



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

# GATOR TALES

July Issue

2001

## Ponder your Purpose

So how have you been coming on that preparing for the end thing? We talked about it a month or so ago. Are you ready? I just thought I would check, because I have another lesson for you that has to do with the end. This lesson is important for those that you leave behind. As a leader, you must realize that your committee, chapter, or other collective has given you the responsibility to lead that organization, but also that it expects you to leave it in good hands when your time has finished. What many of today's leaders do not realize is that the job they do is only as good as the person they leave behind. You may do a fantastic job and make all kinds of progress, but if you do not take the time to find and train a replacement that can successfully carry on with your work, you have wasted your time. Otherwise, where would you leave the organization? In a worst place than you found it. That is not the Scouting way. It is amazing how fast a great organization can fall apart with a new, unpre-

pared leader – or worse yet, with no clear leader at all. There must be someone to whom you can pass the torch, or it will extinguish itself as it falls to the ground.

No one wants to be responsible for the future, but as a leader you have accepted that responsibility. It is really how well you deal with this challenge that will reflect your performance. Although people may remember you for your other achievements, if your work falls apart shortly after your departure then no one will be left to remember it.

I realize this seems like a boring subject that I am harping on, but I am doing it for two not quite so obvious reasons. First, an absence of a clear leader is a problem that can plague any organization. The more you run from the problem, the greater your wake of the unprepared becomes. Each of us can always work on this, and always need to, because inevitably, our time will come to an end – either by force or by grace; no matter what posi-

tion it is that you hold, make sure that you have inspired another to carry the burden when you no longer can. This leads to point two, at this point in your life, things change constantly – schools, teachers, classes, positions, sports – school years are a characteristically ever-changing experience; however, you will find that things DO NOT become more stable later, as people want to believe. This life is always ever changing; it is the one thing on which you can depend. Things never slow down; this life holds a constant supply of surprises for you. So Be Prepared, get used to things changing, plan ahead, and help the rest of us adjust too by leaving someone prepared in your stead.

- Anonymous Brother

Note: If you wish to write an anonymous Ponder Your Purpose to share with your brothers in the Gator Tales, please send it to [bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu](mailto:bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu)

## Section Conference 2001 Close-out Report

by Bradley Ellis

Section Conference 2001 was a great experience for Aal-Pa-Tah. When all was said and done, Aal-Pa-Tah brought home the following awards:

Ceremonial Honor Team status for the Pre-Ordeal ceremony (for the 18th year in a row)

Best of Section Allowat Sakima (Phil Ashford)



Best of Section Meteu (Bradley Ellis)

Best of Section Kichkinet (Chris Montgomery)

Best of Section Nutiket (Evan Mason) [that's right, all 4 of them!]

1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth Tug O War

1<sup>st</sup> Place Adult Tug O War

2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Publications

2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Banana Relay

1<sup>st</sup> Place in Grass Dance (Evan Mason)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Grass Dance (Scott Ashford)

1<sup>st</sup> Place Grass Outfit (Scott Ashford)

1<sup>st</sup> Place in Fancy Dance (Travis Sheehan)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Traditional Dance (Patrick R. McReynolds)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Traditional Dance (Ryan Kidd)

1<sup>st</sup> Place Straight Dance (Mike Griffiths)

2<sup>nd</sup> Best Overall Dance outfit (Travis Sheehan)

Additionally our lodge was given a service plaque for hosting Section Seminars last fall, and most importantly we won the LODGE SPIRIT AWARD (our 7<sup>th</sup> time since 1977). Overall, we brought home more awards than any other lodge. For those that did not attend, you really missed out on an excellent opportunity for some brotherhood and cheerfulness. Everyone should plan on attending Section Conference 2002 hosted by Seminole Lodge #85 at Camp Flaming Arrow next April.

### OA Comics:



"They really work on special effects for their ceremonies!"





The Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Ceremonial Honor Team (L to R): Phil Ashford, Evan Mason, Chris Montgomery, and Bradley Ellis

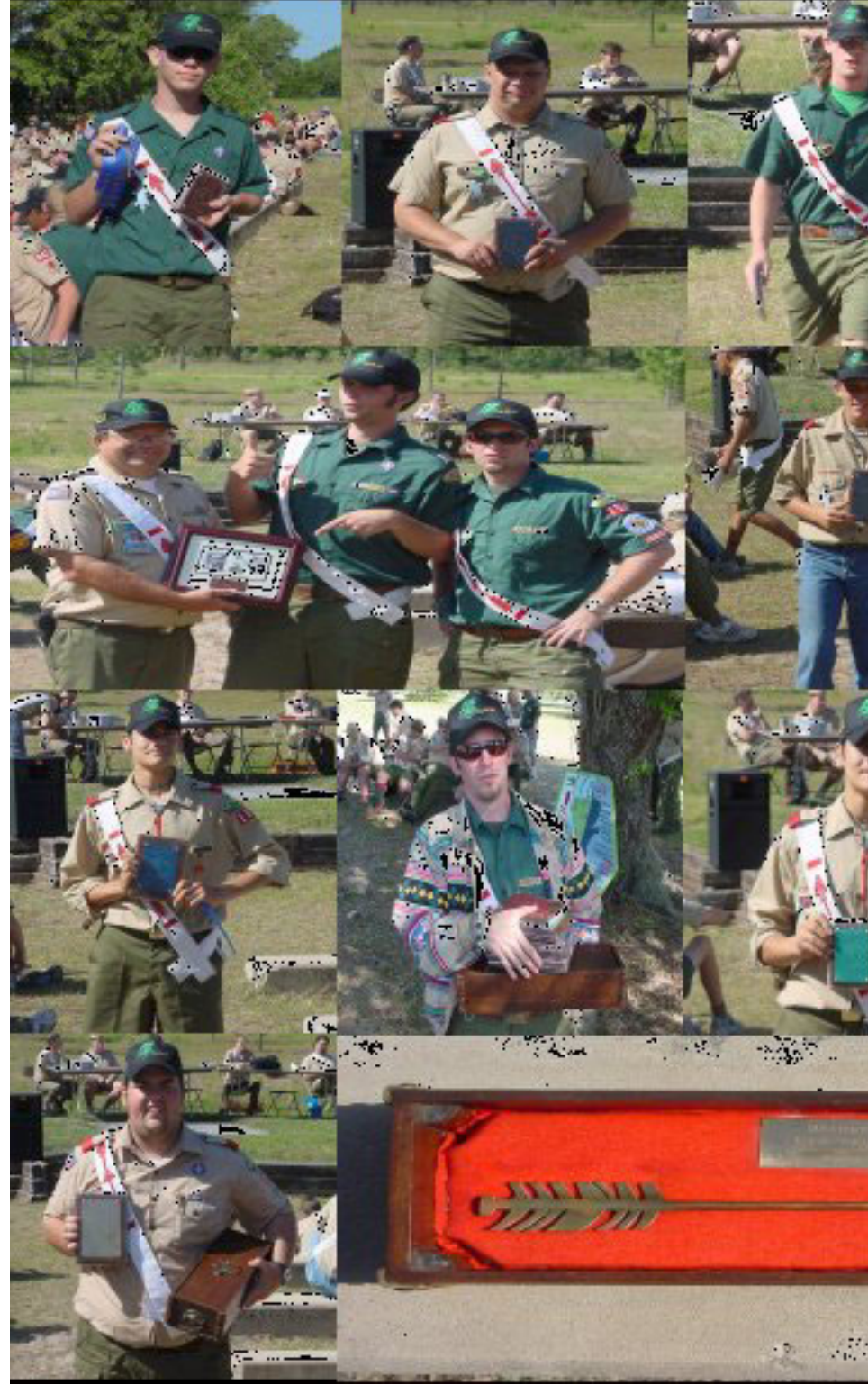


...while the adults of Aal-Pa-Tah tugged their way to victory



Brother Augie Milliang, flap bearer extraordinaire

# Conferenc



The 2001 National OA Chief, Don Cunningham, visited the Aal-Pa-Tah campsite to answer some questions...



...for a fee that is. No wait, they are just exchanging business cards



The youth of Aal-Pa-Tah pulled their way to the top...



Aal-Pa-Tah's very own Elam Patterson was named the new Section S-4S Associate Advisor!





*Some of the crew huddles around the lodge chief for a mid-day break during the competitions*



*Scott Ashford serves one up for the 237 team during the volleyball match*

# The Awards



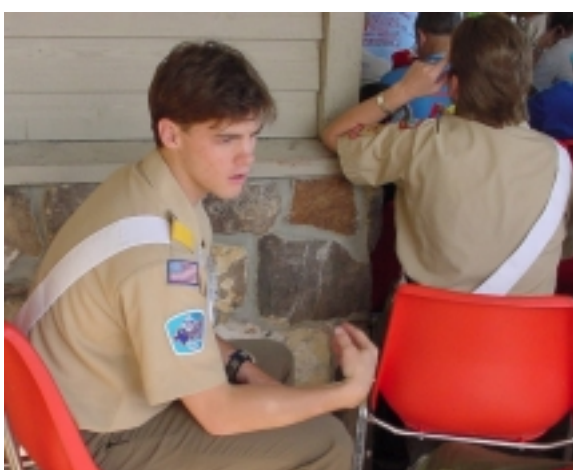
*Ordeal member Brandon Kappeler enjoying his first Section Conference since joining the Order last fall*



*Members of 237 enjoying a seminar taught by Rick Obermeyer of Tipisa Lodge #326*



*When you become the 237 Lodge Advisor or the Section Associate Advisor, you too get to sleep in a tipi at Section Conference*



*The 2001 Southern Region Chief, Jason Kemp, answering questions for some younger Brothers*



## Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

Here I am, back from National Camp School, jumping right into staff week. I've always asked myself, "What's the point?" Why do some of us Arrowmen work summer camp? Some of the Arrowmen we know are entering their 6<sup>th</sup> summer. But why? I figured it out while at camp school. You always know why your doing something, but what is the true reason behind it? Is it for popularity? Is it done selfishly or selflessly? Will it benefit yourself or will it benefit others? Well, I can easily tell you anyone that works on Summer Camp Staff to benefit themselves and/or for selfish reasons is absolutely crazy! It takes a certain type of person to work staff. A person that doesn't mind waking up at 7:00 in the morning and going to bed at 11:30 that evening, just to do it all over again the next day. It takes dedication, a team spirit, and most of all, selfless-

ness. If cheerful service were a patch someone could sew on a uniform, Summer Camp Staff would need to buy two shirts to fit them all on. Why do we do it? To see that one camper that went from being homesick one minute to smiling and laughing with his fellow scouts, just because that staff member said



(L to R): Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis and Lodge Chief Chris Smith

"hello". Just to here Johnny Tenderfoot say, "Thanks...I was really glad to earn that First Aid merit badge; you were the best staff member here." I am happy to report that more than 75% of Tanah-Keeta Summer Camp Staff members are Arrowmen from Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge, including a majority of your Lodge Officers and Committee members. Here is Cheerful Service, not a patch or something physical or tangible, not an award. It's something higher, more meaningful; felt by one's self, but experienced by all. I hope to see everybody either at Summer Camp on Friday nights or, hopefully, all week long; and certainly at the Fall Fellowship. Reach for that higher goal. Its there, but you've got to work for it.

In Cheerful Service,  
Christopher R. Smith  
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief  
tkmoondog@adelphia.net

## Vice Chief's Beef

Today there will not be much beef, but lots of sweet flavoring in its place. I am happy to report that we swept away the competition at Section Conference 2001. We won awards in just about every category, which is pretty good if you ask me. Individually, many of our members placed amongst the top three in the many categories of Native American dancing and Ceremonies. Among other awards, we also won first place in both adult AND youth tug-of-war! To top it all off, we took away one of the most important awards: the LODGE SPIRIT AWARD!! We accomplished this by

being ourselves, by showing how cheerful we can possibly be. Whether we were losing an event or not, we always held a smile. When we were together- anywhere in camp- we would sing. At the shows, when they played music, we would dance. This is the cheerful spirit that makes us a great lodge. The Order was founded on three principles: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. At Section Conference there was not much service to be done, but we excelled in the brotherhood and cheerfulness by standing by one another and fully enjoying this action packed weekend. I would

like to congratulate everyone who attended the conference with the Aal-Pa-Tah contingent for making it such an enjoyable event; I hope that you all had fun. I encourage everyone to attend Section Conference 2002, because merely reading about it just does not do it any justice!

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

## Upcoming Lodge Calendar Dates in 2001

### July 6<sup>th</sup>

Recognition of new members at campfire and cracker-barrel at TK

### July 13<sup>th</sup>

Recognition of new members at campfire and cracker-barrel at TK

### July 20<sup>th</sup>

Recognition of new members at campfire and cracker-barrel at TK

### September 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

Fall Fellowship at TK (Brotherhood will be offered)

### September 24<sup>th</sup>

First \$300 of NOAC 2002 payment is due to ensure spot.

## Publication Staff

Editor - Dan Arnold  
Coordinator - Bradley Ellis  
Advisor - Tim Arnold

## Advisor's Minute

Well the lodge did it. We went after the Lodge Spirit Award at Conference and came back with it and a lot more. Congratulations to all who went and won; and thank you to all that went because without you we could have never won the Spirit Award. Let us aim towards winning it again next year. I also want to thank Tom and Gail Chewing for their work on our new flap that we took to Conference.

My thanks go out to all that worked at the Mega Scout Show Pig Roast. A special thanks to Randy Wertepny, Youth Chairman and his Advisor Bill Bialczak for all the work getting things together and making it all work out (will be covered in the next issue).

This was a major step in moving the Ordeals to the summer but even with a few problems I think it worked out well. We plan to refine the process more for the upcoming year. A big thanks to Tom Smith, Scott Ellis, Matt Lombard, Steve Brown, Debbie Saad, Steve Steinmetz, Debbie Clineman, and Alan Clineman, and to all of our other brothers who attended the Ordeals for all of your hard work (will be covered in the next issue).

We will also have a new special recognition ceremony for our new Ordeal Brothers each Friday night at summer camp this summer; additionally, we will have an ice cream social for all Brothers after the campfire. Please come out to camp to be with us.

Now I would like to take a moment to thank Bradley Ellis, our outgoing Lodge

Chief. It has been a real honor working with such an outstanding young man. He was put in a position that carried a lot responsibility and he came through with flying colors. I know Brad will be a great asset to the Lodge in the future. Again, thanks for a job well done.

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

Yours In Brotherhood,  
Richard M. Fore  
rfore@aol.com



Lodge Advisor Richard Fore