

ArrowCorps

continued from page 1

Arrowmen from across the country. Shortly after arrival, we began our orientation while William and Skyler parted to get training as squad leaders.

The second day, we met our fellow crew members for the week. A squad consisted of 10 Arrowmen, and two squads made a crew. We then participated in a lot of safety, educational, and more safety sessions. Finally, we were given our mission for the week - to create 10 new miles of mountain biking trail that would consequently connect to other trails resulting in a greater than 40 mile loop of continuous trail. The task seemed ambitious but our spirits and enthusiasm were both strong.

On the third day, the wake call came early at 5:30 a.m. A Philmont breakfast and lunch was collected,



to be shared with your buddy, and the buses were promptly loaded. While no two lodge members were assigned to the same crew, all members of our contingent were assigned

to creating various trails along the Teton Pass.

Getting there required a 45-minute bus ride and then some hiking.

Hydration and altitude affected some Arrowmen (Muscokee remained strong), particularly on this first day, but first aid was always nearby.

Over the remaining days of the week, the trails developed quickly and impressively. Accolades came often from the U.S. Forest Service rangers.

They were awed by the success of the OA. The word spread locally that the dream was going to be a reality.

Eagerness to see the trails complete was growing as mountain bikes began to appear.

It wasn't all work. Daily crew meetings gave time for discussion and introspection of our endeavors. Each Arrowman had a choice of one recreation day off the trail. Options included Yellowstone Park, white water rafting, mountain biking, and other nearby events. Also, Jackson offers a free bus service which allowed us to enjoy the town, and all it had to offer – pizza was a favorite. Each evening had scheduled activities which were optional.

As the final day of trail work ended, in fact 12 miles of the new trail, complete with turns, had been



created out of meadow, rocks, roots, and a lot of sweat. Despite having worked on dozens of Eagle projects, even I was overwhelmed by the skill, devotion, physical labor, and leadership demonstrated daily. The spirit and enthusiasm never waned. We were all proud to be part of this unique legacy.

Take the Challenge

All too soon we returned home safely, back to school, work, and our daily lives. But the spirit of Arrowcorps5 continues. While the summer of 2008 offered a coordinated cross country effort of a huge magnitude, the OA can bring this vision home on a smaller scale. Each of us can provide leadership in service to our local trails, forests, parks and environment. Take the challenge, make your own legacy.



Running for Lodge Office: leadership is a duty and a responsibility

William McCormick

VC of Communications

The time has come once again to re-elect Lodge Officers!

At the Fall Fellowship Oct. 3-5, a Business Meeting will be held to do just that elect the 2009 Lodge Leadership.

However, it is strongly encouraged that if you wish to run for

any office that you go through the following process once at the Fellowship.

Saturday morning there will be a Nominating Committee that will meet with everyone interested in running for any Lodge or Chapter Office at the Fellowship.

During this meeting you will have your name put on the slate for the running of that particular office. You will discuss the position you wish to run for, and you will explain to the committee why you think you would be a good choice for that position.

This process has been used every year

in the past to ensure that each candidate understands the responsibilities of the position they intend on running for.

While the nominating committee members are named by the Lodge Chief, you are assured that it will consist of previous Lodge and Chapter Officers.

If you cannot attend this meeting with the nominating committee but still wish to run the floor at the Business meeting will be open for nominations for each position before speeches are heard and voting takes place.

Finally, I encourage everyone to attend the business meeting so you have a say in your next group of Lodge Officers and so that you can have a fun experience at the Fall Fellowship.



2008 - 2009 Lodge Calendar

October 3 - 5
Fall Fellowship, Camp Barstow

January 10
Winter Banquet, Camp Barstow

March 13 - 15
Spring Fellowship, Camp Barstow

November 14 - 15
Lodge Leadership Development Conference (LLDC), Camp Barstow

March 13
Call Out, Camp Barstow.

April 24 - 26
Dixie Fellowship, Location TBA

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The final ArrowCorps5 site - Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming

Tracy Macpherson

Health & Safety Adviser

The National Order of the Arrow and United States Forest Service combined efforts and chose five project sites, spread across America, that focused on conservation and trail building. Not since WWII has the BSA embarked on such a large-scale project, and this was the largest volunteer coordinated effort for the U.S.F.S. ArrowCorps5 was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for each participant to set an example of leadership in service to those who treasure our national forests.

Bridger-Teton was the last installment of the five projects.

Trail Building Diary

Muscokee Lodge was well represented. William McCormick, Bill Larson, Charles Larson, Ryan Turbeville, Kyle Cory, and Matt Forster drove out to Wyoming, camping along the way. Brad Hutto, Skyler Hutto and Tracy Macpherson flew.



Back row, left to right, Brad Hutto, Ryan Turbeville, Charles Laursen and Bill Laursen. Front row, left to right, some guy in a Woody Owl suit, Kyle Corey, Matt Forster, Tracy Macpherson, Skyler Hutto. Not Pictured: William McCormick ... unless he's the guy in the Woody Owl suit.

We met at the Jackson Hole High School, our home for the week, along with the other 1,000

continued on page 2

Chief's Corner: What I did on my summer vacation ... (it was a blast.)

Skyler Hutto

Lodge Chief

As your 2008 Lodge Chief, I was offered many scouting opportunities and challenges this summer. I had a summer that I will never forget, and I would encourage anyone who reads this to get involved in Scouting and High adventure during your summers; the experience is invaluable.

Like many of our brothers, I attended Camp Barstow this summer, and like many brothers, I was on Staff, working as the First Aid Director. All Lodge leadership is encouraged to be on staff, but it is incumbent upon the Lodge Chief to lead that effort and occupy a

position on Barstow. If any of you were out there, you know that Camp went well, but this was not the part of my summer that I will really remember as an irreplaceable experience.

Just days after departing Barstow, I hopped a plane to Miami.

Upon landing, I dragged a massive waterproof bag around the airport until I found a group of Scouts, OA members. We were going to Sea Base, a large two-part

compound in the Florida Keys, and I was going to Islamorada, the center of Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure.

This is a program offered to a very small group of OA members each year. In

continued on page 3

In this Tale

- ArrowCorps5 photos **Page 2**
- Fall Fellowship details **Page 3**
- Red Fox Card changes **Page 4**
- NOAC dates **Page 5**
- Run for Lodge Officers **Back Page**



NEXT Fox's Tale Deadline is November 15.

Fall Fellowship to be a collegiate experience

John Cuenin

VC of Program

Our Fall Fellowship, Oct. 3-5, will be a collegiate competition.

Chapters will choose what college they want to represent at a Chapter meeting they will hopefully hold before the Fall Ordeal. (And no, you cannot be USC or Clemson ... actually you can't be any college in South Carolina, sorry.) You can pick any other college in America though.

We will be having flag football, ultimate Frisbee, soccer, and basketball as our competition and maybe a little extra as well.

As some of you may know, we have scheduled a visit from David Miller, a published author who has written about the Appalachian Trail (see sidebar) and is willing to share the story of his adventures with us. He will also be giving a presentation

on "Why and How to Keep a Record of Your Adventures?" We are looking forward to having Mr. Miller join us for our fall fellowship and we are glad he is coming.

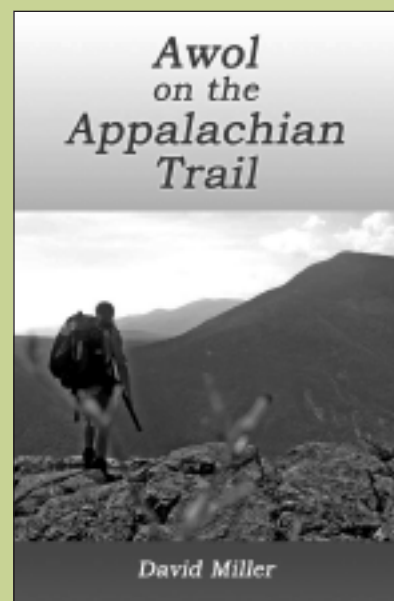
We hope to see you all at the Fall Fellowship and we know you are

looking forward to coming, because it's going to be a lot of fun.

Remember, you need to make sure your Chapter has picked a

David Miller to attend and speak at Fall Fellowship

In 2003 David Miller, a 41 year-old engineer, quit his job to backpack 2,172 miles from Georgia to Maine. His story is told in *Awol on the Appalachian Trail*, an outstanding contemporary account of hiking on the A.T. It provides a vivid description of the Appalachian Trail Mountains, the small towns threaded together by the trail, and the people met along the way.



college. And please make sure you tell John Cuenin when you decide. Once again, hope to see you there and we hope to have lots of fun!

Chief

continued from page 1

the course of the two week adventure, scouts become PADI scuba certified and dive on the reefs of the Florida Keys, picking up debris and doing fish censuses. Much like the OA itself, the program is designed to be somewhat mysterious, so I won't ruin it for any of you who would like to go. It should be said, however, that the experience was amazing, an absolute thrill. Learning to dive and to identify reef fish was a great experience, but that's not all that it's about. For two weeks, you spend every second of your time with arrowmen

that you have never met before, bonding with them, finding new life-long scouting friends. It's also about self exploration and growth, which sounds like a shameless plug to be honest, but its totally true. I learned a lot about who I am from my experience there, though it took a while to realize it.

I went home. I left again.

This time, I was off to Wyoming. ArrowCorps5 was in Bridger-Teton National Forest, and I was to be staff. There is another article in this edition of the *Fox's Tale* about ArrowCorps5, so I won't write another one, but know that it was the best experience in scouting that I have ever had. So, read the article (it's written by my mom).

Finally, a more serious note, our lodge membership is dwindling. After you read your *Fox's Tale*, please pick-up the phone and call someone who is inactive and possibly not dues-paid. We need all of our members to re-register, but we can't do that without your help.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The *Fox's Tale* is published by Muscogee Lodge #221 of the Indian Waters Council #553.

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Red Fox Card update, changes outlined

Once again this year the Lodge will be offering the Red Fox Card. This card has a few changes from last year, the first and most obvious will be the discontinuation of the numbers on the cards.

You may be asking well how will we know who is first in line for the selling of extra patches at the Fellowships, the answer is quite simple, whoever registers first, after the pre-determined open date for registration.

This change brought up much debate at the Summer Fellowship ECM

to figure out a better way to handle this process and this was the best conclusion that could be reached.

So what all does the 2009 Red Fox Card include? You are paid in full at a price of \$100 for every Fellowship, Ordeal, Lodge dues, and upon check-in at each Fellowship you will receive two fellowship patches.

When can I buy one? Anytime between now and the Winter Banquet, January 2009.

Where can I pay for this card? Just stop by, call or mail in the money to the Scout Shop and tell Mrs. Velda that you

wish to purchase a 2009 Red Fox Card.

Are there any special conditions for this card? Yes, you must call before the Registration Deadline to let us know that you are coming, if you do not a penalty could be applied, this is pending further discussion at the next ECM.

Finally, a look ahead to next year's Red Fox Card, decisions about this and date to begin selling these will be up for discussion at the next ECM. Go buy your Red Fox Card today, so you can attend every Fellowship and Ordeal next year!

An outdoor experience

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to observe some rather disturbing behavior from individuals using one of our National Forests. These individuals were mistreating some plants and wildlife as they made their way down a Mountain Biking Trail in Pisgah National Forest. I almost got run over for one thing, which got me thinking about some other things as well, including Scouting's Outdoor Code.

Not much is ever mentioned about this Code for living outdoors but I think that if everyone has the opportunity to understand why an Outdoor Code and Ethic is important then it would help in preserving and conserving what little of the Natural World we have left. Simply put the Scouting Outdoor Code is as follows:

- As an American, I will do my best to:
1. Be clean in my outdoor manners,
2. Be careful with fire,
3. Be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.

It is important that each of us remember that we all have an obligation to not protect this Outdoor

Code, but to live it everyday. However, this is not the only thing we need to remember when taking trips into the backcountry, we must remember that we are not the only ones using the National Forest. There are several other visitors as well as natives that use the land for recreational purposes as well as for living. That's right, animals, the natural game and wildlife that so many of us go out into the forests to enjoy. If we don't protect the environment that they live in, then there will not be any purpose other than recreation for us to go into the forests because we will scare them all away.

It is important to remember that "Leaving No Trace" will help protect wildlife so everyone can enjoy. The Leave No Trace principles are:

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Respect other visitors

These simple principles will help everyone have a more enjoyable experience while in the National Forests. But you may say this is too much to do or remember. Well, yes, it may be, but these are all things you should do anyway. In fact when you don't do these it really hurts the environment and makes things less amazing the next time someone comes through that same area. By Leaving No Trace, you are essentially leaving the forest exactly the way you found it and, maybe, in an even better condition.

Finally, remember these forests are few and far between, and if we don't protect them now, there will not be any for our children to enjoy the same types of sports we currently enjoy, such as rock climbing, caving, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing ... and the list goes on and on. So, please, the next time you are outside remember to think of Scouting's Outdoor Code as well as the principles of Leave No Trace. Do your part to make this world a better, cleaner place in which to live and play.

2009 NOAC is right around the corner and you need to be a part of it.

What is NOAC you ask? NOAC, stands for National Order of the Arrow Conference, where as many as 8,000 Arrowmen from around the country gather together for one week for training, fellowship and lots of fun.

When is NOAC? The 2009 NOAC is next summer from August 1-6, 2009 at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Where can I find more information? More information can be located at www.event.oa-bsa.org, or you can ask the 2009 NOAC Adviser and Chairmen, whom will be selected at the Fall Fellowship.

NOAC is a load of fun, filled with a great show every night in the auditorium, training sessions throughout the day, Founder's Day Celebration in the middle of the week, and, of course, who could forget the Patch Trading!

Every two years we, as Arrowmen, gather together at a



Brothers from all across the country meet at NOAC for learning, leadership, and life-long memories. In one short week everyone makes new friends, all of whom are dedicated to the ideals of Scouting and the OA's admonition.

major university to host this legendary event, to celebrate what our Organization is all about, the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. Currently, our lodge is planning to send a contingent to this legendary event.

How many we take has yet to be determined, but we can assure you that there will be some assistance in cutting the cost of those who will be attending. Some of this assistance has already come in, through the proceeds of the 2008 Southern Region Chief Flaps earlier this year, and still more will come in as the sale of the 2009

NOAC Flap begins. Currently, there is no design for the 2009 NOAC flap, so if you are interested in designing this flap, please send the designs to chief@muscogeelodge.org as soon as possible.

Finally, we want as many of you to attend that we are allowed to take, so the earlier you sign up the chances are better for you to be able to attend.

Look forward to seeing you at the 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference, more information to come in the months ahead so stay posted!

Come for the leadership, education and fun. Stay for threadheads' paradise

These are just a few of the NOAC patches traded and collected throughout the years. Submit your design for Muscogee's 2009 NOAC patch to chief@muscogeelodge.org as soon as possible.

