



Well, November is upon us. Who's ready to have a party and celebrate our accomplishments over the past year? That's right our annual Christmas party is a mere month away. Time to actually let our significant others see what we do all year, while at the same time enjoying an elegant night out with them to hopefully make up for letting them see what we have been up to over the past year. So please be prepared to sign up for this special event at our November meeting.

It is also time to start thinking about the parade. After all, it is only 130 or so days until the big event. We have already begun discussions with the City of Des Moines about our situation with the parade and ways to reduce our costs and defray some of the expenses. I believe we all have the best interest of our organization and our community in mind. If you would like to help us out with this event, please be sure to inform our parade chairman. We need all the help we can get.

I would like to extend a thank you to our stand-in Secretary, Mike Murphy for filling in the blanks while Mr. Kelly is off enjoying a sunny hiatus. I would also like to thank the Prize Committee in advance for their many years of service, and wish them well in their next adventure. Stay Classy Sons.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

"Is that the Ballycashel Echo?" asks Mick.

"How much would it be to put an ad in your paper?"

"Five pounds an inch," a woman replies. "Why? What are you selling?"

"A ten-foot ladder," said Mick before slamming the phone down.



An Irish priest is driving along a country road when a police man pulls him over. He immediately smells alcohol on the priest's breath and notices an empty wine bottle in the car.

He says: "Have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest.

The cop replies: "Then why do I smell wine?"

The priest looks at the bottle and says: "Good Lord! He's done it again!"



The Blarney

Upcoming:

MEETING
November 13

Menu:
Award Winning Chili
Chili with all the fixins'
(onions, cheese, etc.), bread
Chili cookin' party at George's
if you need to kill some time
Monday afternoon!

CHRISTMAS DINNER
December 11



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NOVEMBER [SAMHAIN] 2017

Since this is the last meeting for the year prior to the Christmas Party, the FSOSP would like to get you in the yuletide spirit by sharing some Irish Christmas traditions that have held true through the ages. Looking forward to seeing everyone in their finest holiday garb on December 11th. As always, best wishes to all friends and family of the Sons.

IRISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ireland has a wide number of Christmas traditions that are steeped in the Gaelic and Catholic heritage of the country.

THE WREN BOY PROCESSION The Wren Boy Procession has been revived in recent years with parades being held on St. Stephens Day in Sandymount in Dublin and other locations. There are several legends regarding the 'wren boy'.



One such tale tells of a plot in a village against some British soldiers during Penal times. The soldiers were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums raising the alarm. The plot failed and thus the wren became known as 'The Devil's Bird'.

To commemorate this deed a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In ancient times an actual wren bird would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

It is possible that the very Irish tradition of visiting houses of friends and relatives on St. Stephens Day traces its origin to these events.

THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW A tradition that was very widespread in the 1970's but which seems to be dying out somewhat and especially in urban areas is the 'candle in the window'. Symbolically the candle represented a welcome to Joseph and Mary as they wandered in search of lodgings. The candle indicated to strangers and especially to the poor that there may be an offering of food in the house within.

During the Penal Times in Ireland Catholic priests were forbidden to perform Mass so the candle acted as a covert signal that the occupier was a Catholic believer and that mass could be held on the premises.

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FSOSP Happenings

St. Patricks Day Raffle Tickets The tickets are ready (thanks Pat Rhoades!!) and available for you to hit the streets and start selling!! We're off to a good start with 27 sold at the first CMA concert (thanks, River!). Check in with T-Bone at the meeting and he'll get you all set up.

Grants Josh Soliday is putting the final touches on our grant applications for the 2018 parade. Polk County and Prairie Meadows will be reviewing the applications and hopefully getting back to us with a donation. The parade is not a cheap venture. If you have any companies or individuals in mind that you think we should approach for a sponsorship, please let someone on the board know. We are going to make a concerted effort this year to find some ways to help defray the costs of the parade.

Prize Committee After lo these many years, Bob Fogarty has put in his papers as Head of the Prize Committee. We are looking for someone (or someones) to pick up the baton and run with it. Bob will be available to help the new guy (or guys) out to hit the ground running to keep up the tradition of fabulous prizes from the ends of the earth.

Thanks to Bob for his great service in this capacity to the club. Not only is the raffle fun, it's a nice supplemental fund raiser every night. And, if you win, it might get you out of Dutch with the wife for those couple of Jamesons you had at Carls Place after the meeting!

Bags Tournament Despite the inclement weather, the inaugural FSOSP Bags tournament at Sullys is deemed a success! We had 10 teams enter and made \$300 the first time out! Any time you can participate in a sport with a beer in your hand is a good thing. Thanks to Mike O'Connell for spearheading the event. Let's make it grow even bigger!

Christmas Party We will be at the top of the Downtown Holiday Inn again this year. Date of the event is December 11 at 6:30. Due to increased costs, the dinner is now \$30 a ticket or \$60 a couple. Please make sure you sign up and send in your checks AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR to the dinner. We need to get a head count to the Holiday Inn by then. If you have any reservation question or issues prior to the event, please contact Mike Dennis. Paying at the door is not an option. More on the Christmas Party at the meeting. We also need pictures from 2017 FSOSP events for the spectacular slide show at the event. Please get those to Mike Dennis as well

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MARY Mary the mother of Jesus was especially revered in Ireland at Christmas. There are many traditions involving girls named Mary which at one time was by far the most popular female name in the country. The candle in the window was often to be lit by a girl named Mary and only extinguished by her. The removal of decorations in January were also often to be punctuated by a visit from a Mary.

THE LADEN TABLE The centre-piece of the Christmas holiday in Ireland is the Christmas Dinner. After the often lavish meal the kitchen table was again set and on it was placed some bread and milk and the table adorned with the welcoming candle. If Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveller, happened by then they could avail of the hospitality.

LITTLE CHRISTMAS All Christmas decorations are usually taken down and put away on 'Little Christmas' (January 6th.). It is considered very bad luck to remove the decorations and Christmas tree before this date.

IRISH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS The widespread practice of placing a ring of Holly on a front door started in Ireland. Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time in Ireland and gave the poorer population means with which to decorate their homes.

MORE MODERN TRADITIONS Modern Ireland has changed vastly from the times when these Irish Christmas traditions flourished and have often been replaced with newer more secular ones. St. Stephens Day is still regarded as a day to visit family and friends but is also a great sporting day with horse-racing, football and a myriad of other sports taking prominence.

Many workers take the entire week off between Christmas Day and New Years Day with many businesses completely closing down during this time.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is also very well attended and is often adorned with a choir, the Church with a Manger and Nativity scene.

A Christmas Day swim is practiced in certain parts of Ireland with perhaps the most famous being at the 'Forty Foot' tiny beach in South Dublin.

THE TRADITIONAL GAELIC GREETING The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is: 'Nollaig Shona Duit'.....which is pronounced as 'null-ig hun-a dit'.

Thanks to Information about Ireland

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Sully's Events

Hawkeye Game Watch

November 11, 18, and 24th

Sully's hosts an I-Club Game Watch for every Hawkeye Football game! Specials include \$2 Domestic Draws, Bottles, Wells, \$6 Domestic Pitchers, \$3 Fireballs and food specials during game-time. Each game will have a prize raffle and give-aways, including a free six-pack to a lucky winner every time Iowa scores a touchdown! Also put your name in for an additional end-of-season raffle for a grand prize. GO HAWKS!

Trophy Husband Trivia

November 15

Join us for Trivia Night hosted by Josh Alton of Trophy Husband Trivia! Enjoy \$2 cans and 1/2 price Wings. Prizes for the winners each week! In addition, we will have a 6-month rolling contest, with the winning team receiving a \$100 Sully's gift certificate and VIP passes to our 2018 St Patrick's Day Party!

Something that Matters Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, November 19

Chili cook off to benefit The Food Bank of Iowa
Please bring Non expired and or non perishable food to donate to the Food Bank. No limit on the items that can be donated! Each sample counts for \$1 towards the cook off.

Samples = \$1
Bowl of chili = \$5
Unlimited samples for \$20

Entries and setup at Sullys - 12pm- 2pm

Judging will start no later than 2:15pm. Possibly earlier if all entries are present and ready before the 2pm cutoff.

Awards given out at 5pm

Categories are:

Judges choice (overall winner)
Crowd Favorite
5 alarm (hottest with best flavor)
Most unusual
Sabrina's choice
Pitt's choice

Anyone that would like to enter a pot of chili please contact Brian Pitt McCleary @ 515-371-5271.

Entry fee is \$25 per pot. Entry fees may also be sponsored by an area business! If you do have someone to sponsor you, please get some business cards or some information about their business so we can advertise for them and list them as a sponsor to you and the event!

STU RYAN O'BRIEN

IRISH PUB MUSIC

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

7:00 PM 10:00 PM
Join us for lively Irish Pub Music with Stu Ryan O'Brien the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7pm! Enjoy \$2 Cans, 1/2 price Wings and our once-a-month Irish Food Special. No Cover!

Stu's website can be found at: www.iowairish.com

100 DAYS TO ST PATS PARTY

Saturday, December 2, 2017

6:00 PM 11:59 PM

Come help us start the official countdown to St. Patricks Day 2018! \$3.00 16-oz Bud & Bud Light aluminums & \$3.00 Fireballs! First 100 people receive free 2018 St Pats tallboy koozies! Register to win one of several awesome prizes - including a Budweiser Happy Hour Party, gift certificates, St Pats King Kybo and a 6-NIGHT STAY IN MEXICO! Drawings from 9-10pm and must be present to win. Alt 106.3 and Doll Distributing will be on hand for some give-aways and samples! And stay tuned - there will be an online contest for a VIP table at the party!