

# Gator Tales



The Official Publication of Aal-Pa-Tah #237 Council 85

Dec 2015

## Winter Fellowship

Dear Brothers,

Winter fellowship is just around the corner, December 4th-6th. We will be trying a lot of new things, including a competition testing scout skills including fire building and lashing. We will be playing lodgeball, hungry hungry gator and many more games. We will be giving a seminar on boomerang. As always we will be having our 237 surprise. We still need some volunteers to help run the events and if interested please contact me, Matthew Grabasch, or Michael Riley.

WWW,  
Nicholas Boekholder  
*Winter Fellowship Weekend*

### Lodge Banquet

The Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Annual Awards Banquet is coming up soon! It will be held at TK on Saturday, January 9th 2016, at 5:00 PM. This event is only \$10, or free if you buy a Fast Pass, and is intended not only for all Arrowmen, but for your families as well. For all Arrowmen who have never attended, this event is where we honor those who have performed outstanding service to the lodge in the past year. It will also include raffle items, great food, music, games, fellowship, and, of course, the fantastic patch auction.

WWW,  
Austin Johnson  
*Banquet Chair*



### FAST PASS 2016!!!

You do not want to miss this GREAT opportunity!!! We are currently offering 2016 Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Fast Passes. What is a Fast Pass you ask? It is a way to make your life easier and allows you to spend LESS money! The \$100 Fast Pass includes 2016 Lodge Dues, Lodge Banquet, all 4 Lodge Weekends, all the event patches (in advance and including a special Fast Pass patch), custom lanyard AND a personalized collectible name badge. This year's patch set is retro video games and is sure to be a hit!

BUT, in order to get your personalized name badge you MUST purchase your Fast Pass before the end of Winter Fellowship (December 6th!). After that date Fast Passes will only include a generic name badge. Don't miss out on this! All Fast Passes will be distributed at the Lodge Banquet on January 9, 2016.

Pay for your Fast Passes at Winter Fellowship (make checks payable to Gulf Stream Council BSA OA) or on line at <http://www.aal-pa-tah.org/on-line-payments/>. NOTE—no credit cards accepted at the event .

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Visit us at  
[aal-pa-tah237.org](http://aal-pa-tah237.org) or  
join us on Facebook



# Chiefly Speaking



Brothers,

What does "Brotherhood" mean to you? One definition calls it "an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade". I like this definition but I think that urban dictionary's version is much better: "A friendship unlike any other, built out of respect and love, will always have each others backs."

To me, brotherhood is what keeps us together. If it weren't for the ties of brotherhood that we arrowmen have, the OA would just be a group of individuals who worked for their own interests and for our own gain. I believe that with brotherhood, a group of individuals can become "team players" for the same vision: group success.

Ask yourself, "Am I a team player? Do the sum of my actions add up to my own personal gain or to the success of the group?" When you have answered this question, please then do something about it. There is a version of a phrase found in both the Bible and Star Wars Episode III: "If you are not with me, you are against me." I would like to change this phrase. If you are not with US, than you are against US.

WWW,  
*Gregory Yentz*



# Adviser's Minute

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I have a lot of wacky ideas. I really like sharing these wacky ideas with my Scouting family, but I actually reserve the wackiest ideas for my regular family. Not too long ago I had a particularly (so I thought) GREAT!!!! idea which I conveyed with enthusiasm via email to my oldest son. I soon received a reply back. This reply did not marvel at my brilliance but rather it informed me that I was nearing the capacity of my lifetime allotment of exclamation points. Apparently my formerly favorite son has some knowledge in this field – maybe it is related to math, maybe economics – I am not really sure. But he conveyed the information with an air of authority. Soon he had the consensus of my other two sons; one who fashions himself as some sort of punctuation prodigy and the other (being a journalism major) who can quote the AP Stylebook by page number. While normally I am a good listener and willing to consider both sides of an issue, I have and will continue to reject their arguments on these grounds: the exclamation point is not merely a punctuation mark, it is a lifestyle!!!!!!

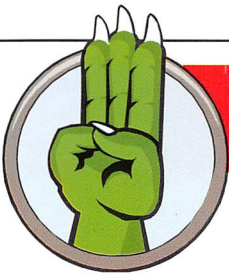
Think about all of the great things that can be conveyed by the exclamation point:

- **Heartfelt appreciation:** All the time in Scouting and in life we ask people to do things for us. In the Lodge we ask them to do ARDUOUS things. I think "Thanks." does not really do the job. But "THANKS A MILLION!!!! Or Thank you soooooo much!!!!!" really shows true gratitude. I think it is so important to let those who help you know how much their help is valued.
- **Urgency:** Often in Scouting things are time sensitive (mostly because we procrastinate) so often we need to let people know time is of the essence. Not many people respond to "You should really register for Winter Fellowship by Friday", but they do respond to "Register NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- **Enthusiasm:** As leaders we need to be the champion of our own ideas. If we are not enthusiastic about what we are doing how in the heck can we get anyone else to be enthusiastic? When we know that "Winter Fellowship is going to be the MOST STUPENDOUS Lodge weekend ever!!!!!!" who would not want to be on the team for this event?
- **Fun:** Let's face it would you rather go to a "Party" or a "Party!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"? Surely the "Party!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" (a safe scouting appropriate party of course) is going to be a blast and attended by tons of fun people!!!

Personally, I have found the use of the exclamation point has changed my outlook on the world. This simple line with a dot gives me a zest for life, an appreciation of each day, and a genuine love of all the people in my life. As a leader it helps me stay motivated and helps to guide others to success. So, to the naysayers, critics and the punctuationally reserved....just try and stop me!!!! Who is with me??!!!!

WWW,  
*Amanda Pantone*





# Officer Reports

## Vice Chief of Program

Hello my fellow Gators,

We are off to an amazing year thus far, fall ordeal was a huge success and we are looking forward to winter fellowship coming up soon. When it comes to program we love to have fun, but that is not possible without you, the members, to back us up and also enjoy it.

I am asking all gators, no matter if you are new or old to the order, to help us make the program even better then it currently is. We need youth and adults alike to help run the weekends and events, as well as we to get the word out about the weekends. I am asking that if you are interested in program, have an idea for a weekend or just enjoy having fun please contact me through the lodge and we can find a spot for you. No matter where it may be.

Gators are awesome and if there's one thing we know how to do it is to have an awesome time. And so my brothers I say ask not what your lodge can do for you, ask what you can do for your lodge!

WWW,  
*Michael Riley*

## Vice Chief of Service

Brothers,  
We are rolling full speed ahead! It is great seeing so many Arrowmen giving service across our council. There are many opportunities to give service all around, including Winter Fellowship, Chapter Service Projects, and GATOR GRIND.

Arrowmen have served at already the first two Gator Grind work days. Watch out for more information, the next work days lie on December 5th (Winter Fellowship), and January 9th. Keep up the good work!

WWW,  
*Robert Ulrich*

## Who Am I

I am one of 6 children and am a twin. I was born in Topeka Kansas and have been in Scouting 32 years. Who am I? If you know the answer, see the Chief at Winter Fellowship. First YOUTH with a correct answer gets a prize!

## Vice Chief of Inductions

Brothers,

First I want to thank all of the Chapter Chiefs and Advisers as well as all the hard working elections teams for all of their dedication and hard work in conducting this year's unit elections. This is not an easy job!!! But, so far we are in the best shape yet for elections. Congratulations to Wyhomepatah who have almost all of their elections completed and forms turned in.

As of this writing we are up in number of elected candidates versus last year so we expect a good year. But we need EVERYONE to keep up the great work and make sure that we conduct elections in each and every unit in our council.

WWW,  
*Matthew Mirandi*



## Lodge Secretary

Brothers,

So far this year, Gator Tales and the Website are off to a great start! If you want to join either of these groups, we need your help! If you have any pictures from chapter, lodge, or section events, or would like to contribute an article, a game (such as a crossword puzzle) or any other ideas, please send an email to either myself or George Dotzler.

If you are interested in helping with the website, please contact either Evan White or myself. We are off to a great year, but let's make it even greater!

WWW,  
*Andrew Sasser*



# Chapter Corner

## Ne-Kee-Wa

Dear Brothers,

Ne-Kee-Wa chapter is doing great! Our chapter patches and shirts are on sale now. The unit elections are going great and we should look forward to meeting all the new brothers this spring. I look forward to seeing everyone at Winter Fellowship! If you have any questions feel free to contact me at- [Nekeewa@gmail.com](mailto:Nekeewa@gmail.com).

WWW,

*Eric Kastelic*

Contact: [nekeewa@gmail.com](mailto:nekeewa@gmail.com)

## Wyhome-Pa-Tah

Brothers,

Winter Fellowship is coming up quickly before the end of the year, remember to sign up for that! We had one of the biggest turn-outs at Fall Ordeal, let's continue to make Wyhome-Pa-Tah's presence known to the rest of Aal-Pa-Tah! As a reminder about Remind: Wyhome-Pa-Tah has set up a Remind101 account. You can text the number 81010 with the message "@wyho" to receive updates from the Chapter Officers.

WWW,

*Justin Krum*

Contact: [justinhkrum@gmail.com](mailto:justinhkrum@gmail.com)

## Lowaneu Mawat

Lowaneu Mawat,

As we continue to gain momentum, I want to break to tell you all how proud I am of each of you. Our chapter is brightening, and I know that we will continue to do good work. Elections are well underway, 7/10 completed!! BIG THANKS to those who have served on an election team.. Also, bring your brothers to our chapter meetings! Remember, we meet at the Living Lord Lutheran Church on 58th Ave., every fourth Monday of the month @ 6:30pm (Except for November, we will meet on the 30th.). We will see you all there! Watch your e-mail for more information. Go get 'em!

WWW,

*Robert Ulrich*

Contact: [robert.urlich@irchsonline.org](mailto:robert.urlich@irchsonline.org)

## Oi-Ya-Tah

Brothers,

Oi-ya-tah is doing great. We have had a busy election season, and though we haven't finished them all we have a large group of eager candidates. The chapter is looking forward to our participation in the winter events. We have many youth excited for their eligibility for brotherhood and are eager to assist even more on the lodge level.

WWW,

*Oi-Ya-Tah Writing Staff*

Contact: [jamp3@juno.com](mailto:jamp3@juno.com)

## A-Bani-Ki

Brothers,

Dear Brothers,

Ne-Kee-Wa chapter is doing great! Our chapter patches and shirts are on sale now. The unit elections are going great and we should look forward to meeting all the new brothers this spring. I look forward to seeing everyone at Winter Fellowship! If you have any questions feel free to contact me at- [Nekeewa@gmail.com](mailto:Nekeewa@gmail.com).

WWW,

*Matt Grabasek*

Contact: [mattisahockeyfan@gmail.com](mailto:mattisahockeyfan@gmail.com)

## OA Unit of Excellence

Since the Troop is the primary and most vital platform from which the Scouting Program is delivered, therefore it is only right that the OA supports the units of our council to the best of our ability. The OA Unit of Excellence Award is given to units that excel in incorporating the OA into their annual planning and participate in the lodge in elections, lodge events and meetings, & implement the OA Troop Representative program. The award is broken into five major parts:

- 1) Leadership: Implement the OA Representative program in your unit
- 2) Participation: At least 50% of unit OA members attend a Lodge event in addition to their Ordeal
- 3) Elections: Hold an Election and have 100% of elected candidates complete their Ordeal
- 4) Planning: Maintain an active planning process that prevents overlap between Lodge and unit events
- 5) Conversion: At least 30% of eligible Troop members seal their membership by converting to Brotherhood.





# The Forum

## The Forum

The Forum is a place in GT where everyone from Chairman to Arrowman can speak. We accept all submissions, so if you have something you want to say in the next issue, please submit it to [lodge237@gmail.com](mailto:lodge237@gmail.com)

## Vigil Breakfast

My Brothers in the Vigil Honor,



If you are a member of the Vigil Honor then, you are cordially invited to attend Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237's Annual Vigil Honor Reunion Breakfast on the morning of Saturday, February 6th, 2016, at 7:30am in the Lassiter Building at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation. We look forward to seeing a variety of generations of brothers in attendance. If you have not been to a Lodge Event in a long time, I encourage you to take part in this reunion and bask in the greatness in which our Mighty Lodge remains.

Our Annual Reunion is \$15 per person and includes a limited edition Vigil Breakfast Patch. Additional Vigil Honor Reunion Breakfast Patches may be purchased for \$5 a piece.

Personalized Mugs may be Pre-Ordered for \$10 a mug (must order by Lodge Banquet 1/9/16). Please register at <http://www.aal-pa-tah.org/on-line-payments/>. We hope you can join us for this reunion as we feast in great Food and Fellowship as we strive to fulfill the Obligation in our everyday lives.

## Brotherhood

Dear Brothers,

Are you looking to seal your membership in the order? Then getting the honor of Brotherhood is for you. At Winter Fellowship we will be having Brotherhood counseling and a ceremony. Before the weekend please memorize the Obligation, the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, and the handclasp.

We will review everything during counseling so don't worry if you don't know everything. Also please have a letter to our Lodge Secretary. Everything for the letter is on the website. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [nekeewa@gmail.com](mailto:nekeewa@gmail.com).

WWW,  
*Eric Kastelic*

Brotherhood Chairman



## Trail Crew

Hello Brothers,

My name is Ryan White and I am your Trail Crew Chief. Over the past months the Trail Crew has been working hard to not only maintain the Mike Matchek Trail, but also make new signs for it as well. We have a lot of work ahead of us though because the first ever TK Gator Grind is just around the corner and we need to prepare for it. I am really excited for this event but it can't happen without your help, so come out and help.

WWW,  
*Ryan White*



New Trail Head installed by Trail Crew: Ryan White, Isaac Sunderman, Mr. LaRosa, Mr. Oblaczynski, Mr. Pantone

## Trade-O-Ree

Mark your calendars for this great event.... The Palm Beach Trade-O-Ree will be held at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation on February 5—6, 2016.

This event has something for everyone—Scouting Collectibles, Patch Trading and Collecting, Live Auction and Silent Auction and much, much more. This event is attended by collectors from around the country.

Hours of the event are Friday from 3 PM and midnight, and Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Admission to the event is free, if you are a collector who would like to rent a table or if you would like to attend but have questions about the event please contact Bill Jones at 772-344-1713 or [jone5412@comcast.net](mailto:jone5412@comcast.net). See you there!



# Summer Camp Update

As many of you may now know, summer camp 2015 was a magnificent success. This year, we have beat years past attendance records in both number of Scouts and Troops joining us in total. I am pleased to report to you that our recent marketing efforts on the west coast of Florida and South Florida is creating awareness of our camp and generating calls to our council office about summer camp 2016.

So what made summer camp 2015 such a great camp, in a word, "staff". But summer camp is not just about any one person theme or program, it is about the compilation of a talented ensemble of individuals who, in an orchestrated collaboration, deliver a program that is nothing short of magical. And so we set our sights on summer camp 2016 and while we do not have a theme finalized, we do know that we have the most important ingredients, a phenomenal program, a beautiful camp and an energized group of enthusiastic alumni who are set and ready to do it again.

So how do we get the word out to those who did not experience the magic of summer camp 2015? We do it through the delivery of a presentation that conveys the excitement and fun that awaits every person that participates, both young and old alike. So whether you are visiting a unit to conduct an election or just meetup at a scouting event, I urge you to articulate from the heart, the phenomenal experience that awaits every participant when they come to camp for our summer program. Remind them that Tanah Keeta is our camp, a place of tradition and old Scouting values, a camp whose intrinsic value does not lie in its facilities, but in the preservation of its living spirit for us today and for the youth of tomorrow. Nothing is more powerful or persuasive than a message that comes from the heart.

I look forward to seeing many of you in 2016.

WWW,

*Michael Perkins, Summer Camp Director*

# Centennial Celebration



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge held a special Centennial celebration at Fall Ordeal under the direction of Vice Chief of Program Michael Riley. Invited Past Lodge Chiefs and Advisers gave inspirational messages to the Lodge both in person and via video. They shared their memories with us and let us know how what we do today impacts those who will come after us. They have all certainly left their mark on our Lodge and we are grateful for their dedication and honored that they returned to speak to us on this important occasion. Special thanks to Michael Riley for his outstanding leadership in organizing this event.

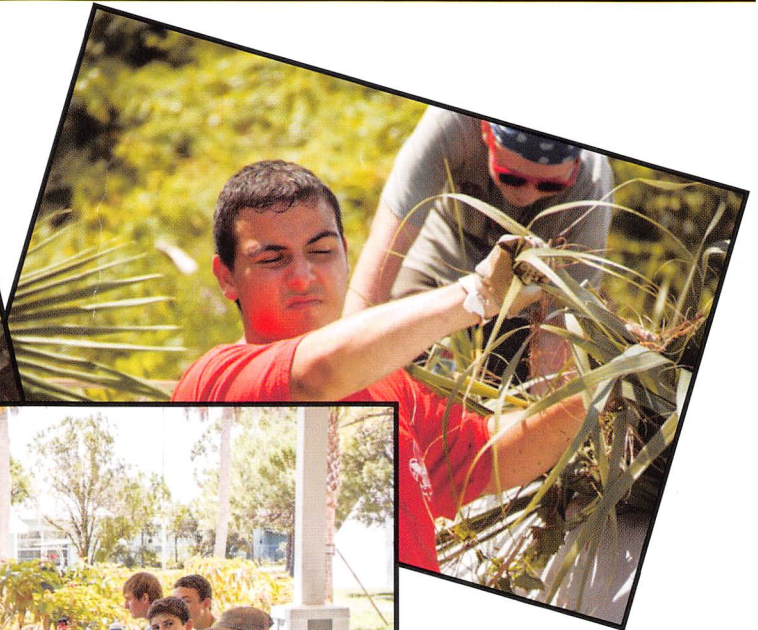
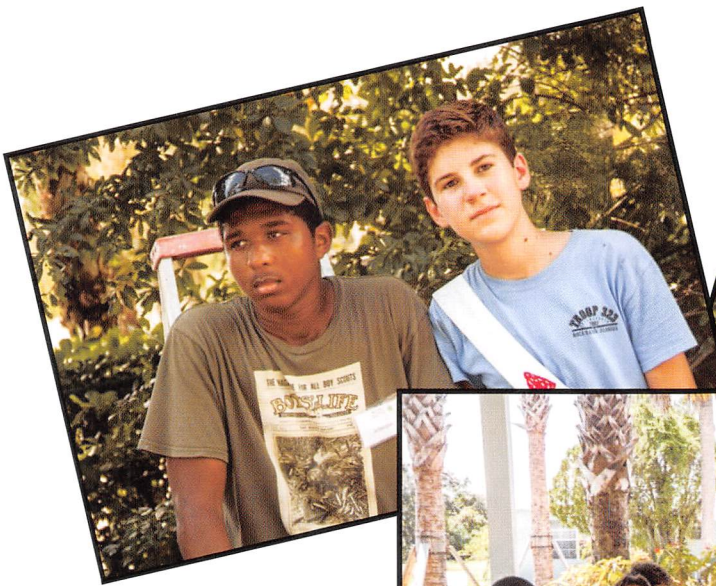
From left to right:

Amanda Pantone (Lodge Adviser), David Weda (Lodge Adviser), Eric Mason (Lodge Chief), Joe Wilcox (Lodge Adviser), Stephen Gray (Lodge Chief), Tom Sasser (Lodge Chief), Gregory Yentz (Lodge Chief), Daniel Olbrych (Lodge Chief), Michael McLoughlin (Lodge Chief), Adam Taft (Lodge Chief). Not pictured but contributed via video: Travis Sheehan (Lodge Chief), Bradley Ellis (Lodge Chief), Richard Fore (Lodge Adviser)





# Fall Ordeal





# Gator Grind at Tanah Keeta

Brothers,

We are excited to share with you an endeavor that the Gulf Stream Council has embarked on. We are bringing to life a 5 mile obstacle mud, trail run at the Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta on Saturday, March 12th 2016. There will also be a 2 mile version. It is a unique and first time occasion for us to invite the community onto the 640 acre property known as Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation. Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the camp. The TK Gator Grind would not be possible without the help of community leaders and volunteers like the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237. We are looking for volunteers to help and they will receive a special volunteers package of goodies. The Lodge has been asked to provide an OA Service Corps for the first ever TK GATOR GRIND on March 12th, 2016 at Tanah Keeta!!!! If you are interested in serving and giving back to the event please email [lodge237@gmail.com](mailto:lodge237@gmail.com) and let us know! It is going to be a great time for all! We hope to see you there!

The discount code for Scouters is **gscbsa2015** when you register at [www.TKGatorGrind.com](http://www.TKGatorGrind.com). That will give all Scouters a discount of 25%. However, please do not share with non-registered Scouters.

Registration and additional information can be found here:

>>--> [www.TKGatorGrind.com](http://www.TKGatorGrind.com)

>>--> [www.Facebook.com/TKGatorGrind](http://www.Facebook.com/TKGatorGrind)

>>--> Instagram: **TKGatorGrind**

>>--> Twitter: **@TKGatorGrind**

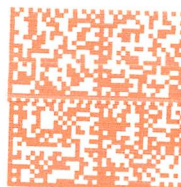
WWW,

*Mike McLoughlin*

Lodge Gator Grind Coordinator

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237  
Gulf Stream Council, Inc.  
Boy Scouts of America  
8335 North Military Trail  
Palm Beach, FL 33410-6329

“Change Service Requested”



Mailed From 33409  
11/24/2015  
031A 0002315725

Brad Ellis

## Upcoming Events

December 4-6, 2015

Winter Fellowship

January 6, 2016

Lodge Banquet

February 6, 2016

Vigil Breakfast, Trade-O-Ree, Brotherhood Day

March 4-6, 2016

Sprint Ordeal