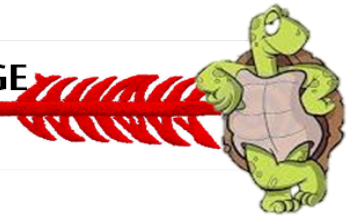


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2013 No. 1 (July)

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *TORTOISE TALES*, the official newsletter of Withlacoochee Lodge, Order of the Arrow, serving South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America! We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and find the information presented useful. Please contact the Lodge Chief if you'd like to contribute an article for future editions of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Chief's Chatter.....

Hello fellow Arrowmen, it is with great pleasure that I announce us as a single lodge. Withlacoochee Lodge, we have come together for a sole purpose; to serve and bring forth our high I deals of Scouting. Since this is our first year we need to make an impact on our section, SR-9. We need to show them that we are taking the very best from both of the former lodges, and making one of the biggest and best lodges this section has ever seen, or ever will see. On that note I leave you with this, every event you come to, every time you say the obligation, every time you wake up, remember that you are a part of something greater than yourself, you are a part of Scouting that will leave a legacy forever. In service,

Jay Turk

Chief, Withlacoochee Lodge

From the Lodge Adviser.....

What an exciting time to be an Arrowman! We, as charter members of Withlacoochee Lodge, have an opportunity to write history and shape the future of Scouting in South Georgia. I encourage you to be part of it.

It was an honor for me to attend the Section SR-9 Conclave this past April and observe Arrowmen from two lodges arrive as separate organizations and depart as one newly-formed lodge. The Section SR-9 leadership went out of their way to welcome us and offer their support and encouragement. Many adult advisers approached me to offer their assistance and support. The visibility on our lodge does not end with our section. I met several members of the National Order of the Arrow Committee at the Philmont Training Center last month and they are closely watching our success.

The Order of the Arrow offers you opportunities that cannot be found anywhere else in Scouting. You'll get to have fun and fellowship with other high-caliber Scouts. You can participate in training at Lodge Leadership Development courses and National Leadership Seminars. You'll receive quality mentoring and coaching from trained adult leaders outside of your troop. You can attend Scouting's high adventure bases-often at reduced fees. And you get the opportunity to serve in valuable leadership positions that will help you later in life. Please don't pass up these opportunities.

This is a great time to put into action the words of the Obligation. I look forward to working with you as we observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow and provide cheerful and unselfish service to our units, our camps, our community, and to each other.

Mr. Merrill Dickinson

Lodge Adviser, Withlacoochee Lodge



The past is set in stone. What is done is done. The strongest and smartest people on earth can't bring back the past or change what has already happened. On the other hand, the future has not yet been written. It is filled with hopes and dreams. Anything can happen; anything is possible. However, neither the past nor the future are as important as the attitude we carry in the present. The American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."



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.



**** ATTENTION ORDEAL MEMBERS ****

From the beginning of our Order in 1915, all members have been equal. There are no ranks. Ordeal members are entitled to all rights and privileges of membership in the Order. If you are an Ordeal member; your induction is not yet complete. Becoming a Brotherhood member marks the completion of a member's induction into the Order of the Arrow. The Brotherhood membership was created to provide Ordeal members an opportunity to evaluate their unit service, learn more about the customs and traditions of the Order, and reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of the Order. If you have been an Ordeal member for more than ten months, you are eligible to take the next step and become a Brotherhood member of Withlacoochee Lodge. The requirements to seal your membership can be found in the OA Handbook under **THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**. The next opportunity to become a Brotherhood member will be at the Summer Fellowship Weekend, August 9-11, 2013 at Camp Osborn.



If you were an active member (paid your 2013 dues) of the OA in South Georgia Council on 1 May 2013 you are considered a "Charter Member" of Withlacoochee Lodge and are eligible to purchase up to 3 Charter Member flaps. Charter Member flaps and the Withlacoochee Lodge honor flaps will be available for sale at the August Summer Fellowship for \$3.00 each. You may also reserve your Charter Member flaps by pre-ordering them using the attached pre-order form.

OA HIGH ADVENTURE

One of the most exciting and challenging benefits of being and Arrowman is OA High Adventure. OA High Adventure allows you to have the time of your life while still exercising cheerful service. Scholarships are available. For more information, go to: <http://adventure.aa-bsa.org/>



2013 Withlacoochee Lodge Executive Committee Contact Information		
Position	Name	Contact Email
Lodge Chief	Jay Turk	chief@withlacoochee.org
VC of Administration	Dakota Kirkland	
VC of Programs	Saul Crompton	
Lodge Secretary	David Stokes, III	secretary@withlacoochee.org
Lodge Treasurer	Noah Phillips	
Chehaw Chapter Chief		
8 Rivers Chapter Chief		
Alapaha Chapter Chief		
Activities Chairman		
Training Chairman		
Service Chairman		
American Indian Affairs Chairman		
Inductions Chairman		
Ceremonies Team Chairman		
Communications Chairman		



Brothers,

As you can see by the vacancies in the LEC roster, we have several Withlacoochee Lodge positions that need youth leadership.

I am asking each of you to consider volunteering for a position. I can assure you won't be working alone. We have the best team of adult advisers who are ready to help and support you. Please contact me if you have questions about the responsibilities of a certain position or if you would like to serve in a position.

Jay Turk

"Then my brothers, you took upon yourselves an obligation which we trust shall never be broken."

--Allawat Sakima, Ordeal Ceremony

Section SR-9

Southern Region Section-9 contains 11 lodges from Georgia and middle Alabama.

Withlacoochee Lodge - Valdosta, GA
 Alibamua Loge - Montgomery AL
 Aracroma Lodge - Tuscaloosa AL
 Chattahoochee Lodge - Columbus GA
 Coosa Lodge - Birmingham AL
 Echeconnee Lodge - Macon GA
 Egwa Tawa Dee - Atlanta GA
 Ini-To Lodge - Griffin GA
 Mowogo Lodge - Athens GA
 Pilthlako Lodge - Waycross GA
 Waquil Lodge - Rome, GA



For more information go to: <http://www.sr-9.org>

SUMMER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Section SR- 9 is offering a Summer Leadership Seminar August 23-15, 2013 at Camp Horne east of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The seminar will include a Council of Chiefs, planning for the 2014 section conclave, training sessions for lodge leadership, American Indian Activities, and ceremonies team training.

The cost is \$20.00 per Arrowman. Please use the attached registration form and register not later than July 13, 2013.

Camp Horne is about 4.5 hours from Albany Georgia so youth attendees may have to miss half a day of school in order to attend. Lodge leadership will arrange for mass transportation depending on the number of Withlacoochee Arrowmen registered.

MARK YOUR CALDENDARS NOW FOR THESE FUTURE WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
August 9-11	Lodge Summer Fellowship/Brotherhood	Camp Osborn
August 23-25	SR-9 Summer Leadership Seminar	Camp Horne, AL
September	Unit Elections	Units
September 14	Camp Patten Service Day	Camp Patten
October 5	Camp Osborn Service Day	Camp Osborn
November 8-10	South Georgia Council Camporee	Camp Patten
November 15-17	Southern Region NLS/NLATS	Camp Kinard, Leesville, SC
December 6-8	Lodge Fall Fellowship/Ordeal	Camp Osborn
January 10-11	Section SR-9 Council of Chiefs	TBD
January 17-19	Lodge Banquet/LLD	Camp Patten
February 14-16	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn
March 7-9	Lodge Spring Fellowship/Ordeal	Camp Patten
April 26-28	Section SR-9 Conclave	Moundville, AL

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” Henry Ford

Did You Know ?

- The gopher tortoise is a turtle as all tortoises are turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises.
- The gopher tortoise grows on average to be about slightly less than one foot long and weighs about 29 pounds, though they have been found to be as big as 16 inches.
- Gopher tortoises also have chiseled looking front feet (flippers) and elephant-like hind legs.
- The gopher tortoise is a rather plain looking turtle as far as colors go.
- The gopher tortoise digs and lives in burrows.
- Gopher tortoises are primarily herbivores and feed on many species of low-growing plants.
- Gopher tortoises rarely drink from standing water. They use their front flipper-like legs to dam-up water as it runs down their burrow during a rain.



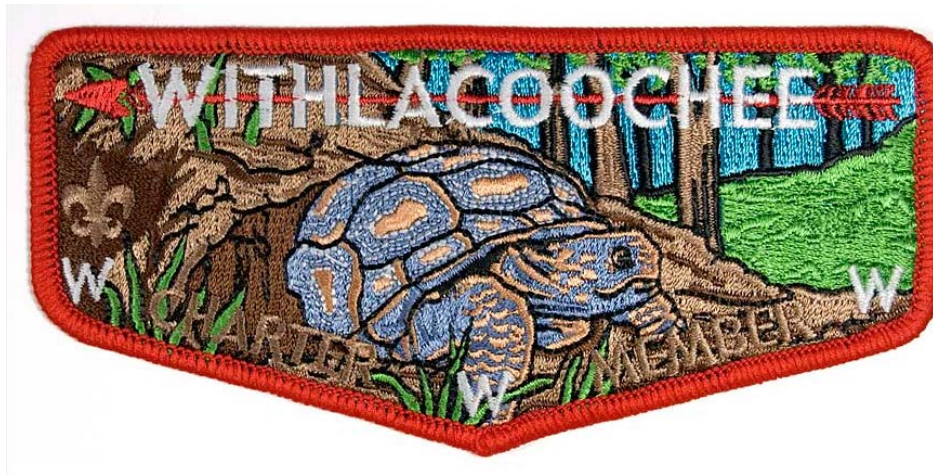
STAY CONNECTED WITH WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE



2013 LODGE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AUGUST 9-11

Please join us at Camp Osborn for fun, fellowship, youth training seminars, Chapter Officer Elections, and the largest Brotherhood conversion ceremony our Lodge may ever have. You will receive a very special Withlacoochee Lodge Charter Year event patch that you can only get if you attend the summer fellowship. We will also take a commemorative photograph of all Withlacoochee Lodge Charter Members just before Dinner on Saturday. Don't forget to bring your tents and bathing suits. The cost is only \$20.00 if you register by August 4th. Complete the attached registration form and send it in today! We look forward to seeing you!

WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE CHARTER MEMBER FLAP



ORDER FORM

Note: Those members who paid their 2013 dues to either of the predecessor lodges before May 1, 2013 are considered Charter Members of Withlacoochee Lodge and are authorized to purchase and wear this flap. There will be a limit of 3 per person. This gives you one to wear, one to keep and one to trade if you so desire.

If you are not on the list of authorized purchasers, but feel you should be, you may make an appeal to the Lodge Adviser (Mr. Merrill Dickinson) explaining the situation. You may also present a case to either the Assoc. Lodge Adviser – Admin (Mr. Rick Green) or the Assoc. Lodge Adviser – Programss (Mr. Dale Wilson) who will discuss it with the Lodge Adviser and respond to you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Quantity Requested _____ @ \$3.00ea

Amount Paid _____

Mail to: South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601

Only one individual per form.

Immediate family members can order
for other family members.

Receipt No. _____

By (Initials) _____



Order of the Arrow Withlacoochee Lodge 2013-2014



Event Registration Form for Members

- Print clearly and use one form per person.
- This form must be received (not postmarked) at the Council Office by the event's *Early Bird Deal* date in order to receive the discount
- All registrations are final. Registration fees cannot be transferred or refunded.
- Spring/Fall Weekends require current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A, B, C (Attach a copy to the first registration of the program year. We will keep it for the year.)
- Your 2013 (2014 after 1/1/14) dues must be paid to attend an event.

Name _____ Phone _____ Unit _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

City _____ Zip _____ BSA ID _____

E-Mail _____

Do Not Use This Form For Ordeal Registration

Honor (circle one) **Ordeal** Brotherhood Vigil Non-Member

EVENT	SUMMER FELLOWSHIP	FALL ORDEAL	ANNUAL BANQUET	SPRING ORDEAL
DATE	8/9-11/2013	12/6-8/2013	1/11/2014	3/7-9/2014
<i>Early Bird Deal</i>	8/4/2013	12/2/2013	1/6/2014	3/3/2014
LOCATION	Camp Osborn, Sylvester	Camp Osborn, Sylvester	Camp Patten, Lakeland	Camp Patten, Lakeland
<p>CIRCLE ONE <i>option for each event:</i></p> <p>You may sign up for ALL events at once:</p>	<p>1 Member \$25.00</p> <p>1 Member <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 8/4/13) \$20.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate \$40.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 8/4/13) \$35.00</p>	<p>1 Member \$25.00</p> <p>1 Member <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 12/2/13) \$20.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate \$40.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 12/2/13) \$35.00</p>	<p>1 Person \$12.00</p> <p>1 Person <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 1/6/14) \$10.00</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">2014 Dues \$10.00</p>	<p>1 Member \$25.00</p> <p>1 Member <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 8/24/12) \$20.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate \$40.00</p> <p>1 Brotherhood Candidate <i>Early Bird Deal</i> (received by 3/3/14) \$35.00</p>

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

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

LODGE USE ONLY:
____ Entered into OALM