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Black Hills Celtic Events.org
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June 2012

Serving the Celtic Communities of: Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall (England), Galicia (Spain), Brittany (France), Scotland and Ireland



Mark those calendars

Upcoming Events

- June 23rd Midsummer Eve Bill & Sally Knight's house
- July 3rd Board Meeting Dr. Jim Byrne's Office
- July 17th Regular Meeting

Midsummers Information

Hi everyone---Just letting you know that the **greenman** will be the theme this year. For those who are new to SIS this event is an outdoor potluck BBQ. Many of our members have made masks out of leaves, some have even dyed parts of their hair green or put trails of leaves in their hair. The food is Celtic or summer-type and often green, but not required. I do a short presentation about the history of the greenman, then we sit around a firepit and laugh the rest of the evening. Bring a chair and your choice of beverage. We encourage celtic attire, but wear what is comfortable. Children and dogs are more than welcome. I'll give directions just before as I get "wordy" sometimes. Hope to see all of you!

President's Message



President Gary Hamilton

June 2012

A subject of importance to all of us is the possible merger with Dakota Celts. The latest news is that it has risen to the status of a "probable" merger with Dakota Celts. At our last meeting our members voted 19 to 0 in favor of pursuing the merger. At their meeting following ours the Dakota Celts also voted in favor of pursuing a merger. A joint committee of both organizations will meet on June 23 to begin serious discussions of the legal process to bring us together. If nothing else happens in

the next eight months I will consider this merger to be the highlight of my term as president of SIS. Thank you all for supporting this idea.

Our next big social event is the Mid-Summers Eve party at Sally and Bill Knight's house on June 23. You have probably received email updates for Sally on the planning. "Green Man" is this year's theme. Feel free to dress the theme, Celt up or come as you are. It is fun and there are no rules. You will receive instructions on how to find Sally and Bill's house in the next week or so.

We will not have a general membership meeting in June. The Dakota Gathering of the Clans committee has canceled the Celtic Street Festival scheduled for July 14. Therefore, we are planning to meet in July. Holly Lemay has offered to give us a presentation on her trip to Ireland last fall. Her son, Ben, was studying in Ireland over the winter. It gave her an opportunity to be up close and personal with residents of Ireland. There may be an added surprise entertainer at that meeting. More details will follow.

A little change of subject: the Dahl Arts Center has been sponsoring an emerging artists program every Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 pm since January.

<http://www.thedahl.org/emerging-artists.html>

) Admission is free and the event is very informal. You can show up for a half hour and leave or stay for the entire 2 hours. Pat and I often attend for an hour then go to dinner. At the Dahl a cash bar is open for beverage service. If you enjoy an artist donations are welcome. Most of the musicians play guitar and sing. Some play piano. Another played dulcimer. Why should you go? Support them.

Somewhere among them is a budding Celtic musician.

May this newsletter find you enjoying our all too brief Black Hills summer. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

*Yours aye,
Gary Hamilton*

Membership

Our newest SIS members are Stan & June Oestreich. Hopefully we'll get a chance to greet and welcome them at the Midsummer festivities.

Meeting Notes

Board Meeting
June 5, 2012
Jim Byrne's Office

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Minutes read. No changes.

Treasurer's Report: \$3,226.89 in checking minus \$100 to be sent to the McGillicuddy House project as a donation. Also \$58.67 was paid to Sally for purchased goods and haggis which was not used at the Cultural Day event, but will be used at the Midsummer Eve event.

Old Business: Dakota Celts members have approved the merger process. Gary emailed Ron Hunter with

a suggestion to meet on June 23 prior the Midsummer Eve event. Awaiting reply. Gary did not have new information related to lawyers. Discussion of properties can be done at a later date.

John Burke expressed an interest in working with June Beason with the Genealogical Research Society.

Gary sent June his email information. Contact John or Gary if SIS members are interested.

New Business: A craft committee was formed to make items for silent auctions and dinners. Contact Susan Peterson, Sally Knight or Carole Conrad if a SIS member would like to join.

There will not be Highland games at the BBQ which takes place at the fairgrounds.

Looking for SIS members to help Dakota Celts during the week of the fair. Gary plan to ask them for time slots where help is needed.

A motion by Pat Hamilton was made to reimburse the Knights for the main course (possibly Salmon this year). Seconded by Jim Byrne. All in favor.

Programs: John Burke will fill the September slot featuring an article about Ireland from Archaeology Magazine.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Officers

<u>President</u>	Gary Hamilton info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org
<u>Vice President</u>	Susan Peterson
<u>Secretary</u>	Sally Knight
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carole Conrad
<u>Board Members</u>	Bill Knight, Marlene Wilcox, Kevin Queen, Jim Wilcox, & Jim Byrne
<u>Past President</u>	Pat Hamilton
<u>Web Site</u>	Gary Hamilton
<u>Newsletter</u>	John Burke jburke67@rap.midco.net

Of Interest

News from an old friend: Coleen Coble

Coleen was very active in the Scottish & Irish Society a few years ago and left many friends behind when she moved to Florida and for a time operated a Celtic Shop down in Dunedin. She is moving to Arizona, tired of the humidity of Florida and ready for another chapter in her life. Her new address is "13639 W Countryside Drive, Sun City West, AZ". You can plug this address into Google Earth and see pictures of her house and how NOT humid it looks! She's moving in July. She does hope to come back to Rapid for a visit sometime, hopefully planning it around one of SIS's events. She said to say hi to all her old friends. Her email will still be coleencoble@hotmail.com.

Pat Hamilton

1011 West Boulevard

Celtic Doings



Long time member Paul Smith, good friend of Paul's Perry Rahn and tasting host Gary Hamilton



A Summer Whisky Tasting

You may remember that I donated a Single Malt Whisky Tasting for the Silent Auction at our St Pat's Dinner. Well, Paul Smith won the bid.

Thank you Paul. You helped make this one of our more profitable St Pat's dinners yet.

Paul invited his good friend Perry Rahn to join him for the tasting. Perry and his wife Mely are "loyal non-members" of the Scottish and Irish Society. They frequently accompany Paul at our events and profess to enjoy every one of them. If you have not met them introduce yourself the next time that you see them.

When Paul contacted me to schedule the tasting he told me that Perry would be coming but I did not realize until we got started that this was a birthday present from Paul to Perry. I was honored to host them both.

It turned out to be a delightful evening. The weather was perfect for the first time that I participated in an outdoor single malt tasting. Perry benefited from both my book knowledge of the whisky industry and Paul's personal experience touring distilleries in Scotland. We all learned a lot about the history and the mystique of the Scotch industry.

We started with lemon grass and honey of Glenkinchie from the Lowlands. We sampled Dalwhinnie and Glenfiddich from the Highlands. Next it was off to the Isle of Skye for a peaty and peppery Talisker. Then it was to Islay for the honey and peat of Caol Ila. We ended with a mouth full of dry soot from the Kilchoman distillery of Islay.

Usually a tasting takes 45-60 minutes. We spent two hours discussing, sampling and praising the fine beverages of the Scottish distilleries. Need I say more?

Well, I will say one more thing. We converted Perry from sour mash to malted barley. Welcome to the dark side Perry.

Sponsors

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