

GATOR

March 2010 Issue

The Official Publication

of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237

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TALES

Calendar

March 5th-7th
Spring Pow-wow
at Tanah Keeta

April 16th-18th
Section S-4 Conference
at Flaming Arrow Scout Res.

June 13th-19th
Section S-4 FourCorps 2010
Ocala National Forest

<http://aal-pa-tah237.org/calendar>

Spring Pow-wow 2010

My brothers,

In a few short weeks from now, Arrowmen from across our lodge will gather at our beautiful Camp Tanah Keetah for the annual Spring Pow-wow. My friends, if you do not attend the Pow-wow, you WILL miss a truly historical weekend! This year's Pow-wow will feature Chapter games, Quest events, a live band, and an actual OA celebrity. The Pow-wow committee promises you that this will not be a boring weekend as we have scheduled more events for this weekend than you can possibly do. I GUARANTEE IT.

MY BROTHERS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND TELL YOUR GIRLFRIENDS YOU'RE BUSY, BECAUSE THIS WILL BE THE BEST POW-WOW EVER!!!

WWW,
Dutchee Arnett

Gator Tales Staff

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Chiefly Speaking

Fellow Arrowmen,

It has been only a short while ago when the last Gator Tales was sent out, but still our Lodge has done a lot during this time. Since our Lodge Banquet, which went very well in my opinion, we have honored two of our Arrowmen with the Vigil Honor, and two more Arrowmen have sealed their membership into the Brotherhood at the Vigil Honor Weekend/Brotherhood Day. We still have Spring Pow-wow and Section Conference right around the corner, which are both fun filled events.



The second annual Vigil Honor Weekend and first ever Brotherhood Day went extremely well. As I said before, we had Aal-Pa-Tah's two newest Vigil Honor members and our two newest Brotherhood members inducted through their respective ceremonies. Let me once again send congratulations to these members!

Spring Pow-wow, March 5-7, is gearing up to be one of the best Aal-Pa-Tah weekends in recent history. Dutchee and James have taken hold of this event and planned many awesome events and games to provide a full weekend of fun. We will be doing everything from 'Broom Hockey' to 'Indian Games' to 'Chapter Chief/Adviser Sink-a-thon!' Live music is even being played on Friday night! Check-in begins at 6:00 pm, please register with the council office, or on our website, so you won't be charged the \$5 late fee.

Lodge Elections will be conducted Saturday of Spring Pow-wow, March 6th, at 7:00 pm. I encourage each of you to run for a position or join a committee under one of the officers. Our Lodge is run by committees supervised by the Lodge Officers. If you plan to run for a Lodge Office (Lodge Chief through Historian), please let Mr. Arnold and myself know ASAP. In order to vote you must be registered for the Spring Pow-wow and a dues paid member. The Officers Elect will take office at the end of the Summer Ordeal, using the time from now until then to fill their committees and get a head start on the job for next year.

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is Best Lodge with the Best Weekends, All-Around! I cannot wait to see everyone at Spring Pow-wow!

WWW,
Justin Warnimont
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237 Chief 09-10

Officer Reports

Lodge Vice Chief of Program

My brothers,

Why thank you for reading this. By reading this article and others in this newsletter, you are taking an active role as an Arrowman. You are what this lodge needs. Our lodge needs you to step up and become more active. We need new faces in our leadership positions. But you also need to be able to lead and do what would be required of you. My brothers I ask you to step away from things that in the end will not matter. I urge you to take an active role in the lodge and participate in a program that actually makes a difference. On March 5th through the 7th our lodge will be having our annual Spring Pow-wow. This is an event not to miss my brothers because there is so much to do and there will be so many ways to get involved. The elections for the officers of our lodge will be conducted here and this is the perfect time to get involved and take a leadership role in something big! So please, my brothers come out and show your support for this lodge.

WWW,

Zachary Regan

Lodge Historian

My Fellow Lodge Members,

I, Levi Stahl, am proud to serve the Lodge as Historian. As Historian, it is my job to record our Lodge's legacy so that it may never be forgotten. It is also my duty to display our rich history so that every OA member and Scouter alike may know the importance of our Lodge. It will be my mission to assure you that I will complete all of these duties for the betterment of our Lodge.

Thank you for choosing me to be your new Lodge Historian.

WWW,

Levi Stahl

Lodge Secretary

Hello Brothers,

Initially, I would like to thank those people who sent me their completed articles before the deadline. In the future however the deadline will be absolute due to the need for reliable publishing schedules. I would also like to remind all brothers that any member of the Lodge can send in any appropriate story concerning the Order or Scouting as a whole. Thank you in advance for your timeliness and plentiful contributions. Any stories can be sent to me at secretary@aal-pa-tah237.org.

WWW,

Gregory Olbrych

Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions

My brothers,

Inductions has been going swimmingly so far this new year. We had many brothers seal themselves in the Brotherhood at Winter Fellowship weekend, at the special make up ceremony, and at the Induction weekend. There was a very nice turnout at our Banquet where two Lodge members were called out for the Vigil Honor. They will be recognized at the Spring Pow-wow weekend. Unit Elections are well on their way with all chapters having started their elections. If you want an OA election for your Troop and are not sure if one is scheduled, then please call you Chapter Chief. There will be a tap-out for all these newly elected candidates at the Native American Experience weekend on March 20th, so I hope to see you all there supporting our brothers. That's all for now.

WWW,

Bobby Weil

Lodge Vice Chief of Service

The Lodge Vice Chief of Service did not submit a report and no report was submitted on his behalf.



“Sharing the Vision”

A Call to Service

My Brothers, I would like to thank all who attended the Lodge Recognition Banquet. It was the largest turnout by far for any banquet in recent memory. All had a great time and most did not complain of the cold weather or food. We all took time to recognize our efforts on returning this Lodge to greatness. All seem to be coming out of the woodwork to make this Lodge successful and well rounded.

So with that being said, several wise old souls have listened to me and Brad remark (complain) of all the time it is taking to support the Lodge as well as do our primary jobs. This issue was placed right in my lap by stating that we need to trust and allow our advisers to do the jobs to which they have been assigned and that currently I am not using this adviser resource to the fullest. So I send out this apology as I know that many have sent me messages and called me directly asking to help and I have not taken advantage of these offers. This must change as Brad and I are burning out a bit. So here is my request for a “Call to Service”.

Brad and I are going to develop a group of ten adults that can serve the youth leaders of the Lodge. These individuals may or may not be current advisers. These individuals are being developed to support and add more resources to the current Adviser Staff. These ten people will be available for tasks that work themselves through the Lodge in which some may require extensive planning while other may require immediate action. The point is to share the work involved in supporting the youth first and then the program. With Brad being a new lawyer and me being involved in running a very large medical business in South Florida, we cannot continue to do both. The program and support of our youth leaders is suffering.

This Call To Service is also not intended to disempower the already standing Adviser Staff. This plan will be supplement and support our current Lodge Adviser Staff by adding another level of support.

Brad and I need your help and assistance. Please volunteer to be part of the “Guiding 10” within the Lodge. I promise that I will take you up on your offer to volunteer as we have numerous plans to put into place coming into the later part of this term and into moving into next year’s planning process. You must be able to take on tasks and follow them through with little or no supervision. The key is to support the youth and to guide them through the process. In most cases the youth only need a little encouragement and guidance.

So if you are interested please send me an e-mail at 237advisor@arnoldfamily.cc. I will schedule monthly meetings at the Rinker Center so we can assign and review tasks that need to be addressed. I would like to thank those who have been lending me for their guidance and wisdom as well as their continued support of the Lodge. Let’s make this happen.

Tim Arnold
Lodge Adviser
Tachpachiwi Witschenden (Modest Helper)

Associate Adviser's Counsel

So, every once in a while – if I am paying attention - life throws me an inspirational dose of irony. A couple of weeks ago, I was served a particularly personally potent dose that I feel might be helpful to share for the good of the group. As it goes, I was sitting in my office a little after 9:00 p.m. on a Wednesday night, nearing the home-stretch for what has become a rather standard 12-14 hour work-day. Now, I have approximately 6,600 songs on my iPod that shuffle randomly while I work. Just as I was psyching myself up for another hour or two of tedious research, “I Don’t Mind” by the Tobasco Donkeys¹ started to play. The lyrics begin:

Well I am looking, I am searching, I have found
Near the ground, my soul, myself, beneath this trail.
There's no other place I'd rather be.
Can't you see me out here walkin' in the rain and hail.
Purpose of life seems to me is
Not to take yourself too seriously.
I wouldn't want to be an old man sittin' in an office
Building someplace far away, with worry on my face.

Of course, my will to trudge further down the research trail ended abruptly. “Why am I doing this?” was quickly added to my list of important life questions.² These days I am spending 60-80 hours a week between the courthouse and my computer screen. Meanwhile, one of my oldest and closest friends – Brother Phil Ashford IV – lives and works year-round in the amazing wilderness of Northern Tier.³ I am still pretty young in this world, and one of the lessons I have been learning lately, is that in the working world no one but you is looking out for your mental health and relaxation. If you let it, work will consume you. I am certainly among the guilty in this arena.

However, with a little reminder from the Tobasco Donkeys, I loosened my tie, informed my bosses I was taking a week of vacation, and went off-grid for a week in South Carolina. Now that I am back, I am planning a return to Northern Tier this summer to volunteer for a little while. I am taking back a little more of where “I’d rather be.” Otherwise, what is the point? Eh?

I imagine a lot of you find yourselves in similar positions: working for the weekend, and then stressing through the weekend over what comes Monday. I urge you to work with me, and take a little more of your world back. The Tobasco Donkeys say it best:

So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around.
Ramble out yonder, explore the woods, encounter the grizz,
Climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers,
Breathe deep that yet sweet lucid air.
Sit quiet for awhile contemplate the precious stillness
That mystery and awesome space enjoy yourself.
Keep your brain in your head and your head attached to your body.
Body active and alive. And I promise you this much.
I promise you this one sweet victory, over our enemies.
Over those desk bound people with their hearts in a box
And their eyes hypnotized by calculators.
I promise you this one sweet victory...
YOU'LL OUTLIVE THE BASTARDS!

WWW,

Bradley John Ellis, Esq.

Associate Lodge Adviser

assocadvisor@aal-pa-tah237.org

¹ For those of you unfamiliar with the Tobasco Donkeys, the band consists of Philmont staff members and their music is great for camping trips. You can find out more about the band and download some free samples at: <http://www.tobascodonkeys.com/>. You can also purchase the band's albums from the Philmont trading post at: <http://www.toothoftimetraders.com>.

² This list also includes, but is not limited to: “Why won’t the Guinness Book of World Records accept that I can cook minute rice in 42 seconds?” “Do vegetarians eat animal crackers?” and “There must be a more appropriate word than monosyllable.”

³ For example, check out page 60 of Scouting Magazine’s November/December 2009 issue: <http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0911/d-coolcamps.html>. That’s Phil in the red beanie.



Who Am I

He is now without glasses but once could not see. He is now a chief but is also a brother.

Answer on Page 10

Trail Crew

My Brothers,

I am still in awe of all of those who came and helped with the bridge during the Winter Fellowship. It shows that we are still truly willing to give something back, even in the midst of the lodge's party weekend. All who visit out there are so grateful to see what you all did. The bridge that we built will last a long time and all of those who helped on that or upcoming projects can forever say that they are members of Aal-Pa-Tah's Trail Crew. For those of you wondering what this ranting is about, I encourage you to not only join the Trail Crew, but to perhaps first go out and see what your fellow Brothers have done for the trail. It is truly remarkable what a dedicated and willing group of guys can do in such a small amount of time.

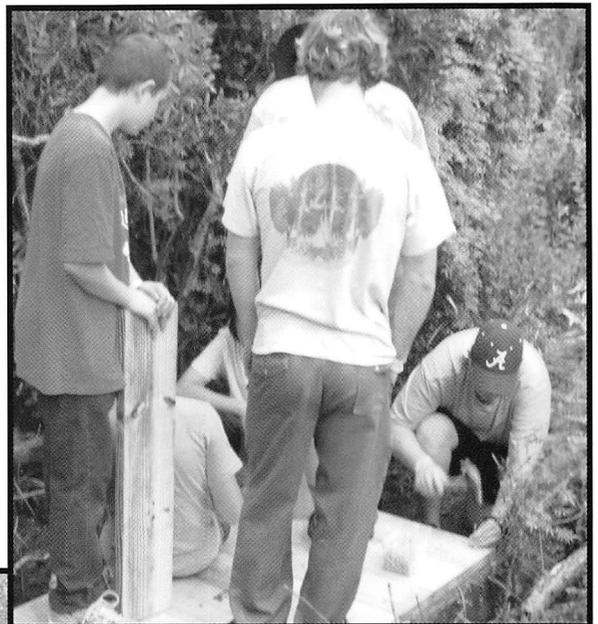
I want to encourage every member of the lodge to take a few minutes at the next lodge weekend, or any time when you are at Camp Tanah Keetah, to go out and see what the Trail has to offer you and your Troop or Crew. I ask you all this because it is more than sand and woods that make up a Trail, it is every little detail that you can imagine. So I ask you to go out and experience the Trail and all of nature's beauty. We are also very pleased and extremely thankful for the donation of the Trail Crew box, which has everything for the Trail Crew to get its job done, no matter what the "irksome" task may be. The Trail Crew will definitely have a much easier time now that we have our own special box, specifically made for working on the trail.

Finally, I must encourage everyone reading this to attend the Pow-wow. I have been talking with the weekend chairman and he promises it will be one for the history books.

Yours in WWW,

Dutchee Arnett

Trail Crew
Chairman



Section Conference 2011

Coming soon to your Lodge is the privilege to host the 2011 Section Four Conference. It happens only once in your Scouting career as a Youth, so get involved and make the most of it.

Mr. Carlson and I have been working, quietly and diligently, to get things started and moving forward. It's like a panther on the hunt getting ready to attack. Start slow and get faster and faster as the prey approaches. This conference is the same way. Starting slow but gaining speed as the day approach

Our short term goal right now is to assemble a team of Youth Leaders and Advisers who want to achieve the mission. We know these brothers are out there in our membership and they will step forward and help make this conference. We want to have the Team assembled by Pow-wow to be introduced to the Lodge. Then we want to take these brothers to Flaming Arrow in April and shadow their conference team. In May, we will completely build the Conference plan and then present it to the Lodge in June at the Service Weekend. We should be on the ground, moving faster and faster toward our goal in April 2011.

We have had some good leaders step forward and pick up the responsibility of a Committee Chair or Adviser. This is not a task to be taken lightly. There will be a lot of time spent and hard work to do, yet we will have a lot of fun getting to our goal.

If you are willing to dedicate yourself to being part of the "Best Team" ever and want to leave a Legacy for people to see forever, then contact me or Mr. Carlson. We are looking for brothers who are positive, dedicated and want to be part of what is happening.

Yours in Committed Service,

Ian McKay, Chairman, 772-633-5333

David Carlson, Adviser, 772-388-4075



Food Service

Thoughts from the Kitchen:

Food, food, food. It's what we do and we have a lot of fun doing it. If you have not been to a Lodge Weekend lately, you have really missed something: The Food. The Kitchen Crew has been cranking out great victuals. I think so, anyway.

Coming up you are going to see some of the old stuff like French Bread Pizza, Meat Loaf and Biscuits and Gravy. Some of the new things we are looking at are English cuisine, a Polish menu and maybe even some Mayan cooking. Fun!!!

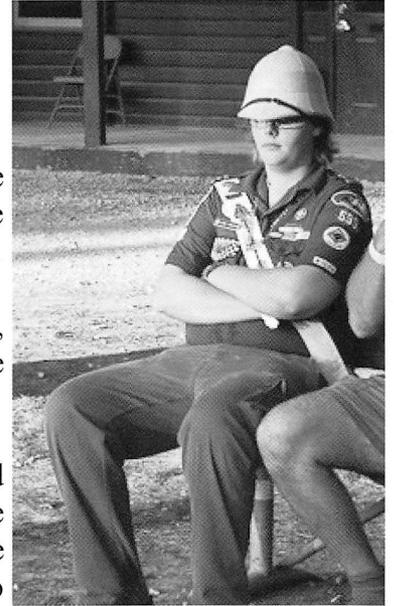
We've been thinking of some good stuff like French Onion Soup if we can find enough crocks to make it in. There is nothing better than a Rueben or a Monte Cristo sandwich. Roast Pork with Garlic Mashed Potatoes will also be in the picture soon. If there are any other food stuffs that you would like to see, talk to me during the weekend

Come to your Lodge weekends, eat lots of good food, and have fun.

Yours in Service:

Chas Carlson

The Viscount of Victuals



Reflection on the 2009 NOAC Theme: The Power of One

“To employ the Power of One you first have to understand, know and actively believe and follow the Tenth Point of the Scout Law: a Scout is Brave. As I remember as I memorized it over 65 years ago: A SCOUT IS BRAVE. He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, to stand up for the right against coaxings of friends or jeers and threats of enemies. Defeat does him down. With this in mind and in your habit memory you can begin to use the power of one. But remember you must be brave. You will know that in the beginning of the Power of One, you must understand that in each one of us there burns a flame of independence and integrity that must never be allowed to go out. That as long as it burns within us we cannot be destroyed. We will find the truth.

Del Loder

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

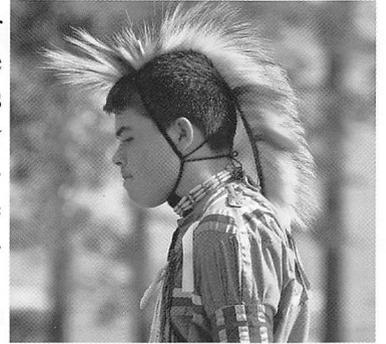
2009 NOAC

Hitchiti Dancers

Have you ever seen that Native American group that performs all over South Florida? The Lodge Dance team, The Hitchiti Dancers, did a great job at the last three weekends of the Fair. There were many outstanding OA Hitchiti Dancers participating at the South Florida Fair. The year 2010 marks the 30th anniversary for the Hitchiti to perform there. There were large audiences for the 18 performances at the South Florida Fair. I would estimate that 3,000 to 3,500 = are people who watched the performances, 1,500 to 2,000 = people who dropped-in or observed while walking through Yesteryear Village, 200 = was the average audience, 350 to 400 = largest audience (the three Saturday night performances), 50 = smallest audience (first Saturday morning), and last but not least 22 to 30 = number of performers at each performance (except last performance = 17). The Hitchiti has just performed the first of many fundraisers for the council, with more to come. There are always many chances to come join us by dancing, drumming, or even being a roadie. We have performances nearly every weekend through May, and not too far away is a major event that can't be missed! March 5-7 is the Spring Pow-wow. Hitchiti will have a big role in pulling off such a great weekend hosted by the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge and the chairman being the one, the only, Dutchee Arnett, Hitchiti Vice Chief! The Hitchiti every year hold one of the only events that fully promotes the Hitchiti Dancers and Native Americans. This year it is going to be BIGGER and BETTER than ever before! It will be held at Tanah Keeta on March 20th. This large event is called Native American Experience. Those Webelos who attend will have the chance to earn the Showman activity badge and the Boy Scouts who attend will have the chance to complete the Indian Lore merit badge. All will participate in a Pow-wow after supper.

Kalochitis,

James Herrera



BROTHERS IN ACTION

Chapter Reports

A-Bani-Ki

Osceola District

Fellow Brothers

I would like to thank everyone who is helping out to complete our elections and if you would please e mail me at danielolbrych@aol.com to confirm their completion that would be greatly appreciated. Along that line if your Troop has not done their election, then ask your Scoutmaster about the elections and tell them that they can e-mail me to schedule an appropriate time. Our newly appointed chapter leadership is Denver Sherman as Vice Chief, Grant Sennott as Secretary, and Austin Perez as Treasurer. At our chapter meeting last week we talked about chapter shirts, if you have any thoughts about them please e-mail me. Our next chapter meeting is going to be on March 9, 2010 at Spanish River Church at 7:15 pm Hope to see everybody there. The Pow-wow is coming on the March 5th-7th, so come out and have a blast with us.

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

Chee-Pa-Tah

Trade Winds District

Hey Brothers,

Chee-pa-tah is doing quite well down south. We have started our OA elections and they have gone quite well. We still have a lot more to do in February and some in March. Our next weekend is the Spring Pow-wow when we will hold our Lodge elections. Please everyone come out and vote. This is a fun weekend with lots to do. Hope to see you all there. We have had a very successful year as a Chapter and I hope it stays that way.

Yours in Service,

Luke Spratt

Gator Tales Reminder

Officers, Arrowmen, and Advisers

Each issue of the Gator Tales is produced on a tight schedule.

Help us get each issue out on time!

If you are contributing ANYTHING for the next issue please send it in before the deadline!

Final Submission Deadline: March 20th

Answer to Who Am I: Daniel Olbrych

Lowaneu-Mawat

Indian River District

My fellow Brothers,

It gives me great joy to relay to you the works of the Lowaneu-Mawat chapter. Over the past few weeks, we have been very busy. The Indian River District held its banquet last week and the Lowaneu-Mawat Chapter was there to provide help with food runners and award presenters. Our chapter elections are going along nicely. We only have a few left to take care of and we are very proud of that. I would like to see all of our chapter members and lodge members out at the lodge's Spring Pow-wow at Camp Tanah Keeta. It should be a lot of fun. Until then my Brothers, I wish you good times and travels.

WWW,

Ian McKay

Nekiwa

Sailfish District

Fellow Brothers,

The Nekiwa Chapter has been off to a great start with unit elections. All of the Scoutmasters have been very cooperative and supportive. The chapter has more elections already scheduled and more to plan. Nekiwa chapter is looking forward to all of the new Arrowmen who will eventually make it into our chapter. We have been trying to gain more people to become more active in our chapter.

James Herrera

Nekiwa Chapter Chief

Oi-Ya-Tah

Treasure Coast District

The Oi –Ya-Tah Chapter Chief did not submit a report and no report was submitted on his behalf.

Panasofee

Okeechobee District

The Panasofee Chapter Chief did not submit a report and no report was submitted on his behalf.

Osceola

Lighthouse District

The Osceola Chapter Chief did not submit a report and no report was submitted on his behalf.

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BRAD J ELLIS



Gator Tales Volunteer Opportunities Available

If possible, the following tasks or items would be beneficial to the Lodge through providing for the easier and higher-quality production of our lodge publication, Gator Tales.

Articles on OA High Adventure Bases

Articles describing a unique Native American or Scouting attribute, skill, or event.

Articles reminiscing over a memorable OA weekend

Articles on Patch Trading, Lodge History, or other Lodge customs

Distributing reminders

Collecting comments

Editing articles

Any other creative or informative appropriate contributions.

If you are able to provide help towards achieving the above items please contact me at gregorylbrych@aol.com or at (561)-737-6331.