



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

GATOR TALES

Fall Issue

2000

NOAC 2000

By Brad Ellis



Nathan Alexander, Tavas Sheehan and Chad Reynolds (Left to Right) make a bowling alley in the Lost Sea Cave in Tennessee.

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) 2000 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville was perhaps the best NOAC trip that Aal-Pa-Tah has ever experienced. The trip began with a departure upon a bus from the RJ Gators in Palm Beach Gardens on Friday, July 28th, where we proceeded to Jacksonville to pick up some brothers from Echochotee Lodge 200 that were sharing the trip with us. In all, there were 30 arrowmen from Aal-Pa-Tah and 20 from Echochotee in the contingent; Aal-Pa-Tah also had 9 arrowmen serving on various areas of the NOAC Staff.

On the journey up to NOAC our contingent stopped in Georgia there to enjoy the laser-light show at Stone Mountain before resting for the night (which resulted in hours of

dodge ball and basketball before actually sleeping). On Saturday the contingent stopped at Rock City for a couple of hours and then continued on the road towards NOAC.

NOAC itself lasted from Saturday, July 29th to Thursday, August 3rd, during which time Aal-Pa-Tah's contingent was more active than we have ever been. During NOAC we earned the National Standard in Publications, Honor Lodge Status (the highest) for the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony (team: Phil Ashford, Brad Ellis, Evan Mason, Patrick Kerley), Honor Lodge in the Vigil Ceremony (Phil Ashford and Brad Ellis), Evan Mason placed 7th in the nation for grass dance and danced in the American Indian Night Tuesday Show before all of NOAC, Chad Reynolds and Travis Sheehan both placed in the top 20 for fancy dance, Nathan Alexander placed in the top 20 for traditional style, Tom Smith placed in the top 20 for straight dance, Scott Smith and Ryan Kidd also participated in the dancing, we made the final 8 in the soccer tournament, participated in the volleyball tournament, made it to the 2nd round in the basketball tournament, James Archer placed 4th in the lip synch competition and was in the OA Brotherhood Band which performed every evening, we participated in OA Jeopardy and in the Web Page Evaluations, Patrick Kerley placed 2nd in the 100 yd breaststroke and 3rd in the 50 yd breaststroke. We obtained one of the 60 National Spirit Awards (a new item at NOAC) and

we had a 100% of our contingent earn the participation award. Were on the big screen at the shows while dancing "the gator", and the only lodge to make a digital OA Scrapbook of NOAC. There were pictures and another comments of us in every publication at the event (helps to have the layout editor in the lodge, thanks Dan Arnold). We had two of our brothers on the official NOAC web page, and had what was perhaps the hottest patch set at NOAC (we couldn't walk anywhere without hearing: "Hey, do you have any Marlins to trade". I even came back one day to find people waiting outside our dorm rooms to trade for them). The aforementioned items are most, but not all, of the activities that our contingent participated in while at NOAC; there was never a dull moment during the course of the week.



The whole NOAC Contingent

S-4 CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE!

Arrowmen of all ages,

Are you an avid patch collector, but are tired of the same Aal-Pa-Tah memorabilia? Do you enjoy lodge quest events, and want to take your competitions to the next level? Do you enjoy being around hundreds of people? Then you should come to S-4 Section Conference, hosted by Timiquan Lodge out of Tampa, Florida on April 20th-22nd. Here you can patch trade, watch ceremonial competitions, compete in the Quest, enjoy Native American events, and attend awesome training seminars! Now I know what you're saying, "How much?" Well, for this fun-packed trip, you only have to pay the low-low price of \$65.00! (Note: this is an expected cost, but it may be raised or lowered due to conference fees which will be set by the host lodge) And all you have to pay to reserve your spot is a whopping \$25.00! (Gasp!) That's right, friends, for only twenty-five big ones, you can reserve your spot with the best contingent Aal-pa-tah has had to offer. With your \$65.00, this covers Conference fees, cool T-shirt, Hat,

bus, and awesome squeaky gators! So be sure to send in your down payment of twenty-five dollars as soon as possible, and remember, when it comes to Aal-Pa-Tah, Don't take it personally....

Christopher Smith
Section Conference Contingent Leader.

Note: the \$25 reservation fee must be paid in full by March 23rd in order to reserve your spot on the buses. After March 23rd, you will still have to pay the full \$65.00, but you will not be guaranteed a spot on one of the buses.



Chiefly Speaking from Bradley Ellis

As I gaze out my dorm window across the main street of Florida State University and watch the myriad of students meander past, I write this letter to you, my brothers, with profound confidence that this year will prove to be a benchmark for our lodge.

First off, I would like to say that I could not be running the lodge from such a distance without the strong group of young leaders that have stepped up to the plate this year. So far the LEC and I have made several new changes in policy, as well as, brought back several old ones and the hard work and dedication that the chapter chiefs and the other lodge officers have put forth towards helping me implement these changes has been both inspiring and humbling. As a leader is only as strong as those who will follow him, I thank you for patience, support, and dedication.

Secondly, I would like to speak a little on one of the aforementioned new policies which may have caused a little confusion around the rumor mill. For years now, our lodge has packed all of our candidates into a single "Mega" Ordeal Weekend during which we induct anywhere from 150 to 200 new brothers. This cramming of candidates into a single weekend creates a shortage of work projects for the candidates and often one clan digs and while another fills it just to keep them busy (although I am embellishing a bit, I'm sure you all understand the point I am making). In an effort to provide "meaningful service" to our candidates, we have decided to now hold two Ordeal weekends a year. As you all know, our lodge is the host lodge this year for Section Seminars on November 3rd-5th. Because there is much work to be done in preparation for this event, and seeing that it is the weekend directly after our Fall Fellowship, we will be carrying out a lot of work projects during the fellowship weekend. Therefore, the LEC has decided to use this as an opportunity to split the candidates and hold a second Ordeal at the fellowship weekend (don't worry, we will still have a lot of fun activities at the fellowship). Now, the problem has been solved for the present, but what of the future? Well, I'm glad that you asked. Starting with the 2001 year, we will be swapping the May Service Weekend and the Fall Ordeal and

then adding a second Ordeal in June, just before the start of summer camp. This accomplishes several goals: 1) eliminates the ensuphilitus problem that we have had at Ordeals in recent years, 2) secures a permanent means, calendar wise, of providing our candidates with meaningful service, and 3) enables the lodge to better serve our council's summer camp program, which is what the Order of the Arrow was founded to do. The reason that I am pointing this out to everyone is largely because this new change of scheduling means that we will be holding four Ordeals before the end of my term and I didn't want anyone to see the calendar and think that our weekends this year are going to all be the same program over and over. I assure you that we will be changing the program each weekend to hopefully keep it fun and interesting for everyone. Not to mention we have several other events such as Section Seminars, Section Conference, Operation First Class, Project One Day, Spring Powwow, and our Pig Roast at the Mega Scout Show mixed in the schedule. If there was ever a year to become active in the Order, this be the year. There are several other policy changes such as this which we feel will be for the better, but I don't want to bore you any further in this article; I'm sure the new changes will begin to become apparent to you at the weekends anyways.

Third on the list, I want to reach out to all of our brothers whom have yet to seal their membership in the Order by obtaining Brotherhood status. Becoming a Brotherhood member is a learning experience in which you will come to understand more about the Order as well as your purpose. Your journey is far from complete and it is up to you to take the initiative. The letter that was additionally sent to you (the eligible candidate) has all the info you need so I

will not reproduce it here. Brothers, please "ponder your purpose" and take the next step on your path of cheerful service...become a Brotherhood member.

Finally, I ask everyone to please send me an email so that I can add you to the lodge email list. I have compiled a mailing list and have been quite successful in spreading information through it, but I only have about a fourth of our members email addresses. Please send me an email at bjc3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu with "OA add to list" in the subject or text. Thank you for your cooperation on this.

As I have already stated numerous times, I am very excited about the upcoming year. I am looking forward to building back up tradition within the lodge and bringing back the honor that is being an Aal-Pa-Tah member. As the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America, we represent the best that the Scouting program has to offer. Whether the uniform is on or off, we are all scouts just as several United States Presidents and a plethora of astronauts before us. We selflessly serve our community and for it we are rewarded with gift of the "brighter, greater beauty in a life of cheerful service." I'll see you all at the Ordeal...

In Service,
Bradley J. Ellis
Lodge Chief



Yes.....our fearless Chief, Bradley Ellis.

VICE CHIEF'S BEEF



You're very own vice cheif, Chris Smith. (Right)

Brothers,
I would like to thank everyone for showing up to the May Service Weekend. Together, we built 10 tables, cleaned trails, and did many other service projects to prepare for summer camp, including re-roofing the Trading Post. I would also like to mention that out of the almost 50 staff members at Tanah-Keeta Summer Camp, over 75% were members of the OA. I guess what I'm trying to say is that the purpose of our Order is Cheerful Service. No matter how much, or in what capacity,

everyone's service is important. There are plenty of opportunity's to get involved such as the Ceremonial Team, the Food Service Crew, Weekend Committee's, Operation First Class, Operation One Day, the list goes on. Or you could serve on the Philmont OA Trail Crew, or serve on the Northern Tier Trek. So I urge you, as members of our great Order, to get involved. We need everyone to help in our cause.

In Cheerful Service,
Christopher Smith.

Ponder Your Purpose

RANK; MONEY; CONNECTIONS; POWER; INFLUENCE. The first three are the principal concepts that bring power and all power is merely influence of others. Influence is very important, and using it responsibly is very important. As Scouts we should seek to use our influence to the benefit of others. Influence is a privilege and with any privilege comes responsibility. As a privilege, influence isn't earned; it is given. Connections are the most powerful influence, and friendship the most powerful connection. As part of an Honor Camping Organization, we are a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and should seek to build these friendships among members. Not only does that make our organization run better but it also makes it fun. We are here to have fun, and become better people; through friendships we can help each other do both. Get to know one another. It will make weekends a treat to look forward to, to see old friends. You will find this trend continues through life.

As many influences affect our lives, we influence others. The Scout Law, the Scout Oath, and the Obligation are challenges to live by not just words we say. And by living them,

we set an example that others can understand and follow. We can never know how we will influence others, just in the way we share our lives and friendships with each other. The power of happiness alone is amazing. A smile brightens so many faces. A positive attitude wears off so easily. For instance, I would like to tell a story about a Scout, in full reference of the word. This Scout showed his enthusiasm to such an extent he encouraged me to come out of a shell, one I had been in for years. He gave me enough confidence to be outgoing. Why? Just because he was happy, and he thought I was worth sharing that happiness with. His name is Chris Smith, your Vice Chief. He is a great guy to get to know.

I would like to thank you all for giving me this great honor and opportunity. I hope to give you something worthwhile to contemplate each issue. The ideas I present will be in reference to the Brotherhood, but they are ideas that permeate a much larger part of life. If you have any suggestions for topics, please email the editor and he will relay them to me. And please bear with me; under my current conditions my articles might lack in revision.

The OA Dugout Canoe

by Randy Porch

There has been a considerable amount of confusion about the dugout canoe alongside the Order of the Arrow building at Tanah Keeta. Here is the real story:

The canoe is a 24 ft. river canoe carved from a large mahogany tree by the Miskito Indians along the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua and Honduras; some of these trees are over 100 years old. Unfortunately, illegal cutting on Indian lands now threaten the extinction of this species of tree. I was told by the sister of the tribal leader, who is a client of my dad, that they only have a 25-year supply of these trees left at the current rate of cutting.

The canoes are made by hand tools only, not power tools. The sizes range from 20 ft to 60 ft and are the primary methods of transportation along the Rio Coco and its tributaries, because very few roads penetrate the Indian interior lands. The women are almost always the "drivers" of the canoe and they sit in the rear while the men propel the canoe by poles or with long paddles; the front seat is denoted as the "dog's seat." Up to 25 people ride in these large canoes and a cargo canoe can carry 60 quintales at 100 lbs. per quintal. Two men can build one of these canoes in 4 to 5 days.

The canoe at TK apparently broke free in a storm and drifted in the Gulf Stream all the way from Nicaragua to Riviera Beach, where it drifted ashore and was found by a family friend. I asked her to donate it to our lodge and she complied.

Hopefully, we can create an interesting use for this artifact and incorporate it into the traditions of Aal-Pa-Tah. If you have any ideas of how we can use this canoe or would like to help in its upkeep please call; we need some volunteers to do some patching and cleaning. Call me at 561-692-2909

Yours In Service,
Randy Porch



Tower Gets A Face Lift

by Phil Ashford

On July 13th, 1992 the climbing tower was officially dedicated as a first phase of Project C.O.P.E. Course at Camp Loxahatchee. It is a monument to months of work by dozens of arrowmen from Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge. The first two days of July, 2000 saw Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge members once again working on the climbing tower. The northeast face of the tower was redone with new decking planks that will not only weather better than the plywood that was previously used, but it will require less maintenance. Additionally, an inverted section was built to give scouts a richer high adventure experience when they come to Tanah Keeta. Gulfstream Council would like to thank all the volunteers who worked to accomplish this: Eric Mason, Jack Ford, Drew Haines, David Weda, Phil Ashford, Jeremy Culler, Brad Walbridge, Nick Eggen, Derek Thomas, Matt Dillon, Chris Smith, Patrick Kerley, Rick White, and Kevin Murphy. The rest of the tower is projected to be refurbished in the near future.



The New and Improved Tower

Ceremonial Team



There has long been a strong ceremonial tradition in Aal-Pa-Tah. I would like to thank all the ceremonialists within the lodge for their hard work and dedication to the preservation of this legacy. I would also like to invite anybody who is interested in ceremonies to become a member of the team. If you would like to perform a part in a ceremony, or even if you are just interested in learning more about

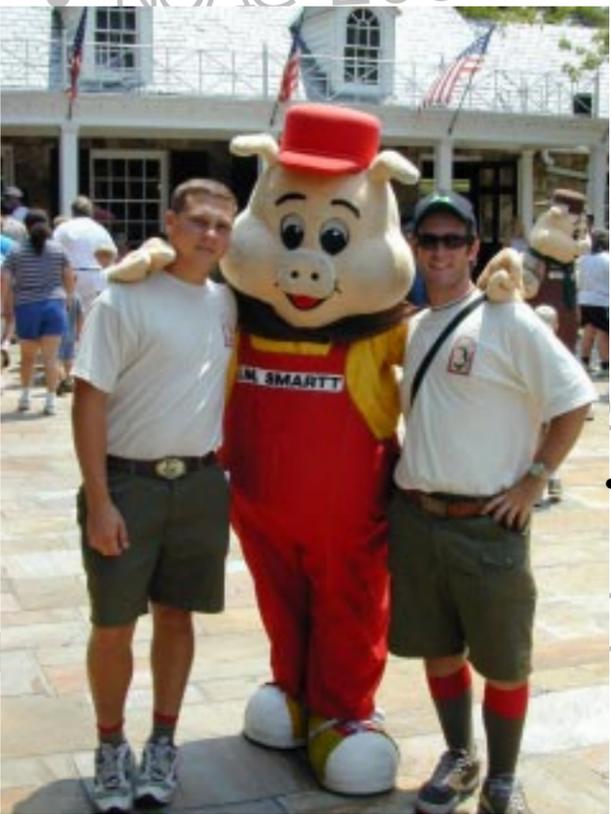
ceremonies, please, contact me. I would be happy to speak with you about the matter. The team is always looking for new people with which to fill its ranks.

Phil Ashford
Ceremonial Team Chief
(561) 585 6950
tphil4@mr-potatohead.com



NOA





AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE LODGE CHIEF:

Dear Brother,

Many moons ago you came as a humble candidate seeking the way into the Order of the Arrow and fifteen blazes led you to the circle of your brothers, but your journey is all but complete. Having successfully completed your Ordeal, you made a commitment to cheerfully serve your fellow man and became an Ordeal member in the Order of the Arrow. Now, it is time for you to seal your membership in the Order and become a Brotherhood member. If you read your membership handbook given to you at your Ordeal, you will discover that membership in the Order of the Arrow exists in two degrees: 1) Ordeal & Brotherhood and 2) Vigil. This indicates that although you have completed your Ordeal and some of the Order's secrets have been revealed unto you, your status as an Arrowman is not confirmed until you take the next step of your journey, become a brotherhood member, and seal your membership in the Order of the Arrow.

The Order has much more to offer to you beyond what you learned in your Ordeal and

there is so much more that I wish I could share with you, but it is up to you to begin the next step on your own. Our lodge will be offering you an opportunity to take your Brotherhood at an upcoming Ordeal weekend to be determined. If you are ready to become a Brotherhood member, then there are four things that you need to do prior to the weekend:

I. Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary, Mike Griffiths, explaining how you will continue to serve the Lodge, your Unit, Scouting in general, and the community.

II. Memorize the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow.

III. Memorize the Order of the Arrow Song.

IV. When you register for the weekend with the council office, make sure to tell them that you wish to register for Brotherhood. Note: This adds an additional \$12 (for the sash) to the normal \$15 weekend fee. You can pay this \$27 fee by phone with a Visa or MasterCard no later than September 15th, or by cash or check by mail postmarked no later than Sep-

tember 11th; and of course, you can always stop by council and pay by any of these methods in person no later than the 15th.

My Brother, for hopefully soon I will be able to truly call you by that title, taking your Brotherhood is a rich experience which the individual must discover for himself, but we are here "to help you on as far as man can guide his brother." Hopefully, you will take this next step and in September you will find yourself once again in the circle of your brothers, only this time with a better understanding and resolve of your purpose.

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Bradley J. Ellis
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
Bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Council Office:
8835 N. Military Trail
PBG, FL 33410-6329
(561) 694-8585

The Order Stays True to Its Roots

When Dr. Edward Urner Goodman and Carrol A. Edson founded the Order of the Arrow in 1915, they did so intending this new brotherhood to not only serve their council beyond that of their units, but mainly as a method to promote and maintain their local summer camp program throughout the year. Today, 85 years after its founding, the Order still holds true to the intent of its founders. This past summer during the TK 2000 Ex-

treme Summer Camp program of Gulf Stream Council headed up by Camp Di-



rector Shannon Wiley, 85% of the fifty something staff members was composed of arrowmen from Aal-Pa-Tah and another 7% of the staff was called out to become candidates for the Order this upcoming year. With 93% of the Summer Camp Staff at Tanah Keeta composed of active arrowmen from Aal-Pa-Tah and others that soon are to be, our lodge surely holds fast to the wishes of our founders and is a credit to the Order.

Important Dates to [

October 27 th – 29 th	Fall Fellowship/ Ordeal 2/ Section Seminars Setup at TK
November 3 rd – 5 th	Section Seminars at TK
December 1 st – 3 rd	Operation First Class at TK
January 5 th – 7 th	Make Up Ordeal at Oklawaha
February 1 st	Elections Begin
March 16 th – 18 th	Spring Pow-Wow at TK
March 31 st	Elections End
April 20 th – 22 nd	Section Conference, hosted by Timuquan
May 11 th & 12 th	Mega Scout Show/ Pig Roast
May 18 th – 20 th	May Ordeal at TK
June 8 th – 10 th	June Ordeal at TK

New Vigil Honor Members

The Vigil is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an arrowman by the lodge. The Vigil Ceremony was conducted on Saturday evening of the May Service weekend, which was held on May 19th-21st, for the following brothers:

Youth

Brad Ellis
Patrick Kerley
Chris Malin
Evan Mason
Ryan Wertepny

Adults

Sally Daniells
Ron Sammler (posthumously)
Bob Trojan
Randy Wigley

A separate Vigil Ceremony was also held during summer camp at Tanah Keeta for Randy Wertepny on July 15th. The awarding of the Vigil stands as a testament to many years of hard work and dedication to our lodge by all of these brothers.

Congratulations to all of our lodge's newest Vigil Members

CHAPTER REPORTS

Nekewa

Dear Brothers,

There is not too much new in our chapter to report. Soon, shortly after the Ordeal, I plan to hold some sort of chapter meeting, and I would like to get your guys' input on where to have it or what to do. Call me at (561)287-6147. I hope to see you all soon at the next weekend.

Your's in Brotherhood,

Matt Dillon

A-bani-ki

To all members of A-BANI-KI I hope that this year will be a good year for our chapter. I plan to hold meetings, conduct service projects, and have banquets through out the year among many other things. My main goal this year is to get more participation at weekends. Also A-BANI-KI will be getting a new chapter patch if any of you have any ideas for this patch please send them to me at roval4@bellsouth.net or if you have any ideas you want to give me call me at 561-482-9011 or you can email me. Once again I wish us a fun and exciting year.

A-BANI-KI Chapter Chief,

David Makler

Oiy-ya-tah

Dear Brother's

This Year Oiy-ya-tah chapter is planning on un filled excitement through out the year.

We are planning a Mega Campout in November at Camp Ab-ah-lu-fa, we also could use your help for ideas for a chapter patch, please bring any ideas or pictures to the Ordeal

Sincerely,

Terrance Dickson

Coo-wa-chobee

Well, as usual, all is quiet in our chapter. With many incoming new members, I hope we can break this trend in our chapter. I would also like encourage you to all come to the upcoming weekends, as they are very important in our lodge.

Yours in brotherhood,

Matthew Teele

Osceola

Brothers,

I am Proud to announce that I have gone to the council's kickoff meeting, and sparked interest back into the chapter. I expect that we should bring active membership back up to the way they used to be.....the best!

I also need all of the scoutmasters to please contact me at (561) 745-0297 to inform me of whom your Troop Representative is. You can also contact me with any questions. These representatives will help me to get information to you and your troop. I believe that this will make it easier for me to get information to you so that no one is left in the dark anymore.

I expect great things to come in the time ahead. To do this, I need the help of everyone in the chapter and beyond.

Bound in Brotherhood,

Dan Arnold

Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter

Hello my fellow Chee-Pa-Tah chapter members. My name is Daniel Bialczak and I am your chapter chief. This year is packed full of fun and exciting events from Section Seminars to the Section Conference. This year I also plan to have frequent chapter meeting and chapter events. I am currently planning a service project for our chapter. If you have any ideas for events or service projects for our chapter give me a call.

This year our lodge is promoting the Troop Representative program once again. This program will help me get all of the information about upcoming events and other information from the leadership conferences to you and your fellow brothers. If you do not currently have a Troop Representative in your troop, please have your scoutmaster give me a call.

Also, if anyone in your troop is not currently paid up with all of their dues, make sure you inform them in order that they can remain active, they must be paid up as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or ideas you can give me a call at 791-0134 or email me at dan13185@hotmail.com. I hope to see you at the up coming events.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Daniel Bialczak

Historian's Report

Dear Brother,

I Can't wait to see all of our past,present, and future members at the upcoming fall ordeal. I will begin preparing for the Kings Cup Display at Section Conference after the first Ordeal. I Hope to see you all at Section Seminars in November.

Sincerely,

Terrance Dickson

Lodge Officer Phone List

	Position	Youth	Phone	Advisor	Phone
1	Lodge Chief	Brad Ellis	747-2262	Richard Fore	791-3789
2	Lodge Vice Chief	Chris Smith	336-0264	Ted Bowdler	626-1683
3	Lodge Historian	Terrance Dickson	879-9264	Sally Daniell	336-1890
4	Lodge Secretary	Mike Griffiths	283-8610	Barry Ekle	305-758-3553
5	Lodge Treasurer	Chris Montgomery	641-0014	Elam Patterson	790-4532
6	Past Lodge Chief	Steve Brown	451-3684	None	None
7	A-Bani-Ki Chief (Osceola)	David Makler	482-9011	Jim Hare	369-2988
8	At-Seena-Hoofa Chief (Glades)	None	None	None	None
9	Chee-Pa-Tah Chief (Trade Winds)	Daniel Bialczak	791-0134	Bill Bialczak	791-0134
10	Coo-Wa-Chobee Chief (Manatee)	Matt Teele	434-1903	George Morgan	499-5547
11	Lowaneu Mawat Chief (Indian Rvr)	James Archer	562-4380	Patrick Foradori	589-3318
12	Ne-Ke-Wa Chief (Sailfish)	Matt Dillon	287-6147	Debbie Saad	546-8908
13	Oi-Ya-Tah Chief (Treasure Coast)	Terrance Dickson	879-9264	Bill Daniell	336-1890
14	Osceola Chief (Lighthouse)	Dan Arnold	745-0297	Bill Haythorn	743-4219
15	Pan-A-So-Fee Chief (Okeechobee)	None	None	Tom Peer	763-7548
16	Keeper of the Records	Steve Brown	451-3684	Debbie Clineman	744-8534
17	Assistance Keeper of the Records	Matt Hall	334-5966	None	None
18	Trail Crew Chief	Jeremy Regan	287-3119	Fred Fritz	965-9125
19	Ceremonial Team Chief	Phil Ashford	585-6950	Eric Mason	734-8822
20	Hitchiti Chief	Nathan Alexander	575-2489	Bruce Garwood	965-0509
21	Inductions Chairman	Chris Malin	466-0054	Ray Malin	466-0054
22	Brotherhood Chairman	Randy Wertepny	795-7453	David Mackland	642-7335
23	Service Chairman	Scott Ellis	747-2262	Randy Wigley	220-8618
24	Fall Fellowship/Ordeal 1Chairman	Evan Mason	734-8822	Eric Mason	734-8822
25	Ordeal 2 Chairman	Evan Mason	734-8822	Eric Mason	734-8822
26	Spring Pow-Wow Co-Chairman1	Phil Ashford	585-6950	Craig Roberts	748-4683
27	Spring Pow-Wow Co-Chairman2	Evan Mason	734-8822	Craig Roberts	748-4683
28	May Service Weekend Chairman	Tom Smith	744-5069	Steve Steinmetz	582-4919
29	Troop Representative Chairman	Brian Case	641-6380	Ray Ellis	747-2262
30	Food Services	Chris Rudinski	466-5860	Noel Puchel	561-336-3055
31	Food Services	Ryan Kidd	743-0896	Noel Puchel	561-336-3055
32	Section Seminars 2000 Chairman	Phil Ashford	585-6950	Elam Patterson	790-4532
33	Operation One Day	Scott Ellis	747-2262	Ray Ellis	747-2262
34	Mega Scout Show/Pig Roast	Randy Wertepny	795-7453	Bill Bialczak	791-0134
35	Scholarship Committee	Randy Wertepny	795-7453	None	None
36	Vigil/Founders Award Chairman	Ryan Wertepny	795-7453	David Weda	863-7698
37	Operation 1st Class	Ryan Wertepny	795-7453	Mike Horowitz	791-0760
38	Camping Promotions Chairman	John Sheetz	FSU # TBA	None	None
39	Section Conference Contigent Ldr	Chris Smith	336-0264	Jeremy Culler	969-6532
40	Internet Chairman	Patrick Kerley	747-8296	None	None
41	NOAC 2000 Contingent Ldr	Ryan Wertepny	795-7453	Elam Patterson	790-4532
42	Membership Chairman	Mel Shaffer	964-1796	None	None
43	Assistant Membership Chairman	Matthew Tackett	687-7667	None	None
44	Assistant Membership Chairman	Steve Nugent	965-8573	None	None
45	Elections Coordinator	Jules Colter	283-6078	Alan Clineman	744-8534
	Chief of the Fire	Ron Oats		694-8585	
	Staff Advisor	Ron Barbour		220-1298	
	Lodge Advisor	Richard Fore		791-3789	
	Safety Advisor	Scott Smith		746-1612	
	Council			694-8585	
	Tanah Keeta			746-8749	

For Our Founder

by Bob Bashor

Here we stand surrounded by the trees of the forest
Standing as brothers in service, with hearts and wills united
Looking upward in remembrance of a man who introduced us to the pathways to service
Looking upward for a chance to catch the higher vision
His vision was that we aim high and serve all
That we may weld tightly every link
And now his passing comes to us a thing of the spirit
Reminding each of us of our dedication of service for God and country
We must all be mindful of our tradition that he inspired
But his passing will only inspire new horizons of service
For he has set down the foundations for the future
He has shown us the need and now it is our duty to meet this challenge
Let us catch his higher vision, standing here as leaders in camping
For his life was that of the Arrow
His ideals were straight
His point keen and aimed high
The course he set was undeviating and directed onward and upward
We as members now stand ready to carry on
To continue to live by the principles and ideals of this brotherhood of cheerful service

This poem was taken from the history of the Order of the Arrow publication. If you have any work, poetry or prose, which you would like to share with your brothers, please submit it to the editor for the next issue of the Gator Tales.

Aal-Pa-Tah Leadership Conference 2000

As the 2000 summer camp season drew to an end, and less than a month after our lodge elections, the fifty brothers that comprise our lodge's executive committee and sub-committees gathered at Tanah Keeta on Saturday, July 15th for the annual Aal-Pa-Tah Leadership Conference (ALC) hosted by the newly elected lodge chief, Bradley Ellis. During the daylong event, the group bonded over a course of training sessions, fun, excellent food, and handling lodge business for this year. Trainers included: Lodge Chief Brad Ellis, Vice Lodge Chief Chris Smith, Brotherhood Chairman Randy Wertepny, Operation First Class Chairman Ryan Wertepny, Ceremonial Team Chief Phil Ashford, and the Multi-weekend Chairman Evan Mason. Training sessions included "New Member Orientation", "Service 101", "Innovative Programming", and "The Chapter: Mak-

ing the OA Mission A Reality." Dinner was an exquisite steak dinner cooked by Advisors Richard Fore and Elam Patterson; one of the best steak dinners ever to be grilled on scout grounds. Did I mention the steak was good? Following dinner the clan gathered for the first Lodge Executive Meeting (LEC) under the new administration, during which several items of business were discussed and passed, such as the dropping of back dues and the rearranging the Order of the Arrow's calendar to provide more meaningful service to our candidates. Finally, the day wrapped up with an hour of climbing on the newly refurbished tower at Tanah Keeta and then going out to the Jupiter 18 to see the just released X-Men. ALC 2000 was a great success; everyone enjoyed the day of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

Sidewalk Squares



Aal-Pa-Tah is once again selling 2 foot by 2 foot sidewalk squares for \$10 a piece. The sidewalk is one of the many ongoing projects that our lodge provides for camp Tanah Keeta

and it currently extends from the parking lot to just beyond the new nature lodge. We need to sell 120 new squares before the Fall Fellowship/ Section Seminars setup weekend, October 27th -29th, to meet our goal of reaching Fort Blanchard. Not only does the sidewalk make our camp more accessible to the handicapped, but it also acts as a time line for scouts to leave their mark in the history of Tanah Keeta. So come on down to the Council Office and purchase your square today!

Section Seminars

As most of you may know, Aal-Pa-Tah had the honor being the service lodge for the 2000 Section Seminars. The weekend of November 3rd -5th saw hundreds of arrowmen from across the section trek to Tanah Keeta so that they may benefit from the myriad training sessions and seminars that were presented. The schedule of sessions included many diverse issues under the topics of Ceremonial Development, Native American Activities, and Lodge Administration. New members were encouraged to attend and participate in the training program. Aal-Pa-Tah's veterans were exhorted to lend their support. We needed you in order to be successful in this current endeavor. The Fall Fellowship weekend of October 27-29 will serve doubly as a Fellowship weekend and a preparatory weekend for Seminars. We hope all of you had a great time. Thank You.

Phil Ashford - Service Lodge Chairman

Brad Ellis - Lodge Chief

Join Dance Team!

al-pa-tah is extremely interested in preserving our native-American heritage. One way we do this is through dance. We have a wonderful dance team, and if anyone is interested in participating contact Nathan Alexander at (561) 575-2489.



Back-Dues Dropped until January 2001

Attention all members of Aal-Pa-Tah! The LEC has decided that until January 1st, 2001 there will be no back-dues charges for inactive members wishing to become active again. In years past an inactive member could be charged up to 2 years back dues in order to become active again. However, until January 1st you simply pay the current dues and you will be put back on the active roster again; this payment will carry you through the year 2001! Being on the active roster warrants you to receive lodge publications and updates, not to mention having your current dues paid entitles you to attend all lodge events. Lodge dues are only \$11 for the entire year and can be paid at any lodge weekend or at the council office. Brothers, do your fellow Arrowmen a favor and spread the word.