# DESERT DUST







### **OASIS WELCOMES KALEB**









# Your Potentate

Greetings from your Potentate. I hope this edition of the Desert Dust finds each of you and your family doing well. The past few months have moved guickly at Oasis.

Thank you to each club and unit officer who has submitted your parade and fundraising request forms in a timely manner. Your Director, Noble Jimmy Owen, Oasis Legal Staff, Past Grand Master Bryant Webster and Past Potentate Illustrious Sir David Sumpter, along with Insurance Chairman Larry Payne and the Oasis staff have worked very hard to review your requests and approve each as quickly as possible.

As we move into the month of March, we are able to renew our views as to why we chose to be Shriners. I was personally motivated and inspired to work harder for our Shriners Children's Hospital Network after meeting National Patient Ambassador Kaleb Wolfe and his mother Marie. Oasis invited Kaleb and his family to join us for the 20th Annual Shriners Hot Rod and Car Expo and our Potentate's Ball held in Greensboro on February 17 and 18. Kaleb, who is 15 years old and a resident of Canada, graciously accepted our offer. He and his mom Marie, flew to Greensboro on February 16. They were met by Nobles Donnie Wrenn and John Cable. These two nobles entertained Kaleb and ensured that he was in the right place at the right time. He was introduced to "Southern Hospitality" and many new types of foods. I feel very confident that he will never forget this visit.

I reflected upon my blessings as I learned that Kaleb has broken at least 256 bones in his body. He was quick witted, always smiling, and played several pranks on many of our Divan members. He does not let his disability slow him down. He was always asking questions as I could see he was learning about anything that he could. He speaks French, English and Portuguese languages. He is definitely not your typical 15-year-old. I learned that Kaleb has never been to any Shriner events outside of Canada. This was truly a special event for Oasis as Kaleb has only participated in Shriners Children's events in Canada.

Thank you, Kaleb and Marie, for becoming a very special part of our Oasis family. We are all proud Oasis Shriners. On behalf of each noble, I made the decision to make Kaleb an honorary Oasis Shriner while he was visiting Greensboro. He and his family have donated their time for many years to increase awareness to our Shriners

Children's Hospital Network. I wanted to ensure he remembers that Oasis Shrine Center is the number one donor to our Shriners Children's network. He was presented with an Oasis Fez, Challenge Coins, Potentate pins, ladies' pins and several other gifts. We hope to have Kaleb and his family join our Oasis family again soon.

Thank you to Noble Jim and Lady Cathy Turner, Bubba and Amanda Turner and everyone who helped support the 20th Annual Shriners Hot Rod and Car Expo. Noble Jim and his son Bubba have worked hard for many years to put on one of the best car shows on the East Coast. The proceeds of this event are donated through a club or unit for the benefit of Shriners Children's. This year the event had 200 cars on the floor and 100 swap meet booths. The amount of donations doubled this year from 2022. While I expect Noble Jim to slow down, I know that his son Bubba is currently working on his Masonic Degrees and plans to become an Oasis Shriner by the end of 2023. This will ensure the event continues with an Oasis Shriner leading the way in 2024. Congratulations, Noble Jim and Lady Cathy! We certainly appreciate everything you do for Oasis and Shriners Children's.

Lady Leah and I enjoyed seeing everyone who attended the Potentate's Ball held at the Greensboro Shrine Club on Saturday after the Car Show. Special guests included Kaleb and his mother Marie; Chairman of the Board Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt and Lady Lisa; Imperial Assistant Rabban Richard Burke and Lady Judy, and Shriners Children's Trustee Illustrious Sir Leslie "Doc" Stewart, his Lady Megan and their 8-year old daughter Colyn. We enjoyed seeing our counterparts, Illustrious Sir Lou and Lady Pat Smith, Sudan Shriners; and Illustrious Sir Scott and Lady Sheila Lackey, Amran Shriners. Several past Oasis Potentates and their ladies were also in attendance for this event. I appreciate the nobles and ladies of the Greensboro Shrine Club, and my Lady Leah, who worked very hard to ensure the Club was decorated and the food was cooked to perfection. It was a very special evening as we had an opportunity to reflect and remember why we chose to be a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. It is all about putting a smile of the face of our Shrine Children.

I hope each of you plans to attend the Oasis Friends and Family Event which will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge on April 28 and 29, returning home on Sunday, April 30. This event was created to allow each of us to spend more time with our families in a family-friendly environment. We have invited all Shrine and Masonic families to join us this weekend. You can book a room by going to the Great Wolf Lodge website. The Block Offer Code is 2304OASI. We have four separate cabanas booked so that you can relax while the kids play. I have invited our friends from Amran

and Sudan to join us for this weekend. Each of these Shrine Centers is excited and are booking rooms quickly. It is my hope that Oasis families will participate and show our sister Temples that WE ARE OASIS! We will also have a hospitality room available with great food and fellowship during this weekend event.

Get ready for excitement in June! We will create new Shriners in Mount Airy, aka Mayberry, on Saturday, June 3 at the Mayberry Playhouse. Lady Leah will host a lady's brunch at 11 am on Saturday morning. You will want to arrive on Thursday night or Friday morning! The SOB's are planning a motorcycle ride on Friday. We are also planning golf, rafting and fishing on Friday. Friday night will be a hoe-down in the country. The Surry Mini Truckers are providing a band, BBQ, games and a bonfire with marshmallows. Don't miss this event on Friday night. Come early and come hungry. Bring your family, new candidates and their families and join the festivities! Saturday evening will be another special event in downtown Mayberry. We have a venue that is situated at the Amphitheater. The Extraordinaires will be the band playing on Saturday evening. The City will charge \$15 per person for the music and there will be a cash bar. Oasis will offer heavy hors d'oeuvres for you to enjoy on Saturday night. Rooms are currently available at the Hampton Inn in Mount Airy. The booking code is OASIS SHRINERS-SGM. The telephone number is (336) 789-5999 or www.mountairy.hamptoninn.com.

The Imperial Session begins on Sunday, July 2 - July 6, 2023. I encourage each of you to try to attend this event. It is an honor to be held in Charlotte in Oasis territory. Please make plans to attend. If you are interested in a hotel room, please send an email to support@oasisshriners.org before March 20. We will assist you in securing a room.

If you are interested in traveling on our Alaska Trip, please let me know as soon as possible. We will fly to Fairbanks, Alaska on Saturday, July 22nd and return home on Sunday, July 30, 2023. This trip includes round trip airfare from any airport in the US, 12 meals, all tips and gratuity, and a tour guide who will be there to assist you with any concerns that you may have. You can get more information by calling Judy Holbrook at 715-830-4330 or 715-830-4309. This is going to be a once in a lifetime trip. I hope that you and your family will join us.

Lady Leah and I have visited with Oasis clubs and units during the first two months. Thank you to each of you for your warm welcome and kind hospitality. If you want us to attend your event, please call me at (336) 963-1326 or email me at dgarland@oasisshriners.org as soon as possible. I will do my best to attend.

Illustrious Sir Doug Garland and Lady Leah



### Your Recorder

Hello Nobles, Ladies, and friends of the Shrine.

My message this month will be about all things computers. Like me, you may have noticed

that computers are in everything we do, from our home computers to our mobile devices to our household door locks and lights, and too it seems, everything beyond. E-communicating is now an accepted standard for human-to-human language, some would say our primary means of communicating. Shucks, for some age groups, texting has replaced vocal communication entirely!

Now that we've established that websites, Facebook, Twitter, and all things digital are mainstream communication tools, you may not be aware that Oasis has a very attractive and informative website entitled *oasisshriners.org*. If you haven't had a chance to visit the site, please do so, and I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of information at your fingertips, literally. Just a click here and a click there will get you to listings of our clubs and units, Shriners Children's information, calendar items, Desert Dust links, Oasis events picture links, contact links to all the Oasis leadership and office staff, and much much more. When you visit the site, you may be asked for your email information. Please consider providing your email so we can better communicate Oasis information to you via email "blasts," as well as individual-specific items.

We have thousands of members, but have traditionally had limited means to communicate with each other. Our organization will evolve and improve based on how our members want it to evolve and improve, and the input they provide. We are comfortable thinking of our organization as a family, so let's start talking!

By the way, look for the article in this issue about our new Social Media Team.

**Gary Taylor** 



### **Upcoming Events**

2nd Sunday of each month Mecklenburg SC Cruise-In SEE PAGE 14

March 25th, 2023
Red Fez Men's Parade of Tables
SEE PAGE 4

April 1st, 2023

Cabarrus SC Easter event
SEE PAGE 13

April 3rd, 2023 RJ Mitte at Lake Norman SC SEE PAGE 4

May 6th, 2023 Red Fez Shrine Club Derby Party SEE PAGE 4

May 6th, 2023

Mecklenburg Shrine Club Derby Party

SEE PAGE 23



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### On the Cover

# Shrine Ambassador Kaleb visits the Jim Turner Car Show

After undergoing his first surgery at only seven days old, and many additional surgeries over the following 15 years, due to osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), Kaleb, with his contagious smile and signature bow tie, loves sharing his story of strength and perseverance. He doesn't seem to mind having his picture taken either. Look for his story to learn more about this amazing young man—now an honorary Oasis Shriner.

Kaleb's first trip to North Carolina was packed with excitement. Pictured here with his mother and Larry Frank, and Divan members Donnie Wrenn, John Cable and III. Sir Doug Garland.

### Reminder

All ads & articles for the April edition of the Desert Dust must be submitted to **Edie Wilson** at **Ediewilson7@gmail.com** by March 20.



### **The Desert Dust**

#### Illustrious Sir Doug Garland, Potentate

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

#### **2023 DIVAN**

Chief Rabban - Shea Fadel
Assistant Rabban - Chris Hall
High Priest and Prophet - Tim Farris
Oriental Guide - Donnie Wrenn
Treasurer - Bill Depriest
Recorder - Gary Taylor PP
1st Ceremonial Master - Scottie Cox
2nd Ceremonial Master - John G. Cable
Director - Jimmy Owen
Marshal - Tom Bridges
Captain of the Guard - Jack Wallace
Outer Guard - Benjamin Hamilton
John Stanley (PP-1997) - Chaplain

#### **EDITOR**

Edie Wilson - Ediewilson7@gmail.com



# Oasis Shriners Schedule

#### SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**MARCH** 

**16th** Divan Meeting

24th-26th Spring SASA - Raleigh, NC

**APRIL** 

**15th** Shriner Days Greenville

20th Divan meeting (2nd Qtr 'Stated')28th-29th Oasis Friends and Family Event -

**Great Wolf Lodge** 

**MAY** 

5th-6th Paper Crusade18th Divan Meeting

28th Charlotte 600 NASCAR Race -

Charlotte, NC

**JUNE** 

2nd-4th Spring Ceremonial -

Relax in Mayberry, Mt. Airy NC

**16th** Divan Meeting - Red Fez SC

Family Fun Day / 1-day Ceremonial Red Fez Shrine Club, Lake Wylie SC

**JULY** 

17th

2nd-6th Imperial Session - Charlotte, NC2nd or 3rd Independence at Oasis Dinner -

Grand Master Dinner - Oasis SC

**13th** Divan Meeting (3rd Qtr 'Stated')

**14th-15th** Grandfather Mountain - 1-day

Ceremony - Linville, NC **22nd-30th** Potentate Trip - Alaska

**AUGUST** 

**4th-6th** 80's Flashback - 1-day

Ceremony - Franklin, NC

11th Shrine 100 Race -

Gastonia Speedway

**16th** Divan Meeting

25th-27th Summer Ceremonial -

Asheboro, NC

**SEPTEMBER** 

**22nd** Divan Meeting

21st-24th SASA - Myrtle Beach, SC

**OCTOBER** 

20th Divan Meeting (4th Qtr 'Stated') -

Oasis Shrine Center

**11th** Oasis Shrine Circus -

The Fieldhouse, Greensboro NC

13th-14th Oasis Shrine Circus -

Cabarrus Arena, Concord NC

13th-14th 150th Masonic Homecoming -

Oxford NC

**NOVEMBER** 

**10th-11th** Oasis Military Veterans Event

and Black Tie Ceremony -

Oasis Shrine Center

**16th** Divan Meeting

**DECEMBER** 

**2nd** Oasis Shriners Annual Meeting

& 2024 Officer's Elections -Oasis Shrine Center at 3pm

9th Cat Sqaure C - 1-day Ceremony

Cat Square

**14th** Divan Meeting

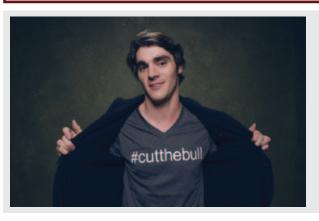
**JANUARY 2024** 

**5th** Club & Units Appreciation Night -

Oasis Shrine Center

**6th** Installation 2024 Potentate -

Oasis Shrine Center



### Actor RJ Mitte and Shriners Hospitals for Children Partner to Prevent Bullying

RJ will be the featured speaker at Lake Norman Shrine Club on April 3 at 7 pm. All Shriners are invited to attend.

The Heritage House | Mooresville NC 28115

RSVP to Chuck Dixon Lake Norman Shrine Club | 703-969-9030 \$10 for dinner





The Red Fez Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a parade of tables. For this event the roles are reversed; the men have full control of setting their tables. Of course, ladies are invited to join, but we want to keep it fun and let the guys do exactly what they want to do.

Please message us to learn about sponsoring your own unique table or purchasing a seat at someone elses' table.

### **Oasis Shriners Potentate's Lineage**

Greetings again from the Oasis Historical Preservation Society. This month we will showcase the Potentate's lineage of Past Potentate III. Sir Tim Daniels. His lineage begins with PP Arthur J. Crampton, who was first elected to the Divan in 1907 as Oriental Guide and served as Potentate in 1911. You will be seeing his name again. With the addition of IS Tim Daniels appointment to the moving line, this line has six consecutive living members. This is one of three lines here at Oasis that share that distinction. The following table lists the line in its entirety.

Several Oasis Patrolmen are in this lineage. IS Tim Daniels (Past Captain 2010-2011), IS Claude Babington Squires and IS Herman DeWitt "Buddy" Horton (Past Captain 1925-1932). IS Dr. Richard Jordan Noble, Potentate in 1919, is rumored to have been a Patrolman, but no evidence of this has been found. IS Noble was also a part of history for Oasis during 1919. At the December 1918 annual business meeting, Chief Rabban James Oscar Walker, first Captain of the Oasis Patrol Unit, announced he would not seek election to the office of Potentate for 1919. The election was held and, despite his wishes not to be considered, he was overwhelmingly elected by the Nobles in attendance. He then stated that he would not name his appointments at that time. IS Walter Scott Liddell then installed the elected Divan. In January 1919, IS James Oscar Walker resigned as Potentate of Oasis Shriners. A special election was called for February 10, 1919 to elect a new Potentate for Oasis. Imperial Potentate Elias J. Jacoby, of Murat Shriners, came to Charlotte to oversee the election, Dr. Richard Jordan Noble was elected Potentate. IS Noble then announced his appointments, with Louis Duncanson Sutherland being appointed Marshall, James Legrand Everette being appointed Captain of the Guard and Cornelius Monroe Vanstory being appointed Outer Guard.

You may have heard of another Potentate in this lineage. IS Carl Douglas Mayes was Potentate in 1976. For all that IS Mayes meant to Oasis, he was honored by naming our street after him. The following is an excerpt from a Desert Dust article written by IS Paul Whitfield (Potentate 1992):

'In honoring our Illustrious Past Potentate, the Temple leadership has acknowledged that Doug is the father of much that is modern Oasis. Potentate in 1976, he is perhaps best known for two things: the creation of what we now call the paper sale, which has proved to be one of our more significant fund-raising vehicles over the years, and also for the installation of a public relations department in the Temple. Doug interviewed and hired Calvin Gaddy to handle Temple public relations in the mid-seventies. Calvin later went on to become Recorder and distinguished himself as one of the finest Recorders in North American Shrine history.'

Are you ready for a contest? We have a special prize for the first correct answer(s) to the following two-part question. Part One, what year was the Oasis address changed to Doug Mayes Place? Part two, what was the street name before it was changed? Please send your answers to the following email address: oasishps@gmail.com. \*Oasis Shrine employees, Oasis Historical Preservation Society and Oasis Divan members are not eliqible for this contest. Good Luck!

Yours in the Faith,

Oasis Historical Preservation Society

YEAR POTENTATE 2022 2016 2010 2001 1992 1984 1976 1968 1961 1953 1947 1940	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	NAME TIMOTHY MARK DANIELS JOHNNY EUGENE KING WAYNE DOUGLAS KING ROBERT MONTGOMERY BURROUGHS PAUL L. WHITFIELD DEWITT D. PHILLIPS, JR., MD CARL DOUGLAS MAYES JOSEPH SAMUEL HOLBROOK EARL HENRY TATE CLAUDE BABINGTON SQUIRES WILLIAM HENDRIX PALMER HERMAN DEWITT HORTON	OAIS NUMBER 39493 37755 31393 22608 28184 14184 12140 9906 8388 8505 7452 3850
1947	*	WILLIAM HENDRIX PALMER	7452
1932B 1925 1919B 1911	* * *	JOHN CUTHBERTSON SIKES LOUIS DUNCAN SUTHERLAND DR. RICHARD JORDAN NOBLE ARTHUR J. CRAMPTON	5037 1629 173 924
	* [	Deceased	

# Illustrious Sir Tim Daniel's Potentate's lineage



# Potentate's Ball brings good cheer - and Kaleb - to Greensboro Shrine Club

















Photos by Noble Larry Frank, Lexington Shrine Club



## Hot rods, cool cars and Kaleb

This was the 20th year that Jim Turner has sponsored the Hot Rod and Car Expo at Greensboro Coliseum. It was the very first event at the Coliseum when it was built.

Hundreds of thousand dollars later, Jim now turns the management of the show over to his son who will carry on from here. All the money has gone to Shriners Children's. Thank you and congratulations to Noble Turner.













### A lifetime to remember, not just a great night to remember

Respectively submitted, John G Cable, Oasis 2nd Ceremonial Master

The Potentate's Black Tie Formal was billed as "A Great Night to Remember," but what it turned out to be was a "Lifetime to Remember." This article will give all of you an overview of events and activities that occurred as seen by Noble Donnie Wrenn and me, as we were assigned by III Sir Doug to assist and care for our honored guests during their stay.

It was a fast-paced four days and three nights with one of the quick-witted, funniest, polite, and just down to earth young men that I have ever met. It started on Thursday evening at 5:30 when Donnie and I arrived at the airport in Greensboro to pick up Kaleb and his mother Marie from their flight from Montreal Canada.

You have to remember that they had never met Donnie and me, and we couldn't go down to the gate to meet their plane. I called one of the Piedmont Triad International Airport Police Officers who used to work with me at the Sherriff's department. He and another officer I know, arrived at the gate and the first thing our Kaleb said was, "are we in trouble?" Donnie and I got all their stuff loaded into the Oasis van and after a few photos with the officers and attendant we were off to Grandover.

While on the road to the hotel, I asked Kaleb if he wouldn't mind a quick call to the other members of the Oasis Divan who were in our monthly meeting. The answer was sure, so I called III. Sir Doug's cell and placed the phone on speaker. Once on the phone, I asked III. Sir if he would like to talk to a very special guest that we have in the van. The answer was yes, and he stated, "Who do we have on the phone?" Without even missing a beat, young Kaleb said, "this is Peter from the cafeteria, who's this?" It was on from there.



While on the road to the hotel, I asked Kaleb if he wouldn't mind a quick call to the other members of the Oasis Divan who were in our monthly meeting. The answer was sure, so I called III. Sir Doug's cell and placed the phone on speaker. Once on the phone, I asked III. Sir if he would like to talk to a very special guest that we have in the van. The answer was yes, and he stated, "Who do we have on the phone?" Without even missing a beat, young Kaleb said, "this is Peter from the cafeteria, who's this?" It was on from there.

That night it was dinner at the Grandover Hotel with me, Noble Donnie, Lady Kim, Lady Carol, Kaleb, and Marie, then off to bed to get ready for a long day on Friday.

Friday came quick, and after an early morning breakfast and a new delicacy of grits, it was off to an 8am media interview with Fox News at the Greensboro Coliseum for Noble Jim Turner's 20th Annual Hot Rod Expo and Car Show that benefits Shriners Children's. You can check out the entire interview on WGHP Fox-8 website.

Next, we were off to the Richard Petty Museum and Race Shop in Level Cross. I knew that was the same weekend as the Daytona 500, so the King was not going to be in town. When I called to set everything up the answer was simple, "you know your way around, John, just give Kaleb the run of the place." So that is what we did, and Richard Petty made sure Kaleb even received an autographed original STP ballcap.

It might seem strange to those of us who live around here, but Kaleb didn't know who Richard Petty was, nor anything about NASCAR. In Montreal, they follow Formula One Racing and not NASCAR, but to his surprise when we got to the part of the museum and he saw the full-size cars of "The King" and the "Mrs. The King" from the Pixar movie Cars, he was able to put NASCAR into prospective.

Following the tour, we were off to visit and tour the Victory Junction Camp. As we arrived, we met with III. Sir Lou and Lady Pat of Sudan, who were in town for III. Sir Doug's party and wanted to see the camp firsthand too. Victory Junction's CEO Chad Coltrane and Chief Development Officer Frances Beasley gave us all a first-class tour of these great facilities and talked about getting Shrine patients back into camp this year.

Next, we were off to Richard Petty's house for a look around before heading back to the hotel to let Kaleb rest before having to be back at the opening of the Car Show at 5pm.

As we arrived back at the Greensboro Coliseum, Kaleb was greeted by all in attendance with smiles, applause and requests for photos, and he was more than happy to comply. Several Imperial Officer were there to tour and see the massive car show that Noble Jim Turner has put on. After the car show that evening, we decided to take Kaleb and the group of Imperial Officers over to one of our best places to eat, Elizabeth's Pizza. Everyone enjoyed themselves and were entertained with more one-liners by Kaleb. We heard staff and diners say, "That's the boy from TV" and then ask for a photo, and he happily complied.

On Saturday, it was back to the car show for several hours and more fans, photos, and conversations. Kaleb couldn't pass a vendor's booth or participant without getting free stuff or swag as it is known. At one time in the day, Noble Donnie had to get a bigger bag to hold all the stuff. At one point in the morning, we did a money request over the PA. One participant came up to the stage where we were standing and challenged everyone to match his \$100 donation. A long-time friend, Jimmy Shore, who attends each year and does an auction of donated items got on the mic to get the crowd going. This got going to the point that even Kaleb put in \$20, and we ended up raising \$5,366 in about 15 minutes. I was told later that night that the car show raised over \$20,000 this year.

Noble Donnie and I took Kaleb and his mother back to the hotel to rest before Saturday night's dinner, but then Kaleb saw the indoor pool and off he went for an afternoon swim.

5:00pm came and all those who were at the Grandover Hotel attending the Potentate's Valentine Ball had an opportunity to get photos during a meet and greet before heading to the Greensboro Shrine Club.

When we arrived at the "Sticky Burch" ballroom at the Greensboro Shrine Club all were waiting to see the guest of honor, and he didn't disappoint those in attendance. After a grand entrance and introductions, we were treated to a wonderful prime rib dinner and an evening of dancing to the tunes of our favorite DJ, Jamming Jamie.

Keeping with what had been an established occurrence during Kaleb's stay of obtaining swag from each place he attended, the Potentate's Ball was no different. About halfway through the evening, Noble Donnie, Ill. Sir Doug, and I took a moment of personal privilege to present to Kaleb and his mother, four Oasis Challenge Coins and a "Shriner Kid" fez for Kaleb's 9-year-old brother. I then had the privilege to take from another package an Oasis Fez, present that to our guest of honor and be the first one to Fez him. The attendees loved it and lined up for photos with Kaleb sporting his new Fez.

As if the evening couldn't get better, Kaleb requested Jamming Jamie to play a Queen song "Don't Stop Me Now." With all getting into a circle and dancing, there was Kaleb kicking his legs and rolling his arms with the music. It brought down the house when Donnie took him out into the middle and swung him a couple of times. I looked over at his mother Marie who had tears of joy in her eyes. This, my friends, makes what we do worth it!

As we went to leave for the night, I made the announcement that "Kaleb has left the building." Everyone lined up on both sides of the main aisle clapping and high-fiving him as we took him out the front doors. Then back to the Grandover.

At breakfast on Sunday morning, I asked him if he went into his room last night a passed out asleep. He just looked at me and said, "John, I was like a volcano that erupted and couldn't turn it off."

Before heading out to the airport, it was time for hugs and well wishes from Imperial Officers, Oasis Divan, Ladies, and all others who were at the hotel. As Donnie and I watched Marie and Kaleb through the glass at the concourse, Kaleb yelled, "I'll miss you guys."

As I was writing this, I knew that I could not truly describe the experience that Donnie and I had with this wonderful ambassador and his mother. We were able to create a friendship that we hope will last forever. I told them that I thought Oasis was adopting him, but as they were leaving, it felt more like he adopted Oasis. I believe this is the first chapter of a very long novel.

# Get ready for the 80's Flashback Weekend

This summer we are planning to have nothin' but a good time for a great cause in Franklin, NC! This year's annual 80's Flashback Weekend, always the first weekend of August, is an annual fundraiser for Shriners Children's Greenville and is going to be the best, yet!

The fundraiser is a two-day event that kicks off on Friday August 4th at Currahee Brewing Company, where we will feature the #1 Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers tribute band "The Mad Hatters." There will be a variety of activities for all to enjoy-from dancing to drawings!

Saturday morning August 5 the second event of the fundraiser is the 9th Annual 80's Flashback 5K hosted along the Little Tennessee River of Franklin's Greenway. There will be awards given out for the overall winners and age group winners (Individuals can register through RunSignup.com). After the 5K we will be hosting Oasis Shriners Installation at Junaluskee Masonic Lodge that afternoon (50 Church Street Franklin, NC), please watch for information about the Oasis Shriners Installation in the near future.

One of the highlights of the annual 80's Flashback Weekend is the Saturday Flashback Parade beginning at 6pm along Main Street. The 80's Flashback Parade is different from many other parades hosted throughout the US because awards are given out to the top three best 80's themed parade entries. This year's parade is going to be even more special because it will include various Oasis Clubs, various Shrine Clubs from the southeast, and the best part will be seeing the newly installed Nobles walking down Main Street for a great cause.

The 80's Flashback Weekend will finish up at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company, where the "Totally Awesome 80's Party featuring 80z Nation" will take place at 7:30pm on the lawn at the brewery. The band 80z Nation will have you dancing and singing and have you feeling like it's 1980 something!

100% of the proceeds raised from the annual 80's Flashback Weekend will be donated to Shriners Children's Greenville from the Smoky Mountain Shrine Club and the residents/guests of Franklin, NC.

To make the 80's Flashback Weekend a successful fundraiser for Shriners Children's Greenville we had to host an early "Kickstarter Campaign" event called "Cabin Fever." This annual event is always hosted the last Saturday night of February at Currahee Brewing Company and for many years was a "Shake Away Those Winter Blues" theme until this year when it became a 70's theme event because you gotta have the 1970's in order to have the 1980's. This year's Kickstarter Campaign was a great time for all who attended—from 70's karaoke to the special appearance of "The Village Idiots" who performed the dance moves to the 70's dance classic "YMCA."

For information about the annual 80's Flashback Weekend please email: bringingit2life@gmail.com or call 828.421.7637 We are looking forward to seeing you this summer! Be there or be square.



Totally awesome Nobles from the Smoky Mountain Shrine Club: President Gregg Jones as the Native American, Treasurer Andrew Norton as the Law Enforcement Officer, Dave "Thumper" Linn as the Construction Worker, Shawn Cobb as the Navy Sailor and Ron Hensley as The American Cowboy





John Stanley, Chaplain

### **Giving up something?**

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras (*Mardi* is the French word for Tuesday, and *gras* means "fat.") is celebrated on "Fat Tuesday," the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday and the start of the Season of Lent. Lent is the time between 'Fat Tuesday' and Easter. As a way of observing Lent as a time of self-sacrifice, some church leaders have encouraged us to give up something we enjoy eating or doing during Lent—such as chocolate!

Some years ago, Rev. Craig Gates, a Pastor in Jackson, Mississippi, was asked by a church member what to give up for lent. He responded by listing EIGHT things we can give up:

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not positive disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed each morning! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP *speaking unkindly*. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge.

We trust that your 2023 continues to be most enjoyable!

John Stanley, is Chaplain of Oasis, and Chaplain of South Atlantic Shriners. He served as Imperial Chaplain when Imperial Sir Al Madsen was Imperial Potentate. John can be reached at: jhstanley1965@gmail.com.





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# SEEKING OLD DESERT DUST NEWSPAPERS TO SCAN!

The Oasis Historical Preservation Society is in search of old Desert Dust newspapers to scan and preserve for generations to come. We currently have some of the issues from 1935-1942, no papers from 1943-1965, some papers from 1966-1975, no papers from 1976-2001, and no papers from 2003-2012 with the exception of 2008. We have all papers from 2013 to present.

If you happen to have these issues and would be willing to loan for a short period of time for us to scan, please contact Noble Chris Hall, Assistant Rabban or Noble Scottie Cox, First Ceremonial Master.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

### Oasis Shriners social media presence takes off

When Assistant Rabban Chris Hall sees a need, it soon becomes a plan, and then a goal with all the necessary action steps including the nobles who can bring it to life. Thus, our social media presence is in good hands, and the results everywhere.

Earlier this year, Potentate Douglass Garland announced a new Oasis Social Media Committee and asked Noble Chris to work with these nobles to help advance Oasis's online presence. Much of the world of social media has changed since the Oasis Facebook page first launched on January 13, 2011. Noble Chris enthusiastically embraced the Potentate's charge and hit the ground running by facilitating a meeting with the new team on January 12 this year, quick to waste no time.

Whether you're a Facebook follower, or tuned in to TikTok and Twitter, you'll find Oasis Shriners in abundance and on brand.

With this kind of experience and success it's no wonder Noble Chris was asked by Shriners International to prepare a video presentation be shared during their upcoming Membership & Marketing virtual event scheduled for March 9. If you haven't watched it, please take a few minuets to bring yourself up to date. The presentation is entitled "Shriners and Social Media Today: Lessons Learned, Tips and Tricks, and Protecting Our Brands." The following link provides access: <a href="https://bit.ly/socialmediashriners">https://bit.ly/socialmediashriners</a>

Listed below are the names of committee members (also in your Oasis directory) and the links to our various social media sites.



Nicholas Wieder Dylan Rhodes Chad Everett Jeremy Ballard Ryan Tate

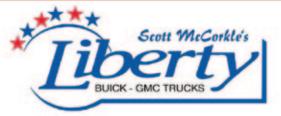
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### CONTACT:

Jerry McCorkle, Scott McCorkle, Steve Lee, Rusty Hopkins 704-708-8000

### Greetings Nobles and Ladies, from the Pisgah Shrine Club

In December of 2022 we were able to collect four gallons of can tabs with our past Potentate III. Sir David Sumpter. Then another collection of 50 gallons of can tabs. A big thank you to Thomas Sumpter, Dunn's Rock Lodge 267, and our Shrine Club for all the can tabs collected.

While at Shriners Children's Greenville we presented a \$1000 check and were able to take a tour of our great facility. It was thrilling to see the great work being done and to meet some of our patients.

Their smiles makes our hearts glow.

Sincerely Wayne Alley, Past president 2022











# WANTED

Local newspaper is seeking amateur photographers from Clubs and Units in every district to take pictures at Shrine events.

Action shots preferred. (Beer cans prohibited.)

### REWARD OFFERED:

A byline in The Desert Dust

**SEND RESPONSE TO** 

Edie Wilson, Editor ediewilson7@gmail.com

# Shrine Trailer Travels for You

Did you know the Shrine Hospital Trailer is available for your public 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.



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

980-722-7951 sambo447@aol.com

# Oasis, Amran, and Sudan Shriners FRIENDS AND FAMILY SPRING TRIP | APRIL 28-30, 2023



Calling all Kids! No matter how young or old! Lady Leah and our Oasis family are excited to spend a weekend with the Nobles and Ladies from Amran and Sudan. We will come together as one big family for a weekend of Adventure at The Great Wolf Lodge located in Concord, NC on April 28-30, 2023.

Get ready for a weekend of family and fun events. Invite other Masons, Shriners, or friends and family for this event. We have blocked 40 rooms on Friday night and 60 rooms for Saturday night. These rooms are standard rooms and we expect them to go quickly. Take advantage of this special group discount rate of \$229.99 per night, plus resort fees & taxes. This is an excellent rate for this water park facility. We have also reserved four cabanas inside the water park for our families to rest and relax. Pick up the phone and make your reservations today! Don't miss out on this exciting weekend of fun and fellowship! Reservations may be made at www.greatwolf.com or by calling (866) 925-9653. Mention Block Offer Code is 2304OASI.

We look forward to seeing you and your family there!

Doug, Leah, Jackson and Lauren Garland Oasis Potentate 2023





### **News from the Patrol**

January 2023 was not a kind month to The Oasis Patrol. We lost three fine Men, Nobles and Patrolmen. Noble David Moser passed away on January 1st. Noble Robert Kirkpatrick passed away on January 10. Noble Past Captain John Bean passed away on January 28. These Nobles will be forever remembered for their service to the Oasis Patrol. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The Oasis Patrol Ladies' Night was held on February 25 with around 60 people in attendance. All present enjoyed reuniting during the social hour to renew the bonds shared together. This was the first Ladies' Night since the Covid pandemic and it was great to see old friends gathered together again. The newest unit in Oasis, the Oasis Pickers, provided the entertainment for the evening, which was enjoyed by all.

YITF,

Scottie Cox, Oasis Patrol Captain







Gaston County Shrine Club recognizes Hendrick Honda of Hickory for their past and future support in helping to raise \$50,000 for the Shrine 100. Thank you Allison Braswell for the great photography.

(L to R) - Jay Little (Secretary GCSC), Kevin Null, Bryan Petzold (President GCSC), Jerome Brooks (Sales Hendrick Honda), Mark Whitten (Chairman Shrine 100, David Lusk (Gen. Mgr. Hendrick Honda), Gary Ward, Zack Cannon (Sales Mgr. Hendrick Honda), Dan McCurry (Treasurer GCSC), Nathan Harris (Finance Mgr. Hendrick Honda), Robbie Allison (Service Mgr. Hendrick Honda), Dennis Stines Chairman Shrine 100), Buddy Chaney.

### **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?

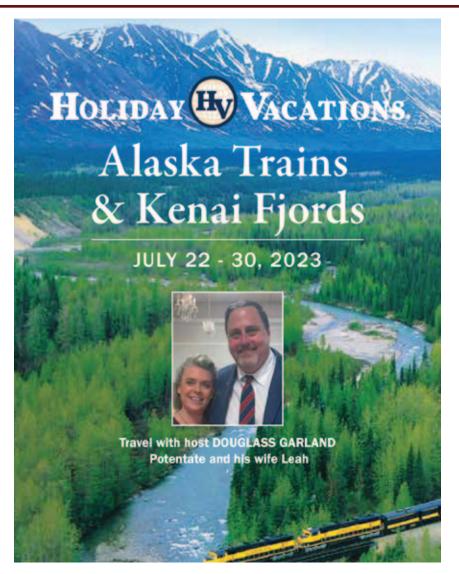
Join the Oasis Hospitality Team.



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

WE ARE THE OASIS HOSPITALITY TEAM

To learn more, please contact Dennis Grigg at (828) 781-0062. We look forward to hearing from you.



# WHAT ADVENTURES AWAIT IN ALASKA? Breathtaking Beauty

Explore The Great Land with two rail journeys plus visits to Denali National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park. Cruise the Chena River in Fairbanks on a classic sternwheeler, then take the Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park for a fascinating guided tour. Travel south to Wasilla and visit the Iditarod Trail Headquarters, then traverse the Matanuska Valley on our way to Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Stroll the halls of the incredible Anchorage Museum, then travel to the Kenai Peninsula on the Alaska Railway. In Seward, cruise Kenai Fjords National Park and explore the Alaska SeaLife Center before we return home. Join us and discover firsthand why Visit Anchorage has twice awarded us its prestigious "Tour Operator of the Year" award.

We anticipate selling out quickly, so sign up now! A fully-refundable deposit of \$200 reserves your space and prices are guaranteed upon receipt of deposit. For more information, please visit www.holidayvacations.com.



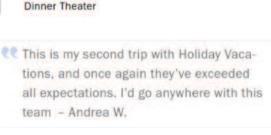
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  - Anchorage to Seward
- » Denali National Park
- guided tour
- » Music of Denali
  Dinner Theater

- Iditarod Trail Headquarters
- Anchorage city tour
- » Anchorage Museum
- » Kenai Fjords National Park narrated cruise
- » Alaska SeaLife Center











# You're Invited

April 15, 2023

Shriners Children's Greenville invites our supporting temples to a special one day, evening edition of Shriners Days

Presentation 5 to 6:30 p.m. Reception 6:30 to 8 p.m.

950 West Faris Road, Greenville, SC 29605

Please RSVP by Friday, March 31 | \$25 per person

\*Business Casual Attire



Register online by visiting

GreenvilleShrinersDays.org

### Mail check

Attn: Casey Green 950 West Faris Rd Greenville, SC 29605

> \*Write Shriners Days in memo line

# CATAWBA COUTY SHRINE CLUB

- TRUCK - BIKE - GOLF CART SHOW

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH DRUM

IAY 13, 2023 – 8AM-2PM (AWARDS AT 1PM)









**FOOD & DRINK** 

**ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME** 

GAMES / MUSIC / SILENT AUCTIONS / DOOR PRIZES / 50/50

LOCATION: CROSS COUNTRYCAMPGROUND - 6254 HWY 150E, DENVER, NC 28037

MONEY GOES TO THE SHRINERS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Great work day with a big turnout. Big thanks to Noble Steve Trites and the Red Fez board. We also picked up some new members!

### **Comments from the porch**

### Oasis Pickers still on a roll

Last month the Oasis Pickers were fortunate enough to play in the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, NC. At that time, one of our ladies took a short video of Noble Pickers Gary Yandle and Dave Mahan pickin' by the statue of Earl Scruggs. That video was sent out as a "picture" to accompany our article in last month's Desert Dust. We were just "having some fun and cuttin' up" and didn't realize we were being filmed. Little did we know what would happen next.

From that little article, the Oasis Social Media Team picked it up and posted it on the Oasis Web Page....over 1,100 views later, the International Shriners Social Media Team in Florida put out an article on the Oasis Pickers. If you haven't seen either of these, check it out and let us know how crazy this seems to you too!

The FUN continued in February for the Pickers as one of the guest pickers at the Scruggs Center was a Fellowcraft. This young man told us that "it was FUN hanging out around us" and he wanted to do "more of that." He had been working through his degrees, and the very next lodge meeting he attended, he returned his second. We're happy to say that he has now been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Of course, Pickers were on hand for his event AND he has been given an Oasis Shrine petition for membership so he can continue to "hang with us" more! Josh has also sold tickets for our upcoming Guitar drawing.

The Pickers are still on a roll with many upcoming events. We also continue to grow with 26 members. If you like traditional Appalachian (Bluegrass, Old Time and/or Americana) music or if you play, or attempt to play, a traditional musical instrument and you'd like to find out more about us, PLEASE contact Dave Mahan, 843-372-5510, DBMahan@gmail.com. We'd love for you to "Hang Out with us more" too!



Left to right: Noble Pickers: Gerry "Thumper" Boykin, Dave Mahan, John Latham. Newest Master Mason: Josh Gomez. Noble Pickers: Creighton Lovelace, David Leslie.















# OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

**BRANDON PENLEY - PRESIDENT** 

THOMAS SUMPTER - VICE PRESIDENT
ROBBY SAYE - SECRETARY/TREASURER

If you are under forty and interested in joining Contact oasisyoungshriners@gmail.com

# Cabarrus Shrine Club

Address: 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!

Phone: 704-933-2797
Email: cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com

Web: <u>www.cabarrusshrineclub.org</u>
Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

### **OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS**



Accepting New Members
No Experience Necessary
Come and join us and
put a smile on the face of a child!

Contact Barry Winecoff with The Oasis Shrine Clowns at 704-517-0014 or toyoclown@gmail.com

# The Greensboro Shrine Club

5010 High Point Road Greensboro, NC 27407

Call 336-707-6588 for information.

### Mt. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB

Centrally located in McDowell County

Contact: Noble Secretary Mike Pritchard 828-442-9170



### **PAST CAPTAINS CLUB**

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



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

# **Shriners on Bikes**



CONTACT:

STEPHEN TRITES

STRITES@

ROCKETMAIL.COM

803-610-7876

### **OASIS HIGHLANDERS**

# PIPES & DRUMS

Contact Rich Hartman cell (814) 746-0466 rohartman48@gmail.com





### **Oasis** Keystone Kops

Join us and have a fun time while raising money for the Shriners Hospitals!

CONTACT
CAPTAIN BRIAN WILSON
FOR INFORMATION

704 221 9751

musicsolutions21@yahoo.com



### Club and Unit Bulletin Board







**Contact President Bill Loeser** 

910-759-0571

Be sure to "LIKE" our Moore County Facebook page to see many photos!









OASIS ORIENTAL BAND







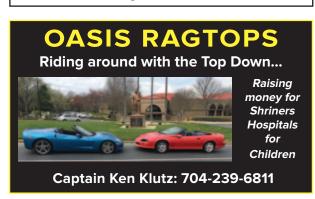
















If you have a classic car or are interested in the old classics, come join us for some fun and fellowship

CAPTAIN
DAVID STEELMAN
336-909-1830
Bcimagedr@gmail.com





### **ASHE SHRINE CLUB**

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month

Contact Noble John Brown 336-977-8668

or Noble Alex Edmisten 336-467-4478



Contact Captain Scottie Cox at 704-467-3677 or scottcox67@aol.com to join the Oldest Unit of Oasis Shriners

### **Bike donation**

As a reminder We are taking donations of a \$100 for a bike and helmet from any clubs, units, or businesses. With thanks for all the smiles on our kids' faces.



### HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB



Monthly meetings, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:45 social, Dinner 6:30, programs, entertainment and fellowship

Contact: www.hendersonvilleshriners.com

### Like to Homebrew?



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

#### Please contact:

Barry Winecroft @ 704-517-0014 or toyoclown@gmail.com

Tom Livingston @ 336-452-4600 or tlivingston1963@yahoo.com

Wayne Alley@ 864-706-6282 or Mr.dimples1970@icloud.com



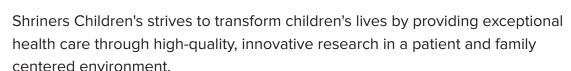
We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Fairview Masonic Lodge #339 in Kings Mountain. The meal is at 6:30 and the meeting is at 7:00.

Pres. - Chandler Champion / VP - Charles Bullock Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com



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Sarah Rebecca "Beckie" Helms Starnes

Sarah Rebecca "Beckie" Helms Starnes

### **Donations**

#### **CLUB & UNIT DONATIONS**

AMOUNT	DONOR
\$18,000.00	Catawba County Shrine Club
\$30,157.51	Hendersonville Shrine Club
\$3,000.00	Red Fez Shrine Club
\$350.00	Thermal Belt Shrine Club

### **Passed Within the Unseen Temple**

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
Randall Kivett Hicks	Ramseur	6/7/1997	11/30/2022
Jerry E Cohen	Glen Cove, NY	9/19/1964	1/7/2023
Warren Grant McDaris	Marshall, NC	11/6/1993	1/11/2023
Jerry Wayne Teague	Conover, NC	4/2/1990	1/23/2023

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149th Kentucky Derby

@ Mecklenburg Downs
Saturday, May 6th, 2023
3:30 — 8:00 PM









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MINT JULEPS PRIZES FOR BEST HAT
SOUTHERN FARE FOR LADIES & MENS
BEST TABLE DÉCOR AWARD

Social with appetizers starting at 3:30 PM
Dinner served at 5:30 PM Cost \$30.00 per person

Hosted by Mecklenburg Shrine Club, 5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Rd., Charlotte NC

RSVP to 704-591-1652 or 704-517-6806 or make your reservation at <a href="https://mecklenburgshrineclub.com">https://mecklenburgshrineclub.com</a> under events via EventBrite

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