

# GATOR

May 2012 Issue

The Official Publication

of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237



[www.aal-pa-tah.org](http://www.aal-pa-tah.org)

## Calendar

May 18-20th  
Summer Pow-Wow  
at Tanah Keeta Scout Res.

July 27th-August 5th  
**NOAC**  
Michigan State University

August 18th  
Lodge Leadership Development

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## BEST ALL AROUND LODGE

For those of you who couldn't attend Section Conference you missed out on an awesome time! Aal-Pa-Tah went with 46 members strong, and when it was all said and done we came home with a total of 5 trophies!!! Aal-Pa-Tah was named the **BEST ALL AROUND LODGE** in all of Section S-4. We also placed first in King's Cup, Website, Volleyball and Lodge Ball. Thanks to all Brothers who made this happen.

To all those who couldn't make it out, the weekend happened like this...

On Friday we began our 8 hour drive and headed up to Wallwood Scout Reservation. Once we arrived, we set up camp for the weekend and got ready for the opening show. We were all wearing green light up glasses and almost all of us had green hair. Once there we showed our spirit by singing lodge songs and doing the gator. It was a great way to start off the weekend.

On Saturday we had lodge vs lodge competitions. We ran the court for Volleyball, beating a total of 6 Lodges to take first place! We then ran over to Lodge Ball and knocked out O-Shot-Caw to win First Place! On Saturday night there was another show where they gave out all of the Native American Awards.

On Sunday morning we had the Section Business Meeting where we found out that we, in addition to our success in Lodge Ball and Volleyball, had won the Best All Around Lodge, Website and King's Cup. We cheered every time we won an award and it was awesome to see the Lodge come together like it did that weekend!

For those of you who missed out, we will be showing off pictures and our trophies at all upcoming events and you can see all the photos in our new gallery on our website.

Your Chief,

*Elliot Taft*



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Members showing spirit and having fun!!!

Left to Right:  
Matt Jones  
Eric Fulllove  
Peter Viggiano  
Shane Oblaczynski  
Nick Smith

## **REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER POW-WOW USING THE NEW ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM... SEE PAGE 5**

We are now testing a system for Summer Pow-Wow. You may also use this feature to pay for Brotherhood and / or Lodge Dues. Now pay for Lodge events from the comfort of your home! A great benefit of this is that payment is instantaneous and it provides you with an immediate email receipt. It is also completely secure. You may pay using credit card or through your checking account. After you use the site, please provide us your feedback. (Please note that the 3.5% transaction fee is added to the items at check out.)

# Chiefly Speaking

My Brothers,

This is the last time I will write to you as your Lodge Chief. Over the last two years I had the honor to serve you as Lodge Chief. It was a bumpy ride when I first started in June, 2010. But we have come a long way since I have taken office. We hosted a successful Section Conference, refurbished the OA ring, achieved Quality Lodge in 2011, sold over 110 Fast Pass (a lodge record) and much, much more. Our program has drastically improved and our Lodge attendance is a direct reflection of that. At the past Ordeal we had well over 200 Lodge members. Our weekends are now packed with fun activities that everyone enjoys. The Lodge's service hour numbers have also improved to over 3,000 service hours to camp. In October we held a Lodge One Day of Service which had almost 200 service hours to the community. Finally, through our Induction Program last year, we had a total of 50 members confirm their membership in the Order by going through Brotherhood.

I want to personally thank all who helped me over the past two years from serving on the L.E.C. to working in the kitchen or doing ceremonies. The Lodge needs everyone to work together to be successful. I hope to serve with all of you in the future.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> is Summer Pow-Wow. Ian Wagner is the Weekend Chair and has an awesome weekend planned. We will also be having Lodge elections for all of the Lodge Officers, followed by elections for Chapter Chiefs. The Lodge election rules will be on the website. If you are running for any Lodge Officer or Chapter Chief position, you must email both me and Mrs. Pantone to set up your interview at the Mega-Scout Show.

Your Chief and Friend,

*Elliot Taft*



## So Now What?

The Lodge would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members! We had 124 youth and adults attend the March Ordeal. It was a great weekend, lots of stellar service, stupendous ceremonies, and a wonderful feast. This was followed by an amazing carnival and program of activities. Sunday morning's First Year Arrowman Breakfast was delicious and the information provided was excellent! So now what?

A common issue in Lodges all over this nation is what is called "sash and dash". What is "sash and dash"? It is the term used for members who have attended their Ordeal and never return for another Order of the Arrow event. Those who do not return are missing out on the many, many benefits that being a member in Scouting's National Honor Society offers:



- ◆ **Leadership:** The Lodge, like your Troop, is youth led. Every single part of your Ordeal weekend was planned and carried out by fellow Scouts like you. The leadership opportunities available to you in the Lodge are numerous and rewarding. Speak to your Chapter Chief or any other Arrowman about these opportunities! Adults... in the Order of the Arrow, adult leaders are called Advisers and we are always in need of positive role models who are willing to be coaches and mentors to the youth. But even if you do not want to take a specific Adviser role, we always have a long list of things to be done.
- ◆ **Service:** While most people don't think of arduous labor is fun, there is an incredible sense of satisfaction in helping others. The Lodge prides itself in its Cheerful Service to our camp, to our district and units and to our communities.
- ◆ **Diversity:** It is always amazing to see a group of Scouts and Scouters come together for a common purpose. The common Scouting bond we all share creates a connection of purpose. Being part of the Order of the Arrow allows you to meet a variety of people and learn about Scouting in their units, districts, and regions. This network allows you to bring new ideas back to your units, helping them grow and prosper.
- ◆ **Fun:** In the Order of the Arrow, the saying "Work Hard, Play Hard" is very fitting! From Lodge Ball to the Trash Can Game to the 237 Surprise.... you will find something for everyone at Lodge events!!
- ◆ **Adventure:** The Order of the Arrow offers many opportunities for travel and adventure. Each of the BSA High Adventure Bases offer programs exclusive to Arrowmen such as yourself. In addition there are Section events such as Section Conference and Section Seminars and National Events such as NOAC (National Order of the Arrow Conference).

So, before you stick that sash in the back of your Scouting drawer, take a look at it and think of what you may be missing. Now, go hang it up along with your Scouting uniform and be ready to wear it when you attend Summer Pow-Wow at TK on May 18-20<sup>th</sup>! I look forward to seeing you there!

*Mrs. Pantone*

Lodge Adviser

# Officer Reports

## Vice Chief of Program

Brothers,

Our Lodge has been quite busy for the past couple of months, between our annual Lodge Banquet, Service Weekends, Trade-o-ree, and the Spring Ordeal. Thank you to everyone who helped make all these events such great successes. Gulf Stream Council's Trade-O-Ree was widely attended and had many interested Scouters from different councils all over the U.S. At this event viewers were able to buy, sell, or trade any items such as vintage Scouting items, patches, and any other memorabilia collected over the years. Our OA Spring Ordeal was a large and successful event as well, with Mike Masters stepping up to the plate, he did a great job with organization and motivation to his fellow brothers to host this fantastic lodge weekend! The Spring Ordeal weekend included many service hours, and one of the biggest carnivals I have witnessed! Our next fun packed Lodge weekend will be our Summer Pow-Wow, organized by Ian Wagner! This weekend will include Native American Seminars, Chapter Competitions, Survivor of the Fittest, along with a carnival and COD tournaments. Saturday Night the Hitchiti Dance Team will also be hosting a Pow-Wow in which all are invited to join. I encourage as many Brothers of our Lodge to come and join me as we once again celebrate a great Lodge Weekend.

WWW,

*James Herrera*

## Lodge Historian

Hello Brothers,

The new King's Cup is the best in the the entire section winning First Place at the Section Conference. It's very light weight portable and features an alligator paint job by Jordan Davis. It displays our Lodge's history for the past 70 years, photos from the last year's events and other historical items. We will set it up at Summer Pow-Wow for all to view. New features on our website allow for brothers to post photos in the lodge photo gallery. I encourage all to check it out. Hope to see you at Pow-wow.

Your Historian,

*Ross Pantone*

## Lodge Treasurer

Dear Brothers,

The Lodge Box saw a very high amount of sales at the previous Ordeal Weekend. On average, between \$500 and \$800 worth of patches are sold at a Lodge Weekend. However, at the past Ordeal, the Lodge raised nearly \$1,100 as a result of the patches in the Lodge Box. I would like to thank all of you who bought from the Box back in March, and I hope we have a weekend as successful as this at the upcoming Summer Pow-Wow.

WWW,

*George Cooper*

## Lodge Secretary

Hello Brothers,

I am pleased to announce that the Gator Tales has placed Third in the highly competitive publications competitions at Section Conference and that the Lodge Website won the First Place award. I thank Sam Cavaleri, the Website Chairman, for his amazing work and the entire Publication Committee for helping the Lodge achieve these successes. Despite these successes, I assure you that the coming issues of Gator Tales will be without par and improvements will continue to be made to the website. Recent improvements include access to an online payment system and an extensive photo gallery for Lodge members to both upload and view. I thank you all for your continued support and participation in the Lodge and encourage all to welcome our new members.

WWW,

*Christopher Olbrych*

## Vice Chief of Service

My Brothers,

In service, we're continuing the Service Day Program each month, the next one at Scoutfest. The last Service Day took place on Mentoring Day and had a total of 43 Arrowmen provide a fun-filled day for our Council's Packs. For the upcoming Pow-Wow, we are having a service session consisting of an all morning tail crew experience. We are also going to be helping to set out the Summer Camp tents. The bricks in the pathway to the OA ring are placed and it looks stunning. The bricks will be engraved shortly. I encourage all to come out and lend a hand at Pow-Wow and the upcoming Service Days.

WWW,

*Daniel Olbrych*

## Vice Chief of Inductions

My Brothers,

Congratulations to everyone! Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is the Best All Around Lodge for 2012! This took the hard work of everyone to achieve and we should all be proud to hold this prestigious title!

It has been an AMAZING past year! Since June 2011, we have exceeded our Brotherhood numbers needed for "Quality Lodge Recognition" and we are well on our way to meeting the "Journey to Excellence" requirements for 2012. We have had 2 FANTASTIC Ordeals, inducting over 200 new Brothers into the Order. Several new members also completed their First Year Arrowman Award and several Cub Scouts have also earned the Cub Scout Camping Award. We have been working on our Elangomat program and have had some really good training sessions and presented the "Black Sash Elangomat Recognition Award" to several Brothers who have continued to give back service to their new Brothers. I want to thank everyone who has helped the Induction Process excel this past year. From the Candidates, to the New Members, to the new Brotherhood Chairman, to everyone who assisted with Unit Elections, Ordeals, Ceremonies, Brotherhood Counseling and SO much more. I could not have done this without everyone's help. As always, if you need any help with anything at all or have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 561-267-8759 or [m.mcloug@gmail.com](mailto:m.mcloug@gmail.com). All in all, it has been a GREAT year, and I look forward to continue to serve all of you, my Brothers, in the future, wherever it may take us!

WWW,

*Michael McLoughlin*

## Chapter Reports

### Abaniki

My Brothers,

Abaniki Chapter is doing very well and is getting its new inductees involved in the Chapter. We recently had 22 members at our last Chapter meeting several of which are new Brothers. We meet the second Monday of every month at Atlantic High School until further notice and we encourage both new and old Brothers to come to the Chapter meetings to learn about upcoming events and have a great time. I am looking forward to Spring Pow-Wow and hope to see as many of you as possible so we can show that Abaniki is the best Chapter and get more representation in the LEC. See you all there.

WWW.

*Matt Jones*

### Lowaneu-Mawat

Fellow Gators,

Congratulations to all of our new members! You've all taken the first step in a journey that will last the rest of your lives. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I'll be in touch to let all of you know about the upcoming Lodge and Chapter events. We really need a youth to step up and take on the responsibility of being Chapter Chief. I age out this year so I won't be able to serve again. Please call or email me if you're interested.

WWW,

*Jeff Gray*

## Lodge Native American Dance Team

My Brothers,

The first time I saw and became interested in dancing was when I was a Webelos Scout at TK. Venturing Crew 157, The Hitchiti Dance Team was at Fort Blanchard performing. I was astounded at all the different regalia and dances and became interested.

Soon after I joined up and began dancing. I first started learning Straight Dancing like a young Boy Scout who joins but after a couple of years I began to want to try out Grass Dancing. After being a Grass Dancer for a couple of months I went to NOAC in 2009 and tried out for the competition dancing. I tell you now that there is no better rush than being out there in the flurry of movement dancing your all trying to see if you can make it to the top. I did surprisingly well for such a newbie and was very happy about how the competition went. I have also danced at multiple pow wows such as FIHA and Chambers.

I was very excited when I became Chief of the Hitchiti and accepted my appointment to be the Lodge Dance Team Chief. Both of these require a lot of work and but, in all honesty, the Lodge Dance Team is in a rut right now. It is very important that we develop an independent and strong Lodge Dance Team and not to rely on the Hitchiti to train young dancers and hold pow wows. I ask you to help me in this by coming out and trying out dancing. I promise that you will find your beat and be an avid dancer for life.

I am looking forward to NOAC this year and am planning to give it my all in the competition but right now we really don't have enough members to compete in group dances at events such as NOAC and Section Conference. If you might think that you might want to have a similar experience to what I have had or you are just interested in watching some dancing and hearing some drumming, then watch the pow wow at Summer Pow-Wow, our Dance Team will be there and will be able to answer any and all questions you may have.

I hope to see all of you there at Summer Pow-Wow and if you are interested ask any senior officer to point me out and have a chat with me.

WWW,

*Connor Carnes*



Examples of different types of Native American Dancing

### Gator Tales Reminder

Officers, Arrowmen, and Advisers please turn in you articles on time.

Each issue of the Gator Tales is produced on a tight schedule, so **Help us get each issue out on time!**

## Summer Pow-Wow

Brothers,

Are you signed up for Summer Pow-Wow? If not, You'll surely be missing out! We will have an awesome program set up, along with some projects so that you can give some Cheerful Service to camp. You definitely will NOT want to miss this! Some of the activities will include inflatables, movies, video games, and fun Chapter competitions! We will also have a great 237 Surprise planned for you! The date is May 18-20th and the cost is \$25. *There is a one time discount for New Ordeal members of \$5 - see the registration form for details.* Sign up today! If you are a Fast-Passer, be sure to RSVP by the deadline on May 11th.

WWW,

*Ian Wagner* - 2012 Summer Pow-Wow Weekend Chairman

*Sam Cavaleri* - 2012 Summer Pow-Wow Vice Weekend Chairman.



Feel like playing Amtgard?



## NOAC 2012

That time is once again almost upon us. NOAC is a few short months away. We currently have 64 members signed up for our contingent and I couldn't be more excited. We have a lot of fun stuff planned for before and after NOAC. We are stopping at Cedar Point, the rollercoaster capital of the world! We are also doing some awesome gasoline go karting! And this is all before we even get to NOAC! So everyone get excited for the Hodag and the seminars and all of the patch trading! I cant wait to see our huge contingent and let the rest of the nation know we are the best Lodge, all around!

WWW.

*Bobby Weil*

## Tanah Keeta Summer Camp

Has your Troop locked in plans for Summer Camp 2012 already? Your Troop still has time to attend Summer Camp at Tanah Keeta, but you need to register now!

TK is the ideal location to introduce your new Webelos Scouts to an exciting and well-rounded Summer Camp program that is close to home, cost effective, and provides a dynamic program and energized Staff.

Come see the value of Summer Camp at Tanah Keeta, our Staff is ready to meet your expectations and deliver a great program to your Scouts, right here in your backyard!

- Every Scout attending summer camp at TK will receive a free mosquito netting this summer!
- Over 40 Merit Badges offered through 6 sessions.
- More than just Merit Badges - camp wide Treasure Hunt on Thursday afternoon, Campfires, Troop activities, OA fellowship, Adult training, free time in program areas, and FUN with your friends.
- Provisional Campers are encouraged – use the Provisional Application
- Come, join us as we enjoy the “Hot Caribbean Nights” at TK

Sign-up today by going to the Gulf Stream Council website and selecting the Unit Reservation Form:

<http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/tanahkeeta/default.asp>



## From the Kitchen

### Do you have Special Dietary Needs?

It has been brought to our attention that we might need to take a look at what we are preparing for our Brothers. As we grow in numbers, we have more and more Brothers with different dietary needs.

If you have a special dietary need, like you cannot eat cheese, you have a religious belief against pork, or you are a practicing vegetarian, please let us know when you sign up (early reservation) and we will try to make sure that we have something you can eat that fits your diet. If you do not sign up early and just show up at the door, you will probably not get a special diet.

Now, having said this, please do not get crazy with special diets that you are on to lose weight and that sort of stuff. That would be silly to expect us to take care of you then. You will have to bring that stuff and we will work out the refrigeration if needed.

We are hoping that offering this service we can entice more of our Brothers to attend our great weekends and enjoy themselves. Remember, you must sign up early and tell us then what your requirements are. The day of the event is too late.

Attend our weekends, do some service, have a load of fun and eat great food. We look forward to seeing you in line for meals.

### Help Wanted in the Kitchen

Are you looking for a challenge, a way to give back to your Lodge? Your Kitchen is looking for a dedicated Youth Brother who wants to be a leader. Some of the duties are as follows:

- ◆ Interact between the Lodge Chief, Weekend Chairman and the Food Service Adviser
- ◆ Help set the weekend menu
- ◆ Be willing to work long hours and miss out on some of the Lodge fun
- ◆ Attend LEC meetings as a voting member and help guide the Lodge
- ◆ Help select the staff to work in the kitchen
- ◆ Have fun with food
- ◆ Learn how to prepare food (in large amounts) for your Lodge Brothers

It seems like a lot of things to do but it is a lot of fun. Be part of the few that make so many people happy and full. See the Carlson's at the next Lodge meeting or get in contact with them and come be part of the best part of the Lodge. Make a difference with your membership. Make the Troop that elected you to membership in the GREATEST LODGE in the Order of the Arrow proud to be able to say they know you.

WWW,

*Chaz Carlson and the Kitchen Wizards*



## Help a Brother Out!

I am working to finish up the remainder of my Eagle Scout Project. With Scoutfest (Meg-O-Ree) being right around the corner, it would be greatly appreciated if everyone could bring one canned food per person to the event as a donation to the Food Pantry of St. Martin De Porres in Jensen Beach. The Food Pantry serves as a place to go for those who are having financial difficulties and need food for the families and/or financial help. The Items in MOST NEED are:

Peanut Butter	Cereal
Jelly	Canned Food
Shelf Stable milk (powdered)	Rice
Canned Meat/ Fish	Toiletries

The collection will be taken place anytime Friday evening or Saturday during the day.

Your cheerful service will be greatly appreciated!

WWW,

*James Herrera*

## In Review: Mentoring Day



My Brothers,

This year's Mentoring day took place on the 31st of March and we served 106 Cub Scouts in this event. We had two Scoutreach units come out, along with 5 different Packs. Mentoring Day was full of Fishing, Basketball, BB Range, Archery Range, Leatherworking, and Orienteering. The great lunch that we had was all thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pantone.

This event truly restarted the Mentoring program in the Lodge and I'm looking to see more staff and participants attend next year. Thank you for all the Arrowmen who made this event possible.

WWW,

*Daniel Olbrych*



## National Youth Leadership Training

Hello Fellow Brothers,

If you or members of your Troop haven't attend National Youth Leadership Training yet you are missing out on a great experience. In NYLT, you learn about being a leader and develop and hone your leadership skills so that you can better serve your Troop, Lodge, and Council. The staff of NYLT are second to none and we are more than able and willing to guide you on your path to becoming an effective leader. Troops, Crews, and colleges look highly upon this training and it even serves as a prerequisite for leadership positions in some Troops. NYLT will be held from July 15th-21st and is the experience of a lifetime. To attend NYLT you need to be...

- ◆ 13 years of age by the time of the course
- ◆ Earned the First Class Rank
- ◆ Have a recommendation from you unit leader

If you are interested in signing up for the 2012 NYLT Course, please contact the Course Leader Ian Wagner at (561)847-1922 or download the application at <http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/pdf/NYLT.doc> for more info. You can ask anyone who has ever attended the course and we all will tell it is not something you want to miss!



P.S: If you have already attended NYLT and want to serve as staff please contact Ian Wagner.

WWW,

*Ian Wagner*

Course Leader

## Help Save Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge!

Dear Brothers,

The time has come for us to join together and face an important challenge. As many of you are aware, our Council has faced some serious financial obstacles over the last few years. The good news is that there have been some substantial gains made: the mortgage issue has been resolved, hurricane damage claims have been settled favorably and many of the debts have been repaid. The not-so-good news is that there is one remaining debt of \$450,000 owed to BSA National. Because of this debt we have been granted a transitional charter. What does this mean? It means if we do not pay this debt off in the time specified, we will be asked to open discussions with other councils about merging. This has serious consequences for the Lodge. The rule is one Lodge per Council. **So if GSC ceases to exist, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge ceases to exist.** Think about this for a moment – 70 years of rich traditions will be lost.

While this is a serious statement, we should look at this not as a way to complain, point fingers and lay blame, but rather to come together, in Cheerful Service, to resolve this situation. We do not doubt that with our current President and Board and with every dedicated member of this Lodge and this Council that we can fix this. But what it will require is for all of us to do something. The solution lies with all of us collectively.

So what can we do? First and foremost we need to spread the positive message that we can remedy this. The easiest way is for all of us to encourage our units and districts to participate in the Council sponsored fundraising events. These benefit each of us on a unit level and will assist greatly with our Council debt issue. For example, the Camp Card sales are extremely easy! Sales in April are already at the level of last year's final sales and there are a number of cards still out. If we sell every card out there, this will put quite a dent in that debt. To assist with this, the Lodge is posting on its home page a link where you can purchase Camp Cards directly. Each card costs \$5 and has a \$5 Publix coupon on it as well as other discounts. You break even with your donation! We will donate 100% of the sales to the Council for the repayment of the debt. You may pick up your cards at the next Lodge event, or if you would like, just include the word **DONATE** in the "notes to the seller" when you check out and the Lodge will donate the Camp Cards on your behalf to Scoutreach units, local food banks, and shelters.

Next, the LEC will look into other ways that the Lodge can assist in helping to eliminate this debt at their meeting on May 19th. If you have suggestions, please contact either one of us. Without a doubt, this Lodge has much at stake, but without a doubt there is no group as dedicated and capable as the members of Aal-Pa-Tah!!! Go Gators!

WWW,

*Elliott Taft*

[telliott829@gmail.com](mailto:telliott829@gmail.com)

*Amanda Pantone*

[mrspantone@aol.com](mailto:mrspantone@aol.com)

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“Change Service Requested“

