# DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS CHARLOTTE, NC

September 2025 | Volume 90 | Number 9







# ROADRUNNERS TAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE

See page 14 for details!



## IN THIS ISSUE

Club and Unit Appreciation and Fall Ceremonial Weekend

Membership Minute | Water Buffalo Degree

Oasis Pickers at Metrolina Shrine Club | and more!



# From the Potentate



Nobles and Ladies:

September has arrived and that can only mean one thing: the 52ND ANNUAL SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRINE ASSOCIATION

(SASA) FALL FESTIVAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! The Oasis hotel block has been full for months, so we are looking forward to another wonderful time together with 19 other Shrine Centers (20 total in SASA) as we come together to parade, compete, and celebrate our accomplishments. If this is your first time attending SASA, make sure to take it all in and ask around if you need help finding anything - from Shrine Mart to the Parade Route. Oasis will follow the same schedule as in previous years and once again looks forward to DJ Chad Sain helping us celebrate in the Carolina Ballroom on Saturday evening as we present parade awards to our awesome Oasis Units. Special thanks to Noble Dennis Grigg and Lady Terri as they lead our Hospitality Team to help us enjoy another memorable weekend together. Oasis also looks forward to being present to continue to support Illustrious Sir Bill Carter and Lady Laurin as he continues to advance in the SASA officer line.

ARRRGH! I had the great fortune of attending the Oasis Buccaneers' "Inaugural Miraculous Order of the High Seas Pirate Degree" at the Cabarrus Shrine Club. There were so many present that the degree team had to break us into two classes. A hearty congratulations is in order to the Oasis Buccaneers for hosting a TRULY memorable event. I highly encourage nobles and ladies to consider attending their next degree opportunity to enjoy the smells, sights, and sounds of

the High Seas. Well done, Mateys! Special thanks to Chief Rabban Tim Farris and High Priest and Prophet Scottie Cox and their ladies who were also able to join in the occasion.

We had a Yabba-Dabba FULL HOUSE on August 16 for the 1st Annual Oasis Water Buffalo Degree, Long Leaf Pine Quarry No. 1 with 223 in attendance! You read that correctly: 223! You're likely to see some shiny new, tall, blue Buffalo hats with two silver horns out and about at your local buffalo watering hole. Congratulations to these newest members of the Loyal Order of the Water Buffalo and for the FUN time spent together on Saturday, August 16. Look for photos in this issue of the Desert Dust.

We enjoyed the annual Oasis Black Tie event on August 23 in Winston-Salem as we annually honor the excellent working relationship between the Oasis Divan and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina with particular emphasis on our appreciation for the mutual support rendered at various events throughout the year. NC Grand Master Robert Rideout and his Lady Courtney were the guests of honor as more than 80 participants enjoyed the evening's program of celebration and accomplishments.

Remember, our Annual Oasis Club and Unit Appreciation event has been moved from the first weekend in January back to the Friday evening of our Fall Ceremonial at Oasis which will be on Friday, October 31. Rest assured, all clubs' and unit's final totals for annual giving will be announced and published as usual in either the January or February 2026 Desert Dust once the Oasis office has received all necessary information for final calculations and credits.

The Black Camel recently visited, and it is with great sadness that Oasis mourns the passing of Illustrious Sir Gene Morrison who served as Potentate in 1986. A Celebration of Life was held at Oasis Headquarters on August 17. So many of our Oasis nobility and ladies have fond memories to share of Illustrious Sir Gene and express appreciation and admiration for his leadership and the legacy he leaves behind. The Charter of Oasis Shriners has been draped in his honor and memory. Please continue to keep Lady Norma and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Looking ahead, go ahead and mark the Oasis circus shows on your calendar for next month as well as the Annual Masonic Homecoming for Children at Oxford. These events are on different weekends this year, so please make your plans to attend. A special Tip of the Fez to Noble Jack Wallace for his many years of enthusiastic leadership for the circus as well as our Oasis Clowns and the Bicycle Giveaway, the Oasis Band, the Oasis Patrol, and so many others for supporting this event.

Remember, today you are somebody's example when they glance at the ring upon your hand, the lapel pin on your collar, the stitched logo on your shirt, or the decal on your vehicle. In the words of our beloved Oasis Chaplain, Past Potentate John Stanley, "let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Yours in the Faith,
Illustrious Sir Chris Hall

# From the Recorder



Hello Everyone,

I hope this note finds you well. My next few articles will focus on our hospital kids, and I hope you enjoy

reading their stories. This month's focus is on Breanna. The following information is readily available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

# "When I think of Shriners Children's, I think it's a place of hope."

When Breanna looks back on her childhood, some of her most meaningful memories come from the three years she spent at Shriners Children's. Born with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy, a condition that affects muscle control in the lower limbs, Breanna's future and level of independence were uncertain. Her early childhood involved hospital visits, braces, therapy sessions and, eventually, surgery. Now 26, she carries a deep appreciation for the care and support she received during that time in her life.

Breanna became a patient at Shriners Children's when she was nine. She credits the staff at Shriners Children's for guiding her through a crucial part of her care. "They specialized in my surgery and had everything else I needed," she said.

Breanna's treatment plan included hamstring-lengthening surgery, ankle plates to help with stability and movement, physical and occupational therapy, and orthotic bracing. Breanna recalled the doctors who managed her care, including her orthopedic surgeon, William Phillips, M.D., who played a hands-on role in ensuring she was comfortable and progressing well. He visited her hospital room regularly and



monitored her recovery through sessions in the motion analysis center, a space where her walking patterns were tracked to fine-tune her treatment.

The hospital therapists also worked closely with Breanna. She received custom orthopedic devices, including knee-ankle-foot orthoses and anklefoot orthoses, to help her walk more comfortably. While she eventually transitioned her care to other facilities as she grew older, she remembers those early years at Shriners Children's as both formative and supportive. "They had game nights and movie nights, just to make the stay a little bit more home-like for the patients," she said. Breanna made friends with other children going through physical therapy and recalled a strong sense of community within the hospital. "I think back to my time at Shriners, and I never really felt like a patient. I felt like I was part of a family," she said. "They were there to support me, to encourage me." It holds so much promise.

Breanna also enjoyed attending school at the hospital. "I received one-on-one instruction. I would even say it was better than my actual schooling sometimes," she said with a laugh. Breanna had homework

continued on page 4

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### **DESERT DUST**

# Illustrious Sir Christopher L. Hall, Potentate

604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262 Phone: 704-549-9600 oasisshriners.org

#### **2025 OASIS DIVAN**

Chief Rabban - Tim Farris
Assistant Rabban - Donnie Wrenn
High Priest and Prophet - Scottie Cox
Oriental Guide - John Cable
Treasurer - Bill DePriest
Recorder - Gary Taylor, PP
1st Ceremonial Master Larry Sanderson
2nd Ceremonial Master - Tom Bridges
Director - Rick Garver
Marshal - Larry Payne
Captain of the Guard - Jack Wallace
Outer Guard - Ben Hamilton
Chaplain - John Stanley, PP

Editor - Edie Wilson ediewilson7@gmail.com

## From the Recorder

continued from page 3

every day, and although that might not sound like fun to most kids, she looked forward to it. The daily routine gave her a sense of normalcy and helped her stay on track academically. After graduating from high school, Breanna attended the University of Houston Downtown, where she earned her undergraduate degree in social work. Today, she works with students with disabilities to help them gain accommodations in their classrooms. According to Breanna, it is a full-circle moment.

"I think my condition has given me purpose to help people in the same walk of life as me," she said. "I'm naturally a helpful person. I think that's why I gravitated towards this profession. To me, the most important thing is to advocate and educate others so that we have a place in the world."

Breanna hopes to earn her master's in social work and influence

policies that support and protect people with disabilities. She has come a long way from her days as a patient at Shriners Children's, but she credits those years with giving her the independence she has now.

"Shriners Children's is a starting place, and it's a gateway to all of what's possible," Breanna said. "It holds so much promise. Shriners is home for a lot of people. It's a place of belonging and what's possible – and they're breaking barriers."

Things continue to go well here at Oasis, and we would love to have your stop by and visit <u>your</u> temple. Take care until next month, and remember, the work you do for our fraternity and philanthropy is sincerely <u>appreciated</u> and <u>essential</u> to our medical facilities and all our Shriners Children's programs like Breanna's, that they serve.

Gary





Reminder: All ads & articles for the October edition of the Desert Dust must be submitted to Edie Wilson - Ediewilson7@gmail.com by September 10.

# CLUB AND UNIT APPRECIATION AND FALL CEREMONIAL WEEKEND

"HOMECOMING" IN HONOR OF PAST POTENTATES



## **OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

OASIS SHRINE CENTER
604 DOUG MAYES PLACE | CHARLOTTE



### **HOTEL RESERVATION BLOCK:**

**Hilton Charlotte University Place** 

https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clthuhf-oi25-339173cc-ecff-4796-85b9-66ea4ca0eb48/

### **PETITION TO JOIN:**

https://oasisshriners.org/images/forms/membership/petition-for-initiation-and-membership.pdf

Weekend Events are open to Oasis Members in Good Standing (Current Year Dues Card Required) and their Ladies and Candidates and Candidates' Ladies.



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9:00-10:00 Oasis Van Shuttle (between Oasis and hotel)

Class Honoree Named

Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and

Special Recognition of Oasis Past Potentates and

Introductions, Master of Ceremonies

10:00

10:15

10:45	"Creating a Shriner" - Oasis Director's Staff
11:00	Ladies Dismissed to Luncheon in Sands Restaurant
	Guest Speaker: Trana Pittam, Director, Marketing and
	Communications, Shriners Children's Greenville
11:00	New Shriner Ceremonial in Auditorium
12:00 noon	Candidate Lunch (provided) and Class Photograph in
	Front of Oasis
12:00 noon	Oasis Club and Unit Showcase in Carolina Room
	(Member Recruitment)
1:00-2:00	Oasis Van Shuttle (between Oasis and hotel)
1:00-5:00	Oasis Hospitality Room Open at Hilton
6:00	Oasis Doors Open: Passed Hors d'oeuvres: Pimento
	Cheese Tarts, Chicken and Waffles, Bacon Wrapped Jalapenos
6:30	Fez and Rose Ceremony - New Shriners and Ladies
7:00	Drawing for the 2025 Oasis Quilt Giveaway
7:00-10:00	Entertainment by DJ Noble - All Your Favorites!
10:00	Return to Hotel, Oasis Hospitality Room Opens at Hilton
10:00-11:00	Oasis Van Shuttle (between Oasis and hotel)
Midnight	Hospitality Room Closes

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

9:30 am Oasis Non-Denominational Service, Hilton Charlotte University Place



# A Night at the Beach

Submitted by Lady Edie Wilson

When Red Fez Shrine Club has a party, you can count on a thing or two. There will be music, decorations, good food, and lots of Shriners having more than a few laughs.

On Saturday night August 9, friends and family showed up to hear legendary DJ Chad Sain as he sets the pace with his

great music selection and lively audience participationfueled by Fire Ball!

Lady Debbie Burgess and her team created the mood with decorations that take you right to the beach. And the club-well, it sits right on the water with views from a wrap-around porch. Add an indoor picnic with fried chicken, and you're in for a memorable night.





Charlotte and grandson Payton.









Burgess and Lady Charlotte were celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary.











# Introducing Vani Brown

# Welcome To Oasis

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Oasis Shriners newest office member, Vani Brown. She will be sharing office management duties with Lady Sherrie Vandergriff. Some of her tasks will include coordinating Roadrunner trips, taking membership dues, ordering plaques/bars, as well as any number of other tasks necessary to keep our temple running.

Vani comes to us with a varied background

that includes office administration, marketing, graphic design, and project management. She most recently worked for a senior move management company where she was the Clear Out Lead (or in her words, Vice President of Getting Rid of People's Junk). She's been married for 17 years, lives in east Charlotte, and has a new puppy; a black mouth cur named Basil who has much more energy than she anticipated.

# UPCOMING CLUB AND UNIT EVENTS

#### **OCTOBER 31**

Annual Club and Unit
Appreciation Event
See ad on page 5

#### **NOVEMER 13-23**

Help Needed at
The Southern Christmas Show
See ad on page 4



# SHRINE TRAILER Travels for You

Did you know the Shrine Hospital Trailer is available for your public Shriners Children's Hospitals fund raising or awareness events?

Noble Sam Moody has generously agreed to volunteer his time and energy to transport the Hospital Trailer to any location within the Oasis Region in an effort to spread the word about our wonderful Hospitals.

The trailer unfortunately cannot be used for fraternal (non-hospital) fundraising.



Noble Sam is ready and willing to bring the trailer to your location, with advance notice.

980-722-7951 sambo447@aol.com

# 2025 Schedule of Events

#### **SEPTEMBER**

September 18-21 Fall SASA - 52nd Annual Meeting

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

September 19 Oasis Divan Meeting

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

#### **OCTOBER**

October 1 Oasis Circus - Greensboro Coliseum

October 3-4 Oasis Circus - Cabarrus Arena

October 10-11 Annual Homecoming, Masonic Home for

Children at Oxford

October 16 Oasis Divan Meeting at Oasis HQ
October 18 6th Annual Oasis Golf Tournament

October 31 Annual Club & Unit Appreciation Event

#### **NOVEMBER**

November 1-2 Oasis Past Potentates "Homecoming"

Ceremonial - Oasis Headquarters, Charlotte

November 20 Oasis Divan Meeting

#### **DECEMBER**

December 6 Oasis Divan Meeting (STATED)

December 6 Oasis Annual Election of Officers

December 13 Lincoln Ceremonial - Lincoln County

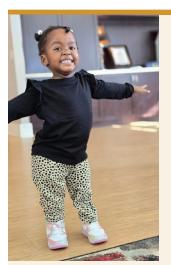
Shrine Club, Vale & Cat Square Parade

December 18 Oasis Divan Meeting

### **JANUARY 2026**

January 3 Installation of the 131st Potentate of

Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan



With an infectious smile and unstoppable spirit, 4-year-old **Karita** is walking today thanks to the specialized orthopedic care at **Shriners Children's Greenville.** 

"At my 17-week appointment, the doctor noticed that she was missing her leg," said Beverly, Karita's mom. It wasn't until Karita was born that they discovered she had proximal femoral focal deficiency (PFFD).

After seeking multiple medical opinions, Karita's family found Shriners Children's Greenville, where advanced

motion analysis, a personalized treatment plan, and a custom prosthetic from our Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services (POPS) team helped her take her very first steps — and she hasn't stopped since.





# Shriners Leaders in Children's Research

Shriners Children's strives to transform children's lives by providing exceptional health care through high-quality, innovative research in a patient and family centered environment.

We are committed to the pursuit of seminal, cutting edge discoveries that result in new knowledge and improve the therapeutic treatment, quality of care and provided outcomes to our patients and their families. Today's research is tomorrow's patient care.





ORTHOPAEDICS • BURN CARE
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# Petals of Hope: Lady Laura's Monthly Story

# A Bloom of Strength for Ty

Like the delicate yet enduring dogwood bloom that pushes through harsh winters to offer a burst of hope in spring, Ty's story reminds us that beauty and strength often emerge from uncertainty.

When Saralyn first heard the word arthrogryposis, it landed like a storm—unfamiliar, overwhelming, and full of questions. But just as the dogwood tree stands resilient, its petals unfurling even when conditions aren't ideal, Saralyn chose not to be rooted in fear.

She sought answers, community, and—most importantly—hope.

That hope blossomed at Shriners Children's Greenville, where Ty found not just a treatment plan, but a team of experts devoted to helping him grow, move, and thrive. With every step—from early therapy to his first surgery—Ty's future has begun to take shape, full of possibility and independence.

Like the dogwood that blooms despite the odds, Ty is already proving that even life's smallest fighters can be its brightest signs of hope.



Saralyn's heart dropped to the pit of her stomach as she spoke the only four words that came rushing to her mind, "My baby has what?"

Already the mother of an older son who arrived a decade earlier without complications, it was the first time she had heard the term arthrogryposis. This pregnancy, she was older, and for that reason, the doctor had been

monitoring her progress more closely. She learned that at her nine-week scan, a bend in her baby's wrists and hands had been detected – but, because there were not yet any major concerns, nothing was said. However, at her 20-week appointment, the increased curvature was undeniable.

"We were told arthrogryposis was a rare musculoskeletal condition," she said. "My husband, Robert, was in shock but trying to hold it together for me. We were both scared to death."

Google searches didn't reveal a lot of information on the condition affecting fewer than 50,000 people in the United States.

However, it did further frighten Saralyn by underscoring the chances of limited movement and what could be a tiring struggle to achieve the simple functions of daily life. "When I was 6 years old, my dad broke his neck and was paralyzed from the neck down. I watched my mother be a caregiver to not only my sister and me but also my father from that day on. Would my baby also be dependent on someone else to care for him? I just kept asking God, 'What's next?""

Shortly after the delivery of her baby boy, the wait to find out "what's next" ended. Ty's pediatric orthopedist soon came to visit, and Saralyn and Robert were very happy with the great interest the young physician showed in their newborn son. He seemed resolute to find solutions for Ty, who would be his first arthrogryposis patient. Saralyn simultaneously worked to discover physical and occupational therapy service options to get a head start on Ty's ability to gain movement. But when Saralyn asked about a surgical plan, the doctor responded that it would not be needed until Ty was about 3 years old.

"I had joined a support group online for moms of kids with arthrogryposis, and I knew that wasn't true for the children I was learning about," Saralyn said. "All the moms I met there told me, 'You need to go to Shriners Children's Greenville and meet with Dr. [Lauren] Hyer.' So, that's what we did – and the rest is history."

In February 2024, treatment began with an in-depth evaluation. Ty was scheduled to see Dr. Hyer at the end of the week; however, Saralyn says she and Robert knew they made the right choice when Dr. Hyer surprised the family by stopping in to meet their baby boy the first day - observing his physical therapy appointment. Rounding out the medical team and deepening the well of expertise at Shriners Children's was Dr. Shea Ray, who specializes in corrections of the hand and wrist.

Ty's first operation was a tendon release to improve range of motion in his left elbow, as well as a procedure that fixed the curling of several of his toes. Surgery for his other elbow is next. The family is relieved to have access to experts to create a customized plan as Ty gets older, further aiding in his ability to lead a fulfilling, more independent life.

"We are so grateful that we found Shriners Children's," said Lane, Ty's grandmother, who accompanied Saralyn during a recent visit. "The doctors and therapists don't just offer hope – they deliver action and results."



950 West Faris Rd. Greenville, SC 29605 ShrinersGreenville.org Your gifts help kids like Ty live their best possible lives.

To donate: 864-255-8765





f 🄰 💿 🕒 in ShrinersGreenville



# Chaplain's Corner

# The Epidemic of Loneliness

Not so long ago I saw a Peanuts Cartoon. Charlie Brown is sitting up in bed, his bedside clock showing 1:00 a.m. And, the caption reads "When you can't sleep at night, have you ever thought maybe it's

God saying: We need to talk, and now you have time."

So how about us? In those times when we are pretty much shut-off from the rest of the world, how are you sleeping? As with Charlie Brown can we use that time to pray? And, then the next day, if we have some extra time on our hands, can we drop someone a note, or perhaps give someone a call we haven't heard from in a while? Is it important for us to stay in touch?

We read the other day that almost 25% of people said they had NO close friends. Yes, we may very well have another epidemic among us—that of loneliness! We miss being connected to others in so many places.

Of course, we can be connected with Facebook, Livestream, and the other social media—but, would it not be wonderful to be with...to be in the physical presence—of each other? Being connected is important to our health and general well-being. God said in the creation story, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

We can be connected with others through our Masonic Meetings, Shrine Club and Shrine Unit meetings. Obviously, God intends for us to be CONNECTED with one another.

Thank you for staying in touch one with the other. We surely look forward to seeing you real soon! **May God bless you.** 

John Stanley, PP, is Chaplain of Oasis, and Chaplain of South Atlantic Shriners. He has served as visitation minister, of First Presbyterian-Gastonia and of Laurinburg Presbyterian. He was Imperial Chaplain when Imperial Sir Al Madsen was Imperial Potentate. John can be reached at: jhstanley1965@gmail.com. He would like to hear from you!



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### IN MEMORIAM:

# ILLUSTRIOUS SIR MARVIN EUGENE "GENE" MORRISON

Oasis Potentate, 1986

It is with regret that Oasis Shriners Headquarters shares news of the passing of Illustrious Sir M.E. "Gene" Morrison, 92, who served as Illustrious Potentate of Oasis Shriners in 1986.

The obituary can be read below. Please join us in keeping Lady Norma and the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Christopher L. Hall, Illustrious Potentate

## Marvin Eugene Morrison

January 7, 1933 - August 1, 2025

Marvin Eugene "Gene" Morrison, passed away on Friday, August 1, 2025.

He was born January 7, 1933, son of the late Ernest A. Morrison, Sr. and the late Mildred Harkey Morrison. Gene attended school in Charlotte and graduated from Old Harding High School in 1951. He was actively involved in school leadership

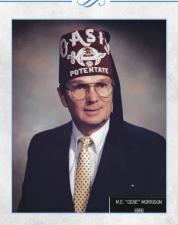
affairs throughout his school years. His senior classmates elected him "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Influential" and was President of the Student body.

After high school graduation, he attended Electrical Trade School at CPCC and joined his father's business at Interstate Electric Company. He and his brother, Ernest A. Morrison, Jr. retired from the family business in 1990, turning the business over to his son-in-law, Butch Robertson and Ernest's son, David Morrison thus establishing a third generation Electrical Contracting business. They were very proud that Interstate maintained State License number 25. His father began the business in 1932 during the hardest of times. As the company grew, he and his brother worked hard to maintain the excellent reputation his father had established and is still maintained today by the third generation family. Interstate Electric Company, Inc celebrated 93 years of business in 2025.

Gene met and fell in love with his future wife, Gerald Deane Bowen, lovingly known as "Gerrie" to everyone. They became sweethearts at the age of 16 and were married in 1954. Gerrie passed away in November 2002; three months short of their 49th wedding anniversary.

Gene became a Shrine-Mason at the early age of 21. Upon becoming an Oasis Shriner, he began getting involved in and supporting the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Serving and chairing many committees throughout his 71 plus years as a member of Masonry and the Shrine, he was Captain of the Oasis Drum and Bugle Corp from 1975 to 1977. While serving as Potentate of Oasis Shrine Headquarters in 1986 he was honored to turn the first shovel of dirt to begin the new Oasis Shrine Headquarters Building. At that time Oasis was the second largest Shrine headquarters with over 13,000 members. Gene served as Sec/Treas of the South Atlantic Shrine Association for 8 years and became President in the year 2000. The South Atlantic



Shrine Association serves 19 Shrine Headquarters members in several states. He was a member of The Royal Order of Jesters and became Director in 1987. Gene served on the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas Board of Directors for several years and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1988 and 1989. He was a life member of all of these organizations and life member of many Shrine Clubs and other Shrine Temples. He began several new programs in the Oasis Shrine that are still very actively being used today.

A member of Phalanx Masonic Lodge No. 31, and the Scottish Rite Bodies in Charlotte. He served as co-class director of the Scottish Rite Bodies for several years. He was awarded the honor of KCCH, an honorary degree for service to Masonry.

Gene met Norma Alexander Robinson in 2006. Both had experienced the loss of their loved ones. They were married in October 2008. They enjoyed traveling, spending time at the beach and sharing their lives with each other at their beach home in Myrtle Beach.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Ernest A Morrison, Jr.; and his beloved little poodle, Buddy, which he loved very much.

Gene is survived by his wife Norma; daughter, Brenda (Geanie) Robertson and husband Butch; granddaughter Ashley Robertson; son, Dr. Gregory Morrison and wife Pam; grandsons, Alex Morrison and wife Lindsey and Nick Morrison; six great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Gene was also survived by Norma's children and grandchildren; William J. Robinson III (Billy Robinson), Angela and her husband Rick McCoy, and grandchildren Steven Freinstein, Cassidy Freinstein married to Adrian Glass and Eli McCoy.

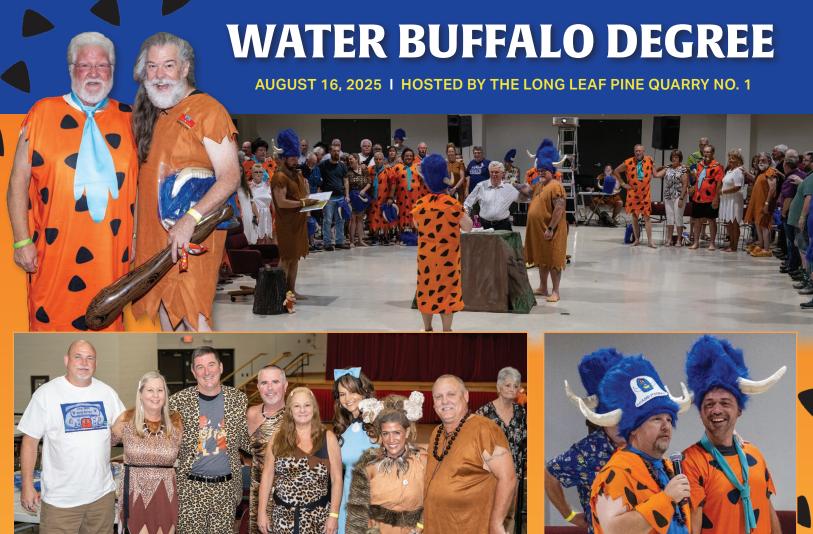
#### **ARRANGEMENTS**

The family received friends on Saturday, August 9 at 10:00 am at McEwen Funeral Service at Sharon Memorial Park located at 5716 Monroe Road in Charlotte.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 am followed by committal at 12:00 pm.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, August 17 from 3:00-5:00 pm at Oasis Shriners Headquarters located at 604 Doug Mayes Place in Charlotte.

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/charlotte-nc/marvin-morrison-12475067























# Roadrunners Take Time to Celebrate

The 2025 annual Roadrunner dinner was held August 9 at Catawba County Shrine Club. The club prepared prepared



Chief Rabban Tim Farris

a delicious meal including homemade ice cream! There was lots of fellowship, and the fun included drawings for gifts.

Roadrunners were celebrated for their dedicated service.



George Stoklas



Jim Scarborough



Tom Erickson

Three drivers with top

George Stoklas 20 trips



Danny Bean was presented a certificate, signed by III. Sir Chris Hall, for assuming the role of Captain for the 2023-2025 term.



The Roadrunner Crew







Roadrunner of the Year: Charles Stubbs

Noble Stubbs made a total of one trip to Philadelphia, 16 trips to Cincinnati and 152 trips to Greenville

Donnie Wrenn honored Charles Stubbs with his 50 Year Shriner Certificate. Charles's Wife Margaret was escorted to the front to present him with his 50-year pin.



All District and Assistant District Sergeants **Dedication of Service Award:** 

Dennis Wilkey and Steve Guidry

(This award is given in recognition of the travel involved and time away from the family.)

### **ROADRUNNERS NEED YOU!**

**GET INVOLVED AND HELP TRANSPORT OUR CHILDREN TO THE HOSPITALS.** 

Contact Vani Brown to get more information. (704) 549-0926 or

coordinator@oasisshriners.org

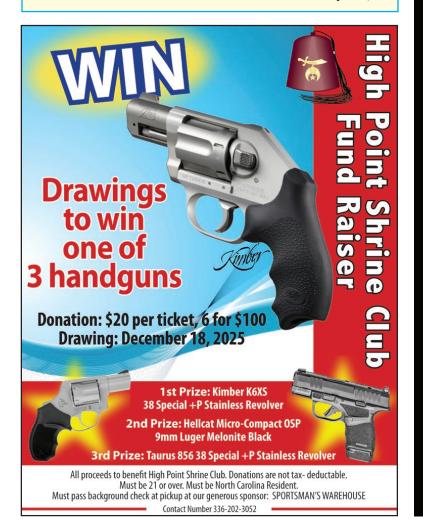


# **FOCUS ON** OUR ROADRUNNERS

Congratulations to the following Roadrunners for having the highest number of trips in the month of July in their district.

ROADRUNNERS DISTRICT	ROADRUNNER'S NAME	NUMBER OF TRIPS IN JULY	TOTAL MILES TRAVELED IN JULY
CATAWBA	Larry Hale	1	1087
CHARLOTTE	George Stoklas	2	1605
MACON			
MOUNTAIN/ AVERY	Fred Kirkpatrick Bill Krause	1 1	160 160
TRIAD	Tom Erickson Neil Johnson	2 2	502 502

Total number of Roadrunner trips for ALL districts for July = 22 Total number of Roadrunner miles for ALL districts for July = 10,158



## **2025 OASIS QUILT GIVEAWAY**

Handmade by Lady Sabrina Cashion

\$20 each or 6 for \$100 **Drawing to be Held at** Fall Ceremonial on Saturday, November 1

Winner Need Not be Present to Win

Proceeds Benefit Shriners Children's

See any Divan Member for Tickets

The quilt will be featured at various events throughout the year.



# OASIS SHRINERS

2025 Limited Edition Commemorative Bottle First Come, First Served - Only 200 Available Jack Daniel's Single Barrel Select



Call Valdese ABC at 828-879-2227 or email vabcmgr@gmail.com Ask for "Oasis Shriners" Bottle \$58.95 + tax, must pay by phone to reserve

This is NOT a fundraiser, neither fraternal nor charitable This is for nostalgia purposes only Barrel delivery expected in September

For logistical questions, contact Noble Tom Bridges at 828-439-1700

# Oasis Pickers Provide "Ear Joy" at Westgate Lodge Ladies and Awards Night at Metrolina Shrine Club

Oh what a night! The Oasis Pickers were invited to JAM again at Westgate Lodge's Ladies and Awards Night, and did we have FUN! Comments included, "Thanks for coming, really enjoyed it, and loved the music"...but the absolute keeper was "thanks for providing the ear joy for tonight's banquet.



We're not sure it's always "Ear Joy," but we love making some noise, seeing the smiles, watching the folks tap their feet and even singing along with us! We really like it when folks want to just come up and JAM with us. We know we're not really the best act around, but we have fun, and we hope the folks that hang with us do too.



We really want to thank the lodge for making

us feel so welcome as their table decorations included a miniwashboard and guitar picks for the SPITs (Shrine Pickers In Training). How cool was that!

Of course, if you'd like more information on the infamous, internationally-known Oasis Pickers feel free to contact our founding Captain, Dave Mahan: DBMahan@gmail.com, or text/call: 843-372-5510 or look for us on Facebook.

# Inherited a coin collection?

Let us help you navigate your options!



- Collection Appraisals
- Retail Storefront
- Online C&C Auctions (NCAL#10247)

₹ 125 E. Front St. Statesville, NC 28677 www.CaudleCoin.com

- Private Sales
- Buy Collections Outright
- Appraisal for Insurance and Estate Purposes

704-380-3010

Douglas@CaudleCoin.com

Mention this Ad and 10% of profits go to Oasis Charities

### **NOW HIRING**

Oasis Hospitality Team Wants You

Are you ready to get involved? Are you a new Shriner or Shriner who's been around for a while but has not been involved? Would you like to get to know more people?

Join the Oasis Hospitality Team.



We are looking for individuals like yourself to join our team. Husbands *and* wives are encouraged.

To learn more, please contact Dennis Grigg at (828) 781-0062. We look forward to hearing from you.



### **Dear Nobles and Friends of Oasis Shriners:**

It is circus time again and we have planned another great Oasis Shrine Circus with Iordan World Circus.

As in past years we are again asking you to be a:

**Circus Mom & Dad: Circus Grandparents: Circus Ringmaster:**For a \$25 contribution, this entitles you to 2 free adult tickets.
For a \$50 contribution, this entitles you to 4 free adult tickets.
For a \$100 contribution, this entitles you to 8 free adult tickets.

Each \$25 contribution gets you two adult tickets to any circus performance and as many kid's tickets as you want. If you can't use your tickets, we will distribute them to children and adults in other non-profit organizations who cannot afford to attend the circus. Tickets at the door are \$20 for 13 years old and over, 12 years old and under are free.

Again, this year we will be represented by a telemarketing company, Shrine Services. Please understand they are to omit all Oasis Shriners from their calling list. If they call you, **tell them you are an Oasis Shriners member and have them remove your name from their list**. Explain that you will contribute directly to your temple through the Mom & Dad Program.

No tickets will be mailed after October 1, 2025. Additional tickets are available at Oasis Temple. All contributions will be recognized in The Desert Dust. Thanks for your continued support of the Oasis Shrine Circus!

**The Fieldhouse, Greensboro, NC** Wednesday, October 1 at 4:00pm and 7:30pm

<u>Cabarrus Arena, Concord, NC</u> Friday, October 3 at 7:00pm

Saturday, October 4 at 11:00am, 3:00pm and 7:00pm

Fraternally yours, Jack Wallace Circus Chairman

#### Oasis Shrine Circus Mom & Dad Program

Name:			Online:
Address:	City:	State: Zip Code:	https://sq
Choose One:  \$25 Mom & Dad \$50 Grandparents \$100 Ringmaster \$ Additiona	(4 Adults) (8 Adults)	# Kids Tickets needed:  DECLINE TICKETS  Please give to family/group in need.	iare.link/u/k5sbVdUF
Make your checks payable to:	or Credit Card Pa	ayment:	
Oasis Shriners	Name on Car	d:	
604 Doug Mayes Place	Card#		
Charlotte, NC 28262	Expiration Da	ate: 3-digit code on bac	k of card:

\*\*\*PROCEEDS FROM THIS CIRCUS BENEFIT THE OASIS SHRINE TEMPLE OPERATIONS. \*\*\*

\*\*\* PAYMENTS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. \*\*\*

# Membership Minute

Submitted by the Oasis Membership Team

Reminder: If you haven't paid 2025 Dues please do so ASAP as you are in arrears. You are important to the success of Oasis Shriners.

#### 2026 DUES INFORMATION:

WebFez is available for any noble pay 2026 Membership dues. 2026 Dues are due and payable prior to 12/31/2025.

#### www.webfez.shrinenet.org

Or https://shrinetempledues.org/wfp/secure-authentication/

Remember to use your Shrine ID # not your Oasis Number when logging in.

Emails reminders will go out in September, with paper copies in October.



# **ATTENTION:** Restoration Special!

Do you know any Oasis Noble Shriner currently Suspended for Non-Payment of Dues?

# OASIS SHRINERS RESTORATION PROGRAM

SPECIAL: <u>Pay 2025 Dues \$155</u>, complete restoration petition and copy of current Blue Lodge Dues Card.

#### **SEE FORM ON PAGE 19**

Or download the form:

https://www.oas is shriners.org/images/forms/membership/petition-for-restoration.pdf

This Special will run until the end of 2025!

This is a Savings of \$102

#### **CHANGES FOR 2026 DUES YEAR:**



- 1. Rolling out of the newly designed membership cards and distribution will start late August 2025 (look like digital membership card):
- a. The dues year will not be displayed on the card; the temple will have to scan a nobles membership card to validate he is in good standing.
- b. Member # will not be displayed on the card, only the Shrine ID #.
- c. Cards will automatically be distributed upon remittance of a nobles payment, and it's been posted/applied in WebFez towards 2026 dues year.
- d. Cards will automatically be processed every two weeks starting in late August through December 2025.
- e. Associates will no longer receive a separate membership card, as their account is linked to their home temple and the temple can validate a member in good standing by scanning their card.
- f. All Total Life Members will automatically receive a new card in August 2025.
- g. All prepaid dues for 2026, those nobles will automatically receive a new card in August 2025.
- h. Shriners International **will not be distributing** an acknowledgement postcard in 2026, this service has stopped on 7/7/2025.
- i. Shriners International will no longer be processing gold membership cards as of 7/7/2025.
- j. The temples will no longer be able to request a replacement membership card as of 7/7/2025.
- k. The temple can issue a paper temporary membership card for any new, restored, and affiliated members starting 7/7/2025 until 8/15/2025 while Shriners International is processing the new membership cards in late August 2025, or directing the noble to the digital Fez Card app.
- I. No more renewal stickers as of 1/1/2025.
- m. A letter will accompany the new membership card to every noble.
- n. As Membership dues are paid for 2026, those nobles will automatically receive a new card in the mail. Everyone gets a new card.



# OASIS SHRINERS PETITION FOR RESTORATION



To the Illustrious Potentate, Officers and Nobles of Oasis Shriners, Situated in the Oasis of Charlotte, Desert of North Carolina:

I have liquidated all indebtedness to	, ,	granted I pro	omise to confo	
Constitution, Regulations and Edicts	1	•		
I further declare that I am a Master M	lason in good standing in		Lo	odge No.
, A.F. & A.M., located at			<u>_</u> ·	
PRINT YOUR FULL NAME:				-
PREFERRED NICKNAME:				
PREFERRED NICKNAME:Birthplace:	Date of Birth:			
Wife's Name:				
Your Profession or Occupation:				_
Mailing Address: Street		016	04-4-	
Talanhana		City	State Z	<b>Z</b> ip
Telephone: (Home)	(Rusiness)		(Cell)	
(Home)	(Dusiness)		(CCII)	
E-mail Address:				
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces: □  Recommended by:	Yes □ No Branch:			
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:	Yes  No Branch:  Shrine No.	Clul	b/Unit:	
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Noble:	Yes  No Branch:  Shrine No.  Shrine No.	Clul	b/Unit:	
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Noble:  Date of This Petition:	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul	b/Unit: b/Unit:	
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Noble:	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul	b/Unit: b/Unit:	
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Date of This Petition:  YOUR SIGNATURE:	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul	b/Unit: b/Unit:	
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Date of This Petition:  YOUR SIGNATURE:  Attach to the petition, a check or mone	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul	b/Unit: b/Unit:	  e Card. Ca
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Noble:  Date of This Petition:  YOUR SIGNATURE:  Attach to the petition, a check or moneyou have questions (704) 549-9600. Ma	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul	b/Unit: b/Unit:	  e Card. Ca
E-mail Address:  Have served in the Armed Forces:  Recommended by:  Noble:  Date of This Petition:  YOUR SIGNATURE:  Attach to the petition, a check or mone	Yes □ No Branch: Shrine No Shrine No , 20	Clul Clul of your curr Doug Mayes	b/Unit: b/Unit:	  e Card. Ca

Rev 12.24

# 2026 Potentate's Cruise

Nobles and Ladies,

Lady Betty and I are thrilled to share information with you regarding the 2026 Potentate's trip on a Cruise to the Southern Caribbean in February 2026.



Several of our counterparts from other Shrine Centers and their members will be joining us on this cruise.

The cruise will sail from Port Canaveral on February 21, 2026, and will return to Port Canaveral on March 1. This trip promises to be a fun and exciting eight days, cruising with Shrine families from other Shrine Centers.

Lady Betty and I want to thank Lady Lisa and Past Potentate (2017) Illustrious Sir Don Nicholson (Kerbela Shriners) for putting this trip together for us, they are standing by to assist you in booking your cruise. Illustrious Sir Don and Lady Lisa have worked hard to secure a great price for this trip-\$2650 per couple for a balcony room, WOW!

Lady Betty and I sincerely appreciate Illustrious Sir Chris Hall for allowing us to share this information with you so you will have ample time to plan for this trip. We are looking forward to traveling with you in 2026!

Fraternally Yours,
Tim and Lady Betty
Tim Farris
Chief Rabban, Oasis Shriners



# **Shriners and Friends Cruise!**

All are welcome aboard the magnificent Carnival Vista



### February 21 thru March 1, 2026 8 Days in the Southern Caribbean

Departs from Port: Canaveral (Orlando), Florida

Ports: Aruba, Curacao and Celebration Key (Brand New)

Rooms starting at: (per couple, double occupancy, taxes and port charges included) --- these cabins are all deluxe and subject to availability

\*\*\*Drink, Tip, Excursion and other Packages available to be added on.\*\*\*

Cabin w/ Balconies ...... \$2650 and up

Cabin w/ Ocean View ...... \$2150 and up

Interior Cabins ...... \$1770 and up

Please call <u>Lisa @ 865-740-0972</u> to book your trip or if you have any questions.

Just mention the Shrine!

# CLOWNS AND BIKES

Greetings nobles and ladies, the deadline for the bicycle donations will be **August 1**, **2025.** Anyone buying a new bicycle or helmet or wanting to make a donation needs to have it in by that date.

Contact Wayne Alley, Barry Winecoff or Tom Livingston so that we can order the rest of the bicycles for this year.

Thank you for all that you do.

Wayne Alley: 864-706-6282



Aloha from Hawai

the digital version of the Desert Dust online!

oasisshriners.org

# ✓ Memorials ✓

#### **DONOR** IN MEMORY OF: Adams Truck Equipment Co. Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. **Bobby & Linda Trantham** Marion Lyndon Bobby & Linda Trantham Larry Luck Clown Ladies Auxilary Kaye Bach **Dahl Tritt** Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. **David & Carol Potts** Gene Morrison Dennis A Wilson Gene Morrison James & Collette Tate Roberta Sausville Devine James & Linda Killian Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. John & Cawtherine Adams Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. McClure Equipment Sales -Gene Morrison Suzanne & Calvin Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Patten Dixie Helms & Gene Morrison Nancy M Smith Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Oliver & Patricia Stephenson Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Steve Simmons, C.E. (Gene) Paul & Sybil Hagerty Morrison & Lucille Moss Raymond James Wanda Clark Richard & Rebecca Wilson Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Robbinsville Shrine Club Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Robert & Kelly Barnes Larry Thomas Luck Robert & Rebecca Saye Gene Morrison Southern Metals Company Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Stephen & Nancy Morrie Sweetwater Baptist Church Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Martin Eugene Oehler Jr. Thomas Barringer & Allanna Ivy Wesley C McIntyre Jr. Ed Cornwell & Louis Henry Coward William & Robyn Vandresser III Gene Morrison

William H Brown

Winston-Salem Shrine Club



#### **CLUB AND UNIT DONATIONS:**

Avery Shrine Club Thermal Belt

Oasis Clown Unit Wagoneers

Robbinsville Shrine Club

#### **OTHER DONORS:**

Benny H Mabrey Robert G Barnes

Glenn E Stevens Tom Davis

Jill & Trey Hogan Wanda Clark

Michael & Wanda Clark William H Dennis Jr

Norris S Pierce David M Wilson

Richard & Ruth Bass

# ✓ Honors ✓

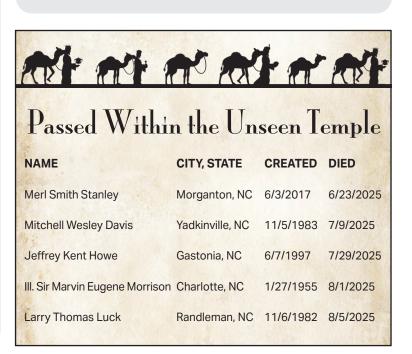
DONOR IN HONOR OF:

Jane A Miller Harold Balkcum

(90th B-day)

Roy L Guthrie Harold Balkcum

(90th B-day)



Martin Eugene Oehler Jr.

Archer Livengood Jr

# Club and Unit Bulletin Board



We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Fairview Masonic Lodge #339 in Kings Mountain.

Pres. - Chandler Champion VP - Charles Bullock

Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com

# OASIS PATROL

MARCHING FOR A PURPOSE

Contact Captain Paul Southworth at 704-577-9845 or

southworth.paul@yahoo.com to join the oldest unit of Oasis Shriners



### Mt. Mitchell Shrine Club

**Contact: Noble Secretary** Mike Pritchard 828-442-9170



**Centrally located in McDowell County** 

## Latona Temple # 154 Daughters of the Nile



www.daughtersofthenile.com



700 Old Mill Rd, High Point, NC 27265

336-880-5586 | hpshrineclub@gmail.com

### OASIS SHRINERS CAMPING CLUB

**FUN - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP • COME JOIN US!** 

Chip Rollins 704-718-8514 chiprollins@gmail.com

# **ASHE SHRINE CLUB**

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month Contact Noble Shannon Worley 336-877-6629 or Noble Mike Neaves 336-977-91221

# OASIS SHRINE WAGONEERS



For info. contact: Feddie Dellinger, 980-522-6226

### ASIS HIGHLANDERS



PIPES & DRUMS Contact Jim Davis cell (704) 309-1215 fyrbagpyper@gmail.com

## THE OASIS TEMPLE BAND

Did you play in a high school band or college band? IF SO WE NEED YOU!

Captain - Noble Chuck Reed 847-502-0872

Jarrett Jr



ejarrett64@gmail.com 336-669-4782

### **OASIS PAST** MASTERS UNIT

Are you a Past Master? We are your unit. Join Us. Noble Matt Peeler, Captain (704) 279-9154 | peelerm@windstream.com

### **Gaston County Shrine Club** 505 Pinkney Road Dallas, NC 28034



Meets 2nd Wed of each month Social @ 6pm | Meeting @ 7pm



**CONTACT INFO FOR RENTALS: 704-215-7172** www.gastoncountyshrineclub.com

#### THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to attend our monthly meeting! Junaluskee Lodge #145 50 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 PM

www.ncritecare.org

## Cabarrus Shrine Club

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome! 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC 704-933-2797 cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com www.cabarrusshrineclub.org

Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

### HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB

Join Us 2nd Mondays

Social 5:30 | Dinner 6:15 | Meeting 7:00 hendersonvilleshriners@gmail.com | 828-280-4909

Golden Corral, 2530 Chimney Rock Rd., Hendersonville, NC

### **JOIN THE OASIS PICKERS** TODAY!!!

We NEED Pickers of Accoustic **Instruments for our JAMMING UNIT!** 

DBMahan@gmail.com 843-372-5510

### OASIS DUNE CATS

**JUMPING HURDLES FOR CHILDREN** 

Captain Rob Mcdowell • 704-605-9498 www.oasisdunecats.com

## THE GREENSBORO SHRINE CLUB 5010 HIGH POINT ROAD GREENSBORO, NC 27407 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH - FAMILY NIGHT DINNER RESERVATIONS: 336-587-5720 CLUB RENTALS: 336-209-3230

#### OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



Captain Casey Ham



(704) 718-7782 caseyham88@gmail.com



#### **JOIN OUR GROUP**

**Contact Captain Don Anderson** (336) 775-8076

plaaut@triad.twcbc.com

Visit us on Facebook @OASIS500s

# Club and Unit Bulletin Board







**President John Dunbar** 910-544-7624

"Like" Moore County on Facebook to see many photos!

# OASIS ORIENTAL BAND

CONTACT CHIP BURCH AT 336-430-5779 FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS



**Accepting New Members** No Experience Necessary **Contact Thomas Livingston** 





**Noble Peter Schuetz** PC, President - 704-543-0695

#### The Hillbillies are lookin' fer ua!

If interested in joining, please contact Jack Devine @ 828-464-9886 or Gary Patterson @ 704-938-3930



If you have a classic car or are interested in the old classics, come join us for some fun and fellowship.





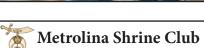
Meeting: First Thursday of Each Month at 7:30pm 4909 Hampton Road, Clemmons, NC 27012 • 336.955.1375 Danny Wingo, President (336) 403-2047 Rodney Bennett, Secretary (610) 805-3482



#### Like to Homebrew?

Join the Oasis BrewMasters today!

Contact President Brian Clau (brianclay@windstream.net) or Secretary Scottie Cox (scottcox67@aol.com)



5930 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216 704-393-5881

John Dixon | 704-281-9374 President: Vice President: Twig Dixon John Tilley | 704-941-7982 Secretary:

#### OASIS RAGTOPS Riding around with the Top Down... Raising money for Shriners Hospitals for Children Captain David Faircloth: 704-579-2520





### **Red Fez Shrine Club**

16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte NC 28278 Events Manager: TracyLee "Sabrina" Cullen (980) 875-1257 clubmanager@redfezshrineclub.com Call us for you next wedding or event rental





**MEETING:** Fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm at Fisherman's Feast. Shelby N.C.

Contact Kevin Pruitt, 704-473-3070 or kwpruitt77@gmail.com





#### OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

Allen Rea, President allenrea5@yahoo.com Chase Trites, Vice President ctrites@radcoroofing.com Brandon Burton, Secretary bkburton87@gmail.com If you are under 40 and interested in joining, reach out to any of our officers.

# DESERT DUST

604 Doug Mayes Place Charlotte, NC 28262 Nonprofit Organization US Postage Paid Charlotte, NC Permit No. 186

RANDY MARION OASIS SHRINER

RANDY MARION II OASIS SHRINER



BEN GOINS

OASIS SHRINER

BEN GOINS JR. OASIS SHRINER

































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