



The Feather

Echokottee Lodge 200
Order of the Arrow - Boy Scouts of America

Spring Edition 2012

Section Conference 2012

By Brandon Newell

The 2012 S-4 Section Conference is just around the corner, and our lodge needs you to be at Wallwood Scout Reservation on April 20-22. This year Echokottee Lodge has created our own theme for the event, "We Are Echokottee, You May Bow." Only once a year does our lodge get to show up the other lodges in our Section, in everything that we do. S-4 hosts the largest annual Order of the Arrow event, attracting over 1000 arrowmen to the conference every year. Throughout the day you have the opportunity to take part in one of-a-kind training classes, play in a variety of Lodge competitions including Lodge ball, compete with Dancing or Ceremonial teams, and most importantly hang out with your brothers and meet arrowmen from throughout the State of Florida. Section Conference is

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only \$40, payable to council by check, cash or credit card, or directly to our lodge online.

Echokottee We Need YOU at Section Conference.

Spring Fellowship 2012!!!

By KYLE GEARY

Hey there Echokottee!

So as most of you know by now, our Spring Fellowship is going to be at Camp Echokottee this year instead of our normal place of fellowship, Camp Shands. HOWEVER, there are still jobs at Camp Shands that need to get done and that Ranger Burns has called on some Arrowmen to complete. Some of these include: Finish roof on waterfront pavilion, constructing concrete pads for dumpsters, thorough cleaning of buildings like the Ames and the Meninak (YOU might get to use a pressure washer...fun stuff.), and the much needed brush and trail clearing. There will be a small caravan of Arrowmen heading out to Camp Shands Saturday morning to get that service and whatever else Ranger Burns needs done. On another note, this fellowship's theme is 1970's, so as the Vice Chief who chooses which Chapter receives Sonic by the end of the weekend, I expect to see afros and disco balls and hear some Bee Gees and Earth Wind and Fire! A few costumes (see

If you have an interest in being part of creating the feather, contact Chris Faison at cwfaison@hotmail.com

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Echockotee Lodge 200 - North Florida Council 87
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PATRICK WRIGHT
Associate Lodge Adviser

RON FISH
Associate Lodge Adviser

BRIAN PATTERSON
Lodge Staff Adviser



My Brothers,

The Scout Motto is to “be prepared”, and boy has our preparation been tested! With all of the smoke that we have been experiencing at Camp Shands it is hard to believe that work is still taking place in and around the camp. But we are Echockotee Lodge and we can overcome any obstacles that are thrown our way. It has taken quite a bit of work but thanks to all of the Lodge Leadership, this upcoming Spring Fellowship is very possible. And truly, I like to think of what is happening as a “going back to our roots” experience. For we are spending a full-fledged fellowship weekend at Camp Echockotee, the birth place of Echockotee Lodge!

Also coming up right around the corner, we have the famous Section Conference, where we get to show our pride and help the rest of the Section realize what’s so wonderful about being in Echockotee Lodge! I promise you that our lodge will compete in absolutely every single event, for as they say, “you can’t win if you don’t try”. I know that along with myself, the other officers as well as some other key Arrowmen are doing their best to help Echockotee bring home the gold! With everything from Best -All-Around Lodge to the King’s Cup display and to the round robin games, Echockotee will be remembered for dominating!

I would also like to congratulate all of the new Vigil Honor members for what they have done to make this lodge what it is today and I cannot wait to see what they have in store for our lodge in upcoming years. On a side note, I would also like to thank the entire lodge as a whole, for we have earned the distinguished Quality Lodge award yet again!

As a closing statement, I would just like to remind everyone why we do what we do. It’s for the fun in the outdoors. It doesn’t matter where it is, if you give us a tree or two, some rope, and a cloth we, the Order of the Arrow can be very happy and call that a great weekend. Thank you very much!

Yours in Wimachtendienk,
Alexander Williams

page 3.)and cheers won't hurt your chances at winning Sonic, either. Can't wait to see all your cheerful faces on March 2nd at good old Camp Echockotee, ready to work AND have a BLAST!

The Vigil Honor

By *BRADLEY WATKINS*

This past winter fellowship, Echockotee lodge had the great privilege of receiving ten new Vigil Honor members. These new Vigils truly exemplify what a servant leader is and should be. I know that everyone in the lodge is capable of such leadership and those who continually try and commit to being unselfish in service and devotion to others will also find themselves receiving this great honor. The weekend went as well as it could have gone, taking into account the extremely thick smoke. It was a very interesting weekend, but everything turned out great! The banquet went smoothly and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Of the ten recipients of the Vigil Honor, five were youth and five were adults. Three of the youth: Chris Faison, Alex Leonard, and Dylan Kilby are lodge officers and have extremely dedicated themselves to their job. Chapter Chief, Andrew Solomons and Echo Shows Chairman, John Steinmeyer are no different leading extremely well in their respective positions. Of the adults to receive this great honor, Brad Watkins, Marty Heesacker, and Melissa Wright are all three very dedicated advisers. World-record holders Marty Luchter and Ron Spitznagel were also selected for this honor. Marty holding the record for most tedious diverse job set at any given fellowship and Ron holds the record for most

times elangomattin in a row with something like 58 fellowships straight. All in all, it was an extremely good year for the Vigil committee and all new Vigil Honor members were extremely deserving.

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Winter Fellowship!

By: *Chris Faison*

For everyone that joined the Lodge Officers and advisers out at Winter Fellowship, I'm sure that you will all agree that we had absolutely incredible event; despite the thick smoke that we experienced all weekend. No matter what, we of Echockotee Lodge run head first into any challenge that we experience and overcome it. That being said, all parts of the weekend went flawlessly thanks to the Leadership that helped facilitate all of the activities. From the Tapout of the new Vigil Honor members Friday night, to the Training all day Saturday, to the Vigil Banquet Saturday night, we had an all around amazing weekend together as a lodge. Speaking of the Vigil Banquet, thank you to all of the arrowmen who worked extremely hard in the dining hall to make the Banquet a HUGE success. You all do so much for our lodge during each and every fellowship and deserve so much more thanks than we could give you. Let's keep up the tradition of awesome Fellowships within our lodge. I hope to see you all at both Spring Fellowship and Section Conference.

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NOAC 2012 Here we come!!!

By: Alex Leonard

As the Summer of 2012 rapidly approaches, so does NOAC 2012!!! NOAC is the National Order of the Arrow Conference that will be held in East Lansing, Michigan at the beautiful campus of Michigan State University! This is one of the most exciting conferences out there, because it is the largest gathering of Arrowmen from across the country. At NOAC, there will be plenty of exciting games, competitions, evaluations, and so much more! There is always something for any Arrowman who attends. The Echockotee Lodge contingent will be leaving on July 28th and will be arriving back at Camp Echockotee on August 5. The cost is \$775 for youth and \$875 for adults, but the price is well worth it, Guaranteed! There are also scholarships available to those who may need them. To get registered for the event of a lifetime, send your \$100 deposit to the North Florida

Council Office today!! For more information about the event or how to register, visit www.echockotee.org/noac.html. Also, if you are interested in NOAC, scan the QR code to "LIKE" us on facebook! www.facebook.com/echockoteenoac2012.

OA High Adventure!!

By: Austin Kriznar

Want to go to a High Adventure Base such as: Philmont in New Mexico, Sea Base in our very own Florida Keys, Northern Tier in Minnesota, or even Canada, eh? The answer is YES. But what is that you say, "I can't..." Well turn that frown upside down, because OAHA (Order of the Arrow High Adventure) is here

to make those dreams come true! To start, the cost is much less, as in a two week excursion to Philmont is ONLY \$200, plus what ever it takes to get there. The time that you spend there is almost doubled, as all the programs generally last between 10 and 14 days. The highlight of it all is that you are doing service for the first week, followed by a week of doing WHATEVER you want. Go hike to three unconnected



dots on the map at Philmont, seeing the Tooth of Time and other landmarks; go dive in at the Keys from your sailboat to count different underwater species; go test your canoeing abilities or create a new path at Northern Tier; or hike 90 miles in a week between two countries in Canada. Because you are working for a week, then electing your own custom trail, ship experience, or portaging trail, you have freedom to go to whatever sites you want, so long as you can complete it. It would be crazy NOT to go with the OA, as you can go anytime according to your schedule, pay less, and stay for a longer period of time, while doing service! OA/HA is truly the opportunity of a life time, and if you would like more information, go to <http://adventure.oa-bsa.org/> directly, or to Echockotee's home page (a hyperlink is on the side banner). Do not miss this opportunity to Choose Your Adventure!

Echockotee Scholarships!

By Dylan Kilby

The process for scholarships with Echockotee Lodge was completely revamped, as per the 2011-2012 budget. Rather than arbitrary sums of money delivered based on specific events, scholarships through Echockotee Lodge have been standardized to ease the strain on the budget and to make it easier for Brothers to get the money they need for events.

There are three scholarship amounts: \$250, \$200, and \$100. Three allotments are available per scholarship amount for a total of \$1650. Scholarships are rated by strength of application, quantity of scholarships, and financial need as expressed in the application. They are judged by the Treasurer and his

adviser.

Echockotee Lodge scholarships may be applied to all BSA and OA events, including approved national and international programs (such as OA High Adventure). Arrowmen may only apply for one Echockotee Lodge scholarship at a time, and they must meet all Scouting prerequisites before application, including weight, age, and rank. Applicants who do not meet the initial prerequisites for their intended program will not be considered.

Scholarships are due by March 12th, and others will not be accepted past the due date except in extenuating circumstances. If there is a financial need for funds before the March 12th date, please notify the Lodge Treasurer and make a note of it on your application. The Lodge Officers truly want Brothers to attend the OA functions they can, and we don't want a Brother to miss out because they don't have the funds.





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Chapter Reports

Apieka

By JOSH MINTZ

Brothers,

I hope you are ready for the rise of the Gator, because Apieka is starting 2012 off in full swing. We have high hopes for this year and are ready to take them on. Unit Elections are running smoothly, and we have several great chapter events planned over the next few months. We are also currently in the planning process of the Alachua District Camporee, which our chapter is hosting. Apieka is ready to have fun, so I hope you are, too.

Elemukulek

By Austin Kriznar

Hello Echockoteians!

Elemukulek is having a spectacular new year so far, and plans to bring its all for Spring Fellowship. Our event roster coming up includes our Fellowship, a Chapter Service project

(benefiting our own Camp Shands), and the Service Day. We look forward to the opportunities for growth and service in our chapter and more importantly, the Lodge. If you are a member and you want to get back to helping your Lodge, Districts, Troops, and Packs, find out what is going on at our meetings every first Thursday of the month at 7pm at by Christ's Church (off of Greenland Road).

Oglala

By James Andrew Higbe

Greetings Echockotee Lodge,

We have been having a great time fellowshiping monthly at our Chapter meetings. Just a reminder, we meet at Wesconnett United Methodist Church at 7:13 on the third Thursday of each month. With each month the meetings get better! The games are fun and the pizza is good – as always. At one of our previous Chapter meetings

we voted on the color blue for our upcoming Chapter t-shirts, which are going for \$10. We hope to have them at Summer Fellowship – provided we get enough orders. At the last fellowship Oglala had a fun time participating in the various competitions on Saturday. We received a 1st place tier for the Publications competition and a 2nd place tier for the Historical Display contest. One of our advisors took part in the Advisor Cook-off and brought home 3rd place. A “thanks” goes out to all the Oglala members who assisted somehow with the competitions. We were humbled to welcome two new Vigil Honor members into our Chapter. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the next Fellowship. Be prepared to hear plenty of Oglala cheers!!!

Oklawaha

By Peter Wykoff

The Chapter has had a very successful winter, 2012. At the Winter Fellowship, we had a good turn-out of members, 35 to be exact! The Chapter helped with the teaching of training classes. Some Arrowmen helped with the Echo-Shows. Thanks to everyone! Our next Chapter meeting is Thursday, February the 23 at a bowling alley. We will be discussing the upcoming Fellowship, Section Conference, and District wide service project.

Osceola

By *CHALKER KINGRY*

Hello brothers of Echockotee! Osceola's district crossover and tap out weekend was very successful. Thanks to the lodge's ceremony committee for providing regalia and the dance team for participating in the Saturday night OA tap out ceremony. After the ceremony, our brothers joined together for an ice cream social and root beer floats. During the day activities, the present members assisted in teaching scouts that had crossed over Friday night various skills and requirements to jump-start them on their trails toward Eagle. Our unit election season is mostly complete and we tapped-out

about 20 OA candidates so far. We have been maintaining our 15 member average at our monthly meetings and are ready to take all of you on at the Spring Fellowship!

Saturiwa

By *Bradley Phillips*

Hello Everyone!!!!

Saturiwa is having a great time. We were amazing at Winter Fellowship with a large turnout and tons of fun. We rocked at the competitions, had a great time playing the games and activities, then even ended the day with a huge joint party with Timucuan Chapter. It was a great time for all of our members. Chapter meetings are booming with high attendance and retention of members is very strong. We are looking forward to Spring Fellowship, and hope to see everyone there.

Seminole

By: *James Bryan*

Hello Echockotee!
Seminole Chapter has been having a great year. We had an awesome time at Section Seminars, which 5 of our members attended and learned a lot from, and more recently, Winter

Fellowship. We also set up our usual bowling game at the Special Needs Camporee in October. Our monthly meeting time and location have been changed; we are now meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Dunn Avenue on the first Thursday of every month during our district's round table meeting.

Timucuan

By *J.T. DAVIE*

Howdy Echockotee,

We had a total blast at the Winter Fellowship, having about 40 members in attendance, 4 dancers, and 9 brothers working in the kitchen. We did great in the chapter competitions; in the gold category for publications and the historical display, and silver for our website. (timucuanchapter.webs.com - check it out!) At our February chapter meeting, we had a special guest, Joseph Baker from Tsali Lodge, in North Carolina. Well that is all, we hope to see everyone at the Spring Fellowship for an even better time.



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Editor: Chris Faison

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2011 -2012 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
March 2-4, 2012	Spring Fellowship Theme: 1970s	Camp Echokotee
April 20-22, 2012	Section Conference	Wallwood Scout Reservation
April 28, 2012	Service Day	Camp Shands
May 18-20, 2012	Summer Fellowship Theme: 1980s	Camp Shands
July 30- August 4, 2012	NOAC	Michigan State University
August 17-18, 2012	LLD	Camp Shands
Sept. 28-30, 2012	Fall Fellowship Theme: TBD	Camp Shands
Oct. 19-21, 2012	Special Needs Camporee	Camp Shands