



upcoming events

DEC. 8

MICHAEL LONDRA'S CELTIC YULETIDE
@ KANSAS CITY IRISH CENTER
DREXEL HALL / 3301 BALTIMORE AVE.
KANSAS CITY, MO
3:00-5:00 P.M. / \$30 GEN. ADMISSION
EVENTBRITE.COM

JAN. 11

CMA CONCERT: LE VENT DU NORD
@ HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

FEB. 15

CMA CONCERT: HIGH TIME
@ HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

MAR. 14

CMA CONCERT: CALAN
@ FRANKLIN JUNIOR HIGH
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

**MONTHLY DES MOINES AREA
IRISH "SESSION"
OPEN JAMS / 7:30(?) -10 P.M.**
1ST TUESDAY @ MICKEY'S, WAUKEE
2ND TUESDAY @ JAVA JOE'S, DES MOINES
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES



The Blarney

upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
@ Holiday Inn
Downtown
"Top of the Tower"

Annual
Christmas Dinner

Next Meeting
Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

december (nollaig) 2019

buckle up, the future may be a bumpy ride, lads

We will soon be wishing each other another Happy New Year, yet most of us have an uneasy feeling that the years may be bringing changes faster than we can handle.

Not to get all sci-fi on you, but welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution!

Let's look into the crystal ball:

Auto repair shops will go away.

A gasoline engine has 20,000 individual parts. An electrical motor has 20. Electric cars are sold with lifetime guarantees and are only repaired by dealers. It takes only 10 minutes to remove and replace an electric motor. Faulty electric motors are not repaired in the dealership but are sent to a regional repair shop that repairs them with robots. Your electric motor malfunction light goes on, so you drive up to what looks like a Jiffy-auto wash and your car is towed through while you have a cup of coffee and out comes your car with a new electric motor!

Gas stations will go away. Parking meters will be replaced by meters that dispense electricity. Companies will install electrical recharging stations; in fact, they have already started. You can find them at select Dunkin Donuts locations.

The smartest major auto manufacturers have already designated money to start building new plants that only build electric cars.

Coal industries will go away. Gasoline/oil companies will go away. Drilling for oil will stop. So say goodbye to OPEC!

Homes will produce and store more electrical energy during the day than they use and sell it back to the grid. The grid stores it and dispenses it to industries that are high electricity users.

A baby of today will only see personal cars in museums.

In 1998, Kodak had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper worldwide. Within just a few years, their business model disappeared and they went bankrupt. Who would have thought of that ever happening?

Did you think in 1998 that 3 years later, you would never take pictures on film again? With today's smart phones, who even has a camera these days?

Yet digital cameras were invented in 1975. The first ones only had 10,000 pixels, but followed Moore's law. So, as with all exponential technologies, it was a disappointment for a time, before it became way superior and became mainstream in only a few short years.

What happened to Kodak will happen in a lot of industries in the next 5-10 years and most people can't clearly predict it.

Think: Artificial Intelligence, health, autonomous and electric cars, education, 3D printing, agriculture and jobs.

Software has disrupted and will continue to disrupt most traditional industries in the near future. UBER is just a software tool; it doesn't own any cars and is now the biggest taxi company in the world! Ask any taxi driver if they saw that coming.

Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although it doesn't own any properties. Ask Hilton Hotels if they saw that coming.



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4th industrial revolution, cont'd:

Artificial Intelligence: Computers become exponentially better in understanding the world. A few years ago, a computer beat the best Go-player in the world, 10 years earlier than expected.

In the USA, young lawyers already don't get jobs. Because of IBM's Watson, you can get legal advice (the basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. So, if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% fewer lawyers in the future (oh, please...oh, please...) and only omniscient specialists will remain.

Watson already helps nurses diagnosing cancer and is 4 times more accurate than a human nurse.

Facebook now has a pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. In 2030, it is predicted computers will become more intelligent than humans.

Autonomous cars: In 2018 the first self-driving cars were here. In the next 2 years, the entire industry will start to be disrupted. You won't want to own a car anymore, as you will call a car with your phone and it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you will only pay for the driven distance and you can be productive while driving. The very young children of today will never get a driver's license and will never own a car.

This will change our cities because we will need 90-95% fewer cars. We can transform former parking spaces into parks.

About 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents worldwide, including distracted or drunk driving. We now have one accident every 60,000 miles; with autonomous driving that will drop to 1 accident in 6 million miles. That will save a million lives plus worldwide each year.

Most traditional car companies will doubtless go bankrupt. They will try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car, while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) will take the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels.

Look at what Volvo is doing right now; no more internal combustion engines in their vehicles, using all electric or hybrid only, with the intent of phasing out hybrid models.

Many engineers from Volkswagen and Audi are completely terrified of Tesla, and so they should be. Look at all the companies offering all-electric vehicles. That was unheard of only a few years ago.

Insurance companies will have massive trouble because, without accidents, the costs will become cheaper. Their car insurance business model will disappear.

So...welcome to tomorrow! But it actually arrived a few years ago. 🍀

wearin' of the grin

A man in Ireland calls his son in London a few days before Christmas and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."



"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like hell, they're getting divorced!" she shouts. "I'll take care of this."

She calls Ireland immediately and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing...DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife and says, "Done! They're coming for Christmas ... and they're paying their own way."

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[an oldie, but a goodie...]

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honor of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The Englishman fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It's a candle," he said.

"You may pass through the pearly gates," St. Peter said.

The Scotsman reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys.

He shook them and said, "They're bells."

St. Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The Irishman started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of lady's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?"

The Irishman replied, "These are Carol's."

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A mother is driving her little girl to her friend's house for a play date.

"Mommy," the little girl asks, "how old are you?"

"Honey, you are not supposed to ask a lady her age," the mother replied. "It's not polite."

"OK," the little girl says. "How much do you weigh?"

"Now really," the mother says, "those are personal questions and are really none of your business."

Undaunted, the little girl asks,

"Why did you and Daddy get a divorce?"

"That's enough questions, young lady! Honestly!" The exasperated mother walks away as the two friends begin to play.

"My mom won't tell me anything about her," the little girl says to her friend. "Well," says the friend, "all you need to do is look at her driver's license. It's like a report card; it has everything on it."

Later that night the little girl says to her mother,

"I know you are 32 years old and you weigh 130 pounds."

The mother is surprised and asks,

"Heavens, how did you find that out?"

"And I know why you and daddy got a divorce! You got an F in sex."

board news

The board has contracted with West Bend Insurance to handle the **liability coverage** for all of our events in 2020. We expect a modest savings in the switch-over.

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As of press time, the count for our **Annual Christmas Dinner at the Holiday Inn Downtown on Dec. 9** is looking healthy. More reservations will undoubtedly come in later this week.

The cost this year has risen slightly to \$40/person and reservations are requested in advance to enable the hotel to plan the event.

Mike Dennis reports that he has another great slide show to entertain us with.

With gifts for the ladies from **Bill McCarthy** and a new **Foy Dancers** performance, the package is complete.

Hope to see you all there!

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We have something new this year, as well.

It's a **Wine Grab** event and works this way: for \$10 you earn a choice of an anonymously-wrapped bottle of wine, guaranteed to be worth that much or more.

Among those choices will be a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream and some very fine Paddy's Irish whiskey.

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The board wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year!



buenas Dias, gentlemen!

I am writing you at this time from an island, but it is definitely not Ireland!

I'm in a beach-side bar in beautiful Puerto Rico! My cousin chose this tropical destination for her wedding.

So, due to the fact that I did not win the FSOSP Ireland trip AGAIN this year, my wife and I decided traveling here to help celebrate our 5 yr. wedding anniversary would take priority over a trip to mother Ireland... (the 89 degree days here made the choice pretty easy, also).

As I listen to the waves crash, sitting on my beach chair and soaking up the sun, with my pina colada slowly melting into a glass of rum syrup, my thoughts of the club are distant.

But I wanted to take a quick moment to share a word with you so you know I am still doing my best to lead our merry band of Irishmen and hope to see our club grow and prosper in the upcoming year.

Here's a merry, merry to all you lads! Slainte!

Your honored president, Tony "T-Bone" Schmid



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here are a few **Christmas season trivia tidbits** for your enjoyment:

- A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard. Yummy!
- Animal Crackers are not really crackers, but cookies that were imported to the United States from England in the late 1800s. The circus-like animal cage boxes were designed with a string handle so that they could be hung on a Christmas tree.
- Before settling on the name of Tiny Tim for his character in "A Christmas Carol," three other alliterative names were considered by Charles Dickens. They were Little Larry, Puny Pete, and Small Sam. T-Bone was never a choice.
- Christmas was once a moveable feast celebrated at many different times during the year. The choice of December 25 was made by Pope Julius I in the 4th century A.D. because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice, or Return of the Sun. The intent was to replace the pagan celebration with the Christian one.
- Frankincense is a sweet-smelling gum resin derived from certain Boswellia trees which, at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India, and Ethiopia. Tradition says that it was presented to the Christ Child by Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia or Saba. The frankincense trade was at its height during the days of the Roman Empire, as valuable as gems or precious metals. Frankincense is available even today. 🍀