



Volume LXIV No. 5 July (Iúil) 2024

One Hundred Years of The Irish Air Corps

Brian Witt

On July 1, 1924, airplanes took off for the first time under the name of the **Irish Aer Corps**, or **An tAerchór**. The new nation now had air protection.

The history of this branch of the military went back a few more years, back to the **Irish War of Independence**. The National Army Air Service was independent Ireland's first air force. During the **Anglo-Irish Treaty** talks of 1921, a Martinsyde Type A Mark II biplane was purchased and put on 24-hour standby at Croydon Airport to allow **Michael Collins** to escape back to Ireland if the talks failed. The plane was not needed for this mission, and it became the first aircraft of the new National Army Air Service arriving in June 1922.

The National Army Air Service was established in July 1922 and was gradually equipped with various aircraft types acquired from **the Royal Air Force (RAF)** and the Aircraft Disposal Company. This company had been formed in 1919 to dispose of surplus aircraft and aeroengines from World War I for the British government. Ironically, the British would continually be the main source of aircraft for the service.

By the end of 1922, the **Army Air Service** comprised of ten aircraft, consisting of six Bristol F2B fighters from the First World War and four Martinsyde F4 Fighters, and about 400 men. Its successor, the Irish Army Air Corps was established in 1924 following a re-organization of the National Army at the end of the Civil War.

With the establishment of the **Defence Forces** in 1924, the Air Service became the new **Army's Air Corps** and remained part of the Army until the 1990s.

In 1938 four Gloster Gladiator biplane fighters were delivered – a further eight were ordered but were embargoed by the outbreak of the Second World War. During World War II, referred to as **The Emergency** by the Irish government, none of the Air Corps planes engaged with Axis or Allied planes, but several balloons were destroyed. The Irish did order more planes from the British government, but they were delayed, due to Ireland's neutrality declaration. The planes arrived three years later, in 1943.



An tAerchór Insignia

July 14 Party at the Pitch

Brown Deer Park
Officers Installed 12.45 PM
Food Served 1 pm
Hurling Match 3.30 pm



Post World War Two, the Air Service replaced many of its pre-WWII British aircraft with WWII British aircraft, showing a great level of consistency by both parties. Supermarine Seafires and a few two-seat Spitfire trainers were acquired. The Percival Provost was introduced in the mid-1950s as the Air Corps newest training aircraft.

The first jets arrived in 1956 when the Corps took delivery of de Havilland Vampire T.55 trainers. In November 1963 the Air Corps took delivery of its first helicopters, SA.316B Alouette IIIs, of which seven remained in service until 2007. During their operational lifetime, 3,300 people were assisted by the Alouette helicopters in their Search and Rescue and air ambulance roles.



Roundel of Irish Air Corps

Just as Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* introduced the world to the Irish Army and reserves in the 1990's, the Air Corps became background stars during the mid-sixties and early seventies. The Corps played a part in expanding Ireland's film industry. Pilots and engineering staff participated in a 1965 box office success, *The Blue Max*. The fleet of World War I replicas was based at Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel, Dublin. Here the Corps continued its involvement, providing aircrew and engineering staff to support films such as *Darling Lili*, *Von Richthofen and Brown*, *Zeppelin* and a number of television commercials.

In 1975, six Fouga Magister CM-170 jet aircraft were purchased secondhand from France. They were used for training, for the Light Strike Squadron and for the Silver Swallows display team. They were withdrawn from service in 1998 and not replaced, leaving the Irish Air Corps without any jet combat aircraft.

Training planes were beset with difficulties, and many were lost to crashes in the 1980's.

Ireland is responsible for patrolling 132,000 square miles of the sea, in order to meet EU obligations. The Air Corps previously employed two of its three Beechcraft 200 Super King Airs for this duty, but the planes were taken out of service in the 1990's.

Organizationally a military branch of the Defence Forces of Ireland, the Air Corps carry out a variety of duties in conjunction with the **Irish Army**, **Irish Naval Service** and **Garda Siochana**. The headquarters of the Air Corps is located at the **Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel, Dublin**. The Air Corps has an active establishment of 886 personnel.

Ireland does have a problem with attracting and maintaining personnel in all areas of the Armed Forces. Like other components of the Defence Forces, the Air Corps has struggled to maintain staffing levels and as of April 2023 has only **711** active personnel, and no reserves.

And yet, on this, the Air Corps 100th anniversary, tip a glass in their honor and say **La Breithe Shona Daoibh, agus Ar mian leat spéir shoiléir agus turas réidh, Happy Birthday and Wishing you clear skies and a smooth journey.**

Word of the Month



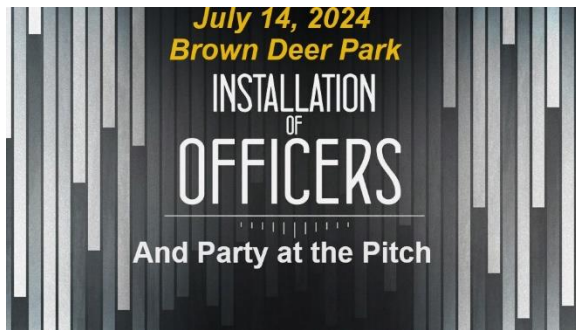
Irish Word of the Day

iolchloch

(iL-clohkh)

stone of many virtues

turasdanam.com



Officers Installation and Party at the Pitch July 14

Join the Shamrock Club for our annual Officers Installation and the Party at the Pitch on Sunday, July 14, from noon until 3 pm.

We will induct our officers at the Milwaukee Hurling Club's matches on Sunday, July 14.

Schedule:

Noon - Picnic starts.

12.45 PM - Installation of Officers

We will install our officers at 12:45 pm.

The Installation of Officers will be conducted by Honorable Daniel Konkol presiding.

1:00 pm - Food will be served: Hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, pasta salad, chips, beer and water.

Bring a chair to watch the [Milwaukee Hurling Club](#). The Shamrock Club's Team will be playing at 3:30. See you there.

[John Avery, Coordinator](#)

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin

2133 West Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee WI 53233

info@shamrockclubwis.com

<https://shamrockclubwis.com>

<https://saintpatricksparade.org>

<https://mkepostparade.us>

Sendik's June Events



The Shamrock Club's Sendik's Summer Grill program date on June 7 at the Wauwatosa store was a success. Thanks to our crew of volunteers for making them so.



The three events have raised over \$1200 in 2024 for the Scholarship fund.

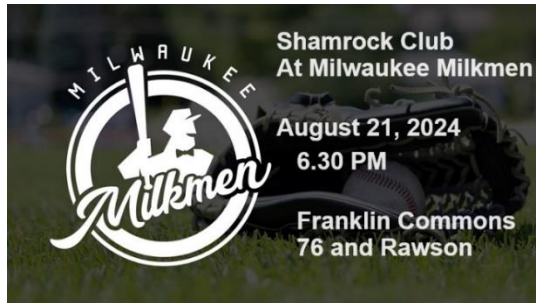


All food was purchased through Sendik's. Our team staffed the grills and had the chance to interact directly with Sendik's shoppers.

[John Avery, Coordinator](#)

Shamrock Club Milwaukee Milkmen Game August 21

Join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin on Wednesday, August 21 at 6.30 pm for the Shamrock Club Post Irish Fest Decompression Ball Game Milkmen Game with the Milwaukee Milkmen at the Franklin Field, 76 and Rawson.



This is the third year that the Shamrock Club has had this outing. In 2023, we had about 45 people join us. Let us make it bigger this year.

Our Screaming Sicilian Skybox Combo (same section as last year) price \$16 + service charge deal includes:

- *A reserved seat ticket,
- *Gift
- * beverage (soda or beer)
- *And slice of pizza.

To get your tickets, go to

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/Shamrockclub2>

We have reserved 30 tickets onto the link. If we happen to need more, just let me know and I can have them added.

Details: **Wednesday August 21 @ 6:30pm Skybox Combo (same section as last year) \$16 + service charge gets you reserved seat ticket, gift, beverage, (soda or beer) and slice of pizza.**

Josh Walton, Coordinator



Deb's corner is on hiatus this month due to our July 14th meeting being our picnic. We will however still have our super raffle at the picnic!! See you all at the picnic!!

Deb Kreuser
Sergeant at Arms



Sunshine Club

July Birthdays

13 – Jane Anderson

17 – Rory Modlinski

John Carroll

23 - Ann Sardegna

30 – Rosemary Walsh

Clara Roepke recently graduated from Whitefish Bay High School. On to college!

Mary Beth Holloway recently spent time in Door County. **Joe Hughes** also spent time at his place in Door County.

Nancy Vose let her feet travel to Denver. Congratulations to all the June graduates.

Maggie Blaha, Sunshine chair



Membership News

Welcome to our newest members!

Sean Minster; Jeanie Dean; Linda Levenhagen; Suzanne Levenhagen; Carly Leon and family; Derek Keyeski; Jo and Tony Jones; Chris Anderson; Clodagh Mc Guinness; Jonathan Barranick; Patrick Minster; Cecelia Nieves; Kate Habanek; Patrick Dunn; Heather McPhail Bagley; Ryan Bagley; Michael Gould; Brian Lynch; Natalie and Robert McCann; Cary Merkel, Brian Marsolek; Dennis and Paula Marsolek

Join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin or renew your membership online! **Current 2023 memberships expire June 30.** Not sure if you renewed already? Email us at membership@shamrockclubwis.com

Milwaukee area Irish dance families receive a 50% discount on Family Memberships to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin!

Your support ensures we can continue all of the fun things we do for future generations. Join online below.



We hope you will join us. We really need your help to make our events like Milwaukee Irish Fest a success. We can't do what we do without an army of volunteers!

You can visit our site to renew your membership or copy the address and paste it into a browser. Also, give the gift of a Shamrock Club membership to a family member or a friend. Click on the link below to renew your membership.

Single Membership

<https://square.link/u/eVT6KejY>

Sports Teams

<https://square.link/u/dMj3TEg7>

Dance Family memberships

<https://square.link/u/hwIJFxU9>

Family membership

<https://square.link/u/liy3Aug4>

Renew or join today. We want you to help continue our history.

Mary T Koehler, outgoing membership chair

Terese Dineen, incoming membership chair

Hurling News

The new season is underway.

Please stop by the Brown Deer Pitch on Sundays. The Shamrock Club also has a Youth team. Please stop down for all the matches.



Upcoming Matches

June 30 - 3:30pm Energy Masters v. Shamrock Club

July 14 - 9:30am Youth Matches

3:30pm O'Malley's v. Shamrock Club

July 21- McBob's v Shamrock Club

[Milwaukee Hurling Club](#)



O'Malley's European Foods

Specializing in Irish & British Foods

5423 West Vliet Street Milwaukee, WI

53208 414-662-7175

<https://omalleyseuropeanfoods.com>

Tuesday - Friday, 11a-6p

Saturday 10a-4p

President's Message

Ladies, Gentlemen and All Our Celtic Friends;

Our June Meeting Opened on June 6th with Several Guests. Shamrock Club member **Dennis McBride**, the Mayor of Wauwatosa, presented some interesting Stories of his Family's History in Ireland and their journeys to America. We also had a Scholarship Presentation to one of Our Scholarship Winners Leah Mauldin.

We've had a Very Successful Run with **Sendik's** and I believe **John & Kathy Avery** are attempting to sign us up for more dates. We had a Great presence on Friday June 7th at the Tosa Store... Let's Keep that Volunteerism Flourishing.

We were also approached by a Gentleman that is Very interested in a Scholarship in His Late Wife's Name. The Committee will be advised and consulted on this unique opportunity.

July will be a Star-Spangled Bundle of Activities. **Picnic at The Pitch** combined with Our Monthly Meeting and Our Installation of the New Board on July 14. Details in the Emerald Reflections.

Irish Fest!!! One of Our Biggest Fund Raisers and an Excellent Opportunity for Us to Grow Our Membership.

We will Need ALL hands on Deck for Our **Retail Area**, Our **Membership Tent** AND Our New Venue at Irish Fest... **The Village Pub**. More Details will be shared at the Meeting and Further details in August.

Josh Walton has also arranged another Trip to see the Milwaukee Milkmen at **The Roc**. Many of us had a Great time Last Year, so Plan on attending. August 21st, 6:30 Skybox Combo. \$16.00+ Service Charge with Extras !

Join Joe **at Gingerz's** July 9th, 7 PM. Wear Your Bling or ???

Joseph Hughes, President

Join Joe July 9 at Gingerz



Join Joe at Gingerz's on July 9th at 7 PM. Wear Your Bling, Shamrock Club gear, hats, shirts, or SC underwear, if we have any made. We will also give away a free beer and a travel mug if someone joins that night, to that person.

This is our monthly celebration of our sponsors. Let Mary and staff know we are members of the Shamrock Club by wearing your Shamrock Club items.

Gingerz is located at 3915 South Howell, Milwaukee, 53207. Our host is Mary Niland of County Mayo.

Joe Hughes, Coordinator

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<https://mkepostparade.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShamrockClubofWisconsin>





Feis News

On July 20, the [Badger State Feis](#) will take place at the [Pettit National Ice Center](#) 500 S 84th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214. July 21 sees the [McNamara-McCarthy Feis](#) at the Pettit, as well.

September 28, the 34th Annual [Milwaukee Feis](#) will be held at the Baird Center. And on September 29, the 4th Annual Glencastle Feis takes place Sunday, September 29 at the Baird Center, as well.

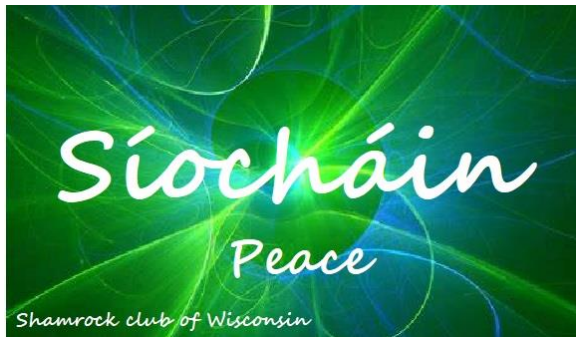
2024 Shamrock Club Board

The 2024 Shamrock Club Milwaukee Board are as follows:

- President - Joseph Hughes
- Vice President – Adam Bartelt
- Secretary - Ashling Ivers
- Treasurer - Lisa Rott-Bartelt
- Parliamentarian - Pat Farley
- Sergeant at Arms....(TBD)
- Membership Chair - Terese Dineen
- Junior Trustee - Michael Hart
- Two Year Trustee – Molly Carroll
- Senior Trustee – Mike Malloy
- Past President – Brian Witt

The board will be installed on July 14, 2024.

The Peaceful Corner An Cúinne Síochánta



Enjoy some peace here.

Volunteer for Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024

We are again going to need help for Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024 this year. Our **Retail Area** will need volunteers on Wednesday, **August 14** for set-up. On Thursday, **August 15** we will need help from noon until midnight, for both setup and sales. The Hooley starts at 4 pm, until shut down at 11 pm.



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The festival opens at 4 pm on **Friday, August 16**, so we will need help from 2 pm until midnight. And On **Saturday, August 17**, we will be open from noon until midnight. We will need help before open until close. On Sunday, **August 18**, the festival opens at 11 am. We will be shutting down and loading up for the night at about 10 pm. We are looking for at least four-hour shifts. At our **Membership** booth in the Cultural Area, there is no Thursday opening. On Friday, the festival opens at 4 pm, so we need help from 3 pm until closing at 8.30 pm. On Saturday, we will need help from 11 am until 8.30 pm. And on Sunday, we will be open from 10.30 am until 7 pm. Takedown will be Sunday night. We will be sending out a series of sign-up slots via Mailchimp and Signup Genius to members in early July.

[Adam Bartelt](#) – Retail Chair

[Terese Dineen](#) – Incoming Membership Chair



Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024 Acts

Milwaukee Irish Fest will introduce a number of acts from across the world.



O'Jizo, a trio of multi-instrumentalists from Tokyo will join **Gadan**, hailing from Italy. Returning are the Ottawa Valley's **Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy**. New will be **The Bow Tides**, a trio of fiddlers who played with Gaelic Storm. Returning are **The High Kings, Byrne Brothers, and Doolin'**. Find out more at <https://irishfest.com>



- July 1 - Canada Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 9 - Join Joe- Gingerz - 7 pm
- July 14 - Party at the Pitch - noon
 - Officers Installation - 12.45
 - SC V O'Malley's - 3.30 pm
- August 1 - General Meeting; ICHC;- 7
- August 15-18 - Milwaukee Irish Fest
- August 21 - Milwaukee Milkmen Game

Reflections Issues

In recent months, it has become very difficult to get copy from members who have regular columns each issue. As of today, June 26, I have still not received anything from a number of people.

This delays the printing and sending out the email copies of the Reflections.

My apologies.

Brian Witt, editor

June 6 Meeting



At our June 6 meeting, we had Shamrock Club member and Wauwatosa mayor Dennis McBride speaking about a number of things. We also met Scholarship winner Leah Mauldin.

Photos by Mary T. Koehler



Wicklow Rock Art

5,000 year old rock art in **Seefin Passage Tomb** high up in the **Wicklow Mountains**.

