

GATOR



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237



TALES

- Calendar -

March, 11-13
Spring Pow Wow

March, 25-27
Scout Shop, Camps,
Council Offices
Closed

April 5th
Eagle Scholarship
Deadline

May 6-7
Mega Scout Shows

May 20-22
Pre Jambo Weekend

May 30
Council Offices and
Scout Shop Closed

June 3-5
OA Service Weekend

June 12 - July 9
TK Summer Camp

- Gator Tales Staff -

Layout: Patrick Rice
Editing: Adam Stadnick
Chiefly Speaking: Chief
Banner: Chris Shanks

Advisor: Mrs. Flack

We're Back!

-Patrick Rice

Our past lodge members might recall this little thing our lodge made for all its members. Back then it was called the Gator Tales, but it was around for a little bit.

With the help of the lodge members, chapter chiefs, and the approval of several key people in our lodge we would like to reintroduce our new and hopefully improved version.

Here's what you have coming up:

- ✓ Current lodge news
- ✓ Online Subscription management
- ✓ Contests to win prizes
- ✓ Chapter Updates
- ✓ Options to get E-mail, Mail, and Internet issues of the Gator Tales
- ✓ Online bonus content
- ✓ Online posting Forum
- ✓ And so much more!

Help support the Gator Tales and welcome it back! www.GatorTales.aal-pa-tah237.org

Connected

-Patrick Rice

Today we connect to the internet to communicate with friends, loved ones, and 2+ billion people. Our lodge has joined the numbers online.

Our lodge now has a maintained website with some past and present pictures, a chat room, and a lodge forum. This is all great, but pointless if we fail to use it. Here are some of the online goodies we have for you right now:

On the website:

- ✓ Pictures from Section Conference
- ✓ Prior Gator Tales
- ✓ Calender
- ✓ Current News
- ✓ Section 05' Fillable Pre-order form!

On the Forums:

- ✓ Lots of various posting areas
- ✓ Member only posting
- ✓ Officers and Advisors posting
- ✓ Gator Tale story submission
- ✓ Weekend feedback
- ✓ and Much More!

Our website will also have color issues of the Gator Tales along with extended content and online only content!

Check it out!

www.aal-pa-tah237.org
www.forum.aal-pa-tah237.org

If you would prefer to get the Gator Tales via email only please visit our website for details! www.gatortales.aal-pa-tah237.org



chiefly speaking....

-Derek Kerley

2004 was a year of progress, commitment, and continued success. Not only did we host a Section Conference, send a contingent to NOAC, and named an Honor Lodge, but after our beloved Camp Tanah Keeta was devastated from hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, more than 100 members showed up to restore Tanah Keeta back to the beautiful camp that we all remember from before the storms.

Section Four South Section Conference which we hosted was staffed by "237" brothers! All of the 237 members truly answered the call of service, making the theme "Circle the Fire, Feed the Flame" truly appropriate. In all more than 1,000 brothers from 6 lodges attended Section Conference 2004. Section Conference was packed with food, fun, and fellowship going down as one of the best Conferences hosted by Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237.

At NOAC a contingent of 27 brothers attended a week of seminars; patch trading, and fellowship at Iowa State University. Past Lodge Chief Travis Sheehan and Osceola Chapter Chief Josh Davis finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the fancy dance competition. This is the first time that our lodge has ever had two members place in the top five at NOAC.

I would like to end thanking all of you for your service and fellowship not only to our lodge but to the Order as a whole. Without this our lodge would not be where it is today or where it will be in 2005! So thank you and keep up the good work, I can only hope that if we stay strong and remember that we are apart of a service organization that is the example to all scouts and scouters alike.

Yours in Cheerful Service,
Derek Kerley
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
Kerleyderek@hotmail.com

New Year

-Stephen Gray

Brothers,

This past year has been hard for many of us, and I hope everyone had a good Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year. You can start the year fresh by coming out to Spring Pow-Wow, which will be March 11-13. It will be a great weekend, with Indian dancing and drumming, seminars, chapter activities, and patch trading. I strongly encourage everyone who wants to come to every lodge weekend this year to purchase the 2005 Fast Pass, or "The Other Green Card". Call the council for details. We are always looking for patch designs, so if you have any ideas, then just call me or find me at Spring Pow-Wow. I hope to see all of you soon.

In cheerful service,
Stephen H. Gray
2004-2005 Lodge Treasurer
psych452000@yahoo.com
(772) 538-8846

Gator Tales

-Chris Shanks

Greetings Fellow Brothers (and Future Journalists),

As you can see, we have resumed printing of our Lodge Newsletter, Gator Tales, and we want your input. We've decided not to limit our articles to just Lodge officers. Now we want your ideas too! The Gator Tales pages have always lacked the voice of the common arrowman, and we want to change that. If you have an OA story to tell, ideas for the Lodge, a good Scouting joke, or anything else you want to share with the Lodge, submit it. We'll let you know if and when we'll be publishing it. We would also love to receive any pictures you have of any Lodge or Chapter activities.

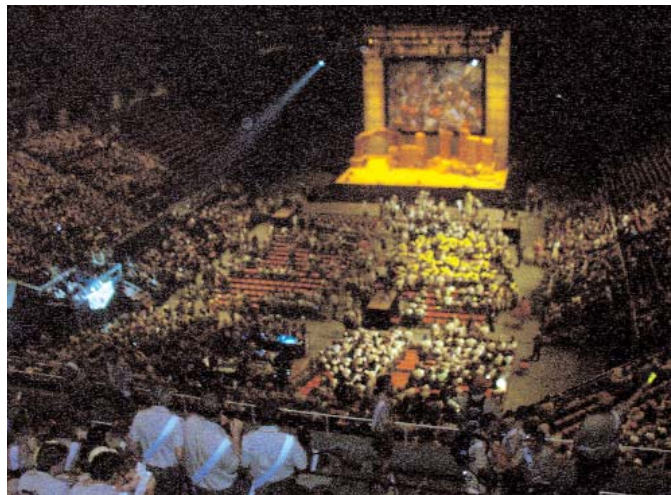
The more we include in future issues of Gator Tales, the better. So don't wait, submit your articles today.

Yours in Fellowship,
Chris Shanks
Lodge Secretary

Welcome Back

-Ryan McReynolds

It has been a very exciting year. First of all, I would like to thank you for all the hurricane help that you all gave to camp. I know that Ranger Steve really appreciated all the help that our brothers were willing to give to help the camp out. We have had an amazing year. Overall, we had almost 200 new brothers receive their Ordeal this year. I want everyone to try and make it to the Mega Scout Show, to help out with the pig roast. Anyone who is interested needs to contact Adam Taft. We also have the Spring Pow-Wow coming up, which promises to be another great weekend of fun and fellowship. Hope to see all of you there.



One of the many NOAC 2004 shows held.

Yours in Scouting
Vice Chief of Service
Ryan McReynolds

Chee-Pa-Tah

-Jay Pantone

Hello Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Members. This is Jay Pantone, your Chee-Pa-Tah Chapter Chief. Our chapter has been conducting elections, and if I haven't visited your Troop yet, I will be soon. Make sure you encourage any elected members to go to their Ordeal, and any Arrowmen that have been Ordeal for more than 10 months to get their Brotherhood at the next Ordeal weekend. Our Chapter still doesn't have a Vice Chief, so if anyone wants to hold that position, feel free to let me know. Also, if anybody has an idea for a Chapter Event, send me your ideas.

Lowaneu Mawat

-Peter Turner

The Lowaneu Mawat's are doing awesome! Our chapter numbers are greatly increasing with this year's elections. Our chapter is in the process of planning a "fun day," which will hopefully be sometime in February.

Your brother from the North,
Peter Turner

Other Chapters

-Gator Tales Staff

Is your chapter not listed here? Do you know why? Well, here are some of our guesses as to why your chapter doesn't have something in this issue.

1. Inactive Chapter Chief
2. Communicationally and informationally challenged Chief
3. Missed Winter Fellowship and announcement.
4. Your Chief doesn't have 30 seconds to prevent your chapter from being subject to identification as MIA.
5. Your Chief deems our website, forums, publication, etc. as pointless, not worth their time, or just plain unwanted!

6. The idea of communicating a few lines of text is just an idea.

Chapter Chiefs, Check the website and prevent further judgment about your chapters connections with out lodge. It only takes a few seconds to say you're still alive and part of our lodge. Down the road it could prevent additional KP and help you earn rewards!

-Gator Tales Staff

(There WAS ample notification. Hurricanes are not an excuse)

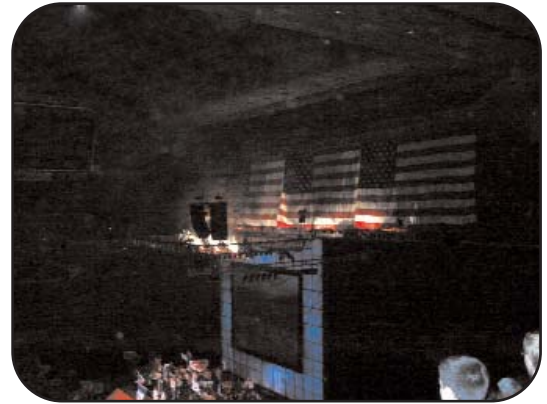
Support your Lodge

-Adam Stadnick

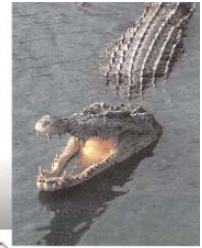
There is a serious problem in the ranks of all the Brothers of our Lodge. I have been prey to it, and almost everybody else has been at some time or other. The problem we are facing, Brothers, is apathy. Apathy is defined in the dictionary as: Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference." Simply put, we need Arrowmen to become Brotherhood members, and we need all Lodge members to attend weekends, Powwows, and everything else. Represent your chapters within the Lodge, too! It's very easy to have something else in the way, but it shouldn't ever happen! I'm sure you've

all heard someone say 'We always get new members who go through their Ordeal, and then we never hear from them again..'. Well, I was one of those, and I'm trying very hard to get out of that slump. If everyone had something more important to do, our Lodge as a whole would disintegrate.

And yes, I know many of you are very active in your Chapters and in the Lodge as a whole. Thanks, and keep it up! You are the role models for those who are only members as a technicality.



GATOR



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237

TALES

Spring Pow Wow

-Gator Tales Staff

Your calendar should already be marked...Spring Pow Wow ~ March 11 ~ 13.

You MUST pre-register for the weekend fee to be \$15.00: Members must be dues-paid to participate in Lodge events. Please check the label on this mailing to determine if your dues are up-to-date. Annual lodge dues are \$10.00. On-time payments must be received in the Council Service Center no later than 03/08/05. Payment can be made in person, by mail, or by phone with credit card (VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC) at 561-694-8585 ext 234. Information required if using voice mail: purpose of payment (weekend, dues, etc.) participant name, cardholder

name, card #, expiration date, street address and zip code. You will be allowed to register at the door for \$20.00.

Save the hassle of having to register. Why not purchase a Fast Pass for \$75. Fast Pass registers you for the weekend Lodge events, dues, annual year patch, plus if you are not able to make it to a weekend, a weekend patch will be saved for you.

If you are eligible for brotherhood, there will be a ceremony Friday night. An additional \$12.00 covers the Brotherhood sash you receive. Remember, requirements for Brotherhood can be found in your OA handbook.

Spring Pow Wow Elections

-Gator Tales Staff

Officer elections will take place on Saturday night of the Spring Pow-Wow weekend (March 11 - 13). Any Brother who wishes to run for a Lodge Office must be present the entire weekend and be interviewed Friday Night. Interviews are formal and conducted in full Class A.

Promotions for Elections:

- ✓ ONE tri-fold board (science-fair style) or a board/poster*
- ✓ NO handouts/flyers are allowed.

We'll see you Friday, March 11th, to share in brotherhood, cheerfulness and service with your fellow Gators!

*This is ONLY allowed to be displayed on the designated table in the Dining Hall starting Friday night.