

# The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community  
Spring/Summer 2016



## Construction Commences

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# The Cable Tow

Spring/Summer 2016

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

Published quarterly.

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No. 21.

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**Cover image:** Bro. Michael Franks drills plywood over soon-to-be-gone windows at the Annex. Photo by Kimberly Franks.

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



# It's official



Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

M.W. Bro. Carl Lindstrom, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska, made his official visit to Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 on April 5, 2016. Seen here, front from left: V. W. Don Hale, Deputy of the Grand Master for District 4; Bro. Doug Harris, Senior Deacon; R. W. Bro. Keith Herve, Senior Grand Warden; R. W. John Bishop, Deputy Grand Master; Lindstrom; W. Bro. Ray Rusaw, Worshipful Master; V.W. Al Brookman, Grand Orator; Bro. Chris Pace, Junior Steward; Bro. Merchant Thompson, Marshall. Back from left: Bro. Torrey Jacobson, Treasurer; Bro. Brandon Daves, Junior Deacon; Bro. Charles Ward, Senior Warden; W. Bro. Jim Robinson and W. Bro. Dan McCrummen.

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# Building begins



Photo by Bro. Michael Franks

Contractors have laid the slab for the new Juneau Masonic Center, which is located at 9315 Glacier Highway. Construction on the project began in early May.

## *Construction of the new Juneau Masonic Center is now underway*

### **By Bro. Michael Franks**

This has been a busy spring so far for the Masonic family in Juneau, mainly due to the rising Juneau Masonic Center at 9315 Glacier Highway.

The City and Borough of Juneau permitting process took a bit longer than expected, lasting much of the winter. However, once CBJ handed the

Juneau Masonic Center Association a permit on April 14, construction has moved quickly. Alaska Commercial Contractors began site preparation work during the first week of May. By the end of that month, the new building's foundation was in place and the support walls were ready. In June, utilities have been installed, and

the slab has been poured, with vertical construction set to begin by the end of the month.

In addition to the new Juneau Masonic Center, work is also underway on the Annex, which was the original structure on site once known as the "yellow building." The Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite will

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# A busy, but a beautiful season

By W. Bro. Ray Rusaw

Brothers, this year in the East has been an especially busy time for me.

In January, I enjoyed watching Junior Warden Michael Franks confer the Entered Apprentice Degree on Bro. Jim Herr. His performance and study work was spot on and inspirational.

In February, I journeyed to Anchorage for the first time since 1983 to attend the Grand Lodge Communication. Wow! The brotherhood and fellowship was spectacular.

March brought me before the door of the Order of the Eastern Star. That journey was nothing less than dainty, heroic and beautiful. All of our Brothers should consider supporting and enjoying the beauty and splendor of our Masonic ladies.

April brought me to my first conferral of an EA Degree to Bro. Alex Simpson. I must ad-

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Photo by Charles Ward, 32°, KSA

The Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite welcomed its newest members at a celebratory banquet on April 30, 2016. They are, from left, Brandon Daves with his wife Deanna and his daughter; Chris Pace with his wife Brittany and Ray Rusaw, who received his cap from Joan Roberts. The banquet and capping ceremony wrapped up the three-day Reunion, where new members are introduced to the 29 degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry by Scottish Rite Masons from across Southeast.

# Capping off a great Reunion

By Ill. John Barnett, 33°

The Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite held its 2016 Reunion April 28-30 at the Aspen Suites Hotel and the Lodge room above T&S Welding.

The Valley dedicated the Reunion to late Brothers Stanley A. Beadle, 32° KCCH and Douglas L. Gregg, 32°.

The Valley welcomed three new 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons – William Raymond Rusaw II (the current Master of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21), Brandon Allen Daves and

Christopher De’Nard Pace, all from Juneau.

This year was the product of a tremendous team effort by a number of dedicated Scottish Rite Masons from Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, and Ketchikan. Of particular note was the flawless, from-memory conferral of the 4th Degree by the Sitka Scottish Rite Club. Its efforts, as well as all who put in hours of practice and days of preparation, were greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Brothers participating from

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# Welcome aboard



Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 initiated Bro. Alex Simpson, second from left, into the fraternity at its April 19, 2016 stated meeting. Simpson joins Bro. Jim Herr as the Entered Apprentices who have joined the Craft in the Capital City this year. Also seen here are, from left, Bro. Ed Kalwara, Worshipful Master Ray Rusaw and W. Bro. Allan Bell.

## Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club

# Fezzes fired up for the 4th

By Noble Claude Roberts

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club is currently conducting a raffle to help fund Club and Al Aska Shriners activities for this year. The prize is \$5,000, with tickets going for \$20. The drawing is set for 4 p.m. on July 4 at Savikko Park in Douglas, following the Juneau

and Douglas Independence Day parades.

Speaking of Independence Day, the club is gearing up for the Fourth of July parades in Juneau and Douglas. The bod-ies for the Club's mini 'Vettes have been repainted this year and no two are alike. They will join the Model 'T's and mini bikes in the procession.

From the West

# Putting together a plan

By Bro. Charles Ward

“Planning without action is futile, action without planning is fatal.” — Cornelius Fitchner.

All organizations, Masonic or otherwise, should have an idea of what they would like their futures to be. This allows those groups — Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 included — to channel their energies into accomplishing the goals and focusing on the tasks they believe will best serve their essential missions and exemplify their core values.

With that in mind, I've asked all interested Masons, especially Junior Warden Michael Franks and deacons Doug Harris and Brandon Daves, to join me in formulating a long-range plan for the Lodge.

This process started in February with a brainstorming session which led to the creation of vision and mission statements, along with areas for each of the wardens and deacons to focus on and specific ideas to advance

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# Construction

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Photo by Kimberly Franks  
Bro. Michael Franks puts up a wall at the Annex on June 18, 2016.

rent the building from JMCA, provide income for JMCA to maintain the property and provide improvements. This also allows for the connection of the Annex to the new building, making the property a true Juneau Masonic Center.

Work is scheduled for completion late this summer. There will be several opportunities to invest “sweat equity” into the property. Keep checking your email and watching the Juneau Masonic Community Facebook Page for updates on progress and work parties.

# Capping

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afar included Ill. Bro. Ken Creamer, 33°, Sitka; Bro. Ron Ackerman, 32° KCCH, PGM; Bro. Jerry Hughes, 32° KCCH, Ketchikan; Bro. Tom Brown, 32° KCCH, Sitka; Bro. Eric Swanson, 32°; Sitka and Bro. Gerald Neel, 32°, Sitka.

The team leaders for the 4th through 32nd Degree communications and conferrals were Creamer; Hughes; Venerable Master Larry Fanning, 32° KCCH; Ill. Bro. John Barnett, 33°; Bro. Michael Franks, 32°; Ill. Bro. Dan McCrummen, 33°; Bro. Doug Harris, 32°; Bro. Charles Ward, 32°; and Bro. Steven Stewart, 32° KCCH.

The 2016 Reunion also included a fine meal on Friday prepared by the Juneau Rainbow Girls, with the assistance of the ladies of the Order of Eastern Star, followed by the annual meeting of the Southeast Alaska Knights of the Royal Order of Scotland. On Saturday evening there was a fully catered Reunion banquet, awards, and capping ceremony.

The 2016 Reunion was a time of education, fellowship and good fun. It's also the last scheduled to be held at then Aspen Hotel and above T&S Welding, as the 2017 Reunion is set to be held at the rising Juneau Masonic Center.

From the JMCA Chair

# Carrying on the work

By Bro. Michael Franks

JMCA held elections at its April meeting and I was honored to be made chairman for this coming year. My pledge is to continue the great work W. Bro. Ken Vaughan has done over the last three years as chairman. I have great support from the other members and we have a lot to be excited for. My primary goal for the next few months is getting our new home built. This will consume much of JMCA's time as it gets the final details of furniture and finishes selected.

If anyone is interested in the workings or decisions we are making please don't hesitate to ask a member of the JMCA Board or even stop by for the meetings. We meet at 5:30 p.m. on the last Monday of the month at the current lodge room.



# Keeping the Craft close this summer

By Bro. Michael Franks

As we move into the spring and summer time, we are now into the once-a-month meeting schedule, while many of our appendant bodies go dark. This is by no means a reason to stop getting together and working on our craft. We have Entered

Apprentices who need your support to get their proficiencies complete and ready to move to the next degree. I know you all are busy as summer is upon us, but try to make it by the lodge on Monday and Wednesday afternoons after 4:30. I would like us to continue the afternoon practice and new member

education that we started a few years back. I know I have been absent of late and my own craft has suffered. I would challenge you all to work on your craft as much as you can during this busy time and if you are able please come by the lodge and socialize with the rest of us and have a bit of fun practicing.

## A new Knight



Photo by Michael Franks, 32° KSA

Brandon Daves, second from left, became the Juneau Chapter's newest Knight of St. Andrew on May 28, 2016. The Knights of St. Andrew are a service organization under the auspices of the Scottish Rite. Also pictured are, from left, Chieftain Jim Robinson, 32° KSA, Secretary Charles Ward, 32° KSA and Vice Chieftain Merchant Thompson, 32° KSA.

## Beautiful

*Continued from page 4*

mit my study work left me not nearly as prepared as Franks was.

May has brought us the return of W. Bro. Ken Vaughan. Not only has he resumed his duties as our Lodge Secretary, he organized the Stevens Trust Scholarship program for this year. His work allowed us to select some outstanding candidates to receive (or continue to receive) awards. He and I went to the Juneau-Douglas High School to give out the scholarships in full Masonic regalia, and I was honored at the looks of admiration and respect the crowd had for us. It is comforting to know Masonic Brothers always see ways to better help our community and children, even in this day and age where our youth are struggling to find their identities.

# Some summer reading suggestions

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

I have been missing from Lodge meetings while going through an ankle rebuild and a very long, slow recovery. The surgery was 25 years in coming, the joint had failed and was getting progressively more painful. The pain problem is pretty much gone, but some bone knitting still needs to happen, but it will be happening in Juneau.

An essay from Ill. Bro. Arturo de Hoyos, 33° came to my desk earlier in May. de Hoyos is a leading Masonic historian and works in that capacity for the Scottish Rite in Washing-

ton D.C. He recommended three books for all Masons to read and keep in their libraries: "World of Freemasonry" by Harry Carr, "Freemason's Guide and Compendium" by Bernard E. Jones and "The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century 1590-1710" by David Stevenson. Carr's book is out of print, but can be found used for \$20-\$60. There are electronic copies available on Masonic related internet sites. Jones' book is available new for \$10-15 and used for about half that amount. David Stevenson's book is available new from Amazon for \$25-35 and used for a bit more than

\$20. A Kindle version is listed for under \$30. All prices do not include shipping.

These tomes are not light-weight reading, but will give you a solid background in well-researched history.

- I will be sending follow-up notices to those who pay dues annually in the coming weeks. Dues are now \$150 per year after a long time without change.

- Sadly, I received notice Bro. Norman Fredrick Cox passed on to the Celestial Lodge on Dec. 21, 2015 in Eufaula, Okla. Cox did get his 50-year pin well in advance of his passing. His widow remains in Oklahoma.

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## Plan

*Continued from page 5*

those focus areas.

The committee followed that with a May meeting, in which some ideas were trimmed down and reassigned, so that descriptions and implementation plans for each idea could be written.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at my house, 3300 Foster Ave. The

hope is that all elements of a draft will be ready to go following that event, and that a draft plan will be ready to present to the Lodge for review and approval sometime this summer or early this fall. I encourage any interested Masons to come contribute to this process by providing input or asking questions.

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*Juneau Masonic Community*



**Friendship • Fraternity • Family**