DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS CHARLOTTE, NC

August 2025 | Volume 90 | Number 8









Oasis Presents
Donation Check
to Shriners
Children's

See page 4 for details!



IN THIS ISSUE

An Evening Celebrating Noble Daniel Spiker

High Rock Lake Ceremonial | Imperial Session

Fez Presentation at Thermal Belt Shrine Club | and more!



From the Potentate



Nobles and Ladies:

July came and went in the blink of an eye. Special thanks to the Oasis Pickers for making a special trip to jam at Imperial Session in

Atlanta as well as the Oasis Dune Cats and the Oasis Hospital Trailer for participating in the Imperial Parade. I attended the 88th Annual Great Smoky Mountains Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons and had an opportunity to view the beautiful restoration of the Masonic Marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Decades ago, Oasis Shrine Temple proudly sponsored a step leading up the stairs to the marker and you will be glad to know that it shines as brightly today as it once did when it was placed in the ground. If you've never visited this edifice, make sure to place it on your Bucket List.

Join us in welcoming the most recent 17 members of Oasis Shriners whose picture you will see in this issue. They joined during our High Rock Lake Ceremonial held on July 19 at Rowan Shrine Club. Rumor has it that the High Sheriff joined along with some other fine officers. Speaking of Rowan Shrine Club, let's hear it for the incredible hospitality and delicious lunch of BBQ chicken which was prepared overnight by none other than Noble Kenneth Small and his able crew. Special congratulations is in order for longtime and faithful Noble Gordy Peeler who the Potentate designated as the Class Honoree. Thanks for your many years of service and friendship, Noble Gordy and Lady Carolyn.

We now have 70 new Nobles, their Ladies, and families to welcome to the Oasis family this year and still have three more opportunities to join including the Black Tie Ceremonial at the WinstonSalem Masonic Center on August 23, Fall Ceremonial at Oasis on November 1, and Cat Square Ceremonial at Lincoln County Shrine Club on December 13.

Speaking of membership, it's that time of the year when we help one another to inform a Noble who is at risk of Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) in the event his 2025 dues have not been paid by the end of the year. Your extremely capable Membership Chairman, Noble Ben Hamilton, is busy at work with the District Representatives and the Oasis Membership Team as they contact these Nobles by email, phone, US Mail, in-person, and other means of communication. Unfortunately, many email addresses are bad, phone numbers are disconnected, US Mail is marked as Return to Sender, and so forth each year - so we attempt to use all available means of communication in hopes that at least one message reaches the Noble.

Where has time gone? Fall SASA in Myrtle Beach is just around the corner next month. Remember, the SASA registration window closes on September 16. Go to SOUTHATLANTICSA.NET to register. As with previous years, once the parade has concluded and our Oasis Director Rick Garver has confirmed headcounts of parading Nobles with each unit, then Oasis will reimburse those parading Nobles' units their \$25 registration fee via the Unit Captain to distribute. Questions? Contact Illustrious Recorder Gary Taylor or Oasis Director Rick Garver.

Remember, our Annual Oasis Club and Unit Appreciation event has been moved from the 1st weekend in January back to the Friday evening of our Fall Ceremonial at Oasis which will be on Friday, October 31. Rest assured, all clubs' and unit's final totals for annual giving will be announced and published as usual in either the January or February 2026

Desert Dust once the Oasis office has received all necessary information for final calculations and credits.

At its July meeting, your Oasis Divan spent a considerable amount of time discussing the overall health and well-being of the 81 clubs and units that belong to Oasis Shriners. Please call your Divan Representative using your 2025 Oasis Directory and let him know which upcoming club or unit meeting or special event you would like him to attend. The team stands ready as always to traverse the highways of the 50 counties and come fellowship and celebrate your good work with you.

I'll wrap up the August article by asking all able-bodied Nobles to consider becoming a Roadrunner. Your Oasis Shrine Center is experiencing record numbers of patient transport requests, and we can never have too many Roadrunners on hand from all corners of the 50 counties who are willing to help and drive when able. All you need to do is reach out to Sherrie in the office to help get the ball rolling with your forms. Thank you for considering this most important call to service for our Shrine Children.

Wow! We have 150 people currently registered for the 1st Annual Oasis Water Buffalo Degree on August 16. Looking forward to a Yabba-Dabba Good Time...

Remember, today you are somebody's example when they glance at the ring upon your hand, the lapel pin on your collar, the stitched logo on your shirt, or the decal on your vehicle. In the words of our beloved Oasis Chaplain, Past Potentate John Stanley, "let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Yours in the Faith, Illustrious Sir Chris Hall

From the Recorder



Hello Everyone,

I hope this note finds you well. My next few articles will focus on our hospital kids, and I hope you enjoy

reading their stories. This month's focus is on David. The following information is readily available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

More Than Medicine: How Shriners Children's helped David find confidence and community

For as long as he can remember, David has never let his hand difference hold him back.

Born with webbing between his fingers due to amniotic band syndrome, David grew up adapting to the world in his own way – tying his shoes, gripping a water bottle or mastering video game controllers. It was at Shriners Children's Northern California where he found not just specialized care for his condition, but a life-changing community that helped him embrace his uniqueness with confidence.

A Partnership in Care

David's journey with Shriners Children's began when he was just one year old. Michelle James, M.D., emeritus chief of orthopedics, turned out to be the compassionate pediatric hand surgeon who would guide him all the way through adolescence. Their bond grew stronger over the years, especially when David discovered their shared love of running. "In high school, I did crosscountry, and Dr. James was a runner too," David said. "We'd talk about trails, and she even encouraged me when I tackled a mountain run at camp." When he was 13, David opted for a life-changing surgery to

release the webbing between his thumb and finger, improving his grip. Though the procedure was minor – involving only skin, not bone – the recovery required patience. "I had to rebuild muscle in my wrist after wearing a cast," he said. "But the difference was worth it. Little things, like grabbing a water bottle, became easier."

Finding His Tribe at Camp Winning Hands

The summer after his surgery, David experienced something equally transformative when he attended Camp Winning Hands for the first time. Nestled in the rolling hills of Livermore, California, this unique camp – a partnership between Shriners Children's Northern California and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital - brings together kids with hand and upper limb differences for a week of zip-lining, rock climbing, archery and - most importantly - finding community. "Before camp, I knew other people had hand differences, but I still felt alone," David said. "Then I got to Camp Winning Hands, and suddenly I was surrounded by kids who just understood. We didn't have to explain ourselves - we could focus on having fun and challenging ourselves." The camp's "teen talk" sessions became particularly meaningful for David. "That's where we could ask uncomfortable questions and share experiences," he said. "For the first time, I felt completely understood."

Giving Back to His Community

Now 24, David has come full circle – returning to Camp Winning Hands as a counselor. "This year's camp was extra special," he said. "Seeing these kids realize they're not alone, watching them cheer each other on during the climbing wall, or dance without hesitation at the final party, that's why this place matters." Yuen Leung, Camp Winning Hands assistant director and Shriners Children's pediatric RN, sees the impact firsthand.

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DESERT DUST

Illustrious Sir Christopher L. Hall, Potentate

604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262 Phone: 704-549-9600 oasisshriners.org

2025 OASIS DIVAN

Chief Rabban - Tim Farris
Assistant Rabban - Donnie Wrenn
High Priest and Prophet - Scottie Cox
Oriental Guide - John Cable
Treasurer - Bill DePriest
Recorder - Gary Taylor, PP
1st Ceremonial Master Larry Sanderson
2nd Ceremonial Master - Tom Bridges
Director - Rick Garver
Marshal - Larry Payne
Captain of the Guard - Jack Wallace
Outer Guard - Ben Hamilton
Chaplain - John Stanley, PP

Editor - Edie Wilson ediewilson7@gmail.com

From the Recorder

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"When campers plan their summers around this week and celebrate birthdays here, you know we're doing something right," Leung said. "The confidence they gain lasts long after camp ends."

Thriving Beyond Shriners Children's

Today, David works in the federal government, where accommodations for his hand have never been an issue. "If there's a challenge, my team finds a way to make it work," he said.

His adaptability shines in his hobbies, too – particularly gaming. After years of tweaking the way he grips the controllers, he's reached elite rankings. "It's one of the things I'm most proud of," David said. "I taught myself how to compete at the highest level." Reflecting on his journey, David credits Shriners Children's and Camp Winning Hands for giving him much more than medical care. "They gave me my confidence, my community, and now the chance to pay that forward," he said. "Every kid deserves to feel that kind of belonging."

Things continue to go well here at Oasis, and we would love to have your stop by and visit <u>your</u> temple. Take care until next month, and remember, the work you do for our fraternity and philanthropy is sincerely *appreciated* and essential to our medical facilities and all our Shriners Children's programs like David's, that they serve.

Gary

Reminder:

All ads & articles for the September edition of the Desert Dust must be submitted to Edie Wilson - Ediewilson7@gmail.com by August 10.

ON THE COVER:

At the 151st Imperial Session of Shriners International, recently held in Atlanta, Georgia, Illustrious Potentate Chris Hall was joined on stage with twelve members strong from the Oasis delegation as they proudly presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$1,830,459.31 for the total donations to Shriners Children's during the 2024 calendar year. A very special thank you is in order to each of the hard-working nobles in our 81 clubs and units throughout the 50 counties who tirelessly work each year to make this possible.







DID YOU KNOW?

You can view the digital version of the Desert Dust online!

oasisshriners.org



An Evening Celebrating the Contributions of Noble Daniel Spiker of Moore County Shrine Club

Noble Daniel Spiker was recognized for a generous donation of \$25,000 to Shriners Children's as his family gathered for the occasion at Roman Eagle Lodge along with members of the Moore County Shrine Club and Sand T's parade unit. Special thanks to Illustrious Sir John Stanley and Noble Leslie Dix for making the journey to help commemorate this special occasion.













HIGH ROCK LAKE CEREMONIAL



























HIGH ROCK LAKE CEREMONIAL CLASS

JULY 19, 2025
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA





OASIS#	SHRINE#	NOBLE'S NAME	CITY, STATE, ZIP	LADY
1001297	1339332	Joe T Allen	Salisbury, NC 28147	Michelle
1001318	1339966	David N Earnhardt	Salisbury, NC 28146	Lisa
1001312	1339629	Richard Gould	Salisbury, NC 28146	Shelia
1001324	1340215	Dustin S Grooms	Concord, NC 28025	Kristin
1001317	1339909	Justin F Johnson	Rockwell, NC 28138	Sonja
1001323	1340145	Jay L Johnson	Rockwell, NC 28138	Jenny
1001237	1336168	Bradford K Jones	Winston Salem, NC 27103	Lora
1001325	1340241	Alvin A Lucy	Archdale, NC 27263	
1001306	1339587	Kevin J McDaniels	Salisbury, NC 28147	Lisa
1001327	1340283	Jeffrey D McEwen	Charlotte, NC 28270	
1001235	1336365	Vance C McGee IV	Harrisburg, NC 28075	Nikki
1001320	1340095	Charles N Mullis	Franklinville, NC 27248	Tami
1001326	1340270	Joshua R Smith	Rockwell, NC 28138	Sarah
1001296	1339207	David J Steelman	Salisbury, NC 28147	Valerie
1001328	1340316	John M Vasquez	Salisbury, NC 28146	Jeanette
1001322	1340108	Scott T Whisnant	Concord, NC 28027	Ginger
1001315	1339776	Alston R Woods	Rockwell, NC 28138	Victoria



2025 Schedule of Events

AUGUST

August 23 Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED)

Masonic Center, Winston-Salem

August 23 Camel City Ceremonial (Black Tie)

Masonic Center, Winston-Salem

SEPTEMBER

September 18-21 Fall SASA - 52nd Annual Meeting

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

September 19 Oasis Divan Meeting

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

OCTOBER

October 1 Oasis Circus - Greensboro Coliseum

October 3-4 Oasis Circus - Cabarrus Arena

October 10-11 Annual Homecoming, Masonic Home for

Children at Oxford

October 16 Oasis Divan Meeting at Oasis HQ
October 18 6th Annual Oasis Golf Tournament

October 31 Annual Club & Unit Appreciation Event

Oct 31-Nov 2 Oasis Past Potentates "Homecoming"

Ceremonial - Oasis Headquarters, Charlotte

NOVEMBER

November 20 Oasis Divan Meeting

DECEMBER

December 6 Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED)

December 6 Oasis Annual Election of Officers

December 13 Lincoln Ceremonial - Lincoln County

Shrine Club, Vale & Cat Square Parade

December 18 Oasis Divan Meeting

JANUARY 2026

January 3 Installation of the 131st Potentate of

Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan





Captain of the Guard Jack Wallace had a rare opportunity, and took it, to present 50 Year Certificates to brothers and Nobles Fletch and Buck Little. They walked the hot sands together way back when. Congratulations to both of them and thanks for their many years of service to Oasis Shriners.



Call Valdese ABC at 828-879-2227 or email vabcmgr@gmail.com Ask for "Oasis Shriners" Bottle \$58.95 + tax, must pay by phone to reserve

This is NOT a fundraiser, neither fraternal nor charitable This is for nostalgia purposes only Barrel delivery expected in September

For logistical questions, contact Noble Tom Bridges at 828-439-1700

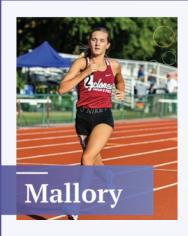
Jetals of Hope: Lady Laura's Monthly Story

Much like the dogwood tree—whose delicate blossoms signal strength through adversity—Mallory's story begins with a quiet unveiling of struggle and blooms into something strong, resilient, and unexpectedly beautiful.

At 13, a routine checkup revealed a life-altering diagnosis: scoliosis. The spinal curvature was significant, and though bracing was the first course of action, it couldn't stop the progression. While wearing the brace became a nightly battleboth emotionally and physically—Mallory never gave up.

And when surgery was finally needed, she embraced it with quiet courage and an unwavering will to reclaim her freedom. From hiding her brace to confidently wearing a backless dress that displayed her surgical scar with pride, Mallory embodies the spirit of the dogwood—unshaken by storms, blooming brighter because of them.

This month's **Petals of Hope** reminds us that healing isn't just about straightening a spine. It's about standing tall, moving freely, and blooming into the strongest version of yourself.



During a routine checkup, Mallory's pediatrician noticed a curvature in her spine. After a referral to a local hospital for imaging, the X-ray results shocked the family, revealing a significant curve. "There is no way that is me," Mallory exclaimed. At 13, Mallory was diagnosed with scoliosis.

Scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, can worsen over time,

making it more noticeable and causing pain.

In instances where the curve is more severe and left untreated, it has the potential to impact the heart, lungs and other internal organs as they grow and become more crowded. Upon Mallory's diagnosis, she was referred to the specialized orthopedic care at Shriners Children's Greenville

"From our very first visit to Shriners Children's, we knew it was a special place," said Alison, Mallory's mom. "Every staff member we encountered was incredibly friendly, kind, and knowledgeable, even during the scariest of times." It was confirmed that Mallory had a 40-degree spinal curvature, and she was fitted for a brace to support her continued growth. This marked the beginning of what she described as "the most challenging part" of her scoliosis journey.

"Mallory despised her brace," said Alison. She avoided discussing the brace with anyone, even her friends, and went to great lengths to conceal it. Nevertheless, even with her initial resistance, she diligently wore it every night, understanding its crucial role in achieving a straighter spine.

Despite her efforts, nine months later, her curve had increased to 46 degrees, and by her next appointment, it had escalated to 59 degrees. It was then that pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Pete Stasikelis recommended surgery. "After discussing various options, including spinal tethering, we decided on spinal fusion," said Alison.

To her family's surprise, Mallory was relieved to hear she would be having surgery, as it meant she would no longer wear the brace. "She claimed she wasn't scared, but as her mom, I feared she might be hiding her true feelings," said Alison. However, Mallory faced the surgery and recovery with remarkable strength and resilience. "She even grew 1.75 inches during her short hospital stay," said Alison. Mallory was discharged a few days after surgery and returned to school full-time within three weeks. "She was even back to riding bikes with her friends sooner than we had expected," said Alison.

Although Mallory had been self-conscious about her brace, she was unbothered by her surgical scar. She spent the following summer in bathing suits, confidently displaying her scar. "When it was time for her school's semi-formal dance, Mallory chose a backless dress, proudly showing off her scar," said Alison.

Surgery hasn't hindered Mallory's activities. She continues to swim competitively, snow ski, and wake surf. She has even added track and cross country to her list of pursuits. "We can never thank Dr. Pete, the nurses, the POPS [Pediatric Orthopedic and Prosthetic Services] staff — and every person we have come in contact with at Shriners Children's." From a routine checkup that revealed an unexpected challenge, Mallory's courage and determination have turned her challenges into a testament of strength, inspiring those around her and proving that anything is possible with the right care and support.



950 West Faris Rd. Greenville, SC 29605 ShrinersGreenville.org Your gifts help kids like Mallory live their best possible lives.

To donate: 864-255-8765







Chaplain's Corner

No Place Like Home

Homecoming. There is something so special about HOME. As John Howard Payne has written: "Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

The Bible is full of homecoming stories and

one of the more memorable is the parable of the Prodigal Son or the return of the Prodigal Son.

Dr. Ken Bailey, who for 25 years was a Presbyterian Professor of New Testament in the Middle East, made studying the Parable of the Prodigal his life's work.

He makes the point that when the younger Jewish Son demanded his part of the estate, he said, in effect, "Father, I want what's coming to me RIGHT NOW." In that time and in that culture, the young son may as well have said, "Dad, I wish you were dead!"

But the father accedes to his son's wishes and grants the son a

portion of the money, where upon the lad takes off for greener pastures, and promptly squanders all he has.

Ultimately, the son comes to his senses, realizes what an idiot he is, and starts out for home. Imagine the father sitting in the shade one hot afternoon. And he looks out there on the horizon. He recognizes a figure, and shouts, "that is MY BOY returning home." He then runs down through the village shouting, "My boy is home, my boy has returned." He is sending a strong message to the people of the village. The message: "I am accepting my son back—so you should not hold anything against him—either."

Yes, we can go home again—in spite of who we are, OR what we are, because God loves us and—like the Prodigal Son—showers us with gifts of salvation, sustenance, and the gift of wild celebration. God loves us, and God forgives us, and God welcomes us.

It is a wonderful example of God's Amazing Grace!

But, the more we study this story, the more we listen, the more we realize "Hey, that's me." This parable describes God's relationship with us—His children. Always welcoming us, forgiving us, and blessing us richly and wonderfully.

God promises us a new life—God is constantly doing a new thing in each of our lives. Praise be to God.

John Stanley, P.M., P.P. is Chaplain of Oasis Shriners, and Chaplain of SASA, a Past Imperial Chaplain of Shriners International (appointed by Imperial Sir Al Madsen. He is a former Pastor-Visitation, First Gastonia and Laurinburg Presbyterian. He can be reached at jhstanley1965@gmail.com. He'd like to hear from you!

2025 OASIS QUILT GIVEAWAY

Handmade by Lady Sabrina Cashion

\$20 each or 6 for \$100

Winner Need Not be Present to Win

Proceeds Benefit
Shriners Children's

See any Divan Member for Tickets

The quilt will be featured at various events throughout the year.

Drawing to be Held at Fall Ceremonial on Saturday, November 1



NOW HIRING

Oasis Hospitality Team Wants You

Are you ready to get involved? Are you a new Shriner or Shriner who's been around for a while but has not been involved? Would you like to get to know more people?

Join the Oasis Hospitality Team.



We are looking for individuals like yourself to join our team. Husbands *and* wives are encouraged.

To learn more, please contact Dennis Grigg at (828) 781-0062.

We look forward to hearing from you.







Shriners Children's Greenville was named BEST HOSPITAL by community voters at the 2025 Best of the Upstate Awards last month. It is the fifth year in a row SCG was recognized at the top

of a category that also included local giants in healthcare. SCG was also named **BEST PEDIATRIC CLINIC**, rising to the top in a field that included the best practices caring for kids across the Upstate. Thank you to everyone who voted, resulting in this honor! We will continue to do our BEST for you.

Oasis Shrine Photos

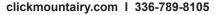


VIEW PHOTOS OF OASIS EVENTS!



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Welcome New Oasis Shriners Office Staff

Your Updated Points of Contact - a message from the Potentate, Recorder, and Treasurer

Nobles,

Please join us in welcoming Vani to Oasis. Vani has assumed the duties previously held by Karen who retired earlier this year. In addition to Shrine Patient Hospital Trip Coordination and Oasis Roadrunner support, Vani shares Oasis office administrative assistant duties and responsibilities with Sherrie. Vani reports to the Oasis Recorder and can be reached at coordinator@oasisshriners.org or directly by phone at 704-549-0926.

Please also join us in welcoming Pam to Oasis. Pam has assumed the financial and accounting duties previously held by Lori who departed Oasis at the end of July. Pam reports to the Oasis Treasurer and can be reached at finance@oasisshriners. org or directly by phone at 704-585-8647.

Sherrie remains in her role for membership support and shares Oasis office administrative assistant duties and responsibilities with Vani. Sherrie continues to report to the Oasis Recorder and can be reached at support@ oasisshriners.org or directly by phone at 704-549-9052.

Shelton and Bree remain in their role to coordinate all matters pertaining to Oasis Building Rentals and can be reached at events@oasisshriners.org or directly by phone at 704-549-9690.



CLOWNS AND BIKES

Greetings nobles and ladies, the deadline for the bicycle donations will be **August 1**, **2025**. Anyone buying a new bicycle or helmet or wanting to make a donation needs to have it in by that date.

Contact Wayne Alley, Barry Winecoff or Tom Livingston so that we can order the rest of the bicycles for this year.

Thank you for all that you do.

Wayne Alley: 864-706-6282

Inherited a coin collection?

Let us help you navigate your options!



- Collection Appraisals
- Retail Storefront
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Douglas@CaudleCoin.com

Mention this Ad and 10% of profits go to Oasis Charities

ATTENTION NOBLES WHO OWE 2025 DUES

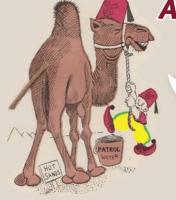
CLYDE THE CAMEL SAYS,

Nobles, be sure to pay your dues!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Noble Ben Hamilton, Membership Chairman at membership@oasisshriners.org or 336-707-9242.

Any noble who has not yet paid his 2025 Dues is At-Risk of NPD at the end of this calendar year if not paid.



Fez Presentation at Thermal Belt Shrine Club

Submitted by Noble Picker Dave Mahan

The last Thursday of the month is a special time in Rutherford County. It is the time when a small number of local Shriners gather to "meet and greet," plan our next "great adventures" and enjoy a good meal at Don's Italian Restaurant.

We also love it when newly created Shriners come and join in the fun. However, this past month was highlighted with a presentation that was long overdue. Noble Larry Lawing had been a member of another temple for many years. But due to time, relocation and distance, he had become somewhat "Inactive".

Yet he was very active in our community. Serving in the Vietnam War as a Navy Corpsman, he is active in the American Legion Honor Guard and the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots annual campaigns. He is Past Master of Western Star #91 and decided he wanted to help out with our local Paper Crusade.

One thing led to another and "the switch" began! He officially demitted from the other Shrine Center and became an Oasis Shriner. Almost instantly, he became an Oasis Picker and a member of the Thermal Belt Shrine Club. And on a Thursday night in June his Lady Sandra presented him with his Oasis Fez as he was cheered on by our Chief Rabban Tim Farris, Club President Nigel Hawkins and Oasis Pickers Captain Dave Mahan. It was a pretty special moment!











MEET CARLOTA AND BRANDON

CARLOTA

Ranked among Mexico's top 15 swimmers and now serving as the first International Patient Ambassador from Shriners Children's Mexico, Carlota, 18, has transformed challenges into triumphs.



But her remarkable journey began with an uncertain start. Born three and a half months prematurely, Carlota's early life was marked by significant obstacles. After being diagnosed with cerebral palsy with

spastic hemiparesis affecting one side of her body, doctors painted a bleak future. But her mother, Carla, refused to accept their predictions.

A chance encounter led them to Shriners Children's Mexico, marking the beginning of transformative care. Despite facing multiple surgeries to address a 4 3/4-inch leg length difference and ongoing mobility challenges, Carlota's spirit remained unbroken. Through five surgeries and countless therapy sessions, the hospital became a cornerstone of support in her life. Carlota emphasized that it is not just the medical care that made all the difference, but the emotional support as well.

When joint pain threatened her athletic pursuits, she discovered swimming when she was 14 years old, training with the national Paralympic team. This new passion propelled her to become the fifthbest swimmer in her category (S6) in the

Americas. Carlota's athletic dreams remain strong as she sets her sights on the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. Carlota is currently ranked No. 9 in the world and No. 3 in the Americas for her classification. In Carlota's sport, American rankings include North, Central and South America rankings.

Carlota is also a college student pursuing a degree in psychology at Kuepa University online, with dreams of specializing in high-performance sports psychology.

Carlota's mother, who championed her daughter's potential from the start, witnessed her transformation from a child facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles to an accomplished athlete and inspiring Patient Ambassador. Their story exemplifies the impact of unwavering support and specialized care.

"Watching Carlota grow from a child facing challenges to a competitive swimmer chasing Olympic dreams has filled me with endless pride," said Carla. "My daughter has shown that within every disability lies extraordinary abilities. Even on tough days, she comes back with that smile that lights up everything around her." Carlota has learned to live harmoniously with her spastic cerebral palsy, her mother said.

As a Shriners Children's International Patient Ambassador, Carlota hopes to continue to break barriers and inspire others, proving that with determination and the right support, any dream is possible.

"Shriners Children's isn't just a building to me – it's a home, a family, a source of endless support," she said with conviction. "My mission is clear: to showcase the profound impact Shriners Children's has on families and children, while highlighting how these remarkable children transform the healthcare system itself. Being the first International Patient Ambassador from Mexico fills me with pride, and I aim to set a new standard of excellence in this role."

Carlota is living proof that there truly are no limits when you believe in yourself.

BRANDON

Brandon, 15, is a high school student who lives in South Carolina with his parents, Kathleen and Brian, older brother Brady and younger brother Benson.

When Brandon was 6 years old, he went from playing his final baseball game of the season to fighting for his life. What started as a simple runny nose and headache quickly became devastating when Brandon



woke one morning, attempted to step out of bed and collapsed – the right side of his body suddenly paralyzed.

Brandon was diagnosed with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a rare, polio-like illness that affects the gray matter of the spinal cord, leading to sudden muscle weakness and paralysis. The condition impacts about 100 people in the U.S. each year and is often linked to viral infections, the most common being enterovirus D-68, which was found in Brandon's case. While thousands may contract this virus and experience only mild cold-like symptoms, in rare instances, like Brandon's, it can result in serious neurological complications.

continued on page 17



Ambassadors

continued from page 16

"I remember holding him that morning," said Kathleen. "I was terrified and prayed that God wouldn't take him." After intensive treatment at a hospital in Greenville, South Carolina, and rehabilitation in Atlanta, Georgia, a family friend who was a Shriner suggested they have a consultation at Shriners Children's Greenville.

At Shriners Children's Greenville, Brandon began daily physical and occupational therapy, while the hospital's Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) team created innovative braces to support his recovery. As part of the collaborative care offered across the system, Brandon also received treatments at Shriners Children's Philadelphia under the care of a pediatric hand specialist known for innovative treatments with AFM. Surgeons performed two critical procedures: a nerve transfer for his paralyzed right arm and later, a surgery to stabilize his shoulder. With these surgical innovations, Brandon has achieved more function than thought possible - making him more independent.

His journey from that frightening morning in 2016 to becoming an International Patient Ambassador exemplifies the power of resilience. While he continues to manage the effects of AFM, including scoliosis, Brandon approaches each day with the same spirit he showed during his early recovery when he told his mother, "I can't be your 'cuddle bug' anymore, Mom.





Brandon and Carlota speaking at the 2025 Imperial Session in Atlanta.

I have to have my fighter's spirit to get through this."

Brandon continues to visit Shriners Children's Philadelphia for checkups. He is a regular at Shriners Children's Greenville for his orthopedic care and POPS bracing, as well as physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Brandon's spirit has never wavered.
He served as his class president, runs a woodworking business at the local farmer's market and stays active with his brothers, despite ongoing challenges from his condition. "AFM changed everything about my life," Brandon said, "but Shriners

Children's showed me that different doesn't mean impossible."

Brandon wants to attend college someday for a career in business management, "although I'm not sure what type yet," he said. "I'd like to stay in Greenville, South Carolina, but I've been to some beautiful places I'd consider moving to."

Honored to be selected as an International Patient Ambassador, Brandon wants to share his story to inspire others. "The care that Shriners Children's has provided has changed not just my life, but my whole family's lives," he said.



ROADRUNNERS NEEDED

FOR TRANSPORTING OUR CHILDREN TO THE HOSPITALS

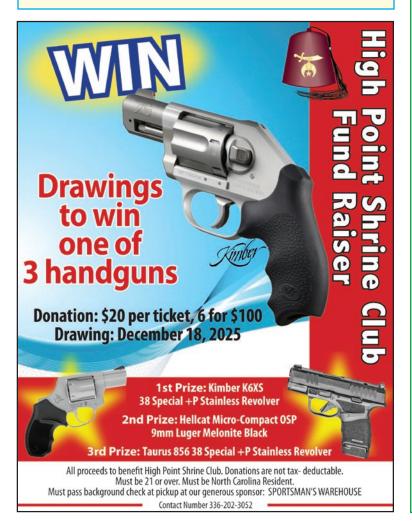
Call 704-549-0926 or email coordinator@oasisshriners.org for more information.



FOCUS ON OUR ROADRUNNERS

ROADRUNNERS	ROADRUNNERS NAME	JUNE TRIPS	JUNE MILES
		(30.150.414.0000)	
AVERY			
CATAWBA	Danny Bean	2	594
450000000000000000000000000000000000000	Eric Morabito	2	594
CHARLOTTE			
MACON			
MOUNTAIN	Mike Ogus	2	345
TRIAD			

Oasis would like to thank Steve Guidry and
Dennis Wilkey on an approximately 1216 miles each for a trip to Philadelphia with close to five days
away from home.



Gators in Galax, VA











2026 Potentate's Cruise

Nobles and Ladies,

Lady Betty and I are thrilled to share information with you regarding the 2026 Potentate's trip on a Cruise to the Southern Caribbean in February 2026. Several of our counterparts from other Shrine Centers and their members will be joining us on this cruise.

The cruise will sail from Port Canaveral on February 21, 2026, and will return to Port Canaveral on March 1. This trip promises to be a fun and exciting eight days, cruising with Shrine families from other Shrine Centers.

Lady Betty and I want to thank Lady Lisa and Past Potentate (2017) Illustrious Sir Don Nicholson (Kerbela Shriners) for putting this trip together for us, they are standing by to assist you in booking your cruise. Illustrious Sir Don and Lady Lisa have worked hard to secure a great price for this trip-\$2650 per couple for a balcony room, WOW!

Lady Betty and I sincerely appreciate Illustrious Sir Chris Hall for allowing us to share this information with you so you will have ample time to plan for this trip. We are looking forward to traveling with you in 2026!

Fraternally Yours,

Tim and Lady Betty

Tim Farris

Chief Rabban, Oasis Shriners



All are welcome aboard the magnificent Carnival Vista



February 21 thru March 1, 2026 8 Days in the Southern Caribbean

Departs from Port: Canaveral (Orlando), Florida

Ports: Aruba, Curacao and <u>Celebration Key</u> (Brand New)

Rooms starting at: (per couple, double occupancy, taxes and port charges included) --- these cabins are all deluxe and subject to availability

Drink, Tip, Excursion and other Packages available to be added on.

Cabin w/ Balconies \$2650 and up

Cabin w/ Ocean View \$2150 and up

Interior Cabins \$1770 and up

Please call <u>Lisa @ 865-740-0972</u> to book your trip or if you have any questions.

Just mention the Shrine!

UPCOMING CLUB AND UNIT EVENTS

AUGUST 9

Red Fez Shrine Club Beach Party See ad on page 11

AUGUST 16

Water Buffalo Degree See ad on page 17

SHRINE TRAILER Travels for You

Did you know the Shrine Hospital Trailer is available for your public Shriners Children's Hospitals fund raising or awareness events?

Noble Sam Moody has generously agreed to volunteer his time and energy to transport the Hospital Trailer to any location within the Oasis Region in an effort to spread the word about our wonderful Hospitals.

The trailer unfortunately cannot be used for fraternal (non-hospital) fundraising.





Noble Sam is ready and willing to bring the trailer to your location, with advance notice.

980-722-7951 sambo447@aol.com

FALL SASA REGISTRATION

Oasis Nobles and Ladies:

We have received the information below from SASA regarding the Fall

SASA Registration window which they plan to have open **beginning July 1.** Please make certain to carefully read the information from SASA.

Also, please note that Oasis will once again continue with the following procedure regarding reimbursement only for Nobles who participate in the SASA Parade:

- Oasis unit and its members will be responsible for handling their registrations.
- At the parade, Oasis Director Rick Garver and his team will confirm each unit's headcount and individuals' names with the Unit Captain who are in Myrtle Beach and in the parade.
- Upon return home from Fall SASA, Oasis will provide a reimbursement check to each Unit for \$25 for each Unit member who participated in the parade.

If you have any questions regarding the above procedure, please email the Oasis Recorder at recorder@oasisshriners.org.

INFORMATION FROM SASA REGARDING REGISTRATION FOR 2025 FALL SASA IN MYRTLE BEACH

As our 2025 Fall SASA convention is approaching fast, the Credentials Committee would like to highlight the following:

- Pre-registration will open on Tuesday, July 1st and will close at the end of business on September 16th, which is the Tuesday before the festival. We believe that this should give everyone the opportunity to pre-register through the registration portal which will be located on the SASA website link that will be opened and shared at a later date. HTTPS://SOUTHATLANTICSA.NET
- Late registration will open in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, September 18th. Please reference the registration schedule according to SASA schedule for hours.

A Late Fee of \$40 will be charged for those that register after the closing of the pre-registration portal on September 16th.

 We anticipate having approximately 2,700 Nobles and Ladies that will register for this event. The cost will be \$25 per Noble; your ladies and guests are free. Tickets to the various events can be added to the registration cost when completing your registration.

It is important that we capture online all those who plan to attend this festival as we are eligible for monies from the City of Myrtle Beach and the Chamber of Commerce based on those numbers which will help offset the cost of the festival. Please indicate on your registration the total number of people in your party and also indicate if you are a SASA representative, otherwise you will not be allowed to vote.

We ask that you encourage pre-registration with the nobility in your Temples as this will significantly speed up the process of registration upon arrival. This also will eliminate the need to pay the Late Fee as noted above. We have (5) volunteers who have graciously agreed to run the registration for us, and the process takes additional time to complete when registering on arrival instead of online especially when the line is long. Please note that your event tickets will be noted on your registration identification card that you receive at checkin and must be with you at all events in order to enter.

As there are a limited number of event tickets available, we encourage you to pre-register on the portal and include any of those events you wish to attend. Should the events not sell out, events can be added at the registration desk upon arrival which will require a **change** in your identification badge when picked up.

For your Nobles who have concerns or are not computer savvy, we encourage you, your Units, Clubs or Temple offices, to assist them in registering online for the event.

REMINDER:
Oasis Hotel Block is SOLD OUT!

HTTPS://SOUTHATLANTICSA.NET

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Shriners Children's strives to transform children's lives by providing exceptional health care through high-quality, innovative research in a patient and family centered environment.

We are committed to the pursuit of seminal, cutting edge discoveries that result in new knowledge and improve the therapeutic treatment, quality of care and provided outcomes to our patients and their families. Today's research is tomorrow's patient care.





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Club and Unit Bulletin Board



We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Fairview Masonic Lodge #339 in Kings Mountain.

Pres. - Chandler Champion VP - Charles Bullock

Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com

OASIS PATROL

MARCHING FOR A PURPOSE

Contact Captain Paul Southworth at 704-577-9845 or

southworth.paul@yahoo.com to join the oldest unit of Oasis Shriners



Mt. Mitchell Shrine Club

Contact: Noble Secretary Mike Pritchard 828-442-9170



Centrally located in McDowell County

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Contact Betty Parker, PQ at (704) 654-7108 or betty0340@bellsouth.net

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Chip Rollins 704-718-8514 chiprollins@gmail.com

ASHE SHRINE CLUB

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month Contact Noble Shannon Worley 336-877-6629 or Noble Mike Neaves 336-977-9122

OASIS SHRINE WAGONEERS



For info. contact: Feddie Dellinger, 980-522-6226

SIS HIGHLANDERS



PIPES & DRUMS Contact Jim Davis cell (704) 309-1215 fyrbagpyper@gmail.com

THE OASIS TEMPLE BAND

Did you play in a high school band or college band? IF SO WE NEED YOU!

Captain - Noble Chuck Reed 847-502-0872

Captain Everett Jarrett Jr



ejarrett64@gmail.com 336-669-4782

OASIS PAST MASTERS UNIT

Are you a Past Master? We are your unit. Join Us. Noble Matt Peeler, Captain (704) 279-9154 | peelerm@windstream.com

Gaston County Shrine Club 505 Pinkney Road Dallas, NC 28034

Meets 2nd Wed of each month Social @ 6pm | Meeting @ 7pm



CONTACT INFO FOR RENTALS: 704-215-7172 www.gastoncountyshrineclub.com

THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to attend our monthly meeting! Junaluskee Lodge #145 50 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 PM www.ncritecare.org

Cabarrus Shrine Club

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome! 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC 704-933-2797 cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com www.cabarrusshrineclub.org

Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB

Join Us 2nd Mondays

Social 5:30 | Dinner 6:15 | Meeting 7:00 hendersonvilleshriners@gmail.com | 828-280-4909

Golden Corral, 2530 Chimney Rock Rd., Hendersonville, NC

JOIN THE OASIS PICKERS TODAY!!!

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OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



Captain Casey Ham



(704) 718-7782 caseyham88@gmail.com

JOIN OUR GROUP

Contact Captain Don Anderson (336) 775-8076 plaaut@triad.twcbc.com

Visit us on Facebook @OASIS500s

Club and Unit Bulletin Board







President John Dunbar 910-544-7624

"Like" Moore County on Facebook to see many photos!

OASIS ORIENTAL BAND

CONTACT CHIP BURCH AT 336-430-5779 FOR MORE INFORMATION

OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS



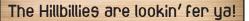
Accepting New Members
No Experience Necessary
Contact Thomas Livingston

Contact Thomas Livingston 336-452-4600

PAST CAPTAINS CLUB



Noble Peter Schuetz PC, President - 704-543-0695



If interested in joining, please contact Jack Devine @ 828-464-9886 or Gary Patterson @ 704-938-3930



If you have a classic car or are interested in the old classics, come join us for some fun and fellowship.





WINSTON-SALEM SHRINE CLUB

Meeting: First Thursday of Each Month at 7:30pm 4909 Hampton Road, Clemmons, NC 27012 • 336.955.1375 Danny Wingo, President (336) 403-2047 Rodney Bennett, Secretary (610) 805-3482



Like to Homebrew?

Join the Oasis BrewMasters today!

Contact President Brian Clay (brianclay@windstream.net) or Secretary Scottie Cox (scottcox67@aol.com)



5930 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216 704-393-5881

President: John Dixon | 704-281-9374 Vice President: Twig Dixon Secretary: John Tilley | 704-941-7982

OASIS RAGTOPS Riding around with the Top Down... Raising money for Shriners Hospitals for Children



Union County Shrine Club

P.O. Box 324 Monroe, NC 28111



Red Fez Shrine Club

16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte NC 28278
Events Manager: TracyLee "Sabrina"
Cullen (980) 875-1257
clubmanager@redfezshrineclub.com
Call us for you next wedding or event rental





MEETING: Fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm at Fisherman's Feast, Shelby N.C.

Contact Kevin Pruitt, 704-473-3070 or kwpruitt77@gmail.com





OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

Allen Rea, President allenrea5@yahoo.com Chase Trites, Vice President ctrites@radcoroofing.com Brandon Burton, Secretary bkburton87@gmail.com If you are under 40 and interested in joining, reach out to any of our officers.

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