

The Benevolent Order of Scurritious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice, 2018

Brother Jam Attends WVRF!

The West Virginia Renaissance Festival opened for their inaugural date on June 9, 2018. Brother Jam (Jim Hancock) was the first patron to carry a ticket through the front gate. He shared some photos on Facebook and we have shamelessly stolen them for this *Abbot's Report*. Jim's home in Floyd, Virginia is only about sixty miles from the new festival as the crow flies. The drive is almost twice as far. Mapquest says that it takes about two and a half hours to drive from Floyd through the mountains to the show in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Taso Stravakis, of the *Hanlon Lees Action Theater*, has been jousting at renaissance faires for forty years. He owns the Hollow Hills Farm and is producing the show. Largely because of his fame and reputation, he has been able to gather an impressive roster of entertainers. Brother Clown (Jimmy Ellis) aka *Deante'*



Fettuccini is there. Brother Danger (Cliff Spenger) is there along with *Hey Nunnie Nunnie*. *Knotty Nauticals* was there for the first weekend. *The Nature of Mercy* and *The Duelists* will be there swordfighting. *Aaron Bonk* will be

cracking whips. Todd Menton, Jack Stamates and Ty Billings are playing music. *Draiku* will be doing aerobatics



while hanging from pieces of silk. *Gravity Check* is a juggling show. In addition to the jousting field, Taso and



his crew have built several new permanent buildings and stages. The West Virginia Renaissance Festival will be open for four weekends from June 9 through the first of July. Good luck to all of those courageous souls who have dared to participate in this new first year faire! May it survive for many years into the future.

Rock's Big Top

Many of us first met our Brother Rock Rideway as he was manufacturing and marketing Camelions. Camelions were multi purpose articles of clothing that could be used as capes, hats, shirts, dresses, pants, tents, sleeping bags and pillows. He sold them at renaissance fairs for more than



thirty years. More recently, he has shifted his attention to the construction of Crystal Pavilions. The modular tent like enclosures come in various shapes and sizes and they can be attached to each other to form larger structures. This Spring, he built a big one for the *Music on the Mothership Festival* near Taos, New Mexico. The job entailed what he called "two weeks of intense sewing". He used over a mile of thread to build a 62 foot diameter flower pavilion tent. The interior is dug 4 ft. into the earth making it bigger

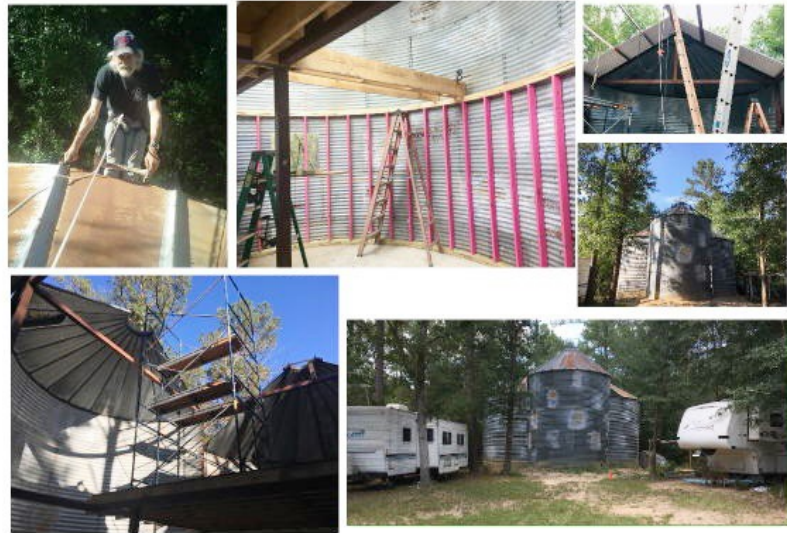
on the inside than it appears to be from the outside. At the center point, the ceiling is 18 feet tall. It has an Adobe seating bench that goes all the way around the inner circumference. The *Music on the Mothership Festival* is an annual 3 day music festival that takes place on the grounds of the Taos Mesa Brewing Company. The compound includes a vintage trailer hotel



and a campground. It is situated on a high mesa surrounded by unobstructed views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This year's festival was held during the first three days of June and it featured 25 bands. The new pavilion survived 60 mph wind gusts with no problems at all. Five hundred people happily danced inside with room to spare.

Brother Spamanardo's Silo House

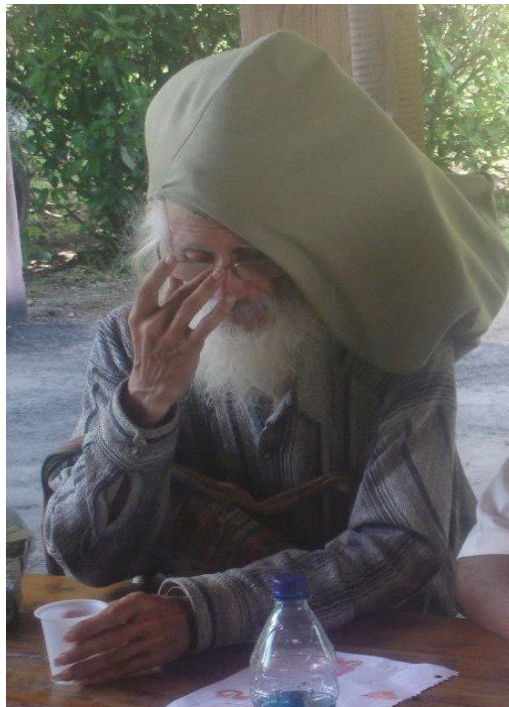
Meanwhile, in Toontown, Brother Spamanardo (John Myers) is building something vaguely similar but distinctly



different. John and Cindy's new house in Texas is somewhat circular but John is building with steel instead of canvas. We've been enjoying watching the progress as John posts photos on Facebook.

Obituary

When our Abbot first saw Merrill, he was reminded of the Man in the Blue Turban who had been mentioned by



Nostradamus. As we became better acquainted, it became apparent that Merrill was not the man who would put the world to terror and form a one world government. He was a quiet, wise and gentle man. He practiced some kind of strange Mayan astrology that most of us had never heard of. He showed up at many different renaissance faires in many different parts of the country during

a period of many years. Merrill died on June 8, 2018. At the time of his death, he was surrounded by family and friends in Atlanta, Georgia.