



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



GATOR TALES

New Member Edition

May 2001

Dear Brother, for now I am permitted to hail you as such, congratulations on taking your first step down the path of cheerful service. Your selection as a candidate for the Order was a reflection of how your fellow scouts view you; that you truly embody the Scout Oath and Law. Having completed your Ordeal, you have proven back to them that they were right about your devotion to the high ideals of Scouting; you are now an Arrowman and bear the Obligation which carries a tradition of over 85 years of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service.

The purpose of this publication is to familiarize you with the basics of being an Arrowman in Aal-Pa-Tah: who's who, the structure of the lodge, who to contact to become involved in specific committees within the lodge, a list of OA events outside of the lodge, and more importantly, how to make the journey onto Brotherhood. Again, the information provided here is simply a "starter kit" and is not a definitive list of everything there is to being an Arrowman. For further knowledge (such as an interpretation of your Ordeal which you have just completed), consult your Order of the Arrow Handbook given to you or ask some of the older brothers within the lodge.

The LEC

The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) is comprised of the 6 executive chairmen and 35 sub-chairmen, all of which are youths and are paired with an adult advisor, who run every facet of the lodge. The 2000-2001 exec. chairmen are: Lodge Chief – Brad Ellis, Lodge Vice Chief – Chris Smith, Lodge Secretary – Mike Griffiths, Lodge Treasurer – Chris Montgomery, Lodge Historian – Terrance Dickson, and Past Lodge Chief - Stephen Brown.

The Chapter System

Just as each council is broken down into districts, each OA Lodge is separated into smaller units called chapters. Each chapter has a chief whom is a voting member on the LEC and who reports directly to the Lodge Chief and Vice Chief. Each chapter camps together during lodge events, competes against other chapters at lodge events, and will also carry out separate chapter functions outside of the lodge schedule such as: meetings, dinners, service projects, and even campouts. A listing of the chapters by their respective districts, along with the contact information for each chief and advisor, is given on the back of this page, as well as the information for the executive chairmen and their advisors.

OA Events Beyond the Lodge

In addition to the numerous lodge and chapter activities that take place throughout the year, there are several events at the Section and National level in which every Arrowman should participate:

I. Section Conference is an annual event during which the 8 lodges that form our section (Section S-4S) gather for a weekend chalk full of friendship and fellowship. The 2002 the conference will be hosted by Seminole Lodge 85 at Camp Flaming Arrow on April 12th-14th. Look for more info in our publications later in the year.

II. Section Seminars is another annual gathering of Section S-4S aimed at the purpose of training members of each lodge on how to better improve their lodge's program, while at the same time meeting

(Section Seminars cont.)

brothers from across the section in a weekend filled of the spirit of the Order. At this event brothers attend seminars, patch trade, play games, and dance at a powwow (among other things). The 2001 Section Seminars will be hosted by Immokolee lodge in the fall. Again, look for info in our upcoming lodge publications.

III. The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is a biannual gathering of Arrowmen from each lodge across the nation. The event usually lasts approximately five days and, in conjunction with the many side trips our contingent usually makes (i.e. Six Flags, caving, white-water rafting, etc..), it is perhaps the most awesome experience a member of the OA can possibly go through. The next NOAC will be held at the University of Indiana in Aug. 2002.

If you are interested in attending the 2002 NOAC You must have a \$300 deposit (≈ half) to council by Sept. 24th, 2001 to ensure your spot.

National OA Website: <http://www.oe-bsa.org/>

Section S-4S Website: <http://www.sections4.org/>

Aal-Pa-Tah Website: <http://www.aal-pa-tah.org/>

Sealing Your Membership

Having completed your Ordeal, you are now an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow, yet your membership in the OA has yet to be sealed. There is much more that have to learn about yourself and the Order as you make your journey down the path of Cheerful Service; obtaining Brotherhood status is the next step along your journey. The requirements for Brotherhood are:

- 1) Be an Ordeal member for at least 10 months.
- 2) Know the Song of the Order.
- 3) Know the Obligation of the Order.
- 4) Write a letter to the lodge secretary detailing what being an Arrowman means to you and your future plans for involvement in the lodge.

In the days ahead, reflect upon your Ordeal, grasp the spirit of the Order, complete these 4 tasks, and you will find yourself once again before Allowat Sakima.

Position	Youth	Phone	Advisor	Phone
Lodge Chief	Brad Ellis	850-222-6761	Richard Fore	791-3789
Lodge Vice Chief	Chris Smith	336-0264	Ted Bowdler	626-1683
Lodge Historian	Terrance Dickson	879-9264	Sally Daniell	336-1890
Lodge Secretary	Mike Griffiths	283-8610	Barry Ekle	305-758-3553
Lodge Treasurer	Chris Montgomery	641-0014	Elam Patterson	790-4532
Past Lodge Chief	Steve Brown	451-3684	None	None
A-Bani-Ki Chief (Osceola)	David Makler	482-9011	Jim Hare	369-2988
At-Seena-Hoofa Chief (Glades)	None	None	None	None
Chee-Pa-Tah Chief (Trade Winds)	Daniel Bialczak	791-0134	Bill Bialczak	791-0134
Coo-Wa-Chobee Chief (Manatee)	Brian Case	641-6380	George Morgan	499-5547
Lowaneu Mawat Chief (Indian Rvr)	James Archer	562-4380	Patrick Foradori	589-3318
Ne-Ke-Wa Chief (Sailfish)	Matt Dillon	287-6147	Debbie Saad	546-8908
Oi-Ya-Tah Chief (Treasure Coast)	Terrance Dickson	879-9264	Bill Daniell	336-1890
Osceola Chief (Lighthouse)	Dan Arnold	745-0297	Bill Haythorn	743-4219
Pan-A-So-Fee Chief (Okeechobee)	None	None	Tom Peer	763-7548
Troop Representative Chairman	Brian Case	641-6380	Ray Ellis	747-2262
Trail Crew Chief	Jeremy Regan	287-3119	Fred Fritz	965-9125
Ceremonial Team Chief	Phil Ashford	585-6950	Eric Mason	734-8822
Hitchiti Chief	Nathan Alexander	575-2489	Bruce Garwood	965-0509

Note: Aal-Pa-Tah has an email list so that the chief can efficiently send information to the lodge. If you would like to be added to this list please send an email to the chief, Brad Ellis, at bje3839@garnet.acns.fsu.edu (please have "OA" in the subject). There is no spam-mail on this list and only the chief can access the list.