

ROCKY RIVER LODGENO. 703 F. & A. M.  
 20149 LAKE ROAD  
 ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 04 Dark  
 Sept 11 Stated - Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
 Welcome Back!  
 Sept 18 Entered Apprentice Degree  
 Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
 Sept 25 Stated - Dinner 6:30 pm  
 Oct 02 Fellowcraft Degree Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
 Oct 09 Stated - Dinner 6:30  
 Oct 16 Degree TBA - Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
 Oct 23 Stated - Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
 Oct 30 TBA


*Please see inside articles for additional information*

September 2008  
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**From the East**

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and you're ready to come back to Lodge and get down to some degree work.



Worshipful

It does look like my last few months will be busy. We have a number of degrees to put on before Senior Warden Ben Farah takes over the East.

It seems like just yesterday I was installed, but now in two months I will quickly be replaced by a new Master!

Keep watch online as to meeting updates. It's quite possible that our schedule may change rapidly.

Hope to see you all every Thursday.

Fraternally,  
Don Auping, Worshipful Master

**BIRTHDAY TRIVIA**

This September issue necessitates the recognition of three months of birthdays so let's get at it.

**JULY:** David Evans has been celebrating birthdays longer than any other brother in July and this year was his 97th, JW Ryan Wilson on the other hand, has been at the birthday exercise less years than any other brother on the July list, so he is our youngest celebrant for this month. A good month for Masters finds Don Auping, Bob Illig, Harry Kreizwald, Fred Beech, Ray Ecobichon and Tom Plotz all tolling the bell for another year. The Saxton's double-teamed us this month (as they have a tendency to do every year) with both Harlan and Scott registering birthdays. Not to be forgotten are Larry Thomas, Allen Bendo, Bob Collins, Mark Bennett, Jim Harmon, Ward Proeschel, Mike Goldbach, Bill Rantala, Gary Szechy, Homer Bomgardner, Doug Taylor, Karl Hughes and Kermit Arterburn.

**AUGUST:** Al Fahrland has his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday this month which makes him the brother who has been around the longest in the month of August. Dave Kenney has the distinction of being the youngest brother on the August birthday list. Pitch in a couple of Past Masters' and you have Don Wright and Jack Allen. Mention also is required for George Sheffler, Julian Terrell, Lloyd White, John Cassidy, Dave Freeman, Theodore Neuhaus, James Wahl, Ed Saxton, Kenneth Mueller, Roger Rounds, Steven Gibel, John Tanis, Warren Knox, Havey Stauffer and Spencer West.

**SEPTEMBER:** Clarence Shaffer at 98 years, tops the list as having celebrated the longest and Bill Camerlin is our youngest September brother. Ranking celebrating Past Masters by longevity we honor the ancient and venerable Jim Manthey, less ancient but still venerable are Mark Rantala and Sid Solomon. Other notable September birthday occasions feature Bob Patzwahl, Dave Sawyer, Jack Combs, Neal VanUum, Dean Westover, Bob Patterson, Bill Selnick, Don Thompson, Wally Preslan, Al Strodtbeck, John Weitz, Emil Krug, Ed Swearingen, Ray Ferguson and Bob Havens.

The list may be long but every entry is a valued resource worthy of our best wishes for a happy birthday.

WB Bill Gay, Secretary

**The Twenty-Four Inch Gage**

A distressed brother is not always a brother in need of material assistance. To understand this is to understand the lesson of the twenty-four inch gauge. The very simplicity of a statement will often hide the meaning, and a great teaching will thereby escape our serious consideration.

So important is the study of the twenty-four inch gauge that from it a philosophy complete within itself is possible of attainment. Time cannot be saved, that is, you cannot save two hours from today and spend them tomorrow. Time can only be spent. Neither can we take four hours from one part of the gauge and use it advantageously by bringing it forward to an entirely different part and use.

The happiness derived from the study of the twenty-four inch gauge depends upon the application of the total into its proper and equal parts. In taking away from God and our brothers it may appear that we are very busy in our affairs, yet the fact remains that we are working against the Rule. God and man stand together as one part because unselfish service

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**Quote of the Month**

“A man is about as happy as he makes his mind to be.”

**President Abraham Lincoln**



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## **4th Annual Oktoberfest!**

Rocky River Lodge will have it's 4th annual Oktoberfest on Nov. 3rd at the Rocky River American Legion Rocky River Post #451, located at 19911 Lake Road

Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 5:00 p.m.

Unfortunately, due to an increase in rent and other costs, the tickets this year will be \$14.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children under 10 years old for all you can eat and drink. Dinner will include Brats, potato pancakes, sauerkraut, and dessert.

There will be a band again this year thanks to Worshipful Brother Emerson Garber. Hope to see you all there for friendship and a great time.

Please call Brother Jack Allen at 216-521-6366 for tickets.

## **OLE' SOL**

Hard to believe that June 12<sup>th</sup> was the last time the Lodge got together for a regular stated meeting and of course the thirst for more light in Masonry ultimately produces a corresponding thirst for liquid refreshment that necessitated a reconvening at the Linden lounge for Lodge #703½.

Advancing age and a host of other infirmities (no speculation here) now necessitates "Ole Sol" having to double check just about everything I put into print. So, when it came to determination of the last date we met I consulted the minutes and noticed an unusual notation that accompanies each writing thereof and that is the date. Now before you put this article in the bottom of the bird cage, indulge me just a bit because the "date" in the minutes of a Masonic Lodge are quite like no other.

Mason's take great pride in expounding about how long they have been around and although history provides no direct confirmation that it was they who built King Solomon's Temple, most do not hesitate to claim that Solomon's historical temple was a construction enterprise involving operative counterparts of our present day speculative craftsmen. So strongly do most Mason's espouse this claim, that they have taken to dating their correspondence to reflect their claim to our organizational longevity.

Case in point, #703 minutes dutifully recorded our 3084<sup>th</sup> meeting as taking place on June 12, 6008A.L.. What the Sam H--- does the fool Secretary mean when dates are recorded in such a manner you

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **"Forever Conceal, and Never Reveal"**

The "secrets" of Freemasonry By: Eugene L. Goldman P.M.

While serving my Lodge, I had occasion to call on one of our Entered Apprentices to ask about the reasons for his long absence from the Work. Like all too many men who join our Fraternity, he completed his initiation and then disappeared. He had several reasons; the demands of his business had picked up, some personal issues requiring his attention at home, scheduling problems with his Coach, etc. All these were valid, but there appeared more to this than he was letting on. After some more conversation the truth was revealed. . . he was concerned about his obligation, particularly about the penalties for revealing our secrets.

Our Brother is a man who is very interested in Symbolism, Metaphysics, and (what we call our) Esoteric Work. The reason he sought out a Lodge to join was to write some papers on our Symbolism! He explained that he became alarmed when taking the obligation. We never informed him of just what "secrets" he had just vowed to protect! We simply advised him of grave penalties for failing to protect them. This caused him concern, as it was his goal to bring some light to non initiates in his writings. Being a man of much honor, he felt it better to go no further in our mysteries to be free to explain some of our symbolism to non masons.

### **Symbolic vs. Pragmatic**

We entered a discussion of the penalties. The need for protection of our secrets was, and is, self-evident. . . if everyone knows our secrets, we have none. Having none, we are no longer unique, or even special. Nothing then remains to induce men of good moral character to want to associate with us. We discussed the historic nature of the penalties. Without addressing the accuracy of our alleged descent from the Knights Templar, there have been other times in history when Masons have faced death simply for being Masons, and living according to Masonic principles. Hitler, Khomeini, and others have issued death sentences for freethinkers. We teach our candidates to be freethinkers by the nature of our ceremonies. He was surprised to learn that, under Masonic Law, the strongest penalty a Lodge can impose on a member is simply expulsion from the Fraternity! Although to most Masons, separation from the Craft would be far worse than the grisly acts described in our Ritual. The term "no less a penalty" applies here, in great measure. The thought of revealing our secrets to the un-entitled should cause revulsion in the minds of our membership.

### **The Secrets Themselves**

What are our secrets? Today, in this country, our existence is well known. Rose Parade Floats, published phone numbers and meeting times, even the jewelry openly and proudly worn by many Masons is evidence of this.

That we use mystic ceremonies, embedded with symbolism to impart moral and ethical lessons to our novitiates is almost as well documented. Any interested person could enter a specialty bookstore, purchase a book or two, and learn the essence of our ceremonies. At the Local Masonic Center in my area there is a book store, well stocked with books on and about Masonry, and writings by many Masons. Many of these clearly explain our ceremonies and the reasons for the manner in which we exemplify them. Within the same building there is a library containing hundreds of volumes of writings by countless Masonic scholars. Most of these discuss either the history of our Craft, or the Ceremonies and symbolism we employ in our Work. Who we are, what we do, and how we do it are clearly not secret.

We proudly refer to our modes of recognition as the only secrets in our craft today. In my library at home, I have books describing our ritual in detail. These books have clear English text and include our cherished modes of recognition (complete with diagrams). These books were purchased at a wonderful little bookstore in the Business district in my neighborhood. Any interested person, with a few dollars, can do the same. Though Masons treat the modes of recognition as secret, they could not be considered unknown outside the Craft.

### **Secrets Defined**

Well, what does that leave? It sounds like it's all out in the open. Our existence, methods, ritual, even the ways we recognize each other are known to any expressing an interest. The real secret of our Craft is the spiritual and emotional growth we encountered because of the experiences we shared.

The true Mysteries of Freemasonry are contained within the acts of being conducted around the Lodge Room, kneeling at the Altar, first learning the Grips and Words of the several Degrees, and participating in the Third Degree Ritual. Experiencing this as we do (first hand) cannot be described in words. As with many other life experiences "you had to

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Twenty Four Inch Gage (Continued from page 2)*  
to man is the only true path to the service of God.

If the twenty-four inch gauge intended to teach that we must only administer to a brother's physical need, there would be an excess of hours to spend. The truth is that our brothers need us, not our material gifts, and we need our brothers. To give ourselves means to give "that" many hours daily. The Rule is for our happiness. Service to God and man is a Divine Privilege.

*'Ole Sol (Continued from page 3)*  
might ask? Now, we finally get to the meat of this subject.

Paul M. Bessel who is one of our present day Masonic scholars, contends on his web site <http://bessel.org/masdates.htm> that craft lodges have adopted the common practice of adding 4,000 to the current year followed by the initials "A.L.". This is reflective of the determination made by one Bishop Usher in 1611 who then computed the date the world began as 4,000 B.C. (actually he said 4004 B.C. but the accuracy of a 1611 educated guess is not the issue here). The A.L. is Latin I'm told, which stands for Anno Lucis or "Year of Light".

Other Latin abbreviations used by Masonic organizations are:

1. A.D. Anno Domini, Year of our Lord - our present dating practice
2. A.Inv. Anno Inventionis, Year of the Discovery, Royal Arch Masonry
3. A.Dep. Anno Depositionis, Year of the Deposit, Royal and Select Masters
4. A.O. Anno Ordinis, Year of the Order, Knights Templar Commandery
5. A.M. Anno Mundi, Year of the world, Scottish Rite
6. A.B. Anno Benefacionis, Year of Blessing, Order of High Priesthood
7. A.R. Anno Renascent, year of Revival, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

There you have it, lots of ways to express your year of beginning other than A.D. If you already have your tombstone engraved with your date of birth, it will probably not be necessary to ask your monument maker if he has an eraser.

What will be necessary is to put the wraps on another Masonic evening with good Masonic friends and propose a toast to our reconvening in September.

Ole Sol  
Secretary #703 1/2

*"Forever Conceal, and Never Reveal" (Continued from page 3)*

be there" to really understand it. Words could only confuse the issue, never explain it.

#### **What this means to us, my Brother**

What does it mean that we are required to keep all this secret? The prohibition against unlawful disclosure of these secrets is meant to protect our ritual from corruption. It is not prohibited to instruct a candidate in the Work. Proper instruction of Candidates is strongly encouraged by Lodges. Candidates Coaches (the unsung warriors of our Fraternity ) spend hour after hour personally instructing candidates in a myriad of areas. The Ritual Work, the history of Freemasonry, even proper Lodge etiquette are topics of much discussion. They spend many additional hours sharpening their proficiency in the Work to do this more effectively. They patiently answer the hundreds of questions posed by Candidates. Officers spend evenings away from their families to attend practices to improve their Work. In California, Coaches and Officers are required to attend District Schools of Instruction, and when proficient, they are certified by District Inspectors. Inspectors are supervised by Assistant Grand Lecturers. These men come under the oversight of the Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lodge of California, and most of its constituent Lodges, have active committees on Masonic Education. This elaborate system exists to insure that Candidates receive proper instruction.

Work is done only in a tyled Lodge, by qualified Officers. Coaching is done in private settings, by skilled and dedicated men. In this way the Ancient Landmarks are preserved. If Degrees were to be conducted by the unqualified, errata would begin to seep in and Keystones would begin to change or disappear. The essence of the Work would change and those elements that make it what it is would be lost. Thus, it is easy to see why the admonition against unlawful disclosure of our Work exists.

#### **The "flip side"**

"That is it? All I have to do is leave things to the Officers and Coaches and I have fulfilled my Obligation?" Not at all! Remember promising never to reveal these secrets unlawfully? That promise contains a hidden injunction to reveal lawfully. Relate the emotions you feel in Lodge to your family and friends, and to the way in which you conduct your life. Share what Masonry means to you by your conduct out of the Lodge. Remind yourself why you are a Mason. Let the world see, by your actions, evidence of the growth you experienced. Promote your Lodge's activities and invite non-Masons to social activities. They just might get caught up in the spirit of Brotherhood and ask "How may I become a mason?". Then discuss the membership and degree processes with him. If he asks for a petition, help him fill it out. Introduce him to other members of your Lodge.

#### **Lawful disclosure of our secrets**

Signing a petition also carries with it a moral obligation. It obliges you to support our new Brother through his Masonic travels. Be present at his Degrees and Proficiency examinations. Patiently answer his questions, or refer him to his Coach. Sit with him at Lodge dinners and in Lodge. Be to him the friend you told your Lodge he was to you. Being a member of a Lodge enjoins you to attend whenever you can, even if you are not an officer. A full Lodge room for an initiation expresses the love of the fraternity to the Candidate and encourages him to become more active himself.

Doing these things will go a long way to fulfilling your "unstated" obligation to lawfully communicate the secrets of Freemasonry. Become a True and faithful Brother and encourage others by your example.

#### **Meanwhile, back at the Coaching Room**

Remember our Candidate? As this paper is being written, he has actively resumed meeting with his Coach. He is looking forward to completing his Degrees, and writing many excellent articles on our Craft. I know he will be happy as he forever reveals, and never conceals much of the non secret information about our Fraternity. He will be happier still as he lawfully communicated many of our secrets.

**"Greetings From  
Sunset Beach,  
North Carolina!"**

Brother Bill Carothers

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