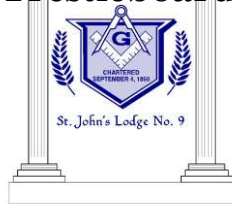


St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

Trestleboard

NOVEMBER 2021

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[S. Ashley Brinkley](#), Master



During our recent trip to Boston, I picked up an old copy of the magazine "The Northern Light" published by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts dated early spring 1985. In it I found several interesting articles. One discussed an upcoming trip opportunity that the Masonic Brothers could partake in. It was a 14-day tour of the Orient. It would leave from either New York or Chicago and head toward Hong Kong. During the two weeks Masons would be able to visit the cities of Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Tokyo. It included flights, hotels and some meals and all tourist activities, for the incredible price of only \$2,399.00. Who wouldn't want a time machine to be able to go back and experience this trip? Imagine the cost of a trip like that today? I imagine the costs would be at least double or triple.



VW Ashley Brinkley
St. John's Master

In this same magazine I found another article written about a fellow brother, Allen E Roberts. In it, it talks about a new book release he had written about the lives of Masons in the past 25 years. It is titled "Who is Who in Freemasonry" published by Anchor Communications, Inc. Published price in 1985 was \$40.00. In the article it talks about the most important part of Freemasonry, the Individual. That truly struck home in my heart. The MOST important person in each and every Lodge is every single brother, not just one or two. Each of us shares in the financial obligations of the craft. We all complete our necessary work. In our non-Masonic lives, we create an image of what Free Masonry is or should be for the outside world to see. Brother Roberts went on to write and publish a few other books. I encourage you to seek out some of his works. They are still relevant today. My point is, sometimes things change, like the cost of a trip, however there are things that will always remain the same, like our Masonic foundation.

CALENDAR



- November 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 11 (7pm): Officers meeting
- **November 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- **November 24 (7pm): Fellowship** Zoom teleconference
- November 25: Thanksgiving Day
- **November 27 (5pm): Christmas Ship RSVP please**
- November 28 – December 6: Happy Chanukah
- **December 1 (7pm): Fellowship** Zoom teleconference
- **December 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Installation of Officers (7pm)
- December 25: Merry Christmas
- **December 31: Deadline for payment of 2022 Lodge dues**

PAST MASTERS TO BE HONORED FOR SERVICE TO LODGE

Master VWBro. Ashley Brinkley will honor our Past Masters at our stated communication on November 17.

This month we extend a special invitation to all our Past Masters – and the Past Masters of any Lodge. The presence of these beloved brothers is particularly desired as we recognize their achievements for the year they served this Lodge and the Lodges of Ionic No. 90 and Elliott Bay No. 257. A full house helps to make it extra fun at ceremonies such as this, so we invite our Past Masters and Affiliated Past Masters to please join us.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

HOP ABOARD THE ARGOSY CHRISTMAS SHIP WITH ST. JOHN'S

Make the Thanksgiving weekend really special! Join your Brothers and Ladies from St. John's Lodge on an Argosy Christmas Ship holiday cruise Saturday, November 27.

St. John's Lodge has purchased 25 tickets for the 5pm castoff of the Christmas Ship from Pier 55 downtown Seattle (first pier north of Ivar's Acres of Clams). Your cost: \$25 per ticket – that's about half the price for a senior citizen.

Tickets are limited in number – reservations absolutely required!

Argosy Cruises Christmas Ship Festival is a ship-to-shore holiday celebration that has been a Northwest tradition since 1949. The Spirit of Seattle, the Official Christmas Ship, is decorated with hundreds of shimmering white lights and sails to different Puget Sound waterfront communities. Choirs on board the Christmas Ship perform to guests aboard, and to communities gathered on shore. For our cruise, the Dickens Carolers will perform about 35 minutes into the cruise near Salty's at Alki Beach.

The boat is entirely cashless so all purchases (souvenirs, photos, etc.) will need to be made with a bankcard on board the ship. In addition to The Dickens Carolers there are Santa photos available, story reading of the Night Before Christmas, a full bar with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Also available will be clam chowder, price unknown at this time.

Boarding opens 45 minutes prior to departure. All ticketed passengers must have proof of vaccination for Covid 19 or a negative Covid Test and a valid ID that will need to be presented to a "Shoreside Team Member" in order to board. Departure is at 5pm so it's advisable to arrive at 4:15 or so. VWBro. Ashley Brinkley will be there to welcome our early comers and collect your \$25 per person fare.



St. John's Lodge sponsoring Cruise on Christmas Ship Thanksgiving weekend

November Communication to Elect Officers, Set 2022 Budget

We have arrived at that time of the year when we elect a new Master and other officers of our Lodge. The offices of Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary will be selected for next year, as well as one representative to the Board of Trustees. Senior Warden WBro. Blair Neumann, anticipating real face-to-face communications during his term in 2022, has agreed to make himself available to serve in the East. WBro. John Louderback is available to move from South to West.



Two candidates have declared for the South – Senior Deacon WBro. Eric Koteles and WBro. Dennis Archambault. Trustee WBro. Hans Wehl is again available to serve a three-year term on the Board.

Any member of the Lodge is eligible to seek these offices. The Master should have demonstrated Proficiency in Lodge Management.

St. John's brothers extend a sincere "thank you" for the leadership shown by our Master of this year, VWBro. Ashley Brinkley. He has shown skills much needed by any Lodge. The fulfilment of the duties of a Master requires much personal inconvenience, and some sacrifice of time. The interests of a Lodge, alike with its immediate

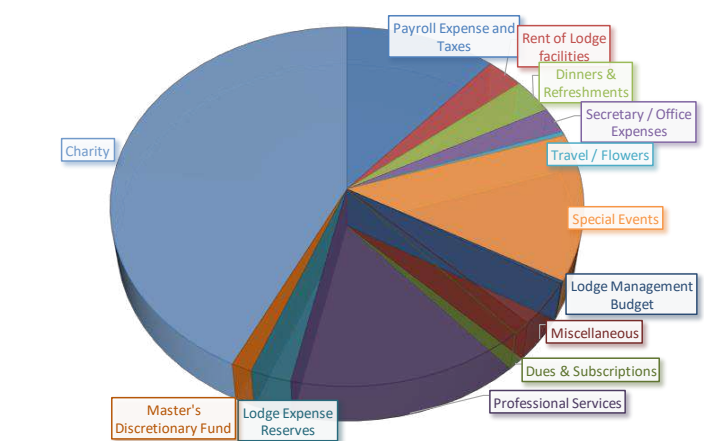
welfare and ultimate prosperity, depend upon the skill and understanding of the Master; while the general peace and harmony of its members take their tone from his conciliating courtesy, or suffer from his want of so vital an attribute. VWBro. Brinkley has demonstrated great care for the well-being of members of our Lodge and the community!

2022 Budget

Copies of the proposed Lodge budget as prepared by the Board of Trustees were distributed in October. Senior Warden WBro. Blair Neumann identified those items that reflected increases or decreases from this year's budget. Our portfolio has dramatically increased this year, allowing for roughly \$85,000 more available in 2022. The brothers were afforded an opportunity to question any of the line items with the understanding that action will be taken in November.

Budgeting is necessary to attain our desired goals and to keep our planning within the realm of reality. It requires a systematic evaluation of estimated income and expenditures to ensure that funding is available for programs, activities and rental. Oh, yeah, and with enough resources to support our beloved charities. St. John's is fortunate in that over the years, we have wisely managed our income to allow membership programs AND community outreach.

PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET



Senior Warden's Message

WBro. Blair Neumann



Brethren, ours is a Fellowship built around shared Masonic virtue. We are taught the same moral lessons, and we encourage each other to follow their precepts as we should endeavor to do so ourselves.

That endeavor and encouragement are important because it's difficult to live a truly virtuous Masonic life! We hold ourselves to strict Masonic standards during our sacred retreats where ritual and tradition protect us, but there are few such protections outside the Lodge room, and so it's up to each of us to do our best to conduct ourselves in accord with our personal and Masonic values throughout our day-to-day lives.

We can inspire the people around us when we follow through on our Masonic beliefs, but we can also disappoint them when we fail to do so. You've probably felt disappointed by some role model when they failed to live up to the same standards that they professed for themselves and for others. Similarly, one of the quickest ways that we could take the wind out of Masonry's sails would be to act hypocritically about our values.

Masonry is defined by our catechisms; our words have clear meanings, and (despite our obligations) those words are available for all to see. A Candidate, or even a Brother, who assumes the best of the Brethren may become disillusioned of our entire Craft if even a single Brother proves through actions that he's paying only lip service to our words.

If we want Masonry to continue to succeed, then we must live up to our stated values. To do otherwise would be a discredit to ourselves, to our Brethren, to our Craft, and to all who we wish to inspire by our Work.

Grand Lodge Communications

Brothers, we encourage you to log on to Grand View periodically and check the latest guidance from the Grand Master and Grand Lodge.

There are many interesting communications there regarding meetings, training, the Annual Communication, and the like. We encourage everyone to log on to the site periodically and check under 'Feed' to see the latest from Grand Lodge.

[Grand View](#)

Brethren,
MW Bro. Sat Tashiro's public Celebration of Life is planned for November 14th, 2021 at 1pm at the Nile Shrine Center located at 6601 244th St SW, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043. Please join Sat's family to celebrate the life of this great man and great Mason.

Fraternally,
Clinton M. Brown, Jr.
Grand Secretary

Be a Friend

-Bro. Edgar A. Guest

Be a friend. You don't need money:

Just a disposition sunny;
Just the wish to help another
Get along some way or other;
Just a kindly hand extended
Out to one who's unbefriended;
Just the will to give or lend,
This will make you someone's friend.

Be a friend. You don't need glory.

Friendship is a simple story.
Pass by trifling errors blindly,
Gaze on honest effort kindly,
Cheer the youth who's bravely trying,
Pity him who's sadly sighing;
Just a little labor spend
On the duties of a friend.

Be a friend. The pay is bigger

(Though not written by a figure)
Than is earned by people clever
In what's merely self-endeavor.
You'll have friends instead of neighbors
For the profits of your labors;
You'll be richer in the end
Than a prince, if you're a friend

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

9 Ian B. Gililland
11 Brent A. Braun
14 Charles B. Claus, Jr.
14 George H. Bechtel, Jr.
14 Eugene V. Kashpureff
19 Raymond L. Gehrig
22 Jeff R. Hawley
25 Marcos J. Policar
25 Kemal Alaeddinoğlu
26 Terry S. Zittlau
27 Mark W. Shropshire



COMING TO DINNER?

This month's stated meeting, as usual, is open to all comers – Masons and guests. Dinner starts at 6:15, with social hour opening any time after 5:30. ***Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, November 12,*** prior to the meeting. If you need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. Do you



know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.

Our newly elected (and appointed) officers will be installed next month to lead the Lodge forward. The Installation ceremony will be preceded by dinner.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

The Treachery Of Images is a fantastic reminder of the place our symbols belong in Masonry – as mental placeholders for complex teachings and morality instruction. The symbols themselves only contain the meanings we put into them, and as such should not be deified in and of themselves. Perhaps the point of all Masonic Education really shouldn't be to teach necessarily, but to encourage you to think and discover meaning for yourself.



This Is Not An Education Piece



by Midnight Freemason Emeritus

Adam Thayer, PM

My favorite piece of art... is that weird? Do normal people have favorite pieces of art? I hear about my friends talking about favorite movies, favorite songs, and even occasionally someone will mention a favorite book, but nobody seems to talk about art.

My favorite piece of art is an oil on canvas painted by the Belgian surrealist Rene Magritte. After working as a commercial artist for a number of years, he painted a picture of a large wooden pipe, and underneath wrote "Ceci n'est pas une pipe", or literally "This is not a pipe." To tie it all together, he titled the painting *The Treachery Of Images*, to remind us of the dangers that images can pose.

Years later, when he was questioned about the image, he replied firmly that what he wrote was correct; it was not a pipe, it was a representation of a pipe. You couldn't put tobacco into it, you couldn't light it, because it was only an image of a pipe. In fact, he went on to say "if I had written on my picture 'This is a pipe' I'd have been lying!"

As a writer, it reminds me of Alfred Korzybski stating "The map is not the territory - the word is not the thing." It's a constant reminder that words, no matter how beautifully written, are still just representations of the actual thing. I could spend paragraphs detailing Magritte's beautiful pipe – which is, I remind you, not a pipe – the fantastic shine of the bowl and stem, the glow of it against the golden background, the thin, almost fragile lettering underneath, and yet that description is still a pale comparison to seeing the actual picture in person.

I imagine many of us feel that way about our degrees; I can tell you about the nerves I experienced leading up to

it, the scent of the room, the feeling when I was first brought to light... but none of this can live up to having been there, in that room, in my skin. Yet, in the act of describing it, I remember that night ten years ago, as if I was still there.

Neither can I put the sound of a brother's voice in your head the way I hear it, clear as day, whenever I get up to give what I still consider to be "his" lecture. The best I can give is a representation of it, kind, loving, yet firm in his demand that I never let that lecture be read from the book or be performed without feeling.

Our symbols are like that too; while you may have some of the symbols as physical representations (doesn't every Lodge have a square and compass?), they are still just that – representations. The compass in our Lodges, for instance, is generally not a compass one could actually use to circumscribe a true circle. What's more, I've yet to find a Lodge with an actual beehive, although I do think selling Masonic Honey sounds much more interesting than flipping pancakes.

The Treachery Of Images is a fantastic reminder of the place our symbols belong in Masonry – as mental placeholders for complex teachings and morality instruction. The symbols themselves only contain the meanings we put into them, and as such should not be deified in and of themselves.

Of course, the phrase "The word is not the thing" should bring a special meaning to the Master Mason, which I will point out for those who are inclined to ponder without expounding the substitution principle to the uninitiated.

So Adam, I hear you thinking, what's your point? Has all of this been a rambling opportunity for you to have an excuse to write about your favorite piece of art? Yes, obviously. Perhaps I should have titled this "The Treachery Of Education" and include the disclaimer "Ce n'est pas une conference educative".

Perhaps I could trick you into reading paragraph upon paragraph, expecting to find some hidden nugget of wisdom that I subtly snuck in but that you are starting to doubt is in there. Perhaps I already have.

Perhaps the point of all Masonic Education really shouldn't be to teach necessarily, but to encourage you to think and discover meaning for yourself. Then again, to paraphrase Magritte, this is not a Masonic Education piece. Unless, of course, it was.

~Adam Thayer

Midnight Freemason contributor emeritus

WARM SOCKS FOR THE UNSHELTERED

Warm socks! Can you imagine what it's like to be on the streets of Seattle, or any street, cold, unsheltered probably wet and without warm clothes? Maybe shoes, but no socks?



The North Precinct Advisory Council annually gathers socks and partners with the Seattle Police Department to distribute them to people in need. **New** socks of all sizes are appreciated.

Aundie Collison (widow of our late brother WBro. Bill Collison) has long been instrumental in bringing this need to St. John's Lodge's attention.

Aundie asked if the Lodge was again going to help with the warm socks for the homeless drive aided by the North Seattle police precinct. We contacted Bro. Fred Hutchinson who has been a great help in the past. It just so happened that he and Lady Ruth had taken advantage of a Murphy auction opportunity that resulted in his purchasing a large number of socks (20,000 pair) for the equivalent of 6 cents on the dollar for socks. The cost including storage was \$300/1,000 pair of quality warm socks. We will be distributing them to the North Precinct at 10am Wednesday, November 10. That's several pallets with 1,000 pair in the name of St. John's and another 1,000 in the name of our late brother Bill Collison.

If you want to be present for the presentation (10am), the address is 17786 Des Moines Drive S., Burien 98148. This is AAAA Ministorage, just south of SeaTac airport, off Highway 509. *We anticipate TV and Times coverage.*

MASTER MASON'S RAISED IN NOVEMBER

Date Raised:

11/29/1947	Donald W. Bartholomew
11/13/1959	Hans U. Wehl
11/18/1959	Richard "Dick" Loeb
11/18/1959	Jerome N. Alhadeff
11/18/1965	Joseph H. Oates, Jr.
11/7/1970	Martin L. Burgess
11/27/1971	Craig L. Catli
11/19/1976	Robert E. Reed
11/18/1986	Paul-Max B. Jensen
11/18/1986	Joseph L. Bennett
11/10/1988	Richard P. Wellenberger
11/18/1988	Terry S. Zittlau
11/17/1990	Charles R. "Dick" Grimm
11/19/1998	James R. Odom
11/24/2001	Scott A. Pence



Brockway Operation Kid Smile

OPERATION KID SMILE – PANDEMIC STYLE

Probably what is one of St. John's "most favorite" charities took a different approach last year because of the need for social distancing. In the past, we've hosted families for a Christmas party to hand out groceries for Christmas dinner and gifts to the children.

Last year and again this year, we're asking for volunteers to link up with a family we know needs some loving care to learn a little about the family and then to arrange for food and gifts to be delivered directly to their homes.

Several Brothers have volunteered, but more are needed. If you want to be a part of this team, contact WBro. John Louderback, chairman. 206 999-0484



One of our more traveling members MWBro. Gale Kenney in Dubai, UAR

The Secretary is looking for your 2022 dues payment



THE NORTH EAST CORNER

It has been said that no Degree excels the first Degree; and that of the first degree, the N.E. corner lecture is unequalled by any other portion of our finely phrased ceremony. The first degree has all the charm of novelty and surprise. As a rule the uninitiated knows nothing of our Ritual, and is in a state of total darkness as to our order of service. He may have picked up little bits of information from a variety of more or less authentic sources, but these, most probably, have been intermixed with suggestions that the whole ceremony is a species of horseplay in which more or less good natured buffoonery has a conspicuous part. As a consequence, the candidate approaches the business in a kind of spirit of daring do, fortified by the reflection that as many of his friends and acquaintances have survived the ordeal, he may have similar luck.

To a mind thus prepared, or rather unprepared, our ceremonial must come as a sort of spiritual revelation. The candidate finds himself at once in an atmosphere vastly different from anything which he has anticipated. Serious purpose takes the place of clownish antics, and the spirit of the buffoon is completely forgotten in the lofty thoughts of men who invoke the blessing of God upon the work in which they are engaged. And surely, if the entrance of the candidate, the benefit of the Lodge prayer, the solemn vow of fidelity, and the call to his noblest manhood to prove himself worthy of the badge of a Mason, impress the postulant, he must be doubly impressed by the singularly beautiful lecture which is addressed to him as he stands in the N.E. corner, in the shoes of all the millions who have gone before him figuratively, as each one of them in turn had done to represent the stone upon which the whole structure depends for its stability.

By this time it must have been borne in upon him that the society of which he has become a member cherishes noble aims, exists to inculcate lofty thoughts, and, as he knows that the strength of a chain is the strength of its weakest link, so must he recognize that Freemasonry expects every one of its members to represent a stone perfect in all its parts, and fitted to fill its place in the vast Temple of universal brotherhood which every succeeding generation of Craftsman strives to carry nearer to completion.

...It is customary at the erection of all large buildings to place the foundation stone at the north-east corner of the intended structure. Actually, this foundation or corner-stone of the building is as important to that building as a keystone to an arch. Its ultimate task is to bind together at that point two walls of the building, and in due time it not only serves as a link or binding post, but also as a foundation and is built upon. The newly admitted E.A. is placed in the north-east corner of the Lodge figuratively to represent that stone, and in the years that come after he will have risen to a position of greater influence in the Craft, and will be responsible for the future success of the Lodge. If he be weak, then the section that he forms in the edifice will be weak also.

The Lambskin

by Bro. Edgar Guest

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,
There are other things far more useful, yet truly I state,
Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare,
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent
On shaving and dressing and looking just right,
Until Mother would say: "It's the Masons tonight."

And some winter nights she said: "What makes you go,
Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,
You see the same things every month of the year."
Then Dad would reply: "Yes, I know it, my dear."

Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.
And though they are old, they always seem new,
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,
Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet."

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true who had entered before,
I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught
That virtue and honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,
If worthily worn grows more precious each year,
That service to others brings blessings untold,
That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,
That wealth and position are all thrust aside,
As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, honor the lambskin, may it always remain
Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,
May we all take our place in that Lodge up above.



ALTERNATIVE 10 DAY 2022

TOUR OF SCOTLAND

WBro. Tom Lamb is a member of St. John's Lodge and suggests an alternative tour of Scotland to that being promoted by others. Having been born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and raised in that country, he is familiar with the country, its history and its people. He proposes to lead a few Brothers on a tour next Spring.

Being from Scotland I have visited the UK many times over my 55 years in USA. Usually, the time was spent visiting family and friends with a little of touring in between. Before I came to USA, I lived in Edinburgh 20 years and Glasgow 5 years. However, there is still a lot of Scotland I have not seen.

I planned to change this situation this September and October by taking a short tour during my planned visit, but COVID-19 stopped that. So, I am looking at visiting in April/May 2022.

In the past I have tried to organize large (40 people) special focus tours of Scotland but succeeded in none, due to lack of interest. So, I was planning to take an existing tour from a reliable travel company on my own. However, when I mentioned my plans recently to some friends, they indicated that they would like to go with me.

With this in mind, I am willing to organize a tour group for a 12 day tour of Scotland. To do this I need minimums of either 8 or 16 tourists (sizes of tour bus). With the use of a full bus the tour can be special selection of places to visit. My proposed tour follows.

I would use one of two Scottish tour companies. (www.goscotlandtours.com and www.best-scottish-tours.co.uk) Tentative Prices range from

GO SCOTLAND TOURS

\$2500 pp for double B&B to \$3000 pp for single Hotel. Includes Scottish Breakfast. This does not include food (Lunch and Dinner) or airfare.

BEST SCOTTISH TOURS

\$3000 pp Includes Scottish breakfast, Dinners but not lunch. Does not include airfare.

Round trip airfare \$1200

It would be necessary to stay one day after tour in Edinburgh.

As normal, extending visit time after the organized tour would be available for you to continue your visit.

If you are interested, please contact me at 425 742 2348 or nalamb@umich.edu. If there are specific places you would like to visit let me know. I must get solid commitment from 7 or 15 people to which I would add my name.

MAP INFO

Block Numbers are overnight stays

Blue Line is bus travel

Red Line is PS WAVERLY Day tour
<https://waverleyexcursions.co.uk>

Tentative Places Visited

- Day 2 Rosslyn Chapel, Abbotsford, Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys; Selkirk, Dumfries, Culzean Castle, Ayr
- Day 3 Loch Lomond, Inveraray, Kilmartin, Oban
- Day 4 Isle of Mull and Iona
- Day 5 Glencoe, Glenfinnan Viaduct, Fort William, Skye, Portree
- Day 6 Loch Ness, Inverness
- Day 7 Cullodan, Granton on Spey, Balmoral, Glamis Castle, Dundee, Scoon
- Day 8 Perth, St Andrews, Dumferline, Falkland Palace, Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle
- Day 9 Falkirk Wheel, Linlithgow Palace, Edinburgh
- Day 10 Edinburgh

WE can work on final tour route if other places of interest



Scotland

KEY

- Top 10 place of interest
- Other place of interest
- Airport
- Ferry port
- Motorway
- Main road
- Other road
- Railway line
- National Park boundary
- Summit

