



June 2006 Issue

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Calendar

June 2-4
Service Weekend

July 29 - Aug. 3
NOAC 2006
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

August 25-27
Ordeal #1

September 15-17
Ordeal #2

November 3-5
Section S-4S Seminars
Flaming Arrow S.R.
Lake Wales

December 8-10
Winter Fellowship

2006 Leadership in Service Award

National OA Website

In recognition of the Order of the Arrow's heritage of service, the National Order of the Arrow Committee created a new three-year Leadership in Service Program which was announced at the 2004 NOAC. The Order strives to strengthen Scouting's foundation of service by further fostering in Arrowmen the ethic of servant leadership. By promoting and rewarding service that benefits the Boy Scouts of America's outdoor program, and the communities in which Scouts reside, the Order will be acting to support Scouting at the most important level.

Requirements:

- * Give 8 hours of service. Service may be split over two or more events.

- * Give 6 hours of service doing a community service project planned and run by the lodge or chapter.

Attending the June Service Weekend satisfies most of the requirements for this award.



Did you know?

Editor

Interesting fact about past issues of the Gator Tales.

- This issue has over 4,596 words!
- Every Chapter turned in reports for the Dec. 2005 issue.
- The March issue had had over 3,678 words, 27 pictures, and 2 custom banners.

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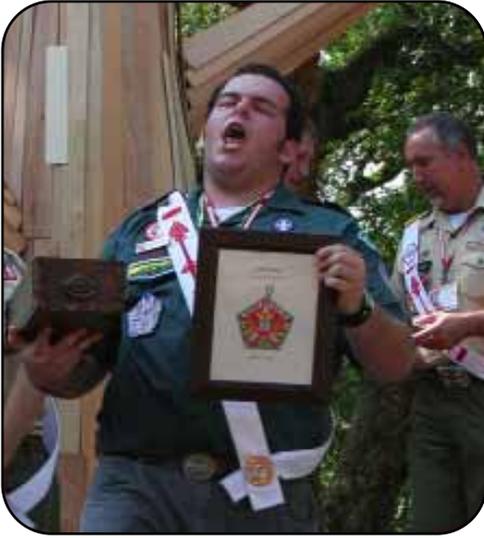
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Chiefly Speaking



Gator Brothers,

I write to you today as a very happy brother. Section Conference, for those of you that didn't attend, was a HUGE SUCCESS!!! Tipisa put on one heck of a great conference, and excluding our own conference in 2004, personally ranks as the best Section Conference I've had the privilege of attending. We had a great showing by our dancers, and our ceremonies team wiped the floor with the other lodges' teams. In the Quest for the Golden Arrow, we won OA Jeopardy and the Log Stand. We took second place honors for the Publications competitions, and third place honors for the Best All-Around Lodge competition. The highlight of the entire weekend, though, was, after 4 years, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge won the coveted Spirit Award. Every single member of Aal-Pa-Tah's contingent helped earn this award, just by demonstrating the same spirit Scouting and our Order were founded upon, and showing it to the max!!! Thanks to all those that came out, but especially our contingent leader, Kyle Rogers, whose leadership and dedication made it all possible.

Our next lodge weekend, the June Service Weekend, is coming up on the weekend of June 2-4, at Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation. At this weekend, we will be helping set up for the 2006 Summer Camp, which will start the very next week. Everyone's help is greatly needed. As an incentive for coming, those that work the FULL time will get half of the Leadership in Service award completed. Those that have never earned it or earned it for 2005 can earn it for 2006 and 2007. There will also be fun activities to around service projects, such as our Annual Hearts Tournament, games, patch trading, a "237 Surprise", and plenty of giveaways.

As I write this article, I realize with sadness that this is my last "Chiefly Speaking" article. This past year, our lodge has seen overall improvement in many aspects, including program, service, chapter organization and leadership, and overall spirit and attendance. This coming year, I see our lodge improving on these areas even more, plus improvement in other areas, under the leadership of our new Lodge Executive Committee. All of this starts with just the single Arrowman having the initiative and enthusiasm to decide to want to get involved and help make the difference. It doesn't matter who you are, whether you are brand new to our lodge or a seasoned veteran. I urge anyone and everyone to get involved with something that you see fit. Maybe you have aspirations of becoming a lodge officer, lodge chief, or beyond. If you want it, work towards it. If I can give one piece of lasting advice to any of you, it is this (Borrowed from George McFly): "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."

"If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."

In Lasting Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service,

Stephen Gray

2005-2006 Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
Forever Gator Brother



Chiefly Speaking (Elect)

Brothers, A new year of Aal-Pa-Tah is soon beginning, and new officers have been chosen to lead our Lodge. Ladies and Gentlemen of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237, as the 2005- 2006 Lodge Chief, Steve Gray has

Lodge continue to grow and thrive, please do not hesitate to call my personal phone at 561-432-6721. If you possess a skill or ability that you believe can help our Lodge, don't be afraid to take action. There are many different positions that need to be filled. Everyone has a place in our Lodge, and there is a place for everyone.

Remember,
"The ones who chose you need you. If these virtues grow brightly in our hearts, the fire cannot fail to be kindled in theirs. Brothers, we are ready."

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Adam Taft
Lodge Chief Elect
WWW

done a tremendous job in getting our lodge back on track. Since his election, he has boosted Lodge attendance at weekends and events, added more fun to the lodge weekends, and has aided in implementing various programs within our Lodge; extending our service organization to places outside of our scout camps. As incoming Lodge Chief, I recognize that I am attempting to follow a natural leader; someone who has greatly contributed to the welfare of our organization, but I can not do it alone. I need your help. If you are interested or available to help our

When the Order of the Arrow was founded, it was created to be a service organization at its core. This doesn't mean that it's wrong to have fun, but among this fun must lie a dedication to community, camp, and Scouting. As your Vice Chief of Service, it's my job to coordinate camp service projects during Ordeal and the June Work Weekend. It's also my responsibility to coordinate "One Day of Service", when all the lodges around the nation complete service projects for the community in an effort

to impact the entire country. You can lay your full trust in me that all of these duties will be met with the excitement and dedication that distinguishes the Order of the Arrow. Thanks for choosing me to be your new Vice Chief of Service.

WWW
Jay Pantone
Vice Chief of Service Elect.



We got Spirit!

After a full weekend of doing what we do best. Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge was awarded the coveted Spirit Award! The

spirit award will remain with the lodge until another lodge is able to out spirit us at one of the Section Conferences.

BROTHERS IN ACTION

Chee-Pa-Tah

My fellow "Baby Gators",

Wow...what a year we've had. I know it is only going to continue to get better and better. Thank you for all the support in completing unit elections on-time. There will be chapter shirts available sometime soon, more info coming. We are still waiting for all troops to be represented at the monthly chapter meetings. If you haven't come yet I

Chief: A. Jay Flack
recommend doing this. It is not only for the unit OA Reps, but for ALL Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter members. This next year I am looking forward to doing many more things both in fun and in service, so it will be imperative that at each meeting every troop gets represented. This next year looks to be our best ever!! Go Baby Gators!!!!

WWW,
A.Jay Flack

Lowaneu Mawat

Hey Brothers, this will be my last article as the LM's chapter chief. We are having our elections at the Mega Show in May. I just want to thank all the Brothers who have helped out so much this year in the chapter. All those who helped me at Winter Fellowship, Indian River District Camporee, and all the chapter meetings. Lowaneu Mawats I hope you had just an amazing year as I did. I feel our chapter has accomplished so much in 2005

Chief: Peter Turner
and 2006. I wish the new chapter chief the best of luck and a safe and prosperous year.

Your Nimat always,
Peter Turner
Lowaneu Mawat Chapter Chief
2005-2006

Oi-Ya-Tah

Fellow Chapter Members, This is Oakley Hammond your chapter chief. We will be hosting a mentoring day on May 20th at Camp Ahbalufa.

Service Weekend is coming up, this is a great chance for you to meet your fellow arrowmen and to show your chapter pride. This weekend will be held at Camp Tanah

Chief: Oakley Hammond
Keeta, from June 2-4. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

WWW,
Oakley Hammond
Oi-Ya-Tah Chapter Chief
OALodge237@hotmail.com

Camp Tiak Service Report

Spring Break...what great memories it conjures up. Exotic vacations, lying on the beach, golf, sailing, family or....Wiggins Mississippi. That's right Pine Burr Area Council's Camp Tiak. Camp Tiak was severely damaged in Hurricane Katrina last summer and was in pretty desperate straits. In case you were wondering, Camp Tiak is located between Gulfport and Hattiesburg.

So, 20 OA Brothers, 50 scouts, scouters and church youth group members came to the aid of the scouts in Pine Burr Area Council. A couple of guys even drove through the night from Indiana to be part of the team. What a great environment for Brotherhood and Cheerful Service.

The journey started at our Council Service Center with a 15 hour bus ride to Camp Tiak. Because we left late in the day, most people got to sleep on the bus.

However, in true OA spirit, there were a hearty group of young Arrowmen who braved the night and about 10 movies without sleeping. Once we arrived, the group set out quickly to the business at hand of working on the camp. The days were long, full of hard work and the evenings were filled with fellowship.

Many service projects were completed, land clearing, trash haul-



ing, tent platform making, general camp cleanup and the group even managed to tear apart two large damaged roofs and replace them with brand new metal roofs. There were so many things that needed to be done we were never at a loss for projects to tackle. We brought all of the right tools especially our own Council's Camp Ranger (A Vigil Brother).

This trip truly displayed the bond that exists within the Order of the Arrow. Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge sent us on our way with a truly special gift to help underwrite the cost of the trip. We were warmly welcomed by our brothers in Mississippi and were well taken care of while we were there, including some very special one of a kind patches just for our Council and group.



The youth leaders of the work teams displayed exemplary leadership to their teams and accomplished so many tasks.

It is said that a small group of thoughtful people can achieve great things. This was truly a shining example of youth doing great things for fellow youth. After all, that is Brotherhood and Cheerful Service



Andy Flack
Trek Leader / Service Advisor
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237
Gulf Stream Council

Spring Pow Wow



Congratulations to our new Vigil members

Youth

Richard Gross
Kyle Rogers
Derek Kerley

Adults

Debbie Chapman
Lea Arnold
David Pantone
Peter Shea





Section Conference









Congratulations

Novice Grass 3rd place - Nathan Peevler

Novice Grass 1st place - Walter (Duchie) Arnet

Advanced Grass 1st place - Brad Phibbs

Novice Traditional 3rd place - Zach Regan

Advanced Traditional 3rd place - Matt Alexander

Advanced Traditional 1st place - Ryan McRenyolds

Novice Southern Straight 1st - Jay Pantone

Advanced Straight 2nd place - Tony Gordon

Officer Reports

Brothers,

Wait, before I begin, let us celebrate the awesome Section Conference that our lodge totally kicked butt in and took all the great prizes from! WOO-HOO! Okay, now I can start.

Brothers,

As your Vice Chief-elect of program, I feel that it is important to do now what I do not think I had time to do when we held elections at Spring Pow-Wow.

I'd like to take time to tell you what exactly my goals are for this term of office and exactly what I hope to do for you and for all of the future members of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237.

Firstly, and I think my fellow elected officers will agree, we want to get our Lodge membership and attendance at weekends up. Do you know that there are over 500 dues paid members of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge but only about 150 to 200 active members? Few lodge members will remember that there was a time when it was a strange thing to have as little as 250 attendees to a lodge weekend. The lodge was running an average of 350 to 400 active members. The Lodge weekends were festivals of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. No job was too difficult because one always had plenty of friends to get the work done with. Today those numbers seem to us a far and distant goal. My fellow officers and I believe that with the right planning and hard work, we can get our weekends back to how they were and maybe even take it a step further. The key factor of achieving this goal is the Chapter. Chapters are the building blocks of a Lodge. In the past several years our Chapters have grown weary and attendance has dropped from each. We will

work with the Chapter Chiefs to motivate their Chapters and to get non-active members back into the spirit of the Order of the Arrow thus gaining more attendance at Lodge weekends, thus making the weekends more fun, and thus making our Lodge better!

I was a Weekend Chairman once. Do not get me wrong, it was great position, but it is very, extremely, excruciatingly difficult. My goal for this next term is to make the position much easier for the person who volunteers to take on the job. In the past, the position of the Weekend

Chairman has been to plan, get ready for, carry-out

and clean up after the weekend he is in charge of. That is a lot of work for

one person to do! I do not care

if you are Superman, you

cannot do it alone. What I

plan to do is to create

and utilize a system that

will help the Weekend

Chairman build committees which will

take most of the

work off of him. The

job of planning must

be spread out over

many people so that

the person in charge is

not swamped with

work. If the person in

charge does everything

then something will be forgotten in the planning

process and that something may

be as little as making sure there are enough

schedules for everyone attending or as big as planning

for 200 people for dinner Saturday night when there

are 500 people at the weekend. I believe that making the

position of Weekend Chairman an easier position will not

only help the person but will also make the Lodge weekends better. As they say, "Two heads are better than one",

but if the Weekend Chairman has a dozen committees for the weekend, then a dozen heads are better than one.

The Induction process of the Order of the Arrow is supposed to inspire Scouts and Scouters to Cheerfully Serve his Brother. This is evident in the Elangomat program,



the Spirit of the Arrow booklets, the Ordeal weekend, and the Ordeal ceremonies. All of these things add up to what inspires the Ordeal candidates to stay with the Lodge and stay in Scouting. How many of your Elangomats stayed in contact with you after your Ordeal to make sure you showed up at the next weekends and made sure you got your Brotherhood? How many of you remember who your Elangomat was? How many of you still have your Spirit of the Arrow booklets? How many of you know what the Spirit of the Arrow booklets are? How many of you went through your Ordeal thinking, I paid \$65 to come out here and not eat, not talk, work hard, and get no sleep in the middle of nowhere? How many of you remember the Legend of the Lenni Lenape and the origin of the Order of the Arrow that Meteu told you in your Ordeal? The Inductions process should be on of the top priorities of a Lodge. I want to make our Inductions process better in order to get that inspiration to the hearts of these Ordeal candidates so that they are committed members of the Lodge right off the bat.

important part of this Lodge. Sure there are Lodge Chiefs and Chapter Chiefs and Chairmen of committees that have a lot of work to do in the Lodge and plan a lot of things for the Lodge but you are what make this Lodge. We, the officers, are nothing without the Lodge. I will look to each of you in the next year to find out what you

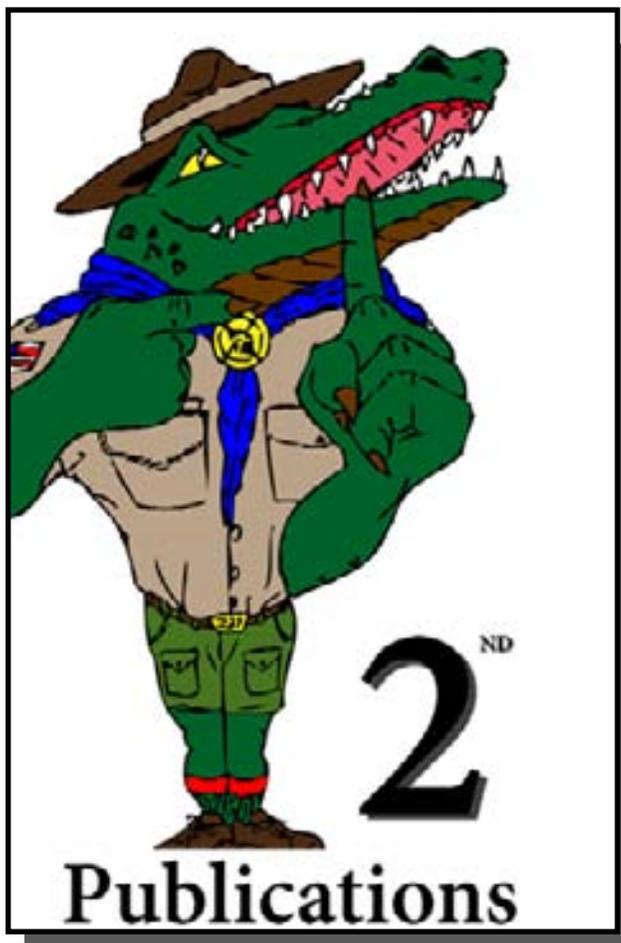
“Membership in our Order is given, not only for what you have done, but for what you are expected to do in the future.”

liked or did not like about the last weekend, what you would like to see next time, what you would like to do to get involved with our Lodge, or just to talk to, to get to know. Maybe we can pick up some friends along the way. If any of you have any questions for me about anything, you can contact me by any of the contacts listed below.

Remember he who once said, “Membership in our Order is given, not only for what you have done, but for what you are expected to do in the future.”

Yours in Brotherhood,
Bradley Phibbs
Vice Chief-elect of Program
(561) 267-1809
LaughingFox88@aol.com

My Brothers, I say to you finally that you are the most



As some of you might know our Gator Tales was awarded 2nd Place during the Publications Competition.

There is no one person that can claim to have earned this victory including myself. I must thank all of you fellow brothers for this success as was your submissions that allowed us to claim victory!

As a lodge we have shown ourselves to have spirit, we have shown ourselves to be at home on logs, and we have shown ourselves to be great Jeopardy players, now we must go further and show that we know how to tell our tales to our fellow brothers!

I need your help to keep producing our Gator Tales and keep winning. Anyone that would like to be a part of Gator Tales staff and help produce this great publication please contact me.

WWW
Patrick R.
Internet Chairman
Publication Chairman

Don't forget!
Get the Gator Tales
in color!
www.gatortales.org

How's it going gators?

I would like to thank you all for electing me to this position. I have several goals for the new year. The first is to improve lodge communication. I think that if more information about lodge weekends and events gets out, we would get higher turnouts. Another goal is to get more arrowmen contributing to the Gator Tales and the lodge website. If you would like to help please contact me.

The last thing that I would like to say is that I hope we have a great new year and im going to work hard and do everything I can to make sure that we do

WWW
Jeff Gray
06-07 Lodge secretary

Hi, I'm Brandon Evans and your upcoming treasurer for 2006-2007. I'm 14 and have served my troop as a Patrol Leader and Quartermaster in the past. I enjoy being treasurer so I am happy

everyone had enough faith to elect me as your treasurer.

Thanks
Brandon Evans

Hi, my name is Elliott Taft, and I am the new Lodge Historian. During the next year I plan on taking lots of pictures at lodge events and making a scrap-book at the end of my term. I also plan on having an awesome Kings Cup display at the next Section

Conference. If you have any pictures of our Lodge in action at any events, please contact me at the Service Weekend or E-Mail them to Tadam711@aol.com.

Elliott Taft
2006-2007
Lodge Historian

Yes, That's right ladies and gentlemen, the Ceremonies Team of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge has done it again! At the 2006 Section Conference, our team walked away with THE BEST Pre-Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil ceremonies in the Section! Jay Pantone was also awarded the best Kitchknet for the Brotherhood Ceremony for the second year in a row. Just when you think that we are at our best, we are still practicing and still looking for new and interested people to join our team. We are preparing to compete at NOAC and are always on the lookout for new people to learn the lines and possibly take part in actual ceremonies. If you think that this is something that

you are interested in, please call me, Adam Taft, at 561-432-6721. See you at the service weekend!

WWW
Adam Taft
Ceremonies Team Chief

Hey Gators! We had SUCH an awesome Spring Pow-Wow. If you were one of the unfortunate few who missed it, you have to be sure that you never make a mistake of such epic proportions again! Not only was the weekend filled with food, fun, and fellowship, but it was PACKED with some pretty amazing seminars, their topics ranging anywhere from "Native American Drum" to "OA in the Community". To finish off this weekend, Saturday night brought with it a Pow-wow of a magnitude that Aal-Pa-Tah has not seen in quite a long time. Over 25 dancers in full regalia joined almost 150 brothers in two hours of recognizing and celebrating the Native American tradition. A huge "Thank You!" goes out to Bradley Phibbs for planning and executing this phenome-

nal event! The moral of this story is: "Never miss an Aal-Pa-Tah weekend...EVER!"

WWW
Jay Pantone



General Submissions

Now wasn't that fun?

Bradley Phibbs - Weekend Planner

I'd like to thank everyone who came out to participate in the Spring Pow-Wow. It was a blast!

We had a few honored guests at this weekend including Alex Gomez, the Section Vice Chief and Geoff Landau and Denison Wiedman the Lodge Chief and Vice Chief of O-Shot-Caw Lodge. They had a great time! A special thanks goes out to the Hitchiti Dance Team and the Southern Drum, Redbird Jr., who hosted the Pow-Wow for us on Saturday night.

Congratulations to Oakley Hammond for winning the Bucket-o-Patches in the Great Patch Giveaway, an event that we would like to keep up in the future so a quick reminder to everyone: Bring your patches to lodge weekends whether you trade or not and you could have a chance to win the Bucket-o-Patches! Congratulations to Mr. Bob Poyzell for winning the Seminole Jacket Raffle.

We raised over \$200 for the Campership fund with the raffle so thank you everyone who participated! I'd like to thank everyone who unanimously voted for me as Lodge Vice Chief of Program. I know that Adam, Jay, the other officers and myself will work as hard as is humanly possible to make this next year in our Lodge, not only a fun one, but a successful one!

I leave you now with this: When life throws you lemons, make lemonade. When life throws you apples, throw them back and ask for lemons!

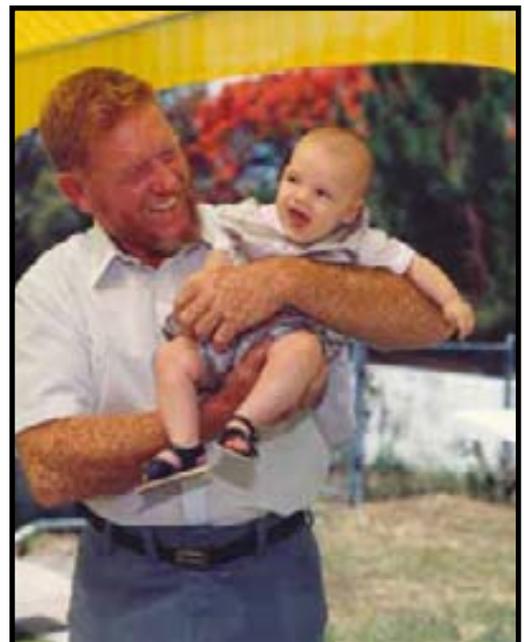
Yours in B-Hood,
Bradley Phibbs
561-267-1809
Laughingfox88@aol.com

See Pow Wow
pictures on pg.
6-7

In Memory of Ray Simpson

David Weda - Lodge Advisor

Brother Ray Simpson joined Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge more than forty-five years ago. A welder by trade, he was responsible for numerous projects at Tanah Keeta over the last four and a half decades. A few of the projects that can be seen today are the tent racks in the boathouse, the mounting brackets for each of the patch boards and the interior stairwell of the climbing tower. Perhaps one of the more interesting projects was when he shortened the old flagpole that used to be on the west side of the dining hall. A few scouts had gotten a little carried away while trying to replace the rope and the pole was bent in two places. Ray had the flagpole carried to the maintenance yard where he cut out the sections and it back together. A Vigil Honor member, Ray will be missed by the lodge, camp and council. When I was a youth, having just joined the lodge, I remember going out with Ray and his truck of tools to work on platform repairs in the campsites. We did not get to just stand around and watch him work, he showed us how to do it and then expected us to follow his example (except the welding). Work days to him started at 6 am and he would show up to the camp maintenance yard before we were awake and had breakfast. Ray did a lot of things behind the scenes that most people never saw, but he will be missed by all who new him.



Spring Pow Wow

You MUST pre-pay the weekend fee of \$15.00 includes a weekend patch. Members must be dues-paid to participate in Lodge events. Please check the label on this mailing to determine if your dues are up-to-date. Annual lodge dues are \$10.00.

On-time payments must be received in the Council Service Center no later than 5/24/06 at 2 pm. Payment can be made in person, by mail, or by phone with credit card (VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC) at 561-694-8585 ext 234. Information required if using voice mail: purpose of payment (weekend, dues, etc.) participant name, card-

holder name, card #, expiration date, street address and zip code. You will be allowed to register at the door for \$20.00.

Save the hassle of having to register. Why not purchase a 2006 Fast Pass? It's only \$75! The Fast Pass registers you for all the weekend Lodge events, covers dues, annual year patch, plus if you are not able to make it to a weekend, a weekend patch will be saved for you.

We'll see you June 2-4th, to share in brotherhood, cheerfulness and service with your fellow Gators!

My Fellow Brothers,

The time has come to give back to the camp that has served us so well: Tanah Keeta. I ask you to come out to our June Service weekend, June 2-4, and help to serve our camp. We will be working, but in the end we will have had fun. Saturday night we have our Hearts Tournament, followed by glow in the dark Ultimate Frisbee and a dance

party. Finally, our infamous 237 surprise!! All this for a fee of \$15.00, plus you get half of your leadership in service award!!! So, I ask you once again to come out and serve your camp as well as it has served you.

WWW,
Ian McKay
Service Weekend Chairman

“Change Service Requested”

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