

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, Michigan 49220-9773



Publication of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

April 2007

Capitular Growth in Michigan through Masonic Education



Right Excellent Companion Howard J. Little

August 11, 1927 – February 25, 2007

Howard first sought Masonic Light in Tyer Lodge No. 18, Free & Accepted Masons where he was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on the 27th day of January 1958, Companion Howard was Exalted a Royal Arch Mason on the 23rd day of November, 1960 in Redford Chapter No. 176.

Brother Howard served as Worshipful Master of Tyre Lodge in 1990. In 1994 he was elected a member of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge where he served with distinction until 2000. Elected President and serving in 1997.

Companion Howard served as High Priest of Colon Chapter No. 81, 1996 & 1997. Receiving the Order of High Priesthood in the Year 1996. In 1999 he ran for the open chair in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch and was elected and installed as Grand Master of the 1st Veil on the 2nd day of October 1999. Since which time he has served on and been the leader in many committees and programs of this Grand Chapter. At the time of his passing he was serving as the Grand King of the Grand Chapter and would have been elected as the Grand High Priest to preside over all Royal Arch Masons in the State of Michigan at the upcoming Grand Chapter Session this coming August.

Howard was a member of Hiram Council No. 14 in Marshall and served as their Thrice Illustrious Master in 2006 receiving the Order of the Silver Trowel in the same year. Columbia Commandery No. 18 in Sturgis and served as their Commander for the years 2001 and 2002.

He was a member of Western Michigan York Rite College No. 10, serving as Governor in 2002 and receiving the Honor the Order of the Purple Cross in 2003.

Brother and Companion Howard Little belonged to several other Masonic Organizations. Most notably: The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons – Valley of Detroit- Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons; and served on the Premier Chapter DeMolays Advisory Council from 1993.

Right Excellent Companion Howard Little has always been an energetic, enthusiastic spokespersons and proponent for Masonry and the York Rite of Freemasonry. He has not only served on many committees to promote both but has in many cases been the leader in the rewriting old programs and in the developing of new programs for the promotion of both. He always stated that he would not join an organization unless he believed in that organization from the bottom of his heart and that he also felt that he could contribute and be an active member of that organization, yet he always had time for those other things that he loved so much in his life:

He was devoted to his wife of 57 years, Betty, their three daughters and he was devoted to his Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. When he wasn't talking about Masonry you could be sure that he was talking about those that he loved so much.

When Howard wasn't involved in his Masonic travels and adventures or with his family you would find him doing one of his other great loves. Not sure where he ever found time for them. Playing golf. He was one of the straightest shooters in golf that I have ever played with but in golf as well as in life he always shot straight to the point and scored well.

His other true love was that of Stain Glass work and woodworking, which he took up after his retirement. He had his own shop in his garage, spending many hours in there working on his next project. This was his method of relaxing. He loved sharing his abilities and has been volunteering on a weekly basis teaching Stained Glass work at the Burnside Senior Center.

Right Excellent Companion Howard Little will be missed by all with whom he has come into contact.

We wish Betty and his family the very best in their lives ahead without Howard. His memories will live on.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Grand Chapter RAM Foundation.



Harry A. Walbridge, Grand High Priest

P.O. Box 652
Roscommon, MI 48653
989.275.8138
walbridh@m33access.com



Companions, this is a very sad moment in the lives of all of us in the Royal Arch Grand Officer line, as well as in those of our Companions in the subordinate Chapters, and other Masonic groups. RE Grand King Howard Little passed away on Sunday morning, 25 February 2007. He has been active in Masonry for many years, serving as President of the Board of General Purposes for the Grand Lodge of Michigan, among other activities.

His entry into the Grand Line of Royal Arch gave him additional opportunities to demonstrate his dedication and creativity toward the Craft. These were acknowledged with his being honored with the OPC. It is obvious his absence will pose a serious void in our Officer corps.

I am asking that if you are approached by RE Grand Scribe Paul Williams to take on additional tasks, that you will give him your full support. You can only begin to sense what a turn-around his life has taken as he completes a year early, his plans for his year as Grand High Priest. This, of course, is subject to his election by the Companions at our next Convocation.

MEPGHP George Lyons has answered in the affirmative to my request that he accept the duties of the RE Grand King for the remainder of this Capitular year. This appointment became effective 3 March 2007. Kindly give him your total support as well.

Our love, sympathy and prayers go out to Betty and her family at this time...

GRAND SCRIBES' CORNER

Paul D. Williams

Companions:

We have experienced great sadness, in the loss of our Grand King, Howard J. Little. He would have been elected and installed as our Most Excellent Grand High Priest in August of this year. Due to Howard Little's untimely death, it appears, if it so pleases the voting members at Grand Chapter, that I will be elected, and installed as Grand High Priest of Michigan, this August at the Grand Convocation.

It is important that we keep our lines of communication open, as our Grand High Priest, Harry A. Walbridge has been stressing. I will be available, and open for any and all ideas, concerns, etc...you may have.

Our Grand Master of the 3rd Veil, Robert Cooper has an excellent website for the Grand Chapter, www.ram-mi.org with a Calendar, News update, Triple Tau's and many other features. Please keep him informed of your thoughts on the site and you can update the calendar with Royal Arch events that or going on in your Chapter or within your area. That is what the site is for. To keep us all informed. Go to the site on a regular basis. Put it in your "Bookmarks."

Howard Little had started a program of area degree teams, in several locations throughout the state, to aid and assist Chapters in performing and maintaining good ritual work for candidates. Our Grand Principal Sojourner, Larry Inscho has is now taken on the responsibility of seeing to it that this programs is continued and expanded, of compiling Companions who do ritual work in all areas of the 4 Capitular Degrees. These Companions will be "pooled" in 3 or 4 different regions of the state, that can be drawn for to aid all Chapters in need of help. If you have received Larry Inscho's form, please return the completed form to him as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, etc..., please do not hesitate to contact me at 810-985-6925 or pdw@advent.net.

Announced:

We have two vacancies to be filled in the Grand Chapter moving line this year.

We had a candidate prior to Howard's passing:

Sunrise Chapter NO. 74 is pleased to announce their endorsement for Excellent Companion Louis C. McCray for Grand Honors.

Excellent Companion McCray has been a leader and dedicated worker for all of Masonry in the Sunrise Side of Michigan.

G. Gordon Goodman, PGHP, 1971-72

MEC Gordon had severe chest pains on Sunday, March 18th. Was rushed to the hospital and had two large stints put in on Monday. He is back home recovering. Still very slow in moving and painful but is recovering. Needs to get his medication regulated at this time.

He still is hoping to be in attendance at the Grand Convocation this August.

May send cards to: G. Gordon Goodman, 2740A. Highland Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34684 or call at 727.785.6191. He would love to hear from you and know that you remember him.



Paul C. Howell, PGHP, Grand Secretary

17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, MI 49220-9773
517.547.8266
meghpmi97@comcast.net



Secretary's Scribbles:

You now have your Annual Return Forms and Chapter Dues Cards. They were mailed out the last week of March. Beth and I apologize for the delay in getting them out, but they were out before they were due back in, both of us have been under the weather and that meant that we were spending too much time in bed, sleeping, and not able to get everything done. You may use the Annual Return Forms that I sent to you, or you may go on line and download the forms from the Grand Chapter WEB Site at www.ram-mi.org and email them back to me. That will make it much cheaper for you and I hope much easier.

Please remember to send in your Election Report forms as soon as you have your Election of Officers! Before you have your Installation. We will need these in order to get the Directory out in a timely manner.

Paul Williams will be, at your will and pleasure, assuming the office of Grand High Priest in August. That means that he will have a lot to get accomplished in a very short time in order to get everything ready for his year. He will be asking for your help and the help of your Companions for his year. Please make sure that you respond to him as soon as you get his requests.

If there is anything that Beth and I can do to assist you and to make your job easier, Do not hesitate to contact us.

Keep a smile on your face and a chuckle in your voice.

From the Grand Master of the First Veil

I have been asked about the music that I have used during the degree work at the Festivals and Chapters where I have visited.

If you will visit that dusty file cabinet where the records of your Chapter are stored, it is likely that you will find a stack of cards with the words to the songs printed on them. Thus far in my explorations I have found 4 or 5 varieties of cards with several combinations of the various songs on the.

Our Michigan ritual gives specifics for the use of the music in the Mark and Most Excellent Master Degrees. In the Mark Degree, the Marshall calls the brethren to assemble and then gives the command "Forward March". The Ritual then says "All Brethren fall in at his command on the south side of the lodge room, facing east. The candidate is at the end of the line. The Marshall is at the head of the procession. ALL MARCH AND SING." (The capitals are mine.) the Later verses are sung during the 3 circuits of the lodge and again is noted "MARCH THREE CIRCUITS AND SING."

In the Most Excellent Master Degree, the Marshall assembles the craftsmen and march out to the prep room (apparently in silence) and then on the return to the lodge process and sing. The remaining verses are sung during the ceremonies and are clearly noted in the ritual.

Universally, we use the song tune "America" (My Country 'tis of Thee) for the Mark Master Degree, and we have 5 verses of "Masonic" lyrics. The hymn tune that we use for the Most Excellent Master is a little more confused. Our ritual calls for "...the ode music, use the Portuguese Hymn - words: "How Firm a foundation." Most recognize

"The Portuguese Hymn as the tune of "O come All Ye Faithful". Our "Masonic" lyrics fit the meter of this tune, which is what I have been using.

However, to add to the confusion; at least one of the "cards" THAT I HAVE FOUND CALLS FOR THE WORDS TO BE SUNG TO THE TUNE "Flow Gentle Sweet Afton" and I have also heard it sung to the tune of the Hymn "We gather together to ask the Lord's Blessing."

All of this just points to a more beautiful ritual and more complete ritual. While I am happy to sing at any Chapter or Festival where I am, imagine how much more meaningful and impressive it would be to have the whole procession singing. Imagine how good it would be for every chapter to do this at every degree. It only takes one to start.

In future issues of the Triple Tau, I will give you more of my explorations with the music of Royal Arch and I invite you to share your knowledge with me.

David W. Dossette

RAM FOUNDATION

Does your Chapter have a program to be 100% contributors to the your Royal Arch Foundation this year of a minimum of \$1.00 per member?

It is your Foundation. It must grow in order to help cover the cost of operation of your Grand Chapter.

Send your Chapter and individual contributions to: James E. Hawn, Secretary, 41508 Woodland Creek Dr., Novi, MI 48375-3471.



East Central Regional Royal Arch Annual Meeting
 Ft. Wayne Indiana
 March 9-11, 2007

The Grand Officers of RAM of Michigan joined with the Grand Officers of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Wisconsin for a working educational program to share ideas and programs and assist them in planning for the future.
BUT, while the men are at work the women shall play!!!

Some of the ladies went to the Botanical Gardens on Saturday afternoon after their luncheon. All the flowers were in bloom for spring and as we went through the exhibits we found a "worm tunnel" (for kids). After a little persuasion, Nancy Helm (our Gr. Treasurer's wife) crawled thru. There was a whole group encouraging her on. Nancy was the only brave one to try this, but a very good time was had by all.

You see Nancy here exiting and coming to very end of her very enjoyable journey. It's great to be a kid again. Cork board, not sand at the end.

Pictures taken by the ladies of Indiana.

Article submitted by:
 Mary Johnston
 Janet Schneider



**General Grand Chapter
 Ritual Award**

"Without the Hope of Fee or Reward"

The General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International announces the establishment of an award to acknowledge those Companions who work **"Without the Hope of Fee or Reward"** and excel in ritualistic work.

A beautiful jewel has been struck for this purpose and it shall be awarded to those Companions who have performed the following ritualistic parts:

1. Conferred the Mark Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
2. Conferred the Past Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
3. Conferred the Most Excellent Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
4. Conferred the royal Arch Degree as the High Priest (Joshua)

The Companion must have performed the above parts **from memory**, on at least two (2) occasions for actual candidates. The work must be accomplished being the time period of January 1, 2002 and August 15, 2008.

Nominations

Secretaries of Constituent Chapter are to send nomination forms to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary is to send the nomination form to the General Grand High Priest, who will have the Companion's name inscribed on the jewel and returned to the Grand Secretary for presentation. The jewel shall be presented to the Companion at a Chapter Convocation.

Please note? This award may or may not be continued into the next triennium.

Nomination Form

(Please duplicate as necessary)

I certify that Companion _____ a member in good standing
 Of _____ Chapter No. _____ in the Jurisdiction of _____
 _____ has performed the required ritualistic parts
 and is entitled to wear the Ritualistic Jewel.

_____, 20____
 Secretary Date

Constituent Secretaries send to Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary, send to:
 Larry E. Gray, GGHP
 2250 E. 550 N. Greenfield, IN 46140-9007

Importance of Chapter and Council to a Mason

The evolution of Freemasonry since it came into the modern ear in 1717 with the forming of the 1st Grand Lodge in England has been a long and arduous adventure and task. Masonry proposes that it has changed little since its formation in 1717.

Is Masonry the same as it was when it was originally conceived? Yes and No.

Yes. The moral teachings and lessons are basically the same. They have not changed much over all these many years. A Master Mason today is and would have been a Master Mason in years gone by, and vice versa.

No. Throughout the years Masons have had a tendency to make things more palatable for the common man to join. In some instances shortening the length of time, both on a given evening, in what he required for the candidate to learn, and in some cases in the length of time between the receiving of one degree and the next.

How does the Chapter and Council fit into this entire situation?

The Mark Master Mason Degree offered in the Chapter was originally a part of the Fellowcraft Degree and was removed for expedience of the degree. It used to be required that a Fellowcraft had to be a "Marked Man" prior to completing the Fellowcraft and being able to pursue his endeavors as a Master Mason. That portion of the Fellowcraft Degree has been carried on for the benefit of all Master Masons in the Royal Arch Chapter.

In the Master Mason Degree the Brother is taught the substitute word for the Master Mason. The Master Mason Degree used to give the Brother the substitute word and then explain to him the true word and meaning of the Word of a Master Mason. Again this latter portion of the ritual was removed for expediency reasons. The degree was way to long for the average man. Too much to learn and know at any one time. Too much to expect him to be able to comprehend. That portion of the Master Mason Degree explaining the True Word of a Master Mason has been preserved in the Royal Arch Chapter.

In many jurisdictions a Brother desiring to become the Master of his Lodge must have instruction relative to his operation of a Lodge. These jurisdictions require that the Brother receive the degree of Past Master, prior to or at the time of his being installed as a Master of his Lodge. This degree is conferred in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The Most Excellent Master Degree is peculiar to the United States. In it we discover how the Masters Word was preserved for future generations to discover. This degree cannot be shown to have any special significance to any of the original degrees of Masonry. It has been incorporated into the Royal Arch system of Degrees as an education building block of Masonry.

The Cryptic Degrees of the Council are the royal and the Select Master Degrees. The Council was a part of the Grand Chapter of Michigan and many other Grand Jurisdictions when they were first formed. These degrees were and are continued explanatory degrees for those of the Master Mason and the 1st three degree in Masonry.

The Royal Master Degree explains in a short, but, very beautiful and impressive manner the reason for the Lost Word and the explanation for the hiding of the Word for future generations.

In the Select Masters Degree the sacred treasures are deposited in a secret location, later to be found in the Royal Arch Degree. The Degree impresses upon you a lesson of patience. Besides the lesson of patience the allegory of this Degree contains the preservation of the Master's Word.

The Super Excellent Master Degree is the only degree in Masonry that deals with the actual destruction of the first temple in Jerusalem. It is an expansion of the depiction of the Royal Arch Degree but deals with the results of being unfaithful to your vows and obligations.

The degrees within the Council beautifully expand and explain the degrees portrayed in the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Since the Chapter Degrees were and should be considered an integral part of degrees portrayed to the Master Mason so should those of the Council in order for a Master Mason better understand and therefore practice those moral and spiritual lessons taught to a Master Mason.

In order to understand the true meaning of any story, one should read all of the chapters within a book. A Master Mason who has not yet received the degrees of Chapter and Council have only received three of the chapters in a very beautiful soliloquy. The Master Mason has received a story that is yet unfinished or completely explained.

GRAND CHAPTER OFFICE – VACTATION

Beth and Paul will be going on Vacation for a few days. April 19th through April 29th.

The office will be closed.

Please hold all emails, letter, phone calls and questions during that time.

They are leaving to get rejuvenated for the upcoming Annual Returns coming in and the Grand Session.

Please understand and forgive.

Triple Tau

#1. Articles for the May Issue **MUST** be submitted by the **15th of April**, if you have any desire to have them printed in the **May** issue!!!

There will be no June Issue of the Triple Tau so anything that you want published in that Issue must be presented for the **May Issue**. **Due date for submission is April 15th**. That means that you must plan well in advance.

Send articles to Paul Howell at: meghpmi97@comcast.net

PORT HURON CHAPTER NO. 27
Meritorious Service Award Dinner

Honoring

Harvey E. Isabell

Friday, April 27th

CRYSTAL GARDENS

1195 Gratiot Blvd.
Marysville, Michigan 48040

Reception 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM

Cash Bar

\$17.00 per person

For Reservations contact:

Terry G. Baker
1936 Michigan Ave.
Marysville, MI 48040
810.364.7352
E-mail: mrmrswhip@aol.com

Rituals Open During Degree Work:

As I have been traveling around to the various observe the various degree work in the state I have noticed that several Companions have been reading the degree work while it is going on. Following along in the ritual!

This I am sure is intended, by the Companion, to help them learn the work.

You cannot learn the work in this manner!!!

Read the degree through before you come in.

Follow the work in your mind, as it is being performed for you.

Most of us learn by watching or doing. You cannot watch while you are attempting to read!!! *Paul C. Howell, PGHP*



2007 YORK RITE
GOLF OUTING
GRAND CHAPTER GRAND COUNCIL
GRAND COMMANDERY

To all Companions and Sir Knights:

Sunday August 5th. The day to have fun, fellowship to raise funds for the York Rite charities. The profits will be equally divided between the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery, for the charity that each Grand Body chooses

This event is a four person scramble for members, family and friends (Men or Women). The cost is \$60.00 per person. This includes, 18 holes of golf, cart, dinner and prizes. Make up your foursome. [If you do not have one we will place you on a team]. Tee off time is 11:00 A.M. on the #1 tee.

If you do not play golf and would like to fellowship come join us for dinner at 4:30 P.M. The cost for the dinner is only \$18.00.

We are asking all Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies to sponsor a hole or tee box for \$25.00.

Come and join us at the Gladwin Heights Golf Course 3551 W, M-61 Gladwin.
Their telephone number is 989-426-9941.

For more information contact,
Larry A. Inscho at 989-795-2138
Stephen R. Stringow at 248-6343479 or
Bill P. Herlihy at 810-346-5792
Complete the attached form and return by July 1, 2007
Larry A. Inscho
P.O. Box 143
Fostoria, Mich. 48435-0143

Make as many copies as needed and return bottom half

We would like to sponsor a hole or tee box please let the sign read.

I will be participating
name _____

playing with _____

Attend dinner only No. _____ x \$18.00 = _____

Enclosed please find payment Total \$ _____

Make check payable to Larry A. Inscho Memo: Golf Outing

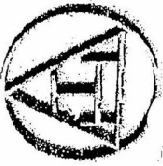
Please mark dinner choice:

Steak No. of _____

Chicken No. of _____

Bedford Chapter # 188

Royal Arch Masons



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A
RECEPTION
AND
TESTIMONIAL DINNER

HONORING

EXCELLENT COMPANION
RONALD L. WILSON, PHP

RECIPIENT OF THE
MICHIGAN GRAND CHAPTER
MERITORIOUS AWARD

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007
BEDFORD MASONIC CENTER
BEDFORD, MICHIGAN

RECEPTION 6:00 PM
DINNER 7:00 PM
\$12.50 PER PERSON
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

RESERVATIONS WITH REMITTANCE
BY APRIL 7, 2007 TO:
ARNOLD L. FENRICH SR.
10211 TERRY LANE
PORTAGE, MI 49002-7105
1-269-327-9752
MLFENZ1@IDS.NET

PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACES AT \$12.50 EACH FOR DINNER.
MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$_____ IS ENCLOSED

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BEDFORD CHAPTER # 188, R.A.M.

NAME _____
TITLE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Cordially invites you to the Upper Peninsula Royal Arch All Degree Day Saturday, April 21, 2007

Marquette Masonic Temple
128 West Washington Street Marquette, Michigan 49855

10:00 a.m. (EST) Upper Michigan York Rite College Annual Assembly (Members welcome)

11:30 a.m. LUNCH

12:30 p.m. MARK MASTER DEGREEMarquette # 43

1:35 p.m. PAST MASTER DEGREE.....Delta # 118 / Manistique # 127 R.A.M.

2:15 p.m. MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE.....Mackinaw # 134 R.A.M.

3:30 p.m. ROYAL ARCH DEGREE..... Grand Chapter Officers

6:00 p.m. DINNER at Marquette Masonic Temple

To honor CLARENCE SHINER, MSA

7:00 p.m. Royal Arch Widows Degree (Whole Family Invited) - Grand Chapter

Anyone desiring overnight accommodations should make them direct with the Motel:
Rooms have been blocked for Friday & Saturday Evening at the Cedar Motor Inn - (888) 551-
7378 - Mention York Rite when calling (Hospitality Room will be at the Cedar Motor Inn Confer-
ence Room)

PRE-PAID MEAL RESERVATION REQUIRED

Please reserve _____ tickets for Chapter All Degree Day Lunch/Dinner to be held at Marquette
Masonic Temple on April 21, 2007.
Cost: \$ 15.00 per person TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Your Name: _____ Chapter # _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____

Make Checks Payable to: Marquette Chapter, No. 43. Reservations must be received no later than April 10,
2007. Tickets can be picked up at the Temple when you arrive. Send this Reservation Form together with your
check to: Bill LeVeque, E 9586 Cedar Street, Wetmore, Michigan 49895 H; (906) 387-3068 Call: (906)
250-1961, Email: bleveque@up.net

Capitular Masonry Working for the Betterment of Masonry.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Masonic Fraternity.

April 2007

Capitular Masonry working for all of Masonry.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
1 Palm Sunday	2	3 First day of Passover	4	5 6:30 PM Ypsilanti KT Inspection - Dinner	6 Good Friday	7																																																																																																			
8 Easter Sunday	9	10 7:00 PM Ann Arbor Council Royal Degree Last day of Passover	11	12	13	14 7:00 PM Meritorious Service Award Dinner - Bedford - Reception 6 pm																																																																																																			
15 Triple Tau Articles Due	16	17	18	19 7:30 PM Northville KT Installation	20	21 12:30 PM Marquette - All Chapter Degree Day - MSA Dinner - 6 pm																																																																																																			
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Capitular Masonry Working for the Betterment of Masonry.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Masonic Fraternity.

Amendments to the Grand Chapter

Do you have an Amendment to the Grand Chapter Law Book?

If you wish them to be presented for consideration at the Grand Convocation this year they must be submitted prior to May 15th, 2007.

If you have corrections that need to be made to the Red Book it is being reviewed prior to submission by the committee. Send corrections to: Wayne E. Turton, weturton@talkamerica.net, Gordon Ruthruff, ruthruffg@bellsouth.net or Paul Johnston, paulcj01@comcast.net