

ECHOCKOTEE LODGE 200 BACKSTORIES

N-3 neckerchief varieties. Variations have been found in shades of GRN and YEL, as well as the roundness of the embroidered design. These neckerchiefs were produced in the Far East in small batches, ordered though brothers that were travelling to Asia with the US Navy. At least one neckerchief has been found with a LBL background, similar in color of the S-2 flap.

Coacoochee Lodge 200 flap. The practice of segregation had been a part of the Boy Scouts of America since the earliest days. At the National level, the Division of Negro Scouting was created to tend to the affairs of black Scouts. Many councils throughout the country had separate camps and office facilities, either required by law or by local ordinance, or for the emotions of the local participants. In the Greater Jacksonville Council, black Scout troops were organized in the early 1930's, but the Scouts did not wear any uniforms until 1936, out of fear of harassment and abuse from others. A separate office was established to service the needs of the segregated units, and philanthropist and lodge member Francis Johnson donated land for a camp in Orange Park for those units to use. This was named Camp Coacoochee ("wildcat" in the Seminole language), derived from a mixed-blood war chief of the Seminoles, that fought alongside Osceola in the Second Seminole War (1836-38). Camp Coacoochee was on the opposite side of Orange Park from Camp Echockotee. Campers were often taken by bus across two to the "white" camp to use the pool and waterfront facilities.

In the minutes of the 1951 Area 6-D Conference Chiefs' Meeting, "lodge chiefs discussed the problems of Negroes in the Order. The Lodge Chiefs felt that we were falling down on making our programs available to Negroes. Several chiefs promised to remedy this situation in their councils." Robert Wolff, DSA recipient, Council Executive of Tuscarora Area Council in North Carolina and attendee of the 1946 Area J Conference, wrote in a letter dated December 5, 1946: "(M.G. Boswell's) Negro OA chapter was organized with wisdom and clear-cut policies and I take my hat off to him." It was unclear as to when specifically Coacoochee Chapter, consisting of all of the black Arrowmen in North Florida Council was created, but in the context of the segregation policies of that era, having a separate chapter like this may have been the only viable alternative available to ensure OA membership to all Scouts and Scouters.

In the early 1960's a flap-shaped patch was created. The patch bore the name "COACOOCHEE LODGE 200 NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL", and a blue eagle as a totem; this led many collectors across the country to believe that Lodge 200 had changed its name. By 1963, the National office called for an end of segregation in the BSA, and eliminated the Division of Negro Scouting. The lodge became fully integrated by 1966, but like many in that time, several members became disgruntled and left the program. The name "Coacoochee" continued to be used as the name of a chapter in northwest and downtown Jacksonville, and was changed in 1972 to Cherokee Chapter. Camp Coacoochee was renamed for its benefactor Francis Johnson, but was sold in 1979 by the council.

Service flaps and neckerchiefs. Since the late 1950s; with the issuance of the first flaps, Echockotee has restricted its availability for purchase to one for every eight hours of service. While other flaps have been available for sale without restriction, the versions of the three-color background flaps have carried this restriction.

Neckerchiefs have been restricted by lodge rule since 1964, to one per life. Exceptions have been allowed for those who have a neckerchief to trade in, or have provided proof of the destruction of the originally-purchased neckerchief. Host neckerchiefs created for the 2007 and 2014 Section S-3 Conferences, and the "Service To Shands" neckerchief were considered exceptions created for specific events, and were not "regular" neckerchiefs to be restricted.

S-5 flap, 25th anniversary, 1973. The lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1973, seven years late.

X-1, NOAC 1975 (issued with O-Shot-Caw Lodge 265). The National OA Conference contingent in 1975 travelled to Ohio with the contingent of O-Shot-Caw Lodge 265. When the patch was created, the names and totems of both lodges were included. The patch is highly coveted by collectors of both lodges.

S-10, 1983 Section SE-1 Conference Host flap. While the total of flaps made were 660, the flaps received had three different versions of the dark color at the bottom, approximately 220 of each variety. As Conference Host items are sought by Florida collectors, each variety is sought by collectors as much as any other issue. Thus, this flap is considered one of the most valuable of the Echockotee patches.

S-14, 24 HOURS OF SERVICE, 1993. In late 1991, the Lodge Executive Committee voted to create a "24 Hours of Service" flap, as a means of encouraging attendance at service days. Under the rules created for the distribution of the flap, one would be made available to those attending three of the five Service Days in late 1991 and all of 1992, with the flaps distributed in 1993. The results were negligible, as average attendance at Service Days increased by a total of one. A total of 99 flaps were ordered, with an extra flap made available to those that attended four Service days, and another additional flap for attending all five.

A few years later, a fake version of the flap began to become available. This piece appears to have been produced by the same manufacturer as the original, as the stitch placement on the patch appears to match the original. The genuine version had a WHT stitch that locked down the border, and a WHT plastic on the back that obscures the colors of the threads. The fake version has a YEL thread and a thinner WHT plastic on the back.

"Hallmark Emblems". Like many lodges in Florida, Echockotee had used a nearby vendor for production of patches in the 1980s and early 1990s, Hallmark Emblems in Tampa. This ended when many of the patches ordered by Echockotee turned up later with border colors that did not match the original order, or fakes that closely matched the original emblem.

1995 year patch. When the order of the 1995 year patches arrived, all of them were missing a small part of embroidery above the palmetto fronds on the left side. They were returned to the manufacturer, and re-made to be 100% embroidered. Years later, some of the rejected patches began to appear on eBay, from different sellers.

2000 NOAC, X-11 and X-12. The 2000 NOAC contingent travelled together to the University of Tennessee with Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237. The patch for the joint contingent has the totems from both lodges. Each lodge has their own border, RED for Echockotee (X-11) and GRN for Aal-Pa-Tah (X-12).

Fall Fellowship 2002/ 2000. In 2006, someone was on eBay, selling a version of the Fall 2002 patch ("the moth") with the year 2000. It was found that the seller had obtained over 60 with the wrong year, when he made a bulk purchase of overrun patches from the producer located in the Far East. The 2000 is not an official issue, as it was never created or sold by Echockotee.

S-23 flap, 2003 ("JKH"). The initials refer to a professional advisor for Echockotee, Jimmy Horne, that had passed away earlier in the year.