

Gator Tales

www.aal-pa-tah.org



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

Feb., 2013



Spring Ordeal

My Brothers,

Now is your chance to come out to Tanah Keeta and fulfill your Obligation to the Order. Lend a hand in helping to make our camp a better place for everyone and to have a great time while doing it. If you are a new member thinking that you don't want to go through the Ordeal again, I urge you to come out and see it from the side of a member and to give cheerful service. **It's definitely a different experience**

Spring Ordeal is the weekend of March 8th-10th and we want all Arrowmen to attend. It is an opportunity you don't want to miss! It's also another way to show those who elected you your support for not only them but the Order too. Although service is a large part of the weekend, the even bigger part is the fun we have. We will have tons of awesome events and games for the night and a surprising 237 Surprise to finish it off.

I hope to see you there and if you have anything you want to see for the weekend or have any questions, please let me know at jamesherrera@gmail.com. **It'll be a great time** and I look forward to seeing 237 members at this weekend!

WWW.

James Herrera



Inside this issue:

Spring Ordeal	1
Chiefly Speaking	2
Officer Reports	3
Chapter Reports	4
The Forum	5
OA High Adventure	7
Banquet Recap	8

Gator Tales Staff

Lodge Secretary

Chris Olbrych

chrisolbrych@aol.com

Layout

Aaron Gluck

ahg1996@yahoo.com

Adviser

Barry J.F. Ekle

Contact

Gulf Stream Council
(561) 694-8585

The Dues are Due

If you have yet to pay your dues or know people in your Troop, Crew or Ship who have yet to pay their dues, please urge them to go ahead and pay—at only \$10, it's a real bargain! We can't send you the Gator Tales or let you come to our awesome weekends if we don't have your dues. Let them know what a great time you're having and encourage them to come to our next event to see for themselves.



Visit us at

aal-pa-tah237.org or

join us on Facebook

Chiefly Speaking



My Brothers,

What a terrific couple months we have had since my last "Chiefly Speaking"! I want to personally thank James Herrera for all of his hard work, dedication, and planning towards the 2012 Winter Fellowship. In all of my years in the Order of the Arrow, I have never seen an event that great! Our Section Officers also wanted me to extend to everyone a huge Thank You! They had a great time spending the weekend with Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge! We also had a great Banquet! Congratulations to everyone who received awards, honors, and recognition. I also want to thank Ian Wagner and Mrs. Cindy Hall for chairing and advising a smooth Unit Elections season. This has been one of our best yet! Many people look to the Chief as what makes Aal-Pa-Tah run so smoothly and effectively, but it is anything but that. Without the other Officers, Chairman, Advisers, and especially members, I could not do half of the job that I do. Thank you!

Looking forward, our Spring Ordeal is March 8th-10th at Camp Tanah Keeta! If you remember Winter Fellowship, I can tell you that our weekend committee is working on keeping up that streak of fun and excitement! I hope to see EVERYONE out at Camp Tanah Keeta for our BIGGEST Induction Weekend of the Year! It will be a weekend filled with Cheerful Service, FUN, and Fellowship. I can also assure everyone that I have seen the weekend menu and it is definitely going to be amazing. Please register soon.

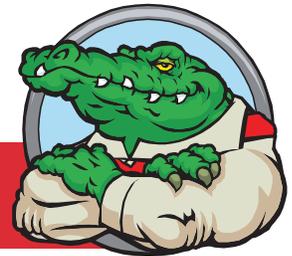
Right after Spring Ordeal, is SECTION CONFERENCE 2013!!! Hosted by Seminole Lodge #85, this is going to be a really great conference! Aal-Pa-Tah hopes to bring one of the largest contingents we have ever brought to a conference. If you do not attend this weekend, you will definitely be missing out. The event only costs \$55 for the entire weekend (covers registration fee, Fun Pack, T-shirt, and gas money). **We need everyone's help to show the rest of Section S-4 the power and might of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237!** Be sure to register soon!

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything regarding our Lodge or the OA, please feel free to email me at m.mcloug@gmail.com or call me at 561-267-8759.

I am here to serve you!

In WWW,

Mike McLoughlin



Adviser's Minute

Dear Scouts,

So, a few weeks ago I received an email from a Scouter who had transferred here from another council. In his council, his son is a Vigil Honor member of the OA. The son is now away at college, but the dad is here and an active member of his unit and district. Well, in his email, this Scouter wrote that he was not impressed with our Lodge. Actually, it basically said we stink. Of course, my first reaction was to hit "reply" and list all the ways we absolutely don't stink, but thankfully my Wood Badge training kicked in. One of the great sessions in Wood Badge is called Self Assessment, and I paused and reflected on this email using these self assessment methods.

As I put myself in this Scouter's shoes, I was able to understand his message. He was actually saying that he assumed we were not an active Lodge because he had not heard anything about us. So, I replied to get more information, and uncovered the essence of the issue, which was that none of our communication was being received by anyone in the unit. How could this be?

Well, I brought this issue to our Officers and they helped identify the areas that could be improved and came up with an action plan! We are now going to add Scoutmasters to both our email and newsletter lists whether they are OA members or not. Our Chapter Chiefs and Advisers are going to come to Roundtables with up to date dues paid lists so units can know who is and who is not dues paid. Our Troop Rep Chairman, Riley, already has started accumulating the Troop Rep contact info from the election sheets so he can communicate with each Troop Rep via email.

How can YOU help????

1. Go to your unit and encourage everyone to pay their dues. Payment forms are on the Lodge website. There is even an online payment option.
2. If anyone who IS dues paid is not getting email and the newsletter, have them email Mike McLoughlin with their current contact info. (m.mcloug@gmail.com)
3. Have your Troop Rep email Riley so we can be sure he is on our list. (rjcarlson@gmail.com)
4. PLEASE email us with your ideas and input. This is your Lodge and we want to hear your feedback so we can effectively communicate with you and your units.

Together, with this plan and your help, we can ensure that every Scout and Scouter in our Council knows what an active and awesome Lodge we are!!!

WWW,

Amanda Pantone

Lodge Adviser



Officer Reports

Vice Chief of Program

Despite the weather, we had another great Lodge Banquet. Many hours of service were put into preparation and many Brothers came out early to help set up and it was greatly appreciated.

But if that wasn't good enough, we have the most exciting event of the year upcoming. Let everyone know that you will be at Tanah Keeta for a fantastic Spring Ordeal weekend with service and congratulating our soon-to-be new Brothers of our Lodge on March 8-10. For the latest up to date event details, you can stay tuned for more information on Facebook and through your emails!

If any Arrowmen would like to express their thoughts or ideas with me for upcoming events or anything involving program within our Lodge, please contact me at jamesxherrera@gmail.com

www,
James Herrera

Lodge Secretary

My Brothers,

I'm looking forward to this year more and more as I see what the Lodge has accomplished so far and what we are planning to do. With a stellar Lodge Banquet to a great Mentoring Day, our Lodge is off to a great start.

I want to remind all Officers and Chairmen to submit their articles for the Gator Tales on time as it is difficult to write a newsletter without content. I appreciate your time and want to see everyone succeed in their positions and my aim is to help you do just that. Hope to see you all at Spring Ordeal. If you have any comments about this issue or any questions, feel free to contact me at chrisolbrych@aol.com

Christopher Olbrych

Vice Chief of Service

My Brothers,

I would like to thank all of the Arrowmen who volunteered to assist with Lodge Banquet, Tanah Keeta Service Days, Vigil Weekend, Weblos Woods, and Mentoring Day. Mentoring Day, in particular, was a great success. We got to help young people from all over the county to learn about Scouts and have a great time at our beloved Tanah Keeta.

We will be in full force at Spring Ordeal and Tanah Keeta Service Days, so **I'd like everyone to come out and lend a hand. Come guide our new Brothers in our Lodge to great achievements and give service at the Spring Ordeal.** Also Trail Crew is heading out on the Mike Machek Trail at the Spring Ordeal, if interested, please email Crawford Teets at teets19@comcast.net.

www,
Daniel Olbrych

Lodge Treasurer

Brothers,

I'm pleased to tell you that things are going well. We have recently developed the 2013 budget. It is mainly based off the 2012 budget with a few slight variations. The 2013 patch set is also being made and will be in by Ordeal weekend. It features the "Legends of the Loxahatchee". We hope to be able to sell a lot of items this year, so come to the weekends and check out our patches and gear up to support your Lodge.

www,
Ross Pantone

Lodge Historian

Brothers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Banquet and my slideshow. I hope you all come to Section Conference where we will be displaying and competing with our **King's Cup**. **Also if anyone would like to help take photos at Spring Ordeal, it would be most appreciated because I cannot be there the whole weekend.** If you can do this please send me an email at ahg1996@yahoo.com or Facebook message. Also if you are interested in helping take pictures I would like to start a photography group so that we can share the camera and not have only one person snapping all the shots. Have a good year and see you at Spring Ordeal.

www,
Aaron Gluck

Vice Chief of Inductions

My Brothers,

It has been a great inductions year so far. The Ordeal is fast approaching and we are once again beginning to prepare. Even if you have been an Elangomat before, you must attend training again to see the new procedures we have implemented. Our extended Elangomat Chairman, Mike Faccini, will be starting his program at these trainings for implementation at Ordeal. We are also still in need for more ceremonialists if anyone is interested. Thank you to all of the elections teams and their advisers for their hard work to complete the Unit Elections this year. Finally, thank you to everyone who assisted at Call Out on January 12th. We called out 77 Candidates and had a great time. Thanks for helping out if you attended.

www,
Ian Wagner



Chapter Corner

Ne-Kee-Wa

Brothers,

We have successfully completed all of our elections. We are also thinking about recruiting a Vice Chapter Chief. We will be planning a service project soon. We meet at Roundtable at the Palm city LDS Church in Palm City at 7:00. If you need to contact me my email is wyatt.pearson@aol.com.

WWW,

Wyatt Pearson

Nee-Ke-Wa Chapter Chief

Chee-Pah-Tah

Brothers,

Our Chapter meets the 3rd Monday of every month at the Tradewinds District Roundtable, so come on out and have great time **and learn what's up with our Chapter and what were doing. We're the second best Chapter in the Lodge, and if we really try hard this year we have a chance at beating A-Bani-Ki for the Best All-Around Chapter Trophy.**

WWW,

Mark Borrefi

Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief

A-Bani-Ki

Brothers,

Our Chapter is doing great! We are now in the process of fundraising for our Chapter Shirts and Shorts. If you have any ideas to help us do this, please bring your ideas to the meetings. We currently meet the second Monday of every month at Don Estridge Middle School at 7:30. See you there.

WWW,

Matt Jones

A-Bani-Ki Chapter Chief

Osceola

Brothers,

We are happy to inform everyone that things are still going well within our Chapter, but we still need to have some more participation. We are trying to figure out a place to hold a future meeting besides Roundtable where we can have fun. If you have any suggestions please contact Kelsey or me.

WWW,

Ian Burns

Osceola Chapter Chief

Winter Fellowship Recap



The Winter Fellowship was a blast and one of the best weekends I have ever attended. It started off with a great Friday night program lead by James Herrera. In a series of competitions all of the Chapters and the Section Officers competed against each other. Saturday morning brought some service projects then after lunch it was the Arrowman-Adviser Sink-a-Thon, which was won by Dan Olbrych and Mr. Whalen. After that, we saw the incredible Gator Show. Then came a wicked snow fight at Fort Blanchard and a Brotherhood Ceremony at the same time. After Dinner we all had fun outside listening to the music provided by Mr. Gallant, played on the inflatables, and played volleyball. Overall this weekend was a blast and you should plan on coming next year.

WWW,

Aaron Gluck





The Forum

National Youth Leadership Training

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home Troops, Crews, Lodge and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. We will be having our National Youth Leadership Training course August 3, 2013 to August 10, 2013. If you would like information in regards to the course, please contact Kelsey Cupples at 561-694-8585.

Tanah Keeta Summer Camp Staff

We are looking for some amazing, outgoing Arrowmen to work at Tanah Keeta Summer Camp this year. Giving back to camp and having fun are our Aal-Pa-Tah's specialties so we should fit in great. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Kristina Olbrych at krisolbrych@aol.com for an application or you can find it at www.gulfstreamcouncil.org.

Ceremonies Team

Fellow Arrowmen,

Our Lodge's Ceremonies Team is actively looking for new members to portray roles as ceremonialists at the ceremonies. It's a great experience for Arrowmen to learn the deeper significance behind the ceremonies and give back to the Lodge. If this interests you, please contact me at teets19@comcast.net.

WWW,

Crawford Teets

Upcoming Service Days

Please keep these dates in mind when you're planning your calendars. Service from the heart is the main tenant of our Order so come out and serve.

March 8,9,10 (Spring Ordeal at Tanah Keeta)
March 9, 2012 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)
April 20 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)
May 18 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)
June 12 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)
June 26 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)
July 10 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)

The Forum

The Forum is a place in GT where everyone from Chairmen to Arrowmen can speak. We accept all submissions so if you have something you want to say next issue, please contact the publications chairman at ahg1996@yahoo.com

Trail Crew

Fellow Arrowmen,

I would like to invite you to participate in our Trail Crew Program. Over the past few years we have built bridges, cleared trail and have had a lot of fun. We currently have quite a few projects to be done to our trails at camp and just like previous ones, we need your help. We would like to get at least twelve devoted members together to be able and work on trail during OA work weekends and OA events. We will also be starting a new aspect for the Trail Crew Program where we will camp at an outpost camp Friday night and then do trail work first thing in the morning. We will cook our own breakfast and lunch and will rejoin the Lodge in the afternoon on Saturday. If you are interested in helping out whether it be for a few hours or a few weekends, we would love your help. If you have any questions or would like any more information about the Trail Crew, please email me at teets19@comcast.net.

WWW,

Crawford Teets

The Lodge Drum Team

Did you like the Native American dancing at the Lodge Weekends? Do you want to learn how to dance or drum? Then have we got an opportunity for you!

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 is currently looking for 10 youth members who would like to compete in Group Dance at the next Section Conference. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. You are not obliged to join, we just want you to come out and give it a try on the drum. Just a desire to want to learn. We need 8 dancers, 1 narrator and 1 person to sing.

We are also looking for 4 to 5 youth members to compete in the Drum competition. A great singing voice is NOT required, just be willing to try something new.

James Herrera, Drum Chief 772-342-3127
Joe Costanzo, Adviser 561-667-9393

So come out and give it a try. We have the outfits, we have the dances and the songs, all we need is YOU.

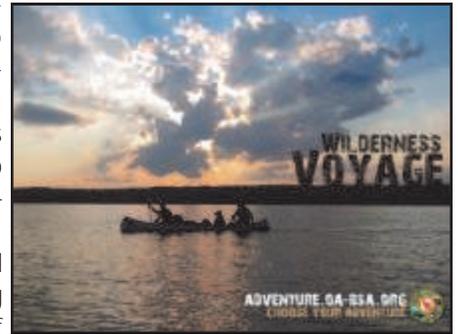
WWW,

James Herrera

OA High Adventure

Summer is once again swiftly approaching and I urge you 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 January 1, 2013 there are still plenty of spots open but it is first come first served, so if you are interested don't miss out on a great opportunity. There are also still scholarships available. So if you are between the ages of 16 and 20 I hope this summer brings you to Northern Tier, Philmont, or Sea Base. You can go to <http://adventure.oa-bsa.org/> or contact Crawford Teets at Teets19@comcast.net to get application information.

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*. 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 of 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 Allagwh Lodge #428
July 9th, 2006 - Mt. Roes 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 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 and Gunflint Lodge, the portages, and the rapids led to the big kahuna- the Grand Portage. We flew thorough 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.

Lodge Banquet

Our Lodge Banquet this year was held at Tanah Keeta on January 5th and was a fantastic Hawaiian Luau and quite impressive. Everyone had a blast and the family style food was stellar. I saw the Olbrych brothers clear out two entire pans of the pork loin. As the official photographer of the evening, I did not get to sit much but I saw how all the Scouts both young and old were enjoying each other company and sharing stories from this and past years in the OA.

There were many awards and recognitions that night and I congratulate all the recipients and thank them for their service. We also called out our newest Vigil Honor members, which is the highest honor our Lodge can bestow. Overall it was a great evening filled with fun and fellowship. There was a huge patch auction where I hope you got some cool patches from NOAC and lots of raffles. We also had a slideshow recapping our 2012 year.

I personally had a great time and if you did as well I'd like you to thank our LEC and Advisers for putting together such a great event. If you weren't able to make it, be sure to check out the photo album on the website and hope that such an awesome Banquet leads to an equally awesome year.

In WWW,
Aaron Gluck



Wyatt Bunch and Kristan Cimmino Hula Dancing.



Austin Perez and his kitchen staff working hard to put together a great meal.



A very special thanks was given to both Linda & Jess Green for their donation of the Gator Grill Trailer.



Vigil Honor Class of 2013
Connor Carnes
Mark Luttier
James Herrera
Andy Flack
Ian Wagner
Kristina Olbrych

Founder's Award Recipients



Mike McLoughin

Cindy Hall

James E. West Award Recipients



Kristina Olbrych

Ian Wagner

Katrina Carnes

Section Conference 2013



Section Conference is going to be held April 12th-14th. For those Brothers who haven't been to one, Section Conference is a gathering of Arrowmen from Lodges from all around the state and includes Lodge competitions, Seminars, games, and much, much more. It is an absolute blast!!! Our goal is to have 70 APT Arrowmen at this event! You must, must, must go to this event. It is a great time when we show up all the other Lodges, and bring back home a car load of trophies. Last year, we won first in Volleyball, Website, and Dodgeball, Fancy and Grass Dancing and also got BEST ALL AROUND LODGE. We want those to come back again with us, so we need you to join us at Section Conference and help us keep them.

This year the event is fairly close (only about 2.5 hours away). We will leave from TK on Friday April 12th at 5 PM. The early bird deadline is March 22, 2013. The cost is \$55 and includes the conference fee (\$30), transportation fee (\$10 for gas and tolls), and \$15 for APT patch, t-shirt and extras. Shirts and patches are not guaranteed after 3/22/13. Last year everything was in big demand!!!! After the deadline the fee will be \$65. Register now [here](#).



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”

