

TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia, 31601



2016 No. 4 (December)

A GREAT FALL INDUCTIONS WEEKEND !!

Nearly 100 committed Arrowmen, including 27 Ordeal candidates, gathered at Camp Osborn for the Withlacochee Lodge Fall Inductions Weekend on November 11-13, 2016 for our largest event of the year. Although camp was very dry and dusty, the weather was perfect. After a warm reception at the Meet the Members event, candidates were led to the Wachtschu Fire Bowl for the Pre-Ordeal ceremony. The candidates served alongside members in meaningful service projects on Saturday to improve the Camp Osborn facilities. The service projects included:

- Replacing the deck on the A Frame cabin
- Pressure-washing the Health Lodge and Trading Post
- Demolishing the old shower house in main camp
- Replacing a light fixture in the Abernathy Dining Hall
- Hanging a new sign on the camp program storage building
- Reconstructing the bridge behind Eagle Chapel
- Clearing brush around Jasmine Springs
- Removing fallen and dangerous trees
- Rebuilding a picnic table
- Installing a new refrigerator in the Trading Post



There were more improvements to Camp Osborn this weekend from the power of Withlacochee Arrowmen than in the past three years combined. Those of you who participated and delivered cheerful service to our council can be very proud of your accomplishments.

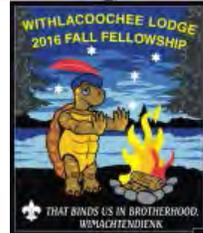
After near flawless Brotherhood and Ordeal ceremonies, Arrowmen enjoyed a great evening meal from the award-winning lodge cook team. After dinner, members attended the Vigil Callout ceremony and then headed to the Fire Bowl for the Saturday evening Withlacochee Shows multi-media presentation. The show was both entertaining and inspiring (even though Lodge Chief Saul Crumpton ended up with egg on his face)! Thank you to the shows committee for all your dedication and service.

Games and a movie filled the evening cracker barrel and Arrowmen headed to their chapter campsites for some much-needed rest. Sunday morning, Arrowmen attended the Scout's Only Worship Service, and conducted the annual membership meeting, voted for the 2017 lodge officers, conducted the new member orientation, and held the lodge executive committee meeting. It was certainly a full weekend and there was something for everyone. A special thank you to the youth leadership for delivering to our members such a memorable, productive, and entertaining weekend at Camp Osborn.

LEC LAUNCHES ARROWMAN AWARD



Under the engaged leadership of Lodge Chief Saul Crumpton, the Lodge Executive Committee developed and recently launched an Outstanding Arrowman Award program. The Outstanding Arrowman Award recognizes Arrowmen who make contributions to the lodge, support its programs, and uphold the principles in the Order of the Arrow Obligation. The Withlacochee Lodge Outstanding Arrowman Award is a special lodge patch for active (current year's dues paid) youth and adult Arrowman. "We came up with the award because we have so many fine Arrowmen in our lodge and we wanted to recognize their contributions", said Lodge Chief Saul Crumpton. Arrowmen have the opportunity to earn one award each program year. The period to earn the Outstanding Arrowman Award corresponds to the lodge's program year which starts at the lodge's summer fellowship in August and ends at the Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering in mid-April. The contributions must be completed in one single program year. The Lodge Chief will formally present the Outstanding Arrowman Award to the recipient at a lodge event. Recipients will have an opportunity to purchase one additional Outstanding Arrowman Award patch when they receive their first award. Subsequent Outstanding Arrowman Awards after the first award will be in the form of a distinctive pin that can be displayed on the patch. Lodge leadership is certain the award will become a cherished article of an Arrowman's time in our lodge. The award registration form and details of the program can be found on the lodge Facebook page and website. Start to earn your award today!



Indian Winter will be held February 3-5, 2017 at Warner Scout Reservation in Prattville, Alabama. Uniform is the BSA Field Uniform. Bring camping gear. The cost for the event is \$25.00 per Arrowman if paid by Monday, 9 January 2017. (\$30.00 after 9 January 2017). Depending on the demand, bus transportation to and from Warner Scout Reservation will be an additional \$10.00 which you can pay when you get on the bus. The bus schedule will be published when we have a firm participant count. Registration forms are on our Facebook page and the lodge website.

TWO Programs in ONE Event

American Indian Focus:

- Ceremonies
- Dance
- Drum
- Beadwork

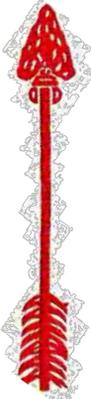


Leadership Focus:

- Group Discussions
- Membership Retention
- Unit Elections
- Event Attendance

February 3-5, 2017

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THE ORDEAL AT OUR FALL INDUCTIONS WEEKEND



Houston Vanlandingham
William D. Richards
Anthony Lacovara
William Cary
Kaleb Pike
Jacob Serina
Reid Brinson

Ben Webster
Robert T. DeBouge
Logan Elliot
Ben Cook
Boyd Loudermilk
Wyatt Waddell
Regan Funk

Ty Horne
James Beckman
James M. Steinberg
Joshua P. Hatton
Jacob Davis
Logan Shook
Michael Frost

Nick Gladden
David Lassiter
Justin Morton
Kyle White
Travis Shipley
Sean R. Shelton

Think back to the Ordeal ceremony, when the mighty chief welcomed you to the Order, and “Remember the Admonition . . .” This is the theme of the inaugural Heartland Gathering. Today’s world is full of unsettling news on a daily basis. It is easy to feel the hostility within society, but let us remember the ties of brotherhood which bind us all together. Let us recall our emotions when we received our brand new Ordeal sash, or recited the OA Obligation for the first time. We, the Arrowmen of the Southern Heartland, will recommit ourselves to these ties of brotherhood on April 21-23, 2017 at Camp Frank G. Lumpkin. The Heartland Gathering promises to be an exciting weekend bringing together the Arrowmen of Alabama and Georgia. As an added bonus, if you register with your lodge by January 31, you will be entered to win a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses or one of five event patch sets. The Heartland Gathering registration and memorabilia forms will be posted on our website and social media very soon. *(Edited from the SR-9 Nine Feathers – November 2016)*



April 21-23, 2017

**Camp Frank G.
Lumpkin**

When an Ordeal member has learned about the ideals of the Order of the Arrow and makes them part of his life, he is ready to become a Brotherhood member. Brotherhood membership is sought by Arrowmen seeking to reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of our Order. After an Ordeal member continues to serve his troop for at least 10 months, he may become a Brotherhood member by accepting the Obligation and continue serving the lodge. Congratulations for the following Arrowmen for achieving Brotherhood membership during the Fall Inductions Weekend:



Noah Chappell Scott Morris Cory Rix Kyle Fish Jonathan Lewis Jake McMillan Jack Frost



Withlacoochee Lodge Pins will be available at the Winter Banquet and are \$5.00 each. Proceeds benefit the great South Georgia Council.

Withlacoochee Lodge membership dues are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at any lodge event, at either SGC 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.

THE FINAL CEREMONY

After nearly 6 years serving as a lodge ceremonialist and a four-year term as ceremony team chairman, Jonathan Thomas performed his final ceremony at the Fall Inductions Weekend in which he portrayed Allowat Sakima in the Brotherhood Ceremony. Jonathan is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor, Founder's Award recipient, and Order of the Arrow Centurion Award recipient. The lodge ceremony team excelled under Jonathan's superb leadership and earned a reputation as one of the strongest ceremony teams in Section SR-9. On behalf of the entire membership, we offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for Jonathan's unselfish service and dedication. We also look forward to Jonathan's continued involvement in the ceremony team as he assumes the role as Withlacoochee Lodge Ceremony Team Adviser.



Eight exceptional Arrowmen were called out during a special ceremony at the Fall Inductions Weekend to *keep the Vigil*. The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, or their Scout camp. The 2017 Vigil Honor candidates are:



Mitchell Menard
Jonathan Morey

Gabe Merritt
Rhett Redshaw

Matthew Stokes
Mr. John Moore

Mr. Bob Roquemore
Mr. Rusty Redshaw



Brothers,

It is my duty to inform the lodge membership of my decision to resign my position as 2017 Chief-Elect. My decision was made in order to give the opportunity for the younger membership to lead. I will also be able to focus more on my main priority, helping the lodge prepare to host the Heartland Gathering in 2018. I will not be leaving everyone high and dry, but plan to remain active and helping out in whatever capacity I can in order to ensure our success in hosting the Gathering.

In WWW,
Jay Turk

OUR 2017 LODGE OFFICERS

Chief – Matthew Stokes
Vice Chief of Administration – To be appointed
Vice Chief of Programs – Chris Merritt
Secretary – Rhett Redshaw
Treasurer – Caleb Phillips

Ichauway Chapter Chief – Jonathan Lewis
Crooked River Chapter Chief – Allen Lehman
Blackwater Chapter Chief – Jansen Bryan



Withlacoochee Lodge T-Shirts will be available Winter Banquet in January 2017. Cost per T-Shirt is: \$12.00. You may pay with cash or a personal check made out to: "South Georgia Council".

withlacoocheelodge



withlacoochee98



@withlacoochee98



**TRUE LEADERSHIP ALWAYS
BEGINS WITH SERVANTHOOD.**

2018 Heartland Gathering Primer

Withlacoochee Lodge has the honor of being the service lodge for the 2018 Section SR-9 Conclave, *Heartland Gathering*. The Heartland Gathering will be held at Camp Patten in Lakeland, Georgia the weekend of 20-22 April, 2018. The last time a conclave was held in South Georgia was in 2008 at Camp Patten. Prior to that, conclave was held in 2003 at Camp Osborn. Both conclaves were for Section SR-4N. Withlacoochee Lodge has sent strong contingents to the recent Section SR-9 conclaves, and we have many Arrowmen who are familiar with conclaves and the facilities and services required to support such a large event.

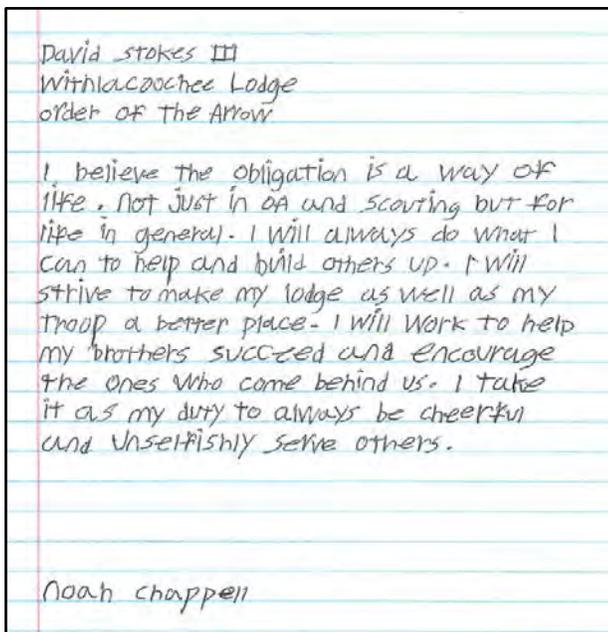
In less than 15 months, we will welcome nearly 800 of our brothers at Camp Patten for a weekend of fun, fellowship, training, and competitions. When they arrive at Camp Patten, they will expect us to be prepared to fulfill their needs and provide the program requirements of the Section SR-9 leadership. Our facilities must be clean, maintained, clearly marked, and ready for use. Our brothers will expect us to be organized so they can easily arrive, register, unload their gear, and park their vehicles. Our meal plan must be coordinated so we efficiently serve delicious and nutritious food. We must have a good plan for cleaning and stocking the latrines, providing potable water, offering shower facilities and periodically removing trash and refuse. We will have to provide outdoor areas for the shows, patch trading, Quest events, training sessions, Native American dance competitions and ceremony competitions. We will need an emergency action plan for the camp as well as onsite medical services.

As you can see from this narrative, we have a lot of work to do and it is going to take the effort of every single Arrowman in our lodge to ensure we are successful in providing the facilities and delivering the support services to make the 2018 Heartland Gathering the gold standard for Section SR-9 events. Our goal is to not just be the service lodge for the Heartland Gathering. Our goal, rather, is to be the BEST service lodge Section SR-9 has ever seen!!

The lodge leadership asks you to start thinking now about how and where you will cheerfully serve to make a contribution to the 2018 Heartland Gathering. We will need Arrowmen in a wide variety of roles to include: greeters, parking lot attendants, registration staff, concessions sales, health and medical officers, logistics, and sanitation crew. Look at your talents and capabilities and think about how you can be part of this special event. We will provide the best camp facilities and service support staff of any lodge in recent history and we want you to be part of it.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2018!! In addition to showcasing beautiful Camp Patten and sharing our strong bonds of fellowship with our Section SR-9 brothers, 2018 will mark the 5-year anniversary of Withlacoochee Lodge! And if that's not enough for you to be excited....2018 is also a NOAC year! Hang on to your OA sash! We are going to have a blast!

Candidates for Brotherhood Membership are asked to write a letter to the Lodge Secretary describing how they have been fulfilling the obligation and their plans to provide future service to the lodge. This is a fine example of a Brotherhood Letter from Noah Chappell, BSA Troop 1. (Printed with permission.)



David Stokes III
Withlacoochee Lodge
Order of the Arrow

I believe the obligation is a way of life. Not just in OA and scouting but for life in general. I will always do what I can to help and build others up. I will strive to make my lodge as well as my Troop a better place. I will work to help my brothers succeed and encourage the ones who come behind us. I take it as my duty to always be cheerful and unselfishly serve others.

Noah Chappell

“Because I have known the torment of thirst I would dig a well where others may drink. Man’s duty here is to develop first an all-around four-square manhood, then to consecrate that manhood to the service of his people. When you have found a worthwhile trail you are thereby ordained a guide. When you have won a kingdom you must share it with others or lose it.”

- Ernest Thompson Seton

Lodge Winter Banquet Raffle

Withlacoochee Lodge will hold a raffle at our lodge Winter Banquet January 21st, 2017 at the First United Methodist Church Social Hall in Tifton. We had great success last year with the raffle. Anyone wishing to contribute new or lightly used camping gear, Scouting memorabilia, or OA patches or flaps can contact Vigil Honor member Mr. Tim Griggs at (229) 947-1973.

Lodge Leadership Development



Who: By Invitation: 2017 Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman, Chapter Chiefs.

What: Withlacoochee Lodge Leadership Development

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

When: Saturday, 21 January 2017 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

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

How: Due to the restricted classroom space and time constraints, this year's LLD is limited to the 2017 Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman, Chapter Chiefs. If you are not serving in one of these youth leadership positions, or an adult who is not in an OA adviser position, and intended to use LLD to fulfill a requirement for the Outstanding Arrowman Award; we will give you credit for participating in the University of Scouting. University of Scouting will be held at the same time and location. LLD participants will meet at the Activity Center at 8:30 AM on Saturday, 21 January 2017. There is no cost to attend LLD. Lunch will be provided. Uniform is Class A. At the conclusion of LLD at approximately 5:00 PM, we'll move to the Social Hall for our annual lodge Winter Banquet.

2016-2018 WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location / Information
January 21, 2017	Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council University of Scouting	FUMC Tifton (LLD begins Saturday 8:30 AM 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)
February 3-5, 2017	Section Indian Winter	Camp Tukabatchee, Prattville, AL (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs)
February 4, 2017	South Georgia Council Annual Banquet	Tifton (Lodge Chief presents annual review to Council Board. OA color guard for banquet)
March 3-5, 2017	Lodge Spring Induction Weekend	Camp Patten (Vigil Friday PM, Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) Camp Service
April 21-23, 2017	Section SR9 Heartland Gathering	Camp Lumpkin, Lagrange, GA (Chattahoochee Lodge) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
April 20-22, 2018	Section SR9 Heartland Gathering	Camp Patten (Withlacoochee is Service Lodge). Yes, this is our opportunity to host our first Conclave!

Please make plans to join us at our annual Winter Banquet 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 21, 2017 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. You may register using the 2016-2017 event registration form on the lodge website or the form below.



Registration Form for Withlacoochee Lodge Winter Banquet

Event is 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 21, 2017 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall

Cost is \$13.00 if received by January 13, 2017, \$15.00 if received after January 13, 2017



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