

# Gator Tales

www.aal-pa-tah.org



The Official Publication of Aal-Pa-Tah #237 Council 85

May 2013



## Summer Pow-wow

My Brothers,

Get ready for a fun and exciting Summer Pow-wow Lodge weekend! We will start a great weekend off with a fun opening campfire on Friday night. We also have great games and training seminars scheduled for the weekend, including some great Chapter Competitions. Our Lodge Dance Team will be hosting a Pow-wow Saturday evening before Dinner.

Lodge elections will also take place this weekend, so come on out to help vote on your new Lodge Officers for your 2013-2014 year. We are also going to be continuing The Best All Around Chapter Competition through a series of competitions and challenges. More information is available on page 4.

All in all, this is going to be an awesome weekend that will include many great games, **service, and chapter competitions and you won't want to miss it.** If you have any questions about the weekend or any suggestions you feel would make a better lodge weekend, feel free to call/text at (772)284-6063, or e-mail me at [pb9496@bellsouth.net](mailto:pb9496@bellsouth.net).  
www.

Paul Brennan



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# Chiefly Speaking



My Brothers,

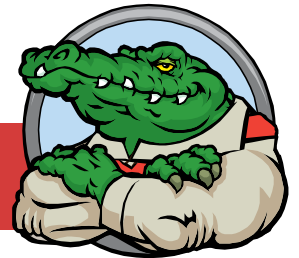
What an amazing year this has been! We have had some awesome events! From an Amazing NOAC, to our memorable Fall Ordeal, to a WILD Winter Fellowship, a spectacular Spring Ordeal, a Fun Section Conference, plus all of the smaller events in between and now, we are gearing up for a Great Summer Pow-wow! Make sure that you register for Summer Pow-wow, it is going to be a fantastic event. Our Weekend Chair, Paul Brennan and our Vice Chief of Program, James Herrera are working diligently to put on a great program for YOU!

**At this time, I'd like to take the time to thank everyone who has helped the Lodge this past year. From the Chapter Chiefs, to the Kitchen Staff, to the Ceremonialists, to the members who dutifully attended events! It is also very important to thank all of the Advisers who give countless hours a week guiding their youth leaders to greatness! You all make Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 what it is. Over these past 4 or so years, efforts have been made to restore Aal-Pa-Tah's greatness and I am honored to say that through all of your hard work and dedication this past year, we have continued this legacy. We are a Lodge. We are an Order. We are a Brotherhood.**

With that said, lodge elections are once again upon us. No matter how the elections turns out, I see nothing but great things for Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge. We are a body of Scouts united to make a difference while having fun. Nothing can ever change that fact. If you plan on running for a Lodge Officer position, please read the Election Policies and Procedures found in this newsletter. It is also imperative that we maintain the high ideals of our Order throughout the election and I will be personally looking out for any un-Scoutlike behavior. I hope everyone had fun this past year, I know that I did! Thank you all for your continued service to our Order, Council, and Scouting as a whole.

WWW,

Mike McLoughlin



## Adviser's Minute

I have a confession. I was once one of THOSE mothers (and Scout leaders) that felt competition was bad. I was all for everyone getting a trophy. Why? I just hated to see anyone lose. But, my opinion today regarding competition has done a 180°. How did I get to this point?

**As I got older, I began to start taking my health seriously. I started to run, but I wasn't too good at it and I was constantly injured. Mark Luttier, our Council President, good friend, and an avid runner, heard about my new "running" hobby. He suggested that I compete in some races, saying that "the only way you get better as a runner is to compete from time to time." Word got out and a Scout in my Troop suggested The Race for The Pies. He noted that it was for beginners. Reluctantly I signed up. I started off feeling pretty good. I expected to be passed by younger people, maybe even some fit older people, but lots of people passed me. Among those was a pregnant lady running with a baby in a stroller! But the icing on the cake was when a 75-ish gray-haired grandma ran past me like a gazelle somewhere around mile 2.5. I barely finished that race and I felt like a bit of a failure. Then I thought "What would it take to get better?" Well, that one dismal race set me on a different path. I have read and studied, talked to people and learned a lot about running – things like cadence, proper breathing, core exercises, and proper form. While I will likely never "win" a race, I have been "winning" on a regular basis, achieving better times, feeling good, and running injury free. The real lessons I learned through this are that it is important to go out of your comfort zone, it is important to be resilient in the face of failure and if we want to get better at something we need to be able to look at failure and use it as a self-assessment opportunity.**

So how does this relate to Scouting? In Scouting we see competition of all sorts - games, patrol competitions, Troop competitions and even elections. In fact, we just came back from Section Conference which is nothing but a whole weekend of competitions! So how can we use competition as a learning tool? First we need to not be afraid to get in the game, run for an office, or enter a competition. **It is important to grow and growth comes from being pushed outside of one's comfort zone. It is important to know that in any competition, some will win and some will not win (aka lose). While it is important to be a good winner, it is equally important to learn how to be a good loser. And in fact, losing is something everyone NEEDS from time to time. It teaches an important life skill – resiliency!!! Don't we all want to be able to cope in life when things don't go our way? Losing at a game, or losing a Troop election teaches us to shake off a loss, and move on. These things prepare us for the real life challenges we may face.**

The most important thing we can take away from competitions is there is something to learn in every loss. Competition gives us an opportunity for honest self-reflection. **For example, if you don't win an election, rather than place blame it is wise to reflect "why was the other candidate selected?" followed up with "what can I do to become a better choice as a leader?"** Being able to self-reflect and make improvements is what makes us better people.

**So, don't be afraid of competition. Use it is a learning tool, a way to grow and learn. Understand that in losing you can truly win!!!**

WWW,

Amanda Pantone



# Officer Reports

## Vice Chief of Program

With my term coming to an end, we still have one last event to hit out of the ball park! So if you haven't registered by now, go ahead and register for the Summer Pow-wow. It will be a weekend full of Chapter competitions, seminars, service, and a Pow-wow, all a very event filled weekend chaired by our very own Paul Brennan. I encourage all Chapters to have a high attendance percentage to help your Chapters win the incentives presented forth by the Lodge Chief. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

We also had a great turnout at S-4 Section Conference at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation with over 110+ Arrowmen from our Lodge in attendance. With competitions including Dodge Ball, Volleyball, Tug-o-War, Ultimate Frisbee, Native American Dancing, Best All Around Lodge, everyone had a great time and we would all definitely volunteer to be zombie'd again. If it was a Conference you unfortunately missed, you missed out on a Conference of a lifetime.

WWW,

James Herrera

## Lodge Secretary

My Brothers,

Having the pleasure of reading Mrs. Pantone's articles before all of you get to enjoy them, I don't feel that we truly lost at Section Conference, even though we didn't bring home 1st place trophies. In both Publications and Website, we put our best into it and from that we can build into an even greater success next year, because we know we can improve.

With that, I remind all Officers and Chairmen to submit their articles for Gator Tales on time. I appreciate your time and want to see everyone succeed in their positions and I aim to help you do that. We're going to have a blast at Summer Pow-wow and I hope to see all of you there. If you have any comments about this issue or any questions, feel free to contact me at [chrisolbrych@aol.com](mailto:chrisolbrych@aol.com)

WWW,

Christopher Olbrych

## Vice Chief of Service

My Brothers,

It has been a great year for service with a successful Mentoring Day and many hours of cheerful service given. In the upcoming months, Tanah Keeta Summer Camp will begin and every Wednesday of Camp there will be service days. So come out and help show the OA's support for the Camp as well as help Summer Camp with their program. At Summer Pow-wow there will be morning service projects as well as Trail Crew going out, so I look forward to all the good we can do for our Camp and Council. I can never thank you enough for all the service you do. In my role as Vice Chief of Service, I am able to see the true nature of our Brotherhood, the unselfish giving of service to the welfare of others. And that, my Brothers, is a unique privilege.

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

## Lodge Treasurer

Brothers,

The Lodge Box had a very successful weekend at Ordeal, with over \$700 in sales. Thank you to Tommy, Corey, and Alec for all the help. Section Conference patches are here, but with over 100 members attending Conference, extra patches will be in short supply, so be sure to stop by the Lodge Box on Friday at Pow-wow to purchase extras. All of our income and spending year to date have been within budget, and we have had several recent donations to the Campership Fund.

WWW,

Ross Pantone

## Lodge Historian

Brothers,

I would like to start by telling you how amazing Section Conference was: the event was incredible and I am sure all who went would agree with me. Our Kings Cup came home with 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and the Lodge worked well together bringing home the Golden Arrow which we had not won since 1980. That award came from the participation of many Lodge members and I am truly astounded by how strong the ties of Brotherhood are in our Lodge and seek to see them continued. I hope you can make it out to all the other upcoming events our Lodge has to offer so you can become a part of our history.

WWW,

Aaron Gluck

## Vice Chief of Inductions

My Brothers,

This year the Inductions program has been running great. I would like to thank everyone who really went above and beyond to make last Ordeal a HUGE success. We inducted over 130 new Arrowmen and over 20 Brothers seal their membership through Brotherhood. Thank you to the 24 Elangomats that stepped up to guide our 12 clans. I would also like to say thank you to Michael Faccini, Everett Periman, and Wyatt Bunch. The Ordeal could not have been a success without you and your advisers. Thank you to all the adults who ran check-in and allowed for a smooth check-in process. Thank you to Matt Kastelic for making Brotherhood happen as well as the 5:00am counseling. Finally, thank you to all of the new and old ceremonialists that made the ceremonies possible. If you would like to get involved in the inductions process please feel free to contact me at [lmw1122@yahoo.com](mailto:lmw1122@yahoo.com) or 561.847.1922.

WWW,

Ian Wagner



# Chapter Corner

## Abaniki

Brothers,

The Abaniki Chapter is doing great. We are in the works of getting new Chapter shirts and have a large turnout for our meetings. I want to congratulate all the new Arrowmen and encourage them to stay active and come to the Chapter meetings at our District Roundtable. They are held at Spanish River Church in Boca Raton at 7:00 PM. We have a great time and would really appreciate you coming out. I would like to thank those who helped me run the grill and let you know that we are going to staff the Gator Grill and will need all the help we can get.

We are also going to win the Best All Around Chapter and I need all of you to come out and show the other Chapters just how awesome we are. I look forward to seeing you out there.

WWW,  
Matt Jones



## Chee-Pa-Tah

Brothers,

Our Chapter meets second Monday every month at 7:00 p.m. We encourage all new members to come out and join us and have a great time. Currently we are organizing a Chapter fund raiser, fun-day and service-day. We want all of your input because you are the Chapter members and we are here to try to make your overall OA experience better but it all starts with you guys telling us what you want to see. If you have any ideas or concerns, you can contact me at 561-707-0513.

WWW,  
Mark Borrefi

If your Chapter doesn't have an article here, your Chapter Chief didn't get us one. Please remind him.



# Best All Around Chapter?

I have great news for all Arrowmen. We are reviving the Best All-Around Chapter Competitions at Summer Pow-wow. We are going to have a great time and prove once and for all which Chapter is best. The winning Chapter shall have their name engraved on the Best All-Around Chapter plaque in the Lodge Building and shall have the right to carry that title. Your Chapter Chiefs will be receiving additional specifics about the competition, and we expect to have a great time. So get pumped and get ready to show the Lodge that your Chapter is the best.



As an added Bonus...

- 1.) If your Chapter has at least 40% of its members register BEFORE the deadline on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, then **we will let the Chapter Chief choose the Chapter's Campsite Assignment.**
- 2.) If all of the Chapters pre-register at least 30% of their Chapter membership by the deadline, then the Lodge Officers will be hosting a special afternoon version of a 237 surprise on Saturday afternoon!
- 3.) The Chapter with the highest membership percentage to pre-register before the weekend deadline will have each member receive a FREE patch!
- 4.) Finally, if we reach over 200 Lodge members registered and at the weekend, we will be having a surprise incentive taking place at the Saturday night dinner!



# The Forum

## The Forum

The Forum is a place in GT where everyone from Chairmen to Arrowmen can speak. We accept all submissions so if you have something you want to say next issue, please contact the Publications Chairman at [ahg1996@yahoo.com](mailto:ahg1996@yahoo.com)

## First Year Arrowman Award

My Brothers,

To all of those newly inducted into our Lodge, I want to congratulate you but also remind you of the solemn vows you took during the Ordeal. To help you learn the ropes of our Order, we have the First Year Arrowmen Award Program. It is a great program and gives you useful info and experiences. Not many people have this Award, so you can really stand out from the crowd and show how dedicated you are to the Lodge, Troop, and Council. The requirements can be found under Resources then Forms on our Lodge website at <http://www.aal-patah237.org/resources/forms>. I encourage you complete this program and to all come to summer Pow-wow. It is one of our most fun weekends and we also get to elect our new officers.

WWW,

Casey Whalin

## Tanah Keeta Summer Camp Staff

Anyone interested in a Summer Job or making a difference in a **young Scout's life all while having fun? If so, Tanah Keeta Summer Camp Staff** is looking for you! You have the opportunity to be part of one of the most, if not THE most Enthusiastic and Outgoing staff in the state, if not the Southern Region. If you are interested, please contact our Program Director Kristina Olbrych at [krisolbrych@aol.com](mailto:krisolbrych@aol.com) for more information!

## Upcoming Service Days

Keep these dates in mind when you're planning your calendars. Service from the heart is the main tenant of our Order, so come out and serve. We will also be hosting OA day during TK Summer Camp on June 12th and 26th.

May 18 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)  
June 12 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)  
June 26 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)  
July 10 (Tanah Keeta Service Day)  
June 1st (Service Day - Camp Set Up)  
June 12th (OA Day)  
June 26th (OA Day)

## National Youth Leadership Training

A week-long (6 day) outdoor leadership experience for current and future Troop/Team/Crew/Ship leaders, utilizing the patrol method. It presents leadership skills in multiple formats providing the opportunity for participants to live and practice these leadership skills. A great youth staff conducts virtually all of the training, leaving you with real life examples and some great leadership skills and experience you can bring back to your unit. The course follows the BSA National Youth Leadership Training curriculum. More information is available at <http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/pdf/NYLT13.doc>

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

## Ceremonies Team

Fall Ordeal is quickly approaching and in only a few short months it will be upon us. With Ordeal weekends we always need additional ceremonialists to help our main team. So as a member of the Ceremonies Team, I invite you to talk to me or any other ceremonialist at Pow-wow and find out how you can get involved in one of the most important parts of our Order. We are always seeking Brothers to join us and help share the message of our Order. Also we can always use additional hands to help set up the rings. If you have any interest at all you can contact me at [ahg1996@yahoo.com](mailto:ahg1996@yahoo.com) or talk to me or Mrs. Carnes at Pow-wow

WWW,

Aaron Gluck

## NOAC 2015

National Order of the Arrow Conference 2015 is fast approaching and this is not an event you want to miss. Join us in celebrating the 100th year of our Order at Michigan State University. Help us reach our goal of 100+ Gators for the 100th year of the OA. Keep your eyes peeled for registration paperwork and spread the word.

WWW,

Ian Wagner

## Lodge Drum/Dance Team

Brothers, I am very excited to have been selected to be the **new Dance Team Chief. Right now I'm trying start a monthly practice for Dance and Drum.** I would like to hear from all of you to find out when would be best for all of you. If you are not currently active in Drum and Dance and are interested, you can call or text me at 561-707-0513.

WWW,

Mark Borrefi

# Section Conference 2013 Recap



What an amazing weekend we had at Section Conference 2013! To start off, we had over 110 Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Members present! This breaks the record going back to 2006! (we are checking some older history books to see how much farther back it goes!) As we drove back from Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation, I could not be prouder to be a member of this Lodge.

The weekend started out great! We arrived at Tanah Keeta to travel to Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation on Friday April 12th at around 5:00pm. We arrived at Flaming Arrow around 8:30pm, just in time for the Opening Show. After we showed our APT Spirit at the Opening Show with the use of Green Glow Light Sticks, noisemakers and other attributes, we spent the rest of the evening relaxing and having fun with members from other Lodges around the Section.



Saturday rolled around and everyone attended Training Seminars, while some of our Officers displayed Aal-Pa-Tah's **very successful programs to the 8 other Lodges** in S-4. Some Arrowmen even took advantage of the climbing wall, watched a Hot Air Balloon Demonstration, got evaluated in ceremonies or went to the American Indian Activities Workshops. 10 of our Very Important Arrowmen joined myself, Daniel Smith (the Section Chief) and the Southern Region Chief Brad Torpey, along with the other Lodge Chiefs and their VIA's for lunch.



After lunch is when the real fun started. Our Lodge engaged in competition between all of the other Lodges. This included Lodgeball, Volleyball, Tug-o-War, and Ultimate Frisbee. There were also QUEST events taking place as well. These included a relay race in Canoeing, Egg Toss and several other activities. Directly after that, our Lodge Adviser battled it out with each of the other Advisers in the Lodge Adviser Sink-a-thon. Thank you to Kelsey Cupples for steering the canoe for her. Following the Sink-a-thon, we went back to the campsite, got into our Class A's and went to dinner.

1st Place in the QUEST for the Golden Arrow  
1st place in the Water Bucket Relay Race  
1st Place in the Canoe Relay Race  
2nd place in Spirit  
2nd place in Publications  
2nd place in Tug-o-War  
2nd place in Adviser Sink-a-thon  
3rd place in King's Cup  
3rd place in Best All-Around Lodge

After dinner, we all returned to the campsites to get "Zombified" while the AIA Brothers went to the Festival of Feathers to compete in Individual Styles. Around 9:15pm, the Saturday night Pre-show began with a massive zombie takeover. Some even spotted a gorilla running around through the camp. Immediately following the show, the Host Lodge put on a "Shindig" filled with fun games, a dunk tank, food, soda, and music. This lasted well into the 2 o' clock hour of the morning. The next morning, we packed up camp, went to breakfast, then proceeded to the Section Business Meeting.



As Section Conference comes to a close for the year 2013, it is important to remember the purpose of a Conference. Section Conference is designed to be one large weekend of collaboration between each of the other Lodges. We spend the weekend associating with members from each Lodge, thus binding the bonds of Brotherhood that makes us all one, Section S-4. This is what the Order is all about. Words cannot describe how proud I am of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge. You all showed the rest of Section S-4 what it truly means to be a member of this Mighty Lodge.



At this time, I challenge you all. Summer Pow-wow is May 17th-19th at Camp Tanah Keeta. If you attended Section Conference and had a GREAT time, then register for Summer Pow-wow! But wait, there's more! Bring a friend to Pow-wow!

Don't keep the fun that APT brings with it wherever we go to just yourselves, share the wealth. Bring a fellow Brother who did not attend the Conference and let him get hooked on the Legacy of APT237, Home of the Gators! Thank you all for a fantastic weekend!

WWW,  
Mike McLoughlin



## AIA Success!

My Brothers,

Section Conference was absolutely amazing. For those who didn't go, there is always next year! Luckily for me, I get to be the one to tell you how well our dancers did in their respective categories and the news is GRRREEAT, as Mrs. P would say. Each of our dancers placed extremely well in their respective styles of dance...

- Kristian Cimino — 2nd in Advanced Straight Dancing.
- Mark Borrefi — 2nd in Advanced Northern Traditional.
- Paul Brennan — 1st in Advanced Chicken Dancing
- Leonardo Herrera — 1st in Novice Fancy Dancing
- James Herrera — 1st in Advanced Grass Dancing
- Connor Carnes — 2nd in Advanced Grass Dancing
- W Venard — 1st in Novice Fancy Dancing



James Herrera and I have maintained our rivalry by yet again switching who got 1<sup>st</sup> and who got 2<sup>nd</sup> in Advanced Grass, but W Venard placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Novice Category for Grass so James and I may have a run for our money next year. One of the funnier moments is when James came up to accept his award wearing a gorilla suit. Congratulations to all of our dancers, thank you for putting forth your best efforts to making Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge the best lodge there is.

Also if you are interested in learning how to drum or dance please approach anyone on the team and we would be happy to have you, we are always looking for enthusiastic new dancers. NOAC 2015 is fast approaching so if you think you might like to try competing please come and join the team.

WWW,  
Connor Carnes

# Tanah Keeta Summer Camp 2013



## TK SUMMER CAMP 2013

### LOOKING FOR AN AWESOME ADVENTURE?

For more than 60 years, camp Tanah Keeta has provided fun and adventure for thousands of youth and adults. Our program offers more than just Merit Badges, it is crafted to teach life skills, allow Scouts to express self reliance, demonstrate discipline, challenge themselves and just have fun. Our Boy Scout Camp includes outstanding programs for both new and experienced Scouts a like. We offer more than 60 Merit Badges that range from basic like Handicrafts, Shooting Sports and Ecology to more challenging Aquatics and Project C.O.P.E

This year we also have...

- The most awesome and enthusiastic staff
- Spacious Air Conditioned Leaders Lounge
- Wireless Internet
- Online Merit Badge Scheduling
- Project C. O. P. E
- Eagle Scout Seminars
- Day Campers are Welcome
- PADI Scuba Certification
- Provisional Campers Welcome
- A world renowned Ecology Lodge and Director

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237  
Gulf Stream Council, Inc.  
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8335 North Military Trail  
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“Change Service Requested”

### Upcoming Events

May 17-19	Summer Pow-wow
June 1	OA Service Day
June 12 & 26	OA Day
August 17	Lodge Leadership Development
Sep 20-22	Fall Ordeal

