



The Fox's Tale

Muscogee Lodge • Order of the Arrow • Boy Scouts of America

Spring 2008

Awards, awards, whose got the awards?

John Cuenin

VC of Program

On January 12th, 2008, we had our annual Winter Banquet at Camp Barstow. The banquet was very enjoyable and all were very satisfied with the program ... including awards and an inspiring guest speaker.

The food was catered by Champ's Catering and was genuine Southern food and was very good.

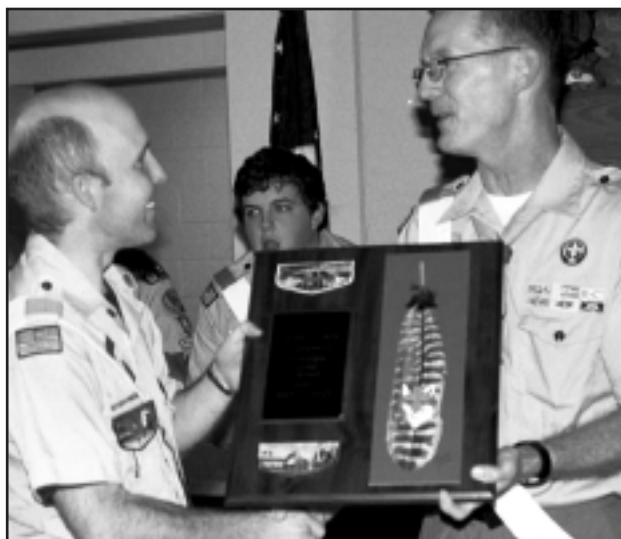
The guest speaker was nationally renowned naturalist Rudy Mancke. Mr. Mancke spoke about being a naturalist, not only as a profession, but as a hobby as

well. He showed a fox's skull and told about the lives of red foxes, our Lodge totem. Overall the speech was very interesting and insightful.

Yearly awards were presented, including the Founder's Award given to Chris Browy and Tommy Baker, for their leadership and commitment to the Order.

Also recognized were outgoing Lodge Chief, Chris Browy, and outgoing, long-

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Long-time Lodger Adviser Tripp Clark receives a token of appreciation from new Lodge Adviser Stan Haines. Tripp's selfless leadership is appreciated and will be missed.

Spring Fellowship prepares for Dixie; the battle has begun

John Cuenin

VC of Program

Muscogee Lodge will have its Spring Fellowship on the weekend of March 14 - 16 at Camp Barstow.

The Fellowship's theme will be the Greco-Persian War, which is the war depicted in the movie 300. The Greco-Persian War was chosen because our theme for Dixie is The Mighty 221, which means we will be Spartans.

At the Fellowship we will all be different groups who took part in the war, meaning that Chapter 1 will be Spartans, Chapter 2 will be Athenians, Chapter 3 will be Persians, Chapter 4 will be the Persian Immortals and Chapter 5 will be Arcadians.

We hope everyone will be able to

dress up in their specific outfits and will have lots of fun.

The Spring Fellowship will help prepare the Lodge for the competitions at the Dixie Fellowship later this spring. The activities we will focus on at the Spring Fellowship will be cross-country, ultimate Frisbee, knot tying and tug-o-war, among other events. We will look for youth participants to take part in these events at Dixie and hope to find the people who can help win the most events.

Also, we are looking for a trainer for our knowledge and training team. Please contact Mr.

Stan Haines (stanhaines@gmail.com) if you wish to volunteer for this position. We hope to see everyone at the Spring Fellowship and hope you enjoy it.

More information will be posted on the lodge website (www.muscogee lodge.org) as it becomes available.

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Winter Banquet

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time Lodge Adviser Tripp Clark. Tripp's cool demeanor and remarkable organization abilities will be missed but we are comfortable knowing that, although he's no longer serving as Lodge Adviser, he'll still be attending events and Fellowships.

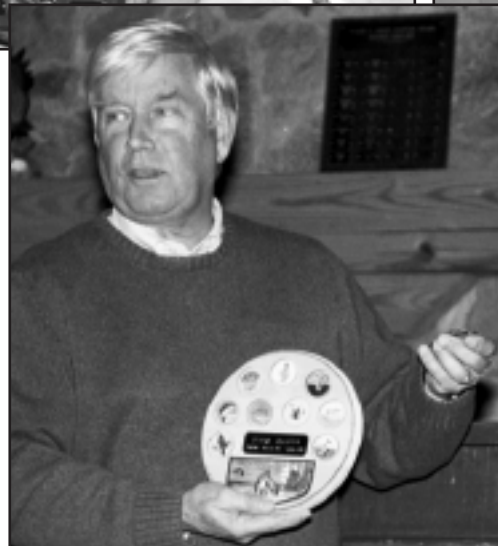
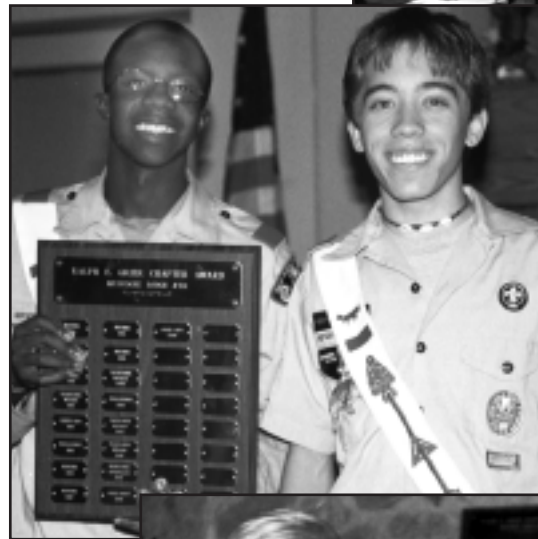
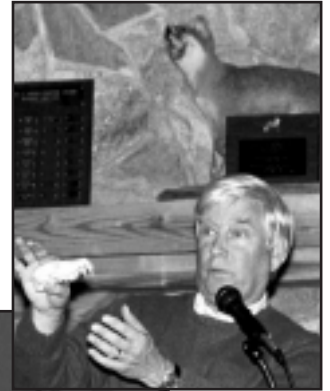
Also recognized our new Ordeal and Brotherhood members. A vigil call-out was also held at the Banquet.

Our new officers, Skyler Hutto, Lodge Chief, John Cuenin, Vice Chief of Program, William McCormick, Vice Chief of Communications, and many others, were sworn into their positions.

The Chapter Awards, which are always anticipated, were presented to the best overall Chapter (Ralph E. Grier Award) for 2007, Sukeu Sipo. Sukeu Sipo was also presented with the Charles Youngblood Award for the most hours of service in 2007.

We recognized our new Southern Region Chief, former Muscogee Lodge Chief, Mason Thomas who is now in charge of all Order of the Arrow entities in the Southern Region.

The Winter Banquet was a very enjoyable event, with great food, a great guest speaker and good presentations, which traditionally leads to an excellent Lodge Year.



Are you ready for the next step on your Journey?

Jimmy "Newt" Grant

2008 Brotherhood Chairman

Have you been an Ordeal member for more than 10 months?

Are you ready for the next step in the Inductions Process?

Do you know how to "seal" your membership in the Order of the Arrow?

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, then you are ready to attain your Brotherhood membership.

Brotherhood Membership is the next step in your "long and toilsome journey" that Allowat Sakima told you about in the Ordeal Ceremony. This is the only of the three honors in the Order of the Arrow that YOU earn. Every other membership level you are selected, which means only YOU can make the choice to "seal your membership" in the Order by completing the Brotherhood Challenge.

The Brotherhood Challenge consists of six principle items:

1. Have a current Boy Scout, Explorer or Scouter registration and actively participate in your unit's program.
2. Have paid your lodge dues through the current year.

3. Have a minimum of 10 months active service since the completion of your Ordeal.

4. Possess a thorough understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal, including memorization of the following:

- A. The OA Song
- B. The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow
- C. The Admonition
- D. The Sign
- E. The Handclasps of the Ordeal Membership

To help in your understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal, it is suggested that you attend at least one Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony (other than your own).

5. Carve an arrow a minimum of six (6) inches and a maximum of twelve (12) inches in lengths of NATURAL MATERIAL. The arrow must have a carved head and fletchings of which you are proud.

6. Write a letter to the Brotherhood Board containing the following:

- A. Explain what the obligation means to you.
- B. Describe how you have used your understanding of the Obligation in your

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troop or post, and in your daily life and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.

C. Describe your plan for giving service in the Lodge program.

Once you as an individual feel that you have successfully mastered all of the above mentioned items, then you are ready to undertake this new challenge that Allowat Sakima told you in the Ordeal Ceremony "that will bring you before me again, prepared to see the full meaning of the Arrow."

CHIEF'S CORNER: A LOOK AHEAD FOR 2008

Skyler Hutto

Lodge Chief

As you know, we've got some great upcoming events.

In March, the Spring Fellowship will take place, preparing us for a Lodge of the Year finish at Dixie in April. Not only will we have a great time at the Spring Fellowship, but we have the opportunity to invite new brothers to seal their membership through completing the Brotherhood Challenge.

For everyone planning on coming out, make sure you try to bring a friend.

If you're looking for something to do in the lodge, but don't have a leadership position, let a Chairman know. All Chairmen have committees,

and those committees can be quite large.

On a committee, the members of that body support the Chairman in his efforts in dealing with a specific part of the lodge. Some great examples of committees that can actively use their membership are the ceremonies committee, CPUE committee, and Ordeal committee. Feel free to contact the Chairman of your choice.

Finally, there are two great opportunities coming up on a national level, National Leadership Seminar and ArrowCorps5.

The National Leadership seminar will be March 28 - 30 at Camp Kinard in Leesville, SC. This event won't be this close (physically) again for another three years, so make sure you sign up soon.

At this event, participants will

receive training from our Section Officers, who obviously know what they're talking about. If you're interested in these events, or in being on a committee, feel free to

email me at chief@muscogeelodge.org.

While ArrowCorps5 is not filled, it is currently not accepting new participants. But that may change, so keep your ears open. This is great opportunity to work in our National Forests.



Lodge Chief
Skyler Hutto

EDITORIAL: Starting a New Year ... turning the page

Blake Parsons

Special Correspondent

Its funny to think about all the New Year's Resolutions I've made in the past. I've promised everything from doing well in class to learning to the play guitar to losing weight.

Every year I feel obligated and strong about my resolutions but every year it seems that as time passes by, they all waiver.

I keep my head straight for about a month and then that guitar starts to collect dust.

Or those grades start to slip.

Or that weight...well that's not important.

Every year I have made resolutions, and some small ones seem to happen, but never have these resolutions made a profound impact on my life.

So towards the end of December last year, I started to really think about what I wanted. Not what the student Blake wanted; not what the music Blake wanted; not what the athletic Blake wanted.

I thought about what Blake and ALL of Blake wanted. I thought about the things that made me happy and the times that I was happy.

I broadened my thinking a little bit and came to realize that my goals were too narrow. As simple as it may seem, I just needed to be positive.

The positive feeling is amazing. I have realized in the past two months how much of an impact optimism can have on yourself and other.

It's like being a first-base coach; they're doing more support than coaching. And there's nothing better than having that pat on the back once you make it to first base.

Frustration and anger also cause lots of problems for people. Sometimes you have to step back and ask yourself, "Do I really want to be mad about this for the next 30 minutes?"

Applying that philosophy to life can be groundbreaking.

I was sitting around with friends on New Year's Eve and we were all talking

about our resolutions. The table again resounded with plans of playing the guitar and such.

"Do I really want to be mad about this for the next 30 minutes?"

I laughed and said, "This next year is going to be the best year of my life, and there is not a better feeling than that."

I charge you to do the same.

Let these next months be better than the last, and the next after those even better! And you'll find yourself in a rut sometimes, but always remember: Don't sweat the small stuff.

Editor's Note: Blake Parsons is a former Lodge Chief (and Fox's Tale editor) going to school in Hawai'i. He will report in from time to time from the other side of the United States. Look for an upcoming article from Blake on one of the largest OA Lodges in the world, including from Hawai'i and Guam.

Fanning the flames of cheerful service with preparation for summer camp

Justin Desrochers

2008 Ordeal Chairman

The first Ordeal of the year will be held May 16 - 18 at Camp Barstow.

This will be the first opportunity in 2008 for newly elected brothers to begin

the inductions process into the Order of the Arrow.

During the weekend the new candidates will embark on such tasks as setting up the campsite with tents for summer camp, trail maintenance, road maintenance, and other such projects the camp ranger, Dave Bauer, needs to get done prior to the opening of camp for the Summer.

The Spring Ordeal is also a great opportunity for all current members to show your cheerful spirit, and service to the lodge.

We need several people to be Elangomats and Assistant Elangomats. If you are interested please contact, Justin Desrochers, at desrochersJL@gmail.com.

Even if you do not want to be the leader of a clan you can still come out to Barstow and help

with our service projects. The more hands on deck, the quicker some of the projects will go ... and the more we can accomplish to help Ranger Dave get the camp back in shape for the Summer Camp season.

I look forward to seeing you all May 16th!



The Pre-Ordeal Ceremony full of symbolism lost on many

Andrew Singletary

Ceremonies Chairman

A lot of it passed by quickly and it's difficult to remember it all — but it's important to all Arrowmen. The ceremonial process of induction into our Order is one of great significance for its symbolism. Let's start from the beginning: the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony.

"Awake My Friends ..." says Nutiket, Guardian of the Circle, to draw your attention to not only him, but to what will happen in the days ahead.

"Fifteen Blazes led you to us..." it was very unlikely that any of you were counting on your way to the ceremony. However, along the trail, there were 15 lit arrows that led you to the circle. These 15 "blazes" represent the 12 points of the Scout Law and the three points of the Scout Oath.

Nutiket then urges us to "... seek the fire at the center." If you noticed, there was no fire at the center of the ring; that was no mistake.

The unlit fire represents the Fire of Cheerfulness, which has not yet been started by the spark of brotherhood.

When he tells us to "... seek the fire at the center..." he does not mean that literally, instead he means seek the fire of cheerfulness within your heart. Kindle it to let it burn brightly so that all may see.

Next, he tells us "... Eat only the scant food that you will be given ..." and to learn "...not to flinch from self denial." He is telling us that tomorrow; we are only to eat what we are given reminding us to be, as the obligation says, "...cheerful even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities" and he bids us, "... be like the bow wood and not break under hardship."

After Nutiket has given the bow to Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief, Meteu begins to speak. If you recall, Meteu, the Medicine Man, bids us to "... Strictly

keep a pledge of silence" Most of you at this point were probably wondering, "What does being quiet have to do with the Order of the Arrow?"

Silence represents reflection in order to learn what the true meaning of things, like brotherhood, are really about.

Remember "... let silence, like the bowstring, bind you each to every other, closer when the bow is tested."

Also, Meteu reminds you that although he attained his wisdom on the highest mountains and through rough trails and tribulations, that with the strength of your brotherhood in this great and honored order will aid you through every step along the journey.

Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief, then steps forward to remind you of what has and will be charged to you. He then

urges you to "... spend the day in arduous labor, working gladly, not begrudgingly ..."

He is telling us that there is no greater reward than unselfish service for the welfare of others. He then asks each person willing to

make the journey to test the bow and, in so doing, show their willingness to face the ordeal that awaits them.

The strung bow represents brotherhood and cheerfulness united in service. He explains you were not there out of luck, fate or just sheer chance. You were chosen by your peers because of your service and loyalty to your troop, your friends and your family. He explains how

Recognizing the symbolism built into ceremonies helps strengthen what it means to be part of the Brotherhood.



David Mason portrays Nutiket

the arrow shows us how we should live our lives. We must be straight and true, and we must follow a pathway, onward and upward to bigger and better things. Remember the words of the Mighty Chief: "...he who follows such a pathway will be seen by many others, and by inspiration, lead them."

Finally, Kichkinet, your guide, tells you to "... sleep alone upon your groundsheet ..." You were asked this to show you were ready to "... face the isolation that leaders often face."

He starts by telling of the "... ordeal approaching swiftly as a flock of field crows flying black across the sun ...being a leader will not be an easy task and that even your friends will try to make you betray your promise ... tomorrow, I will labor with you, with you I will listen, eating little..." He is telling you you are not alone in this ordeal or throughout life's ordeals. Someone will always be with you through your toils and tribulations to help you along the way.

We new each having a better understanding of what was meant by the "Pre-Ordeal" Ceremony, and this helps remind us this is the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, called by the Delawares, Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.



David Hutto portrays Meteu (foreground), and William McCormick portrays Allowat Sakima (background).

Dixie Fellowship is April 25 - 27 at the Anne Close Springs Greenway

William McCormick

VC of Communications

As most are aware the 2008 Dixie Fellowship, April 25 - 27, is rapidly approaching. It will be held at the Anne Close Springs Greenway, near Fort Mill, SC, and hosted by Skyuka Lodge.

Currently Muscogee Lodge has filled its contingent slots. However, a few people



are bound to drop out at the last minute, and the service lodge usually gives more slots to those lodges needing them after they receive their initial numbers.

If you are interested in going to the 2008 Dixie Fellowship, please stop by the Council Service Center and see Mrs. Velda to pay the fee of \$50.

On a lighter note, the lodge has chosen as its theme, The Mighty 221, based on the movie 300. Which means the lodge's contingent will be the Spartans defending against the Persian Army, fighting to bring back the Lodge of the Year Award to where it truly belongs.

At the Spring Fellowship coming up, March 14 - 16, the lodge will be preparing for battle as we test out our Spartan Soldiers and prepare for the fierce competition that will occur during the Quest for the Golden Arrow. (See the article on page 1.)

During the Spring Fellowship the lodge will be boosting its spirit as we get riled up for the Spirit Competition at Dixie. Let's see who can yell louder: the Spartans or the Persian Army.

Finally, the Lodge Website now hosts a page dedicated to 2008 Dixie Delegates.

Winning the 'Lodge of the Year' will require the heart of a Spartan.

This page will be updated about once a week up until April; then it will be update about every day as things change.

This page will have the list of all of our soldiers who plan to help in the fight against the Persian Army in the Quest for the Golden Arrow, transportation information, and much more that is relevant to know prior to departing on this epic battle.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Chris Browy, Dixie Chair, at chrisbrowy@gmail.com or Dave Cartledge, Dixie Adviser, at dcartledge@yahoo.com.

2008 Lodge Calendar

March 14

Call Out for Ordeal candidates
Camp Barstow

March 14 - 16

Spring Fellowship, Camp Barstow

April 25 - 27

Dixie - Anne Close Springs Greenway

May 16 - 18

Spring Ordeal, Camp Barstow,

July 18 - 20

Summer Ordeal, Camp Barstow

August 8 - 10

Summer Fellowship, Camp Barstow

September 12 - 14

Fall Ordeal, Camp Barstow

October 3 - 5

Fall Fellowship, Camp Barstow

December 6

Lodge Leadership Development
Location TBA



Indian Waters Council
Boy Scouts of America
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Columbia, SC 29202

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MUSCOGEE LODGE #221

Spring Registration Form
Spring Fellowship – March 14-16
Ordeal – May 16-18

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

E-Mail: _____

(please check all that apply)

SPRING FELLOWSHIP (March 14-16, 2008)

_____ I am registering for the Spring Fellowship by March 6, 2008. Enclosed is my fee of \$25.

_____ I am registering for the Spring Fellowship after March 6, 2008. Enclosed is my fee of \$30.

_____ I have a 2008 Muscogee Red Fox Card and I am planning to attend the Spring Fellowship.

_____ I have been an Ordeal member for 10 months or longer and I wish to accept the Brotherhood Challenge and seal my membership in the Order of the Arrow at the Spring Fellowship.

_____ I would like to serve as a project coordinator at the Spring Fellowship.

SPRING ORDEAL (May 16-18, 2008)

_____ I want to come out and help with the Ordeal on the weekend of May 16-18. I am enclosing \$5 to cover the cost of food.

_____ I would like to serve as an Elangomat at the Ordeal on the weekend of May 16-18.

_____ I would like to serve as an Assistant Elangomat at the Ordeal on the weekend of May 16-18.

_____ I would like to serve as a Project Coordinator at the Ordeal on the weekend of May 16-18.

I am enclosing total fees of \$_____.

Make checks payable to B.S.A. or pay by credit card and fax.

Fax or mail the order form to:

Indian Waters Council • P.O. Box 144 • Columbia, S.C. • 29202 • Fax 803-750-9855

Credit Card Type (Circle One): Visa MasterCard Discover

Name on Card: _____ Amount to be charged: \$_____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Zip code for cardholder address: _____

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