



# Valley of Brattleboro

## Scottish Rite Masons



Volume 1 Issue 2 August, 2010

### The Thrice Potent Master's Corner

Greetings All,

Boy, this summer has really flown – it's August already. Soon, the weather will turn, the skies darken, and ... I don't want to think what's next.

Your Valley of Brattleboro has been very productive, adding two new members; David Ellis and Andrew Sherman. I am especially pleased with the caliber of these newly recognized members of our Brotherhood – I know they will help the rest of us improve our game.

We continue to host our monthly meeting at differing locations and presently have met twice at Wilming ton. We are doing so as Wilmington is fairly central to Brattleboro, Jamaica and to Bennington – this central location helps to spread opportunities for our 'distant' Brothers to attend. We are holding these meetings the second Monday of the month with dinner served.

It is really important that each of you contact me rfagge@sover.net, Steve Farrington asfent@gmail.com; or Jim Nortz jnortz8@squareonemail.net; as we will be hosting meals and a head count is very necessary. We will be charging a flat \$8.00 per meal to defray costs; any 'profit' goes into the SR Relief Fund – if anyone can not pay, just let me know, and I will pay the bill. Your



presence is more important than the money. We will be performing the 4th Degree this Monday, August 9th; I will have the Degree's scripts for those who need one and I feel that we would like to involve our new members as much as possible. Suffice to say, let us strive to fill all the parts, learn the lines and host a better than great performance. I know that what's most important are the words and the meanings but a good performance can help make it meaningful.

Scottish Rite is all about fellowship and personal growth – I have experienced both with all of your help and guidance – and I thank you.

See you at the next meeting and, as always, your comments are welcomed.

*Robert Fagge*  
Robert L. Fagge

Twice Most Potent Master  
(802) 348-7221



Jim Nortz & Robert Fagge at Council Of Deliberation June 12th



Morris Dancers at the Council of Deliberation



Commander in Chief Eric Ginette presenting the Meritorious Service Award to Bill Bassel and Randy Carey



Deputy Eric Ginette presenting the Abbott Scholarship to one of four recipients at the Council of Deliberation

## Representatives from the Valley of Brattleboro Attend Annual Council of Deliberation for the Scottish Rite of

The Council of Deliberation is the ruling council for Scottish Rite in Vermont and meets annually in June each year. Jim Nortz, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, Steve Farrington, as Guard and Robert Fagge, representing the Valley as Thrice Potent Master, attended the annual meeting June 12<sup>th</sup>. However, any member of Scottish Rite who has been an officer in the Valley is welcome to attend. This year's meeting was held at Aurora Lodge in Montpelier

The meeting consisted of annual reports, and budgets, to be voted on. Robert Fagge presented a report on the progress of the Valley of Brattleboro, as did Brothers from the other valleys. Following the reports guests from the other concordant bodies were introduced, as well as present and past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

Elections were also held. Steve Farrington was elected Standard Bearer and Robert Fagge was elected Sentinel. Jim Nortz retired from being 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander. All elected Brothers were then installed by Commander in Chief Eric Ginette.

Also, annually at the Council of Deliberation Brothers from the different Valleys are nominated for consideration as recipients of the Meritorious Service Award. This year Randy Carey, from the Valley of Burlington, and Bill Bassel, from the Valley of Rutland were recognized. To receive this award Brothers must have given outstanding service to the Valley as well as to Freemasonry in general.

Following the business meeting, and ceremonies, Scottish Rite members, their families and special guests were entertained by the Morris Dancers, lead by Bro. Eric's wife Lisa.

Afterward, we retired to the dining hall for socializing and a great dinner put on by the members of Aurora Lodge and the Ladies of the Eastern Star. The special event at the dinner was the presentation of the Abbott Scholarships to children of Scottish Rite members who college students, of which four were presented this year.

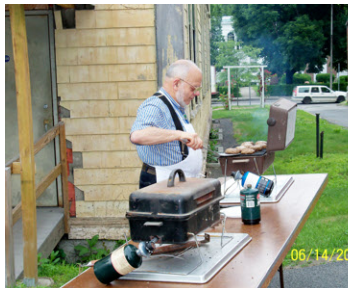


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Scottish Rite Masons



Scottish Rite Headquarters, Lexington, MA



Bro. Jim Nortz cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for June 14th meeting



Bros. serving them selves at June 14th meeting



Sideliners for the 4th Degree on June 14th



Cast and candidates for the Fourth Degree on June 14th

## Valley of Brattleboro Held 4th Degree on June 14th

The Valley of Brattleboro had a great summer picnic meeting on June 14th at Brattleboro Lodge. Bro. Jim Nortz served as Chef cooking up juicy ham burgers and hot dogs, along with salad and soda. Everyone enjoyed good conviviality during the picnic dinner.

Following the dinner we were able to initiate two new members into Scottish Rite;

David Ellis and Andrew Sherman, with the 4th Degree. Those participating in the cast were: Neil Pelsue, Win Pike, Robert Fagge, Deputy Eric Ginette, Steve Farrington, Gerry Bitner-Taylor, Jody Boyd, Jim Nortz, and Nelson Bond.

## Fourth of July Parade

For the Fourth of July Parade Brattleboro Lodge secured a trailer to make a float and invited all Masonic

Brothers to join them in the parade. Several of the Brothers were also members of the Valley of Brattleboro.



06/22/2010

## Valley of Brattleboro Visits Mt. Anthony Lodge

Robert Fagge, Steve Farrington, Jim Nortz, David Ellis and Gerry Bitner-Taylor, from the Valley of Brattleboro visited Mt. Anthony Lodge on Tuesday, June 22 to witness them do an Entered Apprentice Degree. It was a great evening of fraternal fellowship and the Brothers from Brattleboro had

the pleasure of witnessing an outstanding degree. What made it particularly great, and a surprise to the visiting Brothers, was that it was the first time these brothers had conducted a degree together, as they were all brand new to their respective positions.

## Valley Officers for 2010 to 2011

### Heads of Each Valley Body

- Webster Lodge of Perfection: Robert L Fagge
- Wm Vinton Council Princes of Jerusalem: Jody L Boyd
- Marsh O. Perking Chapter of Rose Croix: Richard E Omand

### Officers serving all three bodies:

- Secretary: Johann J Nortz
- Treasurer: Donald L. Hunter
- Publicist: A. Stephen Farrington
- Education Officer: Hilary F Cooke
- Membership Officer: Gerald Bittner-Taylor
- Degree Director: Robert L Fagge
- Stage Manager: Tyrel Souza



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## Brattleboro Lodge Host Arm Services Tattoo



Bros. Jim Nortz, Hilary Cooke, & Robert Fagge (Steve Farrington was taking photo) having an Executive Committee meeting in June



Bros. Steve Farrington, Jim Nortz and Robert Fagge presenting Andrew Sherman, Nelson Bond and David Ellis certificates recognizing them for having been initiated into the Valley of Brattleboro, at the Valley's monthly meeting at Social Lodge in Wilmington on July 12th.

Thrice Potent Master Robert Fagge, who serves Brattleboro Lodge as Senior Steward, organized an Arm Forces Tattoo, in conjunction with the Valley of Brattleboro, to honor those men and women who are serving, and who have served in this nation's armed forces.

To do that he called upon the Vermont Sojourners to spear head the ceremonies. Bro. Sam Haskins, Past Commander of the VFW in Brattleboro, and staff officer for Sen. Bernie Sanders, offered greetings from the Senator. Most Worshipful Thomas Johnston IV spoke on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Vermont and how the values of Freemasonry coincide with patriotism as exemplified by our veterans.

The ceremonies were conducted on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM, beginning with the Sojourners marching in with the American and Vermont flags. Past Grand Marshal Tom MacPhee of Bellows Falls served as Master of Ceremonies, while Dan

Ebbinghausen, Past District Deputy from Windsor and Calvin K. Keyler, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master from Sharon assisted in the ceremony of building the flag. Assistant Grand Chaplain for Vermont Freemasons Bernard Watkins gave the toast to the flag followed by everyone reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Bro. Sam Haskins expressed Sen. Sanders desire that our veterans be supported and presented a flag that flew over the Congress of the United States to Most Worshipful Tom Johnston. Most Worshipful Tom then addressed those present about Masonic values and patriotism.

Number members of the general public and Freemasons were present including Bro. Hilary Cooke and Peter Galbraith.

A collation followed the ceremonies and was host by Bingham Chapter of the Eastern Star.



Opening ceremonies of the Arm Forces Tattoo



Tom MacPhee as Master of Ceremonies



Building of the Flag



Bernie "Skins" Watkins giving the "Toast to the Flag"



Closing Ceremonies



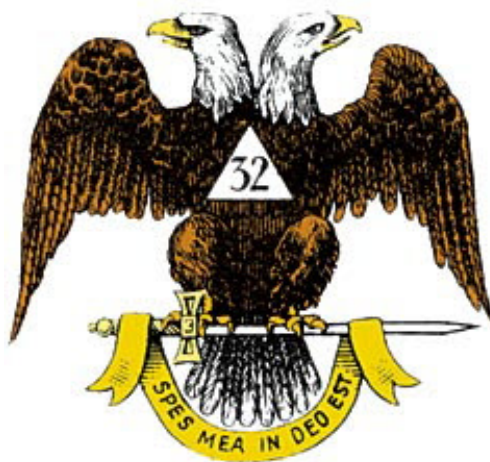
Participants in the Arm Forces Tattoo



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### *A Brief History of Scottish Rite*

*In Paris in the year 1758 The "Grand Council of Emperors of the East and West" organized a "Rite of Perfection," consisting of 25 degrees, the highest being the "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret." Many British expatriates, who were Jacobites and living in France at the time, took an active part in creating the rite and saw in its symbolism their political aspirations of a return of the Stuart kings to the thrones of England and Scotland. Because of its Catholic sympathies, it has been suggested that the Jesuits at the college of Clermont also had a hand in the formation of the Rite.*

*In 1761, this council granted a patent to Stephen Morin, permitting him to promulgate the Rite in the New World. Morin subsequently spread the Rite to the West Indies and North America from the city of St. Domingo in the Dominican Republic. In 1783 Isaac De Costa, one of the deputies commissioned to establish the Rite in other countries, formed Scottish Rite bodies in South Carolina, which eventually became the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. In 1813 Emanuel De La Motta 33°, of Savannah, Georgia, Grand Treasurer General of the Supreme Council of Charleston, organized in New York City the "Supreme Council of the United States of America." with Daniel Tompkins 33° was chosen Sovereign Grand Commander. By 1827 the Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite comprised the 15 states that it that it now does; Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.*

*Up to that time only the twenty-five degrees of the Rite of Perfection were worked, but with the formation of the Supreme Council in continental America 8 more degrees, the so-called Continental High Degrees, were added to make the 33 degrees of the modern Scottish Rite*

### *Scottish Rite Creed*

*Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.*