

The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community

Winter 2016



The Cable Tow

Fall 2016

The newsletter of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska and the Juneau Masonic Community.

Published quarterly.

Executive Editor

W. Bro. Ray Rusaw,
Worshipful Master,
Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge
No. 21.

Editors

Bro. Charles Ward
Kevin Caliendo, Ph.D.

Contributors

R.W. Bro. John May
V.W. Bro. Don Hale
W. Bro. Nick Adair
W. Bro. Claude Roberts
W. Bro. Ray Rusaw
W. Bro. Ken Vaughan
Bro. Charles Ward

Cover image:

The Past Master's medallion of W. Bro. John Duckworth, the first Master of Gastineaux Lodge No. 124. For more, see above right. Photo by V.W. Bro Don Hale.

Send submissions to charlesward4@me.com. The deadline for submissions for the next edition is Feb. 1, 2016.



An honored homecoming



Photo by Bro. Charles Ward

V.W. Bro. Don Hale holds up the Past Master's medallion of W. Bro. John Duckworth. The medallion had been in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Arizona, who returned it to R.W. Bro. Jerry Wasson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Alaska. Duckworth served as the first Master of Gastineaux Lodge No. 124 in 1903 and 1904. Also pictured is W. Bro. Ray Rusaw, the current Master of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21.

Features

Traveling and earning wages	3
A tale of two Masons	4
We have built it. Will they come?	5
A fabulous Fourth, and more	6
The financial swing of things	6
A new road lay ahead	7
Ready and assembled for a great term	8
Food, fellowship and fun	10



Traveling and earning wages

By W. Bro. Ray Rusaw

Greetings, Fraternal friends. Let me say what an honor it has been to sit in the East this past year. What a year it has been, with the construction of our new Lodge, along with having to move out of our rented space at T&S Welding a bit earlier than expected. A special thanks goes out to Bro. Larry White, Senior Warden Charles Ward and W. Bro. and Secretary Ken Vaughan for their time and effort to work with the Elks Lodge to secure a temporary meeting place.

The reconstruction of the Scottish Rite Annex has been a huge undertaking that still continues as I write these words. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge a few of the Brothers and their sons for their many hours of labor so freely given. First, Doug Harris and his son Mason. Mason is a natural with a paintbrush who created and applied a rich, dark red faux cherry stain finish in the conference room, seemingly without effort

(though the reality is he labored for many hours to do the job right). Doug also put in a great deal of labor into painting and in-



Photo by W. Bro. Ray Rusaw
V.W. Bro. Russ Shivers lays the tessellated tile on Dec. 3, 2016 at the center of the rising lodge room at the Juneau Masonic Center. Shivers is one of several professional craftsmen who have donated their time and skills to the new facility.

stalling cabinets. Second, I would like to send a personal thank you to W. Bro. Jim Robinson. This man put in many hours spreading drywall compound on less than perfect seams, sometimes requiring three coats just to make it close to passable. It was also very helpful he is a tall fellow. Next, W. Bros. Allen Bell and Jim Wilson receive my sincerest, heartfelt thank you. Both of you have been a tremendous help and have lent

a hand every Saturday since this whole project started. It has been a pleasure getting to know you better. Finally, our newest Entered Apprentice Jim Herr and Bro. Ralph Kibby have contributed valuable professional expertise to this project. This new lodge is not only for today or next year but will be home for generations of Masons to come.

On an unrelated note, many of you know I rarely travel. Juneau is my home and traveling from it is something I don't always look forward to. Since I've become a Master Mason, it has given me a chance or should I say a hope to travel as I now know in many stations around the world there will be a Brother Mason with a friendly smile and a heartfelt "Hello!" During my visit to see my oldest son and my new granddaughter, I visited Corinthian Lodge No. 38 in Puyallup, Wash. What a treat it was to see our Brothers in Washington bring a new entered

See Visited on page 8

A tale of two Masons

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

The history of Masonry in Juneau has many notable men, but two of those are the focus of this article. One is memorialized as a result of his two four-year terms as governor of the then territory of Alaska. The other worked as U.S. Attorney in the Great Land during four of those years and went on to the private practice of law and service to Alaska Masonry until his death. Many of the details of their time as Masonic laborers in Juneau are still being worked through, but there are a few linkages that are worth sharing as an introduction.

Gov. George Parks came to Alaska in 1907 and spent his life here. While there is no record of his membership in either Gastineaux Lodge No. 124 or Mt. Juneau Lodge No. 147, his presence in the Juneau lodges was known. V.W. Bro. Harley Clough, for one, said he sat in Lodge with Parks on several occasions.

R.W. Bro. Jerry Wasson, Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Alaska, helped locate Parks' home lodge. Parks became a Mason in 1906 in Golden Lodge No.

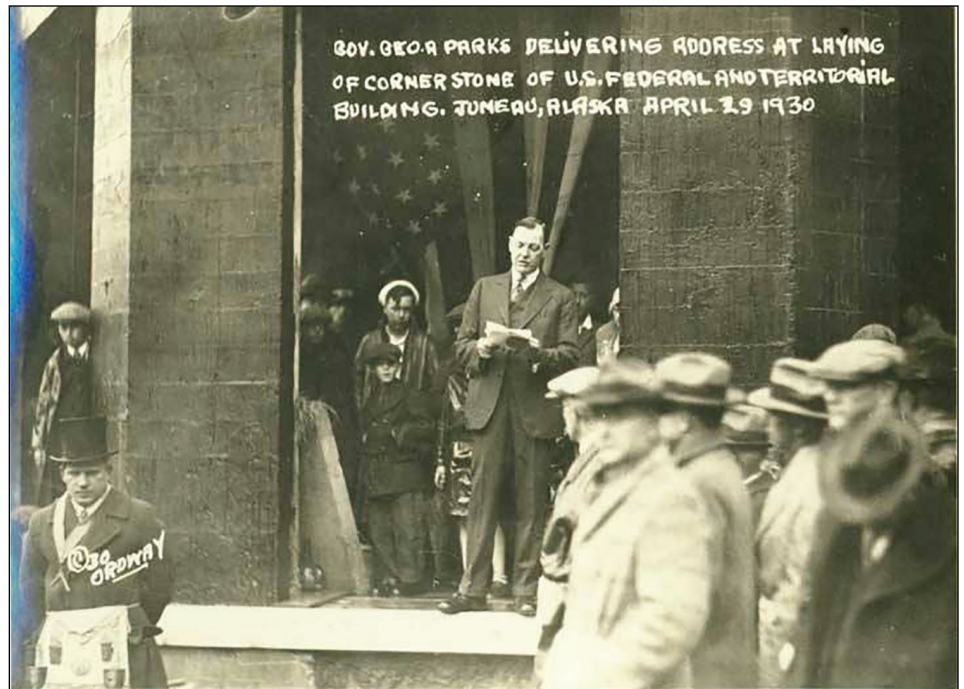


Photo courtesy Alaska State Library George A. Parks Collection, Ordway Photo Shop, ASL-P240 -610
George Parks, first governor of the Territory of Alaska, delivers an address at the laying of the cornerstone of what is now the Alaska Capitol on April 19, 1930. Parks, along with U.S. Attorney Howard Stabler, sat in Juneau's Masonic lodges and contributed to the development of Masonry in Alaska.

1 in Golden, Colo. and remained a member until his death in 1984.

Howard Stabler was born in Ohio and served in the Army, rising to the rank of sergeant in the Signal Corps. He graduated law school in 1916 and began work as an attorney in Spokane, Wash. in 1917. In 1919, he moved to Sitka and from there to Juneau in 1921. Upon arriving in the Capital City, he worked for the U.S. Attorney's office, gaining appointment as U.S. Attorney for the Territory in 1929, and continued in that role until President Franklin Roosevelt took office in 1933. Stabler became a Mason in Mt. Juneau Lodge in 1929 and served as Master of the Lodge in 1935.

For four years, Gov. Parks and U.S. Attorney Stabler were leaders in the territorial government. During this period the current

Capitol rose and, in 1930, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington (which contained Alaska in its jurisdiction) laid the building's cornerstone. Mt. Juneau Lodge received the silver trowel from that event and, on April 4, 2015, M.W. Bro. Doug Teninty used it to lay the cornerstone for the new Juneau Masonic Center.

While Parks was not a member of the Juneau lodges, he was an active Mason until his death. Stabler enjoyed a long career in Masonry, particularly in the Scottish Rite until his death in 1963.

Both men are interred in the Masonic Section of Evergreen Cemetery. They are buried adjacent to each other in adjoining rows. As they worked together, participated in Masonry together

See Buried on page 8

We have built it. Will they come?



Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

An exterior view of the new Juneau Masonic Center, located at 9315 Glacier Highway.

By Bro. Charles Ward

As I write this, the final parts of principal construction are wrapping up on the new Juneau Masonic Center. By the time you read this, we'll have had an event or two in our new facility, and we'll be making plans to dedicate the building on March 18, 2017.

However, the building of our new physical structure is just the beginning of our labors toward rebuilding and restrengthening our Masonic community, and we must be cautious to ensure the Juneau Masonic Center becomes the cornerstone

of Masonic life, not an anchor.

We have, I fear, been too willing to chalk up low attendance and low participation rates to a lack of a permanent home. And, to be sure, our nearly decade-long nomadic existence has been a problem. But, brotherhood and spirit are not built with bricks and mortar, but instead with hands of friendship, motivated bodies and minds focused on our communities.

How, then, can we ensure the new Juneau Masonic Center meets its full potential? We must use it to rebuild, retrain and re-energize.

Rebuild: Many old tradi-

tions have been lost or shelved while on our sojourn. And, the JMC lends itself well towards creating new ones within its walls. We may not have a commercial kitchen, but that does not preclude our resumption of the oldest bonding ritual of all: breaking bread together. Potlucks, catered events and even microwave meals are now possible with just a bit of planning and effort. We may not have a grand ballroom, but we do have a space that can be opened up to our own members and our friends in Juneau to host events

See Opened on page 8

A fabulous Fourth, and more

By Noble Claude Roberts

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club enjoyed a great Fourth of July, with our newly painted mini-'Vettes winning Best Customized Vehicle in the Juneau parade this year. The Club also won an award in the Douglas parade.

In September, we were able to initiate a new Noble, James Wilson.

In October, the Club elected officers for 2017. Noble Mer'chant Thompson will serve as President, Nobles Rik Pruett and Craig Bumpus as vice presidents, Noble Jim Robinson as Treasurer and Noble Charles Ward as Secretary. I'll be stepping down from the secretary's desk after serving for more than 20 years in that role. The new officers for 2017 will be sworn in Jan. 4

at the Moose Lodge.

On Nov. 19, the Club held its annual Turkey Bash at the Juneau Senior Center. Bumpus ran the show as chief cook. After the feast, Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of Eastern Star auctioned off a variety of desserts.

The Club will close 2016 with its Christmas lunch, set for 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 14 at the Moose Lodge.

From the Secretary's Desk

Getting back into the financial swing of things

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

Dues notices are en route, and may be in your mailbox already. If you're a yearly dues-paying member, please submit your dues for 2017 as soon as practical upon receipt. Dues are \$150 a year, for most members, with members who have reached their 70th birthdays and have been members for 10 years to pay only the Grand Lodge per capita charge, currently \$29 a year.

Life membership is set by the Lodge bylaws at 25 times the annual dues, or \$3,750, which can be paid in installments over five years.

Occasionally, the question of

non-payment of dues, commonly called NPD comes up. In some jurisdictions, a Mason who NPD is suspended as a Mason. In Alaska, a member who is behind on dues at the end of two years is identified as NPD, and ceases to be affiliated with the Lodge. The brother remains a Mason, but no longer has connection to a lodge. Reinstatement within two years of going NPD comes from paying up to two years delinquent dues, plus the current year's levy. After that, the financial toll is the same, but an NPD Mason must be investigated and balloted on.

In one's journey, you may encounter a lapsed Mason who has a longing to reactivate his connection to the fraternity. Your

knowing two years past dues plus the current invoice is the price and knowing a bit about the process may calm a fear the delinquent Mason will have to pay years and years of back dues. The Lodge Secretary can look up the contact information for any regular Lodge in the world, to confirm the details of a lapsed Mason's entry into the Fraternity. "Rusty Mason" sessions can also take place, to remind a Mason of the proper methods of entry and acceptance into Lodge, or to prepare for travels.

Of course, the easiest way to get off the NPD roll is not get on it in the first place. If you know

See Prepare on page 8

A new road lay ahead

By Bro. Charles Ward

As we approach the end of our journey towards a new home for all of our Masonic bodies, it's right to take a look back at where we've come from and towards what lies ahead for the Juneau Masonic Center and its ownership company, the Juneau Masonic Center Association.

In 2006, the leaders of the Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite made the decision to sell the downtown Temple. While this decision was difficult for all involved and painful for some, it was the correct one. The great expense the Rite, and other Masonic bodies, undertook on

an annual basis to simply keep the doors of that structure open was not matched by the income produced by a membership reduced by administrative decisions from on high and the Baby Boomers' generational decision to enroll in fraternal societies in far lesser numbers than their fathers had.

The sale of the Temple led to an unplanned, decade-long odyssey and nomadic existence for the Juneau Masonic family. We changed names, traveled to a strip mall, a day-care center and to space atop a welding shop. Some of these spaces proved better than others (particularly the space we rented from the

Shivers family), but none were home.

That will soon change. After the continual efforts of so many, the Juneau Masonic Center is nearly complete. We will begin holding events there by the end of this calendar year, and will dedicate the new building on March 18, 2017. If you haven't had a chance to see our new home, please call or email me, so we can set up a tour. You can also track progress on our Facebook page, located at [facebook.com/JuneauMasonicCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/JuneauMasonicCommunity).

Now, the Juneau Masonic

See Boasts on page 9

Rainbow Girls

Ready and assembled for a great term

By W.A. Mikayla Steiner

I'm the current Worthy Advisor for Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. I would like to thank everyone for attending my installation and look forward to meeting those who were unable to.

It has come to my attention that the girls of my assembly do not know the members of their Masonic family very well. This is something I wish to work on during my term. It would be

great for the Rainbow girls to attend one meeting of each of the Masonic bodies. It would also delight us to see a few new faces at one of our meetings. We are in a bit of an unusual place right now with no building, but I would still like to see some interaction between us in the next six months. Once we have a stable meeting place again, I hope to hold a Masonic game night and hope I will get to see you there. I will do my best to keep you informed of the Rainbow girl activities over the coming months.

Opened

Continued from page 5

that build our sense of community and allow us to share that with our neighbors.

Retrain: The Juneau Masonic Center will be better connected than any of our previous homes, with high-speed internet, television monitors and ways to expand our tech capabilities even further. This greatly reduces our need to travel to Anchorage or elsewhere for opportunities for training and education, and greatly increases our opportunities to educate ourselves.

We will also have a dedicated space for meetings. This will allow us to review our ritual practices to ensure we are incorporating mandatory elements, our own traditions and best practices when performing the ceremonies that define us.

Re-energize: Our new home is at a fixed location, which will end questions like “Where are we meeting?” and

“Are we meeting?” It’s one story, ADA-compliant, with ample room for accessible parking, so members scared off by steep stairwells can make their ways back.

That takes care of physical impediments. What about emotional ones? With the resources now (or shortly) available to us, we have an opportunity to make our meetings more than minutes, our ritual more meaningful and our events more exciting. We need to make our meeting and event nights “can’t miss,” and end the dialogue of “What’d I miss?” “Not much.”

There has been a great deal of work put into getting our new Center off the ground, both literally and figuratively. But now, the work of Masonry within its walls must begin. Doing that work well will ensure our meaningful existence for future generations, not four walls and a roof.

Buried

Continued from page 4

er, and are buried together, a fitting end for two eminent Juneau Masons. The next time you drive the Parks Highway, think of Bro. Parks. Few in Alaska have captured the respect that Alaskans give to his memory.

Stabler is known as the first Alaskan Masonic scholar. He corresponded with other Masonic scholars around the country and world and led the Scottish Rite’s efforts in Alaska for many years.

Visited

Continued from page 3

apprentice into their lodge. It was nice to see good men stretching out our hands to the world with the three great lights: faith, hope and charity.

Prepare

Continued from page 6

of a brother who is having hard times and is behind on dues, please let the Worshipful Master or the Secretary know. The Master is granted great discretion and ability to assure we can avoid a brother becoming NPD during hard times, and do it without publicity.

Save the Date
Juneau Masonic Center
Dedication
March 18, 2017

Boasts

Continued from page 5

Center Association will begin a new journey: the transition from planning a building to operating one.

The new Center boasts more than 5,000 square feet of space. While this is far greater area than cramped quarters at Mendenhall Mall or atop T&S Welding, it will fill quickly. The Juneau Masonic groups have filled, in whole or in part, six (!) storage lockers and similar quarters during their sojourns, and the new facility will not be able to accommodate every single treasure we own. The groups will need to decide what is important to have at hand in the JMC for regular labor, what needs to be held offsite for occasional use and what items do not hold practical or historical importance. It will be important to maintain both a critical eye and an awareness of the real space available for use.

The bodies, through their JMCA representatives, will also need to develop a financial plan to ensure the ongoing success of the new building. Many were heartbroken when the Scottish Rite Temple had to be sold, because the cost of maintenance far exceeded the income the building produced and the contributions the Juneau Masonic Community could make. On a personal note, I was heartbroken on a recent trip to see the

house my college fraternity had owned and operated since 1929 was being used by the university as office space, because a recent extensive and expensive remodel was not accompanied by a prudent financial plan.

The new Masonic Center will cost money to operate. The City and Borough of Juneau will expect to be paid for water, sewer and trash service, and will expect a handsome check once a year for property taxes. AEL&P will, likewise, send us a friendly reminder once a month of our financial obligations to it. We will need lightbulbs and paper towels, and the list goes on. JMCA can plan pretty well for some of these expenses, while others will take a year or so of occupancy and use before they can be pinned down. JMCA is tasked with operating the new facility as a business, and will do so. This may lead to some frank discussions and hard choices in their near future. For now, all of the bodies need to understand their costs and contributions may increase in the years ahead, and should begin planning now for that eventuality.

I'm looking forward to the next moves in our journey together. There will be a few wrong turns, but let's learn from our missteps and try to take as many of the right paths as we can.

**FIND THE JUNEAU MASONIC
COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!**

Juneau Masonic Community



Friendship • Fraternity • Family

Food, fellowship and fun

By R.W. Bro. John May and
W. Bro. Nick Adair

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the Winter 2016 edition of "Light from the Great Land," the newsletter of the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

On Oct. 14, R.W. John May organized an event at the Tonsina River Lodge about 40 miles south of Glennallen, Alaska, and roughly 80 miles north of Valdez on the Richardson Highway near Copper Center, Alaska

One of the purposes of this weekend retreat was for brethren to fellowship with other brethren they normally do not get a chance to meet with, in person, over the calendar year, until the Grand Sessions in February.

There were Masons from the Fairbanks area (District 1), the Mat-Su area (District 5), Valdez (District 1), Anchorage (District 3), and Juneau (District 4).

However, we had a greater purpose in mind, and that greater purpose was to educate one another with much of the Masonic knowledge gained throughout the year.

With Masons showing up throughout the day, and even later in the evening, most every-

one arrived around 4 p.m. Right after our arrivals, it didn't take long for the conversations about Masonry to start right up. We all seemed to have Masonry on the mind, and we all had something that we needed to talk about. It's rare that these issues are discussed in lodge. It's even more rare to have enough time to discuss these issues and come up with a solution. This weekend, we were able to do just that.



There were a couple of minor changes to the schedule of events that took place due to the "topic of conversation" being something that really needed to be worked through.

R.W. John May's presentation on "Lodge Innovation and Restoration" was quite the topic of discussion. Not only did this presentation point out many of the deficiencies and issues we have within our current lodges, but it reconciled an action plan toward a good resolution that not only nurtures your lodge, but sets a solid future and realistic goals.

W.B. Nick Adair's presentation talked about the practical use of Masonry, regarding the four cardinal virtues, within the workplace, and how they apply to our daily lives.

A couple of times a day, we

had a visit from a baby moose, who liked to check things out.

Tonsina Lodge does have a Russian spa, and a shooting range available for anyone who would like to target shoot. However, the Masons here decided to focus more on the discussion throughout the day, as the discussion from our first presentation went on from a late start at 9 a.m., and continued until 2 p.m.

W.B. Nick Adair was the keynote speaker, and gave a presentation on "Distractions" and how they forcefully enter into your life, and keep you from focusing on the things you find most important.

The evening ended with a lot of fellowship, more discussion, and drinks all around, as Tonsina Lodge has a full bar available.

The next morning, we were again fed with an amazing breakfast, as we discussed a new plan toward preparing, and conducting stated business meetings.

The festive board was a fantastic event! The food prepared by our hosts at Tonsina lodge was incredible. R.W. John May prepared an entire event for the evening, including discussion, songs, and an in-depth history of the "Table Lodge."

We are already planning another event in April of 2017, at Tonsina River Lodge. For more information, please contact the Alaska Masonic Research and Education Committee.