

DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS | CHARLOTTE, NC

May 2025 | Volume 90 | Number 5



IN THIS ISSUE

2025 Spring SASA | Oasis Honors Max Bowlin
Family Fun Day Schedule | UCSC Grand Opening
2025 Fall SASA Information | *and more!*





From the Potentate

Nobles and Ladies:

As I pen this message on April 16 to have it in time for publication in the May Desert Dust, Lady

Laura and I are preparing to depart on the Potentate's Trip to Hawaii in two days, along with a delegation of 41 Oasis Nobles and Ladies. By the time you read this message in the May edition, we will have returned with memories to last a lifetime. We sincerely appreciate the excitement and support that has surrounded this trip and look forward to sharing pictures with you in the June *Desert Dust*.

Registrations are well underway for the Oasis Spring Ceremonial in Cullowhee. If you have not done so already, please go ahead and head over to 2025spring.eventbrite.com to register today. Even if you are lodging off campus, make sure to register. Your registration provides headcount information for various events such as the Friday evening picnic, your goodie bag upon arrival, and more. Ladies Brunch tickets are also purchased on the registration site. Feel free to reach out

ON THE COVER:

2025 Oasis Patient Ambassador Elijah Penley was joined by his mother, Sarah, as special guest speakers during the recent gathering of the International Association of Shrine Recorders hosted by Oasis Shriners in Charlotte. They were joined by Illustrious Potentate Chris Hall and First Lady Laura for an opportunity to meet Illustrious Sir and Dr. Leslie "Doc" Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Shriners Children's.

to me, Chief Aide Nick, any Potentate's Aide, any Divan member, or Sherrie in our office with any questions. We are here to help you.

It is difficult to believe that by the time this issue is in your hands, the Spring Ceremonial will be just a few short weeks away. This will be "one for the books" that you will **not** want to miss including the parade in the Town of Dillsboro. A tip of the Potentate's Fez is off to town and county officials including the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center.

You will notice the advertisement elsewhere in this publication for the 18th Annual Oasis Family Fun Day held at the Red Fez Shrine Club on Lake Wylie in conjunction with the Third Annual Lake Wylie Ceremonial. The advertisement includes the full schedule of events. You'll notice that we are bringing back a highlight from years ago, "Dunk Your Divan." Yes, yours truly will be happy and eager to lead the way. Try your best and get your pitching arms ready.

Please take this opportunity to recall that our Oasis Petition is conveniently located on the website under Membership, then Forms. You'll see it listed as "Petition for Initiation and Membership." Here's the link: <https://oasisshriners.org/images/forms/membership/petition-for-initiation-and-membership.pdf>

Tons of registrations are rolling in for our first-ever "Water Buffalo Degree" at Oasis headquarters as we officially launch our "Long Leaf Pine Quarry No. 1." Make sure to see the flyer in this issue for complete details. Both Nobles and Ladies will receive their handsome "Water Buffalo Hat," lifetime dues card, Bedrock Lunch, and sufficient entertainment during the interactive degree. Reach out to Noble Brandon Penley with any questions. His contact information may be found at the bottom of the flyer.

Please remember to send in your Paper Sale pictures so that we can include them in the June *Desert Dust*.

Before closing for now, Lady Laura and I would like to highlight and acknowledge the incredible work by Illustrious Sir Gary Taylor and Lady Mary Ellen as Oasis hosted the annual meeting of the International Association of Shrine Recorders in early April. The table decorations were simply second to none and the participants raved about our Oasis "southern hospitality." Certainly, they would be quick to point out that the meeting was a success with the help of the "team" who pitched in to make it a reality. Thanks to everyone who was able to assist as a grand time was surely had by all. Oasis was honored to have many distinguished guests present including Noble John Piland, Executive Vice President and COO of Shriners International; Imperial Sir Jim Cain, Imperial Recorder and Past Imperial Potentate; and Illustrious Sir Leslie "Doc" Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Shriners Children's. We were all honored at the Monday evening banquet by the presence of our 2025 Oasis Shriners Patient Ambassador, Mr. Elijah Penley, and his mother, Sarah as they shared the story of their journey from birth to now 18 years old. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Elijah!

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

Yours in the Faith,
Illustrious Sir Chris Hall



From the Recorder

Hello Everyone,

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

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

Lemonade, Legacy and Love: Nainoa's Story

Keiki — the Hawaiian word for "child" or "little one" — is often used when describing the service of Shriners Children's™ Hawaii. Throughout their 100 years of "caring for keiki," Shriners Children's Hawaii has remained committed to providing the highest quality of care regardless of a family's ability to pay. The impact of this treatment is felt not only by the child and family but as ripples across generations.

The Tindle family is one example of Shriners Children's Hawaii's legacy of caring for keiki. Nainoa, the grandson of a patient treated in 1931, grew up seeing his grandmother's scars. They were a reminder of a physical ailment and limitations she had endured as a child — all of which were addressed through the compassionate care provided by the hospital. Chuck, Nainoa's father, remembered seeing his mother's scars as well. "When we were kids, she mentioned it and talked about it, but not into any depth," Chuck said. "[She had the surgery] at about two years old and they couldn't afford it. They were very poor at the time. She had the surgery done at Shriners."

The year 2023 marked the 100th anniversary of Shriners Children's Hawaii. In the years leading up to the centennial, several fundraising events were held to enable continued support for keiki



not just in Hawaii, but also in countries and territories within the entire Pacific Basin, for the next 100 years. One such opportunity was the Donor Brick Program for which donors could have a commemorative brick engraved with a custom message. These would later be installed in the hospital's porte cochere as a tribute of service and gratitude.

Service and gratitude are values the Tindles hold dear. By age 11, Nainoa had already hosted successful fundraisers for charitable organizations. Upon learning of the Donor Brick Program in the fall of 2021, his thoughts immediately went to his grandmother. She had passed away just weeks prior at the age of 91. Determined to raise \$1000 in honor of her memory, Nainoa began planning a Lemonade Stand fundraiser to launch in January 2022. The family lived near a popular hiking trail with heavy foot traffic, providing much-needed visibility. They spread the word through flyers in local shops and social media and wrote letters to their local city councilmen, the mayor, the lieutenant governor, and the governor. Hikers, neighbors, and members of the community came out to support the fundraiser. To the family's surprise, Lieutenant Governor Green (now governor of Hawaii) quietly paid a visit to Nainoa's lemonade stand to lend his support — and some pizzas — to the cause. In addition to the physical lemonade stand, the Tindles also created a peer-to-peer fundraising page through Shriners Children's lovetotherescue.org to host a Virtual Lemonade Stand for family and friends living in other states.

A local news station visited his lemonade

continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Potentate	2
From the Recorder	3
Noble Max Bowlin.....	4
Lincoln County Shrine Club	6
Oasis Pickers	7
2025 Schedule of Events.....	8
Petals of Hope.....	9
Chaplain's Corner	10
Family Fun Day	11
Spring SASA	12-13
SASA Fall Festival	14
Union County Shrine Club	15
Spring Ceremonial.....	16
Potentate's Cruise	17
Oasis Young Shriners	18
Ashe Ceremonial.....	19
Walking Man.....	20
Focus on Our Roadrunners.....	21
Memorials and Donations.....	21
Passed Within the Unseen Temple	21

DESERT DUST

Illustrious Sir Christopher L. Hall, Potentate

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

2025 OASIS DIVAN

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

Editor - Edie Wilson
ediewilson7@gmail.com

Noble Max Bowlin is a 50-year Shriner

Submitted by Chief Rabban Tim Farris

On March 18, 2025, I had the honor to present Noble Max Bowlin with his 50-year Membership Certificate and 50-year pin from Shriners International.



Noble Max became a Shriner on 6/1/74, and at the youthful age of 92 he is very proud of this achievement. Noble Max works in his yard every day but will always find time to chat if someone stops by. Noble Max is Past Master of Lowell Lodge #590 and is very grateful for his relationship with his Lord. He also shared what the Masonic Fraternity has meant to him throughout the years.

I would like to thank Noble and Master of Lowell Lodge Terry Connor and Noble and Past Master John Wilson, and the members of the lodge, for allowing me to make this presentation in Lowell Lodge #590. Also, I would like to thank David Bowlin, Noble Max's son, for presenting the 50-year pin.



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355 Picnic Grounds Road, Cullowhee

2025 Spring Ceremonial Weekend

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will be running
between Picnic
Area & Allen
Residence Hall

**Bring Your
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REGISTRATION REQUIRED 2025spring.eventbrite.com

OASIS SHRINERS
2025 Spring Ceremonial

JOIN US FOR
The Ladies Brunch

Saturday, June 7
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Western Carolina University
University Center
Illusions Room - Third Floor

**Tickets Must Be Purchased
In Advance to Attend**

by Noon on Thursday, May 29 at
2025spring.eventbrite.com

From the Recorder

continued from page 3

stand that February, which the family hoped would help boost sales. They could not have imagined what would happen next. Not only did more people show up at the lemonade stand but donations began pouring in from across the island! "People that we wouldn't have even expected to show up said, 'Oh, I saw you on the news last night!' And they got on and donated," said Lisa, Nainoa's mother.

"The story was very personal with my mother and I think it resonated with a lot of people here locally," said Chuck. "We sold a lot of \$20 cups of lemonade." Nainoa saw donations made from old classmates and family friends through his fundraising

page. At \$935 raised, he was close to reaching his goal.

A stranger moved by the story made a gift of \$1,065 to his fundraiser along with a message: "For Nainoa's Grandma's brick!" Her donation brought Nainoa to \$2,000 — double his goal! "The cool part of the [fundraising page] was that people could make comments in addition to the donations, so that was pretty special and motivating," said Lisa. "At some point, he shifted and was like, 'Wow, I'm gonna keep going!'"

In total, Nainoa raised over **\$4,000 for the hospital**. Like the brick bearing his grandmother's name, Shriners Children's Hawaii's legacy of "caring for keiki" will stand for generations to come.

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 hospitals and all our Shriners Children's programs like Nainoa's lemonade stand, that they serve.

Gary



A stranger moved by the story made a gift of \$1,065 to his fundraiser along with a message: "For Nainoa's Grandma's brick!"

UPCOMING CLUB AND UNIT EVENTS



MAY 3

Greensboro Shrine Club
Car, Truck and Bike Show

See ad on page 18

MAY 3

Mecklenburg Shrine Club
Derby Party

See ad on page 7

MAY 10

Catawba County Shrine Club
Shrine 100 Asphalt

See ad on page 10

JUNE 21

Mountaineer Shrine Club
Rhododendron Car Show

See ad on page 10

AUGUST 16

Water Buffalo Degree

See ad on page 14

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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.

Spotlight on Lincoln County Shrine Club



Submitted by Aaron Whitener,
President, Lincoln County
Shrine Club

Did someone yell Bingo?

A huge thank you to everyone who came out and supported our BINGO event this past weekend! We're thrilled to share that it was a complete sellout—192 tickets—and an incredible success. The energy, laughter, and community spirit made it a night to remember!

We're already looking forward to planning more fun events, so be sure to stay tuned for future announcements.



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The Oasis Pickers Taking Shriners to the Community

For four days, the Oasis Pickers helped over 1,000 fourth graders in the Cleveland County school district learn about the history of Bluegrass Music from their home area. The Earl Scruggs Center invited us to help out with an impromptu "opening show" for the kids while they were filing in for the main event. Some picking and "dad jokes" may have been involved, and audience participation was highly encouraged! Our Ladies helped by ushering the children to their seats as the bus loads arrived.



The Bluegrass Ambassadors is a fantastic program that the Hen House Prowlers (from Chicago, IL) travel and present around the world. The local history that they weave into a fun presentation for the kids couldn't have been better. At the end of the show, the Oasis Pickers helped

teach the children how to hold their instruments and play a few notes, chords and strum patterns, thus, introducing them to what may become a passion for their "Hometown Music." We were also invited to a private JAM session where we got to play with the Hen House Prowlers along with other local professional and semi-professional bluegrass musicians in Lattimore, NC. What an evening this was!

We had eleven Pickers and six Ladies helping at one time or another during the week at the Don Gibson Theater in Downtown Shelby, NC; and I believe we all had a pretty good time. Bottom line...we helped kids and the ESC-great ways to showcase our Shriners in the community.



Want more info on the Oasis Pickers? Check us out on Facebook by looking up Oasis Pickers OR log in on this group number... <https://www.facebook.com/groups/561177355541356>

Of course you can also call, text or e-mail: DBMahan@gmail.com 843-372-5510.

151

KENTUCKY DERBY

The ladies of Mecklenburg Shrine Club invite you to join us Saturday, May 3rd, 4:00 - 8:00 PM for our 3rd Annual Derby Party @ "Mecklenburg Downs"



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

\$40 per person

\$300 per table of eight
Which you get to decorate

Prizes for:
BEST HAT (Ladies and Men)
BEST TABLE DECOR

Social with appetizers at 4:00
Dinner at 5:30PM

RSVP:
<https://DerbyParty2025.Eventbrite.com>



Mecklenburg Shrine Club
5200 Mecklenburg Shrine Club Rd, Charlotte NC

2025 Schedule of Events



MAY

May 1-4	Annual Oasis Paper Crusade
May 17	Ashe Ceremonial Ashe Shrine Club, West Jefferson
May 15	Oasis Divan Meeting at Oasis HQ

JUNE

June 6-8	Oasis Spring Ceremonial (Western Carolina University Cullowhee & Dillsboro)
June 13-14	Annual Oasis Family Fun Weekend at Red Fez Shrine Club, Lake Wylie
June 13	Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED) Red Fez Shrine Club, Charlotte
June 14	Lake Wylie Ceremonial Red Fez Shrine Club, Charlotte

JUNE-JULY

June 29-July 3	Imperial Session of Shriners International, Atlanta, Georgia
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JULY

July 17	Oasis Divan Meeting
July 19	High Rock Lake Ceremonial Rowan Shrine Club, Salisbury

AUGUST

August 23	Oasis Divan Succession Planning Meeting Masonic Center, Winston-Salem
August 23	Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED) Masonic Center, Winston-Salem
August 23	Camel City Ceremonial (Black Tie) Masonic Center, Winston-Salem

SEPTEMBER

September 18-21	Fall SASA - 52nd Annual Meeting Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
September 19	Oasis Divan Meeting Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
September 19-20	Grand Lodge Annual Communication Winston Salem, North Carolina

OCTOBER

October 1	Oasis Circus - Greensboro Coliseum
October 3-4	Oasis Circus - Cabarrus Arena
October 10-11	Annual Homecoming, Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
October 16	Oasis Divan Meeting at Oasis HQ
October 18	6th Annual Oasis Golf Tournament
Oct 31-Nov 2	Oasis Past Potentates "Homecoming" Ceremonial - Oasis Headquarters, Charlotte

NOVEMBER

November 15	Smoky Mountain Ceremonial Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435, Highlands
November 20	Oasis Divan Meeting

DECEMBER

December 6	Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED)
December 6	Oasis Annual Election of Officers
December 13	Lincoln Ceremonial - Lincoln County Shrine Club, Vale & Cat Square Parade
December 18	Oasis Divan Meeting

JANUARY 2026

January 2	Annual Club & Unit Appreciation Event
January 3	Installation of the 131st Potentate of Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan



REMINDER:
You can view the
digital version of the
Desert Dust online!
oasisshriners.org



OASIS SHRINERS
Having Fun & Helping Children

Petals of Hope: Lady Laura's Monthly Story

Some dreams are too powerful to be stopped by any obstacle. For Brendan, becoming a firefighter was always the goal—just like his dad. But after a broken leg at age four led to a diagnosis of congenital pseudoarthrosis of the tibia (CPT), his journey became far more challenging than he ever expected. Multiple fractures, surgeries, and finally, an amputation at age seven could have crushed his dream—but Brendan's spirit was unbreakable.

With the support of Shriners Children's Greenville, Brendan received expert care, a custom prosthetic, and the

encouragement he needed to keep chasing his dreams. Now, at 17, Brendan is stepping into his dream role as a firefighter, proving that determination, hope, and expert care can overcome even the toughest challenges.

Much like the dogwood bloom, which symbolizes strength, resilience, and rebirth, Brendan's story reminds us that beauty and courage can emerge from even the most difficult circumstances. This month in **Petals of Hope**, Brendan's journey shows us that no dream is out of reach when hope is in full bloom.

Brendan did not let anything get in the way of chasing his dreams. At 4, Brendan's family became fearful after a broken leg wasn't healing properly. When a family friend suggested Shriners Children's Greenville, they were quick to make an appointment.

At Brendan's first appointment, his doctors made the diagnosis of congenital pseudoarthrosis of the tibia (CPT). CPT is a rare bone development disorder characterized by a weakened bone that fractures and will often fracture again making it a very challenging condition to treat. In some cases, the best option may be an amputation. For Brendan, this would be the case. At 7, after several attempts to save his leg, Brendan was told he would need to have his right leg amputated.



After surgery, Brendan was fearful that he would no longer be able to one day become a

firefighter. "I always knew I wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps, but I was scared that my dream could no longer be a reality," said Brendan.

However, after a few short months of working with his team of highly skilled physicians, Drs. David Westberry and Thomas Gibson, physical therapists and orthotists, Brendan began the path to a full recovery. Brendan was fitted with a prosthetic designed to give him the comfort, support and assistance needed.

Now 17, Brendan returned to Shriners Children's Greenville to show his medical team what he has accomplished. Sporting his cap and gown, the soon-to-be high school graduate discussed his love for fishing, beekeeping and being outdoors – but the one thing he was most excited to share was that he would soon be a firefighter at his local fire department.

"Never think you cannot achieve your dreams – all you have to do is take that first step and I promise you will get there," said Brendan. "Shriners Children's Greenville has helped me become the man I am today and for that I will forever be grateful."

Brendan is a Shriners Kid

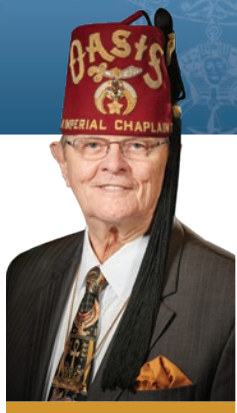
***Your gifts help kids like
Brendan live their best
possible lives.***



**Shriners
Children's™**
Greenville

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Chaplain's Corner

ACT OR REACT 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!* It is written 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 another the more we tend to hurt 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 the 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 ninety-one, 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, P.M., P.P. is Chaplain of Oasis Shriners, and Chaplain of SASA, a Past Imperial Chaplain of Shriners International (appointed by Imperial Sir Al Madsen), and Retired Minister of Visitation of First Presbyterian-Gastonia. He is a former Pastor-Visitation, Laurinburg Presbyterian. He can be reached at jhstanley1965@gmail.com. He'd like to hear from you!

RHODODENDRON

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025
10AM ~ 3PM
BAKERSVILLE, NC
BESIDE BAKERSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

HOSTED BY THE MOUNTAINEER SHRINE CLUB
FOOD, RAFFLES, MUSIC, 50/50 DRAWINGS & MORE



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**CATAWBA COUNTY
SHRINE CLUB**

SHRINE 100 ASPHALT

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Gates Open at 4:45pm
Fireworks after the race

TICKETS:
\$20.⁰⁰



HICKORY  **MOTOR**

S P E E D W A Y

18TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY



SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

WITH BBQ COOK OFF COMPETITION

*Nearly 20
teams
expected!*

Bring a Friend • Games and More Games • Pack A Cooler • Music

LOCATION:

**The Red Fez Shrine Club
16600 Red Fez Club Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28278**



New Shrine Candidates and
Ladies are welcome.

PLAY "DUNK THE DIVAN"

Oasis Divan members
will be in a Dunking Booth!

FRIDAY

7:00 pm: Food Crawl on Club Grounds and DJ at Picnic Shelter
8:30 pm: "Shrine Games" at Picnic Shelter

SATURDAY

7-9:00 am: Breakfast at Clubhouse - \$8 per person
7:30 am: Registration for Youth Fishing Tournament
All Ages! Bring a Fishing Rod, Fish from 8-9
10:00 am: Water Slide and "Dunk the Divan"
Dunking Booth Open
10:30 am: Kids Activity hosted by Red Fez Ladies
Auxiliary at Club Front Porch
12:00 pm: Hot Dog Lunch provided by Oasis Shriners
Enjoy an afternoon of swimming - Pool Open!
4:00 pm: BBQ Cook Off Awards Ceremony at the Picnic Shelter

*Family Fun Day will be held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Lake Wylie Ceremonial.
Ceremonial on the Lake: 10:30 am-12:00 pm*

Questions? Contact Todd Ham: 704-363-9257 todd@hambrothers.com

Johnny Burgess: 704-564-2193 jdbgpc@aol.com

Shea Fadel: 704-309-5396 shea.fadel@fadelsinc.com

Oasis Attends 2025 Spring SASA

Submitted by Illustrious Sir Chris Hall

The Oasis delegation was more than 20 Nobles and Ladies strong during the 2025 Spring SASA Convention hosted by Beni Kedem Shriners in Charleston, West Virginia. SASA President Jason Hinkle and his team worked hard to ensure a grand time was had by all. Oasis Director Rick Garver drew Number 10 for Oasis in the Fall SASA parade lineup in Myrtle Beach.

The crowd enjoyed hearing from Imperial Potentate Richard Burke and First Lady Judy as well as Shriners Children's Trustee Tim Ludwig. Riveting presentations were provided by Bethany Deines, Senior Director of Philanthropy at Shriners Children's Ohio as well as Cambry Gossett, Senior Director of Philanthropy at Shriners Children's Lexington.

Illustrious Sir Chris took this opportunity to bestow Honorary Oasis Memberships upon two of his counterparts who were unable to be present at the Installation earlier this year, Illustrious Sir Mac McMillian of Beni Kedem Shriners and Illustrious Sir Tom Colletti of Acca Shriners, as well as Illustrious Sir Jason Hinkle, SASA President and Past Potentate of Beni Kedem Shriners.





Spring SASA Draws a Crowd

Submitted by Recorder Gary Taylor

Oasis was well represented at the Spring 2025 SASA session hosted by Beni Kedem Shriners in picturesque Charleston, West Virginia. In attendance were Representatives Illustrious Sir Chris Hall, Chief Rabban Tim Farris, Assistant Rabban Donnie Wrenn; Illustrious Sir Recorder Gary Taylor PP; Illustrious Sir Kenny Jarrett, PP; and Illustrious Sir Johnny Burgess, PP. Oasis ladies in attendance included Divan ladies and nobles' ladies.

The President's Banquet on Saturday evening had over 240 in attendance. A warm appreciation is in order for all who made the journey through the mountains (in the rain).





Shriners Hospitals
for Children

Leaders in Research

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

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

**ORTHOPAEDICS • BURN CARE
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE
SPINAL CORD INJURY**

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**

52nd Annual SASA Fall Festival

*September 18th - 21st, 2025
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*



The 52nd Annual Meeting of the South Atlantic Shrine Association will be held on September 18th - 21st, 2025 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. As in past years, in appreciation of Shriners, the

City of Myrtle Beach has designated the week a city-wide festival and the entire town is ready to celebrate. You will not want to miss any of the fun.

**DIRECT LINK TO OASIS HOTEL RESERVATION BLOCK
at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront:
<https://group.doubletree.com/j5pl4k>**

LOYAL ORDER OF WATER BUFFALO

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

WATER BUFFALO DEGREE

DETAILS:

- Saturday August 16, 2025
- 12PM - 3PM
- Oasis Carolina Room:
604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte NC 28262
- \$75/person: includes Water Buffalo hat and lunch
- \$20/person: Lunch only for those who are already members
- LUNCH: BBQ and fixings



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

Proceeds benefit the
Oasis Shrine Center.
Not tax deductible

**RSVP THROUGH EVENTBRITE
NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1ST
NO EXCEPTIONS**

<https://WaterBuffalo.eventbrite.com>



CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS: Brandon Penley 828-320-7234 blpenley1@gmail.com

Union County Shrine Club Celebrates Grand Opening



*Submitted by Bill Cox
President, Union County Shrine Club*

On April 5 the UCSC opened the doors to their new facility. It was a long 2 1/2-year journey, but the members kept pressing; and we made it!

In attendance was Ill. Sir Shea Fadel (PP) and Assistant Rabban Donnie Wrenn from Oasis Temple, along with MW Speed Hallman, Past Grand Master of NC.

Also attending were US Representative Mark Harris, Sheriff Eddie Cathey, Richard Helms (former County Commissioner) and Jason Evans, Mayor of Pageland SC.

Our most distinguished quest was little miss Sharlene Gomez (a Shriner Child) and her family.

It was a great evening hosted by the Nobles and Ladies of UCSC.



2025 SPRING CEREMONIAL

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

<https://2025Spring.eventbrite.com>

Notes: ALL participants for the weekend (Nobles and Ladies and Candidates and Candidates' Ladies), **regardless of where they are staying**, must Register for the weekend using the Eventbrite link.

Only for participants who need or prefer a traditional hotel experience and do not wish to enjoy the "campus" experience of the weekend by staying in the newest residential hall, Oasis has a block of 52 rooms available at the Comfort Inn Sylva located at 1235 E. Main Street in Sylva.

Sylva Hotel Reservation Link:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/VU6205>

2025 Spring Ceremonial Weekend | Cullowhee, NC



June 6-8, 2025
Western Carolina University
Tentative Schedule of Events



ALL ATTENDEES REGISTER

AT <https://2025Spring.eventbrite.com>

Friday, June 6

2-5:00 pm Arrival & New Candidate Registration, Allen Residence Hall
5-7:00 pm Dinner on your own, Cullowhee, Sylva, or Dillsboro
7-10:00 pm Picnic, Bluegrass Pickin', & Hospitality, WCU Picnic Area

Saturday, June 7

7-8:30 am Breakfast (*for attendees staying on campus*), Brown Dining Hall
7-8:30 am New Candidate Registration, Coulter Recital Hall
Arrival Registration (sleeping room), Allen Residence Hall
7-8:30 am Shrine Mart, Coulter Recital Hall
9:00 am Ceremonial Opening for Oasis Nobles & Ladies
and Candidates and Ladies, Coulter Recital Hall
10-12:00 pm Ladies Dismissed for Ladies Luncheon, University Center Top Floor
\$30/person, No Cost for New Candidates' Ladies
10:12:00 pm Ceremonial for New Members, Coulter Recital Hall
12-12:30 pm Lunch Provided for New and Current Nobles, Coulter Recital Hall
12:30-1:30 pm Travel to Parade Staging Area, Dillsboro (100 W. Hometown Place)
1-1:45 pm Parade Lineup, Dillsboro (100 W. Hometown Place)
2:00 pm Parade Stepoff, Dillsboro
3-7:00 pm Shopping & Dinner On Your Own, Dillsboro and Sylva
7:30-11:00 pm Entertainment and Hospitality, University Center Top Floor

Sunday, June 8

7-11:00 am Check Out, Allen Hall
7-9:30 am Breakfast (*for attendees staying on campus*), Brown Dining Hall
9:30-10:30 am Oasis Non-Denominational Worship Service, Brown Dining Hall



**WCU Cat-Tran Shuttles have been reserved for the entire weekend and will run continuously between Oasis locations for pick-up/drop-off including parade.*

**WCU Hospitality Staff will serve alcohol at events for the weekend, beer and wine only. No outside alcohol. No alcohol outside designated event areas (State-Owned Premises, No Exceptions, Signs Posted, Thank You).*

2026 Potentate's Cruise

Nobles and Ladies,

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

The cruise will sail from Port Canaveral on February 21, 2026, and will return to Port Canaveral on March 1. This trip promises

to be a fun and exciting eight days, cruising with Shrine families from other Shrine Centers.

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

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

Fraternally Yours,

Tim and Lady Betty

Tim Farris

Chief Rabban, Oasis Shriners



Shriners & Friends Cruise!

All are welcome aboard the magnificent Carnival Vista



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

Departs from Port:
Canaveral (Orlando), Florida

Ports: Aruba, Curacao
and **Celebration Key (Brand New)**

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

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

Cabin w/ Balconies \$2650 and up

Cabin w/ Ocean View \$2150 and up

Interior Cabins \$1770 and up

Please call **Lisa @ 865-740-0972** to book your trip or if you have any questions.
Just mention the Shrine!

WANTED

ROADRUNNERS

Nobles who have the time and want to help the children. Transporting the children to the hospitals is so very important.

Drivers must have:

1. Valid Driver's License
2. Drivers' certificate form on file w/Oasis Office
3. COVID-19 vaccinated

Contact Your Patient/Hospital Coordinator Karen Henley
@ **704-549-0926** or
coordinator@oasisshriners.org
for more information.

Clowns and Bikes

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

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

Thank you for all that you do.

Wayne Alley: 864-706-6282

Let's Welcome The Oasis Young Shriners' Leadership Team

The Young Shriners Club is made up of members of Oasis Shrine Temple who are under the age of 40. They represent a new generation of members while honoring fraternity traditions.

In recent years, Oasis Shrine Temple has been focusing efforts on attracting younger members to keep the organization vibrant and active for future generations.

Young Shriners may be involved in various activities and events sponsored by Oasis Shriners Temple and its affiliated temples or clubs. This may include fundraising events, community service activities, and other functions designed to embody the fun, fellowship, and philanthropic spirit that Shriners are known for. This is Oasis' way of engaging young members and involving them deeply into the fraternity's charitable work and social activities.

To join the Oasis Young Shriners please reach out to an officer listed below:

Allen Rea - President	allenrea5@yahoo.com
Chase Trites - Vice President	ctrites@radcorroofing.com
Brandon Burton - Secretary	bkburton87@gmail.com



GREENSBORO SHRINE CLUB

Presents...

CAR, TRUCK & BIKE

SHOW

Sat., May 3, 2025

**SILENT AUCTION
50/50**

WHERE:
Greensboro Shrine Club
5010 High Point Road
Greensboro,
North Carolina
27407

Limited space available - register early
Registration 10-12 noon
Entry Fee \$20.00
Drawing 2:00 PM
(Children must be supervised at all times.)

All monies raised supports the Greensboro Shrine Club

Contact Butch Beegle for more information
Phone #: 423-584-3252

ALSO INCLUDING:
VENDORS
FOOD FOR SALE
and more...

*Masonic Home for Children
Growing Hearts, Brighter Futures*

Devante Hicks, Class of 2010

"Growing up with 12 siblings in the house, everything was scarce. It was survival mode. I started hanging out in bad environments. At that point I thought nothing mattered, no one mattered.

I found a brochure from the Masonic Home for Children. The slogan was "A home away from home," and I thought this is where I need to be. When I got there my house parent, Karen, said "This is your room." First time I ever heard that. Immediately I felt secure. After a while everything started to stick. The love that was given was real, Karen was real. All of these things played a part in healing the brokenness of not being cared for, not being loved.

That carried me throughout my journey from the time I got to the Home until I graduated from college until now.

I now have three beautiful children and I'm a certified juvenile justice officer with the state of North Carolina. We're taking on juveniles who come from similar backgrounds as myself.

From being at the Home to what I do now, I look at every kid as a chance. If you give them the tools and give them the resources, you'll be amazed as to what they can grow into.

The Masons have helped guide my life. They didn't know me at all. Who helps people they don't know? They're doing it with genuineness and care."

scan to donate

www.mhc-oxford.org
(919) 693-5111
600 College Street
Oxford, NC 27565



OASIS SHRINERS
Having Fun & Helping Children



ASHE CEREMONIAL **SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025**

ASHE SHRINE CLUB
117 MORPHEW LANE
JEFFERSON, NC 28640



Potentate's Designated Local Point of Contact:
Illustrious Sir Mike Neaves (336-977-9122)

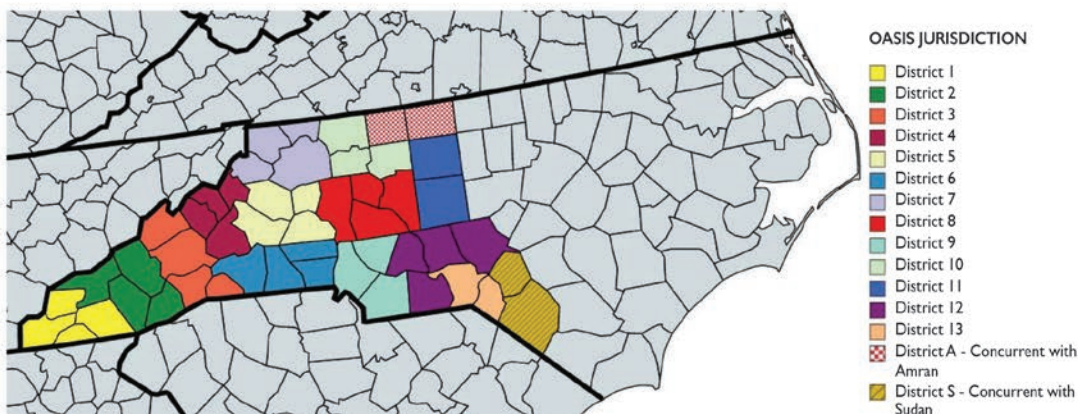
- 10:00 Doors Open
- 10:30 Registration (walk-in NC Master Masons in Good Standing are welcome)
- 11:00 Welcome, Ceremony, and New Member Orientation
- 12:00 Lunch (provided)

****** This one-day opportunity is expressly designed for the convenience of new members to join with ease while keeping life's demanding schedules and family and work in mind. Accordingly, there will be no ladies' program for this one-day ceremony. This is in no way intended to minimize our ladies but rather, the opposite, by being mindful and respectful of their time and commitments as well. New nobles and their ladies are highly encouraged and welcome to attend our Oasis Spring and Fall full weekend ceremonials to enjoy a full schedule and full program of events.*

- * Class Honoree will be named
- * Class Photograph will be taken with fez before lunch

PETITION TO JOIN: Scan QR Code at Top or Visit

<https://oasisshriners.org/images/forms/membership/petition-for-initiation-and-membership.pdf>



Walking Man Arrives in Greenville

As a follow-up to the April story from Catawba County Shrine Club about Eric Morabito, AKA "the walking man," we bring you up-to-date with the latest news about his journey. (See April issue Page 11.)

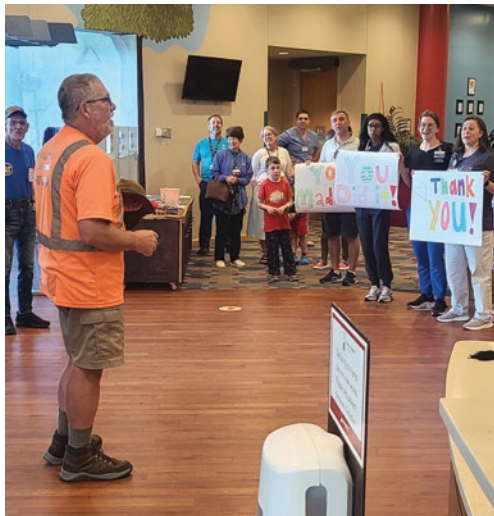
As an introduction, we share this quote:

"I will be setting out on Thursday, April 10 and should reach the hospital the following Thursday. I will set out from Hickory and make stops at the Oasis Shrine in Charlotte (Friday), the Hejaz Shrine (Wednesday) and arrive in Greenville Thursday morning. I plan on camping out along the way and will be bringing a tent and sleeping bag with me.

This year's Walk will benefit Shriners Children's Greenville (60%), Springfield (10%), Boston (10%) and the Oasis Shriners Roadrunners (20%). My goal is to raise \$15,000."

Eric arrived, as planned, 178 miles later, at 10:00 AM on Thursday morning, April 17. Shriners Children's Greenville was waiting for him with a welcoming team including some patients.

Also waiting were his wife and many of his Catawba County Shrine Club members who drove to Greenville for the welcoming.



Donations

CLUB AND UNIT DONATIONS:

Appalachian Shrine Club
Gaston County Shrine Club
Oasis Wagoneers

OTHER DONORS:

Special thank you to:

William Farrington Scoggins	Gary W Kearney
AGS Tax Ad	Jerry Johnson
Alfred Keller	Jim Woolf
Andy Brinkley Studio	Joe Abernethy
B&G Plumbing & Electrical	Mandy Kiser
Barker Trucking Company/	Mountain Fried Chicken
Wayne Barker	Ray Taylot
Boppers Shag Club	Richard A Bass
Caleb L Smith	Ryne C Rummage
Dahl J Tritt	Shane L Decker
David L Thomas	Truck & Trailer Repair
Dennis Bowman	William H Dennis Jr



FOCUS ON OUR ROADRUNNERS

ROADRUNNERS DISTRICT	ROADRUNNERS NAME	MARCH TRIPS	MARCH MILES
AVERY			
CATAWBA			
CHARLOTTE	George Stoklas	4	1056
MACON			
MOUNTAIN			
TRIAD			



Patients from around the world leave their mark - one pin at a time - on our lobby map, representing the countries of those who have received life-changing care at Shriners Children's Greenville. No matter the distance, we always provide the "Most Amazing Care Anywhere," bringing hope, healing and a brighter future to children everywhere!

Memorials

DONOR

Hancock & Moore
Oasis Keystone Kops
Kathy Simmons

IN MEMORY OF:

Don Ray Benfield
Gene Beatty
Sylvia Sockwell



Passed Within the Unseen Temple

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
Larry Charles Taylor	Bessemer City, NC	11/7/1987	3/14/2025
Cecil Ellis Overbey	Greensboro, NC	4/2/1990	3/27/2025

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR PHOTO GALLERY?

Oasis Shrine Photos



VIEW PHOTOS OF OASIS EVENTS!

www.shrinephotos.com

Club and Unit Bulletin Board



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

Pres. - Chandler Champion
VP - Charles Bullock

Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com

OASIS PATROL

MARCHING FOR A PURPOSE

Contact Captain Paul Southworth
at 704-577-9845 or
southworth.paul@yahoo.com to
join the oldest unit of Oasis Shriners



Mt. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB

Contact: Noble Secretary
Mike Pritchard
828-442-9170



Centrally located in McDowell County

Latona Temple # 154 Daughters of the Nile



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



High Point Shrine Club

Fun, Food and Fellowship.

Join us every 4th Thursday of the month. Social 6:15 | Dinner 7:00
700 Old Mill Rd, High Point, NC 27265
336-880-5586 | hpshrineclub@gmail.com



OASIS SHRINERS CAMPING CLUB

FUN – FOOD – FELLOWSHIP • COME JOIN US!

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

ASHE SHRINE CLUB

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month

Contact Noble Shannon Worley 336-877-6629
or Noble Mike Neaves 336-977-9122

OASIS SHRINE WAGONEERS



For info, contact:
Feddle Dellinger,
980-522-6226

OASIS HIGHLANDERS

PIPES & DRUMS

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



THE OASIS TEMPLE BAND

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

Captain - Noble Chuck Reed 847-502-0872

NASCARTS

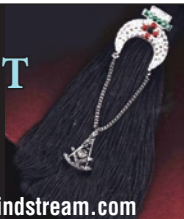
**Captain Everett
Jarrett Jr**



ejarrett64@gmail.com 336-669-4782

OASIS PAST MASTERS UNIT

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



Gaston County Shrine Club

505 Pinkney Road Dallas, NC 28034

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

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



THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to
attend our monthly meeting!

Junaluskee Lodge #145
50 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734
3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 PM
www.ncritecare.org

Cabarrus Shrine Club

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!

1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC
704-933-2797 cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com
www.cabarrusshrineclub.org
Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB

Join Us 2nd Mondays

Social 5:30 | Dinner 6:15 | Meeting 7:00

hendersonvilleshriners@gmail.com | 828.483.6832
Golden Corral, 2530 Chimney Rock Rd., Hendersonville, NC

JOIN THE OASIS PICKERS TODAY!!!

**We NEED Pickers of Accoustic
Instruments for our JAMMING UNIT!**
DBMahan@gmail.com 843-372-5510

OASIS DUNE CATS

JUMPING HURDLES FOR CHILDREN

Captain Rob McDowell • 704-605-9498
www.oasisdunecats.com

The Greensboro Shrine Club

5010 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407
Call 336-707-6588 for information.

OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



**Captain
Casey
Ham**



(704) 718-7782 caseyham88@gmail.com



JOIN OUR GROUP

Contact Captain
Don Anderson
(336) 775-8076

plaaout@triad.twcbc.com

Visit us on Facebook @OASIS500s

Club and Unit Bulletin Board

Shriners on Bikes



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

MECKENBURG SHRINE CLUB

INVITES YOU TO VISIT OUR CLUB

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



MOORE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB & The Sand "T" Parade Unit



President John Dunbar
910-544-7624

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

OASIS ORIENTAL BAND

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

OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS



Accepting New Members
No Experience Necessary

Contact Thomas Livingston
336-452-4600

PAST CAPTAINS CLUB

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



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

The Hillbillies are lookin' fer ya!

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

Oasis Oldies

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



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

CAROLINA DRIFTERS



Captain Paul Lawing
704-244-0014
paullawing82@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



Oasis Brewmasters
TAPROOM NO. 16

Like to Homebrew?

Join the Oasis
BrewMasters today!

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



Metrolina Shrine Club



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

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

OASIS RAGTOPS

Riding around with the Top Down...

Raising money for
Shriners Hospitals
for Children



Captain David Faircloth: 704-579-2520

Union County Shrine Club

P.O. Box 324 Monroe, NC 28111

Oasis

Fueled by adrenaline,
Driven to help children



Oasis.KartAttacks@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



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



Oasis Gator Patrol
Captain Jimmy Cline



2156 Sterling Ridge Dr.
Newton, NC 28658

(828) 409-1995
jimcline.jc@gmail.com



Oasis
Cove #1

OASISBUCCANEERS1@GMAIL.COM

OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

Allen Rea, President allenrea5@yahoo.com
Chase Trites, Vice President ctrittes@radcoroofing.com
Brandon Burton, Secretary bkburton87@gmail.com

If you are under 40 and interested in joining,
reach out to any of our officers.

DESERT DUST

604 Doug Mayes Place
Charlotte, NC 28262

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 186

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OASIS SHRINER

RANDY MARION II
OASIS SHRINER

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BEN GOINS
OASIS SHRINER

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SPECIAL PRICING FOR ALL MASONS AND SHRINERS!

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