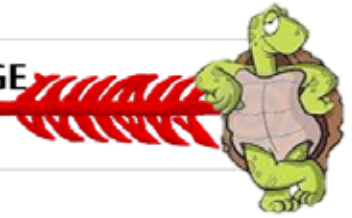


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2015 No. 5 (DECEMBER)

Arrowmen attending the Withlacoochee Lodge Fall Fellowship/Ordeal weekend 13-15 November, 2015 at Camp Osborn experienced the best that the OA has to offer: fun, fellowship, inspirational ceremonies, great food, and camping at a beautiful Scout camp. We inducted 25 new Ordeal members and 4 of our brothers completed their induction process by achieving Brotherhood membership. Arrowmen and candidates worked diligently on projects to maintain and improve the Camp Osborn facilities by: rebuilding four picnic tables, replacing the doors on the Admin building, beautifying the area near Ranger Eric's shop, repairing steps on the A Frame and Doublewide porches, and building steps for the OA storage trailer. The lodge was honored to host the South Georgia Council Wood Badge Staff for lunch and the staff members were certainly impressed by the strong bond of brotherhood that exists in our lodge. The lodge youth leadership offered a very special event to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the Order of the Arrow: the Home Fire Ceremony. Saturday evening after dinner all Arrowmen gathered around a specially prepared lodge fire to which were added a vile of ashes from the Centennial Fire. The Centennial Fire burned in August 2015 at the 100th anniversary conference in East Lansing, Michigan. The fire represented the *spirit* of the Order *in action*, fueled by the cheerful service of every member since it first ignited one hundred years ago. Each member had an opportunity to add a piece of wood to the fire to symbolize service we give to others, and of the warmth and light radiating from our example. The fire illuminated the same Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that has burned brightly for more than one hundred years. Members then received a small vile of ashes from the lodge fire as a token to commemorate the event. The fall fellowship weekend was perhaps the best event ever held by Withlacoochee Lodge and we owe the lodge officers a big THANK YOU! for all their hard work in planning and executing the event. Additional photographs of the weekend are on the lodge website.





Congratulations to our four new Brotherhood members who completed their induction into the Order of the Arrow at our fall fellowship. Brotherhood membership is for Arrowmen who want to reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of the Order. As an Ordeal member, each Arrowman makes a special effort to serve his troop. When a new Arrowman has had time to reflect on and practice the principles taught in the Ordeal, the principles should become part of his daily life. Only then is the Arrowman ready to have revealed a deeper insight to the mysteries of the Order of the Arrow. Brotherhood membership includes a commitment to support the work of the lodge in addition to serving your troop. Ordeal members who believe they are prepared to complete their induction must serve a minimum of 10 months in their troop as an Ordeal member and meet the 5 Challenges of Brotherhood membership found in the Order of the Arrow Handbook.

Arrowmen,

Part of our membership in the Order of the Arrow has to do with serving your fellow Scout. At our most recent event, the Fall Ordeal at Camp Osborn, we had many members who helped the weekend flow smoothly. I'd like to recognize those who gave up their weekend for the new members; the people who volunteered to be Elangomats, Nimats, and the Ordeal Master:

A.J. Graber, Tanner Graber, and Jacob Halbrook served as Elangomats.
 John Kinchens and Jonathan Morey served as Nimats
 Rhett Redshaw was the Ordeal Master.
 Thank you to all of you. We couldn't do it without you!

B. Saul Crumpton
 2015 Inductions Chairman

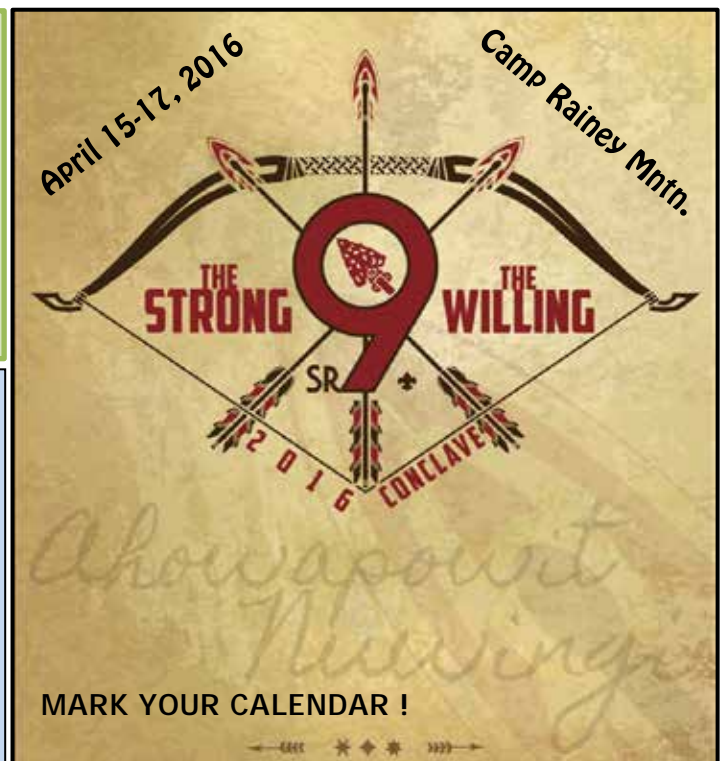
OUR 2016 LODGE OFFICERS

Chief – B. Saul Crumpton
 Vice Chief of Programs – Matthew Stokes
 Vice Chief of Administration – Caleb Phillips
 Secretary – David Stokes, III
 Treasurer – Gabe Merritt

Please take time to congratulate our new lodge officers next time you pass them on the Scouting trail.

“When we get old and experienced enough to know what to do we are generally too old and conservative to do it. This is why youth with new ideas, enthusiasm, courage and less experience sometimes accomplish, according to their elders, the impossible.”

- Waite Phillips





Get your Withlacoochee Lodge Pin. Pins are \$5.00 each. Proceeds will benefit the great South Georgia Council.



Withlacoochee Lodge T-Shirts and pins will be available Winter Banquet in January 2016. Cost per T-Shirt is: \$12.00. You may pay with cash or a personal check made out to: *"South Georgia Council"*.



Don't miss this special event !

Section SR-9 will host Indian Winter January 8-10, 2016 at Camp Thunder, in Molena, Georgia, Flint River Council. All Arrowmen are invited to attend. Cost is \$25.00 per Arrowmen and includes four meals, cracker barrels, and a patch. Indian Winter provides Arrowmen American Indian Activities and Ceremonies related training sessions. These sessions will focus on providing a base of knowledge to each participant and will be interactive. There will be multiple sessions with "make and take" style training. If you are interested in performing OA ceremonies, Native American dance or drum, or have Indian Lore as a hobby, then this is the place for you. Bus transportation will be provided. The bus schedule will be published at a later date. Bus fare is \$10.00 and can be paid with your registration or in cash at the time of boarding. Bring your current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A and B. Uniform is BSA Field Uniform. Bring your camping gear in case the covered lodging is full. The registration form for this special SR-9 event is attached.

It is no secret that the highest performing troops in South Georgia Council embrace the Order of the Arrow and participate in Withlacoochee Lodge events and programs. Successful Scoutmasters understand the OA makes good Scouts into great Scouts. Seasoned Scoutmasters see that Arrowmen in their troop have superior leadership skills, more proficient outdoor skills, display the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and serve as role models for younger Scouts. Scoutmasters value the Order of the Arrow as a way to keep Scouts in Scouting as they mature. Scoutmasters know that the OA gives their older Scouts a chance to meet and work with other Scouts in our council and develop lifelong friendships. High-performing troops also:

- Have an OA Representative appointed by the SPL. This position counts as a leadership position for advancement.
- Have an OA Troop Representative Adviser appointed by the Scoutmaster.
- Synchronize their troop event calendar with the Withlacoochee Lodge event calendar.
- Hold an annual OA Unit Election and invite OA chapter members to attend and assist with the election.
- Encourage Arrowmen to pay their lodge dues to the troop when the Scout pays his annual BSA membership fee.
- Have Arrowmen who access the Withlacoochee Lodge website at: www.withlacoocheelodge.org
- Follow Withlacoochee Lodge on Facebook.
- Bring their entire troop to camp during OA events so their Arrowmen can participate while their younger Scouts work on Scout skills in their campsite.

Order of the Arrow Lodge Leadership Development



Who: 2016 Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman, Chapter Officers, future youth leaders, any Arrowman.

What: Withlacoochee Lodge Leadership Development

Where: Activity Center, Tifton First United Methodist Church, 115 West 12th St.

When: Friday, 22 January 2016 7:00-10:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Why: To provide lodge youth leaders with the tools, resources, and inspiration to lead Withlacoochee Lodge into the next century

How: We will meet at the Activity Center at 7:00 PM on Friday, 22 January 2016. We will sleep overnight in the Activity Center and have use of the entire facility for formal classes, recreation, and team-building exercises. Uniform is Class A but bring some Class B clothes as well. Bring your personal hygiene stuff, sleeping bag, and ground mat. Showers are available. Cost is: \$10.00 per Arrowman and includes all course material, Friday night cracker barrel, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. You can bring your \$10.00 to the event and pay on Friday. At the conclusion of LLD we'll move to the Social Hall for our annual banquet on Saturday evening. If you're coming to Tifton for University of Scouting or the lodge banquet, why not attend LLD? Call or email, Lodge Chief Noah Phillips at: (229) 343-2135 or scout97@bellsouth.net to confirm your LLD reservation.

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

Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge is \$10.00. OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.

You're Invited!

TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE WINTER BANQUET

Please make plans to join us at our annual Winter Banquet 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 23, 2016 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, or LLD you'll already be there!) Arrowmen may bring guests. We will install our 2016 lodge officers, recognize our new Vigil Honor members, honor our OA Centurions and enjoy great food and fellowship. You may register using the 2015-2016 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 23, 2016 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall

Cost is \$13.00 if received by January 18, 2016, \$15.00 if received after January 18, 2016



Name _____ Phone _____ Unit _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

City _____ Zip _____ BSA ID _____

One form per person. Arrowmen may bring guests.

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

| Date | Event | Location / Information |
|----------------------|---|--|
| January 8-10, 2016 | Section Indian Winter (Attendance goal is 18 WL Arrowmen) | Camp Thunder, Flint River Council (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs) |
| January 22-23, 2016 | Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council University of Scouting | Planned for FUMC Tifton (LLD) (LLD begins Friday PM and continues until Saturday's Banquet. Catered Banquet Saturday PM to install new lodge officers, Founder's Award Recipients, and Vigil Honor members' public recognition. Hosted by Blackwater Chapter, LEC) |
| February 5-7, 2016 | Endurance Ride | Camp Osborn (Lodge supports with trail guides. Fundraiser opportunity) |
| February 11, 2016 | South Ga Council Annual Banquet | TBA (Lodge Chief presents annual review to Council Board. OA Color Guard for banquet) |
| February 26-28, 2016 | National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar | Galveston Sea Base, Galveston, TX (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers) |
| March 4-6, 2016 | Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship | Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) |
| April 1-3, 2016 | National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar | Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers) |
| April 15-17, 2016 | Section SR9 Conclave | Camp Rainey Mtn., Clayton, GA (Mowogo) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.) |
| August 1-5, 2016 | NEXT: A New Century – Lodge officers to be inspired how they can be the driving force in the OA's second century. | Indiana University, Bloomington, IN Lodge Chief and two additional youth Lodge Adviser and one additional adviser |
| August 12-14, 2016 | Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood | TBA Team Building, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony Saturday PM, LEC Sunday AM |
| November 11-13, 2016 | National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar | Shocco Springs Conf. Center, Anniston, AL (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers) |
| April 21-23, 2017 | Section SR9 Conclave | Camp Lumpkin (Chattahoochee) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.) |
| April, 2018 | Section SR9 Conclave | TBD (Withlacochee). Yes, this is our opportunity to host our first Conclave! |

OA Grace

*“For night alone that rests our thought,
For quiet dawn that lights our trail,
For evening fire that warms and cheers,
For each repast that fuels our work,
We give thanks, O Lord.”*



Raffle Items Needed

Withlacochee Lodge is looking for items to include in a raffle to be held at our winter banquet in Tifton January 23, 2016. Items such as OA patches, Scouting memorabilia, new or lightly used camping equipment will be raffled in order to raise funds to support our 2016 lodge programs. If you would like to donate items for the raffle, please contact Vigil Honor Mr. Tim Griggs at (229) 947-1973.

“One of the most surprising compensations of life is that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.” – J. Pearson Webster



January 8-10, 2016 • CAMP THUNDER • SR-9



WITHLACOOCHEE

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Who: | All Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen |
| What: | Section SR9 Indian Winter |
| Where: | Camp Thunder, Molena, Georgia |
| When: | January 8-10, 2016 |
| Why: | Indian Winter is a Section SR9 event that provides Arrowmen American Indian Activities and Ceremonies related training sessions. These sessions will focus on providing a base of knowledge to each participant and will be interactive. There will be multiple sessions with "make and take" style training. If you are interested in performing OA ceremonies, Native American dance or drum, or Indian Lore as a hobby, then this is the place for you. |
| How: | <p>a. Print clearly and use one form per person.</p> <p>b. Return this form and your \$25.00 event fee to either Scout Office by Monday, 14 December 2015. (\$30.00 after 14 Dec 15) Registration fees are non-refundable or transferable after 14 December 2015.</p> <p>c. Bus transportation will be provided. The bus schedule will be published at a later date. Bus fare is \$10.00 and can be paid with your registration or in cash at the time of boarding.</p> <p>d. Bring your current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A and B</p> <p>e. Uniform is BSA Field Uniform. Bring your camping gear in case the covered lodging is full.</p> <p>f. Your 2016 dues must be paid to attend Indian Winter.</p> |

Name _____ Phone* _____ Unit* _____

Address* _____ Date of Birth* _____

City* _____ Zip* _____ BSA ID* _____

E-Mail* _____ Honor* (circle one) **Ordeal** **Brotherhood** **Vigil**

*Since this information is in the LodgeMaster database, only fill out if there has been a recent change.

Any dietary restrictions or medical needs we should know about?

| Your Payment | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Event Fee \$25.00 | |
| Late fee \$5.00 (if after 14 Dec 15) | |
| Bus Fare \$10.00 | |
| 2016 Lodge Dues \$10.00 | |
| Total Enclosed | |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

South Georgia Council, BSA

Please pay at either Council Office or send payment to:

**1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601**

LODGE USE ONLY:

___ Entered into OALM