

FLORIDA COLLECTORS' NEWSLETTER

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COMMUNITY STRIPS

FROM THE EDITORS

David Weda, Publisher Robert Mathis, Editor

Welcome back. Summer is just about over, time to get back to work. It's been a long summer, too: the four weeks of SummitCorps, to build trails at the new National Jamboree site in West Virginia, the week-long Indian Summer event in August, and the World Jamboree in Sweden. And thank goodness the BSA higher-ups decided that councils could not create their own World Jamboree emblems.

Patches were made for the two national OA events, but no where near the same quantities as those for a NOAC, with one exception. One lodge made four flaps and two pocket dangles for the two events, one had a combined commemorative flap, one had a round patch for just the Indian Summer, and the rest created nothing new.

The Cover. At the Sunshine Trade-O-Ree, several of then traders from Central Florida Council had put on display their collaborative effort of their community strip collection from their area. Or at least color scans of their collections, to show what had been created for the communities of Central Florida. In this issue, Rick Obermeyer has written an article that explains how this collection came to be.

The sub-category of community and state strips (found on eBay mostly under "council shoulder patches" or "other") seems to have found a place with more collectors in the last few years. Since they have not been made in over 35 years, the chances of fakes or unauthorized reproductions seems remote, One could almost correctly assume that each community had a community strip for themselves (and Rick's article describes how sometimes a community isn't needed to have a community strip). In the case of strips from before 1952, when the color of the strips matched the colors of the

uniform, multiple pieces could be found for the same community (even if that community can be found in multiple states). Rare and unusual names have sold for large dollar amounts (like a used "CT." state strip in Cub Scout colors, for almost \$200).

It's easy to see why such emblems are not used today. Even with the BSA condensing and merging their way below the 300-council mark, maintaining an inventory of all of the communities within each council would be expensive. And no where near as lucrative as a colorful council patch that can be changed three times a year for all sorts of various fundraising programs.

If anyone else has a collection of their council's community strip collection (not just the RWS, but also the GBS, BYS, and the colors of the Air Scout and Sea Scout programs), let us know, and we'll picture them, too.

BIG THANKS to all of those who assisted with this issue: Rick Obermeyer, David Pate, Jason Wolz, Chris Colebaugh, Elam Patterson, Mike Daley and his site, floridacsp.com, Stan Hoff, Ken Knaebel, and Howard Gross.

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NEW ISSUES

> The biggest producer of the summer: **O-Shot-Caw 265**. For their contingent to 2011 SummitCorps, there are two different flaps (**S-137**, GMY bdr; **S-138**, SMY bdr). And then for the 2011 Indian Summer event, the lodge created two two-piece sets. The first set (**F-31**, **X-52**) were issued well before the activity. The flap has a BLK fleur-de-lis, 150 made. The bottom has a short tab, with no verbage (125 made). The second set (**F-32**, **X-53**) arrived just in time for the event. The second flap has a WHT fleur-de-lis (125 made), and the bottom has a longer tab with WWW on it (125 made).

> **Aal-Pa-Tah 237** had a new flap (**S-109**), issued for both SummitCorps and Indian Summer. Their Dance Team has a new item as well (**X-72**).

> **Osceola 564** has commemorated their victory at the 2011 Section Conference's Quest For the Golden Arrow competition with a jacket patch and a neckerchief (**J-4**, **N-13**). Well, not just their 2011 victory, but every Quest victory by Osceola, and the predecessor lodges that are now part of Osceola (Calusa 219, Eckale Yakanen 552). The neckerchief is the jacket patch, sewn on BLK cloth.

> The only other known piece issued by a lodge for the summer activities was the Indian Summer patch from **Tipisa 326 (R-10)**. But their chapters have been busy:

> **Ayochatta Chapter** created two patches to commemorate the 400th patch design created by Rick Obermeyer (**X-5**; RED bdr; 130 made; **X-6**; GMY bdr; 70 made).

> **Huracan Chapter** has their first non-event emblem (**X-1**; 300 made), a literal splash of colors to represent their totem, a hurricane.

> **Micconope Chapter** has a new jacket patch (**J-2**; 200 made), dated 2011-2012.

> **Wewahitchka Chapter** has a jacket patch of their own (**J-2**; 100 made), dated 2010-2011. And three more pocket patches: **X-23** has a RED bdr; 300 made. **X-24** has a GMY border (60 made); available for providing 20 hours of service. And there is **X-25**, with a SMY bdr; 40 were made, available for providing 40 hours of service.

> **Tomoka Chapter** has perhaps the most enthusiastic emblem in quite some time

(**X-14?**), proclaiming that the wearer is "not just a flap wearer", and is "a proud & active member of Tomoka Chapter".

> **Echockotee 200** has one new flap, the next generation service flap design that has been used since the late 1950's (**S-45**). This version uses a foam injection process to raise the handclasp higher, over the rest of the patch surface. One thousand were made, distributed at 1/ eight hours of service. We also have pictured their 2011 Section Seminars Host flap (**S-46**), that will be unrestricted to lodge members. Their **Apieka Chapter** has a new monochrome version of their emblem, this time depicting the alligator head in all BLK (**X-5**).

> **Seminole 85** has a new flap (**S-59**), issued for Indian Summer, but not identified as a piece for the event. Proceeds from the sales went to a scholarship fund. And yes, those are the actual colors.

> and **Section S-4** has a new "Summer Activity" fundraiser patch, with a depiction of each of the High Adventure areas and the two summer OA programs, and not a lot of verbage.

On the Council Shoulder Patch side:

> **Central Florida Council** has two CSPs for their 2011 Philmont contingent (**SA-??**, BLK border, 150 made; **SA-??**; "LEADER"; SMY border; 50 made).

> **North Florida Council** is this issue's big CSP producer. The council has two "Friends Of Scouting (FO\$) CSPs (**SA-??**, full color, donation; **SA-??**; WHT monochrome, FO\$ presenter). And four CSPs for their Camp Shands program, one for campers (**TA-??**; RED bdr), and three for staff (**TA-??**; BLU bdr, staff that served 1-3 years, 200 made; **TA-??**, SMY bdr, staff that served 4-7 years, 50 made; **TA-??**, GMY bdr, staff that served 8 plus years, 50 made). One for the council's Scoutreach Division (**SA-??**). And another for the 2011 Philmont contingent (**SA-??**).

> **South Florida Council** has a CSP, for Camp Jackson Sawyer (**SA-??**). According to Mike Daly's Florida CSP website, two 2010 Eagle Scout recognition shoulder patches became available in 2011 (Eagle Scout, Eagle Sponsor). And what must be the last of the 2010 National Jamboree items, a version of the small "Crocodile" JSP was found, with the

THE RUMOR MILL

* Rumor has it that O-Shot-Caw 265 will be producing a special “breast cancer awareness” flap, much like several other lodge across the country have created, with the proceeds to go towards charity.

* Echockotee 200’s Onathequa Chapter will have a special “Service Corps” patch for their staff at their district Camporee, with 50 to be made.

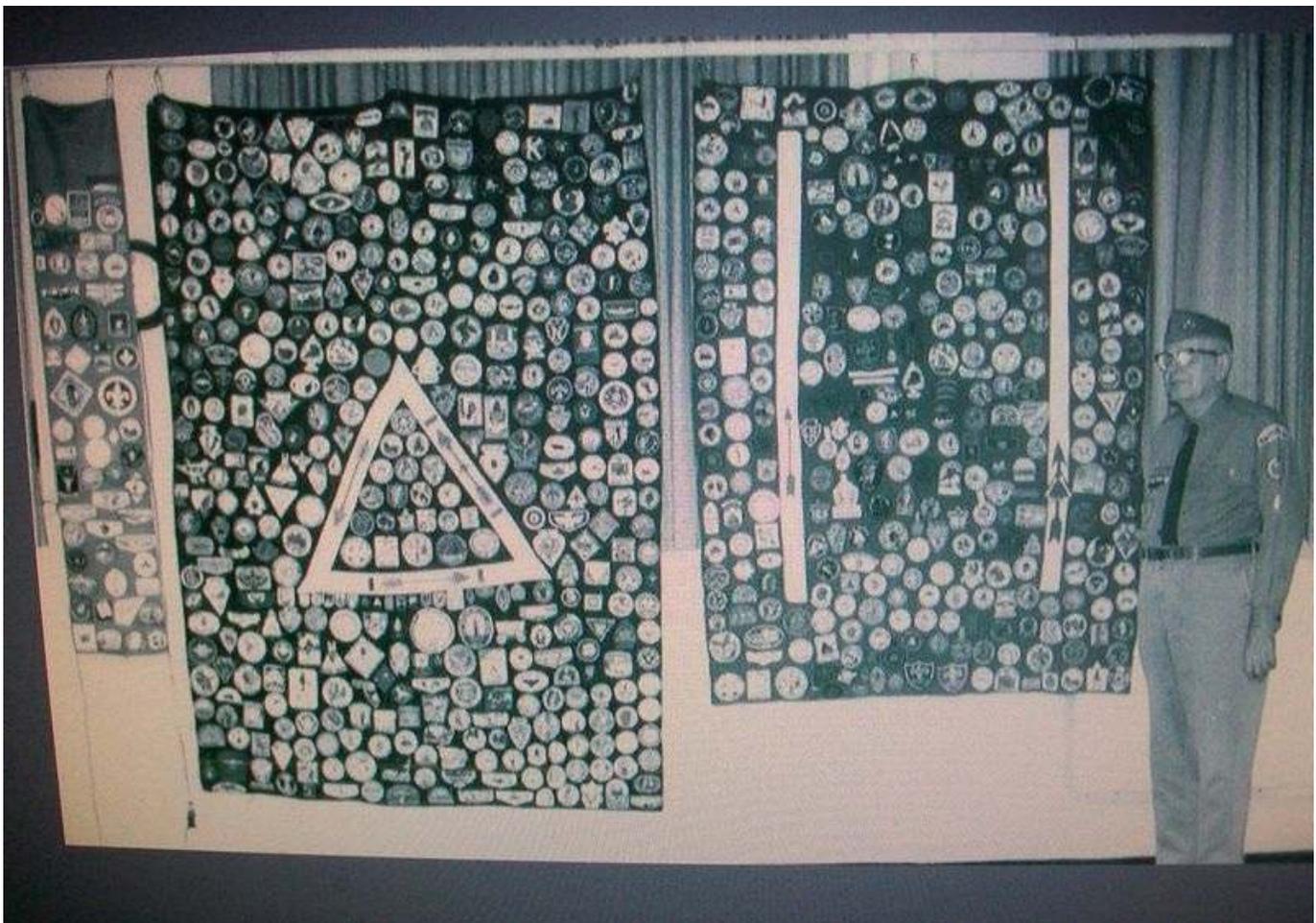
notes & asides

+ A major topic of discussion among patch collectors nationally in the last month has been the sale of three patch blankets on eBay, one of which held over 200 patches, from the 1950s to the 1970s. Among the emblems sewn to this 5’ x 7’ blanket were a Semialachee X-1 (“kidney bean”), an early 237 -X and -A, 1953 Area VI-E Fellowship, 1951 Area VI-D Conference, 326-R-3, and may Area

Meeting and lodge patches from the 1950s and 1960s, for \$62.4.04. Another 4’ by 6” blanket, with OA, camp, National Jamboree, and council activity pieces from the 1940s and 1950s, sold for \$3078.44. The third blanket, 4’ by 6’ with over 300 similar patches from the 1960s and 1970s, sold for \$1229.04. While many on PATCH-L were adamant that these blankets should stay intact as symbols of someone’s Scouting history, the buyers that put up the money to own them plan on breaking up the collection.

The blankets come with several stories. One midwest collector remembers the owner of these blankets as a member of Owassippe Lodge 7 in 1949, and that some of the blankets were on display in the 1960s. After that, he lost track of the blanket owner, he had no children, and only a brother in Arizona. It had been assumed that these blankets were lost.

More than forty years later, the blankets re-surfaced, at an estate auction in southern Illinois. According to Roy More’s patch blog (<http://thescoutpatchauction.com/blogsite/>), the seller of the blankets picked these up for a total of \$150.



+ Is this an OA patch or not? According to one long-time O-Shot-Caw 265 member, In the mid-2000s, "South Florida Council made a patch that was to be part of a program which was going to develop three or four trails each with an award patch – the exact criteria was never finalized, the patches were at the council office. But by 2005 no one seemed to be able to tell where they were, who had them, or how one could get one. It appeared that the volunteer working on the program moved following the 2004 hurricanes and the entire project fell apart. They were paid for by South Florida



Council, they were in the office at some point, but otherwise no one has any knowledge of the program. There is a story that at some point in 2004, the guy and group of Scouts did the walk at Everglades, and thus a limited number were "issued" to those in attendance."

It has the OA MGM Indianhead, it has the lodge number. According to the Rule Of Duck, since it has a reference to the OA, it is considered by the Powers Of All Things Classified to be an OA patch.

+ The activity patch theme for O-Shot-Caw 265 for 2011-12 is "The Legend", depicted on the front by drawings, similar to those found on the Legend strip patches that are occasionally sewn onto OA sashes. On the back of the patch is verbage. If you recognize it, then you know what it is. If you don't recognize it, we won't tell you what it means.

+ We have pictured one of the two versions of the **Tipisa 326** Fall Fellowship 2011 patch. The original order arrived with no button loops, so they quickly received a corrected order, with the loop. Equal amounts were made of each.

+ And more news for people who collect not just patches, but the loops on the patches. The original order for the **Echockotee 200** 2011 Spring Fellowship patch came with a

RED button loop. Only 500 pieces were ordered, which is far less than what was needed for the 430+ in attendance. Very few attendees ended up with more than one, and another 100 were ordered. The second order had a MAR border, much closer in hue to the border of the patch.

+ **Seminole 85** added another activity patch to this year's 75th anniversary series. The lodge holds an "Lodge Executive Committee Day" at Summer Camp each year (as an ice cream social for the campers), and this was the first year to have a patch.

+ **Mega-merger news.** Most of the councils in the state of Michigan have decided to become part of a confederation, under the program title name "The BSA Area Project", or the "Crossroads Recommendation" (found at <http://www.bsaaareaproject.org/>). Nine of the eleven councils in Central Region, Area 2 have recommended to their membership to create what is being called a "coordinating council", as a means of dealing with declining membership in that state. The documentation gives the appearance that this is not a merger per se, but change in the "business model", to bring more professionals to the local level. In fact, the "scope" of the proposal specifically states "The Area Project will not address current camps and council properties, the Order of the Arrow organization or assignments of Scout Executives and staff". But buried in the recommendations is a map, with a tentative proposed set of boundary lines, that appear to reduce the number of councils from the eleven in the Area down to five.

+ **The two Florida Trade-O-Rees.** For 2012, the Sunshine Trade-O-Ree will be first, to be held February 3-4, at the National Guard Armory in downtown Orlando (<http://www.sunshinotor.com/>). This date is two weeks earlier than the 2011 TOR, so that it would not conflict with a TOR in Virginia. The following weekend (February 10-11) will be the Palm Beach Trade-O-Ree, to be held at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Loxahatchee (<http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/pdf/Tradeoree2012.pdf>).

COMMUNITY STRIPS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL

Rick Obermeyer started collecting patches shortly after colorful council shoulder strips were introduced in the early 1970's. Distributors still had good inventories of the then obsolete RWS community strips. There was even a little trading in them among a few at Section events.

It occurred to Rick that something that had been discontinued might someday have trading value. So he went to the main distributor in the Orlando area and bought two of everything at about 10c apiece. On an expedition to Melbourne at the south end of the Council, he bought two each of everything there, too.

He could tell that some community strips had already sold out. For example, he wasn't able to get a mint ORLANDO RWS. He mounted half on pages, put the other half in an envelope, set them all aside and largely forgot about them.

Skip ahead about twenty years. He met Gene Lent, who displayed a modest collection of Central Florida community strips. This was interesting because Gene was the first person Rick had met in twenty years who even cared. Gene was interested in Rick's "second set," so Rick passed that along to him at the time.

Skip ahead about another fifteen or twenty years. There is now an OA Museum at Camp La-No-Che with space to display things. Rick thought it might be nice to finally display those community strips, and was kind of eyeballing big picture frames at art supply stores. On their way to camp one Saturday afternoon to service an Ordeal weekend, Howard Gross and Rick spotted a big frame put out by the road for trash collection. It was about 28 inches by 34 inches, surely large enough to show a set of Council community strips.

Rick knew better than to try to assemble the cloth strips themselves. But since it was just for display, then color photocopies would work just fine. So he put

out the call for friends to send him copies of what they had.

Bob Voegele was good for several obscure varieties from Volusia County and the Daytona area. Mike Daley had accumulated some from dinky little communities that sent Rick to a map to find out where in the world they are. John Keatley had a few from the central and southern coast. Tico Perez had a couple of items from the Orlando area. Tico also has a very cool CYPRESS GARDENS which, unfortunately is not inside the Council. At a Scout show, Gene Lent displayed a few that included a couple Rick hadn't seen yet.

So the display has pieces from six people. That means that each of the six has something that the other five do not.

The strips are not arranged alphabetically. That would be too boring. Instead, they are arranged roughly geographically on an outline of the Council. That created a little crowding problem on the right hand side because towns come one right after another along the coast, like beads strung on a shoreline.

The display does show some varieties in lettering sizes, and in red and scarlet twill backgrounds. There are a few blue and yellow strips. There is a copy of the only known blue and white ORLANDO strip. Rick's Mom used to like to browse through antique stores and once ran across a Sea Scout uniform from the early 1950's. It even had the original owner's dues card with it, with a name recognizable as being an old family owned car dealership. Rick cut the ORLANDO strip off of it and loaned the uniform to a friend who used it for a Halloween costume for several years.

Rick also came up with the only known McCOY AIR FORCE BASE, which he cut off of his own old Boy Scout uniform.

There are some oddities. WINTER GARDEN is a suburb west of Orlando. It is represented only by an older style khaki and red strip. No rws for it has shown up yet, even though there have always been a couple of Scout units there. We know for a fact that there were strips for TAFT and ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, yet none of the six had one. So Rick fabricated representative samples with a little paper cut and paste.

Not all the community strips can be found on any map. Mike Daley explains that many of them are the names of schools that could have sponsored Scout units.

About the most unique strip is not even for a specific place. WEST OF EAU GALLIE must be some place out there. And then there are the current communities with lively Scout units that aren't represented at all because those communities didn't even exist back when the RWS strips were used.

So we know that what's there is not a complete set. Who knows what is?





85-S-59 2011; regular issue?



200-S-46 2011; Section Seminars Host



200-S-45 2011; service flap; raised hands



237-S-109 2011; SummitCorps/ Indian Summer.



237-X-72 2011; Hitchiti Dancer



265-S-137 2011; SummitCorps; GMY bdr.



265-S-138 2011; SummitCorps; SMY bdr.



265-F-31 2011; Indian Summer; BLK fdl; 150 made.



265-F-32 2011; Indian Summer; WHT fdl; 125 made.



265-X-52 2011; Indian Summer; short tab; 125 made



265-X-53 2011; Indian Summer; long tab with WWW; 125 made



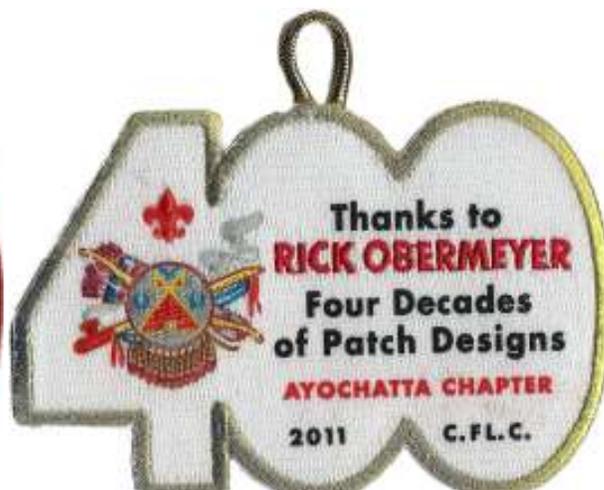
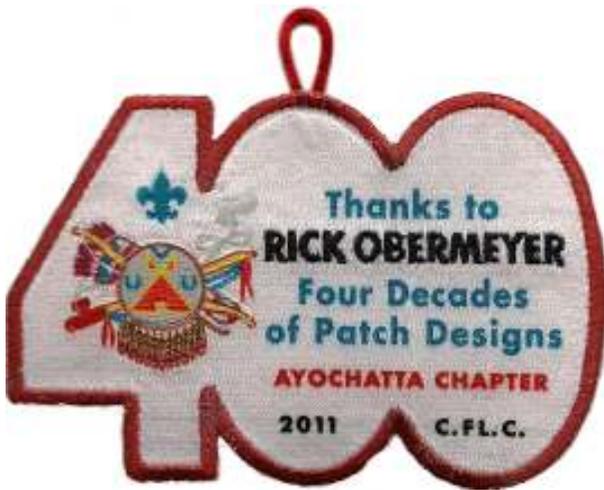
326-R-10 2011; Indian Summer.



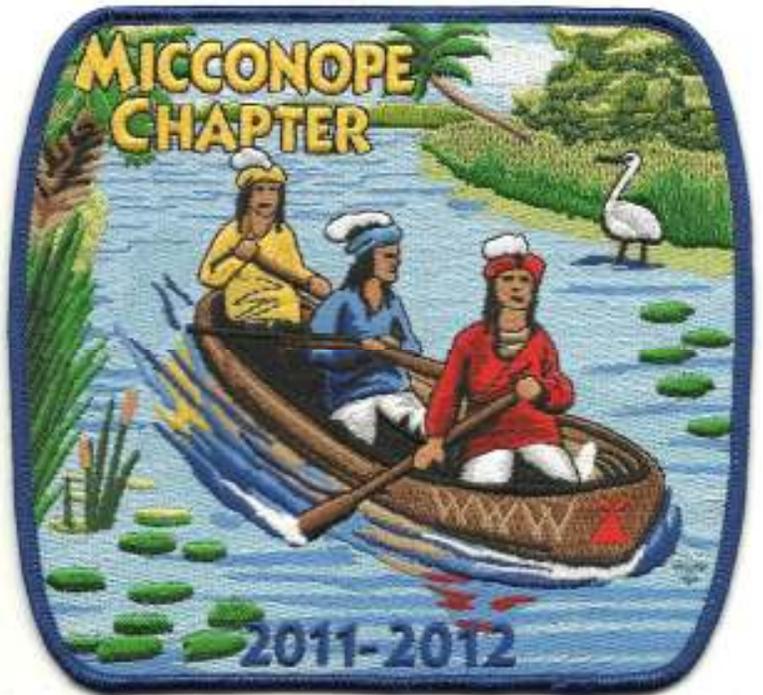
564-J-4 2011: "Quest For The Golden Arrow" backpatch.



564-N-13 2011; "Quest For The Golden Arrow" neckerchief; J-4 on BLK cloth.



326 Ayo Chatta Chapter (left—right) X-5 2011; RED bdr; 130 made. X-6; GMY bdr; 70 made.



(above) 326 Huracan Chapter X-1 2011; 300 made
 (right) 326 Micconope Chapter J-2 2011; 200 made.

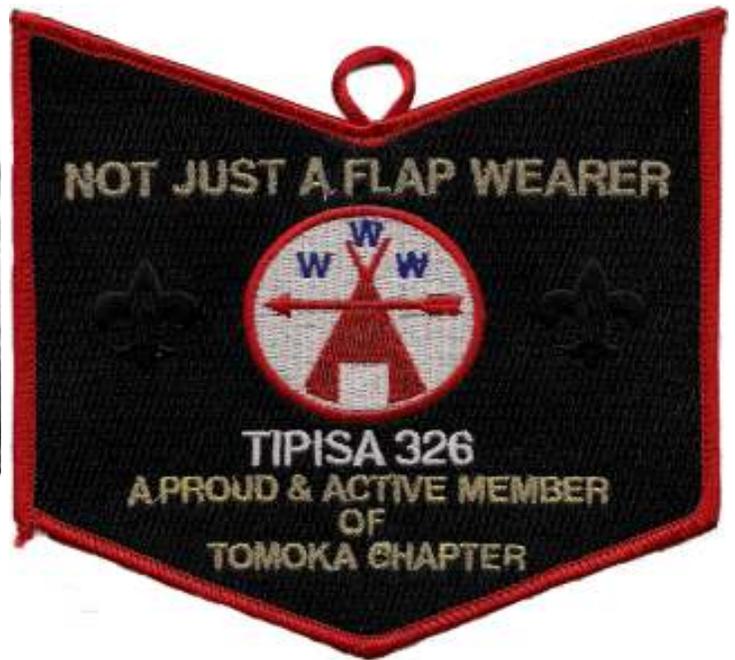
(below, left—right) Wewahitchka Chapter X-23 2011; RED bdr; 300 made. X-24 2011; 60 made; GMY bdr; 20 hr service. X-25 2011; 40 made; SMY bdr; 40 hr service





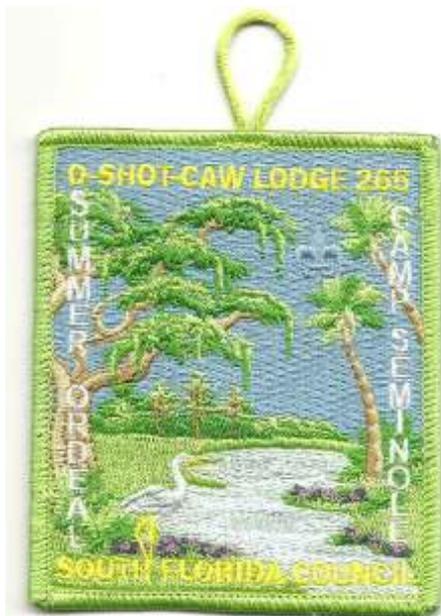
(left) 326 Wewahitchka Chapter J-2 2011; 100 made.

(below) 326 Tomoka Chapter X-14? 2011.



(left) 200 Apieka Chapter X-5 2011; BLK monochrome.

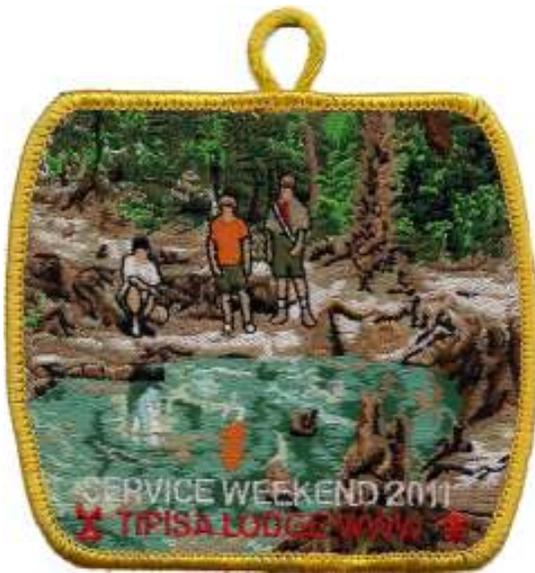
(right) 200 2011 Fall Fellowship. Part of 2011 series, "Ships Named Florida".



(left) 265 Summer Ordeal. Part of 2010-11 activity patch series, depicting natural scenes of South Florida..

(right) (340) 2011 Summer Conclave.





(326) 2011 Service Weekend. Part of 2010-11 series, "60th Anniversary Of Camp La-No-Che".



(326) 2011 Fall Fellowship. Part of 2011-12 series, "Renaissance Of Brotherhood". Available with loop and without loop (500 made of each).



(237) 2011 Summer Pow-Wow.



564 (above) 2011 Service Day; 100 made. (right, above) 2011 Fall Fellowship, pocket size; 200 made. (right, bottom) 2011 Fall Fellowship, "JACKET"; 100 made. Parts of 2011 series, depicting native American dancers.



239 2011 Spring Fellowship. Part of 2010-2011 series "Celebrating The Nature of Wallwood".



Section S-4 2011 Summer Activity patch.



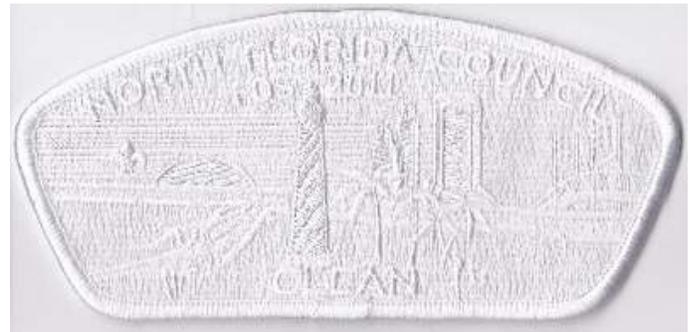
Central Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Wood Badge Training Center.



North Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; FO\$; full color.



Central Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Philmont Trek; BLK border; 150 made.



North Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; WHT monochrome; FO\$ presenter.



Central Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Philmont Trek; "LEADER"; SMY border; 50 made.



North Florida Council CSP TA-?? 2011; Camp Shands; RED bdr CSP; available to campers



North Florida Council CSP TA-?? 2011; Camp Shands; BLU bdr; staff that served 1-3 years; 200 made



North Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Scoutcraft Division.



North Florida Council CSP TA-?? 2011; Camp Shands; SMY bdr; staff that served 4-7 years; 50 made



North Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Philmont contingent.



North Florida Council CSP TA-?? 2011; Camp Shands; GMY bdr; staff that served 8 plus years; 50 made



South Florida Council CSP SA-?? 2011; Camp Sawyer.



South Florida Council 2010 National Jamboree; error; CROCODLIE



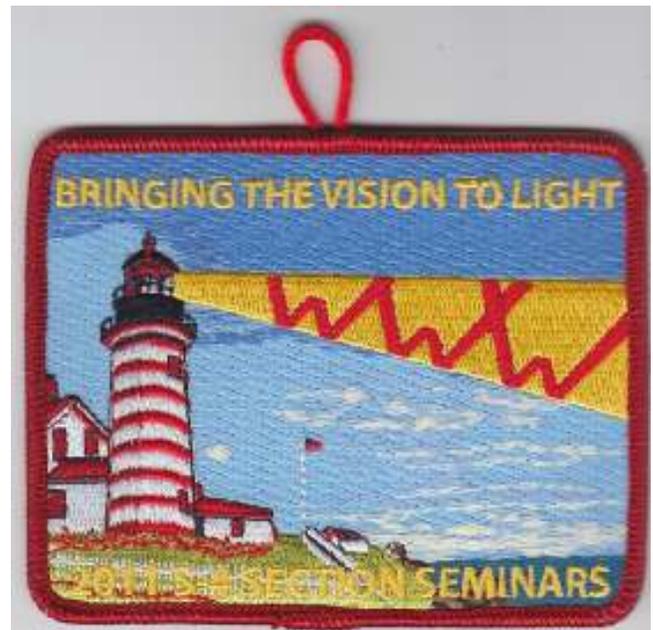
South Florida Council 2010 EAGLE SCOUT



South Florida Council 2010 EAGLE SCOUT SPONSOR



085 2011 "Summer Camp LEC Night"



2011 Section S-4 Seminars.



265 2011 Fall Ordeal. (top) front of the patch. (right) reverse side of the patch. Part of 2011-2012 series, depicting the Legend in pictographs.

