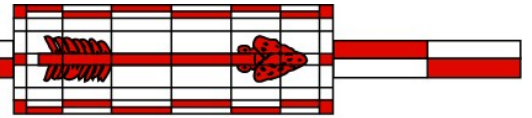


Fall 2011



E-mail Us
tomtom@topatopa.org



Like Us
facebook.com/topatopalodge



Follow Us
twitter.com/topatopalodge

Chief Speaks

Brett Anderson
Topa Topa Lodge Chief 2011-2012



Greetings Brothers!

I am very eager to welcome you all to another year of cheerful service. 2011-2012 promises to be one of the busiest in our Lodge's history, with the National Order of the Arrow Conference and our Second Annual OA Retreat coming this summer. I would like to congratulate our new Members and Brotherhood Honor Members who went through their Ordeal in October. The Vigil weekend will be special this year, as we are holding a Second Fall Ordeal on the 11th and 12th of November, with the Vigil following on the 12th and 13th.

We will be celebrating the New Year with Winter Fellowship at Camp 3 Falls on January 20th-22nd.

This year the Lodge will be focusing on communication, so be sure to keep an eye on your e-mail inboxes, and for quick updates and information, like "Topa Topa Lodge" on Facebook. Be sure to get to meet your new chapter officers by visiting your local chapter meeting, and get more information about upcoming activities and events. There will be opportunities to take part in OA High Adventure, National Leadership Seminars, building Dance Team costuming, and hiking Chief Peak. With all of the programs we have set up this year, I hope to see you there!

Yours In Brotherhood,

Brett

Communications Overhaul



By now, you should have noticed a few of the changes that we have made to how the lodge shares information. We have expanded our use of social networks through our Facebook page and Twitter account so please like and follow us for regular updates.

Also, the lodge website has been remade, there you can find the lodge calendar, forms, history and information about upcoming events, information for elected candidates, and much more! If you have any information to contribute

to the lodge history or upcoming issues of the Tom Tom, please email it to tomtom@topatopa.org with "history" or "Tom Tom" in the subject line.

Our goal is to make ourselves more accessible to our members, and to that end we are offering a lodge update text opt-in. By sending an email to optin@topatopa.org with your cell phone number, mobile provider, and chapter, you will receive short text messages* to tell you when information has been emailed to you, when events are coming up, and updates about the website. Individual chapters can also take the initiative to use the system to send information about their next meeting to their chapter.

*Standard text message rates apply

[Upcoming...]



Second Fall Ordeal/ Brotherhood:

Nov. 11-12 Camp Three Falls
Ends Saturday before Vigil

Vigil Weekend:

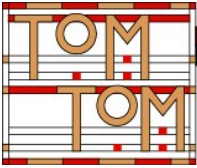
Nov. 12-13 Camp Three Falls

LEC's:

Nov. 17 and Dec. 15
Scout Store upstairs 7:30 pm

Winter Fellowship :

Jan. 20-22 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):

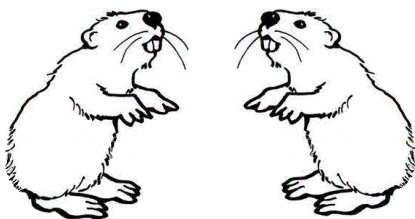
Mitz-Khan-a-Khan chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at:
First Christian Church
38 Teloma Rd. Ventura

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. Pauls 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):

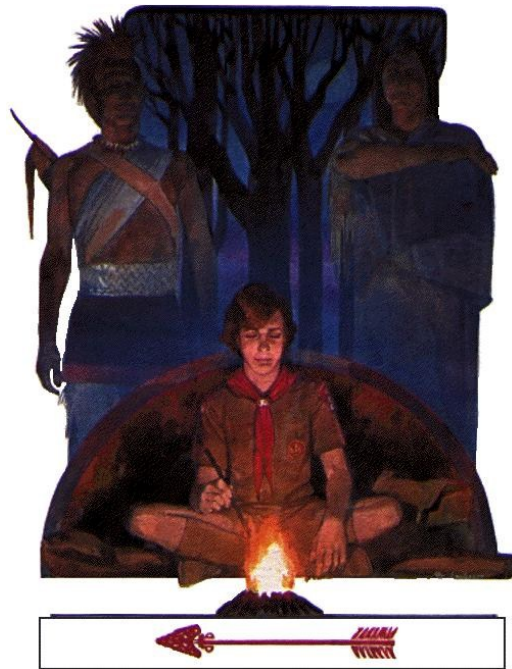
The San Cayetano meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the LDS church on Ojai road/Hwy 150.

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



What Am I?

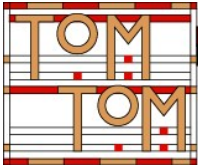
Each issue of the Tom Tom, we will feature something that is of some historical importance to our Lodge. This month is the picture below. IF you think you know what it is, email us at tomtom@topatopa.org with your answer, and any supporting information or lore you may know about the photo/item. We'll 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.



National Leadership Seminar



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 affordable (usually around \$150, though this session has not been priced yet and is subject to change) 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 will be available soon 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.



GOPHER PASS REGISTRATION FORM 2011-2012

It's Great! Pay Once!
Covers All Events For The 2011-2012 Year!

LOOK AT WHAT YOU GET:

- 2012 Dues
- Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) Training
- Fall Ordeal(s)
- Vigil Ordeal (If Vigil Member)
- Winter Fellowship
- 1st and 2nd Spring Ordeals
- Lodge Picnic
- 2012 Lodge Dinner
- Gopher Pass card and blue pocket flap

All This Is Available At One Easy Payment Of \$75!!!!
(ACTUAL VALUE: \$102)

If You would Like a Gopher Pass...Fill Out This Form and
Mail or bring with your check for \$75 to:

Ventura County Council BSA attn: Order of the Arrow
509 E. Daily Dr., Camarillo, Calif. 93010-5820

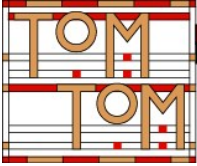
Name _____ Chapter _____

BSA ID# _____

Youth / Adult (circle one)
Ordeal / Brotherhood / Vigil member (circle one)



YOU MUST SIGNUP BY THE EARLY BIRD CUT OFF DATE
TO
AVOID BEING BILLED THE DIFFERENCE FROM
THE FULL COST OF THE EVENT
(THIS IS NEEDED FOR HEAD COUNT PURPOSES)



2011 Member Ordeal Registration Form

Located at Camp Three Falls

This form is for current OA members. Eat dinner before arriving, there will be no meals served on Friday night. **Everyone needs to be out of camp immediately following dinner and Chapter meetings (approximately 8:00 P.M. Saturday).**

Please mail form and \$\$ to: Ventura County Council - Order of the Arrow, 509 E Daily Drive, Camarillo, California 93010-5820

Name: _____ Troop/Unit # _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____ E-mail: _____

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

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

Ordeal / Brotherhood / Vigil (circle one) Chapter: _____

Brotherhood Candidate.Qty: ____ @ \$25/person = Subtotal: \$ _____

Member.Qty: ____ @ \$20/person = Subtotal: \$ _____

Elangomat.Qty: ____ @ \$15/person = Subtotal: \$ _____

>>> Ordeal Date: November 11 & 12, 2011 <<<

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS:

2011-2012 Gopher Pass. Qty: ____ @ \$75/person = Subtotal: \$ _____

(This covers all events from the 2011 Fall Ordeal through the 2012 Lodge Dinner)

DUES: (You must have your dues paid to participate in OA activities)

2011 Annual Dues Qty: ____ @ \$12/year = Subtotal: \$ _____

Early Bird Special: Before November 18, 2011 pay only \$17.00 for two years dues! \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

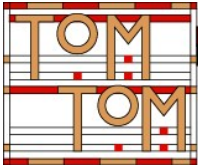
Media Release: I release any and all video, audio or photographs of myself or my son for the use of the Boy Scouts of America in any advertisements or promotions of the Order of the Arrow.

Authorization and Consent for Treating a Minor MUST be filled out (MINOR WILL CARRY A COPY)

(Pursuant to California Family Code Section 6910)

The undersigned does hereby authorize the Ventura County Council-BSA, or such substitute as it may designate, as agent for the undersigned to consent to and x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis of treatment and hospital care for the above minor which is deemed advisable by and to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician and surgeon, licensed under the provision of medical practice or any dentist licensed under the dental practical act, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or dentist, at a hospital, Scout Camp, or elsewhere. This authorization will remain in effect while the above minor is enroute to or from or participating in the above noted activity.

Signed: (parent/guardian) _____ Date: _____



Message from the National Chief

See that guy in the middle of the picture? That's me, circa 2006.

I have been trying for over a month to think of a way to describe the NOAC experience to Arrowmen that have never been to one before, and I finally realized there would be no way for me to convey the feeling of a National OA Conference in words.

I could vividly describe the moment I stepped into the arena for the opening show of my first NOAC--the vibrant energy that filled the air as thousands of Arrowmen of all ages and from across our nation shared a kind of ecstatic camaraderie that I have experienced in few other settings. I could talk about how the classes I attended about OA ceremonies inspired me to become the ceremonies chairman of my lodge, my first real leadership position in the Order. I could focus on the new friends I met, the patches I traded, or the frisbee games I played.

But my NOAC experience would be irrelevant to you, because your NOAC experience will invariably be different. That's the incredible thing about a National OA Conference--there is such a cornucopia of activity that one person could not possibly do everything. Everyone's NOAC is both an individual experience and a collective experience.



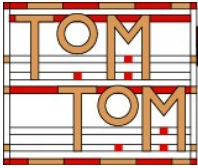
And, more importantly, the reason why I won't focus on describing the details of my first NOAC is because none of that would accurately express the emotional joy of the event. The reason a NOAC is great is not because you spend your week doing certain activities. Conferences are incredible because they allow you to be a part of a group of thousands of Arrowmen that collectively embody our cheerful brotherhood.

For me, NOAC is an event where even something as silly as encountering a man in a bear suit walking around the Michigan State at night becomes a moment that you'll remember for the rest of your life. Find out what NOAC is for you. I promise, you won't be disappointed.

Yours in Service

Jonathan Hillis
National Chief

TOPA TOPA is hosting a contingent to NOAC this summer. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will hold your space. There are a limited number of contingent spots available for our Lodge. So reserve your spot today. Contact Scott Van Horn at snappy12@gte.net or 805-497-5534.



Dues Early Bird Payment Form

Topa Topa Lodge is offering an Early Bird Special to all members wanting to attain it! Until November 18th, there is an offer not worth missing. For a reduced price, you can pay for two years' worth of dues. If you have not paid your 2011 dues, you can pay for this year AND 2012 for only \$17! If you have already paid your 2011 dues, then 2012 and 2013 are the same offer to you, only \$17!

Please provide your name as it appears on 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 _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ **Mobile # : _____ Mobile Carrier: _____ BSA ID number

_____ Birth Date: ___ / ___ / _____

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

Ordeal / Brotherhood / Vigil (circle one)

Chapter: _____

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

2011-2012 Dues

\$17 per member covers 2011 & 2012 x \$17/person \$ _____

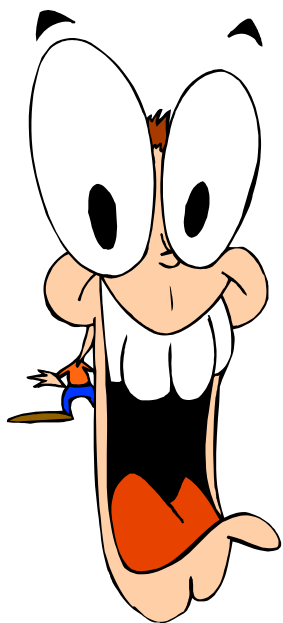
2012-2013 Dues

\$17 per member covers 2012 & 2013 x \$17/person \$ _____

Mail this form and payment to:
Topa Topa Lodge c/o Ventura County Council, BSA
509 E. Daily Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010-5820

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 18, 2011

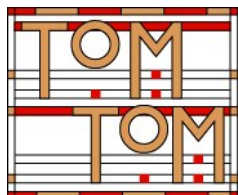
**By entering your mobile phone number AND carrier, you agree to receive text (SMS) messages from the Lodge. You may opt out at any time by emailing optin@topatopa.org. Standard message data rates may apply, check with your mobile carrier. The Lodge and the Council are NOT responsible for any charges incurred to receive SMS messages. Participation is optional.



LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Communications Update**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Chapter Information**
- **Message from the National Chief**
- **MORE!**

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2011-2012 DUES. EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS NOVEMBER 17TH. SAVE \$\$\$\$. JUST \$17 FOR TWO YEARS! FIND THE DUES FORM INSIDE THIS ISSUE.



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

