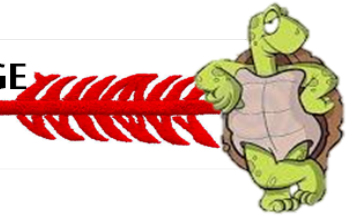


# TORTOISE TALES



## WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council  
1841 Norman Drive  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



### 2013 No. 2 (November)

What an incredible few months it has been for Withlacoochee Lodge. After many Arrowmen came back from 2013 Jamboree at SBR, we had our summer fellowship weekend at Camp Osborn. Over 80 Arrowmen joined us for a weekend of great fun. We learned about Native American regalia and dancing, worked on remodeling the "Burrow", attended some awesome training sessions, and enjoyed fellowship and great food. Thank you to all who supported our first lodge event. Later in August, the Lodge Staff Adviser and two Withlacoochee Lodge brothers attended the Summer Leadership Seminar hosted by Section 9. Withlacoochee Lodge was well represented at our Service Days at Camp Patten and Camp Osborn. A special thanks to the Arrowmen of Crooked River and Ichauway Chapters for hosting these very successful events. Two of our chapters performed service projects as part of the Southern Region Day of Service. The Blackwater Chapter supported the Marching Band Jamboree in Worth County on September 28<sup>th</sup> and the Ichauway Chapter performed a service project for Chehaw Wild Animal Park on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Chapter election teams and troop OA reps assisted with unit elections and we had an outstanding Callout ceremony at Camp Patten during the council camporee. The lodge membership voted to approve the lodge by-laws during our meeting at the camporee. We'll have lodge t-shirts for sale at the Fall Ordeal/Fellowship (doing our best). We delivered our Lodge Rock and Lodge Legacy Panel image to the OA national in preparation for celebrating the Order's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 2015 NOAC. We even gained national recognition with a featured article in the *OA News You Can Use* on the Ichauway Chapter service project and an article on our new lodge in this month's *OA National Bulletin*. We all have reason to be proud of how well we are working together, supporting South Georgia Council, and working to achieve the purpose of the Order of the Arrow.



### PATCHES PATCHES PATCHES

Do you have an idea for a patch design? Are you artistically inclined? Do you have a hidden talent you haven't told us about? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then put pen to paper and design us some patches. We are always looking for new designs for future lodge flaps, the 2015 NOAC contingent flap, and event patch sets for the next few years. Remember that all designs must include our lodge name, our totem, red OA arrow or arrowhead, and the BSA fleur-de-lis. Please submit your designs through your chapter adviser to the lodge adviser for consideration by the Lodge Executive Committee.

Withlacoochee Lodge membership dues are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at any lodge event, at either SGC Service Center, or through the mail by sending a check to the SGC Valdosta Service Center. Make checks payable to "South Georgia Council-OA Dues". OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.

### STAY CONNECTED WITH WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE



### OA HIGH ADVENTURE

There is no better time to attend an Order of the Arrow High Adventure than 2014 because there are no national events like Jamboree, Indian Summer, or NOAC. High Adventure Programs are offered especially for Arrowmen at Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base, Summit Bechtel Reserve, and Philmont Scout Ranch. Dates and applications are available at <http://adventure.aa-bsa.org>

**Don't delay – Do it today!**

## LODGE OFFICER ELECTIONS

Withlacoochee Lodge will hold lodge officer elections during the lodge meeting on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Camp Osborn after the evening meal. The positions are: Lodge Chief, Vice Chief of Programs, Vice Chief of Administration, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. A candidate for office must meet the following requirements:

- ✦ Have been inducted or transferred into Withlacoochee Lodge at least six months prior to the election date.
- ✦ Not be elected to or hold more than one office at a time.
- ✦ Be currently registered with a unit chartered by South Georgia Council and have his 2013 lodge dues paid.
- ✦ Will not reach his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday during the scheduled term of office.
- ✦ Be present at the December lodge meeting unless he makes specific prior arrangements with the lodge adviser.
- ✦ Meet with the lodge adviser to review the duties and responsibilities of the desired position.
- ✦ Provide the Lodge Adviser a letter from his unit leader indicating that a Scoutmaster's Conference has been held to discuss the Scout's role within the unit and how that responsibility will be met during the term of lodge office. Further, that the candidate has the approval of the unit leader to run for office.
- ✦ Acknowledges attending the Lodge Executive Committee at all regularly scheduled meetings and the January LLD.



Lodge officer elections will be conducted in accordance with the Withlacoochee Lodge By-Laws. The Withlacoochee Lodge By-laws are available on the Withlacoochee Lodge Facebook Page. Chapter officer elections will be conducted immediately following the lodge meeting.

This dedicated Arrowman recently completed the OA National Leadership Seminar (NLS) at Camp Kinard, SC. There are 3 NLS sessions offered in 2014:

- Feb 28-Mar 2 in Antioch, TN
- Apr 11-13 in Little Rock, AR
- Nov 7-9 in Fairhope, AL

If you want to know about NLS, just ask this guy and he'll tell you all about it!



### \*\* ATTENTION ORDEAL MEMBERS \*\*

Becoming a Brotherhood member marks the completion of a member's induction into the Order of the Arrow. If you have been an Ordeal member for more than ten months, you are eligible to take the next step and become a Brotherhood member of Withlacoochee Lodge. The requirements to seal your membership can be found in the *OA Handbook* under **THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**. The next opportunity to become a Brotherhood member will be at the Fall Fellowship Weekend, December 6-8, 2013 at Camp Osborn.

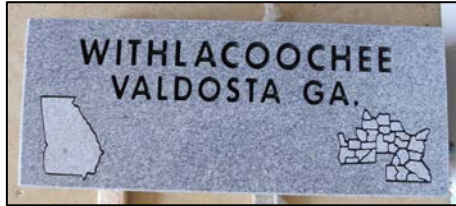
## IT'S "T" TIME !!

At the November 8<sup>th</sup> lodge meeting, members voted to use lodge funds to purchase Lodge T-Shirts. We will do our best to have the T-Shirts available at the Fall Ordeal in December at Camp Osborn and certainly at the Winter Banquet in January 2014 at Camp Patten. Cost per T-Shirt is: \$ 12.00. You may pay with cash or a personal check made out to: "South Georgia Council-OA".



## Order of the Arrow Centennial Events

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Project is underway! Part of the project includes each lodge sending in a “lodge rock” which will become part of the Brotherhood fireplace at NOAC 2015. Another part of the project is that each lodge design a “legacy panel” painted with a depiction of the lodge’s legacy. Other parts of the project include a lodge history book, centennial campfire at NOAC 2015, a national visitation program, and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary OA flap. The celebration will culminate at NOAC 2015. Pictured below are the Withlacoochee Lodge Rock and Legacy Panel.



### WITHLACOOCHEE CEREMONY TEAM

Participating in lodge ceremonies can be the most meaningful and rewarding way to contribute to the lodge and serve your fellow Arrowmen. You will have a chance to meet and work with outstanding young Arrowmen, gain a deeper understanding of our Order’s customs and traditions, and learn about Native American culture and craft. If you are interested in joining the lodge ceremony team, please contact Mr. Dave Patterson, Withlacoochee Lodge Ceremony Team Adviser, at: [davepattersonbsa@gmail.com](mailto:davepattersonbsa@gmail.com)



The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is just around the corner. This will truly be a once in a lifetime experience for Arrowmen as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 10,000 of our brothers from across the U.S. for 6 days at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Attending Arrowmen will get a special edition red sash. These sashes will differ from those currently worn in that the colors will be reversed, with a white arrow emblazoned on a red sash. Our lodge is looking for an Arrowmen to serve as the NOAC Chairman to help organize our contingent and plan our trip. This Arrowman will have a chance to work with one of the best Scoutmasters in our council, and five times Jamboree contingent leader, Mr. Mike Johnson. Please contact Mr. Mike at [mike@srjarchitects.com](mailto:mike@srjarchitects.com) for more information.



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Camp Osborn



## Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Awards

Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Awards can be bestowed by any chartered lodge of the Order of the Arrow upon units in their council that meet the requirements of the Award. The criteria of the OA *Unit of Excellence Award* are:

- ✦ **Leadership:** Every six months ensure that the SPL appoints or reappoints one Scout to serve as Troop Representative and the Scoutmaster appoints or reappoints one adult (assistant Scoutmaster) to serve as Troop OA Representative Adviser. Feature an annual presentation at a Court of Honor on the Order of the Arrow with a focus on the accomplishments of unit members.
- ✦ **Participation:** At least 50% of unit OA members attend at least one lodge event other than their Ordeal, and at least one unit OA member attends 100% of full lodge events.
- ✦ **Elections:** Hold an election and have 100% of elected Scouts complete the Ordeal.
- ✦ **Planning:** Review the lodge calendar with the Patrol Leader's Council during annual troop program planning and schedule unit events so that 100% of troop programs do not overlap with any full lodge events.
- ✦ **Conversion:** At least 30% of eligible troop members seal their membership in the Order of the Arrow by converting to Brotherhood.

Separate recognition is available for the Troop Representative, Troop OA Representative Adviser, and Scoutmaster. Please email Mr. Dale Wilson, Associate Lodge Adviser for Programs, at: [d.a.wilson@netzero.net](mailto:d.a.wilson@netzero.net), for more information.



Nearly all Order of the Arrow traditions originate from Native American culture.

Many lodges respectfully honor these traditions by forming dance and drum teams. If you are interested in learning more about

Native American culture, we invite you to join the Withlacoochee Lodge dance and drum team.

Please contact Mr. Herschel Collins at:

[lcems44@yahoo.com](mailto:lcems44@yahoo.com) for more information.

### WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE HAS:

331 Members. 194 are youth. 137 are Adults.

152 are Ordeal Members

119 are Brotherhood Members

60 are Vigil Honor Members

as of: 22 Nov 13

***“In the Order each member is important, for what each one does counts in establishing the Order’s success.”***

**E. Urner Goodman**



Be sure to get your Withlacoochee Lodge Pin at the Lodge Winter Banquet, Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Camp Patten. Pins are \$5.00 each. Proceeds will benefit the great South Georgia Council.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE FUTURE WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
December 6-8	Lodge Fall Fellowship/Ordeal	Camp Osborn
January 10-11	Section SR-9 Council of Chiefs	TBD
January 17-19	Lodge Banquet/LLD	Camp Patten
February 14-16	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn
March 7-9	Lodge Spring Fellowship/Ordeal	Camp Patten
April 25-27	Section SR-9 Conclave	Moundville, AL