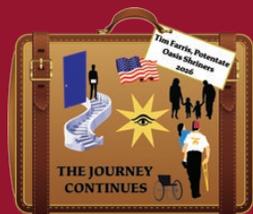


DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS | CHARLOTTE, NC

March 2026 | Volume 91 | Number 3



What Can One Man Do?



Read about these nobles on pages 12 & 13!

IN THIS ISSUE

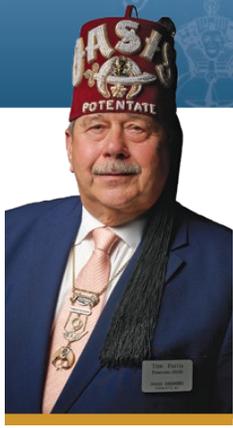
Club and Unit Orientation

Shriners in Rose Parade | Oasis Patrol End of Year Wrap Up

Catawba SC Hosts Game Day Party | *and more!*



From the Potentate



Hello Nobles and Ladies,

We are only a couple of weeks away from spring, and already we are enjoying days that make it feel

as though the season has arrived. What a beautiful time of year as we relish in God's creation—the budding flowers, leaves reappearing on the trees, and the grass turning greener. It truly is a special season of renewal and promise.

With the warmer weather, we begin to step outside a bit more and set aside time to support our Oasis clubs and units in their many projects. Lady Betty and I have had the opportunity to visit several clubs, and I am encouraged to see our Nobility embracing the spirit of working together. We are always stronger when we stand united. I commend those Nobles who are seeking ways to collaborate and strengthen our shared commitment to Shriners Children's and our wonderful cause.

On February 7, 2026, Oasis held its Officers Club and Unit Orientation. Our presenters did an outstanding job, and I cannot thank them enough for the time, preparation, and dedication they put into making this program a success.

We were honored to have nearly 200 officers from our clubs and units in attendance. Your willingness to take time from your busy schedules to participate in this important meeting speaks volumes about your commitment to Oasis and to the success of our fraternity.

Together, through preparation, leadership, and unity, we will continue to strengthen Oasis and serve with excellence.

As this article is being written prior to Greenville Shriners Days, I encourage those reading the online edition to join us March 6–7, 2026, at Shriners Children's Greenville. I assure you, you will not be disappointed.

Oasis has launched a candy sale, and we are asking our clubs, units, and individual Nobles to partner with us in

selling World's Finest Chocolate. Each box contains 40 bars, priced at \$2 per bar. For every box sold, \$60 will be returned to Oasis, and your club or unit will retain \$20. I encourage you to support this effort and help make it a success.

Oasis will host its first one-day ceremonial at Courtyard at Little Acres in Marion, North Carolina, on April 18th. I encourage you to visit your Masonic lodges and invite those Master Masons who have not yet become Shriners to join the ranks of Oasis.

Later this month SASA representatives from Oasis will travel to Lexington, Kentucky for the Spring SASA meeting. Noble Director Rick Garver will draw for our parade lineup position for Fall SASA in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We look forward to representing Oasis with pride.

Lady Betty and I encourage each of you to seek each day an opportunity to make someone else's life a little better, giving God the glory as "The Journey Continues."

Fraternally,
Tim Farris, Potentate

Listed below are a few additional accolades, and a clarification, for the 2025 fundraising totals.

1st Place Club
Paper Sales
Avery County Shrine Club



1st Place Club
Plaque Sales
Lexington Shrine Club



1st Place Unit
Plaque & Paper Sales
Mountain Buggies



SASA SPRING MEETING

Date: March 26-29, 2026

Location: Lexington, KY

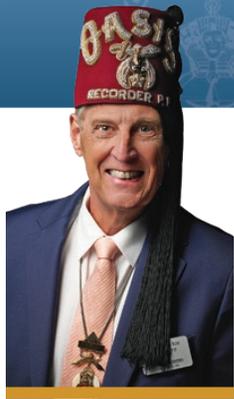
Hotel: The Campbell House Lexington
1375 S Broadway, Lexington, KY 40504
859-255-4281

REGISTRATION:

<https://southatlanticsa.com/event/2026springregistration>

<https://southatlanticsa.com/spring>

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 Jazzie. The following information is readily available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

Five-year-old Jaslynn has celebrated many milestones.

From learning to walk to thriving in kindergarten, several key moments of her journey have included her care team at Shriners Children's Spokane.

Jaslynn "Jazzie" was born with a rare disease known as VACTERL syndrome, which impacts major parts of the body, including the spine, heart, kidneys and limbs. It is diagnosed when at least three of these irregularities occur together. When she was first brought to Shriners Children's Spokane, her care team worked to determine what would best improve her quality of life. After struggling with casting, they decided that the best option was to amputate both of her legs at the knee. "The hospital was a scary place for her because she associated that to all of the trauma to help with some of the congenital abnormalities she was dealing with," said Orthotics and Prosthetics Manager Clint Hastings, a member of her care team.

Over time, that fear quickly turned into joy. When her family spoke with local news station 4NewsNow for last year's telethon, Jazzie laughed and played with Clint and with Ginny, Spokane's facility dog, as she moved through the hallways with ease – those same hallways



where she took her first steps. After her surgeries, Spokane's Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetics Services (POPS) department staff fitted her with two prosthetics, and a team of physical and occupational therapists helped improve her movement. With her mom and her care team around her, Jazzie used her prosthetics to walk for the very first time – a heartwarming moment that demonstrates the life-changing care the staff at Shriners Children's provides.

Her team said she has shown incredible resilience and continues to reach physical milestones with confidence. Dora, Jazzie's mom, said it's a struggle keeping up with Jazzie, even without her forearm crutches. "She is a brilliant little girl. For all that she's been through, she's very brilliant. All these kids are unique and so different. They get to show us what they're able to do," said Ted C. Sousa, M.D.

Jazzie will require additional surgeries further down the line to further improve her mobility, but her next big milestone is completing her first year of school. In kindergarten, she continues to make new friends and build her independence. "Her friends and her classmates really take care of her," said Dora. "She wouldn't use her

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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 - Jack Wallace
Director - Rick Garver
Marshal - Larry Payne
Captain of the Guard - Nick Wieder
Outer Guard - Brandon Penley
Chaplain - John Stanley, PP

Editorial:

DesertDust@oasisshriners.org

From the Recorder

continued from page 3

[crutches], and they'd go, 'Jazzie here's your sticks,' and she'd say, 'I don't need my sticks.'"

By receiving high-quality care at Shriners Children's at an early age, Jazzie has been able to thrive in ways she wouldn't have been able to otherwise. "[Shriners Children's] can be a place of joy, because she's able to walk and use her prosthetics and functionally to do the things that all other kids are able to do," said Hastings.

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 Jazzie, that they serve.

Gary Taylor, Recorder

CLUB AND UNIT OFFICER INSTALLATIONS



Piedmont Shrine Club

President Kevin Pruitt, Vice President Chris Gantt, 2nd Vice President Tom Minowicz, Treasurer Brian Mellon, Secretary Tim Poteat.



Piedmont Pistons

Captain Brian Mellon, Lieutenant Kevin Pruitt, 2nd Lieutenant Steve Pruitt, Secretary Andy McNeilly, Treasurer Guy Suttle.

Become a Life Member and...

ROCK THE FEZ



Did you know you can buy a Life Membership for one, or all three, areas?

	65 yrs old or younger	Over 65 yrs old
Oasis Dues for Life	\$2,000	\$1,000
Per Capita Tax Dues for Life	\$1,500	\$1,500
Hospital Assessment Dues for Life	\$150	\$150
Total for all Three Dues for Life	\$3,650	\$2,650

(Fees listed here are valid through December 2026)

Send a check to Oasis Shriners, 604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262, or call (704) 549-9052 to pay by credit card.

Membership Statistics

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

	MTD	YTD
Creations	0	0
Affiliations	0	0
Restorations	1	2
Reversals	0	0

Total Additions YTD - 2



Oasis Patrol End of Year Wrap Up

Submitted by The World's Famous Oasis Patrol

As the oldest unit at Oasis, the World's Famous Oasis Patrol proudly closed out 2025 with an active and distinguished schedule of service. December began at the Lincoln County Shrine Club, where we had the honor of welcoming new Nobles while selling fez pins and car emblems in support of our mission. From there, the Patrol proudly represented Oasis in the 51st Annual Cat Square Christmas Parade, continuing a long-standing tradition that reflects our commitment to fellowship, visibility, and service.

Later in the month, the Patrol held its biannual officer installation, marking another important milestone in our unit's history. Outgoing Captain Paul Southworth presented the new installing officers with professionalism and pride. To Past Captain Paul, the Patrol extends a sincere and well-earned Bravo Zulu for your leadership, dedication, and tireless service over the past several years. Your commitment has strengthened the Patrol and left a lasting legacy.

We are honored to present the incoming Patrol officers:

- Captain: Noble Joe Burris
- 1st Lieutenant: Noble Brian Clay
- 2nd Lieutenant: Noble Bill "Barcode" Smith
- Master Sergeant: Noble Dayne Marsh
- Chaplain: Noble Past Captain Michael "Elvis" Clark

Congratulations to each of you. May God's guidance, wisdom, and protection be with you as you lead the Patrol forward in service to Oasis.

During the installation, the Patrol was further honored by a special presentation from our own Past Captain, Illustrious Sir Chris Hall. On behalf of the Governor of Kentucky, Illustrious Sir Chris presented a Colonel's Invitational Appointment to Noble Past Captain Brandon Penley.



Throughout Panther season, members of the Patrol were once again visible at home games, walking among the fans and collecting donations in support of the Shriners Children's Hospitals.



As we welcomed the new year, the Patrol was honored to participate in the installation of our new Potentate, Illustrious Sir Tim Farris, and Lady Betty. The Patrol proudly fulfilled its duties in presenting the colors and escorting the Divan. To our new Potentate, the Patrol extends a heartfelt round of applause and offers our prayers as you guide Oasis through the year ahead. May your leadership be blessed with wisdom, strength, and compassion.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to our outgoing Potentate and Past Patrol Captain, Illustrious Sir Chris Hall, for his years of steadfast leadership and devoted service. Your example has left a lasting impression on the Patrol and Oasis as a whole. We thank you sincerely and pray for continued blessings in your future years of service.

The Patrol invites all nobles to join us at our monthly meetings, where fellowship is strong, traditions are upheld, and camaraderie continues to grow.

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Noble Butch Cowan. Please join us in a moment of silence and pray for his family.

To Noble Butch's Notables:
Past Master, St. Andrews Lodge
Member, Phalanx Lodge
50-Year Mason
50-Year Member, Oasis Shrine
Past Captain, Oasis Band
Member, Oasis Patrol
50-Year, 32nd Degree Member, Scottish Rite
Secretary, Royal Order of Jesters, Charlotte Court No. 109

That concludes the past two months of activity for the World's Famous Oasis Patrol. We look forward to a full and rewarding year ahead, continuing our proud tradition of service, fellowship, and dedication.

Club and Unit Orientation



Monthly Roadrunner Highlights

For January, there were a total of **11 Roadrunner trips** consisting of **5,247 miles!** Congratulations to the following drivers who had the highest number of trips and/or most miles driven in their region in January:

Jeffrey Echerd (Catawba) 1 trip, 298 miles

George Stoklas (Charlotte) 4 trips, 1,950 miles

Danny Howell (Charlotte) 3 trips, 2,122 miles

Dale Sleight (Mountain/Avery) 1 trip, 468 miles

Brenda Sleight (Mountain/Avery) 1 trip, 468 miles

Tom Erickson (Triad) 2 trips, 1,468 miles

Neil Johnson (Triad) 2 trips, 1,468 miles



Every year during Club & Unit Orientation, Lady Theresa King and Lady Jean Elder host the Divan Ladies at the King's home, giving them an opportunity to discuss and plan upcoming events for the year.



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Unwrap Sweet Success

WE FUND COMMUNITIES®

SINCE 1968

WORLD'S FINEST® CHOCOLATE

\$2 each

40 BARS

\$2 EACH

World's Finest® Fundraising going on now!

Help support: Start Date: End Date:

Proceeds are for the benefit of Oasis Shriners activities. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.

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Crowder's Mountain Shrine Club

CMSC SHRINE RODEO

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Price's Arena
4856 Dallas Cherryville Hwy,
Bessemer City, NC

BECOME A RODEO SPONSOR!

SUPPORTING SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

- Business promotion
- Event & Arena recognition
- Social Media exposure

Get Great Local Exposure!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

CONTACT US TODAY!

2026 Schedule of Events

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



MARCH

- Mar 6-7 Greenville Hospital Days (Greenville, SC)
- Mar 19 Oasis Divan Meeting **Stated**
(Oasis Center)
- Mar 26-29 SASA Spring Meeting (Lexington, KY)

APRIL

- Apr 16 Oasis Divan Meeting (Spindale, NC)
- Apr 18 McDowell County **Ceremonial**
(Marion, NC)

MAY

- May 1-3 Paper Giveaway (Everywhere!)
- May 21 Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center)

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 14-16 3 Chapter Joint Black Tie **Ceremonial**
(Winston-Salem, NC)
- Aug 14 Oasis Divan Meeting **Stated**
(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)



Lady Betty's Angel Kids

Meet Mary

Submitted by Ronnie Holt

When Mary was a toddler, her legs and feet were turned inward and she was unable to walk properly. She had to go to physical therapy and wear special shoes and straps to help keep her feet aligned. She was unable to run and play with her cousins because she couldn't walk without assistance. When she was three years old, we found out that she had a chromosomal abnormality called 10Q Deletion. After doing more research on her condition, I learned one of the common effects is having loose muscles, like in Mary's case. We thought that Mary would always have a walking impairment and be forced to depend on her corrective shoes and straps for the rest of her life.

In February of 2019, Mary, her nana, and I visited Shriners Children's Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina for the first time. We were excited and ready to hear about our options and make a plan with the doctors. We arrived, knowing that the doctors would be doing an evaluation, but being the first visit, we didn't expect much more. As we waited in the exam room, watching Mary walk around,



exploring, I was a little anxious to hear what the doctor might say since I strongly believed the only permanent solution was with surgery. After doing Mary's evaluation, he told us that because she was still so young, her muscles would most likely correct themselves with physical therapy, becoming stronger and tighter as she grows. They said that after Mary turned nine or ten years old, they would do another evaluation and make a decision on whether surgery was necessary.



When I heard the professionals say that, I felt a huge weight lift off of me that I had felt from thinking that having a walking disability was to be a normal part of her life. Suddenly, I was filled with a sense of PEACE and HOPE that Mary may well have a better life where she was able to do things that she wanted to but was never able to. Like playing in the yard and chasing after her cousins, how she wanted to when she saw them running around. We put a lot FAITH in the doctors

and their encouraging words and they helped to get all of us through the following years as we watched, waited, and worked hard to make it a reality. It has been a DREAM COME TRUE to watch her progress over the past six years, celebrating each accomplishment and goal her therapists set like they are milestones. Every time I hear her therapists say how much she's improved, I think back to the wonderful doctors at Shriners Children's Hospital and how they were right all along. Now the time has come to return for Mary's next evaluation and we are all looking forward to our visit this coming February!

A NOTE FROM THE

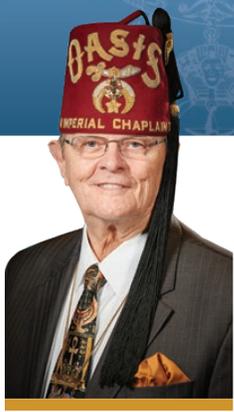
DESERT DUST

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



scan to donate

www.mhc-oxford.org (919) 693-5111



Chaplain's Corner

Reaction: Bitter or Better?

Bitter or better? Yep. That is the question we are faced with today. We have a choice. We can get bitter or we can get better. In fact, that is the title of a favorite book "You Can Get Bitter or Better!" by

Rev. James W. Moore. Dr. Moore says, "When trouble comes, when disappointment breaks your heart, when sorrow grips your spirit, you have a choice: You can get bitter or better!" Dr. Moore continues, "All of us, at one time or another face sorrow, grief, or loss." The question is, how will we RESPOND to those challenges? We have a choice. We can become bitter, or we can ask for God's help to grow into better people.

In his book "Everybody's Normal Until You Get to Know Them", Pastor John Ortberg compares us to porcupines huddled together on a bitter cold winter night. The colder it gets outside, the more we huddle together for warmth. But the closer we get to one another, the more we hurt one another.

So, how are things with you? Are you finding life like the porcupine? The closer we get to one another the more we tend to hurt one another? Are we irritated, agitated, ill? Well, as Dr.

Moore writes, we have a choice as to how we are to react. We can get bitter or we can get better.

One pastor tells of the 91-year-old lady he visited in the hospital. He stepped into her room, to find her sitting up in bed, writing notes to the church's shut-ins. She explained that she had come to the realization that the people who could not get out of their homes—the shut-ins—must be lonely. She said, "I write to them to encourage them, to cheer them up." At 91 this lady decided that she would do those things to make her get better.

We can maintain that 'thankful journal'. To get better we can write two or three things for which we are grateful at the end of each day. Then we can pray about those things which disappoint or grieve us. We can get better by making every day a day of Thanksgiving! We know from our past life experiences that we may be suffering now, but the God of grace will restore us and our lives. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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.

McDowell County CEREMONIAL



April 18, 2026

Courtyard at Little Acres
200 Little Acres Dr Drive,
Marion, NC 28752

This is a One Day Ceremony geared to those candidates who may be rushed for time, but we at Oasis strongly encourage those who go through this ceremony to go to a full Ceremonial to experience the difference.

AGENDA

- 9:00 am Registration of Candidates
- 10:00 am Welcome all in attendance along with New Candidates
- 10:30 am Ceremony followed by lunch
- 12:30 pm Dismissal

A 2026 dues card is required for admission.

Download The Petition:

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



OASIS SHRINERS QUILT DRAWING

Quilt made by Suzanne Roberts



Drawing to benefit Oasis Sunshine Fund

Drawing will be November 7, 2026

**1 TICKET - \$5
OR 5 FOR \$20**

Donations are not tax deductible.

See your Divan rep to purchase, or purchase at Oasis headquarters

UPCOMING CLUB AND UNIT EVENTS

APRIL 25

Crowders Mountain Shrine Club
Shrine Rodeo
See ad on page 7

MAY 2

Mecklenburg Shrine Club
Derby Party
See ad on page 19

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY

Mecklenburg Shrine Club
Bingo Night
See ad on page 19



The planning committee met in Lake Junaluska to iron out details for the June 12-14 Spring Ceremonial.

Spring CEREMONIAL

SAVE
THE
DATE!

June 12-14
Lake Junaluska, NC



Reservations for lodging are available at the group rate for stays from June 12 - June 14. This special rate is only available for booking until May 21, 2026. 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.

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



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.

What Can One Man Do?

Oasis Shriners is made up of 3,300 individual nobles doing great work, raising money, and having fun. "As Shriners we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others." But there may be times we ask ourselves 'But what can I do? I'm only one man.' As you read on, you'll see how one man can do a lot.

In this feature, four nobles are highlighted showing how a passion or hobby can be turned into fundraising opportunities. There are certainly MANY more of you out there doing similar great work; these four are just examples to show what one man can do.

THE WOODWORKER



*William Holloway
(The Woodworker)*

Noble William Holloway has been woodworking since he was a teen. But four years ago when he joined the Provost guard, he decided to put his talents to use by doing something for his Unit. He has a full woodworking shop at his house, including a sawmill where he and fellow nobles gather to fellowship and create new pieces. Working along side William are nobles Chuck Hoyle and Chris Lister, as well as William's son Dereck.

His first pieces were the wavy American flag, as seen on display at the Red Fez Shrine Club. He's also made plaques for the Buccaneers, as well as wooden replicas of the Potentate and First Lady's pin. The first pin set was created and given as a gift to Illustrious Sir Doug Garland, and he's created the pin replicas ever since. When he makes a new pieces, he donates his work to help raise money for fraternal needs; needs such as helping to pay for nobles' lodging or meals at Oasis events. One year, the money was used to pay for the Divan's breakfast at SASA. He estimates the woodworking projects have raised around \$2,500. His current goal is to make one item for each event this year!



THE WALKING MAN



*Eric Morabito
(The Walking Man)*

Noble Eric Morabito will once again take his annual walk from his residence to the local Shriners Children's Hospital. He started this walking fundraiser in 2014 when he walked from his Blue Lodge to the Cyprus Shrine in Albany, NY then to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Springfield and Boston, MA. When he moved to North Carolina in 2023, he continued

this tradition and walked from his home in Hickory to Shriners Children's Hospital in Greenville. He will set out for Greenville this year on April 9.

As of December 2025, the total of all Noble Eric's fundraising efforts (which includes collecting spare change) is \$104,000! His goal for this year is \$10,000.

If you have spare change you'd like to contributed (see a penny, pick it up) or would like to support his walk, contact Noble Eric at (845) 418-3742.



Ken Epley (The Stripper)

THE STRIPPER

Noble Ken Epley from the Mt. Mitchell Shrine Club is known as “the stripper.” The wire stripper, that is. He has been stripping wire to raise money for the children at Shriners Children’s Greenville since 2017. In his first year, he raised \$1,200 and turned it into gift cards that were given directly to the children at Christmas. In 2018 he raised \$2,300; in 2019 \$1,500; in 2023 \$3,200; in 2024 \$1,800, and in 2025 \$4,100 for a grand total of \$14,100!

Noble Ken has an arrangement with electrician Brain Poole, who saves his scrap wire and gives it to Ken to strip down and sell. He is always looking for other sources of wire scraps and says he’ll drive up to 60 miles to pick some up. “Copper brings the most money. I’ll wait until the prices are up, then sell it. I like to see the money go directly to the children so I work with the hospital and either buy gift cards, or toys, or just donate the money directly to them so they can get what they need.”



THE ETCHER

Noble Roger Edgington was always interested in laser engraving. Once he retired and moved to North Carolina, he finally had his chance. He bought two laser engraving machines and has been busy filling requests ever since. One machine is used for wood engraving and the other

for slate and metal. He engraves everything from coasters, to cutting boards, to emblems on masonic rings.

He has donated items like cutting boards to the Lincoln and Cherryville Shrine Clubs where they are auctioned off and the proceeds sent to the hospital. He also engraves special projects for The

Order of The Eastern Star and Scottish Rite and proceeds from those items also go to charitable organizations. He estimates money raised from his donated work to be several thousand dollars, and he’s only been at it for a few years. Other recent projects include making custom knocker blocs for the new Unity Lodge 462, and some special projects for Illustrious Sir Tim Farris.

If Noble Roger’s name sounds familiar, perhaps it’s because you heard his story during this year’s potentate installation, or you may have seen his name in the “Meet Kaleb” article in January’s Desert Dust. Roger facilitated a connection between a young family at his church and Shriners Children’s Hospital. That child is now the 2026 Oasis patient ambassador.



Roger Edgington (The Etcher)



Who else is out there raising money in unique ways? Send your story and a few pictures to DesertDust@oasisshriners.org and you may be featured in an upcoming issue.

Shriners Receive Showmanship Award in *Rose Parade*

The title of the Shriners' 2026 Rose Parade float was "Building Dreams Together", focusing on teamwork, healing, and community. The float featured woodland animals collaborating to build a treehouse, symbolizing the collaborative care team and support for children's rehabilitation. The float featured animated characters including a jackhammer-wielding raccoon, a teeter-totter porcupine, and a chipmunk. The volunteers who put this together were recognized with the Showmanship Award,

acknowledging the most outstanding display of showmanship and entertainment. Congratulations!



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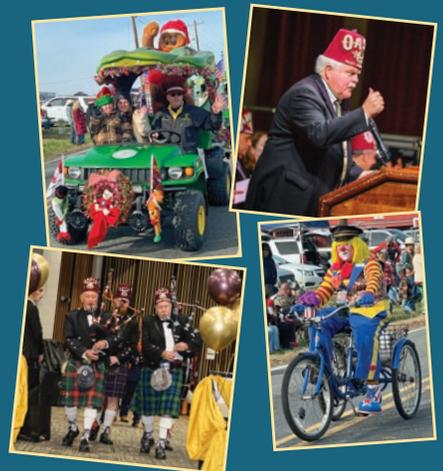
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Mention this Ad and 10% of profits go to Oasis Charities

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR PHOTO GALLERY?

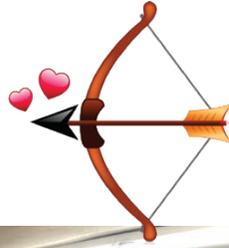
Oasis Shrine Photos



shrinephotos.com

Celebrating Valentine's Day

The Cherryville and Lincoln County Shrine Clubs came together to celebrate Valentine's Day with their Ladies. Illustrious Sir Tim Farris was in attendance and addressed both clubs. The two clubs have been combining on some projects and enjoying time together.



Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt and Noble Lee Carpenter at the Cherryville Shrine Club Valentine party.



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704-708-8000

Open JAM Session for ALL!



Calling all folks who play an acoustic instrument (including Nobles, Ladies, family members and friends). On Friday, June 12, 6:00 at the Spring Ceremonial in Lake Junaluska's Lambreth Hotel, The Oasis Pickers will host an Open JAM and EVERYONE IS WELCOME to join in! Bring any of the following "string" instruments that you play (or attempt to): Guitar, Banjo, Bass, Dobro (aka: resonator guitar), Mandolin, Fiddle or any type of Ukelele. Harmonicas & old time rhythm instruments are also welcome (washboards, spoons, juice harps, etc.)

Any age group or playing level is welcome. All we ask is that you bring a tuner for your instrument and try to stay "on the beat." It's most helpful if you know how to make a G, C, D and an A chord.

If you are new to JAMS, don't be afraid. Come on anyway. Traditional mountain music historically was played and taught by ear. However, if you want to grab a book to use, try "JAM Songbook" by Pete Warnick & Liam Purcell or "Parking Lot Pickers Songbook" by Dix Bruce (a lot of us in the Unit are using this one now).

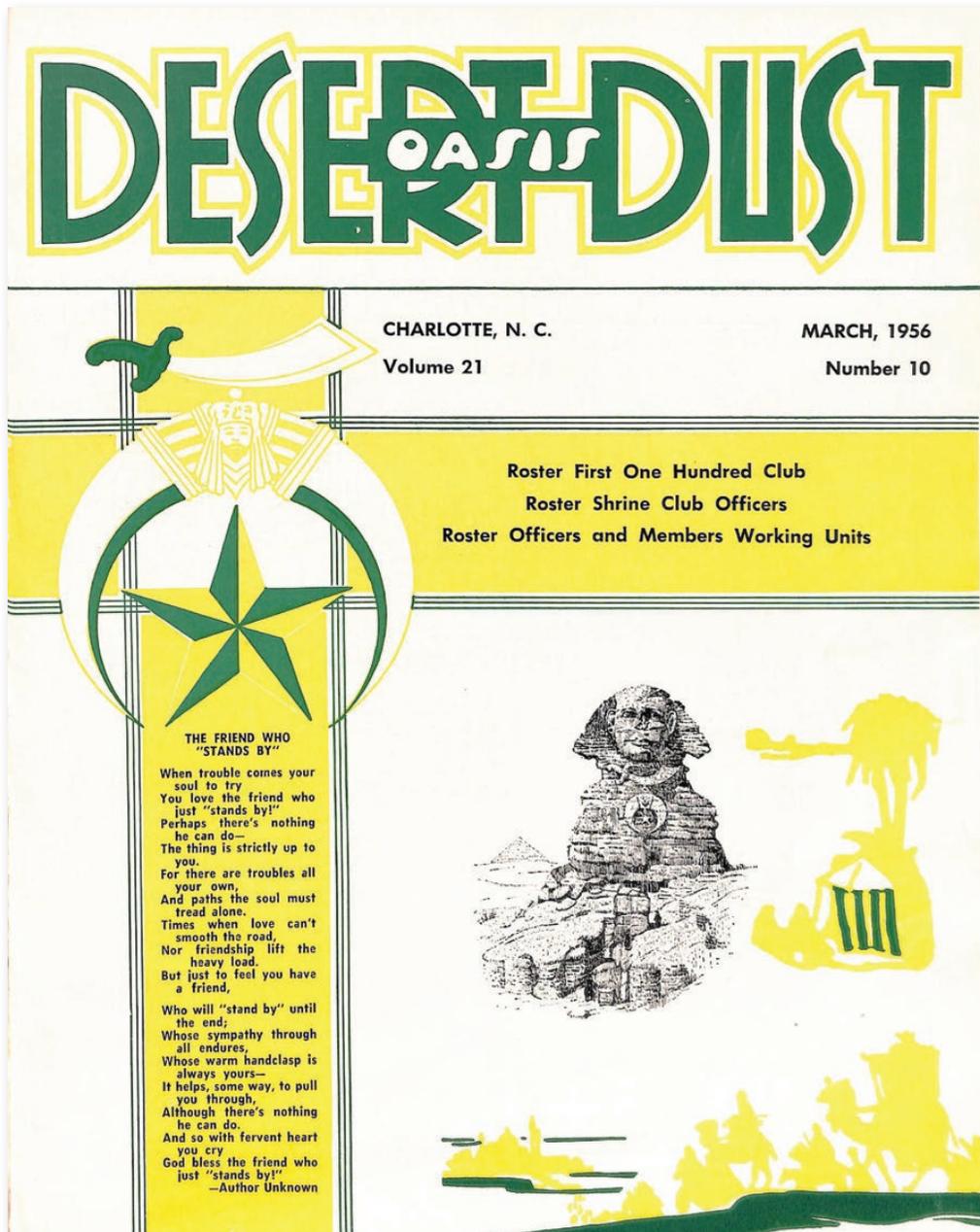
We hope you bring a good chair to pick in and are ready to have some FUN! If you have any questions about the Open JAM, please contact Gerry Boykin, Oasis Pickers Captain at 828-489-6060 or email ggbmtn.high@yahoo.com.



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

A LOOK BACK

Enjoy taking a look back with this beauty of a Desert Dust cover from 1956.



Update Your Contact Info

Do you have a new telephone number or email address?
Have you moved?

Please update your contact information with the Oasis office by calling (704) 549-9600.

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

YOU ARE NEEDED!
JOIN THE ROADRUNNERS

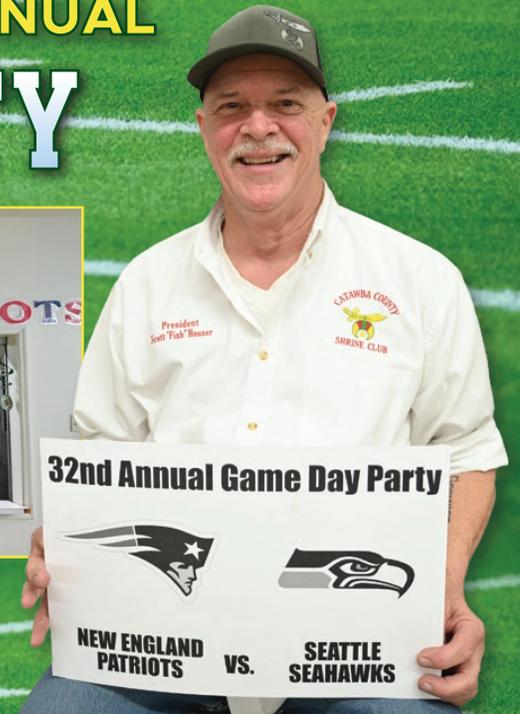
Be on the front line of helping children by driving them to their doctor's appointments, surgeries, and physical therapy.

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

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GAME DAY PARTY



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

Shriners Children's Voted Best Hospital

Article courtesy of www.facebook.com/ShrinersGreenville.



In February, we picked up the plaque for our latest award – voted winner for **Best Hospital** and finalist as **Best Family Specialist** and **Best Pediatric Therapy** by the readers of **KiddingAroundGreenville.com**.

Thank you to everyone who voted and continues to support the children and families we serve!



152 KENTUCKY DERBY

The ladies of Mecklenburg Shrine Club invite you to join us Saturday, May 2nd, 4:00 - 8:00 PM for our 4th Annual Derby Party @ "Mecklenburg Downs"

Break out the **BIG HATS, BOWTIES & BOURBON!**
Come enjoy Mint Juleps and Southern Fare

Games!
50/50
Gift Baskets
and MORE

\$40 per person
\$300 per table of eight (discounted)
Option for you to decorate your table!

BEST HAT
Prizes for
Ladies and Men

Social with appetizers at 4:00
Dinner at 5:30PM
Brown Bag; Wine and Beer available for purchase
RSVP: <https://DerbyParty2026.Eventbrite.com>

Mecklenburg Shrine Club
5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Club Rd, Charlotte NC

OASIS SHRINERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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- PROCEEDS SUPPORT SHRINERS CHILDREN'S

SIGN UP TO HELP!

CONTACT NOBLE GARY YANDLE
980-521-0195

Finding Karts for KartAttacks

Submitted by Marty Taylor

A lot of people ask us where do we find the go karts that we use for parading? Well, we call this “scouring the earth” to find these specific old frames which are no longer manufactured new. Occasionally we can find one in North or South Carolina, but a lot of ours were found in the Pennsylvania and Maryland areas. We have made several road trips up north and have occasionally brought back two or three at a time. These karts were originally kids’ karts made back in the 1980s and 90s. Most always they have a lot of wear and tear when they first arrive at KartAttacks Shop central. But we go through a very detailed process to make them better than new, including several upgrades like extending leg room, LED lights & whips, and dual disc brakes. As Shriners it truly warms our hearts when we see the smiles from children and adults as we “represent” during each parade.

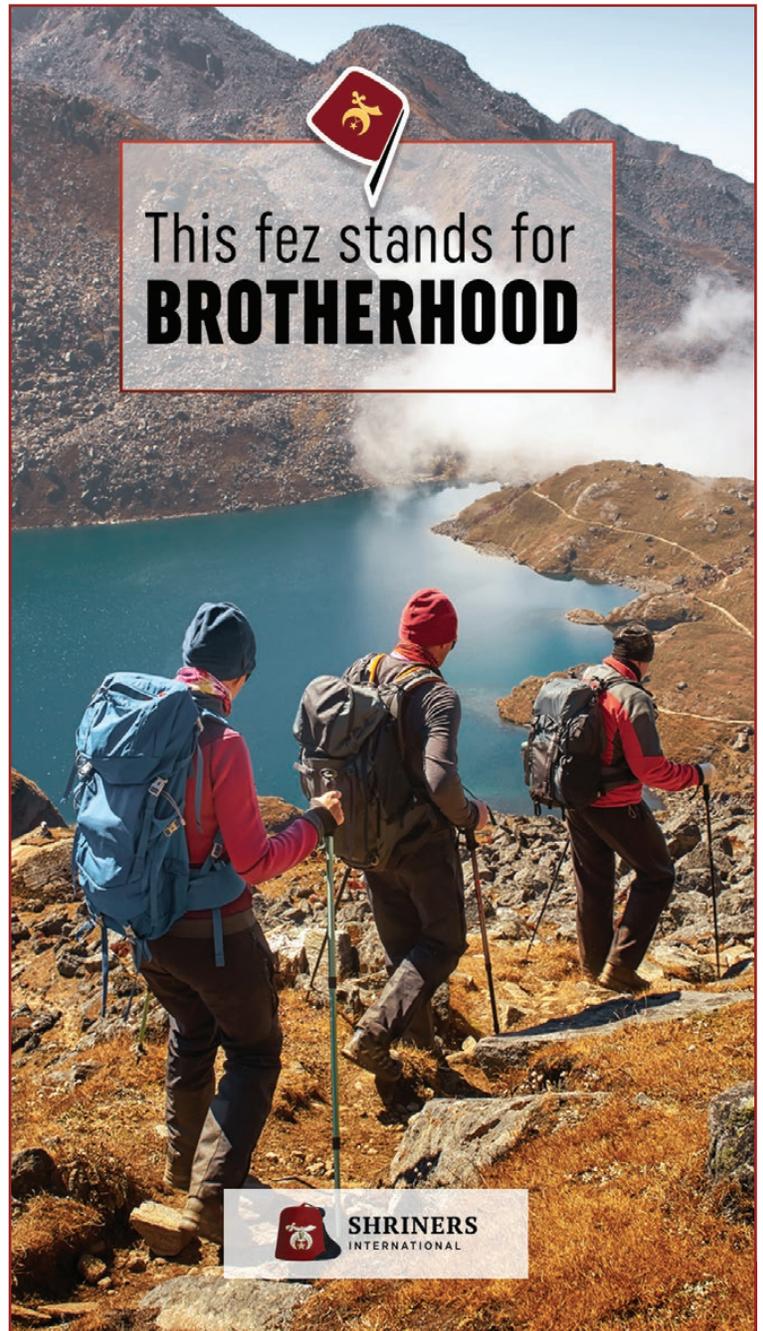


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This fez stands for BROTHERHOOD

The friendships, shared values, and lifelong connections that make being a Shriner so meaningful.

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Keep text simple so your ad is easy to read. No detailed images, group photos, or low quality/blurry images will be accepted.

If submitting your own ad, make sure your file is high-resolution, with all text and images clear and high-quality.

Ad size is 2.5" wide x 1.2" high.

**Email your ad or ad changes to
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 Tommy & Teri Flowers
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 John & Jean Elder
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 William Cowan
 William Cowan Jr.
 Butch Cowan
 Butch Cowan
 William Cowan Jr.
 William Cowan Jr.
 Butch Cowan
 Harold Rogers
 John Farris Jr.
 John "Farris Wheel" Farris
 Louis "Buck" Taft Bryson
 John Farris
 Butch Cowan
 John Farris
 William L. "Butch" Cowan
 John Farris
 Harold W. Furr
 Harold W. Furr
 Bobby Cranor
 John Farris
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 George Henry Hunt
 Harold Rogers
 Harold Rogers
 Harold Rogers
 John Bean
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 Brenda Bridges
 Lucille Moss
 Gene Beaty
 Gene Morrison
 Bill Robinson
 Butch Cowan
 Butch Cowan

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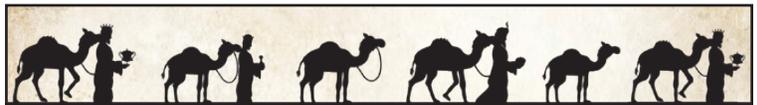
Honors

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IN HONOR OF:

Metrolina Shrine Club
 Drifters



Passed Within the Unseen Temple

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
Herman C. "Duke" Knief	Hendersonville, NC	4/27/1957	1/26/2026
Bobby Cranor	Terrell, NC	10/25/1969	1/9/2026
William N. Robertson	Charlotte, NC	5/24/1975	1/8/2026
William L. "Butch" Cowan	Fort Mill, SC	9/14/1968	1/12/2026
Louis Taft Bryson	Gastonia, NC	11/3/1984	12/23/2025
Gary Lee Isenhour	Charlotte, NC	11/7/1997	1/8/2026
John K. "FarrisWheel" Farris	Ocean Isle Beach, NC	1/29/1983	1/15/2026

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
& The Sand "T" Parade Unit

 President John Dunbar
910-544-7624
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MT. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB
 Contact:
 William Holloway
 828-460-0706
 Centrally located in McDowell County



NASCARTS
 Captain Everett Jarrett Jr

ejarrett64@gmail.com 336-669-4782

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plaaout@triad.twcbc.com
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Like to Homebrew?
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 Contact President Leonard Stump
 (stump_leonard@yahoo.com)
 or Secretary Scottie Cox
 (scottcox67@aol.com)



OASIS BUCCANEERS

 Oasis Cove #1
OASISBUCCANEERS@GMAIL.COM



OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

 Captain Casey Ham

 (704) 718-7782 caseyham88@gmail.com

OASIS Dune Cats
WE RIDE, 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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Kart Attacks

Oasis.KartAttacks@Gmail.com 

Oasis Oldies

CAPTAIN THOMAS SUMPTER
828-361-8532 tsumpter@gmail.com



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

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

OASIS PAST MASTERS UNIT

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Kenneth Small, Captain
704-754-0032 smallshandymanagementservices@gmail.com



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



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Instruments for our JAMMING UNIT!
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OASIS RAGTOPS

Riding around with the Top Down...

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for Children



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,
980-522-6226

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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

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

White Plains Shrine Club
Kings Mountain, N.C.

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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