

THE

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Lodge 40

WHIPPOORWILL



Fall Issue 2004

SECTION CONCLAVE CALLS YOU!

All OA members are invited to attend this year's Section Conclave to be held at our wonderful Camp MaKaJaWan on Sept. 10-12, 2004. Our Lodge will be hosting the Conclave which will include a total of 8 lodges. This will allow you to participate in some section fellowship, training, section elections, lodge pride and the sharing of ideas.

This year's theme will be "I am a lumberjack, and it is OA". Come dressed for the theme and show Lodge spirit. Some of the fun activities will include War Canoe Races, Black Powder Shooting, Tabor (Log) Toss, Hawk (Tomahawk) Throw, Horizontal Climbing Wall, Dutch Oven Cooking, Fishing Contest and more.

As we are the host Lodge, we need at least 50 OA Members to be part of the staff to make this a memorable event and to showcase Camp MaKaJaWan. Let's show our pride in Lodge 40 by having a large contingent. Please talk up this event in your Troops with all of your OA members. Troop Reps will be receiving further information at the Chapter Meetings. Registration for this event will be approximately \$28.00. Don't miss this opportunity.

If you should have any questions, please contact Paul Bilisko (847) 526-8899 or E-Mail: pbilisko@joltmail.com. Adult Advisors are Mr. Rob Orr or Mr. Bud Hoose (847) 245-4009 or E-Mail: budvet@aol.com.

Editor: if you come to this event to be on our service staff (we need about 50 people as Paul has pointed out) , we are trying to pay for a bus, which we will make available to you for free. We would like to be able to pay for your fees as well, but that may not be likely in light of the many other expensive projects the Lodge has right now.



This is the frame for the new Wigwam to be used near the bowl. This will replace the tipi that stood for years on the north end of the bowl. There will be a sheathing of bark that will enclose the frame. The bark is made of a synthetic material but looks exactly like bark.

This project was made possible by two generous donations, developed by Rob Orr, built by Earl Knodel and the hard working team from Venturing Crew 156.

This was build as a part of the weekend long list of activities during the Memorial Day Worker's weekend..



Chief's Corner

Ric Kuzmanoff -Lodge Chief

Guest Chief.

My name is Matt I am the Ya-Ka-Wa-Hay Chapter Chief. I would like to congratulate all of the new OA members. I hope to see all of the O.A. members new and old at our next Chapter meeting at the end of the summer. We meet at the Millburn church at the corner of RT45 and Gages Lake Rd. Hope to see you there. Get involved with your Troop or the Chapter. Discover the true meaning of the Order.

Matt Cleveland

Chuck Gilbert Retires as Chapter Advisor

After faithfully serving this Lodge for nearly 9 years, Chuck has decided to devote his time to his new young baby and to his latest passion, Sea Scouts. Chuck has been the only Namachani District Chapter Advisor since the three southern Districts merged. He brought a wealth of knowledge of the OA and our Lodge. Under his leadership the Chapter grew into one of the stronger Chapters in our Lodge. He built a good ceremonies team that performed at many Courts of Honor and Blue and Golds. He will continue to serve the Lodge as an Advisor at large. He certainly has shown that he who serves his fellow is of all his fellows greatest. We thank you for your leadership and support.

There is no replacement yet named. Interested adults should contact Rob Orr.

OA Bowl Improvements



We are delighted to report that the bowl restoration project is coming together better than we had hoped. When you consider that we have had only 5 solid working days on the project, we have done very well. We are about to finish the third row and have begun to add some of the decorative elements. The bowl is looking good. We have encountered some new difficulties – the wall on the south side, the wall where most visitors sit, is almost too steep to grade without removing all of the trees. We don't want to remove the trees because their roots hold the hill in place. So, the hope is that by recovering more organized seating throughout the bowl, we can close this section of the bowl. One logistic change, we have had to rent more machinery than we had expected. The Bobcat has made significant, even dramatic improvements to the terracing and soil removal. We also have been using gas-powered drills, donated to us by Bertog Landscaping, with great success. Mike LoPresti has done a terrific job of locating gifts in kind – gloves, drill bits, augers, wheelbarrows. We have received almost as much in-kind donations as we have raised in cash.

Meanwhile, our fund raising efforts have been going very well. Our patch sales have brought in about \$1500 so far and donations continue to roll in. I don't have the current number, but we have received about \$3500 in out right donations to the bowl. Still not too late to help. (See the enclosed flyer)

National OA Conference - We're going!!

We are delighted to have a great contingent attending this year's National OA Conference in Ames Iowa. There still may be a few openings, if you want to go, but you must contact Rob Orr or Jim Neubaum immediately. Brian Beusing, Keith MacCammon, Alex Haak, Tim Godsey, Conner Williamson, John Miller and adults Rob Orr, Joe Jordon, and Evan Williamson will represent our Lodge at this great event. NOAC attracts 7000 OA members from around the country who spend the week in training, fellowship and fun. It is a great way to see the impact that the OA program has on the scouting movement and to discover ways we can improve our own program. It is open to any OA member. The cost is \$350. The dates are July 31 through August 5.

www.neic.org—Northeast Illinois Council home page
www.oa-bsa.org—National OA home page

MEMORIAL DAY WORKER'S WEEKEND 2004

Advisor's
Corner

Again this year the event was well attended by 105 people. I personally want to thank everyone who attended, worked hard, gave up their week-end with their families and traveled so far to help get Camp MaKaJaWan ready for Summer Camp and our 75th Anniversary this summer.

Projects that were worked on included the cleaning of West Camp Dining Hall, repairs to West Camp Staff Row, cleaning up of the Country Store and moving supplies over from storage at Banard, putting in a new East Camp Eco-Comper, painting of many buildings, various electrical and carpentry projects, building a Wigwam at the Fire Bowl, and of course our largest project was the OA Fire Bowl.

The consensus of almost everyone was "that this was a great week-end with Claudia and her staff cooking up excellent food (great steak dinner on Saturday night), and they would all go back to their troops and recommend this week-end to their scouts.

Next year it would be great to get more troop involvement! For many people this was their first Worker's Week-end and I think we will see them back again next year!

We can always use more of our OA members and their cheerful service to finish all of our projects. Please keep this in mind for next year. I really want to break the record for volunteers in 2005!

If you were taking digital pictures for this event, I would appreciate it if you could e-mail them to me at: pbilisko@joltmail.com.

Paul Bilisko, event Chairman

Adults represent almost half of this Lodge. While we are glad to have so many dues paying adult members, I am not sure it is clear what membership demands. True, the OA is a youth run organization, but there are plenty that responsible adults can do to help the youth. At the Lodge and Chapter level, we have advisors who work closely with the boys to help them succeed. I would love to see similar positions for Troop Reps at the Troop level. More than anything, adults serve as role models. One of the biggest commitments you can make to the Lodge is to move from an Ordeal member to a Brotherhood member. You might ask why bother...there is not additional recognition, other than the sash. In fact, the Brotherhood ceremony is one of the most memorable - perhaps most powerful ceremony of all the ones we offer. It allows you to reflect more on your role in scouting. From a pure organizational point of view, ~~our~~ the Lodge gets measured by how many members convert to Brotherhood. Our adult population does not have a good conversion record. So we encourage you to take your membership to the next level. Set a good example for the youth around you and the Lodge.

