

GATOR

August 2011 Issue

The Official Publication

of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge #237



TALES

Visit Us Online www.aal-pa-tah.org

Calendar

Sep 9th-11th
Fall Ordeal
at Tanah Keeta Scout Res.

Nov 4th-6th
NLS / NLATS

Nov 11th-13th
Section S4 Seminars

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

OA Fall Ordeal

Fellow Brothers,

We've got a weekend coming up that you guys aren't going to want to miss. September 9 -11th is the second and last opportunity for our new candidates to complete their Ordeal so we need to push hard to get everybody who missed the first one out there. Camp should be in good shape after Summer Camp but there will still be plenty of opportunities for cheerful service. We also have some fun stuff planned for Friday and Saturday nights. We're going to be trying some new things but we're going to bring back all the old favorites too, including a great 237 surprise. This weekend will cost the usual \$20 for preregistrations and \$25 at the door. All adults who wish to sleep in a dorm should contact the Lodge Adviser Amanda Pantone at mrspantone@aol.com

So everybody get out there, provide some service, and most importantly, have some fun! Be sure to tell everybody and invite the current members, the former members, and especially all our new members and candidates.

Gator Tales Staff

[Gator Tales Website](http://aal-pa-tah237.org)

Lodge Secretary

Chris Olbrych

secretary@aal-pa-tah237.org

Layout

Chris Olbrych

chrisolbrych@aol.com

Editing.....Proofing Team

Banner.....Salvatore Sodano

Content.....Aal-Pa-Tah Arrowmen

Adviser.....Barry J.F. Ekle

Contact.....Gulf Stream Council

(561) 694-8585

www.aal-pa-tah237.org

WWW,
Jeff Gray
2011 Fall Ordeal Chairman



Above: Fire from the 2010 Fall Ordeal;
Right: Justin Warnimont leading the line of our new Brothers at the 2010 Fall Ordeal



Contents

Page 2.....	Chiefly Speaking
Page 2.....	Adviser's Corner
Page 3.....	Officer Reports
Page 4.....	Chapter Reports
Page 5.....	Summer OA Events
Page 6...	Opportunities for Cheerful Service



Chiefly Speaking

My Brothers,

A special thanks goes to all those who made the Summer Powwow a huge success. Bobby Weil and James Herrera were the weekend chairmen and the both did a fantastic job! During the weekend we had a lot of activities going on around camp including the pool and climbing wall being open. Also over the weekend we had our lodge election and our newly elected officers are:

- Lodge Chief - Elliott Taft V
- Vice Chief of Program - James Herrera
- Vice Chief of Service - Dan Olbrych
- Vice Chief of Inductions - Mike McLoughlin
- Lodge Sectary - Chris Olbrych
- Lodge Treasurer - George Cooper
- Lodge Historian - Ross Pantone



I have been working with all other newly elected leadership to make this upcoming lodge year a success. Please sign up ASAP for the upcoming lodge events. It takes everyone's help to have a successful ordeal. I hope that I see you there.

WWW,
Elliott Taft
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief

A Look Ahead

My Brothers,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! Well, we are all gearing up for school to start again and returning to our regular schedules! Along with this, our Scouting programs are all getting back into full swing. As your unit develops its program for the year, we ask that you consider working the Lodge calendar into your unit's program calendar.

A concern I have heard from unit leaders concerning this issue is that a Scout's participation in the Lodge's program will take away from his ability to participate in the unit's program. I hope to convince you that quite the opposite is true! One of the purposes of the Order of the Arrow is: *"Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation."*

By participating in the Lodge program, your Scouts will bring skills back to the Troop including camping and high adventure skills, environmental stewardship principals, an attitude of selfless service, and a desire to lead.

In addition, the numerous high adventure activities available through the Order of the Arrow allow a Scout to participate in programs beyond what may be available to the unit in a given year. This summer alone 17 of our youth participated in OA programs at Philmont, Northern Tier, SummitCorps, and Indian Summer. As a unit leader, I can assure you that the Scouts in my unit who participate in the OA become more committed to Scouting, which keeps them in the unit. In a Troop, sometimes there are far more younger Scouts than older ones. In the OA, older Scouts get to associate with a larger pool of older Scouts who share the same vision of Scouting and goals for themselves, providing motivation to keep on the Scouting trail.

As a parent I can assure you that the OA offered my boys an amazing opportunity that strengthened their commitment to Scouting and very much helped to shape them into the young men they are today. While it offered them fun and adventure, the real gift of this program for my boys was that it instilled in them an incredible commitment to serving others. This is a trait they will carry with them for a lifetime.

So, as the year kicks off, please consider allowing the Lodge to be a partner to your unit, with a shared vision of developing tomorrow's leaders!

In Cheerful Service,
Amanda Pantone

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Adviser



Officer Reports

Vice Chief of Program

My brothers,

As your new Vice Chief of Program, I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability. I know that we will have a great year. We have a great group of officers and we know we will get the job done. Our next major event is the Fall Ordeal, on September 9-11th, and you can sign up on our Lodge's website. Please do it as soon as you can. More info will be coming out via email and Facebook, so check for announcements and updates.

WWW,

James Herrera

Lodge Secretary

Hello Brothers,

This publication of the Gator Tales is the first of many great articles. As Secretary, it is my honor to play a large role in coordinating the publication of this article. Also included in my duties is the publishing of the Where to Go Camping Guide. If anyone is interested in contributing or helping put together this useful guide, please contact me.

I would also like to encourage all those who are interested in helping with the publication of the Gator Tales and suggest they contact me or any other Lodge Officer for more information on how to get involved. Any content can be sent to me at secretary@aal-pa-tah237.org

WWW,

Christopher Olbrych

Lodge Treasurer

My Brothers,

I am pleased to announce that during this past summer, many patches were sold from our Lodge Box. This was because the Lodge Box was open for business throughout the summer. At the Summer Powwow, close to \$500 worth of patches was sold, plus another \$400 was sold on OA days at Summer Camp. In closing, if you have ideas for the 2012 Aal-Pa-Tah NOAC flaps, you may send them to me anytime in the near future, such as at the September Ordeal, on September 9th, or at the Winter Fellowship.

WWW,

George Cooper

Lodge Historian

My Brothers,

The new King's Cup is currently in the design stage. As you may know, the King's Cup is basically a traveling museum; obviously artifacts go into a museum. This is where I need your help. If you have any Lodge memorabilia that is of museum quality please send me an email explaining what it is to ross.pantone@gmail.com. The Lodge has been around for close to 70 years and we need our King's Cup to reflect that.

WWW,

Ross Pantone

Vice Chief of Service

My Fellow Brothers,

I would like to thank all of you for your faith in my abilities. The Order of the Arrow is centered around the ideals of cheerful service, and this upcoming Ordeal is a great time to contribute. On September 9-11, our Lodge will have the Fall Ordeal and I hope that anyone who is able will come out and give service to our camp.

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

Vice Chief of Inductions

Thank you for electing me as your Vice Chief of Inductions for the 2011-2012 year. I am happy to say that this year will be one of the best years that Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge has ever seen. In the Wimachtendienk, we strive to provide, as leaders, the best all around program that we can. I will make sure that happens. If you are interested with getting involved on any level of Inductions, from UNIT ELECTIONS to ELANGOMATS to NIMATS to OA TROOP REPRESENTITIVES to CEREMONIES and other programs like that, please feel free to let me know at any time at m.mcloug@gmail.com or 561-267-8759. I look forward to serving you, my Brothers, for the next year as the Vice Chief of Inductions.

WWW,

Michael McLoughlin

Chapter Reports

Oi-ya-tah

Brothers,

We have began an exciting new season within Oi-yah-tah Chapter. We have been planning our upcoming Chapter Bowling Tournament, and will be announcing a date soon. We are also looking for patch designs and t-shirt designs for the Chapter. Anyone interested should email me. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Ordeal, and at our Chapter Bowling Tournament in September.

Yours in Cheerful Service,

Nick Patterson

Chee-Pa-Tah

Greetings Arrowmen,

This is Chase Patterson your new Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief. I hope everyone had a great summer! This past summer many Arrowmen from around the nation gathered in West Virginia and in North Carolina for two national events. The first in West Virginia was SummitCorps, and I'm proud to say that all 4 youth and 1 staff member that attended from our Lodge were from Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter. The second event, Indian Summer was held in North Carolina, where we had 1 youth and 3 staff attend from our Chapter. Some upcoming events include the Fall Ordeal. If you have not already signed up, please do so immediately! If you're looking to be an Elangomat then this is a perfect time. And for all the Ordeal members who are Brotherhood eligible, I strongly encourage you to seal your membership in the Order and take part in the Brotherhood ceremony. Also we will be holding our Chapter meeting at this weekend. There will be lots of information you're not going to want to miss! Some topics will include new meeting times and dates, along with some fun meeting plans, so don't miss this fantastic weekend!

Yours in Cheerful Service,

Chase Patterson

Lowaneu-Mawat

Indian River District

Fellow Brothers,

I hope everybody had a great summer. We have a great program coming up this year that I think everybody is going to really enjoy. We're going to kick off the year with some type of fun event on August 21st so be sure to pay attention for the email with the details. The next event after that will be the Fall Ordeal. I know it's a work weekend but it should be a lot of fun. Since I'm the chairperson for this event I really need everybody that can make it to get out there and show some chapter support. Once we get the rest of the year planned out I'll be sure to get the info out to you guys.

WWW,

Jeff Gray

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!

Summer National Order of the Arrow Events

Indian Summer

A contingent of thirteen Arrowmen attended the 2011 Indian Summer this August. Here they learned even more about ceremonies, inductions, dancing, and the culture of the Native Americans. We learned of the plight of the Cherokee Indians in the drama Unto These Hills and rafted most of 8 mile trip on the Nantahala River. This national event was a great experience for both young and old Arrowmen and anyone interested in getting further involved in the OA, should attend such national events.



Above: Whitewater trip (L-R Chris Olbrych, Patrick Sovine, Mike McLoughlin, Wyatt Bunch, Chase Patterson); Upper Right: Greg Yentz at a craft session; Right: Dancers at the closing Powwow.

SummitCorps

Fellow Brothers, the Arrowmen who went to SummitCorps this summer had a blast! They experienced everything from building bike trail to white water rafting to meeting hundreds of Brothers. The project completed miles of trail for future generations to use. The trail was built in the New River Gorge National Park. The national park is next to the new Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree Site. The week consisted of 4 days of cheerful service, and on Friday everyone got to choose a recreation activity. All 8 Aal-Pa-Tah members (6 participants, 2 staff) chose to go white water rafting on the New River Gorge



Above: The Lodge's Contingent to SummitCorps (L-R Greg Soles, Elam Patterson, Kelsey Cupples, Brad Ellis, Chris Mancuso, Nick Keller, Chase Patterson, Christopher Claridge)



Above: The New River Gorge arch-bridge in Fayetteville WV. Adjacent to the new BSA site, it is the second largest bridge of its kind in the world.

Opportunities for Cheerful Service

Nimat Program

If you are an Ordeal member looking to further your membership in the Lodge, the Nimat program is for you. This program continues over a ten month period that educates you about our great Lodge and the Order of the Arrow, while having fun with your clan. You will review the Obligation, Song, and Handshake of the Order and learn more about the true meaning of the Order. This program prepares you to affirm your membership in our Lodge by preparing you for the Brotherhood.

WWW,

Gregory Yentz- Nimat Chair

Elangomat Program

Being a Elangomat is a rewarding experience and I encourage all members to step up and serve their fellow brothers by being an Elangomat. In the Elangomat program, you have the chance to guide our Ordeal Candidates as you yourself were guided through your Ordeal. As you participate in their Ordeal, you will gain a better understanding of the ceremonies and the ideals of our Brotherhood. Please help me provide a quality experience for the future Brothers of our Lodge by being an Elangomat. For further information please contact me at kdavis@soflec.org.

WWW,

Kayman Davis – Elangomat Chair

Brotherhood Program

Congratulations to all the new Brotherhood members of our wonderful Lodge. As your Brotherhood Chairman, I encourage all Ordeal members who have not yet sealed their membership in our Lodge, by obtaining Brotherhood. If you are interested, please come to Fall Ordeal on September 9th and I will help you through counseling. Please bring a letter to the Secretary of the Lodge, Christopher Olbrych, or send him a letter on our Lodge's website and \$14 for your new sash. More information concerning the Brotherhood can be found in the Order of the Arrow handbook. By sealing your membership in the Order of the Arrow, you commit yourself to the high ideals of our Order.

WWW,

Matthew Kasteli

Hichiti Dancing

With a new season fast approaching, the Hitchiti dance team is looking for new members to join. You can have fun, while learning the dance and culture of the Native Americans. If you don't already know the Hitchiti dancers perform all across the Treasure Coast, including places such as South Florida Fair, TK Summer Camp, and many other events. If you are interested in learning about the unique culture of the Native American Indians and how they danced, then you should give serious thought to joining the Hitchiti Dance Team. Please contact the Hitchiti Chief, Connor Carnes, at ctcarnes@bellsouth.net, for more information.

WWW,

Wyatt Burch – Hitchiti Vice Chief

Below: Members of the Hitchiti dancing at the closing show at Indian Summer in Ridgecrest, NC.



Upcoming National Events

NLS / NLATS



The National Leadership Seminar (NLS) is a weekend conference focusing on the skills and characteristics of leadership. It is intended primarily to enhance the leadership skills of the Order of the Arrow's key youth and adult members, as they seek to improve their service to the Boy Scouts of America and the greater community. This year there is a course in Florida (Haines City) on November 4-6th. The cost is \$175. Please contact Elliott Taft, Lodge Chief, if you are interested in attending. We have adults going so there is transportation available with the lodge. The registration deadline is October 15th.

The NLS will provide participants with:

- A challenging, inspiring, and enjoyable learning experience
- A better understanding of the skills of leadership, and how to apply them
- A better understanding of themselves and of other people
- A realization that, with practice and work, everyone can improve their leadership skills
- An understanding that leadership skills work in tandem with one another
- An understanding that different situations require the application of different leadership skills
- A model with which to evaluate themselves and others in the use of leadership skills



Each NLS is delivered by a training team selected and approved by the Region Key 3, and includes former and current Section and National Officers of the Order of the Arrow. The National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS) is a weekend conference focusing on the skills and attributes of effective advisers within the lodge. It is intended primarily to enhance an adviser's knowledge of and connectivity with the OA's strategic plan, program and resources, while emphasizing personal skills that are essential to the development of effective youth leadership and ultimately the OA's service to the council. NLATS is being held in conjunction with NLS in the same location on the same dates. Please contact Mrs. Pantone at mrspantone@aol.com if you are an adviser and would like to attend NLATS.

NOAC 2012

My Brothers,

The time for NOAC is once again upon us. Well not really, but it is quickly approaching. NOAC will be taking place next August. That's right, less than a year away. We will be hosted by the lovely Michigan State University, home of the fighting Spartans. Some of you may have gone in 2006 and remember MSU, but rumor has it, the dorms are all air conditioned now! It is going to be tons of fun, whether you are into American Indian Activities, patch trading, games, competitions, or root beer kegs. There is fun for everyone!

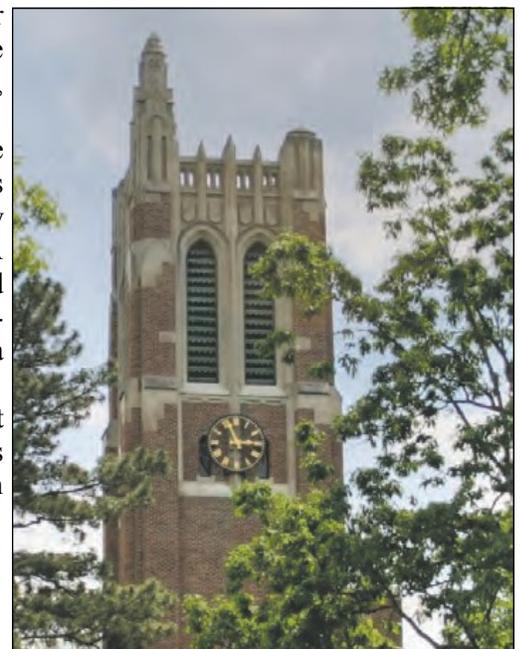
For those of you who don't know, NOAC is the National Order of the Arrow Conference. It is held every two to three years on college campuses around the country. We stay in the dorms on the college campus. It is basically a section conference on steroids. There are seminars, competitions, AIA events, spectacular shows, and lots of patch trading. This will be my third NOAC and I think this will be the best one yet and I could not be more excited. We need to show these Spartans how the Gators party, so we want a huge turn out!

There are limited spots available so make sure to get your \$50 deposit in at the council office or at the next OA weekend. And if you have any ideas for patches or stuff that can make our trip any better please get in touch with me. I hope to see all of your names on the sign up sheet. Thanks.

WWW

Robert Weil

NOAC 2012 Contingent Leader

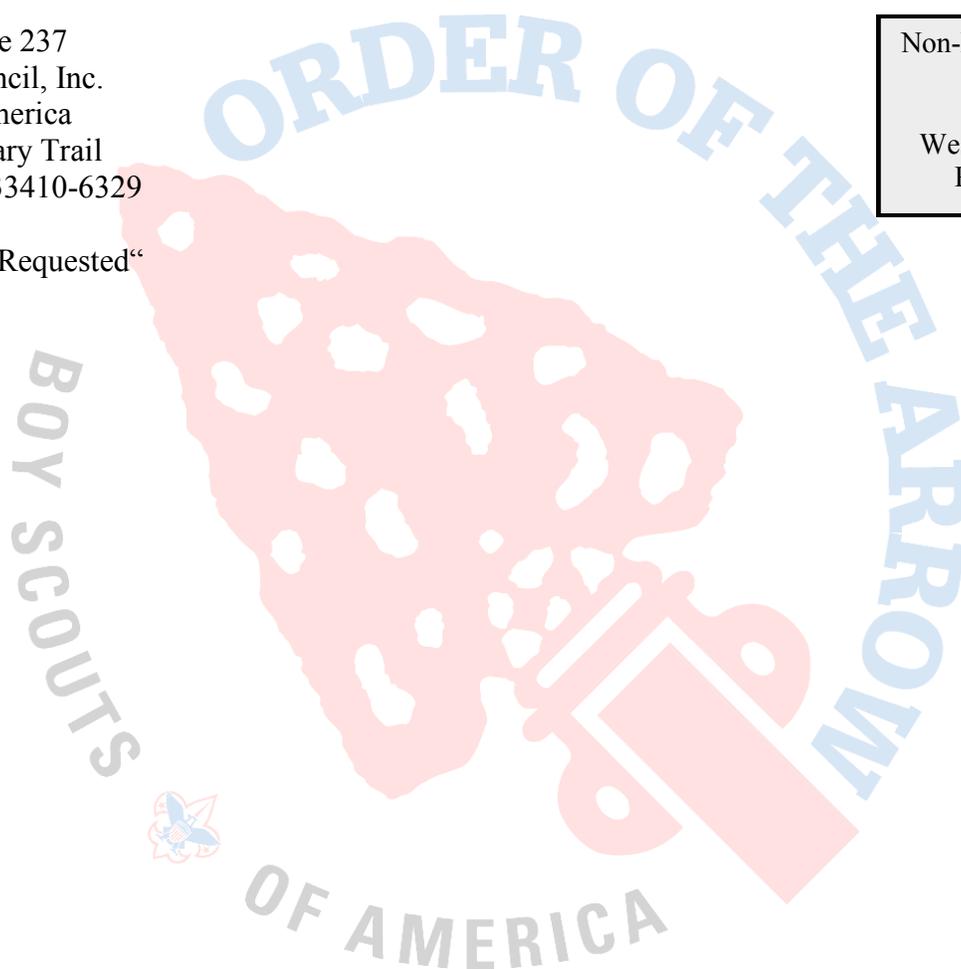


MSU 2012

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237
Gulf Stream Council, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
8335 North Military Trail
Palm Beach, FL 33410-6329

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach FL
Permit No. 130

“Change Service Requested“



The Loss of a Brother Who Was a Mother to Many

While the rest of us were attending to the matters surrounding the most recent Independence Day, one of our Brothers, who lived tucked up in the northern edge of our council, quietly slipped away. This was no ordinary day and this was no ordinary Brother, it was Miss Pinnie Oliver of Fort Pierce. She was truly 89 years young, and especially young at heart. She had been involved in Scouting since 1958 and was a holder of the Silver Fawn (a precursor to the Silver Beaver from the 1970's, for distinguished service to youth). While her stories could fill a book (and there's hopefully one already in the works), there are a few particularly interesting items of note: Initially starting as an avid Cub Scouter, she followed the progress of the boys in her Pack as they grew into their Troop. She in turn lead them on camping trips into the wilds of the 1960's Florida wilderness. Word of her taking boys outdoors and camping made its way to a Chief of the Seminole Tribe, who requested a meeting with her to find out what kind of a woman was undertaking such things. Eventually the Chief invited her to become his adopted daughter, and as such, a Princess of the Seminole Tribe. This included her going through the traditional Seminole initiation ceremony, conducted in the remote heart of the Everglades.

Also, her devotion to youth was unmistakable, and was clearly evident in her last Scouting function, as the representative of the Gulf Stream Council at the National Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America. At her table at the closing banquet were a handful of adults from around the country, with whom she had pleasant but quick conversation. The others at the table were the 6 national youth officers of our Order, including the National Chief and National Vice-Chief. The Chief and Vice-Chief became fascinated with her background, her views, her tales of service to Scouting, and her advice. Such an impact she had on these two, who literally meet thousands of Arrowmen a year, that both were saddened when told of her passing at Indian Summer. From all those who met her, yes indeed, Pinnie we miss you! A consummate Scouter, she embodied her Vigil Honor name: Caring Mother of Many.



Pinnie Oliver being presented her Vigil Certificate by then Lodge Chief Michael Grove at the 2009 Spring Ordeal.