

**President's
Pint of View**



I would like to thank our outgoing President Bob O'Hern for all his efforts over the last two years.

It will be a challenge to meet the high standards of our past presidents, but I'm sure I will get plenty of advice. *(You ARE editing this, Mr. Kelly, right?)*

Once again we had a parade and once again it was an outstanding success, due to the efforts of our parade co-chairs Tim Schuck and T-Bone, plus all the volunteers. Thanks to all who helped sell out the raffle tickets for the second year in a row. I would like to give a shout out to Mike Dennis, our newest board member and next year's Parade Chairman. It's a big task, but I'm sure he's up to it!

We just completed our 32nd annual St. Patrick's 5K/10K Run.

Thanks to John Leonhart and the many volunteers the event ran like clockwork, except for the 20-plus mph winds. Once again it proves volunteers make this organization work, so volunteer soon and volunteer often.

Let's everybody practice our hizers and anhzers to get ready for the Irish Open Disc Golf tournament Saturday, May 9 at Grandview Park. Disc, raffle and dogs included in your entry fee.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

Racial profiling really started on a fateful day in 1836 when Davy Crockett woke up, rose from his bunk on the main floor of the Alamo and walked up to the observation post along the west wall of the fort. Bill Travis and Jim Bowie were already there, looking out over the top of the wall.

Crockett joined them and these three great men gazed at the hordes of Mexicans moving towards the Alamo.

With a puzzled look on his face, Crockett turned to Bowie and said, "Jim, are we, by any chance, having any landscaping done today?"



Two policemen call in to their station on the radio.

"Hello."

"Is this the Sarge?"

"Yes?"

"We have a case here. A woman has shot her husband for stepping on the floor she had just mopped clean."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"No sir. The floor is still wet."



Every time I start thinking too much about how I look,
I just find a pub with a Happy Hour and by the time I leave,
I look just fine.



The
Blarney

Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting
April 13 / 6:30 p.m.

Menu:

Corned Beef w/ Cabbage
Potatoes, Carrots & Bread

Next Meeting
May 11

Irish Open Disc Golf
May 9
Grandview Park

Leprechaun Open
June 6
Rolling Hills in Norwalk



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Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickie Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50314



APRIL [AIBREÁN] 2015

FSOSP vs. NCAA in 2016

On the whole, the parade this year went very smoothly (we think). A meeting with the city is planned for mid-April and we'll learn more then.

Crunching the financials indicates we are about breaking even, but sponsors are out there and still sorely needed. If you have any connections/input to give in that regard, please contact the board.

Expected trouble-spots like the de-staging chaos around the Marriott were still evident, but the board is looking at perhaps creating a "corral" between Grand and Locust for floats and disembarking only. The only alternative is to add more green fencing and extend the route further down that block because the crowd just insists on gathering there, even though it's the official end of the line.

A banner day, though, with just over 80 entries and even a little chill in the air beats any Ol' Man Winter weather "surprise." Let's all salute our two co-chairs, T-Bone and Tim Schuck, whose steady hands kept us from disorder and ruination. Next year, they pass the baton to Mike Edwards, who seems to have no sense...er, fear.

Ah, but the elephant in the room (or should we say the 6'8" center in the room) is the challenge that looms next year.

Our parade date jumps to Thursday (Leap Year, y'know) and that is also the day of the first round of NCAA March Madness games. Des Moines is justifiably thrilled to land this prestigious economic juggernaut; the Sons, less so. It will be interesting to see what the city expects us to do to accommodate a few tens of thousands of more guests than normal. Stay tuned; film at eleven. 🍀

●●●●●●●●●●Results of the parade judging and raffle drawing:●●●●●●●●●●

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TROPHIES
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BEST OF PARADE: BROTHERHOOD OF ISLAND HIGHWAY WORKERS (?!)
BEST IRISH THEME: MICKEYS
BEST CLAN: O'BRIEN CLAN
JUDGES CHOICE: MORTON AVE. NEIGHBORHOOD CLAN
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Most of us have luck so bad that if we bought a cemetery, people would stop dying, but not these folks! Lucky Draw congrats (and our envy) go out to:

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RAFFLE WINNERS
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TRIP FOR 2 TO EIRE: JACK BLACKFORD
\$500: JON GYLDENVAND
\$100: MARK IRVIN, MARK WHITFIELD, MIKE MESCHER
\$50: CATHY CRAIG, KERRI ALLEN, PHIL SHEILDS
& RICK TOLLAKSON *(Who donated it back to us... Thanks, Rick!)*
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32nd Annual 10K/5K St. Patrick's run

lap 32 has been taken in annually holding our run event, the St. Patrick's 10K/Dr. Mike Kent 5K on March 29.

Owners Bill & Amy Boggs proudly hosted us at Sully's Pub for Saturday registration (with beer) and the run on Sunday morning (with bloody mary's) and the post-race party (beer, again). Hic.

Founder/organizer **John Leonhart** tirelessly works to make it all happen and once again organized a race to remember.

Over 400 participants enjoyed running that crisp morning, the traditional start to the running season. After their exertion, they enjoyed yogurt, juice, bananas and other treats provided by volunteers like **Bill McCarthy** and **Bob Fogarty**. Many other Sons

donated their time to aid in registration, results tabulating and crewing along the route through Valley Junction.

Long-time help for Leonhart has come from his right-hand man, **Dan Crew**.

"From my perspective, things went very well. It seemed like the Saturday packet pick-up was a bit lighter in #'s this year, but overall numbers were down some, so it could just be a percentages deal. We had a good number of volunteers, and with John's daughter and co-worker (Mary), we were pretty efficient both on Saturday and Sunday morning. I'm not aware of any missteps and the weather cooperated pretty well, too," he said.

Yearly, the Sons award two \$500 scholarships to graduating DM metro area high school cross country or track athletes (one boy, one girl).

We honored **Alex Archavaleta** from SE Polk, who is headed to Grand View University and said, *"Nothing has ever come easy and I believe this award is a tribute to the effort I have put into overcoming challenges and will help me face the challenges the future holds."* Well put, Alex.

The second winner, **Emily Knuth** from Bondurant/Farrar, also ran in the race.

"I had a really great time competing that morning. The Irish music and people running in these crazy orange, white, and green outfits gave the event an energetic and fun atmosphere. This scholarship will help in my plans to go to Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Biochemistry. After I get my undergrad degree, I want to go on and get my Masters and Doctorate so I can lead research for developing new strains of crops that are better suited to conditions in third world and developing countries," she said. 🍀



Queen Betsy's reign beginneth

From **Betsy Craig's** own royal lips: *"Being your Irish Queen is quite an honor and privilege, as both sides of my family have strong ties back to Ireland. Nearly all of the Craig Clan and a number of the Mahoneys (my mother's family) were at the*

parade and reception on St. Patrick's, which made it an even more enjoyable day! Although I've been in the parade some years with my family, it was an awesome experience being in the front with the other 2015 dignitaries.

"I'm looking forward to attending, participating, and helping with the FSOSP events throughout the next year. Without the events and the group's philanthropic efforts, the organization would not be able to give back to the Central Iowa community, and that's the most important part. Don't get me wrong, the guys in the group are full of sarcasm and like to have a good time, but they are also kind-hearted, hard-working gentlemen who are doing great things for people in need. I think that's one of many reason why they say: "If you're lucky enough to be Irish... you're lucky enough." 🍀

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
6th Annual Charity Disc Golf Irish Open
Sat. May 9, 2015
Registration 9:00 AM
Shot Gun Start 10:00 AM

Grandview Disc Golf Course
32nd and Easton, Des Moines

Cost: \$25
All registrants for this charity tournament will receive a souvenir disc.

Contact Info:
Jerry Grady: 515-554-3006
Mike O'Connell: 515-271-0018
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Sponsored By:
Terry Taylor State Farm Agency
Consumer Credit of Des Moines

\$300
1st Place Prize




Board News

You'll notice some redesign of the board this month. In the "musical chairs" department: **Mike O'Connell** has taken on presidential chores, **Tim Schuck** has assumed a vice-presidential role and **Mike Murphy** is the new bean counter. Alas, **Ed "Secretary for Life" Kelly** will just abide.

Mike Dennis is the new face at the table and is a rip-roaring addition, now handling the website and having volunteered to be the 2016 Parade Chair.

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Don't lose track of all the activities planned for the year. First up is the newly-moved **Irish Open Disc Golf** outing, still at Grandview Park, but coming real soon on May 9. Register at 9 a.m. for \$25 and commence play at 10 (see poster on left page).

Our annual **Leprechaun Open** on June 6 is eagerly awaited by all the Rory-wannabes out there (see below). Down the trail, so to speak, is the **Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** on the calendar for Sept. 19. Raffle tickets will be ready to hand out soon in upcoming meetings.

Check out all the info and apps on the website.

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The board is seeking out a cross-promotion opportunity to be part of Waterloo's Irish Fest this August. More news on this as we get it.

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Brian Kreps has taken charge of the annual golf outing, so "Hear ye, hear ye"... OK, Brian, speak your piece...

"Gents, it's time to mark the date on your calendars for the annual fore-age into the trees, otherwise known as the Friendly Sons Leprechaun Open. Beautiful weather is scheduled and the details are as follows:

Sat., June 6 / Rolling Hills Course / Noon start
Registration begins 10:30 / \$65 (\$75 after May 29)
Includes: 18 Holes of Golf w/Cart & Dinner
Highlights: One Armed Putting Contest @ 10:30
Pin Prizes / Raffle

There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting and the sooner you actually pay, the more love you receive from the golfing gods. Space is limited; the fun to be had is not."

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"Quafftide" is an archaic term for "a time of drinking" and, yes, it will come to pass next week when **Ken Murray** will bring his new batch of Scottish ale and **Mike Hall** will offer up some pale ale. If you're feeling a little over-worked and under-intoxicated, put your tasting hats on and give them a whirl. We know you probably can't wait to get to Mickel on Monday night and pour yourself some dinner.

BLARNEY BITS

New Friendly Sons are waiting to make your acquaintance at upcoming meetings. Next Monday you can "buy" a beer for:

Eric Carroll
Ben Chambers
Nate Snelson
John O'Neill Stone
Scott Tilton

It's good to see this growth in the club. Gentlemen, we hope you stay long and prosper in our midst. Slainte!

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You can pack your bags for a golfing/sightseeing trip to Ireland this fall with **Fogarty Tours**:

CEO Bob Fogarty says the tour group will have the experience of playing six different courses during the two week trip. They range from park-land types near Adare Castle, a Galway Bay course, and Mt. Juliet near Kilkenny to spectacular links courses in Sligo and Donegal counties.

Sightseeing days are built into the trip, starting with the a festival of horse racing in Listowel, exploring the streets and pubs of Galway City, the rugged coast of Connemara, the Slieve League Cliffs in Donegal, and the famous Nancy's Restaurant in Ardar.

Also the W. B. Yeats burial site in Drumcliff, the Rock of Cashel, and Clonmacnoise, the site of many of Ireland's surviving High Crosses.

Much, much more is included in the tour, which will end with three nights in historic Dublin City.

Asked about the tour cost, Fogarty says, "If you have to ask the price, you can't afford to go."

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Got your dues in? See Mr. Murphy at the meeting next week and part with your shekels.

Surely you know \$40 is a pittance to put on being a member in good standing of this illustrious group for 2015. Your pride is just a bonus!

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Upcoming events

APRIL 15
STU RYAN O'BRIEN @ SULLY'S PUB, 7-9 P.M.
SING-ALONG TO CLASSIC IRISH TUNES
MAY 6
KELLY'S CLAN 1ST WED. JAM @ SULLY'S PUB, 7-9 P.M.