

The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community

Fall 2017



The Cable Tow

Fall 2017

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. Charles Ward,
Worshipful Master,
Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge
No. 21.

Editor

Kevin Caliendo, Ph.D.

Contributors

Ill. John Barnett, 33°
Worthy Matron
Gabrielle Hazelton
Bro. Martin Peters
Jessica Quintero
W. Bro. Ken Vaughan
W. Bro. Charles Ward

Cover image:

Noble Curtis Hopson gets ready
to roll out into the Juneau 4th of
July Parade in his newly painted
and polished mini-'Vette.

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine
Club took part in both the
2017 the Juneau and Douglas
Independence Day parades.

Send submissions to
charlesward4@me.com. The
deadline for submissions for the
next edition is November 15.



A chance encounter in the Yukon



Photo courtesy Bro. Martin Peters

Bro. Martin Peters, right, stopped in for breakfast at Moose Creek Lodge, just outside Stewart Crossing in the Yukon Territory. M.W. Bro. Ron Yates, middle, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, A.F.& A.M. of British Columbia and Yukon, was also at the restaurant. He noticed the square and compasses on Peters' truck and stopped to take a picture.

Contents

Lessons from a long time ago...	3
Coffee, anyone?	4
Caring carries on through August	5
Taking steps with some new tech	6
Honors headed to Juneau	7
Summer a time for Shiners to shine	8
Rainbows, stars and strangers	10

Lessons from a long time ago...

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, recently installed its officers for the Fall/Winter 2017 term. Before I get to the meat of this article, I want to pass on my congratulations and best wishes to Worthy Advisor Stacia Harris and her officers for this term and would invite her and them to visit Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 to provide the Brothers with an update of their plans and activities for the coming months.

Harris chose “Star Wars” as the theme for her term of office, and I enjoyed helping set up the appearance of members of the 501st Legion – Alaska Outpost at her installation.

The 501st is a society of Star Wars fans that have taken their appreciation of the films, books, video games, toys and so on to another level – they dress up as their favorite characters from the Star Wars universe and make appearances in character when requested to do so and when time permits.

When working with the local 501sters, I did some research on the group and about the people who take part, and came away impressed not only with the Legion, but also the people who make the group what it is.

It takes more than filling out



Photo by Jessica Quintero
W. Bro. Charles Ward, center, with two members of the 501st Legion, Alaskan Outpost prior to Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls’ installation of officers on Aug. 12.

a form and paying dues to join the 501st. Prospective members are expected to create their own costumes, either from scratch or by making substantial modifications to commercially available models. Outfits must be approved before they can be worn in public by someone as a representative of the Le-

gion. This requires a significant investment of not just time, but money as well. In speaking to one of the members, he mentioned he had been working on a second costume, which he was nearly ready to submit for approval, for almost three years. Members take their ob-

See Lessons on page 9

Coffee, anyone?



Photo by W. Bro. Charles Ward

Members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, along with guests, line up for coffee and treats at the Lodge's "Civil Cup of Coffee" event, held July 29 at the Juneau Masonic Center. Pictured from left are Bro. Kyle Mozelle, Bro. Martin Peters, W. Bro. John Barnett, Kay Peters, V.W. Bro. Jim Wilson and Bro. Doug Harris.

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 treated the Capital City to a cup of coffee on July 29 at the Juneau Masonic Center.

The coffee and assorted treats were on the Lodge but, as with most things in life that are

free, there was a catch: the conversation that went with the coffee was asked to remain civil.

Freemasonry encourages its members to act with civility in our daily lives and our interactions with all people. One essential element of that courtesy is the practice of polite conversa-

tion. To that end, attendees were asked to avoid the three 'P's of uncivil conversation: politics, piety (religion) and profanity.

"American society is rapidly losing its ability to have its members talk with each other," said Charles Ward, Worshipful Master of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux

Caring carries on through August

Cable Tow Staff Report

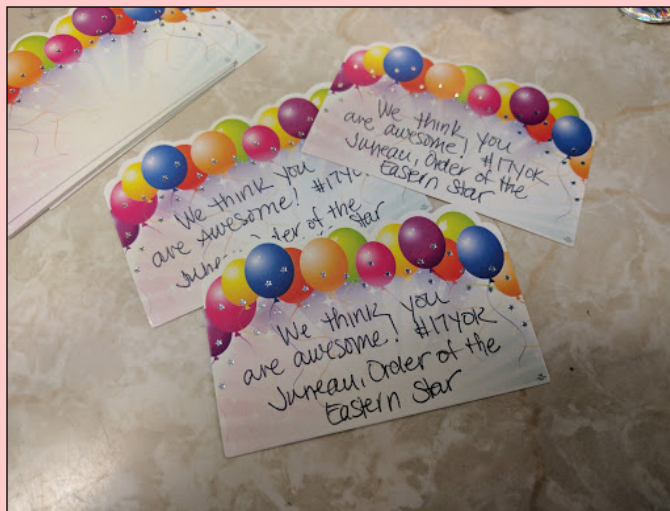
Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 wasn't the only member of the Juneau Masonic Community taking part in Juneau's Year of Kindness.

During the month, the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club teamed with the American Red



Photos courtesy W.M. Gabrielle Hazelton

Above and right: Members of Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star made 26 cards of encouragement to send to random Juneauites as one of their efforts during their Week of Kindness, part of the Masonic Month of Kindness and Juneau's Year of Kindness.



Cross to install smoke detectors in Capital City homes.

Meanwhile, members of Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star thanked local "behind the scenes" workers by sending fudge to Bartlett Regional Hospital; balloons to the staff of the Child Advocacy Center, Office of Children's Services and the Bridge Adult Day Program; flowers to workers at the Department of Motor Vehicles; coffee to garbage men making their rounds and cards of encouragement to 26 random Juneauites.

Lodge No. 21. "Instead, Americans are increasingly talking, or even yelling, at each other. We're hopeful the people who attended our event enjoyed a few minutes — or a few hours — of civil and polite communication, and find a way to have more and more of them in their daily lives."

The Civil Cup of Coffee kicked off the Masonic Month of Kindness, which in turn is part

of Juneau's Year of Kindness initiative. Each of Juneau's Masonic organizations took a week to offer displays of kindness in the Capital City.

In addition to the Civil Cup of Coffee, members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 committed, during its week, to display a civil presence in its online communications.

"As Masons, we are commit-

ted to doing good unto all," the Lodge posted on accounts associated with the Juneau Masonic Community. "This includes communicating in a civil and respectful manner with everyone, even those with whom we disagree. During Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21's Week of Kindness, we will renew our

See Coffee on page 10

Taking steps with some new tech

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

Summer is ending with rain and more rain. There are seven more stated meetings for the Lodge year.

Keeping up the rosters with current addresses and emails is an ongoing task. It is made a bit easier by the Grand Lodge providing a consolidated computer system for membership and record keeping. That

system changed this past spring to GrandView, a noticeable improvement over the old method, as the prior system was no longer being maintained.

If you use email and have not shared that address with the Lodge, I would appreciate an email message at

mtjg21@gmail.com. I promise not to spam you. Printing and snail-mailing newsletters costs several dollars a copy, while sending it by email is pretty

those fees along, which are 3 percent at a minimum.

If you do use PayPal to pay your dues, please try to use the

“Friends and Family” option if you can. If you do use a credit card, the Lodge would be grateful if you could add on 3 percent or so to cover the fees associated with the transaction. If you would like to make a dona-

tion and use a credit card, know that the net to the Lodge will be decreased by a bit. The email is the same as the one listed above — mtjg21@gmail.com. If you have questions about PayPal — or anything else — feel free to reach out.

Looking for lost Brothers

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

With the new technology and some elbow grease, the Lodge rosters are largely caught up. However, there's a few Brothers whose contact information remains out of date. If anyone has any infor-

mation on these men, please let me know at mtjg21@gmail.com.

- John Stone
- David Brown, Jr.
- Kenneth Pipkin
- John Bingaman
- Melvern Graham

much free.

The Lodge now has an operational PayPal account. “Friends and Family” transfers are cost free to both the sender and the Lodge. Anything else involves fees subtracted from the transfer. PayPal's terms of service limit the Lodge's ability to pass



Juneau Masonic Community



@JuneauMasons



@JuneauMasons



Honors headed to Juneau



4 from Southeast to be coroneted 33° Scottish Rite Masons

By Ill. Bro. John Barnett, 33°

The biennial Orient of Alaska Scottish Rite Honors Ceremony will take place in Juneau Nov. 4 in the Juneau Scottish Rite Temple at the Juneau Masonic Center, 9315 Glacier Highway. These will be the first Honors conveyed in the new Scottish Rite Temple.

The Supreme Council selected four Brothers from the Valley of Juneau to be coroneted Inspectors General Honorary, otherwise known as the 33°: Ron Ackerman, Thomas Brown, Jerry Hughes and Russ Shivers.

Additionally, two other men from the Valley of Juneau will be invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor (KCCH): Allen Bell and Jeff DeFreest.

In all, 12 Brothers in the Orient of Alaska have been chosen for honors.

The "white hat" ceremony is open only to 33° Scottish Rite Masons, but there are plenty of other activities that day open

to the public, starting at 3 p.m. The Valley will dedicate the new Scottish Rite Temple, with a DeMolay Honors Ceremony, reception and banquet set to follow. The investiture of the "red hats" will close out the evening.

Registration for the ceremonies and banquet is \$100 for

Scottish Rite Masons and \$60 for guests.

If you have questions or would like to register for the event, you can contact the Juneau Scottish Rite Secretary, John Barnett, via email at valleyofjuneau@gmail.com or by calling (907) 500-2103.

Valley of Juneau Honormen-elect

Inspectors General Honorary-elect

Ronald Lynn Ackerman • Skagway

Thomas Raymond Brown • Sitka

Gerald Burl Hughes • Ketchikan

Russell Dean Shivers • Juneau

Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor-elect

Allen Andrew Bell, Jr. • Juneau

Jeffrey Wade DeFreest • Ketchikan



Summer a time for Shriners to shine



By Noble Charles Ward

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club kicked off its summer by welcoming two new nobles — James Herr and Jim Wilson — to Al Aska Shriners with a Ceremonial held at the Juneau Masonic Center on June 24. Potentate Kevin McKinley presided over the special meeting.

The Club followed that up by taking part in the Juneau and Douglas Fourth of July parades. The Club has been participating in the parades for more than a century, and continued its tradition of delighting attendees by driving their mini-Vettes and minibikes through the parades. The Club even took home a second-place award for best customized vehicle in the Juneau parade.

In August, the Club will take part in Juneau's Year of Kindness initiative by teaming up with the Red Cross to install free smoke detectors in the Capital City. The



Photos by Noble Charles Ward
Top: Members of the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club line up the Club's mini-Vettes and bikes prior to the beginning of the Juneau 4th of July parade. **Above:** Nobles Ray Rusaw and Mer'chant Thompson work on a mini-bike at a June 24 work party.

See Shine on page 10

Lessons

Continued from page 3

ligations to accuracy seriously, and take pride in the practices that result in authenticity.

Prospective members are not left twisting in the wind while waiting for full membership. Not only do active members help rising prospects with their costuming, they've created several online resources (message boards, YouTube videos and so on) to help their apprentices create accurate uniforms. Recruits also help out at appearances, acting as the eyes for those in costume, since accuracy in appearance sometimes means paying the price with a lack of vision. Finally, though attendance requirements are not onerous, members are required to participate in at least one event, in full costume, per year (though my guess is the average member takes part in many more, given the time, effort and money spent to be able to fully participate in 501st activities).

So, the Legion is a group of people with a common interest who have agreed to spend time and money to reach the level of full participation, continue to do so once reaching that level and help new members complete the necessary tasks and reach the required goals to participate fully.

These weighty requirements have not deterred membership,

which has grown from two in 1997 to about 10,000 today. This is speculation, but I imagine the membership requirements lead to dedicated and growing corps that want to get as close as possible to taking themselves and others back to a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, and don't want to provide less than the best possible "Star Wars" experience for themselves and the thousands of folks they entertain.

I don't write this piece as a commercial for the 501st. Instead, my goal is to point out the expectations of time, training and financial commitment are not problems facing the Craft. Instead, our largest issues are ensuring the time our members and candidates spend in Masonry is well worth it, the training is meaningful and leads to improvement of self and of the Fraternity, and the money is sufficient to provide the best possible Masonic experience.

When we ask our Brothers to give time to attend meetings, learn ritual and mentor newer members of the Craft, their true responses – what they actually do versus what they say they will do – will be based on whether they receive value for their gifts. The value is not intrinsic, but instead measured in whether they find something

at our meetings that can't be had elsewhere, are enjoying being part of excellent ritual performance and are seeing enthusiastic reception of their instruction. There is no increased knowledge that comes from attending a meeting that conveys no new information, no pleasure in watching an unrehearsed play and no fulfillment from instructing a pupil who constantly asks, "Why do I have to learn this?"

If we cannot deliver, or at least make sincere and honest attempts to deliver, a Masonic experience that meets the expectations of our Brothers, attendance, effort and interest will decline. Soon to follow will be an increase in NPDs and demits.

Improving ourselves in Masonry is not always easy, nor is it intended to be. We must always put our obligations to God, our family, our nation and our usual vocations first. After we measure out those commitments on our 24-inch gauge, there are often few marks left on the ruler. Our challenge is to be sure at least some of those inches belong to the Craft. Meeting and overcoming that test is what makes making ourselves better through Masonry special.

May the Force be with us. Always.



Photo by Supreme Deputy Gabrielle Hazelton
Stacia Harris, center, shortly after her installation as Worthy Advisor of Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, on Aug. 12. She is flanked by her officers for the Fall/Winter 2017 term.

Rainbows, stars and strangers

By S.D. Gabrielle Hazelton

Members of the 501st Legion, Alaskan Outpost interrupted Stacia Harris' Aug. 12 installation as Worthy Advisor of Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. However, the disruption seemed well-received, as it was in perfect keeping with her Star Wars theme.

Harris chose Oxfam International and trick-or-treating for the Southeast Alaska Foodbank as her service projects for her

term, the "Imperial March" as her song and Chewbacca as her mascot.

The Rainbow Girls' upcoming events include serving a monthly dinner at the Glory Hole, hosting a carnival for the kids at the AWARE Shelter as part of the #17yok Masonic Month of Kindness and initiating two new members.

If you'd like to know more about Rainbow's activities, email Mother Advisor Deanna Brown at fordno1@gci.net to be added, or follow the Girls on Facebook.

OES returns Sept. 12

By W. M. Gabrielle Hazelton

Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star returns from darkness on Sept. 12 with a potluck and gift exchange with small items picked up during summer travels.

Coffee

Continued from page 5

commitment to civil communication on social media. We will endeavor to engage in kind conversation, open dialogue and, when necessary, respectful disagreement. This commitment will extend beyond this week and the Masonic Month of Kindness, but we will use this opportunity to remind ourselves of our obligations and the value of civil discourse."

For more about Juneau's Year of Kindness, please visit juneau.randomacts.org.

Shine

Continued from page 8

Shrine Club is one of six Masonic groups in Juneau taking part in the Kindness initiative. To learn more about the initiative, visit juneau.randomacts.org.