The Sounds of Section S-4S

Volume 11, Issue 2 | Serving Section 4 South of the Southern Region, Order of the Arrow | Fall 2003 Edition

2003 Section Seminars at Baden Powell Scout Reservation

By Adam Wintenburg

In just a few weeks the lodges of S-4S will converge again for the annual Section Seminars and Council of Chiefs. This year Echockotee Lodge #200 of the North Florida Council will be the host. The event will take place at the beautiful Baden Powell Scout Reservation (Camp Shands) located 20 miles east of Gainesville, Florida. The price for the weekend is $16 per person, which includes all meals and the activity patch (pictured at the right). Registration for the event should be made through your lodge or council service center. Mark your calendars for November 14-16 and register in advance with your lodge to avoid the $5 late fee.

The weekend will be jam-packed with great meals, cracker barrels, and the opportunity to receive top-notch training from some of the best trainers in Florida. There are three main training tracks offered this year: Administrative, Ceremonies, and American Indian Culture

Lodge Administation classes will offer a wide variety of seminars guaranteed to spark the interest of every Arrowman. There are classes on OA programs, such as NOAC planning, Scoutreach Mentoring, Troop Representative training. lodge programming, the induction process, and communications for lodge and chapter officers. There is a beginner class for patch trading and one for patch design.

This year's Ceremonies courses include the evolution of the Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil ceremonies, with emphasis on individual coaching. American Indian courses cover many aspects of the Indian culture, including how–to's on silverwork, roaches, southern beadwork, dancing, pow-wow etiquette, and building regalia.

In addition to the excellent seminars, there will be other activities for Arrowmen. The camp features a basketball court and a volleyball court for you to enjoy.

Section Seminars is a great opportunity for those patch collectors to trade with Arrowmen from around Section S-4S.

Section S-4S Seminars Activity Patch

Saturday evening will feature a patch auction. The lodges of the section and some collectors have donated patches and flaps to the event. The proceeds will benefit various section projects.

Don't miss out on the informative and exciting training, fellowship, and opportunity to meet Arrowmen from around the section. Come out and enjoy this wonderful weekend.

What's Inside ...

Page	Article
2	Chiefly Speaking
	Indian Summer a Huge Success
3	2004 Section Conference
	Messge from the National Chief
4	OA High Adventure Experiences
5	Around the Section
8	Calendar of Events

Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

It is with great pleasure that I once again write to you. The year is off to a great start so far. We have done so much since I last wrote you but there are still many things to do. With events such as National Leadership Seminars, One Day, and Section Seminars approaching, the Fall looks to be even busier than the summer. I know that many of you have fall lodge events, but we also have two upcoming section events that I wish to speak with you about.

"I do hereby promise on my honor as a scout...I will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others." These familiar words are part of the obligation that all of us have said time and time again at Order of the Arrow functions. Now it is time to prove our commitment to those words and their meaning. The first event of the new year is the Southern Region One Day of Service, and it gives an opportunity to do just that. One Day is November 1 and is an opportunity for Arrowmen across the southern United States to go out and do service for their local community. One Day is being coordinated through each lodge, and I ask that you all participate. As Arrowmen we all have a duty to serve and this is an extraordinary opportunity to fulfill that obligation.

The next section event is Section Seminars and will be held on November 14-16 at Baden Powell Scout Reservation's Camp Shands. This event is the section's training weekend, and the schedule is filled with classes on everything from running an Ordeal to Seminole Cooking. Section Seminars will bring the best trainers in the area together in one location, and it is sure to be an amazing experience. I encourage all Arrowmen to come and take part in the Seminars.

Both of these events promise to be educational and inspirational, and as such I hope all of you participate. I hope this letter finds you all well, and I hope to see you all in November!

Yours in Brotherhood,
Seth Mollitt, Section S-4S Chief

Indian Summer is a Huge Success

By Seth Mollitt

In August, several hundred Arrowmen gathered at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina, for a once-in-a-lifetime event: OA Indian Summer. Indian Summer was an intensive week-long training event focused on the Native American Culture and Order of the Arrow ceremonies.

The week started with an opening gathering on Saturday that featured Jace Hester from Tipisa Lodge and, of course, our very own National Chief, Nick Digirolamo. Arrowmen then spent the week in training seminars that focused on topics as varied as fancy dance and inductions management. The classes were intense but informative, and in every case Arrowmen walked away knowing more than they did when they arrived.

There were two pow-wows during the course of the week. These pow-wows showcased Native American dance and the rich culture that surrounds it. There was also a Mountain Man rendezvous on Thursday night that provided Arrowmen with an opportunity to try their hand at events such as tomahawk throwing and Indian wrestling. The rendezvous also gave the participants a chance to enjoy some authentic blue grass music and dance. Our section hosted a gathering afterwards in which our delegates were treated to ice cream. The week wrapped up with a closing gathering that featured another member of our section, Tipisa Lodge Chief Chris Hester, who spoke about his personal experiences during the week.

The section was well represented at Indian Summer with youth from every lodge attending. We also had several members of our section serving on staff including Bo Bullinger, Jason Wolz, John Rotruck, Paul Lackie, Rick Obermeyer, Tico Perez, Jeff Jonasen, Jack Butler, and Indian Summer lead adviser, Ron Bell. All told, our section had more than ninety members in attendance. All of these Arrowmen will return to the section with new and useful information to help improve their lodges' programs.

The event was a huge success for the Order in general and, more specifically, for our section.

Message from the National Chief

Brothers,
The upcoming year holds many promising events for Arrowmen to look forward to. The largest and most anticipated of these is the 2004 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Iowa State University in the summer. I would encourage you to join thousands of Arrowmen from across the country in learning, fun, and fellowship in what many would describe as one of the best Scouting events there is.

NOAC is a week of non-stop fun, and the conference always seems to provide an atmosphere impossible to duplicate. Your lodge will have more information on how to sign up in the near future. Take advantage of this opportunity, and I hope to see a big turn out from my brothers in Section S-4S at the 2004 NOAC!

In Service,
Nick Digirolamo
2003 National Chief

Section Conference at Tanah Keeta in 2004

Brothers,
Hi, I'm Marc Edgar the host chairman for Section Conference 2004. It's only seven months until the best Conference to be held at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Jupiter, Florida. We have been working on so much to make it entertaining and to push the Native American traditions of the Order. We are planning wild and crazy competitions that only Boy Scouts could experience. We are planning great seminars to run all day. We are planning 24 hours of fun. We are planning all kinds of Native American competitions, and most importantly, we plan on having GREAT food!
I can't wait to see everyone at Section Conference 2004 hosted by Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Section Conference Chairman
Marc Edgar

"Circle the Fire, Feed the Flame"

As Arrowmen, we "Circle the Fire" in brotherhood, the action Kichkinet caused every member to do. As Arrowmen we were chosen not only based on what we have done, but what we are expected to do in the future, "Feed the Flame" explains that very ideal of our Order, to continue to feed the fire of cheerfulness. The goal of the 2004 Conference is simply our theme, we hope our conference strengthens the bonds of brotherhood in the Section and causes the flame of cheerfulness to grow ever brighter.

One Day

By Josh Levenson

As we all know, the Order of the Arrow was founded on three principles: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. In 1996 the Southern Region of the OA became a pioneer by implementing a program that unites the entire region under the ideal of "service." Yes, we have national programs such as NOAC that gather Arrowmen from around the nation for brotherhood and cheerfulness; but never before was there a large emphasis on the ideal of service except at the local lodge level. This program came to be known as, "One Day of Service." You will mostly commonly hear Arrowmen refer to the program simply as "One Day." The concept of the One Day project was for lodges around the southern region to formulate a meaningful project that could be completed in one single day if the entire lodge worked on it together. It is amazing what can be accomplished just in one day, and the old service logs prove just that. This year the One Day of Service is scheduled for November 1, 2003. Lodges can choose to perform the project prior to this date, but all hours must be submitted upon completion of the project. This year, for lodges excelling in the One Day project, a special plaque is available for lodges that fulfill all of the necessary criteria. More information about One Day can be located at the Southern Region website, www.southern.oa-bsa.org. On an interesting note, Section S-4S is the only section to have a recipient of the National Service Award each year since its introduction into the OA's structure. As you can see, we are pace-setters in cheerful service and when One Day rolls around, we will prove once again why we are the best Section! For information about your lodge's One Day project, contact your lodge's service chairman or the lodge chief.

ONE DAY 2003
oa southern region

Philmont Trail Crew

By George Birnbaum

Left to Right: Echockotee Lodge Arrowmen, George Birnbaum and Dylan Banks; and Andy Cotton of Section C-5A in Ohio.

This summer two of my friends from Echockotee Lodge 200 and I were able to attend one of the OA's high adventure programs, OA Trail Crew at Philmont. To attend OA Trail Crew, you have to be 16 years old and a member of your local lodge. The cost is $100 plus your plane tickets and bus ride to Philmont. The program consists of two weeks; one week of working on trails, and one week out on a trek that your crew creates.

My crew was one of three to start work on a trail that will leave Philmont and head up into the Valle Vidal. The trail starts at Copper Park close to where the old trail began. Our crew worked on a straight section of one of the switchbacks. With only 12 people and 4 foremen, we were able to complete 340 feet of trail. This was impressive because the tasks included cutting out several massive trees, adding in several retention bars, and taking out a grove of aspens. For me, this was a great experience. I was able to see the fruits of my labor unfold as the week progressed and was saddened to see the week ending. However, our crew had our trek to look forward to, along with a hot shower during our transition day.

My crew's trek was mainly in the Valle Vidal and part of the North Country. We took a bus to the starting point of our trek and hiked eight miles the first day. The next day we hiked to the top of Little Castilla, the tallest mountain in the Valle (taller than Baldy). The third day we went to Iris Park and then traveled to Rich Cabins the day after. The trek continued to Pueblano, the logging camp, where we were able to climb a tree like the old loggers. On Friday we hiked to Ponil for lunch then off to Indian Writings where we stayed until morning because of flooding. Finally we made it to six mile gate where we were picked up on Saturday morning to head back to base camp.

At each stop along the trek, we were treated like kings because of the trail crew reputation of cheerful service to camp. Our crew performed service at each camp on the trek. It was awesome. Did I forget to mention that we also eat like kings during our two-week stay, always having plenty of great tasting food.

I had an experience of a lifetime and would go again in a second. I strongly encourage anyone who wishes for an alternative way to experience Philmont to take this opportunity next summer.

OA Wilderness Voyage

By Dan Leckron

The OA Wilderness Voyage program is among the top Scouting activities designed for Arrowmen. The Voyage program is held during the summer at the Sommers Canoe Base, part of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness near Ely, Minnesota.

I had the opportunity to experience it first-hand this summer. The Voyage is a two-week trip consisting of service, leadership and life-long friendships. We worked for the first week on portage trails and canoed the second week. My group paddled up to twenty miles a day. We traveled along the United States and Canadian borders for a few days, paddling a total of 130 miles. Along the way we saw several different water falls, Indian pictographs, and lots of wildlife. During the nights, from our remote campsites, we had the chance to see billions of stars, satellites, and even the Northern Lights. With Burl Holland and Andy Zach leading our group, we were always in good company. The program is truly an experience of a lifetime, yet extremely affordable. My message to the average Johnny Arrowman: "Do not pass up any opportunity to go to the Northern Tier and participate in the OA Voyage program."

Plan to Attend Philbreak in 2004

By David Summerlot

Philbreak, a joint project created by the OA and the Philmont Staff Association, was the first high-adventure OA project to sell out in its first year this past spring. Participants from all over the United States provided 1,725 hours of cheerful service and 121.88 burnt acres were rehabilitated in the northern part of Philmont. This area had been ravaged by fires in June of 2002. The program's success was also evidenced by the enthusiastic response by participants--over half applied to serve on Philmont staff for the following summer.

In March of 2004, Arrowmen from across the country have the opportunity to return to Philmont Scout Ranch to join other Scouters in giving meaningful service, to form lasting friendships, and to develop leadership skills. The program is a seven day adventure under the direction of experienced staff members. While service is one of the main goals of Philbreak, the program also challenges the Arrowman mentally, physically, and spiritually.

2004 Philbreak is open to Arrowmen from age 18-25 and costs only $100. However, travel expenses to and from Philmont are also the responsibility of participants. Applications are now available through your lodge. Three sessions are offered for 2004 Philbreak:

Session #1	March 7-13, 2004
Session #2	March 14-20, 2004
Session #3	March 21-27, 2004

For more information on this exciting service opportunity, contact your lodge representative or visit the national Order of the Arrow web site:

http://www.oa-bsa.org/

Remember, this event was sold out last spring. Do not delay, contact your lodge chief for your application form and send it in as soon as possible.

> "We should all realize that every right implies a responsibility, every opportunity an obligation, every position a duty, and that is the most effective sermon is expressed in deeds instead of words."
>
> *-Waite Phillips*

Around the Section

Echockotee Lodge 200

By the time this article is read, Echockotee will have facilitated its first lodge-wide activity of the year, the Disco Fever Fellowship, a weekend depicting the attire and attitude of the 70's. Other events planned for the year include LOAC (Jan. 9-11), the Western Extravaganza (March 5-7), and the Hawaiian Luau (TBA). The lodge plans to serve cheerfully over the next year not only to the council during fellowships and service days, but also to the community with lodge participation in an off-camp service activity. Echockotee is also preparing Camp Shands to host the 2003 S-4S Section Seminars.

The new leaders of the lodge were trained at Echockotee's LLD on Aug. 23. We look forward to a productive year. We hope to see you and your lodge at Section Seminars. Check out our updated information on www.echockotee.org.

Chad J. Fralick
Echockotee Lodge Chief

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237

Our Lodge had a year of reorganization and positive growth. As most of our older youth Brothers are now away at college, it's time the newer Brothers stepped in and assumed the leadership of the Lodge. Aal-Pa-Tah has witnessed tremendous growth in weekend attendance, an enthusiastic and promising class of newly inducted Arrowmen, and a burst of innovative exciting programming throughout the Lodge. Our Lodge was represented at this August's Indian Summer and was staffed by four of our very own Gators! For all of those eager to know, Section Conference planning is (and has been) in full swing and we have a solid, explosive program for the entire Section to enjoy! Hope to see everyone in April at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Jupiter, Florida, for the **2004 S-4S Section Conference!**

In Witahemui,
Travis Sheehan
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief 2002-2004

Around the Section

Semialachee Lodge 265

Semialachee lodge has started another year with a bang. We brought more than 60 new members into our brotherhood at our successful Ordeal in August. We also held our Lodge elections. Congratulations to Rory Coughlin, Vice-Chief of Programs; Kevin Yon, Vice-Chief of Inductions; Josh Goodman, Secretary; Kevin Walther, Treasurer; and Lane Branch, Historian.

This year, Semialachee Lodge is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Chances are you have already celebrated with us by purchasing merchandise commemorating this occasion. That was just the beginning. The Lodge has been planning for months to make this celebration, which will be in December, one that will be remembered for the next 60 years. There is so much rich history in our Lodge making this anniversary very special. I look forward to celebrating 60 years of service in Semialachee Lodge and I also look forward to another successful Semialachee year!

Yours in Brotherhood,
Daniel A. McMillan
Semialachee Lodge chief

O-Shot-Caw Lodge 265

Hey Section S-4S! It's good to hear from everyone again. How is everyone doing? Anyway, O-Shot-Caw is doing well. We are just starting the 2003-2004 lodge year, and things seem to be going smoothly thus far.

As many of you know, Indian Summer, a national OA event, was held over the summer from July 31 – August 4 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina. At Indian Summer, Arrowmen from all of the U.S. took an active part in learning about the Native American and Induction aspects of the Order of the Arrow. I am proud to say that O-Shot-Caw brought the largest contingent of sixteen youth and four adults to the national event. Okay, we might not have been the best or quietest roommates, but our lodge spirit sure did shine at Indian Summer – even if it was at one o'clock in the morning. I believe that our Arrowmen got the most out of their experiences at Indian Summer.

A lot of things will be coming up in these next few months for O-Shot-Caw. The Fall Ordeal, which is our first lodge event, will be held from October 10-12, 2003 at one of our council camps named Camp Seminole. There, Ordeal Candidates and Arrowmen will take part in many service projects that will benefit Camp Seminole. O-Shot-Caw will also be in attendance at the National Leadership Seminars in Haines City, Florida, and at the Section Seminars.

One of our lodge programs, known as the Joseph Aaron Abbott Campership Fund (JAACF), helps send underprivileged Scouts to scout camp. The Haunted Forest, a one night fundraiser, was established as a way to raise money for the JAACF. Last year, the Haunted Forest managed to raise over $17,000, which allowed hundreds of underprivileged young men to attend scout camp. The Haunted Forest can be described just by the way that it is written. At Camp Seminole, each chapter sets up a scary display through a forest trail. There, Cub Scouts, friends, family, and other Boy Scouts walk the trail and get scared out of their minds. I guess you could call it a haunted mansion in the forest. We raise money though concessions, games, and Haunted Forest admissions. Our Haunted Forest will be held on October 25th at Camp Seminole.

That's all I have for now, and I'll see you at the Section Seminars!

Bound in brotherhood,
Brian Polino
Lodge Chief

Tipisa Lodge 326

The upcoming months will be a time of fellowship and friendship, and it also marks the turning point for our focus as a lodge. Presently we are shifting into high gear for two huge parts of our chapter program. The Nimat Program which focuses on the education and inspiration of our brotherhood candidates, and our 15-chapter Ordeal season which is uncomparable to any other lodge in our Section. The Nimat Program has been developed and put into action.

Upcoming months will prove to be a test for all of our chapter leaders. They are able to reach out to the newest brothers in our lodge through education, while inspiring them to seal their membership. Our shift in focus will strengthen the ties of Brotherhood, building strong chapter communities one Brother at a time.

"Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit--to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good Scout Camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness, are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life. Let us realize the significance of the Order in the Unit-- for the unit is our best hope in Scouting." I don't know when Dr. E. Urner Goodman said or wrote this passage, but I know that he is right. Giving of ourselves to the units needs to be a strong urging in the back of our minds.

We are fulfilling the Obligation with service to our units, strengthening the ties of Brotherhood, and of course having a good time doing it. In Tipisa we have seen the true purpose of the Order of the Arrow.

Yours in Service,
Chris Hester
Tipisa Lodge Chief

Timuquan Lodge 340

Timuquan Lodge is continuing to push on in a successful year thanks to the hard work of the Lodge Executive Board and the Lodge Executive Committee. Although the Lodge year is more than half over, the Arrowmen of Timuquan Lodge have much to look forward to for the upcoming Lodge events.

I am glad to say that the lodge is well on its way of accomplishing National Quality Lodge status again for the umpteenth year in a row. I am also happy to recognize those seven lodge members who journeyed to Asheville, North Carolina, with the lodge contingent to Indian Summer.

A lot has gone on through the summer months, from most of the LEC working at summer camp; to changes to the Lodge Operations Guide; from Ordeal Ceremonies to a Broken Arrow Ceremony. All in all, these things have worked to make this lodge stronger. I look forward to helping Timuquan Lodge continue to be a strong lodge in this Section, and hope to have a strong showing at both the upcoming Section Seminars and Section Conference.

In Service,
D.J. Pollock
Timuquan Lodge Chief

Osceola Lodge 584

At Osceola Lodge's Summer Fellowship at Camp Miles, which serves as our make-up Ordeal following the Spring Ordeal weekend, we inducted 23 new Ordeal candidates and 6 members sealed the ties of Brotherhood. The lodge worked on service projects around camp, including repairs on the chickee hut, picnic tables, the waterfront tower, and the COPE tower. In the afternoon, Osceola Lodge had its first ever Lodge Sink-A-Thon based on the annual Section Sink-A-Thon at Section Conference. Chiefs and Advisors paired up for the maritime marathon. In the end, the Lodge Chief and Lodge Advisor emerged victorious, followed by Tukosee Mathla Chapter in second, Yaha Hajo Chapter in third, and Oscen Tustenuggee Chapter in fourth place. We plan to repeat the event at all major lodge weekends and create a fun and exciting lodge tradition.

Two of Osceola Lodge's chapters—Oscen Tustenuggee and Yaha Hajo chapters—gathered at Camp Flying Eagle on July 12 for a joint chapter workday. Arrowmen relocated a damaged footbridge at the Ceremonial Grounds and delivered cinder blocks for a future project to reinforce a bridge at the back of camp. The remaining two chapters—Tukosee Mathla and Hvlpatah Tastanagi chapters—met at Camp Miles on August 9 for their own joint workday. The chapters worked to repair chickee huts at the Ceremonial Grounds, but inclement weather cut short the workday.

We're currently preparing for Unit Elections this fall, as well as looking forward to our 35th anniversary celebration at our Busk/Banquet in December. We'll see you all at Section Seminars 2003, where OSCEOLA'S GONNA RISE ABOVE!

Yours in Brotherhood,
Drew Keller
2003 Osceola Lodge Chief

Calendar of Events

October

17-19 National Leadership Seminars
FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida

November

14-16 Section S-4S Seminars and Council of Chiefs
Camp Shands, Baden-Powell Scout Reservation, Melrose, Florida

2004

March

7-13 Philbreak (Session 1), Philmont, New Mexico
14-20 Philbreak (Session 2), Philmont, New Mexico
21-27 Philbreak (Session 3), Philmont, New Mexico

April

16-18 Section S-4S Conference
Camp Tanah Keeta, Tequesta, Florida

June-July

Philmont OA Trail Crew, New Mexico
OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage, Minnesota

July-August

National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa (July 31-Aug 5)

In the Next Edition...

In the winter edition of *The Sounds of the Section,* look for the following articles:

- Highlights of 2003 Section S-4S Seminars
- 2004 Section S-4S Conference Details
- National OA High Adventure Opportunities
- Around the Section - Lodge Reports

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