

THE OWL HOOT

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SOUTHWEST GEORGIA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Greetings, My Brothers:

The summer has, all too soon, come to a close and schools are now in session. While most of you were starting back to school, I was at the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), held this year at Iowa State University. Unfortunately, I was the only member of Immokalee Lodge able to attend and was also the only member of the three Georgia lodges in our section. The Alabama lodges in our section were disappointed that none of the Georgia lodges were able to send delegates, but they were happy to trade NOAC flaps with me.

Early starts for schools in our area was one reason our lodge sent no other delegates, but one really big reason was the fact that many of the members who would usually attend this conference went on a high adventure trip (see Patrick Johnson's article on page 3).

This was my first time to serve on a NOAC staff. My cell session was on the new lodge leadership development training. This new LLD is on the internet and hopefully will provide lodges with valuable training information. Check this out at <http://lld.ou-bsa.org>.

Yours in Service,

Jason Adams
Chief

2004 FALL FELLOWSHIP AND ORDEAL

Immokalee Lodge welcomed 29 new members at our Fall Fellowship and Ordeal at Camp Osborn the weekend of September 10-12. Unfortunately, this was only 50% of the eligible number. Hopefully, we will get the rest of the eligible scouts at the Spring Ordeal in March, 2005.

Our new Brothers are: **Mason Sheffield, Bryan Heller, Daniel VanOteghem, Aaron Morgan, Jordan Knighton, Dustin Mahler, Janet Abernathy, Benjamin Lee, Adam Dubose, David Drawdy, Issac Vickers, Andrew Horne, Trevor Hohrst, Mario McCray, Joseph Weinstein, Brandon Worthy, Mason Frierson, Becky McFarling, Nick Moore, Marcus Miller, James Hession, Hunter Little, Brandon Fuller, John Carroll, Thomas Ledbetter, Jeffery Walker, Sheldon Anderson, David Bridges and Cory Lord.** In addition several Brothers completed their membership by becoming Brotherhood Members: **Dustin Walker, Robert Webster, Brandon Bell, Joe McKinney, Stephen Tuller, and Ben Davis.**

While we did accomplish a lot, one big accomplishment for our Lodge, was the clean out the semi-trailer parked at the camp shop. We will use this to store our Lodge's "stuff". We plan to instal lights and shelves. It will be kept locked with only the Lodge and Staff and Ceremonies Advisers having keys. This is something we have really been needing!

Membership attendance at this event was lower that usual for our biggest Ordeal. This is somewhat surprising as we started a fun and games for members in the afternoon.

2005 LODGE OFFICERS

At the September Fellowship, lodge officers were elected. They are: David Scott, Chief; Patrick Johnson, Vice Chief-Programs; Devin Hutchinson, Vice Chief-Ceremonies; Emory Greene, Historian; and Trevor Fennell, Secretary. They will take office on December 4.

LODGE RECORDS

For many years, Immokalee Lodge kept records of its members on the official membership cards issued by the national office. From what appears to be approximately 1968 to about 1987, these cards were maintained. Cards of active members were kept in a membership book. At some point, a very nice box was built for the purpose of storing the cards of the active members. Each card has a place for a member number and over half of the cards have numbers. Most numbers are ascending by Ordeal date. However, about 45% of the cards do not have a number and there seems to be no pattern to the failure to assign numbers as those without numbers are from all years.

The Lodge does not have any original records of members previous to the 1968 cards. There are cards whose Ordeal per-dates 1968. These members were probably still active in 1968 or re-joined later. At some point, someone compiled a list of members from Ordeals prior to 1968 into a typed book. However, except for the information on the cards, there is no record of Brotherhood membership prior to 1994.

It is interesting to note that member #2, inducted in June, 1952 was Dr. Carl Hancock, current Council President.

The lodge continues to add pages to the book, but has not numbered new members since 1987. The last number in the book is 1315, assigned to Mike Wohrley, Jr who completed his ordeal in August, 1986. Since 1994, our Lodge has maintained a list of new members at each Ordeal and of those members who became Brotherhood members.

A computer database has been compiled and contains the information from the typed book and the cards and from other sources. A limited amount of information for each member is shown on the web site.

The lodge is missing all records from 1989 to 1994. If you have any of these records or any secondary source (such as the "Owl Hoot") with lists of new members, please email Mike Greene at mikegreene353@bellsouth.net.

Emory Greene
Lodge Historian

Visit Immokalee on the web at www.immokalee353.org.

Did you know that while the Order of the Arrow was founded in 1915, it did not become an official part of the Boy Scouts of America until 1948?

2005 DUES

For the past several years, National OA has been increasing the dues we have to pay to them when we recharter. It is not \$4 per member. This has been our lodge dues for at least the past 10-12 years. Because national dues is now the same as ours, the Lodge Executive Committee decided to increase dues to \$6 for 2005. Even with this increase our dues are probably the lowest in our section, if not the region.

BROTHERHOOD OFFERED IN DECEMBER

Our lodge will again offer a special Brotherhood conversion day in the coming months. This will be on December 4, the same day as our Annual Banquet. All those Ordeal members who are eligible (anyone who became an Ordeal member in 2003 or earlier) will get a special letter at a later date, with times and fees.

2004 HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP

In July of this year, two crews of scouts from our council made an 18 day trip to one of BSA's high adventure bases, the canoe base at Atikokan, Ontario, Canada. The group was composed of 15 youth and 6 adults and most of these were members of Immokalee Lodge. One crew was all Troop 21 from Americus. The other was Troop 3 from Albany, with a couple of invaluable guys from Rebecca, Georgia.

On the trip we had the luxury of traveling in Troop 21's bus. It was complete with nice, comfortable seats, curtains, a restroom and a great entertainment system. It was safely chauffeured by Tommy McCurley, Scoutmaster of Troop 21, with some assistance from John Carroll, Assistant SM.

On the trip up we stopped at the Corvette Museum in Kentucky, spent a couple of days sight seeing in Chicago and spent a wet and cold 4th of July in Duluth, Minnesota. When we arrived in Canada, it didn't seem much different from South Georgia, except that it was largely wilderness and the Canadians spoke a different brand of English.

The first day at the canoe base we had our shake down and met our "interpreters", both of whom were young ladies from Canada. Each crew plotted its own itinerary. On July 6 we all set out for nine days on the water. It was nine days of paddling through beautiful wilderness, each night camping on a small island or sometimes wooded mainland. We fished, swam, carried out canoes and packs around rapids and from one lake to another (it's called portaging), fought mosquitoes and saw some wildlife (moose, beavers, ducks and eagles). It was hard work, but it was fun. By the time we got back to base camp, everyone was tired and ready to get back to civilization.

On the way back we stopped at Ft. Knox, Kentucky (couldn't get anywhere near the gold!) And

spent an evening in Nashville, Tennessee. When we got back to South Georgia, everyone had the feeling that we would miss the good time we had and would remember it for a long time.

Patrick Johnson
Vice Chief-Programs.

Did you know that the National Order of the Arrow sponsors a trip to the National Canoe Base at Ely, Minnesota where you work on camp sites and portage trails for a week and then get to take a week long canoe trip. It only costs \$100, as compared to over \$300 for a regular crew trip. Our lodge has had a standing policy, that it would pay this fee for any member who went on this trip or participated in the OA trail crew at Philmont. Of course, you have to arrange and pay for your own transportation. But this is still a bargain.

Southwest Georgia Council
Boy Scouts of America
930 W. Oglethorpe Blvd
Albany, Georgia 31701

Non-Profit Organization
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Albany, Georgia 31701
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NATHAN GREENE
203 BRIARWOOD CIR
AMERICUS GA 31709

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