

News from

THE OTTER SIDE



Fall 2020

Volume XXV Number 4

Upcoming Events

January 2021

- 8 Virtual Fellowship
- tbd Virtual Ordeal
- tbd LLD

February 2021

- 12 Virtual Fellowship

March 2021

- 5-7 ACT
- 12 Virtual Fellowship

April 2021

- 9-11 Ordeal Weekend @ BCSR
- 16 Virtual Fellowship

May 2021

- 7-9 Ordeal Weekend @ BCSR
- 14 Virtual Fellowship
- tbd Business Meeting & Banquet

September 2021

- 10-12 W-3 Areaclave

October 2021

- 15-17 Ordeal Weekend @ BCSR

November 2021

- 12-14 Lodge Fellowship @ BCSR
- 12-13 Northern California Trade-O-Ree
- 19-21 NLS & DYLC

Full Calendar

<http://ohlone63.org/calendar>

Lodge Chief's Corner

By: *Andres Pranza*

In 2020 Ohlone Lodge has been working hard to provide some form of fun events at this time. We are proud to have been able to do two physical ordeals safely to give some form of a normal life in the Lodge. We are also trying to put on virtual events to just have fun and we are working to make them the best they can be. This year has definitely been a tough one but Ohlone Lodge will work through this and when we can do physical events again we would love to see you all there.

In these next months we will have our first Virtual Ordeal (late January or early February) to give candidates the chance to still become part of the OA during COVID. We also have plans for several virtual fellowships these next few months so we would love to see you there and just have fun with us and play games online along with getting to know other lodge members.

Yours In Service,
Andres Pranza
Lodge Chief

New LEC Members

By: Asher Thomas

Our 2020 lodge banquet was delayed due to COVID, so we had a virtual business meeting and lodge officer elections over the summer. We had some great arrowmen nominated for each position. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Ohlone Lodge officers:

- **Andres Pranza** from Troop 256 is our newly elected Lodge Chief. He is in charge of the lodge and runs all Lodge Executive Council and lodge meetings. He represents the lodge at meetings outside of the lodge.
- **Holden Kowitt** from Troop 321 is our new Vice Chief of Administration. The VCA runs all the administrative functions within the lodge like finding committee chairman and if the lodge chief can't make an event the VCA usually takes over.
- **Zach Graham** from Troop 10 continues as our Vice Chief of Inductions. The VCI oversees the ordeals, ceremonies, and elangomats. He also enables ordeal members to attain brotherhood.
- **Asher Thomas** from Troop 28 is our new Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary is in charge of the communications within the lodge. The secretary records the minutes of the Lodge Executive Council meetings.
- **Jack Tyndall** from Troop 10 is our new Lodge Treasurer. The Lodge Treasurer is in charge of handling the money within the lodge. He is responsible for the yearly and event budgets. He is also in charge of running the lodge's trading post.

The full details are here:

<http://ohlone63.org/contacts/lodgeleaders.htm>

Fall Ordeals

By: Zach Graham

Each year we usually host two Ordeal weekends, one each in the spring and the fall. 2020 had different plans for us.

Between COVID and the wildfires, these ordeals haven't been easy to plan. Nonetheless we have persevered and had 2 ordeals during October. We were able to complete projects like fuel reduction and defensible space, but we were also able to do various other camp clean up activities. The best part is that we were able to do this while keeping everyone healthy. We were able to keep the numbers low because of pre-screening, social distancing and masks. We only let 50 people come each weekend which broke down into 28 candidates and 22 staff. From these experiences we were able to learn and grow for the best COVID ordeal experiences.

A new idea that we switched to during these times was wearing all black regalia. The ceremonies team wore black clothes and the new medallion that goes with who they played.

Looking toward the future, we will have an online ordeal early in 2021 as the in person Ordeal in November was canceled. Also, we will be having more in-person Ordeals in spring if the COVID restrictions lighten up.

Trade-O-Ree

By: David Miura

The Northern California Trade-O-Ree is an Ohlone tradition. Unfortunately, this was another COVID casualty in 2020. The event will continue as regularly planned in 2021. For questions, please write tor@ohlone63.org.

Sipliskin Chapter

By: Dale McCann

Over the past year, the Sipliskin Chapter has transformed from a completely inactive chapter to the chapter that hosted the fall fellowship this year. How did this happen? Well, It all started with an election for a new chapter chief (Dale McCann from Troop 72) and other chapter positions, way back in fall of 2019. Once we had a new chief, we celebrated with a chapter meeting. However, past that, the chapter did not meet for about another year - when we were asked to host the fall fellowship on the lodge discord server. The event went extremely well, with around 15 arrowmen showing up to play video games over several voice calls. The event was a blast and Sipliskin Chapter plans to keep up the good work and host a few more events before the year is up.

Service Flaps

By: Jack Tyndall

The Ohlone Lodge will soon have special lodge flaps you can earn by doing service in the lodge. There are five different ways to earn these flaps. You can earn them by attending at least 5 LEC meetings, doing at least 6 unit visitations, participating in at least 7 ceremonies in the ceremonies team at a lodge event such as an ordeal, getting at least 8 arrowmen from your troop to attend a Conclave, and, if you are a nimat, getting at least 4 people from your clan to reach brotherhood. If you meet the requirements, you will be able to request one of these patches soon.

Virtual Fellowships

By: Holden Kowitt

Our last in-person Lodge Fellowship was in February, pre-COVID. Since then, the Lodge has been holding many fun activities during quarantine, including our online fellowships. The virtual fellowships are full of various games like Minecraft and Among Us. Going forward, we plan to host a similar gaming night on the second Friday of every month. The fellowships will be on discord, you can join the server with this link: discord.gg/y27peQD.

Leadership Positions Available

By: Holden Kowitt

Please help make the Lodge what you want it to be! We need some new chairman to join us on the Lodge Executive Committee. Here are some open opportunities:

- **OA Troop Representative:** develops and trains all OA Reps in the council to improve communication with the lodge
- **Unit Visitations:** represents the Lodge while promoting camping and the OA in addition to running elections for new Candidates
- **Social Media:** run the lodge's various social media accounts
- **Taskmaster:** prepares for the lodge's service projects, especially at Ordeals
- **Design:** Manages creative competitions for shirts and patches
- **Publications:** drives the Otterside newsletter and the In Otter News emails
- **Chapter Chiefs**

The full details are here:

<http://ohlone63.org/contacts/committees.htm>

Lodge Recognitions

By: Nolan Kowitt

At the Banquet earlier this year we announced the new Vigil Honor Candidates and Founder's Award recipients. Congratulations to these awesome Arrowmen!

2020 Vigil Honor Candidates:

- Omar Abukhater
- Will Merwin
- Andres Pranza
- Casey Inman

2020 Founder's Award Recipients

- Omar Abukhater
- Casey Inman

Lodge Adviser's Corner

By: Daryl Thomas

COVID. Wildfires. Bankruptcy. Distance learning. These are unexpected challenges that would seem to interfere with a traditional Scouting and Order of the Arrow program. Especially given the new 2019 landscape changes: enabling and empowering young women in Scouts BSA and OA Lodges, updated focus on youth protection at all levels, and the removal of native American regalia from our ceremonies.

The Ohlone Lodge has risen to the challenges, led by the youth in the Lodge Executive Committee. A quick pivot to online meetings at the Chapter, Lodge, Area, and National levels enabled us to continue with the majority of our programs. Fellowships turned into online gaming nights. Ordeals were revised to implement COVID-safe practices, leading to two of the best Ordeals we've had recently. The loss of our section Conclave allowed us to expand this to an area-wide event in 2020 and

set the stage for a similar event in 2021. Yes, NOAC was cancelled, but the new Momentum:Launch and Momentum:Spark events still brought us together for training and fellowship at a national level.

The Lodge has provided significant service to all three camps this year to mitigate the impact of the wildfires. While Cutter Scout Reservation looks quite a bit different now and Camp Oljato is similarly inaccessible, Lodge members have been helping to prepare them for renewal. Even more effort has gone into making Boulder Creek Scout Reservation our main focus for events over the next couple of years, partly based on our successful and productive Ordeals this fall. Cheerful Service was plentiful, and both the camp and the Brotherhood is stronger for it. Congratulations to the 41 new Ordeal and 2 new Brotherhood members who experienced the new ceremonies in October.

In 2019 we expected and experienced a lot of changes. In 2020 we redefined flexibility and perseverance. Let's redouble our efforts to have a strong Brotherhood of Cheerful Service in 2021.

In WWW,
Daryl Thomas
Lodge Adviser

