

## ROCHESTER DRAGON PATROL

The Rochester Dragon Patrol is a parade unit affiliated with Osman Shrine, which is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota. All Dragon Patrol members are Shriners. The Dragon's name is Chang, and the unit has been seen in dozens of parades around Rochester, southern Minnesota and around the country. Chang is very popular, and when parade-goers see the dragon meandering down the street, they will often signal him to come spit some dragon breath on them, especially on a hot day.

This history celebrates 30 years of entertaining parade audiences.



Chang at Shriner's Hospital for Children - Twin Cities.

#### WHAT IS A SHRINER?

**Values -** Shriners, called Nobles, are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged in ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need through the Shriners Hospital for Children, which we consider the World's Greatest Philanthropy. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build relationships that can last a lifetime.

**History** - In New York in the 1870s, a group of Masons, including Walter M. Fleming, M.D. and William J. "Billy" Florence, an actor, talked about starting a new fraternity for Masons – one centered on fun and fellowship, more than ritual.

Florence suggested the exotic style, flavors and music of an Arabian party as a theme for the new fraternity. Fleming used his knowledge of fraternal ritual to transform the Arabian theme into the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.).

With the help of the Knickerbocker Cottage regulars, Fleming drafted the ritual, designed the emblem and costumes, formulated a salutation and declared that members would wear the red fez. The first meeting of Mecca Shriner's, the first temple (chapter) established in the United States, was held September 26, 1872.

**Osman Shrine St Paul** - The heart of any Shrine is its Clubs and Units. Whether it is a club to have a dinner occasionally with friends or a car unit that is in any number of parades, each group is where the fun happens.

Clubs and Units - Osman has seven Clubs, which are generally social rather than performance orientated. Osman Clubs are located in Winona, Rochester, Mankato, Austin, Albert Lea, St. Cloud, and Alexandria as well as several in the metropolitan St. Paul area.

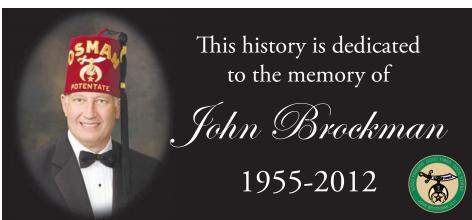
Osman has 20 Units, which are normally parade or performance

orientated. The color and pageantry of the Shrine is shown to the public through the Units.

There is an Oriental Band in Austin. Parading ATVs in Alexandria. T-Bird little cars in Mankato. Go-Carts and Classic Cars in St. Cloud. Cycle Patrol Motorcycles, Zagalas Classic Cars, Merry Medic Clowns, and the Dragon Patrol in Rochester. St Paul has the Drum & Bugle Corps, Bagpipers, Chanters, Clowns, Legion of Honor Color Guard, Mighty Mite Cars, Classic Cars, Harley-Davidson Motorcycles and the Provost Guard.

All Clubs and Units have meetings, practices, dances, picnics, or parties throughout the year. In addition, there are numerous Osman-wide functions scheduled throughout the year, which includes Shriner Ladies and/or family, such as the Potentate's Ball, Family Picnic, and pilgrimages every summer to the Midwest Shrine Association convention and the Imperial Session

Shriners International and
Shriners Hospitals for Children - The greatest fraternal organization in the world. We support 22 orthopedic and burn hospitals across North America. The healing and support of children and their families is of utmost concern to all Shriners. This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay. If you know of a child who needs our help or a prospective member, please contact us at 612-596-6100 or 1-888-293-2832.



# ROCHESTER DRAGON PATROL 30 YEARS ON THE STREET

The inception of the Rochester Dragon actually started around 1980 with the first organizational meeting taking place on March 25, 1981. The first parade didn't occur until Saturday, August 14th, 1982 at Chatfield Minnesota's Western Days celebration.

Around 1980, Noble Herb Erickson attended

the ice capades and saw a dragon carried by skaters. He turned to his wife and said "Wow, that would be a great parade unit." So it was in 1981 Noble Herb's dream became reality with the formation of the unit.

Noble Herb worked with Osman



Temple to create the new Rochester Unit called the Dragon Patrol. On May 27, 1981, the charter members elected officers, set dues at \$5.00, and worked relentlessly to raise money for the construction of the Dragon's head and body.

A monthly newsletter was started to inform members of progress.

Herb began working with several companies, some as far away as California, to design the Dragon's head and body. Street and dress clothing was chosen for the Dragon fighters, and they practiced in empty lots before the first

parade to become proficient in herding the Dragon.

Herb has served twice as the President of the Dragon Patrol, in 1981 and 1982, and still attends functions.

hen the by-laws were approved by then Potentate D. Sam Erickson on September 14, 1981, the units members were Nobles: Bert Aikens, Phil Aldritt, Bob Amundson, Russell Billings Sr., Jerry Bothun, Bud Deedrick, Herb Erickson, Newell Glarner, Clayton Hofstad, Bill Hubbard, Jerry Korstad, Dick Navratil, Chuck Richter, OJ Rinehart, Al Shufelt, Lester Stiles, and Bill Witte.

In 1982 the first published membership list included the following names: Bert Aikens-Sec/Treasurer, Chuck Albrant-Sgt at Arms, Phil Aldritt, Bob Amundson, Russell Billings Sr., Jerry Bothun, Lew Brownlow, Harry Christian, Ralph Deedrick, Herb Erickson-President, Mark Erickson, Newell Glarner, Lee Hargesheimer, Gale Hill, Clayton Hofstad, Bill Hubbard, Jerry Korstad, Harvey Kuckenbecker, Clarence Kuhlmann, Don McLeod, Fred Miller, Spencer Munkel, Dick Navratil, Chuck Richter-Vice President, O.J. Reinhart, Al Shufelt, Lester Stiles, and Bill Witte.

#### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the funds necessary to build and maintain our 22 Shrine Hospitals for Children with orthopedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries, to help them live normal, active and healthy lives. We do this without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay.

A portion of our fundraising is accomplished by Shriner's across the nation performing at parades and receiving money from sponsors at each community.

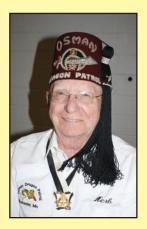
Since the first year through 2012 the Dragon Patrol has

donated over \$160,000.00 to charity. The Patrol has always been self sufficient, fund raising for the purchasing of the dragon head, dragon body, vehicles, fuel, CO<sup>2</sup>, and repairs. The Nobles pay for their own uniforms, clothing, food, refreshments, and fuel to get their personal vehicles to parades. The money left each year after operating expenses is donated to Osman Shrine's Parade to Glory to support Shriner's Hospitals For Children.

Thank you to those responsible for sponsoring us at your community's celebration.

## NOBLE HERB ERICKSON

## Dragon Patrol Founder



Noble Herb Erickson and lady Joan were instrumental in starting the Dragon Patrol. Herb, who was a Shriner and a Merry Medic

Clown, wanted to start a new unit. Once he got enough people interested, the group was formed. Herb spread petitions to men he worked with and friends, plus he activated Shriners who had never joined a unit.

Because of this he received the crown jewel for recruiting 20+ new members. This jewel is highly regarded and few Shriners ever meet this accomplishment.

Because of his vision, The Dragon Patrol is one of Osman's most active units. Herb wrote in the May 1982 newsletter - "I stopped to see the Dragon being built, It's absolutely going to be a tremendous thing when it's done. We have a great unit in the making — I guarantee it." How right he was ...

We must thank Herb for saving all of the memorabilia from the beginning, it has helped make putting this history together much easier. Herb has so much more information that wouldn't possibly fit in this history, and there are thousands of pictures that the members have provided. The information in this thirty-year history are just some highlights we hope you enjoy.

#### FINDING A DRAGON MAKER

Some requirements

were; smoke from the

nose, screen in the body

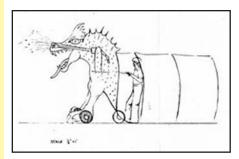
to see the crowd and

provide ventilation,

along with being

colorful and durable.

The first company contacted to make the dragon was from Burlington, Iowa. After sending them several pictures of what we thought our dragon might look like the company sent a copy of the first sketch below.



#### Sketch of a proposed Dragon from a company in lowa

Progress from the Iowa company didn't materialize so another

company in Castro Valley, California, was contacted by letter. Some requirements were; smoke from the nose, screen in the body to see the crowd and provide ventilation, along with being colorful and durable. The

Company returned the sketch below.

After further contact, we received no response from the company.

In January of 1982, Noble Herb contacted Chanhassen Dinner Theatre in the Twin Cities inquiring who may be able to make a dragon. About a week later in return mail was a letter from Maggie Belle Calin who was interested in talking about the project. A month later on March 15th, 1982, she returned a letter with details and a cost for the project. Eight men in the body, moving eyes, opening jaw, smoke from the nostrils, and two men to carry the head. Cost \$5,000, with delivery on July 1st. The approval was granted and the Nobles continued to ask what it might look like.

On the next page is Maggie's first sketch plus photos of the styrofoam

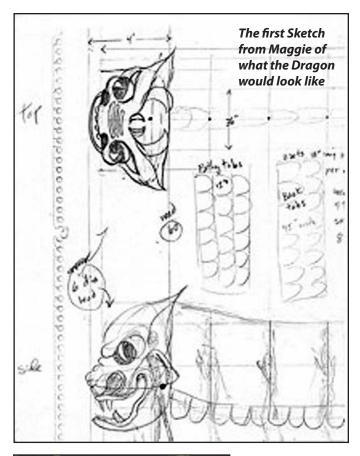
she carved to make a mold to glue the pieces of leather together that would make up the dragon's scales.

The eyes were made of styrofoam and leather covers them. The front of the eyes are painted

white and black. She made an aluminum frame to support the

leather head.







Maggie made an aluminum frame to support the leather head.



Maggie made a Styrofoam mold for the jaw



#### FUNDRAISING



Table at 1986 Midwest to sell Baby Chang dolls. Pictured are Audrey Hanson, Ed Highum, Betty Ireland, Audrey Highum)

Some of the many fundraisers held were breakfast fundraiser gatherings, raffle tickets were sold for

homemade afghans and crocheted table cloths, silent auctions were held, garbage

bags were sold by the case, Nobles sold dinner tickets to Sandy



Point, the Ladies made stuffed toys and sold them, donation requests were sent

to local businesses, and garage sales were held.

Around 1985, Betty Ireland, who had used her sewing talents making dozens of uniforms for the group, started making Baby Chang dolls for gifts. They were so popular that they were made for sale to fundraise for the Unit. She also made small dragons that members attached to their shoulder. Almost all the dolls are gone today, one large one survives in our trophy case in the Shrine room, and a few shoulder mascots have survived.



"Is the head heavy to carry?" asks Millie Richter.

The Nobles had traveled several times to a warehouse

next to the Metrodome to see how the progress was coming and finally in June of 1982, Nobles and Ladies went to

In 1982, Chang blew his first puff of Dragon breath.

Chang at home in Rochester! 1982

**Testing Chang** for the first time

But before loading it, they paraded around in the parking lot of the Metrodome. Two men carried the head, two people held the poles for the wings, and there were eight in the body.

pick up the Dragon.

The Dragon was at home in Rochester! There were cost overruns so the group had to do more



Chang leaves the warehouse where he was made - carried!

fundraising, but in the meantime, one of the first discussions was that two men could not possibly carry the Dragon head through an entire parade. So the members got together and put wheels under the dragon so they could push it through the parades. Since those early days,



Marching across the street at the Metrodome

there have been many modifications to the original design of the wheels, most recently updating the front bicycle tire to a motorcycle tire to support the heavier loads required for today's longer parades.

The early sound was

complicated with many components, today it's a battery and C/D player with a CD continuous loop. We remove the battery for charging and that's it.

About the same time, in 1982, the first Dragon emblem was designed — his name is CHANG! It was chosen by people entering names into a hat, those names were reviewed by the membership and "Chang" was chosen.

The Dragon has been very popular, evident by our requests over the years to return to the same parades year after year. We are so appreciative to those communities for supporting Shriners. \*



Chuck Richter and Herb Erickson check the body.

#### NEWSPAPER CLIPS



Chang's first parade in Chatfield Saturday August 14th 1982 - Front page of Rochester Post Bulletin on Monday in COLOR!

There are many newspaper articles and pictures of Chang. After Chang appeared on the front page of the Rochester Post Bulletin; his next picture was in IBM's site publication "Rochester Today" after appearing at the IBM family picnic at Woodside Park in 1982. Chang was even pictured in the 1995 US WEST telephone directory. Chang makes a colorful photo and is popular with the newspapers.

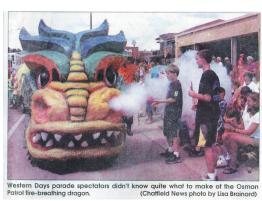
If you see a picture in your local newspaper, please send it to the Dragon Patrol. We don't catch all of them, but the ones we have are on our web page under GENERAL

NEWS. Here are some highlights. 35



Chang in Lanesboro - 1985





Chatfield Western Days - 2004



Dragon on the loose

Rushford 1986

The Rochester Shrine Dragon Patrol does its keep its colorful dragon under control as it deligitators along the parade route at the Rushford Days parade Saturday. See page 3 for story and

Grande Parade Winona parade in 1988



Lake City Water Ski Days - 2009



**Blooming Prairie in 2009** 

#### PARADES - GETTING READY

There is a lot of work involved in providing outstanding entertainment to each community. We start in February by e-mailing cities about our Unit. (In the beginning communication was done by letters in the mail) We tell communities about our Unit. Most have seen us before but there are always new parade chairmen that we need to educate and acquire their names and e-mail addresses. We tell them about our philanthropy of the Shriner Hospitals and Burn Centers, and our website



Wheels were added to the head to roll down the ramps.

and Facebook page. Our fee is determined by the distance from Rochester, because of the fuel component. Our Dragon Patrol Parade Chairman makes all the contacts, and provides and collects information. He then brings the



Pat Johnson adjusts shoulder belt to carry the hoop.



Chang is unloaded on a bed frame in the early years.

request to a monthly Dragon Patrol meeting to vote on first come first served requests. After Nobles agree to do the parade, contact is made to the community's chairman for confirmation. The parade is scheduled and listed on our website www.rochesterdragon.com. When the parade season approaches, the members check over all of the

equipment and vehicle. The vehicle needs DOT inspections annually, and inspections are also done by each driver before each parade.

We need to schedule the delivery of smoke and get



Attaching the gong.



An old boat trailer was converted to haul the PUG.



Unloading the head is easier in the new ramped trailer.

members to sign up to participate in the parades. When it's parade day, the driver starts an hour earlier picking up the truck. He does vehicle/trailer inspections, loads supplies and then travels to get fuel,



John Hanson.



Bob Pavek installs the US and Canada flags to the cart.



Al Shufelt unhooks the body and tail hoops.



Spear storage. Bruce Thomas takes out the gong.

ice, and water. He then drives to the meeting point for members to board. We leave early, as we need to arrive one hour before the parade or you cannot navigate the big rig through the parade lineup gauntlet. We then map our route, taking into consideration road construction. Once we find our number along the parade route, the Nobles jump into action to set up the Unit. We unhook Chang, slide him out and stand him up, install the smoke tanks, install the battery for the growl and test it. We then unhook the golf cart and drive it out, attach





John Brockman & Chris Koenig set up hoops



Doug Brick prepares to hook up the smoke tanks



By the number of tanks here and plus 8 in the racks, it's going to be a long day ... 4th of July requires 16 tanks!

section is assembled and clipped, the body is connected to the head and "we're ready"! (We are on our 3rd fabric body - one lasts approximately 10 years. A new one custom-made costs about \$5,000. It includes 96 yards of material and 2,500 sequins)

The assistant parade chairman assigns



Brent Kisro and Nancy Fish hook up the body to Chang's head.

Dragon duties for the Nobles. Some have favorite spots. Others have "stage fright" and want to be on the inside. Others don't care where they go. If enough members are present, we suit someone up in the Baby Dragon.

When we are done, it's all in reverse. On the fourth of July we generally do three parades. It's a long-hot-grueling day!

Occasionally we struggle to



Stan Mann and Bert Aikens



Driving out the golf cart. Smoke cylinders on left.



Jerry Pulver unrolls the body.



Lowell Parsons, Al Shufelt, Al Nerland get dressed

get enough members to sign up for parades. This is something all Units and Clubs have to work through. Our

membership is diverse and each member has a family, all have family activities to attend, and most are active in other fraternal clubs and organizations that also require their attendance. Did you know that all Shriner's have to become a Mason first before you can hold Shrine membership? Each Shriner belongs to a Masonic Lodge, and many hold offices in their respective lodge and other Shrine clubs and units.

We each work through finding the balance to give our best to support the Shrine Hospitals.

We appreciate the never ending work by our Assistant Parade



Mechanics tinker to get cart running. Anybody check fuel?



John Brockman and Dave Koenig

Chairman who finds the people needed to put the show on the street each week. There is no doubt though, once we are at the parade and on the street, it's always a grand performance!

# A FAMILY AFFAIR Dads - Sons - Brothers

For some members it's a family affair belonging to the Masonic Lodge and Shrine clubs and units.



Chris Koenig left, Dave Koenig right with dad Past Potentate Al Koenig center.

Dan Meyer with dad Mike Meyer.





Nick Thomas with dad Bruce Thomas.



Jake and dad Dan Rasmussen.



Past
Potentate
John
Brockman
with brothers
Jim
Brockmancenter and
Tom
Brockman.

#### BABY CHANG

It is very difficult to navigate with the baby Chang's head over yours. You can see out through the mouth if the tongue doesn't get in the way. It is also extremely hot inside the costume. It's fun to walk up behind the sideliners and tap them on the shoulder. Only bad thing is - it's picture time again!

Baby Chang makes friends along the route during parades working the sidelines to attract attention.

There were two baby Chang costumes made in the early years. Nobody remembers exactly who made them or the date. Somewhere around 1992 one of the costumes disappeared. The other costume has been replaced once but it still is the same head.

















## ZHOWTIME!









Chang "smokes" fellow Shriner from the Albert Lea cars at the Mantorville parade.





History of the Rochester Dragon Patrol





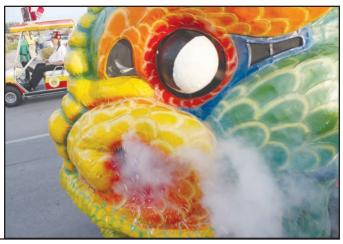




Don't get too close - Potentate Mike Awada gets a full dose of Dragon breath. Bob Pavek drives as Dick Navratil watches.



Charlie Richter guiding Chang in Regina Canada 1982



History of the Rochester Dragon Patrol

#### FROM THE INSIDE

It would be hard to explain how it feels or looks when you are on the inside of the Dragon during a parade. If you close your eyes you feel the sun's intense heat from being under the body. Your feet can feel the heat radiating through your shoes from the blacktop. You can hear the oriental music from the cart that leads the Dragon. There are cheers and applause from the crowd,

"Here Comes The Dragon!"
Open your eyes and you

sometimes see sheer terror in the faces of the newcomers on the parade route as others are smiling or grinning from



The crowd viewed from inside the dragon.

ear to ear. Usually the operators in the head can hear the cheers and applause from the crowd and head right for the sound to greet them! The dragon fighters have "dragon stickers" on their spears that they give to frightened children

along the parade route. It changes them from being scared to thinking about the sticker. There have been many different colors of stickers over the years.

Some kids think they are pretty tough and challenge the Dragon to a stand-off. Chang will just stop and growl, moving his mouth and eyes. When the challenger turns or



Derek Berg adjusts the hoop.



Brent Kisro and Bruce Thomas prepare for take-off.



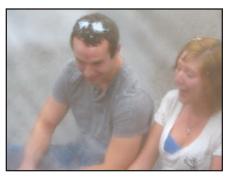
Whoa! Where did they go?

looks away, (usually distracted by one of the Dragon fighters) Chang delivers a huge blast from his nostrils which almost always sends them on their way

with wide eyes as others around them hold up their hands to protect themselves.

When the parade slows down, children are encouraged to come and pet the dragon. When they walk away, Chang snorts some smoke in friendship. The crowd is laughing and applauding with appreciation for the Dragon. On hot days everyone begs to get a blast to cool off. A

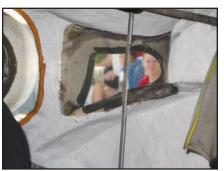
nose blast always gets the sideliners utmost attention, and for a short time those of us on the inside cannot see them through the smoke. On days right after a rain, the smoke just hangs on the street for a long



Oh my gosh, is that snow on your head? Another shot from inside the dragon.

time. Those are the best days for the smoke.

There is a lot going on inside. There are two people inside the head. We have to navigate down the street, sometimes straying from the street to a nearby driveway or



A view through the dragon's eye.

garage to target a group that's not on the curb. Once we even went through a gas station.

The guys in the head control the sound of the Dragon's growl, eye movement,

jaw movement by a large lever, and of course they have to make sure they don't run into anything or anyone. They can see out the edge of the dragons eyes as they bend over and push the three wheeled head. Lastly, they need to make precision dustings of what the crowd calls *Dragon Snot*, short releases so we don't scare toddlers, and large blasts for those older. They say, "What is that?" "Oh,



The room is tight to walk and steer - nice socks!

that's cold," or "that feels so good." Moms reassure their children by saying "there are people inside there -

look at the people's feet" (sometimes we respond from the inside saying "HELP - the Dragon ate us." :-)

The guys on the inside shout "pass it back,"
"manhole," "chuckhole,"
"railroad tracks," "horse\*\*\*\*"
as they navigate the many obstacles on the streets!

The tail guy probably does as much work as the guys in the head. It's tricky work - going forward, then reverse, watching the heavy, 8-foot tail section so you don't hit someone along the route. The guys in the body need to be sure they don't walk into the person in front of them and they need to keep the dragon body tight without too many sags while they continually

We are careful around

wipe the sweat from

their brow.



horses, as they don't like Chang. Dogs are a bit skittish too, even if they think they're going to get one of our ankles. When the smoke is blown the dogs usually beat-feet under their owner's chair. Once a Great Dane took the chair he was tied to with him. The person sitting in the chair wasn't so lucky; he didn't go with the chair. It's all part of the entertainment for the crowd as they watch the children's faces and other sideliners.

I can tell you without doubt though, if Chang had a dollar for every picture taken over the last 30 years he would be a millionaire!



Bert Aikens yells "chuck hole!"



**Dan Rasmussen and Bruce Thomas** 



Yeww - Dragon Snot!







Osman Shrine Board Members Mike Nehm, above. and Sean Gardiner, left, take a turn under the dragon for a parade.



Oh, I got that picture!

#### DRAGON WAGON

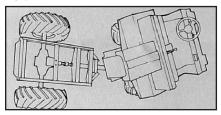
In the Dragon Patrol there are two kinds of Nobles, the walkers and the non-walkers. Both are an integral part of the patrol.

Without walkers we cannot get the dragon on the street, without non-walkers we cannot get the truck, cart, gong, and oriental music on the street. When the Patrol was just a dream, top on the criteria list was the need for older Nobles to participate during parades without walking. The charter members discussed a way to haul those non-walking Nobles.

Nobles decided to have some sort of open vehicle to haul the nonwalkers. Noble Bob Amundson offered an articulating all terrain vehicle that he used to haul wood



Above, Bob Amundson loads the PUG for the first time. Below, sketch of the PUG





The PUG and trailer was painted red and yellow

from the woods to his house. He had purchased it from the Christian Ranch in Stewartville earlier. It was in need of a face lift so Bob offered to fix it up, repaint it and install seats on it so that during the summer the Patrol could use it to haul the "retired" Nobles. He tore it down, it was painted, and Bob made seats for the back that lifted off in the fall so he could still use it to haul wood.

With the restoration of the "PUG" as it was called by members, (it was

manufactured in 1970 by Bruce Manufacturing Company in Wisconsin - model PUG) - it was soon discovered that the patrol would need a way to haul it to the parades. Noble Bob went out and purchased steel with his own money and remodeled his old boat trailer to haul the PUG. It had ramps and was

painted bright red.

He had help from many Nobles on the project, which took place at his shop at his home in Chatfield.

One thing that has made the Dragon Patrol so much fun is the diverse ability of members and spouses to design new ideas to



Dragon fighters ride the PUG in Chatfield Aug 14, 1982. Black Coolie Hats were replaced with tan in 1984, we are not sure why that happened.



The used electric cart purchased to replace the PUG

add to or make our unit better and take care of the unit by ourselves. Members continuously share their expertise by donating their time and talent to making the unit better.

On Feb 1, 1986 the articulating PUG caught fire in Bob's shed and was destroyed. The Patrol bought an electric cart which Bob says didn't

work very well.

A new trailer was made by Cramer Welding in Chatfield. This cart, which was not articulating, was ready for its first parade in Spring Grove on May 17, 1986. After four years of issues with the electric cart, it completed its last parade in Cannon Falls



The used Yamaha Golf cart debuts in Mason City lowa

on May 6, 1990.

The Patrol bought a used Yamaha golf cart to replace the problematic electric cart, it debuted in Mason City on June 2, 1990.

Since that time the golf cart

has had a few changes. A roof was added, the gong was mounted on the back of the cart, a big red FEZ was mounted on the top, speakers and a sound system were added to play the



The golf cart decorated looks pretty nice.

oriental music, along with colorful paint and graphics.
Twenty-two years later, after serving us well it's still putting along. It has started to fail

with some minor issues the last couple of years, so we are fundraising for a new golf cart to continue to carry our non-walking Nobles into the future during parades.

#### KEEPING CHANG BEAUTIFUL



Above and below, Ladies work to add frill to the bottom of Chang's body at the Holiday Inn South in the 1980's







Repairing Chang's hide in 1995.

#### the gong



1983 - Gale Hill and Chuck Albrant

Some say we have the original "Gong Show." The first gong was borrowed for the summer from John Marshall HS Music Department. We purchased our own gong the next year. It was carried on a pole by two Nobles the first few years and was gonged when the dragon smoke was released. After a few years the gong



Dr. Ken Guidera, Chief of Staff at the Shriners Hospital for Children - Twin Cities, testing the gong when Chang visited the hospital in 2012.



1986 - Bill Hubbard and John Haverly

was mounted on the golf cart so the riders could hit the gong as they drove or rode the cart. This freed up two walkers to be dragon fighters or inside the dragon. The Dragon Patrol is unique because it is one of a few walking units in Shrinedome. Most units are motorized, but Chang is powered by muscle and sweat.



Mike Meyer, Norm House (age 96) and Newell Glarner

#### CHANG'S MOBILITY

Chang was hauled to the first parade in Chatfield on a snowmobile trailer without the yellow box.



A snowmobile trailer carried the yellow box on Chang's maiden Midwest voyage to Regina. After a few miles, sheets of plywood were fastened as an air dam to relieve Noble Jerry Bothun's overheating van.

The first Dragon cave was the "big yellow box." A snowmobile trailer carried the yellow box on Chang's maiden Midwest voyage. It was towed behind a van to Regina, Canada in 1982. After a few miles down the road in Monticello, sheets of plywood were fastened as an air dam to help tow the trailer and relieve Noble Jerry Bothun's overheating van.

In 1983, with fundraising, a used cube van was purchased. It was a used LEGG'S pantyhose truck. Noble Art Pavlish took it to the John Marshall High School auto shop, and with help from Nobles, painted it red and white with a yellow stripe. The truck wasn't very big and we still needed to tow the trailer, although it was an appreciated

upgrade.

Soon hand-painted graphics were applied to give Chang's new home an identity.

This vehicle worked well until the 1989 Midwest session in Minneapolis. While navigating the parking lot at the Lost Spur the front A-frame fell off the front end of the truck. We went inside

the clubhouse and told Nobles of our plight. A fellow Noble who had a Twin Cities auto repair shop told us he called his wrecker, and he would have the truck hauled to his shop and welded back up and aligned. He had it back at the Spur the for the next Midwest parade!

The group had decided to not do so many parades in 1989, and also to raise our parade fee. We figured we might lose some parades but would make as much money. Ironically we ended up performing in about the same number of parades in 1989, because we purchased a used Gruman

5th wheel truck/ trailer to replace the cube van that was becoming unreliable. The new truck was a used Frito Lay truck.

After the paint job, hand painted



Traveling down the highway to a parade with fresh paint!

graphics were added to Chang's new larger home. This vehicle had room in the trailer for the golf cart and Chang! The trailer also had room up front to sit, change clothes, and ride to attend parades. On the outside of the trailer's sides were large frames to hold sponsors information, and when not in parades the frames could be flipped open and the backing turned over to advertise the Shrine Hospitals. There was an intercom in the trailer to talk to the two Nobles in the truck (nobody seemed to listen to us, though). Windows were added to the front of the trailer so we could see the



The used Frito Lay Gruman 5th wheel truck and trailer at Midwest Transportation - 1989.



Hand painted graphics on Chang's new home in 1983



Dragon Truck in 1989. It's a beauty. This would be Chang's new home for the next 20 years.



Above John Hanson and Charlie Richter change into their Dragon fighting clothes.

driver and open them for fresh air.

After 20 years of tinkering with the truck and trailer to keep it running, it was voted to purchase a newer truck and trailer for Chang. A used 2001 Ford Excursion that has room for 8 Nobles and powerful enough to haul a 28 foot trailer purchased from the St. Cloud Shrine Club in 2007, would be Chang's next new digs. The truck and trailer were taken for graphics and readied for the parade season.



Riding to a parade inside the trailer, John Hanson, Lowell Parsons, Bill Witte and Norm House.

The truck and trailer participates in all parades. Its large decorated billboard on the trailer advertises the Shrine Dragon Patrol as well as picking up the rest of the unit and members at the end of the parade.



Preparing for a parade with the newer truck and trailer, 2007.





Identity change - Getting a fresh coat of new paint

#### TRANSPORTATION

Over the years Al Koenig and family has been instrumental in getting the Dragon equipment to far away Midwest sessions and to even more distant Imperial sessions. As owner of Midwest Transportation, Al has trucked the Dragon Vehicle to these venues whenever needed, such as Atlanta, Las Vegas, and Toronto. He has also provided a spot to park the Dragon vehicle at their trucking facility throughout the years providing a secure storage, electricity to charge batteries, repair and upkeep assistance. Special thanks to the Koenig family for their generosity!!



Chris Koenig unloads the first Dragon truck

Loading the Dragon truck & Cycle Patrol jeep in Toronto





Dragon truck being unloaded at Sioux City

#### CHANG'S FANS

Over the past 30 years when the gals stroll by Chang, for some reason they want their picture taken with him. There have been Queens, Misses and Princesses of this and

that, Vikings' cheerleaders and children of all ages. Sometimes Chang snorts at them. This usually results in loud screams and a fast exit.



#### DRESS

At an early meeting Maggie Belle Calin came to show the dragon sketches. She brought a friend who made Chinese clothing. She showed an outfit the group liked but they cost \$500 each. The Nobles decided to make their own. The patrol voted on the type of shirts and pants members would wear during parades and functions. The

The first windbreaker coat was yellow with a large Dragon on the back

original dress code was strict and actions on the street were precise.

It was decided that for those under the dragon in parades the dress would be black shirts, bloused black pants, and black boots. Outside Nobles would wear a colorful smock of shrine colors and black bloused pants with black boots and a coolie hat with ponytail. Joan Erickson made all of the original smocks from an altered pajama pattern. She also made the sashes and

ponytails. Over the years the Dragon Ladies have made additional smocks for the group.

Our dress attire would be a white dress shirt with the dragon emblem on the back, black dress pants and black boots. We also had matching caps and jackets. Although our first dress shirt emblem was a screened red dragon, our present shirts have a large embroidered dragon emblem on the back.

The outside Dragon fighters would carry a spear to help guide the dragon. In the beginning, the Dragon Master would walk in front of Chang carrying a scimitar. He would point to the left and the dragon was supposed to go right. Many changes have taken place as time has gone on. Today we're more about having fun and entertaining the crowd than precision. \*\*

**Our first** dress shirts were silk screened with a red emblem on the back



**Dragon fighters** dressed and ready for a parade. The dragon fighters have "dragon stickers" on their spears that they give to



children along the parade route that are frightened. It changes them from being scared to thinking about the sticker. There have been many different colors of stickers over the years.



Early red hats worn by the members with sewn-on Dragon patches.



Underneath dress is all black with Dragon tee shirts, black pants and shoes.

Our second windbreaker, black with an embroidered Dragon on the

#### MIDWEST (MSA)

Back in 1982, who would have thought that the Dragon would appear in every Midwest Shrine Association Convention parade in the US and Canada for the next 30 years? Well, Chang has made them all!



Traveling trophy with III. Sir John Perkins and Dragon Patrol President John Brockman in 1996.

In 1996, the Dragon Patrol was the first Osman Shrine unit to win the President's Traveling Trophy - "Best Unit on Parade" at the Midwest Summer Session.

In 2009, the Midwest Shrine Association held their convention in Chang's hometown of Rochester. Osman hosted 2,000 Shriner's under the

leadership of Past Potentate John Perkins, 2009 MSA



1985 Midwest (inside guys dressed with the first style of black shirts): Bill Hubbard, Al Shufelt, Ed Highum, Newell Glarner, Jerry Bothun, Bill Witte.

President, who resides in Rochester. The Rochester units provided assistance, working two years in advance to set up all of the venues for the outstanding event which featured two parades down the streets of Rochester. What a great opportunity for our community!



85 Midwest outside dragon fighters. Tom Soltau, Chuck Richter, Chris Koenig, Bob Amundson, OJ Reinhart, Chuck Truman, Dick Navrital.

# Dragon Patrol members stuffing packets for Midwest Shrine Convention in Rochester, MN 2009.

#### NOBILITY

Several Osman Shrine Potentates have hailed from the Rochester area over the years. Before the patrol was organized, Bill Dodge was Potentate in 1967, Since the Dragon Patrol was established, there has been Illustrious Sirs: Allen Koenig 1985, David Hawkins 1993, John Perkins 1996, Richard Thompson 2002, Rahn Lund 2005, and our own Dragon Patrol Past President John Brockman 2011.

The Dragon Patrol is fortunate to have two other past presidents of the Dragon Patrol in the Osman Divan (Board of Directors): Roger Berge and Bruce Thomas. Larry Norte is also a member of the Dragon Patrol in the Divan.

#### **Midwest Conventions that Chang has attended**

MIG	Mear Collection	s that Ci	iang nas attend
1982	Regina, Canada	1998	Sioux City, IA
1983	St. Paul, MN	1999	Winnipeg, Canada
1984	Fargo, ND	2000	Grand Forks, ND
1985	Aberdeen, SD	2001	Duluth, MN
1986	Sioux City, IA	2002	Sioux Falls, SD
1987	Sioux Falls, SD	2003	Minneapolis, MN
1988	Grand Forks, ND	2004	Fargo, ND
1989	Minneapolis, MN	2005	Rapid City, SD
1990	Duluth, MN	2006	Regina, Canada
1991	Winnipeg, Canada	2007	Madison, WI
1992	Fargo, ND	2008	Aberdeen, SD
1993	Rapid City, SD	2009	Rochester, MN
1994	Regina, Canada	2010	Sioux City, IA
1995	Madison, WI	2011	Winnipeg, Canada
1996	Aberdeen, SD	2012	Grand Forks, ND
1997	St. Paul, MN		



Dragon Patrol at Midwest Convention at Grand Forks in 2012 - Chang's 31st Midwest! Front row, Bill Hubbard, Al Shufelt, Bruce Thomas and Brent Kisro. Standing, Bert Aikens, John Brockman, Art Pavlish, Bob Pavek, Chris Koenig, Bob Stedman and Doug Brick.

#### IMPERIAL SESSIONS

Chang has also participated in the following Imperial Council Session Parades: Atlanta, Las Vegas, Toronto, St. Louis, and Minneapolis.

Right, Chang in the Las Vegas, Nevada Convention center at Imperial Session 1987

Below, after a six hour parade of Shrine units on Toronto
Canada's streets in 1989, the only mention of the parade in their local newspaper was a picture of the Osman Shrine
Dragon Patrol from Rochester on the front page of the The Globe and Mail.







Chang on the street in St Louis, Missouri in 1997.

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

The patrol meets on the fourth Wednesday every month except December and January for our monthly meeting. We discuss business relating to parades, up-keep and improvements of our unit. We have an annual election of officers for President, Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, and Treasurer. It should be noted that Noble Bert Aikens was elected Secretary/Treasurer in 1981 at the first meeting. The two jobs were later split up and Bert became the Treasurer, an office he has held since. Thanks, Bert, for 30 years of keeping the books!

We meet at the Clarion Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn South) in the Shrine room. The Inn's owners, the Anderson family, have a long history in the Shrine and have a banquet room named the "Shrine Room." The room is large enough for meetings and dinners. There are wall cabinets housing the Rochester Shrine Units' fame to Shrinedome. The Cycle Patrol, Dragon Patrol, Merry Medics, and Zagalas have space with their trophies and memorabilia there. This is a great opportunity for those from the public that are scheduled into this room to have a



An early Christmas Party in the Shrine room.

chance to see what we are about.

Also, the Rochester Area Shrine Club uses the room for their meetings. Special thanks to the Anderson family for providing this spot for us!















History of the Rochester Dragon Patrol

#### GROUP PICTURES

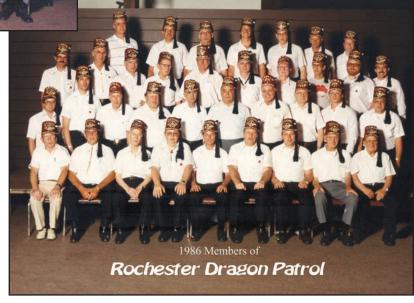


OSMAN SHRINE DRAGON PATROL PROCETER

At the Midwest parade 2004 in Fargo, ND.

Group shot from early 1983.





Regina Canada 1982



Rochesterfest - 1992



Wabasha parade 2004



Toronto Canada Imperial - 1989



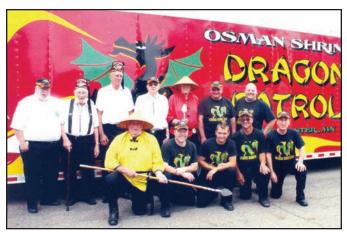


Las Vegas, Nevada 1987



The crew in Aberdeen in 1985 with Ill Sir Al Koenig.





Blooming Prairie - 2009















Austin MN - July 4, 2011

**Kellogg Watermelon Days 2012** 

A trophy in 1984





2010 East - West parade (River Falls)

#### THE OASIS

Not all of a Shriner's duties include work. It's supposed to be fun for Nobles and families.

In the Shrine world, an Oasis is considered a gathering



after a hard day's work to enjoy food and fellowship. Those gatherings over the past 30 years have included pig roasts, breakfasts, lunches, suppers, fund raisers, Christmas parties, picnics, dances, Midwest conventions, Imperial conventions, and hospital visits. Spouses and children are always invited. These are the times we get to know each other's families and discuss how to make our Clubs and Units even better.

For years it was known by all that the Dragon truck could not pass a Dairy Queen. The group knows every best restaurant in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa!







Bill Hubbard

Bill Witte, Bob

S HAD S HAD

Bill Witte, Bob Pavek, Len Jansen









Ed Highum





John Brockman, Tom Ireland, Bruce Thomas, Jerry Pulver, Chris Koenig

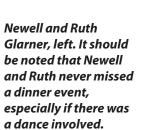
















#### TIME FOR FUN TOQU



Illustrious Sir John Brockman, Packer fan is presented a Cheesehead by Bert Aikens.



Newell Glarner is presented a "tree" so he won't forget his uniform.



Bruce Thomas force feeds Brent Kisro to keep up his strength on a 100°-plus Fourth of July.



Chuck Richter says, "How much is the bill?" as Bob Amundson watches.





#### MEMORABLE QUOTES

"Make sure you drink plenty of water before the parade. We don't want you to dehydrate." — Bill Witte

"When I point right, go left...." -Herb Erickson

"We need more guys on the street, get Baby Chang out, too. We need to give them their money's worth." — Bill Hubbard

"There's some pretty ones out there today, guys." — Stan Mann

"The red wire is positive and the black is negative." — Bill Witte

"If we have time, the best ice cream Sunday ever is at the Dunn House!" — Al Shufelt

"Well... If you remember the good old days... We used to do it like...." — Lowell Parsons

"I know a good restaurant in that town, too!" — Newell Glarner

"Well-lll... It's been 60 years straight now. I can't miss a Shrine Circus now!" — Norm House

#### OUR LADIES AND FAMILIES

Throughout the history of the Dragon Patrol are the Ladies and families who support us in our fund raising endeavors to provide care to the children at Shriner's Hospitals and Burn Institutes. We want to acknowledge



Ladies at Bayfield WI

our families' participation and sacrifices over the years. You are truly the backbone of the Shriners and we thank you for supporting all of us.

Our Ladies have provided their expertise by making us lunches, sewing on the Dragon's body, making us costumes for the parades and standing beside us to make sure we make it to meetings and parades on time! We love you, THANK YOU!



Dorothy Lamkin, Nadine Parsons



Shannon Meyer and niece Madison.



Megahn Specht, Jenny Berge, Sue Johnson.



Denise Koenig, Audrey Norte



Donna Pavlish sewing 2500 sequins!

"Did anyone check the gas tank on the golf cart?" — Art Pavlish

"I'm not feeling very good. Must be the water.." (next morning at Midwest) — Clayton Hofstad

"TA HECK" — Wayne Evans

"Who filled out that vehicle report?" — Chris Koenig

What are you guys doing in the cornfield? "Checking for corn bore's." — Jerry Korstad

"There's a Dairy Queen!" — OJ Reinhart

"Remember to blouse your pants." — Ed Highum



Above: Bruce, Nick, Brittney and Terri Thomas.

Left, Baby Chang with Amanda Johnson.

#### STATISTICS: ROCHESTER DRAGON PATROL

#### 2012 - CURRENT DRAGON PATROL MEMBERSHIP







**Bob Amundson** 



Derek Berg



Roger Berge



**Doug Brick** 



Jim Brockman



Tom Brockman



**Brian Burgess** 



Tim Callahan



**John Cokinos** 



**Herb Erickson** 



John Hanson



Pete Herman



Len Hislop



**Bill Hubbard** 



**Tom Ireland** 



Len Jansen



**Pat Johnson** 



**Brent Kisro** 



Jerry Korstad



Sean Krauss



Chris Koenig



Dave Koenig



Chris Koenig presents the 2005 DOTY to Jerry Pulver.



1995 Newell Glarner 1996 John Minar 1997 John Brockman

1998 Bill Witte1999 Norm House2000 Lowell Parsons2001 Bruce Thomas

2002 Tom Ireland2003 Chris Koenig2004 Roger Berge

2005 Jerry Pulver
2006 Dan Meyer
2007 Bert Aikens
2008 Lowell Parsons
2009 John Hanson

2010 Al Shufelt 2011 Bob Pavek





Ron Lamkin



**Craig Mann** 



Stan Mann



Dan Meyer



Mike Meyer



**Dick Navratil** 



**Al Nerland** 



**Larry Norte** 



Lawrence **Oevering** 



**Bob Pavek** 



Art Pavlish



Jerry Pulver



Dan Rasmussen



Jake Rasmussen



**Chuck Richter** 



Dan Shadd



Al Shufelt



**Bob Stedman** 





Bruce Teigen



**Bruce Thomas** 



**Bill Witte** 



**Patrick Wrubel** 









**Dick Thompson** 

#### PRESIDENTS: ROCHESTER DRAGON PATROL

Herb Erickson	1981-82	Art Pavlish	1989	Chris Koenig	1997	Chris Koenig	2005
<b>Chuck Richter</b>	1983	O.J. Reinhart	1990	Jerry Pulver	1998	Mike Meyer	2006
<b>Chuck Albrant</b>	1984	Bill Hubbard	1991	<b>Bruce Thomas</b>	1999	Dan Meyer	2007
Jerry Bothun	1985	Newell Glarner	1992	Dave Koenig	2000	Bill Hubbard	2008
Ed Highum	1986	Tom Ireland	1993	Roger Berge	2001-02	John Brockman	2009
Mike Alcorn	1987	John Miner	1994	Tom Brockman	2003	Bill Hubbard	2010
<b>Newell Glarner</b>	1988	John Brockman	1995-96	<b>Bruce Thomas</b>	2004	Brent Kisro	2011-12

#### FAVORITE STORIES

hang's first parade was in Chatfield. Being this was our first parade, the people of Chatfield were unaware what to expect from the dragon. When Chang entered the parade route, there was a young couple and their dog sitting on the curb. Chang went over to them and blew off some smoke. The dog took off across the sidewalk, up onto the porch and into the house never to be seen by us again.

fter a grueling trip to Midwest in Regina, Canada the first year, those Lattending found out their motel had a fire the week before and the rooms the Nobles and their Ladies had were less than desirable. It was not a very good first experience.

ack in the days when the Rochester parade started and ended at Soldier's Field, Chang blew smoke at a young fellow who had been drinking and smoking a cigarette. This fellow became very irate and threatened to sue the dragon as he was concerned our smoke would explode from his lit cigarette. He didn't realize the smoke was CO2 and would actually put his cigarette out. We never did hear from him again.

▼he Dragon Patrol was on its way to the Midwest in South Dakota in our truck driven by Noble Bill Witte. We're driving east on I-90 pulling a four wheeled trailer with our PUG on it. As Bill looked in his side mirror he was shocked! The trailer was riding on two wheels and looked like it was about to tip over. Bill masterfully maneuvered the truck while slowing down and was able to get the trailer back on all four wheels. Somehow the hitch had released and one of the safety chains wore through. After repairs were made, we continued on to enjoy the Midwest session.

n a parade over in Wisconsin, there was a young girl sitting in a child's chair. Chang approached the young girl and blew a puff of smoke at her. As the girl pushed backwards on her chair, the chair went backwards and the girl did a backwards summersault coming back up with a big smile on her face.

n another Wisconsin parade, we were passing a group of young people who were celebrating the local event when all of the sudden we ended up with one of the young fellows, with beer in his hand underneath the Dragon. It didn't take us long to evict this young man from under the Dragon, and we continued on with the parade.

e were on our way to the Imperial Session in St. Louis in a vehicle driven by Illustrious Sir John Brockman. Our route was laid out by the computer for the best roads and the shortest mileage. After a few hours of driving we began to realize that we were on a very narrow road, canopied with trees growing on each side of the road and no road signs or numbers. After a couple more miles down the road we came upon a sign for a car ferry. It turns out we were on the wrong side of the river. After an enjoyable ferry ride, we continued on to the Imperial Session in St. Louis. 💸

nce the patrol was having an oasis after a parade, it was supposed to be a picnic in a park on the way

home from the parade. The food was in the Dragon truck, the Nobles and families were in the park waiting for the truck and food which were lost. Not sure who the navigator was that day.

uring a Sleepy Eye parade, Noble Bert Aikens had parked his car at the end of the parade route. His Lady Joan was sitting in it reading a book. As we finished the parade and the Dragon was loading in front of his car, a new John Deere combine with a huge corn head on it was trying to navigate the parade route taking up the whole street. As the combine neared the end of the route, someone opened a car door, the combine driver swerved to miss the door and wiped out the side of Bert's car. (With Joan in it) 15

fter a parade in Northfield, Noble Newell Glarner drove his car to the Covered Bridge Restaurant where the nobles were meeting for an oasis. On arriving there, Noble Newell found out that he forgot his Lady Ruth in Northfield and had to go back and get her. Gee, I wonder how the ride back went?

#### YEAR BOOK

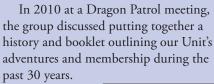
pictures were scanned to protect them from the elements and to provide a digital format for this booklet. This

booklet has been a monumental task

taking many hours to accomplish the final result.

The booklet was printed by Bywords Printing owned by Nancy Fish and Jerry Payne. Nancy helped with the layout and provided quite

a few photos. Nancy and Jerry publish the monthly Osman Newspaper.



The committee working on the 30 year project consisted of the following: Bert Aikens, Brent Kisro, Bruce Thomas, Bill Hubbard, Art Pavlish

We asked all members to supply old



photographs, newspaper clippings, programs, membership directories and other memorabilia. Hundreds of

## IN MEMORY OF PAST MEMBERS



Arnold Ulrich January 12, 1988



Harry Christian April 23, 1988



Russell Billings Sr. October 17, 1993



Jerry Bothun November 8, 1994



Phil Aldritt January 19, 1995



Lester Stiles February 12, 1996



Clayton Hofstad May 15, 1996



Ken Hamm May 16, 1997



Harvey Kuchenbecker Dec. 14, 1997



Clarence Kuhlmann May 28, 1998



Frederick R Miller July 28, 1998



Loren Allen March 1, 1999



Charles Truman August 29, 1999



Wayne Evans October 26, 2000



Bud Deedrick October 2, 2001



Bill Holme March 24, 2004



Newell Glarner July 9, 2007



John Miner August 29, 2008



O.J. Rinehart December 18, 2008



Donald McLeod August 26, 2009



Lowell Parsons Nov. 22, 2009



Gordon Redalen December 3, 2009



Michael Alcorn February 23, 2010



Roger Young April 8, 2010

Parades are our business! We have done hundreds, averaging 24 per year! We figure the patrol has walked over 2,000 miles in the past 30 years, - the distance from St. Paul Minnesota to San Francisco, California.

1982	8	1993	23	2004 22	
1983	23	1994	19	2005 24	
1984	18	1995	18	2006 22	
1985	20	1996	25	2007 21	
1986	23	1997	27	2008 24	
1987	25	1998	30	2009 25	
1988	23	1999	27	2010 26	
1989	19	2000	25	2011 29	
1990	23	2001	30	2012 30	
1991	30	2002	25	TOTAL 72	0
1002	27	2002	27	TOTAL 73	Ö



Norm House June 7, 2012



John Brockman October 22, 2012

