

Winter 2012



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tomtom@topatopa.org



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Chief Speaks

Brett Anderson
Topa Topa Lodge Chief 2011-2012



Greetings Brothers!

I hope everyone is ready for a new year of Fellowship and Service, because this year is full of opportunities in the Order of the Arrow. This year make a resolution to try something new, whether it's attending NOAC, OA High Adventure, joining the Ceremonies or Dance Teams, being an elangomat, or simply going to an event you've never been to before.

In the coming months the Lodge will be giving you plenty of opportunities to fulfill your obligations to cheerful service. Please join us at Camp Three Falls for Winter Fellowship, January 20th-22nd; there you can meet up with friends new and old, play to your heart's content, start a ceremonies or dance costuming wardrobe, and enjoy good food. Talk to your Chapter Chiefs to learn more. Camporee and the Spring Ordeals will be here before you know it, so elections are our current priority.

Yours In Brotherhood,
Brett

Camping Promotions and Unit Elections



Each year Order of the Arrow members contact every Troop and Varsity Team to offer information on local camping opportunities and the Council's summer camp at Camp Three Falls. If your unit has not yet been contacted or Troop leadership has changed please contact your Chapter Chief.

In February and March your Chapters will be contacting every Troop and Team to set a date for OA Elections. Elections cannot be performed by the unit. This is a great chance to appoint an OA Representative for your unit if the position is currently vacant.

Elections take about 20 minutes and are important to keep your unit members energized with new challenges and opportunities, and to keep the Lodge active with members from all units. Candidates elected by the units will be called out at your area's Camporee in April.

Upcoming...



**District
Camporees/Call
Out Ceremonies**

Apr. 20 - 22

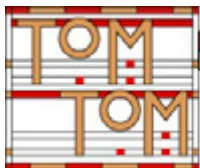
Conejo: Tierra Rejada Ranch
Matilija: Camp Willet
RR Dist: Los Alamos Cyn

First Spring Ordeal:

May 18 - 20 Camp Three Falls

Second Spring Ordeal:

June 1 - 3 Camp Three Falls



Chapter Meeting and Leadership Info:

OA starts at your local Chapter Meeting! Information and meeting dates and locations for your local Chapter are listed below. Please call the Chapter Adviser if you have any questions.

Asuskwa (Camarillo):

First Thursday of the month. 7:00pm @ 1777 Arneil Road Camarillo, CA.

Chapter Adviser Mr. Tom McKnelly
805 482-0754

Mitz Khan-a-Khan (Ventura):

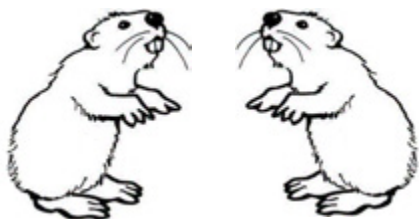
Mitz-Khan-a-Khan chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at:
First Christian Church
38 Teloma Rd. Ventura

Chapter Adviser Mr. T.J. Adams
805 765-7738

Moskimos (Conejo Valley and LDS Moorpark):

The Moskimos Chapter is a proud part of the Topa-Topa OA Lodge. We meet every 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm, at the LDS Church on Erbes Road, in Thousand Oaks.

Chapter Adviser Mr. Michael Young
805 499-5174



Muwu (Channel Islands Dist. Oxnard-Pt. Hueneme):

Meeting First Wednesday of the month 7:00 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1800 So. C St., Oxnard, CA

Chapter Adviser: Mr. Charles McBride
805 486-2845

Ojai (Ojai & Oak View):

Ojai chapter meets every 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm. We usually meet at the Oak View scout house by the Oak View little league field. **PLEASE CALL** to check status of a meeting for the upcoming month:

Chapter Adviser Mr. John Hargett
805 231-6705
Chapter Associate Adviser Clarence Potter
805 218-1827

San Cayetano (Santa Paula and Fillmore):

The San Cayetano meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the LDS church on Ojai road/Hwy 150.

Chapter Adviser Mr. Leo Genet
805 933-1994

Uhu Ku (Simi and non-LDS Moorpark):

Uhu-Ku Chapter Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the LDS Church on Sinaloa Rd. in Simi Valley. Chapter meetings are held simultaneously with the Ronald Reagan District Round Table Meetings.

Chapter Adviser Mr. Prescott Van Horn
805 497-5534



Who Are We?

Each issue of the Tom Tom, we will feature something that is of some historical importance to our Lodge or the OA in general. This month is the picture below. IF you think you know who these two gentlemen are, email us at tomtom@topatopa.org with your answer, and any supporting information or lore you may know about the photo/item. We'll select from all correct answers and feature them in the next issue of the Tom Tom! Plus we'll all learn a little something along the way! Be sure to include your name and Chapter in the email.

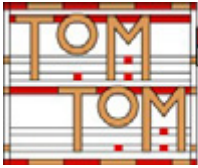


Congratulations to Tony Waters, Vigil Honor member of Mitz Khan-a-Khan Chapter, for correctly identifying our last image as one of two Geodetic Survey markers placed at the top of Chief Peak.



National Leadership Seminar Coming to SoCal for 1st time in 2 Years

The National Leadership Seminar is for Youth members of the OA that are or will be serving in a Lodge Leadership position. This outstanding training is a must for all Lodge Officers and Chapter Chiefs, and any who are interested in becoming a Lodge Leader. The training is available throughout the year in a number of locations within the Western Region, however, every other year, a training is available in Southern California. April 13-15, 2012 is the next SoCal training, in Orange County. Training begins Friday night and ends Sunday afternoon. It is an intensive session in developing great leaders. Pricing is \$160 and includes meals. The Lodge can arrange carpools if there are a number of youth that want to attend. Mark your calendars now if you would like to go and start saving up. Registration is available online at www.western.oa-bsa.org. If you have any questions, ask Brett Anderson or Ben Lang, both are alumni of the NLS program.



OA Membership: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor

(from *Order of the Arrow Handbooks*, 1950 to present)

By Vaughan Armstrong, Topa Topa Lodge Chief, 1964

There are three memberships in the Order of the Arrow: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor.

Ordeal membership is the initial membership in the Order. The Ordeal consists primarily of physical impressions, a series of tests to prove sincere dedication to the principles of the Order.

The primary obligation of an Ordeal member is to serve his/her troop or team, and the member is only ready for additional responsibility within the Order after first satisfying this responsibility.

Brotherhood membership is *not* to be thought of as a separate *honor* in the same sense as the Vigil Honor. It does not carry with it any degree of rank, status or special privilege within the Lodge.

The Brotherhood is an opportunity for members to



evaluate their past contributions to Scouting and the Lodge and, by *sealing their membership* in the Order, to reaffirm their belief in its high purposes. The ceremony is intended as a source of inspiration, motivating members to render even greater service to Scouting through the Order of the Arrow.

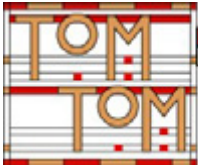
Vigil Honor membership is an *honor* –

the highest that the Order can bestow. It is a high mark of distinction and recognition. It has

successfully fulfilled a very definite and satisfactory service to the

Order, to Scouting, and to the individual members.

Its continued success depends on the care with which future members are selected and on the maintenance by its members of the high ideals of service to others for which the Vigil Honor has always been known.



Vigil Honor Class of 2011

Congratulations to eleven new Vigil Honor Members of Topa Topa Lodge, inducted at the Vigil Weekend in November at Camp Three Falls:

Youth attaining Vigil Honor Membership:

Brett A.

Caleb D.

Andrew K.

Evan M.

E. J. M.

Matt S.

Adults attaining Vigil Honor Membership:

T. J. Adams

Jermaine Bell

Ed Morera

Peter Nystrom

Michael Young

To be eligible for this highest membership in the Order of the Arrow, a Brotherhood member must be active for two years and during that time prove himself/herself by providing exceptional service to the Order and to others. The candidate must have made distinguished contributions to Scouting during those two years and have demonstrated unselfish service and devotion to the welfare of others. As with membership in the Order of the Arrow, Vigil Honor membership is given not so much for service that has been given, but service that is expected in the future. Candidates are nominated by current Vigil Honor members. Only one candidate for every 50 registered members of the Lodge may be submitted for approval by the National Committee of the Order of the Arrow.

The Lodge sends special congratulations to these eleven individuals, and sincere thanks for the many deeds of service to Scouting they have performed.

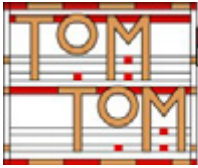
Calling All Arrowmen for the District Camporees

All three district Camporees this year will be held on April 20th-22nd. They can be a great opportunity to meet with other members, or help new ones in the callout ceremony. There are plenty of opportunities to serve as an Arrowman. Talk to your chapter chiefs to find out how you can get involved. And don't forget your sash!

Conejo: Theme: Faster, Higher, Stronger. Location: Walnut Grove at Tierra Rejada Ranch

Matilija: Theme: Olympic Games. Location: Camp Willet

Ronald Reagan: Theme: Let the Games Begin. Location: Alamos Canyon



Five reasons you should make NOAC 2012 your next stop!

By Kevin M., National Promotions Team

As the countdown to the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University begins you may be asking yourself why should I go? What is there for me at NOAC? Worry not here are some of the top reasons you should make the trip to Michigan State University for NOAC 2012!

1. **Meet Arrowmen from around the nation and the world.**

NOAC is a great chance to meet Arrowmen from across the country and abroad. Making new friends and catching up with old ones is a great tradition at NOAC. You can meet the 2012 national officers at a Meet the Man session and there is no doubt that when you head home from Michigan State University you will have met many new friends that will last a lifetime.

2. **Learn about the latest in the Order, leadership, high adventure and more!**

Want to learn about how to best way manage your chapter? Interested in learning American Indian dance? Then the training at NOAC is for you. Sessions at NOAC are taught by the best trainers in the Order and will provide the latest information and best practices to help you be successful.

3. **Watch the best shows in Scouting!**

Four evenings of the conference will feature an arena show produced by the NOAC Shows Committee. Imagine walking into an arena filled with eight thousand of your fellow brothers, the sight may just take your breath away. The four shows will include the opening show, the history and recognitions show, the American Indian show, and the closing show. The evening shows are not to be missed.

4. **Experience what is new to you.**

Have you ever tried SCUBA diving? How about mountain boarding? If you want to try these activities and more The Outdoor Adventure Place (TOAP) at NOAC has you covered. TOAP is a place for Arrowmen to experience new activities that you may not be able to do at home, while under the supervision of trained individuals. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the three BSA high adventure bases and talk with the staff who will be there to show off their skills.

5. **The next NOAC is not until 2015. NOAC Doesn't Happen Everyday**

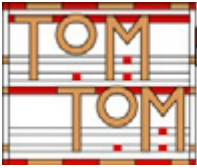
After NOAC 2012 there won't be another national conference until the 100th anniversary of the Order in 2015! Don't miss out on NOAC 2012! NOACs are a highlight to any Arrowman's experience in the Order. Getting to spend a week with 8,000 Arrowmen is unforgettable. Your chance to attend is now!

Are you ready for NOAC 2012? To register, talk to your lodge chief, adviser or staff adviser and sign up for this memorable event before it's too late! Arrowmen may only attend the conference with the lodge contingent or staffing a NOAC committee.

Join the conversation and comment on this blog post on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

TOPA TOPA is hosting a contingent to NOAC this summer. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due NOW with the form on the next page. Register today. Contact Scott Van Horn at snappy12@gte.net





**Topa Topa Lodge 2012 NOAC
Contingent Member Reservation Form
National Order of the Arrow Conference
Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan
30 Jul - 4 Aug 2012**

Name: _____

Address / City / Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Parent's E-mail: _____

Troop/Unit #: _____ BSA ID number: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

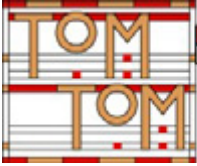
Date of Birth: _____

The total cost of the conference (\$420), airfare, & ground transportation is expected to be around \$1100 (the final cost will depend on the price of the airfare at the time of the group reservation).

Additional costs for patches, spending money, etc. should be around \$150-\$300 depending on the number of patches ordered, and how much spending money you wish to bring.

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due to me before 1 Feb 2012 (also include this form), with the balance due 1 May 2012 (make checks out to "VCC BSA-OA"). There will be an initial limit of 16 members, all others will be placed on a waiting list.

If you have questions, please contact me.
Scott Van Horn, NOAC 2012 Contingent Leader
581-4200



2012 and/or 2013 Dues Payment Form

Please provide your name as it appears in your BSA Membership Registration.
You must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America to be an OA member.

Name: _____ Troop/Unit # _____

Mailing Address/City/Zip: _____, _____, _____

Phone: _____ BSA ID number _____ Birth Date: __/__/_____

Youth (11-17) ____ Youth/Adult (18-21) ____ Adult (21+) ____ Male Female

→→→ E-mail: _____ (← ← ← IMPORTANT!)

OA Chapter: _____

Asuskwa (Camarillo) Mitz-Khan-A-Khan (Ventura) Uhu-Ku (Simi Valley/Moorpark)
Moskimos (Thousand Oaks area) Muwu (Oxnard) Ojai (Ojai) San Cayetano (Santa Paula/Fillmore)

2012 dues

\$12.00 per member per year, Jan. '12 through Dec. '12__x \$12/year.....\$ _____

To reinstate a lapsed membership, the current year's dues are to be paid in full.

Prepay 2013 dues

\$12.00 per member per year, Jan. '13 through Dec. '13__x \$12/year.....\$ _____

Mail payment and this form to:

Topa Topa Lodge, c/o Ventura County Council, BSA
509 E. Daily Drive
Camarillo, Calif. 93010-5820

Total: \$ _____

Complete following section if you are transferring or reactivating a lapsed membership.

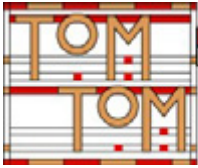
Please list the dates you received each OA membership. We cannot enter your lodge membership without these dates. You may not be considered for brotherhood or vigil honor without the appropriate information.

	Date	Lodge	City or County
Ordeal:			
Brotherhood:			
Vigil:			

Questions? Contact Lodge Chief Brett Anderson at brett@topatopa.org

For Lodge Secretary and Treasurer use only:

Date Received: _____ Receipt Number: _____ Date Entered: _____



VENTURA COUNTY COUNCIL 21TH ANNUAL SCOUT MEMORABILIA AUCTION 2012



- Date: 10th and 11th of February 2012
- Friday: Doors open 5 PM Friday. Trading and fellowship until ? Dinner available
- Saturday: Doors open 9 AM Saturday Silent auctions begin 9:30 AM, Live auction 12:30 PM
- Location: **OXNARD ELKS LODGE #1443**
801 SOUTH "A" ST.
OXNARD, CA 93030
- Admission: \$5 and includes bid number. Scouts under 18 in uniform free
- Tables: \$15.00 each and includes admission/ bid number
- Contact: Greg Metzgus, 805 498 5495 E mail coppersmith@sprintmail.com
Bill Sternberg, 805 933 9020 E mail bigjockewing@yahoo.com

100 CSP's as pictured above were made with a **PURPLE** border and will be sold for \$8.00 each at the council trading post and at the auction. 75 **YELLOW** border patches will be sold for \$10.00 each to attendees only on the day of the event. 50 **GREEN** border patches were made and will be sold first come first serve for \$50.00. They will also be awarded for a \$100.00 donation of OA memorabilia or \$150 of other memorabilia for each patch with the proceeds going to help fund Camp Three Falls improvements. (**all** patches not given out will be publicly destroyed at the TOR) Do not send more than one of kind of any patches. Patch Values not to exceed, OA Flaps \$25.00, CSP \$25.00, Section or other OA patches \$10.00, Do not send more than one of a kind.

Name _____ Adress _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

____ Tables @\$15.00 each _____ **GREEN** border patches @\$50.00 each _____ -

Make checks payable to Ventura County Council BSA

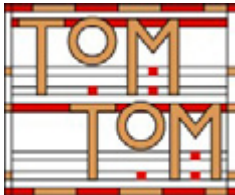
Mail to: Ventura County Council BSA 509 Daily Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010 Phone 805 482 8938



LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Unit Elections**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Chapter Information**
- **NOAC 2012 deadline is near**
- **MORE!**

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2012 DUES. FIND THE DUES FORM INSIDE THIS ISSUE. DO YOU QUALIFY FOR BROTHERHOOD THIS YEAR? TAKE THE BROTHERHOOD FORM INSIDE TO YOUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING.



Ventura County Council, BSA
Order of the Arrow
Topa Topa Lodge #291
509 E. Daily Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

