

The Arrow Head



September, 2005 Issue

A publication of Raccoon River Valley Order of the Arrow Chapter, Mitigwa Lodge of Mid-Iowa Council, BSA

Hello fellow Arrow men! Welcome to another year in the Order of the Arrow. The officers and I have an exciting year planned for you guys. We can't wait to get together in our chapter meetings. These meetings are going to be better than ever!!! Everybody should come to the RRV work weekend, it will be a blast. If you are an Ordeal member, you need to work a weekend with us, so you can get your Brotherhood. Another possibility for work weekends would be the Dan Beard Trail Crew Work Day.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Nate Hon
Chapter Chief

THE OFFICERS

Nate Hon Chief	279-4978
Andy Fox VC Ceremonies	986-9717
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VC E&P Des Moines Area #2	
Aaron Hambleton VC Communications	992-3159
Zach Irving VC Membership	641-427-5218
Jim Shumaker Advisor	278-2899

Elections and Promotions News

This time of year is the beginning of a new school year (BOO). Just remember that it's never too early to start thinking about when you want to have your OA elections. Make sure that your troop gets it on your troop calendar. One of our Vice Chiefs has just resigned, so we are looking for someone to cover elections and promotions in the Des Moines area. We will hold a new election at the September chapter meeting.

**Chapter Week-ends are fun—
Sept 16-17 at
Camp Mitigwa!!**

Membership News

You need to pay your dues. Look quickly at your label. If your label says 2006 on it, then you have your dues paid. If your label says 2005 then you still need to pay your dues for 2006. For all of you Ordeal members, get your brotherhood. Go to your work weekends. There will be a Brotherhood ceremony for all those Ordeal members that are eligible for Brotherhood. Check the website www.mitigwalodge.org for updates.

Ceremony Tryouts

Ever wanted to be on the chapter ceremony team? Tryouts will be held at our September chapter meeting on September 8. The meeting is at Merrill Middle School. Being on a ceremony team is a lot of fun and you learn a lot. Don't worry if you don't have any outfitting because we'll help you make your own. We need members for the Ordeal and Pre-Ordeal teams, or if you like to eat, the Arrow of Light team always needs members and the Cub Scouts feed you well.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 8, 2005	RRV Chapter Meeting
September 16—17, 2005	RRV Work Weekend
September 24, 2005	Dan Beard Trail Crew Work Day
October 13, 2005	RRV Chapter Meeting
October 22, 2005	Dan Beard Trail Crew Work Day
November 10, 2005	RRV Chapter Meeting
November 20, 2005	RRV Chapter Banquet
December 8, 2005	RRV Chapter Meeting
January 7, 2005	Lodge Winter Banquet

Meeting Notice

ATTENTION!!! Our meetings have been changed from the second Wednesday to the second Thursday of every month. Our first meeting is Thursday September 8 at Merrill Middle School. Conveniently held at the same place as Round Tables, so that your leaders can bring you when they come.

The October meeting will be held at Grace United Methodist Church 1100 37th Street, in Des Moines. All other meetings will be held at Merrill Middle School.

Chapter Weekend—An Opportunity for Cheerful Service

Have you ever worked on a new trail or done maintenance around camp that you can show your friends what you did? These and many other service projects will hopefully be available for you September 17 when RRV once again takes Camp Mitigwa by storm and completes mass quantities of work, consumes mass quantities of food, and has more fun than should be allowed. See the information at the right for the details. The officers and advisors will be the chefs for the weekend and are planning something special, so come help. Fun and fellowship take place Friday night, but on Saturday, the gloves go on and we get down and dirty!!!!

NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS NEEDED—JUST SHOW UP!!!!

Chapter Weekend Information

Begins:	Friday, Sept 16—7:00 pm
Work Starts:	Saturday, Sept 17—8:00 am
Work Ends:	Saturday, Sept 17—3:00 pm
Feast:	3:00—4:00 pm
Location:	Camp Mitigwa Mort Miles Lodge
Cost:	\$8.00 per person

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ADVISOR'S RANDOM FIRING OF SYNAPSES

Advisors note—We're sending out the chapter calendar with this mailing, so there's extra room for me to ramble on. While I know that some of you enjoy reading my random thoughts, for the rest of you, I've put things together into somewhat coherent sentences about a specific topic. These topics are bolded so you can jump to where you need to read. But then, who doesn't need to read the whole article???

NEW MEMBERS—Welcome to the Order of the Arrow. You're now part of a proud lodge and chapter. Mitigwa Lodge has twice been the service lodge for the National Order of the Arrow Conference and garnered rave reviews for what we did for the event. Raccoon River Valley Chapter has been the only chapter to be a Quality Chapter all three years it has been offered and has been Chapter of the Year the past four years. I realize as new members this probably doesn't mean much to you now, but after you take part in events you will see what a big deal it really is. We need your help by participating wherever and whenever you schedule will allow to have fun, provide service, and help others. You will hear me speak of the opportunities that OA will offer you outside of your unit. These provide you with skills that you can take back to your unit and help it become better. Keep in mind though that your unit comes first. Therefore, if your unit has something scheduled at the same time as an OA event, you need to go to your unit event. I will talk about upcoming opportunities below. Again, welcome aboard, and if you have any questions, please contact me.

CHAPTER MEETINGS—It's been talked about for several years and it finally happened. Chapter meetings have been moved to Thursdays so they will no longer conflict with the various forms of religious education that take place on Wednesday evenings. For some this will create a conflict with other meetings or events, but lets see those that haven't been able to attend chapter meetings to attend some so you can see what they offer and what you can offer to them. The meeting for September will deal with tryouts for the various ceremony teams and some planning for the upcoming year.

BROTHERHOOD CONVERSIONS—If you are an Ordeal member from last year (or before) we need you to seal your membership in OA by going through the process to become Brotherhood. While it is important to the Chapter and Lodge from a numbers perspective, I hope that you care enough about the Order of the Arrow to take advantage of the opportunity to advance in rank. Unlike in your unit where your Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair, and your parents are all on your case about completing that merit badge, your eagle project, etc., in OA it is up to you to advance. The biggest hurdle to advance to Brotherhood is to complete a day of service for the OA. We have several opportunities coming up in the next couple months that you can take advantage of. The Chapter Work Weekend is September 16—17, and there are two Dan Beard Trail Crew days on September 24 and October 22. If you attend any of these you will be able to go through the ceremony that will be held before year end. As soon as we know the date of the ceremony, we'll post it on our web site www.rv-bsa-oa.com. If you completed your Ordeal this summer, get the jump on your work day by attending one of these events or something in the Spring. That way you will be ready to complete your Brotherhood when the 10 month membership requirement is over.

OK—it's true. We really need at least 20 new Brotherhood members by the end of the year if we hope to achieve Quality Chapter and win Chapter of the Year.

DAN BEARD TRAIL—Some of you have already spent time working on this addition to Camp Mitigwa. I know from my own experience building the Chief Wapello Trail years ago that a project like this is one that you can bring your grand kids back and show off what you helped to complete. Parts of the trail are starting to take shape, but there is still much work to be done. The lodge is hosting two work days this fall, September 24 and October 22 at Camp Mitigwa for you to help with the trail. You need to be at camp by 8:00 to join the work crews. Lunch is provided. This counts as a work day for Brotherhood, but even if you're already Brotherhood, come up and join the effort.

DUES—If you did your Ordeal this summer at summer camp and didn't attend Fall Fellowship, your dues are only paid through 2005. Likewise, if you did your Ordeal at Fall Fellowship your dues are only paid through 2005. If your label says 2005 to the right of your name, your dues are only paid through 2005. What's the big deal???? What's the ninth point of the Scout Law. (I didn't make you take your shoes and socks off for this one.) A scout is thrifty. If you pay your dues before December 31, your dues for 2006 are only \$12. After December 31, your dues are \$14. A savings of \$2. Plus, if you pay your dues by the end of the year, the RRV Chapter gets \$2 from each member to pay for mailings, buy food for Chapter Meetings, build necessary items for the ceremony teams, etc. Please help yourself and us by getting those dues paid.

CEREMONY TEAMS—I would like to thank the various ceremony teams from RRV for the excellent job they did this past year. A special thanks goes to Nancy Schoene who has been the Ordeal and Pre-Ordeal team's advisor the past few years. Nancy is stepping down as advisor, saying she has to dedicate more time to her unit, but I think she's just tired of hiking up and down the trail to the ceremony ring. Keith Beasley will take over for Nancy. Keith has a long history of being a ceremony team advisor from when he was at Tamaha and he helped one year with RRV. Deb Hebl will still be there as Arrow of Light team advisor.

CALENDAR—We're sending the Chapter Calendar to everyone, but there are some items missing. The location for the Chapter Banquet on November 20 is still up in the air. If a unit would like to host this event, please give me a call and I can fill you in on what is necessary. The Chapter Party has not been place on the calendar because the officers need to decide what they want to do. As soon as this date is determined, it will be published in the next available Arrowhead and/or Chief.

THANK YOU—To all past officers and advisors for a great year so far and to the new officers and advisors for your help to make the rest of the year a great success, and to you the members that make it all possible, I thank you for your support of OA. You make my job enjoyable and we accomplish a lot.

Jim Shumaker
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RRV OA Chapter Advisor