



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

GATOR TALES

November Issue

2001

Ponder Your Purpose

Look back. Search your memory. Find that time when you accepted the Ordeal. As you went forth, from the dark ring where you accepted the three tests, Kichkinet led you with the words, "Follow me, and these my brothers, on this first step, let us go to find the Arrow." Have you found it?

I have not found the Arrow, but during my years of service to the Wimachtendienk, I have received many clues and much guidance for my journey. I will now share them with you so that we may all work together on this quest. The first thing I learned in the Order is to always serve cheerfully without expecting any reward. Service in the Order is its own reward. The service experience is one that, done selflessly, builds character and creates an inner pride that causes an Arrowman to sleep soundly, knowing that they are part of something great and that they have made a differ-

ence in the lives of many. Set the example for younger Scouts. As an Arrowman, you pledged solemn Obligation to The National Honor Society of Scouting. As an Honor Scout, you must hold yourself to a higher standard. Younger Scouts will look up to you and strive to be like you. For this reason, it is imperative that you make yourself a model of the Scout Oath and Law in action. This is one of the toughest aspects of seeking the Arrow; it requires you to abandon all traces of hypocrisy. All Scouts are created equal. Never hold anyone to a standard that is higher than your own! Arrowmen should serve humbly. While serving humbly, you must take pride in your work. This may sound like a contradiction in terms, but it is not. Pride should only be spent on the results of being an Arrowman and never on simply being part of the Order. Taking pride in your work and not begrudging your task will

cause you to put forth the extra effort to get the job done right. Arrowmen take a pledge of service, and thus are expected to serve cheerfully, not simply to get the job done as quickly and painlessly as possible. Finally, the best advice I have received is to let the Arrow seek you. It will find you. It is my understanding that when it does, it is like a rush of adrenaline that creates euphoria that is greater than any other imaginable.

I urge you, my brothers, take this advice to heart. The reward for this journey is great! I have seen it in the eyes of my older brothers and I hope to one day be able to say in good conscience, "I have seen the Arrow!" It is only right that all brothers of the Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui receive the advice I have given. It will enrich their lives and ease their burdens when put into practice!

OA Comics:



Travis is in Day 5 of the Aal-Pa-Tah Allowat Ceremonial Training Program (AACTP) when suddenly things go horribly wrong...

If you would like to submit a Scouting related comic, please send it to bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Lodge Calendar

November 30th-December 2nd, 2001

Operation 1st Class at Camp Tanah Keeta

December 7th-9th, 2001

First Annual Chapter Service Campout Weekend. Check with your chapter chief or the lodge website for more details.

January 4th-6th, 2002

Make-up Ordeal for 2001 candidates at Camp Oklawaha (all members welcome to attend)

January 31st, 2002

Unit elections end

March 15th-17th, 2002

Spring Powwow at Camp Tanah Keeta

April 19th-21st, 2002

Section Conference hosted by Seminole Lodge #85 at Camp Flaming Arrow

May 10th-12th, 2002

OA Pig Roast/Mega Scout Show

May 17th-19th, 2002

Ordeal 1 at Camp Tanah Keeta

June 7th-9th, 2002

Ordeal 2 at Camp Tanah Keeta

July 27th-August 3rd, 2002

NOAC at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana

Aal-Pa-Tah Online!

Aal-Pa-Tah now has a new lodge website at www.aal-pa-tah.org. Please check it out and utilize all of the resources it provides. All of the sections should be functional within the upcoming weeks and the site will be updated on a weekly basis. If you have any content that you would like to provide to share with your Brothers, please email it to me.

WWW,

Brad Ellis

Aal-Pa-Tah Online Administrator

Bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Chapter Work Weekend!

Brothers,

The Chapter Work Weekend is a new program that the lodge has started in order to boost Chapter participation. It will be on December 14th-16th. We will be splitting up the Chapters into both major Council camps: Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta, and Camp Oklawaha in Sebastian. Ne-kee-wa, Oi-ya-tah, and Lowanau Mawat chapters will be attending Camp Oklawaha. All others will be attending Tanah-Keeta. Please check with your Chapter Chief in regards to cost, time of arrival, and materials needed. The foundation of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is the Chapters. Please show your Chapter support and attend this weekend. It will be a fun-filled extravaganza, chock-full of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Hope to see everyone there!

Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

I would like to thank all of those who made Fall Fellowship a huge success. Matt Lombard and his crew provided an awesome experience for 152 Arrowmen, 33 of which sealed their membership in the Order by becoming Brotherhood members. At the weekend, we also held a charity patch auction for the American Red Cross, where we raised \$1,041. I would also like to thank the Food Service Crew for their OUTSTANDING service during the weekend.

The Order of the Arrow was built on the foundation of a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. An Arrowman is a special type of Scout. In fact, he is an Honor Scout. Therefore, it is fitting that the Order of the Arrow is the Honor Society of Scouting. Think back to school. I always had a small sense of animosity toward the National Honor Society. All of its members were 4.0 GPA, "goody-to-shoe" type students that always turned their nose at the "Lower Classmen". After graduating from High School, I realized that most of my animosity was actually jealousy rearing its ugly head. This is where I see the Order of the Arrow starting a revolution in the "Honor Society" way of thinking. I can think of very few people that show resentment toward another Scout because he is an Arrowman. Being an Arrowman is a true honor, for you are looked upon as the "special forces" of the Boy Scouts of America. When a Scout sees that flap and sash, they think, "That guy must really know his stuff. He must be a 'Super Scout.'" Some

Brothers,

First of all, I would like to talk about something that has been on all of our minds. The attacks from the terrorists were terrible, but the fact that some people in the Middle East are celebrating and thinks this is a holy war sickens me even more. People who are homeless, starving, and have but one set of clothes praise Osama Bin Laden because he spends his millions of dollars towards such malicious acts. I think if he is this hero they think he is, he should have spent his money towards a noble cause; like buying his people food and shelter or investing in their own infrastructures or economies to help boost their standard of living. Instead, the young children of America have, amongst others, been sending allowance money and such to help out the unfortunate people in Afghanistan; this shows who the true heroes are. I am proud of the way America has been handling this situation and I would like to thank everyone for helping

Scouts, on the other hand, have that patch and that sash, but are not Arrowmen. They probably were Arrowmen, and could be again, however to be an Arrowman is to stick to the basic principles on which we were founded. A true Arrowman shows loyalty to his troop. Out of the 15 Arrowman that had been elected to the Order from my troop, only half remain as active participants. A true Arrowman is looked to as a good role model. Remember, you are already a role model, the question is, what kind? Finally, a true Arrowman should show support for his lodge. There are many ways you can support the lodge, for instance, by showing up for a lodge weekend, you help ensure the success of that weekend. Imagine if Fall Fellowship had 50 people huddled around a fire, cooking hotdogs. Although it may be a fun time, imagine if 300 people attended Fall Fellowship, 100 went through Brotherhood, 40 people won raffle prizes, there were tons of things to keep an Arrowman happy all weekend, and to top it all off, gourmet meals. To put it in another perspective, here's a math problem: There are "X" number of people at a Lodge Service Weekend. They work 8 hours a day. Y is the total amount of man-hours. The equation ends up being $Y=8x$. If X is 50 people at a work weekend, how many man-hours (Y) do we have? 400, right? Ok, so if we had 300 people at a work weekend (X), how many man hours do we have? 2,400! That's a lot of work... It would take one man 2400 hours to complete the amount of work we did at one weekend, or 300-8 hour days. Where am I try-

Vice-Chief's Beef

the lodge raise \$1041.00 for the Red Cross relief efforts.

On a much lighter note, I would like to say I am much pleased with the Brotherhood turnout at the Fall Fellowship. More people have sealed their membership within the Order of the Arrow this weekend than they have at any single event in years. Brotherhood conversion rates such as this shows not only that the lodge leadership has been effective in promoting the ideals of the Order, but that our new members are understanding our purpose and are eager to learn more. We should all be proud of our new Brotherhoods and should continue to encourage Ordeal members to make that next step of their journey.

WWW,
Scott Ellis
Lodge Vice-Chief
ellissm@netzero.net

ing to go with this? GET INVOLVED! Whether it is with your troop, community, lodge, or school, you have a responsibility to the organizations that accepted you. You worked so hard to become a member, why let it go to waste. We have Operation First Class, Operation One Day, and the Chapter Work Weekend coming up soon. I hope to see everyone there.

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Christopher R. Smith
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
TkNatureDir2002@aol.com



Lodge Chief Chris Smith



Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis

AAL-PA-TAH Lodge 237 60th Anniversary Belt Buckle

2002 will mark Aal-Pa-Tah's 60th Anniversary. To commemorate it, 237 is issuing our first belt buckle ever! These buckles can be bought now at the lodge box for \$12 each, or you can purchase the buckle with matching leather Aal-Pa-Tah belt for \$25



Gator Tales Staff

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

Advisor's Minute

Dear Brothers,

The Fall Fellowship was great! My hat is off to Chris Smith and Matt Lombard for a great weekend. Also, a big thanks to the youth Vigils and David Weda for doing a great job Friday night.

NLS was attended by 9 members of the Lodge in Haines City, Florida. I know that the leaders of the Lodge that went got a lot of good information that they will be able use.

The auction at the Fall Fellowship raised \$1041.00 for the Red Cross relief effort for the September 11th attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. A big thank you for everyone who gave patches to be sold and everyone who spent money. A special thanks to Steve Brown, David Weda, and Tom Chewing for the items they donated.

Another great big thanks to Sally Daniell and Ryan Kidd for an outstanding meal at the Founder's Awards Supper.

If you have not heard Ryan Wertepny and _____ are the Lodges 2001 Founder's Awards recipients. I hope you will agree that the Lodge could not have selected two better Arrowmen.

Don't forget about the Arrowman Service Award!!!!!! You have till December 31st, 2003 to earn it but you cannot earn all three of the items unless you get earn the first ribbon by December 31st,2001 (check out the "Summer 2001" Issue of the Gator Tales on the lodge website for further information on the Arrowman Service Award).

Remember the Lodge is built one Arrowman at a time.....

Yours in Brotherhood,
Richard M. Fore
Lodge Advisor
Rfore@aol.com



Lodge Advisor Richard Fore

OA Voyage

Have you ever taken a moment and thought, "hmmm...I love being a Scout and I have surely done a lot because of Scouting, but what is the best program that Scouting has to offer?" Well the answer is clearly the Order of the Arrow. But, if I had to be more specific, my personal answer would definitely be the OA Voyage at the Northern Tier National High Adventure Base in Ely, Minnesota. The OA Voyage, like its sister program The OA Trail Crew, is a summer adventure that no Arrowman should miss; it is the best brotherhood for your buck so to speak.

Seeing as the program is only going on its fifth year since its creation, and seeing as I am the first Arrowman from Aal-Pa-Tah to attend it, I was a little apprehensive about taking that first step, but that challenge was overcome and I am here to encourage you all to do the same. The program itself is a fourteen-day long adventure that takes place in the setting of the beautiful Boundary Waters along the

border between the United States and Canada; the cast and crew is nine of your fellow Arrowmen from across the nation who quickly become life long friends. The first week is spent building trail in the portages between lakes, providing service in the great spirit of the Order. My crew ended up laying over 450 ft of solid rock along a trail that was muck before our arrival. Each day of the first week was spent providing humble service and each night was spent listening to the wolves cry and loons calling out to the dark. Perhaps the apex of my first week was my crew sitting out on the rocks witnessing the northern lights (aka Aurora Borealis) while one my foremen, 19-year old Dan "Vern" Miller from Pennsylvania, read Sam Cook's poem "Up North" to us.

Once the week of service is finished, each crew embarks on a voyage of its own design. Some crews take it easy and relax for a week, some visit the waterfalls and other sites, and some truly challenge themselves. My crew, OAV807B, chose to challenge ourselves and voyaged to the historic "Height of Land", a 140-mile roundtrip. The "Height of Land" is the highest point in the area and as such all waters flow away from it. Its historical context however, is that it is halfway to Lake Superior and the voyage we took is the same route that the fur traders used to paddle to take their goods out of the Boundary Waters. At the "Height of Land" a historic ceremony used to take place in which first time voyageurs painted the tip of their paddle red. My crew sought to paint our paddles red. But if a 140-mile trip by canoe in seven days did not sound crazy enough, my crew wanted to break the record. The current record had been six days; my crew made it in four days (60 miles in the first 27



Crew OAV807B (L to R): Quinn Norris, Tim Tipple, Brad Ellis, Brian Herren, Jim DuVernay, Dan Miller, Joe Orlovsky, and Kenny Horkley hours straight; two nights paddling straight through). Nothing in my life has ever been so touching than the bonding that took place among my brothers so that we could overcome these challenges, and nothing is more beautiful, in my opinion, than paddling across a lake in Minnesota in the dead of night, guided by the light of the Aurora Borealis.

Unfortunately, space here is limited. I would love to tell you all more about the OA Voyage so please accost me at any OA event and I will be glad to talk. Also, to encourage attendance in the OA Voyage and the OA Trail Crew, the Aal-Pa-Tah LEC has voted to establish a "scholarship" for these programs and will each year pay the registration for one member to each of these programs (a separate person to each, not a single person to both); meaning that you will only have to pay for your travel expenses! Look for information about applications in future editions of the Gator Tales and for more information on both of these national programs, check out the National OA Website at www.aa-bsa.org. The journey is never ending, every adventure ends at the beginning of the next, and your voyage awaits you on the horizon...



The rare OA Northern Tier Voyageur Patch. Each participant only gets one.

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 27th to August 1st, 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





The Drum Team practicing/recruiting at the Fall Fellowship. If you are interesting in joining the Drum Team, contact Joe Costanzo at jlc1513@bellsouth.net



Brother's take a quick photo break between activities at the F



Vigil Honor Member Tom Chewning teaching a Patch Seminar at the Fall Fellowship



Vigil Honor Members Evan Mason and Phil Ashford taught the ever popular Amtgard seminar at the Fall Fellowship. To learn more about Amtgard check out www.amtgard.com



OA Voyage has lots of fellowship and great sites to offer.... and oh yeah...lots of p



Brad Ellis of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237 and Paul Lackie of Tipisa Lodge #326 Before take off at the Cincinnati airport. Brad was heading to Minnesota for the OA Voyage; Paul was his pilot



The team from the Lowaneu Mawat Chapter takes aim during the Winger shoot competition





all Fellowship



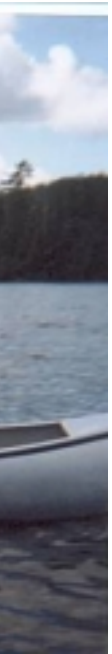
Weekend Chairman Matt Lombard and Lodge Chief Chris Smith. Excellent weekend guys



Some Brothers resting and watching the Ultimate Frisbee competition at the Fall Fellowship



The hardworking kitchen crew provided some fabulous food at the Fall Fellowship. Hats off to the chefs



addling



OA Voyage Crew OAV807B at the historic Height of Land. This spot marks the halfway point of their 140-mile roundtrip; Canada is behind them, USA is in the foreground. Crew 807B broke the record making the trip in 4 days!



Even though it was a fun weekend on the schedule, some Brothers still took some time to give service to camp. Thank you to all who helped out



The chapter broom-hockey competition once again made an appearance at the Fall Fellowship



Our kitchen staff went above and behind this weekend, amongst the excellent food of the weekend were these pies which they made from scratch. Thanks again guys

Lodge Chiefs of AAL-PA-TAH

<u>LASTNAME</u>	<u>FIRSTNAME</u>	<u>MI</u>	<u>LODGE CHIEF BEGIN DATE</u>	<u>LODGE CHIEF END DATE</u>
COMMITTEE			1/1/42	1/1/43
BAGGT	JULIAN		1/1/43	1/1/44
BORDEN	BILL		1/1/44	1/1/45
WWII			1/1/45	1/1/47
BRAEGER	JOHN		1/1/47	1/1/48
WEBSTER	LYMAN	M	1/1/48	1/1/49
MURRAY	TOMMY		1/1/49	1/1/50
LANG	JERRY	E	1/1/50	1/1/51
STEWART	TOMMY		1/1/51	1/1/52
SELLERS	SONNY		1/1/52	1/1/54
LACAGNINA	DAVID	H	1/1/54	1/1/55
MACHECK	RICHARD		1/1/55	1/1/56
DRURY	BOB		1/1/56	1/1/57
HASELGROVE	LEIGHTON	O	1/1/57	1/1/58
SASSER	JOEL		1/1/58	1/1/59
MCKEE	FRANK		1/1/59	1/1/60
SASSER	DONALD	J	1/1/60	1/1/61
WATSON	CAROL		1/1/61	1/1/62
GIERUC	JOHN		1/1/62	1/1/63
TOUSEK	ALBERT		1/1/62	1/1/63
PAINTER	PENNEL		1/1/63	1/1/64
MILLER	ANDY	H	1/1/64	1/1/65
GRIFFIN	WAYNE		1/1/65	1/1/66
POTTORFF	DAVID	M	1/1/66	1/1/67
MCLAUGHLIN	JACK		1/1/67	1/1/68
DE BELLEVUE	DUSTY		1/1/68	1/1/69
HAAS	WESLEY	B	1/1/69	1/1/70
MELEAR	ERIK	L	1/1/70	1/1/71
LAWSON	STEVE		1/1/71	1/1/73
HAGER	BRIAN	M	1/1/73	1/1/74
GOLDSTEIN	ALAN	S	1/1/74	1/1/76
KLEIN	JIM		1/1/76	1/1/77
SPANGLER	STEVEN	R	1/1/77	1/1/79
COTTER	TONY		1/1/79	1/1/80
LANDERS	KELLY	V	1/1/80	1/1/81
PIERSON	GLEN		1/1/80	1/1/81
DUFRESNE	BUZZ	E	1/1/81	1/1/82
HEALY	JEFF	J	1/1/82	1/1/83
TAYLOR	ANDY	M	1/1/82	1/1/83
STANLEY	NEIL	A	1/1/83	1/1/84
SHORTLEY	BRENDAN	M	1/1/84	1/1/85
STETSON	JOE	P	1/1/85	1/1/86
JACKSON	JASON	B	1/1/86	1/1/87
SASSER	THOMAS	J	1/1/87	1/1/88
JACKSON	CRAIG	C	1/1/88	1/1/89
THOMAS	JAMIE		1/1/88	1/1/89
BOOS	ROGER		1/1/89	1/1/90
RINKS	TROY	S	1/1/90	1/1/92
KRONFORST	MARCUS	R	1/1/92	1/1/93
MASON	ERIC		1/1/93	6/11/94
FORADORI	PATRICK	B	6/11/94	9/30/95
WALLS	JIMMY	E	9/30/95	9/30/97
DUROCHER	RYAN	D	9/30/97	6/6/98
KERLEY	PATRICK	J	6/6/98	5/22/99
BROWN	STEPHEN	C	5/22/99	5/20/00
ELLIS	BRAD	J	5/20/00	6/20/01
SMITH	CHRIS	R	6/20/01	6/20/02

The following brothers sealed their membership in the Order and earned their Brotherhood at the Fall Fellowship:

Name	Chapter	Stephen Gonot	A-Bani-Ki	Teddy Potter III	A-Bani-Ki
		Stephen Gray	Lowaneu	Scott Reid	Lowaneu
Stephen Alexandrich	A-Bani-Ki		Mawat		Mawat
Bobby Baldwin	Ne-Kee-Wa	John Irvine	Chee-Pa-Tah	Billy Riddick	A-Bani-Ki
Terry Bennett	A-Bani-Ki	Matt Irvine	Chee-Pa-Tah	Andrew Schragar	Coo-Wa-
Chris Berry	Oi-Ya-Tah	Ryan Kidd	Osceola		Chobee
Rick Berry	Oi-Ya-Tah	Nat Loftin	Ne-Kee-Wa	Michael Taylor	A-Bani-Ki
Preston Bowdre	Osceola	Matt Lombard	Osceola	Cagin Ulku	A-Bani-Ki
Raymond Brady	Oi-Ya-Tah	Alice Malanga	A-Bani-Ki	Mike Volk	Osceola
Jim Brown	A-Bani-Ki	Colt Malanga	A-Bani-Ki	John Yackulics	Chee-Pa-Tah
Nathan Brown	A-Bani-Ki	Renee Parker	A-Bani-Ki	Michael Zamora	Chee-Pa-Tah
Tom Ehrbar	A-Bani-Ki	Bradley Phibbs	Coo-Wa-	Sam Zuker	A-Bani-Ki
Tommy Ehrbar	A-Bani-Ki		Chobee	Tamra Zuker	A-Bani-Ki

If you earned your Brotherhood at the Fall Fellowship and your name is not on this list (or if your information here is incorrect), please contact Debbie Clineman at the Council Office

Congratulations on taking the next step of your journey!

Founders Award

The Founder's Award was created to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to the lodge. The award is reserved for those Arrowmen who memorialize in their everyday life, the spirit of achievement as described by founder E. Urner

Goodman. The award is a handsome bronze medallion bearing the likeness of E.

Urner Goodman and co-founder Carroll A. Edson, with wooden base and brass plate suitable for engraving. The award is suitable for display at home or the office. Also available is the Founder's Award arrow ribbon, similar to the universal arrow ribbon, except that it has a gold-colored arrow suspended from a red ribbon. Lodges may petition up to four awards annually, based on lodge membership and

if the lodge presents more than one award, one must be to a youth under the age of 21. Aal-Pa-Tah traditionally presents its Founder's at the Fall Fellowship.

Congratulations to _____ and Ryan Wertepny, Aal-Pa-Tah's 2001 Founder's Award Recipients!

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 Founder's Award Recipients

Bruce Garwood	1981	Bob Somers	1987	John Leasor	1992
Kelly Landers	1981	Jason Jackson	1989	Kevin Murphy	1995
Jake Greenspon	1982	Uly Hubbard	1989	Eric Mason	1997
"Doc" Hardman	1982	Joe Wilcox	1991	Elam Patterson	1997
David Weda	1986	Elliot Wilcox	1991	Jimmy Walls	1998
Barry J.F. Ekle	1986	Troy Rinks	1992	Tom Sasser	1998

The Mike Machek Trail

BACKGROUND: The Mike Machek Trail is a 5.8 mile guided hike located on Gulf Stream Council's Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation (TK). The trail's South Florida location provides for year-round enjoyment as well as the opportunity to observe plant and wildlife which is unique to the region's ecosystems. The Trail is used by over a thousand Scouts and Scouters each year, as well as other groups such as Cub Scouts and even an occasional Girl Scout. The Trail is frequently used by Troops for their five-mile hike requirement for 2nd class rank advancement and also by Scouts making their nature observations for Environmental Science merit badge. Since the Trail opened in 1988, it has grown to be a key feature of the Council's outdoor program. Troops from other Councils also come to Tanah Keeta specifically to walk the Trail.

The Trail is named after Mr. Mike Machek, a long-time Scouter in the Gulf Stream Council, who was instrumental in the startup of Tanah-Keeta in the 1950's and who was well known for his many years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America. The Trail was conceived and blazed by Clayton Jones, a long time Scout and Scouter in Gulf Stream

Council, who was also responsible for drawing the map of the Tanah-Keeta property shown above and for starting the Mike Machek Trail Crew. The Trail Crew first came into existence in 1987 just before completion of the Trail. At that time, the Lodge Executive Committee (L.E.C.) agreed to maintain the trail as a ongoing service project. Like the Dance and Ceremony teams, the Machek Trail Crew has an elected Chief who is a voting member of the L.E.C. The Trail Crew works on the Trail at each of the Lodge's weekend events, as well as at other Saturday work sessions. They do the routine maintenance such as trimming and repairing signs and benches. They also do other special projects such as blazing new trails, building bridges, making signs, and preparing for control burns. Clans of Ordeal candidates and members also work on the Trail during the Lodge's Ordeal weekends. The Trail Crew also provides trained guides for special groups that require assistance on the Trail. TK has many unique features which make it an ideal location for a Boy Scout reservation and place to observe the unique plant and wildlife of South Florida. TK's 640 acres border a large State park as well as a Girl Scout camp, providing

for a natural refuge for wildlife and a buffer from the surrounding civilization. Within TK's one square mile of property can be found a sampling of nearly every topographical feature common to South Florida: river mangroves, cypress heads, sawgrass, cabbage palm hammocks, high sandy ridges, pine flatwoods, lakes, ponds, gator holes, and dark swamps. This unique combination of topography makes it possible to observe a wide variety of plant and wildlife. The Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation and Mike Machek Trail are home and refuge for many wild animals, birds, numerous wild flowers and rare orchids. Commonly seen on the property are deer, wild hog, raccoon, rabbit, armadillo, squirrel, and gators. There are also many birds, such as the Blue Heron, Osprey, Egrets, Anhinga, Ibis, Sandhill Crane, and other seasonal waterfowl. The Mike Machek trail represents a fragile ecosystem, which is easily damaged. It and the adjacent State Park and Girl Scout properties are fast becoming the last remaining wildlife reserve in the area. The Mike Machek trail represents the very best in Scouting's commitment to the preservation and conservation of our natural environment and wildlife habitat.

Chapter Reports

A-Bani-Ki

Fellow brothers,

I want to start out by congratulating all brothers that went out for brotherhood on the last weekend. We placed fifth in the competitions. I hope to see more participants from our chapter next time. I will be trying to schedule a chapter meeting soon and I will be contacting you about it. Please remember to keep up with your dues and I will hopefully see you at the next weekend. Our chapter work weekend (Dec. 14th-16th) will be at TK and I will be contacting you soon...

In brotherhood,
Eric Taylor
A-Bani-Ki Chapter Chief
561-488-9322
mike.taylor@breakaway.com

Coo-Wa Chobee

Brothers,

We will be holding a chapter meeting in the very near future. This will be your opportunity to express what you want to do as a chapter. Please take advantage of this opportunity. In other news, we have a chapter patch available for \$3. The restrictions are one per Lodge/Chapter event, and you must be brotherhood. See you very soon. Yours in WWW.

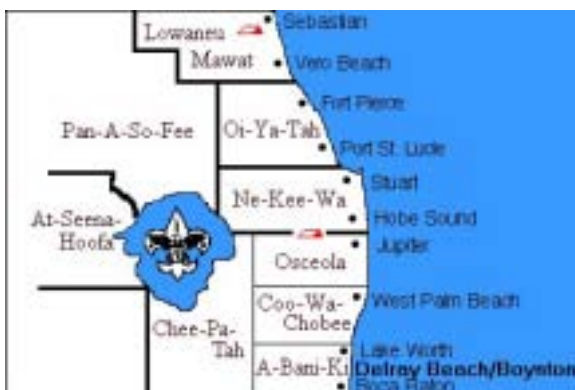
Brian Case
Coo-Wa-Chobee Chapter Chief
Farside6@aol.com

Lowaneu Mawats

Chapter Chief failed to report by deadline. Lowaneu Mawats has been assigned to have their work weekend at Oklawaha, Dec. 14th-16th, check with your chapter chief for details.

James Archer
Lowaneu Mawat Chapter Chief
561-562-4380
Gtarcher@aol.com

AAL-PA-TAH Chapter Map



Chee-Pa-Tah

Hello again all my fellow Chee-Pa-Tah brothers. Yes, it is that time of year again, the time for elections. The troop elections will be held from November 1st to January 31st. To all of you scoutmasters, I will either be at or be represented at every roundtable. I will also be calling you and your troop Reps to set up the dates for your unit elections. Remember Scout Masters; the scouts who will be eligible for election must be the best of the best. These scouts represent your troop and will be expected to give back to scouting cheerfully. Keep that in mind when approving your eligible scouts.

Brothers, on the second weekend of December we will be having our first annual Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter service weekend at TK and I urge everyone to attend. This weekend will not only be time to give back to our great camp but to meet your fellow brothers and have a great time. But I need ideas for activities, food, and anything else you want to contribute. Also if you are able to make it that weekend, call me so I know how many will be attending.

Also in December will be Operation First Class. This is an awesome program set up by Randy Wertepny to give back to Scout-

Ne-Kee-Wa

My Brothers, things are running smoothly with the Ne-Kee-Wa Chapter of our lodge. After a very well represented Fall Fellowship, there was a brief meeting to brainstorm on new ideas for our Chapter. It is with great dignity that I may report that these ideas are in the planning stages now and will soon be ready to take place. Ne-Kee-Wa also had a very good meeting on Thursday, October 18th, and many more ideas were put forth. We are currently gearing up for our work weekend on December 15th, which will take place at Camp Oklawaha. We also took part in the October 19th Celebrity Dog Wash, and are currently planning our service campaign for Operation One Day. It is with great pleasure that I report the excitement towards service from the members of Ne-Kee-Wa.

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

Osceola

Brothers,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the December campout, as I would love to talk to you. Anyone wishing to attend this event should make proper arrangements with council office. Our chapter will be camping as a unit and we will be cooking for ourselves. I believe this will be a lot of fun and you may just learn something. I believe if we have chapter games we will reign over the other chapters.

God Bless America
Matt Lombard
Matt12021@yahoo.com

ing by teaching other scouts all that you know and helping them achieve higher ranks in scouting. If you are interested contact him as soon as possible (or call the Council Office).

Finally, after you have entered the Order of the Arrow and are an Ordeal member (no bars on your sash), you must seal your dedication into the order by becoming a Brotherhood member. This shows your dedication and commitment to the Order. Not only do you help out your lodge but it also enables you to buy the all mighty Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter patch for \$3.00. If you are Brotherhood, you are able to buy one of these patches for each weekend you attend. So remember to sign up to get your Brotherhood at the next weekend it is offered.

If you need to contact me you can call at (561)-791-0134, or email me. Please give me your input on how to better our chapter, what to do at the chapter weekend, and to set up your troop's elections.

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

Oi-Ya-Tah

Fellow Brothers,

First and foremost I would like to announce that my appointment for Chapter Vice-Chief is Chris Berry; I look forward to working with Chris. If any of you are interested in Chapter Leadership, feel free to contact me.

Operation First Class (Nov. 30- Dec. 2) and the Chapter Service Weekend at Camp Oklawaha (Weekend of Dec. 15) are dates you should mark on your calendars.

Troop Representatives, you need to keep in contact with the OA members in your units. Remind everyone by phone before these events, announce these events at your troop meeting, and encourage attendance. I would like our Chapter attendance to increase. If you are reading this report, make every effort to attend the events listed. Talk to inactive Brothers and invite them to the next weekend or event.

I would like to encourage those Ordeal members who are eligible for Brotherhood to seal their membership in the Order of the Arrow when the opportunity arises.

Email or phone me as often as you wish. Do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or need anything clarified. I just wanted to say that I am enjoying serving you as Chapter Chief and thank you for taking the time to read my report.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Anthony Bonna
Oi-Ya-Tah Chapter Chief
(561) 336-0961
troop_445@hotmail.com