



In Hello World, #19, I suggested that the sound of bagpipes was worse than being exposed to ionizing radiation. Although this was in relation to Chris Smith and his Scottish bagpipes, it seems to have inadvertently set off a small international bagpipe protest. For all bagpipe players out there, my humble apologies. There is no need to file a freedom of information request since there is no study correlating ionizing radiation and the sound of bagpipes. It was just a joke!

Thanks to Jim Little (pictured above with his bagpipe collection) for resolving the whole issue. He has confirmed that being exposed to bagpipes is considerably less hazardous to one's health than ionizing radiation. At worst bagpipes only damage your ears. He should know as he has been playing non-Scottish bagpipes for more than 30 years. Jim has been an SRI International employee since December 1976 and an SRI Federal Credit Union member about as long. As a Senior Mathematician he invents algorithms to solve remote sensing problems, including writing and testing the code to implement the algorithms. His background is in Operations Research, Applied Mathematics and Statistics. We hope to hear more from him in the future — along with his bagpipes!

The types of bagpipes pictured are the Macedonian gajda, the Swedish säckpipa and the Bulgarian gajda. If Jim used his SRI Federal Credit Union Visa® overseas to buy these items, the credit union would have paid the 1% Visa international currency exchange fee on his behalf. You don't have to be a senior mathematician to appreciate this same discount — just use your SRI FCU Visa card overseas.

So, if you need a car to drive to your bagpipe lessons, a personal loan for that new musical instrument or a Visa card to travel the world — give us a call. Our low loan rates will have you playing a new tune!

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Steve Bowles
CEO/CFO

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Website: www.SRIFCU.org

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