



September 2011

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SR-7B Conclave 2011 Recap

The 2011 Conclave held at the beautiful Camp Raven Knob, and hosted by Wahissa lodge was historic on several accounts. In addition to exciting program elements from past years such as OAX, Quest, and the electric shows, there was a new event that was unveiled at this year's conclave: The Chapter Chiefs Luncheon. The new event gathered chapter chiefs from throughout the section together for a time of fun, brotherhood, learning, and featured guest speaker Dwayne Fontenette, the 2011 Southern Region Chief. Another notable mark was this year's conclave set a new attendance record with over 1315 arrowmen and scouts in attendance. This made it the largest SR-7B conclave ever and one of the largest in the nation! As the 2011 Southern Region Chief so eloquently put it, "it's the biggest conclave I've ever been to, and absolutely the best!" This is coming from someone who has been to a LOT of conclaves!

Whether you measure success through participation numbers, quality of program, or location, the 2011 SR-7B Conclave was a success on all fronts. The exuberance showed by arrowmen from throughout the state was inspiring. I can hardly wait for 2012!

Rob Orr



April 15-17, 2011
Hosted by Wahissa Lodge #118

Chapter Leadership Summit - 2011

Hailing all chapter leadership, chiefs, and advisers!

Fall can be a busy time of year within the Order of the Arrow. From lodge fellowships, to service projects, to council events, etc... it is an exciting time to be part of this great organization. As each of you go about the process of putting your fall calendar of events together, I urge you to not forget about the second annual SR7B Chapter Leadership Summit (CLS)! Due to the overwhelming success of last year's event, the section leadership has decided to continue in their support of chapter operations through this unique training initiative.

With the absence of an NLS/NLATS program in our immediate area this year, this training will be one of the few opportunities for arrowmen to participate in a leadership event of this type outside of the lodge. I would like to point out that a key element of the CLS is the opportunity for chapter and lodge leadership to network with other leaders from throughout the section. This is very helpful in identifying some of the challenges the chapter program faces and the different methods of overcoming those challenges.

Additional information can be found at the official CLS web page: <http://chapterleadershipsummit.pbworks.com>



SummitCorps 2011 Summer Adventure



The 2011 SummitCorps officially opened on July 3, 2011 at the New River Gorge National River near Glen Jean, West Virginia. The four-week long service project involved over 1,400 Order of the Arrow members who constructed recreation trails through the park. It is located just next to the new home of the National Scout Jamboree, The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve. The project included clearing and building more than 25 miles of new biking and hiking recreation trails, and rehabilitating another 12 miles. The project was the largest youth service project in the history of the National Park Service. The Park Service has stated that the work done by the SummitCorps service project would have taken them 10 years to complete at an estimated taxpayer cost of over \$1 million.

Section SR-7B was fortunate to have 100% of our lodges send participants to this project. We were well represented as both staff and participants. If you didn't get the chance to attend, be on the look out for similar projects in the future or talk with your lodge leadership regarding other OA High Adventures.

The work days were long and hot, leaving the work clothes drenched with sweat at the end of each day. Trail construction was laborious since only hand tools were used to remove and clean plant growth, rake away a thick layer of organic duff, rough cut the 2 to 3-foot wide trail, remove and/or fill areas with rock, and fine grade the finished trail. During trail work, crews encountered various obstacles including an occasional snake, underground yellow jacket nests, a rare species of plant, an old endangered species of tree, and just plain hard rock. Each of these obstacles required some adjustment to the work plan and in some instances required further special assistance from the National Park Service.



A fantastic week of cheerful service!

Account of Indian Summer

Indian Summer was an experience that will linger in the minds of Arrowmen for a long time. The sights, sounds, and feeling of the atmosphere were truly great experiences. The program offered a wealth of knowledge about Native American customs and traditions. It taught Arrowmen many different crafts, ceremonies, and dance styles. Arrowmen could get one on one critiquing from national judges on ceremonies, dance, and singing. There were even NOAC judges giving sessions on their area of expertise. Master craftsmen from around the country were present giving advice on numerous skills. Our section had a great turn out, and many of our youth learned things that they could bring home to help others within their lodge. We had delegates from our section performing on stage at the national show in ceremony, drum, and dance. Section SR7b showed the nation that they are highly capable in the Indian Affairs arena. If you have a passion for Indian Affairs, then this event was the place to be.

Travis Dunn



Why should I go to Conclave?



Is that an honest question? It would have been so much easier to write this article if the topic were, "Why shouldn't I go to Conclave?" Then I would have so much less to write about. But alas, the question is "Why should I go to Conclave?"

I cannot think of anything that I would rather be doing during the third weekend in April than hanging out with over 1000 North Carolina brothers. When I say 1000, I am talking on the low end of the spectrum. Last year at Conclave we had record setting numbers. This year, we plan on having record SHATTERING records. There are rumors that some Lodges will be asked to bring over 100 more people than they brought the previous year. Talk about impressive numbers!

So you get the point, there are a lot of people there, so now what will you do when you get there?? First, you'll attend the opening show. While the opening show is a great production in itself, the best part about the show is the spirit that fills the arena from all the Lodges. Loud music, and many cheers, it is always a great kick off to the weekend. Afterwards, everyone goes to the Trading post, for more fellowship, lots of patch trading, and more spirit between the brothers.

Now comes Saturday morning, to start, the competitions begin. If you are involved in Indian Affairs, chances are you will compete Saturday morning. At the same time, OAX, the ultimate Order of the Arrow Experience, takes place. At OAX, you can make an oar, a duct tape wallet, or learn how to cook in a Dutch oven. But that's not all. There is so much going on at OAX, that it would take an entire other article for me to describe everything.

Saturday afternoon brings the ultimate competitions, the IA individual dance competitions, and ultimately, the Quest for the Golden Arrow. Now I don't mean to brag, but it seems to be that a certain Lodge has dominated Quest for the Golden Arrow the last few years, ready for a challenge? Quest for the Golden Arrow is a collection of competitions between the Lodges, adding up points per each event, and naturally, the Lodge with the most points at the end of the competition, wins!

Saturday evening includes the big show, with awards for many competitions handed out, as well as many Indian Affairs presentations, a show you surely do not want to miss. After the show a social, usually ice cream is served so we have a chance to meet each other and eat some delicious sundaes. There is also a Powwow Saturday night that brings a crowd, as the colors of several dancers fill the arbor, it is quite a sight.

On Sunday, following the worship services, the Section hands out section awards and also places the Chief's War Bonnet on the newly-elected Section Chief's head. With all these activities going on, why would you NOT want to go to Conclave?? See you at Camp Cherokee in April!

John Taylor
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Occoneechee Lodge 104
WWW



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