



2010 Conclave Report

Wow, what an event! For a “first timer” I was not sure what to expect, and then thrust into the forefront as our Lodge Adviser for the event it was now a little stressful. All went well from check-in to check-out (it is good to have Brothers with you who have done this before and know what to do). I attended several classes for the Advisers, watched some very moving Dance and Drum competitors and the great evening show on Saturday night – so it was a learning experience that I would not have missed.

I cannot wait until next year when we host the 2011 Conclave and make it an even better event than 2010s. To that end, you will be receiving correspondence from Chris Dunn regarding this event – please make sure that you sign up to help out, in any capacity that you can, as **you** are the ones that will make this event memorable!

WWW, Ray Willcocks

Spring Ordeal

Spring Ordeal saw many camp projects tackled by both candidates & arrow men. The sod laying at the water front was one of the major tasks accomplished. Many arrow men had the opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with our Scout Executive Chuck Brasfeild. We inducted 83 new brothers into the lodge and 9 brothers seal their membership in the Order of the Arrow by completing their journey to brotherhood.

Pine Mountain Backcountry trail system:

An initiative is under way to build new & repair many of the existing trails on Gerald I. Lawhorn Scouting Base’s backcountry. Bob Sharp has built the trail head kiosks to kick the project off. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Keith Larson, keith_larson@bellsouth.net or John Kominsky, jkominsky@bellsouth.net, to find out how you can help.

Lodge Service Rotation for 2010:

Fall Ordeal August 13 – 15 – Coweta

Fall Fellowship October 1 - 3 – Tussahaw (lodge officer elections)

November 12 -13 Lodge Leadership Development (LLD)

Winter Banquet December 3 - Ecohta

Philmont Training Center 2010

The last week of June found Echota Chapter Adviser Bob Sharp & myself in Cimarron, NM @ the Philmont Training Center for the Lodge Adviser Training Course. We met and had one on one discussion with the National Chief Brad Lichota and many members of the National OA committee. 31 brothers from around the nation were in attendance. Allz` had the same goals to meet fellow advisers, to share ideas, opportunities, to learn and to come away with new tools to strengthen our lodges in service to Scouting and the Order. It was a great experience and I know both Bob & I have many new ideas to put into practice. – WWW, Mike

On the horizon:

Indian Summer Aug 1 – 6 2011 Ridgecrest, NC

SummitCorps 2011 – Like the ArrowCorps5 project, trail building/maintenance in W. Virginia National park land. Lodge contingents have a choice of four sessions to attend - 1) July 3-9, 2) July 10-16, 3) July 17-23, and 4) July 24-30. The projected cost for each participant is \$250. Youth and adults may participate in SummitCorps - The New River Experience. <http://oa-bsa.org/annc/g10/summitcorps.htm>

2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference - July 30 – August 4 @ Michigan State University. Start to plan/fund your trip now!

Lodge most wanted!

All Ordeal brothers that will meet the eligibility requirements for brotherhood, please contact your chapter advisers and let them know if you be taking the brotherhood walk this fall.

Adviser's paragraph

I have had the great opportunity over the last several months to meet many experienced and knowledgeable lodge advisers from every corner of our great nation. I have learned that Ini-to Lodge # 324 has many of the right programs in place to continue to build on the many successes we have recorded. This success can be directly attributed to John Kominsky and the leadership he has provided to the many youth & adults that have had the honor of working with him in the Lodge. We are extremely fortunate to have John in our lodge. I know I am thankful every time he answers my calls. Thank you for your service John.

As we continue to grow as a lodge, we need to be sure that our training and lodge best practices are able to keep pace. In addition to our training initiatives we all need to ask ourselves, "How can I be of more service to the Lodge, my chapter, my unit?" Remember the Power of One concept, how one person doing what is right can make a difference. I challenge all brothers, regardless of current honor, past awards or achievements to find a way to up your service commitments. I look forward to meeting this challenge with you.

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition of the Thunderhead.

In service,
Mike Strickland
Ini-to #324 Lodge Adviser
Flint River Council

"Leadership necessitates forging a path: it requires us to accept challenges, to dare to make a difference, to discover order and balance. We must overcome intimidation and fears. We must learn and teach." Thomas Jefferson