



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

# Five Feathers

April 2006

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

Volume 14, Issue 4



## Dixie 2006: Let Us Try to Find the Arrow The Search Is On

**By: Joe Dorsey, Service Lodge Coordinator**



Joe Dorsey

The time has finally arrived. After months of work and a year of planning, I can finally welcome you to the 2006 Dixie Fellowship

right here at the Knox Scout Reservation. On behalf of both the Bob White Lodge and the Georgia-Carolina Council, I want to extend a warm welcome and thank all of you for coming. As you look around the camp, you'll see a great many things that look to be quite new additions to our camp. The past year has been a busy time out here for both our lodge and our council, and I wish to thank everyone who came out here to provide service. Without their help, none of this would have been possible. I hope this is

an exciting weekend for everyone in everything from training to the Quest Events. I wish you all the best of luck in every event you compete in—well, that is unless you're competing against Bob White. Feel free to ask our staff members any questions you have during the weekend; if they don't know the answer, I'm sure we can find out for you. I hope everyone has an awesome weekend here at our camp. And finally, WELCOME TO DIXIE '06 YA'LL!!!!!!!

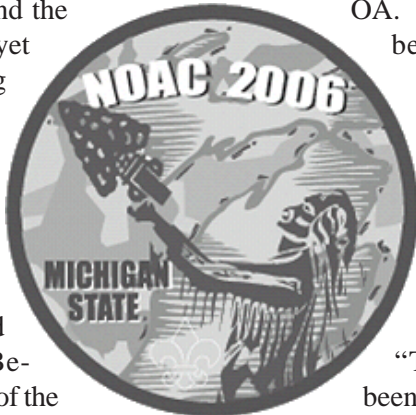


## NOAC 2006: Onward to The Wolverine State!

**The 2006 NOAC is Predicted to Be the Largest Ever**

**By: Mason Thomas, Muscogee Lodge**

In a few short months, thousands of Arrowmen from across the country, and indeed from around the world, will gather for yet another spell-bounding National Order of the Arrow Conference. Many of you have probably attended NOACs in years past, but 2006 will surely be a year for change, and all for the better! Because of the alignment of the next National Scout Jamboree and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSA in 2010, the Order of the Arrow decided to set up the NOAC following 2006 to be in



2009. This will also line up a NOAC to fall in 2015, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OA. In light of this, it has been decided to get as many participants this year as possible, making NOAC 2006 the largest National Conference ever! In addition to this, a new attraction know somewhat mysteriously as "The Experience" has been added for all OA High Adventure lovers, and even those that aren't. Of course, we can't forget our very own Dustin Counts, who will serve as the Southern Region Chief dur-

ing the Conference. He will be organizing the Region Gathering, and much more. So, join thousands of your fellow brothers in East Lansing, Michigan, July 29-August 3, where "The Legend Lives On."



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**Thanks for all you do**

The 2005-2006 Section Administration would like to thank all the Section staff who made this year such a success.

**Section Staff**

- Ryan Bajan, Chief
- Dustin Counts, Past Chief
- Mac McLean, Adviser
- Barry Oxley, Staff Adviser
- Frank Sturges, Vice Chief
- Michael Thompson, Adviser
- Dane Grismer, Secretary
- Trey Courtney, Adviser

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- Bradley Long Mac McLean
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- Frank Sturges Michael Thompson
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**Dixie Staff**

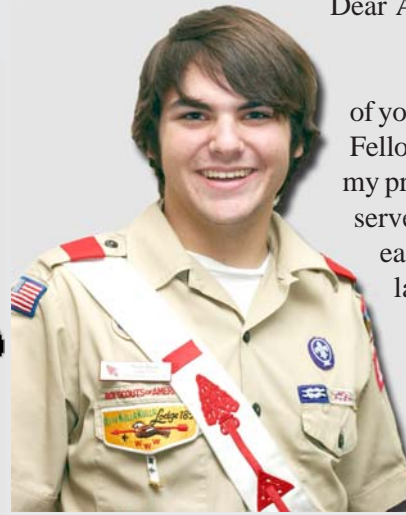
- Mason Thomas, Administration Coordinator
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- Max Cooper, Adviser
- Tripp Clark, Webmaster Adviser

We would also like to thank all Arrowmen who donated their time and energy helping and working in preparation for the 2006 Dixie Fellowship to help you "Let Us Try to Find the Arrow." Without these Arrowmen and their unselfish service, the goals and successes of this section could not be achieved. We look forward to another great year under a new administration and we wish them the best of luck!

# Chiefly Speaking

## Let Us Be Living Examples

Dear Arrowmen,



It is so great to have all of you here at the 2006 Dixie Fellowship. It has truly been my privilege and an honor to serve as your chief. I thank each of you for your long lasting commitment to our Order. This weekend has been planned and prepared for your partaking and enjoyment. Please take full advantage of as many of the sessions, competitions, and fun that you can.

For many years, the Dixie Fellowship has been a time for lodges to come together for competition, learning, fellowship, and service. This weekend will be a great addition to the legacy of brotherhood our section has upheld for over 50 years. The spirit of this event will only continue to live by your willingness to serve your brothers cheerfully through our Order.

I hope this weekend is an opportunity for you to gain a greater understanding of the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and in doing so, learn more about yourself and your brothers. Use this time that you have to learn about your commitment to the Order and how you were elected, however long ago, to serve your community, the Boy Scouts, and each other. Remember the words of the Dr. E. Uner Goodman, Founder of the OA, "And I hope that we as members of the Order of the Arrow, specializing in the area of camping, where the joy of Scouting reaches its peak, it seems to me, will be *living examples* of the happiness we find in our life as Scouts together, as explorers together."

In Brotherhood,

Ryan Bajan



*Section Officers*  
2006



Chief  
Ryan Bajan



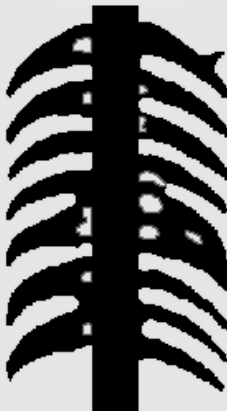
Vice Chief  
Frank Sturges



Secretary  
Dane Grismer



Adviser  
Mac McLean



# Editor's Note

## A Legacy Worth Leaving

Brothers,

It has been a great two years serving as your Section Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and work with many of you. I thank all of you who submitted articles, pictures, and ideas, aiding in the production of the *Five Feathers*. I have been lucky enough to work with three great section chiefs who let me take my own editorial direction. Luckiest of all, I had a wonderful adviser who allowed me to take initiative, make mistakes, and learn, but was always ready and willing when I sought guidance and assistance.

In the last two years, I have grown immensely in my knowledge of the Order, leadership, and the bonds that tie people together. I know that I'm not at an end but just another beginning. I encourage each of you to take hold of your life where it is right now, and if it lacks it, give it purpose and direction. Be bold, be willing to make mistakes, and be humble enough to learn every opportunity that you get.

I write this to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of "Grams," my paternal grandmother. Since her passing, a little over a month and a half ago, I've spent a great deal of time reflecting on the fond memories I have of her. Realization of the legacy that she left is something I would like to share with you.

I had known that Grams had been tutoring Hispanic children in her community for the past several years, and I often listened to her frustrations that the children weren't learning English fast enough or that they weren't up to grade level with their multiplication and division. Looking back, I realize that almost every time I visited her during the last several years, at least one of the neighborhood children was there getting help with his or her schoolwork.

During her stay in the hospital the month before she died, her absence must have begun to trouble the youth in the community, but I had no idea how much. On the morning of the visitation, before her funeral, one of my uncles placed notices of the funeral arrangements in English and Spanish on each of the doors in the community. After the visitation, the family was getting together at Grams' apartment to spend more time together. When my mom, my dad, and I arrived at the apartment, I expected to walk in to see a handful of relatives. To our surprise, we walked in to see nearly 20 of the Hispanic children and their mothers. They had come to mourn and remember "Miss Lily," as they called her. They stayed and ate with our family, and we let them know how much she loved and cared for all of them.

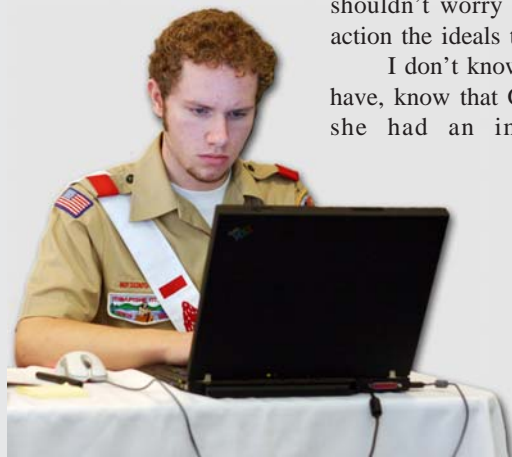
Though it won't be in the history books, Grams' impact was profound on those children and the community. She didn't do it to be remembered though; she did it because God spoke to her heart, working through her and giving her the passion to care for those children. I think we all ask ourselves what kind of legacy we'll leave. Yet, we shouldn't worry about our legacy, but should put into action the ideals that we hold dear.

I don't know if I've had an impact on of you. If I have, know that Grams' had an impact on you, because she had an impact on me. Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

God Bless,



Dane Grismer



# Focus On...

## Strategies for your Lodge

*These are the eighth, ninth, and tenth 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.*



**Bob White**  
Jimmy Waldron,  
Lodge Chief

### Are You Up for a Game of Eight Ball?

### Membership Retention Strategies

Writing this article, I began to think back to the days I was learning how to play pool—not saying that I am not learning still. At first, I figured I would just fire away like a cub scout with a pellet gun, not calculating or even caring where the balls would go. Contrary to popular belief, this method does not work, so I began to look around to see how everyone else seemed to succeed at the game. Some players would use the rails to gain direct contact with the ball, and some would hit the ball at a certain place to gain the desired angle of its path, while others even put certain spins on the cue ball itself. So of course, following the "monkey see, monkey do" concept, I began to try each method, altogether failing in the overall concept. I came to realize that if I chose one method, one way to focus on getting that ball in the 'pocket,' that I would get better at that method and begin to succeed. After be-

*Continued on page 6*

The *Five Feathers* is published quarterly. If you have an article and/or picture (with caption) for submission, please send it to the Section Secretary at [atsecretary@sr5.org](mailto:atsecretary@sr5.org).



# Unforgettable

## A Philmont Experience

By: Dustin Counts



OATC, the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, is a program at Philmont Scout Ranch that has been going on for about a decade now. OA Trail Crew was the first Order of the Arrow high adventure program and has been around long enough that most people have heard of it

and know a little bit about what it is. Most people think Trail Crew is a cheap trip at Philmont where you have to spend half of the time building trail and then you get to hike like a normal trek—close, but no cigar. OA Trail Crew is a completely unique experience unlike anything else at Philmont. Not only do you get to go to Philmont for about half the cost of

a normal trek, but you get to build a new hiking trail (which is actually a lot of fun), and get out of your normal element. OA high adventure

doors, but opportunities to learn and share in brotherhood and fellowship.

This summer, I was fortunate enough to get to experience OATC. During my stay there, I got to meet thirteen incredible people with whom I spent two weeks. When I first got to Philmont, I did not understand how satisfying it is to finish a section of hiking trail or how great

a friendship you can create in just two weeks. At the end of our time at Philmont, we had built 150 feet of



(above) Dustin and a fellow crew member work on a trail  
(right) Dustin's crew pose for a picture on their switchback



ture is one of the few opportunities you will ever have to get to go into an environment where you don't know anyone to start with and the people in your crew are from all over the nation. The Order of the Arrow high adventure programs are not only opportunities to perform service and get to experience the out-

new hiking trail, hiked over 75 miles, hiked Baldy twice, and I had gained a new best friend.

*"Whoso walketh in solitude,  
And inhabiteth the wood,  
Choosing light, wave, rock, and bird,  
Before the money-loving herd,  
Into that forester shall pass  
From these companions power and grace;  
Clean shall he be without, within,  
From the old adhering sin;  
Love shall he, but not adulate,  
The all-fair, the all-embracing Fate,  
All ill dissolving in the light  
Of his triumphant piercing sight."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*



(above) A beautiful Philmont sunset  
(left) Arrowmen enjoying the view from a high cliff





Three breathtaking views, including the famed Urraca Mesa (center).

The trail the OA is working on at Philmont right now is a few hundred yards from the foot of Baldy mountain, the tallest peak at Philmont Scout Ranch. My trek was during the week of the fourth of July, and so the fourteen of us decided to hike up to the top of Baldy and watch the fireworks that night (by the way, hiking at night is not normally

allowed at Philmont, but sometimes OATC gets to do some special privileges). The next day, we hiked up to the top of Baldy again to see it during the day. Our crew got to do several special activities during our trek week, but hiking Baldy two days in a row is one that

almost no one else gets to do.

My tent partner at Trail Crew was AJ Meyers. AJ and I became best friends during the two weeks we were there. AJ is an Eagle Scout and new Vigil Honor member from Fresno, California. AJ and I still keep in

touch, and I recently found out he was elected Lodge Chief for his lodge. AJ and I have a lot of differences; I had to educate him on sweet tea and Cheerwine, and he told me what "hellagood" meant and where to get the best hamburgers in California. It was a lot of fun getting to know each other without having many common experiences.

OATC and the other two high adventure programs are incredible opportunities for Arrowmen. I strongly encourage anyone and everyone who can, to take advantage of these incredible opportunities. The requirements for OA high adventure are to be a member of the Order of the Arrow and be between 16-21 during the trek. If you have any questions, please get in touch with one of the section officers or someone you know who has been to Trail Crew, Voyage, or the Ocean Adventure. Contact your lodge chief or the section for a high adventure application.

*"In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world - the great fresh, unblighted, unredeemed wilderness. The galling harness of civilization drops off, and the wounds heal ere we are aware."*

- John Muir



## Web Surfing Websites to Check Out

Next time you're surfing the "information superhighway," make sure that you take a detour on way to your original endeavor to check out two websites that will help plug you into the latest the OA has to offer.

To temporarily quench your search for adventure, visit the aptly named [adventure.oa-bsa.org](http://adventure.oa-bsa.org). Complete with applications,

photos, testimonials, journals, and Flash pre-

sentations for OATC, OAWV, and OAOA, this site is the ultimate resource for High Adventure in the OA.

To further build your already surging anticipation over NOAC, visit [www.lodgemaster.org](http://www.lodgemaster.org).

OA LodgeMaster software will be unveiled at NOAC and will revolutionize the way that most lodges in the nation manage their mem-



ber resources. The program will

help track dues payment and event attendance, analyze lodge trends, compute brotherhood conversion data, and just about anything else you can imagine in the way of administrative support. Best of all, if there is a feature that you need that is not in the program, your lodge can request that it be added.

*The built-in cappuccino maker add-in is still under development for the OA LodgeMaster program.*



# Focus On...

## Eight Ball Continued...

ing able to handle one method, I would then be able to add on other ways of lining up my shots and getting the balls into the pocket and gradually, but steadily grow better.

I feel that the lodge is similar to this scenario when it comes to membership retention. Many lodge chiefs walk into the 'game' of their term of leadership very similar to the way I walked into the game—head first and firing in any and all directions. As he does not succeed as he pictured, the chief will begin to look around and try to mimic other chiefs from other lodges and switch rapidly as they feel uncomfortable with each particular method. This provides a very unstable ground to not only the members trying to remain active, but provides the lodge itself with a non-successful system of keeping members active. What many chiefs, including myself, did not realize

about membership retention was that the key to success was to choose and master a method. Once a method is running successfully, one can modify their actions to produce more efficient results in retaining members. Granted, one approach will not solve the problem of retaining members, however, it will provide a strong program for that chief and future chiefs on which to build.

Depending on a lodge's specific situation, there are several paths to take. A recent addition to my lodge is the Extended Elangomat Program. This program uses Elangomats to keep in contact with their clan members—usually a group of five to seven Ordeal Members—until these members seal their membership in the Order. Additionally, to keep a record of who has become inactive in order to keep these members in touch, we have developed a relationship between the Secretary and Communications and Registration Committees' Members. This enables the lodge to follow-up with those members that

might have missed a few recent events. We also realized that our communication techniques were insufficient to keep new members and even our older members aware of upcoming lodge events. We have begun to produce not only a newsletter, but built a human phone tree of knowledgeable members and even an easy access lodge website. These methods are not a permanent solution, yet a constant modification to an in-progress plan.

The above mentioned methods only skim the surface. The best way to choose a method to work on is to talk to past lodge chiefs. Their knowledge can help one understand what works and what does not work. Similar to learning pool, one's objective in membership retention as a lodge chief or any other leadership position is to put oneself in a position to be successful. The rest of the game will soon fall into place.



**Eswau Huppeday**  
Brian Manuel,  
Lodge Chief

### Consistency and Success

It is always a challenge, in a lodge, to maintain a high level of success with the changing of committee chairmen, committee advisers, and the rotation and change of the lodge's key leadership. With the yearly change of positions, it can become difficult to have consistent programs or services in the lodge.

For programs to be completed successfully and goals be met throughout the year, it takes a collective effort from many committees, groups, and individuals in the lodge. It is rare that a program will go off without a hitch. The problems and conflicts that are overcome and

improvements that are achieved through the year by the leadership of our lodge is what makes these youth valuable. They gain knowledge and experience concerning the different facets of the lodge. It is essential that the knowledge is preserved and that these youth are kept in the program and used as a resource in the lodge. But why should the experiences of these youth be kept to themselves? Recently, our lodge has worked to produce a packet of information from each committee that contains all of the notes of planning, organization, and execution for events and programs created by past chairmen. By pulling together all of this valuable knowledge and information, it will make it easier for a new chairman to see what that committee has achieved in the past and how

they did it. This ensures that various lodge committees will be able to consistently perform their duties throughout the lodge over many years.

When executing a brand new event or program, success could mean that there was prior planning, and that the main points of the program were executed, even though several of the minor points did not go well. With a standard yearly event, the idea of success is set at a much higher bar than that of a brand new event. Even though the idea of success varies, for an event to be successful there must be prior planning and communication. By using the committee packets created the previous year, chairmen can more easily understand, prepare, and organize an event. The packet holds information about other

# Focus On...

committees involved, the event's old schedule, and the finer details about event execution. By using this tool, chairmen can spend more time and energy focusing on the details and develop new ideas to incorporate into their program or event.

Ensuring that your lodge's chairmen

have knowledge of their obligations is the first step in having a successful year. Providing resources and materials used by past chairmen provides a stepping stool for chairmen to reach new and higher goals. If your lodge's chairmen do not have to "re-invent the wheel," then they can focus on new and great

things to further your lodge. If a lodge's committees are creating and dreaming up new activities, programs, and events, then I would say that lodge has achieved success.



**Tomo Chi-Chi**  
Paul Welle,  
Lodge Chief

## OA Troop Representative Program

The Order of the Arrow Troop Representative program is one that is vital to the success of any lodge. The OA obtains its strength through dedicated membership at the grassroots level, and there is no better way to encourage this than through troop representatives. A "troop rep" has a few constant basic responsibilities, but the position is flexible and so are the requirements.

The first and most important thing the troop rep is responsible for is acting as a liaison between the lodge or chapter and the troop. When a message needs to get out to the members in a lodge, the officers contact the chapter chiefs, the chapter chiefs contact the troop reps, and the troop reps bring the message to their troops' next meeting. Without this crucial link, the chapter chief would have to contact each individual himself. This is neither practi-

cal or probable.

Beyond making sure his troop is in the loop, a troop rep should act as a promoter for lodge functions. Many times a new Ordeal member is intimidated by the Order of the Arrow, and could use a little encouragement. Once they start attending and feel more comfortable, they will realize what great programs the Order offers. So, a troop rep needs to talk it up.

The last thing every troop rep needs to do is be a model scout. What sort of impression does someone make who shows up late, does not wear their uniform, or does not live by the Scout Oath and Law? If an individual wishes to become a troop rep, they must take the position seriously, and work hard to give the Order of the Arrow a good name.

Order of the Arrow members are considered youth until they are twenty-one. An Order of the Arrow Troop Representative, however, can only serve when under eighteen years of age. This apparent inconsistency makes sense when one realizes that the OA Troop

Representative position is a Boy Scout position first, and an Order of the Arrow position second. A troop rep needs to be in good standing with the lodge and be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. Troop reps can also use the position for rank advancement.

As stated before, these responsibilities are not the only ones a troop rep has to fill, they are just the most basic. A troop rep may also need to do many other odd jobs for his troop and lodge. But above all, he needs to be a good link between the lodge and troop, a good promoter, and a good scout.



### Focus On... Thank You for Your Input

This is a special thanks to all the lodges that participated this year by submitting a Focus On... article. The diversity and thoroughness of these articles has been a wonderful addition to every issue of the past year's *Five Feathers*. We hope that members of the section have found these articles to be informative and useful tools and useful tools for bettering your lodges.

Here are this year's Five Feathers submissions and points that go towards "Lodge of the Year"

Tsali	1/8 pts	Catawba	1/8 pts
Muscogee	1/8 pts	AKK	1/8 pts
Skyuka	0/0 pts	Santee	1/8 pts
Bobwhite	1/8 pts	Eswau	1/8 pts
Itibap	1/8 pts	Unali'yi	1/8 pts
		Tomo Chi-Chi	1/8 pts

**Section SR-5**  
Order of the Arrow

# Dixie Edition

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## **Section Calendar**

### **Upcoming Section & National Events & Deadlines...**

April 28-30	2006 Dixie Fellowship - Camp Knox, GA
May 31	NOAC Final Payment Due
July 29- August 3	2006 NOAC, Michigan State University
October 2	OA Charter Kits Distributed
October 6-8	NLS - Camp Strake, Conroe, TX
October 27-29	NLS - Ridgecrest Center, Ridgecrest, NC
October 31	OA Service Grant Applications Due
November	COC Weekend
November 17-19	NLS / NLATS - Norcross, GA
December 31	Lodge Charter Recharter Deadline
April 27-29, 2007	2007 Dixie Fellowship - Savannah, GA