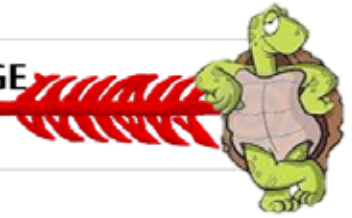


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2014 No. 5 (December)

A very special thank you to the Arrowmen who attended the Withlacoochee Lodge Fall Fellowship/Ordeal weekend 14-16 November, 2014 at Camp Osborn. We inducted 36 new Ordeal members and 29 of our brothers completed their induction process by achieving Brotherhood membership. The lodge cook team exceeded our expectations and provided more than enough great tasting food. Arrowmen and candidates completed several meaningful projects to improve the Camp Osborn facilities, the ceremony team performed with distinction, and everyone enjoyed the cool, refreshing weather. We made full use of the newly-remodeled Burrow by using it for the Brotherhood Seminar and New Member Orientation. Our guests from Section SR-9 and Coosa Lodge were impressed by our warm fellowship, excellent programs, and the strong bond of brotherhood that exists in our lodge. We have a lot to be proud of. You are members of a very special organization.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Announcing our 2015 Lodge Officers:

Chief – Noah Phillips

Vice Chief of Programs – Joshua Chappell

Vice Chief of Administration – Caleb Phillips

Secretary – Matthew Stokes

Treasurer – John Crowder

Please give these Arrowmen your loyalty and support as they lead our lodge during a very exciting year celebrating the 100th year anniversary of the Order of the Arrow!

National Leadership Seminar (NLS) for youth and National Lodge Adviser Training (NLATS) for adults are the highest level of training available to Arrowmen. The next courses are February 13-15, 2015 in Leesburg, FL. These courses have never been offered so close to our council. Cost for each course is \$210.00.

Please contact Associate Lodge Adviser

Mr. Dale Wilson to arrange transportation.

Details on each course and registration information can be found at

<http://southern.aa-bsa.org>
under Programs



SWAG

Our Section is hosting Section Winter Activities Gathering or in short, SWAG. The event will be American Indian Activity focused and will offer Arrowmen a hands-on approach to the American Indian aspects of our Order. The event will feature a program that offers "make and take" style training classes as well as instructional classes. The winter Council of Chiefs meeting will be held at SWAG during the day on Saturday. The event will be on January 30 - February 1 at Camp Comer in Mentone, AL, with a cost of \$23 per participant plus transportation. Registration forms are available on the lodge website.

withlacoocheelodge.org



Arrowmen can celebrate the OA's 100th anniversary right now by working to complete the Arrowman Service Award (ASA). This award, or "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 OA 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. Members can begin working on the Arrowman Service Award right now and Arrowmen can continue working towards its completion through December 31st, 2015.

For all things OA: www.aa-bsa.org
Southern Region: <http://southern.aa-bsa.org/>
Section SR-9: www.sr-9.org
NOAC 2015: <http://event.aa-bsa.org/events/n2015/>



At the time of this writing, our NOAC contingent appears full. Interested youth Arrowmen should send in their registration to get on the waiting list in case registered Arrowmen should cancel.

Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge is \$10.00. You may pay your dues at either South Georgia Council Service Center or through the mail by sending a check to the South Georgia Council 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.


CONCLAVE 2015: Each year the 11 lodges in our section gather for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and training. The event is called CONCLAVE and it is the most fun an Arrowman can have short of a national OA event. Activities include formal training, Native American dance and drum competitions, ceremony team competitions, sports competitions, patch trading, and spectacular campfire shows. The 2015 Conclave will be hosted by Waguli Lodge and at Camp Sidney Dew near Rome, Georgia April 24-26, 2015. Cost is \$38.00 plus a few dollars for the bus transportation. Mark your calendar now so you can attend this exciting event with Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen.

**** Withlacoochee Lodge 2014-2015 Event Calendar ****


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
February 13-15, 2015	National Leadership Seminar & National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, FL
March 6-8, 2015	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten
April 11-12, 2015	Native American Festival (not a lodge event but well worth the visit)	Chehaw Park, Albany, GA
April 24-26, 2015	Section SR9 Conclave hosted by Waguli Lodge	Camp Sidney Dew, Rome, GA
Summer 2015	ArrowTour – (we will do our best to visit the nearest ArrowTour stop)	TBD
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

Withlacoochee Lodge Winter Banquet - Please make plans to join us at our annual Winter Banquet 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 10, 2015 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall, 107 12th St. West. The Social Hall is behind the sanctuary on North Central Avenue. (If you're attending University of Scouting, you'll already be there!) Arrowmen may bring guests. We will install our 2015 lodge officers, recognize our new Vigil Honor members, and enjoy great food and fellowship as we prepare to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Order of the Arrow in 2015. You may register using the 2014-2015 event registration form on the lodge website or the form below.





Special Registration Form for Withlacoochee Lodge Winter Banquet
 Event is 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 10, 2015 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall.
Cost is \$13.00 if received by January 6, 2015, \$15.00 if received after January 6, 2015



One form per person. Arrowmen may bring guests.

Name _____ Phone _____ Unit _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

City _____ Zip _____ BSA ID _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Please pay at a Council Office
or send payment to:

South Georgia Council, BSA
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601

LODGE USE ONLY
_____ Entered into OALM