

# News from

# *THE OTTER SIDE*



Spring 2013

## Upcoming Events

### April 2013

11 LEC Meeting 7:30pm  
Foster City Scout Service Center

12-14 Spring Ordeal Weekend  
Cutter Scout Reservation

26-28 Section W3S Conclave  
Cutter Scout Reservation

### May 2013

16 Annual Business Meeting 7:30pm  
Foster City Scout Service Center

30 Annual Lodge Banquet 5:30-9:30pm  
Palo Alto Service Center

### June

7 LEC Meeting  
Foster City Scout Service Center

### July 2013

Have fun camping with you're units

## Lodge Banquet

By: Manu Navjeevan

Hello, everybody. The Annual Lodge Banquet is fast approaching. Though the location is yet to be decided, the cost will be twenty-five dollars per person. As many of you may remember from past years, the Lodge Banquet is a great time to catch up with your fellow OA brothers. The Lodge Banquet is also where we will be inducting our

officers for the upcoming 2013-2014 term. We also give out the Awards for the year as well as having a silent patch auction there. This year the



Banquet will be held at the Palo Alto Service Center(1150 Chess Drive, Palo Alto) from 6:30pm to 9pm. Chef Chu's will be catering. I hope to see everyone present!

## Conclave 2013

By: Manu Navjeevan

Ohlone Lodge 63, the Annual Section Conclave is upon us! The Section Conclave is where he eight lodges in our section come together for a weekend of fun and to elect the section officers for the upcoming term. Each year, a lodge from the Section hosts conclave, and this

year it's Ohlone Lodge's turn. The Conclave will be held at the Cutter Scout Reservation(Where we hold our Ordeals and Fellowship).

Conclave is always a lot of fun. It has always been great, for me, to meet with people from all over Northern California who share my similar interests in the OA. On Friday night, when you arrive and after you pitch your tent, there is an opening ceremony, which is always well produced and promises to be exciting. The next morning you can elect to take a variety of courses from Publications in Your lodge to Tomahawk throwing. In the afternoon, you can participate in a variety of inter-lodge competitions, from Native American Dancing to Handball, in which Ohlone is the reigning champion. That night there is another excellent show as well as Section

elections, which the youth can elect to attend. Afterward, there is a Brotherhood ceremony, which we encourage all Brotherhood eligible members to attend. The next morning there is another small show as well as speeches from the new Section Officers and then you head off.

However, the Conclave does not happen by itself. Behind the scenes, Section Officers and their CVC's(Conclave Vice-Chief's) have been hard at work to put together the various shows and activities so that you can have another great Conclave. Now, it's our time to help

out. to lend a hand to the Lodge. Ohlone Lodge is calling on you to help us put on Conclave. We will need Ohlone Lodge members to help out staff parking and help cooking. All Ohlone Lodge members will get \$10 dollars off the Conclave fee and Ohlone Lodge members inducted in 2012 and 2013 get an



additional \$10 off. Furthermore, it must be stressed that going to conclave with Ohlone lodge, does not mean that you will be unable to enjoy it. In fact, it could be argued that you will enjoy it more. You will get plenty of time off to experience all that Conclave has to offer and will gain satisfaction from knowing that you are a part of putting it all together. Thank you for your time and I hopw to see you at Conclave 2013, hopefully the best Conclave yet!

## Trad-o-ree

On Friday and Saturday, November 9-10, there was a Trade-o-ree at the Palo Alto Service Center, 1305 Middlefield Ln. The Lodge volunteered to help in this event and it was a smashing success. The

Lodge bore witness as frantic trading occurred and and those who attended were able to come back with a special patch pictured below. Thank you to all Ohlone Lodge members that came out for another successful Trade-o-ree.

## Spring Ordeal

Brothers, As you may know, the Ohlone Lodge#63 annual Spring Ordeal is coming up in April from the 12-14, just two weeks before our section conclave. Spring Ordeal is a great time to come together with your OA brothers, meet the newest members of our lodge, and learn about what's new in the Lodge. This spring ordeal we will spend much of our time getting ready for the upcoming conclave, and as such will need many people to come up and help with the effort. All those who attend will be able to get insider information on what will be happening at conclave as well as a debrief of what you can do to help. Staff positions that can be filled at the Ordeal include:

- Elangomat(youth-only)



Above: Patch given to Trade-o-ree volunteers

- Part of Ceremonies Team
- Fire-Keeper
- Kitchen Helper
- General Staff Member
- Dance Team

All of these positions need to be filled, and if you are interested in trying out for Ceremonies Team or Dance team (or even participating in

the Dance competition at Conclave) Ordeal is a great time to get a feel for how these things work in a nurturing, non-competitive environment.

Ordeals are were we first learn about the Order of the Arrow, and where I, personally got interested in it. It is where, at times, I have felt the most at home, despite being 30 miles into the desolate Santa Cruz mountains. Ordeal represents a sort of break from cruel reality and I personally encourage everyone who is free to come out to Ordeal and help out and experience all that Ordeal and the Order of the Arrow has to offer.

## National Leadership Seminar

*By: Ron Wellman*

On November 9-11, 2012, the Western Region of the Order of the Arrow held a National Leadership Seminar (NLS) and National Lodge Advisor Training Seminar (NLATS) at Coastguard Island in Alameda, California. This is a national training program for both Youth and Adults that teaches you leadership skills that help you become a better leader in Scouting and in your life. These training seminars are held throughout the Western Region and come to the Bay Area about every two years. Any member of the Order can attend NLS while NLATS is specifically focused on the skills and attributes for effective Lodge Advisors.

As an Adult attending NLS, I found the experience informative and educational. I would have to say that the seminar was like a mini-Woodbadge where the sessions were very interactive and beneficial for all. At the end of NLS you are asked to come up with a Personal

Commitment/Contract where you identify three personal commitments where you will apply the leadership skills you have learned back home. Upon completion of the three commitments you are rewarded with a NLS patch. The next scheduled Western Region NLS is April 5-7, 2013, in Phoenix, Arizona. Remember to walk like you talk, manage for the mission, and keep your eyes on the prize.

## Winter Fellowship Overview

*By: Manu Navjeevan*

This February 22-24, Ohlone Lodge held another successful Winter Fellowship. This was a great time for Ohlone brothers to get together and get ready for Ordeals. Friday night started off slow, with people getting there from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Saturday was more busy, with participants waking up at an unthinkable 7:30 to get breakfast. Then, it was straight to work making Ordeal booklets. All Candidates worked together on these booklets for about an hour and a half, collectively folding over 200 booklets for use in Ordeal ceremonies. We then spit up into two groups, with the Brotherhood candidates staying at Harkson Lodge to work on choker kits and practice for the Ordeal test. The other group went down to TSB to work on smudgepots and practicing lines for the Brotherhood ceremony. We all then headed up to Harkson for Lunch, which we ate with the rest of the members present. Then it was back down to TSB to prepare for the brotherhood ceremony and to keep working on smudge pots. Afterward, it was time for the brotherhood ceremony, which went successfully. Overall, we inducted 6 new brotherhood members. Sunday was mainly a

clean-up day with our VCI Caelan Conant taking pictures of Cutter in preparation for our upcoming conclave. We would like to thank all who came for making it a success!

## Venturing Crew 551 Takes on the Tanks

*By: Caelan Conant and Teddy Heidmann*

The newly formed Venturing Crew 551 in Portola Valley of California teaches youth about the restoration and historical value of armored vehicles. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Crew launched its first event, which was a huge success. People from all over came to learn about and take part in the many different steps in the vehicle restoration process. Starting off, groups rotated through youth-led presentations on different aspects of military vehicles and technology. The groups included a preview of the restoration process, a presentation on small arms, a display of various projectiles, and a photo-op and history lesson outside a Soviet era tank. At the same time, other groups took a tour through some of the museum's facilities. By far the biggest highlight of the day was when the youth members of the Crew drove out in a fully operational, 60 year old German half-track. Thanks to an overwhelming number of volunteers, Crew 551 plans to take on several tasks in the restoration process for many different vehicles. The Crew has many public appearances planned including one in next month's Veterans Day parade through the streets of San Jose. If you are ever in the area, please drop by and check out the MVTF museum located in Portola Valley, and ask for information on how to sign up for Crew 551, or email [caelan@conant.com](mailto:caelan@conant.com).

## Lodge Chief Corner

By Teddy Heidmann

My fellow Arrowmen,

Would you be willing to trade all the days from this day to the day you die to come back to this Lodge and show your dedication to yourself and to your brothers in the Order of the Arrow? Sometimes it is hard to set aside your self-interests and look only to those of others, yet we must bear this burden as Uncas did. If we are to remain a Lodge, we must join together and bear this burden as a team, avoiding selfishness and instead working for the good of your fellow Arrowmen. This ideal is the crux of our Obligation and the founding principle of our organization

How will you contribute?

What will you bring to the Lodge's communal table? Caelan, our VCI (and the inspiration for this Braveheart/Ceremonies letter), brings with him a cheerfulness to serve and a willingness to travel all around the council running elections, call-out ceremonies, and Blue and Gold dinners. Manu, the VCA, has taken upon himself the task of publishing this, the OtterSide, and is singlehandedly planning for the Lodge Banquet on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Abhishek, our Treasurer, has undertaken the task of keeping track of the Lodge Regalia. Last but not least Michael, our Secretary, has been keeping accurate records of each LEC meeting.

But where do you fit into this puzzle? Well, Ohlone will be hosting Conclave this year, and we need tons of help with planning and carrying it out. Did you know that if you sign up today, we will give you \$10 back, plus an additional \$10 if you earned your Ordeal in the past year? Sign up today by going to

[www.sectionw3s.org](http://www.sectionw3s.org) and clicking on the Conclave tab.

Secondly, we need a lot of help with elections. If you or your friend would like to participate in elections, please send Caelan an email at [vci@ohlone63.org](mailto:vci@ohlone63.org), and we will set you up. All this involves is showing up to a troop meeting (either by yourself or with another Arrowman or two), talking a little bit about the OA, passing out ballots, then counting them and announcing the results. It's extremely easy, but without this simple role we would have no new members to replace us when we head off to college.

Also, have you ever wondered what it would be like to participate on the ceremonies team? Along with Ordeals, we participate in Blue and gold Dinners, call-out ceremonies, and even show up to council dinners to promote the OA. The lines are fairly easy to memorize, and we spend all day Saturday at Ordeals 'practicing lines' (aka playing games). We also get amazing food and get to sleep in staff cabins, and by the end of the weekend you feel great about yourself for putting on such an amazing ceremony.

So, my brothers, what will you step up to lead? If you are still unsure, sign up for Winter Fellowship February 22-24 and we'll introduce you to all the Lodge officers so you can make an informed decision of where you would like to work. We have our annual elections on May 9<sup>th</sup> (Caelan's Birthday!), and monthly LEC meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:30pm at the Foster City Scout office. These are open to *all* lodge members, so stop on by and share your voice in the Lodge! I look forward to seeing you at the next Lodge event!

## Brotherhood Requirements

- I. Memorize the signs of OA Membership:
  - A. Obligation
  - B. OA Song
  - C. Sign of Ordeal Membership
  - D. Admonition
  - E. OA Handclasp
- II. Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal
  - A. The four principal characters of the Ordeal
  - B. The Four tests of the ordeal
  - C. The Arrow (As used in the Ordeal)
  - D. The true name of the Order of the Arrow
- III. Serve your Unit
  - A. Retain your registration
- IV. Review your Progress
  - A. When you earnestly feel you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to the Lodge Secretary. In this letter:
    1. Explain what you think the obligation means
    2. Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your unit and in your daily life and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service
    3. Describe your specific plans for continuing this service in the future
    4. Tell what the Order of the Arrow means to you, and why you are seeking Brotherhood Membership

*Publications Chair*  
**Manu Navjeevan**  
[publications@ohlone63.org](mailto:publications@ohlone63.org)

*Publications Adviser*  
**Teddy Heidmann**  
[publicationsadviser@ohlone63.org](mailto:publicationsadviser@ohlone63.org)

### Lodge Executive Committee

*Lodge Chief*  
**Teddy Heidmann**  
[lodgechief@ohlone63.org](mailto:lodgechief@ohlone63.org)

*Vice Chief of Administration*  
**Manu Navjeevan**  
[vca@ohlone63.org](mailto:vca@ohlone63.org)

*Immediate Past Lodge Chief*  
**John Wilken**

*Lodge Secretary*  
**Michael Wu**  
[secretary@ohlone63.org](mailto:secretary@ohlone63.org)

*Lodge Treasurer*  
**Abhishek Punia**  
[treasurer@ohlone63.org](mailto:treasurer@ohlone63.org)

*Lodge Adviser*  
**Greg Miura**  
[lodgeadviser@ohlone63.org](mailto:lodgeadviser@ohlone63.org)

*Lodge Staff Adviser*  
**Ron Chang**  
[ron.chang@scouting.org](mailto:ron.chang@scouting.org)

*News from the OtterSide* 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](http://www.aa-bsa.org)

Western Region Order of the Arrow  
[www.western.aa-bsa.org](http://www.western.aa-bsa.org)

Need more information about the Lodge or the Order of the Arrow? Check out Ohlone Lodge's website at: [www.ohlone63.org](http://www.ohlone63.org)

Find the lodge calendar, committee information, and more.

Copyright on this publication is by Ohlone Lodge #63, WWW. Permission is given for internal use within the OA and BSA. All other rights reserved.

