



Currents of the Alapaha



March 2010

2010 Section S-4 Conference Nearing!

Section Conference is only about a month away! The Conference this year will take place from April 16th to April 18th, 2010 in Lake Wales, Florida. Our brothers from Seminole Lodge will host us, along with the other lodges in the section, in the largest event of the year. A great amount of activities are planned that will keep all of you excited and motivated to have an extraordinary weekend. There will be several lodge vs. lodge games including volleyball and dodge ball. Some games will be played as a part of the “Quest for the Golden Arrow.” Our lodge will participate in several competitions including the King’s Cup competition.

The Conference is also a time of training and learning more about the aspects of the lodge. Training seminars for ceremonies, dance, and drum are among those that will be offered during the weekend. For those trying to get in physical shape, there is a 5K run planned on Saturday morning. A Section Conference trading post will also be open for souvenirs and refreshments. This is only the beginning of what is offered at conference!

The cost for attending the entire weekend is \$35. After the March 30th deadline, the fee increases to \$45. Everyone is encouraged to attend this magnificent event of brotherhood and cheerfulness. Let us bind together in brotherhood and show what we can do as a lodge at this years Section S-4 conference!

“Pause...and Look You Back on Scouting”— Nutiket
2010 Section Conference Theme

Upcoming Events of Alapaha

Section SR-4 Conference, April 16-18
Operation First Class, April 30-May 2

FourCorps 2010 , June 13-19

FLASH! At Press time we were advised the deadline for registration is now May 1st.

Chiefly Speaking

My Fellow Brothers,

I would like to say that we have wonderfully kicked off the year 2010. I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Lodge Chief during this great year of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. The LEC and myself are excited about what fun we have ahead of us.

We recently had our Winter "Wiregrass" Fellowship at Wallwood Scout Reservation in Tallahassee with our brothers from Semialachee Lodge. We took part in service by helping them with their Webelos Rendezvous weekend. Not only did we do service, but we also fellowshipped with them by eating meals, watching movies, playing on the drum, and participating in dance.

Our lodge has also been invited to do at least two ceremonies around the council to begin the year. Six members, including myself, took part in a Four Winds Crossover Ceremony during the Webelos Rendezvous weekend at Camp Patten at the end of January. Also, brothers from our lodge made a great ceremony at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. With these two accomplishments, I can say that the ceremonies aspect of the lodge has done an awesome job up to this point.

Some of the upcoming events that we are looking forward to are Section Conference from April 16-18 and hosting the annual Operation First Class from April 30-May 2. Also, a few arrowmen from the lodge are participating in the section-hosted FourCorps project during the summer.

I am looking forward to what is ahead for the lodge. I encourage all of you to become involved in the fun activities that we have planned. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at 229-244-7480 (home) or 229-740-5623 (cell). Or, you can e-mail me at chief@alapahalodge.org.

Yours in WWW,
Andrew Smith
2010 Alapaha Lodge Chief

In The Words of the Vice-Chief

Hello Brothers,

Thank you for electing me, Sam Peters, your 2010 Vice Chief. As vice chief, it is my job to make sure *we*, the lodge, run smoothly. I also am here to help you get involved. If you would like to participate in any of our lodge's wonderful activities or committees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On a similar note, as a lodge, we need to see participation in Lodge activities increase this year. We are preparing for an awesome Section Conference in April and the always awesome Operation First Class in May. If you are able to attend, please do. Your presence is always welcome. Last year, *we* only sent 9 youth to conference, this year *we* would like to send at least 15, so *we* can participate in all intra-lodge competitions. Again, we need you to participate! For the sake of Alapaha Lodge, and your fellow brothers.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Sam Peters
2010 Alapaha Lodge Vice Chief
(229) 561-7559
vicechief@alapahalodge.org



King's Cup

Alapaha Lodge will be entering an exhibit in the Kings Cup competition at Section Conference this year. This exhibit will spotlight the interesting history of the lodge. Anyone interested in helping should contact the King's Cup Committee chairman, Chris Hanson, or Andrew Smith at chief@alapahalodge.org.

Dance Team Created!

Come Join the OA Native American Dance Team! It's fun, exciting, and a very rewarding experience. Have fun by wearing full Native American costuming, learning songs in exciting Native American languages, competing in dance competitions, and of course, learning the mysterious and sacred art of the Native American Dance. The lodge officers of Alapaha Lodge are looking to expand the program of our Dance and Drum teams this year, and every Arrowman is invited to come out and participate. Numerous competitions for awards are open to the members of the dance team, and the fun had while dancing will make memories, which will last a lifetime. For more information, please contact Sam Peters, Dance Team coordinator at 229-561-7559, or by email at vicechief@alapahalodge.org.



LEC Happenings

- Chris Hanson was approved as 2010 Kings Cup Chairman.
- Discussion of a 2010 Lodge T-Shirt Design is open.
- A new lodge website is currently in progress. The address is www.alapahalodge.org.
- Two King's Cup Workdays are planned for Saturday March 13th and Saturday March 27th at Camp Patten at 10:00 AM.
- A Make-Up Ordeal is slated to happen in conjunction with Operation First Class. Drew Grove was approved as the Ordeal Master for this event.

Operation First Class

The 2010 Operation First Class is quickly approaching! On the weekend of April 30th through May 2nd, Alapaha Lodge will be hosting Operation First Class for all of the youth of the Alapaha Area Council.

For those of you who have never had the pleasure to participate in this amazing event, Operation First Class is an annual event put on completely by the youth of Alapaha Lodge to serve the non-arrowmen youth of the Alapaha Area Council. Arrowmen from our lodge help facilitate the growth of the youth of the council by providing a program that helps youth learn new skills in numerous subjects that they can use to make advancement on their trail to First Class. Arrowmen from our lodge help facilitate this event by: teaching classes in subjects such as fire building, knots, wood tools, and first aid; helping ensure that the weekend goes smoothly through a grounds and event crew, and helping develop programs for older boys in the troops who attend. Every Arrowman should be interested in attending and helping. Please contact a Lodge Officer or Operation First Class Chairman, Jared Koebble about serving and attending Operation First Class this year.



Help Wanted

Do you like to take pictures? Do you enjoy attending events that the lodge puts out? If so, Alapaha Lodge needs you! Alapaha Lodge is looking for any arrowman who wants to help take pictures and report on events of the lodge. No camera equipment is necessary, so anyone can participate! If interested, email Ben Bennett, Lodge Secretary, at secretary@alapahalodge.org

From the Desk of the Secretary

Brothers,

I would like to start by thanking you for electing me to serve you this year as your 2010 Alapaha Lodge Secretary. To help facilitate the amazing work of our lodge is a major responsibility, and I am honored to know that you trust me with this job.

As Lodge Secretary this year, I am charged with the responsibility of putting out this newsletter. This year, I want to see Alapaha Lodge have the most awesome newsletter in the history of newsletters. I know that this is possible, but I need some help. Traditionally, the newsletter has been a place where the LEC can get the word out about decisions that it makes, spread the word about the programs that we are implementing, and put out nice letters to the lodge from the Chief and Vice-Chief. As secretary this year, I want to see new changes in the newsletter. I want to put in new sections that will be put out in every issue, like the brand new “Where to Go Camping” section, coming new next month. I want to see more pictures and fun articles submitted by you, the members of the lodge.

Without beating the same drum of becoming more active that always seems to be beaten anytime something needs doing, I want to ask you to help me make this newsletter the best ever. If you have any ideas for places to write about in the “Where to Go Camping” section, pictures that you took at an event, or new ideas for the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service,

Ben Bennett
2010 Alapaha Lodge Secretary
secretary@alapahalodge.org



LEC Officers attend an informative session during the LLD



LEC Officers hone their leadership skills at the LLD Weekend



Mr. Rick Green Presents an award during the Annual Lodge

From The Rocking Chair

The Fellowship is behind us. We had committed to have 16 join with Semialachee Lodge at Camp Wallwood. At one point, it looked as if we would have as many as 18, illness started to take its toll, and at the end, an unplanned need to work on Saturday took one of our adults away from us. Although the events involving their Webelos were supposed to be over by noon, that changed, but our youth members got to do something that is impossible at Camp Patten – take a ride down the slide. The staff rigged, opened and staffed that element of their Cope Course.

The month of March is upon us. Typically in Alapaha Lodge this is a quiet time, which can be deceptive. We have several important events rapidly closing in on us. The first is the Section 4 Conference, which will be held at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation the weekend of April 16-18, 2010. Our Brothers of Seminole Lodge will host this event. All should have a good time, and if you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible. We need to know how many are going so we can arrange transportation.

Two weeks later we host Operation First Class at Camp Patten. For a brief point time we were considering moving the location, but the construction should be complete to the point that it will no longer impede our activities. We will need trainers to assist with this project, so those youth who would like to help, please contact the event Chairman, Jared Koebble, or our Lodge Chief.

Construction at Camp Patten? Yes, for those who have not heard, construction has begun on our new Training Center next to the Pepsi Shack. This project has been in the works for a number of years, and it should be finished so we will be able to use it by the end of July. This will be a great addition to Camp Patten and it will make our camp all the more enjoyable.

Rick Green
Alapaha Lodge Adviser
adviser@alapahalodge.org

