

GATOR

April 2010 Issue

The Official Publication

of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237



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Calendar

April 16th-18th
Section S-4 Conference
at Flaming Arrow Scout Res.

May 21st-23rd
ScoutFest 2010
at Okeeheliee Park

June 13th-19th
Section S-4 FourCorps 2010
Ocala National Forest

<http://aal-pa-tah237.org/calendar>

ScoutFest 2010

The next event following Section Conference will be the 2010 ScoutFest. This will be a council event and the Lodge has been asked to help in two areas. Firstly will be the Indian Village where our Hitchiti Brothers and Sisters will have an area to provide a Native American Program. Secondly, the Lodge will be selecting a core group of members that will serve as a Service Corps for the event. This group will serve as "go-to" people when service is needed. We will need about 20 brothers to stay on site for the entire event beginning on Thursday, May 20, 2010 ending late on Sunday May 23, 2010.

We will model our efforts after the OA Service Corps held at the National Jamboree. There will be a special limited edition of an OA patch for those that can participate. There will be a lot of dirty work, so come ready to serve. But, please make sure that you support your unit first. Only if you have no other demands on your time should you apply to be part of this opportunity. This is a special event that I will personally drive, so if interested give me a call or write me an e-mail.

So thanks to all for the fantastic events and fun that we have had over the past few months.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Tim Arnold

Lodge Adviser
Tachpachiwi Witschenden (Modest Helper)

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[Gator Tales Website](#)

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Chiefly Speaking

Fellow Arrowmen,

Are you as hyped for Section Conference as I am!? As you all know, Aal-Pa-Tah's "pause and look you back on the 70's" theme is going to knock the socks off all the other lodges. Elliott has a lot of great goodies planned for us and it will be an awesome weekend, I can't wait! Have you heard about the awesome "almost baseball" shirts with our actual names on it? If you ordered your shirts before April 1st you could have had your last name across the back of the shirt!

Before we look forward, lets pause and look back on Spring Pow-wow. Spring Pow-wow was a great fun weekend. Between the shooting ranges, the Indian games and an amazing pow-wow, I believe everyone there had a awesome weekend. Much props to Dutchee and his entire team for all the prior planning and work that went into that weekend!

May 21-23 is the biggest event of our council's history. SCOUTFEST 2010. Our lodge will be hosting the service corps for this event. About 20 Arrowmen will be needed to work as a "service corps" for the weekend. At the basic level, we will be on-call all weekend to do whatever odd jobs they need done. This will be a hard working crew, but it is needed and we will also have fun. If you'd like to join, please contact Elliott (VC of service) or Mr. Arnold to sign up. We will be working shifts and you'll be free the rest of the weekend to walk around and experience the weekend.

If you'd like to run for a Lodge Officer position, please talk to Mr. Arnold or myself, and we will try to schedule your interviews for either ScoutFest or Section Conference.

Join us in Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and Service at Section Conference and ScoutFest!

WWW,

Justin Warnimont

FourCorps 2010

In conjunction with the United States Forest Service, Section S-4 hosts the groundbreaking "FourCorps 2010" in the Ocala National Forest. Modeled after ArrowCorps5, FourCorps 2010 will be a week of service and fellowship.

The current priority list of projects is as follows: blocking off several illegal roads by planting trees at the road way entrances, thinning (removing) pine trees that are too close to each other to successfully grow, removing invasive species/clearing a section of the forests perimeter, planting natural vegetation to restore a lake's surrounding area, building bear boxes for a family campground, building kestrel boxes, and lastly, removing an invasive species from a fresh water springs.

The registration deadline is May 1st, and registration after this date will cost you an extra \$50 late fee. Participants will spend Monday and Tuesday working in the Forest. Every participant will also be given one day for a recreation experience. Choices for recreation may include tubing, fishing, Kennedy Space Center, Orlando Science Center, and Daytona Beach.

Cost for the week which includes food, tenting, recreation, safety gear and patch is only \$195. Space is limited to 300 Arrowmen.

To reserve your place now complete the form on the section website!!

Minimum \$50 deposit required to hold your reservation. Total of \$195 due by May 1, 2010, after that \$50 late fee will be added.

Reservations using a credit card may be processed online or by mail. If paying by check or money order, please use the mail-in form only.

Yours in Cheerful Service,

Matt Hall

Section S-4 FourCorps 2010 Chairman

Officer Reports

Lodge Vice Chief of Program

My brothers,

What an amazing year this has been, and I hope you have been there to share it with us. First may I congratulate Dutchee on running a great Spring Pow Wow. Though there wasn't that many of us there, those of us had an amazing time. Thank you Hitichiti for coming out and providing us with a terrific pow wow at night. Do not worry folks if you missed them you can see them again at the next weekend.

The next lodge weekend is the June Ordeal. Even though this might not be a party weekend, brothers you should still come out to support the lodge and our camp as they get ready for Summer Camp. One third of this Order is doing service so come out please, it will be worth you while.

Also my brothers it is that time of year again, the time for SUMMER CAMP! Come out to Tanah Keeta this summer and support the camp and our council. I heard the nature lodge is going to be awesome. With a theme like a hundred years of Scouting, this is going to be great! This is your Vice Chief of Program signing off,

Zachary Regan

"Steady Dancing Buffalo"



Lodge Secretary

Hello Brothers,

Thank you for your cooperation and your plentiful contributions to the Gator Tales during my term.

Any stories can be sent to me at secretary@aal-patah237.org WWW, *Gregory Olbrych*

Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions

Brothers,

Great progress is being made on the Inductions front. Elections have come to a close and it was a very successful elections season I might add. Our first Call Out ceremony of the year took place on March 20th at the Native American Experience day. We had many new candidates tapped out and should have great turnout at this year's Ordeals. They all looked very enthusiastic and ready to become new brothers.

We will be having a second Call Out ceremony at the ScoutFest event in the Indian Village so stay on the lookout for dates and times for that. Also at the Native American Experience we offered a Brotherhood Ceremony and we had 10 new brothers seal their membership in the Brotherhood. Our Ordeal weekend is coming up at the end of May where we will be inducting new Ordeal members and offering a Brotherhood ceremony. All members who joined last year are now eligible to seal their membership, so we hope to see you all out there. Until then, I wish you all cheer even in the face of bitter trials and tribulations.

WWW,

Bobby Weil

Lodge Historian

Hello my fellow brothers ,

We had a very exciting Spring Pow Wow this past March. We had various games and chapter competitions going on and even a Dunk Tank for the Chapter Chiefs, although the weather was a little chilly, it did not stop us from having fun. We got a lot of photos from all the fun and games but are looking for more photos to broaden our photo archive. So if you have any photos from previous lodge events we can upload them to the lodge website if you just send us your photos as you experienced it through your personally own camera. I am looking forward to the next Ordeal weekend for some new and photogenic candidates.

W.W.W.

Levi Stahl

Lodge Treasurer

Dear brothers,

I am George Cooper, your new Lodge Treasurer. At Spring Pow wow I was appointed by Justin Warnimont to serve for the remaining months of the 2009-2010 Lodge year. For the next issue I will report to you on the status of the Lodge Box.

WWW,

George Cooper

“Sharing the Vision”

Brothers,

Well, it has been a very busy time in the Lodge as you are all aware. Many events have happened including a very successful Spring Pow–Wow with fun and excitement for all. Thanks to Dutchie for leading a fine group in putting this event together and making it such a success. My favorite time was the pow wow dancing and drumming with the Red Bird Jr. Drummers. It was quite a sight to see over 100 people dancing.

The following weekend our brothers and sisters in the Hitchiti Dance Team held the Native American Experience at Camp Tanah Keeta. While this event is not a formal OA event, many of our Brothers turned out to support our Dance Team provide an excellent program for Webelos and Scouts from across our Council as well as the South Florida Council. At least two hundred Scouts participated and a great time was had by all.

There are extensive efforts underway to prepare the Lodge for new leadership. We have met with our Section Leaders and have gotten great feedback and direction. Please become involved in one event. This will strengthen your ties of Brotherhood.

The Ordeals are coming fast where we will welcome our new Brothers and induct our new Lodge Officers. So “Be Prepared” for Brotherhood and Cheerful Service.

Thanks to all that serve behind the scenes. It is you that makes this Lodge great.

Tim Arnold

Lodge Adviser

Tachpachiwi Witschenden (Modest Helper)

Chapter Reports

A-Bani-Ki

Osceola District

Fellow Brothers,

During this last pow-wow our chapter had a blast from the dunk tank to eating the riblet’s the kitchen prepared for dinner; this was a weekend to remember! The next thing is the Section Conference this will be one of the great events that our section offers. This Section Conference takes place throughout the day and at night there is usually patch trading. On April 12 our next chapter meeting will take place at Spanish River Church if there any questions please email me at danielolbrych@aol.com.

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

Chee-Pa-Tah

Trade Winds District

Dear Brothers,

We have been quite successful in our OA elections lately. We have elected about 30 candidates so far. We still meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm at the LDS Church on the corner of Big Blue Trace and Wellington Trace. Please come out and join us. Sadly our plans to go to Disney World in May fell through as they were already booked. However, we are still working on planning a weekend possibly at TK. If you have any ideas please let me know. Hope to see you all on April 8th at our chapter meeting.

YIS,

Luke Spratt

Associate Adviser's Counsel

Summer is once again swiftly approaching. In nearly all of my articles, I dedicate at least a handful of sentences towards attempting to inspire the youth of the Lodge to accept the awesome challenge that is the National Order of the Arrow High Adventure Programs. I do this, because these programs are hands-down the best Scouting has to offer. As of the writing of this article – April 1, 2010 – there are still 55 OAWV, 24 OATC, and 5 OAWV:CO participant slots available. Do not let these numbers fool you. By the end of April, all of the slots will likely be gone. But answer me this youth: Where will you be? For your sake, I hope this summer brings you to Northern Tier or Philmont. Go to <http://adventure.aa-bsa.org/> for all of the information you need to *Journey* down this life changing rabbit-hole.

Not convinced yet? Well, as a five-year OA Wilderness Voyage member – and three of those as a Foreman - I could write you novels of the inspirational, life-changing moments I experienced at Northern Tier. But, this time I am going to try letting one of my past-participants inspire you to sign up. I was Larry's Foreman in 2006. Below is Larry's message he wrote to our crew on the last night of our *Voyage*. I have only removed some inside jokes; everything below is Larry's own words, spoken from his heart to his Brothers.

My Brothers, I urge you to listen to Larry. Please stop letting these opportunities pass you by. I promise you: mowing lawns, the movie theater, Xbox, computers and cell phones, and all your friends will still be here when you return. More importantly, I promise you: when you return, the world staring back at you will never seem the same.

Solitude of Crew OAV628B

*by Larry "Trey" Wheeler III of Loquanne Allangwh Lodge #428
July 9th, 2006 – Mt. Rose on the shore of Lake Superior*

As I sit here on the shoulder of the "Sugar Loaf Mountain," overlooking the expanse of Lake Superior, I look back at the 12 days and 125 miles of toil and hardships it took my Brothers and me to reach this amazing place, a masterpiece of God and nature.

First, our arrival at Northern Tier. We were an oddity to the staff, joking and talking like old friends when in reality we had only known each other for 7 hours. Then came our first decision – one that took us over an hour – what *Voyage* would we embark upon after our week of Service. We bickered and pondered for what seemed like forever until we finally chose – we would go to the Grand Portage and Lake Superior. I believe we chose wisely.

The next day we departed for our worksite, where we would sweat, toil, and bleed for the next week. When we saw and walked through the knee-deep muck, instead of being intimidated by the work to be done, we gladly took the challenge. As I dove headfirst into my work, I began to feel a sense of pride and happiness – one I assume I shared with my Brothers. From hauling rocks twice my weight down a hillside, to breaking rocks into gravel, even to pulling logs out of mud and placing the rocks for the turnpike, I was proud to be doing it not for myself, but for others who will eventually use that trail. The feeling of accomplishment I felt when walking over our completed work was unlike anything I have ever felt. It was so beautiful a feeling I could never describe it with words.

Our first day canoeing – the 4th of July – was a very memorable day. Not only did we paddle 10 miles against a headwind, but we celebrated Independence Day with sparklers. First we celebrated in the U.S., then we jumped the border and danced around Canada with sparklers in our hands and ninja masks on our heads.

Our *Voyage* was a great and unique experience; we even slept under the stars in a blueberry patch one night. We saw waterfalls, bald eagles, moose, loons, and a plethora of mosquitoes and other wildlife. All the lakes, the lunch at Gunflint Lodge, the portages, and the rapids led to the big kahuna – the Grand Portage. We flew through the 8.5 miles with no injuries. Every step I took, I realized that so much history was steeped into that trail that I was honored to be a part of it. I loved every mile of the Grand Portage and I hope each of my Brothers did too. I will miss each and every one of my Brothers and I hope we keep in touch. To both Foremen Brad and Dar, your words of wisdom, your constant encouragement, and countless other things helped us all come together and make it through – I thank you.

So, now in closing I would like to say: OAV628B, fellow Arrowmen, Brothers – thank you all for this experience we have shared and remember: A Scout may be Kick-@\$\$, but he is nothing without Brotherhood and Cheerful Service to keep him going. I now know we chose wisely that night at the map, as I look across Lake Superior's waters, and thank God for all he has done for me.

WWW,

Bradley Ellis

Associate Lodge Adviser

assocadvisor@aal-pa-tah237.org

Election Information

Lodge Officer Election Rules

The following criteria is for the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge elections which will be used to hold the upcoming Lodge election of Lodge Chief, Lodge Vice-Chief of Inductions, Lodge Vice-Chief of Program, Lodge Vice-Chief of Service, Lodge Secretary, Lodge Treasurer, and Lodge Historian at the upcoming **Ordeal Weekend, June 4-6, 2010**. If you are planning to run for one of these positions, please read the following criteria carefully. The candidates' meeting mentioned under "Candidate Eligibility" item #6 will occur Friday night of the Council's "Scout Fest" at Okeehetee Park in West Palm Beach, Florida on **May 21, 2010**. If you wish to run for office, you must notify the current Lodge Chief at chief@aal-pa-tah237.org AND the Lodge Adviser at 237advisor@arnoldfamily.cc no later than Friday **May 14, 2010**, to schedule your candidate meeting timeslot for May 21, 2010. If you plan on running for office, you also **must** register as an attendee of the Ordeal Weekend and make sure that your dues are current for 2010.

Candidate Eligibility

A candidate for office must meet the following requirements:

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 (may be waived at the option of the Lodge Adviser and Staff Adviser).
5. Must be currently registered with a unit that is chartered by The Gulf Stream Council, BSA.
6. Must present himself at the scheduled candidates' meeting unless he is running for a Chapter position or makes specific prior arrangements with the Lodge Chief and/or Lodge Adviser. 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.
8. Must provide a letter from his unit leader indicating that a Scoutmaster's Conference has been held to discuss the Scouts role within the unit and how that responsibility will be met during the term of office. Further, that the Candidate has the approval of the unit leader to run for office.

Candidate acknowledges one of the responsibilities of all Officer positions is to meet with the Lodge Adviser and the other officers monthly.

The Interview Committee is composed of The Current Lodge Chief, only if he is not running for an office, The Lodge Adviser, Associate Adviser(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 and are registered for the Lodge weekend 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 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 another office of his choice.
3. Campaign promotional material is limited to a single poster board. The poster board itself may be science fair project style (with folding sides) or may be just plain poster board and 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 together 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 Adviser shall appoint one youth and one adviser. 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.

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

Be nominated by another youth member of the Lodge. The Nominator will be allowed to speak for two minutes on behalf of The Candidate.

Speak for two minutes if they so wish.

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.

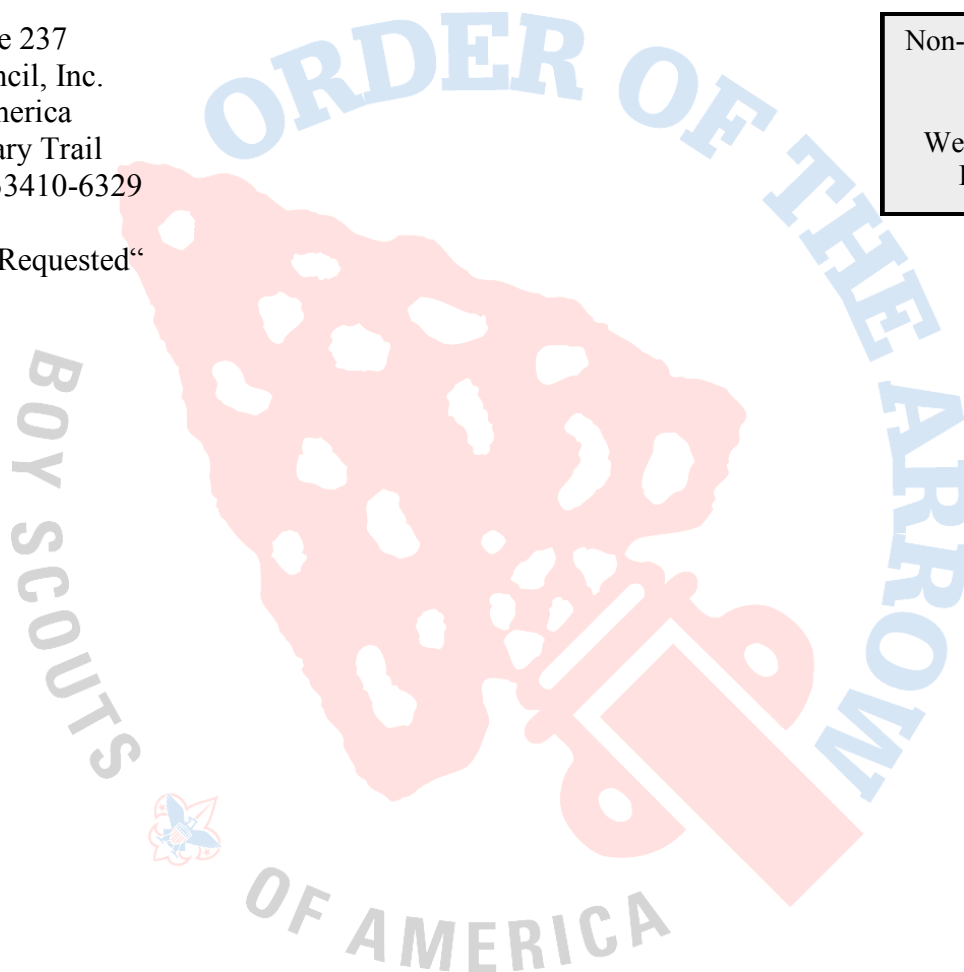
8. The Candidate that receives greater than 50% of the votes is elected. Unintelligible ballots are not counted.
9. Unopposed candidates must receive greater than 50% of all votes.
10. In the event of a tie vote, there will be one additional ballot to break the tie. Before the ballot is given, the tied 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 amount 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. The 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.
14. New Lodge Officers shall take office on Sunday following the closing of the business meeting. Chapter elections shall take place immediately following Lodge elections.

These rules are also available at: <http://aal-pa-tah237.org/leadership/electrules>

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237
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Boy Scouts of America
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Chapter Reports, continued

Osceola

Lighthouse District

The Osceola Chapter has been doing very well. At the Spring Pow Wow weekend, we raised exactly \$237 at the grill. Great job to everyone who helped and thank you to all who bought something. Thanks to LaF-A-Lot Entertainment we were able to sell cotton candy, Sno-Kones, and popcorn. At Pow Wow we also won 1st place and a plaque for the Iron Gator Award. Here are some changes that are coming up in our Chapter: we will start meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Kelsey Cupples has stepped down as our Chapter Adviser (and stepped up to the Dunk Tank at Pow Wow) and Stan Oblaczynski will take her place. We also elected our Chapter Officers for 2010-2011 and they will fully take over at Ordeal. They are, Mike McLoughlin, Chapter Chief; SJ Oblaczynski, Vice Chief; Tyler Mitchell, Secretary. Congratulations! We are still looking for a chapter member to fill the role of Treasurer and several other positions. If you are interested contact Mike at m.mcloug@gmail.com.

WWW,
On behalf of Jonathon Van Dyke

Gator Tales Reminder:
Officers, Arrowmen, and Advisers
Each issue of the Gator Tales is produced on a tight schedule.
Help us get each issue out on time!