



# The Kennedy Gazette

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## Official Publication of the Kennedy Society of North America Volume 34 Issue 1 – Winter-February 2011

### Kennedys Face Record Winter



*Editor's Note: Those of you who are tired of shoveling snow after record breaking storms that have recurred week after week will probably not appreciate this account of the Winter of 2010-2011. However, Mother Nature's wallop on Kennedy lands in both Scotland and the United States make for an interesting comparison.*

Lord Charles, in his column, stated that it was so cold in Ayrshire that the River Ayr froze over. I asked if he could send some photos and did some research from the UK newspaper accounts to add to his account. In the UK it was the coldest December ever, since records began in 1910, with a mean temperature of -1°C. It broke the previous record of 0.1°C in December 1981. The winter of 2010 in the United Kingdom saw the



UK's earliest widespread winter snowfall since 1993 with snow falling as early as 24 November. Record snows were recorded on 1 December with Scotland and Northern England being the most severely affected. On 9 December temperatures recovered across much of the UK, causing a partial thaw. The ice jams on the River Ayr pictured on this page were caused by the thaw and then refreezing and stretched over a mile in length.

Later, on Thursday 16 December a cold front reintroduced a cold, arctic air stream. This cold spell brought further snow and ice chaos back to the United Kingdom with Southern England, Wales and Northern Ireland bearing the brunt of the wintry conditions. This led to severe disruption to the road and rail network with several airports being closed including London Heathrow Airport for a time. Snow fell in many parts of Scotland giving the country two consecutive White Christmases. Venus, well elongated as a morning star provided a bright Christmas Star. It was also the coldest Christmas Day, with a CET of -5.9 °C, since Christmas Day 1830.



Meanwhile, back in the U.S. we have seen record snowfalls, record low temperatures in the Midwest, South and Northeast. In the village of Misenheimer, NC where your editor lives, we had our first White Christmas since 1947. The trees in our back yard were beautifully draped in winter white, and the holly berries were decked out for the season.



Mary Kennedy, society member from Colorado, is pictured with her border collies. "More snow is forecast for us, Yahoo!" she wrote. We were unable to tell whether this was anticipation of more fun in winter's cold, or dread of more inches piling up.





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## Greetings from Lord Ailsa

### A Message from Ayrshire

A Happy New year from Bonnie Scotland to one and all ... this Christmas was very Bonnie. We had a snow fall just before Christmas causing Ayr to be cut off for a week. Then, before New Years it was so cold that the local rivers froze over making some very spectacular sights. (Pictured on page one of the Gazette). I have not seen anything like it since 1963. The snow and ice are all gone as I write this. And I'm looking forward to seeing as many Kennedys as possible when I visit this year.

As some of you may know, my first visit is to open the 30th Hawaiian Games in April; then to return to Grandfather Mountain in July; and finishing my visits with a trip to Stone Mountain in October. So please pencil the dates in your dairy.

Also, anyone is visiting Scotland this year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until we see each other at the Games, stay warm and well!

**Lord Charles**



## Important Words from our Chief

As the song goes ... "we have only just begun" ... and for us this is definitely true – new year, new structure, new games, new friends.

Chances are you all have received at least one message (not that I was excited or anything) about our new status as a non-profit charity. I don't want to belabor the news, but I feel that it is really important. I believe the way is now open for new growth and activity for the Society. Besides receiving tax deductions for dues, tent contributions and other gifts, we are eligible for grants, scholarships, and other financial opportunities that can help us realize our dreams and goals. It is here that our next challenge lies. We need to learn where and how to apply for these things. We really need your help. If there is any member or friend that has an interest in or knowledge of this area, please contact us and share your talents. We sincerely welcome all ideas and input.

As of this writing we have already received a generous donation of a time share unit from Bob and Claudette Davis of Williamsburg, Virginia. The KSNA sincerely thanks you and appreciates your most generous support. Also, we are already receiving the benefit of our new membership structure in that we have received two life time members – Glenn Kennedy of Rocky Mount, North Carolina and Robert Hawk of Kingsport, Tennessee. As a reminder, all donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

This is starting off as a very exciting year. We had a banner growth year last year and I challenge you all to make it even better this year. Looking at the number of existing and new games at which we are planning to have a tent, it is going to be a busy and exciting year. Your Chieftains are looking to add at least one new game every year. Please look at the list of places where the KSNA is going to be and if you can, plan to come and visit.

I cannot tell you in words how wonderful this experience is for me and how much I have enjoyed meeting new Kennedys and establishing new and exciting relationships. We are not anywhere near as broad as we would desire; but with your help, we will reach out further. If you cannot attend a game, please stay in touch through one of our sources of communication – newsletter, e mail, Facebook, Yahoo, letter or phone.

Your Board of Governors will hold its first teleconference of 2011 on February 26. If you have suggestions, ideas, cares, concerns, whatever – contact your Chieftain or a board member as listed on your newsletter or on the website. We are your Society.

**Chris Kennedy**



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## Games Calendar for 2011...Plan to Attend!!



- 1/8/.....Ft. Lauderdale Games
- 1/15 & 1/16... ..Orlando Games
- 1/29.....Sarasota Games
- 4/2 & 4/3.....30th Annual Hawaiian Games, Honolulu, HI
- 4/2.....Tartan Day Celebration Fremont, CA
- 4/9.....Dunedin, FL Games
- 4/16 & 4/17.....Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman  
Highland Games, Huntersville, NC
- 4/30.....Southern Maryland Games St. Leonard, MD
- 5/7.....Savannah, GA Games
- 5/14.....Bethabara Celtic Festival, Winston Salem NC
- 5/21.....Fair Hill, MD Games
- 5/27.....Celtic Beltane Celebration
- 5/28 & 5/29.....Alma, MI Games
- 5/27 & 5/28.....Greenville, SC Games
- 6/11 & 6/12.....Blairsville, GA Games
- 6/11.....Rhode Island Games
- 6/18 & 6/19.....Loch Lomond Santa Cruz, CA Games
- June 18 .....Campbell, CA Games (*please confirm date for 2011*)
- 6/24 – 6/27.....Ohio Scottish Games
- 7/8 – 7/10.....Grandfather Mountain Games, NC (AGM)
- 7/29 & 7/30.....Maxwell/Glengarry, Ontario Games
- 8/12-8/14.....Fergus, Ontario Games
- 9/3 & 9/4.....Pleasanton, CA Games
- 9/10.....Ligonier, PA Games
- 9/8 – 9/11.....Estes Park, CO Games
- 9/16 – 9/18.....New Hampshire Games
- 10/3.....Williamsburg, VA Games
- 10/8.....Scotland, CT Games
- 10/15 & 10/16..... Stone Mountain, GA Games

**Listed above are the Highland Games at which the Kennedy Society will have a tent. Please join us at a game near you, or use traveling to one away from home as an excuse for a vacation!**

### KILT NIGHT

Once again the kilts will be on display, the glasses raised, and the favorite songs sung as we convene our 9<sup>th</sup> Kilt Night and begin our 5<sup>th</sup> year as the Kennedy Society sponsors “Kilt Night” at the Harp Irish Pub in Roswell, GA, April 30, at 8:00 pm. Please join us if you happen to be in our area.





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## Honored Clan + AGM at 2011 Grandfather Mountain



We invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting and Society Dinner at the Grandfather Mountain Highland. The Calling of the Clans on Thursday evening and then three days of events will follow. Can't attend Thursday and Friday? That's OK, come for Saturday and Sunday. All events and ticket prices are listed at the Grandfather Mountain website: [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org).

We particularly recommend: Thursday – Torchlight Ceremony. On Friday – all events are open, plus the Sponsors Reception will be at 6:00 at the Broyhill Inn. Saturday, all events are open. Following the Opening Ceremonies, the Kennedy Society Annual Meeting will be held in the afternoon. On Saturday evening will be the Kennedy Society Dinner at the Archer Inn in Banner Elk.

Sunday, all events are open, but members and guest are invited to join in the Parade of Tartans.

**Need a Place to Stay?** Check out the lodging link on the gmhg website: \*\*Rooms fill up very fast for Grandfather. We might suggest Hemlock Inn, Pineola Inn, Linville River Cabins, and the Archer Inn (10% off the room rate for Kennedys).

**Need Tickets?** Consult the website for a 4 day advance ticket package or a sponsor's package.

If you plan on coming early, what else is there to do? Activities such as canoeing, rafting, shopping, prospecting in a gem mine, Blue Ridge Parkway exploring, Grandfather Mountain attraction, Linville Caverns, rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. Activities in abundance. It's a great time of year to explore our Blue Ridge Mountains..

Purpose of Annual Meeting is to discuss the Society's business and to elect officers. Purpose of Society Dinner: to have fun!

**Location of Dinner:** The Archer Inn 2489 Beech Mtn Pkwy Banner Elk, NC 28604. Maps will be available at the Clan tent. Time: 7:00 pm **Menu:** salad, choice of entrees, starch, vegetable, and dessert. **Entertainment** will be our own Society Bard, Jordan Canady. Dress for the dinner is Casual Scottish Dress, kilts if you have one, and sashes for the ladies. "No tartan, no problems. You are most welcome to join us..

**Price: \$25.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity). Cash bar will be available.**

**Reservation Deadline: June 30, 2011.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Money: \_\_\_\_\_



**\*Make check payable to: KSNA and mail to: Chris Kennedy, 6415 Barberry Hill Dr., Gainesville, GA 30506 by June 30.**



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Anne, shown at Kennedy tent with past Canadian Chieftain, John Kennedy

**From Anne Thomson:** This summer I returned to the sport I love, Highland dance, to compete after a two year break from my ankle surgery. I competed at Uxbridge, Ontario in July and then carried on to compete at the North American Championships held in Traverse City, Michigan, in August. I came in first runner-up and was so excited. The last few months I have been at school, the University of Guelph, and continuing with my Highland dance training. This spring and summer I hope to compete at as many competitions as I can, hoping to be at the level I once was, that could lead me to compete in the World Championships in Dunoon Scotland this August.



**Lord Ailsa in his new Kennedy kilt** - Shown above is a photograph of Lord Ailsa as Patron of the Carrick Burns Club, now in its 118<sup>th</sup> year. Lord Ailsa attended the Carrick Club Burns Supper held in Malin Court Hotel, Maidens, Ayrshire on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011. Lord Ailsa's forebearers have been associated with the Carrick Club since its founding in Girvan, Ayrshire in 1893.



**Bruce, Connie and Clare Nunley** enjoyed their dream trip to Ireland and Scotland this last Summer. While in Scotland they traveled to Ayre and toured Culzean Castle. Learning more about the Kennedy family history was very enjoyable. Of special significance to the Nunley family were the Eisenhower rooms. Bruce's father, whose mother was a Carrick, worked for Dwight Eisenhower during WWII and while he was President of the USA.

*(Editor's note: For those who do not know, there is a suite of rooms in Culzean which are an Eisenhower Museum. See page 9.)*

The photograph shows from left to right: Denis W. Reid, Past President and current Secretary of Carrick Burns Club, Lord Ailsa, Club Patron, and Mr. William Sloan, club member.

*Submitted by Denis W. Reid*



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**Kennedy Events for 2011 Kick Off at Two Burns Night Celebrations in Ohio.** Once again we start a new year of enjoyment in Scottish-American traditions and the gathering of our family of Kennedy Society members all over the globe!

If you have an event, not only Celtic or Scottish, but any event that you'd like to share with your fellow Kennedys, please submit photos and/or a small narrative for Ann to include in OUR Kennedy Society Gazette. Marriages, graduations, achievements, wishes for quick recovery.... We want to know what our extended family is doing out there! I am truly amazed at the growth of fine folks we have added over the last few years!

We have quite a few new games conveners who will be hosting tents this year and we would like to see how things go. For those of you who are new, we have quite a network of materials and experience to help. Contact your Regional Chieftain to help facilitate your event!

On a personal note, The SHANO Burns' Night that Lord Ailsa attended and at which he was Honored Guest last year was held January 15<sup>th</sup> and was again a truly grand event in 2011. I was surrounded by family and friends at dinner and had a lovely time.

I also had the privilege to give Robert Burns' "Address to a Haggis" at the South-Eastern Ohio Celtic Society's' Burns Night Celebration on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Cambridge, Ohio. Chief Emeritus (deceased), Don Canaday and his lovely wife Bernice were among the founding members of this group and I again was privileged to be seated with Bernice for the evening. If you have not taken the opportunity to Celebrate Scotland's Poet/Bard, search for an event near you next January, you won't regret it!

Lord Ailsa will be the Honored Guest at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hawaiian Scottish Gathering and Highland Games, April 1 and 2. It's not too late to make reservations, most of us will be staying at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel in Waikiki during the 4 days surrounding the event.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or utilize our Internet groups listed in the "members only" area of our website!

Yours aye,

**Bill Kennedy, Deputy Chief/Vice President KSNA**



Sunday, January 16, 2011 brought another successful Burn's night banquet to Northeast Ohio, in Eastlake. Several Kennedys were in attendance and had a great time with a wonderful dinner and lots of dancing and Scottish entertainment provided by local pipe bands.

At left is Bill Kennedy with his daughter, Erin and wife, Julie. This was Erin's first Burn's Night.

**Cynde Kennedy**



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## Ever heard of a Busker?

*Editor's note: If you've timed your visit to Scotland at Edinburgh's Festival time, perhaps you've enjoyed the entertainers at what is known as the "Fringe," a supplemental street show of talent that can be every much as interesting as the Tattoo.*

Joan Kennedy forwarded me an email from her daughter, **Jackie Davis**, (Nina's sister) that turned out to be fascinating when I did some digging. If you will go to Jackie's link, it shows two acrobats performing not only at the World Busker's Festival in Christ Church, New Zealand, but at the Edinburgh Fringe.

The Flash, as David Graham and Tobin Renwick are professionally known, are acrobats, jugglers and comedians who are known the world over.

"Here's a clip of former Hilltoppers David and Tobin doing their thing as now-professional acro-jugglers. Scroll down to the bottom of the article for the video. (I taught David how to pass clubs!! Proud mama hen," wrote Jackie as she forwarded the link:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/world-buskers-festival/4548131/World-Buskers-Festival-The-Flash>

**Next: Click on the U-Tube video to see these artists in action.**



The story is a cyber clip of the World Busker's Festival, as featured in Christchurch, New Zealand newspaper. It described David and Tobin as a high energy acrobatic, juggling and comedy duo, The Flash have been performing in circuses and theaters, and busking all over the world since 2000, and are recent finalists on *America's Got Talent*.

After starting out in Circus Smirkus, an internationally acclaimed youth circus, which gave them an in-depth training in multiple disciplines from world renowned coaches, they are now sought after world-wide. They have been called - "A spectacular and unique act" by the Midnight Circus, and "Amazing Acrobats" by *ABC News*.

Most of us at some stage or another have enjoyed those special and often rare moments of taking a stroll through a park, along a beach promenade, past a tourist attraction - and we've noticed a musician, juggler or comedian performing on the sidewalk. A busker, or street performer, is doing just what the name implies, performing in an area with high pedestrian traffic. Not for a guaranteed amount of dollars for putting on the show, but for tips.

The World Busker's Festival, held in January annually in Christchurch, NZ, features over 500 buskers, who gather by invitation only. The Flash have been performing at the gathering since 2000. David got his start in the Hilltop Circus of Pine Hill Waldorf School. His instructor in acrobatic clubs was **Jackie Davis**, who has taught Developmental Circus Arts since 1996 at the New Hampshire school and started the Hilltop Circus.

Speaking of The Flash's performance in Scotland, the Fringe street event manager said, "I would absolutely recommend Tobin and David as eye-poppingly brilliant performers for any event. The only drawback to having The Flash perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Street Events was having to manage the huge crowds of awe-struck, laughing public who invariably blocked the street to see this fantastic act. A pleasure to work with and a knock-out show."



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Lynn Grant, Kennedy tent convener, has asked us all to save the dates of April 15-17 for 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games to be held at Historic Rural Hill plantation in Huntersville, NC

The Advance 2-day (Sat. & Sun.) discount ticket is \$25.00 and includes admission to the Saturday night concert. Gate admission begins as low as \$10 per person and varies based on the number of days and activities selected. Complete information and advance ticket purchases are available online at [www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net](http://www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net).

Fun for the entire family, the Festival & Games weekend offers professional and amateur heavy athletic events, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, harp and fiddle competitions, children's activities, demonstrations and Rural Hill's famous historic encampment. Returning this year are the "Kids Zone" with bungee "Flex Flying" and the popular Celtic Rock Music Stage including the Saturday evening concert. Festivities will begin with the Friday evening traditional "Call of the Clans." Lynn has asked Mike Frady to be our standard bearer.

At left: Eric Frasure sets world sheaf toss record. ©Iron Mind, courtesy Francis Frebner/ Eric Frasure. At right: Border collie demonstrations.



## Kennedy Society Adds New Members in Florida

We are pleased to announce that the Ft. Lauderdale and the Orlando games added four new members to the Kennedy roster. Pictured below left to right: They are **Julie Kennedy** from N. Bay Village, FL, **Virginia Mair** who resides in Palmetto Bay, FL, **Margaret "Maggie" Sacks** from Ormond Beach, FL, and **Patti Carlen** who lives in Deland, Florida.



The games were well attended in Ft Lauderdale. The Kennedy tent was manned by Father David Kennedy and Chris and Sue Kennedy. They were assisted by Paige Varney who will share tent responsibilities with David Kennedy in 2012.

In Orlando, the tent was convenered by Chris and Sue with the assistance of Scott, Hope, Aidan, and Savannah Kennedy from Safety Harbor, FL, and Frank and Suzanne Canada from Christmas, Florida.





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## KENNEDYS HONORED CLAN AT SARASOTA GAMES

The sun was shining (70 degrees), the flags were flying, and the pipes were piping. It was a grand day in Sarasota on January 29, 2011 as the Kennedys were distinguished as the honored clan for the games.

As honored clan we were in first position on the field, and first position in the parade, but most unusual was the fact that the games' program was covered in Kennedy tartan! Ah, it's grand to get to show off once in a while!



Actually the Kennedy Society was honored clan due to the fact that Colonel Dan Kennedy, of Sarasota, was the honored guest for the day. Dan, is a past principal of Sarasota High School, and for the past nine years has served as Headmaster at the Sarasota Military Academy. He is known for his endless hours of service and dedication to the Sarasota schools, youth, and community. He and his wife, Tootie, exemplify what community involvement truly means.

During the afternoon the bands serenaded Dan and Tootie in front of the Kennedy tent while the Scottish Heritage Society of Sarasota awarded Dan a Kennedy kilt and evening jacket. Needless to say, Dan was very surprised and pleased with such a generous gift! So Dan, we will look for you in your Kennedy kilt at the next highland games, and we are most proud to welcome you to the Kennedy Society of North America. Chris and Sue report positively that the game was well run and offers good potential for the future.

The Kennedy Society will also have a tent for the first time at the Dunedin games on April 1, 2011.



## The Dwight Eisenhower connection to Culzean and Ayrshire

In 1945, the Kennedy family gave the Culzean Castle and its grounds to the National Trust for Scotland. While doing so, they stipulated that the apartment on the top floor of the castle be given to General Dwight Eisenhower in recognition of his role as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during the Second World War. The General, who spent visits at Culzean with family and friends, first visited the castle in 1946. He enjoyed a rest when he could shoot and golf and be free of the cares of his busy life. Eisenhower stayed there four times, including once while President of the United States. He had a warm affection for the townspeople of Maybole, and considered himself a "true Minnieboler, if not by birth, at least by adoption." An Eisenhower exhibition occupies one of the rooms, with mementoes of his lifetime.



Shown upper left: One of the rooms in the Eisenhower Suite; Lower left: An unfinished watercolor of Culzean by Eisenhower; Upper right: Ike on one of his visits to Culzean.



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## CROSSRAGUEL ABBEY

The abbey was founded by Duncan the Earl of Carrick around 1244, after he donated money to the monks of Paisley to build an abbey on the spot. After some legal wrangling the abbey was completed and monks from Paisley were sent to run it, after which it became independent in its own right. The name of the abbey is possibly related to an ancient cross which stood on the spot, and it may mean abbey of the royal (regal) cross, or the abbey of the cross of Riaghail, perhaps an ancient king, in truth nobody is certain. Crossraguel was a Clunaic abbey, which was a branch of the Benedictines, and the monks were known as the 'Black Monks' from the colour of their habits.



The abbey saw its share of turmoil, in 1307 an invading army led by Henry Percy under Edward I sacked the abbey. The defeat of his forces may have led to the destruction in a bid for revenge before returning home. In any event the abbey was rebuilt in a much more grandiose scale and lasted until after the reformation in the hands of the charismatic Abbot Quintin Kennedy, who died

in 1564. His influence in the area is probably due to his bloodline with the powerful Earl of Cassillis. Even after his death a few monks were said to have stayed in the half ruined buildings, in spite of great secular changes in favor of the Protestant creed. As with many ancient abbeys it was plundered for building stone after its ruination, mainly to build some of the local housing, but it is still remarkably intact.

**Spring Issue: Deadline May 1 –  
 Publication approximately May 15**

To make your Kennedy Gazette a success each issue, I also need stories/pictures from you all. Pictures, I prefer in Jpeg format PUT IN AS AN ATTACHMENT TO AN EMAIL RATHER THAN IN THE BODY, but if you have hard copies to send me, I can scan. Stories, preferred format is Word.

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