

North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “Signal Fire”

January 1996

Greetings Commanders,

I hope you have had a great holiday. We have been praying for you. **WE** have a very busy year ahead. I hope you want to be a part of it!

Come join us at our district training events and campouts. I know you will not be disappointed.

In 1995, we saw over 400 souls won to the Lord and over 200 filled with the Holy Spirit. **PRAISE THE LORD!!** Inside is the District calendar of events, take note, and come and be a part of your District. The buildings are coming along slowly, but surely. We could use your help and monies. As we all work together in one mind and one accord there is no limit to what God will do!

Most importantly, please do not forget to put aside a time of prayer for this District Rangers. The time that has been scheduled is each Thursday evening, at 9:00 p.m. If this conflicts with your schedule that is fine, but please find a time. Each of you know that is how the Hand of God is moved and is something that we can all take part in.

In His service,

Paul Patterson
District Royal Ranger Commander

REGIONAL SEMINAR

Do not forget to attend the Regional Training Seminar on January 26-27, 1996! If you need more information, please contact your sectional commander or the District Office at 817-284-4856.

1996 District Calendar

Jan.	26-27	Reg. Training Seminar, Calvary Temple, Irving
Feb.	3	Work Day - Lakeview
	16-17	District Instructor Certification Seminar
	23-24	FCF Basic Ranger Training
Mar.	8-9	FCF Brush Poppin - Lakeview
	16	District Ranger of the Year Testing
	21-23	National Council, Springfield
	30	Work Day - Lakeview
Apr.	13	Work Day - Lakeview
	26-27	Commander's Conference/Awards Service
May	18	Work Day for Pow Wow - Lakeview
May 31-Jun. 2		District Pow Wow - Lakeview
June	29	Work Day - Lakeview
July	13	Staff Meeting - Sarge Sellers
	14-20	JLTC Sarge Sellers Training Academy
	15-19	National FCF Rendezvous
Aug.	10	Work Day - Lakeview
Sept.	6-7	Instructor Certification Seminar
	27-28	Commander's Campout - Lakeview
Oct.	25-27	FCF Family Days
Nov.	15-16	Divisional Winter Camps
Dec.	7	District Staff Christmas Banquet

**** **EVERY** Saturday is Work Day at Lakeview ****

Instructor Certification Seminar

This seminar is for leaders who would like to become instructors of the Leadership Training Course. It will be held February 16-17. To qualify, you must have completed the Leadership Training Course for either National Training Camp or the Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Training Conference. If you are interested, please contact the District Office at 817-284-4856 for more information.

95 Highlights

by Dwain Klopfenstein, Deputy District Commander

There have been several very exciting developments during the past year.

Pow Wow

This was a first. We camped at our permanent site. Since this was the first year on this side of the lake, we experienced very few problems. This can be contributed to everyone that pitched in and helped make this Pow Wow a success. We had water and rest room facilities. That was a great concern. I want to say thanks to outposts, commanders, and boys who took time to help clear the camping areas. We all realize there is a lot more work to be done. We need some more camp sites cleared for our Pow Wow in 1996. Lets really try to accomplish this so we can have another successful Pow Wow.

What about the security? WOW! Texas Royal Rangers with their horses. They did an excellent job. Special thanks goes to Randy Hargrove and Nolan Fox. You made the Pow Wow look goood.

The Council fires were wonderful and the Spirit was present. Boys were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. I witnessed boys lives changed that were involved in gang related situations. Commanders, God is doing a work at these council fires. District Pageant Coordinator Steve Landers was on target. We appreciate his staff who seek God in all of their planning. The results shown were many souls saved. Thanks!

Sarge Training Academy (STA)

This Training Academy is aimed to train boys. This year, we got off to a good start. We had a total number of 86 boys at the four different camps. Pioneer Training Camp (PTC) has 32 boys, Junior Leadership Training Camp (JLTC) had 28 boys, Advanced Merit Camp (AMC) had 24 boys, and the Advanced Junior Training Camp (AJTC) had 2 boys. I would like to recognize the following commanders for a job well done as they conducted each of the Training Camps: PTC - Bryant Wray, JLTC - Darrell Russell, AMC - Nolan Fox, AJTC - Jonathan Trower.

We had 42 men on the Sarge Training Academy Staff. A big thanks to everyone that had a part in making this camp successful. We are expecting a 20% increase this year. Planning is already being done. A couple of commanders came to me and said they would rather go to another event that was on the calendar but since they had some boys that needed the training at Sarge Training Academy (STA) they would sacrifice and bring the boys to this camp. They saw their boys lives change both spiritually and socially. This training has turned their outpost around. Boys do benefit from the training they receive

from camp. I challenge each commander to consider bringing a group of boys from your church to the training academy this year. They will receive a blessing. If any commander would like to help change the life of a boy, please contact me.

Sarge Training Academy had many highlights to each camp:

- PTC had the largest group of boys ever. The cooking class was a big success.
- AMC pioneering class built a big tower while they also saw real snakes in their nature class (pie-eee-thon, bow'er constrictors, rattlesnakes, and copper heads)
- JLTC had good training classes for toolcraft and firecraft. The compass course for the over nighter seemed to assist some into getting there a little late.
- AJTC had classes which dealt with involvement in training at camp, teaching classes, administrative responsibilities at council fires, and graduation ceremonies.

The Sarge Training Academy staff learned to report as a group, table etiquette, how to work as a team and were even witnesses to good council fires.

STA security (Lady, the dog) protected Commanders Paul Patterson and Dwain Klopfenstein from any varmints.

1996 Training Camps

The schedule for national training events for leaders was recently released by the national office. Every leader should attend either National Training Camp (NTC, if you work with Pioneers, Trailblazers, or AST Rangers) or the Buckaroo/Straight Arrows National Training Conference (BSTC). After completing NTC, leaders can select from Advanced National Training Camp, National Training Trails, Winter NTC, or National Canoe Expedition. The sectional commanders have the applications for each of these camps for 1996. The camps closest to us are:

Camp	Location	Dates	Cost
NTC	Chester, TX Eagle Rock, MO Carlsbad, NM	May 2-6, 1996 Sept. 12-15, 1996 Sept. 19-22, 1996	\$110
BSTC	Chester, TX Woodworth, LA	Feb. 8-10, 1996 Nov. 21-23, 1996	\$125
WNTC	Emigrant Gap, CA	Jan 18-21, 1996	\$125
ANTC	Ogden, IA	May 23-26, 1996	\$120
NTT	Eagle Rock, MO	Oct. 10-13, 1996	\$100
NCE	Eagle Rock, MO	Apr. 18-21, 1996	\$120

New Items at the Ranger Supply Store

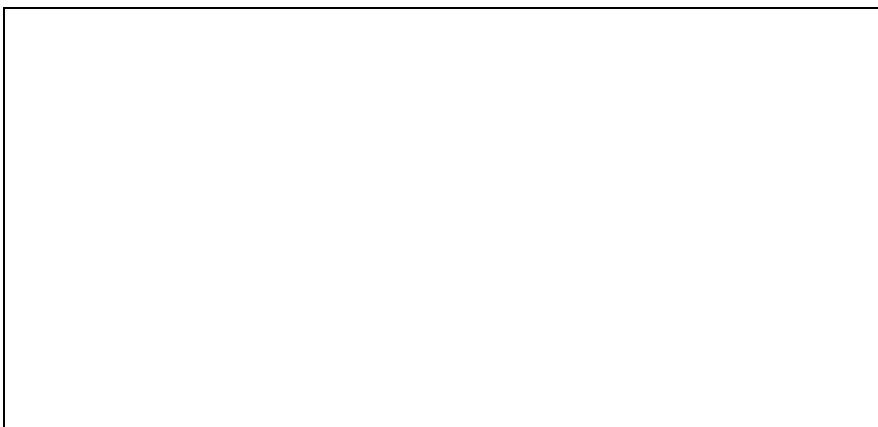
With Ranger of the year and the Pinewood Derby months rapidly approaching us, the Ranger Supply Store now has a new line of trophies and plaques. They do their own engraving and can customize these items to your needs.



Trophies

#964	Economy	(Approximately 5")	\$5.35
#963	Small	(Approximately 10")	\$10.50
#962	Medium	(Approximately 12")	\$11.80
#961	Large	(Approximately 14")	\$14.25

All engraving is \$1.00 per line, 30 characters per line.



Plaques

#1423	5 X 7	\$8.95
#1053	7 X 9	\$12.95
#1274	8 X 10	\$14.95

All engraving is \$1.00 per line, 30 characters per line.

SHOOTING SPORTS 1996 CALENDAR

February 9 - 10	Rifle Instructor Course Standard and Muzzleloader
February 23 - 24	B.R.T. Standard Muzzleloader Course
April 5 - 6	Archery Instructor Course
May 18	Shooting Range Workday
July 14 - 20	Sarge Sellers Academy Standard Rifle and Archery
October 11 - 12	Shotgun Instructor Course Standard and Muzzleloader

If you are interested in becoming certified or have additional questions about the above classes, please contact Ken Harris, the District Shooting Sports Coordinator, at 214-244-9651 (mobile) or 214-938-9751 (home)

1995 SERVICE AWARDS

Have you earned an award for 1995??? Enclosed in the *Signal Fire* are the forms for Outpost Commander's Award, Buckaroo-Straight Arrow Outpost Commander's Award, and Leader's Service Award. **THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING THE AWARD FORMS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS MARCH 16!** Please note \$10.00 for first year medals and \$2.00 for additional pins are due when you send in the forms. If you have a question, contact Denise on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 817-284-4856.

Attention Straight Arrow / Buckaroo Commanders

At this years Basic Ranger Training, February 23-24, there will be two classes designed for Commanders of Straight Arrows and Buckaroos. The first class will be about Crafts while the second is Understanding Your Age Groups (5-6 years and 7-8 years). If you would like additional information about these classes, please contact John Howard at 817-834-0232.

SHAWNEE TRAILS NEWS

Greetings!

Hope all you pilgrims had a special holiday! My family and I had a very, very special holiday! We fellowshiped with one another, sang hymns, took communion together, and as a family worshipped the One who is responsible for the season. I treasure this time of the year!

We had a good crowd at the Christmas Banquet. We had excellent food! Excellent music! Excellent fellowship! and a stand-up comedian named Ken Harris (don't quit your day job Ken ...)! The quilt sold for \$750 (maybe you should keep your night job Ken)!! It was a good time in the Lord and a great way to kick off the Holiday Season. If you were unable to attend...we look forward to seeing you there in 96.

We had a great work crew at Jacksonville, December 15-17, to help Jerry Atkinson and his family get back into their house. They had a fire in their house last November that destroyed a couple of rooms. After the fire was put out...the water damage proved to be the most destructive. The Lord blessed them with their lives and most of their house. FCF had a campout at Jerry's house December 15-17 to tape, bed, and texture his house. I want to thank those that showed up... God will bless you for it and I am sure that your Christmas had more meaning because of what you did. God multiplied our efforts and we were able to get a weeks worth of work done in 3 days! Jerry and his family were also blessed by a Royal Ranger donation of \$1,000 plus! Praise the Lord!

I am excited about 96! I feel we are going to get a lot accomplished this year at the Lakeview Campgrounds in Maypearl. I see more and more commanders catching the vision at Lakeview! They see what we could have for our boys and future generations with just a little effort each. Please try to work some time into your busy schedules for Work Days at Lakeview. You will enjoy it!

We have a BRT (Basic Ranger Training) camp coming up in February. The camp is designed for leaders within your outposts. Attendance should be men, women, and boys in leadership positions that desire to enhance their knowledge of camping and leadership skills. The BRT will be February 23-24 at First Assembly of Granbury on Highway 377 in Granbury. It will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 23 and run through 4:30 p.m. Saturday, February 24. There will be a place to sleep overnight at the church and plenty of places to have a meal close by. Registration will be \$5.00. Classes will be taught on uniform, award ceremonies, camping in the rain, camping with pests, toolcraft, firecraft, cooking, and more. Send your

leaders...no, bring your leaders with you and sharpen your effectiveness.

Brush Poppin is here again! You pilgrims need to brush up on your skills and bring a brigade to Lakeview to compete! Some of our old friendsssss will be back to harasssss you. There will be some new twists added to make things more exciting! Yes, we will have another trace! It's back by popular demand. Brush Poppin will be March 8-9. The registration will be \$10. Old-timers should bring a gift for a young-buck, if possible (it will add points to your score, 1 point per \$ spent), and we will shower our young-bucks again with top-notch booty! Come and be a part of the gggggrrrrrand and ssssspecial doin's!

That's about it for now...yep, that's all I know. Y'all continue to pray for each other and lend an unexpected hand to someone in need when your able. I love you guys.

Going about my Father's business.....

Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale
Your servant

Table Etiquette

Do your boys know table etiquette? Below you will find a few pointers on table etiquette that you can share with your boys.

Our series will cover how to sit at a table and how to set the table.

Our first series will cover some do's and don'ts at the table.

1. Sit in the chair with both feet in front of you on the floor.
2. Do not cross your legs under the table.
3. Do not play with the silverware.
4. Keep your arms and elbows off the table except at informal gatherings: then only after the meal.
5. The proper use of the napkin is placing it in your lap right after sitting down to eat. You should wipe your mouth before drinking, before speaking, and when you feel food on it. Wipe it by dabbing or blotting the mouth.

District Ranger of the Year

This year's testing will be held on March 16, 1996 at Trinity Church in Cedar Hill. The church is located at 1231 Pleasant Run Road, Cedar Hill, TX (214) 291-2501. We are in need for several good leaders to be a tester that day, so if you can assist with testing, please call Robert Johnson. Testers will need to be at the church by 8 am for a briefing. Boys will need to plan on arriving by 8:45 am in class B uniforms. Leaders are also requested to be in a Class B uniform in order to make the boys more comfortable on the day of the test. We had a GREAT YEAR in 1995 as several hundred boys accepted the Lord. Boys lives were changed forever because of leaders like YOU! We give God all the Praise, Glory, and Honor. In 1996, I would like to see hundreds more saved!!!! If I can help anyone, please let me know. Robert Johnson, 1511 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. (817) 723-6210.

Cardboard Boat Building School

Have you ever wanted to build a cardboard boat which will actually float? On February 10, 1996, there will be a cardboard boat building school at the city of Arlington. It will be held in the Council Chambers from 10 am - 12 p.m. (101 W. Abram). There will be no charge for this class. J.C. Spence will be directing the Royal Rangers who attend this class. Once you have built your boat, with help from the master cardboard boat builder, you will have your chance to race it at The Cardboard Boat Regatta on April 20, 1996 (North Cooper and North Green Oaks Blvd.). This will be an opportunity to test our your boat against other cardboard boats before the Royal Rangers Boat Regatta at this years Pow Wow. By participating in the Arlington Boat Race, you will have a very good chance to advertise Royal Rangers to all that attend. Who knows who it will touch. If you would like more information about this class or the boat races, please contact J.C. Spence 214-938-1927.

New Royal Ranger Hall Dedicated

This is the new Royal Ranger Hall for the Royal Rangers at the First Assembly of God in Overton. It was dedicated to the Rangers on October 7, 1995.

NEW Royal Ranger Patches Newsletter

The First Royal Ranger Patches newsletter will be published in 1996. This newsletter will tell you about old and new activity patches from across the nation. Collectors will be able to Buy, Sell, and Trade Royal Ranger patches. This newsletter will also contain information about future Royal Ranger patches. For more information about this newsletter, please contact Clarence Chessher, Lt. Commander Outpost 21 at 2919 Hunter Road #30, San Marcos, TX 78666.

BRT COMING!!

Mark your calendars now for BRT. This will be held February 23-24.

Ever wonder why you are either not receiving the Signal Fire or receiving it from another address besides your home address? The Signal Fire mailing list is captured from the yearly charters received from each outpost. When your outpost does not charter, the commanders in your outpost do not benefit receiving the newsletter. If your Signal Fire is being mailed to your church, your address was either incomplete or missing from the charter form. Please send any corrections to Mark Oliver (see back for address).

He Gives Us Boys

Throughout history, long before the marines, God has been looking for a few good men.

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are finally committed to Him”

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land ...” (Ezekiel 22:30)

God, give us men. Give us Noah’s, to whom you can trust your mighty plans; give us Abraham’s, who are willing to leave home and homeland to follow your call; give us Joseph’s, who would rather endure prison than violate one of your commands; give us Moseses, who are willing to stand as your mouthpiece against the most powerful leaders in all of the world; give us Daniel’s, who would rather face a lion’s den than compromise their faith; God give us men. However, the reality is that God does not give us men, He gives us boys. To us, as parents, and church leaders, he gives us the task of forging these boys into men.

The Royal Ranger program is one tool that God has chosen to use to train boys into Godly men. May God give us the men to whose hearts are bent to reach, teach and keep boys for Christ.

Supplied by the Northeast Division.

Training Courses Started

There are two training courses getting ready to start. They are the LTC and the B/SA LTC courses. They are scheduled to begin in January. These classes are going to be taught in the South Ft. Worth Section. If you would like more information about these the classes, please contact Ken Farley at 817-483-0565.

Information for New Royal Ranger Commanders

New Commanders are probably confused with the terminology used in this newsletter as well as other articles they read concerning Royal Rangers. There are a lot of acronyms that are taken for granted and used without really thinking about whether everyone understands them or not. As information is gathered, this newsletter will start sharing information with those new commanders in our District.

Below are just few of the acronyms which are used on a regular basis:

LTC - Leadership Training Course

BSTC - Buckaroo/Straight Arrows Training Conference

NTC - National Training Camp

NTT - National Training Trails

B/SA - Buckaroo / Straight Arrows

FCF - Frontiersman Camping Fellowship

"*Signal Fire*" is a publication of the Royal Rangers Ministry of the North Texas District Council Assemblies of God.

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B/SA Coordinator	J.C. Spence
B/SA Coordinator	John Howard
FCF President	Gary Bierschwale
Signal Fire	Mark Oliver

NEWS NEEDED

The deadline for the information for the next newsletter is March 7, 1996. Please send us your information as soon as possible to:

MARK OLIVER

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