



Section SR-5
Order of the Arrow
 Boy Scouts of America
 North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia

Five Feathers

January 2006

The Newsletter of the Order of the Arrow Section SR-5

Volume 14, Issue 2

Counts Elected Region Chief

First National Officer from SR-5 in Eleven Years

Just days after Christmas, Section Chiefs from around the nation converged on Dallas, Texas to make crucial decisions for the coming year. Though the participants change from year to year, the importance of the National Planning Meeting does not. Chiefs plan for the National Order of the Arrow Conference, organize Order of the Arrow programs for the coming year, and most notably, elect new National officers—the National Chief, National Vice-Chief, and Region Chiefs.



*Dustin Counts
 2006 Region Chief*

tional officers have a much more direct impact than in years past. SR-5 Section Chief, Dustin Counts, was elected Southern Region Chief on the morning of December 28th. He is the first National Officer from SR-5 since Russell Cann was elected to serve as the 1995 Southern Region Chief.

Dustin will be joined by National Chief Sean Murray, National Vice-Chief Chris Schildknecht, and the three other region chiefs. The other region chiefs are Russ Bresnahan for the Central Region, Jon Fuller for the Northeast, and Kieran

Thompson from the Western Region.

Frank Sturges, 2004-2005 SR-5 Section Chief, explains how the elections take place, “The elections are a long and tiresome process, with the National Chief and Vice-Chief elections often going into the earlier hours of the morning on the first night. Region Chiefs are then elected that morning after everyone gets some brief sleep. The elections are a very competitive process, with all the candidates giving inspirational speeches on the Order and its significance.”

As a requirement of his new posi-

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Know, Be and Do

NLS Wrap-up 2005

SR-5 is now in more capable hands. November 4-6 marked the Southern Region’s last National Leadership Seminar for 2005, held here in SR-5 at the Kinard Conference Center in Leesville, South Carolina. Over 60 delegates from the lodges in the section attended the



NLS Participants share ideas at their table

weekend training event, staffed by SR-5 youth leaders and advisers, regional trainers, and the National Vice Chief, Seth Mollitt.

Participants were launched into nonstop intensive training that

lasted from Friday night until Sunday afternoon. Building off of Lodge Leader-

ship Development courses and other Scout training, the course covers a wide range of essential leadership skills and

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Summer's Adventure
NOAC Website Launches

With just over a month till NOAC deposits are due, March 1st, Arrowmen now have all the information they need to prepare for the most anticipated Order of the Arrow event in the nation—that is, the most anticipated event next to the Dixie Fellowship. Participants, parents, professionals, and staff can find information, register, and shop the on-line trading post at event.oa-bsa.org.

The site sums up a normal day at NOAC, “In the morning, you can pick your choice of world-class training sessions ranging from Leadership, to Indian Crafts, to Ceremonies, to High Adventure Skills, and more. The afternoon brings sports, competitions, special events, and more. After dinner, you get



to see an outstanding Evening Show, a new show each night. After the show, there are open activities, patch trading, and just hanging out with your friends.”

Though NOAC’s reputation precedes itself, advertising still doesn’t hurt if you want to build a large contingent. The Media Resources page includes flyers, posters, web banners, and even a seven minute promotional video.

Staff applications can also be submitted on-line through the regular registration area. Positions for staff include working in The Outdoor Adventure Place (TOAP), American Indian Events, Inductions and Ceremonial Events, Training, and Shows.

Don’t miss this monumental NOAC. Held on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan from Saturday, July 29, 2006 to Thursday, August 3, 2006, NOAC 2006 is expected to have one of the largest NOAC delegations ever.



Chiefly Speaking

Making Progress



Section Officers
2005-2006



Chief
 Dustin Counts



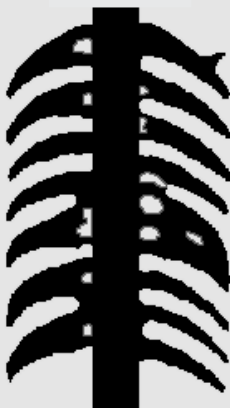
Vice Chief
 Ryan Bajan



Secretary
 Dane Grismer

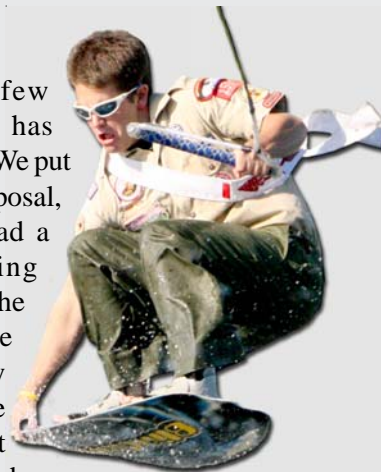


Adviser
 Mac McLean



Dear Brothers,

Over the past few months, our section has been very productive. We put together the Dixie proposal, held an NLS, and had a great COC meeting where we approved the Dixie proposal. We have been very busy here lately, but all of the work is well worth it when April rolls around.



I would like to thank the service lodge, especially Joe Dorsey, Mr. O’Hara, and Mr. Waldron, for everything that they have done and are doing to get Knox Scout Reservation ready for our upcoming Dixie Fellowship and for all of their work on the Service Lodge proposal. Our section coordinators and section officers put a lot of time and effort into getting the Program Proposal put together and ready for the COC meeting. I would like to thank all of these people for their hard work, because this preparation is what will make our fellowship such a success.

NLS was held in Leesville, South Carolina on November 4-6. Bradley Long, our Region Chief, did a lot of work to get the best trainers and best table guides available. NLS went very well and the participants seemed to learn a lot. We owe a big thank you to Bradley and all of our trainers and table guides for making NLS such a success. On Sunday of NLS, we held our Council of Chiefs meeting where our main focus was the approval of the Dixie Proposal. The COC members did a great job of working out the kinks in the proposal and striving to improve our section and our fellowship.

As many of you may know I have had to step down after my recent election as Region Chief. I have truly enjoyed my time as Section Chief here in SR-5; I hope you will give the same support you have shown me to my successor. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Gratefully yours,

Dustin Counts

Editor's Note

It's a Beautiful World

Brothers,

Recently, I was reading a collection of old Calvin and Hobbes cartoons. In Calvin's world, it is actually cold come mid-January and it even snows, not that I'm saying wearing shorts through the winter thus far has been a bad thing. The entire collection focuses around Calvin's creativeness (and possible mental illness) when it comes to making snowmen, snowwomen, snowanimals, and snowmonsters.

The on-line collection starts with a snowman holding a snowball, silently pondering his beginning, the meaning of "life," and how much Geico can save him on his car insurance. Other strips include snowsharks chasing down a "swimming" snowman, a snowman that has a hole shot in him by a snowball from a snowcannon, and Calvin performing brain surgery on a snowman. One of my favorites is Calvin showing his mom the "Snowmen Prophets of Doom"—three half-melted snowmen holding up signs saying, "Repent Sinners," "The End Is Near," and "Spring Is Coming."

Though Calvin's parents question his sanity, Calvin's imagination is pure genius. I love the snow, but my creations have never come near to those of Calvin's and neither have I ever been so entertained for so long and so thoroughly by the snow. I remember playing for hours and hours as a kid when it snowed, but the last time we had a decent snow, I didn't spend more than a couple of hours enjoying it.

The snow is no less fun, and I wager that my imagination is better than my 10 year-old self, but I become so trapped up in the mundane everyday entertainment offered by video games, DVDs, and the like, that I skip out on the snow to find substandard enjoyment in something that will be around after the snow melts.

Reflecting back on the year past as the new one begins, I see so many missed opportunities to see the beauty in the simple things. Things that matter more than what man has created to fill voids in his life, which he could fill with nature, friendships, and a relationship with his Lord.

We have come upon another year, with near endless opportunities to revel in the simplicity and beauty of the world God created or be immersed in the illusion in which man has shrouded it.



Make it a great year,

Dane Grismer
Section SR-5 Secretary

Bajan is New Chief Elected to Vacancy



Ryan Bajan

After several weeks of anticipation, SR-5 has a new chief. Ryan Bajan, the Section Vice-Chief from Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge, achieved the necessary ma-

majority in a weekend election. Each of the eleven lodge chiefs in the section cast a vote for one of the four candidates in the race. A simple majority, six of eleven votes, was needed to achieve the section's top position.

Bajan brings the experience needed to carry SR-5 through the Dixie Fellowship. Being intimately involved with the planning of Dixie and the preparation of Dixie proposals for the last two years, Bajan knows what it takes to put together a successful conclave. Additionally, he brings experience from serving on two NLS staffs. This past summer, he served as a Foreman on OA Wilderness Voyage Staff, leading Arrowmen in trail building, canoeing, and backcountry camping.

In an e-mail to Council of Chief members, former Section Chief Dustin Counts expressed his confidence in Bajan and asked COC members to show Bajan the same support they showed him as Section Chief.



The *Five Feathers* is published quarterly. If you have an article and/or picture (with caption) for submission, please send it to Dane Grismer at secretary@sr5.org. The next submission deadline is Friday, February 10th.

Up North

One Arrowman's Voyage

By: Frank Sturges



On a two week trek through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness, I paddled and portaged for a total of over one hundred fifty miles with my crew. In repairing one portage trail, we transformed a mud hole back into a nice stroll through the woods. I saw the Northern Lights, wildlife, such as beavers and deer, and incredible sunrises. We went to cliffs with Indian pictographs, rapids, the Canadian border, and countless pristine lakes. And most importantly, my crew and I forged unbreakable bonds of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

These images provide an introduction to the many experiences I had this

with seven participants and two foremen on staff, and began to plan our trek. Like many explorers before us, my crew decided



(left) At work - Frank's crew standing triumphantly over a finished portage
(above) At play - Frank's crew taking it easy at Curtain Falls.



Sunsets abound - an evening treat, the sun sets over an hour later in Minnesota than in the southern states.

past summer attending OA Wilderness Voyage at Northern Tier. I arrived in the Boundary Waters on the Fourth of July, and everyone at the base had the day off except for the Voyage staff. It was as if the Voyage participants had arrived to take over the entire high adventure base. That night, we were sorted into two different crews, each

to "go west" after working on our portage trail.

During the first week, my crew repaired a portage from Knife Lake to the South Arm of Knife Lake. When we arrived at this trail, it was in terrible condition. The section that we repaired was nothing but mud and had progressively gotten wider and wider as a result, creeping into the woods around it. During that week of moving huge rocks to lay the foundation for the trail, making our own gravel using sledge hammers, and carrying dirt from another location, I formed fast bonds with those around me. My new friend, Paul, from

outside of Philadelphia, had a seemingly endless series of stories and tidbits of wisdom to provide us with, and our foreman, Gil Rogers, from Connecticut, really helped to keep the whole crew motivated. Another member of our crew, Evan, taught us what the O.C. in California was really like, and we dubbed Vance, the youngest and most enthusiastic member of our crew, "Mad Dog." During the next week, Paul, Mad Dog, and I were virtually inseparable as we paddled, portaged, and even found excitement in cleaning the pots and pans



Pride and joy - Frank and a crew member and their blueberry and jelly garnished backcountry cheesecake.

“...and to any others who have felt the thrill of the back country and still long to explore what might lie just around the next bend. I know of no better way of doing just that, than having a fine canoe under one’s seat, a sleek paddle in one’s hand, a little bug dope in your pocket, and a harmonica near the top of your pack.”
 - Daniel Quick

with our new friends.

The completed trail was a true accomplishment for my crew. Still, we were eager to venture out into the other areas of the Boundary Waters with our new brothers. We stopped the first night after leaving the worksite at Thunder Point and hiked up to where we were on the same level as the birds; canoes in the lake were but mere specks to our

paused at the point farthest north and west that we had traveled to reflect on how we had gotten that far. We then began a more leisurely return, although we still had a one mile portage ahead of us.

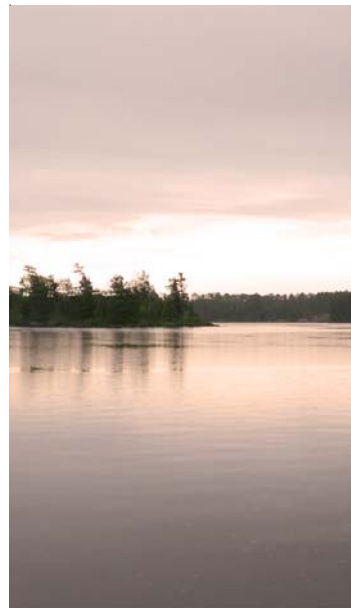
On the voyage, we saw many unforgettable sights. Halfway through the paddle across Basswood, we stopped and saw the oldest cedar tree in Minnesota. One night, while staying up eating popcorn, drinking coffee, and sharing stories, we saw the sky illuminate with the Northern



History lesson - Frank’s crew scours cliffs for Native American pictographs that are hundreds of years old.

All these sights were amazing, but the most important part of the trek was the bonds I formed with those around me. The North Woods presented a unique chance for me to truly experience the ideals

of the Order. As Sam Cook wrote, I have been “Up North,” and part of me always will be.



“Up North is a certain way the wind feels on your face and the way an old wool shirt feels on your back. It’s the peace that comes over you when you sit down to read one of your old trip journals, or the anticipation that bubbles inside when you start sorting through your tackle box early in the spring.”

- Sam Cook

eyes. From here we watched one of the most spectacular sunsets I have ever witnessed. We then began our strong push west to Lake La Croix. Along the way, we walked strenuous portages, and experienced the marathon paddle on Basswood Lake, and the rough Bear Trap River. When we reached La Croix, we

Lights. While camping on Crooked Lake, we watched a thunderstorm come out of nowhere across the panorama of the lake and pass over. Several times, we stopped at cliff faces to look at Indian pictographs. On the final morning on Wind Lake, I witnessed the most amazing sunrise I have seen in my life.

Frank now serves on the National OA High Adventure Committee. He is the Southern Region Coordinator for High Adventure Promotion.

Please check out what High Adventure can offer you at adventure.ou-bsa.org.

Counts' Election

Continued...

tion, Dustin must relieve himself of the position of Section Chief when a predecessor is elected. Frank Sturges explained that Dustin will have a full plate, "As Region Chief, Dustin will visit section conclaves and run National Leadership Seminars throughout the Southern Region. He will also represent the Southern Region at national events and a planning meeting with the OA National Committee types in May."

National Chief Sean Murray shared his excitement, "Being elected is an unexplainable experience that has been one of the largest honors I have ever had. Being a national officer is an experience like no other. Having the ability to meet Arrowmen from around the country and talking to them is a very exciting experience."

Though the elections are the most anticipated part of the National Planning Meeting, they are not necessarily the most important part; as the name implies, the event is a planning meeting. Frank



Ryan Bajan (left) and Dustin Counts (right) getting ready for the "Game of Life" at NLS

Sturges puts emphasis on this key aspect, "The National Planning Meeting presents an opportunity for the OA's best and brightest to come together to map out the coming year and especially work on the National Program of emphasis, in this case, NOAC."

In a recent e-mail to lodge Key 3s, Dustin expressed his gratitude to the leaders of our section, "Thank you all for the opportunity you have given me and all of the support you have shown me and continue to show." I hope that all members of SR-5 will congratulate and support Dustin as he begins his term as the 2006 Southern Region Chief.

NLS Wrap-up

Continued...

lets participants put those skills into practice through role-play exercises.

Besides being fun for the staff, participants were also able to have a blast! The structure of the course keeps everyone moving and engaged. Participants are able to network with other participants, their table guides, and other staff members, discussing their newly learned skills. Though the weekend may be over, NLS contracts have to be completed by early February. Hopefully, many of you will see the positive effects of the training as Arrowmen in your lodge who attended put into action what they have learned.

NLS in coming years will be conducted on a regional level. Arrowmen who have yet to attend NLS will have a chance every year to attend. The training staff will be put together from across the region and the nation.

Focus On...

These are the third and fourth articles in a year-long series of articles about topics that lodges have picked to discuss. Lodges and individual Arrowmen are encouraged to think about the concepts that are presented and use them for positive change within your lodge.



Tsali
Adam Kuykendall,
Lodge Chief

OA Scoutreach Program

We all know of the great aspects of the Scoutreach program. The primary objectives of Scoutreach are to introduce

a positive, scouting environment into rural and urban areas where being a part of the



scouting program isn't always possible due to funding and resources.

The best way of doing this is to involve positive role models who teach the scouts within the troop a strong understanding of leadership and service.

Leadership and service? That should sound pretty familiar to all of us.

The Order of the Arrow introduced its Scoutreach Mentoring Program to help identify and assist those rural and urban scout troops whose advancement and camping programs are below standard. That being the literal purpose, what does it all mean? The major way in which the OA helps with Scoutreach mentoring is by providing more opportunities for both camping and advancement within the troop.

Although a good way to get started is within your local Scoutreach troop, the overall Scoutreach Mentoring program is not designed solely for a Scoutreach

Focus On...



troop. The best way to utilize the program is by branching out into the entire council. You should start by compiling a list, with the help of Commissioners and District executives, that shows at risk troops as far as camping and advancement. As is with any lodge, we can't pass up the opportunity to form another committee, so a chairman should be appointed that has the necessary experiences and resources to get the job done. A likely candidate would be a past OA Troop Representative who has experience with Troop Lodge relations. Under that committee should be a group of Brothers who are willing to branch out over the Council area and lend a hand in ways needed. Assigning certain individuals to units should be well thought out, since certain troops will need more attention than others.

Actually giving the service is quite easy. We, as Brothers, are fully aware of ways to offer assistance within our chapters and councils. The first priority

within the troop should be boosting camping promotion through troop outings as well as summer camp. Camping promotion is a large aspect within the OA, and this is a great example as to the success it brings. Although OA Resources are great ways of promoting camping, the best is always personal experiences. These events aren't always just troop-wide though. Helping out at events through the mentoring program may consist of anything from working the trading post at a Camporee focused on Scoutreach troops to joining a single troop on a simple day hike. Being in that position shows a sense of leadership as well as giving the youth that positive role model.

The Scoutreach Mentoring program also has other primary objectives. Since these are indeed standard troops, we help the scouts to reach OA election requirements as well. By working alongside the OA, they will be more than likely interested and should, like any Scout, be given

the opportunity.

After positive growth within the unit has occurred, there is recognition to be given to Scoutreach Mentors. After the Unit Leader has given approval, scouts are awarded a Triangular patch bearing a Bronze, Silver, or Gold border. Each patch denotes a term in which the mentor has served, or each Unit that they have assisted. This is a great honor and shows what the Order of the Arrow is all about; leadership and service.

If you would like more information, the best place to start would be your Council Service Center. Most councils will have an appointed Scoutreach representative who could point you in the right direction as to how to get started. Other information can be obtained from the National OA website, www.oa-bsa.org, or the National Scouting website, www.scouting.org.



Muscogee Blake Parsons, Past Lodge Chief Passin' the Buck

Every year, lodges across the nation induct ordeal members, and every year, lodges across the nation struggle to convert Brotherhood members. Muscogee, along with other lodges in our section, are increasingly seeing this happen from year to year. There are many ways to approach this problem; however, some solutions may do more harm to the overall objective of the OA. The OA is sculpting young men into being exemplary scouts and scouters, and also providing an ideal model for character and morals.

Many suggestions, such as raising dues for inactive ordeal members and

providing special incentives to brotherhood members, have been made at the past few executive committee meetings. These comments seem to put focus on the wrong agenda for the OA. The key to retaining members and converting to Brotherhood is getting youth involved when they are inducted. Involved does not mean to have them come out to the first or second fellowship and send them on their way. Involved means finding an area of the order in which each individual scout can find their calling. The OA offers a diverse group of activities from administration to Indian affairs. There is nothing better than seeing a new member watch a drum-sing demonstration and then ask how he can get involved with that group.

When I joined the OA a few years

ago, I did not know what to expect. However, two months later, I found myself being elected as a chapter chief. I found my niche in the OA, and have stuck with administration since then. We need to impress upon the new brothers, not only at the post ordeal, but anytime you have time to talk to one, that being involved is crucial to growing in the order and in their daily life. If an ordeal candidate finds his place in the OA, then one day you will see him take his charge as a Brotherhood member.

The Quality Lodge Recognition Petition requires that "The lodge inducted a minimum of 30% of its eligible Ordeal members in to the Brotherhood."

Section SR-5
Order of the Arrow
6812 Stevens Oaks Drive
Garner, NC 27529-6805

Section SR-5

Contact Information

Ryan Bajan, Chief
(864) 979-3403
chief@sr5.org

Dane Grismer, Secretary
(704) 219-8734
secretary@sr5.org

Dustin Counts, Region Chief
(704) 392-1999
dustin@catawalodge.org

Mac McLean, Adviser
(864) 277-8861
AFMKCC@aol.com

Michael Thompson, VC Adviser
(803) 787-3698
Thompson1994@msn.com

Trey Courtney, Secretary Adviser
(704) 618-1665
trey@catawalodge.org

Barry Oxley, Staff Adviser

Section Calendar

Upcoming Section & National Events & Deadlines...

March 1	NOAC Deposit Due
March 15	Notification of High Adventure program acceptance begins
May 31	NOAC Final Payment Due
April 28-30, 2006	2006 Dixie Fellowship - Camp Knox, GA
July 29- August 3, 2006	2006 NOAC, Michigan State University
October 6-8	NLS - Camp Strake, Conroe, TX
October 27-29	NLS - Ridgecrest Center, Ridgecrest, NC
November 17-19	NLS / NLATS - Norcross, GA