



# Four Peaks Irish Arts

A Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

May  
2010

Volume 3  
Issue 5

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Four Peaks Irish Arts  
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USA  
[www.fourpeaksirisharts.org](http://www.fourpeaksirisharts.org)

## May General Meeting

Sat 22nd May 2010 @ 3pm-4pm at Jim and Anne Daugherty's home, 824 W Pershing Ave, Phoenix, AZ. 85029.

Seisiun to follow! Committee members to meet there an hour earlier from 2pm-3pm. Contact Mary for more information: [mary.hillconnor@gmail.com](mailto:mary.hillconnor@gmail.com)

## Note from our Chairperson

A Chairde,

I came back from the Convention a week ago and I was going to write up my report for everybody about what a wonderful time I had. Luckily, I came across Paul's article and, since I couldn't wax as elegant as he, I chose to share it with you instead. So please take the time to read this link.

[http://www.irishcentral.com/story/ent/from\\_the\\_hob/comhaltas-ceoltoiri-eireann-gathering-a-huge-success-91699374.html](http://www.irishcentral.com/story/ent/from_the_hob/comhaltas-ceoltoiri-eireann-gathering-a-huge-success-91699374.html)

As you can see from Paul's article, next year's convention is in San Antonio! That's right, Texas' first branch was founded this year. Now, for 2012, I have entered Phoenix, and we will be contending with three other branches for the convention hosting honors for that year. Let's work to get it, for 2012 is the 100th anniversary of Arizona statehood!

So get prepared for the all night sesions and dances next year in San Antonio. Shall we rent a bus and take the whole branch?  
Slan, Mary

## Please rejoin FPIA

If you are one of those folks who did not renew your membership, we want you back! There is a lot going on, both right now and in the future. We know you won't want to miss anything. Contact any board member and let's make plans to get back together. We need you!

## Join our Facebook group

as a way to stay in the loop with frequent information and event updates. For questions on how to locate the FPIA Facebook group, contact Laura Strebler. Come join us!

[laura@fourpeaksirisharts.org](mailto:laura@fourpeaksirisharts.org)

## If you are reading this on our website

we would like to invite you to join us! Four Peaks Irish Arts is proud to extend a membership invitation to you! If you would like to join FPIA, contact Johnny Kerr for more information at: [johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org](mailto:johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org)



## Go Play First Friday at ICC

We need more players at the Irish Cultural Center on First Fridays. Last time there were Maggie, Mick, Tom F and George. It would be great if a dozen players were there. Many people go and enjoy dinner, then stay and listen to the music. Also, we should be more supportive of the Center. We want them to be there when we need them don't we? Show up and have a beer! The next First Friday will be on May 7th, and Chef Frank Hand from Flights of Fancy Catering will be serving Asian Chicken Salad with Cabbage, Toasted Almonds and Mandarin Oranges with Chocolate Cake for desert. All for only \$10.00

## Help Wanted:

**Public Relations** Your skills can be put to good use for FPIA. We need an aggressive Public Relations person to take over this job.

Contact [mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org](mailto:mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org)



## 2009 Calendar of Events

**Sat 22nd May 2010 @ 3pm-4pm** General FPIA meeting at Jim Daugherty's home, 824 W Pershing Ave, Phoenix, AZ. 85029. Seisiun to follow!

Contact Mary for more information: mary.hillconnor@gmail.com

For other information, contact Johnny Kerr: Johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org

### The 5th Annual Arizona Irish Session in the Woods!

Once again, our annual group camping trip is scheduled for Memorial weekend. The event is open to all Arizona session players, Four Peaks members, families and friends. This year we will be back at the Granite Basin campground outside of Prescott. The Granite Basin site is a large group campground, which will accommodate 100 people with plenty of room to spread out. There are good hiking and biking trails close by. There will, of course, be music.

**Date: May 28-30** You can arrive any time after 2:00 PM on Friday the 28th. We have to be out by noon on Sunday the 30th. You can come for both nights, one night, or just drop by any time during the weekend for some food and tunes.

Location/Directions:

GPS Info. (Latitude, Longitude): 34.61111, -112.54583

Take Highway 69 (west bound) to Prescott, Arizona, take Sheldon Street (Highway 89) to Montezuma. Turn right at stop light, follow road (turns into Iron Springs Road) for 3 miles, turn onto Forest Road 374 and travel 4 miles to Granite Basin Group Camp.

#### Campground information:

- 30 Vehicle Sites
- 8 Fire Places, 1 Large Fire Ring, 4 Pedestal Grills
- Water on site, 2 Vault Toilets
- No Electricity, Dump Station, or Shower Facilities

**Meals:** We will have a big potluck dinner on Saturday evening (there is usually enough food at the potluck to feed all of Prescott). Maggie will most likely be whipping up some pancakes for anyone who wants them in the mornings. Other than that, you're on your own for meals. There are grills where you can use charcoal, and one large ring where we have been able to have a fire even when the rest of the forest was under restriction. There are 8 other fire rings in the campground, which may or may not be restricted at the time. It's a good idea to bring or be able to share a propane stove.

**Registration/cost:** You don't need to register. But if you think you will be able to come, please send me a note at ruth.chrstnsn@... so that I can get an approximate head count. The cost is \$2 per night per person, payable to me either before or at camp.

Hope to see you there! - Ruth

### Letters To The Editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments. Send letters to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) We can include photos with your letter!

#### From Flo:

I got some great comments in Seattle about our FPIA newsletter - we have some fans that read it every month! Flo

#### From Laura:

Great stuff in our newsletter this month... thanks Beverly for another great job! Laura



Welcome back to Flo's Corner! I should welcome myself back too as I have been trying to catch up with myself these past few weeks hence my absence in the March newsletter. I am hoping you are all well and happy since I saw all of you last!

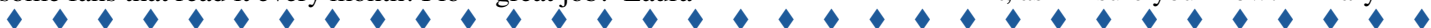
Well, what have I been up to or where have I been? Since early March, I have experienced the wonderful Friday Harbor Music Camp and the South East Tionol in Atlanta, Georgia. What can I say, there are no words to describe what a fantastic week that was had by all at Friday Harbor this year. Great tunes, great music, great fun and great friends were all to be had there in the beautiful surroundings at Roche Harbor. My trip to Georgia was also another fantastic experience where I had the opportunity to meet so many great new people and musicians. I will talk a little bit more about that weekend later in the article.

Firstly, I must mention the Kevin Burke fiddle workshop and house concert. I am looking forward to learning a few tunes and to also seeing some of you who I have not caught up with in ages. It is a great opportunity to learn and play from a great fiddle player like Kevin Burke. I was talking to my father last week and he told me that Kevin and himself often played together many moons ago down at our local bar, Linnane's Lobster Bar in New Quay, Co. Clare. My father told me a story that one time they both started out a simple little jig and played the first part the same but the 2nd part they had different. Kevin loved my father's version of the 2nd part so he learned it right there and then. As my father said "Sure he had it learned in 5 minutes". I will be going along to both the workshop and the concert so I hope to see you all there!!!!

*Continued on page 6*

#### From Mary Connor:

Thank you for all the work you do and the time you spend. I truly appreciate it, as I'm sure you know! Mary



## Saint Patricks Day at the ICC

This was the first time I saw a Ceili dance. It was nothing like I imagined. It is a laid back group that just have a good time. You should go and at least watch.



Some of our musicians accompanied the Ceili that followed the choir. There weren't many people in attendance. Where was everybody? The Lamb stew was delicious!

## Celtica! performed at the ICC

We enjoyed the first appearance of the Celtica singers on St Patricks day. They sang many pieces that I didn't recognize, but it was an enjoyable program. There will be performance by them at the Irish Cultural Center on May 16 to help defray costs of a new recording and help Celtica! on its way to Irish Fest in Milwaukee. General Admission tickets will be available at the door for \$10. More information: celticachorale@gmail.com or 480.577.9527



## Bagpiper Story

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, and we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the worker say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

## Drink up! It's OK *Healthful properties discovered in stout*

Well folks, it's a fact. Guinness really is good for you. This tastes great more filling formula defies nutritional expectations because Guinness is low in alcohol. Guinness is 4.2% alcohol by volume, the same as Coors Light. Budweiser and Heineken check in at 5%.

In a study by University of Wisconsin, it was found that moderate consumption of Guinness worked like aspirin to prevent clots that increase the risk of heart attacks. Guinness proved twice as effective as Heinken at preventing blood clots. Guinness is loaded with flavonoids, antioxidants that give the dark color to many fruits and vegetables. These are better than vitamins C and E at keeping bad LDL cholesterol from clogging arteries. Blocked arteries also contribute to erectile dysfunction. Beer also aids bones because of its high levels of silicon, which allows the deposit of calcium and other minerals into bone tissue. Many cardiologist recommend a drink a day for cardiac patients. Red wine in particular has been shown to help prevent heart attacks. *Beverly Fizzell*

*A toast that got out of hand*



## Kevin Burke Concert

House concerts are one of the specialties of Four Peaks Irish Arts activities. FPIA Music Coordinator, Anita Arden once again opened her lovely home to over 50 people to enjoy the amazing fiddle style of Kevin Burke and his guitar partner, Cal Scott. Four Peaks Irish Arts sponsored the event which also included a well-attended fiddle workshop with Kevin at the Irish Cultural Center, earlier in the day. Kevin and Cal played a wide variety of tunes, including songs from their new CD, "Suite".

In the true style of house concerts, an after-hours seisiun broke out and lasted well past midnight. FPIA Language Coordinator and concertina player Flo Fahy treated us to a few tunes with Kevin and Cal while other musicians unpacked and melded their way into the evening's entertainment. Many of the guests remained to listen to the ceól agus craic.

Visiting from Portland Oregon, Kevin and Cal couldn't have been more gracious and entertaining despite missing most of the Portland Trailblazers basketball team defeat the Phoenix Suns, tying the series at two games each.  
- Chris Boydston



## Donations are still being taken for Jane Hilton

Johnny Kerr is continuing to raise funds for Jane. This artwork represents a sticker that has been created as a fundraiser to help Jane throughout this difficult time in her life. These are available to anyone who would like to support Jane- there is a \$5 minimum donation for each sticker. These are high quality 3" round vinyl decals that are suitable for indoor or outdoor use; put one on your car window and/or your instrument case to show your support for Jane around Phoenix. The cost to print these decals has already been covered by a small group of Jane's friends and 100% of your donation will go directly to Jane. We have printed 1,000 of these decals and the goal is to raise at least \$5,000 (1,000 decals at \$5 each) to help Jane with

medical expenses. The added bonus is that Jane will see the stickers around town and know that she is loved and supported by her community.

This fundraiser is not associated with Four Peaks Irish Arts but I thank you for allowing me to use the newsletter to help get the word out for this cause. Please contact Johnny Kerr for details ([kerr.johnny@gmail.com](mailto:kerr.johnny@gmail.com)) on how to get your decal. *Johnny Kerr*



Flo's Column continued from page 3

My trip to Georgia was fantastic. The South East Uileann Pipers Tionol 2010 was held in the beautiful Roswell, Georgia. It was my first trip to Georgia so as you can figure, I was super excited about seeing the area.

The tutors' for the weekend were Cillian Vallely and Michael Rooney on Uileann pipes, Willie Kelly on fiddle and myself, Flo on concertina. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gary White and his team for making it such a great weekend that was highly successful and enjoyed immensely by all. I would also like to thank Lawrence Reeves for making the concertina workshop happen as it was enjoyed thoroughly by all and I truly had a fantastic attendance. All of the workshops were indeed well attended. My weekend started arriving off the plane and into what else but an Irish bar by the name of "The Harp". Escorted into the back room of the pub, I was struck by about 15-20 concertina players all playing away. I was wondering if this was an Uileann piper's weekend or a concertina weekend. I was delighted to see so many concertina players in one room and all very enthusiastic about the upcoming classes. Of course while taking in all the happenings, I had a few ciders and mingled meeting and greeting people. A great session started where there must have been at least 30 plus musicians. As the night drew later, many decided to call it an early night due to the pending early start the next day. All the tutors sat and played at different times with the students and after a late night – we headed to bed for some zzzzz's!!!! Yeah, we did honestly!

On Saturday the workshops went on throughout the day starting at 10 and finishing around 4pm. I was in my element as a concertina repair and maintenance man by the name of Greg Jowaisas, who is based in Covington, Kentucky, was taking my concertina workshop. He also gave a concertina repair and maintenance lecture after my workshop on Saturday at 4pm. Greg also works alongside Wally Carroll of Carroll Concertinas. The reason I was so excited was that he had a range of different concertinas with him that were for sale. He had me play them all, which was cool and of course I fell in love with a beautiful instrument, a Linolta Wheatstone that he had for sale. It was all very exciting until I saw the price, which was \$9,500. However, it was a beautiful instrument and well worth the money. A true investment and one that would let you reap the benefits of for many years. That was not the only reason I was excited about this particular instrument. From the number on this concertina we could determine that it was a sister concertina of mine. My Wheatstone concertina dates from 1919 and this Linolta is from around 1921. My mouth was watering – if only I had the spondulicks as they say in Ireland or the cash if you want to know what I am talking about! I was pining after it when I finally had to give it up! Oh well!

Later on that night, the tutors' gave a concert in a beautiful, quaint theatre in Roswell. It was called the Red Door Playhouse, a small, intimate setting with great acoustics. There, we performed individually and gave a final big hooley at the end with all the tutors back on stage. Davey Mathias, a guitarist and great friend of Randal Bays accompanied some of the tutors during their solo performance and then joined us on stage again for the blast of tunes. After that, it was off to "The Harp" pub again for some more craic and tunes. While there it took me a while to realize that everybody there was smoking in the bar. That was a blast from the past and made me think about the nights I would spend choked in smoke many years ago in a small, hot, stuffy pub in Ireland. Phew, thank goodness that is gone. I had started to wonder why Michael Cooney, the piping instructor, kept escaping to the bar that night. I found out though when I sat up beside him and we had a nice long chat about the people we knew and the people we have played with over the years. It was only then I realized the cigarette in his hand! The conversation was too good for me to notice. Michael Cooney is a gentleman and a fabulous piper. Born in Co. Tipperary, Michael was surrounded by the fantastic music of the late Paddy O'Brien. Of course he being from Tipperary and I being from Clare – the Clare Vs Tipperary hurling game rivalry was mentioned but we called it a truce. For those of you that don't know what I am talking about Clare and Tipperary put skin and hair flying anytime they meet in a hurling match. The rivalry is fierce. Anyone but Tipp we say in Clare! All hurling aside, he shared with me many stories of growing up and learning music from Paddy O'Brien, which I really enjoyed hearing as Paddy O'Brien's music was one of my favorites when I started learning music. Needless to say, Michael and I had a few drinks and headed back towards the music where we sat down and played till an indecent hour is all I can say! Cillian Vallely was another of the tutors and a fantastic piper who plays with the group Lunasa. He has been involved also with Riverdance. He has done many recordings and played in soundtracks to films. What a great down to earth guy he is and it was a pleasure meeting and playing with him. Willie Kelly is a beautiful fiddle player. Right away we had something in common as his wife is from Clare and a flute player herself. Willie has a lovely style of fiddle playing. Later on in the weekend, I found out that Willie recorded a track with my former concertina teacher Dymphna O'Sullivan on her new album "Bean Chairdin" released in 2009. That was really great to know. I have listened to the album in Ireland but didn't read the sleeve notes so I didn't realize that it was Willie on the fiddle. Learning all the time. It was super. Sunday was the last day of the workshops. We had a few hours in the morning, with a bit of a late start due to the late night/early morning finish. We had a few groggy heads but all willing and ready for the few hours left. My workshop ended with a few tunes played together and then a few by me and we all departed, tired but content. Next year's South East Uileann Piper's Tionol will be in Florida. Thanks to all again who asked me to be a part of such a great, fun-filled weekend.

On a sadder note, if some of you do not know already, I will be leaving Phoenix, Arizona soon, heading East to Boston. Our plans are to leave May 25th. As it draws nearer, I am getting sad at the thoughts of leaving all my good friends and musicians behind. I have so many good times here, met so many fantastic people and made so many memories that it will be sad to leave. Thank you all for welcoming me to Phoenix and making me feel at home. No doubt there will be a hooley of some sort at our house for all our friends so once I set a date you will all be informed and I would really love if you all could come. Why move to Boston? For many reasons but the main one for me is my family. We will still have our house here so we may be back at some stage but we may not too.

I am off to San Francisco on May 2nd for a one-day workshop. In my June newsletter I will give a report as to how that went and fill you all in on any more of my adventures. Thanks for taking the time to read my article! See you all next month!!!! Slan go foill!

If God sends you down a stony path,  
may he give you strong shoes.



## FPIA Marketplace

To place your ad, send e-mail to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) (Deadline is the 10th of next month)

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS ! THEY HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS**

### Ad Rates

Have something to sell, buy or advertise? Put your ad or business card in the newsletter. (Some are free to members). We can help you write your ad. e-mail your information to: [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net)

Business Ad	one year \$90.00 or one month \$10.00
Member Business Ad	one year \$60.00 or one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00 (free to FPIA folks)
Add a photo to your ad for	\$5.00

## We are waiting for your ad!

### Have an Instrument for Sale?

Bodhrans - Fiddles - Whistles - Spoons  
(Oops, did I say spoons?)

This might be the perfect time to offer your old instruments for sale, right when new classes are going on. A good outlet might be the students at the Irish Cultural Center! You might make the difference in a potential musician's life or career!

### Want to advertise your group?

Put an ad here for your new group. We know you have been venturing out and forming groups and playing around the area. Remember our newsletter is read on our website by many others. Good exposure.



## Contact a board member for these t-shirts and other items

### AZ Seisiún Musician T-Shirt \$15.00

Featuring an original design by a local artist, professionally silkscreened on a 100% cotton t-shirt. Available in adult sizes small to 2XL.



**New t-shirt design.** The shirts can be purchased by e-mailing or contacting any branch officer. They are sand (light tan) colored with a dark brown imprint, available in adult sizes small- to extra large, and are being sold for \$15. They were designed by Johnny Kerr and professionally silkscreened by a local print shop.



### Craic Addict Instrument/Luggage Tag \$5.00

Engraved on durable acrylic, 2 1/2" in diameter. Includes beaded chain with optional Name, Address & Phone Number sticker on the back.



### Foinn Seisiún Tune Books & CD's

These are a great resource for the Irish musician. Each book and corresponding CD volume features over 100 standard session tunes. (books and CD's sold separately)



### FPIA Logo Vinyl Decal \$1.00

This high quality 3" durable vinyl sticker can be applied to a car window, instrument case or anywhere else you want to show your FPIA colors!

