



News from

THE OTTER SIDE

Volume XII Number 3

Summer 2007

Upcoming Events

July 2007

Enjoy summer camp with your units.

August 2007

18 Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) 9:00am
Palo Alto Scout Service Center
1305 Middlefield Rd. - Palo Alto

18 Kickoff Meeting (with BBQ) 4:00pm
Palo Alto Scout Service Center
1305 Middlefield Rd. - Palo Alto

September 2007

6 Village Meetings 7:30pm
District Roundtable Meeting Sites

13 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Pacific Skyline Council Scout Service Center - Foster City

October 2007

4 Village Meetings 7:30pm
District Roundtable Meeting Sites

11 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Pacific Skyline Council Scout Service Center - Foster City

26-28 Fall Ordeal
Cutter Scout Reservation

Lodge Kick-Off BBQ

The Lodge will be holding a kick-off meeting and BBQ at the Palo Alto Service Center on August 18. It will follow Lodge Leadership Development (LLD). Everyone is encouraged to come to one or both events. See you there!



OA trail crew repairing a path at Philmont.

First a Spark, Now a Flame

by Ian Davis

One of the most important requirements of the Brotherhood Honor is a letter to the secretary explaining what the obligation means to you. In my letter, I wrote that the obligation meant that you were supposed to serve cheerfully with your brothers. However, it was not until I went on the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC) at Philmont Scout Ranch, that I learned the significance of what I wrote, for it was there that I learned the true values of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service.

I shared my experience there with national, section, and lodge officers from around the country. But none of that mattered. In fact, I didn't know most people's position or honor until Day 4, when we started our Personal Introductions. By the end of the week, we were more than best friends. It is amazing how quickly you bond with someone when you spend every hour of every day with them; they become a new family.

When I first signed up for this trek, I assumed the first week, the work week, was just part of the payment, something you had to do before you could get to the fun part. I mean, they only charge you 150 dollars, so there has to be something else, right? I could not have been more wrong.

Chief's Corner

Brothers,

I am proud to introduce myself as your new, 2007-2008 Lodge Chief. Some of you may remember me as last year's Secretary. I am also very excited to announce that we have a full leadership contingent this year, with Bradley Bottoms, Matt Tsubota, Brian Cooper, and Ben Gellinger; serving as Vice Chief of Administration, Vice Chief of Inductions, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively.

There are also a variety of other youth helping out the lodge: Jake Gellinger is heading up our Dance Team, Rylan Schaeffer is working on developing our ceremonies team, Jaxon Welsh is in charge of lodge publications, Joshua Marcum is taking care of camp promotions, Sam McCollum is doing the food planning for our events, Michael Shiffigans is planning our activities, and Tim Benton is coordinating the Lodge's involvement in the Scoutreach program.

As your 2007-2008 lodge leaders, we hope to build on the progress our lodge has made over the past year. The officers and I will work diligently to earn the Quality Lodge Award, and we are trying to increase active involvement in the Lodge.

To that end, we have planned a variety of new and exciting events for the upcoming year, including a Lodge Leadership Development and homecoming BBQ in mid August. We also have planned an Indian Weekend, where we will cover ceremonies, dance, and other aspect of Native American tradition, as well as a Miniclave, to get us prepared and ready to win this year's Conclave Award.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Ian Davis,
Lodge Chief

It was no longer an “irksome task” to do cheerful service; it was a privilege. We were working on a trail that had been worked on by countless OATC crews before us. Not only that, we got to finish it. As one of our foremen reminded our crew, this is going to be something we will remember for the rest of our lives. We will come back to Philmont someday as adults, and we will be able to walk with our sons on a trail that we helped create. The feeling that comes from knowing that I have helped improve scouting's paradise is indescribable; it instills in me a pride that I never thought possible.

There are countless other memories and experiences for me to share, but unfortunately, I could not possibly fit it all into our newsletter. Instead, I encourage you to go out there, sign up for any of the OA High Adventure programs, and make your own memories. Go to www.adventure.ohlone63.org for more information. The theme for my trek was “First a Spark, Now a Flame,” and I could not think of a more fitting description; OATC took the bright spark that lay within me, and created a roaring fire that will burn for the rest of my life, and I have no doubt it will do the same for you.

High Adventure for Free!

Philmont, Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base! What do these places have in common with each other besides adrenaline? Price! Although adventures in these world class Scouting locales are usually in the Jamboree price range you can go there for free, that's right free! Philmont, Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base are all once in a lifetime experiences, so don't let this opportunity pass you by! Please contact the Chief, Ian Davis, at lodgechief@ohlone63.org for scholarship information.



Sailing at Florida Sea Base

The Nature of Camping

Clay Capp, Former National OA Chief

The founders of both the Scouting Movement and the Order of the Arrow valued camping as a way to teach Scouting skills. But each Scout who has truly experienced the outdoors while camping will value camping for its own sake. True, it is in the outdoors that many Scouts learn how to tie their knots and their bandages, and first use a compass. But it is also true that the outdoors is where a Scout's self-reliance is fostered.

Anyone who has spent time in the outdoors, attuned to nature, will say that there is a special connection to be felt with the natural world. From that connection grows the skills needed to feel a confidence that can start in the woods and extend to life in general.

We all have an inclination toward nature. Whether it is expressed by watching sunsets or the Discovery Channel, it is enhanced when someone is immersed in a pristine outdoor place. Those that do not believe such a connection exists have not camped in earnest. Among campers it is commonly said during rough weather or a setback, “Well, you never hear anybody say, 'Hey, remember that time we went camping and everything was so easy and it was sunny the whole time and nothing went wrong.'”

The reason we value the challenges of a rainstorm, or a missed trail marker (while those things are not preferable) is because overcoming the difficulty they represent proves to us that we are capable in the wilderness. It shows we are able to surmount obstacles with our own self-reliance and the combined efforts of our campmates and friends.

Outdoor camping promotion is part of the Order of the Arrow's purpose because we try to instill in Scouts the appreciation for the wilderness that leads to two things. The first is the feeling of accomplishment and teamwork resulting from successful time spent in camp. And the second thing, realized by all who have had a truly wilderness camping experience, is the value of our nation's - and the world's - natural resources. It is our hope that Scouts grow to become good stewards of our land, and encourage the good management of our irreplaceable wild places.

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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
[http://www.ohlone63.org/](http://www.ohlone63.org)
Western Region Order of the Arrow
<http://www.oawest.org/>

Need more information about the lodge or the Order of the Arrow? Check out Ohlone lodge's website at www.ohlone63.org
Find the lodge calendar, committee and village information and more!

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