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ryanlee989@hotmail.com**

## A Message from your Lodge Chief

Hello Brothers,

I would like to thank everyone that was active in the 2010 Pow Wow. We sure made history with the largest Scouting event in the Rio Grande Council and the largest Pow Wow ever. Now we are on to 2011! There are many great things that happened this upcoming year. National Scouting events such as Indian Summer and Summit Corps will offer great experiences. More Information will be included in this Whitewing. The Section SR2-3 South Conclave will be held at Texas A&M University-College Station July 15-17, 2011. Details will be shared when available. Don't forget our Winter Ordeal that will be held on January 14-16, 2011. Register at [www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org). Registration closes on December 31, 2010 at midnight. I hope that all of you have happy holidays! I can't wait to see you in the New Year with more events and many more memories!

WWW

Yours in Service,

*Ronald Camacho*

Wewanoma Lodge Chief

## Japeechen One Day of Service at Sabal Palms

By: Paul Lenz, Japeechen Chapter Chief

The Japeechen Chapter completed their One Day of Service at the Audubon Society's Sabal Palms wildlife sanctuary. The Sabal Palms sanctuary is located right on the Rio Grande in Brownsville and has been reopened after a time of dormancy. It is a world class birding foundation and people from around the country come to this sanctuary to see all kinds of unique wildlife. After being closed for several years, curator, Jimmy Paz, needed some help clearing the key trails for visitors. Japeechen volunteered a total of 98 man hours and cleared out leaves and weeds and cut down branches. The service project was a success with members from **Troops 6, 59, 61 and 777** providing the cheerful service. I would like to thank Jimmy Paz for the idea of a wonderful restoration project, the Scoutmasters for getting Arrowmen to the project, our Vice-Chief of Service, Alex Castro, and Chapter Advisor, Mrs. Blakemore, for making the project happen. Sabal Palms is now open to the public – go soon to visit this spectacular wildlife sanctuary, right in your own backyard!



If you are an adult or youth Brotherhood Honor Arrowmen interested in serving as an Elangomat at the January 2011 Ordeal, please contact the Elangomat Adviser, Heather Blakemore, at [leighheather52@aol.com](mailto:leighheather52@aol.com)

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By: 2011 National Events Staff

**Indian Summer** will offer an opportunity for Arrowmen across the country to participate in focus Areas including American Indian material culture and OA Inductions and Ceremonies.

The American Indian material culture track will focus on learning about Indian dance clothes, dance (Powwows), song and Arrowmen will be able to complete a hands on craft experience under the direction of the best craftsmen in the Scouting movement.

OA Induction and Ceremonies will include a range of topics from ceremonialists to running an Ordeal and unit elections. Highlights will include acting skills and techniques workshops taught by real-world theater professionals.

#### LOCATION AND DATES

Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, North Carolina, August 1-6, 2011

#### PROJECTED COST

\$325 with dormitory style housing (6-8 people per room) or \$425 with hotel style rooms (2 people per room). Both include housing, meals, training, recreational opportunities and much more **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INDIAN SUMMER 2011**

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



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## National Leadership Seminar

By: Jeffery Hung

As a Boy Scout, you are expected to one day become the leaders of our world; however, in order to become this 'man of change' you first familiarize yourself with the proper etiquettes of a leader. That's why the National Leadership Seminar, or NLS, is a must for the future leaders who have attained some sort of leadership, but still needs to refine it.

"What is NLS," some of you might ask? NLS is the highest Order of the Arrow training that is recommended for Scouts who have finished the National Youth Leadership Training, or NYLT. It comprises of 60 eager Arrowmen who are taught by the Boy Scout leaders, such as Section Chiefs, Region Chiefs, and sometimes even the National Chief! This fun-filled training lasts a weekend and is almost guaranteed to enhance the cores of your leadership skills to its max! Some aspects of NLS include movie clips, role-playing, and candy! Even before the end of the program, you'll already be incorporating your newfound knowledge with the other Scouts who have also partaken in this challenge.

If you still aren't convinced, this is how some attending Arrowmen described their NLS experience:

"I just returned from one of the greatest leadership courses around. The NLS course is a winner... "

"I didn't even get out of the room after the second or third session before I was putting the new knowledge to use. The use of movie clips to drive home points of leadership works well..."

"The Staff for the training was excellent. We were privileged to have our National Vice-Chief, the Region Chief, and several Section Chiefs and various members of the National OA Committee. A Great staff. "

"Well, I have now been given more useful tools to use to help the Arrowmen in my Council improve themselves and the Lodge. I feel a little less nervous about my own position...."

"If and when you get the chance to attend a NLS,



# MEET THE MAN:

## T. Mark Blakemore

By: Jeffery Hung, Japeechen Secretary

You recently just received the prestigious Founder's Award this past April for your unselfishness while in the Order of the Arrow? Congratulations! I'm here to interview you and I appreciate your time.

**Q:** So Mr. Blakemore. . . tell me about yourself.

**A:** Well, Jeffery, I was born in a galaxy far, far away, on a planet called, "Kentucky." After graduating high school, I attended Texas A&M University to become an oceanographer. By my junior year I had decided to attend law school at the University of Miami concentrating in ocean and coastal law. My first job was with the admiralty and maritime law firm of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams in Brownsville. I have now been practicing law for over 31 years, 15 with my own firm.

**Q:** Interesting. . . can you also tell us how many years you've been in scouting and in the Order of the Arrow?

**A:** In the third grade I joined Cub Scouts and for the next three years earned my way from Bobcat through Wolf, Bear and Lion, and finally was awarded the Arrow of Light. Two troops in two different cities later, I received the Eagle Scout rank when I was 16, after earning the God & Country Award. I returned to my old Troop 202 between college and law school and served as Scoutmaster until we could recruit a new, permanent replacement. While in law school I helped start and was the Advisor for Explorer Post 66, a career post in Oceanography. After I moved to Brownsville I was asked to help raise money for the Rio Grande Council and have been involved ever since. I was the founding Scoutmaster for Troop 6 in 1997 when my son, Bryant crossed over from Webelos. He became an Eagle Scout in 2004.

While attending summer camp at Camp McKee in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, I was grabbed by an Indian and brought before a giant chief who "tapped" me three times on the shoulder. After the Tap Out Ceremony I was told to get my sleeping bag and canteen, and given two matches, a cracker and a hard-boiled egg for my next morning's breakfast. After a day of irksome tasks performed in silence, I was inducted into Kawida Lodge #480 as an Ordeal member. Brotherhood came a year later. I was an adult in 1998 when I was honored with the Vigil by Wewanoma Lodge #272.

**Q:** Good. . . good. . . surely now you should have a most memorable experience while in Scouting.

**A:** I saw Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon at the big arena along with 40,000 other Scouts while attending the 1969 National Jamboree in Idaho. More recently, every Scouting experience has become memorable because I get to share them with my wife, Heather, your Japeechen Chapter Advisor.

**Q:** That's quite an experience Mr. Blakemore! I'm certain I shouldn't be the only person to ask you this, (maybe I am), but how do you wake up each morning with a cheerful countenance and the motivation to help out those less fortunate than you?

**A:** Jeffery, your question presumes that I am always cheerful and looking for ways to help the unfortunate. This circumstance only occurs in movies about saints. As your Scoutmaster you have seen me angry and perfectly willing to let you less fortunate Scouts in Troop 6 do all the work while I and the other adult leaders watch! However, in my pursuit of happiness, service to others has always been a strong motivator. Having participated in many community service organizations over the years, I find, for me, only Scouting gives more than it takes. Assisting boys to become young men of good character, self-reliant and equipped to help and lead others, I am contributing to the self-perpetuating mission of the BSA. Whether guarding a young Scout deep over his head in water, struggling but determined to make a personal flotation device out of his clothes, or backpacking with a crew of ten young men on an 80-mile trek through the mountains of New Mexico, my life becomes stimulatingly difficult and worthwhile. I believe that one does his best when one serves his best.

**Q:** I see. Everyone knows that each and every person has his flaw, so, with that, what do you believe is the biggest flaw of our fellow Arrowmen?

**A:** Although I think it best to concentrate on the positive traits of people, or find ways to bring those traits out, generally, our Lodge Arrowmen could use a good dose of "try it and see." Too many new Ordeal members never attend another OA event. They are missing out on making new Scout friends from across the Rio Grande Council, some that may last a lifetime. Chances



for leadership, good times, travel and special Scouting opportunities are thrown away and they don't even know what they've missed.

**Q:** All of us can probably say that's true, (laugh). You're almost done Mr. Blakemore, so just bear with me a few more minutes. Surely, someone of your stature should have already planned out the future of your scouting life a few months out. Do you have any new spice that you're implementing into this year?

**A:** Troop 6 TLT, Lodge PowWow, Council NYLT, a Kanik adventure at Philmont, and a trip to the Canadian Glaciers (before they disappear) are all in the works, along with the usual monthly campouts and other Scouting events.

**Q:** Well, Mr. Blakemore, that was quite an interview! I have but one more question left. Do you have anything to tell to the readers of *The Whitewing*?

**A:** Yes, Jeffery. I have it from reliable sources that *The Whitewing's* predecessor publication was named the *Arroyo Arrow*, and dates back to the 1950's or early 1960's.

Okay, that's all for today! We'll see you next time for another edition of *The Whitewing*!



## Let's Go to ESCO

Japeechen Chapter's Trip to ESCO Marine

By Paul Lenz, Chapter Chief

If you have ever been on Highway 48, between Brownsville and the Island, perhaps you have seen the Port of Brownsville and all the industrial works. AMFELS, shrimpers, welders, diesel distributors and marine salvage companies can all be found at the Port. The Japeechen Chapter actually had an opportunity to go to the Port and see first-hand and up-close the recycling that ESCO Marine does. ESCO owns some of those old naval ships, and other vessels you might see as you pass by, and they take them apart and recycle and sell the parts. However ESCO is not just one of the biggest shipbreaking/ship recycling operations in the world, ESCO is also one of the largest recyclers of copper wire, cars, and other scrap metals. On Japeechen's tour of the operation, there were many tools and a machine as big as a small bus to take copper in any form and break it down into copper chips no bigger than a fingernail to be melted down. Another machine that was almost a plant in itself was a three-story high car shredder that could tear apart a crushed car and separate metal and nonmetal in about eight seconds. There were also other machines that were material handlers as big as an excavator and could most likely pick up a ton or more. Japeechen got to go where no Arrowman has gone before, into the private life of a retired naval vessel, the *USS L. Y. SPEAR*. This ship was designed to service nuclear-powered submarines and had onboard metal and woodworking shops as well as a foundry. The *USS L. Y. SPEAR* also had the capability to allow divers to refit the hull exterior for rearming the sub with warheads. Most of the ship that we saw was still intact and as yet untouched by the breakers. The next time you are on Highway 48, and you see some of those ships, I hope you can not only see a shipbreaking yard but a world-class recycling company as well.

We had a great time with the owner of ESCO, **Mr. Richard Jaross**, and we want to thank him for being with us every step of the way and allowing us to see what he does in this operation. He taught us so much – the place was truly amazing! Mr. Blakemore, we are glad you came along and kept us from getting lost on the ship. We greatly appreciate all the parents and leaders who drove our chapter members out there. Last, but definitely not least, we thank Mrs. Blakemore for arranging this trip and being a Chapter Advisor for all this time.

## 2011 Lodge Calendar

Jan 14-16- Winter Ordeal

Feb 18-20- Council Camporee

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Cub Adventure Weekend

April 9<sup>th</sup>- POD Weekend Hobbies

June 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>- Summer Camp

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>- Summit Corps

August 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>- Indian Summer