer's report was read and was approved.

We had five guests at the meeting, including Mrs. Martinson, and her son and granddaughter, Mrs. Martinson's parents were born in the Isle of Man, and her father was a worker on the ship "Star of India" when it was being built. Mary Kelly and her husband, Frank, were also with us. It was so nice to have them as guests.

Florence then read the correspondence that she had received in the mail. One letter was from Joan Gill of the Minnesota Manx and she would like a member from each society in the U.S. to give a report on the things that had been done with their meetings in 2007. There were no volunteers so it was suggested to ask again at the next meeting.

It was brought up about the Chicago Fest that took place in September. Sam Slocum was enthusiastic about keeping the tradition alive in having a booth at the Fest in 2008 (If it is still in existence).

To meet the cost it was brought up that our yearly dues should be increased to \$10.00 and it was suggested we could maybe ask for a few contributions.

Those suggestions are to be brought up at the next meeting. We have had a good time at the Fest and everyone wanted to continue doing it. The Martinson's came to the meeting because they had been to the Fest

and saw the Isle of Man sign on the booth.

Mary Kelly spoke to us about the Manx room at the University of Wisconsin and some of the contributions that Bob Kelly is giving. It was most interesting and she also brought a film about the Campus of the University and the Manx room.

The next meeting will be at the home of Florence Abbinanti, in Evergreen Park. The date will be July 13, 2008. The meeting was then adjourned with the singing of Ellan Vannin.

We all stayed for a while as the showing of slides of the Isle of Man were enjoyed by all. We all enjoy each others company and lots of conversation. All in all it was a very nice meeting. If you're interested in joining the Chicago Manx for their next meeting, or if you're looking for information, please contact me at beeves@juno.com.

Brad Prendergast

Cleveland Manx

In March the Cleveland Manx met at Houlihan's Resaurant. After our lunch we had our business meeting.

The schedule for the year was distributed, as well as a new calling list to inform members of any news between meeting. We are also pleased to have our web site up and running. I'm getting lots of inquiries.

We met in April and again in May. The May meeting was well attended. It was held at a Historic Inn in Painesville. Our members are proudly wearing Manx pins and jewelry to our meetings.

Three of our members will be attending the convention this year. Liz Duncan, Tom & Alice Cannell. Liz had been the Secretary of NAMA for approximately 21 years.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in August.

Alice Cannell

Society News

Manx Society of Minnesota

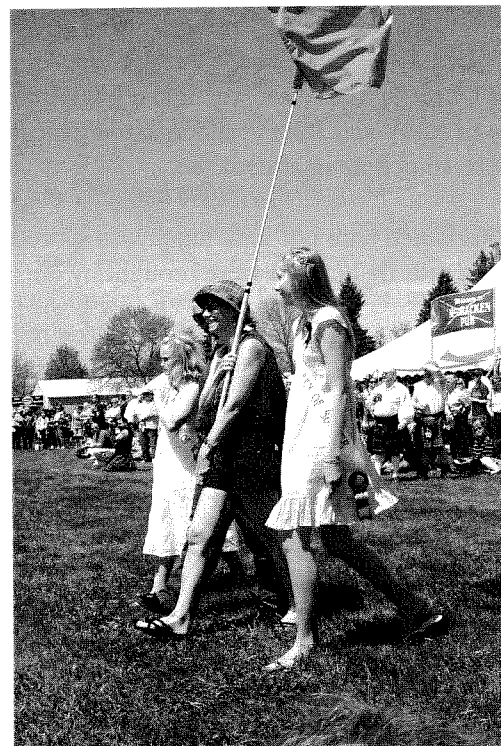
The Minnesota Manx have been busy working on the convention. Plans are falling into place nicely, with a couple of interesting added activities.

We met on March 9th in the convention hotel. It was a small group but was an interesting and fun meeting. We had a really lively discussion with our introductions and our Isle of Man ties. After the business meeting, Joan Gill gave a talk on Manx women.

Our last meeting was May 4th at the Anoka County Historical Center. We had some special guests -- member of a motorcycle club on their vintage bikes, four English bikes and one French. After a potluck dinner, the men told us about their bikes -- it sounds like they are not the most comfortable ride and take a lot of tender loving care.

Norman Gill gave a talk on the TT races. He had pictures of his relative on the Island who was one of the 100 riders on vintage bikes to opening the 100th anniversary of the founding of the TT races. One of our members, Eva Mae Cleater, was featured in a display of women in World War II. She served in the Marines. When asked what the women Marines were called, she replied, "BAM or Broad Ass Marines!"

We are looking forward to seeing many NAMA members at the convention.



Sally Dahlquist and the Manx Queens of Summer and Winter parade with the Manx flag at the Scottish Festival

Our society had an informational booth at the Scottish Festival held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 17th. We had a number of inquiries about the upcoming convention and we also met two of the young dancers who will be performing at the convention.

Joan Gill

Laa Boaldyn - the Battle between the Queen of Summer and the Queen of Winter

Laa Boaldyn has its origins in the Celtic calendar, although the battle itself is actually a Norse custom, which was absorbed into the traditional May Day celebrations of the Manx people. This event is a fascinating example of the merging of Celtic and Norse customs on the Isle of Man.

The mock battle between the two Queens represents the banishing of winter and the arrival of summer. Traditionally, on May Day, a Queen of Summer was chosen from one of the villages on the Island. Both the Queen of Summer and the Queen of Winter would have attendants, along with a Captain and his troops, to protect her. Both sides marched to a patch of common ground and staged a mock battle during which the Queen of Summer was captured and ransomed. Once the ransom had been paid, the Queen of Winter retired from battle, leaving the Queen of Summer to win.



The Manx Queens of Summer (left) and Winter

Society News

Northern California Manx

The Northern California Manx met on a Sunday afternoon in mid-March (post-Ides). Spring was in the air and we were at the hacienda of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera in Milpitas, up against the green foothills of Silicon Valley.

It had been too long since last we met (*Traa dy-liooar*), but we made up for it with lively conversation and general camaraderie. Of special note was the presence of Peter Karran, a cousin of our hostess. Peter had come to California to attend a professional conference. He managed to add a few days so that he could have a family visit.

We're not much for having organized meetings with agendas, but still we took time to talk about the upcoming NAMA Convention '08 in Minnesota. The extra special welcome for young people was well received, so we hope to have a better attendance than usual from our area.

Here are some websites you might find of interest that feature talented Manx musicians and athletes:

Music (Blues/Rock): Back Door Slam
www.backdoorslam.com

Racing (Enduro - Motocross) David Knight
www.knighter.net

Cycling Mark Cavendish
www.markcavendish.com

These Manx spend a good deal of time in North America. If you know of any others, please contact Jack Cormode at (650) 961-6117 or jackcormode@gmail.com.

San Diego County Manx Association

Our group meets bi-monthly at members' homes. Following a brief business meeting we share information about ourselves both in America and the Isle of Man.

The upcoming Convention in Minnesota in August has been a topic of conversation for all of us. Unfortunately not many of us will be attending this year but Hilary and

Brian Harrison will be there, also Ruth and Devore Craine Smith will be making it their tenth or eleventh convention. They all look forward to seeing "old friends" again. Ruth and Devore have attended two conventions on the Isle of Man, the second time in 2000 when twenty four family members made the trip!

This time two years ago our members were busy looking forward to hosting the convention here in our beautiful city at the Bahia Resort on the Bay. The Convention took place August 27th thru 30th, 2006, and we had over 100 attendees. Highlights of the convention included an afternoon and evening at the Embarcadero where, graciously hosted by the San Diego Maritime Museum, we boarded the Star of India - the oldest Sailing Ship in the world, built in Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Our visit to the Star of India was followed by a delicious Mexican dinner on the Berkley, another of the Museum's vessels. Tynwald's President, Noel Cringle and his wife Mary provided some great entertainment. Our final night, the farewell reception, was truly memorable.

Good food, short speeches and an auction that brought the house down, Noel Cringle being the auctioneer!

Gillian Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer

Vancouver Manx Society

Preparations for celebrating the Vancouver Manx Society's one hundredth birthday are progressing well in the capable hands of our Centenary Committee.

The date – Tynwald Day, July 5th. The place – with our Norse connections we have chosen the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby. We expect to have a "full house" and will close off ticket sales on May 31st.

Our evening would not be complete, of course, without our singing "O Land of our Birth" and "Ellan Vannin."

With our main event of the year so near, we will forego our annual picnic but will have our usual general meeting and "Back End Do" in the Fall.

We have lost two long-time members of our Society – Joan Mc Meiken and George Ilott. We extend our sympathies to Joan and George's families.

Terry Mc Caffrey (President)

Societies and other notes

Washington DC Manx Society

The 2008 Spring Dinner meeting was held on Saturday April 19th at the Pier 7 Restaurant in Washington DC.

We welcomed Mary Kelly from the Wisconsin Manx Society. She presented a video "The Story of Mann" which she obtained from the Manx Museum in Douglas for use at the new Luce Center Museum at University of Wisconsin - Platteville. She also presented some slides describing the museum and the people who made it possible.

Mary Kelly distributed packets of "Manx Marvel" tomato seeds, which she grew from four seeds she was given last year. Three seedlings are currently lining my kitchen window, awaiting transplant to our garden this weekend.

The photo below is of Kelly McCarthy and Mary Kelly at the spring dinner.



Earlier in the year, we got together to enjoy dinner, and a pint or two, at the Galway Bay Irish pub in Annapolis, Maryland (below).



Jim Kneale

Wisconsin Manx Society

The Wisconsin Manx held their spring meeting on April 20th, a day that actually felt like the first day of spring, unlike the stormy weather that has been hitting the Midwest during June.

As always, there was a great deal of swapping of news and catching up on what had happened since the last gathering. On this occasion, there was also a gardening theme since both Mary Kelly and I showed up with tomato plants that we had grown from Mary's Manx Marvel seeds. The clear lesson from the relative height of the plants was to follow Mary's approach and grow them under growlights. Mary's were about twice as high!

I should add that since the meeting, I transplanted my plants to the garden. Some late frosts almost put paid to them, and the rabbits nabbed a few, but I have a half dozen that are thriving and I'm looking forward to finding out what the Manx Marvel tastes like.

Andrew Ravenscroft

Chaplain's Corner

Among the richest traditions of our Isle of Man is the music of the people including *Ellan Vannin* (enchanted Isle). This is a name given to the Isle of Man by the Romans.

*When the summer day is over and its busy cares have flown,
I sit beneath the starlight with a weary heart alone;
Then rises like a vision, sparkling bright in Nature's glee
My own dear Ellen Vannin with its green hills by the sea.*

With our fellow Mansmen we will thrill to the singing of *Ellan Vannin* and other inspiring songs and hymns at our convention in Minneapolis in August. I hope that you can join in the singing.

Rev. Devore Craine Smith

More NAMA Notes

Convention Raffle Update

The raffle and silent auction prizes are truly wonderful. For the raffle we have over 70 items, most of them relating to the Isle of Man, from oil paintings to bookmarks, stuffed toys to note cards, books to decals. There will be several drawings daily.

If anyone not attending the convention wants to buy raffle ticket, they may send \$1.00 for one ticket, or \$5.00 for six tickets to Joan Gill, 10215 38th Court North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1669. Prizes will be mailed to winners not at the convention.

The silent auction has about 20 items, not available at the sales table or the raffle. Again most of the items are from or relating to the Isle of Man. There are some lovely jewelry pieces, glassware and crystal, books, and other media items.

The three big items are a week in Maui, two one-night stays for two at the Standish House in Lanark, Illinois, and a weekend getaway to northwestern Wisconsin.

Joan Gill

NAMA Membership Enrollment Form

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 _____
Phone _____ email _____

Individual Membership

	Dues	Amount
Annual.....	\$ 15	_____
Life		
Under age 50.....	\$250	_____
Age 50 to 59.....	\$175	_____
Age 60 and over.....	\$125	_____
Junior (age 1-18 years, no bulletin).....	\$ 2	_____

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



Written in Stone



This creative image was put together by Oliver Skelly, Laurence's son, while the two of them were visiting Lhen beach (between Jurby and Bride).

NAMA Biennial Convention
August 1-3, 2008
Bloomington, Minnesota



See you at the Sheraton
Bloomington in August!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Madison, WI 53705-4303
6330 Inner Drive

North American
Manx Association