



## Do These Potatoes Make My Thighs Look Big?

As a Section, we took on the irksome task of sorting, bagging, and loading over 84,000 pounds of sweet potatoes.

The Newsletter Team took some time, did some number crunching, and found the following results:

The total calorie count of all 84,000 pounds of potatoes is a whopping 34,291,583 calories!

That is enough to feed 12,145 people for a day based on a 2,000 calorie diet!



## Longtime Lodge Adviser Passes The Torch

This year, Mack Ruffin will be retiring after more than twenty-five years as Nawakwa Lodge's Adviser. In addition to his accomplishments on the lodge level, Mack is one of the few Virginia recipients of the National Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Recently, Section Secretary A.J. Kelly sat down with Mr. Ruffin for an interview on his experiences in the Order of the Arrow. When you see Mack this weekend, please join us in thanking him for his service!

### Where and when were you inducted in to the Order?

I was serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 500 in Richmond when I was inducted into Nawakwa Lodge #3 in 1971. Troop 500 is a very active supporter of the Order of the Arrow.

### What is your most unforgettable OA memory?

My most memorable OA event was the welcome I received after completing my ordeal. My son and OA brothers of Troop 500 set up a special cracker barrel in our camp site to celebrate the occasion.

### How has the OA changed over the years on a national level?

The opportunity for youth leadership on the national level has increased substantially. The welcoming of women to the adviser ranks in 1990 has helped the adviser corps. Their advisory leadership in service in Nawakwa Lodge is outstanding.

### What is the key ingredient of a successful lodge?

The key ingredient of a successful lodge is positive commitment and teamwork toward the accomplishment of a common goal that both youth leaders and adult advisers actively support. The youth leaders and advisers should give life to the Scout Oath and Law and the Obligation of the Order by their actions.

### How long did you serve as Lodge Adviser for Nawakwa? What accomplishment in that role are you most proud of?

I served as lodge adviser twice. My first time was 1977-1982 and again from 1992-2013 for a total of 26 years. I saw Nawakwa grow from 398 to 1162 members. The lodge became a vital part of our Council through our support of our camp. The service weekends generated many thousands of hours of cheerful service improving camp. In addition, we donated land, buildings, equipment, money and staff for summer camp and other events.

The lodge membership's steadfast commitment was recognized by 34 consecutive National Honor/Quality Lodge awards, a JTE gold level award, 5 E. Urner Goodman Camping Awards, 3 National Service Awards and a grant.

### How has conclave changed over the years?

Conclave has changed by moving from a limited quota for each lodge to open enrollment without limits. It has also moved from primarily a training event to a little training and a lot of fun and games.

### What are your plans for future involvement in Scouting?

I plan to remain active with Nawakwa and the Council Executive Board. I have served on staff for several NOAC and would like to continue volunteering where needed.



## Patch Auction. 9:45 PM at the OA Shelter

Support cheerful service and contribute to a successful Conclave by participating in the first ever SR-7A patch auction! On Saturday night of this year's Conclave, past SE-8 and SR-6B Section Adviser Doc Miller will serve as auctioneer, sure to provide an exciting time! Not only will this be an excellent opportunity for great memorabilia to surface but it also will serve as an important fundraiser to support the Conclave Service Project.

You can make a donation to the auction at the Camp Trading Post or just prior to the auction at the OA Shelter. The section needs your help! We need your patch donations to make this unique event a success.