



TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

Are You A Traveling Man??

If you are a Mason, the answer is yes and if your name is Brother Ray Doyscher, the answer is a resounding YES.

Ray and his wife Donna, both retired teachers, travel to all parts of the world every year. A baseball cap, bearing the Square and Compasses, is part of Ray's traveling uniform and always elicits signs of recognition from Masons worldwide. Brother Ray keeps a mental journal of all of the different ways Masons have recognized and approached him during his travels.

On a trip to Australia earlier this year, Brother Ray was walking back to his cruise ship carrying a load of packages when he was accosted by a Border Patrol officer. The officer ordered Ray to put down his packages. With beads of sweat on his forehead and just slightly worried, Ray complied. The officer then gave Ray the Masonic handshake and identified himself as a Brother of the Craft. They had a good conversation and Ray was invited to attend Lodge in Brisbane, Australia that evening, but had to decline since his ship was set to depart.

While on a recent cruise in the Caribbean that took Ray and Donna to Mexico, Ray was enjoying a moment of refreshment at a beachfront bar, when he was approached by a group of Masons from Colorado who had seen his hat. They had special dispensation to hold Lodge on their cruise ship and invited Ray to attend. Unfortunately, it was a different ship. Ray was able to attend a Masonic gathering aboard the Queen Elizabeth



II while on a cruise to England last summer.

During that trip, a tour director asked Ray about his hat. She said that her husband was a Mason and, in fact, Master of his Lodge. She said a lot of the stress of her husband's position carried over to her. Donna's quick and sympathetic retort was "Imagine that!!!"

Later on the same trip, Ray and Donna traveled to Scotland and ultimately to Rosslyn Chapel, the Masonic mecca. While in Scotland, Bro. Ray made a startling discovery about Masonry in that country. He had heard rumors that Catholics were not accepted into to Masonry there. Having made the acquaintance of the doorman at his hotel, who was a fellow Mason, Ray decided to inquire about this unusual tidbit. The doorman scowled, crossed his arms and sternly said in his brogue, "Absolutely not...we don't let 'em in". End of discussion.

On a more jovial note, Ray and

Donna and family were in New Orleans in the French Quarter on Bourbon Street for the Christmas holiday when a fellow Masonic tourist saw Ray's hat and exclaimed, "Don't forget to duck at third base."

Brother Ray and Donna reside in Royal Oak. They have a son, Ray Jr. who is also a Mason. He is currently stationed at Ft. Polk, LA.

Ray's father and grandfather were Masons. Ray did not join the craft until after his father's passing. He was recruited by his friend, neighbor and fellow Mason, the late Bert Boehm.

Ray is a Past Master of our Lodge, presiding in 2004 and 2006. Ray is the currently the High Priest of his Royal Arch chapter and a member of both Scottish Rite and Shrine.



LODGE OFFICERS - 2008

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Ronald Aldridge (248) 548-3905

SENIOR WARDEN

James McPherson (248) 588-1623

JUNIOR WARDEN

Fred Messer, PM (248) 689-4889

SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM (248) 544-4613

TREASURER

Earl VanCise, PM (248) 288-3561

CHAPLAIN

Don Novak, PM (248) 541-5518

SENIOR DEACON

Brent Lilly (248) 645-7251

JUNIOR DEACON

James Novak (248) 565-6417

SR. STEWARD

Phil Leese (248) 543-2109

JR. STEWARD

Roy Prince (248) 280-9225

STEWARD

Bob Munro (586) 822-8023

STEWARD

Gerald Brown (586) 354-1940

STEWARD

James Diamond (248) 217-5921

MARSHALL

Guy Shelton, PM (586) 939-0536

TILER

Jack Parkin, PM (248) 589-1692

TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

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Elton Scott, PM (2008) (248) 545-4276

Donald Novak, PM (2009) (248) 541-5518

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Fred Messer, PM, Jr. Warden (248) 689-4889

James McPherson, Sr Warden (248) 588-1623

Ronald Aldridge, W. Master . (248) 548-3905

LODGE SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM

848 Venoy Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 544-4613

LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

2008 LODGE ACTIVITIES

May

05-22 Thu Guest Speaker 7:00 pm
More Light I Masonry -
The Scottish Rite – Social
Night to follow

05-29 Thu Social Night....all Musicians
Jam Session. 7:00 pm

June

06-05 Thu Potluck 6 p.m. Bring Dish
Business 7:00 p.m. (B)

06-12 Thu **E.A. Degree 7:00 pm**
Officers (Tux)

06-19 Thu **Annual Picnic in the**
Parking Lot 5pm-8pm
All invited- bring a friend

06-26 Thu **F.C. Degree 7:00 pm**
Officers (tux)

August

08-21 **Corn Roast – Picnic**
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Open
to all- bring family

September

09-04 Thu Potluck Dinner 6 p.m.
Business 7 p.m. (B)

09-11 Thu M.M. Practice 7 p.m.
Social Night to follow

09-18 Thu **M.M Degree 6:30 pm.**
Officers (tux)
Meal between 1st & 2nd
Sections

PLEASE NOTE:

Times and events may change due to unforeseen circumstances.
Check the website www.nac551.com for the most current calendar.

FROM THE EAST

Team 2008,

Well the robins are finally back and able to pull the worms from the ground in my backyard. Every year I have to compete with the robins. Why? Because they want the worms for a meal and I want them so that I can go fishing and catch me a meal.

Speaking of catching a meal? As I hope all of you know by now that I have been trying to plan a Muskie fishing trip on Lake St. Clair for the month of July. This doesn't have to be for Muskie. We could also go for Perch or Smallmouth bass or a combination of two, but I need to know by June 5th. if you are interested. This trip is open to members, family and friends.

Let's remember that June 19th. Is our annual picnic in the parking lot 5 PM - 8 PM. We have again invited the Madison Heights Fire Dept. They usually bring their equipment for us to explore and learn about. They also let us and the children use one of the real fire hoses. There will again be games for the children of all ages to enjoy. So bring the family and possibly a new candidate to the picnic.

By now we will have put two new candidates through their E.A. degree, and hope you joined us for the degree work. Welcome brothers! We hope to have a couple of more candidates when we return in September.

There is some BIG plans being made by our Temple Board to remodel our Blueroom during the months of June & July and they will need a lot of help. Many have seen the plans that attend lodge and believe me. We will be the envy of the state.

Please watch our website WWW.NAC551.COM for more updates.

Hope to see you at the picnic.
Ron Aldridge W.M.

FROM THE WEST

Brothers,

The snow shovel has been retired to the "trash pick-up" container. Spring is once again upon us! The lawn-mowers are ready to sing their songs of Summer. Time flows steady as clocks tick heavy. Its time for new thoughts, new members be BOLD, old members our GOLD!

Many things have been happening in our Lodge. Since the last Trestleboard we have held our annual Mason of the Year Dinner in honor of James Sparks, served our annual Corned Beef fund Raiser Dinner and had a presentation at one of our Social Nights by Dr. Monteufol, a chiropractor.

Mason of the Year Dinner – February 28, 2008



SW Jim McPherson and Jim Sparks

What a wonderful event! It was our Lodge's honor to recognize Brother Jim Sparks, our Secretary and a Past Master, as Mason of the Year for 2007. Jim is such an instrumental member of our Lodge and provides us with his sage guidance and encouragement. He is the epitome of Masonic Faith, Hope and Charity.

Jim's night was replete with his family, food and entertainment. Jim and his wife Doris did much of the work to prepare and organize the pork meal. The food was fantastic! Our newly acquired meat-slicer worked great, thanks to Earl VanCise who arranged the purchase and tested it for sharpness like a true Marine (bandages have now been removed).

A highlight of the evening was provided by a very special group of the Boy Scouts of America, the honorary team of "The Order Of The Arrow". They provided numerous authentic Indian Dances with their own music. The boys, mostly of High School age, were fantastic. Those present, especially the children, were in awe of the various characters and dances the boys portrayed. At the end of the program, the boys led those willing participants in a group dance. We owe much to Brother Roy Prince for all of his efforts to coordinate this program. Jim Sparks announced at the end of the program that the profits from the dinner would be donated to the Boy Scouts of America, which incidentally, was organized by a couple Masons.

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Jim Sparks with his family.



Roy Prince, wife and scout dancers



Jim Sparks with Order of the Arrow team



M.W.B. Robert Tressel with wife



M.W.B. Leon Richardson and Don House

Corned Beef Fund Raiser Dinner – March 17, 2008

In honor of the Irish and St. Patrick, the Lodge held its annual corned Beef Fund Raiser Dinner. The dinner was a hit. Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and salad were followed by desserts. Celtic music was provided by Brothers Robert Munro and Gerald Brown on guitar/bass along with Brother Roy Prince's two sons David and Benjamin on violin.

We find it especially pleasing to see Father and Son members of our Lodge. This night we had two. Ray Doyscher, PM and his son Ray Doyscher, Jr. were present. Also, Fred and Brad Messer, both Past Masters, were in attendance.



**Ray & Ray Doyscher
Father & Son**



**David Prince, Bob
Munro, Gerald Brown
and Benjamin Prince
provide music**

Social Night – The Music Plays-On

We continue to see members with musical instruments attending our Social Nights. Their music adds much to the night while others indulge in great conversation. Recently, Earl VanCise brought his new banjo in for all to see. It's a truly beautiful instrument! Now Earl, tickle those strings!

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Robert Munro and Gerald Brown

FROM THE WEST

(continued from Page 5)

Jack Parkin is itching for some cribbage games. Are any of you up to the challenge? If you are, come to a Social Night and share in the cribbage language: go, crib, peg, muggings and nobs. Do you know the "count" when you have a hand that is J, 5, 5, and 5 with starter the 5 of the same suit as the jack? If not, Jack Parkin will tell you that it is the highest possible hand with a count of ____.



Don House



Brent Lilly with daughter

Social night with Dr. Monteuful, Chiropractor

Dr. Monteuful visited our Lodge on a Social Night to discuss chiropractic medicine and some of his "Wellness" concepts for dieting. His discussion was very beneficial and the members present seemed to and benefit by his information. Our thanks go to Dr. Monteuful for his fine presentation.

FOURTH ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARKING LOT

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**



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