

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

GATOR TALES

April Issue

www.Aal-Pa-Tah.org

2002

GATOR TEETH

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SUMMER CALENDER

- **Ordeal Dates**
May 17th - 19th or June 7th - 9th
- **Summer Camp Brotherhood Ceremonies**
Every Thursday night of summer camp
- **NOAC**
July 27th - August 3rd

Ponder Your Purpose

Brothers, when I was younger, one of my role models in life told me a story that I feel will help us all understand our role as honor-scouts a little better. A man was walking along the beach one day as the tide was going out. He noticed hundreds of starfish stuck on the sand, stranded as the water that was their home moved further and further away. He then noticed a boy on the beach picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the water. He walked up to the boy and said, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "I am throwing the starfish back into the water." The man then asked, "Why?" The boy responded, "Somebody needs to help them, they can't help themselves." The man said, "But you are just one boy and there are miles of beach ahead, it can't possibly make much of a difference." The boy then picked up a starfish and threw it back into the water and said, "It just made a difference for that starfish." The man then began picking

up starfish as well and throwing them into the ocean.

This story has two very important points. First, young people can make a difference in the world and often see ways to do it that adult may never realize. That is what is so beautiful about our "youth-led organization." The young men of the America are given the opportunity and support to make a difference in the world. Youth Arrowmen, take heed of this message and do not let the opportunity pass you by! Second, this story teaches that while one person may not be able to solve all of the world's problems, he can work on one problem at a time to change the world on an individual basis. Imagine if everyone held this philosophy! The world would surely be a better place for all. My brothers, if we do not spend our lives in serving humanity, who will?

~Your Friend



The new 60th Anniversary Lodge Flap will be available at the Lodge Box at the upcoming Ordeal weekends.

New Vigil Honor Members

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an Arrowman by the lodge. The Vigil Ceremony was conducted on Friday evening of the Spring Powwow, which was held on March 15th-17th, 2002, for the following brothers:

later date. The awarding of the Vigil Honor stands as a testament to many years of hard work and dedication to our lodge by all of these brothers.

Congratulations to all of Aal-Pa-Tah's newest Vigil Honor Members

Youth

- James Archer
- Geoff Miller
- David Witmer

Adults

- Tim Arnold
- Bill Jones
- Dennis Kennedy
- Debbie Saad



New Vigil Honor Members (L to R): Bill Jones, James Archer, Tim Arnold, Dennis Kennedy, Debbie Saad, Geoff Miller, David Witmer.

Additionally, Brother Daniel Bialczak was called out and will complete his ceremony at a

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Dues Paid Thru 3000
BRAD ELLIS 33478-

ATTENTION ORDEAL MEMBERS WHO WERE INDUCTED IN 2001 OR EARLIER: THIS IS FOR YOU!

Now is the time for you to seal your membership in our order. You made a commitment at you Ordeal to cheerfully serve your fellow man. It is only right that you renew that commitment at the Ordeal weekend and become a Brotherhood member of Aal-Pa-Tah. This lodge is committed to increasing the number of Ordeal members who convert to Brotherhood members.

1. Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary, David Makler, explaining how you will continue to serve the Lodge, your Unit, Scouting

in general, and the community.

2. Memorize the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow.

3. Memorize the Order of the Arrow Song.

When you register for the weekend, indicate that you are planning on earning Brotherhood. There is a \$12 fee to pay for the sash, please include the fee with your weekend payment. Don't forget to have your letter on Friday at registration.

Spring Powwow Recap

Brothers,

Spring Powwow occurred very recently. For many it was a great and fun way to jump-start their Spring Break. The event was held from March 15th-17th and 114 members showed up for this great weekend.

Friday night was a very important night. We had a small business meeting, and the Vigil candidates were called out. Saturday morning the Quest for the Golden Arrow was held and Chee-Pa-Tah chapter won the competition; which involved ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and basketball. The afternoon was spent mostly attending seminars, which many people attended and enjoyed. The seminars ranged from Native American drumming and dancing, to Amtgard, and Wingers.

Shortly after dinner on Saturday, the new officers were elected. The officers will take their positions at the June Ordeal. The 2002-2003 Lodge Officers are as follows:

Lodge Chief: Travis Sheehan
Lodge Vice-Chief: Scott Ellis
Lodge Secretary: Adam Taft
Lodge Treasurer: Christopher Shanks
Lodge Historian: Anthony Bonna

Saturday night, the brotherhood ceremony took place and seven brothers sealed their membership within the order (see brotherhood article).

I would like to thank all who attended this fun and exciting weekend. I hope to see everyone at Section Conference and at the June Ordeal!

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Scott Ellis
Lodge Vice-Chief
ellis@netzero.net
(561) 747-2262

First Year Honor Arrowman Award

The First Year Honor Arrowman Award is a new program focusing on encouraging new members to keep active with the OA. During their ordeal, they will receive an OA guide which explains all the committees, activities, et cetera which the lodge participates in.

This award will also encourage the new members to seal their membership with Brotherhood. After they complete the requirements, they are eligible for the award.

Due to the fact that existing members never received an opportunity to earn this award, we're offering a one-year deal with the

following requirements: You must attend at least six out of the next 11 lodge events; you must be a Brotherhood member and attend a Brotherhood ceremony other than your own. These requirements must be completed by December 31, 2002. The Spring Pow-wow will count towards these requirements.

Upon completing these requirements, existing members are eligible to buy one honor arrowman patch at a cost of \$5.

Yours in service,
Randy Wertepny

OA Trail Crew and OA Wilderness Voyage

Brothers,

The Order of the Arrow offers two tremendous adventures for you this summer! The OA Wilderness Voyage at the Northern Tier Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota, and the OA Philmont Trail Crew at the Philmont Boy Scout Reservation in New Mexico. Both programs are two weeks long and offer Cheerful Service and an overwhelming appreciation for Brotherhood for any interested Arrowman under the age of 21. Canoe the Boundary Waters between Canada and the United States or climb the mountains of Philmont. These things and more await you this summer.

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge has initiated a scholarship for those wishing to attend either

trip. The scholarship pays the \$100 registration fee for the programs; sending a separate Arrowman to each program (leaving only travel expenses for the individual). You may apply for the scholarships via e-mail to the Lodge Chief at TkProgram@aol.com. If you would like to learn more about either the Wilderness Voyage or Trail Crew, you may do so by going to www.aa-bsa.org (printable applications to attend the programs can be found online at this site). Don't let this opportunity go to waste.

WWW,
Chris Smith
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
TkProgram@aol.com

2002 Council Camporee

Once again our lodge is providing staff for the Council Camporee coming the 4th through the 6th of October. We are hoping to have a service core of at least 65 arrowmen. If you are interested, please contact Randy Wertepny at 561-795-7453. Keep in mind that your troop is most likely going as well so please let your Scoutmaster know you are planning on being a part of the staff this year.

The lodge is also putting out a rendezvous flap for the camporee. This flap will be sold at the OA rendezvous, during the camporee, to all attending Order of the Arrow members. More information about the Service Corp and the rendezvous will be posted in upcoming editions of the Gator Tale.

Yours in Service,
Randy Wertepny

James T. Sasser Campership Fund

For the last four years our lodge has been raising money for the campership fund by selling neckerchiefs and pocket patches. Well, it has definitely paid off because the fund has over \$20,000 now. Since the object of this fund is to send scouts to camp through its yearly interest, we are still trying to raise money for it. Our next fundraiser is a Campership Flap and it will be available starting at Section Conference for a donation of \$10. All proceeds, like always, are put into the fund.

On another note, applications for summer 2002 camperships are now available at the Council Office. If you need one or know someone who does, keep it in mind. In the past, camperships have been awarded up to \$75 for summercamp. If you have any questions or comments, contact Randy Wertepny at 561-795-7453.

In Cheerful Service,
Randy Wertepny
Aal-Pa-Tah Campership Chairman

Attention Arrowmen!

Please fill out this form and send it to the Council Office at the address below. We are trying to update our records. Thank you.

NAME: _____
Please Print

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Gulfstream Council, BSA
C/o Debbie Clineman
8335 N. Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6329

Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

Wow, what a great Spring Powwow. Thanks to all who helped. Also, thanks goes out to brothers Tim Arnold, Debbie Clineman, and Ray Ellis for helping the Chief out in the after-Powwow communications endeavor. You all helped me bear a tremendous burden, and for that, I am truly grateful. Congratulations to all newly elected officers! I am sure that Travis Sheehan has many new ideas to bring to the table as Lodge Chief, and that he and his officers will do well during the 2002-03 season. My thanks also go out to Stephen Brown, Geoff Miller, George Miller, Andrew Smith, and Bradley Ellis, each who took time out of their vacations, whether it was for an hour or days, to help complete Lodge Projects vital for the success of Spring Powwow.

Now for some Chiefly issues: There has been a growing problem with the rapidly growing "Winger" population at camp. These "Wingers" which were fun and small in numbers at first, have now overpopulated and wreaked havoc on Tanah Keeta. They leave their droppings, usually in the form of multi-colored latex balloons, all over camp, pollut-

ing the grounds. Then some have even gone so far as to leave chocolate syrup all over walls, latex gloves, exploded fruit/vegetables, and lots of other menacing pollutants on the ground. Now the decision: From this point forward, NO WINGERS will be allowed in camp, PERIOD. The ONLY exception to this rule would be using "wingers" as program items used by Weekend Chairman or his designee.

Have you ever been to an all-you-can-eat buffet? What a deal! For a little more than seven dollars, you can eat yourself into a stuffed stupor. Or is it a great deal at all? The blanket statement is "all you can eat", however, what if the statement read "all you can chew?" A little less appetizing, I am sure. Or how about "all you can regurgitate", how's that sound? Do you remember that really annoying song, "Where have all the Cowboy's gone?" What if it was "Where have all the chickens gone?" You thought the song was annoying before. "Westside Story" changed to "Westside Chicken", or "Gone with the Wind" to "Gone with the Chicken". These theater acts just would not be the same without their names. Word's matter! Remember what you say, and

Word's matter! Remember what you say, and

Vice-Chief's Beef

On a brighter note, Spring Powwow just passed and it was a very fun weekend full of seminars and competitions. A separate article in the Gator Tales talks about the events that occurred this weekend so be sure to read the article if you missed it!

There are also some other exciting weekends in the upcoming months. There will be the OA Pig Roast at the Mega Scout Show on May 10th-12th. There will be two ordeals coming up in a few months, the first one is May 17th-19th and the second one will be June 7th-9th at camp Tanah Keeta. All brothers are encouraged to come and help out at these ordeals; there are separate work projects for brothers as well as games and events. Any brother is also welcome to serve as an Elangomat, an Ordeal clan guide. If you are interested, contact me at (561) 747-2262 or send me an email.

Brotherhoods To Be**Offered During Summercamp**

Brothers,

We are proud to announce that EVERY Friday during Summer Camp we will be holding Brotherhood ceremonies for all those interested. The cost is \$12 and must be paid a week before the Friday you plan on doing your brotherhood to the Council Office. If you are not camping during the week, but wish to stay the evening at camp, accommodations will be made. Come seal your membership in the Brotherhood during summer camp. You'll be glad you did!

Gator Tales Staff

Advisor - Tim Arnold

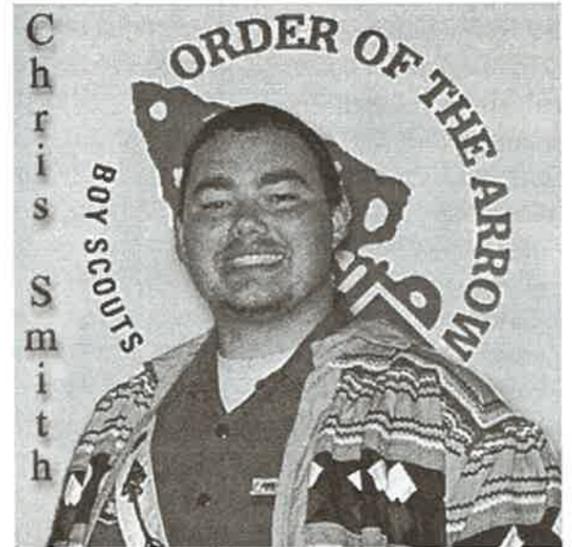
Coordinator - Brad Ellis

Editor - Dan Arnold

whom you say it to. Things get misinterpreted all the time, and words are jumbled, and you can end up hurting those you care for the most. See everyone chicken...err...soon...

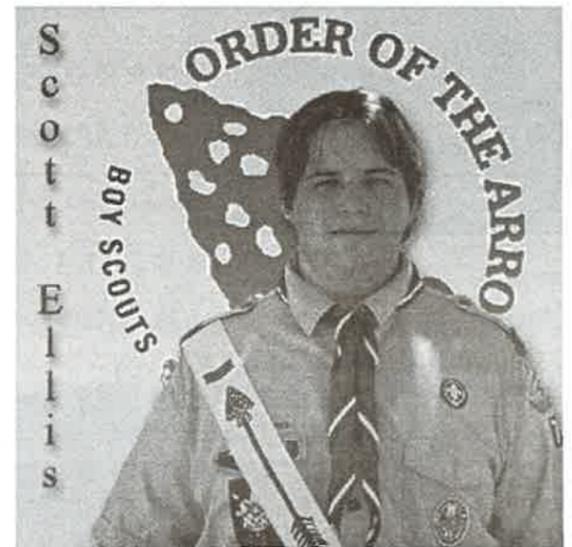
Yours in the High and Worthy Ideals of Scouting,

Christopher R. Smith
TkProgram@aol.com



Lodge Chief Chris Smith

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Scott Ellis
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Vice-Chief
ellissm@netzero.net



Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis

Advisors Minute

First let me congratulate all the new Vigil's. I think the Youth did a great job in selecting Arrowmen that well deserved the award. I know that we can count on all the new Vigil's for great things in the future.

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected officers. I look forward to working with each and every one of them when they take office at the end of the June weekend.

I want to remind everyone that we need each and every person who is eligible for the Brotherhood to become a Brotherhood member. If you know some one who has been Ordeal for over 10 months please encourage them to become a Brotherhood member of the Lodge. We have to get over 30% conversion to become an Honor lodge.

Don't forget we have call outs at the Mega Scout Show in May along with the pig roast.

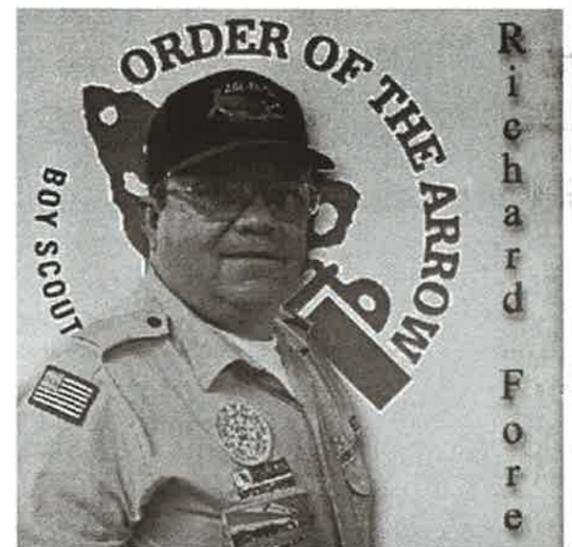
Also in May is the first Ordeal. We need all the help we can get to make both events work.

For all the Arrowmen who are coming to

events, THANKS. To all other PLEASE come out and support YOUR Lodge.

Remember the Lodge grows one Arrowman at a time.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Richard M. Fore



Lodge Advisor Richard Fore



Some of the kitchen crew serving dinner at the Spring Powwow. Excellent job and many thanks to all who worked on the food services staff.



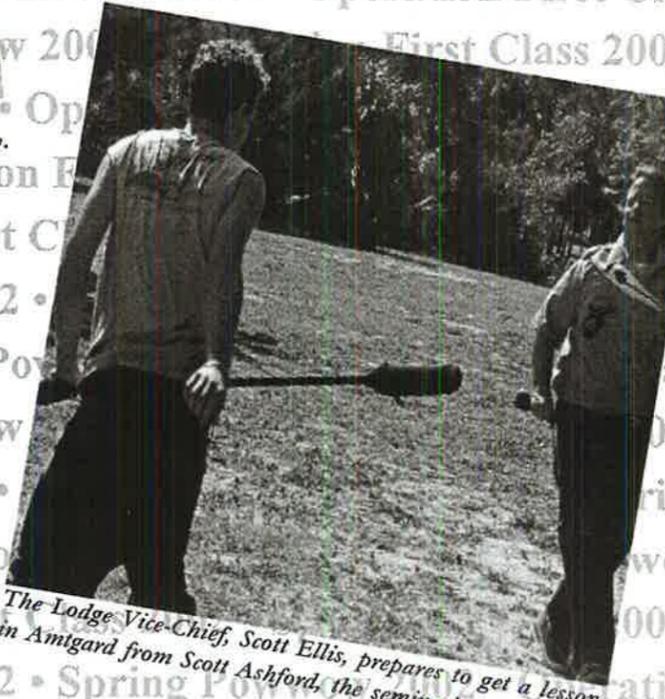
The lodge prepares for our favorite part of the day...Dinner!



Brothers from Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter take a break for a photo during the Quest for the Golden Arrow at the Spring Powwow.



Brothers drumming and singing during the seminars portion of the day at the Spring Powwow.



The Lodge Vice-Chief, Scott Ellis, prepares to get a lesson in Amigard from Scott Ashford, the seminar's facilitator.



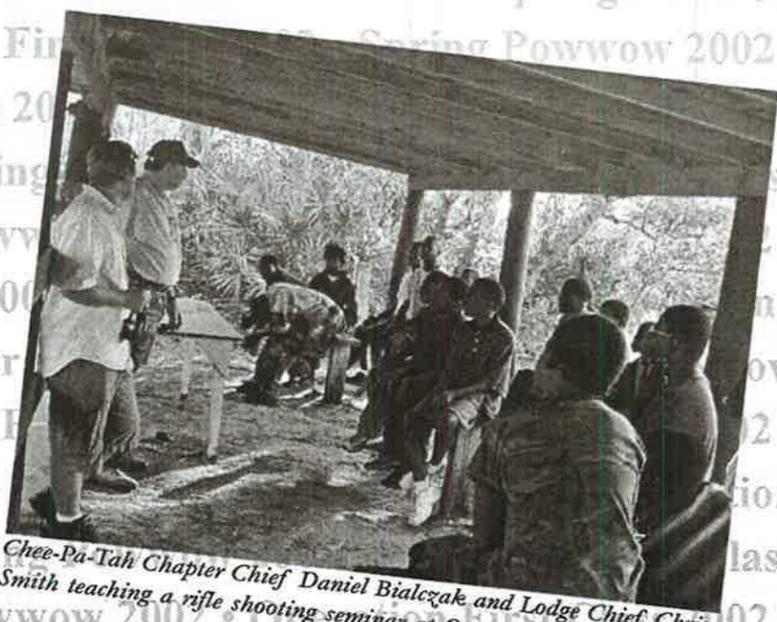
Some of the Operation First Class participants watch as their fellow Scout climbs the wall.



Brothers Frank Schwarz and Mike Volk prepare for their knot tying seminar at Operation First Class.



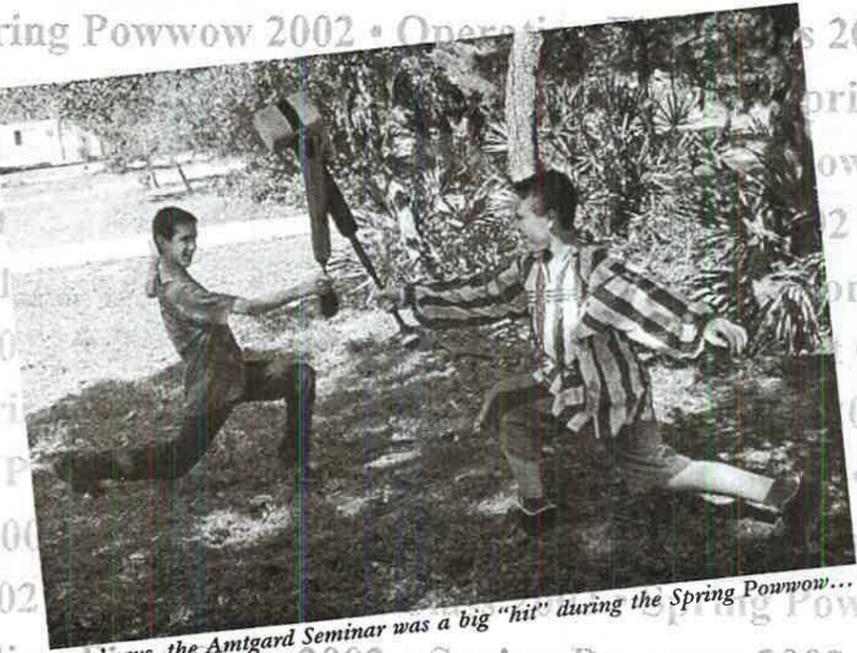
Brothers firing away during the Winger 101 Seminar at the Spring Powwow!



Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief Daniel Bialczak and Lodge Chief Chris Smith teaching a rifle shooting seminar at Operation First Class.



Vigil Honor Members Bernie Jansen and Kevin Murphy watch as a young Scout conquers the wall.



As always, the Amigard Seminar was a big "hit" during the Spring Powwow...