Treasure Island Hosts OA 90th Anniversary

On July 16, 2005, approximately 400 Arrowmen gathered at Treasure Island, the birthplace of the Order of the Arrow, to celebrate the organization’s 90th anniversary.

Participants had the opportunity to tour the home camp of OA founders Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Col. Carrol A. Edson, and to observe a recreation of the ceremony performed there when the first Arrowmen were inducted. Attendees also participated in a rededication ceremony performed by Unami Lodge and heard from local and national OA leaders during a special dinner program.

Though many of the attendees were from Unami Lodge, more than 175 Arrowmen from 25 states came to honor the Order. Many were on their first visit to Treasure Island.

Unami Lodge Chief John Bickel said, “It was great to see so many Arrowmen come together from different parts of the country, and different backgrounds, but all with the same goal of being servant leaders.”

Among the delegates to the event were all six national officers, the national chairman, the national director, and several members of the national Order of the Arrow committee. Each found something special about the day.

“It’s amazing to be here and to think that 90 years ago, two guys developed an Order that every two years brings thousands of Arrowmen together,” said Ross Armstrong, the 2005 Western Region Chief.

Central Region Chief Paul Jensen said he thought the best part of the day was being able to learn more about the history of the Order from the people who helped create it.

“To talk with people who remember when it was a grassroots movement is very interesting,” he said.

The National History and Preservation Committee filmed the historic recreation ceremony, the rededication ceremony, and participant interviews. A videotape of the weekend activities will be available sometime during the first quarter of 2006 via the online trading post on the national OA Web site.

A committee from Unami Lodge worked for almost a year to plan this great event. Dave Schaub was the youth chairman, and Mark Chilutti, a member of the national OA committee, served as the adviser. Special thanks go to past Unami Lodge Chief Pete McPhillips, Unami Lodge Chief John Bickel, and lodge adviser Steve Ranjo for a great event.

Lodges are encouraged to perform the rededication ceremony locally this fall. A special patch and certificate are available for those who participate in the ceremony. Information on both items can be found at http://www.oa-bsa.org.

Experience the Excitement of NOAC 2006

NOAC will be held July 29 through August 3, 2006. Information packets for contingent leaders will be mailed early in November to help your lodge prepare. Conference registration and trading post pre-orders will again be done electronically on the NOAC registration Web site.

New for this conference, contingent leadership and participants will receive a NOAC promotion patch when they register and pay their deposit. The sooner you register, the sooner you get the patch! A conference patch will also be sold at NOAC.

Among the highlights of the conference are training sessions ranging from how to be an excellent lodge chief to advanced wilderness medicine taught by the best OA training team in the country. Training is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to NOAC; fun and excitement are around every corner!

Arrowmen can participate in Indian dance competitions, the Total Outdoor Adventure Place, patch trading with new friends, getting your sash signed by the National Chief, basketball with other OA athletes, and learning the history of the Order of the Arrow that has developed into a nationwide brotherhood of honored Scouts and Scouters.

Four evening shows at the Michigan State Breslin Center will amaze you and thousands of your brothers as each show explores a unique theme, ranging from the introduction of the OA national officers and recognizing our national leaders, to interpreting the conference theme.

The fun does not end with NOAC’s planned activities. After events conclude each evening, thousands of Scouts come together for fun and fellowship with their contingent members as well as new friends from across the nation. In the process, Scouts unite to tackle the challenges of running their lodges, chapters, and troops back at home with an inspiration that can only come from NOAC!

Don’t miss this opportunity to discover a lot more about the Order of the Arrow—and yourself. Come make new friends that will last a lifetime!
**Where Are They Now?**

**Reflecting on Michael Edwards Service to Scouting**

**Peter Capp**

Michael Edwards served as lodge chief of Croatan Lodge, Kinston, North Carolina, and section chief of SR-7B in the mid-1990s. During this time, he also served as a ranger at Philmont Scout Ranch and assisted with the initial development of the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program.

As a ranger, Michael gained a deeper love and appreciation for all things natural. He noticed that the OA, a fellowship of honored campers, could benefit from even more emphasis on camping.

“I knew by experience that the best moments of my life had occurred with a pack on my back while hiking at 12,000 feet, and I wanted to inject the Order with that sense of adventure, love of outdoors, self-reliance, and deeper understanding of one’s self that comes only from spending time in the solitude of wilderness,” Michael said.

Michael was not sure how his idea would be received, but the National OA Committee supported the idea, and OA Trail Crew marked its inaugural year in 1995. This summer, the OA Trail Crew celebrated its eleventh year. “I am happily surprised by its success, and am proud that we have had so many national officers participate as both staff and participants,” Michael said.

After helping to set this plan in motion, Michael graduated from college and joined the Peace Corps. While serving for two years in Guatemala, Michael led many youth camping trips to the national park where he was employed. He then returned to the United States to attend law school.

Michael now lives in Denver, Colorado, and works for the National Park Service, traveling to national parks across the United States to provide environmental law compliance support.

Michael remembers his time as a Philmont staffer as the highlight of his Scouting career. He leaves us with this advice from Edward Abbey: “It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it while you can while it is still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and explore the forests, climb the mountains, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness.”

**Brothers Below: A Week of Scuba, Ecology, Adventure**

**Morgan Bancroft**

The sun is beaming, the sky is brilliant blue, it seems there is nothing around for miles and you can see forever. It is hot, humid and you are standing just above the crystal clear ocean on the dive boat. You and your buddy have already checked each other’s buckles, straps and regulators. In a sort of leap of faith, you take one giant step, fall forward and hit the water.

The captain calls, “Everything OK?”

You signal OK with a closed fist above your head. Your dive instructor at the Florida Sea Base has taught you everything you need to know to become a PADI certified open water diver.

This is the Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure, the OA’s newest high-adventure program. Like its cousins, the Philmont Trail Crew, Philbreak, and the Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage, the Ocean Adventure program teaches the principles of Leave No Trace and environmental conservation.

My crew, OAOA 621, included seven other guys from the age of 16 through 21 from all across the country. We entered the program knowing that we would be in the Florida Keys doing environmentally friendly service projects, but we had no idea what these projects entailed.

The first week of our two-week Sea Base experience involved classroom work and practice in confined pool dives. After completing and passing all knowledge reviews, quizzes, and a 50-question exam, we were itching to jump into the water.

Finally, in the second week, we began our service to the Sea Base and the ocean environment.

As you descend below the water, equipped with the necessary reef cleaning tools, such as rope clippers and a mesh bag with monofilament line snippers attached, you begin your reef cleanup assignment. You and your buddy scour the bottom for stray fishing line, lobster crate rope, plastic floats, and other objects that are potentially harmful to the reef, all while watching out for that stinging fire coral!

Later in the afternoon, your crew is scheduled to identify various tropical fish with your waterproof REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) books. Between dives, you eat a filling lunch, play a friendly game of volleyball with the Sea Base staff, and switch out tanks before you head out to sea again.

Aside from the reef cleanups and fish identification, our crew also provided service at the Sea Base that included painting railings, picking up trash along the beach, and spreading mulch.

When our two weeks of service on or near the water ended, our crew of newfound brothers was tired, tanned and enlightened on the subjects of scuba diving and reef ecology. What an adventure. What an opportunity!
Entering its second decade of service, the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew has become Philmont’s premier trail building program. This year, 106 OA Trail Crew participants and 12 staff members completed 1,700 feet of new trail near Copper Park.

Approximately 4,000 man-hours were contributed to the effort, which consisted of some of the most rugged trail building and hiking terrain at the ranch.

"It really feels great to perform the kind of service we do in the wilderness of northern Minnesota," said returning participant Slater Reah. "Ever since my first trip in 2003, I just could not wait to come back to this place and build on my experience."

Every year, the OA Voyage is responsible for 82 percent of the major portage trail maintenance completed annually in Superior National Forest Kawishiwi Ranger District. At the conclusion of the summer, OA Voyage participants and staff had provided more than 6,200 hours of community service to the Boundary Waters area. In late July, after surpassing the 5,000-hour milestone, the OA Voyage was recognized in the Ely Echo, the local newspaper for the nearby town of Ely, Minnesota.

The Voyage program continues to build strong leaders through its unique program aspects. Voyage Director Phil Vanderwerker remarks, “One of the reasons for our ongoing success is that we continue to evolve. We make a concerted effort to remain in the forefront of outdoor leadership development by making additions to our program such as the integration of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. We are not just rebuilding trails, we are teaching young men to live in and appreciate the wilderness.”

Assistant Director Timothy Babb added, “You will learn just how far the skills taught to you as a younger Scout can take you—physically, mentally and, most importantly, spiritually.”

In 2006, the OA Voyage will have space for 84 participants. Interested Arrowmen over age 16 and under age 21 by next summer should visit http://www.oa-bsa.org for an application and further information.
Around the Nation

Updates From the OA National Meeting

Jason Koch

In May, the National Order of the Arrow Committee met to discuss a variety of issues ranging from elections to awards to National Order of the Arrow Conferences. Here is a review of some of the changes the committee considered.

The committee issued an operations update, available at http://www.oa-bsa.org, which approved changes regarding elections, call-outs, and Ordeal and Brotherhood induction policies.

The E. Urner Goodman Scholarship was discontinued and the Josh R. Sain Memorial Scholarship was expanded to include all sitting and immediate past section chiefs. Also approved was a policy consistent with BSA policy that no OA awards will be presented posthumously. The Distinguished Service and Lifetime Achievement award procedures were revised.

The committee approved the 2006 NOAC promotion packages, which include a temporary promotional patch for all Arrowmen who make a deposit and register for the conference, designed to help promote the 2006 NOAC. The conference will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Also on the agenda was a report on the 2006 NOAC promotion packages. They will be done in partnership with the USDA Forest Service at five sites across the country during an eight-day period (Saturday through Saturday).

The committee discussed the LodgeMaster program and the four high-adventure programs.

Lastly, the committee reviewed the 2004 statistics. There were 309 lodges in 47 sections and 182,441 Arrowmen. Of those 309 lodges, 166 of them (53.7 percent) qualified as National Quality Lodges in 2004.

Section NE-IA recently relaunched its Web site. The site now features a designated area for section leadership and an e-commerce trading post, as well as great resources and information. Visit http://www.ne-ia.org.

Miwok Lodge of San Jose, California, created an excellent flier outlining the duties and requirements of the OA Troop Team Representative position and has posted the flier on its Web site. Also available is the lodge’s New Ordeal Candidate Guide, which is a great example of what could be sent to potential Ordeal members. See both at http://www.sccc-scouting.org/oa/.

OA Web Team Creates NOAC Promotional Web Site for 2006

Brian Cutino

This year, the Order of the Arrow is creating a Web site specifically tailored to promoting the National Order of the Arrow Conference. The 2006 NOAC promotional Web site is being developed to fuse http://www.noacregistration.com and the NOAC planning information is available on the national OA Web site, http://www.oa-bsa.org.

The Web site addresses both Scouting and OA audiences. Contingent leaders will be able to sign up for programs and register for the conference. Staff will be able to sign up and receive information pertaining to their assignments. Parents will be able to learn about the conference, and Arrowmen can explore the conference site, Michigan State University.

The NOAC promotional Web site will feature cutting-edge technology and multimedia integration, including sophisticated databasing, RSS (Really Simple Syndication), and Macromedia Flash. These technologies will help bring important information right to your home computer.

The national OA Web site will bring you the latest NOAC information, including developing the highly acclaimed NOAC Live! Web site. NOAC Live! is operated during the conference, providing a vast array of multimedia information and up-to-the-minute stories from Arrowmen.

You can visit the NOAC promotional Web site after November at http://noac.oa-bsa.org.

Lee Thackston

If your lodge conducts a service project, celebrates an anniversary or starts a new program that is noteworthy, e-mail Lee Thackston at lthackston@iname.com for consideration in the “Around the Nation” column.
Profile In Service: Aiming for the Future

Ben Pochardt

With the assistance of a 2004 Order of the Arrow Service Grant, Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge, Greenville, South Carolina, recently renovated the Council’s rifle range at Camp Old Indian.

A major rifle range renovation had not occurred at the camp for several decades, thereby delaying the council’s goal of establishing a superior marksmanship program. The need to support this project was recognized by the lodge’s youth leadership, and they seized this unique opportunity to serve the council’s Scout camp.

“The outstanding response we received from the members of our lodge is indicative of their sincere dedication to the principles of the Order of the Arrow,” said Lodge Chief Ben Pochardt. “We are truly honored to support our council in any way possible, and we know the new rifle range will bring enjoyment to thousands of Scouts in the future.”

In addition to the OA Service Grant, the Lodge contributed $10,000 toward the rifle range improvements. The lodge generated additional funds to support the project through proceeds from lodge functions and merchandise sales.

Still Time For Arrowman Service Award

Three months remain to earn the Leadership in Service Award this year. To earn the award, an Arrowman must participate in eight hours of lodge, chapter or council service at a local council camp and complete six hours of community service planned by the lodge or chapter. For more information, visit the National Order of the Arrow Web site at http://www.oa-bsa.org.

Order of the Arrow Digital Archive Group to Preserve History

In the Ordal Ceremony, Meteau tells us of the Legend of our Order, an oral tradition passed down from generation to generation, surviving to the present day only because of diligent efforts to record and preserve it. Currently, information about the founding of our Order is being lost because historical documents have been discarded or have deteriorated beyond recognition. To preserve the future of our Order, we need to remember our past and keep reminding ourselves of the reasons E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson founded the Order of the Arrow in 1915.

For the past two years, the Digital Archive Group, a part of the Preservation and History Committee, has been creating a framework for collecting and digitizing historical artifacts from the early days of the Order. This project is especially focused on obtaining documents and letters relating to our founder, E. Urner Goodman, and cofounder, Carroll A. Edson. D AG’s initial focus will be photographs and documents (letters, program ideas, and other written works). Eventually, it will expand to include video and audio recordings of the founders as well as other historical figures and events in the history of the Order. One of the DAG’s early projects is to create a Goodman Census, a record of all documents relating to E. Urner Goodman.

DAG archivists will be on hand at the 2006 National Order of the Arrow Conference to evaluate any historical artifacts that Arrowmen bring to have digitally scanned for the archive. If you have historical documents, photographs, or video and audio recordings, relating to the founders or to the very early days of the Order, please contact the DAG at dag@museum.oa-bsa.org. More information about the project may be found at http://museum.oa-bsa.org.

Remember, as Henry Steele Commager told us, “Without [history], we would be denied some of those intellectual and moral experiences which give meaning and richness to life.”

It is up to all of us to preserve the history of the Order for future generations. You can start by helping the DAG add to the archive any historical artifacts that you or others have.

Change to National Awards

In a continuing effort to recognize outstanding members of our Brotherhood, the national committee recently made several important changes to the following national awards and recognitions:

Distinguished Service Award: The form for making nominations of worthy Arrowmen to receive the Distinguished Service Award has been changed. The photo requirement has been eliminated, the signature page has been modified to require both the regional chairman and regional staff adviser signatures; The form must be received in the region office by 5 pm, January 15, and in the director’s office by 5 pm CST, January 31 of the year of a national conference. Late submissions will not be considered and submissions lacking the proper signatures or lacking council and region concurrences will not be considered.

Revised Form 24-201 (5/2005 Printing) is available at www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms.

Maury Clancy Indian Campership Fund: Beginning in 2006, $8,000 will be designated from national OA funds for this important scholarship program. Generous contributions from lodges, sections, and other sources are encouraged and will be added to the national OA funds.

National Service Grants: Due to positive feedback from our members and from councils, service grants to lodges will continue and the Order has committed to increase funding to $40,000 per year beginning with calendar year 2006. The E. Urner Goodman Scholarship will be suspended beginning in 2006.

Josh Sain Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was established in 1998 to honor the spirit and the memory of Josh R. Sain, a National Vice Chief of the Order of the Arrow. The scholarship initially recognized past national and regional officers. The Sain scholarship will be expanded to allow all sitting and immediate past section chiefs, region chiefs, and national officers to apply for the scholarship. All awards will be on merit, based on performance in their respective roles and academic achievement while serving in that role.

Legacy of Servant Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award: This award was created in 2002 to recognize those Arrowmen who have deeply influenced and significantly contributed to the vision, direction, and growth of the OA while demonstrating a lifetime of servant leadership. Nominees must be a Vigil Honor member; have received the Distinguished Service Award; must have continued to render outstanding and dedicated service to the OA on a sectional, regional, or national level since receiving the DSA; and must have been a member of the OA for a minimum of 25 years. At least one recipient will be recognized at each NOAC. The due date for nominations for the award has been changed to October 31 of the year prior to a National Conference.
Q: As the Order of the Arrow celebrates its 90th anniversary, what can lodges and individual Arrowmen do to partake in the anniversary events?

A: If you were unable to attend the 90th anniversary celebration at Treasure Island this summer, there are still many ways to participate in the anniversary events. The script used for the rededication ceremony held at Treasure Island is available for download on the national Web site at http://www.oa-bsa.org. The ceremony celebrates the anniversary and encourages all Arrowmen to rededicate themselves to the principles of the Order. Lodges are encouraged to use this script and hold their own rededication ceremony at their lodge events this fall. Additionally, a 90th anniversary commemorative patch and certificate (in sets of five for $25) are available for purchase on the Order’s Online Trading Post located at http://tradingpost.oa-bsa.org.

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National Officer Directory

**National Chief**, Patrick Murphy  
Tempe, AZ  
foolufast@yahoo.com

**National Vice Chief**, Seth Mollitt  
Jacksonville, FL  
welshman04@hotmail.com

**Central Region Chief**, Paul Jensen  
Steven, MN  
jens0660@umn.edu

**Northeast Region Chief**, Dan O’Rourke  
Wilbraham, MA  
danor2105@hotmail.com

**Southern Region Chief**, Bradley Long  
Pulaski, VA  
bdlong1@email.com

**Western Region Chief**, Ross Armstrong  
Reno, NV  
armstr10@unr.nevada.edu

LLD Recognition Patch

The Lodge Leadership Development recognition patch order form is available on the OA Web site, http://www.oa-bsa.org. This patch recognizes Arrowmen who staff and attend your lodge LLD training course.

OA Scoutreach Mentoring

Is your lodge taking advantage of the OA Scoutreach Mentoring Program? Learn all about the program by visiting the OA website at http://www.oa-bsa.org

High Adventure Web Site

A new high adventure promotion website will be launched later this fall. Check out adventure.oa-bsa.org to obtain information about Philmont Trial Crew, OAOA, and the Voyage.

Lodge Charter Renewal Kits

Lodge charter renewal kits will be distributed to council offices in October. Charter renewals are due in the national Order of the Arrow offices by December 31, 2005. The 2006 Lodge Program Support Pak that contains Vigil and Founders’ Award petitions and other program information will not be mailed to a lodge until the charter has been renewed.

Online OA Trading Post

Click on the OA Trading Post banner on the home page of the OA website to purchase some great recognition items. Click on the National Endowment page to check out the coins, figurines and prints to get an early start on your Christmas shopping.

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**2005 National Planning Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5–9</td>
<td>Outdoor Program Seminar, Philmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14–16</td>
<td>NLS/NLATs, Live Oak, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21–23</td>
<td>WR SOS, Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28–30</td>
<td>OA Steering Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>OA Service Grant Application Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4–6</td>
<td>2006 Lodge Program Support Pak Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11–13</td>
<td>NLS, Leesville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18–20</td>
<td>NLS/NLATs, Snohomish, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2–4</td>
<td>CR SOS, Rochester, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 27–30</td>
<td>National Planning Meeting, Southlake, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>Lodge Charter Renewal Deadline</td>
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More information about these National Notes and other news can be found on the OA Web site online at http://www.oa-bsa.org. Select “Operations Updates.”