

THE THUNDERHEAD

← INI-TO Lodge 324 — Order of the Arrow →

February 2013

Volume LXIX, Edition II

Chiefly Speaking

By Patrick Mapp
Lodge Chief

Dear Brother,

Is Ini-To Lodge 324 the best in the nation? In my eyes we are! There isn't another lodge I would be chief for! We are and will always be the number one lodge in the nation through my eyes. I am humbled to be the leader of such a great lodge filled with so many dedicated and involved arrowmen such as yourself. The reason why Ini-To 324 is such a remarkable lodge is because of the pride we all show. We are all proud to be arrowmen, and we show a 100% positive attitude for our growing lodge. This attitude is what brings us together and creates an atmosphere that allows for countless hours of cheerful service to our council and our camp.

The year has come, 2013! Time to portray our service and pride! This year we are looking forward to several great things. To start our year off we hosted our annual Klondike Derby with the theme "The Delaware Trail" and it was quite a success. *Continued on Page 5.*



2013 Lodge Chief

Patrick Mapp

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Dues Increase Effective 2014 Dues Year

Effective for the 2014 dues year, lodge dues are \$15 annually per member. This increase is to provide for chapter funding. The breakdown is as follows: \$7 to the lodge, \$5 to the member's chapter, and \$3 for the national charter fee. All 2014 or beyond dues already paid are grandfathered in.

Lodge Dues Breakdown Starting Next Year



The Year of the Lodge: 2014

2014 is the Year of the Lodge and the lodge executive committee is researching options for our event next summer. If you have ideas or would like to assist in planning, contact Lodge Vice-Chief of Administration Matthew Harmon at IniTo324ViceChief@gmail.com.



2013 Cook Team Co-Chairs

Will Hicks (left) and Keith Ewing (right)

The Cook Team Wants You

By Will Hicks and Keith Ewing
Cook Team Co-Chairs

Hello. Our names are William Hicks and Keith Ewing. We are with Troop 161 of Jackson, Georgia. We have been in Scouting for ten years. This is our first year of being arrowmen, but we are excited to serve as cook team co-chairs this year. We are trying to recruit a couple of boys from each chapter to help us, so if cooking is your thing, contact us. For more information you may contact Will Hicks at williamhicks225@gmail.com. See you in the kitchen!

Unit Elections Season

By Clayton Carte
Lodge Secretary

That annual time of year is here. It is time to elect new members into scouting's national honor society throughout the troops of Flint River Council. Troop elections may be conducted between now and April leading up to district camporees and our Spring Ordeal in May. Speak to your Scoutmaster at your next meeting to ensure you complete this item. Contact your chapter leadership for more information by chapter.



Spring Fellowship/LLD 2013

By Clayton Carte
Lodge Secretary

This year, our lodge's Spring Fellowship weekend will also include our Lodge Leadership Development training for the 2013 officers. Plans for the weekend include learning how the lodge works, movies, chess tournaments, shooting sports, and more. Only the first 98 to register receive a patch so don't delay. Also, all youth registered by March 8 will be entered a drawing for a signed event patch. The patch designer will sign the back of it making it one of a few. See you then, March 15-17!

Klondike 2013

By Clayton Carte
Lodge Secretary

With 472 in attendance, this year's Klondike Derby was a huge success. The 26th annual event went off without any difficulties as everyone had a great time. Leaders from Troop 162 in Hampton, Georgia were overheard saying Klondike was the most fun their boys have had in a while. The lodge sends a deep thank you to those that made it happen.



Chapter Reports

Echota Chapter: Fayette County

By Echota Chapter Members

The report from the Echota Chapter was made through our members with various ideas to make our chapter better. Our first idea is to bring more members to OA events, including chapter meetings and lodge functions. We have a large roster of chapter members, but only a small number attend the meetings. Persuasion can be easily achieved through active members suggesting the right idea of our chapter to an inactive member. A well mentioned idea was to start a ceremony team for Ordeal and Brotherhood and a dance team for conclave. Those should be a must for a chapter. However, we do not have either one, and we will work on the initiative to have both teams by the end of this year. The third goal of the Echota Chapter is to convert all Ordeal members that have been active for ten months to Brotherhood. This is a long term goal, since different members became part of our chapter at different times. A large suggestion, but we can give the proper support to increase the number of Brotherhood members in our chapter. Our final goal is to have a chapter service project. We have thought of some organizations to work with. The project would help the local community and could possibility of increasing the amount of active members.

**Echota Chapter meets the second Thursday of every month at Fayetteville First Baptist Church beginning at 7 PM.*

Coweta Chapter: Coweta County

**Coweta Chapter meets the second Sunday of every month at Moreland United Methodist Church beginning at 2 PM.*

Ronotahatchi Chapter: Lamar, Pike, Spalding, and Upson Counties

**Ronotahatchi Chapter meets the second Sunday of every month at Westside Church of Christ beginning at 2 PM.*

Tusahaw Chapter: Henry and Butts Counties

**Tusahaw Chapter meets the second Thursday of every month at McDonough First Baptist Church beginning at 7 PM.*



Conclave 2013: From the Spark Grows the Flame

By Clayton Carte
Conclave Promotions Coordinator

Have you ever been to a conclave? Ever heard about it? If you answered no to these questions, you are in for a treat April 26-28, 2013 at the Section SR-9 Conclave at local Bert Adams Scout Reservation in Covington, Georgia. Whether your interests are in dance, drum, ceremonies, other lodges, or a good ole game of dodge ball: our section's conclave has something for every arrowmen in Alabama and Georgia. This year's theme is "From the Spark Grows the Flame" and special guest 2013 National Chief Matt Brown will be in attendance. For just \$29.50, you cannot receive a better weekend anywhere. In addition, all youth registered by March 22 will be entered in a drawing for a signed set of the lodge patches from NOAC 2012. Contact the conclave coordinator Clayton Carte at IniTo324Secretary@gmail.com today or go on the lodge website for the registration forms. If you would like to purchase memorabilia, you must order and register by March 1. There is no guarantee of items at the actual event so order now. You must register to council office by March 22 if not ordering memorabilia to avoid a late fee. See you there!

Banquet 2012

By Daniel Kirkland
Ronotahatchi Chapter Secretary

The 2012 OA banquet was a lot of fun. Attendees viewed patch displays, enjoyed a wonderful catered meal and won raffle prizes. There was plenty of time to fellowship with each other and meet new people. The main part of the banquet was the passing of the bonnet from the former Lodge Chief Nathan Loughner to the new Lodge Chief Patrick Mapp and the swearing in of the new Lodge and Chapter Officers.

The other 2013 Lodge Officers are Vice Chief of Administration Matthew Harmon, Vice Chief of Ceremonies Louis Pesce, Secretary Clayton Carte and Treasurer Jeremiah Smith. The 2013 Lodge Advisers are Mike Strickland, John Kominsky, Ray Willcocks, Chuck Kelley, and Staff Adviser Jared Young.

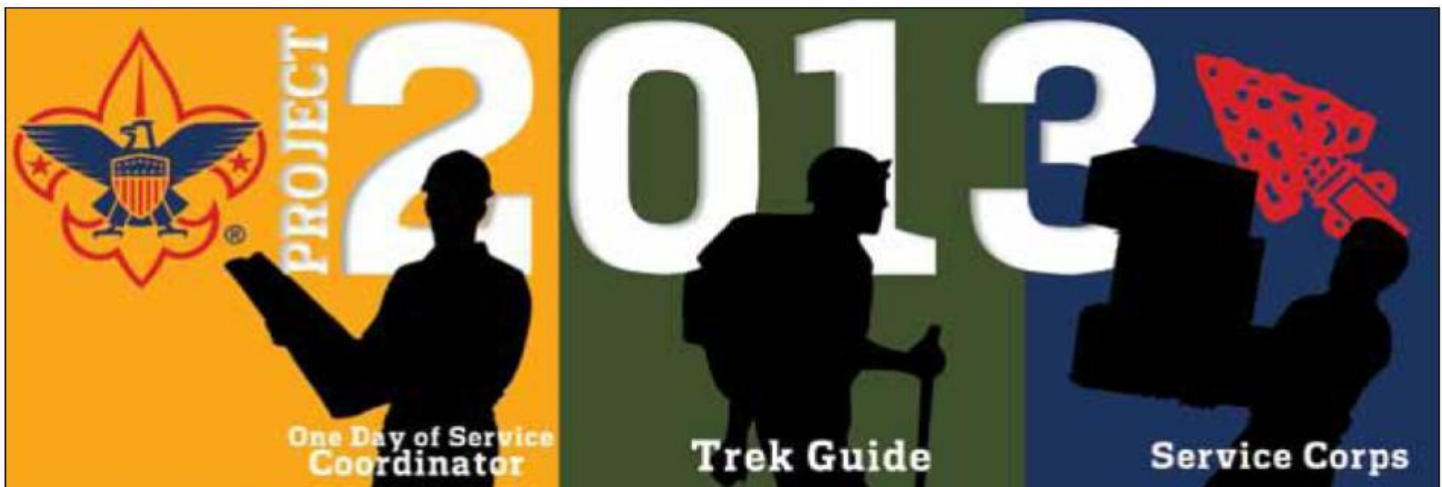


From left to right: 2013 Lodge Secretary Clayton Carte, 2012 Lodge Chief Nathan Loughner, 2012-13 Section Chief Tyler Stepanek, FRC Scout Executive Chuck Brasfeild, 2013 Lodge Chief Patrick Mapp.

Project 2013 Needs More Staff

By Clayton Carte
Project 2013 Coordinator

The OA's involvement at this summer's national jamboree still needs arrowmen. What does this mean for you, the arrowman still seeking a summer adventure? It means you can join thousands of scouts at the brand-new Summit Bechtel Reserve at the end of the summer. For just \$425, OA staff is half the price of participants. To begin your staff application, go to the Summit website at <https://summit.scouting.org>. You could be spending July 10-24 in the West Virginia mountains. Still not sold? Speak to Project 2013 staff members in your own lodge: Chief Patrick Mapp or Secretary Clayton Carte.



Sign up today and make your first deposit for Project 2013 staff today!

Graphic by A.J. Kelly

Chiefly Speaking Continued

Continued from Page 1

I would like to explain my Chief's Challenge, the chiefs challenge is a system I created to challenge everyone in the lodge from parents to advisers.

- ⇒ Arrowmen- I challenge every arrowman to set five goals pertaining to the Order and achieve those goals by the end of the year.
- ⇒ Chapter Chiefs – I challenge you to encourage five arrowmen to join a ceremonies team or one of the many committees our lodge offers such as camping promotions, cook team, Thunderbird Productions, and the Press Team.
- ⇒ Lodge Executive Committee- I challenge my executive committee to show the best example of leadership to young arrowmen and commit 110 percent to the lodge and strive to participate in all lodge functions.
- ⇒ Advisers- I challenge you to be available to arrowmen when they request your assistance and mentor Arrowmen how to be better servant leaders in there communities.
- ⇒ Parents- I challenge you to continue your ongoing support to your son in his scouting accomplishments.
- ⇒ Chief- I challenge myself to be the best lodge chief I can be by leading by example and leave this lodge improved at the end of my term.

The kingdom doesn't run because of the king, but because of the many people who support it. Without you and our other brothers, "OA" is just two letters, but once bound together with Brotherhood in Cheerful Service, we are the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America.

I look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming lodge events such as Spring Fellowship, Conclave, and others throughout the year.

Administration Report

By Matthew Harmon
Lodge Vice-Chief of Administration

Dear Lodge,

Welcome to the New Year everyone!

I am Matthew Harmon your new Vice Chief of Administration and would like to say a few things to the lodge about my goals for everyone in the coming year.

Ever since I joined the lodge I couldn't help but notice that even though we had a massive number of boys go through the Ordeal we have such a low retention rate. This is something that I hope to fix and improve. Even though I was not a lodge officer when I joined I wanted to make a difference in the ordeal for everyone that went through it. As an elangomat I tried my best to serve my group as a leader as best I could and help everyone have a good time. In spite of the hardships, my work paid off and almost all of those boys are still active. I want to help all of the elangomats work towards keeping all of their members happy even under hardship.

The next thing I want to work on is enthusiasm for the lodge. I'm not talking about going to conclaves and being a face; I'm talking about being someone. We are the best that scouting has to offer and I want that to be evident for everyone. When we go to conclave I want our lodge to be the loudest and most enthusiastic group out there, enjoying everything and being involved everywhere. We are a great lodge and we are supposed to be loud. Last year we did extremely well in the games, including a second place finish in Wischixin, and this year we are going to do even better! I want everyone to be excited about being with the section and come to conclave. Also, be enthusiastic about everything! Make Ini-To a great lodge where we have fun!

I am really looking forward to serving you all in the coming year. If anyone in the lodge has any questions please send me an email at IniTo324ViceChief@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to answer it. Communication is key to us in the lodge so be sure to check your email regularly!

Ceremonies Report

By Louis Pesce
Lodge Vice-Chief of Ceremonies

Brothers,

Our Spring Ordeal is not very far around the corner; we need to get started organizing our ceremonial teams. I would like to get commitments as soon as possible for the teams. To anyone who commits: we will find a place for you in the lodge ceremony teams to participate.

Our lodge team has really come together; we have been performing outstanding ceremonies. I look forward to new brothers participating, and encourage everyone to come watch and support all the hard work these arrowmen have accomplished to make this a meaningful experience.

We will host two pre-Ordeal and two Ordeal ceremonies so there are plenty of spots for anyone who would like to participate. If anyone is interested in joining and requires a script please contact me, and I will email you a PDF. My email is IniTo324Ceremonies@gmail.com. Thank you.

Secretary Report

By Clayton Carte
Lodge Secretary

2013 should be a hallmark year for this lodge and part of that includes more channels of communication.

As Lodge Secretary this year, I plan to add new elements of communication. Additions of mine include quality newsletters both quarterly and at events, the establishment of a monthly e-newsletter, submissions to the council e-newsletter, and the launching of a Press Team. The Press Team will include photographers, writers, and more. If you want to join the Press Team, contact me today.

Treasury Report

By Jeremiah Smith
Lodge Treasurer

Hello Arrowmen,

I am looking forward to an exciting new year. I want to remind everyone that dues can be paid online by using Doubleknot. Go to <http://www.ini-to324.org/> and click membership dues. The link is currently still for 2012 dues but will be for the 2013 dues shortly. We will also have the store at most if not all OA events this year.

If at any point during the year you need something, please contact any lodge officer. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can or direct your question to the appropriate member of our team.

We are here to serve you, our brothers.

See you throughout 2013!



Lodge and Chapter Officers being sworn in at Banquet 2012

2013 Lodge Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
Spring Fellowship	March 15-17	\$20 per member	March 8
SR-9 Conclave	April 26-28	\$29.50 per member	March 22 for attendance March 1 for memorabilia
Spring Ordeal	May 10-12	\$40 per candidate \$10 per member	May 3
Fall Ordeal	August 16-18	\$40 per candidate \$10 per member	August 9
Fall Fellowship	September 27-29	\$20 per member	September 20
Banquet	December 13	\$20 per member	December 7
LLD	December 14-15	\$5 per member	December 7
Event Pass 2013	N/A	\$75 per <2012 member \$65 per 2013 member	March 16 at 12 PM

(Includes both Fellowships, both Ordeals, Banquet, and one year of dues)

2013 Lodge Officers and Chapter Chiefs

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
<i>Chief</i>	Patrick Mapp	IniTo324Chief@gmail.com
<i>Vice-Chief of Administration</i>	Matthew Harmon	IniTo324ViceChief@gmail.com
<i>Vice-Chief of Ceremonies</i>	Louis Pesce	IniTo324Ceremonies@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Clayton Carte	IniTo324Secretary@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeremiah Smith	IniTo324Treasurer@gmail.com
<i>Coweta Chapter Chief</i>	Camp Sullivan	IniTo324Coweta@gmail.com
<i>Echota Chapter Chief</i>	Chris Akin	IniTo324Echota@gmail.com
<i>Ronotohatchi Chapter Chief</i>	Patrick Mapp	IniTo324Ronotohatchi@gmail.com
<i>Tusahaw Chapter Chief</i>	Mark Rockwood	IniTo324Tusahaw@gmail.com
<i>Adviser</i>	Mike Strickland	strick54@bellsouth.net
<i>Staff Adviser</i>	Jared Young	Jared.young@scouting.org

The Crazy Thunderbird

The Random Fun of any Thunderhead

You Might Be an Overactive Arrowmen if:

- ⇒ You know what these acronyms mean: LEC, LLC, COC, NOAC, NLS, NLATS, CVC.
- ⇒ You learned Lenni Lenape just for the heck of it.
- ⇒ Your car is worth less than your patch collection.
- ⇒ You've attended more Section Conclaves than family reunions.
- ⇒ You have ever taken the Ordeal again, "just for fun."
- ⇒ You have ever said, "Been there, done that, got the patch."

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P T J J P H P Z J E G J
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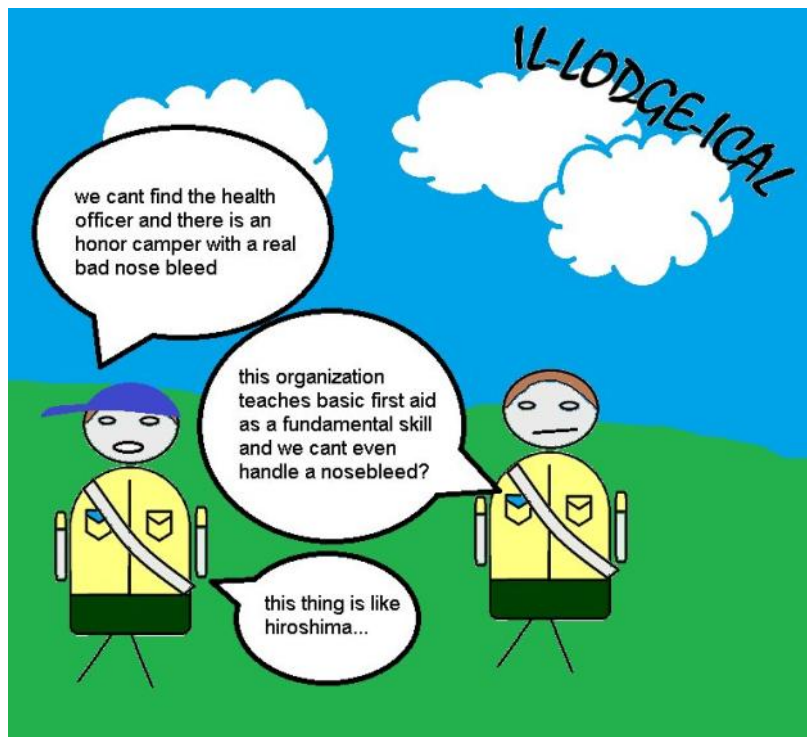
Arrowmen
 CampThunder
 Conclave
 Coweta
 Elangomat
 Fellowship

Goodman
 IniTo
 NOAC
 Ordeal
 PatrickMapp
 SummerCamp



Trivia

1. Where is the 2013 SR-9 Conclave?
2. Who are the Cook Team Co-Chairs?
3. Which special guest was at Banquet?
4. Which chapter is Fayette County?



- Trivia Answers:
1. Bert Adams
Scout
Reservation
 2. Will Hicks and
Keith Ewing
 3. Section Chief
Tyler
Stepanek
 4. Echota
Chapter