

# GATOR TALES

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

Vol. 4 Issue 1

www.Aal-Pa-Tah.org

Winter 2003

## GATOR TEETH

**The Lodge Chief wants YOU!**  
...to contact him with your questions, complaints, comments, interests, and concerns! E-mail Travis at: [DasJoker@hotmail.com](mailto:DasJoker@hotmail.com) or call at (561) 575-5462

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## WINTER CALENDAR

**Native American Experience**  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Troop Elections Begin**  
February 2003

**Spring Powwow**  
February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

**Section-4S Section Conference**  
April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## Ponder Your Purpose

Brothers,

It has been some time since I last wrote to you, and now it is precisely time that I wish to speak to you about. I personally have been away from you, My Brothers, for longer than I have hoped. It has been months since we have seen each other and far too many days have come and gone since we have worked together to serve our fellow man. In this time, I have pondered much about my life. I have made many decisions that have altered my path from its course since I came to you in my Ordeal. However, through all of my changing, one thing in my life has remained a constant: The Order.

Time has an amazing effect on almost every facet of life. Mountains build up. Rock becomes weathered into sand. Relationships flourish or grow apart. The young Scout becomes an Eagle. The Eagle nests to hatch and provide for its own. The tide of life ebbs and flows with time. The exception to this rule, however, is us my Brothers. I have come to realize that time has no affect on the bonds that we share.

Where does my compass point to with all of this? My mission is to remind you of our purpose. We spend so much time in the Order speaking of service. Service to scouting, to our troops, our community, our country. But let us not forget that, as Brothers, we are also here so serve each other. We have all joined the Order to become part of a collective effort towards service for the greater good, but

amidst all of this is also a commitment to support each other down the paths that we have chosen as individuals. When we first entered the circle of the Pre-Ordeal, Nutiket reassures us that, "I am here to help you on, as far as man can guide his Brother." The help of Nutiket is not the goodwill of an individual, but a timeless promise that we hold to each other. My Brothers, we are here to help you on as far as man can guide his Brother.

As a younger Scout, I remember one of our past Section Chiefs being fond of saying, "I am an Arrowman, but my uniform does not define who I am." He is right. It is our choices and actions that define who we are as Arrowmen, not the sashes that we wear. It is up to each of us as individuals to ponder our purpose and choose our course; and it is up to all of us as Brothers to support the choices that each of us make as individuals. This is what I meant when I said that time does not exist in the Order. The Order does not expect perfect attendance. The Order does not demand ultimate sacrifice. The Order is here when you can give, and it is a support base for when you need it to give back. Understand, my Brothers, that you each choose your own path and commitment and the rest of us will always be here to cheerfully serve and support you in your life. Ponder my words and we shall speak again...

- Your Friend

## Philbreak to Aid in Philmont Rebirth

by David Stowe

This past summer, fires damaged thousands of woodland acres in Philmont's beautiful Ponil region. In answer to Philmont's greater need for service, the Order and the Philmont Staff Association have teamed up to offer Philbreak.

The program has three major goals: to recruit more than 70 Scouters to provide service to the ranch; to provide a qualified pool of potential staff members; and to enhance and build the participants' leadership skills.

If you are a registered Scouter between the ages of 18 and 25, what better place to spend your spring break than in Cimarron, New Mexico? Three sessions will be offered: March 2-8, March 9-15 and March 16-22. The cost is \$50 plus transportation. Participants must arrive by noon on Sunday. Shuttle service will be available from the Albuquerque airport to Philmont.

Upon arrival at the ranch, participants will meet their trained staff and immediately begin project orientation. Arrowmen should

anticipate a week of cheerful service, fellowship and fun. Work crews will perform meaningful service projects for the ranch and build their understanding of wilderness conservation and the outdoors. Participants also will have an opportunity to take a ski break at Angel Fire. By Saturday, they will be tired but satisfied that they have made a real difference.

Come to Philmont when the mountain peaks are still snow-capped and experience a side of Philmont that is not seen during the summer. More information is available on the national OA Web site.

Plant a seed; rekindle your spirit. As Philmont's north country goes through a period of rebirth, do not miss this exciting opportunity to make a difference!

**Information about Philbreak is posted to the National Order of the Arrow Web Site. Please visit [www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org) for more information, application forms, and promotional flyers.**

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## Brotherhood to be offered at Spring Powwow

At the upcoming Spring Powwow (Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>), a Brotherhood ceremony will be offered for all of those ready to take the next step on their journey and seal their membership in the Order. The following five challenges must be met before you can enter the Circle of Brotherhood:

1) Memorize the signs of Arrow membership. Memorize the Obligation of the Order, which you received from Allowat Sakima. Also, memorize the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of the Ordeal membership, and the Arrow handclasp (it is advisable to memorize the Obligation and Song before the weekend).

2) Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal. Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed (reflect on your own, talk to older brothers, and perhaps read about the Ordeal in the OA Handbook).

3) Serve your unit. Retain your registration in Scouting. During a period of at least 10 months after your Ordeal, strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own unit.

4) Plan for service in your lodge. Retain your registration in the lodge and keep your

dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge and stay involved within the lodge.

5) Review your progress. When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter addressed to the lodge secretary (Adam Taft). In this letter:

- Explain what you think the Obligation means.
- Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your unit and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.
- Describe your specific plans for giving

### The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow

I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

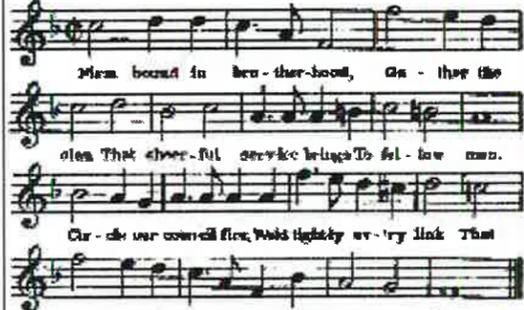
I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit, even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

service in the lodge program.

(It is advisable to write this letter prior to the weekend)

If you plan to do your Brotherhood at the Spring Powwow, please specify this when you call the Council Office before February 25, 2002 to pre-register for the weekend. The cost of the Pow Wow is \$15.00 if you preregister, \$20.00 if you pay at the event. Additionally, there is a \$12 fee for the Brotherhood, which pays for the new sash; this additional fee may be paid when you pre-register or when you arrive at the weekend. We look forward to widening our Circle of Brotherhood.

**ORDER OF THE ARROW OFFICIAL SONG**  
Words by A. Louis Carver

Mam-hood in bro-ther-hood, On-ly the  
one that cheer-ful service brings to fel-low men.  
Cir-cle our council fire, Hold tight-ly ev-ry link that  
binds us to bro-ther-hood, Wi-mach-tien-duk.

## Arrowman from Section S-4S Elected National Chief!

Nick Digirolamo has been elected as the 2003 National Chief of the Order of the Arrow. Nick, age 19, is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the OA. He is the Section Chief of S-4S and is a member of Seminole Lodge of the Gulf Ridge Council. An Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 46, he attends school in Orlando, FL.

Nick has participated in OA Wilderness Voyage and served on Inductions and Ceremonial Events staff at NOAC 2002. He has served on NLS staff, and also staffed the National Junior Leader Instructor Camp.

Nick currently attends the University of Central Florida, where he is a business major. He enjoys playing recreational basketball. Nick's favorite hobbies include backpacking, canoeing, and watersports.

Asked for his thoughts on being elected national chief, Nick replied, "I look forward to leading the Order of the Arrow through its many promising opportunities this upcoming year!"

When elected Nick was serving his term as Section Chief of S-4S. Nick has attended some Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge weekends and also chose to ride back from NOAC with our contingent. If his schedule permits, National Chief Nick Digirolamo hopes to attend our

upcoming Spring Powwow. Congratulations Nick; Aal-Pa-Tah is proud.

For further information on the newly elected National Officers, check out the National OA Website at: [http://www.oa-bsa.org/annc/npm02/nat\\_elections03.htm](http://www.oa-bsa.org/annc/npm02/nat_elections03.htm)



The newly elected National Chief Nick Digirolamo from Seminole Lodge #85.

### Where to Go Camping Guide

Every year we produce a guide for the greatest camping spots in Florida. Our council keeps a list of these camping locations and updates them to produce an annual "Where to go Camping" guide. If you know of any camping spot, whether it is a summer camp or a great

place for a Troop to camp, then you can add your suggestion to the guide. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, email Travis Sheehan at [dasjoker@hotmail.com](mailto:dasjoker@hotmail.com) or call him at (561) 575-5462!

### OA Indian Summer 2003

by Travis Sheehan

Attention all Brothers!

The National Committee is offering a new conclave, the INDIAN SUMMER! The Indian Summer will take place from August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> in 2003. It will take place at the lovely Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Now, who exactly can come to the Indian Summer? Well, any Arrowmen with an interest in learning more about American Indian culture and Arrowmen who wish to expand their skills and understanding of the Order's ceremonies are invited. The conference is projecting about 1,000 Arrowmen to participate in this event. The primary goal of this conference is to elaborate and expand a participant's understanding of American Indian culture at a pace in which the students can learn more. Participants will also delve deeper into the ceremony world of settings, props, understanding the ten induction principals, symbolism, knowing the script, and development of low-cost ceremonial costumes. Arrowmen will have the chance for hands on experience with American Indian crafts, singing, dancing, customs, traditions, Indian games, and conducting a powwow. For more information check out the Indian Summer page on the National OA Website at: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/events/n2002/live/thurmorn/indiansummer.htm>

**Gator Tales Staff**

**Editor - Dan Arnold**

**Coordinator - Brad Ellis**

**Advisor - Tim Arnold**

## Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

Recently, I have discovered a great injustice in the world: there is not enough time in the day. I could sit nightly pondering a solution to this problem, but I recognize an action such as this to be a waste of time, the item we have so little of. Therefore, I jump at every opportunity within my reach. Whether it is going out, leaving for a Scouting trip, learning a new instrument, or trying a different type of food, I try to do it all.

This desire for "it all" leads me to another dilemma...in which direction am I headed? I am not babbling about that turkey sandwich you "should've opted to eat at lunch instead of the salad" or "which movie to see tonight." I speak of what career I'm choosing or the infamous "what am I doing with my life". As we have all have done during our Ordeal, I have spent countless amounts of time in silent meditation pondering what makes me tick, what makes me inspired, and most importantly what makes me happy. Something we have all done or are preparing to do is decide.

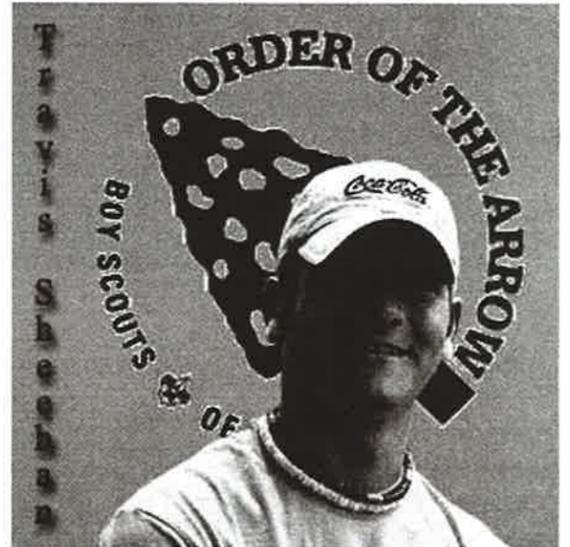
While discussing this horrific, yet important decision with my wise and spiced Nana (Grandmother) I conjured a saying which sums up the frustration of not only my generation, but that of everyone still living today: You have your entire life to decide what you want, but little time to choose.

You could spend countless days deciding, but at the very moment an item is offered to you, you must choose. You could decide for an eternity which college you desire, but when the acceptance letters arrive at your doorstep, you must choose only one. One may decide the make, model, and color of their next car for a lifetime, but when the old car breaks down beyond all repair, he must choose a new one.

We obviously cannot turn back nor slow down time, so I ask every Brother but one thing: choose the right path that will lead you to happiness. That path may be the trail to Eagle, to college, to automotive school, working in the movie theater, beauty school (if that's your thing), or the terrible choice between tur-

key or ham on rye.

In fulfilling the Obligation,  
Travis Sheehan  
Aal-Pa-Tah #237 Lodge Chief  
DasJoker@hotmail.com  
(561) 575-5462



Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan

## Vice Chief's Beef

This segment is here so I can complain about all the things that are bothering me. In



Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis

## Lodge Treasury Report

Greetings Fellow Brothers,

This is your Treasurer, Chris Shanks, here to tell you about some things that will be going on this year with the Lodge box and new items for sale.

First, the Fast Pass of last year (where you pay in advance for all Lodge weekends and receive a free back patch for the year) has had a few changes. It will now be called the "Gator Pass: The Other Green Card", and it will include being entered into a raffle to win a free Gator Pass for the following year.

Next, our patch auction turned out to be very successful, raising a total of over \$1,900 for the Lodge. That is thanks to large participation from the entire Lodge, but it can be bigger. You, the fellow brothers of Aal-Pah-Tah Lodge can make your own contribution by donating patches to the auction and help raise funds for the Campership Fund.

Finally, we still have some holiday ornaments for sale from the Lodge box; only 150 were made so hurry and grab some before they are all gone. And remember, new patches in the box normally sell out very quickly so be

this great world, there is one thing that truly gets on my nerves... Internet pop-up ads! I despise them. If you close one, another pops up. It gets to the point where you cannot even read your daily online news because ads sprout up every thirty seconds. This morning I saw one that was so absurd that I couldn't believe my eyes. A pop-up ad was advertising a program that you pay for to remove pop-up ads. Does anyone see the irony in that? It is clear that advertising is really getting out of hand!

With that being said, I would like to inform everyone on the great upcoming events our lodge has to offer. For the low price of \$15.00 you can spend a weekend at beautiful Camp Tanah Keeta for our annual Spring Powwow on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>-Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is guaranteed to be a fun weekend, and for those eligible,

sure to attend regularly so you can purchase your piece of Lodge history.

That's all for now. I hope everyone had a great holiday and that 2003 will be a great year for the Lodge.

WWW,  
Chris Shanks  
Lodge Treasurer  
miraclescout@hotmail.com

**Remember that you can pay for events by simply calling the Scout Office with credit card in hand to pay for all future events**



you earn Brotherhood for an additional \$12!! That's right, only \$12! Pre-register for the weekend to dodge the \$5 late fee! Shortly following Powwow is the famous Section Conference! This is one of the greatest weekends the Order of the Arrow has to offer, so start saving!

Additionally, other articles in this issue of the Gator Tales will talk about the weekends, but in order to keep up with lodge events you should join our lodge e-mail list. To be added or removed from the list, email [mellis3@earthlink.net](mailto:mellis3@earthlink.net).

Yours in cheerful service,  
Scott M. Ellis  
Lodge Vice-Chief  
(561) 747-2262  
ellissm@netzero.net

## Lodge Food Services

I would like to commend each chapter member for their co-operation with kitchen & dining hall duties during our past Winter Fellowship. Keep up the good work! It is essential that every Chapter attending works as a team helping in this area to make sure everything runs smoothly and meals are served on time. Be assured that you will be called on again for help.

Please remember to register as early as possible for all the upcoming events so that proper food quantities are ordered and no one is without meals.

For all Brothers that have a special food need (vegetarian, dietary, etc...), it is crucial that you notify the food service chairman ASAP if you are attending an event so that we can accommodate your needs.

Yours in Service,  
Ryan Kidd  
Food Service Chairman  
mkiddjup@juno.com



*Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan hanging out at the Winter Fellowship.*



*The Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter takes a break for its victory photo shoot after the Winter Fellowship's capture the flag competition.*



*Brothers David Pantone and Tom Morgan serving their fellow man as best they know how...with ice cream.*

# Winter Fellowship



*Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan showing Bradley Phibbs how its done...*



*(from L. to and Lodge)*



*...Lodge Advisor Richard Fore showing Lodge Chief Travis how its really done.*



# ship 2002



*(from L to R) Brothers Sean Curtain, Scott Ellis, Daniel Arnold, and Derek Kerley of Osceola Chapter take a few moments before the Winter Fellowship at Carlin Park in Jupiter for a brief Chapter meeting and art session.*



*Lodge Treasurer Chris Shanks, Lodge Vice-Chief Scott Ellis, Chief Travis Sheehan receiving their officer's neckerchiefs.*



*Scheduled or not, hacky-sack always makes its way into a lodge event.*

## OA Trail Crew

The Order of the Arrow is offering you an opportunity to join other Arrowmen in cheerful service and the formation of lasting brotherhood on the trails of Philmont Scout Ranch. Under the direction of the Philmont Conservation Department, experienced Philmont staff members with strong Order of the Arrow backgrounds will lead participants on the two week trail crew and trek.

The program is a fourteen day experience. The first week focuses on trail construction and maintenance under the guidance of Philmont trail crew foremen. The second week is a seven day backpacking trek that is designed by the participants. The program is not simply building trail and hiking though, the OA Trail Crew is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Other than trail building techniques, Scouts will strengthen their leadership skills, learn advanced wilderness and low-impact camping skills, observe and participate in group wilderness safety, good judgment, and motivation activities, and receive special OA instruction.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least 16 years old the day your program begins, but not 21 by its conclusion.
- Be physically fit, able to lift and handle materials up to 50 pounds. (Philmont height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced.)
- Be a registered member of both the BSA and a local OA lodge.

The Aal-pa-tah drum is getting ready for Section Conference and we want you. Last section we dominated the singing competition taking first place with ease. At all of the lodge weekends we will be having practices. Everyone is invited to join the drum and participate in an important part of Native American culture. To enter competition at section you must be under 21, but all Arrowmen are welcome to attend our practices. At the next weekend we will be choosing the songs we are going to sing for competition. After we choose these

## The Founders Award

The Founders 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



2003 Aal-Pa-Tah Founders Award recipient Jerry Pence.

Scouts from the same unit, or otherwise acquainted, will be placed in separate crews. No Exceptions!

### PROGRAM COST

Participant cost is \$100 for the two week experience. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required with the application. The balance of the fee is due at the time of acceptance as a participant in the program. Additional expenses, including travel to and from Philmont as well as miscellaneous purchases, are the responsibility of the participant.

Those applicants not accepted as participants in the program will have their deposit returned. Participants canceling acceptance will be eligible for a refund if notification is received to the national office by May 14, 2002. No shows are not eligible for a refund.

### 2003 OA TRAIL CREW SESSION

#### DATES

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| #1 June 8 - 22       | #6 July 13 - 27        |
| #2 June 15 - 29      | #7 July 20 - August 3  |
| #3 June 22 - July 6  | #8 July 27 - August 10 |
| #4 June 29 - July 13 | #9 August 3 - 17       |
| #5 July 6 - 20       |                        |

To apply visit: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/tcrew/oatc.htm#require> to obtain an application, or call Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan at (561) 575-5462.

## Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Drum

songs we must investigate and understand the meaning and history of each one. I strongly recommend anyone with interest to bring a tape recorder and a blank tape to get a copy of the songs we will be singing. For any more information Call David Witmer at 588-9501 hope to see you there.

WWW,  
David Witmer  
Lodge Drum Chief  
Dww123456@aol.com

Founders 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 Founders at the Fall/Winter Fellowship. Congratulations to Drew Hains and Ryan Wertepny, Aal-Pa-Tah's 2002 Founders Award Recipients!



2003 Aal-Pa-Tah Founders Award recipient Randy Wertepny.

## Semialachee #239 to host 2003 S-4S Conference!

Light the flame, carry the tradition, the 2003 Section S-4S Conference will be held April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at Wallwood Scout Reservation near Tallahassee, FL. Section S-4S is nationally famous for having huge fun filled conferences annually and this year will be no different. About 1000 Arrowmen are expected to converge on Wallwood for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Highlights of the weekend include The Quest for the Golden Arrow, Publications and Web judging, Kings Cup, Inductions, Best All-Around Lodge Competition, Ceremonial Evaluations, American Indian Events, Training Seminars, Shows and MUCH MUCH MORE! Join us for the biggest OA Event in Florida on April 4, 2002

The cost to attend Section Conference 2003 with Aal-Pa-Tah will be \$75.00 (The cost includes the weekend fee, transportation, and all the usual Lodge contingent goodies. Look in future issues of the Gator Tales and join the lodge email list for further information about joining the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge contingent to Section Conference 2003. Make sure to call the Scout Office right away to register for this event. Space is limited for this very important event and you do not want to miss out. If you have any further questions please contact the Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan at [DasJoker@aol.com](mailto:DasJoker@aol.com).



The Lodge Drum getting in some practice time at the Winter Fellowship.

### Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 Founders Award

#### Recipients

Bruce Garwood	1981
Kelly Landers	1981
Jake Greenspon	1982
"Doc" Hardman	1982
David Weda	1986
Barry J.F. Ekle	1986
Bob Somers	1987
Jason Jackson	1989
Uly Hubbard	1989
Joe Wilcox	1991
Elliot Wilcox	1991
Troy Rinks	1992
John Leasor	1992
Kevin Murphy	1995
Eric Mason	1997
Elam Patterson	1997
Jimmy Walls	1998
Tom Sasser	1998
Ray Malin	2000
Phil Ashford	2000
Drew Hains	2001
Ryan Wertepny	2001
Jerry Pence	2002
Randy Wertepny	2002

## Chapter Reports

### Chee-Pa-Tah

Hello my fellow Chee-Pa-Tah brothers, it is I, your humble Chapter Chief. This past year we have built up our chapter and are continuing to grow in numbers and in attendance at the weekends. I urge you to promote the OA weekends to those brothers who are less active, to support your Lodge, Chapter and your Troop.

As this time of year comes along we must all prepare for Elections. I will be contacting all of the Scoutmasters and Troop Reps to schedule a time for your election. Brothers, urge your Scoutmasters to participate in these elections and promote the OA.

Next is Spring Powwow, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is another action-packed, fun-filled weekend. If you missed the Winter Fellowship, do not miss this weekend; games, seminars, competitions, its all there. Make sure you sign up early.

Finally, Section Conference is upon us as well. This is the most fun, aside from NOAC, you will ever have in the OA. Work as a Lodge and, meet, greet, and compete with other Lodges from Florida. This is an awesome weekend, and well worth the trip. Sign up today.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions feel free to contact me. I hope to see you at the next weekend.

Yours in Brotherhood;  
Daniel Bialczak  
Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief  
(561)791-0134  
hombredelassrtas@hotmail.com

### OA Wilderness Voyage

The program is a fourteen-day experience inspired by the traditions of the French and Canadian Voyageurs who ventured the northern wilderness during the 1700-1800's. Arrowmen will embark on a voyage that is twofold. One-half of the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage focuses on portage trail and campsite maintenance within the Boundary Waters. The remaining expedition is spent on a canoeing adventure that is planned and chosen by the participants in the program. In other words, each crew plans their own voyage! However, the program is not simply portage trail work, camping, and canoeing. The OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically, and spiritually.

In addition to mastering portage trail maintenance techniques, Scouts will strengthen their leadership skills, learn advanced wilderness and low-impact camping skills, learn wilderness safety techniques, participate in many motivational activities, and receive special OA instruction. The project's mission is to maintain, reinforce, and intensify the purpose of the Order of the Arrow through Scout camping traditions.

#### PROGRAM COST

Participant cost is \$100 for the two-week experience. A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit

### Coo-Wa-Chobee

Brothers,

The Winter Fellowship weekend was awesome for our Chapter. Congratulations to A-Bani-Ki Chapter for stealing the flags in the Capture The Flags game at the last minute from Chee-Pa-Tah. We were the highest attending chapter at the weekend with 20-22 people (including adults).

Attention Scoutmasters! Unit Elections are coming up soon. I'll be in contact to work out a date to come do them. Start talking up the Order within your troops. Review those Scouts who have met the requirements to be eligible to be voted and have a list ready.

The next weekend is Spring Powwow on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>. I hope to see you all there and break our record of 22 attendees. Also, start thinking ahead to Section Conference. If we have those kinds of numbers at Section Conference, there is no doubt we will be awarded The Most Spirited Lodge for the third year in a row.

We have Chapter Patches available for those Brotherhood members in our chapter for \$3.00; If you want a patch, you need your Brotherhood. MOST IMPORTANTLY!! I would like to let everyone know that at the Patch Auction at the past weekend, the Coo-Wa-Chobee patch went for a whopping \$25.00. Thank you and I would like to see you all at Spring Powwow.

Your's In Brotherhood,  
Bradley "Sonny" Phibbs  
Coo-Wa-Chobee Chapter Chief  
LaughingFox88@aol.com

### Lowaneu Mawat

Brothers,

My name is Steve Gray, and I am the newly elected Chapter Chief for the Lowaneu Mawat Chapter. We will be having a Chapter meeting sometime in the near future to discuss upcoming events and such. To give you a little taste on what is to come, the annual Spring Powwow will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The weekend only costs \$15, a small price to pay for a whole weekend of fun, fun, fun!!! For those of you who haven't paid you dues for 2003, it's not too late; just send them in to the council office and you'll continue to receive your lodge mailings. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Steve Gray  
Lowaneu Mawat Chapter Chief  
(772) 778-9109  
psych452000@yahoo.com

### Ne-Kee-Wa

Fellow Chapter Members,

I would like to thank all those who attended the First Annual Winter fellowship. Our Chapter had lots of fun and did well in the competitions too! I will be contacting you soon about a Chapter meeting; I hope to see you all there, it is IMPORTANT that you attend! Also, make sure that you all mark Spring Powwow on your calendars for Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>...it will be upon us soon.

Simplistically yours,  
Adam Valencic  
Ne-Kee-Wa Chapter Chief  
avirus\_do\_not\_open@worldnet.att.net

### New Vigil Honor Member

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an Arrowman by the lodge. The Vigil Ceremony was conducted at the Winter Fellowship for Brother Ryan Durocher.

The awarding of the Vigil Honor to Ryan concluded Aal-Pa-Tah's 2002 Vigil Honor Class. The awarding of the Vigil Honor stands as a testament to many years of hard work and dedication to our lodge. Congratulations Ryan.



The Founders Award Aal-Pa-Tah's newest Vigil Honor member Ryan Durocher.

is required with the application. The balance of the fee is due at the time of acceptance as a participant in the program. Additional expenses, including travel to and from Charles L. Sommers as well as miscellaneous purchases, are the responsibility of the participant.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least 16 years old the day your program begins, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.

- Be strong and robust (Charles L. Sommers height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced.)

- Be a registered member of both the BSA and a local OA lodge.

#### NATIONAL OA VOYAGE DATES

Note: All dates are in the summer of 2003.

#1 June 10 - 23	#6 July 15 - 28
#2 June 17 - 30	#7 July 22 - August 4
#3 June 24 - July 7	#8 July 29 - August 11
#4 July 1 - 14	#9 August 5 - 18
#5 July 8 - 21	

To apply visit: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/ntvoy/#program> for the application or call Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan at (561) 575-5462.

## 2002-2003 Lodge Calendar

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** Native American Experience at Tanah Keeta (Council Event).

**February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003:** Spring Powwow at Tanah Keeta.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** Section-4S Section Conference hosted by Semialachee Lodge #239 at Camp Wallwood. <http://www.sections4s.org/index.html>

**May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** Mega Scout Show (OA Pig Roast) at Roger Dean Stadium.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** Chapter Service Weekend at Tanah Keeta.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Callout at the Friday night campfire at TK Summer Camp.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Callout at the Friday night campfire at TK Summer Camp.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Callout at the Friday night campfire at TK Summer Camp.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Callout at the Friday night campfire at TK Summer Camp.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Callout at the Friday night campfire at TK Summer Camp & Summer Ordeal.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2003:** OA Indian Summer; Ridgcrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina. <http://www.oe-bsa.org/events/n2002/live/thurmorn/indiansummer.htm>

## 2002-2003 Lodge Officers and Advisors Contact List

### Officers

Lodge Chief	Travis Sheehan	575-5462	Richard Fore	791-3789
Lodge Vice-Chief	Scott Ellis	747-2262	David Weda	
Lodge Secretary	Adam Taft	968-4290	Barry Ekle	305-758-3553
Lodge Treasurer	Chris Shanks	533-9733	Elam Patterson	790-4532
Lodge Historian	Anthony Bonna	336-0961	Sally Daniell	336-1890
Past Lodge Chief	Chris Smith	220-4972	none	

### Chapters

A-Bani-Ki	Eric Taylor	488-9322	Mike Taylor	488-9322
Coo-Wa-Chobee	Bradley Phibbs	967-2359	Frank Schwarz	683-4867
Chee-Pa-Tah	Daniel Bialczak	791-0134	Bill Bialczak	791-0134
Osceola	Derek Kerley	747-8296	Tim Arnold	745-0297
At-Seena-Hoofa	none		none	
Ne-Kee-Wa	Adam Valencic	283-3795	Debbie Saad	219-8937
Oi-Ya-Tah	Chris Berry	336-9835	Sally Daniell	336-1890
Lowaneu Mawat	Stephen Gray	778-9109	Patrick Foradori	589-3318
Pan-A-So-Fee	none		Jim Ring	(cell)543-1075

### Standing Committees

Brotherhood Chair	Ryan McReynolds	784-8911	David Mackland	642-7335
Camping Promotions	Not filled, interested?		Call the Lodge Chief for more info.	
Ceremonial Team	Ryan McReynolds	784-8911	Phil Ashford	659-7462
Drum Team Chief	Not filled, interested?		Call the Lodge Chief for more info.	
Elections Coordinator	Not filled, interested?		Alan Clineman	744-8534
Food Services	Ryan Kidd	743-0896	Mark Kidd	743-0896
			David Pantone	793-4105
Hitchiti Chief	Matt Alexander	575-2489	Bruce Garwood	965-0509
			Cindy Hall	334-5966
			Sandy Griffiths	283-8610
Inductions Chairman	Sam Zuker	477-1267	Paul Bowdre	626-1683
Internet Chairman	Brad Ellis	850-504-0884	Tim Arnold	745-0297
Keeper of the Records			Debbie Clineman	744-8534
Asst Keeper of the Records			Ray Ellis	747-2262
Mentoring Chrm, North	Not filled, interested?		Bill Jones	344-1713
Mentoring Chrm, Mid	Not filled, interested?		Bill Jones	344-1713
Mentoring Chrm, South	Not filled, interested?		Bill Jones	344-1713
Publications	Daniel Arnold	745-0297	Brad Ellis	850-504-0884
Scholarship Comm.	Randy Wertepny	795-7453		
Service Chairman	Marc Edgar	236-5052	Randy Wigley	220-8618
Trail Crew Chief	Jeremy Regan	287-3119	Fred Fritz	965-9125
Troop Representative Chrm	Not filled, interested?		Ray Ellis	747-2262
Vigil/Founder's Award Chrm	Evan Mason	734-8822	Richard Fore	791-3789

### Weekend Chairman

Fall Fellowship	Matt Lombard	743-9875
Winter Fellowship	Matt Lombard	743-9875



Travis Sheehan  
Lodge Chief

Scott Ellis  
Vice Chief

Adam Taft  
Secretary

Chris Shanks  
Treasurer

Anthony Bonna  
Historian

Richard Fore  
Lodge Adviser



The Publications Staff is looking for a new person to run the lodge website and another person to be the new layout editor for the Gator Tales. If you are interested in either of these jobs, please contact Brad Ellis at [proudfrog@aal-pa-tah.org](mailto:proudfrog@aal-pa-tah.org)