



Light from the Great Land

Volume 3, Issue 2

June 1, 2011

Grand Master's Message



Greetings My Brothers,

Well the first three months have just flown by and I have to say that for the most part it has been worth every second. There was that small "frost heave" in the road that caused me to miss my York Rite induction ceremony but

all is well. It's good to be married to your insurance agent!

In early April the Grand Lodge team, along with MW Don Frizzell, met in Juneau to begin the Official Visits to the Southeast lodges. Our visit to Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge #21 started with a surprise from the Juneau Scottish Rite team. A limousine was hired to drive us from the hotel, to dinner, the meeting, and then back to the hotel. What a way to start our week of travel! From Juneau we visited beautiful Sitka by the sea. It was my honor, as Grand Master, to present a deserving

third grader with a brand new bicycle as part of an on-going program sponsored by Mt. Verstovia Lodge #18. Our next stop was Ketchikan for our visitation to Ketchikan Lodge #19 and another pleasant surprise awaited us, it did not rain (too much). The next day it was on to Petersburg and good Norwegian hospitality and the good news that Petersburg Lodge #23 has a candidate wishing to join the Lodge. And, finally, the last leg of our Southeast journey landed us in Skagway and no surprise, the wind was blowing. We were joined by several brothers from Whitehorse for the White Pass Lodge #1 meeting and dinner. This trip was a lot of fun and work and I have to say I am as proud of the Grand Officers that joined me as I am of the Lodges we visited.

I was home for a few days before packing up the truck and heading back to Anchorage for meetings and to attend the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska with MW Johnnie Wallace. Then came visits to the Anchorage Scottish Rite and Anchorage #17, Aurora #15, and Glacier #10. Just for something different RW Jim Harrington, SGW scheduled a Long Range Planning meeting where we are working with the Trestle Board. The last official activity of April was a joint visit, hosted by Iditarod Lodge #20, with Eagle River Lodge #13 and Matanuska Lodge #7. Let me tell you all, the food from all over the State was absolutely the best, I only gained nine pounds! To all the ladies and gentlemen who did the cooking, a very big Thank You! To all the Lodges we have visited so far; a job worth doing is one worth doing right. Well done to you all.

To the Masters and Secretaries of all Lodges, send a quick note to MW Bo Cline for the newsletter letting the other members of our fraternity know what your

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*WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR
OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH
US. WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR
OTHERS AND THE WORLD
REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL.*

ALBERT PIKE



Light from the Great Land

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Lodges are doing. Events, activities, Lodge news, fund raisers if it is important enough for you to do it, we want to hear about it! And, of course, send pictures so we can have faces to put with the names. I'll start:

On May 6th, the Disney Cruise Lines ship the Wonder made Skagway its first Port of Call in Alaska. Debbie and I were invited aboard, with several other dignitaries from the community, to participate in the traditional exchange of plaques. We were treated to a tour of the ship, a wonderful lunch, and a visit with Captain Mickey.

To the District Deputies of Districts 2, 3 & 5, please send in your reports for the past quarter. I need them to make my year-end report.

As a reminder, I am asking ALL lodges to send something indicative of your community or lodge to Ms. Joan Morgan, the Curator of the Alaska Masonic Library and Museum, for a silent auction to be held Tuesday, January 30, 2012. This event is to raise funds not just for a museum and library but for OUR museum and library. If you have not been to the Museum I urge you to stop by when you are in Anchorage.

Fraternally Yours,
Debbie & Ron Ackerman, GM



Grand Master's Visit to Mt. Juneau/Gastineaux Lodge

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Light from the Great Land

From the Editor

During the past three months, Masonry in Alaska has seen some exciting activity, as revealed by the rich and varied news received from around the jurisdiction. This current edition of "Light of the Great Land" contains descriptions of some of those activities and events. Of particular interest are those activities, which were highlighted in the local media and portrayed Alaskan Masonry in a positive light. Included among the Masonic events that captured the attention of the local press were the Kenai Annual Masonic Outstanding Student Awards, the Bikes-for-Books presentation in Palmer, and the Matanuska Masonic Association's annual scholarship awards. Additionally, Masonic community service was reported at Juneau, with the Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair and in Sitka, with Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18's annual bike program. Many other Masonic programs are reported on here, and this issue of the Grand Lodge newslet-

ter includes a calendar of reported Masonic events that will occur between now and October 1. **If you do not see your Lodge's events here, please contact your District Deputy.**

Also, in this edition of the newsletter is an article by the DGM reporting on the recent "one-day ritual class" completed in Kodiak, an article by the SGW discussing Alaska Airlines Easybiz program and its benefits to Alaskan Masonry, and an article by the JGW discussing the importance of long range planning by our constituent lodges.

Finally, with much sadness, we report on the recent loss of a Brother with a long and distinguished public career.

MW Bo Cline, FMS
Editor (clineboak@gmail.com)

Lodge Eternal



Walter Soboleff

Reported by
W John Barnett

It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of our esteemed Brother Walter Soboleff. Brother Walter passed early this morning at his home. WB John Sandor is in contact with the family and will let us know further details regarding a memorial service as well as what we may be able to do as Masons for Walter's

family.

Brother Walter was a highly respected, honorable, and tremendously inspirational Brother Mason – his presence at the many gatherings of our Masonic Family will be missed for many years to come. Please keep his family in your prayers.

From the Anchorage Daily News, 5/23/2011

JUNEAU, Alaska - Long time Juneau and Alaska Tlingit spiritual leader, elder statesman, and native icon Walter Soboleff died early Sunday morning in his home, surrounded by family.

According to daughter Janet Burke, Soboleff died from bone cancer and prostate cancer.

"Memorial services are pending," Burke said. "No date is set yet. This very quickly can get out of our hands because we know the scope of our father's influence on so many people. When we think of him we think of the knowledge he had, the knowledge of his culture and the love for his family. That was so important to him."

Soboleff had turned 102 years old on Nov. 14, 2010.

To read more about Brother Soboleff's and his life, please see the article in the Juneau Empire at <http://juneauempire.com/state/2011-05-22/noted-tingit-elder-walter-soboleff-dies>



Light from the Great Land

Calendar of Events (June - Sep)

◆ **Flag Presentation by the Sojourners**

June 8, 2011
Tanana Lodge No. 3
Fairbanks, AK
In honor of Flag Day
Contact: WB Charles E. Rogers, (907) 488-6748

◆ **Colony Day's Parade**

June 11, 2011, 11:00 AM
(Participants should be at staging area by 10:00 AM)
Palmer, AK
All Masons and members of appendent bodies invited to participate
Contact: WB Dennis Oakland, MMS (dennis86@mtaonline.net)

◆ **Flag Day**

June 14, 2011

◆ **DDGM Dist. #1 Official Visit**

June 14, 2011
Valdez Lodge No. 5
Valdez, AK
Contact: WB Bryan Vincent, MMS (bvincent.ak@gmail.com)

◆ **Tribute to St. John the Baptist**

June 16, 2011
Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
Fairbanks, AK
Contact: WB Carlton Haenel, (907) 488-2838

◆ **North Pole Lodge 16 Turkey Shoot**

June 18, 2011
Chena Hot Springs Shooting Range
North Pole, AK
Contact: WB Dave Arnold, (907) 490-7344

◆ **St. John the Baptist Day**

June 24, 2011
Traditional Masonic Feast Day
No know activities scheduled

◆ **Masonic Education Night**

June 30, 2011
Fairbanks Lodge No. 12
Fairbanks, AK
(Open to all Masons)
Contact: WB Carlton Haenel, (907) 488-2838

◆ **Independence Day**

July 4, 2011

◆ **Skagway Parade**

July 4, 2011
Skagway, AK
Contact: WB Richard Ackerman (907) 983-3315

◆ **Wasilla Parade**

July 4, 2011, 11:00 AM
(Participants should be at staging area by 10:00 AM)
Wasilla, AK
All Masons and members of appendent bodies invited to participate
Contact: WB Creig Boyd, MMS (benz2@mtaonline.net)

◆ **Bear Paw Parade**

July 9, 2011, 11:00 AM
(Participants should be at staging area by 10:00 AM)
Eagle River, AK
All Masons and members of appendent bodies invited to participate
Contact: VWB Frank Weiss (frank.weiss@asrcenergy.com)

◆ **Gold Rush Days**

August 5 – 7, 2011
Valdez, AK
Contact: WB Bryan Vincent, MMS (bvincent.ak@gmail.com)

◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit to District # 2 Lodges on the Kenai Peninsula**

August 17, 2011
Hosted Sterling Lodge No. 22
Sterling, AK
Contact: WB Bill Roberts, MMS (frosty1@acsalaska.net)

◆ **Alaska State Fair**

August 25 – September 5, 2011
Masonic Information Booth
Palmer, AK
Contact: WB Dennis Oakland, MMS (dennis86@mtaonline.net)

◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit to District # 1 Lodges in Fairbanks**

September 1, 2011
Hosted by North Pole Lodge No. 16
North Pole, AK
Contact: WB Dave Arnold, (907) 490-7344

◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit to Valdez Lodge No. 4**

September 6, 2011
Valdez, AK
Contact: WB Bryan Vincent, MMS (bvincent.ak@gmail.com)

◆ **Masonic Friendship Night/Open House**

September 9, 2011
Matanuska Lodge No. 7
Palmer, AK
Contact: WB Dennis Oakland, MMS (dennis86@mtaonline.net)

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◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit to Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5**
September 15, 2011
Cordova, AK
Contact: WB Robert Cunningham, (907) 424-3488

◆ **Grand Master's Official Visit to Kodiak Lodge No. 9**
October 5, 2011
Kodiak, AK
Contact: WB Fred Lentz (ksci@worldnet.att.net)



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF WASHINGTON

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April 5, 2011

Edict

To be read in open Lodge

To The Brethren, Grand Lodge of Washington:

Growing concerns have been expressed by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Washington about the recent development of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA leadership being associated with an irregular Masonic body in France. I have had recent communications with several Masonic Jurisdictions and have gathered enough information to proceed with my decision to assist the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Washington in acting accordingly about the situation.

The report of the Information and Recognition Committee – Conference of Grand Masters of North America clearly reported that the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA was granted a charter to confer Grades and form Pories in the USA. The said charter was granted by the Grand Priory of the Scottish Rectified and Reformed Rite of Occitania located in France. Correspondence issued by the regular Great Pories of the Rectified Scottish Rite in Europe states the Great Priory of Occitania is an irregular body. It was self-created in 1995 by former members of the Great Priory of Gauls, which was declared irregular by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise. The information referenced above therefore aligns the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA to be equally irregular.

To all this, I therefore direct all Master Masons in the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge of Washington, Free and Accepted Masons to refrain from any interaction with the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA until this situation is resolved. Any known actions reference this matter by the brethren of this jurisdiction shall be reported to this office immediately. Masonic disciplinary actions will be imposed on any violators of this edict and will be subject to suspension or expulsion from this jurisdiction.

Fraternally

G. Santy Lascano
Grand Master

**Posted here by direction of
M.: W.: Ronald L. Ackerman, GM**



Light from the Great Land

Deputy Grand Master



Brethren,

There are five new Master Masons in Kodiak, Alaska. Yes brethren, five new masons were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason during a One Day Class in Kodiak Lodge No. 9 on May 13 and 14, 2011.

MW Jared Decker and W Fred Lentz, Worshipful Master of Kodiak Lodge No. 9, asked the Grand Master of Masons in Alaska, M.: W.: Ronald L. Ackerman for permission to hold a One Day Class for six candidates in Kodiak Lodge and were given permission. The Grand Master then spread the word asking for assistance from the Anchorage and Kenai Lodge brethren to assist in the degrees.

RW James Herrington, Senior Grand Warden, took the lead in coordinating brethren to go to Kodiak and received responses from the Kenai Lodges from MW Fred Angleton and VW Billy Harris, District Deputy of District No. 2. MW Henry Dunbar, MW Johnnie Wallace, RW Jerry Pinion, W John Bishop, and Brother Jack Newell, Junior Warden of Glacier Lodge No. 10 responded from the Anchorage area Lodges. A few days before we traveled, MW Henry Dunbar and RW James Herrington found they were unable to attend for health reasons and a death of a very close friend respectively.

The remaining six brethren traveled to Kodiak on May 13, 2011 where we were met by MW Decker, W Mike Brechan, and Joan Lentz, wife of W Fred Lentz and transported to the hotel. After changing clothes and having dinner at the hotel, we were transported to Kodiak Lodge by MW Jared and Joan Lentz and were greeted by the brethren of Kodiak Lodge and the candidates.

After coordinating with the traveling brethren and the brothers of Kodiak Lodge, MW Jared assigned us to duties for each degree. Brother Jack Newell opened, closed, and conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree and the Fellowcraft Degree upon the new candidates and brothers and did an excellent job. The Lecture for the Entered Apprentice degree was given by W Mike Brechan of Kodiak Lodge and the Charge was given by

VW Billy Harris and both gave an excellent performance. W John Bishop presented the Lecture for the Fellowcraft Degree and VW Billy Harris gave the "G" Lecture and Fellowcraft Charge. Both were excellent in their presentations. VW Billy Harris opened, closed, and conferred the Master Mason Degree, gave the Lecture of the Degree, and the Charge, which winded him some but was performed very well. Since we only had a limited number of brethren to present the Drama, we swapped positions or performed multiple duties very effectively to present an excellent degree. W John Bishop was King Solomon and W Mike Brechan was King Hiram.

We were honored by VW Tim Routszhan, a 97 year old brother of Kodiak Lodge, to be the Chaplain for all the Degrees and the Drama for the Master Mason Degree. When VW Tim gave the prayers, it was so clear and distinct that you felt that he was really talking directly to the Supreme Architect of the Universe and not just saying words.

Of the three One Day Classes I have had the pleasure of participating in, I came away from this one with a feeling that it was conducted very well and the brethren performing the duties did an excellent job in presenting it. Also, I felt that the new Master Masons were enthusiastic about the message we conveyed to them and their challenge to become proficient in the Master Mason Degree.

Lunch and Dinner was served to all on Saturday by Suni Decker, wife of MW Jared and was delicious. Thank you Suni for helping us have a great One Day Class.

I wish to thank all of the five brothers who went from Anchorage and Kenai to help with the degrees and to the Brethren of Kodiak Lodge No. 9, we are honored to be asked to help you and consider it a privilege to participate in your degrees.

May the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you.

RW Jerry W. Pinion,
Deputy Grand Master





Light from the Great Land

Bikes, Books, Scholarships, & Science Fairs

KENAI OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

By
Ralph Sterling

The 44th Annual Masonic Outstanding Student Awards event was conducted Friday, April 29th at the Kenai Central High School in the Renee Henderson Auditorium by members from Kenai Lodge No. 11, Soldotna, Alaska. Awards were presented to the students by Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Dave Cary and Kenai City Mayor Pat Porter.



The Master of Ceremonies was Brother Ralph Sterling of Soldotna who is the Chairman of

the Masonic Outstanding Student Awards, and also the Senior Warden of Kenai Lodge #11, Free and accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

Worshipful Master Ken Owens (Kenai Lodge No. 11), V.J. (Nik) Nikolas (Potentate Al-ASKA Shrine), and members representing many Masonic organizations assisted in the presentations.

A total of 24 Schools from the Kenai Peninsula Schools participated in the program.

Next year will be our 45th event and we are already working on the Governors offices, State Senators and Congress, and state legislatures for their attendance and active presentation of these awards.



For more information, see a complete report in the [Kenai Peninsula Clarion](#) (click to follow link)

“BIKES-FOR-BOOKS”

By
Bo Cline

Matanuska Masonic Foundation (sponsored by Matanuska Lodge No. 7) presented 12 bicycles, helmets, and bike locks to one girl and one boy in grades kindergarten through fifth grade at Swanson and Sherrod Elementary Schools, May 2nd & 4th.



This was the Lodge’s first time to try this program and we are the first lodge in Alaska to pursue “Bikes-for-Books”. Next year, the Lodge plans to extend the program to six elementary schools in the Palmer vicinity. See the [Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman](#) (click to follow link) for the complete story.

Masons award THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS to Mat-Su Valley Seniors

By
Bo Cline

With the presentation of \$1,500 to Makayla Gallagher and \$1,000 to Chelsea Pardo (both from the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School) on May 20, Matanuska Masonic Foundation broke the \$30,000 contribution mark for scholarships given in the past six years.



See the [Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman](#) (click to follow link) for the complete story.

Amanda Ostrom (Wasilla HS), WB Jim Summers, & WB Lee Seagondollar, MMS



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SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

By
Dr Lawrence Schaulfler

On March 12, 2011, Mt. Juneau/Gastineaux Lodge #21 sponsored two awards at the Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair in Juneau (high-school level). Bros. Joe Baran and Paul Vidal donated their time and energy to meet and learn about students' projects on subjects ranging from wastewater treatment to the effect of music on test scores.

Traditionally, our Masonic Science Award is awarded to the top two students whose projects have the greatest potential benefit to mankind. This year the first place winner was Riley Westfall with his project entitled "Solar Reflectors: How does the reflector's material and shape affect a solar panel's output?". The runner-up was Martin



(r to l) Martin Woodby, Riley Westfall, and Bro. Lawrence Schaulfler

Woodby with his project "How Airfoil Design Affects the Drag Force on a Wing". Winners receive an engraved plaque and a check for \$75 (1st place) and \$50 (2nd place). The Lodge has sponsored an award in the science fair for over 10 years.

Sorcha Hazelton, Worthy Advisor for the Juneau Rainbow Assembly earlier this year, also competed in the fair with her project entitled "How does the type of water used effect the height and mass of mung bean plants?". Sorcha won the Glacier Gardens Plant Award as well as a special achievement award for competing in the fair for three successive years. Sorcha voluntarily participated in the fair -- one of only a handful of students who were not required to complete a project, and the amount of time and effort that goes into each project is significant!

Congratulations to Sorcha, Riley, and Martin for their achievements and dedication to seeing their projects through!

THE SITKA BIKE PROGRAM

By
VW Ken Creamer

Once a month, beginning in January of each year, Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 awards a bicycle to a third grade student selected from one of five classes, at the Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School in Sitka. Three or four members from Mt. Verstovia Lodge are present to make the award, along with the student's parent/parents and representatives from the local press. This event is repeated every month until a student in each of the elementary school's five third grade classes is awarded a bike. During the bike presentation, a member of Mt. Verstovia Lodge gives a short bike safety talk. The teacher is then asks to tell why the student, who is to receive the bike, was selected, after which the student's name is read. The student is also presented with bike helmet and lock.

The bike give away is the brain child of Brother Carol Fader, who brought this program to Sitka, when he relocated there from Ketchikan. When he introduced the program to the Lodge, Bro. Fader explained that each third grade teacher would establish their own standards for selecting the student from among their class, with no involvement from the Mt. Verstovia Lodge in the selection. The teachers then provide the students' names to Mt. Verstovia Lodge, who purchase, transport, and award the bike.

The local Sitka TV station runs the filming of the award several times during each month and the Sitka newspaper reports the Lodge's and the student's name with a photograph of the presentation ceremony.

The cost to Mt. Verstovia Lodge to implement this program is approximately \$1500.00 a year. There has been a very positive reaction from the community of Sitka towards Mt. Verstovia Lodge, which has resulted in at least two petitions for membership being received.

At 1:30 PM on April 6th of this year, MW Ronald L. Ackerman (Grand Master of Masons in Alaska) had the honor of making the presentation of a new bike, with a helmet & lock to a lucky third grader, during his official visit to Sitka.



Light from the Great Land

Senior Grand Warden



I always knew that the Grand Lodges in the lower 48 provided financial support for their Grand Master and his elected officers. After attending the Conference of the Grand Master in February, I was surprised at the amount that some of the Grand Masters receive. I also understand that most of those Grand Lodges that are capable of providing a large expense accounts have been in existence for a long time. The Grand Lodge of Alaska is new and we have not had the time to stockpile a large amount of funds for the Grand Lodge. So I would like to ask you a simple question. If you could provide support to the Grand Lodge of Alaska and cost you not one penny would you do it? If so here is how:

RW James D. Grubbs, our Grand Treasurer, has set up an account with Alaska Airlines called Easybiz. This is the way it works. If you have an Alaska Airlines Mileage Account, you can become a user in the Easybiz account assigned to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. If you don't have an Alaska Airlines Mileage account, you will need to set one up which is very easy. All you have to

do is ask to become a user by e-mailing me at akhunter1213@hotmail.com or Jim Grubbs at Jimgrubbs@hotmail.com We need your full name as it appears on the mileage account and of course your e-mail address. We will send you an e-mail inviting you to become an Easybiz user. Once you get our e-mail you click on the link or cut and paste it to your web browser. The Easybiz site will pop up and you must use your ID and Password to log in. Once you log in there will be several questions for you to answer. Once you complete the questions on the online form, simply submit your completed questions. We will get an e-mail informing us that you want to become an Easybiz user. We will then approve your application and the process is complete.

Now here is the good part. Once you are an Easybiz user and log onto the Easybiz site to buy your Alaska Airlines Tickets, you get the air miles added to your account and the Grand Lodge account, as well (essentially a "two-for-one" deal). It's that simple. We are never aware of your user name and password for your account. If you have any further questions, you may call RW Grubbs or me or the Alaska Airlines customer center.

Fraternally
RW James R. Herrington
Senior Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden



Hello Brothers,

Here it is already Spring Time!! I can't believe it.

This last quarter has been a busy one. I had the chance to travel with the Grand Lodge officers during the Grand Master's official visits. I really enjoyed meeting with the Brothers across Southeast Alaska, the Matanuska

Valley and Anchorage.

My message this year is PLANNING. How many Lodges have a Three Year Plan or even a true One Year Plan? All??? Entities must have a plan to succeed.

Each of our lodges is a small business; we either own or rent a building; and we have bills to pay. We must make income to pay our bills, and just like any entity; we must continue to grow or we will sooner or later not be around.

Our Grand Lodge does have a Long Range Plan (LRP), which is on our website. Please read it and give us some feed back. This LRP is reviewed a few times each year and changed to keep

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up with times. We need your input to ensure that the LRP meets the needs of our lodges, as well as Grand Lodge. Additionally, we would like to offer Grand Lodge help to any lodge in developing their own LRP.

Finally my friends look hard at your own lodge, ask yourselves, is our lodge standing still or are we growing? Talk among your officers and lodge members. Create some ideas. Put them on paper. Make those ideas come to life. And you will see your lodge prosper.

A GOOD PLAN WILL ALWAYS SUCCEED WHILE NO PLAN WILL ALWAYS FAIL

I look forward to seeing all of you this year. Please contact me any time. My email address is dw@nlhc.com My cell is 378-4640. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally,
David Worel
Junior Grand Warden

District NEWS



DISTRICT No. 1:

Reported by
VW Mike Starkey
Deputy District No. 1

The year is off to a good start in District 1.

Tanana 3 hosted the DDGM for his official visit at the April Stated meeting. The highlight of the evening was the presentation to Brother CJ Paul of his 50 year pin. The WM and DDGM presented his Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Emblem of Gold on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The DGM and JGW were also in attendance. Brother Paul was very appreciative and overjoyed by the experience. Tanana 3 has been busy with degree work this year. There were two Fellowcraft degrees and a Master Mason degree in April, and three more Master Mason degrees are on tap for May. Tanana 3 will host International Days on May 21st and 22nd. There will be a lunch at the Lodge at noon on Saturday, followed by a third degree at 1:00, and then dinner at the Pump House restaurant that evening. There will be a picnic at the Shriners cabin at Harding Lake on Sunday afternoon. The Sojourners will present their flag tribute at the June Stated meeting in honor of Flag Day. Tanana 3 has received several petitions, so it should be a busy year for degree work.

Valdez 4 held a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday,

February 26th from 9 am to Noon. The breakfast was held at the lodge and was open to the entire community. The breakfast was so successful that another one is scheduled for May 21st. Valdez 4 passed two Brothers to the Fellowcraft Degree in April, and hopes to raise both Brothers soon. The District Deputy's official visit is scheduled for June 14th, and the Gold Rush Days parade is August 7th. Valdez will host the District Meeting during Gold Rush Days in August.

Fairbanks 12 has been busy with degree work. They passed three Brothers to the Fellowcraft degree in April. They will be conferring third degree on May 5th and 18th, and another on June 6th. Fairbanks 12 cleaned their assigned stretch of road on May 7th as part of Alaska Clean-up Day. On May 19th, at the Stated Meeting, the Sojourners will visit and present their flag tribute ceremony, and the Stated Meeting and dinner on June 16th will be themed as a tribute to St. John the Baptist, in recognition of St. John the Baptist Day, which is June 24th. On June 30th they will hold a Masonic Education Night that will be open to all Masons.

North Pole 16 invited the Sojourners to present their flag tribute ceremony at the February Stated meeting. The event was open to the public, and as usual, was very enjoyable. The District Deputy made his Official Visit at the March Stated meeting and received a very warm reception. The WM's from the other interior Lodges were both in attendance. On June 18 North Pole will hold the second annual North



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Pole Lodge 16 Turkey Shoot at the Chena Hot Springs Road shooting range. The shoot is open to all Masons, their families and friends.

Fraternally submitted,
Mike Starkey, DDGM District 1

DISTRICT No. 2:

Reported by
Bill Roberts, MMS
W.M. Sterling Masonic Lodge No. 22

Sterling Masonic Lodge #22 held a friendship dinner on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 5:00 PM in the Sterling Area Senior Center, Sterling, Alaska.

A total of 31 people (26 adults & five children, of which two are DeMolay Members) at-



tended the event. Also, one guest was in attendance and, we received two requests to visit and show the DVD's on Masonry in the homes of our guest Mr. Ed Martin and a friend of W.M Roberts in the near future.



It was my extreme pleasure to have had in attendance: M.W. Brother Les Little, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&AM of Alaska, Illustrious Sir, Nik Nikloas - Potentate, Al-Alska Shrine; V.W. Billy Harris,

Deputy of the Grand Master, District # 2; V.W. Brother Glen Josey, Deputy of the Grand Master, District # 3; V.W. Brother Gene Browning, Past District Deputy of the Grand Master for District #2; V.W. Brother Will Josey, Past District Deputy of the Grand Master, District #3; and W. Brother Ken Owens, Worshipful Master, Kenai Masonic Lodge #11. Other guests included five brothers from Kenai Masonic Lodge #11, as well as several brothers of Sterling Masonic Lodge #22. Further, it was very nice to have had several of our Sisters in attendance as well.

The Event was opened by W.M. Bill Roberts, who introduced the elected Officers of Sterling Masonic Lodge, followed by the introductions of the dignitaries [above], after which W.M. Roberts gave the Blessing.

The dinner started by partaking in the various salads and fruit on the Salad Bar, followed by dinner of Roast Beef, Roast Pork Loin, Au Gratin Potatoes, Southern Style Green Beans, Rolls with Butter and Bread Pudding w/Plum Sauce for Dessert.

After the dinner, two short DVD's on Masonry were shown followed by a short question and answer session. Our guest Mr. Ed Martin gave praise for the dinner and requested the DVD's be shown at a later date to him and his son. This will be accomplished ASAP.

Following the "Q & A" session, W.M. Roberts introduced the Chef and her assistant, and thanked them for the wonderful meal. They received a hardy round of applause from everyone. This was followed by a time of Fellowship.

With Brotherly Love, Peace and Harmony prevailing, the event closed at approximately 7:30 PM.

DISTRICT No. 3:

Reported by
MW Johnnie L. Wallace, Secretary
Anchorage Lodge No. 17

This year has started out with a bang, the Officers being installed on Jan. 7, 2011. Worshipful Master VW Thomas L. Schram instituted a study night (Tuesday Night) for candidates to learn the part needed to pass proficiency for the degree, enabling them to



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move on to the next degree. Since the start of the year we have had five Brothers return their proficiency for the Master Mason degree, it is truly great to see the new members becoming interested in the Lodge work. On April 16th, the Lodge honored our Ladies with a Dinner at the Petroleum Club. The turn out was great and all enjoyed the fine meal.

Plans are now being made for a Fellowship barbecue dinner to be held on May 25th for members and anyone interested in Masonry to attend. Degree work or practice for the degrees takes place every Wednesday night at 7 pm, except on the Second Wednesday, which is the Stated meeting. Stated night we have dinner at 7 pm prepared and served by Bethel No. 1 IOJD, and then the meeting starts at 8 pm. We welcome all visitors to attend when in the Anchorage area. Our schedule of events is listed on our web site <http://anclodge.dnsalias.org>.

DISTRICT No. 4:

Reported by
VW Al Brookman, Deputy



The last quarter has been very, very busy, in District 4, with degree work happening in most of the lodges and the Grand Master's official visit, for 2011.

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO SOUTH-EAST ALASKA

Juneau – April 5

Juneau was the 1st stop in District 4, of the Grand Master's official visit. Those in attendance included: MW Ronald L. Ackerman (GM), RW Jerry W Pinion (DGM), RW James R Herrington (SGW), RW David Worel (JGW), RW Jerome P. Wasson (Grand Secretary), MW Donald Frizzell (Honorary PGM) and VW Albert J Brookman (Deputy District No. 4).

The Grand Master and his officers arrived in

Juneau where they were met by a number of brothers. A white stretched limousine delivered the Grand Master and his entourage to dinner, and stood by to deliver them to lodge, afterward. ("Holy Man", we have really started something)

The dinner was hosted by the Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite the, complete with "Arch of Steel" honors given to the Grand Master and the visiting Grand Lodge Officers.



Mt Juneau Lodge # 21 was opened in due form by WM Steven W Stewart. After formal introductions, the Grand Master closed the lodge and an informal gathering was held in the lodge room, with the women and guests invited Mt Juneau Gastineaux Lodge # 21, was informed

by the Secretary that, starting in Jan 2010, 142 members were on the roles, a decrease of 3 members reported at the beginning of the preceding year. However, the lodge had a net gain of 1 in 2010, leaving a total of 143 members, on December 31, 2010 .

Lodge degree work continues at a very fast pace, with seven 1st degrees in April, one scheduled for May, and another first degree tentative for June.

Mt Juneau Gastineaux Lodge # 21, also sponsored, two awards at the Alaska Regional Science Fair in Juneau on March 12, 2011 and has put out a newsletter, called "Cable Tow", which will be published each quarter.





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Sitka – April 6

Sitka was the 2nd stop of The Grand Master's official visit. We arrived at Mt Vestovia Lodge No. 18, where we were met by several Brothers and taken to our hotel.

At 1.30 PM, after we had lunch in Sitka, the Grand Master had the honor of presenting a new bike, with a helmet & lock to a lucky third grader.

In the evening we were treated to a wholesome chicken dinner. There were seven ladies present, in addition to the officers and members of the lodge.

Lodge was opened by WM Robert D Alexander, in due form, with all the chairs filled and additional Brothers on the sidelines. After a formal opening and introductions, the Grand Master closed the lodge in ample form.

The ladies were then invited to hear the Grand Lodge Officers speak, with the Grand Master speaking last. After the presentations by the visiting guests, dessert and fellowship were enjoyed in the dining room.

Mt Verstovia Lodge # 18 has continued their public program of awarding five new bikes each year to 3rd graders. Approximately \$1500.00 is raised from the members of the Lodge and through fundraisers to support the bike program, which has been sponsored by the lodge for many years.

Activity in Mt Verstovia Lodge continues to be busy, with five first degrees in January to start the New Year off and running.

Ketchikan – April 7

On Thursday, we found ourselves traveling to Ketchikan. We were again met at the airport, and delivered to the hotel. At our hotel's restaurant, we participated in a no host dinner attended by the members of Ketchikan Lodge No.19 and their ladies. The short walk to the lodge after dinner was very refreshing and it was NOT raining.

The anti-room of Ketchikan Lodge is very much like a Masonic museum, with volumes of

books, plaques, awards, and pictures of the PM's on display. It gave me a sense that much Masonic wisdom has passed through those doors.

Ketchikan Lodge # 19 was opened in due form by WM Ronald N Merford and the gavel was passed to the Grand Master. The lodge heard from each Grand Lodge Officer before it was closed in ample form by the Grand Master.

WM Merford reported that Ketchikan Lodge No. 19, has a candidate for membership. This provided much encouragement for the lodge as this is their first candidate in three years. Things are looking up for Ketchikan lodge.

Petersburg – April 8

On Friday, we were on our way to Petersburg, where we were met and taken to our hotels to relax for the afternoon. Petersburg Lodge No. 23 is currently undergoing a very major renovation. The Lodge hosted us to a catered dinner, with five honored ladies and a guest and his wife present. The guest was the Petersburg hospital administrator, who has shown an interest in Masonry, but has yet to commit himself. After dinner, all the grand lodge officers were called on to speak and several questions were answered for the hospital administrator.

Petersburg lodge has only three active Master Masons, with one living in the Anchorage area, who only returns to Petersburg every other month. But there is truly excitement, for the lodge now has a candidate for membership. It had already been agreed upon, that the WM Dale Bosworth would bring the candidate to Juneau on April 19th, where, as of this writing a First Degree was conferred.

Skagway – April 9

After a nice flight just above the water, we found ourselves at the head of Lynn Cannel at Skagway, for the final day of the Grand Master's official visit to Southeast Alaska. White Pass Lodge No. 1 has an amazing building that is over 100 yrs. old. It has a two story square & compass attached across the front of the building, which is very unique and different

One note of Interest: I heard it said that Alaska Masonic history was made in Skagway, with Most Worshipful Ron Ackerman, as Grand Master of Alaska and



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his son Richard Ackerman, as the sitting Master of White Pass Lodge No. 1.

The Grand Masters official visit in Skagway was attended by five visiting Brothers from the lodge in White Horse, Yukon Territory. WM, Richard Ackerman, opened the lodge in due form and welcomed his father, the Grand Master, and all visitors. The Grand Master then closed the lodge in ample form.

After closing lodge, we retired to the only dinner restaurant open in Skagway for the winter, for a no host dinner. All officers were called on to speak, and the Grand Master spoke last, after introducing the White Horse Lodge visitors, The food and company were excellent.

All White Pass Lodge No.1 chairs were filled and Masonry continues in all its glory and splendor in Skagway.

LAST CHANCE TABLE LODGE

A “Last Chance Table Lodge” was held in Juneau, AK on George Washington’s Birthday.

In English Lodges, during the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, refreshments were taken during the lodge session, and in the lodge room. At that time rigid rules were in effect to regulate the refreshments and the forms in which they should be taken.

This system is now obsolete in the U.S., and our normal Masonic banquets do not differ greatly from those of most other organizations.

The custom of Masons meeting at a table to enjoy a repast after all of the lodge labors have been concluded is quite common in Lodges outside the United States. In England the toasting rituals taking place after lodge labors are concluded, are known as “After Proceedings”, and the “Table Lodge” evolved from these gatherings. The French Freemasons prescribed a very formal system of rules governing the conduct of such Table Lodges. The French method of causing the

arms to be charged for the toast (filling the glasses) and firing (drinking a toast) is offered as an alternate way during discussion of a traditional toast.

This is a ritualistic observance, and there is a suggested program for this festive occasion, called a “Table Lodge”. The earliest ritual of the French Table Lodge was long & elaborate. A similar shortened form was used in England.

The Table Lodge is no mere banquet with entertainment; it is a special lodge ceremony, in itself, with ritual, formalities and special terminology. Particular care should be taken to see that the ceremony is conducted in the proper spirit of the occasion.

After a the banquet of Prime Rib at the Juneau “Table Lodge”, The Ceremony of the Seven Toasts was observed. The toasts included:

- To Our Country,
- To the WM,
- To the memory of departed Brothers,
- To the Alaska Grand Master,
- To the Southeast Alaska Masons,
- To our visiting Brothers,
- To all Freemasons, where so ever dispersed.

Several individual toasts from the floor were also presented. The Grand Master happened to arrive in Juneau, by airplane that afternoon, and was in town, until the morning ferry took him to Skagway, so he attended the “Table Lodge” that evening with the Deputy of District #4, Al Brookman, and his wife, Georgene.

DISTRICT No. 5:

Reported by
W Dennis Oakland, MMS
WM, Matanuska Lodge No. 7

Matanuska Lodge No.7 has conferred 2 EA Degrees, and 1 FC Degree so far this year. Both of these candidates are very enthusiastic regarding their work and the craft in general. We also have some older EA’s and FC’s that are working on their Posting Lectures.

Matanuska Lodge also has had the privilege of awarding two 50 year Mason certificates, dues cards and pins. One member of Matanuska Lodge No.7, WB



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Donald Dinkel, received his award 50 years to the day after completing his Master Mason Posting Lecture, and the other, Br. B.C. Smith, a member of King Solomon's Lodge No.5; of Tombstone Arizona and his was awarded his certificate on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Officers and members of Matanuska Lodge also attended the Grandmasters official visitation for District No. 5, which was held in Eagle River on April 25th.

Members of Matanuska Lodge No. 7 representing the Matanuska Masonic Foundation delivered a dozen donated bicycles to local elementary schools as awards for the "Bikes for Books" pro-

gram. Many local businesses and residents, as well as lodge members, contributed to this venture.

Matanuska Masonic Foundation also awarded several scholarships amounting to over \$4,000 to qualifying seniors attending the local high schools.

Lodge tax form 990-N was submitted and accepted by the IRS.

Members of Matanuska Lodge have been holding ad-hoc gatherings at one of our members home for the purpose of discussing Masonic History and Esotericism, affectionately referred to a "Scotch Nights". These gatherings have generally been well attended, including by FC and EA Masons.

2011 is also the 60th Anniversary for Matanuska Lodge No.7

ICHF

May 27 – 29, 2011 marked the 3rd International Conference on the History of Freemasonry (ICHF), which took place at [The George Washington Masonic Memorial](#), Alexandria, Virginia. The ICHF is a biennial conference, which was first held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2007. From their website, we learn that:



"Since the inception of ICHF more than six years ago it has established itself as the primary conference for academics and others interested in Freemasonry and masonic research to present papers on all aspects of the subject . . .

From the beginning the ICHF was always a truly open 'International' conference, due to the diversity of countries represented at each of the conferences in 2007 and 2009. The 2011 conference to be held

in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, marks a milestone in the growth of the International Conference by not only attracting participants from across the world but also, for the first time, the conference will be held outside Europe."

ICHF is truly an international conference, which brings academics and Masonic scholars together to present papers on new and emerging research on Freemasonry in all of its forms. The keynote speakers at this 2011 conference included:

Prof. Stephen C. Bullock, Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. Prof. Bullock spoke on "*The first Capital Cornerstone Laying: Masonry, Alexandria, the Nation, and the World, c. 1791.*"

Prof. Arturo de Hoyos, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – Southern Jurisdiction, Washington DC. Prof. de Hoyos spoke on "the Battle to Control High Grade masonry in the United States."

Prof. Chernoh Momodu Sesay, Jr., Asst. Prof of Religious Studies at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, DePaul University, Chicago, IL. Prof. Sesay's topic was "*All things here are frail and Changeable': The Social and Political Origins of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the late 18th century.*"



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Prof. Andrew Prescott, Director of Research, Humanities Advance Technology and Information Institute, University of Glasgow. Prof. Prescott’s topic was “*Freemasonry and the Mediation of Scottish Identity.*”

Mr. Robert L.D. Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. Mr. Cooper’s lecture explored “*The Earliest Masonic Rituals.*”

Dr. Andreas Önnorfors, Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism at the University of Sheffield, UK (2007 – 2010). Dr. Önnorfors is currently a lecturer in European Studies at the University of Malmö. Dr. Önnorfors lectured on “*Researching the History of Freemasonry: 3X3 ways forward!*”

In addition to these Plenary Lectures, participants to the conference chose from 27 lecture sessions on many varied subjects related to Freemasonry. On Sunday morning, there was an additional Plenary round table, chaired by **Prof. Prescott**, including **Prof. Susan Mitchell Somers**, **Prof. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch**, **Prof. James Allen Smith**, and **Prof. Jan Snoek**. The topic of the round table discussion was “*Freemasonry, Gender and History.*”

At the 2009 ICHF in Edinburg, the organizers arranged to have a recently discovered Masonic apron, which had been worn by Robert Burns, unveiled at the conference. Not to be outdone by our Scottish brothers, Mark Tabbert (Curator of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial) presided over the unveiling of the George Washington Masonic apron presented to our first Grand Master by Marquis Lafayette in 1784. Thought to have been lost, the apron was recently located in Mount Nebo Lodge No. 91, Shepherdstown, WV, where it has been for nearly 200 years. Purchased by Bro. Thomas Hammond



(husband of Washington’s niece) for the sum of \$6.00, it was donated to Mount Nebo Lodge in 1815. In commemoration of the bicentennial in 2011 of Mount Nebo Lodge, the Lodge loaned the apron to Mt Vernon, where it is currently on public display.

(Editor’s Note: Hyperlinks associated with the speaker’s names are links to their presentation videos on the Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry)

More ICHF Photos



Session 3:
(l to r) John Belton (FMS), [Dr. Brent S. Morris](#) (FMS), Mark Tabbert (FMS), and Daniel Egel (US)



Session 19:
(l to r) Joseph Stiles (US), Kristoferr Allerfeldt (UK), Adam Kendall (FMS), and Dr. Susan Sommers (Chair)



W Richard Grant (MMS)
PM Iditarod Lodge No. 20



Photo courtesy of Jay Hotchberg (FMS)



Light from the Great Land



Masonic Motorcycle Club International, ® Inc.

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Masonic Motorcycle Club International

Calling all Motorcyclists. Do you enjoy the open road with the wind on your face? Do you enjoy great fellowship? Are you proud to be Mason and also a motorcyclist? If you answered yes to one or all of these, we ask you to look into joining us. We are the Masonic Motorcycle Club International. With over 700 Masonic riders in 30 chapters representing almost every state and five countries, we're sure you'll find some brothers you'll enjoy riding with.

We are the oldest Masonic motorcycle club in the fraternity, having been formed in 1984 and have grown in popularity ever since. We are sure we have something for you. Check out our website, www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org.

Looking for a nice ride this year, and would you like to consider hanging out with 100 brothers who enjoy your passion for riding? Then check out this year's conference to be held at Red Wing, Minnesota from August 1-5, 2011. Registration forms are available on our website.

Winter's almost over. The riding season is about to get into full swing. Now's the time to check us out, join us, and ride with your fellow brothers.

Fraternally yours,

MMCI Executive Board

Posted here by direction of
M.:W.: Ronald L. Ackerman, GM