



Winter 2010

Volume XV Number 1

Upcoming Events

January 2010

14 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

February 2010

6 Merit Badge Midway
Ralston Middle School, Belmont

11 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

19-21 Winter Fellowship
Cutter Scout Reservation

March 2010

11 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

27 Ordeal Candidate Orientation
Palo Alto Scout Center

April 2010

8 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

16-18 Bay Area 100 Year Jamboree
Alameda County Fair Grounds

23-25 Spring Ordeal
Cutter Scout Reservation

Ohlone Lodge 4th at NOAC Geocaching

By Ronald Yeung



NOAC introduced the geocaching competition, where each lodge could enter one team with no more than five people. Each team had to use a GPS to find seven geocaches in a specific order, and answer a questionnaire along the way. Our lodge team consisted of one person, Ronald Yeung, who successfully helped the lodge to gain 4th place in the entire competition. Participants who completed the course and answered the questions correctly received the yellow NOAC 2009 Geocaching Patch.

Food Review: NOAC

By Ronald Yeung



Throughout the entire week at NOAC, the meals served were good. Breakfast consisted of scrambled eggs, toast, and some protein. Lunch would either be a hot or cold meal. For dinner, there would be a variety of options, including pasta, vegetarian dishes, rice, and meat. A salad bar would appear for lunch and dinner. All three meals had some type of dessert and a wide selection of beverages from water, milk, coffee, soda, and juice. With the exception of disposable cutlery, the food service would be one step up from camps, regular and summer.

New OA Member? JumpStart Your OA Experience!

JumpStart is a great tool for new OA members. It contains information, guides, and history of the OA and info on becoming a Brotherhood member.

Go to: <http://jumpstart.aa-bsa.org/>

Ohlone Lodge “White Otter” Dance Team

By Nick Larsen and Michael Larsen

In many lodges across the country, a Dance Team is a main element of the Order of the Arrow program.

Ohlone Lodge is no different. The Dance Team exists as a way to allow members of Order of the Arrow to learn about and participate in Native American culture, and to perform in different places. Ohlone’s Dance team has ebbed and flowed over the years. The



White Otter Fancy Dancer

current group, known as the White Otter Dancers, started in April of 2006, and was given a jump start by the involvement of Ohlone Lodge as the Host Lodge for the 2006 W3-A Conclave. It was during this conclave that a number of the youth members decided that they wanted to

develop a Dance Team.



*White Otter Southern
Straight Dancer*

Dance Teams are often seen at Blue and Gold Celebrations, Cub Scout Graduations and other District and Council events such as Camporees, Webelos Xtreme and Scout-O-Rama. These

opportunities give many of the dancers

opportunities to perform and give service to the units in their Council, and give a

meaningful and memorable experience to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Most of the dances performed by O.A. Dance Teams come from the body of dances performed at festivals and competitions that have become known as “Pow Wows” around the United States and Canada. While many individual tribes have their own dance styles and tribal dances, many of these are religious in nature, and as such, are not appropriate to be practiced or performed by a non native or tribal dance team. Instead, Ohlone’s White Otter dance team draws from those dances that have become staples in Pow Wows over the past century. These dances and dance styles are considered

“social” dances, and as such, have spread all over the continent.

The Ohlone Dance Team gives dancers the opportunity to make their own dance clothes, to learn a bit about the culture and

what each dance style represents. The team already has several outfits that can be used by any of the dancers, and these outfits cover the different dance styles practiced. Each dancer usually wears a special headdress called a Porcupine Roach. This porcupine guard hair and deer tail headdress is one of the most commonly seen items on Native American dancers. Leggings, shirts, vests, aprons, and other items like bustles, fans, dance sticks and moccasins are also made to fit the style of the dance and to reflect the dancer’s own personality.



White Otter Grass Dancer

(Continued on next page)

Chief's Corner



At the W3S Conclave in September, our Lodge Chief, Bradley Bottoms, ran for the Section Vice Chief position – and won!

Because of his new duties in the Section, Bradley resigned as Lodge Chief for Ohlone Lodge. As Vice Chief of Administration, I assumed the position of Lodge Chief for the remainder of the term, which ends in June.

What does this mean for our Lodge? I don't believe it changes anything. We are still focused on attaining Quality Lodge for 2009, working hard on our upcoming events (Winter Fellowship, Spring Ordeal) and will still support the council when needed (Merit Badge Midway Lunch preparation and Memorial Day Flag event). What definitely does not change is our need for you to get involved! We have a great group of Arrowmen on the Lodge Executive Committee, but we need your participation to make our Lodge the best in the Western Region.

What can you do to help? Check the calendar and look at our newsletter, the Otterside, for event information. Send an email for more information if you are interested or just come by to help out.

We are also looking for Arrowmen interested in the Ceremony Team, Dance Team and the Elangomat Team. If you are interested, please send an email to Kyle Poland, our Vice Chief of Inductions. Try one of these teams out – I think you'll find it's enjoyable and you can spend time with your fellow Lodge members.

Looking forward to a great year!

WWW

Michael Miura
Ohlone Lodge Chief
lodgechief@ohlone63.org

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White Otter Dancers have outfits for Southern Straight (a regal, gentlemen's dance style), Northern Traditional (a classic warrior's dance style developed on the Northern plains), Grass Dance (one of the oldest dance traditions still practiced) and Fancy Dance (an acrobatic style that is very flashy and intricate).

Native American dancers often perform to the beat of a large Pow Wow drum, with many singers and drummers sitting at the drum, beating the drum in time together and singing one of the many Pow Wow songs that the dancers dance to. Some lodges have what is called a "mentor drum", where people who are experienced teach those to learn the songs that they perform. Since Ohlone does not have a local tradition to draw upon, we have used CD's and narratives provided by Myron Pahwaset of the Menominee nation (located in Wisconsin) and songs that originated with the Smokytown Singers. These CD's and narratives have proven very helpful because they perform the songs and explain the meaning behind the words and provide clear pronunciation to the words. Unlike many other musical traditions, Pow Wow songs are not written down, they are transmitted orally. Thus, the way to hear the songs is to listen to the drum, learn the words, and play and sing along.

If you would like to participate with the Ohlone White Otter Dance team, please feel free to contact Nick Larsen, the current Dance Team Chairman (nslarsen@ymail.com) or Michael Larsen, the current Dance Team Advisor (mkl_1967@hotmail.com). Otherwise, look for the White Otter dancers to be at a Scouting event near you.

David Harrell, 2009 Western Region Chief

By Teddy Heidmann and Ronald Yeung

This past summer, the two of us had the opportunity to meet and interview David Harrell, the 2009 Western Region Chief, after one of the nightly shows at the National Order of the Arrow Conference. The Western Region of the BSA



Photo courtesy of Western Region website

includes all of the US westward of Nebraska as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. As chief, David travels to all of our Section Conclaves, including our local W3S Conclave back in October, where he oversaw the election of our section officers and hosted an amazing round of OA Jeopardy. Some fun facts we found out about him are:

- He is turning 21 this month, and is a senior at Colorado State University
- NOAC 2009 was his third NOAC, and he loves watching and participating in the nightly shows held there
- He joined the OA in 2002 at age 13 when he was in middle school, and was first exposed to OA leadership when he found out about his lodge's elections team
- David grew up in Fort Collins, CO and is an avid Denver Broncos fan
- He attended Obama's Inauguration, has helped out with local political campaigns, and hopes to be a politician later in life.
- He enjoys watching obscure movies, reading textbooks for fun, and hanging out with friends

His term as Region chief ended in December, but he continues to remain active in Boy Scouts and in the OA as a Vigil Honor member. Finally, he encourages all Western Region members to do everything we can to make an impact both locally and at the national level. By going to all the events we can, we encourage more people to stay active and involved, thus creating a "domino effect" and helping us as a region to live up to our cheer: "WEST IS BEST!!!"



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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.aa-bsa.org

Western Region Order of the Arrow
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! Also, see our Facebook group

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