



The OFFICIAL Publication of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237, Order of the Arrow

GATOR TALES

March Issue

2004

Chiefly Speaking

To begin: Happy New year! Welcome to Aal-Pa-Tah 2004. This year is an auspicious and marked year, for we get to host Section Conference in our own back yard! I know we all share an elated feeling over the privilege to show the rest of the Arrowmen in the state what Aal-Pa-Tah is made of, but it is going to take a great deal of work on our part. I urge every green-blooded Gator in our mighty Lodge to start participating in every Lodge activity possible in preparation for Section Conference 2004. You will find a calendar of dates and weekends in this issue of the *Gator Tales*, **please try your hardest to make every workday and weekend you can.** I am certainly experiencing a hectic daily life...how about you? Being a senior at Jupiter High, I bring home a moderate amount

of homework each day. Add to that study time, college prep-work, deciding on a college, balancing the check-book, maintaining my car, Troop and Crew meetings, family time, Lodge business, working and time with friends. There is barely any 'me' time! As I get older, I notice the same trend in many people's lives, young and old. Without 'me time', however, I'm sure I would suffer some sort of severe mental strain and not be able to handle ANYTHING, not to mention my already full plate. So the second thing I ask from you, my Brothers, is make sure YOU stay sane. Take five minutes each day to jump in the Jacuzzi, go for a walk, read your favorite book, play a video game, or just sleep! Without sanity we are most obviously insane. Personally, a little physical and mental relaxation each day improves my productivity, stamina, and focus. Think of a world where every person took time in the middle of the day to just relax and BREATHE. I think I-95 might be safer to drive, work would seem less dreary, economics might be a little more bearable, and life in general would be a little more fun! I admonish you: take five minutes, preserve your mental health,



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief, Travis Sheehan

enjoy what you have, realize any task is accomplishable, and RELAX! Oh, don't for get about Section Conference!

With understanding and devotion,

Travis P. Sheehan
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
DasJoker237@yahoo.com

Gator Teeth



Pictures from weekend events - page 2



LEC Contact List, Lodge Calendar, Treasury Report - page 3



Area 4 NLS, National OA Programs, Mike Machek Trail Crew - page 4

Calling all leaders! Officer elections are here!

Officer elections will take place on Saturday night of the Spring Pow-Wow weekend (March 12-14). Any Brother who wishes to run for a Lodge Office must be present the entire weekend and interviewed Saturday morning. These positions of leadership are not for the weak in mind, leadership, or commitment! Interviews are formal and conducted in full Class A.

displayed **on a designated table** in the Dining Hall starting Friday night.

-NO handouts/flyers are allowed.

If there are any more questions pertaining to elections, election rules, or interview procedures, feel free to e-mail me at the address below. Thank you very much and see you at the Spring Powwow!

Promotions for Elections:

-ONE tri-fold board (science-fair style) or a board/poster of equal size is allowed to be

In Service,

Travis P. Sheehan
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
DasJoker237@yahoo.com

Exciting Awards!

Congratulations to two of our hard-working Brothers!

Vigil Honor member **Bill Bialczak** received the **2003 Founders Award!** The Founders Award is given to one youth and/or one adult member each year for their extreme service and dedication to the Lodge.

Vigil Honor member **Alan Clineman** received the **2003 James E. West Award!** This is the second annual presentation of the James E. West award. It entails a \$1000 donation to The Gulf Stream Council in the name of its recipient.

Ceremonial Team Update

This is promising to be a good year with new people and new ideas. We are currently having monthly practices, which started in January. Anyone who is interested in being a part of the greatest Ceremonial team in the land should e-mail me at the address below. Please include your name, phone number, and e-mail

address; we would be honored to have you join us for the upcoming years.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Ryan McReynolds
Ceremonial Team Chief
rmcreynolds@adelphia.net



Our gaming Brothers taking life-sized RISKS



Lodge Chief Travis and Jim Hare duke it out on a Friday Fight Night



Before the 'Great Burn' (Chapter rope-burn competition)



After, the ashes fly from the 'Great Burn'



Lodge #237, Order of the Arrow
Gulf Stream Council, BSA

LEC Phone List

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
<u>OFFICERS</u>		
Lodge Chief	Travis Sheehan	575-5462
Lodge Vice-Chief of PRGM	Chris Shanks	533-0733
Lodge Vice-Chief of SVC	Adam Taft	968-4290
Lodge Secretary	Andrew Smith	(772) 336-0264
Lodge Treasurer	Matt Taylor	687-8312
Lodge Historian	Billy Riddick	483-6426
Past Lodge Chief	Chris Smith	463-8302
<u>CHAPTERS</u>		
A-Bani-Ki (OS)	Mike Welch	482-0681
Coo-Wa-Chobee (MN)	Gerry Escobar	439-3962
Chee-Pa-Tah (TW)	Matt Irvine	790-6305
Osceola (LH)	Preston Bowdre	694-2784
At-Seena-Hoofa (GL)	???	???
Ne-Kee-Wa (SF)	Tony Gordon	772-220-0194
Oi-Ya-Tah (TC)	Bill Jones	(772) 344-1713
Lowaneu Mawats (IR)	Stephen Gray	(772) 778-9109
<u>STANDING COMMITTEES</u>		
<u>Inductions</u>		
Brotherhood Coordinator	Thomas Fleming	641-1588
Elangomat Chief	Nathan Brown	439-7329
Jumpstart Coordinator	???	???
Ordeal Master	Sam Zuker	477-1267
1st Year Arrowman Cd	???	???
Ceremonial Team Chief	Ryan McReynolds	784-8911
<u>Native American</u>		
Hitchiti Chief	Matt Alexander	575-2489
Drum Team Chief	David Witmer	588-9501
<u>Promotions</u>		
<u>Elections</u>		
Troop Elections	Eddie Bowman	(722) 344-2908
Lodge Elections	DJ Cook	(772)336-6849
Chapter Elections	???	???
<u>Food Services</u>		
<u>Communications</u>		
Internet Chairman	Ryan Kidd	743-0896
Publications Coordinator	Andrew Smith	(772) 336-0264
<u>Contingents</u>		
Section Conference	Patrick Rice	evaunit8@bellsouth.net
Section Seminars	Andrew Smith	???
NOAC 2004	???	???
Indian Summer	???	???
Misc. Nat'l Programs	???	???
<u>Service Programs</u>		
Pig Roast	???	???
Where TGC Guide	???	???
Trail Crew Coordinator	???	???
One Day of Service	???	???
<u>Mentoring</u>		
Mentoring Chrm, North	Bill Jones	(772) 344-1713
Mentoring Chrm, Mid	???	???
Mentoring Chrm, South	???	???
<u>Weekend Chairman</u>		
Assistant Wknd Cd.	Derek Kerely	747-8296
<u>Troop Representative</u>		
<u>Section Conference 04</u>		
<u>Strategic Plan</u>		

Treasury Report

There are a bunch of new things coming out this year. We have a new year patch set: one back patch and four activity patches. They are modeled after the finalists for the Florida coin, the biggest being the one actually produced. We have designed a deck of Aal-Pa-Tah playing cards. They should be around \$5.50 a pack but we need to know if anyone will buy them before we start selling them; they would be quite handy at N.O.A.C. and we will probably be the only lodge that will have their own deck of cards. We should have some sort of order form or flyer out by the next weekend. Finally, if anyone is looking for a spot on the patch design committee, or to head it up, see me at the next O.A. weekend at the Lodge Box.

Your treasurer,

Matthew Taylor
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Treasurer
Smrtgy37@aol.com

Brothers,

This is the listing for the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC). These are the leaders who make the Lodge run and make sure the work gets done. If you have questions about these committees and/or would like to get involved in ANY of them, feel free to contact the specific chairman!

You might notice a good deal of question marks in spaces where names should be. These are positions that have not been filled! So if you are interested in ANY position or any position that is already filled and you would like to help out an existing chairman, please contact me so I can best place you in the leadership of the Lodge!

In Cheerful Service,
Travis Sheehan
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
Dasjoker237@yahoo.com

2004 Lodge Calendar

March

- 13th Tanah Keeta Workday (8am - 5pm)
- 12-14th Spring Powwow
- 20th Tanah Keeta Workday (8am - 5pm)

April

- 3rd Tanah Keeta Workday (8am - 5pm)
- 16-18th Section Conference 2004 at Tanah Keeta

May

- 7-8th Scout Shows
 - o South OA Pig Roast
 - o North OA Turkey Fry

June

- 4-6th Chapter Service Weekend

July

- 16-18th 2004 Ordeal
- 30th to Aug 5th National OA Conference (NOAC)

Websites, websites, websites!

Aal-Pa-Tah now has a fully functional website! Feel free to visit and look at pictures from weekends, past issues of the Gator Tales, learn about your favorite Lodge Officers, and find forms to register for Section Conference! Go see the new APT Online today at:

<http://www.oalodge237.homestead.com/>

Please feel free to visit these informative OA Websites!

Section S-4S Website
<http://www.sections4s.org>

Southern Region Website
<http://www.southern.oa-bsa.org/>

National OA Website
<http://oa-bsa.org>

Lowaneu Mawats Chapter Report

Brothers,

Greetings to all, and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There are many Section Conference 2004 work days scheduled in the coming months, and I urge everyone to go to as many as you can. Remember, you can earn service hours for Section Conference to get the special service host patches. I am still working on getting a place for our chapter meetings, and when I do, all my chapter members will be notified. My congratulations go out to one of our chapter members, Patrick Rice, who will now reside on the L.E.C. as our Internet Chairman.

In Brotherhood,
Stephen Gray
Lowaneu Mawats Chapter Chief
(772) 778-9109
psych452000@yahoo.com

Area 4 NLS by Rich Moore

On the weekend of Oct. 17-19th, Arrowmen from across Area 4 gathered at the FFA Leadership Training Facility in Haines City, Florida for the best training the Order of the Arrow has to provide, the National Leadership Seminar (NLS). It all started with Southern Region Chief Frank McMillan welcoming Arrowmen to the NLS and Clyde Mayer kicking off the training for the weekend. National Vice Chief, Rich Moore, finished the Friday Night Training and Arrowmen gathered for the renowned Southern Region crackerbarrel. In order to prepare for an intense weekend, Arrowmen retired for the night.

The Section and Lodge are offering scholarship programs to send you to the OA Wilderness Voyage free of cost! All you do is find your way to the program and back. These are once and a lifetime experiences that would be tragic to pass up. Information on each of these programs and more can be found on the National Website at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/> There you can find information and dates for these programs as well as download and print applications. If you are at all interested, please contact Chris Shanks at miraclescout@hotmail.com.

OA Philbreak:

Philmont Scout Ranch is offering you an opportunity to join other Scouts in giving meaningful service, the formation of lasting friendship, and development of your leadership skills in the beautiful mountains of Philmont Scout Ranch. Under the direction of experienced Philmont staff members, you will take part in a week-long service-based program.

The work will be strenuous but fun. You will be expected to work eight or nine hour days in all types of conditions. It will be imperative that you work with great diligence, as your time to make a positive impact on Philmont will be limited.

This seven day program will provide you a chance not only to give service to the Ranch, but a chance to build friendships across the country. It will challenge you mentally, physically, and spiritually.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Be 18 years by the day your program begins, but not yet 26 years old by its conclusion.
- Be physically fit, able to lift and handle materials up to 50 lbs.

Saturday began with breakfast and moved directly into more leadership training. The afternoon of training ended with a beautiful, outdoor worship service, with messages of wisdom delivered by different participants who quoted many books of different religions. Saturday night ended with a fun-filled night followed by another famous Southern Region crackerbarrel. Some participants gathered and exchanged thoughts and fellowship that night before going their separate ways on Sunday. It was a great and intense day.

Sunday started with yet more training,

National OA Programs

(Philmont height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced.)

- Be registered with Boy Scouts of America with BSA membership and approved by your council's Scout Executive.
- Cost is \$100.

OA Wilderness Voyage:

The National Order of the Arrow is offering you an opportunity to join Arrowmen from across the country in cheerful service and the formation of lasting brotherhood on the pristine US/Canadian Boundary Waters. Under the direction of the United States Forest Service, experienced Charles L. Sommers staff members with strong Order of the Arrow backgrounds will lead participants on a two week voyage into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

The program is a fourteen-day experience inspired by the traditions of the French and Canadian Voyageurs who ventured the northern wilderness during the 1700-1800's. Traveling thousands of miles by water and portage, these Voyageurs were hired to haul goods and furs to trade with Native Americans and Europeans. In the spirit of these adventurers, Arrowmen will embark on a voyage that is twofold. One-half of the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage focuses on portage trail and campsite maintenance within the Boundary Waters. The remaining expedition is spent on a canoeing adventure that is planned and chosen by the participants in the program. In other words, each crew plans their own voyage! However, the program is not simply portage trail work, camping, and canoeing. The OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically, and spiritually.

evaluation, and commitment. The NLS was concluded with a banquet hosted by Frank McMillan. Guest Speakers Rich Moore, and R.D. Dunkin, Central Region OA Chairman, gave their thoughts on leadership and the Area 4 NLS. Arrowmen sadly departed from the NLS, but will always remember the different leadership tools they were given. It was definitely a great weekend in the Southern Region, and it wouldn't be a surprise if many more followed.

REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least 16 years old the day your program begins, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.
- Be strong and robust (Charles L. Sommers height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced).
- Be a registered member of both the BSA and a local OA lodge, and approved by your council's executive. Cost is \$125 (if you are not a recipient of the Lodge or Section scholarship).

OA Trail Crew:

The Order of the Arrow is offering you an opportunity to join other Arrowmen in cheerful service and the formation of lasting brotherhood on the trails of Philmont Scout Ranch. Under the direction of the Philmont Conservation Department, experienced Philmont staff members with strong Order of the Arrow backgrounds will lead participants on the two week trail crew and trek.

The program is a fourteen day experience. The first week focuses on trail construction and maintenance under the guidance of Philmont trail crew foremen. The second week is a seven day backpacking trek that is designed by the participants. The program is not simply building trail and hiking, though. The OA Trail Crew is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically, and spiritually.

REQUIREMENTS (and cost) are the same as OA Wilderness Voyage.

"The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the out of doors rather than the indoors. It was born in an island wilderness. It needs the sun and rain, the woods and the plains, the waters and the starlit sky."

-E. Urner Goodman

OA Trail Crew

The Machek Trail is under refurbishment seventeen years after its opening at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation. Venture Crews 125 and 202 worked hard Saturday, Oct 11, 2003 to erect new weatherproof and fireproof signposts, re-blazing the trail and trimming vegetation. Many thanks to both crews. Contact Alan Clineman, Council Conservation Chairman and OA Trail Crew Advisor if your chapter, unit, patrol or den is interested in assisting in the preservation and maintenance of our camp. clineman@bellsouth.net



Members of Venture Crews 125 and 202 after a day's work on the Machek Trail.

Gator Tales Staff:

Coordinator - Travis Sheehan

Advisor and Layout Editor - Bradley Ellis

Consultants - Dan Arnold, Tim Arnold



The Official Publication of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237, Order of the Arrow

The Gator Tales has been the official publication of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge since 1999.