

President's Pint of View



As we swing into summer, we are looking forward to the Leprechaun Open and getting on the links once again. Hope everyone has been able to work on their game before this coming Saturday; if not you could be in the running for the "Take Up Another Sport" trophy.

Another popular summer activity is cycling, but unlike Secretary of State John Kerry, I like to keep my bike in an upright position. But seriously, cycling is a great way to stay in shape and to clear your head.

Beer break. I needed that.

To finish my thoughts on bike riding, the Halfway to St. Patrick's Bike Ride is our next event at the end of the summer, Sept. 19. Remember to volunteer or ride.

That beer break got me to thinking about grilling up a couple of pork chops. Hmm, sounds good on a nice spring day. Speaking of grillin' and cookin', we need to find a couple of members to take over our meal preparations. Our long time cooks, Bill McCarthy and George Hedding, would like to pass on the dinner duties to a new crop of cooks. It'll be a tough task to keep up their high standards, but I'm sure we can find some qualified members up to it. Give us a holler.

Beer break (again)...and see you at the meeting.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

Four guys have been going to the same golfing trip to St Andrews for many years. Two days before the group is to leave, Jack's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going.

Jack's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do. Two days later, the three get to St Andrews only to find Jack sitting at the bar with four drinks set up! "Wow, Jack, how did you ever talk your missus into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night. Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my living room chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and asked, 'Guess who?' I pulled her hands off, and there she was, wearing a nightie. She took my hand and pulled me into our bedroom. She's been reading '50 Shades of Grey' and the room had candles and rose petals all over. On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did. And then she said, 'Do whatever you want.'

"So, here I am!"



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



The Blarney

Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting
June 8, 6:30 p.m.

"Best Hawaiian Outfit Prize"

"Luau" Menu:
Pork & Pineapple
Potato Salad

22nd Annual O'Donnell Open
June 27

Next Meeting
July 13

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JUNE [MEITHEAMH] 2015

Leprechaun Open tees off this Saturday

Those who do not golf do not get it. It's a mind game. It's a personal quest for a miracle. It's a...

Well, we probably should all just admit that it's really playing fetch with yourself.

If you're afraid a full shot might reach the green while the foursome ahead of you is still putting out, you have two options: you can immediately shank a lay-up or you can wait until the green is clear and top a ball halfway there.

Nevertheless:

"Gents, it's time for our annual fore-age into the trees, otherwise known as the Friendly Sons Leprechaun Open. Beautiful weather is scheduled (yeah, right) and we hope you bring your A-game," said

first-year sponsor Brian Kreps.

Registration begins at 10:30 and at noon, a 2-person scramble ensues.

By the time you read this, only a few spots are left and the cost has risen to \$75/person, which includes 18 holes of golf w/cart and a dinner.

A one-arm putting contest is again on the schedule beginning at 10:30. For a mere \$5 entry fee, the winner will walk away with half the cash. All need to finish by tee-off time, so come early to be part of the action or you'll miss out.

"We'll have the putters; you just bring your golden arm," said Kreps.

Expect pin prizes galore and a raffle table that will leave you agog with awe. No expense has been spared to bring a dazzling panoply of treasures of a rare and international flavor to the table. Tickets are, as always, \$1 each and 6 for \$5...with a "baker's dozen"

Every time a golfer makes a birdie, he or she must subsequently make two double bogeys to restore the fundamental equilibrium of the universe.

for \$10.

Prize Committee Grand Poobah Eadbhard O'Ceallaigh said, "Our motto is 'the ends of the Earth are just the beginning of our search.'"

It's too late for a sign-up sheet, so you'll have to go to the website and digitally grovel to get a spot in the line-up, if there are any. Alas, space is limited (52 players maximum) and may already be gone as you read this, but the fun is limitless for those who are in the mix.

One recent rules change is still in effect: "No golfer can claim a Championship Prize in two consecutive years. The winners of last year's open are not eligible to claim that prize."

This rule applies, even if they change partners.

The Rolling Hills course is easy to find, located just south of Norwalk on Highway 28.

Hope to see you there! 🍀

When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can either use one more club or two more balls.

Counting on your opponent to inform you when he or she breaks a rule is like expecting them to make fun of their own haircut.

If your opponent has trouble remembering whether he or she shot a six or a seven, he probably shot an eight (or worse).

Help Finnegans help others

Currently the 6th largest beer brand in Minnesota, this brewery is one of a kind.

Their mission is to “turn beer into food” and they donate 100% of their profits to feed the hungry.

The money goes to a community fund which uses it to buy fresh produce from local farms to be distributed to the needy.

Finnegans has an Irish Amber and a new Blonde Ale (they say a single pint contains “the karmic equivalent of helping three elderly women cross a busy intersection”), but this writer’s urge is strongest to try their Dead Irish Poet Extra Stout (7% ABV). Oh, yeah!

These fine folks sponsor many community action events and one that sounds pretty slick is a fest coming up August 1.

From their blurb:

“What says summer more than beer, festival, outdoors, music and horse races? It’s the 2015 Canterbury Beer Fest. FINNEGANS is once again the non-profit partner to the festival and volunteers will pour beer from a variety of the best domestic, imported, specialty, craft, seasonal and micro brewed beers available in Minnesota.”

Hours are 5-10 p.m. that day at Canterbury Park, 1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN. Road trip, anyone?

Now that you know of the brewery and its mission, sample the beer at Cooney’s sometime soon and meanwhile go to finnegans.org to get the bigger picture.

You can also volunteer to help them and/or donate to their cause.

Here’s to them & here’s to doing good! Slainte! 🍀

Clergyman: ‘No logical reason’ not to have women priests

The success of the recent historic referendum in Ireland, in which 62% of voters said “yes” to changing the nation’s constitution to include a redefinition of marriage that now will include gay partners, is just the start. Many see this as the start of a social revolution in that country.

A senior priest at one of Dublin’s wealthiest suburbs has told parishioners that he sees “no logical reason” why there can’t be women priests.

He also said the Church will have to reassess its approach to a wide range of issues following the groundswell of support two weeks ago for same-sex marriage.

Father Gary Darby, a co-parish priest in Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, told his congregation at mass that the vote has been a wake-up call for the church and he received rapturous applause for his sermon, in which he voiced opinions that would have caused significant controversy only a few years, or even months ago.

The priest also told parishioners that the Church needs to have a discussion about the way in which people who are divorced or separated are treated by it. He said that some people escape from abusive relationships and the only way they have a chance at future happiness is to separate or divorce and the Church must embrace them.

Gay people also need to be included in the Church, he said, and that married priesthood must also be discussed by the Church.

He echoed Archbishop Diarmuid Martin’s calls last week that the Church needed to have a reality check following the passing of the same-sex marriage referendum, though the Vatican called it a “defeat for humanity.” 🍀



CMA ‘friends’ needed

Quality Celtic music makes its way to Des Moines only infrequently. One of the most prominent paths, though, is through the efforts of the Celtic Music Association, now in its 24th year.

The organization’s board, which includes Pres. Kathleen Gradoville, Virgil Kleinhesslink, Margaret Stoffregen, Mike Glynn and Cathy Dodds, toils away at keeping the Celtic music scene vibrant in DM.

You can become a “friend” of the CMA with a \$25 membership fee. As a perk, you receive a 10% discount on available wearables and can buy last minute concert tickets for \$25, instead of \$30 at the door.

Ticket outlets include A Celtic Tradition (7672 Hickman Rd. in Windsor Heights) and Cooney’s Tavern (3708 Beaver Ave.), Holy Trinity Parish Office (2926 Beaver Ave.) and Up Tempo Music (2714 Beaver Ave.), all in Beaverville.

“On behalf of the board, I would like to thank everyone for supporting the CMA in past years. Without your support, we could not host the variety of bands we bring to DM. Watch for our 2015-16 concert line-up to be released this summer,” said Gradoville.

For more information, contact them at thecma.org. 🍀

Board News

At this week’s board meeting, Greg Edwards, president and CEO of the Greater DM Convention & Visitors Bureau (whose desk nameplate is a yard long), visited us again to receive news that the FSOSP membership has graciously accepted the request to change the date of our **2016 parade**. St. Pat’s will be a Thursday, but we will parade on Friday, March 18.

This will be a change in our long-observed tradition of always parading on St. Pat’s Day, but it is necessitated by the awkwardness of combining it with the coming NCAA tournament activities March 17-19. City services will be over-taxed as it is on that Thursday.

According to Edwards, we will in turn receive a generous financial contribution to help defray our annual \$18,000-plus expense.

In addition, his organization will assist with featuring us on its website and providing us with social media and PR opportunities.

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Kudos to all those who helped with the **Irish Open Disc Golf** event last month.

Normally, about 40 golfers show up, but this year almost 60 were on hand at Grandview Park. As a result, there is some “success stress.”

“If it gets any bigger, we may have to set a cap of 72,” said co-sponsor Mike O’Connell.

Our treasurer reports that the outing profited well over \$800, making it one of the biggest money-makers of the year, percent-wise.

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The Sons will have a presence at the **Iowa Irish Fest** in Waterloo in early August (*see right*). We’ll need volunteers and info will be presented in July.

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The **Halfway to St. Pat’s Bike Ride on Sept. 19** is coming together and the route from Orondo’s to Cumming is the same. Raffle tickets will be available at this month’s meeting.

Riders will receive a long-sleeve dri-fit shirt this year. Also, the live music, “Irish Spirit” decoration contest and “Spud & Spoon” races will again be a part of the day.

Best of all, the halfway spot on the Halfway Ride, Orilla, now has 2 (TWO!) bars available to us.

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A donation of \$100 was approved for the **Heart of Hospice Golf Open** to be held on July 27 at Toad Valley. Registration will be at 8 a.m. that morning. Call 224-1730 for more information.

BLARNEY BITS

The **2015 Iowa Irish Fest will be July 31-Aug. 2 at Lincoln Park in Waterloo.**

In its ninth year, this event offers music on four stages, a 5K run, a rugby tournament, whiskey tasting, contests of all sorts and much more.

Jameson’s Pub, a half block away, will also have bands almost all day long, every day that weekend.

Check out all the details at iowairishfest.com. 🍀

Sully’s is sponsoring a **“Dog Days of Summer Party & Hog Roast” on June 13 at 6 p.m.**

The roast will be prepared by Q Pits and is FREE, requiring only a donation to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa and a side dish. Well, the side dish is optional.

Expect drink specials on their new summer drink menu, plus the UV girls will be there with some free samples! As always, the patio is dog-friendly. 🍀

A note of gratitude:

“Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to our Challenger Sports League. The money was used to help purchase basketball uniforms for a Special Olympics team.

“This team traveled to Sioux City where they qualified for the state tournament. Last weekend, this team won the gold medal at the Special Olympics State Basketball tournament!”

“We appreciate the important part you played in helping these special needs children experience winning gold and achieving their goal!”

President Jeff Kafer

Upcoming events

JUNE 17

*STU RYAN O’BRIEN IRISH PUB SING-ALONG / 7-9 P.M.
@ SULLY’S*

JUNE 26

*22ND ANNUAL O’DONNELL & FRIENDS OPEN
CHARITY DONEE IS LINK ASSOCIATES
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED, CALL 971-0781)*

JULY 31-AUG. 2

*9TH ANNUAL IOWA IRISH FEST / DOWNTOWN WATERLOO
AUG. 20-22
IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FEST/ DUBUQUE STAR BREWERY*