

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
AF&AM

J. Roland Brown, Secretary
5904 Back Bay Ln
Austin, TX 78739-1698

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October 2010

THE BEACON

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas - June 16, 1858

Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



Lodge Officers 2010 - 2011

WM: **Tony M. Ramirez**
SW: **Dennis J. Ross**
JW: **Adrian W. Edmundson**
Treas: **Dennis C. Kestner, PM**
Sec: **J. Roland Brown**
Chap: **John W. Turner, PM**
SD: **Raul J. Scully**
JD: **Ben B. Rauschke**
SS: **Curtis A. Gilgan**
JS: **Johnny G. Camarillo**
Mar: **Robert A. Clark, PM**
MC: **Ricky J. Tindell, PM**
Mus: **Chris Dawson**
Tlr: **Brett M. Chandler-Finch**

Living Past Masters

1967- Webb D. 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 L. Karotkin
1984- Matias S. Ruiz
1985- Richard A. Frazer
1986- Jose V. Seguin
1987- Elliott R. Wilson
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
1989- Dennis C. 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- Jonathan 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
2009- Dale L. Flatt

Past Masters of Other Lodges

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

Stated Meeting

Entered Apprentice Lodge

First Thursday
October 7th, 2010

Meal at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Ill & Visitation Tony Ramirez
Building Curtis A. Gilgan
Historian H. Max Fisher
Beacon Editor Chris Dawson
Hospital Ricky Tindell
Bart Tuthill



October Birthdays

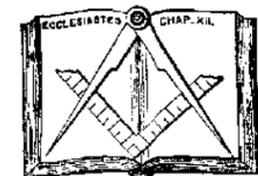
(1) Albert J. Stowell, (2) James L. Sherrard, Robin B. Shannon, (3) Casey Johle, (4) Forest Cruse, Sr., (5) Wayne E. Moore, (6) Richard L. Pringle, Gerald Dawson, (7) Bobby Tiner, John Schlueter II, (8) James T. Harris, Kenneth Polk, (9) Richard Bledsoe, (10) Wallace Robbins, Leroy Mann, Harrell E. McCaslin, Jr., Dustin Rade, (11) George Webb, Matias S. Ruiz, (12) Robert Mallett, (13) Ronnie Lee, David Prescott, Bobby Simo, Randy Martin, (14) Jeffrey J. Hastings, (15) Pat W. Kelley, (16) Maxie Brune, (18) Ben E. Gray, (19) Ladare Benoit, (21) Gary E. Foster, (22) Donn E. Hile, (23) Paul D. Pennybacker, (25) Bobby Norris, (27) Patrick Farley, (28) Ken McGuffey, (29) Floyd Brizendine, Richard Peters, Juan Rivera, Jr., Ryan Fisk, (30) Donn Winner, (31) Richard C. Smith

Masonic Birthdays; raised in October (year):

Norman Smith III (49), Edward Hill (56), David Johnson (58), Tommie Conner (59), Bobby Norris (60), Glen Groth, John W. Jackson II (61), Billy Penry (62), Donal L. Haire, Roy Hamor Jr., Ralph D. Morren (63), Duncan Copland (65), Maurice Beckham (67), Edgar Daugherty, William Farr (68), Forrest Smith (69), Kenneth Loveless (70), Gary Crain, Tom Peters (72), Bruce Roberson, Kenneth Holcomb (73), Curtis Wagner (80), Jerry F. Trammell, Lonnie J. Logan (82), Robert C. Cowan, James L. Younger (83), Michael L. Poe (85), Robert A. Ashbrook (87), James B. Harris, John N. McFarling (88), Gregory Tarpley (89), William Winnie III, Scott Freng (91), James Miller (93), Todd Reynolds (94), Joseph Hurtado, Jason Harrell (95), Richard Peters (00), Jesus P. Velazquez (05), David Hoke (07)

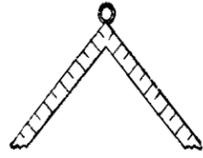
And God said "Let there be light,"
and there was light!

Happy Birthday, Brothers! May the Supreme Architect
bless you with many more...



Called to the
Celestial Lodge:

Arthur W. Lanpher
Everett Ray (Buck) Moore
Robert Frederick (Bob) Park
G. W. (Jake) Spivey



In Search of Texas Masons (Continued from September)...

Travis County Deputy Sheriff Maurice Moore had watched the three strangers ride into town, dismount, and walk into the General Store. Moore found Grimes and told him that he thought one of the men that he had seen walking into the store was armed. The wearing of guns was prohibited in Texas in the 1870's. Grimes and Moore walked to the store and Grimes confronted Bass saying "Young man, give me your gun". Sam Bass reacted violently and drew two revolvers firing at Grimes. Jackson and Seaborn did the same striking Grimes several times. Grimes fell back and died. Deputy Sheriff Moore was wounded during the melee but survived. A group of Texas Rangers ran to the sound of the pistol shots and mortally wounded Sam Bass as he and Frank Jackson fled town on horses. Seaborn Barnes was shot in the head and died instantly.

There is more to the story that ends with A.W. Grimes, Sam Bass, and Seaborn Barnes dead from their wounds. Frank Jackson escaped and was never apprehended. A.W. Grimes and Sam Bass were buried in the Round Rock cemetery. Seaborn Barnes is buried next to Bass' grave. The Bass and Grimes graves lie about 100 yards from each other. Both the Sam Bass and Seaborn Barnes graves are very well kept. One can see that many visitors drop by to see the legendary train robber's grave. A.W. Grimes, on the other hand, was forgotten.

Sam Bass has been immortalized by the city of Round Rock. The city celebrates July 4th with, among other things, the Sam Bass Shootout, emphasizing Sam Bass. There is also the Sam Bass Community Theater, Fire Department, and of course, road. There was no mention of Brother Ahijah W. Grimes in Round Rock until, on August 24th, 2000, the city of Round Rock changed the name of Arterial 'B' to A.W. Grimes Boulevard. The city has also placed a monument next to his grave that tells his story. Another marker shows that he was once a Texas Ranger. The old tombstone that marks his grave has the Square and Compasses chiseled on top. When I went to visit Grimes' grave the tombstone had fallen over and was lying on the ground. I spoke to Dale Flatt about this in hopes of fixing it. I learned that it wasn't as easy as I thought. There were several permissions that I had to acquire. Most however, would be to no avail since I am not a direct descendant. I couldn't even do it as a Brother Mason wanting to fix the gravestone of another Brother Mason because of its historic significance.

One thing that fascinated me about A.W. Grimes and Sam Bass was that Sam Bass was 27 years old when he died. A.W. Grimes had just celebrated his 28th birthday two weeks earlier. The graves of Brother A.W. Grimes, Sam Bass, and Seaborn Barnes are located at the Round Rock Cemetery on Sam Bass Road west of I-35.

WM Tony Ramirez

Ill, Recovering, and Shut-in Brethren and Family Members

Please remember the following people in your prayers, as they are or have been ill, are recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: Johnny Camarillo, Glenn Dyess, Max Ehrlich, Dick Frazer, Roger Gaby, Cecil Goodwin, Alan Karotkin, Rodney Lay, Johnnie (Don) Long, Sue (J.C.) Morton, Kenneth Patton, Cathy (Chris) Preece, Gene Richardson, Tom Richardson, Carl Shaw, Philip Sughrue, and Webb Woodland. **If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact Chaplain John Turner.**

October Food Committee and Menu – Not a Family Night

Chairman Tony Ramirez announces food and Prizes! The October menu will feature fried chicken, potato salad, beans, and dessert – with drawings for special door prizes!

The members of the committee include Eli Arjona, Glen Broddrick, Hamilton Carter, Roger Gaby, Glen Groth, David Harnden, Leroy Mann, Charlie Ridenour, Carl Robinson, Charles Ruebbling, Axel Schiller, Henry Trevino, John Turner, John Wahl, and Jonathan Walker.

SAMC Hospital Volunteers

During August, 14 Masons, wives, and friends worked 41 individual shifts for a total of 152 hours. Daytime volunteer Bart Tuthill barely edged out daytimer Ron Moreau by 2 hours, with 5 shifts totaling 25 hours. Following, in alphabetical order, were: Dan Andrade with 4 shifts for 12 hours, Linda Boyd 3 shifts for 10 hours, Glen Broddrick 2 shifts for 7 hours, Roland Brown 2 shifts for 3 hours, Max fisher 2 shifts for 6 hours, Friend of the Lodge Norm Hayes 2 shifts for 6 hours, Dwane Ideker 1 shift for 3 hours.

Charlie Jennings worked 2 shifts for 8 hours, Ken Loveless had 4 shifts for 13 hours, Carl Robinson 4 shifts for 13 hours, Jeanine Robinson 4 shifts for 13 hours, and Ricky Tindell worked 3 shifts totaling 10 hours. The hospital volunteers are Onion Creek's oldest continuously operating community service group, and their contributions were valued at over \$25,000 during the past year. **Please call Bart Tuthill or Ricky Tindell to join; you will enjoy it and your community will appreciate it!**

Congratulations to Onion Creek's Instructors

On Friday, 17 September, Onion Creek's "A" Esoteric Certificate holders received their new certifications from the Grand Lodge Committee on Work, headed by RW T. K. Anthony. While some certificates were for one year, others were good for three years. These "A" certificates are quite an accomplishment because it means they know all the degree memory work, all the floor work and all the lectures! Those receiving renewed "A" certificates were Joe Seguin, Gene Sanders, Javier Gonzalez, Mike Sanders, and Curtis Gilgan. Additionally, Brett Chandler-Finch received his first "C" certificate, good for one year. Congratulations to all of Onion Creek's Grand Lodge certified instructors!

Back to School--More Light!

September marks the beginning of a new school year. Freemasons have advocated free public education from the start of the Brotherhood. Education is the path to benefit individual liberties and the advancement of society. Onion Creek Masonic Lodge was born in 1858 due to the farsightedness of brothers rebuilding the Red Cedar School, which had burned. These brothers built the new Stone Lodge and for 75 years provided room in the building for the Union School which became Pleasant Hill School.

For 152 years the Onion Creek Brotherhood has sponsored the oldest continuous public school in Texas. Work projects, teacher and student support, contests, school supplies, holiday gifts, book purchases, and program support are just a few of the many ways the lodge has bettered our local school.

These past two years Onion Creek has donated money to purchase innovative reading programs and upgraded science programs for the Pleasant Hill School. The lodge has honored students and teachers with the Lamar Medal for educational advancement. Our Past Master Dale Flatt has generously worked and donated to provide the school library with a state of the art audio-visual center to further educational goals.

Horace Mann, the father of our present system of public schools, wrote that the object of a free public schools system is "to give every child a free, straight, solid pathway by which he can walk directly up from the ignorance of an infant to a knowledge of the primary duties of a man." James Madison wrote that "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives." And Thomas Jefferson said: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." As this new school year begins, let us each pledge as Masons our continued support to ensure the very best in public schools for our community.

H. Max Fisher

Vote, Brethren...

This fundamental act, so essential to the orderly functioning of free organizations, is frequently taken for granted or even ignored. In this, the greatest country on earth, with so much opportunity, many "forget" that with opportunity and privilege, comes responsibility – the responsibility to vote for the things you believe in. The privilege of voting in the United States has been paid for with blood, sweat, and tears ever since our nation began; in contrast, in some countries, one can be killed for even attempting to vote.

As the time to vote draws nearer, we should all make a conscious effort to not only cast our own vote, but also to encourage everyone to vote and if necessary, offer to provide transportation for those who can and would vote, but may not have a way to get to the polling place. If history is any indicator, only half of the eligible voters will bother to vote in these midterm elections.

And yet, sentiments are fuming; the closest thing to a new political party we have seen for many years has begun to emerge. Frustration with both parties and the direction of the country has the electorate vowing to clean House – and the Senate! Approval ratings of the Congress are at historic lows and politicians of both parties will likely be swept out of office by the strong anti-incumbent mood of the electorate. It seems the people are paying attention and are tired of being ignored by those charged with representing them!

Masons have always been patriotic; many of us are veterans and had friends who would have been veterans, but never returned from their last assignment. If you are a veteran, you surely remember when you entered active duty that you swore to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Fortunately, in the United States, veteran or not, you can and should defend the Constitution by casting your vote.

From the Secretary's Desk

Parting Words...

WM, Wardens, and Brethren... First of all, I would like to thank the degree team- they did a great job - and congratulate the new brother and wish for him to find that path of light and wisdom that Masonry can bring to his life. I would like to say a few words because I will soon be going back to Venezuela for an indefinite period.

Brothers, more than two years ago I knocked on the door of Masonry and it was opened unto to me, as it was for all of us. I still remember the first time I came to visit and meet my future brothers and my lodge. It was a moment in my life when I did not feel afraid but my heart was beating fast and hard. I remember Brother Dennis Ross showing me the lodge and introducing me to other brothers. At that moment, my mind was lost in a new adventure - without knowing it was going to be in my mind in many situations in my present life and, I was pretty sure, in my future actions, too.

Before knocking on the door of Masonry, I was trying to find answers to questions that I could not answer; my soul was in my body but my mind was unsatisfied as I tried to find the correct path to live. My mind was full of family memories and some of them made me come and knock on Masonry's door. I also was full of questions in a foreign country and without a place to call home.

But after being received by all of you and seeing your patience in teaching me, I am very happy that, even though I am not originally from here, I am proud to have been initiated in this lodge and had the time to build great memories with all of my new brothers. Brothers Terry, Dennis, Raul, Jose, Ben, Curtis, and so many others took the time to explain to me not only the work but also sometimes the real meaning to help me find the light of Masonic knowledge.

Now, my life has come to a point where the opportunity of once again living close to my family is on the table. Here at Onion Creek Lodge, I found a place that I could call home - and I have learned a lot while here. But now it is time, as a Master Mason, to travel and develop my knowledge in my vocation. I pray for wisdom in all my decisions, and I hope that our Supreme Architect of the Universe will guide my future steps. 'Bye, and we will meet again someday...

**Fraternally,
Jose Miguel Chirinos Lima
Master Mason
Onion Creek Lodge #220**

Want to save Onion Creek Lodge a few bucks?

Please send an email to monthlybeacon@gmail.com.

In the subject line of the email, please put **E-BEACON**. In the body of the email, please **state your full name and the words "E-BEACON ONLY, PLEASE"**. Once we match your name to our spreadsheet, we will take your name off the print mail list!