



THE

RITENEWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF

THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

HOW WE COME ALIVE IN 2025

By A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, SGIG Orient in North Carolina, Grand Chaplain

It is my sincere wish for every Valley in North Carolina, as you read these words that your Reunions this Fall will have been filled with two things.

First, I hope and pray we have a **sense of joy and excitement for our future**. Those who are coming into the Scottish Rite at this time are seeking a fulfilling experience in freemasonry that we can give them. While it is true that things do not always work out like we plan or hope, it is also true that when a brother comes to us for a reunion, he expects our best both on the day of the reunion and thereafter. Joy and excitement are when candidates see us not only loving what we do but genuinely loving them into our fold. Class Directors play a key role in this process. Invite the class to take on a degree at the next reunion that the Valley is not currently doing, and then, everyone else, help them do it! The dividends this will pay are worth it.

Second, I hope and pray we have a **renewed spirit of best work through best agreement** because we build upon our foundation, not pour a new one every time we get together. Now that the Advisory Conferences are setting the ensuing year's budget based on the operational costs of the Valley instead of the minimum dues edict. Valley leadership can address the immediate needs, expectations, and costs of being a chartered body in North Carolina. Charity and per capita are not our problems in Scottish Rite or the Subordinate Lodge. The challenges we face have far more to do with the costs of having a meeting space than ten dollars to charity and thirty-two dollars per capita. We already

know that, don't we?

So, when the reunions are over, and the budget deliberations are underway in the Advisory Conferences this year, I hope and pray that a *sense of joy and excitement about our future* reigns supreme. I hope and pray for the *best work and agreement* on whatever it takes to be a presence people welcome in their communities.



Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

When that happens, we will all be **TRULY THANKFUL**.

When that happens, we will celebrate the return of light to our Temples. When that happens, a new life will begin that makes us better than ourselves today. I believe it all ties together nicely, don't you?

When that happens, the Scottish Rite will have the "Right/Rite Heart" and will "Come Alive in 2025!"

Thank you to the 2024 Whitehurst & Sons Fence Company/NC Rite Care Golf Tournament Sponsors

Whitehurst & Sons Fence	Shallotte Lodge 727	Valley of Asheville	Galott Motorspoert, LLC	Crown Point 708
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VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE

ASHEVILLE VALLEY WELCOMES FIVE NEW MASTER MASONS OF THE ROYAL SECRET AT THE FALL REUNION

By Rory Justin Byers, 32° KCCH

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, the Asheville Valley proudly hosted its Fall Reunion, a significant event for the Scottish Rite. During the gathering, five new Masters of the Royal Secret were welcomed into the fraternity. The day was marked by camaraderie, dedication, and the pursuit of Masonic knowledge.

Brother Michael Coffey, 32°, Director of Work, along with the talented degree masters and teams, led the ceremonies. Under the guidance of Illustrious Brother Gus Simms, 33° Past Director of Work and Illustrious Brother Tony Rathbone, 33° General Secretary, the reunion was a resounding success, showcasing the commitment to excellence within the Asheville Valley.

We look forward to the active involvement of these five new Masters of the Royal Secret, whose energy and dedication will undoubtedly strengthen and enrich our community.



VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

THE GROWTH SPURT CONTINUES

By Thomas Pope Jr., 33°

“Active” is a word that accurately describes our Valley and its members. Eighteen months ago, we started with 29 members, and after the Ill. Louis O. Dean Memorial Reunion, held Sept. 21, we have expanded to 49.

Our most-recent reunion added nine Perfect Elus; eight for our Valley and a ninth as a “courtesy work” candidate for New Bern, Robert Webster. Fayetteville’s newest members are: Anthony Alvarado, Ruben Garcia, Kyren Harper, Justin King (great-grandson of the reunion’s honoree), Nick Lamia, Glenn Nieves, Michael Reschke, and Gregory Simmons. Ill. Dean’s daughter, Sue Wooster, was our special guest at lunch, and spoke highly of the influence that Masonry and its appendant bodies have had on her family.

The SGIG of the Orient of North Carolina, Ill. Gene Cobb, and Ill. Russell Bridges, the Personal Representative to the Orient, was among the attendees. Ill. Cobb made a special presentation to Ill. Garland Smith, who will be happy to tell you about the personalized memento he received.



The Valley of Fayetteville is honored to have two of its current officers appointed to Grand Line positions by newly elected and installed MWGM Bobby Rideout. He selected our Prelate, WB John Frazier, 32°, as Grand Chaplain, and our Venerable Master, Lee Short, 32° KCCH, as Grand Historian.

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

FEAST OF TISHRI

By Matt Moore, 32° KCCH, General Secretary

On Thursday October 10th, the Valley of Wilmington observed its Feast of Tishri. Thirty Brothers were in attendance to take part in a great evening of fellowship and good food. An enlightening oration was given by Venerable Master, Al Leathers, 32° KCCH, on the meaning of the Feast of Tishri and its history. Illustrious Brother A. Gene Cobb, 33°, SGIG, was in attendance and offered some words and announcements concerning the Orient



VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON HONORS MWB DALTON W. MAYO, 33° AT FALL REUNION

By Matt Moore, 32° KCCH, General Secretary



On October 25th and 26th The Valley of Wilmington held its Fall Reunion in memory of Past Grand Master Dalton Mayo, 33°. A memorial service was observed on Friday, October 25th by Illustrious Brothers Gene Cobb, 33°, SGIG; Charles Ingram, 33°; David Wicker, 33° and Brother Phil Johnson, 32° KCCH. This is the first time in North Carolina that this memorial service was performed. Throughout the reunion, memories were shared about MWB Dalton and on Saturday afternoon, October 26th, we were pleased to host his sister, Brenda, and his two nieces. MWB Dalton's Masonic history was summarized by Ill. Bro. Eddie Gaskins, 33° and personal stories were shared.

The Valley of Wilmington is pleased to introduce our newest Masters of the Royal Secret: Harold Nobles, 32°; Jerry Davis, 32°; Tony Strickland, 32°; Keith Ayers, 32°; Ashley Holland, 32°; Mike Murphy, 32°; C. Brandon Edens, 32°; Jason Blackwell, 32°; and Richard Bandy, 32°. Several of them have already expressed interest in being involved in the Valley and serving on various degree teams. Welcome, Brethren!

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

VALLEY OF NEW BERN AWARDED VALLEY OF THE YEAR

By Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH

The Valley of New Bern, New Bern York Rite and Zion Lodge #81 organized material donations for our Brethren in hurricane Helene ravaged western NC sufficient to fill a double axle trailer. Items were delivered to Ash County Shrine Club for distribution.



Left: Brethren pose after filling the trailer with material donations Photograph: Adam Ross
Right: Ill Bobby Meadows and Billy MacIntosh help loading the trailer. Photograph: Adam Ross

NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE

2024 ORIENT-WIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$18,000 FOR RITECARE

By Kirby Matthews, 33°, Orient Golf Chairman

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, Forty-four golfers gathered at the Emerald Golf Course in New Bern, NC to raise money to support the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program,. The Annual Scottish Rite Golf tourney teed off at 1:00pm on October 5, 2024. With the help of the golfers and generous sponsors, over \$18,000 was raised to help support RiteCare.

Thank you to our 2024 Whitehurst & Sons Fence Company/NC Rite Care Golf Tournament Sponsors - You made this possible with your generous donations - Thank you



Left to Right: Tera Archie, Johnny Surles, Crystal Lineberger, Rhiannon Phillips, me, Will Eblin. Bill Fitzpatrick, Steve Pendergrass, Ben Berger, and Scott Bitler.

The Scottish Rite Golf Tourney is an annual event and will be held in New Bern again in 2025.

Watch for details in the upcoming months.

Come out to support RiteCare and have an amazing time on the course



The North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation is a 501.C.3 charitable organization dedicated to providing present and future benevolent financial support toward the training of licensed professionals and treatment of children with speech, hearing, and learning disabilities who may receive services with little or no cost to families. Along with 170 such programs nationwide, we are achieving this mission through the generous support of our members, sponsors, and the public. In addition, North Carolina Scottish Rite members also support Masonic Youth organizations and victims of natural disasters recognized by the Masonic Service Association of North America.

NCGOLFTOURNAMENT.com



SEPTEMBER 2025

Masonic Historical Sites in Washington, DC

North Carolina Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector General's Invitation to the Annual Train Trip to Washington DC

The Grand Master of North Carolina, MW Robert Rideout, 32° KCCH, and Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, invite you to join them on an unforgettable Masonic journey to Washington D.C. from March 10-12, 2025. Discover the roots of our brotherhood at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, explore the architectural marvel of the House of the Temple, and participate in exclusive ceremonies. This trip offers not just a tour, but an immersive experience into Masonic history and tradition. Secure your place for this unique fellowship opportunity today.

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial

On February 22, 1910, Virginia's Grand Master, Joseph W. Eggleston, convened Grand Masters from across the U.S. at Alexandria-Washington Lodge to establish The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, aimed at creating a tribute to George Washington, the Mason. The Memorial, conceived as a symbolic lighthouse, was approved a decade later, situated on a hill in Alexandria familiar to Washington himself.

The House of the Temple

The House of the Temple, constructed as a grand and enduring home for the Scottish Rite, was commissioned not for immediate use but as a lasting symbol for future generations. It stands as a testament to the ambition and pride of Scottish Rite Masons worldwide, located in the capital of the United States, designed to be a magnificent structure worthy of its surroundings and its purpose.

How to Begin Your Journey

Master Masons and Masters of the Royal Secret and family are welcome!

Scan and Complete Form.

Trip is self-funded.



Day 1 - March 10

4:00 p.m. Scheduled Arrival in Alexandria
5:00 p.m. Check in to Hilton
6:00 p.m. Dinner to be determined*

Evening Free time*.
Dress Code: Comfortable for travel.
Lunch: Dining Car or bring your own.*
Dinner: Local restaurant.

Day 2 - March 11

8:30 a.m. Begin walk to GWNMM.
9:00 a.m. GWNMM* \$20.00
Noon Metro into D.C. and Lunch*
Metro Rate *
2:00 p.m. House of the Temple
6:00 p.m. Dinner at the
Valley of Washington,
Orient District of Columbia*
7:00 p.m. Ceremony of Remembrance
and Renewal
Evening Return to Alexandria*

Dress Code: Coat and tie and comfortable walking shoes. Scottish Rite Caps for the evening ceremony. Aprons are not required.

Day 3 - March 12

Breakfast: On your own but be ready to go at 8:30 a.m.*
10:00 a.m. Walk to Train Station
10:48 a.m. Scheduled Departure return to North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE

DEMOLAY

By Illustrious Gene Cobb, 33°, SGIG

On August 31, 2024, at the North Carolina DeMolay Installation Ceremony in Monroe, the Orient of North Carolina gave its first distribution of \$2,000 to support the work of the DeMolay. The check was presented by Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina AASR, who also installed State Master Councilor and Brother Anthony Barrile.

The Orient of North Carolina also presented a check to the Rainbow Girls of North Carolina in June 2024 as part of our support for Masonic Youth. (see last issue for details)

On May 21, 2025, as part of the Regular Stated Communication of the Valley of Fayetteville, NC, the Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, will conduct an IN-PERSON Town Hall meeting. This will NOT be a Zoom meeting. Details are forthcoming, so the invitation is open if you have questions about what's happening in Fayetteville.



NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE

GIVING THANKS TO ALL THAT YOU DO

By Rita Daniels, Orient Public Relations Chairman

This year has been the many of firsts for me with the Scottish Rite. I had so many opportunities to travel to three states for the Supreme Council and be one of the guest speakers at their Biennial "Framing the Future", as well as meeting and now working with so many representatives from all over the country and even other countries. I want to go again and again!

As an outsider that gets to look in.... I am amazed and sometimes, dare I say, "giddy", on all the things that you all do in your local communities, Valleys, but even beyond the Orient state level. The team of people that work hand in hand with one another touched my heart to a deeper level this year. When I lived in Tennessee, I was tested in the school's library for hearing and speech. I even had a friend that tried to teach me to talk like her in order to be in the special speech class. I was identified as having hearing loss and they paired me up with a teacher that I could hear clearly and put me in the front seat of the class so I could hear and see her when she talked. In the 70's that was the way Tennessee did their version of our now RiteCare program. I also grew up in New Bern, in High School I had the privilege of being Mr. Billy Dill's office assistant for two years. Even though I had no idea that he was a Mason; those years taught me three things: seize the opportunities that come before you in life, stand up for what you believe and to give back to help others in need. Now, I am having the amazing time of my life working with Gene Cobb, all the Chairmen, Secretaries, RiteCare University/College partners, Supreme Council and members throughout the State of North Carolina and beyond!

You all touch so many hearts - help so many kids that were like me - and you make a difference in that child's life. And as Johnny Surles says..... "Paying it forward".

Thank you for all you do



SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS OCT. 15 2024

Through the Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., the Supreme Council provides direct relief to disaster victims and works with other Masonic groups to provide additional assistance.

Hurricane Relief

The Scottish Rite, SJ, is committed to assisting our Brethren, family, and friends recently impacted by major hurricanes. Helene, a massive Category 4 hurricane, traveled up the West Coast of Florida, making landfall in the Big Bend area. The devastating storm caused serious damage up the Eastern portion of the United States, including, but not limited to, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Before recovery could be completed, Milton, a Category 3 hurricane, traveled across the middle of Florida causing even more damage.

Read More



**Valley of Fayetteville -
Loaded 3 trailers**

Members of the Valley of Fayetteville in coordination with the 17th Masonic District loaded up 3 trailers yesterday heading to link up with the Hope Mills and Saint Paul's Fire Department Search and Rescue Teams that deployed Monday. We are continuing to receive donations

Winston-Salem Valley

Drop off Point

PAYING IT FORWARD

Zion 81 in Trenton, NC loaded a dual axle trailer last night. It will pick up supplies being brought to the York Rite temple at 4pm Monday and taken to Swananoa

Please pray for our brothers, their families, and everyone else devastated by the storm, wherever they may be. Remember three things. First, let us respond to our State Master Councilor of DeMolay, who said, "Let's Work Together." Second, as our Grand Master Robert Rideout has stated, "Together, We Rise!" Third, remember, "With the Right/Rite Heart, Let's Go to Work!"

NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE

SOJOURNING IN THE UK

By Illustrious Russell Bridges, 33°, Orient Personal Representative

While sojourning in the UK, PGM Billy Dill, 33° and Grand Scribe David Cashion, 33° along with myself, ran into the Sovereign Grand Commander, AASR, SJ USA, Ill. James Cole, 33°, who was in London attending the Grand Session of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of England and Wales. Neither knew the other was to be there!



VALLEY OF NEW BERN

VALLEY OF NEW BERN AWARDED VALLEY OF THE YEAR

By Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH

On August 17th at the Summer Orient Advisory Retreat (SOAR) in Winston-Salem, Ill. Gene Cobb, 33°, SGIG awarded the Orient Valley of the Year Award to the Valley of New Bern. This was the second consecutive award for New Bern. Receiving the award were Ill. Asa Buck, 33°, Personal Representative, Ill. Johnny Surles, 33°, General Secretary and Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH, Ill. Bobby Meadows, 33°, Sparkie Travis, 32° KCCH, Ill. Aaron Morris, 33°, and Ill. Jay Collins, 33°.



Presentation of Valley of the Year. Left to Right: Bobby Meadows, Sparkie Travis, Asa Buck (Personal Representative), Gene Cobb (SGIG), Johnny Surles (General Secretary), Russ Bauer, Aaron Morris, and Jay Collins. Photograph: Bobby Meadows.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BERN RESOLVES AND PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING 23-24 AUGUST 2024

By Robert Mull, 32°

On 23-24 August, 2024, New Bern celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves, one of the precursors leading to the Declaration of Independence. The Valley of New Bern Scottish Rite, New Bern York Rite, National Sojourners Camp LeJeune Chapter #329 and North Carolina Chapter #97, St. Johns #3 and Zion #81 Lodges AF&AM co-sponsored and participated in this two day event in partnership with Tryon Palace, the New Bern History Center, New Bern Chapter Sons of the American Revolution and the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Significant events during the two day celebration consisting of Patriot Grave Markings of 5 Revolutionary patriots at Christ Church Episcopal Cemetery, a procession to Tryon Palace, the colonial governors residence, an observance which rendered honors by several dignitaries,



Brethren of the Scottish Rite, York Rite, National Sojourners, Blue Lodges who participated in the New Bern Resolves Procession assemble on the steps of Tryon Palace. Photograph: Dominick Georgianni

including North Carolina Grand Master, MW Donald Kehler, a Keynote Address by NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Newby, and a gun salute by musket squad and colonial period artillery.

The New Bern Resolves were the result of the first Provincial Congress held in America in open defiance of royal authority. It was conducted in the Craven County CourtHouse, New Bern, NC 25-27 August 1774, and is one of the most important contributions to the American Revolutionary movement. Seventy-one delegates (17 of which were Freemasons) representing 30 of 36 counties and 6 of 9 boroughs met in open defiance of the British Crown to address grievances against numerous unjust taxes and laws imposed on the colonies by the Royal Crown and the British Parliament. As a result of this Provincial Congress twenty-eight resolutions or resolves were issued, and Richard Caswell, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes were elected as delegates to the 1st Continental Congress. Their instructions were to present these resolutions to the 1st Continental Congress as actionable redress of grievances against the Royal Crown. Thus the New Bern Resolves had a significant influence on the development of the "Articles of Association" at the 1st Continental Congress. Of the Masons who attended the Provincial Congress, 2 were signers of the Declaration of Independence (William Hooper, Joseph Hewes), 4 were to become North Carolina governors, 2 were Major Generals, and 3 were Brigadier Generals.

During the observances, MW Grand Master Donald Kehler bought greetings on behalf of all North Carolina Masons, Brother Robert Mull, 32° and President, National Sojourner Camp LeJeune Chapter #329 presented the "Toast to the Flag" and honors were rendered by WBs Johnny Surles, 330, Fred Whitty, 320 KSA, Arthur Romans 320, Bobby Meadows, 330 on behalf of New Bern Scottish Rite, York Rite, St Johns #3 and Zion #81 lodges respectively.



Photography: Dominick Georgianni

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

SIX-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Illustrious Brother George Kalamaras, 33° on celebrating six very successful years of service as our Valley's Personal Representative on October 5, 2024. Well done and great job Brother! Thank-you for all that you do for our Valley and the Scottish Rite!



GRAND TREASURER

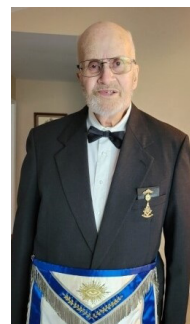
Congratulations to Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Lewis Ledford, 33°, for being elected as the Treasurer for the Grand Lodge of North Carolina for another term in 2025. Congratulations and thank-you for all that you do for Masonry! Well-done Brother!



REMEMBERING AND HONORING BROTHER DAVID S. BASSETT, 32°

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley remembers and honors Brother David Sherman Bassett, 32°, who laid down his working tools on September 13, 2024. He was 85 years old. Brother Bassett was a Scottish Rite Mason for over 30 years.

He was a member and Past Master of Orient Masonic Lodge in Norwood, Massachusetts for over 60 years. Brother David was also a Life Member of Kernersville Masonic Lodge No. 669, where he served as Treasurer for many years. Additionally, he was a member of Lexington-Memorial Masonic Lodge No. 473, where his son was also a member. Brother Bassett was also a member of the Oasis Shriners, and volunteered his time at the Shriners Hospitals as a Tripster. Brother Bassett is fondly honored and remembered.



WINSTON-SALEM AND ASHEVILLE JOINT MEETING IN BOONE AND APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY CLINICS TOUR

At their September stated meeting, brethren from the Winston-Salem and Asheville Scottish Rite Valleys toured the clinics at Appalachian State University. After the tours, the Winston-Salem and Asheville Scottish Rite Valleys held a joint September stated communication at Snow Masonic Lodge No. 363 in Boone. A delicious dinner prepared by Ill. Brother William "Bill" Carter, his wife, and several other members of Snow Lodge, was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Mrs. Gail Donaldson, Ph. D., Mrs. Holley Hanley, Ph. D., Dr. Gavin Colquitt from the ASU Clinics gave insightful educational presentations about the clinics to the brothers. Thank-you to Brother Kenneth "Kenny" Allen for organizing and coordinating the ASU clinic tours for our September Boone meeting. Several brothers from our Valley and the Asheville Valley enjoyed a very informative and enlightening time. A great evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.





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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

SCOTTISH RITE

Meetings & Reunions

Asheville, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: TBD

Charlotte, 1st Wednesday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: TBD

Fayetteville, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: 3rd Weekend March

Franklin, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: TBD

Greensboro, 2nd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm & Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Saturday, April 26

New Bern, 2nd Monday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: 3rd Weekend March

Raleigh, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm, Advisory Council 7:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: 3rd Weekend March

Wilmington, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: 1st Weekend March

Winston-Salem, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6pm, Advisory Conference 6:30pm, Stated 7:30
Next Reunion: 4th Friday and Saturday in April



VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley recently presented Brother Thomas Redmond, 32° with his 25-year Scottish Rite Service Award. Congratulations Brother Redmond, and thank-you for your years of great service to our Valley.

For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley

- Tony Rathbone (Asheville)828-550-6097
 - D. C. Heilman (Charlotte) 704-918-3797
 - James Pugsley (Fayetteville) 910-574-1005
 - Andrew Norton (Franklin) 828-215-6181
 - Gary Handy (Greensboro) 336-275-3579
 - Johnny Surles (New Bern) 252-638-4130
 - Don Butto (Raleigh) 919-834-8873
 - Matt Moore (Wilmington) 919-422-2058
 - Michael Fischer (Winston-Salem) 336-337-6892
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- editor.ncsrjournal@gmail.com

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Spring Reunion

