

News from \_\_\_\_\_

# THE OTTER SIDE



Spring 2007

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*By Michael Larsen  
Dance Team Adviser*

There are many elements of Native American heritage that can be seen in OA Lodges all over the country. The most obvious is through the Ordeal, Brotherhood and Vigil ceremonies, where the characters that are portrayed leave a lasting impression on the mind of candidates and Arrowmen for years to come. Just as rich with Native American heritage, and possibly more so, are the Native American dances that can be learned and that Arrowmen can participate in. For those who have been to past Conclaves and to N.O.A.C., you have seen other Lodges and their dance teams.



Dance Team member Ben Gellinger at the 2006 Conclave

Ohlone is currently in the process of building up its dance team and wants to invite YOU to participate!

"What can I do as part of a dance team?", you might ask. Well, for starters, you can learn how to dance. It's not as hard as you may think, and it is a lot of fun. There are a few basic steps that all dancers must know, and then each style breaks off from there. Some dances are slow and stately, like Southern Straight dancing, and then there is the athletic and very active approach that is Fancy Dance. Each style has its own approach, its own look when it comes to regalia, and its own style of songs that are performed.

The music performed uses a drum that many people beat in time along with the song. If dancing is not your thing, come join the team so you can play the drum. It's a great way to get in tune with a whole group and the energy that is generated is tremendous. If you don't like to play drums, but you like to sing, we have a spot for you, too. The songs we perform are easy to learn, and great fun to sing aloud.

Where would a dance team use the skills that it develops? One of the common places is at both O.A. Pow Wows and Conclaves, but there are many more opportunities to participate beyond that. Come join us at Scout-O-Rama as we give demonstrations on regalia, dance and song to all of the Scouts and their families. Help us to make dance an ongoing part of the Ordeal celebration, or to use as part of the ceremonies for Cub Scout Arrow of Light and bridging ceremonies.

Our goal is to have three teams, one for each village, and regalia that would match. Please speak with your Village Chief or Village Advisor if you are interested in participating (whether you are youth or adult). If you are interested in learning more about steps, regalia, drums, songs or anything else having to do with Native American Dance and the Ohlone Lodge dance team, please feel free to send an email to Michael Larsen at [mkl\\_1967@hotmail.com](mailto:mkl_1967@hotmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

### Conclave

Conclave this year is going to be a blast! It is taking place in one a college campus, with plenty of room for everything from dance to games. It will be at the College of Marin, Indian Valley Campus in the heart of Marin County. Registration will begin about 6 o'clock on Friday.

This year has a star wars themed weekend, due to the location being so close to the Lucas Ranch. The patch is an awesome combination of Indian Lore and light sabers, all set on an arrowhead patch similar to those given out at Philmont.

Come and enjoy all the wonderful joys of conclave, such as classes like primitive fire-building, where you make heat like the cavemen did, or tomahawk throwing, where you learn the skills of an Indian Brave. After the morning classes, it's game time. This year we will have a full schedule, with games scheduled such as Indian handball, dodge ball, volleyball, and tug-o-war. Come play and help Ohlone win this year's Conclave Award.

But our lodge gets a special treat this year because if enough youth and adults sign up, we will set up our tipis for our lodge—and only our lodge—to sleep in. we will be the envy of the section.

But you can't wait any longer. Online registration is only open for a little while longer, so visit [www.w3a.org](http://www.w3a.org) to register. If you act quickly, you save 10 dollars. Plus, If you had your Ordeal last fall, you get another 10 dollar discount. What a deal!

### Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting is only a month away. If you would like to run for a lodge position, please remember that you must attend this meeting in order to be eligible. Even if you do not want to run, come to the meeting anyway and let your voice be heard; vote for the leadership you want to see next year. The meeting will start at 7:30 at the Foster City Scout Office.

### Scout-O-Rama

Come join us on Saturday, May 12 at Scout-O-Rama in Central Park. OA will once again be providing the food, and we still need some slots filled. If you don't want to work the snack shack, just come on by and enjoy our Native American dance show, courtesy of the Ohlone dance team. They will be sporting some of our newly made regalia, and they will be dancing to a variety of Native American tunes.

We will also set up Ohlone's very own 28-foot tipi, along with some of our other, smaller ones. It takes a lot of work to put up and take down, so we could really use every OA member's help.

If you have to help support your troop's booth, you can help out the OA in a more simple way: just make sure you wear your sash and pocket flap. It will help create excitement about the OA.

## Dates to Remember

### April

- 5 Village meetings (7:30)  
*Roundtable meeting sites\**
- 12 LEC Meeting (7:30)  
*Foster City Scout Office*
- 20-22 Spring Ordeal  
*Cutter Scout Reservation*
- 27-29 W3A Conclave!  
*College of Marin*

### May

- 3 Village meetings (7:30)  
*Roundtable meeting sites\**
- 10 LEC Meeting (7:30)  
*Foster City Scout Office*
- 10 Annual Business Meeting  
*Foster City Scout Office*
- 12 Scout-O-Rama  
*Central Park, San Mateo*

### June

- 6 Village meetings (7:30)  
*Roundtable meeting sites\**
- 9 Lodge Banquet/LLD  
*Location TBD*
- 13 LEC Meeting (7:30)  
*Foster City Scout Office*

*\*Sipliskin village meets at the LDS Church at 977 Sneath Lane in San Bruno*

*\*Muwekma village meets at the LDS Church at 3601 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo*

*\*Puyson village meets at LDS Church on 190 Jordan Avenue in Los Altos*

## Get High on Adventure

Continued from winter *Otter Side*  
By Ian Davis

Last Issue, I mentioned how amazing my experience at Philmont was, and how you too could experience it. Now, let me tell you of a different, yet equally awe-inspiring, trip: Northern Tier. Northern Tier is another one of Boy Scout's high adventure bases; however, this one specializes in canoe treks. My wilderness voyage began in Ely, Minnesota, and continued up into Canada, exploring the various unknown beauties of the Boundary Waters.

The main difference between this and practically every other scout outing I have been on is that at Northern Tier you are truly one with nature: you go to the bathroom by digging a hole, you clean yourself by bathing in the lake, and your only source of entertainment is the company of those around you. Now, at first I thought, as you probably do, that it sounded a bit gross or unusual, but now I can't wait to go back. The lack of civilization is what makes this trip so special; we went days without seeing another group. You become in tune with nature on a primal level, experiencing the land in the same way that the Native Americans did.

Now I know you might think it a cliché when I say this an experience you cannot afford to miss—especially considering I said the same about Philmont—but it is true. They are both unique and unforgettable experiences, something you will remember for the rest of your life. My uncle had the chance to go to Philmont as a youth, and he still sings its praises to me every year at thanksgiving. MY Grandfather, despite his constant memory loss about what he had for lunch, or what day it is, still remembers his trip to Philmont.

If you are interested in signing up for this amazing opportunity, it is not too late. There are still a few spots open. Or, you can attempt to get into next year's Ocean Adventure course, where you go to Florida for two weeks and go scuba diving while helping to restore the native underwater corals and plants. Send an email to [Ohlone.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Ohlone.secretary@gmail.com) for more details.

## Reach Out and Help

A Scoutreach mentoring request

Scoutreach is a wonderful program, which, up until a while ago, did not exist in our council. It is a program that brings the joys of scouting to under privileged children who cant afford to go camping. But they can only do it with the help of volunteers like you. DeMarcus Freemon, the leader of Scoutreach, has asked that the OA help supply some arrowmen to help act as mentors in the program. They would teach valuable scout skills, as well as encourage and inspire those participating in the program. Plus, depending on your schools requirements, you can satisfy your community service hours. If you are interested in serving those scouts lees fortunate than you, please send an email to [Ohlone.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Ohlone.Secretary@gmail.com).

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*Ian Davis*

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### Lodge Executive Committee

Lodge Chief  
*Nick Wilmes*

Vice Chief of Administration  
*(open for applicants)*

Vice Chief of Inductions  
*(open for applicants)*

Lodge Secretary  
*Ian Davis*

Lodge Treasurer  
*(open for applicants)*

Muwekma Village Chief  
*Michael Henry Tauskey*

Puyson Village Chief  
*Joshua Marcum*

Sipliskin Village Chief  
*Robert Graham*

Lodge Adviser  
*Stan Rudnick*

Lodge Staff Adviser  
*Bob Jensen*

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News From The Otter Side is published quarterly by WWW Ohlone Lodge #63, Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America.

For more OA news, check out the following websites:

National Order of the Arrow  
[www.ou-bsa.org](http://www.ou-bsa.org)  
Western Region OA  
[www.oawest.org](http://www.oawest.org)  
Section W3a  
[www.w3a.org](http://www.w3a.org)  
Ohlone Lodge  
[www.ohlone63.org](http://www.ohlone63.org)

(for the lodge calendar, committee and village information and more!)

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## Winter Fellowship was Awesome!

Recently we had our winter fellowship, and everyone had great time. There was great food, as is common at OA events, as well as fun games, and prizes.

There was a variety of carnival games running all day, including darts, paper airplane building, and mini-golf. Each time you won a game, you received 'Ohlone Bucks,' which were used at the ending awards ceremony to determine the winners. First Place received an iTunes gift card. Other prizes included a large, 2-foot wrench, a messenger bag, and several bundles of fake bananas.

There were also some outdoor games we played, including Indian Handball and a variation of baseball. In both games, the Sipliskin team came out slightly ahead. This, when combined with their outstanding cheering, is why Sipliskin was awarded this years Most Spirited Village award.

We also had a number of scouts attend the brotherhood ceremony there. Congratulations to the following new brotherhood members:

Colm Quinn  
Dan Quinn  
John Schiffgens  
Michael Schiffgens  
Sam Smith

## Words from the Chief

If you can remember the last issue, I discussed the importance of Brotherhood, and the importance of supporting each other. The next point of the Order of the Arrow is Service.

There are many ways you can use your vow of cheerful service. The first is through the Scoutreach Program. These scouts, mostly cub-scout age, need your help; they need mentors who can guide them and teach them how to be scouts.

Or you could serve more generally, and help out at the many lodge events we have through the year. You could be an elangomat at the ordeal; you could cook burgers at scout-orama. It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you help out.

The most important way to serve your lodge is by running for a lodge leadership position at the Annual Business Meeting next month. We need active youth to help lead us next year, and I strongly encourage you to be one.

You could be the secretary and help write a newsletter just like this one; you could be the Vice chief of Inductions, and help run the Ordeals. It is really up to you.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Nick Wilmes  
Lodge Chief

## Indian Handball: an Ohlone Tradition

At our recent winter fellowship, everyone had a great time, especially when it came to Indian Handball—a cross between Ultimate Frisbee, Football, and Soccer. Now, some of you may not remember the rules of OA's unique sport; so let me refresh your memory. There are two teams. The Object of the game is to get the ball through your opponent's goal, much like soccer. The only difference is that once the ball goes above your waist, you are allowed to pick it up with your hands, but only for a total of three steps. Then you must pass it to a teammate.

Though it may sound complicated, it is actually very fun, and very easy. Ohlone's Indian Handball team used to dominate at the conclaves. But slowly is has diminished into a game we barely play. Help us change that. The Ohlone Indian Handball team is back on the rise, and we will be playing at the upcoming spring ordeal, if you would like to come and practice with us. Our main event, however, is the upcoming section w3a conclave, where our team will go head to head against other lodges from all over the Bay Area. If Indian Handball is not your sport, there is are also spots open on the dodge ball and volleyball teams. Come to the Spring Ordeal to sign up for any one of these teams.

*If you received your Otter Side by mail, we need you email. Please send an email to [Ohlone.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Ohlone.secretary@gmail.com) with your full name and your current email address.*