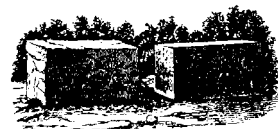




# In the Quarries



The Batesburg-Leesville Masonic Lodge Newsletter

August 2004

Volume 6, Issue 1

## From the East

Whew what a year!!! 2004 started with a BANG - from the instructional at the end of January until now has been a big blur. Brothers, the lodge is holding its own and continues to grow. The land purchase has been completed...We have had gates and fencing installed on the back of the property...A work day helped to get our lodge cleaned up...The first annual golf tournament was a huge success...and we have had a constant influx of Petitions and Affiliations. And all of this has been done in record time. With the hard times that all of us know a little too well, it says a lot for those responsible people involved in all of these endeavors and I would personally like to extend my thanks to them all.

Brethren, if you're not attending regular meetings or degree work, you are missing out tremendously, and we are missing you. Just remember - *you are one of the builders* so come and enjoy some great fellowship. Remember this is your lodge as well as mine.

*Carlton Clary, Worshipful Master*

## 1st Annual Golf Tournament a Success!

On Saturday, June 19, the lodge hosted its first annual B-L Masonic Lodge Golf Tournament at the Ponderosa Country Club. The event started at 7:30



a.m. as preparations were made for over 27 participating four-man captain's choice teams. The first ball left the tee at 9:30 that morning, following a wonderful breakfast of sausage that was

served to all participants. At the end of the tournament, we awarded over \$600 in door prizes, and all participants were treated to a wonderful lunch of steak, baked potatoes, and salad. In all, besides the 27 participating teams, we had 20 hole sponsors, 6 corporate sponsors, and 21 team sponsors.

A note of appreciation goes out to all those who helped to make the tournament a success, and a special thanks to Brothers Gregg Long and Walter Smith for all of the hard work they put in to making the tournament great.

### The Trestleboard

August 24 - Entered Apprentice Degree  
September 11 - Annual Barbecue Fundraiser  
September 14 - Regular Communication  
September 18 - Saturday Fellowcraft Degree  
October 12 - Regular Communication  
November 9 - Regular Communication  
November 13 - Annual Ladies Night  
December 14 - Regular Communication  
This info is current, August 24<sup>th</sup>. For more up-to-date info and other dates, check out the website calendar.

## Lodge Improvement Day Held June 5

On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, a handful of brothers and members of their families gathered at the lodge for a day of work and lodge improvements. Their efforts focused on cleaning the fellowship hall and they really did a great job. A special thanks goes out to Jan Long (wife of Brother Gregg Long) who helped to keep a fire lit under the workers that day and really made a difference in keeping the lodge looking good.

## B-L Lodge Launches Website

As a new tool for the lodge, we have launched a website at [www.mastermason.com/BL138](http://www.mastermason.com/BL138). The site is hosted for free and is maintained by Brother Seth Bickley. The site allows people looking for information about our lodge to learn where we are, when we meet, and what we do (for example, new residents, other Masons, people interested in joining the lodge). The site also has a calendar of events so brothers can look on the Internet and find out if we have degree work or other events scheduled. If anyone would like to have information or pictures posted on the site, email [BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net](mailto:BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net).

## The Lodge is Growing!

The lodge has had a number of brothers enter the craft over the last several months, and several are moving right along on their journeys. In February, Brother Russell Daggerheart was initiated as an Entered Apprentice. In March, Brother Seth Bickley was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and Brother Travis Maroney took his first step as an Entered Apprentice. In June, Brothers Richie Miller, Tim Koon Jr., Josh Koon, and Jimmy Lucas all took their first steps as Entered Apprentices. Also in July, Brandon Long started his journey as an Entered Apprentice.

With all of the activities and new membership, now is a very exciting time for the lodge. If you haven't made a regular communication or degree in a while, why not come join us again.

## Annual Barbecue Fundraiser Is Coming

For many years now, the lodge has held a Barbecue Fundraiser on the first Saturday after Labor Day. The profits from these barbecues are used in the charitable fund and do not go to the lodge.

This year's barbecue will be on **Saturday, September 11, 2004 from 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.** Tickets are on sale now for \$6.00 and are available to anyone willing to sell them. A ticket gets ½ chicken, cole slaw, a side vegetable, roll, and iced tea.

Cooking will start on Friday night, September 10<sup>th</sup> and we will need all the help we can get. Anyone available to help with selling tickets, cooking chickens, or preparing the rest of the meal, please contact Brother Walter Smith, 532-4954, Brother Gregg Long, 532-2793, or Brother Carlton Clary, 892-6460.

### Upcoming Outdoor Degrees

First off, many of you have heard about the Fort Sumter outdoor degree that was scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2004. Unfortunately, this degree has been cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales. Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Masonic districts hope to be able to put on the degree again in 2005.

There will still be an outdoor event on Saturday, September 18. The 22nd Masonic District will hold an outdoor degree at Wilkerson Farm in Hickory Grove (between Spartanburg and Rock Hill). The host lodge will be Palmetto #289 from "beautiful downtown Sharon." Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and the degree will be at 1:00 p.m. (bring your own chairs, and wear your Lodge Aprons & Jewels). Wilkerson Farm is located in Hickory Grove, SC at the intersection of Hwy. 211 and Wilkerson Road. You can find directions on [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) by using 1900 Wilkerson Road, Hickory Grove, SC 29717. If you need further assistance you can reach Jack Holmes, DDGM-22nd at [jholm123@bellsouth.net](mailto:jholm123@bellsouth.net) or (864)489-7022.


Finally, on October 23, the 29th Masonic district will host an outdoor degree at Atalaya Castle. The event will begin around 5:00 p.m. Atalaya Castle is located in Huntington Beach State Park (south of Myrtle Beach).

### Carolina Children's Home Cookoff

On May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> the Carolina Children's Home held their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbecue Festival. The two-day fundraising event is billed as one of the Midlands' premier family celebrations and all proceeds benefit the CCH, one of the state's largest treatment centers for abused or abandoned young people.

The event focuses on a heated competition among over 40 of the southeast's leading barbecue chefs. Individuals and groups from throughout the Carolinas, Georgia and beyond assemble five-person teams to go head-to-head in a whole hog cook-off. Each cooking site is festooned with decorations, trophies and banners, and cooks spend all Friday night preparing their entries for judgment Saturday morning. After judging, all of the BBQ is processed through a single site and served to the public. The Friday night before the festival has become an event unto itself, with the "Save the Pigs" Party. This event allows the competing BBQ chefs to prepare anything but pork. Southern specialties ranging from catfish stew and jambalaya to red beans and rice and homemade banana pudding are only a few of the treats available to the public.

This year, our lodge was represented at the cook-off by Brother Walter Smith. The event took in \$33,000 for the Carolina Children's Home.

**Mark your calendar for a Special Fellowcraft degree on Saturday, September 18 @ 8:30.** 

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**And don't forget our 2004 Ladies Night to be held at the Batesburg-Leesville Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### DDGM O.B. Baker Visits the Lodge

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, at the regular monthly communication, B-L 138 received a visit from District Deputy Grand Master O.B. Baker. RWB Baker paid a visit to us as a part of his annual duties but he also presented the lodge with a certificate recognizing the lodge for having no "Non Paid Dues" for 2003.

Remember everyone that the time is fast approaching for paying dues for 2005. Let's keep our good record for NPDs by getting all of our dues in own time!

### Back Lot Improvement

The next time you are at the lodge, take a look at the back lot - all the way back to Hallman Street. Brother Gregg Long recently undertook the task of cleaning out this back area, and the improvement is incredible. He also made sure that we had a fence and gate installed on the back portion of the lodge property. Be sure to check out the improvements that have been made back there.

Have you seen the highlights from the funeral services for the Hunley crew? They were aired on SCETV in April and the services included a Masonic funeral for the captain of the vessel, who was a member of a lodge in Alabama. The services were performed by the Grand Master of Alabama along with several of his officers. I have not found a video of the service, but it can be viewed on the Internet by going to the following link:

[web3.scetv.org/hunley.wmv](http://web3.scetv.org/hunley.wmv)

The entire highlight video runs 1 hour and 26 minutes, and the Masonic portion of the event begins at about minute 49.

### That's All Folks

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of "In the Quarries." We hope to establish a quarterly publication of future installments. If you have any info for a future issue, please contact Dave Lantz, 604-0938 or Seth Bickley, 892-6174, or email information to [BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net](mailto:BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net). Better yet, tell us face-to-face at a lodge meeting. We'd love to see you there.

The Slate		
Worshipful Master .....	Carlton Clary..... 892-6460 .....	
Senior Warden.....	Ronnie Siegler .....	532-2547 .....
Junior Warden.....	Ronald Norris .....	532-7825 .....
Secretary.....	David M. Lantz.....	604-0938 .....
Treasurer.....	Marvin Epting .....	532-5143 .....
Senior Deacon .....	Al Niver .....	359-2137 .....
Junior Deacon .....	Chris Long .....	532-2943 .....