

SCHEDULE FOR 2006
(Subject To Change)

- Jan. 4th – Stated Meeting, Ladies Night
Jan 27th & 28th, Spring Reunion
Feb. 1st – Stated Meeting, Ladies Night, Annual Association and Clinic Meetings
Mar. 1st – Stated Meeting, Ladies Night
Mar, 31st - Honormen's Lunch
Apr. 5th – Stated Meeting, Ladies Night, Cap & Ring Ceremony
Apr. 12^t - Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, Easter Sunday Observance, Ladies Night
May 3rd – Stated Meeting – Ladies Night
June 7th – Stated Meeting, Ladies Night
June 30th – Honormen's Lunch
July 5th – Stated Meeting, Casual Dress,
July 22nd – Scottish Rite Picnic – 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Aug. 2nd - Stated Meeting, Casual Dress
Sept. 6th - Stated Meeting – Ladies Night, Language Clinic Program, Honor Volunteers & 25 & 50 year Members,
Sept. 29th & 30th – State Wide Reunion in Helena
Sept. 29th – Honormen's Lunch
Oct. 4th – Stated Meeting – *Feast of Tishri*, Ladies Night
Nov. 1st – Stated Meeting – Ladies Night
Dec. 6th – Stated Meeting – Ladies Night, Election and Installation of Officers, Cap & Ring Ceremony
Dec. 29th - Honormen's Lunch

OFFICERS FOR 2006

Lodge of Perfection

William L. Alexander, II, 32° KCCH. ..Venerable Master
James H. Roberts, Jr, 32° KCCH Senior Warden
Stephen D. Marsh, 32° Junior Warden
William E. Lewis, 32° Orator
Hal F. Ostlund, 32° Prelate

Chapter of Rose Croix

Dustin R. Timmons, 32° Wise Master

Council of Kadosh

David B. Bergeson, 32° KCCH Commander

Consistory

William E. Rubich, 32° Master of Kadosh

OFFICERS TO SERVE ALL FOUR BODIES

David L. Armstrong, 32° KCCH. Treasurer
William J. McMullin, 33° Secretary
Richard A. Beulke, 33° Almoner

STATED MEETINGS

Stated meetings at the Scottish Rite Center, 514 14th Street West, on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Dinner at 6:30 P.M. followed by interesting program and Stated Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting scheduled on the second Saturday of the month at The Muzzle Loader Cafe at 8:00 AM. All members welcome to attend.

“Opportunity may knock, but you must open the door.”

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Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.
Orient of Montana, Valley of Montana

Billings Valley Scottish Rite

Scottish Rite Center
514 14th Street West
259-6683
Fax: 259-5377
E-Mail: blgsscottishrite@excite.com
Web Site: www.billingscscottishrite.com



Jack D. Rehberg 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Scottish Rite in Montana

The message contained within the folds
of this pamphlet emphasizes Scottish Rite
in the Billings Valley.

**ALTHOUGH THE DECISION
OF MEMBERSHIP IS
ULTIMATELY YOURS**

--
**THE SCOTTISH RITE
NEEDS YOU
AND YOUR SUPPORT**

**“The true Mason labors for the benefit of those who
are to come after him, and for the advancement and
improvement of his race.” ---Albert Pike**

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HISTORY

Historically the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite evolved as the Rite of Perfection over 200 years ago on the Continent of Europe (France). Our Supreme Council was organized at Charleston, S.C. in 1801 and is called the Southern Jurisdiction. Of the 3 1/2 million Masons in the United States there are over one million Scottish Rite Masons. Our Jurisdiction comprises 35 States, the District of Columbia and the United States territories and possessions, and more than 660,000 members who belong to Valleys in 218 Cities. The Valley of Billings is one of these and has 614 members. The Northern Jurisdiction was formed in 1867 and includes the 15 states east of the Mississippi River and north of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Ohio River, including Delaware.

WHAT IS THE SCOTTISH RITE?

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is one of two branches of Freemasonry to which a Master Mason may proceed after he has completed the first three degrees. The Scottish Rite confers degrees from the 4° through 32° at Spring and Fall Reunions. The 33° is conferred semi-annually, at the meeting of the Supreme Council, upon a select number of 32° Scottish Rite KCCH Masons who have contributed outstanding service to Freemasonry or Scottish Rite or who have exemplified, in their daily lives, the true meaning of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Scottish Rite shares the same belief of all Masonic organizations that there is no higher degree than that of Master Mason. The Supreme Council and its subordinate bodies acknowledge the Masonic supremacy of the Symbolic Grand Lodges and Grand Master within their jurisdictions. Scottish Rite degrees are in no way higher than the degrees of the Symbolic lodges. The work of the Scottish Rite serves to elaborate on and amplify that of the Symbolic (Blue) Lodge. Thus, the Scottish Rite is an accumulation of thousands of years of Masonic experience.

Scottish Rite Masons stand for positive programs, but fight with moral courage and enthusiasm every force or power that would seek to destroy freedom, including spiritual despotism and political tyranny. We believe and teach that the sovereignty of the State resides in control by the people themselves.

“Masonry will do all in its power, by direct exertion and co-operation, to improve and inform as well as to protect the people; to better their physical condition, revive their miseries, supply their want, and minister to their necessities.” --- Albert Pike

SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS

Feast of Tishri (During the month of October)

The Feast of Tabernacles commemorates the ceremonies of the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, which was begun in the year 1004 B.C., and finished in a little more than seven years. In the year 990 B.C., six months after its completion, in the month of Tishri, the seventh month of the Jewish sacred year, the Temple was dedicated with reverential ceremonies to the one Living and True God. That these ceremonies would reach the highest religious significance, King Solomon postponed the dedication until the Feast of Tabernacles, the 15th day of Tishri, a day he well knew would bring every zealous Jew to Jerusalem.

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States has proclaimed the Feast of Tabernacles as the Feast Day of the Lodge of Perfection, the 15 day of Tishri, (October).

As did the Israelites of old, and the New England Pilgrims, Scottish Rite Freemasons gather to acknowledge the mercies which God has poured upon them with lavish hand. It is a time of rejoicing, yet a time to pay humble adoration to the Great Architect of the Universe without whose aid there would be no harvest.

Maundy Thursday (Wednesday before Easter)

Through the ages men have observed sacred rites during four periods of the year, the solstice and equinoxes. The Last Supper was an observance of the Passover (Spring Equinox) just prior to the Lord's betrayal and crucifixion. The observance of Maundy Thursday in the Eighteenth Degree of the Scottish Rite is appropriate since this degree originally was one of orthodox Christianity. The Maundy Thursday observance was added and made obligatory when the authority of the Supreme Council revised the Degree soon after the Civil War. It is no longer obligatory.

The word “*Maundy*” stems from Latin *Mandatum*, a command. On the Thursday of the Last Supper Christ said, “A new Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.”

Maundy Thursday is also known as *Shere* or *Chare* Thursday, meaning pure. It alludes to the physical purity acquired by the ablutions of the day and to the shearing of the hair and beard, so that nothing should remain between God and man

“Old Masons never die, but you have to join to find out why!”

PETITIONING, COST AND DUES

A Master Mason in good standings petitions and is balloted on. Upon election by the Brothers he receives the degrees of Scottish Rite at annual Reunions.

The cost for initiation is \$150.00, and includes the 14th Degree 10 carat gold Ring, Cap, Certificate, Banquet and dues for that year. Annual dues are \$60.00.

REUNIONS – CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Scottish Rite Reunions are held each Spring and Fall during which the Degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry are conferred. The Spring Reunion for 2006 will be on Friday and Saturday – January 27th and 28th. The 4th through the 32nd degrees will be conferred and communicated. The Fall Statewide Reunion will be held in Helena on September 22nd and 23rd. There is no Ritual memorization connected to Scottish Rite Masonry.

FOURTEENTH DEGREE RING

The Scottish Rite Fourteenth Degree Ring symbolizes from our ancient Brother Knights the Purity of Honor, the integrity of the Sword, and the spotlessness of the Shield. Eloquently simple, it is a flat, plain band of gold or other material resembling gold, and embossed thereon an engraved or enameled plate in the form of an equilateral triangle and within the triangle the Hebrew letter “Yod.” The ring’s circle expresses the fraternal bond between all men and all generations. On its owner’s death, it should be given with dignity and pride to his son or another Scottish Rite Mason so he can carry on the similar Masonic Honor, of Sword and Shield that the ring symbolizes.

SCOTTISH RITE CAP SIGNIFICANCE

As the White Lambskin is the Badge of a Mason, so is the regulation cap the badge of a Scottish Rite Mason. The cap is considered as a part of the uniform and is treated as such. Consequently, it must not be removed when the flag is passing, while saying the Pledge of Allegiance, or participating in a prayer. It is improper for the cap to be worn in cafes, bus stations, on the street, or in any other Public place. The color of the Cap represents a special meaning:

Black – Wearer has attained the 32°

Red - Knight Commander of the Court of Honour
--- “KCCH”

White – Indicates a 33° Inspector General Honorary

Light Blue - 50 year member of Scottish Rite

Purple – Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Montana – Jack D. Rehberg 33°

Violet - Sovereign Grand Commander
Ronald A. Seale, 33°

SCOTTISH RITE AND SYMBOLIC MASONRY

Scottish Rite Masons are taught that there is no Masonic distinction or higher prestige than that of “Master Mason.” The Scottish Rite is based upon Blue Lodge Masonry. The conferring of the first three Degrees is recognized as the unquestioned prerogative of the Symbolic Lodges. At all times it acknowledges the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master of Montana as the supreme authority of Masonry.

The Scottish Rite Masons learn their mission in a system of Progressive Degrees of Instruction. The members are taught the highest ethics, the wise expositions of philosophy and religion, and the blessing of charity. Our code of personal conduct stems from the precepts of chivalry, the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, the greater mysteries and their symbols of words and phrases long considered lost. These were the truths that Plato, Pythagorus, Socrates, Homer and other intellects of the ages held in high esteem.

Scottish Rite teachings and symbols preceded our formal organization by thousands of years. They go deep into ancient ages. The signs, symbols and inscriptions come to us across long drifting centuries and will be found in the tombs and temples of India to those of Nubia, through the valley of the Nile in Egypt down to its Delta, as well as in what was then known as Chaldea, Assyria, Persia, Greece, Rome and even in Mexico and Yucatan.

Scottish Rite Masons gain a comprehensive knowledge of the Rites heritage, philosophy, religion, morality, freedom and toleration and of their relationship to the Creator, their country, their family, and to themselves.

Scottish Rite Masons carry out their mission in a series of spiritual, charitable and moral programs. They are dedicated to the Scottish Rites activities of recovery and maintenance of moral standards and spiritual values, the pride of patriotism and love of flag and country, and the dispensing of charity without regard to race, color or creed.

A Scottish Rite Mason believes and teaches that the sovereignty of the State resides in the people.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

“The cause of human progress is our cause, the enfranchisement of human thought our supreme wish, the freedom of human conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all peoples everywhere the end of our contention.”

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Scottish Rite, simply stated, is to see that which is the most worth in the world; to exalt the dignity of every person, the human side of our daily activities, and the maximum service to humanity, to aid mankind's search in God's universe for identity, for development and for testing, and thereby achieve better men in a better world, happier men in a happier world and wiser men in a wiser world.

THE SYMBOL OF THE DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE

The double-headed eagle was probably first accepted by Masonry, as a symbol, in the year 1758. The double-headed eagle was in all probability adopted by the Council of Emperors, which claimed a double jurisdiction; one head inclined to the East to guard any and all who might approach from that direction, the other head guarding the West for a like purpose.

The Eagle, as a symbol, is rooted in antiquity. The eagle was sacred to the sun in Egypt, Greece, and Persia and even the Druids, (a religious order of the ancient Celts) it was their symbol of the Supreme Being. Among the pagans, the eagle symbolized great strength and endurance as evidenced by its keen sight, aerial prowess and resourcefulness in outwitting its prey, never wanting for its daily necessities.

Cicero, Roman Orator, Statesman and man of letters, in speaking of the myth of Ganymede – The beautiful shepherd boy who was carried to Olympus by Zeus in the form of an eagle to be the cupbearer of the mythical gods – states that “it teaches us that the truly wise, irradiated by the shining light of virtue, becomes more and more like God, until by wisdom they are borne aloft and soar to Him.”

And so goes the story of the Double Headed Eagle. May its shining light of virtue guide and guard our pathway of life.



“Most people are willing to take the Sermon on the Mount as a flag to sail under, but few will use it as a rudder by which to steer.” --- Oliver Wendell Holmes

REASONS FOR JOINING THE SCOTTISH RITE

The Scottish Rite offers an unsurpassed field for the study of Masonry.

- **It** enlarges upon and explains and applies the symbolism of Masonry.
- **It** exemplifies and makes clear the truths and allegory of the Blue Lodge and the first three degrees.
- **It** presents an unequalled opportunity for the practical demonstration of the teaching of freemasonry.
- **It** gives one a fellowship in its literature, with the deepest minds and purest characters of Freemasonry.
- **It** allows one to participate in the glorious work of spreading the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.
- **It** gives one a greater incentive to higher thoughts and nobler deeds because of a greater knowledge of one's responsibility and the history of the institution of the Scottish Rite.
- **It** creates within one a greater love for chivalry, a greater respect for philosophy, and never ending love for one's Blue Lodge.
- **It** enjoins on every brother the support of the American public schools; non-partisan, nonsectarian, efficient, democratic; for all of the children of all of the people and equal educational opportunities for all.
- **It** inculcates patriotism, love of the flag, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to constitutional government.
- **It** carries out the sublime principles of Masonry by cooperating in every way with Blue Lodges by maintaining an ever-lasting interest in Masonry.
- **It** brings the Brethren from various Lodges together at frequent intervals whereby the spirit of Brotherhood and Fraternity is reflected in everyday living.



“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us, what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” --- Albert Pike

**SCOTTISH RITE
LODGE OF PERFECTION
ALMONER FUND**

Richard Beulke, 33° - Almoner

The Almoner is described as the distributor of alms. Alms are described by Webster as money, food, clothes, and etc. given to poor people, the act being described as a deed of mercy.

Financial support for the activities of the Almoner is derived from contributions from members of the Lodge at meetings, contributions sent with dues payments, direct contributions and etc. The Almoner is instructed not to inform the recipient of the source of the alms nor is the Almoner to inform the Lodge of his activities. Gifts are to be anonymous to all concerned. Banks checks bearing the anonymous designation are used in making financial gifts.

Money is not all that is given to those in need, whether they are members of the Lodge, worthy people of any community throughout Eastern Montana, those who are homeless, and especially those who are truly needy. Requests for help are scrutinized very carefully to insure that the alms are being wisely granted. If there are instances where the Almoner cannot see fit to make a contribution due to various circumstances, efforts are made to direct the person to any appropriate agency locally or statewide when it is known that such agency can be of meaningful assistance.

From this brief summary, one can determine that duties of the Almoner can be time consuming and detailed. Broad knowledge of the communities we help is definitely appropriate, and recommendations from Lodge members are absolutely necessary. Mere reading of information in newspapers is insufficient.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT PIKE

And now to the memory of him who said, "When I am Dead, I wish my monument to be builded only in the hearts and memories of my brethren of Ancient and Accepted Rite, and my name to be remembered by them in every country, no matter what language men speak there, where this light of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite shall shine and its Oracles of Truth and Wisdom be reverently listened to."

"He has lived, the fruits of his labors live after him."

ALBERT PIKE 33°(1809-91)

Albert Pike was born in Boston, Massachusetts and during his life was a lawyer, explorer, journalist, teacher, poet, and Confederate general in the Civil War. He settled (1832) in Arkansas, where he became a newspaper editor and a lawyer, a Captain in the Mexican War, and a General for the Confederacy in the Civil War. After the war he practiced law in Memphis and Washington. His *Prose Sketches and Poems Written in the Western Country* (1834) resulted from a trip over the Santa Fe Trail. A prominent Freemason, his writings on the movement include *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (1871). He once possessed great wealth but died a virtual ward of the Scottish Rite. Yet, as a Mason, he knew the unrivaled power of the human will. When joining the Rite he found it in ruins – its membership nil, its ritual in chaos, its charities nonexistent, and left it a stately temple to the dignity of man.

MASONIC LIBRARY

Harold Davidison 33°- Librarian

The Billings Masonic Library is located in the lower level of the Scottish Rite Center at 514 14th Street West. It was established with the mission of Masonic education and research and is composed strictly of Masonic materials, including print, video and memorabilia. The Library was founded in 1981 by Librarian Harold Davidison 33°, FPS. Brother Harold is also Librarian for *The Philalethes*, *The Journal of Masonic Research and Letters*.

Print materials consist of approximately 2,000 books prepared for checking out. Additionally there are annual publications from some 15 research lodges, several of which are from foreign jurisdictions. There are "runs" of Masonic periodicals including the Scottish Rite Journal (New Age), Knights Templar, Royal Arch, The Builder and several others. There is a complete set of Montana Grand Lodge proceedings, and nearly complete sets of the proceeding of Scottish Rite, Order of Eastern Star, Chapter, Council and Commandery. In addition there are eight file cabinet drawers containing pamphlets and articles on a variety of relevant topics. There is also a modest collection of some 26 videotapes relative to Masonry.

Although the Librarian does not maintain consistent "hours" he is on call at a moment's notice (259-1552) on any day and can be reached by Email (brodave@wtp.net) or Fax (406-259-2316). To borrow any item one must simply sign his name, phone number and Lodge number. There is no stipulated loan period, though timely return of materials is expected and appreciated. Contributions in the form of books, badges, and memorials – even money – are always welcome.

BILLINGS SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY CHARITIES

SCOTTISH RITE LANGUAGE CLINIC

Jered Scherer, 33° - Board President

The Scottish Rite has two Children's Hospitals and over 200 Childhood Language Disorder Clinics scattered around the United States. Three of these are in Montana.

The Eugene F. Herman Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic is in its eleventh year of service and has provided therapy to over 600 children. The concentration is on children of preschool age as the School District has a program for school age children. With a continued number of referrals of children to the clinic, a second clinician was hired to provide therapy to more children. The Clinic hires speech pathologists who are licensed with the State of Montana.

The Clinic is open daily during the school months and thanks to the contributions of many businesses and individuals the clinic is now able to stay open year-round. These summer programs will provide the gap for the two months that the clinic was normally closed in the summer. A new biweekly evening speech therapy program "It Takes Two to Talk" is now in place helping parents interact with the therapy of their child.

The clinic's budget is just over \$130,000.00. Income from the Endowment Trust provides funding for a portion of the budget. The balance must come from special fund raising programs, grants, memorials and donations. The Clinic has a 501(c)(3) status, so all donations are tax deductible.

If the clinic is to expand physically and add more staff to provide therapy for more children in the area that the Billings Scottish Rite serves, more funding is necessary. The goal is a special funding campaign, or an increase in the Endowment fund to provide funding for expansion.

There are many volunteers who help at the Clinic. They provide many duties to allow the clinicians more time to provide therapy to the children. There is always a need for more volunteers and if anyone is interested, please contact the Clinic.

All this can happen through the support of our members and the public at large. The Billings Valley is proud to have this Clinic as one of its' Philanthropies.

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered with failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that know neither victory nor defeat."--- Theodore Roosevelt

SCOTTISH RITE PATIENT COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

Clint Frank, 32° KCCH – Chairman

In the spring of 1993, the Scottish Rite in Billings started the Transportation of Cancer Patients to and from the Northern Rockies Cancer Center. Brother William Alexander 32° brought the need for the service to the attention of the Lodge members when he was taking treatment at the Cancer Center. The Scottish Rite took hold of this need for transportation and has been a wonderful service to the Cancer Patients, Community and Scottish Rite. .

The Program is presently on its forth van. At the present time there are nineteen Brothers who volunteer their time for the program. Over the past thirteen years, the Brothers have driven over 220,000 miles, all in town driving, and volunteered over 24,000 hours of driving time.

SCOTTISH RITE SHOES FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Gordon Lockwood 32° KCCH - Chairman

The Billings Scottish Rite Shoe Program was started in 1994, thanks to the generosity of the late Brother Clarence Sportsman 33°, Past Grand Master of Montana. To date 32,500 pairs of shoes and 78,000 pairs of socks have been distributed at a cost of around \$339,000.00. The following locations are distribution points for the program:

Billings	Broadus	Forysth
Columbus	Glasgow	Rapelje
Hardin	Harlowton	Lewistown
Livingston	Miles City	Red Lodge
Havre	Lavina	Laurel
Glendive (Eastern Montana Distribution Center)		

The shoes are mostly genuine leather and are purchased directly from the factory. There are some shoes purchased locally through Payless Shoes when needed, and Walmart Stores offers the socks at a great price. The purchasing and distribution is under the leadership of Gerald Hoffman, 33° and the warehouse is located at the Scottish Rite Center in Billings.

The Program is for kids from kindergarten through the eighth grade. The Program is designed to supply footwear for children in need. However, no child is turned away from receiving a new pair of shoes at either the Fall or Spring fittings.

Only in Masonry do you hear these words ... "well done good and faithful servant."