

December 2018

Official Newsletter of Topa Topa Lodge #291 • Order of the Arrow
Ventura County Council, BSA



The Lodge Newsletter

The Holidays are upon us and what better time to reflect on and understand the Order of the Arrow and your position in it. If you have any suggestions or comments for the Tom Tom please send them to tomtom@topatopa.org. We hope that you enjoy this issue and as always, the Tom Tom is also available on the Lodge website at ww.topatopa.org.



The Chief Speaks — by Chad Agruso

The lodge has been very busy since our last issue and here is what we have been up to:

- The Lodge Leadership Development meeting on Sep. 8th was a big success. The new Lodge Executive Committee became acquainted and worked hard to develop the 2018-2019 Lodge goals.
- Conclave was at our very own Camp Three Falls this year and all had a good time. I'm excited to report that Topa Topa Lodge took home the Spirit Stick Trophy this year! We were a small but mighty group! A highlight of the weekend was spending time with the National Chief of the Order of the Arrow, Anthony Peluso, who flew out from Virginia to attend.
- The annual Lodge Dinner was a fun night at Cisco's. Thank you to Justin Karch for planning it and to all who contributed.
- The Fall Ordeal was a joint event with Yowlumne Lodge. Brotherhood and Ordeal Candidates completed much important work. Thank you to Asuskwa Chapter for hosting.

There are many more fun events coming up and I look forward to sharing them with all of you. Flash the sash!

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Upcoming Events

December 20	LEC Meeting
January 18-19	Vigil Ordeal
January 19-20	Winter Fellowship
January 24	LEC Meeting
February 28	LEC Meeting

**The LEC is open to ALL
Lodge members**

**Come to the Dec. 20 meeting
Holiday Party with food,
fun and fellowship!**

New Vigil Candidates Identified



Luke Goor	Cooper Ysais
Peter Bowen	Gerald Thurston

Chapter Update

The heart of the Order is the Chapter. Chapter Meetings are fun events to catch up with your Brothers and also a time to plan for events and learn what is happening in the Order of the Arrow.

Asuskwa

Camarillo, Oxnard and Port Hueneme

Chapter Chief: Dimitri B. (805) 248-4517

Chapter Advisor: Mr. Bryan Arthur (805) 947-6621

Asuskwa normally meets monthly on the 1st Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2304 Antonio Ave., Camarillo

Moskimos

Conejo Valley and LDS Moorpark

Chapter Chief: Kai N. (805) 558-8031

Chapter Advisor: Mr. Peter Bowen (805) 216-9743 and Mr. Bill Parker (Interim), (805) 499-7516

Moskimos meets on the 3rd Thursday at the LDS church on Erbes Rd. in Thousand Oaks at 7:30 pm. Call first to confirm.

Mitz-Khan-A-Khan

Ventura, Oak View, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru

Chapter Chief: Jack C. (805) 444-6455

Chapter Advisor: Mr. Tony Waters (805) 624-0523

Mitz-Khan-A-Khan normally meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm at First Christian Church, 38 Teloma Road, Ventura

Uhu-Ku - Simi Valley and Non-LDS Moorpark

Chapter Chief: Remy V. (805) 387-0735

Chapter Advisor: Mr. Pete Gomez

In October, Uhu-Ku met at Toppers Pizza and discussed the upcoming year. There was no meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Uhu-Ku normally meets monthly on the third Thursday at the LDS church on Sinaloa Rd. in Simi Valley at 7:00 pm.

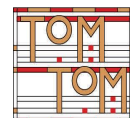
Want more OA???
Lodge Executive Committee
(LEC) meetings are open to ALL
Lodge members, not just
current officers and advisers.
Attending a couple of LEC
meetings gets credit toward the
Lodge service flap, and/or come
to service events. Good times.



W4N Conclave Spirit Stick returns to Topa Topa!



At the first Lodge Fellowship Work weekend, held in October, Mr. Carey arranged installation of new signs on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service at the entrance to Camp 3 Falls and on Mt. Pinos. Scouts earned 8 hours of cheerful service removing worn signs and replacing them with nice, new signs. Be sure to notice as you come through the gate!



Lodge Update

Arrow of Light Ceremonies Change Announced

Earlier this year, the national office announced that the Order of the Arrow will no longer perform Arrow of Light and bridging ceremonies in Native American Indian regalia. Additionally, the ceremony is to be performed in field uniform utilizing the new, approved scripts, which can be found online. The policy change was reinforced at both NOAC over the summer and the section Conclave in September.

The policy applies to all lodges and chapters nationwide without exception.

At NOAC, the purpose of the change was explained as necessary due to "many complaints surrounding these ceremonies from various American Indian tribes due to the manner in which they are conducted as well as the inconsistent nature in which they are performed." If you have any questions, or any of the packs that call to schedule a bridging ceremony would like more information, have them contact Mr. Bowen or Mr. Bell.

Lodge Executive Committee 2018-2019

Lodge Chief -	Chad A.
Lodge Vice-Chiefs	
Activities -	Drew H.
Inductions -	Blake C.
Lodge Secretary -	Skyler C.
Lodge Treasurer -	Zack B.
Committee Chairs	
Ceremonies -	Cameron M.
Tom Tom -	Open Position
Vigil Chief -	Nicholas F.
Lodge Adviser -	Mr. Peter Bowen
Staff Adviser -	Mr. Jermaine Bell



Tree Planting

They say that the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago, but the second best time is now. At the Lodge Fellowship Work weekend, over 100 trees were planted at Camp Three Falls. Who knew planting so many trees could be this much fun!

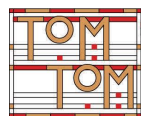


The planting crew included: Shay, Tanner, Chad, Jack and Justin. Ranger Lee talked about the importance of planting trees to bring water and shade to the Camp.

Winter Fellowship Update

Normally the Winter Fellowship starts on Friday, but this year it will start on Saturday, mid-morning at 11:00 and end at 10:00 am, on Sunday.

The change was made to accommodate the Vigil ordeal which was postponed due to the recent fires on the original Vigil ordeal weekend.





TOPA TOPA LODGE

Order of the Arrow

www.topatopa.org

For Dues and Membership Information, check out the web site! You can also email us or call the BSA Council Office at (805) 482-8938

2018 dues

\$12.00 per member per year through Dec., 2018

Prepay 2019 dues

\$12.00 per member per year, Jan. through Dec., 2019

To continue receiving the Tom Tom, pay your dues now. It's easy to call the Scout store and pay by credit card.

**WEAR
the
FLAP,
PAY
the
DUES**

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

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