



News from

THE OTTER SIDE

Volume XII Number 4

Fall 2007

Upcoming Events

October 2007

4 Village Meetings 7:30pm
District Roundtable Meeting Sites*

11 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Pacific Skyline Scout Service Center
1150 Chess Drive, Foster City

26-28 Fall Ordeal
- see attached flyer for details
Cutter Scout Reservation

November 2007

1 Village Meetings 7:30pm
District Roundtable Meeting Sites*

8 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Pacific Skyline Scout Service Center
1150 Chess Drive, Foster City

December 2007

6 Village Meetings 7:30p
District Roundtable Meeting Sites*

13 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30pm
Pacific Skyline Scout Service Center
1150 Chess Drive, Foster City

January 2008

3 Village Meetings 7:30pm
District Roundtable Meeting Sites*

10 Lodge Executive Committee 7:30p
Pacific Skyline Scout Service Center
1150 Chess Drive, Foster City

*The District Roundtable Meeting
Sites are at the following LDS Stakes:

Sipliskin Village (Discovery District)
- 977 Sneath Lane, San Bruno

Muwekma Village (Redwood District)
- 3601 Alameda de las Pulgas, San
Mateo

Puyson Village (Stanford District)
- 190 Jordan Avenue, Los Altos



OA trail crew repairing a path at Philmont.

First a Spark, Now a Flame

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.

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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.

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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 years 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

First a Spark, Now a Flame (cont.)

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. 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.

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 us, 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 will 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 I could not fit it all into a 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.oa-bsa.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.

The Nature of Camping (cont.)

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.



Top Five Reasons to Attend Fall Ordeal

5. Come and watch some awesome ceremonies, complete with special effects
4. You get to sleep in the staff cabins, or the tipi, if you are lucky
3. Who doesn't like throwing tomahawks at pumpkins?
2. You don't have to work...but the candidates do.
1. Brotherhood bars make any sash look that much manlier.

So, come on down, bring all you friends, and have a great time! The Fall Ordeal will take place October 26th to 28th at Cutter Scout Reservation. Be at Cutter no later than 7:00 PM, and bring \$10.00 for food and lodging. If you have any questions, or you would like to help out, feel free to email lodge chief Ian Davis at lodgechief@ohlone63.org.

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! 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, lodgechief@ohlone63.org for scholarship information.



The Meaning of the Obligation

You said it first when you were inducted, and have since repeated it many times. We start every meeting with it. It is the obligation, the pledge that we all took to commit ourselves to the high ideals of the Order of the Arrow. But have you ever actually examined it closely, to see what it means?

There is one phrase in particular that should be emphasized, near the end, where you pledge that you "will endeavor, so far as [your] power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others." Basically, that you must at all times put others above yourself, and serve the community.

But this does not mean that you have to suffer in order to serve; you can help out, and enjoy at the same time. There are many programs out there that let you enjoy what you are doing, but still do good. One example of this is the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew.

This is why our lodge's program of emphasis for this year is ScoutReach. ScoutReach is a program within our Council that allows disenfranchised youth to experience the joys of camping and of the scout movement. Our job, as the most experienced campers in the council, is to act as mentors to these boys, teaching them important scouting skills that will eventually help them later in life. The lodge strongly encourages each of you to come out and support ScoutReach. There is a cub-on coming up where they could use OA mentors on the weekend of the 19-21 of October, as well as a ScoutReach fundraising barbecue on November 3. If you have any questions, or would like to help out, please email lodge chief Ian Davis at lodgechief@ohlone63.org.

JumpStart Your OA Experience

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

Go to:

[http://www.jumpstart.ohlone63.org/Trail to Brotherhood](http://www.jumpstart.ohlone63.org/Trail%20to%20Brotherhood)

To become an *Ordeal* member in the "Order," you were elected by your fellow Scouts. Then you chose to complete the *Ordeal* for membership and hopefully began a personal journey of discovery. Using the "legend" as example and the ceremonial characters as a guide you began to understand that this group of honored campers is also a service organization. An organization formed to promote camping, give service to the council and its camps, and to provide leadership opportunities in addition to Scouting units. What makes the *Brotherhood* honor of the "OA" special is that it is a personal choice. The completion of Brotherhood requirements and the sending of the required letter to the lodge secretary is the personal choice of each member. The completion of the requirements is all that is needed to be eligible for attending the ceremony and the attainment of the Brotherhood honor.

A Commitment to Serve

Attaining the *Brotherhood* honor is also a commitment to serve Ohlone Lodge, to help make it grow, to help it become a better organization in its effort to serve the Pacific Skyline Council and its units. Many members are needed to produce *News From The Otter Side*. Likewise the *Where To Go Camping* booklet needs to be reviewed, researched, and updated. Regalia needs to be made and maintained for ceremonies and the Indian Dance Team. The Dance Team itself needs dancers, singers, and drummers.

Ordeal Weekend

Strangely enough, the next opportunity to complete the attainment of the *Brotherhood* honor is at the next induction of new members. The *Ordeal* weekend in September needs Elangomats to lead the clans of new members into the Order. We also need participants in the work crews that complete projects to make our camps a better place and ceremonial members and assistants to provide the inspiration and understanding. Please take a moment to complete the enclosed flyer for mailing into the council office.



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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.

Need more information about the lodge or the Order of the Arrow?, Check out the following websites:

www.ohlone63.org
- Find the lodge calendar, committee and village information and more!

Western Region Order of the Arrow
www.oawest.org/

National Order of the Arrow
www.ohlone63.org/

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