



# HUNTER'S PARADISE LODGE #85



## Greetings from the East... Worshipful Master, Jonathan Beffel

Brethren,

It was truly an honor to work with all of you to initiate, pass and raise 4 new brothers in one day at the end of March. We started around 6:45am and ended around 7:00pm, it made for an incredibly long day, but I think I can speak for everyone involved and say that it certainly felt worth it.

Had it not been for our actions that day, at least 1 of the 4 candidates would not have been able to partake in Masonry for a long time due to his military obligations. I know that the other 3 candidates were especially grateful to share in the mysteries that day as well and all have since completed their proficiency as well, making all 4 of them fully fledged members of our Lodge!

This was all made possible thanks largely in part to the efforts of Worshipful Brother James Jennings and Most Worshipful Master Scott Thomas. Our Lodge

fielded 90% of the officer chairs, with minor assistance from the Grand Lodge officers to fill in a few gaps in our line.

Worshipful Brother Mark Brown did an amazing job with the Staircase and G lectures. Most Worshipful Brother Jim Rowan helped us out early in the day by performing the EA lecture. I especially want to thank Most Worshipful Brother Jim May, who provided our candidates with education between each degree as well as performing the MM lecture.

All in all, the day went very smoothly and our Jr Warden even got his proficiency in the 2nd degree, which qualified him for moving up to the SW chair this year, congratulations Brother Michael!

Fraternally,  
Jonathan Beffel

### APRIL 2018

	From the East: Worshipful Master, Jonathan Beffel	1
	Hunter's Paradise Lodge #85 Sickness and Distress	1
	From Z Secretary's Desk: PM George Mather	2
	Hunter's Paradise Lodge #85 2018 Officers	2
	The Old West History of The Grand Lodge of Arizona from The Grand Lodge of Arizona's website	2

### Upcoming Activities\*

- May 29 (this is Tuesday) - Stated Meeting 7 pm\*** – Open on 1st Degree, or the lowest degree of the members present. (Red Fez room availability to be determined)
- May 31 - June 2 - Grand Lodge Annual Communication** - Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, 5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Chandler, AZ 85226
- June 25 - Stated Meeting 7 pm\*** – Open on 1st Degree, or the lowest degree of the members present.  
(Red Fez room availability to be determined)

\*All other activities and details will be sent, by the Worshipful Master via email.

### Sickness and Distress

**Bro. Ken Jones:** No further update beyond Debbie's note of last month, "Ken is holding his own. He is eating well and getting lots of rest. He misses his brothers and says thank you to everyone for the on-going love and support."



## From the Secretary's Desk...

By PM George "Z-Klown" Mather

Brethren All,

Hunters Paradise Lodge No 85 was Chartered in June 2013. They began with 34 charter members. We will celebrate our fifth year at our June 25, 2018 Stated meeting.

Were you raised in Hunters Paradise Lodge No 85? Check your Masonic Bible. If you were raised in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018 please let the Secretary know if you will be coming to the June Stated. It is time to celebrate with

cake and ice cream and visit your Lodge.

Membership is vital to our growth and your desire to learn more about the Lodge and the teachings will insure the future of the Lodge. We look forward to hearing from you. Please call you sponsors and invit them to join you in Lodge on June 25, 2018

In His Name,  
George

Z Secretary

## Hunter's Paradise Lodge #85 2018 Officers

### Worshipful Master

Jonathan Beffel  
480-353-1236  
jmbeffel@yahoo.com

### Senior Warden

Bill Wright  
480-822-9242  
wbwpower@gmail.com

### Junior Warden

Michael Coontz  
480-236-2612  
mdcoontz@gmail.com

### Secretary

PM George Mather  
480-254-5328  
George.Mather@aol.com  
or  
huntersparadise85@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Phil Houghton  
602-622-0835  
phoughton@q.com

### Appointed Officers

#### Senior Deacon

Jon Weber 480-430-0807

#### Junior Deacon

Jonathan Whisenhunt  
602-721-5098

#### Senior Steward

James Leppert 602-369-9353

#### Junior Steward

Andre Bourgeois 602-885-6877

#### Marshal

Jim Poage 480-361-6520

#### Tyler

PM Jim Hoover 602-284-5279

#### Chaplin

PM Bob Beffel 602-403-6771



## Tracing Masonry in Arizona Back to the Old West

From the Grand Lodge of Arizona's website

In the latter half of the nineteenth century the American frontier was comprised of the western territories from Oklahoma to the Pacific Northwest. The news media of the time focused attention on the western territories and undoubtedly played a significant role in the inexorable wave of intrepid pioneers, settlers, opportunists and prospectors that flooded into the territories. That period of time is often referred to as 'The Old West' or 'The Wild West'.

Arizona is the backdrop of many movies and novels about the Old West. Western novelist Zane Grey regularly spent time on the Mogollon Rim near Payson, Arizona. Early motion pictures depict Arizona cowboys

and lawmen portrayed by actors such as Tom Mix and John Wayne. In those movies the heroes and villains were sharply defined and a clean-cut cowboy always, "saved the day."

However, novels and movies seldom depict an even greater legacy that a few pioneers and settlers brought with them as they populated the territories. They brought morals, values and a strong sense of brotherly love, relief and truth with them. They brought Freemasonry to the territories.

In 1863 political concerns and the pressures of the Civil War were largely responsible for the separation of the Arizona

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

territory from the New Mexico Territory. That year President Abraham Lincoln appointed John A. Gurley as Governor of the newly created Arizona Territory. He was to establish a government thus ensuring that Arizona Territory and its resources would be and remain under Union control. Governor Gurley died before he could arrive in the territory. John Noble Goodwin was appointed by President Lincoln in his place.

John Goodwin, a Freemason, and his party arrived in the Arizona territory in December 1863. He established the territorial capital of Prescott, approximately twenty miles from Fort Whipple. In 1864 nine Master Masons held a meeting in Prescott at John N. Goodwin's house. Brother Goodwin presided at the meeting. After satisfying themselves that all present were Master Masons, those nine Masons decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of California for a dispensation to open a Lodge at Prescott. The name selected for the new lodge was Aztlan. Brother John T. Alsap, who later became the first mayor of Phoenix, was chosen as its first Master. Brother Goodwin was chosen to present the petition to the Grand Master of California. Brother Goodwin presented the petition on April 23rd, 1865, and the dispensation it requested was granted. In January 1867, after the California charter had been granted, Aztlan Lodge No. 177 was duly constituted and the officers installed by Past Master John Martin.

### **Freemasonry had officially arrived in Arizona.**

Thereafter, four more lodges were formed in succession. These four are Arizona Lodge in Phoenix (1879), Tucson Lodge in Tucson (1881), Solomon Lodge in Tombstone (1881), and White Mountain Lodge in Globe. All but White Mountain Lodge were chartered by the Grand Lodge of California. White Mountain Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of New Mexico in 1881.

On the 23rd day of March, 1882, representatives from these four lodges convened in Tucson for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Territory of Arizona.

A committee was formed to examine the credentials of the attending delegates, and after its satisfactory report, it was resolved that by virtue of the powers vested in the members assembled it was right and proper that a Grand Lodge for the territory should be formed. A constitution was adopted and it was formally resolved, "That a lodge of Master Masons be opened for the purpose of organizing and opening, in Masonic form, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Territory of Arizona."

Officers were appointed to fill the stations and places and a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in ancient Masonic form. The various officers were elected as follows: Ansel Mellen Bragg, Grand Master; John Tabor Alsap, Deputy Grand Master; Alonzo Bailey, Senior Grand Warden; William Arthur Harwood, Junior Grand Warden; Abraham Marx, Grand Treasurer; and George James Roskrige, Grand Secretary.

On the 25th day of March, 1882, the grand officers were installed and the Master Masons Lodge was closed in the ancient Masonic form, the convention having accomplished the business for which it was called, adjourned sine die.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in proper form, with music by a choir and prayer by the Grand Chaplain, after which it examined and endorsed the charters held by the various lodges represented. Then it was decided that, "The Grand Lodge claimed as the boundaries of its jurisdiction the whole of the Territory of Arizona," and further, that the Grand Master be authorized to endorse the charter of Aztlan Lodge when called upon to do so. On March 25th, 1882, after installing the grand officers and accomplishing the business for which it was called, the Master Masons Lodge was closed in ancient Masonic form, sine die.

Aztlan lodge later became a chartered member, and together the five lodges forming the Grand Lodge had a total membership of 274 Masons.

Those five original lodges are still in existence today and are designated 'Territorial Lodges'.