



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



# GATOR TALES

New Member Edition

June 2001

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

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

## The LEC

The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) is comprised of the 6 executive chairmen and 35 sub-chairmen, all of which are youths and are paired with an adult advisor, who run every facet of the lodge. The 2001-2002 exec. chairmen are: Lodge Chief – Chris Smith, Lodge Vice Chief – Scott Ellis, Lodge Secretary – David Makler, Lodge Treasurer – *Not Yet Announced*, Lodge Historian – Terrance Dickson, and Past Lodge Chief – Bradley Ellis.

## The Chapter System

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

## OA Events Beyond the Lodge

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

- I. Section Conference is an annual event during which the 8 lodges that form our section (Section S-4S) gather for a weekend chalk full of friendship and fellowship. The 2002 the conference will be hosted by Seminole Lodge 85 at Camp Flaming Arrow on April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Look for more info in our publications later in the year.
- II. Section Seminars is another annual gathering of Section S-4S aimed at the purpose of training members of each lodge on how to better improve their lodge's program, while at the same time meeting

*(Section Seminars cont.)*

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

III. The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is a biannual gathering of Arrowmen from each lodge across the nation. The event usually lasts approximately five days and, in conjunction with the many side trips our contingent usually makes (i.e. Six Flags, caving, white-water rafting, etc.), it is perhaps the most awesome experience a member of the OA can possibly go through. The next NOAC will be held at the University of Indiana in Aug. 2002. If you are interested in attending the 2002 NOAC You must have a \$300 deposit (~ half) to council by Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 to ensure your spot.

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

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

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

## Sealing Your Membership

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

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

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

Position	Youth	Phone	Advisor	Phone
Lodge Chief	Chris Smith	336-0264	Richard Fore	791-3789
Lodge Vice Chief	Scott Ellis	747-2262	TBA	TBA
Lodge Historian	Terrance Dickson	879-9264	Sally Daniell	336-1890
Lodge Secretary	David Makler	482-9011	Bradley Ellis	850-222-6761
Lodge Treasurer	TBA	TBA	Elam Patterson	790-4532
Past Lodge Chief	Bradley Ellis	850-222-6761	None	None
A-Bani-Ki Chief (Osceola)	Eric Taylor	488-5677	Jim Hare	369-2988
At-Seena-Hoofa Chief (Glades)	None	None	None	None
Chee-Pa-Tah Chief (Trade Winds)	Daniel Bialczak	791-0134	Bill Bialczak	791-0134
Coo-Wa-Chobee Chief (Manatee)	TBA	TBA	George Morgan	499-5547
Lowaneu Mawat Chief (Indian Rvr)	James Archer	562-4380	Patrick Foradori	589-3318
Ne-Ke-Wa Chief (Sailfish)	Matt Dillon	287-6147	Debbie Saad	546-8908
Oi-Ya-Tah Chief (Treasure Coast)	Anthony Bonna	336-0961	Bill Daniell	336-1890
Osceola Chief (Lighthouse)	Matt Lombard	743-9875	Tim Arnold	745-0297
Pan-A-So-Fee Chief (Okeechobee)	None	None	Tom Peer	763-7548
Troop Representative Chairman	TBA	TBA	Ray Ellis	747-2262
Trail Crew Chief	TBA	TBA	Fred Fritz	965-9125
Ceremonial Team Chief	Chris Montgomery	641-0014	Phil Ashford	585-6950
OA Dance Team Chief	Travis Sheehan	575-5462	Glenn Alexander	575-2489
Publications	Daniel Arnold	745-0297	Bradley Ellis	850-222-6761

Note: Aal-Pa-Tah has an email list so that the chief can efficiently send information to the lodge. If you would like to be added to this list please send an email to the chief, Chris Smith, at [Tkmoondog@adelphia.net](mailto:Tkmoondog@adelphia.net) (please have "OA" in the subject). There is no spam-mail on this list and only the chief can access the list.