



Merritt Island Lodge No. 353 F&AM

Chartered 28 April, 1966



February 2024 Trestleboard

Stated Meetings 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM Supper starting at 6:30 PM. Donations are accepted.

Ritual practice Every Thursdays 7:00 PM; 6:30 Fellowship Ritual Practice, Receive petitions, Masonic Education

2024 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Jason Estes	321-591-9943
Senior Warden	George Gaspard	407-615-0732
Junior Warden	Austin Cowart	321-271-6219
Treasurer	Zachary Walters	904-891-6120
Secretary	W:: Kelly Corridan	
Chaplain	James Zuhlke	321-537-7210
Senior Deacon	Eugene Filipowicz	321-720-4258
Junior Deacon	Chris Lussier	727-403-1337
Senior Steward	Kyle Curt Gillard	321-223-2934
Junior Steward		
Tyler	R::W:: Thomas Kruse	321-544-8440
Marshall	W:: James Hawkins	732-239-7271

2024 Committees

Activities & Events	George Gaspard	Austin Cowart
Board of Relief	W::M:: Jason Estes	Jim Zuhlke
Charity	W::M:: Jason Estes	Jim Zuhlke
Communications	George Gaspard	John Crosser
Finance	George Gaspard	W:: James Cravens
Investigation	W::M:: Jason Estes	as needed
Lodge Property	Austin Cowart	Allen Cowart
Masonic Education	W:: J. Hawkins	Eugene Filipowicz
Member Well Being	Jim Zuhlke	W:: James Hawkins
Petitions	John Heatherly	R::W:: Tom Kruse
Vigilance	Austin Cowart	W:: James Hawkins

Past Masters

1966 Louis H. Scott	1983 Cyril J. Chupina	2000 Franklin L. Glenn	2017 James K. Charland
1967 Douglas McLain	1984 Jeffrey F. White (1)	2001 Barry R. Schaffer	2018 Michael J. Ovens
1968 E. L. "Lank: Green (1)	1985 Virgil P. Brown	2002 Sabato "Sam" Daniele	2019 Eirik Holbert
1969 Harry A. Hendry (1)	1986 Carl Goff (1)	2003 Raymond C. Ashman	2020 Donald B. Vargas
1970 Alfred N. Kee	1987 William Joe Querry	2004 Michael J. McAfee	2021 Dustin A. Celestin
1971 Clinton E. Dunn	1988 Lloyd C. Blackwood (1)	2005 Patrick Kelly Corridan	2022 Richard J. Cravens
1972 Clinton E. Dunn	1989 James D. Ratcliffe	2006 John F. Millhouse	2023 Michael B. Kelly
1973 Beryl E. Clements	1990 John C. Smith (1,2)	2007 James "Jim" Strickland	
1974 J. Lamar Richardson	1991 William G. Ellis (1,2,3)	2008 Eugene C "Gene" Crawford	
1975 Ulmer Cleland	1992 William L. Schroeder	2009 Steven B. Walden (1,3,4)	
1976 Perry M. Rogers	1993 William R. Stockman	2010 Thomas R. Kruse (1, 2)	
1977 Vernon G. Hitchcock	1994 Michael D. Haworth	2011 James E. "Jimmy" Hawkins	
1978 John C. Alexander	1995 Richard A. Wolfe (1,4)	2012 Michael L. Elliott, (1,2,4)	
1979 Boris Y. Skoro	1996 Thomas W. Stewart	2013 John Michael Bauernfeind	
1980 A. Arnold Wagner	1997 Paul D. Amos	2014 Alvin "Chip" Gipson	
1981 Wilson R. Timmons	1998 Robert L. Duff	2015 John E. Winchester III	
1982 William A. Claus	1999 Daniel E. Fitch	2016 Michael Christopher Davis	

(1) Past District Deputy Grand Master

(2) Past District Instructor

(3) Past Grand Lodge Officer

(4) Grand Representative

Upcoming Lodge Activities and Community Events

February 2024

5 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBD Masonic Education presented by S.W. George Gaspard
7 th	Open Books	Hosted at Harbor City Lodge, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
9 th	Steak Night	Bring friends and family and enjoy dinner at the Lodge. 6:30 p.m.
19 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBA

March 2024

4 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBD Masonic Education Bro. Joel Kickbush
6 th	Open Books	Hosted at Harbor City Lodge, 6:00-9:00 PM
8 th	Steak Night	All are welcome! Dinner is served at 6:30 PM
15 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBD

Petitions and Progress

Conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree for Michael Lester on March 14th 7PM Start.

Birthdays in February

Elbert Bahl	Walter Bryan II	John Canarie	Dennis Charbonneau
John Crosser	Robert Ezrow	Ted Hunt	Paul Joas
Jack Jones	Jacob Medeiros	Joseph Roush	R.:W.: Steve Walden
W.Richard Wolfe			

Birthdays in March

William Buckley	William Ellis Jr.	Dennis Fitch	Adam Gainer
Stanley Smith	Richard Stullenburger	Gerald Svrcek	Thomas Tyczkowski

Past Month Lodge Activities and Community Events

Officer Installation



Thank you to the Installing Officers!



Messages from Our Officers

From the East

Greetings from the East my Bretheren,

To begin, I'd like to thank everyone that participated in the Installation. It was truly a special night, and one that I will not soon forget. I am humbled to take on this important role, and can confidently speak for the Officers as well that we are here to serve you and our amazing Lodge!

The Officers are excited and busy getting the Lodge prepared for a successful year! We hope to have everyone's involvement and participation as the year moves forward. Our goal is to encourage as much participation as we can throughout the year and have several types of events planned to encourage involvement in many different ways. There will be two fundraisers and a family picnic in the Spring to name a few.

During the stated meetings we will have monthly Masonic education that is sure to peak your interest. We currently have one candidate, Michael Lester, that we are working to confer the Entered Apprentice degree next month and would much appreciate any participation in the degree. Please contact Senior Warden, George Gaspard if you have any further questions or need more details.

Please stay tuned on the Trestle Board for the upcoming dates for Lodge activities and events!

Someone I truly respect said that secrets of Masonry are out on the internet which is an obstacle to growing our Fraternity. This is true however, similar to a novice carpenter having all the tools needed laid out in front of him, he does not have the knowledge needed to use them yet. I believe our job as Masons is to learn how to use each of our tools and how to implement them in our lives and ultimately to teach others to implement them in theirs, to help us all become better men.

Fraternally Yours With Brotherly Love,
Jason Estes W.:M.:

Jbestes74@yahoo.com

From the West

Greetings from the West Brothers,

Wow... What a whirlwind January has been so far! What better way to start the new year than with an outstanding Installation of Officers?! Thanks go out to the entire installation team, but especially to our Junior Past Master, W.: Michael Kelly, who filled the role of Emcee, Installing Officer, and Outgoing Master; Past Master W.: R. James Cravens for being our Installing Marshall; and Past Master W.: Gene Crawford, Sr. for being our Installing Chaplain. It was an evening filled with poignant ritual, fellowship with one another, and the support of our family, friends, and brothers.

Looking to the future, we have begun ritual practice for the Entered Apprentice Degree that we are hoping to confer March 14th. Much as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the support of a whole lodge to put on an exceptional degree and we look forward to seeing more faces out at our Thursday night practices. We have continued the tradition of meeting and sharing fellowship at 6:30 prior to practice, commencing practice promptly at 7:00, and then going out for fellowship and refreshment after practice. It is my hope that this tradition will not only continue, but grow, as the year progresses.

Due to technical difficulties between Apple and Android products, our previous text chain will be separated into two chains (to allow for everyone for whom we have a telephone number to receive text reminders). If you are not receiving text communications regarding our Thursday night practices, and other matters from the Master or myself, please reach out to my e-mail address below and provide a good cellphone number. I will be happy to add you to one of the text chains!

Finally, please also keep your eyes on our Facebook Page, Merritt Island Lodge No. 353 F&AM—I will be endeavoring to not only keep it updated with entertaining and informative content, but will also be using it to communicate Lodge events such as Stated and Called Communications, and various fellowship events.

Fraternally yours,

George C. Gaspard
Senior Warden
ggaspard353@gmail.com

From the South

Brothers do not forget about our first Steak Night of the year! It's always nice to see Brothers with friends and family. At the next meeting(s) we will be discussing kitchen renovations/updates/improvements and I look forward to those discussions.

Now that the holidays have come and gone I hope to see more Brothers at the future meetings!

-Austin Cowart, Junior Warden