

April, 2010

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220

Beacon

**Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas
16 June 1858**



LODGE OFFICERS 2009-2010

WM: Dale L. Flatt
SW: Tony M. Ramirez
JW: Dennis J. Ross
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM
Sec: J. Roland Brown
Chap: John W. Turner, PM
SD: Adrian W. Edmundson
JD: Raul J. Scully
SS: Ben B. Rauschke
JS: Curtis A. Gilgan
Mar: Robert A. Clark, PM
MC: Ricky J. Tindell, PM
Tlr: Jephthe Medois

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Ill & Visitation

Dale L Flatt
John W Turner

Communications

J Roland Brown

Building

Curtis A Gilgan

Beacon & History

H Max Fisher

Hospital Volunteers

Ricky J Tindell
Bart Tuthill

Funerals

Don R Long
Charles C Jennings

LIVING PAST MASTERS

1967- Webb Woodland
1969- Tommie J. Conner
1970- Ralph L. Cearley
1971- W. David Johnson
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
1977- Roy L. Hamor
1978- Bobby J. Doherty
1980- Ronald B. Norwood
1981- Howard D. Hall
1982- Alan Karotkin
1984- Matias S. Ruiz
1985- Richard A. Frazer
1986- Jose V. Seguin
1987- Elliott R. Wilson
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
1989- Dennis Kestner
1991- Ronnie H. Lee
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
1994- Walter H. Argall
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
1996- Kenneth P. Wood
1997- William S. Lear
1998- John W. Turner
1999- James F. Keese
2000- Walter E. Sanders
2001- Jonathon D. Walker
2002- Robert L. Roda
2003- Ricky J. Tindell
2004- Elijio Arjona Jr.
2005- Hamilton B. Carter
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
2007- Michael E. Sanders
2008- Daniel E. Barber

*Members Who Have
Served Other Lodges
as Past Masters*

Jesus Araiza
Jimmie L. Banks
Robert A. Clark
Don R. Cowley
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen Deaver
Carlton L. Edwards
Elbert Franks
O. Tripp Garza
Cecil Goodwin
Reagan W. Hammett
Ronald Holton
Bennie L. Hudson
Gordon W. Kelso
Jim King
Don R. Long
Bobby J. Norris
Boyce V. Oakes
Gene C. Payne
Arthur D. Pederson
L. Bruce Roberson
Gene Sassman
Otsie Stowell
William W. Winnie III

**Stated Meeting Thursday
April 1st, 2010
Meal at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm**





Onion Creek 220 A F & A M South Austin, Texas



It's Time to Have a Masonic Family Picnic!

When: Saturday April 17th

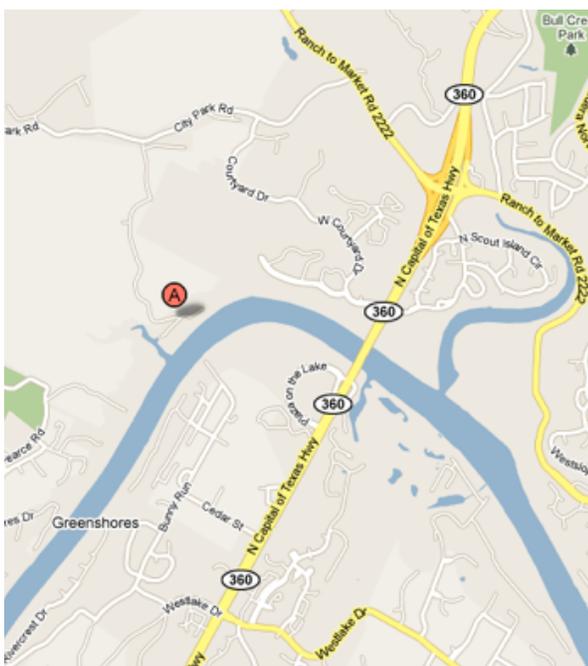
Where: 7400 Coldwater Canyon Dr.(Lake Austin)

Time: Noon to 6pm BBQ will be served at 1pm
This location is the playground of Mr. Richard Garriott, gentleman explorer and astronaut. The setting is 14 acres of mature pecan trees with ½ mile of Lake Austin water front! Come see the medieval village of Castleton complete with a full-size fort, land-locked pirate ship, big swings in the trees, and a 2/3 replica of the old Globe Theater!

Bring the family, have some BBQ with the trimmings and enjoy fellowship with the brothers of other Lodges in District 50. Enjoy horse shoes, hiking, maybe even a game of Bones! Have a fishing pole and a license? Try your luck. Guitars, banjos, and other music-makers are welcome.

How do we get there? From 360 and 2222, head west on 2222, turn left at the first light (City Park Road) and drive up City Park Road. At the top of the hill you will go through an S-turn; take the first left onto Bridge Point Parkway. Drive to the end and turn right onto Coldwater Canyon Drive, then follow it down to the end and follow the signs to the waterfront.

A traveler on the path.... Dale



7400 Coldwater Canyon Drive (Lake Austin)

Spring Has Sprung - - -

Spring is a time of unparalleled beauty throughout the world. The colorful flowers wake up from their winter slumber to provide blankets of color – especially here in Central Texas. Bluebonnets are everywhere, often interspersed with the orange of Indian paintbrush and many other red, yellow, and white wildflowers that so beautifully decorate our landscape.

If you have not driven the Willow City Loop, you owe it to yourself to do it. You can reach it via Texas Highway 16 northeast from Fredericksburg or via Ranch Road 1323 westbound from U.S. 281 northeast of Johnson City. The peak season for this undulating sea of flowers is late March into early April, but drive carefully because it is a favorite ride for motorcyclists. Go to <http://www.lone-star.net/wildflowers/willowcityloop.htm> for a good map and description.

The colorful theme of spring continues as mothers and children dye eggs to hide for Easter egg hunts. The egg has long been a symbol of new life, the process by which each new living thing emerges, whether flora or fauna. For fascinating short histories of spring celebrations, beginning with those of the Pagans (the term eastre or easter and the decorated egg), Passover, and Easter, go to <http://www.markings.bc.ca/holidays/pagan/index.html>.

The most important facet of spring for those of us of the Christian faith is the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, whose victory over death issues in the hope of eternal life for all who believe in Him. After Easter Sunday services, color is often readily apparent on the front steps of many churches where children can be seen dressed in their new “Easter” clothes.

In the spirit of spring, the Beacon is now online, colorful, and contains more interesting material. Go to <http://www.onioncreek220.org> and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available by going to the left column and clicking on the issue you want to read. Please let us know what you think of the online version.

Secretary's Desk: Roland





Onion Creek Masonic Lodge Beacon

April 2010



April Food Committee: **Chairman:** Ricky Rayborn (917-8632) **Members:** Billy Capps, Edgar Dougherty, Donald Dickerson, Max Ehrlich, Pete Green, Freddie Hite, HE McCaslin Jr, Stanley Mitchusson, Rodney Montford, John Potts and Richard Smith. Food committee members please contact your chairman for further information. **Menu:** Sausage, Potato Salad, Beans, and a dessert. If you are not a member of a food committee please join one of our groups in providing this valuable brotherhood service.

Our Known Onion Creek Ill--Cecil Goodwin (resting at home), George Henry (knee test) and Cynthia (knee repair), Alan Karotkin (recovering after shoulder surgery), Janet Lee (still in pain but no diagnosis), Johnnie Long (improving), Marvin Langley (in rehab after tumor surgery), Kenneth Patton (wheelchair-bound at home), Art Pederson (breathing troubles) Irene Pederson (shoulder), Jack Hurt (low red cell count), Dick Frazier (ok), Tom Richardson (stroke and heart attack), Charles Ridenour (muscle spasms), Webb Woodland (doing better), and Jonnie Turner (radiation finished, improving.)

Chaplain John Turner

SAMC Masonic Volunteers Service--

Working a total of 153 hours the Onion Creek Masonic volunteers had a good month of service at South Austin Medical Center in February. Leading the pack were Ron Moreau with 36 hours, Bart Tuthill with 13.5 and Carl and Jeanine Robinson and Roland Brown with 12 hours each. Bobby Tiner, Daniel Andrade, Ricky Tindell, Walter Boyd, Ken Loveless each served 9 hours. Charles Jennings 7, Max Fisher 6, Norm Hayes 3.5, Linda Boyd 3, and Duane Ideker 3 helped keep our Friday and Saturday nights covered. The facility is now known as the South Austin Medical Center (SAMC) and construction to enlarge the hospital will begin in April. **Please contact Bro Bart Tuthill at 745-2680, or Bro Ricky Tindell at 247-4742 for information on becoming part of this great group. With the changes at SAMC and the construction, the volunteers will need extra hands to cope with the needs of patients and staff at the hospital.**

A Prayer in Spring

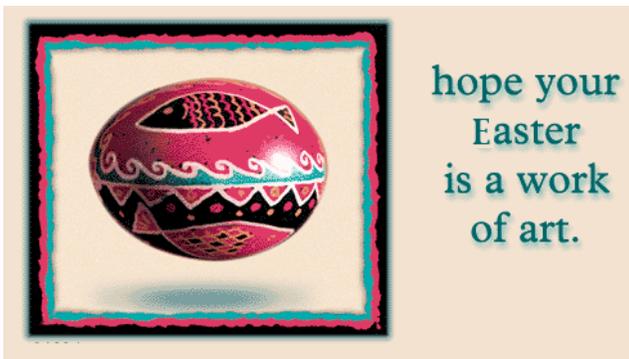
by Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by
night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.



Raising a Mason at Sight for Onion Creek #220!

One of the major strengths of the Masonic experience is its ability to educate men in the principles of the Fraternity through initiation and esoteric work rather than written manuals. With this idea stated, it should also be noted that at rare times a man who has expressed a desire to join the Fraternity has found himself unable to follow the usual procedure due to the call of his country to service which interfered with his ability to follow the usual conventions of initiation and esoteric work and proficiency examination. The process by which such a Brother can be admitted to the Fraternity is explained in Masonic Landmark #7 "The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight." In short, the Grand Master can use the power of his office to declare a man to be a Mason and to waive any/all of the 'normal' processes which normally lead to membership in the Brotherhood.

This process is very rare and Onion Creek has been blessed in being able to exercise the right of making a Mason on Sight as extended by the Grand Master of Texas Masons on at least four occasions. The Brother Masons raised at sight by Onion Creek Lodge #220 include: **Bro. A.R. Reddick** on November 2, 1862 who was called into the Civil War; **Bro. David H. Beckett** on February 14, 1918 preparing to join the Army in World War I; **Bro. Leon David Ross** in December of 1952 as he was leaving to serve in the Korean Conflict; and most recently **Bro. James Anthony Daniels Jr** on March 13, 2010 prior to leaving for more training prior to deployment in the Mid East. Onion Creek 220 was proud to be able to pass **Bro James A. Daniels Jr.** to his Fellowcraft and raise him to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on this notable Saturday. Bro Daniels was presented with the large family Bible, usual for our Lodge, plus a small vest-pocket New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs which was signed by all Brothers participating in the ceremonies that day. Onion Creek looks forward to the day when Bro James can return to be with us in Masonic fellowship.

William Howard Taft, President of the United States, was made a Mason "at sight," shortly before his inauguration in 1909. The ceremony took place at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Cincinnati, on February 18th of that year, of which the following account appears in the review on Foreign Correspondence in the Colorado Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1910: "The ceremonies were simple and brief, the entire meeting, from its opening to its close, taking only one hour....The Grand Master then made proclamation that William Howard Taft, having received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, he declared him to be a Master Mason in good and regular standing. Before he was nominated for the Presidency, Secretary Taft expressed a desire to become a Mason and really made application 'of his own free will and accord. In this petition it was shown to the Grand Master that Mr. Taft had been compelled by official business to be absent from his home in Ohio for a long time. and that this had interfered with his initiation into the Fraternity."



Some Famous Masons Made at Sight

General George C. Marshall,
Chief of Staff U.S. Army
Wallace M. (Wally) Shirra, Jr., astronaut
Danny Thomas singer and actor
Roy Clark singer
John Wanamaker, Merchant 1898
Douglas MacArthur Jan. 17, 1936
Frederick, Prince of Wales, in 1737

April Birthdays

Charles Allen (27), Wm Alman (11), Stephen Andricak (22), Jimmie Banks (9), Joe Beaver (10), Jack Broome (1), John W. Byrd (13), Hamilton Carter (11), Brett Chandler-Finch (17), Robert A Clark (25), James M Collins (13), James Dobbs (20), Carl Drost (27), O Tripp Garza (5), Earl Hamilton (10), Frank Hankins (26), Wm L Hatten (8), Andrew James (2), Marion Kerr (4), Sam Knepley (22), Arthur Lanpher (2), Bruce Lewis (25), John Lewis (24), Tom Mayfield (26), Thurman McGinnis (4), Jim Meeks (24), Jim Miller (15), James Milligan (11), Jimmy Mills (20), Tony Moreno (22), Richard Neal (13), Arthur O'Connor (13), Joe Park (20), John Potts (20), Chris Preece (2), H E Puckett (4), Benjamin Rauschke (18), Thomas Richardson (21), Jerry Trammell (10), Jesus Velazquez (16), John Wier (12), Wm Winnie (13), and Webb Woodland (21).

**Happy Birthday, Brothers...
and may the Supreme Architect
bless you with many more....**

Masonic Birthdays Raised in April of (year)

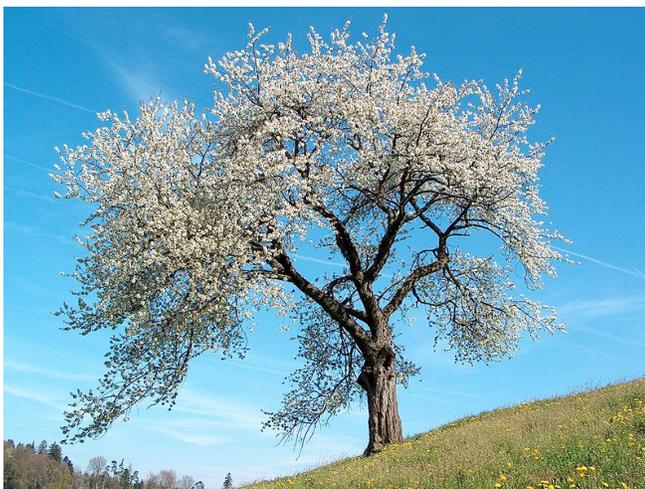
Ernest Applegate (64), Ladare Benoit (62), Omar Chavez (06), Rubin Copeland (81), Forest Cruse (59), Don Dickerson (57), James Durr (68), Atlan Eschberger (71), Thomas Estes (03), David Faria (78), Ryan Fisk (07), Sam Gentry (92), Javier Gonzales (88), Raymond Hannah (62), George Henry (71), Cliff James (79), David Kestner (87), Dennis Kestner (81), Ernest Kohn (76), Donald Komm (65), Bill Lear (92), Bruce Lewis (87), Rodney Lewis (65), Jeff Mallett (02), Jimmy Mills (94), Wayne Moore (66), Gene Richardson (65), Bob Roda (98), David Rosenbaum (07), Paul Ryan (76), Dewey Savell (43), Robert Simo (88), Richard Smith (88), Clay Towery (98), Lee Velazquez (98), L A Westling (57), Orlin Williams (92), and Donn Winner (65).

**And God said, "Let there be light,
and there was light!"**



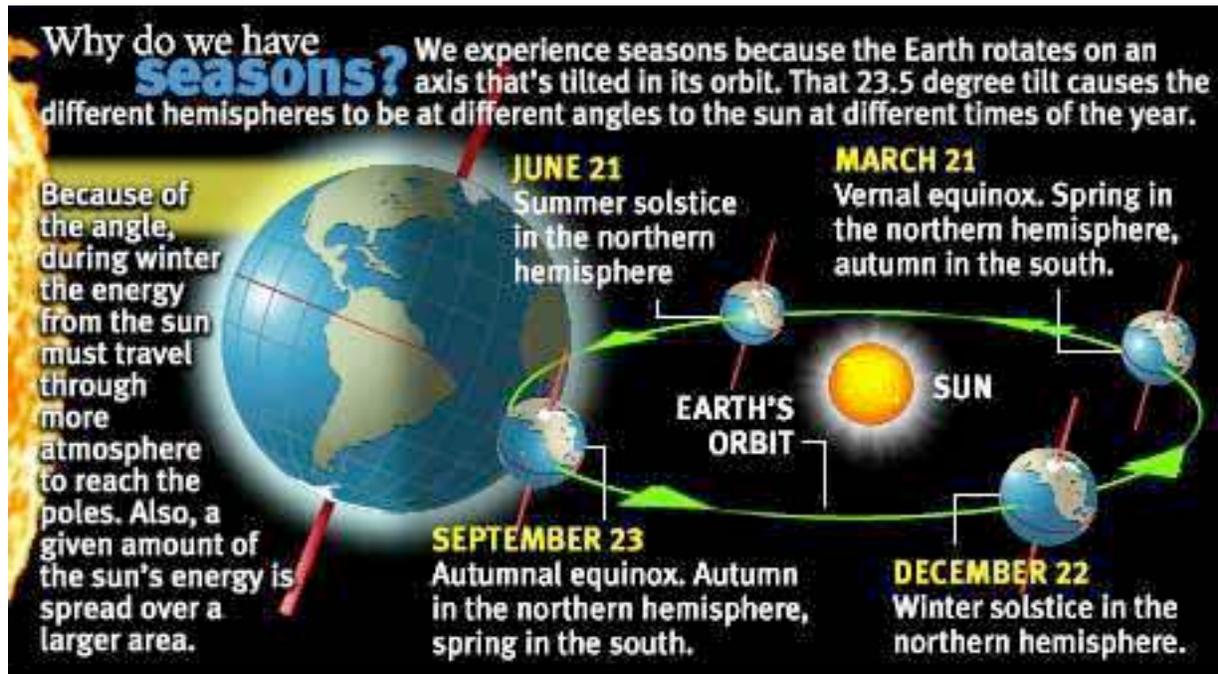
**The Seder
Meal for
Passover**

HAPPY PASSOVER



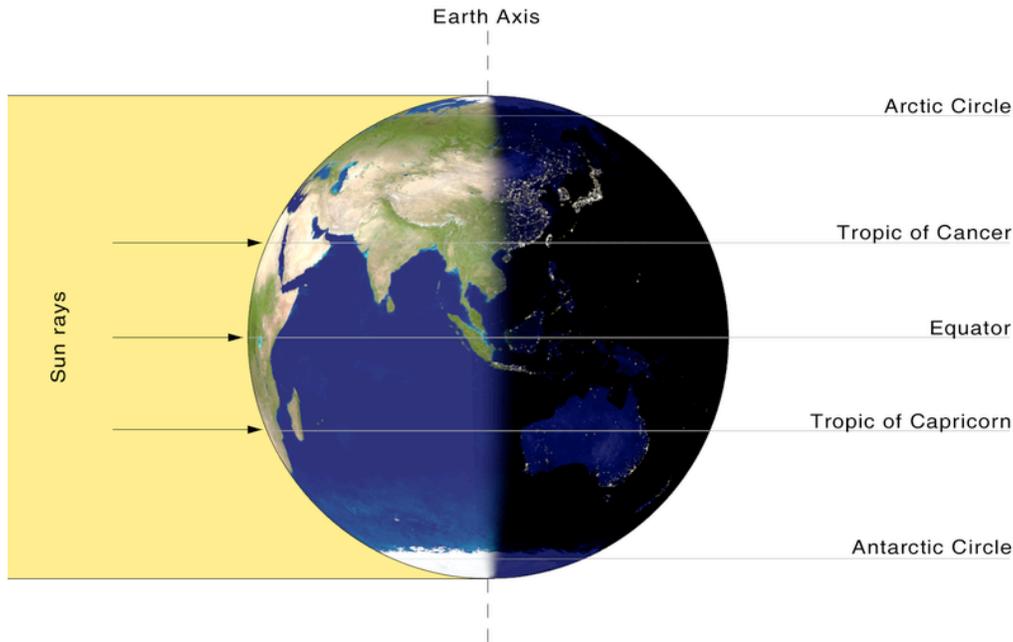
From the Past 1858--- The first petition for the mysteries at Onion Creek was that of **John C. Bonner** and his Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on May 28, 1858. At that time there were no printed forms and a candidate simply copied the form in handwriting. The following is a copy of Bro. Bonner's original petition from the Archives of Onion Creek:

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Onion Creek Lodge No. __of Free and Accepted Masons...The petition of the subscriber respectfully showeth that entertaining a favorable opinion of your ancient institution he is desirous of being admitted a member thereof if found worthy and being unbiased by friends and not influenced by mercenary motives he freely and voluntarily offers himself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry and he also promises a cheerful compliance with the by laws, rules and regulations. His place of residence is on the waters of Onion Creek Travis County. signed *John C. Bonner*-- recommended by A. B. Slaughter and Felix E. Smith. (Please note that Onion Creek had no number at that time. Also interesting is the idea that the "O" in Onion Creek appears to have been modified from a "U".) Brother J.C. Bonner was raised a Master Mason later that year and was faithful to the Lodge until his death sixty years later on January 8, 1918. Bro J.C. served as Tiler for most of those years.



Spring Equinox 2010 (Vernal Equinox)

The Spring Equinox (Vernal Equinox) is known as a symbol of the varying seasons. As the Northern Hemisphere greets the Spring, communities south of the equator are getting ready for the cooler temperatures of Autumn. Earth celebrates this day on the 20th of March in 2010. Translated literally, equinox means "equal night." Because the sun is positioned above the equator, day and night are about equal in length all over the world during the equinoxes.



What Happens at the Equinox?

On the 20th of March, 2010, at specifically 1:32 P.M. EDT, the sun crosses straight over the equator. This instant is recognized as the Vernal Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. And for the Southern Hemisphere, this time is the flash of the Autumnal Equinox. Translated, *equinox* means "equal night." Because the sun is situated exactly over the equator, day and night are equal in extent all over the world throughout the equinoxes.

Vernal Equinox Mar 20 2010 1:32 PM EDT
Summer Solstice Jun 21 2010 7:28 AM EDT
Autumnal Equinox Sep 22 2010 11:09 PM EDT
Winter Solstice Dec 21 2010 6:38 PM EST

Reasons for the Seasons These concise but colossal moments are caused by the 23.4 degree tilt of the axis of the earth. Owing to this tilt, the northern hemisphere gets the rays of the sun most sustained in Summer. In the Winter season, while the area slants away from the sun at a greater angle, the area experiences lower temperatures. If the planet revolved on an exact vertical to the plane of Earth's route around the sun there would be no disparity in day lengths or temperatures all through the year and thus Earth would not experience seasonal variations.

Rituals and Traditions

Recent astronomy aside, the earth's people have known of the Vernal Equinox (Spring Equinox) for thousands of years. There is no lack of traditions and rituals concerning the coming of the Spring. Several early citizens commemorated the date because they realized their food provisions would quickly be restored in the coming warmth. The early Egyptians erected the Sphinx in order that its top is straight toward the rising sun on the day of Vernal Equinox (Spring Equinox). This initial day of Spring also marks the opening of the Nowruz, the Persian New Year. This festival lasts for thirteen days and probably derives from the 3,000-year-old rituals of Zoroastrianism.



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April 2010



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