



THE ARABIAN

February 25, 2025 Houston, TX



Nobles, Ladies and Friends,
 As we move full steam ahead into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together in just the first month and a half of this year. Our momentum is strong, and the energy within Arabia Shriners is inspiring. We kicked off the year with a renewed focus on growth, engagement, and tradition. Our leadership team has hit the ground running, aligning our efforts with our long-term strategic vision. With the new Divan structure in place, we are already seeing the benefits of clearer roles and responsibilities, allowing us to strengthen our fraternal and charitable efforts.

We've also strengthened our connections with our community and Masonic family. From engaging with our Blue Lodges to participating in local events, our presence is being felt, and our mission is resonating with new audiences.

Looking ahead, we have many exciting events on the horizon. I encourage everyone to stay involved, bring new ideas to the table, and help us continue making Arabia the premier Shrine Temple it is meant to be. This is our year to grow, strengthen our bonds, and make a lasting impact.

Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our great fraternity. I am honored to serve as your Potentate and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Yours in the faith,
 Ben LaBlanc
 Potentate, Arabia Shriners

The American Contract Bridge League Unit 174 made a donation to Shriners Children's Texas Hospital in Galveston on February 3, 2025.

Pictured left to Right: Karen Nussbaum (Bridge), Noble Dale Dickman, Recorder Bob Kirkwood, Noble John Hinders, James Sells (Bridge)



Upcoming Events

- March 2: Shriners Mardi Gras Parade (Galveston)**
- March 6-8: College Baseball Classic (Minute Maid)**
- March 12: Circus Turn in, 6 pm (Shrine Center)**
- March 14-15: Willis Chili Cookoff, (Willis, TX)**
- March 17: Stated Meeting, 6 pm (Shrine Center)**
- March 22: Director's Staff Bingo (Shrine Center)**
- March 28-29: Arabian Knights Chili Cookoff (Good Times Marina)**

Motor Corp

The Motorcorp is off to a roaring start this year with an aggressive agenda:

- we are raffling a gun safe to be a little different this year
- we have sold the Red Racers owned by the Motorcorp. In an odd twist, Ruben Robles, Renee Quinones and Danny Szell have stepped up to buy the cars and possibly start parades again.
- we have **thrown down the gauntlet to ALL OTHER CLUBS/UNITS** with a \$1000 donation to Arabia so we can walk the stage at Imperial. This is something we haven't done in years and hopefully it catches fire with other units.

Be a good person, run a good unit and remember these kids count on us.

Danny Szell
 Houston, TX



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NOBLE SPOTLIGHT



Noble Carl R. Spinks retired as a First Sergeant following a 30-year career in the US Army which included serving in the Presidential Guard for both Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush; being a drill instructor; and later transitioning to aviation where he became a subject matter expert in multiple Army helicopters including AH-64 Apaches and UH-60 Blackhawks. Following retirement, Carl returned as a civilian DoD employee in Army flight operations, before recently retiring once again. Carl is now an entrepreneur with several start-up business ventures, as well as attending graduate school to become an instructor of college history. Carl is married to Rachel, who is working towards her Doctorate degree in Occupational Therapy. Carl has three daughters: Catherine (Katie), Chelsea, and Isabella (Izzy). Izzy is a Rainbow Girl at Conroe Assembly. He has two grandsons. Carl's hobbies include fishing, golf, gun range practice, and art/music compositions.

Carl has been a Mason since 2021. He is a member of San Jacinto Lodge # 106 in Willis, where he serves as Treasurer. He also belongs to Conroe Lodge # 748, where he serves as Senior Deacon. He also belongs to North Houston Morning Lodge #1360 where he serves as Master of Ceremonies. He is Associate Patron within the Eastern Star at both Mary Martha Chapter #981 and Willis Chapter #1017. He is a 32nd Degree Mason within the Houston Valley of the Scottish Rite. Carl has been a Brother Noble within Arabia Shrine since October 2024, wherein he is a member of the Montgomery County Shrine Club.

Carl believes that Freemasonry makes good men better versions of themselves. He views the fraternity as an extended family that provides a way to give back to the community. He believes that being a Shriner provides an even broader opportunity for him to serve his community. Carl was influenced to become a Mason by his maternal grandfather and an uncle. He was influenced to become a Shriner by Past Potentate Michael Ellis, Noble Jim Cook, and Assistant Rabban Jim Clark. Carl wants the readers to know he is simply grateful to God for every moment He allows Carl to enjoy in this lifetime. Carl prays that he can continue to be a servant leader among his peers and community.



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ARABIAN KNIGHTS CHILI AND DUTCH OVEN

COOKOFF

SATURDAY MARCH 29

Entry fees will be
Bloody Marys \$10.00
Chili \$20.00
Sweet Dutch Oven \$20.00
Savory Dutch Oven \$20.00

All Proceeds Benefit The Arabian
Knights and are Not Tax Deductable
First, Second, and Third place Trophies will be
awarded in each category

GOOD TIMES MARINA
11906 7TH 1/2 STREET
HOUSTON TX 77044

Chili can be precooked at
home or prepared prior
to competition.
Great Event for
First Time Cookers

Dutch Oven Entries
MUST be cooked on
site on charcoal



FOR MORE INFO CALL
DAN MOSELEY
281-723-6909

Arabian Knights

It is that time of year again! Let's get ready for Chili and Dutch Oven Treats!

Come on out the Good Times Marina (11906 7th 1/2 Street, Houston, TX 77044) Saturday, March 29th!

This is the perfect event for anyone that always wanted to enter their chili in a cookoff. You don't even have to drag all of that cooking gear out to the competition, **YOU CAN COOK IT AT HOME!**

Proceeds will be used as startup money for our fall Shrine Hospital BBQ Cookoff.

We sure hope to see y'all out there!
Dan Moseley

Circus Updates

The Arabia Shrine Circus is currently in the planning and preparation stage. We are working on sales and marketing to make the 2025 circus a success!

If you missed the past Circus-Turn-ins, you missed fun, good food, and camaraderie. The next Circus Turn-in is scheduled for March 12th and Ladies' night will be April 9th.

The popular gift basket raffle table needs your support! We need desirable gifts for people of all ages and interests. All items can be brought to the shrine center for storage prior to move out.

Circus shirts, circus tickets, Ringmasters, Mom and Dad's, Sponsors and donations are welcome. We are seeking circus worker volunteers of various tasks.

Thank you for your circus support.
Otto Akers- Circus Chairman

GET TICKETS NOW!

2025
SOUTH Arabia Shrine
CIRCUS
By Royal
HANNEFORD

BOOK ONLINE!

www.ArabiaShrineCircus.org

from	HUMBLE, TEXAS				until
MAY	Humble Arena & Expo Complex 8223 Will Clayton Pkwy, TX 77338				
	Thurs May 1 st :	10am		7pm	4 MAY
	Fri May 2 nd :	10am		7pm	
	Sat May 3 rd :	10am	3pm	7pm	
	Sun May 4 th :	11am		3pm	



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Baytown Shriners Clay Shoot

**Saturday & Sunday
April 5 & 6, 2025**



**Location: 12525 I-10 East Baytown, Tx
Gene's Powersports Country**

Net Proceeds Benefit Baytown Shrine Club and are not Tax Deductible as a Charitable Donation

For information call Bobby at 713-539-8584, Gene Anderson at 281-932-0097, Kenny at 713-702-7954, Russell at 832-414-7041, or Robert at 281-414-8262.



The Divan put their heads together while at mid-winter to align on goals for 2025 and beyond. Click [here](#) for more information and see what's in store for Arabia!

Baytown Shrine Club

Baytown Shrine Club congratulates Ill Sir Ben LaBlanc on being elected to Potentate as well as the rest of the Divan. They are focused on Unity, Peace, and Harmony in 2025. With their commitment and focus on the future of Arabia Shrine and the general nobility focusing on helping them attain their goals, Arabia is well situated for the future.

Baytown Shrine Club hit the road running again this year. We attended the opening of the new garages and new 40 room Patient Housing Facility in Galveston. Then we traveled to The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas session where Noble Ricky Larkin, Baytown Chief Chef, assembled a cooking crew and fed guests of the 30th MWSA Grand Masters Banquet a fantastic meal of smothered beef cutlets, smashed taters, Masonic Green beans, salad, tea, coffee and desserts.

January stated meeting in Baytown Chef Larkin and Crew once again outdid themselves serving fried chicken and fried pork ribs, twice baked taters and trimmings. We have been busy at the club changing outdated equipment, cleaning and hauling off old junk.

Duck Commander Bobby Wilson is chasing his tail feathers getting ready for the 9th annual Duck Hunt Challenge on April 5th and 6th. Make sure to come check it out!

We have several Baytown Nobles serving as Blue Lodge officers. Rick Larkin is WM at Goose Creek Lodge, Jason Davis is WM at Sampson Lodge and several Senior and Jr Wardens, secretaries, and other offices.

I will close this article with an open invitation for all to come see us. We will treat you so many ways, you will have to like one of them.

Yours in the Faith
Jerry C Parrish





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Are You Involved in a Unit or Club at Arabia? If not, why not?

As a Shriner, you are part of a storied fraternity dedicated to fun, fellowship, and philanthropy. But are you truly experiencing all that being a Shriner has to offer? One of the best ways to deepen your involvement and enrich your experience is by joining a unit or club.

The Heartbeat of Our Organization

Arabia units and clubs form the backbone of our fraternity. Whether you enjoy riding in parades, playing music, engaging in community service, or simply gathering with like-minded nobles, there's a group for you. These organizations create lasting friendships, strengthen our temple, and amplify our charitable mission.

The Benefits of Getting Involved

- Brotherhood & Camaraderie - Being part of a unit or club allows you to bond with fellow Shriners who share your interests.
- Personal Growth - Whether you're leading a group, organizing events, or learning a new skill, participation enhances your personal development.
- Supporting Our Philanthropy - Many clubs and units actively support Shriners Children's hospitals through fundraising and awareness efforts.
- Fun & Fellowship - From clown units to motorcycle clubs, and sportsmen there's something for everyone to enjoy.

If You Haven't Joined, Ask Yourself Why

If you're not currently involved, what's holding you back? Is it time? Interest? Need to reconnect? Not knowing where to start? Whatever the reason, there's a place for you, and your participation will make our fraternity stronger.

Take the First Step

Reach out to your temple leadership or fellow Shriners to learn about the units and clubs available. Attend a meeting, try an event, and discover the many ways you can contribute.

Being a Shriner is about more than just wearing the fez - it's about participation, connection, and service. Get involved today and make the most of your Shriner journey!

Don Savell, Oriental Guide





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Dollars and Sense from the Treasurer

Dear Nobles,

As we kick off a new year, I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season and is ready for another exciting year at Arabia Shrine!

End-of-Year Reports Reminder

As your Treasurer, the start of the year is a busy time, and I kindly ask that all Units and Clubs who haven't submitted their End-of-Year Reports to please get them in as soon as possible. These reports are vital for maintaining accurate records and preparation of taxes for the year ahead.

One of Our Big Goals This Year: COMMUNICATION

One of the top priorities for this year's Divan is improving communication with our Nobility. We want to bring more value to you, but that only works if we can reach you. To make this happen, we are rolling out a new CRM system that will allow us to communicate through emails, text messages, phone calls, mailings, and more. We're making great progress with this, but we need your help!

How You Can Help:

- We pull our member information directly from Webfez so if your information is outdated or incomplete, we can't reach you.
- Please take a few moments to log into Webfez and ensure your information is up to date.
- Don't forget your Lady! We want to improve communication with the Ladies as well, so please include her name, email, and phone number.
- Double-check that your mobile and home numbers are listed in the correct spots.

The more accurate our data, the better we can serve you and keep everyone in the loop about upcoming events, fundraisers, and important Temple news.

Thank you for your attention and support as we work to make Arabia Shrine even stronger in 2025!

Fraternally,
Marcus "Chris" Staudt
Treasurer – Arabia Shriners

