

# WOLF'S TALE

ORDER ON THE ARROWS OF AMERICA

THE EYES AND EARS OF KITTATINNY LODGE 5
HAWK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL 528, BSA

**VOLUME 7 - NUMBER 1** 

**JANUARY 1, 2006** 

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

# LODGE CALENDAR

2006



January 8

Lodge Executive Committee Mtg Council Service Center - 2:30 pm

January 12

CP&E/OA Troop Rep Presentation Indian Run District Roundtable

January 28

Council of Chiefs Columbia-Montour Council Service Center - 1 pm

February 5

Lodge Executive Committee Mtg Council Service Center - 2:00 pm

March 1

**NOAC Lodge Reservations Due** 

March 19

Lodge Executive Committee Mtg HMSR Sci-Tech Center - 2:00 pm

March 31-April 2

National Leadership Seminar / National Lodge Adviser Training Camp Alpine, Alpine, NJ

April 1

Council of Chiefs H.M.S.R. - 1 pm

April 21-23

Ordeal/Service Weekend Theme: Medieval Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation

May 19-21

Ordeal/Service Weekend Theme: Marti Gras Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation

May 31

NOAC Final Payments & Staff Fees Due

June 2006

2006 Section NE-4A Conclave Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation

July 29 - Aug 3, 2006

NOAC - Michigan State University

### **Chief's Corner**

Brothers,

Thanks to all of you who spend time in furthering the Order of the Arrow in our council. I know first hand how hard it can be to balance the many aspects of life, and how hard it can be to find time for programs like the OA. The truth is that many of us have sealed our bonds, but still do not follow through on the commitment that is. There are so many ways to get involved almost anyone can find something to do. We have weekends to plan, elections to run, and regalia to make. I hope all of our troops have taken care of planning elections. and if not please do so quickly, remember that the CP&E team representatives are people just like you, who have given their time for you, lets try and make everyone's job a little easier, please help out however you can...

Yours in Brotherhood, Richie Tylka Lodge Chief

### The 2006 Olympics To Be Held At HMSR

Not really, but the Olympics is the theme for this year's conclave, and it is being held at HMSR. On June 9th, Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation will be flooded with nearly 500 people for NE-4A's annual conclave.

Now for those of you who don t know exactly what Conclave is, it is a big section gathering where seven lodges, which make up section NE-4A, get together for a weekend of fun, food, training, and celebration. It's basically a big OA weekend without all the manual labor. However, leading up to Conclave there is a lot of work to be done. We need everyone in the lodge to help out and get Hawk Mountain ready for this year's conclave.

Staff Applications are being accepted now and participant applications will soon be available (Ordeal members are strongly encouraged to be a part of the contingent and not necessarily be on staff). If you can t make it to conclave, or you are going as part of the contingent, your help at the service weekends will be greatly appreciated, there will be other service weekends in addition to the regularly schedule April and May weekends. If you re interested in helping out contact Dick Keppler or Ryan Gebely.

Yours in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, Josh Nimmerichter Chairman of Administration, Conclave 06

#### **Nominations Open for Annual Lodge Awards**

<u>FOUNDERS AWARD</u>: The Founder's Award was created to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to the lodge.

The award is reserved for an Arrowman who demonstrates to his fellow Arrowmen that he memorializes in his everyday life the spirit of achievement as described by founder E. Urner Goodman. Use this form to nominate any Arrowman you feel is worthy of consideration for the award. Nominations can be submitted by any active lodge member. Please be as specific as possible when recommending an Arrowman. The more complete the information, the better consideration can be given. The Founder's Award Committee will only give consideration to Arrowmen nominated using this procedure.

<u>CAMP SERVICE AWARD</u>: The Camp Service Award is presented by Kittatinny Lodge 5. It is given to a youth member who renders outstanding service to the Lodge's summer camping program. In order to give due

consideration to all worthy lodge members, fill out a form, including all pertinent information.

SPIRIT AWARD: The Spirit Award is an honor that Kittatinny Lodge 5 bestows for service to the Lodge. It is a mark of distinction reserved for those Scouts or Scouters who, by reason of exceptional service, have made contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office during the past year. This award is presented to any worthy member. In order to give due consideration to all worthy lodge members, fill out a form, including all pertinent information.

Deadline for the Founder's Award is Feb 15 so selections can be made and forwarded to the national Office. Deadline for the Camp Service Award and the Spirit Award is March 31.

Forms are available online at ww.kittatinny5.org under Communications > Lodge Forms, or at the Council Service Center.

# 21st World Scout Jamboree "One World, One Promise"



The 21st World Scout Jamboree will be held from July 27 to August 8, 2007 at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, England. This is most appropriate, as it will commemorate the

100th Anniversary of the founding of the Scouting movement. The Jamboree will take place just to the north of London and encompass a variety of activities and events, such as World Village, The Gilwell Adventure, Global Development Village and a Community Actions Day. Participants from the United Sates contingent must be registered Scouts or Venturers between the ages of 14 and 17 years old on July 27, 2007. More specifically, the Scout or Venturer must have been born between July 28, 1989 and July 27, 1993. Age requirements are set by the World Scout Committee and are not negotiable.

Each BSA region selects leaders after the local council has approved the application. The estimated cost of the jamboree is \$4,975.00 per participant. Tour prices are subject to change based on the final transportation contract and participation. The Hawk Mountain Council has been allocated six (6) youth participant

spaces. Additional spaces will likely not be available. For more information and applications go to: www.scouting.org/international.

# In This Edition

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Page 4 - Leadership Directory, Deadlines, Wilderness Voyage

# Not Too Late for Unit Elections & Camp Promotion

It's still not too late for you to schedule your troop's Summer Camp Promotion and OA Unit Elections. This is a very important part of what the lodge does.

OA Troop Representatives should coordinate a date for the presentation with their Scoutmaster and their District Team Reps. Try to have as many troop members present on the date. Invite new parents to attend to learn more about what to expect at Summer Camp. District OA presenters can discuss Summer Camping at Hawk Mountain, or other High Adventure opportunities for both OA and non-OA members.

Sign up to hold your unit presentation now. Contact your respective District O.A. Rep found on the back page of Wolf's Tale.



#### **Attention All Cubmasters**

It is new year! As always, your Webelos scouts will be taking steps to earn their Arrow of Light award. As a service of Kittatinny Lodge 5, we extend the opportunity for you to invite a ceremonies team to conduct your Arrow of Light presentation at your Blue and Gold Banquets.

To take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Kyle Balthaser at (610) 775-4119 if you are in the Berks County area. Contact Susan Zierle at (570) 678-9713 if you are in the Schuylkill County area.

If you are interested in this opportunity, be sure to contact one of us before January 31, 2006. No requests will be accepted after that date This is a change from last year - Please make note of it.

I look forward to another great year in Ceremonies!

Kyle Balthaser Ceremonies Chairman

### Join a Ceremonies Cross-Over Team

Are you a member wanting to get involved in the Ceremonies Team? A great opportunity exists -- Winter Ceremonies. Over the Winter and early Spring months, the ceremonies team travels to cub packs around the council to assist with cross-over ceremonies. There is nothing like the excited face of a Cub seeing you in native regalia and parents are thrilled to have the OA be a part of making their son's cross-over ceremony memorable. If you want to be a part of the cross-over team, give us a call:

Jon King (Northern Berks) at 610-916-2056

Alex Seidel (Southern Berks) at 610-921-3585.



#### **Dues Are Now Past Due!**

It is imperative that everyone in the lodge have dues paid as soon as possible. Since this article is being printed on the deadline for regular payment (Dec 31), dues are now \$11.50.

You now have until March to pay your dues without having to fill out the reinstatement form.

Please send all payments along with your name, address, and Lodge ID number (or the green postcard) to the council office immediately. Any questions can be submitted via e-mail to:

membership@kittatinny.org.

Yours in Service, Josh Nimmerichter Membership Chairman

# Where To Go Camping Book Needs Your Input

Kittatinny Lodge 5 is in the process of updating it's "Where To Go Camping" book, a guide for Scoutmasters. This resource is made available to Scout leaders to find new and different opportunities for camping within the unit, and is a requirement for National Honor Lodge. Promoting Scout Camping is one of the purposes of the Order of the Arrow.

This is a perfect job for your Troop O.A. Rep. Have him summarize where you've gone camping over the past few years and complete a web form for each place you'd like to add.

The form can be found on the lodge web site at: kittatinny5.org/committees/cpe/wtgcform.htm

# For the Good of the Order ... At a Glance

- We need staff and participants for Conclave, June 9-11
- If anyone is interested in doing ceremonies or dance team contact Alex S. (Ceremonies Chairman)
- Dues are past Due, get them in A.S.A.P.
- We need new designs for patches, talk to any chairmen for more information
- If anyone is interested in becoming an Elangomat for the Ordeal Weekends, contact Kevin Damato (Ordeal Chairmen)
- April OA weekend theme is "Medieval"
- Attention all eligible Ordeal Members, don't forget to go for your Brotherhood

## **Designs Wanted**

Picture this; your very own patch, designed by you, being put in the ordeal packets and being sold by Kittatinny Inc. On January 8, 2006 the lodge is holding a lodge executive committee meeting (LECM). The meeting will be held at the Council Service Center, aka the Council Office, at 2:30pm. At the previous LECM, held in November, it was decided that, at the next meeting, we will be voting on a new patch.

It was also proposed to vote on a new t-shirt and hat design along with a new product, sweatshirts. If you can draw or think you have a good idea come to the meeting and present your ideas. If you can t make the meeting all ideas can be sent to the Council Service Center or forwarded to any LEC member.

Yours in Brotherhood, Josh Nimmerichter Membership Chairman



# **News from the Committees**

If you are a committee chairman, you can have you article printed right here in the Wolf's Tale. Submit articles or pictures for the January/February edition now. The deadline is *February 1st, 2006.* 

#### From The Kitchen

I hope that everyone has had and enjoyable holiday season. I want to wish everyone and their families a very happy new year and look forward to another great year.

So much time has gone by since I have been a member and I cant believe it's already the year I graduate! You know what they say, "time flies when you're having fun!" There is not much to report in these couple of months except that we are working hard on the kitchen plans for Conclave 2006, and hopefully we will be able to release those details to you soon.

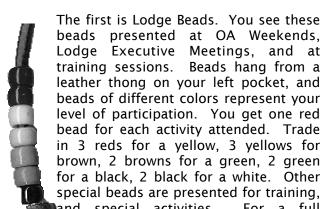
I look forward to another great year working with all of you and also encourage you comments and suggestions for the kitchen. You can send them to me at kitchen@kittatinny5.org or call me using the number on the back of the Wolf's Tail.

One last thing, congratulations to all the new Vigil Honor members of our lodge. Once again I look forward to another great year and I will see you in April.

JJ Miller Wanita Wundsummen Kitchen Chairman

### Lodge Participation Awards

If you've been in the lodge a while, you may already know this, but if you are new, you may be missing out on earning various lodge awards available to you for everything from just showing up to performing outstanding service. Kittatinny Lodge offers two awards just for participating in Lodge and Unit activities.



and special activities. For a full description, go to kittatinny5.org/beadsystem.htm.

The second participation award of the lodge participation award. You can begin working on this award as soon as you become a lodge

member. It is a four-part patch/pin set, it requires four years of active participation and completion of requirements to earn. Begin with the cloth patch, then each extra year earned, add a pin segment to complete the

tra pin the full description, go to

wolf head. For a full description, go to kittatinny5.org/participationaward.htm.

## Is The Spirit Really Alive In Kittatinny 5?

With our busy schedules, it's sometimes easy to get caught up in the mechanics of doing our jobs in the Lodge, maybe even to the point of just going through the motions month by month to get the job done. Whether we are in the position of a Lodge officer, committee chairman, adviser, or member, we all have our individual responsibilities to make sure that the Lodge runs properly. Arranging the activities for a Lodge weekend, getting the Wolf's Tale to the publisher, finding crew chiefs for service projects, running troop OA elections...whatever the duty, it has to get done, and on time. Dedicated lodge members make for a great lodge. We are fortunate to have many brothers in Kittatinny 5 who go the extra mile to take on these responsibilities. But is having and fulfilling your Lodge job really the ultimate reason to be a Lodge member? NO! We benefit from so much more.

What we constantly need to do as Arrowmen is to reflect on why we do what we do in the Lodge and in the Order of the Arrow. That is where the "Spirit" comes in. To quote Jeff Hayward, the 2004 National Chief:

"Being an Arrowman is more than just wearing a white sash or going to lodge executive committee meetings or conclaves. While these too are important, it is about living up to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law in our daily lives, about setting the positive example at all times, about being a friend to all, and about cheerfully serving others. It is about living by the three principles of the Order of the Arrow - Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. These are what make the OA a strong organization. These are the things that truly count. These are the *Things of the Spirit*."

The values of Scouting, reflected in the Scout Oath and Law, and the values of the Order of the Arrow, reflected in the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service, are great motivators for everything we do, not only in the Lodge, but in our everyday lives. You can see those values at work in our Lodge at every meeting and during each Lodge weekend. The Spirit IS alive in Kittatinny 5! We as brothers can get so much more from our membership in the OA if we remind ourselves that the values instilled in us by the Order of the Arrow give back to us far more than the time and effort we give to the Lodge. It's this Spirit benefit that really makes OA membership and involvement worthwhile. So live the Spirit, and make the most of being in the Order of the Arrow.

George Shoop Pedhakquon Sisilija Lilenowagan

### **National OA Updates**

The *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers* is now available for download and printing through the national OA website www.oa-bsa.org. This publication will no longer be available through the National Supply Division.

The Guide reflects current policies concerning the organization and administration of the Order of the Arrow lodge. Topics covered include Organization and Program, Lodge Communications, Camping Promotion, Service, Membership Requirements, Unit Elections, OA Structure, Awards, and more. All lodge and chapter officers and advisers should have a copy. The current edition does not reflect changes announced in Operations Update 04-9 (Lodge Numbers), 05-3 (OA Membership Verification and OA LodgeMaster), 05-5 (Inductions), and 05-9 (Recognitions). The policy changes contained in these Operations Updates are in effect now and will be reflected in the next edition of the Guide. All future editions of the Guide will only be available through the website.

# 2006 NOAC Information Area Opens On The Web

The 2006 National Order of the Arrow Conference is coming to Michigan State University July 29 - August 3. This is the biggest OA event in the nation and it is quickly approaching. A brand new National Order of the Arrow Conference Information Area is now available on the National OA Web Site. Arrowmen, Contingent Leadership, Staff, Parents, and Professionals can find the resources they need to plan, promote, and register for NOAC 2006. Resources currently include videos, flash presentations, advertising flyers, posters, contingent leader resources, and staff information. The NOAC information area will be updated as new information becomes available, so check out the resources available now and come back as more become available.

NOTE: Kittatinny had 10 openings for NOAC participation as of December 20. If you are interested in attending, please forward form and deposit to Council as soon as possible.

#### The Cold Winter Months

Oh, the cold dark winter months! The snow is covering the ground and the bitter temperatures are upon us. Fortunately, Kittatinny Lodge is not like the grass in our lawns; it does not go dormant during the cold winter months nor does it freeze solid like the ground.

While you are all out shoveling your sidewalks, your lodge's officers, advisers, and committee chairmen and members are busy planning the new year's events. "What events", you ask? Well, there are the three service weekends in April, May, and September. There are summer camp events such as Tuesday night Brotherhood ceremonies and Wednesday night callouts. There are monthly executive committee meetings and NOAC in July. But the largest event by far will be the upcoming section Conclave which will be hosted by your own Kittatinny Lodge 5 over the weekend of June 9-11 at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

Are you starting to pick up the message? The message is simple; we need you! We need your involvement. Our lodge has more than 1200 members. If everyone would volunteer for just one event, we would have enough to cover every activity with plenty to spare. And I can guarantee that you will have lots of fun helping out.

So, are you just going to sit there like the grass in your lawn - dormant? Look in <u>Wolf's Tale</u> for the chairman's name of a committee you would like to get involved with. Pick up the phone and call that person telling him that you want to help. You will be glad you did. It will be one of your most rewarding scouting experiences.

Greg Portner Associate Lodge Adviser



Lodge Chief, Richie Tylka presents at the Lodge Leadership Development Conference (LLDC) held last fall at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.

# CONCLAVE 2006 - HAWK MOUNTAIN June 9-10-11, 2006

KITTATINNY LODGE 5 WIL BE HOSTING THE 2006 SECTION NE-4A CONCLAVE. IT'S A BIG JOB AND WE NEED A STRONG STAFF TO SUPPORT OUR GUESTS FROM LODGES IN OUR SECTION.

\*\*\* Please Print Clearly - Make sure your dues are paid before registering \*\*\*

FULL NAME:	
LODGE MEMBER #	
PHONE: ( )	
ADDRESS 1:	
ADDRESS 2:	
CITY: STATE:	ZIP:
I AM INTERESTED IN A STAFF POSITION	
I AM INTERESTED IN A DELEGATE POSITION	

Interest Form Only !!!

No fee is required at this time, however, a fee will be charged for both staff and delegates.

Mail completed form to:
Kittatinny Lodge 5, Hawk Mountain Council, BSA
5027 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA 19605

# NOAC 2006 - MICHIGAN STATE July 29-Aug 3, 2006 ESTIMATED COST: \$700.00

LIKE THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE, BUT FOR ORDER OF THE ARROW! FUN, FRIENDSHIP, COMPETITION, TRAINING, TRADING

\*\*\* Please Print Clearly - Make sure your dues are paid before registering \*\*\*

i I	FULL NAME:		
	LODGE MEMBER #		
	PHONE: ( )		
! !	ADDRESS 1:		
	ADDRESS 2:		
	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
	APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST:	\$700.00	
	DEPOSIT REQUIRED:	\$100.00	
		_	

YOU MUST INCLUDE THE \$100.00 DEPOSIT TO ENSURE YOUR SPOT AT NOAC 2006. APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST WILL BE \$700.00

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED:

Mail fee, envelope, and completed form to:

Attn: NOAC 2006, Kittatinny Lodge 5, Hawk Mountain Council, BSA 5027 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA 19605

#### LODGE LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

LODGE CHIEF	KITCHEN
Richie Tylka( 610 ) 775 - 0706	CHM JJ Miller(610) 562 - 5898
	ADV Michael Waldman(610) 921 - 8937
VICE CHIEF OF ACTIVITIES	WITT A TIMENY INC
Jonathan Fritz(610) 775 - 0398	KITTATINNY INC.
VICE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION	<b>CHM</b> Jason Bingaman
Ben Novinger( 570 ) 425 - 3549	ADV Robert Bingaman(610)779 - 3692
ben (100) 125 33 13	MEMBERSHIP
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Casey Miller(610) 779 - 8476	<b>ADV</b> Joe Pietruszynski(610) 375 - 7792
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George Shoop(610) 796 - 1078	PUBLICATIONS
- Coo. 30 5.100p	CHM Pete Secor(610) 678 - 8590
ASSOCIATE LODGE ADVISER	ADV Glenn Piper(610) 967 - 2009
Greg Portner(610) 678-5081	( , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	WEB SITE
STAFF ADVISER	<b>CHM</b> Zachary Reinert(610) 367 - 0253
Sally Trump(610) 589 - 2328	<b>ADV</b> David McKeown ( 570 ) 622 - 8757
SECTION ADVISER	CEDVICE.
Barry Leister(610) 473 - 0287	<b>SERVICE CHM</b> Chris Kline(610) 921 - 2396
	ADV Dick Zerbe(610) 367 - 4198
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STANDING COMMITTEES	VIGIL
	CHM Alay Hafar (570) 639 0737
A CTD (ITIES	<b>CHM</b> Alex Hafer (570) 628 - 0737
ACTIVITIES  CLIM Jon Fitzmatrick (F70.) 622 2228	ADV Dusty Stitzer(610) 929 - 4834
<b>CHM</b> Ian Fitzpatrick(570) 622 - 2328	<b>ADV</b> Dusty Stitzer(610) 929 - 4834
<b>CHM</b> Ian Fitzpatrick(570) 622 - 2328	ADV Dusty Stitzer(610)929 - 4834  AD HOC COMMITTEES
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer (610) 929 - 4834  AD HOC COMMITTEES  2006 CONCLAVE
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer (610) 929 - 4834  AD HOC COMMITTEES  2006 CONCLAVE
CHM       lan Fitzpatrick       (570)622 - 2328         ADV       Rose Williams       (610)944 - 9211         BROTHERHOOD       (610)921 - 1524         ADV       Jim Buerger       (610)929 - 4829	ADV Dusty Stitzer (610) 929 - 4834  AD HOC COMMITTEES  2006 CONCLAVE CHM Ryan Gebely
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer (610) 929 - 4834  AD HOC COMMITTEES  2006 CONCLAVE CHM Ryan Gebely
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick (570 ) 622 - 2328 ADV Rose Williams (610 ) 944 - 9211  BROTHERHOOD CHM Kyle Dierolf (610 ) 921 - 1524 ADV Jim Buerger (610 ) 929 - 4829  CEREMONIES CHM Kyle Balthaser (610 ) 775 - 4119 ADV Susan Zierle (570 ) 628 - 9713	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer
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CHM lan Fitzpatrick (570) 622 - 2328 ADV Rose Williams (610) 944 - 9211  BROTHERHOOD CHM Kyle Dierolf (610) 921 - 1524 ADV Jim Buerger (610) 929 - 4829  CEREMONIES CHM Kyle Balthaser (570) 628 - 9713 Bill Zierle (570) 628 - 9713  CAMP PROMOTION & ELECTIONS CHM Ed Valibus (570) 739 - 4356 ADV Irene Waits (610) 562 - 8397  CIRCLE CHM Alex Seidel (610) 921 - 3585 ADV Tim Seidel (610) 921 - 3585  CONFERENCE / CONCLAVE CHM Mike Miller (610) 562 - 5794 ADV Tony Damato (610) 775 - 3576	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer
CHM lan Fitzpatrick	ADV Dusty Stitzer

Wolf's Tale is the bimonthly publication of Kittatinny Lodge 5, Hawk Mountain Council, BSA. It is published as a service to it's general membership and distributed as a supplement in the Council's Herbie Hawk News.

All members are encouraged to contribute letters or articles of interest to the editor. Publication of contributed material is subject to the discretion of the editor and the adviser.

If you have the internet, you can go to www.kittatinny5.org and submit a letter or article of interest to the publications committee, electronically.

The deadline for contributions for the March/April issue is January 18th, and can be mailed to:

PETE SECOR
260 MOUNTAINTOP RD.
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

Or E-Mail to:

wolfstale@kittatinny5.org

WE WON'T JUMP THROUGH HOOPS FOR YOU - LATE ARTICLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!



Get Wolf's Tale on-line plus more at: http://www.kittatinny5.org

# "You were selected as pacesetters in cheerful service."

- E. Urner Goodman -



#### **KITTATINNY LODGE 5 PUBLICATIONS:**

SERVING YOU SO YOU CAN SERVE YOUR LODGE.

We at Kittatinny 5 Publications are on an ever changing mission to revise and update our formats and coverage to help communicate better with the membership of the lodge. Remember we are serving YOU so YOU can serve your lodge. So tell us if you like our revisions. You can send an email to publications@kittatinny5.org, write a letter to us personally, or even call us to give your opinion. We encourage members to become involved and help make the Wolf's Tale the best lodge publication in the nation!

#### Wolf's Tale Staff

**Pete Secor** - Chairman **Glenn Piper** - Adviser

Want your name here?
Contact Pete to become a member of the team!

## Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base - Ely, MN

The Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage program is a fourteen-day experience at the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, part of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases, in Ely, Minnesota.

The OA Voyage program is inspired by the traditions of the French Voyageurs who ventured the northern wilderness during the 1700-1800's. Traveling thousands of miles by water and portage, these Voyageurs were hired to haul goods and furs to trade with Native Americans and Europeans. In the spirit of these adventurers, Arrowmen will embark on a voyage that is twofold.

One-half of the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage focuses on portage trail and campsite maintenance within the Boundary Waters. The remaining expedition is spent on a canoeing adventure that is planned and chosen by the participants in the program.

The Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service in action.

First, you must be older than 16 by the start date of the program, but under 21 for the entire duration of the trek. Secondly, you must be a member of both the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America. Thirdly, you must complete a Class 3 Medical form and meet the Charles L. Sommers Height & Weight Guidelines. In addition, every participant must agree to abide by the Voyage Code of Conduct.

For more information, go to: http://adventure.oa-bsa.org/index.php?p=voyage or contact the Council Service Center.