

The Grand Valley All Masonic Trestleboard August | 2021



Grand Valley Masonic Center
2400 Consistory Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 81501



August Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Rainbow Girls - 7PM Masonic Center	3	4 Palisade Lodge Offi- cers Meeting 6:30 PM Masonic Center	5 Mesa Lodge Picnic - 6 PM Masonic Center	6 Early Bird Breakfast - 8 AM Strayhorn Grill	7 GL Budget Meeting 8 AM Colorado Spings Masonic Center Palisade Lodge Stated Communicaton - 10 AM Masonic Center
8	9	10	11 Temple Association Meeting 6:30 PM Masonic Center	12 DeMolay Boys - 7 PM Masonic Center	13 Early Bird Breakfast - 8 AM Strayhorn Grill	14 Mesa Lodge No. 55 Movie Night - 6PM Masonic Center
15	16 Rainbow Girls - 7PM Masonic Center	17	18	19 Mesa Lodge Officers Meeting 6:30 PM Masonic Center	20 Scottish Rite Reunion 7 AM Masonic Center Early Bird Breakfast - 8 AM Strayhorn Grill	21 Scottish Rite Reunion 7 AM Masonic Center
22	23	24	25	26 DeMolay Boys - 7 PM Masonic Center	27 Early Bird Breakfast - 8 AM Strayhorn Grill	28 Fruita Lodge Summer Picnic - 1 PM Reed Park, Fruita
29	30	31	1 Palisade Lodge Offi- cers Meeting 6:30 PM Masonic Center	2	3	4 Palisade Lodge Stated Communicaton - 10 AM Masonic Center

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August Birthdays

Wishing a Very Happy Birthday to the following Masons, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay Boys, and Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.

- Allen Etcheverry
- Caleb Delong
- Daniel Hillary
- David Hartmann
- Don Wright
- Don Wright
- Douglas Walck
- Elijah Khan
- Jeff Cyriacks
- Jerald Conyers
- Kim Wood
- Kyle Holloway
- Linn Armstrong
- Michael Day
- Milo Harris
- Milo Harris
- Peter Weber
- Richard Gerhardt
- Ross McIntyre
- Simon Weber
- Walter Hatmaker
- Walter Hatmaker
- William Brassette
- William Frary
-



Temple Association Update

The Masonic Center – Past, Present and Future

Fifty years of age is only a concept only understood by the context in which it is presented. Compared to how long-ago dinosaurs walked the earth, 50 years is mere speck in time. A Brother Mason reaching 50 years of age may have already had many aches and pains. Glasses, knee replacement or shoulder replacement and arthritis that are starting to enforce the signs of advancing age. Our temple building is now 50 years old and is doing very well – but with a few signs of old age

Several years ago, the Temple Board made a very difficult and often controversial decision to rent the building to non-Masonic groups. The reality was that maintaining the Masonic Center was not sustainable unless outside assistance was brought in. Although comments such as “we never did it like that before” or “we can’t do that” were common. Brothers such as Sean Norris said, “how can I help to make this successful?” They did and it has -- monies from outside rentals have enabled us to maintain, improve and upgrade the facility while at the same time reducing the burden on our Masonic organizations faced with declining memberships.

Many of you remember Brother Chris Motz, President of Sun king Construction. Chris spent hours and hours of his personal time to take a serious look at the pressing needs of the building as well as long term updating. Twenty to thirty pages of plans and schematics are produced. Pressing need was the 40-year-old heating and air conditioning units that were wore out. All of the heating/AC units were replaced - not an easy task since the old units were/are lodged deep in the bowels of the building.

The lighting was very dated (i.e. so many complaints of how dark and gloomy the Consistory was). New lighting systems were installed throughout the building. Lodge Room #2 saw the greatest change. Lighting that is controlled for many uses. The hall is now bright and cheery. The dining room is brighter, and lighting is controllable. With the heating and lighting updates a sizable saving in the cost of utilities

is realized.

Technology is important. State of the art big screen video systems in the Dining Room and Lodge Room #2 and the large televisions Lodge Room #1 allow viewing of video presentations from computers, cell phones or from the Internet. Examples: When Brother Ray McDaniel was recently given the Shriner of the year award his family and Shrine members were able to view a slide show of Ray’s Shriner history; this year’s Grand Lodge session was “zoomed” into Lodge Room #1; and building renters can present slide shows for weddings, funerals, etc.

As a further note, the Masonic Center has really good audio systems. Please make use these systems. Many of us whose hearing has diminished do appreciate the use of these audio systems during Lodge and other events. Brother Harry Clark and Brother Mark McGowan’s knowledge “tech-savvy” has been instrumental.

Brother Briscoe has spent hours installing electronic locks. I do mean hours. Now entry is more closely monitored and controlled. The question wasn’t who had a key to the facility, the question was who in Grand Junction didn’t have a key to the Lodge!

Several security cameras have been installed throughout center to assist in monitoring building. We can now monitor activities in the building over the Internet, from anywhere.

Major past complaints have involved plumbing problems in the main bathrooms. At the beginning of 2020 a project to remodel of those bathrooms to handicapped accessibility standards began. COVID-19 caused horrific delays, but after delay after delay by late 2020 that project was completed prompting many positive comments.

Speaking of COVID-19, our outside rental income was reduced by 50% in 2020. Because of advertising, our greatly improved website (grandvalleyeventcenter.com), and by word of mouth much of that rental income is now returning.

Two people who have to be on top of their game is Sharon Parrish and Brother Mike Briscoe. These two take turns showing and checking renters into the facility. They look professional, they show the facility and know how the “stuff “ works to renters.

One project that was particularly fun and interesting were the six columns in Lodge Room #1. During and for some time after construction back in 1972 the columns were rolled up and laid on the floor. This caused seriously deteriorated. Over a 3-month period a restoration by a professional restored these pieces of art to the beauty they deserved.

The Temple will again host a booth at the 2021 has no major projects for 2021 Wedding Expo at Two Rivers to attract couples who wish to afford the outrageous facility cost charged at local hotels.

For the last 50 years our backyard has been a mud bog with knee-high weeds. The city weed patrol has been a worthy adversary, so we have had to spend serious dollars for weed control.

Before his passing, Chris Motz created a improvement plan for the backyard and the area between Lodge Rooms #2 and #3. Grand Junction Lodge #173 has volunteered funding to implement that plan. A large patio will be created for outdoor gatherings such as dances, parties and other events for renters as well as for Masonic functions. This new area will be named the "Plateau 101 Vern and Ken Dillard Family Park". Much of the money is coming from the sale of the Plateau Lodge #101 building in Mesa. This construction is an example of "For The Good of Masonry!"

As summer continues we will be repairing the new roof leaks that have occurred over the winter. There are currently three different roof compositions covering our building. Each roof has its own problems. ALL are flat roofs. Traditionally, in late summer and early fall the roof is inspected and repaired as necessary in preparation for winter.

If the occasion arises, please thank your Temple Board, John Groves, Mike Briscoe and Sharon Parrish, Harry Clark and all those who have given hours of their time so to support our Masonic Center.

Linn Armstrong,
President | Grand Junction Masonic Temple Association, Inc.



Mesa Lodge #55 Summer Picnic!

**And All Area Masons, Their Families
and Friends are Invited!**

Date: August 5, 2021

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Place: Grand Junction Masonic Center

\$5 - Kids and Masonic Widows Free

Reservations NOT Required

Don't Worry About The Heat - Eat Indoors

Hope to see you there!



Mesa Lodge No. 55 August Update

Mesa Lodge No. 55
Chartered: September 18, 1883

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month
in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
Junction Masonic Center at 7:00 PM,
with dinner before lodge at 6:15 PM.

Dark: July & August

2021 Dinner Assignments

January.....Parker King
February..... Greg Foster
March.....John Groves
April.....Jim Marshal
May..... David Marshal
June..... Jason Kohles
July..... Dark (No Meeting)
August..... Dark (No Meeting)
September..... Harry Clark
October..... Roger Phillips
November..... Brad M-Anderson
December..... Dark (No Meeting)

Greetings brethren,

I hope all is well within the fraternity. I know things are a little slow at the moment but there have been many BBQ's as of late to attend while we are dark. I have been unsuccessful in getting the movie theater to contact me be back so I would like to try and have a movie day in Lodge Room #2 with the large projector screen. BYOS (bring your own snacks). I hope to do this on the 14th of August. I will keep you informed by email.

Going forward, on August 5th we will be hosting our annual BBQ at the Masonic Center indoor/outdoor, so don't let the hot weather keep you away.

I look forward to getting back to degree work and hopefully doing a couple of third degrees in September or October. I hope to be able to coordinate a few step-up practice nights before the end of the year to give everyone a chance to sit in other chairs.

David Marshal
Worshipful Master | Mesa Lodge No. 55

Mesa Lodge No. 55 Officers	
Worshipful Master	David Marshal (970) 412-5890
Senior Warden	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
Junior Warden	Tim Claypool (PM) (970) 712-3280
Secretary	Christopher Geisler (970) 250-8979
Treasurer	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
Senior Deacon	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Junior Deacon	Parker King (970) 629-9496
Senior Steward	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4774
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Jim Marshal (970) 712-9207
Director of the Work	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
Chaplain	Jason Kohles (PM) (970) 250-8004
Marshal	William Marhsal (970) 260-5432



Fruita Lodge No. 120 August Update

Fruita Lodge No. 120
Chartered: September 21, 1904

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month
at 106 N. Mulberry St Fruita, CO,
81521 at 7:00 PM, with a dinner
befor lodge at 6:00 PM

Dark: July & August

2021 Dinner Assignments

January.....Dark (No Meeting)
February..... Dark (No Meeting)
March.....Mike Murphy
April.....Naaman Moorehouse
May..... Glen Phelps
June..... James Anthony
July..... Dark (No Meeting)
August..... Dark (No Meeting)
September.....Gary Weiszbrod
October.....Jimmy McBride
November..... Randy Rehwoldt
December..... Lee Anderson

WORDS FROM THE EAST: We are in the dog days of summer and for the most part, Masonically speaking, standing in the dark. The only degree we are concerned with is what the thermometer will raise to every afternoon. That said there are some events and activities to bring to your attention.

AUGUST PICNIC: The Fruita Masonic Lodge No. 120 annual picnic will be held at the Reed Park shelter on August 28thbut the time has changed. We will gather at 1:00 pm, planning to eat around 1:30. The Lodge will provide burgers, brats, buns, condiments, sodas and water. You are asked to bring chips, dinner salads, fruit, veg-gies, desserts, all the other things that make a well rounded pot luck picnic. All area Masons, their families, guests and prospective members are welcome.

50 YEAR RECOGNITION: WB Lee Anderson has reached the increasingly scarce 50 year milestone. He was raised on September 17th1971 in Century Lodge No. 190. We will recognize and celebrate his achievement in an open assembly at 1;00 pm at the Grand Junction Consistory September 25th with a reception follow. I encourage all area Masons as well as family and friends to join us in honoring Lee.

PAST MASTERS NIGHT: Our September Stated Communication on September21st will recognize Past Masters. If you are a Past Master please join us as our guest for the evening. Dinner is at 6: pm, opening Lodge at 7:00. Dinner will be on us.

KNOW YOUR RITUAL: King Solomon’s Temple boasts a Great Porch known as Solomon’s Porch. It is supported by two pillars one of which is called Jachin. Jachin is a combination of to words. Jah which is a referent to Jehovah (God) and iachin which means “to establish”. Thus Jachin translates to “With God’s help to establish.”

Mike Murphy
Worshipful Master | Fruita Lodge No. 120

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Officers	
Worshipful Master	Mike Murphy (970) 640-5570
Senior Warden	Naaman Moorehouse (970) 433-5570
Junior Warden	Glen Phelps (970) 390-7146
Secretary	Randy Rehwoldt (PM) (970) 434-4608
Treasurer	Jimmy McBride (PM) (970) 390-7146
Senior Deacon	James Anthony (PM) (970) 306-1580
Junior Deacon	Gary Weiszbrod (970) 433-8978
Senior Steward	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 318-1004
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Robert Nickels (970) 858-0940
Director of the Work	Lee Anderson (970) 846-8493
Chaplain	
Marshal	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4773



Palisade Lodge No. 125 August Update

Palisade Lodge No. 125

Chartered: September 17, 1907
 Meets the 1st Saturday of the month
 in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
 Junction Masonic Center

Early Bird Breakfast

8:00 AM Every Friday at the Strayhorn
 Grill located on the South side of I-70.

**All Area Masons Are Welcome to
 join Us!**



Greetings Brethren,

It has been another beautiful month this summer. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next communication on Saturday, August 7th. We now have four new brothers, and I would also like as always to commend you on being true brothers one to another.

As we continue to move forward in 2021, I would love for Palisade Lodge No. 125 to participate more in the community. If anyone has ideas for what we can do in the Palisade area, please bring them up.

Thanks again for all your work and dedication to our craft.

Chris Eglet
Worshipful Master | Palisade Lodge No. 125

Palisade Lodge No. 125 Officers	
Worshipful Master	Chris Eglet (970) 640-4986
Senior Warden	Kerry King (PM) (970) 434-3267
Junior Warden	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
Secretary	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Treasurer	David Krogh (970) 314-9664
Senior Deacon	Naaman Morehouse (970) 250-9042
Junior Deacon	Don Halford (602) 309-0794
Senior Steward	
Junior Steward	
Tiler	James Krogh (PM) (970) 260-3373
Director of the Work	
Chaplain	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
Marshal	William Marshal (970) 260-5432



Grand Junction Lodge No. 173 August Update

Grand Junction Lodge No. 173
Chartered: January 23, 1952

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month
in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
Junction Masonic Center at 7:30 PM,
with dinner before lodge at 6:30 PM.

Dark: July & August

Brethern,

I hope you are all having a good summer. At our last stated communication we had the pleasure of bringing three new Brothers into our Masonic family.

We have Grand Lodge coming up in August for a budget meeting. I will not be able to attend but we will get a report on the new Budget.

I'm looking forward to our stated communication in September and I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer break.

Craig A. Miller
Worshipful Master | Grand Junction Lodge No. 173



Mesa Lodge No. 55 Officers

Worshipful Master	Craig Miller (PM) (970) 241-0997
Senior Warden	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
Junior Warden	James Anthony (PM) (970) 242-2199
Secretary	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Treasurer	Linn Armstrong (970) 234-0444
Senior Deacon	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 201-3371
Junior Deacon	Robert Daugherty (PM) (970) 210-4290
Senior Steward	
Junior Steward	Jeff Busy (970) 623-3651
Tiler	Randy Rehwoldt (PM) (970) 250-1672
Director of the Work	
Chaplain	
Marshal	

Paul Revere Lodge ...

*along with LN Greenleaf Lodge, Harmony Lodge,
Union Lodge & Jacques DeMolay Lodge*

... Proudly Present



The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team

JOIN US!

Saturday, October 9th, 2021
at the Denver Consistory
(parking garage not available)

4:00 p.m. Open Lodge & Introductions
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Second Section & Lectures

Registration & Ticket Information
bravewarrior.eventbrite.com



The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team is made up of Native American Freemasons from the state of Oklahoma. The team travels around the state, country and world to perform the Master Mason degree wearing full Native American regalia for the second section, in accordance with the Oklahoma Grand Lodge ritual. The degree work is for the enjoyment of Master Masons everywhere.

Sickness and Distress

Please keep the following Brothers, Widows and Orphans in your thoughts and prayers.

- W. Bro Gerald Conyers – continues his fight with leukemia.

If you know of a Brother, his Widow or Orphan in distress please contact your local lodge Secretary to add him or them to the list.



Masonic Anniversaries

Wish these Brothers a Happy Masonic Anniversary on being Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason the next time you see them.

- Byron Cook
- Glen Luellen
- Melvin Schafer
- Richard Gilmore Jr.
- Thaddeus Wilcox
- Young Snodgrass





Rainbow for Girls Assembly No. 12

Rainbow Girls Assembly #12 is preparing for our Grand Assembly July 29-31 to celebrate a great year of our Celestyn Baker, GWA leading our State. Celest's service project has been NAMI, the National Alliance for Mental Illness, an organization focusing on mental health services.

We are also excited about a second Western Slope sister, Kaitlyn Martin, being Installed as Grand Worthy Advisor. We will be the first Assembly to honor her with an Official Visit on August 14th and we will have four other girls serving as Grand Officers plus four younger girls attending.

Masons and Eastern Star members are welcome to come and witness Gunnison Assembly #99 and Assembly #12 Initiate two new sisters. This is a great time to see our girls do beautiful Ritualistic work.

Ellen Rehwoldt | Mother Advisor

Grand Junction Assembly #12 meets on the first, and third Mondays of each month at the Grand Junction Masonic Center at 7:00 PM.

For more information on The International Order of Rainbow for Girls please visit www.iorgcolorado.org.



Order of DeMolay Columbine Chapter

The Order of DeMolay is a young men's organization dedicated to building leadership qualities within the young men. This is accomplished through practical hands-on learning as well as knowledge-based workshops and events. It is open to young men between the ages of 12 years to 21 years of age. There is no requirement for any Masonic affiliation to join.

The Order is based upon seven cardinal teachings which are Love of Parents, Fidelity, Cleanliness, Reverence for all that is sacred, Courtesy, Comradeship, and Patriotism.

If you know of a young man that could benefit from our organization, please call the Master Councilor- Robby Daugherty at (970) 683-8140

Jeff Bush | Master Councilor

The Columbine Chapter Order of DeMolay meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. Meetings are held year-round.

For more information on DeMolay in Colorado please visit www.coloradodemolay.org.



Order of the Eastern Star Sunshine Chapter

Greetings All,

The Sunshine Chapter is currently dark, but we are still keeping busy. The Installation of new Officers will be at 2:00 on September 12th, with Sharon Parrish being installed as Worthy Matron and Harry Clark being installed as Worthy Patron. The installation will be open to the public and we would love for our Masonic Brothers and their families to attend.

We are also selling cookbooks filled with about 90 of our members' favorite recipes for \$15.00. If you would like to look through the cookbook and/or purchase one, please contact any Eastern Star member.

Sharron Parish
Worth Matron Elect | Order of the Eastern Star Sunshine Chapter

The Sunshine Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star meets on the first, and third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

For more information please visit www.OES-Coloardo.org



Western Colorado Shrine Club

Hello Fellow Nobles,

We hope this message finds you well. We had a small turn out for our picnic at the Grand Junction Masonic Center on Sunday July 25h. It was fun getting together with area Nobles and their families, celebrating summer and brotherhood with good food

As you are aware The Western Colorado Shrine Club is currently dark for the summer but we have some activites coming up in September including our monthly meeting at the Grand Vista Hotel on Tuesday September 14th at 11:45 AM and our next parade will be the Melon Days Parade in Green River, Utah on Saturday September 18th ath 10 AM. We hope to see you there.

Mike Briscoe
Potentate | Western Colorado Shrine Club

The Western Colorado Shrine Club meets at the Grand Vista Hotel Restuarant the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 11:45 AM.

For more information please visit www.ElJabelShrine.org



York Rite of the Grand Valley

The Grand Junction York Rite Bodies have had a very busy spring and summer.

On May 21, 2021, we held a special meeting to complete degree work for the Royal Arch Chapter and passed three brothers through the Royal Arch Degree, the last of the 4 Degrees in the Royal Arch Chapter. Later that day we met for a bowling tournament at Orchard Mesa Lanes raising \$1,500 for the Able Kids Foundation. Fun and fellowship was had by all.

In June, Delta York Rite hosted the Grand Pathways Rendezvous at the Grand Junction Masonic Center to confer the three degrees of the Royal and Select Masters of the Council. We again had three local participants for a total of eighteen candidates from around the state. A big thank you to the Masonic Temple Association for allowing us to hold this event at the Masonic Center.

In July, Salida York Rite hosted the Angel on the Rio Festival in South Fork Colorado at the Masonic Park on the banks of the Rio Grand River. Here the three Degrees of the Order of the Temple were held outside on the banks of the river. Eighteen candidates with three from the Western Slope received these degrees and were Knighted as members of the Order of the Temple. We would like to congratulate and welcome Gregg Foster, Darrell Manroe and Toby Takensic of Leadville. A joint team from Delta and Grand Junction performed the Order of the Red Cross at the Festival and did an excellent job.

In August we will attend the Masonic Picnic but will not have any meetings. September we will meet on Monday the 13th at 7:30 Pm at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

Jeff Bush | Sir Knight

The Grand Junction York Rite bodies meet on the second Monday of each month at the Grand Junction Masonic Center at 7:30 PM. For more information, please visit www.YorkRite.org or contact Jeff Bush at (970) 623-3651.

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Summer Picnic



When: Saturday, August 28th, 2021, 1-4 PM

Where: Reed Park in Fruita

What to bring: A covered side dish to share

Fruita Lodge will furnish the hamburgers and brats. We need you to bring a covered side dish to share and we are asking for a small donation to cover the costs to the lodge.

Friends, family, and perspective members are welcome.

We are not trying to make money on the event, however the meat, paper plates, and other supplies do cost a substantial amount



Masonic Education

Fifty years ago, on July 20th, 1969, history was made when 2 men stepped on the surface of the moon. One of the 2 was a Mason, Brother Buzz Aldrin. But our story would begin 10 years earlier and it has a West Slope connection. Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr. was born in Shawnee Oklahoma on the 6th of March 1927 to Leroy Gordon Cooper Sr. and Hattie Lee Cooper. His dad was a lawyer in Shawnee and his Gordon's family's story plays a very important part of young Gordons Fabric.

The senior cooper left high school in the middle of his senior year. He joined the Navy to avoid being drafted into the Army in World War I. He was sent to Washington D.C. and served aboard the U.S.S. Mayflower, the Presidents yacht. After the wars end and his release from the service, he returned to Shawnee to finish high school. Upon graduation, he married one of his teachers. Now, I wonder how well that would play out in today's world?

He put himself through college receiving a Degree in Law and returned to Shawnee to begin his practice. In time, he would be appointed a District Court Judge.

Shortly after returning to Shawnee, he also joined the Oklahoma National Guard where he would learn to fly. He had purchased a Curtis Robin, and at the age of 8, after his dad had added blocks to the rudder pedals and making a special cushion for him, young Gordon would learn to fly and soloed at 12.

At the opening of World War 2, Gordon Sr. was called to duty to the Judge Advocates Office and served in the Pacific Theater. He would later be recalled again during the Korean War.

Gordon Jr. or Gordo; as he would always be called, went to school in Shawnee until his senior year when his dad became stationed near Murray Kentucky and where Gordo would graduate.

As soon as Gordo turned 18 and still in high school, he enlisted in the Marines because as the war was coming to an end the Army or the Navy weren't taking any pilots applications. Well as it turned out, the Marines weren't either, they just didn't tell him. He was sent to Washington D.C. and served as a Presidential Honor Guard.

After his discharge from the Marines, he went to Hawaii where his dad was now stationed. He started college at the University of Hawaii. While there, he first joined the Army R.O.T.C. program but transferred to the newly forming Air Force R.O.T.C. He started his flight training at Perrin Air Force base in Texas, and then to Williams Air Force base in Arizona.

In 1950, he was assigned to the 86th Fighter Bomber Squadron and sent to Germany for 4 years. While there he would become Flight Commander of the 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron.

In 1954, he would return to the States to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson where he would graduate with a bachelors in Aeronautical Engineering. He was then sent to Edwards Air Force base to attend the Experimental Flight Test School, and in 1957, assigned to the Fighter Section.

While he was at Edwards, it was announced that Mc Donnell Aircraft had just been awarded the contract for the first Mercury Space Capsule. Shortly after the announcement, Gordo was called to Washington for a briefing. 110 men were invited for the day long briefing and later, they were individually asked what they thought of the program. Well just before Gordo left for Washington, he was told by his C.O. "don't you dare volunteer for anything." Oh well. After tests in Albuquerque and Wright-Patterson, the 110 were narrowed to 7, he being the youngest. On April 9th, 1959, NASA made the announcement. Four of the seven original Mercury Astronauts were or would become Masons.

Well, now comes the West Slope connection. When young Gordon was growing up, his dad purchased a small place near Carbondale so he and his mom could escape the Oklahoma summer heat. Now as a kid growing up, what could be better. Through the years the family kept the place. Gordon Sr. was a Mason and when. He was there, attended Carbondale 82. Lodge, and in 1960, he was raised a Master Mason. With all that was going on at that time in his life, I don't know how he pulled it off! Later he would become a York Rite Mason, a Scottish Rite Mason, given an honorary 33rd Degree, and a Shriner.

Well, probably one of the most famous missions in N.A.S.A.'s history was

the last of the Mercury Missions, Faith7, when Gordo was pilot. On the 15th of May 1963, it started without much incident other than a 6-hour delay at the start; a generator that was needed to power the gantry back from the rocket, wouldn't start. But it was on the 19th orbit when things started to go south. On that orbit, when he was in a place where he had radio contact with no one, an indicator light came on. One that shouldn't until reentry had begun. The autopilot should have corrected it, but it didn't. A reentry circuit breaker had tripped out of sequence.

When he again had established radio contact with Mission Control, they were showing nothing had happened to the orbit. On the next orbit he was to start the reentry sequence by switching on the autopilot. When he did; the capsule began a slow roll. This wasn't to happen until after retrofiring had ended. The computer had skipped ahead and missed several steps that were necessary before reentry should begin. Now he was going to have to do these steps manually.

On the 20th orbit he lost all altitude readings when a power inverter died and when switching to the 2nd, it wouldn't respond either. He didn't dare switch to the 3rd. It was to handle the cooling system for reentry. He was going to have to do it all manually and with no altitude information or clock. Of course, these things only happen when he had no radio contact. When Mission Control could make contact again and he was asked about his status, Cooper's response was "things are beginning to stack up a little.'

On the 22nd orbit he began his decent. He made his way through the check list. By using the stars, he made marks with a grease pencil as to where the horizon should be and another 34 degrees about it for his reentry altitude. By using his watch, he fired the retro rockets and began his decent. As he made his way down, he'd make corrections by observation, feel and just plain gut instinct. Looking out that tiny window and feeling the time was right, he deployed the chutes landing only 4 miles ahead of the carrier, U.S.S. Kearsarge, the closest of any of the Mercury or Gemini missions. In August of 1965, Cooper would be in command of Gemini 5.

Realizing he would probably never fly an Apollo mission he retired from both N.A.S.A. and the military in 1970. Toward the end of his life, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's and passed away on October 4th, 2004. I do know the library and Middle School in Carbondale are named in his honor and both his parents are buried in Carbondale as well.

I don't think our story about Brother Cooper would be complete without relaying a couple of his antics. He had many and they are legendary. Jim Rathmann, a winner of the Indy 500, owned a Chevy Dealership in Melbourne, Florida. He offered to lease a new 1960 Corvette to each astronaut for 1 year for a Dollar. Only John Glenn declined.

One day after landing at a local airport, on a commercial flight, Gordo had arranged to have the Vette brought to him so he could drive it back to the Cape. Cooper offered a fellow passenger who he didn't know and who was also going that way as well, a ride. They got in the car and Cooper made a tire smoking 180 in the parking lot and by the time they got to the highway they were doing 90. When he stopped at the highway he looked over at his passenger and said, "Hi, I'm Gordo Cooper." His passenger glanced back and said, "I'm Gene Kranz, your new boss."

Well, Gordo's wild streak almost got him canned. N.A.S.A. was becoming concerned about his maverick ways and were considering replacing him with Alan Shepard. When Gordo caught wind of it, he was angry to say the least. Each of the astronauts had use of a F-106. Two days before his mission, Cooper took the 106 up to "blow off some steam." He made a high-speed low-level pass over the restricted area and just as he approached mission control, pitched up and turned on the afterburner. Some said he was below the 2nd story windows. They were furious with him and at that night's briefing they were asked "who made that pass" as if they didn't know! Dead silence. Nevertheless, they let him stew about it for a day. Anger subsided and cooler heads prevailed, the next day, Cooper and Faith 7 started their legendary mission.

Brother Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr. would prove Chuck Yeager wrong when Yeager quipped, "those astronauts are all nothing but Spam in a can." On Faith 7 they needed a real test pilot, Gordo

W Bro. Lee Anderson
Fruita Lodge No. 120 A.F&A.M

Fruita Coffee on the Sidewalk



Western Colorado Shrine Club Picnic



Scottish Rite of the Grand Valley



James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander



Karl J. Shultz, 33°
Deputy of the Supreme Council
in Colorado

We extend the right hand of friendship and welcome you to the Eighty-Fourth Reunion of the Colorado West Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Congratulations on taking this next step in your Masonic journey.

The *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite* first arrived in the United States at New Orleans in 1763. It came from the continent of Europe, from Bordeaux, France, under the *Order of the Royal Secret*. It was transmitted in the shipping lanes, and first held a presence in the West Indies.

Rapidly Lodges sprang up at Albany, New York (1767); Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1781); and at Charleston, South Carolina (1783).

In 1786, the Grand Constitutions extended the degrees of the rite from the original 25 (as recorded in the French Constitution of 1762) to 33 degrees. The Grand Constitutions also provided for the *Supreme Council of Thirty-Third and Last Degree*, which would govern all appendant bodies, under two Supreme Councils, the Southern and Northern Jurisdiction.

This name was changed on December 4, 1802 to *The Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree for the United States of America*.

The name *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite* did not appear until 1804, as recorded in an agreement between the *Supreme Council of France* and the *Grand Orient of France*. By 1859, with Grand Commander Albert Pike at the helm, it became the name of choice, and has stuck ever since.



Spes Mea in
Deo Est



Valley of Grand Junction
Orient of Colorado

84th Reunion - August 20th & 21st, 2021
Western Colorado Bodies Of The
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Of Freemasonry

Valley of Grand Junction Orient of Colorado

84th Reunion – August 20th & August 21st, 2021

Western Colorado Bodies

The Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Friday 20AUG21

7:30AM Candidates Report, Register, and Assembly
 8:30AM Open Consistory, Grand Commander Video, Prologue
 8:45AM 4th Degree Exemplified Secret Master
 9:30AM 5th Degree Communicated Perfect Master
 9:50AM 6th Degree Communicated Intimate Secretary
 10:10AM 7th Degree Communicated Provost & Judge
 10:30AM BREAK
 10:50AM 8th Degree Communicated Intendant of the Building
 11:10AM 9th Degree Communicated Elu of the Nine
 11:30AM 10th Degree Communicated Elu of the Fifteen
 11:50AM 11th Degree Communicated Elu of the Twelve
 12:10PM 12th Degree Communicated Master Architect
 12:30PM LUNCH
 1:30PM 13th Degree Communicated Royal Arch of Solomon
 1:50PM 14th Degree Exemplified Perfect Elu
 2:50PM BREAK
 3:15PM 15th Degree Communicated Knight of the East
 3:35PM 16th Degree Communicated Prince of Jerusalem
 3:55PM 17th Degree Communicated Knight of the East & West
 4:15PM 18th Degree Exemplified Knight of the Rose Croix
 4:50PM 19th Degree Communicated Grand Pontiff
 5:10PM 20th Degree Communicated Master of the Symbolic Lodge

Saturday 21AUG21

7:30AM Candidates Report and Assembly
 8:00AM 21st Degree Communicated Nisachite or Prussian Knight
 8:20AM 22nd Degree Communicated Knight Royale Axe
 8:40AM 23rd Degree Communicated Chief of the Tabernacle
 9:00AM 24th Degree Communicated Prince of the Tabernacle
 9:20AM 25th Degree Communicated Knight of the Brazen Serpent
 9:40AM 26th Degree Communicated Prince of Mercy
 10:00AM BREAK
 10:20AM 27th Degree Communicated Knight Commander of the Temple
 10:40AM 28th Degree Communicated Knight of the Sun
 11:00AM 29th Degree Communicated Scottish Knight of St. Andrew
 11:30AM Reception of Grand Master and SCGC and Lunch in Lunch Room
 1:00PM 30th Degree Exemplified 1st Apt Knight of Kadosh
 1:20PM 30th Degree Exemplified 2nd Apt Knight of Kadosh
 1:45PM 30th Degree Exemplified 3rd Apt Knight of Kadosh
 2:15PM 30th Degree Exemplified 4th Apt Knight of Kadosh
 2-45 BREAK
 3:00PM 31st Degree Communicated Inspector Inquisitor
 3:20PM 32nd Degree Exemplified Master of the Royal Secret
 5:20PM Classroom After Action Briefing
 5:40PM Closing Ceremony and Grand Commander Video
 6:30PM Banquet and Scottish Rite Foundation Presentation

The Scottish Rite is thus a descendant of the *Order of the Royal Secret*, a rite developed in France in the 18th Century. Despite its name, it is not Scottish *per se*. Although, allusions to the Templar's stronghold in Scotland, after the mass arrest in 1307, persist.

However, the AASR is perhaps best described as American. It was here, in the United States, that it was accepted, modified, appended, and, ultimately, held fast.

The *Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction* recognizes 40 *Supreme Councils* and first *National Grand Lodges* practicing rites that include the Scottish Rite across the world. Each has recognized the Grand Constitutions of 1762 and 1786, with minor differences embraced by the particular needs of individual bodies.

Principal Officers



Montrose Lodge of Perfection
 William Marshall, 33rd (Elect)
 Venerable Master



Glenwood Chapter of Rose Croix
 Andrew Weber, 32nd
 Wise Master



Gunnison Council of Kadosh
 William Kledas, 33rd
 Commander



Grand Junction Consistory
 Joe Wells, 32nd KCOH (Elect)
 Master of Kadosh



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20TH
GRAND JUNCTION SCOTTISH REUNION**

7:15 am **Rolls & Coffee**
7:30 am **Candidates Report & Register And
Assembly**
8:30 am **Open Consistory, Grand Commander
Video, Prologue**



**Montrose Lodge of Perfection
Ineffable Degrees, 4° & 14°**

8:45 am 4° **SECRET MASTER "DEVOTION TO DUTY"**

Venerable Master Silan Smith, 32° KCCH
SW Michael Briscoe, 32° KCCH
JW Michael Murphy, 32°
SD Jim McBride, 33°
JD Jeffrey Koenig, 32°
Orator William Marshall, 33° (Elect)
Prompter James Anthony, 32°
Director Silan Smith, 32° KCCH



*Silan Smith, 32°
Director*

1:50 p.m. 14° **PERFECT ELU "SUPREMACY OF FAITH"**

Venerable Master John Warren, 33°
Senior Warden Jeff Bush, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden Robert Beeson, 33°
Orator Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH
Master of Ceremonies Tadd Warner, 32°
Expert Michael Briscoe, 32° KCCH
Asst Expert James Anthony, 32°
Captain of Host William Nickell, 32° KCCH
Prelate Andrew Weber, 32°
Moses
Secretary Harry Clark, 32°
Treasurer Scott Wilson, 32°
Director Michael Briscoe, 32° KCCH



*Mike Briscoe, 32°
KCCH
Director*



**Glenwood Chapter of Rose Croix
15° to 18° Degrees**

4:15 p.m. 18° **KNIGHT OF THE ROSE CROIX
"THE LAW OF LOVE"**

Wise Master John Warren, 33°
Master of Ceremonies Ron Garrett, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden Dusty Carlson, 32°
Junior Warden Parker King, 32°
Orator Brad Montgomery-Anderson, 32°
Expert Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH
Standard Bearer Rodney Johnson, 33°
Assistant Expert Mark Ralston, 32°
Guardian of Temple
Tiler George West, 32°
Director Jason Kohles, 32°



*Jason Kohles, 32°
Director*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2021
SCOTTISH RITE REUNION**



**Gunnison Council of Kadosh
19° to 30°**

1:00 p.m. 30° **KNIGHT OF KADOSH OR KNIGHT
OF THE WHITE & BLACK EAGLE
First Apartment**

Preceptor John Groves, 33°
Departed Brother Jason Kohles, 32°
M of Ceremonies Andrew Weber, 32°
Postulant Class Member
Special Effects Jeff Bush, 32° KCCH
Director John Groves, 33°



*John Groves, 33°
Director*

1:30 p.m. 30° KNIGHT OF KADOSH OR KNIGHT OF THE WHITE & BLACK EAGLE Second Apartment

Communicator William Marshall, 33° (Elect)

1:45 30° KNIGHT OF KADOSH OR KNIGHT OF THE WHITE & BLACK EAGLE Third Apartment

First Frank Judge Sean Norris, 32°
 Second Frank Judge Scott Wilson, 32°
 Chaplain/Preceptor James Anthony, 32°
 Director Sean Norris, 32°



Sean Norris, 32°
Director

2:15 p.m. 30° KNIGHT OF KADOSH OR KNIGHT OF THE WHITE AND BLACK EAGLE Fourth Apartment

Preceptor Mike Briscoe, 32° KCCH
 1st Sub-Preceptor Dusty Carlson, 32°
 2nd Sub-Preceptor Phil Harrison, 32°
 Master of Ceremonies Greg Allen, 32° KCCH
 Orator/Prompter Greg Allen, 32° KCCH
 Director



Greg Allen, 32° KCCH
Director



GRAND JUNCTION CONSISTORY CEREMONIAL & OFFICIAL DEGREES 31° and 32°



3:20 p.m. 32° MASTER OF THE ROYAL SECRET "BE SOVEREIGN OVER YOURSELF"

Master of Kadosh
 Prior
 Master of Ceremonies
 Master of Guard
 Preceptor
 Venerable Master 4°
 Venerable Master 14°
 Wise Master
 Commander of Kadosh
 Minister of State
 Modes of Recognition
 Director

David Crain, 32°
 John Warren, 33°
 Mike Briscoe, 32°
 John Groves, 33°
 Linn Armstrong, 32°
 Sean Norris, 32°
 James Anthony, 32°
 Christopher Geisler, 32°
 Sean Norris, 32°



Sean Norris, 32°
Director

Grand Junction Scottish Rite Bodies Officers 2021

Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General In Colorado
 John W. Groves, 33°



Montrose Lodge of Perfection
 William Marshall, 33° (Elect) Venerable Master
 Michael Briscoe, 32° KCCH Senior Warden
 Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH Junior Warden
 Randy Melton, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Brad Montgomery-Anderson Expert
 James Anthony, 32° Captain of the Host



Glenwood Chapter of Rose Croix
 Andrew Weber, 32° Wise Master
 Jason Kohles, 32° Senior Warden
 John Groves, 33° Junior Warden
 Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH Master of Ceremonies
 William Kledas, 33° Expert
 Glen Phelps, 32° Guardian of the Temple



Gunnison Council of Kadosh
 William Kledas, 33° Commander
 Chris Eglet, 32° 1st Lt. Commander
 Harry Clark, 32° 2nd Lt. Commander
 Linn Armstrong, 32° Marshall of Ceremonies
 Dennis Bechtold, 32° Chancellor
 Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH Lt. of the Guard



Grand Junction Consistory
 Joe Wells, 32° KCCH (Elect) Master of Kadosh
 Christopher Geisler, 32° Prior
 Gary Weiszbrod, 32° Preceptor
 Randy Melton, 32° Marshal of Ceremonies
 Randy Rehwoldt, 32° Chancellor
 Lloyd Stahl, 32° KCCH Captain of the Guard

Officers of All Bodies
 Gregory M. Allen, 32° KCCH Orator
 Donald A. Hobbs, 33° Almoner
 Jeffrey Bush, 32° KCCH Treasurer
 Emmett Palmer, 32° KCCH Tiler
 Tim Claypool, 32° Prelate
 William Nickell, 33° Secretary