



Smoke Signals

A Publication of
Lowwapanew Lodge 191



Vol. 15, Issue 4

Northeastern Pennsylvania Council

Autumn 2006

86 YEARS 'ROUND THE POND

BY: RYAN JOHNSON

As of August 19th, 2006 Goose Pond closed its gates for the summer season – the Administration Building was closed up, the Handicraft and Nature Lodges were converted to cabins for the winter, and all of the campsites were taken down and packed away. It is always a sad time when another summer camp comes to a close but it is also a joyous time to reflect upon the great times that went on during another summer 'Round the Pond.

This season was yet another great year with an exceptional staff, as well as an awesome group of Scouts and Scouters. Although for the first week or so, the weather wasn't always on our side, Goose Pond still offered seven weeks of non-stop Scouting fun!

The Order of the Arrow was also active during summer camp. Every Thursday at camp was OA Day and the spirit of the Order was very lively. The staff put on a Brotherhood Fellowship Crackerbarrel that consisted of ice cream sundaes and nachos & cheese for all Arrowmen. Afterwards, a large group of people would proceed to the Parade Field for midnight drumming and dancing. I personally have never seen the Order so alive at Goose Pond!

Besides the eating and drumming, our Service Committee was also hard at work performing numerous acts of cheerful service. The Order was especially helpful in repairing roads and trails by filling in the ruts formed by the roaring water during the torrential downpours and flooding of the first week.

Goose Pond has been running a fantastic program for almost as long as the OA has existed and the Order of the Arrow has been an indispensable asset in keeping Goose Pond in such good condition, by providing both service and fellowship. We look forward to seeing everyone during the 2007 summer camp season.



UPCOMING LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

BY: JACOB CURTIS

On January 21, 2007 Lowwapanew Lodge will hold its annual Lodge Leadership Development at the Scout Service Center. This is a required event for all chairmen, advisors and the new officers. In addition, any and all other Arrowmen are both encouraged and invited to attend. The training will start at 1 PM.

Everyone in attendance will learn helpful leadership skills such as dealing with committees, what a committee is expected to do throughout the year, working with adult advisors, and learning effective communication and training skills. Those in attendance will also have the privilege with helping to develop the annual goals that the lodge will try to achieve in the next year. If you are interested in attending, please mark it on your calendar now and pay attention to the lodge e-mails to receive more information.



THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST MAILING OF SMOKE SIGNALS... *ARE YOUR DUES PAID?*

We need your help! The Lodge has met all the requirements needed for the National Quality Lodge recognition for the 2006 year except for membership. We are asking you to please pay your 2006 (and 2007) dues as quickly as possible so we can attain this lofty position of Quality Lodge for the 10th straight year.

Check your mailing label on this issue of *Smoke Signals* to determine whether your dues are up-to-date, lapsed, or maybe about to expire. It's never too early to pay in advance either! See page 9 for dues registration info.

CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Brothers,

As we prepare for these final months in our year there is still much to accomplish such as choosing the leadership of Lowwapaneu Lodge for 2007 in the November Elections, preparing for the Holiday Banquet, and most importantly, achieving Quality Lodge for the tenth straight year – a virtually unheard of feat throughout all lodges in the Order of the Arrow.

This past year we have made tremendous and monumental gains in Lowwapaneu Lodge with the induction of over one-hundred and twenty Arrowmen into our illustrious Order, achieving our Brotherhood conversion, and by setting a precedent with the largest contingent to ever attend the National Order of the Arrow Conference from the Northeastern Pennsylvania. With all of the progress and success we have shared throughout this year we still must prepare and plan to complete our lodge goals that we set back in January at the Lodge Leadership Development training.

This work and execution of completing these goals could not have been done with you the Arrowmen of Lowwapaneu Lodge. But, the job is still not finished! I encourage all that read this to aspire to become more active in our Lodge on any level and assist us as we prepare for the stretch run with one goal in mind....to continue upon our years of success and insure the prosperity of Lowwapaneu for years to come.

In Service,
AJ Gaudenzi
Lodge Chief



ADVISER'S MINUTE

HELP WANTED....Are You Ready To Serve?

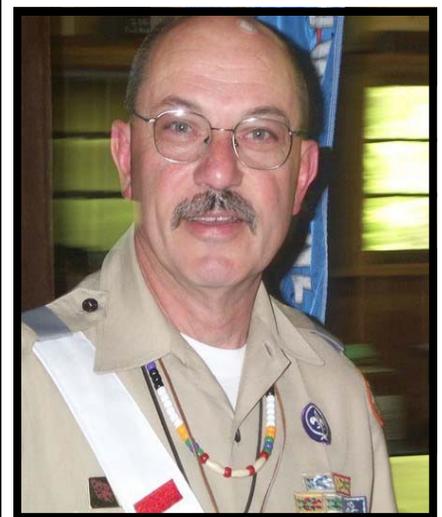
There is about to be a great turnover of youth leadership within our Lodge. This past year we have had two officers leave for colleges at distances which are too far to commute. One officer has stepped down and one will be turning age 21 and age-out by the end of the year. This has created a large void in the Lodge leadership.

Who will step up, accept the challenge and run for these positions?

If you are at all interested in running for one of the 5 Lodge officer positions of Lodge Chief, Vice Chief of Program, Vice Chief of Administration, Secretary or Treasurer and meet the qualifications: be under the age of 21 for the entire term Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2007, be a member in good standing (dues paid) and submit a letter of intent, then go to our web site (lowwapaneu.org) and fill out the official intent form and get it to me (Lodge Advisor) before November 15. See the article on page 7 for more details on the election meeting.

You will definitely find these positions to be a great opportunity and a very worthwhile adventure!

In Service,
John Croom
Lodge Adviser





Be Sure to Join Us...



Holiday Banquet 2006

An Annual Tradition of Fellowship



WHERE: The After Five Restaurant, 280 Main St, Dickson City

WHEN: December 28, 2006. Fellowship begins at 6:00PM with Dinner at 6:30PM

DIRECTIONS: The After Five is located near Schiff's and Johnson College. Take I-81 to Exit 190, at the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Main St, watch for the After Five approaching quickly on your right.

WHAT: This year's banquet will feature the usual fare of good food, outstanding awards, and lots of fun and fellowship.

WHO: The Banquet is for all Arrowmen but is also open to anyone...please bring your family, friends and other guests as well.

COST: The price for the Banquet is \$18.00 per person. Register today!

QUESTIONS: Contact Phillip Diefenderfer or Greg Russick for any questions.

Name: _____ Unit #: _____

Number of Guests _____ x \$18.00 = \$ _____

Phone: _____

Make Payments and Registrations to:
Northeastern PA Council, BSA
Lowwapanew Lodge 191
1 Bob Mellow Drive

Moosic, PA 18509



SIGN UP AT THE SERVICE CENTER TODAY!

LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF LEADERSHIP

BY: RANGER TIM BONGARD

Need a good book for a book report or term paper? How about reading a great book just to learn some new tricks in dealing with people and being a better leader? You can find all that and lots more in a terrific book called *Shackleton's Way*, published in 2002 by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell (ISBN # 0142002364). It received outstanding reviews and most libraries should have a copy on their shelves, either in hardcover or paperback. You can also order a copy through your local bookstore.

Shackleton's Way follows the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's failed Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1916. The adventure epic examines the strengths and weaknesses in leadership and character through the experiences of Shackleton, his men, and other expeditions. It is a fascinating and easy read – the book isn't written to be confusing nor massive. Instead, it is a concise and entertaining examination of what makes a great leader, why good teams succeed, and why bad ones fail. In what we do as Scouts, and especially what we do as members of the Order of the Arrow, this is a "must read" and will serve you well in school, business, and any other leadership situations where there is work to be done or a challenge to be met.

If you have a personal library of books you own, be sure to add this to your collection. If you don't, make this the first book in your library – it will be a book you go back to again and again.

PENNSYLVANIA'S EARLY CURRENCY

BY: GERALD EPHAULT

A native forest root as currency? Paper currency was considered worthless, during Pennsylvania's frontier period, when Indian tribes and settlers intermingled, traded and occasionally engaged in battle. In the early 1700's, metal coinage was a rarity in the unsettled areas of Colonies. Rather, other forms of exchange were used for currency or barter. Two such forms of currency were Whiskey and American Ginseng.

American Ginseng, a forest plant native to Pennsylvania, is widely sought after for its medicinal and therapeutic properties, especially by consumers in East Asia. The root is dried and then sold into the herbal market. The "little man" root as it is known, due to the roots shape, has been found to contain greater potency than Ginseng grown in other parts of the World, particularly Korea.

American Ginseng was in fact a major income source (cash crop) for the settlers and farmers in Pennsylvania for a number of decades. The plant was prolific throughout most of Pennsylvania; however, over-harvesting caused the plant to become a rarity. Ginseng is still found in Pennsylvania but most frequently in cultivated plots. Wild plants do exist and usually the locations are kept a secret by the finder. The reasons for the secrecy are twofold- first because of the rarity of the plant and people want to preserve the plant and secondly because the dried root sells between \$100 to \$650 per pound.

I believe I located a plant in a bramble of blackberry bushes during a recent hike in Wayne County. I am working on verification and do not intend to harvest the plant.

I encourage you to learn more about American Ginseng and its history in Pennsylvania. More information can be gained at: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/vulnerable_plants.aspx.

References in this article were developed from PA Game News, Oct. 2005, Taking Stock of Ginseng, E. Burkhart and M. Jacobson.

FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

March 24-26, 2007: Keep these dates open to attend the annual Fellowship Weekend at Camp Acahela! . This is a fun-filled weekend and a great time! Watch for registration information and more details in the near future!

LODGE OFFICER ELECTIONS

On November 22 at 7:30PM, there will be a General Lodge meeting at the Council Service Center. During this meeting, YOU, the youth members of the Lodge will cast your vote for the next set of Lowwapaneu Lodge officers. If you intend to run for office, you must submit your letter of intent by November 15th to Mr. Croom. The letter must be in the format found on the lodge website: www.lowwapaneu.org. It's your turn to be proactive, elect your next Chief, Vice-Chiefs, Secretary and Treasurer. We hope to see you run for office and at the meeting to cast your vote! *"Through inspiration, Lead them."*

OA TRAIL CREW AT PHILMONT

Watching the sun rise upon the mountain horizon of Mount Baldy is a memorable experience that one will remember for the rest of their life. The Order of the Arrow wants to provide you with the chance to experience that moment and to explore the backcountry of the Philmont Scout Ranch where Arrowmen from across the country gather each summer to take part in fellowship, fun and service. All Arrowmen, who arrive are separated into crews led by OA Trail Crew Foremen, who have been trained in various conservation techniques used to assist in solidifying in the pristine ness that is Philmont. During the first week, participants will labor with the other participants to provide service to the Ranch with each other by engaging in trail building and to help rebuild some of the area destroyed in past wildfires. After this week, crews design their very own trek that is unique to those involved in the experience. As a participant, what you say is what you do. Some choose to climb to the heights on Mount Baldy, others choose to enjoy the sights from Mount Phillips and still some choose to explore historic Philmont with its caves, mines and villas. Maybe what you are looking for is the final descent from the Tooth of Time upon base camp. Whatever your fancy, Philmont has what you are looking for but only through the Order of the Arrow will you be given the opportunity to utilize the synergy of brotherhood that will take you Philmont's ultimate depths.

For more information about the Trail Crew program, visit Adventure.oa-bsa.org or ask AJ Gaudenzi.



OA HIGH ADVENTURE FACTS

- ◆ This is an inexpensive way to attend the High Adventure bases. Philmont - \$150, Northern Tier - \$125
- ◆ Applications can be found at <http://adventure.oa-bsa.org>.
- ◆ Lowwapaneu would like to send 10 people to these great programs.
- ◆ As of this publication date, there are 4 people signed up to go.

The OA Ocean Adventure at Sea Base Is Already Full!



OA VOYAGE AT NORTHERN TIER

Have you ever seen the Northern Lights or portaged a canoe? If not, then the Order of the Arrow has the opportunity for you to participate in the OA Voyage Program at Northern Tier Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota. Since 1999, the Order of the Arrow has provided Arrowmen between the ages of 16 and 21, the opportunity to explore and service the Boundary Waters and some of the most pristine wildlife seen by few. Even if you have portaged a canoe or participated in the program previously, there are other opportunities available to you. All participants in the program are placed into crews that will service a portage trail for one week as it is imperative as members of the Boy Scouts of America to leave things better than we found them. After learning how to use a variety of tools and how to effectively perform a "J-stroke," you and your crew will design your very own trek. These treks are unique in that many of them are longer and travel to uncharted territory than the normal crews that leave the base. Not very many people whom you go to school with or work with can say that they have paddled 185 miles by canoe to International Falls or portaged the final 4 miles that leads to Lake Superior. These examples are experiences that will live with those crew members, who made some of the Voyage's memorable journeys. Experiences are what shape the people we will become in the future. Sign up today for a journey, you will surely not regret.

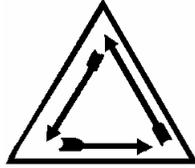
For more information about this program or any of the Order of the Arrow's High Adventure programs, please visit Adventure.oa-bsa.org or talk to your lodge chief. Don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime ; discover the hidden gem of the BSA, discover the OA Voyage at Northern Tier!

VIGIL HONOR NOMINATIONS

Alertness to the needs of others is the mark of the Vigil Honor. It calls for an individual with an unusual awareness of the possibilities within each situation.

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting. Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors. The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to one or more of the following:

- Lowwapaneu Lodge
- The Order of the Arrow
- Scouting Community & Council
- ◆ Our Scout Camps



Under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation. Any member of the Order of the Arrow registered in Scouting and in good standing in a regularly chartered lodge is eligible for recommendation to the National Order of the Arrow Committee for elevation to the Vigil Honor provided that, at the time of the recommendation, the individual has been a Brotherhood member for a minimum of two years.

If you know someone who meets these lofty requirements you may nominate them for this Honor. **All nominations must be on the nomination form located on our web site. They should be sent the Service Center to the attention of Vigil Committee/John Croom. Deadline for these nominations is December 1st.** More information and the forms are on our web site, www.lowwapaneu.org

FOUNDERS AWARD NOMINATIONS

With the death of the Order of the Arrow's Founder, Dr. E. Uner Goodman, The National Order of the Arrow Committee decided that the time was right to reinforce the values first established by the founders. The Founder's Award was created in 1981 to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to the lodge.

The award is reserved for an Arrowman who demonstrates to fellow Arrowmen that he or she memorializes in their everyday life, the spirit of achievement as described by Goodman. The award consists of a bronze medallion bearing the likenesses of founder E. Uner Goodman and co-founder Carroll A. Edson. The reverse of the medallion is inscribed with the words, which immortalize the meaning of the award, "For he who serves his fellows, is, of all his fellows, greatest!" Accompanying the medallion is an engraved certificate with appropriate national and local signatures. The recognition piece for the Arrowman's uniform is an arrow ribbon, similar to the universal arrow ribbon, except that it has a gold-colored arrow suspended from a solid red ribbon. Local Lodges may petition the National Committee to present one Founder's Award annually for every 500 lodge members or portion thereof. Since its inception in 1981, only 18 Lowwapaneu brothers have received this award.

Nominations should be taken seriously and as much information about the nominee as possible should be submitted to the Lodge Committee.

The Deadline for submission is November 14th and all must be on the nomination form found on our web site. Nominations will not be accepted on any other format.

They should be sent to the Service Center to the attention of John Croom/Founders Committee. More information and requirements are on our web site, lowwapaneu.org



2005 Lowwapaneu Founders Award Recipients Tino Penzone & Josh Tucky



PAST RECIPIENTS

Dave Mitchell	Josh Thomas
Jeremy Kobeski	Bill McAuliffe
Bill Botke	Dave Srebro
Eric Chase	John Gaudenzi
John Croom III	Matt Beckage
Dave Nguyen	John Croom Jr.
Aaron Dombroski	Dan Nestorick
Greg Russick	Bob Gibbons
Josh Tucky	Tino Penzone

CEREMONIES COMMITTEE

The ceremonies team will be having it reorganization meeting at 1 pm on November 19, 2006 at the Service Center. Any member of the lodge that would like to get active on the committee should attend. Principal parts will be assigned at this meeting.

When you come to the November meeting, please come knowing if you can commit to the following dates. We want to put the dates in stone at the November meeting so that we **all** can be present at committee meetings. If for some reason members can't make one of these dates we want to change the date on November 19th so that each member has ample time to clear their calendar.

January 14, 2007 at 1PM at the SSTC

February 18, 2007 at 1PM at the SSTC

March 24, 2007 at 11AM at the Fellowship weekend

April 15, 2007 at 1PM at the SSTC

May 12, 2007 at 9AM at GPSR

June 1-3, 2007 at GPSR Spring Ordeal

June 15-17, 2007 Conclave (Optional Event)

July at the Lodge Picnic (TBA)

September 7-9, 2007 at the Fall Ordeal

It will be the policy of the Ceremonies Committee, that those who are returning principals in ceremonies or interested ceremonialists be required to attend all meetings, practices and any other mandatory sessions to ensure that the candidates will draw the utmost meaning from these ceremonies. Not fulfilling these rules set forth by the committee will result in removal from the ceremonies and replacement by a more dedicated Arrowman.

2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LODGE COMMITTEES

Activities

Chairman	Philip Diefenderfer	pdiefend@ptd.net
Adviser	Greg Russick	lowwapaneulackey@msn.com
Adviser	Mark Diefenderfer	mldiefen@ptd.net

Brotherhood

Chairman	Sean Burger	cheeseburg1013@hotmail.com
Adviser	Josh Tucky	jatucky@hotmail.com

Camping

Chairman	Jason Bender	cbsysco@ptd.net
Adviser	Joe Fisne	fiz1@adelphia.net

Ceremonies

Chairman	Jack Morton	jmorton@fc.wyomingseminary.org
Adviser	J Croom	jrcroom3@gmail.com

Elangomat

Chairman	Tom Ziman	iluvketchup@verizon.net
Adviser	Ed Fitzgerald	webmaster@fssp.com

Food

Chairman	Matt Tomazic	mtomazic@echoes.net
Adviser	Tino Penzone	tp eagle@echoes.net

Native American Activities

Chairman	John Fitzgerald	johnfitz88@aol.com
Adviser	Greg Morcom	glmdgm@aol.com

Ordeal

Chairman		
Adviser	Nick Rocco	niroc@verizon.net

Publications

Chairman	JD Dougher	eaglespirit0@hotmail.com
Adviser	Dave Nguyen	davenguyen191@aol.com

Technology

Chairman	Andrew Hess	andyh@miraclec.com
Adviser	Michael Hess	mhess@miraclec.com

Service

Chairman		
Adviser	Ed Zurek Sr.	570-540-8852

Troop Representative

Chairman	Dan Williams	dtwilliams1111@yahoo.com
Adviser	John Gaudenzi	gdenz40@hotmail.com

Unit Elections

Chairman	Kevin Jacobs	
Adviser	Mike Nestorick	bsa418@epix.net

2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LODGE OFFICERS

Lodge Chief	AJ Gaudenzi	351-8385	ndfball3@hotmail.com
Vice-Chief -Program	Ryan Johnson	868-6935	chandlerj@excite.com
Vice-Chief -Admin	JD Dougher	876-3053	eaglespirit0@hotmail.com
Lodge Secretary	Jacob Curtis	488-5265	curtis@socantel.net
Lodge Treasurer			
Lodge Advisor	Mr. John Croom Jr.	842-8805	croomjr@gmail.com
Assoc. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Matt Beckage	489-5717	zeado@fedweeknet.com
Assoc. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Mike Nestorick	675-1293	bsa418@epix.net
Financial Advisor	Mr. Mike Minello	587-1819	minello@nawarhorse.com
Staff Advisor	Mr. Dave Srebro	207-1227	dsrebro@nepabsa.org

PUBLICATIONS

We are always looking for writing contributions to the *Smoke Signals*.

Consider submitting an article for the next issue:

The submission deadline for the next *Smoke Signals* is:

February 1, 2007

Submit to:
publications191@hotmail.com

Lodge Dues & Event Registration Form

Name: _____ Youth _____
 _____ Adult _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

Dues: I want to pay my dues: _____ years x \$ 8.00 per year = \$ _____

Holiday Banquet: _____ people x \$18.00 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
 Lowwapanau Lodge 191

After completing this form please mail it to:
 Lowwapanau Lodge #191
 c/o Northeastern PA Council
 1 Bob Mellow Drive
 Moosic, PA 18507

Troop Representative Registration Form

Name: _____ Troop#: _____ District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

After completing this form please mail it to:
 Lowwapanau Lodge Troop Reps
 c/o Northeastern PA Council
 1 Bob Mellow Drive
 Moosic, PA 18507

Or Email: JD Dougher
 eaglespirit0@hotmail.com

HARVEST FEST 2006 – ANOTHER LODGE SERVICE SUCCESS

On October 21 & 22 at Camp Acahela we assisted our Council in running the largest event of the calendar year. Haunted Harvest Fest was again staffed by numerous Arrowmen from throughout the Council, helping with registration, parking, costumes, hayrides, dining hall, as well as a number of different program booths for almost 1200 Cub Scouts, parents and families. Our Drum Team also highlighted the program by performing at the top of every hour on the Parade Field. Overall, the weekend was a huge success with good weather and a great program. We were an asset in helping the Council with this very important Cub Scout event. Special thanks goes out to all Arrowmen who contributed time and effort in assuring that Harvest Fest was the success that we all knew it would be!

ARE YOU GETTING EMAILS FROM THE LODGE?

The Lodge communicates the bulk of our information, reminders, and activities to our members through the **Lowwapanau E-groups Email List**. If you aren't on the e-list, you are missing out on lots of up-to-date information on the happenings of Lowwapanau and the Order!

To join the Lodge E-Mail List:

- ◆ Visit the Lowwapanau homepage at <http://www.lowwapanau.org>.
- ◆ On the left column of the webpage, there is a link that is called "Mailing List." Click on the link.
- ◆ Follow the appropriate instructions.
- ◆ You will now be set to receive all the latest information from the Lodge.

Smoke Signals

Lowwapaneu Lodge 191
Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, BSA
1 Bob Mellow Drive
Moosic, PA 18507

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IMPORTANT LODGE DATES

Lodge Executive Committee Meetings:

The 4th Wednesday of Each Month at the Scout Service Center at 7:30 p.m.

January 24, 2007

February 28, 2007

March 28, 2007

April 25, 2007

May 23, 2007

General Lodge Meetings:

November 22, 2006—Service Center, 7:30—**Annual Election of Officers**

Activities and Other Important Events:

December 3, 2006—Elections Team Training, Service Center

December 28, 2006—Holiday Banquet, After Five Restaurant

January 21, 2007—Lodge Leadership Development, Service Center

March 23-25, 2007—Fellowship Weekend, Camp Achela

June 1-3, 2007—Spring Ordeal, Goose Pond

HOLIDAY BANQUET 2006

BY: PHILLIP DIEFENDERFER

On Thursday December 28, Lowwapanau Lodge will be holding our annual Holiday Banquet. This banquet is for all members of Lowwapanau Lodge, their families, and their friends. The banquet doors open at 6:00 PM with fellowship for all who attend. Dinner will begin approximately at 6:30 PM. During and after dinner we will be honoring the members of our Lodge for their various accomplishments over the past year and will also be giving out numerous other awards – both serious and fun. Throughout the night the Lodge will be having many activities including a main presentation for all to enjoy. The cost of this event will be \$18 per person in attendance and will be held at the After Five Restaurant on 280 Main Street in Dickson City. This annual event has been enjoyed by all members of our Lodge, so come out with your family and friends to join us in this tradition of Food, Fellowship, and Fun. See registration information, directions and more details on page 5 of this issue.

FALL ORDEAL RECAP

BY: DAVE NGUYEN

The Fall Ordeal was held at Camp Aachela during another glorious weekend of fun and fellowship under the autumn skies. The weekend was filled with the true meaning of the Arrow: Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and Service. Many of our current brothers came out to welcome the newest members of the Lowwapanau Lodge.

The Fall Ordeal is held each September at Camp Aachela as a way for the Lodge to assist the Council in taking down all of the tents and winterizing the Camp for the Fall/Winter/Spring seasons until it comes to again to welcome the Cub Scouts to their summer camp season.

During the weekend, we inducted many new Ordeal members and also congratulated several Brothers who completed their induction in the Order by sealing their Bond in Brotherhood. Congratulations to everyone!

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU... BECOME INVOLVED

BY: JD DOUGHER

As all of you hopefully know by now, the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow are great programs. If you disagree, then you wouldn't have received this newsletter nor be reading it. But as I get older, it's hard for me to believe that all those great times I had as a youth are slipping into the past. I reflect on every experience that I had in the Boy Scouts and how they shaped me into the person I am today. I want to share some of those memorable experiences with you.

Besides the numerous Scouting trips over the years there are three experiences that will never leave my heart. The first is a day many of us can relate to -- the day I crossed over from Cub Scouts and became a Scout on April 12, 1999. I did not realize at first that I was crossing over into a program that would change my life. The next event was a day some of you and hopefully all of you can relate to in the future -- the day I passed my Eagle Board of Review. It is an odd feeling when the Board members first congratulate you. I shook their hands, and then I said to myself, "I'm done." Of course I wasn't done with Scouting; I was talking about my trail to Eagle. It took me seven years and it now just came to an end. What a feeling it was – yet the trail still continued. My next experience was during the Spring Ordeal in 2005. During the end of the Ordeal ceremony when they ceremonialists performed the call out, they called me out for the Vigil Honor. When they first said my name, it really felt like someone punched me in the gut. To be chosen to receive such a great Honor is a feeling that I can never forget.

Why am I telling you about all these events? Good question. As a freshman in college, it's hard for me to stay as active as I was in Scouting and the Order of the Arrow, and I miss those days. As life goes on, I know I may not ever be as active as I once was but I know one thing for sure: the Boy Scouts will always be a part of my life. I know that when I'm an adult, I will register with a Troop and become an Assistant Scoutmaster. I know that I will be active with my Council's Order of the Arrow Lodge. I know that I will help youth just as adults in my Scouting career have helped me. I will never let the Boy Scout program disappear from my life. There is one last message I would like to portray, especially to the youth in the Lodge. Take advantage of what you have in front of you. Become a Chairman, become a Patrol Leader, become your Troop's Senior Patrol Leader, become a camp staff member, or become whatever you want in the Boy Scouts. I know you have heard this before but it is a great program that has the power to change lives. Take advantage and have fun. I hope to see you all along your Scouting trail.