

George Harcrow

George's relationship with the Great Highland Bagpipes began in 1995 when his mother bought him his first set of pipes as a Christmas gift. It was an inexpensive set, and did not come with any instructions. The pipes were kept "behind the door" until 1999 when the Stanislaus County Sheriff formed a beginner band. The lessons were free and the opportunity became a reality.

Two teachers, Gary Speed and Corey Mann, gave lessons to the new members and eventually (2001) George became a member of the "Sheriffs Pipe Band". He developed into a low Grade IV but was eager to progress.

In 2002 he was introduced to Pipe Major John Mitchell and became a member of "The Callanish Pipe Band, and a new set of blackwood pipes were purchased. Over the next 6 years his increased ability to play allowed him to compete in local and state-wide pipe band competitions and meet the wonderful people in the "Piping Community"

Over the years he has had an on-going relationship with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department playing for memorials, graduations and assorted function as requested by the Sheriff's office.

In 2017 the Stanislaus County Peace Officers Association along with private citizens presented him with a gift of a personal badge and a new presentation set of pipes for his service as a volunteer, and made him an honorary member of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Honor Guard. He continues to play at functions honoring first responders in the Stanislaus County area.

George was first introduced to Patrick Karnahan, and the Sonora Celtic Faire in 2002, when along with others he participated in the "School Day" at the Faire. His yearly schedule has always included the Fair, and he participated in the "Pipers Glen" along with "Callanish" as well as Stanislaus County Sheriff's Pipe Band.

The Sonora Celtic Faire refreshed their Friday School Day program and asked that he participate in their program to introduce kids to the Great Highland Bagpipes. He has participated in the program since 2012.