

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

NOVEMBER 2008

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ronald Aldridge, Worshipful Master

Honor Our Servicemen

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

We honor our veterans and military personnel and thank them for their service to the country.



U.S.A.F

John Beedle-Gee
James Niks



U.S.M.C.

Phillip Appledorn
Jason Ceaser
Oscar Chapman
John Clary
Mark Gerhard
Matthew Harwedel
Mark Jenkins
Robert J. Kendall Jr.
Brent Lilly
Earl Van Cise
Ryan White



U.S. Navy

James Diamond
Fred Earnshaw
Todd Mitchell
Robert Munro
Perry Shelton
John Walford



U.S. Army

Joseph Brown
Cliff Dean
Raymond Doyscher Jr.
Terry Drinkwine
Arthur Gustafson
Victor Koponen
James McPherson
Jack Parkin
Leon Richardson
George Staten
Martin Tudor
Richard Wisely

Royal Canadian Army

Mike Mosuk



More Pictures on Page 7



Jack Parkin, US Army
in Germany1956

All Brothers who served in the armed forces have our greatest gratitude. If we have missed someone and failed to include them in this list, please accept our apology and contact one of our officers with your information.

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

Ronald Aldridge (2007) (248) 548-3905

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

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

DINNER RESERVATIONS

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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

October

10-16 Thu ... M.M. Degree Practice 7p.m. Social to follow

10-20 Mon ... Installation Practice 7 p.m. Ray Doyscher

10-27 Mon ... M.M. Degree (T) Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Lodge open at 7 p.m. This is at BERKLEY LODGE

10-30 Thu ... Old Timers & Awards Dinner 6:30 p.m. Event Open to Public. This is a catered Dinner. Reservations necessary

November

11-06 Thu ... Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

11-13 Thu ... F.C. Degree (T) 7:00 p.m.

Officers to move up a position

11-20 Thu ... Widows Memorial Dinner 6:30 p.m.

This is a catered Dinner. Open to the Public.

Reservations necessary.

December

12-04 Thu ... Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

Installation Practice to follow

12-07 Sun ... Annual Lodge Children's Christmas Party. Santa Claus visitation. Open to public. 2 p.m. Food provided. Bring a \$5 gift per child.

12-13 Sat ... Annual Installation of Officers (T)

Open to public. Ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Hors d'Ouerves and Refreshment to follow.

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Check website for up-to-date info at www.nac551.com



FROM THE EAST

Brothers of Team 2008

Well it seems that my year as Worshipful Master has flown by at break neck speed.

I would like to thank all of the team that assisted me in my endeavor and could not have done it without you. It has been an experience of a lifetime and an honor to have served our lodge. Especially during some of the bad times with the health of my son and your support definitely helped during this time.

We did raise several new brothers and will be raising more before the end of the year and hope to have many brothers attend our degree work. We all know it is so very important to our new candidates to have our support by having the sidelines full.

The Temple Board has done an exceptional job in remodeling our temple and I'm sure we will be the envy of many others. There have been several of our members that have worked tirelessly during this time I wish to personally thank you.

Brothers please keep in mind that our new officers will need help putting on our yearly functions: such as our picnics and various dinners. The number of helpers is dwindling and is being left up to a small handful of members that are getting tired. Perhaps we should have these functions catered which will certainly take the price up. Is this what we want? If not, then how about showing up to help. Please remember that there is no I in team.

Please support our incoming team for 2009 and give them the support you have all given my team.

S & F

Ron Aldridge WM

What do you Desire Most?

A small Lodge had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and its air conditioner had stopped working.

After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired.

The candidate replied "a beer".

At this juncture the WM., being startled, whispered "light" to the candidate.

"OK," the candidate replied, "a lite beer."

FROM THE WEST

Summer weather is finally beginning to give way to cool breezes. Brother Ray Doyscher has become the Halloween nightmare of every squirrel, skunk, raccoon and rabbit that dares to approach his Yale Street Farm in southern Royal Oak. His and Donna's bountiful garden has become the envy of many. They deserve much credit for all the hard work they invest in their Yale Street Cannery and Community Food Bank!

It's no surprise to our Old Timers that another Masonic Year is flying by us at seemingly super-sonic speed. Much too fast! Soon the frost will settle onto Ray's plantation. The ice will form across the broad expanse of Worshipful Master Ron's and Brother Earl's fish ponds. Brother Fred will stash his sleek fishing yacht away from the snow and freezing temperatures. And then we will all turn our attention to the 2008 calendar as it clings to that final month – December – a time for family and reflection.

But WAIT! We still have some wonderful Lodge events scheduled before Old Father Time rips away that last month of this year's calendar. Please come to Lodge to share these events and enjoy the fellowship of Brothers, Friends and Family.

Jim McPherson, SW

WHY PRESIDENT McKINLEY BECAME A MASON

When General Horatio King asked William McKinley how he happen to become a Mason he explained: "After the Battle of Opequam, I went with our surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment; I didn't know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

"Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well"" said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

"I said to myself, If that is Freemasonry I will take some of it for myself."

Fellow Craft Degree

Brother Jim Niks completed his Fellowcraft Degree on September 18th. The Degree went very well with Brother Fred Messer opening the Lodge and performing the "obligation." Brother Art Gustofson sat in the Junior Warden's Chair, Brother Ray Doyscher served as Senior Deacon, Brother Ryan Koponen filled in as Chaplin for the night. Brother Guy Shelton conducted traffic as the Marshall, Brother Phil Leese served as the Junior Steward and Brother Jack Parkin wielded the steel as the Tiler. Our Stewards, Gerald Brown, Jim Diamond and Roy Prince, performed their jobs with great dignity. Additionally, Gerald Brown introduced Jim Niks to the "working tools." Brother Roy Prince conducted Brother Niks through the "middle chambers." Brother Jim Sparks was Secretary and Jim McPherson was Senior Warden. Brother Martin Tudor prepared a meal of gourmet hotdogs. Brother Leon Richardson performed the closing ritual upon completion of the degree. If I missed anyone, please accept my apology and an invitation to write an article for our next Trestleboard.

September Social Night

We had a small Social Night on September 25th with a few of the Brothers from our Lodge. There were no special activities beyond a lot of good conversation and a couple rusty old stories.

Silent Cal and the Craft

President Calvin Coolidge had the reputation of being a person of few words. One time while attending a public function he was told by a young lady, "Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words." To which he replied, "You lose."

Although not a Mason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor of the Bay State, he addresses the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said: "It has not been my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation."



Lodge Room Changes

The Templeboard approved a refurbishing project for the Lodge Room. The project included some new ceiling tiles, fresh paint for the walls, new carpeting and new seats.

Fall Corn Roast

The Fall Corn Roast was held on August 21st and was well attended. The sweet corn was especially good this year with many compliments from our guests. The winner of the 50-50 Raffle was Guy Sheldon. Now Guy can buy himself a new snow shovel for winter ... he will probably need it!

There were many wonderful old friendships renewed as well as many young faces as our grandchildren enjoyed the feast and were entertained by David Prince demonstrating his violin and banjo skills.



Don Novak, Leon Richardson and WM Ron Aldridge.

Fall Corn Roast



Jim McPherson's wife Joie with daughter and grand children



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stockwell



Jim and Doris Sparks with their daughter Teri and son-in-law Dave Bauldry



Ann Hamilton and daughter



John Beedle-Gee discussing world events



John Walford and his son-in-law Bruce Blaquiere



Elton Scott with his wife Norma



Dave Prince playing his violin for some of the children



Jim Novak with his wife Jena



Roy Prince's wife and son Benjamin

Fall Corn Roast



Charlie and Sally Yago



Mr. & Mrs. Guy Shelton and Cecilia



Jim McPherson's son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren



Linda Nixon on left enjoying meal with friends

The Masonic Knight

In days of old a Brother Knight was having his squire polish up his best Armor and his groom curry his best Charger. His fair lady- seeing the activity Says; "If you're going to that Lodge again you'd better be back before 9:45 else I'm bringing up the drawbridge and you're out for the night." Yes dear, he says - packs his apron into his saddlebags and heads off to the meeting. 9:34 and there's been a bit of Harmony at the close of the meeting. Sir Knight looks at his sundial and sees the time. He downs the last of his mead- grabs his apron- leaps to his charger and sets off at full gallop towards the castle. 9:40 and he's on the home straight- the castle is up ahead but the horse is tiring. He spurs it into one last gasp effort.

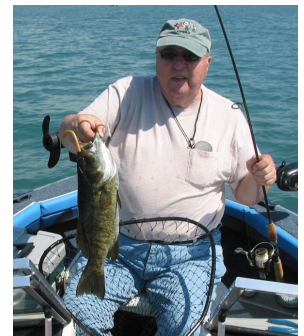
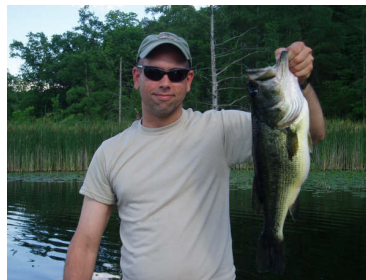


9:44 - only yards to go but the drawbridge is starting to rise. With a feat of horsemanship still unsurpassed- he gets to his feet in the saddle and leaps for the rising edge of the drawbridge. His fingertips just curl over the top but the beer and the weight of the armor are just too much. As his fingers slowly release their grip on the wood- he looks down and says:

"Oh well." *"So moat it be!"*

Old Timers Dinner on October 30

Please let us know if you would like to make reservations for the Old Timers dinner at 6:30 PM, Thursday October 30th. This will be a great opportunity to renew acquaintances. We hope to see some of our Life Members that have not been able to make it to our regular meetings for a while.



Summertime Angling

Jim Novak and Earl VanCise showoff their angling expertise (luck). Jim and his wife (Jena) are avid fishers and travel around Michigan to ply their acquired fishing skills. You can see in this photo that Jim is holding a huge bass. Not to be outdone, here is a photo of Earl VanCise preparing to use the bass he caught as bait to catch the "Anchor Bay Monster," which is reported to terrorize the waters off Harsens Island.



Richard and Elaine Wisely

On Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council Northern Masonic Jurisdiction held in Providence, R.I., our own Brother Richard Wisely P.M., was elevated to the Thirty-Third Degree. Bro. Wisely was one of only 105 candidates from the whole jurisdiction to receive this honor. The Thirty-Third Degree is awarded for outstanding achievement in the fraternity. Congratulations Brother.



1966 - Jim McPherson, USAF
Fort Riely, Kansas



1962 - John Beedle, USAF

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