



The Official Newsletter of The Grand Chapter State of New York - Royal Arch Masons

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In This Issue: Life Out West - M..E.. Alan Morgan – GHP 2006

Greetings Companions!

First my congratulations to M..E.. Jeffrey Williamson on his election and to all the newly elected and appointed officers of our Grand Chapter.

Our Grand High Priest asked me to submit an "article" for the monthly newsletter about "life" out "west". I was a bit reluctant due to my busy "riding" schedule, but our Most Excellent can sweet talk the "chaps" off the toughest of bikers!

First, just a little background so you don't think I completely transformed on moving to Nevada. I started riding back in the 60s as a teenager. This was put on hold when I deployed overseas and resumed after returning home and marrying. While stationed at Great Lakes, I was in a major accident and Ilene made me promise I would stop riding. Roll the clock forward 30 years! With our move to Las Vegas and its near perfect riding conditions 340 days a year, Ilene said, "Ok, you can go ahead and get a bike!" I did!



So being retired/unemployed, I purchased a 2009 Harley Davidson "Road King Classic", joined the National Harley Owners Group (HOG) and then joined the local Chapter. Not being one to just sit, at my first opportunity I told the Director of the Chapter (he's like the GHP) I was interested in "serving" as an Officer. So in January 2010, I was appointed an Ambassador. HOG Officers are distinguished by the color of the braid they wear. Like Masons are distinguished by the color and symbol on their aprons. Blue is a "line officer". Gold is a road captain (control traffic), Blue and white are director's staff (like council officers), dark blue are staff (like Secretary or Treasurer), and White is the director.

The HOG Chapter is co-ed, and if you were to go to one of our Chapter meetings, you would notice many similarities to a Masonic or OES meeting in the fellowship and extended family atmosphere.

On the Masonic side of things, I have been to meetings in Las Vegas of both Lodge and Chapter. The work of both these bodies is very similar to New York with minor differences at best. The biggest difference is that the majority of Lodges and Chapters are either in the Las Vegas area or in Reno/Carson City area and NOTHING . . . I mean NOTHING in between! So when visiting as a Grand officer one finds themselves traveling 8 hours north or 8 hours south! The number of Chapters here for ALL of Nevada is less than some NY Districts! The present Grand Master is a member of the Lodge in Henderson (a suburb of Las Vegas), which happens to be a “daylight” Lodge.

I anticipate their Grand Lodge Session will be local this year (and when I say local I mean literally 2 block or so away) and hope to attend. Grand Chapter will be up north and presently undecided if I want to make the trip.

Getting back to life here.

Being retired and a rider has allowed me to see and experience parts of the local area during days and times when there are no “tourists”. There is so much to enjoy about the surrounding area without ever needing to go to the “strip”.



One of my favorite spots is the Pioneer Saloon! The Pioneer has been around almost forever. It is located about 45 minutes southwest of Las Vegas and its notoriety comes from a famous actor and a tragedy. It was at this saloon the Clark Gable await news on the ill-fated flight carrying his wife Carol Lombard.

Today, a “biker” bar, the saloon comes alive on Friday and Saturday nights with live music, dancing, and a bit of “western” rowdiness!





Traveling about 45 minutes east takes us to one of the largest project of 1930s America, the Hoover (Boulder) Dam and unlike present “public” work projects was completed two years ahead of schedule.

Presently there is vast project underway that will (when completed) allow travelers to by-pass the dam. This project, started in 2005, is “scheduled” to be completed in 2010. The bridge (part of US 93) will by-pass the dam and cross the Colorado River at a height of 900 feet above the river. The by-pass will stretch from Clark County NV to Mohave County, AZ.

Naturally, the original road will continue to be available for those wishing to visit the Dam or to one of the many Marinas that surround Lake Mead and the Colorado.



Among the little known attractions surrounding Las Vegas are the Ghost Towns. The closest to Las Vegas is Nelson. Nelson lies about half way between Las Vegas and Searchlight (yes Searchlight!). However, what stands out about the area is the unique silence and rock formations as one continues on to El Dorado Canyon. From the Canyon, one can look over to Arizona side, watch boats traveling the Colorado, or just take in the view or the silence – dead silence!



The best part of traveling weekdays is the little to no traffic clogging the highways

One traveling North on I15 can come across one of nature's true beauties "The Valley of Fire"! Now living out here in the Desert, one might think this area comes by its name because of the extreme +120 summer heat. However, it really is named after the color of the rock and dirt, which is red. Traveling the desert roads, canyons, and washes, one quickly realizes the not only the beauty that surrounds us but the marvels that "The Great Architect" has bestowed on each and everyone of us.



Of course living in Las Vegas means one must travel the "notorious" strip! Las Vegas Blvd is the main thoroughfare connecting the Strip with Downtown and points North and South. There is no getting away from it! However, it too has its quite moments.



Lastly, what would be Las Vegas without Stars, Galas, and Premieres? One such event happened in early fall, when our Chapter hosted Sherri Wilson of “Walker Texas Ranger” and some members of “Sons of Anarchy” at one of our 2 dealerships.



So in conclusion, there is more to do than shows or gambling, and if you're ever in Town, PLEASE give us a call. Ilene and I would be happy to show you some Western style Masonic Hospitality.

But you'll need to bring your own Helmet and Chaps!!!

To All My Companions and their Families may "he who has no name" the Grand Architect of the Universe keep and protect you.

With Fervency & Zeal

Alan (AJ) Morgan, GHP 2006