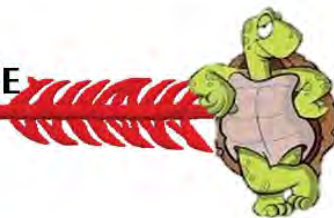


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2014 No. 4 (September)

Withlacoochee Lodge held its summer fellowship at Camp Osborn August 15-17, 2014 and it certainly was a memorable weekend. Besides the great food from the Cook Team, learning about all the events planned for next year's OA centennial celebration, and the tolerable summer weather, it was a special weekend any way you look at it. The lodge held a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Burrow which was attended by several members of the South Georgia Council Board as well as representatives from the companies that donated materials and funds to renovate the building. On Sunday morning, the Lodge Executive Committee also held its first meeting in the Burrow which proved to be a great facility for the lodge. The Ceremony Team performed the new Brotherhood Ceremony for the first time in our lodge's history and three of our Ordeal members completed the final stage of their induction by achieving Brotherhood membership. Congratulations to Andrew Deaver, William Wingertsahn, and Stephen Waddell for sealing their membership in the Order of the Arrow. We also had a very special guest join us for the weekend. The Gopher Tortoise in the adjacent photo was crossing Ranger Eric's yard around 5:30 PM on Friday night as if he was showing up for the weekend. We checked the tortoise in, verified he paid his 2014 lodge dues, checked his annual BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, found him a place to sleep, and gave him his event patch. Our special lodge totem appeared to enjoy the time he spent with us. He has a copy of our lodge event schedule in his burrow and promised to join us again at another event in the near future.



Gopher tortoises are known for their digging ability. Gopher tortoises spend most of their time in long burrows, up to 48 feet in length and 9.8 feet deep. In these burrows, the tortoises are protected from summer heat, winter cold, fire, and predators. Except during breeding season, gopher tortoises are solitary animals. Within their range they dig several burrows. Each gopher tortoise needs about 4 acres to live.

Arrowman Service Award

Members of the Order of the Arrow will soon be able to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary by working to complete the Arrowman Service Award. This award, which some are referring to as "the sash patch," will be recognized as one of the few patches that have ever been approved by the national committee to be worn on one's Order of the Arrow sash. The purposes of the ASA are to encourage Arrowmen to recommit themselves to the ideals of the Order, strengthen their commitments to their local councils, and take part in the 100th anniversary events. The award will have 3 categories of criteria with various requirements that Arrowmen can complete. These include components on personal growth, service to Scouting, and participation in the centennial celebration. The ASA's development has been similar to previous awards created for significant anniversaries of the Order. During the 60th anniversary, Arrowmen could earn the Bicentennial Award. The Order's history website provides more information on the details of past awards, and helps to give an idea of what the 100th anniversary award will be like. Members can begin working on the Arrowman Service Award right now and Arrowmen can continue working towards its completion through December 31st, 2015. Arrowmen can fill out a requirement card that is available for download on oa-bsa.org, withlacoocheelodge.org, or at any lodge event. After the lodge adviser has approved the completion of the ASA requirements, the Arrowman will receive a patch to recognize the Arrowman's recommitted to our three fundamental principles.



"Never hold resentments for the person who tells you what you need to hear; count them among your truest, most caring, and valuable friends."
- Mike Norton, *Just Another War Story*



The National Order of the Arrow Conference is less than a year away. NOAC will be August 3-8, 2015 at Michigan State University. We plan on taking 30 Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen to this historic event. Registration forms are on the lodge website and Facebook page. See any lodge officer for more information and learn how you can be part of the adventure!



BOY SCOUT PATCH HOBBY

by Mr. David Vaughn

I have been trading patches for 55 years. I get just as excited to go to a NOAC or conclave or jamboree as I did as a youth. It is just so much fun to me to take a handful of patches and see all the neat items you can come up with by the end of the day. It's a good way to make new friends and have a common interest together. My longest and dearest friends in my 68 years have been patch traders.

Patches are the best souvenir I can think of to bring home from an event. You can wear them on your uniform, put them on a jacket or blanket, mount them in a book, or even put them on a wall in your room. They are always nice to look at and bring back memories of the event years later. The best part of all is if you get tired of them you can just go off and trade them at your next event. Many times they are more valuable later.

If you are worried about trading follow these guidelines. First use your common sense. If you like what you are getting and you don't mind giving up the one you traded, then it was probably a good trade. Start off with traders that will trade 1 for 1. That's easy and no one gets taken. Patches do vary in value based on appearance, how many were made and restrictions. You will get a feel for that as your trading experience grows. Just don't get in a hurry. If you make a bad trade, just learn from it next time. Everyone has gone through a few bad trades, but also through many more good trades.

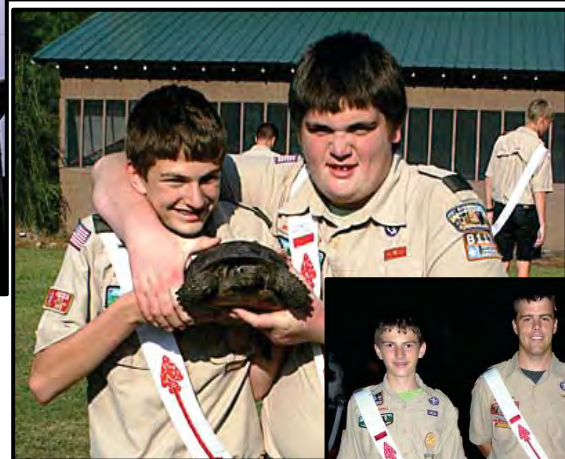
Patch trading / collecting is a great hobby and so much fun. Start acquiring extra patches now to be ready for trading at the April conclave and especially at the 2015 NOAC. Trading at the NOAC is 10 times better than trading at the conclave. So be saving up extra patches and don't forget to bring them when you come.



Withlacoochee Lodge Annual Photograph
Summer Fellowship, Camp Osborn
August 16th, 2014



2014
Summer
Fellowship



Camp
Osborn



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

August - September	Unit Elections	Units
September 13	Camp Osborn Service Day (Ichauway Chapter hosts event)	Camp Osborn
September 26-28	South Georgia Council Camporee OA-Only Cracker Barrel on Friday night. Ordeal Call-Out Ceremony Saturday PM at Campfire	Marine Corps Logistics Base
October 11	Camp Patten Service Day (Crooked River Chapter hosts event)	Camp Patten
November 7-9	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Camp Beckwith Fairhope, AL
November 14-16	Lodge Fall Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Osborn
December 5-6	Lodge Vigil Induction Night	Camp Osborn
January 9-10, 2015	Lodge Banquet/LLD (Blackwater Chapter hosts banquet) LLD in conjunction w/ Council's University of Scouting	FUMC Tifton / T62 Scout Hut (LLD)
Jan 30-1 Feb 2015	Section Winter Activities Gathering (SWAG) (mini-Conclave focusing on ceremonies, dance, drum. Section CoC.	Camp Comer Mentone, AL
February 6-8, 2015	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn
March 6-8, 2015	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten
April 24-26, 2015	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Sidney Dew, Waguli Lodge
August 3-8, 2015 (travel 2-9 Aug)	National Order of the Arrow Conference	Michigan State University E. Lansing, MI
August 21-23, 2015	Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood	Camp Osborn



The Cedar tree as stood at the SW corner of the Camp Osborn OA Ceremony Ring since the ring was built in 1984. For 30 years it served as the place to gather torches, candles, and other items for the ceremonies. But it is now dying. Camp Ranger and Vigil Honor Brother Eric Ginter will cut the tree down this fall. The wood will be saved and we will take some of the wood with us to NOAC 2015 in our lodge crate to contribute to the Brotherhood Fire. We will also use some of the wood for the lodge's 2015 Ordeal candidates to carve their arrows during their Ordeal as part of our special OA centennial celebration. We will miss the tree but it will remain part of our memories and a unique legacy for Arrowmen inducted in 2015.

GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

- ✦ You'll get a brand new OA sash to show others of your perseverance.
- ✦ Contribute to the lodge's Journey to Excellence goal.
- ✦ Create an indelible memory when we gather as brothers.
- ✦ Accept responsibility for maintaining the *fire of cheerful service*.
- ✦ Learn what can happen when you apply the Admonition.
- ✦ Increase your knowledge of what it means to be a servant leader.
- ✦ Learn more about the customs and traditions of the OA.
- ✦ Fulfill a requirement to earn the 2015 Arrowman Service Award.
- ✦ Inspire you on how you can provide better service to Scouting.
- ✦ Evaluate your service to your troop while an Ordeal member.
- ✦ Complete the final step of your induction into the Order of the Arrow.



LODGE DUES



Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge is \$10.00. You may pay your dues at the SGC Albany 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.

"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Withlacoochee Lodge Officer Elections

Elections for Chief, Vice-Chief of Program, Vice-Chief of Administration, Secretary and Treasurer will be conducted on Sunday morning November 16th at our Fall Fellowship and Ordeal at Camp Osborn. Arrowmen desiring to serve as a Lodge Officer must meet the mandatory eligibility requirements as stated in the current printing of the Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers as follows:

- Be registered in Scouting, in the council that charters the lodge.
- Be a member in good standing in the lodge.
- Be younger than 21 for the entire term of service.

All nominees shall have the willingness to fulfill the duties of the position and attend the Lodge Executive Committee meetings.

No experience is necessary.

All nominees must agree to attend the next Lodge Leadership Development course near the start of their term of service and consider attending the next available National Leadership Seminar. All candidates must meet individually with the Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser prior to nomination to ensure he meets the eligibility requirements and discuss responsibilities and expectations of that office.

The candidate must get the approval of the Lodge Adviser in order to run for office. Candidates should have held a conference with their Unit Leader to discuss the duties and obligations of the Arrowman to their unit and the duties and responsibilities of the Lodge Office and review potential conflicts as well as benefits to the unit.

(Serving as a lodge officer is a great opportunity for you to apply what you learned at NYLT!!)

GET
YOUR
LODGE
T-SHIRT



Withlacoochee Lodge T-Shirts will be available at both camp service days, the council camporee, Fall Ordeal, and the Winter Banquet in January 2015. Cost per T-Shirt is: \$ 12.00. You may pay with cash or a personal check made out to: "South Georgia Council".

SECTION SR-9 ANNOUNCES "SWAG"

Section SR-9 will host a Section Winter Activities Gathering or SWAG January 30-February 1, 2015 at Camp Cromer, in Mentone Alabama, Greater Alabama Council. All Arrowmen invited to attend. Cost is \$23.00 per Arrowmen and includes four meals, cracker barrels, and a patch. SWAG is a centennial event for Section SR-9 and will focus on training for ceremony teams, drum teams, and dance teams. In fact, the host lodge, Coosa will have full POW-WOW on Friday night. SWAG will offer "make and take" sessions for Arrowmen to start or add to their regalia. The SR-9 Council of Chiefs to finalize planning for the 2015 Conclave will also be held during SWAG. Registration forms for this special section SR-9 event will be published in the near future.



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE HISTORY

Vigil Honor member Mr. J. Michael Greene recently completed the Withlacoochee Lodge history book. Each lodge in the country was asked to document their lodge history and send it to the National OA Committee as part of the Order of the Arrow's centennial celebration. The Withlacoochee Lodge History contains the histories of the two predecessor lodge and is detailed and comprehensive - very likely among the best lodge histories in the OA. The Withlacoochee Lodge history is available on our website: withlacoocheelodge.org. Please thank Mr. Greene for his hard work and dedication as our lodge historian.

WHERE DID YOU GO? –Have you moved? Changed your email address? Changed telephone numbers? If so, please send an email to: oalm.admin@withlacoochee.org so we can find you.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." - Robert Louis Stevenson

