

DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS | CHARLOTTE, NC

June 2026 | Volume 91 | Number 6



MCDOWELL COUNTY CEREMONIAL
See page 13 for details!

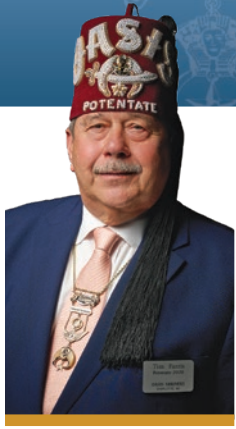


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2027 Oasis Nobility Trip | *and more!*



From the Potentate



Nobles and Ladies,
As I start to write this message, my mind is overwhelmed with thoughts of my friend and brother Marvin

W. "Jack" Wallace. Lady Betty and I are deeply saddened by the passing of this extraordinary Noble. Our hearts go out to Lady Linda and the entire family. I have often heard folks say, "To know Jack was to love Jack." The entire nobility who knew Noble Jack will surely miss that affectionate smile, those bright eyes, and his wonderful sense of humor. Like many others, I was greatly looking forward to the day when Lady Linda would place the Oasis Potentate Fez upon his head. In our human minds we do not always understand why things happen. But Romans 12:2 (ESV) reminds us that God's will is "good and acceptable and perfect." Our prayer is that God will provide comfort and peace to Lady Linda, the family, and the Oasis nobility as we journey through this difficult time.

On May 5, 2026 I had the opportunity to travel to Traphill Lodge #483 A.F. & A.M. in Traphill, where I met Worshipful Master Raymond Hayes. Prior to the opening of the Lodge, he allowed me to present a Shriners International 50-Year Service

Award and lapel pin to Brother and Noble Gary Holbrook. Noble Gary's Lady, Sylvia, was present and proudly placed the lapel pin upon him. I have known Noble Gary and Lady Sylvia for nearly 40 years. They have always been very special people to Lady Betty and me.



The members and visiting guests of Traphill Lodge #483 welcomed me with brotherly love and affection. Worshipful Master Hayes asked if I would speak on Masonic Education during the tiled meeting. I spoke on the wonderful relationship we enjoy in North Carolina between the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, our Blue Lodges, our Shrine Centers, and the other appendant bodies. Thank you, Traphill Lodge #483 for making me feel so welcome.

While attending the meeting of the Thermal Belt Shrine Club, I presented Noble Bronny Hamrick and Lady Harriet with a plaque in appreciation for the hospitality they extended to the Oasis Divan during the April Divan meeting. They graciously allowed the Divan to use their boardroom at their place of business in Spindale, North Carolina, and then provided a delicious meal for us all. They also presented Oasis with a generous check for Shriners Children's.

Nobles and Ladies, just a few reminders: We will be having the Lake Junaluska Ceremonial June 12-14. We will also be supporting the MHCO Gala at Oasis on June 20, followed by the Oasis 250th Birthday Blast at the beautiful Rowan County Shrine Club on High Rock Lake on June 27.

I want to thank the Oasis staff, the 2026 Oasis Divan, Chief Aide, Potentate Aides, contract personnel, and the entire nobility and ladies for what you do each and every day for Oasis and for Shriners Children's.

With your help and God's blessings, "The Journey Continues" as we strive to make this place we call home a little better.

Fraternally,
Tim Farris, Potentate



From the Recorder



Hello Everyone,
I hope this note finds you well. This month I once again use my article to focus on our hospital kids, and I hope you enjoy reading their stories. This month's focus is on Fulton. The following information is readily available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

This spring, Fulton returned to Galveston for the Men's Western National Championships, marking a powerful full-circle moment.

The first time he arrived in Galveston, he was a 4-year-old patient at Shriners Children's Texas, recovering from severe burns sustained in a life-threatening gasoline accident. Nearly 14 years later, he came back not as a patient, but as an elite gymnast competing on the national stage.

Now 17 and nearing the end of his competitive career, Fulton began gymnastics at age 8. What started as a simple outlet for youthful energy quickly grew into a passion. Despite extensive burn injuries and years of medical treatment early in life, Fulton never allowed his past to determine what he could accomplish in the gym.



"I started gymnastics when I was 8, and I've been doing it ever since," Fulton said. "That's coming on nine years now."

Fulton has become an accomplished all-around gymnast, competing in all six men's events: floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar. His favorite event is the rings, an apparatus that demands exceptional upper-body strength, grip and control. Throughout his career, he has earned four state championships, a regional championship and strong national-level performances.



At this year's Men's Western National Championships in Galveston, Fulton competed against 29 other gymnasts representing 25 states. He placed third on the pommel horse and finished 12th overall in the all-around, an impressive showing on one of the sport's biggest stages.

For Fulton's family, seeing him excel carries deep emotional weight. His mother, Cassandra, recalls a moment that reveals just how extraordinary his journey has been.

"My husband took a picture of him holding onto the rings, like a close-up of his hands," she said. "I just remembered how at one point he almost lost his fingers, and then how Shriners Children's was able to save them."

Gymnastics has also played a meaningful

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DESERT DUST

Illustrious Sir Tim Farris - Potentate

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

2026 OASIS DIVAN

Chief Rabban - Donnie Wrenn
Assistant Rabban - Scottie Cox
High Priest & Prophet - John Cable
Oriental Guide - Larry Sanderson
Treasurer - Bill DePriest
Recorder - Gary Taylor, PP
1st Ceremonial Master - Tom Bridges
2nd Ceremonial Master - Vacant
Director - Rick Garver
Marshal - Larry Payne
Captain of the Guard - Nick Wieder
Outer Guard - Brandon Penley
Chaplain - John Stanley, PP

Editorial:

DesertDust@oasisshriners.org

continued from page 3

role in Fulton's long-term recovery. The sport's focus on flexibility and strength helped him maintain mobility despite scar tissue that could have limited him. Even major setbacks did not stop him. Three years ago, Fulton suffered a serious back injury during training and was temporarily restricted to one event. Within months, he returned to full competition, once again refusing to let injury define his path.

Because of his injuries, Fulton trains far less than many elite gymnasts, often practicing only twice a week, yet he continues to perform at a high level. Competing in Galveston, where his healing began, brought his story full circle. As he prepares to age out of competition, Fulton plans to remain in the sport as a gymnastics coach, determined to pass on both skill and resilience to the next generation. His journey stands as a reminder that where a story begins does not have to limit where it ends.

Things continue to go well here at Oasis, and we would love to have your stop by and visit *your* 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 Fulton's that they serve.

Gary Taylor, Recorder

A NOTE FROM THE
DESERT DUST

All ads & articles for the July edition of the *Desert Dust* must be submitted to DesertDust@oasisshriners.org by June 10.

50 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Noble Stephen (Steve) Lee received his Shriners International 50-Year Service Award and pin from Illustrious Sir Tim Farris on April 18 in McDowell County. If you have been around Oasis, chances are you have crossed paths with Noble Steve. He has been active in the Oasis Provost Guard for years and is always ready to pitch in wherever his assistance is needed.

Steve and Illustrious Sir Tim Farris share a special bond. They met back in the late 1970's through fellow Noble Elmer Crawford - long before Tim became a Noble. Tim's recollection was that these guys in the Oasis Provost Guard were quite the characters, always looking for



a way to have fun, but always willing to help others. Steve requested his certificate be presented at the McDowell County/Marion Ceremonial which turned out to be a great venue to do so.

Noble Gary Holbrook was presented his Shriners International 50-Year Service Award and pin by Illustrious Sir Tim Farris at Traphill Masonic Lodge #483 AF&AM in Traphill, NC.

During Noble Gary and Lady Sylvia's time in Gaston County, both were active, dedicated workers within the Gaston County Shrine Club. Noble Gary faithfully served as the Gaston County

Shrine 100 Chairman for eleven years, with Lady Sylvia always by his side offering her unwavering support in every way possible.

The presentation was a surprise to Noble Gary—he had no idea it was coming! Lady Sylvia, Worshipful Brother Raymond Hayes, and the Brethren ensured the evening remained a complete surprise.



The lodge was filled to capacity; a testament to how much Brother/Noble Gary and Lady Sylvia mean to the members of Traphill Masonic Lodge.

Following the presentation, Lady Sylvia was excused, and the Lodge opened for business. Worshipful Brother Hayes asked Illustrious Sir Tim to speak on Masonic education. He shared thoughts on the relationship between the Grand Lodge, subordinate lodges, and various appendant bodies in North Carolina.

In Memory of Marvin W "Jack" Wallace

NOVEMBER 4, 1948 - MAY 2, 2026



A Celebration of Life service was held June 6 at the Mecklenburg Shrine Club to honor the passing of Marvin W "Jack" Wallace.

Military honors were conducted and the service concluded with Masonic Funeral Rites. On behalf of the Oasis Divan and everyone who knew this beloved Noble, we extend our deepest condolences to Lady Linda Wallace and their entire family for their loss.

Noble Jack was a native Charlottean, born at Our Sisters of Mercy Hospital on November 4, 1948. At the age of five his parents left Charlotte and moved to Mint Hill. Growing up, he became active in numerous civic organizations and events. He was an active member of the Mint Hill Jaycees and Volunteer Fire Department. He also served on the Board of Deacons at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church while coaching their men's softball team. He served as Drum Major for the Independence High School marching band and graduated in their first senior class of 1967. He ran track, played basketball and baseball, and served on the student council.

After high school he attended University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Central Piedmont Community College where he earned an associate degree in computer science.

He enlisted in the United States Army and extended his learning at Ft. Jackson Basic Training Camp. With the combination of active and reserve duty, his military career ended after 12 years of service earning him the rank of Sergeant First Class.

His work career started with several different trucking companies while in high school and college. He worked for National Welders Supply Company for 12 years as their cryogenic distribution manager. When CarMax opened their first location in Charlotte in 1996 their business model intrigued him, and he spent the next 24 years working for them in various positions. He retired in 2020.

Noble Jack's Masonic journey began at Mint Hill Lodge #742 in

1976. After standing proficiency on the third degree, he went on to coach new masons with their degree work for the next four years. He also was a member of the Mint Hill Order of Easter Star #353 and served as Worthy Patron two different times. He became a Scottish Rite Mason with the Valley of Charlotte, Orient of North Carolina in 1979. He then joined Oasis Shriners at the Asheville ceremonial in November of 1979.

Noble Jack has served on numerous fraternal committees, was a member of Oasis Clown Unit for over 25 years, served as their captain for two years, and was awarded Clown of the Year in 1985. He is a long-time member of Mecklenburg Shrine Club and served as their president three different times. He has been a member of Charlotte Court of Jesters #109 since 1995 and was appointed to the Oasis Divan in 2018 as Captain of the Guard and Circus Chairman. In 2026 Illustrious Sir Tim Farris placed Jack in the moving Divan line as 2nd Ceremonial Master, with the intent that he would serve as Potentate in 2032.

Once retired, he and Lady Linda (wife of 40 years) downsized and moved to Concord. They have a son Greg, a daughter Angie, four granddaughters, and one grandson.



Another Successful Fishing Tournament at WNC



Submitted by Noble Thomas Sumpter

WNC is excited to announce that \$49,000 was raised for Shriners Children's from our 5th Annual Fishing Tournament. The WNC Shrine Club would like to thank our participants, sponsors, and the Tri-County Bass Club for making this tournament such a memorable event. There was a total of 35

boats in the tournament. These proceeds support the Shriners Children's mission to provide specialized medical care that helps children lead more full and productive lives, regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status. Thank you all for your continued support of the WNC Shrine Club and our mission to serve the children who need it most.





MECKLENBURG SHRINE CLUB

FISH DINNER

Includes fish, fries, hushpuppies and slaw

\$14
PER PERSON
\$12 SENIOR 65+
FREE KIDS UNDER 6

\$1
DESSERTS



📅 ON FRIDAY, 26 JUNE 2026

🕒 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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MECKLENBURG SHRINE CLUB
5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Club Road
Charlotte, NC 28215

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OASIS

IN

★ CELEBRATING THE ★

250th

USA

Birthday Bash!!!



FOOD



FIREWORKS
(FIREWORKS IF THERE IS NO BURN-BAN RESTRICTIONS)



MUSIC

★★ **SATURDAY, JUNE 27th, 2026** ★

4:30 P.M.



HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS WILL BE PROVIDED!



WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO BRING THEIR FAVORITE SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE



THIS EVENT IS BYOB

★ **LOCATION:** ★

★ **ROWAN COUNTY SHRINE CLUB** ★
6480 LONG FERRY ROAD
SALISBURY, NC 28146

KartAttacks Build Custom Tribute Kart

Submitted by Noble Marty Taylor,
Captain of the Oasis KartAttacks

In May of 2025, my wife Kim and I invited our friends Billy and Kathy Powers to the Mecklenburg Shrine Club Derby party. They had a great time at the party, and they also had a lot of questions about Shriners and what we do. I shared information about Shriners, and of course we talked about the Oasis KartAttacks parade unit. Billy have several questions about the go karts that we use for parading.

Then in September 2025 the Powers reached out, unexpectedly, with a generous donation to the KartAttacks and a proposition. They wanted to honor Billy's parents Charles and Peggy Powers and asked if the KartAttacks would build a custom go kart to be used in our parade unit, designed specifically with his parents in mind. Charles and Peggy Powers were lifelong residents of Fort Mill, SC where Charles was mayor for 25 years.

As captain of the unit, I build all of our equipment. It took a few months to build their kart and we were thrilled to present it at a public ceremony on May 3 in Fort Mill, SC. Several town and state leaders were present to participate in the ceremony. (A video of this presentation can be seen on the Oasis KartAttacks Facebook page.)

The customized kart includes: kart number 65, the number of years Charles and Peggy were married; the teal body color, representing their love of the ocean; the tan colored decals, representing the sand; and Charles' official mayor's signature.

Charles and Peggy Powers devoted their lives to family and community and left a legacy of love, service, and joy that continues to inspire all who knew them.

The Oasis KartAttacks are honored and blessed to have been given this opportunity to take on this special project. We wanted everyone to understand the significance of this very special addition to our parade unit. Please be on the lookout for our new teal kart at the next parade!



Please follow us on
facebook



2026 Schedule of Events

A 2026 dues card is required for admission to all Oasis events.



JUNE

- Jun 12-14 Spring **Ceremonial** (Lake Junaluska, NC)
- Jun 20 MHCO Gala, Black Tie (Oasis Center)
- Jun 27 Oasis Membership Meeting **Stated** (Rowan County Shrine Club)
- Jun 27 250th USA Birthday Bash (Rowan County Shrine Club)

JULY

- Jul 12-16 Imperial Session (Tampa, FL)
- July 23 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)

AUGUST

- Aug 14 Oasis Divan Meeting **Stated** (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Aug 15 3 Chapter Joint Black Tie **Ceremonial** (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Aug 15 Oasis Divan & Ladies' Succession Planning Meeting (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Aug 22 Water Buffalo Degree (Oasis Center)

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 10 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)
- Sep 18-20 SASA Fall Festival (Myrtle Beach, SC)
- Sep 25-26 Grand Lodge Annual Communication (Winston-Salem, NC)

OCTOBER

- Oct 9-10 153rd Masonic Homecoming Parade (Oxford, NC)
- Oct 14 The Shriners Circus (Greensboro, NC)
- Oct 16-17 The Shriners Circus (Concord, NC)
- Oct 15 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)
- TBD 7th Annual Golf Tournament (TBD)

NOVEMBER

- Nov 6 Club & Unit Appreciation Night (Oasis Center)
- Nov 6-8 Oasis Fall **Ceremonial** (Oasis Center)
- Nov 19 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)

DECEMBER

- Dec 5 Installation of the Grand Master of Masons (TBD)
- Dec 5 Oasis Membership Meeting **Stated** & Election of Officers (Oasis Center)
- Dec 6 Potentate's Civic Parade (Gastonia, NC)
- Dec 12 Lincoln **Ceremonial** (Lincoln County SC)
- Dec 12 Cat Square Civic Parade (Cat Square, NC)
- Dec 17 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)

JANUARY 2027

- Jan 9 Installation of 132nd Potentate of Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan (Oasis Center)

Oasis Divan Meeting
STATED
June 27, 2026
Rowan County Shrine Club, 6480 Long Ferry Rd, Salisbury



53rd Annual SASA Fall Festival

September 17-20, 2026

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Lady Betty's Angel Kids

Giving Grace: Scoliosis Patient Showcases Talents

As the hot summer months melted into cooler fall days, Grace busily worked to create rainbow loom bracelets and watercolor paintings. The 8-year-old had soaked in every bit of knowledge that an entrepreneurship camp she attended had provided and soon an upcoming fall fair in her Charlotte, North Carolina, neighborhood would be the perfect place to show off her newly-gained business savvy.

“I said to her, ‘You are such a great artist,’ Erica recalled. “I really think people might want to buy some of your art.”

While making plenty of inventory for her pop-up shop, Grace readied herself to speak to her future customers about the philanthropic cause that would benefit from the sale of her collection of creative wares – Shriners Children’s Greenville.

“Grace can be shy, so beyond raising money for the hospital, this was a wonderful opportunity for her to practice engaging with adults,” Erica said. “She rehearsed what she would say to her customers about what the hospital does – and about her story.” Her story began seven years ago when she was

“Kids can learn early on that differences don’t set limits to who they are; their character and resolve will chart their path far more than any difference ever will.”

- Erica, Grace’s Mom

diagnosed with a rare bone disorder that causes curvature of her spine.

Not yet 2 years old, Grace was referred to Shriners Children’s Greenville by her orthopedist in Charlotte

who knew about the world-class treatment available for infantile scoliosis in the neighboring South Carolina city.

Treatment for Grace began with Mehta casting – a series of casts applied to the patient’s mid-section keeping the spine straight. As the patient grows, casts are removed then reapplied to accommodate the infant or toddlers growing body. In some cases, the approach corrects the early onset of scoliosis; however, for Grace, its purpose is to steady her spine for a longer-term treatment plan.



“We’ve always known that surgical intervention would eventually be necessary,” Erica said. “After a few rounds of Mehta casting, we moved on to a removable brace. The idea is to keep her stable as long as possible so she can grow bigger and stronger before surgery becomes the next step.”

Thanks to remarkable consistency wearing her brace, Grace’s curve has experienced minimal change for the past few years, and she remains pain free. This has allowed Grace, her medical team and her parents the ability to wait until she is ready physically and emotionally for surgery and recovery. When the time comes, it is a decision that will be made together.

At the neighborhood fair, the young entrepreneur confidently shared her personal story and her philanthropic mission – just like she had practiced. As a result, rainbow looms priced at \$1 flew off her shelves with some shoppers generously offering \$50.

For the little girl whose life is being shaped and strengthened by the care she receives at Shriners Children’s, the money raised means far more than a number. It’s a celebration of courage, creativity and a spirit determined to give back.

Membership Statistics MAY 2026

	MTD	YTD
Creations	13	13
Affiliations	0	4
Restorations	2	8
Reversals	0	0
Total Additions	YTD - 25	



YOU ARE NEEDED!

JOIN THE ROADRUNNERS

Be on the front line of helping children by driving them to their doctor’s appointments, surgeries, and physical therapy.

Contact Donnie Wallace at (828) 421-5436 or donniejudywallace@gmail.com to receive more information on becoming a Roadrunner.



Chaplain's Corner

Brotherly Love and Compassion

Over these past few weeks, I have had the sadness of connecting with so many

of our Shriners, in general but Oasis in particular, who have been called by our Supreme Architect of the Universe to that house not made with hands. Especially we think of Jack Wallace. The interactions with their families remind us that even

in the darkest, most devastating parts of our lives, there is the reminder to care for ourselves and others and to lean on one another. There is a slogan of a self-help support group that states "we need not walk alone". Within just a few words this slogan tells us that we should be about caring for each other and the survivors with brotherly love and compassion. Across our great fraternity, we are to be locking arms with one another and

standing on the shoulders of so many who came before us to provide safe, supportive space. If you are not already active with one of our clubs or units, would you please connect with a group right away?

John Stanley, Chaplain

John Stanley is Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of NC and Chaplain of Oasis. He is also Chaplain of South Atlantic Shriners. He is active in Laurinburg Presbyterian. He served as Imperial Chaplain when Imperial Sir Al Madsen was Imperial Potentate, and is retired as Minister—Visitation, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia. John can be reached at: jhstanley1965@gmail.com.

OASIS
Nobility Trip

APRIL 24 – MAY 1, 2027
RIU ANTILLES ARUBA

Indulge in the beauty of the Caribbean alongside your fellow Nobles & Ladies!
Hosted by Chief Rabban Donnie Wrenn and Lady Kim

4-Nights: \$2,496
7-Nights: \$4,368
Based on double occupancy in a Junior Suite Ocean View, taxes and fees included. Additional options available, does not include transportation.

Ready to escape?
Reserve your spot by filling out the link below.

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✈ **Adults-Only**

LINK TO BOOK
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Travel coordination supported by Laura Georgian at Marvelous Mouse Travels

GASTON COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

90s THROWBACK

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH
7PM - 12AM

LADIES OF MECKLENBURG SHRINE CLUB INVITE YOU TO

BINGO NIGHT

EVERY 2ND THURSDAY **EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!**

DOORS OPEN AT: 06:30PM
GAMES START AT: 07:00PM

Bring cash, friends, and an appetizer to share

5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Club Road
Charlotte NC

100 Million Dollar Club – Are You A Member?

Many of our newer Shriners may not know about the 100 Million Dollar Club. This is a fundraising program established in 1972 to support the Shriners Children’s endowment fund. Anyone (noble or public) can join by donating \$100, or by including a \$100+ bequest in their will.



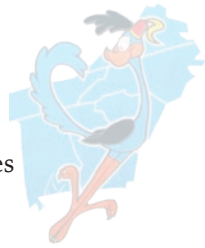
If you’d like to become a member, send your \$100 to the Oasis office, being sure to note that it’s for the 100 Million Dollar Club. Donors will receive a 100 Million Dollar Club certificate which will be mailed to the Oasis office. Once you’ve received your certificate you can purchase a \$100 Million tassel holder from the Oasis Patrol for \$20. You will need to show your certificate (or a picture of your certificate) before being able to purchase the tassel holder.

By contributing \$100, you can feel like a million, knowing that you have helped to ensure that Shriners Children’s will be able to continue helping children in the years to come.

Monthly Roadrunner Highlights

For April, there were a total of **13 Roadrunner trips** consisting of **6,849 miles!** Congratulations to the following drivers who had the highest number of trips and/or the most miles driven in their region in April:

- Dennis Wilkey (Macon) 1 trip, 2,110 miles
- Donnie Wallace (Macon) 1 trip, 2,110 miles
- Tom Erickson (Triad) 3 trips, 1,524 miles
- Rick Patton (Mountain/Avery) 3 trips, 1,516 miles
- Danny Howell (Charlotte) 2 trips, 628 miles
- Mike Matty (Catawba) 1 trip, 280 miles
- Erick Morabito (Catawba) 1 trip, 280 miles



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 Steve Lee, Rusty Hopkins
704-708-8000

The Oasis Pickers Pickin' at The Earl Scruggs Homeplace

Submitted by Dave Mahan

The Oasis Pickers got to have some fun recently as we were invited to play at the homeplace where Earl Scruggs cried out "I got it" from the front room as he discovered he was playing with his now famous 3-Finger, Scruggs Style technique.

As the Earl Scruggs Center's Mary Beth Martin explained, this is truly a special place and sometimes considered the holy grail for many bluegrass musicians. The site is currently being historically preserved and is well under re-construction, but I swear you couldn't help but play "Cripple Creek" and get some musical inspiration!

Want to hang with us? Check us out on our Facebook page or email me at DBMahan@gmail.com.



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

LOYAL ORDER OF WATER BUFFALO

THE LONG LEAF PINE QUARRY NO. 1
OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF WATER BUFFALO
INVITES
YOU AND YOUR LADY TO JOIN US FOR OUR
WATER BUFFALO DEGREE

DETAILS:

- Saturday August 22, 2026
- 12PM - 3PM
- Oasis Carolina Room:
604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte NC 28262

\$75/person: includes Water Buffalo hat and lunch
\$20/person: Lunch only for those who are already members
LUNCH: BBQ and fixings

Dress as your favorite caveperson

it'll be a
YABA DABA DOO *Great time!*

Proceeds benefit the Oasis Shrine Center.
Not tax deductible

RSVP THROUGH EVENTBRITE
NO LATER THAN AUGUST 7TH
NO EXCEPTIONS
<https://waterbuffalo26.eventbrite.com>

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS: Brandon Penley 828-320-7234 bpenley1@gmail.com

McDowell County CEREMONIAL



MCDOWELL COUNTY CEREMONIAL CLASS APRIL 18, 2026 ~ MARION, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBER #	NOBLE	CITY, STATE, ZIP	LADY
1001384	Billy G Dickerson Jr.	Lowgap, NC 27024	Ginger
1001386	Anthony E Fisher	Salisbury, NC 28144	Carrie
1001388	Robert E Franklin	Morganton, NC 28655	Laura
1001367	Bryan K Hoffman	Bessemer City, NC 28016	Jennifer
1001369	Michael D Honeycutt	Inman, SC 29349	Nikki
1001390	Ted D Inman Jr.	Canton, NC 28716	Audrey
1001382	William A Jones	Statesville, NC 28625	Elizabeth
1001372	Eugene G Jones	Polkton, NC 28135	Kelli
1001385	Jacob K McDaniel	Shelby, NC 28150	Emily
1001373	Brandon W Mullis	Gastonia, NC 28056	
1001380	Bobby E Mumford II	Ellerbe, NC 28338	Belinda
1001389	Andrew K Schronce	Taylorsville, NC 28681	Brittany
1001370	James D Thompson	Gastonia, NC 28056	Gina





DERBY PARTY

at Mecklenburg Shrine Club

Clown Bicycle Collection Begins

Submitted by Noble Wayne Alley

Greetings nobles and ladies, from your Oasis Clown unit. It is now 2026 and we are ready to collect bicycles for the annual Rodney Morgan memorial bicycle giveaway. We are in need of 16-inch, 18-inch, 20-inch, and 22-inch bikes; we already have plenty of 12-inch bicycles on hand. Bike and helmet donations can be brought to the circus Oct 14-17. Or if you would like to donate \$150, that will cover the cost of a new bike and new helmet. Anyone who donates money should make their check out to Oasis Clown Unit and write '2026 bicycle giveaway' in the memo section. Check donations can be given to your Divan rep or mailed to the Oasis office.



Thank you for all that you do to help kids enjoy these new bikes and helmets. And thank you for helping the Oasis Clown unit put smiles on children's faces at the circus. Have a blessed day. Please contact me at 864-706-6282 if you have any questions.



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.

Traveling Scimitar Makes Its Way Back to Lincoln County

Submitted by Noble Aaron Whitener

On April 22, something new was introduced at the Lincoln County Shrine Club; something deeply rooted in the traditions of Shriners International.

The Lincoln County Shrine Club traveled to the Catawba County Shrine Club with 28 nobles and ladies with one mission—to bring the traveling scimitar back to Lincoln County after its four-year stay in Catawba.

Now let me be clear. This is not just a display piece, and it's definitely not meant to sit still and collect dust. This scimitar is meant to travel. It's meant to be earned. And if we're doing this right, it's meant to be "taken". The rules are simple: the scimitar will be awarded to the club or unit that shows outstanding participation, dedication, and support. It is meant to bring clubs and units together by promoting visits and interactions between clubs and units.

Now I won't say this isn't about competition, but let's be honest it absolutely is. The good kind. The kind that gets nobles off the sidelines and into the action. The kind that makes Oasis stronger. And along the way, this scimitar will carry stories of laughs, of effort, of brotherhood, and maybe even a little friendly mischief.



For generations, the scimitar has stood as a symbol of our fraternity—strength, unity, and a shared purpose. It is part of who we are, right alongside the fez and the brotherhood we carry



with pride. This scimitar represents the spirit of Oasis: showing up, being involved, supporting events, and most importantly, supporting the mission of helping children through Shriners Children's. Because at the end of the day, everything we do comes back to that one purpose.

We hope to bring back this tradition; a tradition that will grow, evolve, and hopefully become something every noble wants a part of. We encourage you to participate by visiting your brothers in another club and "taking" their traveling scimitar back to your club.

Because this isn't about the sword, it's about what it represents: Brotherhood. Tradition. Service. And doing it all while having a good time.

Looking For Traveling Scimitars

Submitted by Noble Joe Burris

The Oasis Patrol would like to find the location of all 13 traveling scimitars. We know the location of some, but many we do not. If you know where a traveling scimitar is, please call me at 704-322-8941 and let me know where it's currently located. Thank you all nobles for your help.



A LOOK BACK

*Submitted by Noble Bill Loeser & Lady Carolyn,
Noble George Jepson & Lady Debra, and Barbara Kendrick*



W. Freeland Kendrick (1873-1953) is recognized as one of the key figures who spearheaded the initiative that would one day develop into Shriners Children's.

Kendrick was the mayor of Philadelphia from 1924 to 1928. He served as Potentate of the Lulu Shrine from 1906 to 1918, and again from 1920 to 1923, and was elected Imperial Potentate from 1919 to 1920. He served as the second chairman of the board of trustees of the Shriners from

1934 to 1949 and served on the board of trustees for the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital until his death in 1953.



After a visit to the Philadelphia Home for the Incurables (now Inglis House) – one of the first facilities in Philadelphia offering residential medical care for the poor – Kendrick was inspired to plant the seed for an official philanthropy for Shriners International.

Between 1919 and 1920, Kendrick traveled more than 150,000 miles visiting a majority of the 146 temples throughout North America to campaign for an official philanthropy. During his travels, he was introduced to the Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta. They provided free medical care to children with orthopedic conditions whose families were not able to pay.

In 1920 at the 46th Imperial Session in Portland, OR, Kendrick proposed building a hospital to provide care for children with disabilities. He recommended that funding for the hospital come

from an annual \$2 per capita tax to fraternity membership. The vote on the resolution to establish Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children passed unanimously.

Many Shriners had doubts, both about the \$2 yearly assessment from each Shriner and about what it would mean to assume that kind of responsibility. The approval of the plan began to fade when Noble Forrest Adair rose to speak. "I was lying in bed yesterday morning about 4:00, and some poor fellow who had strayed from the rest of the band stood down there under the window for 25 minutes playing 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'." Adair said that when he awoke later that morning, he thought again about the wandering musician. "I wondered if there were not a deep significance in the tune that he was playing for Shriners, 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'." Looking out at the assembled nobles Adair went on. "While we have spent money for songs and spent money for bands, it is time for the Shriners to spend money for humanity. I want to see this thing started. Let us get rid of all the technical objections. And if there is a Shriner in North America who objects to having paid the \$2 after he has seen the first rippled child helped, I will give him a check back for it myself."



Noble Adair settled back into his chair to the sound of thunderous applause. In that moment, the tide turned. Although there were other speakers after him, a historic decision had been made. The resolution passed unanimously. A committee was chosen to determine the site and personnel for the new Shriners hospital. After months of work, the committee concluded that there should not be just one hospital, but a network of hospitals throughout North America.

This idea appealed to the Shriners and when the committee brought the proposal to the 1921 Imperial Session, it was passed. By June 1922 the cornerstone had been laid, and the first Shriners Hospital for Children was started in Shreveport, LA.



Oasis Shriners Paper Campaign

Oasis Shriners got the word out and accepted donations on behalf of Shriners Children's.



Spring CEREMONIAL



June 12-14

Lake Junaluska, NC

Reservations for lodging are available at the group rate for stays from June 12 - June 14.

Lodging reservations require a deposit of the first night's room cost at the time of booking. Check-in time is 4pm, check out is 11am.

A 2026 dues card is required for admission.



CLICK LINK OR SCAN QR CODE
REGISTER FOR THE CEREMONIAL

OasisSpring2026.eventbrite.com

CLICK LINK OR SCAN QR CODE
REGISTER FOR LODGING

www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1593&skipfirstpage=true&page=201596



CLICK LINK OR SCAN QR CODE
DOWNLOAD THE PETITION

Oasisshriners.org/images/forms/membership/petition-for-initiation-and-membership.pdf

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- 11:00am Lake Junaluska Golf Course
Contact Sam Moody for tee time.
980-722-7951
- 4:00-6:00pm Registration of candidates,
Lambuth Inn Room 105
- 6:00-7:00pm Dinner on your own
- 7:30-10:00pm Hospitality with entertainment by
Oasis Pickers, Lambuth Room 100

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

- 7:30-9:00am Breakfast, Lambuth Dining Room
- 7:30-8:30am New candidate registration
and Shrine Mart, Harrell Center
- 9:00am Ceremonial opening for Oasis nobles,
candidates and ladies, Harrell Center

- 10:00am-12:00pm Ceremonial for new members, Harrell Center
- 10:00am-12:00pm Ladies Luncheon (*preregistration required, new candidate ladies free*), Harrell Center (*Upper Level*)
- 12:00-12:30pm Lunch (*provided*)
- 12:30-1:00pm Travel to Waynesville for parade lineup
- 2:00pm Parade step off
- 2:30-6:30pm Shopping and dinner on your own
- 7:00pm Rose and Fez Ceremony (*all new Shriners and their Ladies required to attend*), Harrell Center
- 7:30-10:00pm Entertainment & hospitality, Harrell Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- 9:30-10:30am Oasis non-denomination worship service by Oasis Chaplin team members, Lake Junaluska Cross and Amphitheater
- 11:00am Check out

HARRIS SPEEDWAY BAILEY

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OPEN JAM @ Lake Junaluska:
Ceremonial, FRIDAY, 6/12.
Starts Room #100 @ ~6pm!



Monthly Club Meetings



1st Monday of the Month

- Blue Ridge Shrine Club, 7-9pm, Cagney's Kitchen of Wilkesboro, 1200 Central St, Wilkesboro
- Lake Norman Shrine Club, 7-9pm, 494 E Plaza Dr, Mooresville

1st Tuesday of the Month

- Mecklenburg Shrine Club, 6:30-9pm, 5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Club Rd, Charlotte

1st Thursday of the Month

- Crowder's Mountain Shrine Club, 6-8pm
- Mt. Mitchel Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Mystic Tie Masonic Lodge, 163 S Main St, Marion
- Surry Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 1029 Westlake Dr, Mt Airy
- Winston-Salem Shrine Club, 7:30-9pm, 4909 Hampton Rd, Clemmons

1st Friday of the Month

- Red Fez Shrine Club, 7-9pm, 16600 Red Fez Club Rd, Charlotte

2nd Monday of the Month

- Hendersonville Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Tenango's Restaurant, 712 Upward Rd, Ste B, Flat Rock
- Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 7-9pm, 39 Spring Cove Rd, Swannanoa

2nd Tuesday of the Month

- Appalachian Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Applebee's, 2036 Blowing Rock, Boone
- Foothills Shrine Club, 6-8pm
- Lexington Shrine Club, 6:15-8:15pm

2nd Wednesday of the Month

- Gaston Shrine Club, 7-9pm, 505 Pinkney Rd, Dallas

2nd Thursday of the Month

- Randolph Shrine Club, 6-9pm, 2134 Henley Country Rd, Randleman
- Brushy Mountain Shrine Club, 6-8pm
- Stanly County Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, 35731 City Lake Dr, Albemarle

3rd Monday of the Month

- Ashe Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 117 Morphew Ln, Jefferson

3rd Wednesday of the Month

- Pisgah Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Pisgah Fish Camp, 663 Deavor Rd, Pisgah Forest
- Cherryville Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, American Legion, 215 N Pink St, Cherryville

3rd Thursday of the Month

- Lincoln County Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 1470 Cat Square Rd, Vale
- Statesville Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm
- White Plains Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Fairview Masonic Lodge #339, 803 Landing St, Kings Mountain

4th Monday of the Month

- Avery Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Carolina BBQ, Newland

4th Tuesday of the Month

- Greensboro Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 5010 High Point Rd, Greensboro
- Metrolina Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 5930 Brookshire Blvd, Charlotte
- Mountaineer Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Lee's, 262 Bakers Ln, Bakersville
- Union County Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 7307 Pageland Hwy, Monroe
- Western NC Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Julie's Place, 30 NC-141, Murphy
- Sandhills Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Hamlet Masonic Lodge, 307 Main St, Hamlet

4th Wednesday of the Month

- Rowan Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 6480 Long Ferry Rd, Salisbury
- Catawba Shrine Club, 7:30-9:30pm, Catawba Shrine Club, 1488 Hwy 10 W, Newton
- Moore County Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Roman Eagle Lodge #550

4th Thursday of the Month

- East Burke Shrine Club, 6-8pm
- Smoky Mountain Shrine Club, 6-8pm, 833 Bethel Church Rd, Franklin
- Thermal Belt Shrine Club, 6-8pm, Barley's Taproom, 123 W Main St, Spindale
- Rockingham Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Shrine Club Drive, Reidsville
- Elkin-Jonesville Shrine Club, 7-9pm, 5003 Swaim St, Jonesville
- High Point Shrine Club, 6-8pm, High Point Elks Lodge 1155, 700 Old Mill Rd, High Point
- Piedmont Shrine Club, 7-9pm, Fisherman's Feast, Shelby

4th Friday of the Month

- Cabarrus Shrine Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Cabarrus Shrine Club, 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis

Please email any updates or changes to the above listing to DesertDust@oasisshriners.org. Your update will be made here as well as on the Oasis web site.

Donations

CLUB AND UNIT DONATIONS:

Surry Shrine Club

OTHER DONORS:

Gary W Kearney

Loretta R. Coltrane

Boppers Shag Club

NC Department of Adult
Correction

Woodmanlife Chapter #925

William & Sandra Dennis, Jr.

Harriet & Bronny Hamrick

Willie Wilmoth

James & Dorothy Martin

Eric R. Morabito

Mountain Creek Baptist
Church

CLASSES: JEEPS/BIKES/IMPORTS/
TOP 25 OVERALL GOLF CARTS ALL-TOP 3

CARS
1949 AND BELOW: TOP 3
1950-1959: TOP 3
1960-1969: TOP 3
1970-1979: TOP 3
1980-1989: TOP 3
1990-1999: TOP 3
2000-PRESENT: TOP 3

SPECIALTY TRUCKS
CLUB PARTICIPATION 1949 AND BELOW: TOP 3
PRESIDENTS CHOICE 1950-1969: TOP 3
BEST OF SHOW 1970-1989: TOP 3
BEST FIRE TRUCK 1990-PRESENT: TOP 3

AWARDS AT 1:00 PM

- FOOD & DRINKS
- GAMES
- MUSIC
- SILENT AUCTION
- DOOR PRIZES
- 50/50
- VENDOR SPOTS (\$30)

INFO: (704) 930-8819 (STEVE DRUM)
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Leroy Maynard

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Jack Wallace

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Passed Within the Unseen Temple

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
James Bruce Kennedy	Southern Pines, NC	11/2/2013	2/8/2026
Grady V. Shue	Albemarle, NC	11/1/1975	2/16/2026
Jimmy Arthur Blanton	Forest City, NC	11/3/2001	4/16/2026
Marvin "Jack" Wallace	Concord, NC	11/10/1979	5/2/2026

Club and Unit Bulletin Board

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

Cabarrus Shrine Club
Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!
 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC
 704-933-2797 cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com
 980-354-1098 www.cabarrushrineclub.org
 Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

CAROLINA DRIFTERS

 Captain Jay Leonard
 704-791-7509
 chillyairguy@gmail.com

Latona Temple # 154
Daughters of the Nile

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

FOOTHILLS SHRINE CLUB
 Nobles, Ladies & Guests Welcome!
 Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month;
 except July & August
 Hibriten Lodge #262
 602 Wilkesboro Blvd. NE
 Lenoir, NC 28645
 Contact: Shaun McNeil - President
 828-228-0577
 foothillsshineclub@gmail.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

GREENSBORO SHRINE CLUB
 5010 HIGH POINT ROAD, GREENSBORO, NC 27407
 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FAMILY NIGHT
 DINNER RESERVATIONS: 336-587-5720
 CLUB RENTALS: 336-209-3230



HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB
 Join Us 2nd Mondays at Tenango's Restaurant
 712 Upward Rd. Ste B, Flat Rock, N.C. 28731
 Dinner @ 6:00 PM
 HendersonvilleShriners@gmail.com | 828-280-4909



High Point Shrine Club

Fun, Food and Fellowship.
 Join us every 4th Thursday of the month. Social 5:15 | Dinner 6:00
 700 Old Mill Rd, High Point, NC 27265
 336-880-5586 | hpshrineclub@gmail.com

MECKENBURG SHRINE CLUB
 INVITES YOU TO VISIT OUR CLUB

 CONTACT SAM MOODY
 sambo447@aol.com
 980-722-7951

Metrolina Shrine Club
 5930 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216
 704-393-5881
 President: Dean Benson | 980-722-9453
 Vice President: Gary Cooke | 704-201-2593
 Secretary: John Tilly | 704-941-7982

MOORE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB
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 President John Dunbar
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 William Holloway
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 or Secretary Scottie Cox
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 SO THEY CAN WALK
 Captain Eddie Baker
 704-575-4718
 Oasisdunecats@gmail.com

Oasis Gator Patrol
 Captain Jimmy Cline

 2156 Sterling Ridge Dr.
 Newton, NC 28658
 (828) 409-1995
 jimcline.jc@gmail.com



OASIS HIGHLANDERS

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

Club and Unit Bulletin Board

The Hillbillies are lookin' fer ya!

If interested in joining, please
contact Gary Patterson
at 704-706-7510

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Oasis.KartAttacks@Gmail.com 

Oasis Oldies

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828-361-8532 tsumpter@gmail.com



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AT 336-430-5779
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We are your unit. Join Us.
Kenneth Small, Captain
704-754-0032 smallshandymanagementservices@gmail.com



OASIS PATROL

MARCHING FOR A PURPOSE

Contact Captain Joe Burris
at 704-322-8941 or
jburris2647@yahoo.com to join
the oldest unit of Oasis Shriners



OASIS PICKERS

Are you a picker
(player of an
acoustic instrument)?
Join our JAMMIN unit!
DBMahan@gmail.com
843-372-5510



OASIS RAGTOPS

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Car must be full convertible - no T-tops.
6 events a year. Driver's license and travel required.

Captain Todd
Hildebran:
704-239-4883



OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS

Accepting New Members
No Experience Necessary
Contact Thomas Livingston
336-452-4600



OASIS SHRINE WAGONEERS



For info, contact:
Feddie Dellinger,
704-772-2306

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THE OASIS TEMPLE BAND

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OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

Chase Trites, President ctrittes@radcoroofing.com
Drew Lynch, Vice President drewlynch21@yahoo.com
If you are under 40 and interested in joining,
reach out to any of our officers.

PAST CAPTAINS CLUB


Meeting 3rd Monday at 6pm
Big Daddy's in Mooresville

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



PIEDMONT PISTONS

CAPTAIN
BRIAN MELLON
(704) 692-8576



Piedmont Shrine Club

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

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

Shriners on Bikes



STEPHEN TRITES
STRITES@ROCKETMAIL.COM
803-610-7876

Union County Shrine Club

P.O. Box 324 Monroe, NC 28111


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

Pres. - Michael Hawkins
VP - Chandler Champion
Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com



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



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