

President's Pint of View



WHY IS IT I CAN'T REMEMBER what I did over Memorial Day weekend and I can't forget Labor Day weekend? I guess Memorial Day isn't that memorable. It's not that Labor Day is that much more fun. Oh, on the contrary, I think all the fun leads to Memorial weekend being less memorable. If you follow that then it's time for another beer.

I don't know when Labor Day turned into Labor Weekend, but it just doesn't seem to be as much fun as it used to be. I remember when summer's last holiday was spent camping and biking with lots of grilling out, a lot like Memorial weekend, I think. For some crazy reason I have let Labor Day become far too literal in the sense that we didn't even grill out once this weekend, which might even be considered un-American, even though I built a new back deck and was able to have a beer on it before it was dark Monday night.

Maybe next year I can make Labor Day weekend less memorable, more like Memorial Day weekend.

I hope everyone was able to relax and refuel because we have a big bike ride coming up shortly and if you ain't volunteering, I hope you're riding. See you at the meeting.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

In the afternoon, I went over to the local Bass Pro Shop to get a small 9mm handgun for home/personal protection.

When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

As an intelligent senior citizen, I do not get flustered often. But this time, it took me a while to get my pants back on. I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make the instructions to seniors a little clearer.

I still don't think I looked that bad. Just need to wear underwear more often.



Confucius Say...

Kiss is merely shopping upstairs, for merchandise downstairs.

Confucius Say...

Better to lose a lover, than love a loser.

Confucius Say...

Sex is same as bank account:

You put it in, you take it out....you lose interest.

Confucius Say...

Viagra just like Disneyland ... one hour wait for 5 minute ride.

Confucius Say...

Joke is like sex. Neither any good, if you don't get it.



Upcoming:

MEETING

September 12

Menu:

*BBQ Chicken Drumsticks
Beans / TBA Potatoes / Bread*

FALL BIKE RIDE

Sept. 17

NEXT MEETING

Oct. 10



Board Contact Info:

President – Mike O'Connell
moconn317@gmail.com ~ 271-0018
Vice President – Tim Schuck
tschuck@smithmetzger.com ~ 778-8390
Treasurer – Mike Murphy
mikemurphy@ishsi.com ~ 537-7699
Secretary – Ed Kelly
ylleke@mchsi.com ~ 577-3843

Mike Dennis
mdennis1958@gmail.com ~ 779-7026
George Hedding
geohedd@aol.com ~ 250-4220
Bill McCarthy
mccar7660@aol.com ~ 975-5254
Tony Schmid
fsosptony@outlook.com ~ 554-1107
Bree Young
breetattoo@yahoo.com ~ 720-2580

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



The Blarney

SEPTEMBER [MEÁN FÓMHAIR] 2016



We're halfway there! Celebrate with a ride on Sept. 17

Bike riders in the Central Iowa area will have several organized rides to choose from on the 17th, but we hope many of them opt for our **Annual FSOSP "Halfway to St. Pat's" Ride** on the Great Western Trail that day.

Our good friend Pat Renda will welcome us all to Orlando's Bar & Grill for ride registration starting at 11 a.m.

Be sure to park at the trail head south of the bar to preserve restaurant's customer access.

For \$25 a cyclist gets drink specials, a souvenir shirt and participation in contests for prizes. Bar Bonus: Bikers will find two watering holes in Orilla, about halfway on the Halfway.

Ride schedule:

12:45 p.m. ❖ Award for Best Irish-themed Bike
(decorate yourself and your trusty steed)

1 p.m. ❖ Bikes head down-trail for Cumming

2-5 p.m. ❖ Music by Old School

4 p.m. ❖ Spud & Spoon Races at the Cumming Tap
(teams of two)

5 p.m. ❖ Raffle drawings
(prizes of \$500, \$250, and four \$50)

Raffle ticket sales are crucial to the success of FSOSP events like these, so pick up a book or two at the meeting next week to sell to friends & neighbors. Only 500 tickets will be sold so the odds of winning some of the \$950 in prize money are plenty high.

Volunteers are needed to run the event and a meeting will be held following next Monday's club gathering. 🍀



Celtic Thunder returns to DM Oct. 1

World-renowned Irish singing quintet **CELTIC THUNDER** will perform *Legacy*, their brand-new show at the Des Moines Civic Center on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

This brand-new show features an exciting combination of classic and contemporary Irish songs, delivered in true Celtic Thunder style with their signature vocal harmonies and ensemble productions.

Tickets are available at *DesMoinesPerformingArts.org*, the Civic Center Ticket Office, and by phone at 515-246-2300. Groups of 10 or more should call 515-246-2340.

Storming onto the main stage are international megastars Celtic Thunder, with *Legacy*, a brand new show celebrating the influence of Irish and Celtic music around the world.

Legacy is a live show featuring a mix of lively, fast-paced and upbeat songs, “A Place in the Choir,” “Galway Girl,” and “Raggle Taggle Gypsy” that represent the fun loving nature of the Irish and slower classic ballads, “Danny Boy,” “Norreen,” and “Buachaille On Eirne” that portray a more nostalgic and romantic side.

Continuing their tradition of paying homage to the musical culture and traditions of Ireland, Celtic Thunder’s latest show is a depiction of their musical footprint over the past eight years and of their amazing heritage of Irish and Celtic music. 🍀

Celtic Thunder facts:

- They have played the White House, the Pentagon, and opened St. Patrick’s Day parades across the U.S.
- Celtic Thunder has been the top Public TV show for the past eight years.
- They have been awarded Billboard’s top World Music Artist four times (including 2015).
- The group is known for their vocal harmonies and ensemble numbers.
- The five amazing vocalists are backed by an eight piece live band.
- They are dedicated to several charitable works. 🍀



Think ‘FSOSP Chef’ has a nice ring to it?



Extraordinary meals for the passel of Sons who show up monthly at the Mickle Center are the rule, not the exception.

Meals are never boring and rotate throughout the year, featuring meat dishes of all kinds, pastas, seasonal veggies, along with surprise treats.

That’s the bar that **Bill McCarthy** and his friends have set for us.

Alas, it’s time for a transition to a new system, as Bill wants to set his work burner to “simmer,” maintaining only an advisory role.

Several suggestions have been made about what to do next. First, do any of you want to step into his role and coordinate our monthly vittle prep? Or, perhaps you would want to give it a shot, serving up a menu on one given month, working as a team with a few of

your friends? The idea would be to rotate the teams so no one is constantly working on demand (like Bill & his friends are now!).

Help, advice and guidance are all at the ready for any brave souls who volunteer. Step up and let O’Connell know. 🍀

Board News

A recent article in the DM Register indicated that the city was looking to apply for another opportunity to host the NCAA tourney, perhaps in two years or so. Uh-oh, here we go again. But that is a ways down the road.

Our current St. Pat’s Parade Chair for Life, **Mike Dennis**, tells us that plans for the 2017 event are tentatively in place, with nothing to concern us yet. And we all know that “no news” is...

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Secretary **Ed Kelly** is planning to cede his role as Blarney Boss at the end of this year.

So the board is seeking someone in the membership to be the new “ink-stained wretch,” responsible for producing the document you are reading.

Heads-up wordsmiths. Any takers?

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Bob Fogarty has graciously agreed to take over as the leader of all the rambunctious members of the Prize Committee. We can expect an even higher quality of raffle items, from all the nooks and crannies at the ends of the earth. Huzzah!

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Several new members have indicated an interest in getting a copy of our club directory. **Mike Dennis** tells us that he is working on a revision/update of the inaugural one produced a couple of years ago.

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The board is dealing with a couple of issues connected to our Mickle Center meeting location.

The grill out back is deteriorating and needs to be repaired or removed.

Also, plans are underway to acquire more chairs for the main room. **George Hedding** is looking into some possibilities.

Maybe a couple more tables would be wise, as well?

Requiescat in pace

Long-time club member **James “Jimmy” Morrissey** passed away August 23 at Mercy Hospice in Johnston.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and worked for the U.S. Postal Service before retiring in 1988.

We send our condolences to his wife, Ann, and the family.

BLARNEYBITS

Last month’s Blarney included a fine feature on “uisce beatha,” or the “water of life,” our good friend **whiskey**.

Here are a few additional tasty tidbits you might find interesting:

● You may notice that Scotch can sometimes have a very smoky taste. Why not Jameson’s or Teeling? The reason is that the barley in Irish whiskey is dried in a closed kiln, whereas Scotch’s barley is dried over a peat fire.

● Today, Irish whiskey accounts for just 5% of global whiskey sales. It constituted 60% of the world’s whiskey until the Irish War of Independence began in 1919, when embargoes helped Scotch whisky take over.

● Like American bourbon, trict rules apply. Whiskey has to mature for three years in an oak barrel in Ireland to officially be called Irish whiskey. 🍀

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Oktoberfest 2016 in Ireland lasts for 18 days, Sept. 15-Oct. 2, and people will be walking down O’Connell Street in Dublin in dirndl and lederhosen. Party Central is at George’s Dock and the atmospherics of this typically Bavarian event offers entertainment for the whole family. All can experience Munich’s Oktoberfest culture with a cold Erdinger Oktoberfestbier, a German pretzel, black forest Kassler and a lot more all around German culture.

Many Irish travel to Munich by land, sea and air on itineraries that include guided tours, beer-tasting and pre- and post-festival stops in many European cities and locales. Maybe we need a FSOSP sign-up? 🍀

Upcoming events

SEPT. 14

STU RYAN O’BRIEN IRISH SING-ALONG

7-9 P.M.

SULLY’S PUB, 110 GRAND, WDM

SEPT. 16

KELLY’S CLAN @

THE WORLD FOOD/MUSIC EXPO

1-3 P.M.

DOWNTOWN DSM

OCT. 1

CELTIC THUNDER / 7:30 P.M.

DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER