

# GATOR TALES

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

March Issue

2002

## Chapter Work Weekend Recap

Our beloved Lodge Chief and Lodge advisers approached all of the chapter chiefs one LEC and asked if we would set up one weekend where each chapter would provide a service for the camps in our council. Chee-Pa-Tah acted right away, chapter members began calling and getting everyone interested. The final turnout was about 20 brothers, both new and old members, and it went off without a hitch. Chee-Pa-Tah with the collaboration of our camp ranger Mr. Steinmetz discussed the completion of a boardwalk between Clear Lake and Grass Lake. Chee-Pa-Tah also agreed to refurbish the fiberglass partition in the shower house at Clear Lake. Because Chee-Pa-Tah exceptional efforts, additional members from other chapters were incorporated into our work projects. Members such as Mr. Jim Hare, Mr. Drew Hains, and Mr. Tom Chewing joined Chee-Pa-Tah to put in their service to our camp. But the weekend was not only work, it was a time to relax, have fun, and meet your fellow brothers. The weekend was filled with

football, board games, and the occasional noodle fight at the pool. We were also lucky enough to have a gourmet cook, Mr. Pantone to supervise our exquisite meals. The hotdogs on a stick and foil meals were superb. In the end, we completed the boardwalk, finished the shower house, and made long lasting friends. We were all surprised the next morning, while checking out the finished boardwalk we saw a Great Blue Heron standing on the end overlooking the mist covered Grass Lack. I guess everyone will enjoy our hard work.

Chee-Pa-Tah would like to thank our chapter adviser Mr. Bill Bialczak and our ranger Mr. Steinmetz for all of their help and guidance and we encourage all brothers in our many chapters to participate in this event should it appear on the lodge calendar again in the future.

Yours in Brotherhood;  
Daniel Bialczak  
Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief

## Ponder your Purpose

My Brother,

Look back on your life as a Scout. Can you remember your first Senior Patrol Leader? Can you remember the Life Scout who helped you tie your first Taunt-Line Hitch? Do you remember the Scoutmaster who presented you with the rank of First Class with great pride in his eyes? How do you repay all of these people? Well, it's likely that many of these people have moved on and are no longer actively involved in your life. Others are probably still active in your unit, continuing their service to new Scouts. The best way to repay these Scouts is to continue the legacy that they have passed on to you.

Ponder this for a moment. If Scouting were to start anew, having no one with any Scout training involved, would it survive? Possibly, but would it truly be 'Scouting'? No. Scouting, as we know it, thrives on a legacy started by one man, Lord Baden Powell. From his first days of training boys to be good men, Scouting skills and knowledge have been passed down from one Scout to the next. The Scout Handbook serves merely as a reference for this process. Scouts like you are needed to continue the tradition.

When the Senior Patrol Leader, the Life Scout, and the Scoutmaster were helping you, their reason was two-fold. The first reason was simple: A Scout is Helpful, but the second reason was much more complex. They all understood the lesson that I have just given you. Thus, their greatest reward will be the fulfillment of their part in the grand scheme: to see you take their place and build your monument, brick by brick, on the path of Scouting history.

My brother, having been given the admonition of the brotherhood and pledged my life to cheerful service under the watchful eye of the Spirit, I am compelled to share, from the depths of my mind, all knowledge that will help you on your journey. I am among you, striving to be a good Scout, working with you, helping others. I am fortunate to be able to offer this advice to all of my brothers. Pick up where I left off. Share your knowledge with your fellow Scouts. Be a part of the legacy that those before us have built!

~Your Friend

## Gator Tales Staff:

Publications Advisor - Tim Arnold  
Coordinator - Bradley Ellis  
Lodge Secretary - David Makler  
Editor - Dan Arnold

## Section Conference 2002: Test the bow, make the journey.

Hello Arrowmen!

It's that time of year again! That's right!!!! SECTION CONFERENCE!!! Section Conference promises to be a fun-filled adventure of non-stop entertainment. The event will be held April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at Camp Flaming Arrow and it is hosted by Seminole Lodge #85. What can you do at Section Conference you ask? Well my friends...ahem: QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN ARROW, NATIVE AMERICAN DANCE/DRUM COMPETITIONS, SEMINARS, CEREMONIAL COMPETITIONS, KING'S CUP DISPLAYS, AWESOME SHOWS, PATCH TRADING AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!! How much does it cost, you say? It's only \$65.00! Yes friends, this

includes your ride up to Flaming Arrow in the luxurious, air-conditioned, and video-equipped passenger bus, your official Aal-Pa-Tah Conference T-Shirt, your delegate patch, lunch on the way back from conference, conference fees, and not to mention, those favorites of all: SQUEAKY GATORS!!! Yes, and there's more!!!! We are offering, for the first time, A DISCOUNT for all those driving themselves to Camp Flaming Arrow! That's right folks, we will wave the bus fee and you only have to pay \$55.00! (Waver will only be granted if conditions apply, please consult the Chief) What are you waiting for?! Last year, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge won the fantastic and coveted SECTION SPIRIT AWARD, and we will prevail again! Come show your Scouting spirit and show Section S4S what Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 is all about.

WWW,  
John Burke  
Section Conference Contingent Leader  
JRockTDB@aol.com



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## Advisor's Minutes

Brothers,

Great news — Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 has been named an HONOR LODGE again this year. My thanks goes out not only to Chris Smith but also to the other Chiefs and officers along with the Advisors and the entire membership who made this possible.

Thanks to all the chapters who participated in the Winter Chapter Service Weekend. I was only able to attend my chapter's event and I was impressed by the job Daniel Bialczak and his chapter did. I hope we will be able to build on this event in the years to come. I understand the other chapters' events also went well.

Thanks to Randy Wertepny and his Advisor Mike Horwitz for another fine job on Operation First Class; a job well done.

If you have not heard I have asked David Weda to be the Associate Lodge Advisor. David brings a great deal of experience to the job and he will serve the Lodge well. Thanks again David for accepting the position.

Do not forget, if you have not paid your dues for 2002 they are due. See Debbie at the Council Office or at the registration table at the upcoming Spring Powwow.

And always remember ..... the Lodge is built one Arrowman at a time.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Richard M. Fore  
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Advisor  
rfore@aol.com



Lodge Advisor Richard Fore

## Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone that made Operation One-Day and the Chapter Service Weekend a success! We are well on our way to creating a solid foundation for success in years to come. It's a new year! There are only two things I think of after the New Year begins: Spring Powwow and Section Conference! The planning committee for Spring Powwow will be meeting very shortly to finalize plans for the weekend. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to what you'd like to see at the weekend, please contact Matt Lombard (Matt12021@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

The Chiefly Speaking segment is, in my mind, for the Lodge Chief to speak about things that are on his mind. As I wrote this, I was looking out my apartment window and saw one kid being bullied by another. I never liked

bullies. They all seem to fit the same profile: quiet, ignorant, and full of personal problems. That was the bully in my younger days. And as we progress through time, we find that twinkle of Darwinism sparkle in their eyes. Yes friends, "survival of the fittest" works for bullies too. The new bully is smarter. They set up ambushes for unsuspecting victims; they spread vicious unfounded rumors that make living a normal life very difficult for those affected. I like to think of Arrowmen as Super Heroes that combat the evil bully, not by punishing the bully himself for his actions, but for turning attention from his negative actions to the positive actions they create. With all the bad things that I've seen in the past few months, the Order of the Arrow has provided that safe haven in which I can temporarily forget about the problems plaguing the world and have a good time.

Come to Spring Powwow and forget

the bully! I hope to see everyone very soon, and may you all be blessed in the New Year.

Yours in the Brotherhood,  
Christopher Smith  
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief  
Tkprogram@aol.com



Lodge Chief Chris Smith

## Vice Chief's Beef

Brothers,

We have recently had two weekends in December, on the same date. They were Operation One-Day and the Chapter Service weekend. Many volunteers had to choose one or the other, but both of them went off pretty well. I think many more of our brothers would have attended if you had known. There were promotions of the events in a group e-mailing and in the Gator Tales, but despite these notices attendance was still low. The best way for us, the lodge leadership, to frequently contact the lodge is through e-mail, so please if you have an e-mail address send it to me at ellissm@netzero.net. Hopefully I will see you all at the Spring Powwow and do not forget to register for Section Conference!

Scott Ellis  
Aal-Pa-Tah Vice-Chief  
ellissm@netzero.net  
(561) 747-2262



Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis

## 2002 Lodge Calender

### March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Spring Powwow at Camp Tanah Keeta  
Elections for new lodge officers and chapter chiefs

### April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Section Conference hosted by Seminole Lodge #85 at Camp Flaming Arrow  
Test the Bow, Make the Journey

### May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2002

OA Pig Roast/Mega Scout Show

### May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Ordeal 1 at Camp Tanah Keeta

### June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Ordeal 2 at Camp Tanah Keeta  
New lodge officers and chapter chiefs take office

### July 27<sup>th</sup>-August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002

NOAC at Indiana University in  
Bloomington, Indiana

## The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow

I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit, even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

ORDER OF THE ARROW OFFICIAL SONG  
Words by M. Curtis Tomlinson



## Lodge Election Rules

### Candidate Eligibility

A candidate for office:

1. Must have been inducted or transferred into AAL-PA-TAH at least six months prior to the election date.
2. Must have dues paid for the current year.
3. Must not reach his 21st birthday during the scheduled term of office.
4. Must physically reside within the official boundaries of The Gulf Stream Council.
5. Must be currently registered with a unit that is chartered by The Gulf Stream Council, B.S.A.
6. Must present himself at the scheduled candidates' meeting<sup>1</sup>, unless he is running for a chapter position or makes specific prior arrangements with the Lodge Chief and/or Lodge Advisor. The candidate may have one person of their choosing with him during the interview. The person can be anyone of the candidate's choosing as long as they are not also a candidate.
7. Must be determined eligible by the Interview Committee.

<sup>1</sup> The Interview Committee is composed of The Current Lodge Chief, only if he is not running for an office, The Lodge Advisor, Associate Advisor(s), and one youth, who is not a candidate, which is appointed by The Lodge Chief.

### Voter Eligibility

All dues paid members who have not reached their 21st birthday by the day of the election are entitled to vote. No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted. The Lodge Secretary is responsible to provide the supervisor of elections with an accurate list of eligible voters.

### General Election Rules

1. The election for each office is to be held separately. The results

At the upcoming Spring Powwow (March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>), a Brotherhood ceremony will be offered for all of those ready to take the next step on their journey and seal their membership in the Order. The following five challenges must be met before you can enter the Circle of Brotherhood:

1) Memorize the signs of Arrow membership. Memorize the Obligation of the Order, which you received from Allowat Sakima. Also, memorize the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of the Ordeal membership, and the Arrow handclasp (it is advisable to memorize the Obligation and Song before the weekend).

2) Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal. Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed (reflect on your own, talk to older brothers, and per-

will be announced before the next election will begin.

2. A candidate may run for any office. If he is defeated, he may run for any office of his choice.

3. Campaign promotional material is limited to a single tri-fold poster board (science fair board). The poster board may contain as much information or pictures as the candidate wishes on one side of the board only. There will be no other campaign material by the candidate or on his behalf. All poster boards will be displayed in a designated location after weekend registration has begun.

4. A candidate may be disqualified, upon the approval of the Lodge Key 3, for violations of the election procedure or for conduct that is not keeping with the highest traditions of The Boy Scouts of America. The Scout Oath, Scout Law and Obligation of our order will serve as a standard of judgment. A candidate may be held responsible for actions on his behalf.

5. The Lodge Chief and Lodge Advisor shall appoint one youth and one advisor. The youth will hold the title, Supervisor of Elections, and shall hold such duties and responsibilities as are implied by that title and any other duties as may be assigned to him by the Lodge Chief.

6. At the time of the Annual Lodge Business Meeting, The Candidates will be expected to:

- A. Be nominated by another youth member of the lodge. The Nominator will be allowed to speak for two minutes on behalf of The Candidate.
- B. Speak for two minutes, if they so wish.

7. Neither the current Lodge Chief (unless he is running), The Supervisor of Elections, nor any adult may nominate, speak for, or in any way publicly endorse any candidate.

8. The Candidate that receives greater

### Brotherhood Promo

haps read about the Ordeal in the OA Handbook).

3) Serve your unit. Retain your registration in Scouting. During a period of at least 10 months after your Ordeal, strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own unit.

4) Plan for service in your lodge. Retain your registration in the lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge and stay involved within the lodge.

5) Review your progress. When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter addressed to the lodge secretary (David Makler). In this letter:

- Explain what you think the Obligation means.

than 50% of the votes is elected. Unintelligible ballots are not counted.

9. Unopposed candidates must receive greater than 50% of all votes.

10. In the event of a tie vote, there will be one additional ballot to break the tie. Before the ballot is given, the tied candidates will each be given an additional two minutes to speak on their behalf, if they so wish. If the second ballot results in a tie, the determination of which of the tied candidates will serve in the office is made by the Lodge Executive Committee, before the new officers are installed, and will require a majority vote of that body. Lodge Chief may never be chosen by the Lodge Executive Committee and must be the result of a whole Lodge vote.

11. If no candidate receives greater than 50% of the votes for an office, a second election will be held immediately between the two candidates who received the highest amounts of votes if the second vote results in a tie, the determination of which of the tied candidates will serve in the office is made by the Lodge Executive Committee, before the new officers are installed, and will require a majority vote of that body. Lodge Chief may never be chosen by the Lodge Executive Committee and must be the result of a whole Lodge vote..

12. If no candidates run for an office, the newly elected Lodge Chief will appoint a lodge member who meets the candidate eligibility requirements to that office. The Lodge Executive Committee must approve appointments of elected officers.

13. After counting, the ballots will be held by the Supervisor of Elections for a period of thirty days. Any lodge member, with the approval of the Lodge Chief may review the ballots during this period.

- Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your unit and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.

- Describe your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program.

(It is advisable to write this letter prior to the weekend)

If you meet the above requirements and plan to do your Brotherhood at the Spring Powwow, please specify this when you call the Council Office to pre-register for the weekend. Additionally, there is a \$12 fee for the Brotherhood, which pays for the new sash; this additional fee may be paid when you pre-register or when you arrive at the weekend. We look forward to widening our Circle of Brotherhood.

# Chapter Reports

## NOAC 2002

What are you doing this summer? Well, if your plans do not yet include touring Chicago and spending a week filled with fun and fellowship with your brothers from across the country, then it's time to register for The National Order of the Arrow Conference. This biannual event is arguably the best Scouting event of the year! Nearly 7000 Arrowmen will gather at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana from July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. If you want to be part of something great, call the Council Service Center at (561) 694-8585 and make your \$200 deposit before time runs out! Space is VERY limited for this popular event.

WWW,  
Stephen Brown  
NOAC Contingent Leader  
SkillfulSnake@aol.com

## Spring Powwow 2002

Brothers!

Spring Powwow is close at hand! It promises to be a great weekend full of brotherhood and FUN!!! The cost for the weekend is \$15, and you must PRE-REGISTER for the weekend by calling Gulf Stream Council Office (561) 694-8585 by March 8<sup>th</sup>. After March 8<sup>th</sup>, a \$5 late fee will be assessed. Here are some of the things we can look forward to...

- Quest for the Golden Arrow – Ultimate Chapter Competition
- Great Food
- Awesome Raffles
- Brotherhood Ceremony (costs \$12 extra)
- Lodge Officer Elections
- Section Conference Mass Sign Up!
- Adult Sink-A-thon
- And Much, Much MORE!!!!!!

Planning has already begun for this outstanding weekend. If you would like to contribute ideas, please contact Matt Lombard (Matt12021@yahoo.com)

## Operation One-Day 2001

Brothers,

As we all know every year we help out another non-profit organization in an event we call Operation One-Day. This year we decided to help out the Toys-for-Tots program, which was a huge success the prior year. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, we, along with other volunteers helped out to bring deprived children a Christmas. Besides OA brothers, there were also other scouts, and local school key club members who came out to help for this noble cause. As a lodge, our key purpose in the operation was to take previously separated toys and fill orders with them, as they were needed. Then we took the orders and brought them to the docking port to be picked up. Around 12:30 pm, brother Ryan Kidd arranged food for all of the volunteers. Soon after lunch, the orders stopped coming (and so did the toys). We were all done and served our purpose for the Toys-for-Tots program. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Scott Ellis  
Operation One Day Chairman  
ellissm@netzero.net  
(561) 747-2262

## Chee-Pa-Tah

Hello again my fellow brothers. As you probably know Chee-Pa-Tah has been busy during the break. I am happy to say that Chee-Pa-Tah's first chapter work weekend ran smoothly. We had fun, kicked back, and built a boardwalk in-between. But all things must end and we have to get back to the business at hand.

Our lodge's next fun action packed weekend will be March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> - Spring Powwow at Camp Tanah Keeta. This weekend will be filled with games, seminars, and Chapter competition. Show up and represent Chee-Pa-Tah chapter in all the activities.

Finally, I would like to recognize all of the Chee-Pa-Tah members who showed up and worked at our last Chapter work week-

end. I am sorry if I forgot your name, just remind me and I will be sure to include you in the next issue of the Gator Tales. I would like to thank: Scott Ashford, Bill Bialczak, Phillip Cherry, James Cruz, David Foster, Nolan Gerrish, Kevin Kuczynski, Greg Myer, David Pantone, Jay Pantone, Michael Ryan, Tim Thompson, John Yackulics, Peter Yackulics, and Michael Zamora.

If you have any questions or comments contact me at 791-0134, or email me at Hombredelasrtas@hotmail.com.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Daniel Bialczak  
Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief  
Hombredelasrtas@hotmail.com

## Oi-Ya-Tah

Brothers,

These last few months in Ne-Kee-Wa have been productive. Starting in November with the Celebrity Dog Wash, and then Operation Fist Class at TK, up to the recent Chapter Service Weekend at Oklawaha, the brothers in our chapter have showed their dedication and support. Some of these events have been learning experiences, both to myself as Chapter Chief and to my Brothers in the Chapter, in very positive ways. It is also with great pride that I report the completion of the unit elections for new Candidates for our Order from Ne-Kee-Wa, and greatly look forward to the completion of their Ordeal experience and their induction to our Lodge. I look forward to the next few months of working with the present members and with our soon-to-be members at the upcoming Ordeals...

Firmly bound in Brotherhood,  
John Burke  
Ne-Kee-Wa Chapter Chief  
JRockTDB@aol.com

## Ne-Kee-Wa

Greetings fellow brothers,

I hope everyone had a great time celebrating the holiday season and wish everyone well in 2002. I would like to thank the scoutmasters for working with me during the unit elections. I would also like to thank Rick Berry and Sally Daniell for their guidance and their assistance. I would also like to thank those who were part of an election team with either Chris or myself.

Our chapter camped out at Oklawaha for the Chapter Service Weekend. Thank you to everyone who showed up. With your help we were able to complete several work projects.

Units, please elect an OA Troop Representative. OA Troop Representatives are a vital part of the chapter. Please hold an election and email me with their information.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Anthony Bonna  
Oi-Ya-Tah Chapter Chief  
troop\_445@hotmail.com

## Coo-Wa Chobee

Our Chapter is in need of a strong leader for the position of Chapter Chief for the upcoming year. If anyone is interested, contact me at Farside62085@msn.com, or 641-6380. As a chapter, we will have a discussion about the future of our chapter leadership at the upcoming Spring Powwow. Also, chapter patches are available from the lodge box. The restrictions on the patches are one per event, and Brotherhood status is required.

Yours in Scouting,  
Brian Case  
Coo-Wa-Chobee Chapter Chief  
Farside62085@msn.com

## Osceola

Brothers,

Thank you to all scouts that were present at the December service weekend. Also thanks to members that were able to attend Operation One Day; we really helped a lot of needy families. Just as a heads up, here are some of the upcoming events. Spring Powwow in March, Section Conference in April, and two Ordeals in May and June. Anyone wishing to attend these events should make proper arrangements with the council office. Hope you all had a nice holiday season and happy new year.

God Bless America,  
Matt Lombard  
Osceola Chapter Chief  
Matt12021@yahoo.com

## A-Bani-Ki

I do not have much news to report. Remember to pay your dues for 2002, to register for Section Conference, and I hope to see you all at the upcoming Spring Powwow (March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>).

Yours in brotherhood,  
Eric Taylor  
A-Bani-Ki Chapter Chief  
erictaylor\_1@lycos.com