

President's Pint of View



JUST A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO, as summer was coming to an end, the Friendly Sons hosted a sun-drenched Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Bike Ride and it was grand success. These kinds of events would not be possible without the numerous volunteers who helped before and during the ride, plus everyone who sold raffle tickets. Thanks to you all. I would also like to thank our Queen Betsy for helping out and selling raffle tickets. Three cheers for our past Queen Connie for her design for the front of our micro fiber jersey; it was big hit with the crowd.

The bike ride ends our 2015 fundraising events. We will also be finishing up with our donations, as well, but just because we are done with our charitable work for the year, we aren't done with events to finish out the year.

We still have two fun and prize-filled general meetings plus the Christmas Party at the Top Of The Tower, but that's all down the road. We know its football and playoff baseball season, so not a lot of things are getting done on the weekends right now.

I hope all your teams are winning...as long as they are not playing mine. See ya at the meeting!

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

Being airborne approximately thirty minutes on an outbound evening Air Lingus flight from Dublin, the lead flight attendant nervously made the following painful announcement in her lovely Irish brogue:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'm so very sorry, but it appears that there has been a terrible mix-up. One minute prior to take-off...our catering service...I don't know how this has happened...but we have 103 passengers on board, and, unfortunately, we received only 40 dinner meals. I truly apologize for this mistake and inconvenience."

When passengers' muttering had died down, she continued. "Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal so that someone else can eat, will receive free, unlimited drinks for the duration of our 4 hour flight."

Her next announcement came about 2 hours later.

"If anyone would like to change their minds, we still have 40 dinners available."



An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy.

One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee.

She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote, "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband texted back to her, "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickie Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50309



Upcoming:

MEETING

October 12

Menu:

Brats & Dogs

Granny Heddingers Potato Salad

Baked Beans

29th ANNUAL

HCI HOSPICE BENEFIT

Nov. 6

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 14

NEXT MEETING

Nov. 9



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The Blarney

OCTOBER [DEIREADH FÓMHAIR] 2015

Dark history of Halloween originates with the Celtic fest of 'Samhain'

To find the origin of Halloween, you have to look to the festival of Samhain in Ireland's Celtic past.

Samhain had three distinct elements. Firstly, it was an important fire festival, celebrated over the evening of October 31st and throughout the following day. The flames of old fires had to be extinguished and ceremonially re-lit by druids.

It was also a festival not unlike the modern New Year's Day in that it carried the notion of casting out the old and moving into the new.

To our pagan ancestors it marked the end of the pastoral cycle – a time when all the crops would have been gathered and placed in storage for the long winter ahead and when livestock would be brought in from the fields and selected for slaughter or breeding. But it was also, as the last day of the year, the time when the souls of the departed would return to their former homes and when potentially malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were visible to mankind.



SAMHAIN & THE CELTIC CALENDAR

The Celts celebrated four major festivals each year and none of them was connected in any way to the sun's cycle. The origin of Halloween lies in the Celt's autumn festival which was held on the first day of the 11th month, the month known as November in English but as Samhain in Irish.

The festivals are known by other names in other Celtic countries but there is usually some similarity, if only in the translation.

In Scottish Gaelic, the autumn festival is called Samhuinn. In Manx it is Sauin.

The root of the word – sam – means summer, while 'fuin' means end. And this signals the idea of a seasonal change rather than a notion of worship or ritual.

The other group of Celtic languages have very different words but a similar intention. In Welsh, the day is Calan Gaeaf, which means the first day of winter. In Brittany, the day is Kala Goanv, which means the beginning of November.

The Celts believed that the passage of a day began with darkness and progressed into the light. The same notion explains why winter – the season of long, dark nights – marked the beginning of the year and progressed into the lighter days of spring, summer and autumn. So the 1st of November, Samhain, was the Celtic New Year, and the celebrations began at sunset of the day before its eve. Slainte! 🍀

St. Pat's ride rocked the trail last month

Check out all the pix on Facebook and decide: Was the Sept. 19 bike outing cool, or what? Thanks to all who worked to organize the ride and those who showed up to volunteer oodles of help in making it such a success. Raffle book sales hit their mark, rider registrations were up, sponsorship was increased and the weather was fabuloso. The Great Western Trail was in good condition, too, in spite of recent rains. Our good friend and member **Pat Renda** hosted registration at Orlando's and two new bars in Orilla, Rusty Spokes and Outskirtz, were open to offer a pleasant oasis stop for everyone. If you weren't with us that Saturday, get on the trail and go check out those spots some time. As always, the Cumming Tap was a hoppin' turnaround spot with music by Ed Kelly's Old School band. Sponsors and winners of the raffle and other contests are listed in the Board News column. 🍀



Board News

Just “half” to say that the **Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** was a crankin' success. Sponsorship doubled to over \$1600 and over 80 paid riders hit the trail for that Sept. 19 event. Thanks to **Bill McCarthy**, **Mike Murphy** and all the ride committee members who worked to make it happen. Well done, gents! ☐☐☐

The annual **Dec. 14 Christmas dinner at Holiday Inn Downtown** is in capable hands.

Bill McCarthy says he has gifts for the ladies already and **Ed Kelly** reports that the removal of the “turntable” in the Top of the Tower room will only add more space for our members and significant others that night.

A tree laden with Irish ornamental doo-dads was introduced last year. The board is looking into eventually adding a slide show presentation consisting of pics of the year's events and **Mike Dennis** will give us a heads-up if that's still possible for this year. ☐☐☐

Cooking update: Efforts are still underway to release **Bill McCarthy** and his cohorts from their long-time unpaid servitude in providing our monthly meals.

One idea floated was to arrange for rotating caterers to do the deed, as long as the per-person cost was in line, but no action on that seems likely at this time.

Meanwhile, **Jim O'Donnell** has offered his services as monthly cook and it looks like several members have indicated they would be willing to do a month here and there, “just not every time.” Fair enough!

More news on this culinary changeover later. ☐☐☐

“Winner-winner Chicken Dinner” raffle prizes for the Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride go to:

Jason Simpson, **Linnie Hanrahan**, **Ed Akerman**, **Dan Nolan** (\$50 each); **Roger Greever** (\$250); and (*drum roll, please...*) **Brian Cooney** (\$500). (*We think a free Guinness (or seven) might be in the offing on upcoming visits to his Beaverdale oasis...!*)

Also: **Trudi O'Connell** won “Best Irish Bike Theme” and Spud & Spoon Race winners were **Rob Walker** and **Heather Lloyd**.

And we gotta give a shout-out to the terrific sponsors who stepped up to make our Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride such a success. Please patronize these folks as a big “thank you”...

- * **Afford-A-Care Pet Hospital** * **Budget Lines** *
- * **Comiskey Glass** * **Ingersoll Dental** *
- * **O'Donnell Ace Hardware** *
- * **Rasmussen Bike Shop** * **Sully's Pub** * **West Bank** *

BLARNEY BITS

Our own **Jack Blackford** tells us that the first local brewery in WDM is now open and waiting for you to roll in: **Fox Brewing** at 103 S. 11th Street.

Stop in and ask them if they might offer a FSOSP “special” of some kind. (*Never hurts to try, 'eh?*) 🍀

The CMA music schedule is out:
October 24 / Bua
January 23 / Ten Strings & A Goat Skin
February 13 / The Elders
March 5 / The Paul McKenna Band 🍀

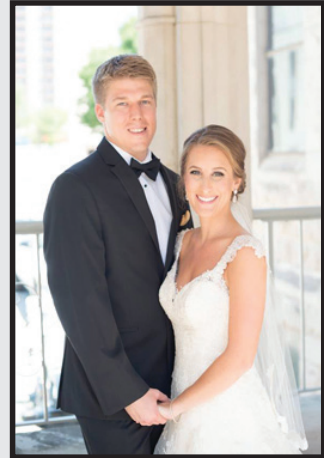
Beer is the name of the game in this Oktoberfest season and you are in luck *IF* you come to the next meeting. Member **Ken Murray** will be bringing a keg of porter & a keg of English Special Bitter to the gathering.

That's the best brews news of recent weeks! 🍀

Sully's in WDM has a fall line-up chock-full of entertainment:

- Oct. 7: Piranha Bros. @ 5**
- Oct. 16: Mike Aceto @ 6**
- Oct. 21: Stu Ryan O'Brien Sing-along @ 7**
- Oct. 24: Chili Cook-off**
- Nov. 4: Piranha Bros. @ 7** 🍀

Former FSOSP Queen **Allie Reiter** was married recently and she was a vision of loveliness, especially to her proud papa, **Mike Reiter**. Slainte, to the newlyweds! 🍀



From the “Really?!?” Dept.



Daring? Adventurous? Well, it's certain to get you “noticed.” However, the “mankini,” popularized(?) by “Borat” seems to be on the way out. Relax, Iowish, it's being increasingly banned on European beaches. We're probably safe here in the Heartland, gents. But we know...some things you can't “unsee”...sorry....