

**Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge #1834**

**August 2021**

**The Wapiti Newsletter**



*John Findley*  
*Exalted Ruler*

**Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge #1834, PO Box 864, Auburn, AL 36830  
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334-821-2391**

# Exalted Rulers Message

The Dog Days of Summer are upon us in earnest. You can walk outside and begin to sweat – at any hour of the day.

Congratulations are in order for our new District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, **Blake Epperson**! Blake was sworn in at the **2021 Grand Lodge National Convention in Tampa, FL**.

I would also like to thank the Lodge for sending Virginia and I to the convention. The four-day event was jam packed with classes and business sessions. I enjoyed learning about Elk's activities and seeing what other Lodges across the nation are doing in Elkdom!

Thank you to the "relief team" who kept the **Tiki Hut** running while we were away. **Julie Stanley, Jim Moody, Mark and Chris Barber, and Keith Stanfield** all took turns working a shift... And a special thanks to **Brother John Pruitt** for DJing at the pool on the 5<sup>th</sup>... I understand it was a good weekend!

Other highlights from the month included:

A successful **Butt and Stew Sale** (thank you, **World Famous #1834 Cooking Team**) Over \$3500.00 dollars was raised for our Scholarship fund.

**Thank you** for all who donated to the **LifeSouth blood drive** with **9 pints collected**.

Proposed Bylaw changes were approved by a vote of the members present and have been submitted for approval to the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee for review.

We presented our 3<sup>rd</sup> local scholarship to **Southern Union student Ashley Williams** on July 12<sup>th</sup>. **Emblems** hosted their state meeting, here, at the Lodge, the weekend of 24-25 July.

Please welcome members **Kevin Crocker** (by reinstatement) and **Jennifer Rushing** (by initiation).

July wrapped up with **Cub Scouts** enjoying their annual Saugahatchee District (Lee County, AL) **Day Camp** at the Scout Hut and activity field. The Cubs must have been having fun because they stayed the week, even in the heat of July...

Looking ahead, we have several items on the agenda:

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, Camp ASCCA** (our State Major Project) **hosts Elks' Day**. All Elks are invited to attend to see the camp in action! I can assure you that your heart will be touched.

**August the 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Lodge is hosting the **First Annual Battle of the Burger**. Burger cooking teams will be in the activity field in front of the BBQ Pit to impress you with their culinary skills. You may vote on the best burger by purchasing a ticket and leaving it with the cooking team. A ticket nets you ¼ of a burger for \$1.00. You may buy as many tickets as you wish!

**August 28<sup>th</sup>**, we will welcome Lodges from the **South District for the District Deputy's Clinic**. Members are welcome to attend to learn what we should be doing and what other Lodges are doing around the South District. It is a good way to learn about Elkdom at the local lodge level. This clinic will be chaired by our own **Blake Epperson**, our new District Deputy!

**September 18 Gun Raffle...** Sales of tickets are going well so far... I understand a seventh gun has been donated for the raffle!

The **Tiki Hut is open each Saturday and Sunday**. Come out and enjoy a chargrilled hamburger and/or dawg and your favorite beverage while you relax beside or in the pool. Attendance has dropped off since July 4<sup>th</sup> so there are plenty of chairs around the pool.

And "**the sign**".

"**The sign**" advertising that the building was indeed for sale was finally erected in front of the building. While it has been on the market for over 6 months... until "**the sign**" was posted, did things start to stir.

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## Exalted Rulers Message Continued

**Facebook** had several posts concerning “**the sale**”. Some reminisced about days gone by when the pool was packed, when reservations were required for dinner in our restaurant, and the very popular **Sunday buffet** was the talk of the town. I too, remember when there was standing room only in the Club, when the Drifters played in concert, when Elvis came to the Lodge, when Fred and Chris Wright packed the Club...

I was especially troubled by some of the negative comments from some who claim to have been members... and some who had a negative experience at our Lodge. We probably earned some of these comments but would have hoped these would not have found a voice on the internet.

Seventeen months ago, I offered to run for Exalted Ruler of the Lodge and set out to try to change some of the negative aspects... I believe we have made progress even though it was difficult getting members to come out during the pandemic. Our current **active members**, while few in numbers, are working to change many of the issues alluded to in the several Facebook posts.

Our members have tried to spruce up our building even though parts of it are over fifty years old. They have painted and cleaned up the Lodge. They work weekly to maintain the pool. The Board has replaced defective kitchen equipment and replaced five commercial AC Units to make the building livable. The Lodge holds an annual **New Year's Eve dance** and an **Annual Anniversary Ball** to recognize our members. Impromptu gatherings in the Club will be found on St Patty's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween, and Christmas. There is an **annual Luau at the pool on Memorial Day** with a DJ “on the deck” and we close the pool season with an “**End of Summer – Blowout**.” This year, a **First Annual Cornhole tournament**, in conjunction with the **Blowout**, is planned. And to raise money for **Camp ASCCA (our State Major Project)**, a “**Battle of the Burger**” is planned for August 14th...

Thanks to our members (**Hal and Rose!**), there is karaoke on the second and fourth Fridays of each month with the Club open every Friday evening as long as there are members present... Our club prices are better than most places in town. For non-Members, while they may visit the Club and Pool, they are asked to consider membership in the Lodge.

We have a cooking team of members who have helped with specials throughout the year... from Shrimp dinners, Steak Nights in the Club, to Catfish fries, Bar-b-cued butts and some of the best Brunswick stew served in East Alabama for Independence Day, they have done it all. The Butts, Stew, and Fish fries are fund raisers to provide for the **local scholarships awarded to Southern Union students** each year.

While there is a social aspect to our group, we are not just a bar – we are a charitable fraternity. Annually, with help from the **Elks National Foundation**, the Lodge has been able to provide a local food ministry with needed equipment to further their contribution to our community. The Lodge provided a Christmas for local foster children - to let them know that people in the community care. Our Veterans are supported by the **Elks Veteran's Service Commission** with monthly contributions at the VA Medical Center (**thank you Mike Rivers**) and for Veterans Day, we make sure **our Veterans are not forgotten**... with a collection of toiletries and a meal to honor them.

We look for community projects each year to support victims of abuse, further the efforts of those organizations providing services to the needy and provide wholesome activities for youth. We sponsor a **Cub Scout Pack, a Boy Scout Troop, and a Girl Scout Troop**. We also support annually, the **Elks National Hoop Shoot competition**, in which we try developing “gritty children”.

Since we are a patriotic organization, with a salute to our Flag we honor and celebrate **Flag Day** each year! We honor our moms with a **Mother's Day Service**, remember our fathers on **Father's Day** and honor our departed members in a special **Memorial Service** each year. Our **POW/MIA service members** will be honored in a remembrance service on September 20th.

**And Elks take care of our own.**

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## Exalted Rulers Message Continued

So, for those of you who lament the sale of the building, please consider getting on-board and lend a hand. There are many things that you can do to further **YOUR** Lodge.

The building may be for sale, but **the Lodge will continue**, especially with your help!  
Fraternally,

*John Findley*

Exalted Ruler  
Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge #1834

## Secretaries Message

The \$1 reinstatement fee is over, however, we must continue to try to get our dropped members back. Please keep in mind that we are looking for quality people and not just a "person." Our membership is now at 202 with 27 delinquents. Some delinquents will be dropped at the end of September. This will bring our total down below 200.

We have activities planned for the coming months and hopefully, you can participate. The Lodge needs your support, as we have many charities that we can contribute to in our community.

Hope to see you at a meeting session soon.

*Carolyn Coburn*, Lodge Secretary

## Blake Epperson Honored As DDGER










## August Birthdays

02	Russ	Pitcock	15
02	Alexander	Rainey	7
02	William	Richmond	6
04	Mike	Williams	45
06	Cory	Broome	13
06	Patrick	Patterson	14
07	Thomas	Whatley	12
16	Tommy	Dodd	3
16	Ken	Somppi	24
16	Richard	Thorne	23
18	Carolyn	Coburn	11
21	Roger	Frank Jr	43
23	Jesse	Ward	14
24	Robert	Fucci	61
24	David	Hudmon	33
27	John	Rice	46
27	Matthew	Rice	11
31	Virgil	Epperson	43



**POW/MIA  
service  
members  
will be  
honored in a  
remembrance  
service on  
September  
20th**

# August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																														
10-6:00 PM Tiki Hut open	4:00 Club Open 6:00 Board Mtg 7:00 Lodge Mtg			Elk's Day at Camp ASSCA 10:00 AM	4:00 Club Open	Purple Heart Day 																																																																														
10-6:00 PM Tiki Hut open	4:00 Club Open 6:00 House Commit 7:00 Lodge Mtg				4:00 Club Open  7:00 Karaoke Hal and Rose! 	 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Burger Battle 10:30																																																																														
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		Pool Open Daily 8 AM – 8 PM Except Monday			<div>July</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F					1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	29	30	<div>September</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>30</td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28	29					30	
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End of Summer "Blow Out"  
and



First Annual Cornhole Tournament !

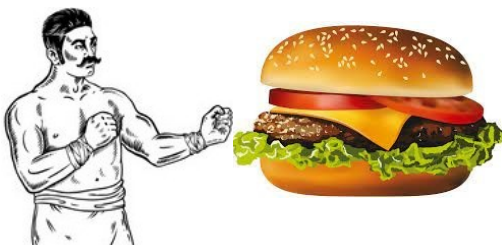
Friday, September 3rd

6:00 pm until...

\$15.00 Cover - Children  
under 15 - FREE!



gets you a trip to the "Fix yor own" Hamburger & Dawg bar  
Potato Salad, Slaw, Chips and Soft drink or BEER (for adults)...  
And PRIZES for the best "Cornstar" in Auburn-Opelika...







# AUBURN-OPELIKA ELKS LODGE GUN RAFFLE



Raffle Tickets \$20 each



Raffle to be conducted similar to a Drawdown - First ticket drawn wins one gun and each 20th ticket wins another gun until all are awarded. Winner must be Legal to Own and claim firearm. *You do not have to be present to win but must have contact info on ticket.*

**Drawing to be held September 18, 2021 at Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge.  
Doors Open at 4pm. Drawing to begin at 6pm.**

**Pulled pork sandwich plates available for \$8 and Soft drinks \$1  
Cash Bar (Canned Beer Only ) \$2**



Ruger 556 Semi-Auto  
Carbine (AR-15)



22 cal. Heritage Arms  
single action revolver



T/C Compass bolt action  
6.5 Creedmore



12ga. Pump short barrel  
personal defense shotgun



9 mm Semi Auto  
Handgun



22 cal. Rossi double action  
revolver



## **AUBURN-OPEILKA ELK'S LODGE #1834 FIRST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BURGER**

*Get your grilling crew together and sign up for our First Annual "Battle of the Burger"*

Date: August 14, 2021, rain or shine

Deadline to register: August 2, 2021.

Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Team spaces will be 15X15. No Electricity...

Teams provide their grills and own "burger fixins"

Judging will be at 1:00 pm.

**Entry Fee: \$25.00.**

**Proceeds to Camp ASCCA the Alabama Elks State Major Project!**

**The Public is welcome!!!**

Purchase a ticket for \$1.00 and use it to vote for your favorite Burger!

The ticket is also good for ¼ of a burger. Leave the stub with your favorite team!

Teams will be awarded trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> place and Runner up! Also, based on the number of tickets a team collect a "Crowd Favorite" trophy will also be awarded.

Cold Beverages and snacks are available for purchase at our Tiki Hut (Pool)...

**Come on out and vote for the best burger!**

*For registration, rules or more information contact:*

*John Pruitt, 334-750-6003, [OPD9403@gmail.com](mailto:OPD9403@gmail.com)  
Julie Stanley, 334-524-0574, [stanley4202@yahoo.com](mailto:stanley4202@yahoo.com)*