

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

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NEWS NEEDED

The deadline for the information for the next newsletter is February 21, 1997. Please send us your information as soon as possible to:
Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglan Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or
moliver@why.net.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “Signal Fire”

January 1997

Greetings Commanders,

We are praying for and expecting a great 1997.
Who would have thought 1997 ??

We had the most at Winter Pow Wow this last year with a total of 783! This is great!! Those that did not make it, you missed a lot of great fun and blessings from the Lord.

If you have not chartered, please send them in as soon as possible. We are waiting for you.

LTC-BRT is coming up. For those of you that need your LTC campout, this is the time to get it. Instructors bring your trainees to it because they need it.

Pow Wow 1997 will be May 30-June 1. Get ready for it now. The theme will be “Sound a Clear Call”. We will be sounding that call. You will see more information on this in months to come.

In His Service,

Paul Patterson
District Royal Ranger Commander

1997 District Calendar

January	4	District Staff Meeting
	24-25	South Central Regional Training Seminar
February	7-8	District Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS)
	21-22	Basic Ranger Training District LTC Campout
March	7-8	FCF Brush Poppin
	15	District Ranger of the Year Testing
April	25-26	District Commanders Conf. & Awards Ceremony
May	17	Pow Wow Work Day
	30-31	District Pow Wow
June	1	District Pow Wow
	21	Sarge Training Academy Registration Deadline
July	13-19	Sarge Training Academy
August	22-23	Basic Ranger Training District LTC Campout
September	5-6	District Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS)
	26-27	Commanders Campout
October	24-26	FCF Family Days
November	14-15	Divisional Winter Camp
December	13	FCF Christmas Banquet

Instructor Certification Seminar

The next opportunity to become a North Texas District LTC certified instructor will be February 7-8, 1997. If you last certified in February 1995, you will need to re-certify this time. Otherwise, you will no longer be able to instruct the LTC class.

Those needing to be recertified will be contacted either by phone or letter giving the subject material to cover in this seminar.

Anyone interested in certifying for the first time is encouraged to mail an application to the District Office as soon as possible. The enclosed applications must be approved by your Pastor, Sectional Presbyter, a Royal Ranger Instructor Trainer, and the District Commander before attending. Also, a non-refundable application fee of \$35.00 is required with the approved application. The application must be sent to the District Office by January 31, 1997.

The seminar will be held at First Assembly of God in Colleyville. For those needing directions to the church, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081 for directions.

District Ranger of the Year

This year's testing will be held on March 15, 1997 at Memorial Assembly of God in Duncanville. The church is located at Highway 67 and Main in Duncanville, TX (214) 296-2250. 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 sharp for a briefing. Boys will need to plan on arriving by 8:45 am. Class B uniforms are required for all boys except the Buckaroos and Straight Arrows. For these boys, they will wear their regular outfits. 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. Commanders, please bring your boys from all groups even if you do not think they are ready. Give them a chance to show what they know, boys will never get better sitting on the sidelines. They have to have playtime on the field. We are all winners in Jesus. Seventy (70) testers are needed so please contact me as soon as you can to volunteer. Robert Johnson, 1511 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. (817) 723-6210.

1996 Service Awards

Have you earned an award for 1996?? Enclosed are the forms for the awards in which commanders are eligible to earn. THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING THE AWARD FORMS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS MARCH 15. Please note \$10.00 for the first year medals and \$2.00 for additional year pins are due when you send in the forms.

District Christmas Banquet

The District Staff had their Christmas Banquet in San Antonio on the River Walk. We arrived in San Antonio at 2 p.m. . After checking in at the hotel we all met in a special room. Here we honored our District Commander with several gifts consisting of a complete authentic 1770 outfit. His tricon hat really looks good on him.

Then we all took off to the Riverwalk to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We had fun riding the Riverboat before and after our evening Mexican meal. The Riverwalk had a Christmas atmosphere. Many of the trees were lit up with thousands of lights. Their were sounds of Christmas carols being sung hundreds of carolers as they made their way down the San Antonio river.

We toured the historic site of the Alamo and then rode the trolley to the Market Place. If any of you would like to join the District Staff with a contribution towards Commander Pauls' outfit, please contact Dwain or the District Staff.

We are looking for another big turnout for Sarge Training Academy. Be sure to mark your calendars for July 13-19.

Dwain Klopfenstein, Deputy District Commander

A Note on Training

What ever happened to the Leadership Training Courses like we used to have? No, they have not disappeared — we still have them, at least for now, but it is very discouraging when we have very few people taking the course, and even fewer finishing it. There are few commanders who are even qualified to train others. These men had to complete the Leadership Training Course, National Training Camp, and the Instructors Certification Seminar. They have done their part to make sure you can be trained.

Maybe we have already gotten everyone trained. Look at your own Royal Rangers group — are all the leaders trained, including the Lt. Commanders, your pastor, and your councilmen? Are they trained to be the best for our boys? Don't our boys deserve the best we can give them?

Commitment! What ever happened to it? Did you know that our instructors are willing to work around your schedule as much as possible?

If God has called you to this ministry then you need to be the best you can be. Take all the training you can, starting with the Leadership Training Course. And be sure to complete it!

Please do not use the excuse that you do not have the time to take the LTC. All of the trainers have very busy schedules, but they are willing to make the time to see that you get the training you need to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ! Are you?

Many sections are continuously starting LTCs. If you are interested in attending an LTC, please contact your Sectional Commander.

1997 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 1997. The camps are located at:

Camp	Location	Dates	Cost
NTC	Fort Meade, FL	Jan 30-Feb 2, 1997	\$110
	Ogden, IA	May 1-4, 1997	
	Whiteford, MD	May 7-12, 1997	
	Hungry Horse, MT	May 15-18, 1997	
	Emigrant Gap, N. CA.	May 15-18, 1997	
	Twin Peaks, S. CA.	Sept. 4-7, 1997	
	Woodstown, NJ	Sept. 4-7, 1997	
	Eagle Rock, MO	Sept. 11-14, 1997	
	Elbert, CO	Sept. 18-21, 1997	
	(To be announced), OH	Oct. 9-12, 1997	
BSTC	Falling Waters, W. VA.	April 10-12, 1997	\$125
	Sisters, OR	Sept. 19-21, 1997	
	Goodlettsville, TE	Oct. 3-5, 1997	
	Colorado Springs, CO	June 21 & July 19	
WNTC	N. Limington, MA	Feb. 6-9, 1997	\$125
ANTC	Fort Meade, FL	Feb. 6-9, 1997	\$120
	Emigrant Gap, N. CA.	Sept. 25-28, 1997	
NTT	Kyburz, N. CA.	Aug. 21-24, 1997	\$100
	Bakers Mill, NY	Sept. 25-28, 1997	
	Watford City, ND	Sept. 25-28, 1997	
	Eagle Rock, MO	Oct. 9-12, 1997	
NCE	Gaylord, MI	June 5-8, 1997	\$120
	Parker, AZ	Oct. 16-19, 1997	

BRT COMING!!!

Mark your calendars now for BRT. This will be held February 21-22, 1997.

1997
REGIONAL SEMINAR
WACO, TEXAS

Location: The seminar will be held in Waco, Texas at Calvary Assembly of God on January 24 & 25, 1997.

Guest: The McLaughlin Brothers will minister Friday night in music. The McLaughlin Brothers were raised on stages around the country, playing and singing a variety of gospel music. They have performed with many of the well known singers in the country. You will be blessed by their anointed music and their desire to minister to the lost.

Host Motel: The motel will be the Hilton Inn which overlooks the Brazos River. The rates for the room will be \$59.00 which is less than half the normal room rate at the Hilton. This rate will be for 1 to 4 persons in the room. This rate will REQUIRE advanced reservations in order to get the \$59.00 rate. This is due to several other conferences happening on the same weekend. Plan ahead and make the reservations with the Hilton for the best rooms in Waco. Their phone number is 1-800-234-5244 or 1-817-754-8484. **Motel reservations must be made prior to 13 January, 1997 to get the \$59.00 rate.**

Bunk-in: Male leaders may bunk-in the Gym on Friday night at no charge. Bring your sleeping gear.

Classes: A variety of exciting and different classes will be offered on Saturday that will benefit every Leader. Yes, classes for Buckaroo and Straight Arrow will be offered. Saturday is planned to be mostly classes. (See page 11 for list of classes).

Cost: Pre-registration is \$18.00 and \$20.00 at the door. Make checks payable to SCR Royal Rangers. **Cutoff date for Pre-registration is January 18, 1996.** For those pre-registering, an information packet will be mailed to you.

For more information contact:

Marvin Lemke, Phone (405) 728-1453

OUTPOST RANGER OF THE YEAR INFORMATION FORM

Date _____
Circle One - S/A BU TB CH
Name _____ Age _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____ Telephone _____
Outpost Number _____ Is the Boy Currently Chartered? Y N
District _____ Is the Outpost Currently Chartered? Y N
Section _____ Chartered for the Year Being Tested? Y N

(Circle highest rank achieved in group being evaluated)

SA - BRAVE TRIBESMAN WARRIOR HUNTER SCOUT
BU - GREENHORN WRANGLER RANGER RIDER TOP HAND
PI - RECRUIT SECOND CLASS FIRST CLASS ADVANCED MASTER SILVER HAWK
TB - RECRUIT SECOND CLASS FIRST CLASS ADVANCED MASTER GOLD HAWK

CHALLENGER _____ (Name of Highest Rank Earned)

(Circle best answers to the questions below)

Number of merit awards earned? _____ (List each of them on the back of this form)

Number of Red Cross type cards currently held? _____ (List each of them on the back of this form)

Earned GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT? Y N

Earned GOLD BUFFALO? Y N Earned SILVER BUFFALO? Y N

North Texas District Royal Rangers
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR

INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION SEMINAR

Date _____ Location _____
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Church _____ Church Phone _____

I am a registered Royal Rangers Leader serving in the following capacity:

Position _____ Outpost Number _____

I have attended and earned the following: (Please check all that apply)

NTC NAC NTT ANTC NCE LMA

**NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT ROYAL RANGERS
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CHIEF
PREREQUISITE APPROVAL**

Trainee Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Current chartered outpost number: _____

National Training Camp - Date completed: _____

Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Conference - Date completed: _____

Standard LTC (and/or) B/SA LTC - Date completed: _____



Buckaroos-Straight Arrows Outpost Commander's Award Evaluation Form

The Outpost Commander's Award is a special achievement award for outpost commanders who have demonstrated outstanding service. All points must be earned for service rendered during the current calendar year. (Note Below: * National training events may be counted each year.)

Name _____ Address _____ City _____
 State _____ District _____ Zip _____
 Outpost Number _____

Fill in the blanks below with the number of points earned.

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | An up-to-date chartered group:
20 points | _____ |
| 2. | Completed BSA Leadership Training Course I-V: 20 points | _____ |
| 3. | Advancement Participation: 25 points if at least 50 % of boys in your outpost group received an advancement and if at least 4 Councils of Achievement were conducted. | _____ |
| 4. | Outpost Group Field Trips: 2 points each | _____ |
| 5. | * Attended a National Training Camp: 5 points | _____ |
| 6. | * Attended other national training events: _____ | _____ |

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| 12. | Outpost Group Meetings: 1 point each meeting conducted | _____ |
| 13. | Current First Aid Card: 2 points each card | _____ |
| 14. | Outpost Group Service Project: 2 points each project | _____ |
| 15. | Leadership Meetings: 2 points each for attending area, sectional, or district-wide meetings | _____ |
| 16. | Leadership Meetings: 2 points each for attending area, sectional, or district-wide meetings | _____ |
| 17. | Royal Rangers Visitation Program: 2 points each home visited | _____ |

6. ATTENDING A NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP: 5 points _____

5. OUTPOST OUTINGS: 2 points for each outpost outing personally attended other than campouts. _____

4. PARTICIPATION IN OUTPOST CAMPOUTS DURING THE YEAR: 2 points for each campout not counting Pow Wows. _____

3. ADVANCEMENT PARTICIPATION: 2 points for each boy personally assisted through the advancement rating. 2 points for each Council of Achievement personally planned or conducted. _____

2. COMPLETED LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE I-V: 20 points _____

1. REGISTERED MEMBER OF AN UP-TO-DATE CHARTER GROUP: 20 points _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE NUMBER OF POINTS EARNED:
 Name _____ Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ District _____ Outpost Number _____

LEADER'S SERVICE AWARD

The following is a list of categories in which points may be earned for this award. All points credited must be earned for service rendered during the current calendar year.

* NATIONAL TRAINING EVENTS MAY BE COUNTED EACH YEAR!



Outpost Commander's Award Evaluation Form

The Outpost Commander's Award is a special achievement award for outpost commanders who have demonstrated outstanding service. All points must be earned for service rendered during the current calendar year. (Note Below: * National training events may be counted each year.)

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ District _____ Outpost Number _____

Fill in the blanks below with the number of points earned.

- | | | | |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| 1. An up-to-date chartered group:
20 points | _____ | 14. Outpost group using the patrol method
program: 5 points | _____ |
| 2. Completed Leadership Training
Course I-V: 20 points | _____ | 15. Gold Bar Meetings: 1 point each meeting
of boy/adult leadership planning the
outpost meetings and activities | _____ |
| 3. Advancement Participation: 25 points
if at least 50 % of boys in your outpost
group received an advancement and
if at least 4 Councils of Achievement
were conducted. | _____ | 16. Current First Aid Card: 2 points each card | _____ |
| 4. Outpost Group Camp-outs: 2 points each | _____ | 17. Outpost Group Service Project:
2 points each project | _____ |
| 5. Outpost Group Outings: 2 points each | _____ | 18. Active FCF Member: 2 points | _____ |
| 6. * Attended a National Training Camp:
5 points | _____ | 19. Leadership Meetings: 2 points each for
attending area, sectional, or district-wide
meetings | _____ |
| 7. * Attended other national training events:
5 points | _____ | 20. Royal Rangers Visitation Program:
2 points each home visited | _____ |
| 8. Outpost group participation in a district
Pow Wow: 5 points | _____ | 21. Light-for-the-Lost Involvement:
a. 2 points for attending a LFTL rally or
banquet | _____ |
| 9. Boy won to Christ: 5 points each | _____ | b. 2 points for an outpost group pledge to
LFTL literature | _____ |
| 10. New Members: 2 points each | _____ | c. 4 points for paying in full an outpost
group pledge to LFTL literature | _____ |
| 11. Ranger of the Year Program: 5 points | _____ | | |
| 12. Wearing of Proper Uniform: 5 points | _____ | | |
| 13. Outpost Group Meetings: 1 point each
meeting conducted | _____ | | |

TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____

Requirements for Award

1. The outpost group must have an up-to-date charter.
2. The commander must have completed the Leadership Training Course.
3. The commander must have a minimum of 180 points to qualify for the Outpost Commander's Award.

NOTE: \$10.00 should be attached to cover the Outpost Commander's Award. \$2.00 for each additional year pins. (Subject to change by GPH without notice.) Mail to North Texas District Royal Rangers, P. O. Box 1188, Hurst, TX 76053-1188.

If all Outpost Commanders of one church earn this medal, the Senior Commander may wear an Outpost Commander's Award also. **THIS AWARD IS FOR THE YEAR OF _____.** **THIS AWARD IS MY _____** (INDICATE HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE EARNED THIS AWARD).

13.	<u>GOLD BAR MEETINGS:</u> 1 point for each meeting.	_____
14.	<u>CURRENT RED CROSS CARD:</u> 2 points for each card.	_____
15.	<u>FCF MEMBER:</u> 2 points	_____
16.	<u>LEADERSHIP MEETINGS:</u> 2 points	_____
17.	<u>OUTPOST VISITATION PROGRAM:</u> 1 point for each home visited.	_____
	Note: A minimum of 150 points are needed to qualify. \$10 should be attached to cover the 1st year medal. \$2.00 for each additional year pins. This award is for YEAR _____, THIS AWARD IS MY _____	
	Rev. October 1, 1994	
	TOTAL	_____

7.	<u>ATTENDING ANY OF THE-LOST INVOLVEMENT LIGHT NIGHT NATIONAL TRAINING EVENT:</u> 5 points	_____
8.	<u>PARTICIPATION IN A DISTRICT POW WOW:</u> 5 points	_____
9.	<u>BOYS WON TO CHRIST:</u> 5 points for each boy personally won to Christ during the year.	_____
10.	<u>NEW MEMBERS IN THE OUTPOST:</u> 2 points for each new member personally enrolled.	_____
11.	<u>WEARING PROPER UNIFORM DURING ALL ROYAL RANGER FUNCTIONS:</u> 5 points.	_____
12.	<u>MEETINGS ATTENDED OR CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR:</u> 1 point for each meeting.	_____
13.	<u>GOLD BAR MEETINGS:</u> 1 point for each meeting.	_____
14.	<u>CURRENT RED CROSS CARD:</u> 2 points for each card.	_____
15.	<u>FCF MEMBER:</u> 2 points	_____
16.	<u>LEADERSHIP MEETINGS:</u> 2 points	_____
17.	<u>OUTPOST VISITATION PROGRAM:</u> 1 point for each home visited.	_____
	Note: A minimum of 150 points are needed to qualify. \$10 should be attached to cover the 1st year medal. \$2.00 for each additional year pins. This award is for YEAR _____, THIS AWARD IS MY _____	
	Rev. October 1, 1994	
	TOTAL	_____

_____ TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____

Requirements for Award

1. The outpost group must have an up-to-date charter.
2. The commander must have completed the Leadership Training Course.
3. The commander must have a minimum of 180 points to qualify for the Outpost Commander's Award.

All outpost commanders who meet the above qualifications will be eligible to receive and wear the Outpost Commander's Award. Time period in which the points must be accumulated: January 1 through December 31 of a given year.

NOTE: \$10.00 should be attached to cover the Outpost Commander's Award. \$2.00 for each additional year pins. (Subject to change by GPH without notice.) Mail to North Texas District Royal Rangers, P. O. Box 1188, Hurst, TX 76053-1188.

If all Outpost Commanders of one church earn this medal, the Senior Commander may wear an Outpost Commander's Award also. **THIS AWARD IS FOR THE YEAR OF _____, THIS AWARD IS MY _____ (INDICATE HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE EARNED THIS AWARD).**

Date: _____

Pastor's signature: _____

Sectional Commander's signature: _____

Sectional Presbyter's signature: _____

District Royal Ranger IT signature: _____

Note: If there is any question or comment from any of those requested to sign this approval form, please do not hesitate to call the North Texas District Royal Ranger office at 817-589-0082.

BSTC Training Chief Other _____

I wish to be a Standard LTC Instructor and/or B/SA LTC Instructor.

Please enroll me in the Instructor Certification Seminar. I understand that if I do not meet the ICS standards, I will not receive certification.

Signed _____ Date _____

Because of the limited size and cost of setting up an ICS, a _____ registration fee must accompany this application which will be applied to my tuition cost of _____.
Registration fee is non-refundable.

Mail this form to:
North Texas District Royal Rangers
P. O. Box 1188
Hurst, TX 76053-1188

Outpost Attendance, Number of meetings held _____ Number attended _____
Wearing Uniform, Number of events held _____ Number attended in uniform _____ (includes regular meetings)

(List extra outpost campouts or activities on the back of this form)

F.C.F. AND TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS (Circle only those items that apply)

F.C.F. membership dues current? Y N FRONTIERSMAN BUCKSKIN WILDERNESS TRAPPERS BRIGADE
PATHFINDER AWARD JLTC JTT AQUATIC CAMP LIGHT FOR THE LOST JUNIOR COUNCILMAN NTC
LTC JCE GOD AND COUNTRY PROGRAM JUNIOR LEADERS SERVICE AWARD

OUTPOST INVOLVEMENT

Outpost conduct and cooperation, was it.....EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR
Living by the Ranger Code, was it.....EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

Church and Sunday School attendance, Number of services held _____ Number of services attended _____

Participation in local Church, He is active in.....YOUTH CHOIR ORCHESTRA DRAMA BIBLE QUIZ

(List other activities on the back of this form)

MISSIONS AIMS TRIPS VISITATION

Number of men and/or boys won to Christ this year as a result of the Rangers witness? _____

OUTPOST ENLARGEMENT

List the names of boys who have paid charter dues as a result of this Rangers work. (List them on the back of this form)

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate.

COMMANDERS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

COMMANDERS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OUTPOST ENLARGEMENT - _____

RED CROSS CARDS - _____

BRT (Basic Ranger Training)

\$ 20.00

(does not include any meals)

The sessions will start at 8:30 p.m. Friday evening. Please plan to arrive early to set up camp. You will need to bring your own tents and personal camping gear, including a compass.

We will adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

This form must be returned to Gary Bierschwale (or call him) by February 14, 1997 if you are planning on attending.

Mail this form to:
Gary Bierschwale
5 Carey Lane
Lucas, TX 75002
(972) 442-1325

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL
TRAINING SEMINAR
CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, WACO, TX
JANUARY 24 & 25, 1997**

Cost is \$18.00 pre-registration and \$20.00 at the door. Please submit a separate form for each leader. Pre-registration must be post marked by January 18, 1997. **Pastors, Councilmen, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers are encouraged to attend.** Pre-registration will receive a free tie tac at the seminar.

(Please print your name and address clearly)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Street or P.O. Box: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

District: _____

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **SCR Royal Rangers**

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

Marvin Lemke

8200 Crestline Ct.

Oklahoma City, OK 73132-1321

Ph (405) 728-1453

Fax (405) 720-8112

Upon receipt of your registration, an information package will be sent to you.

SW Division Winter Camp Report

Praise the Lord! We had a total of 299 commanders and boys registered for the SW Divisional Winter Camp. This year the camp was held at Fort Courage, the home of Outpost 81 from First Assembly of God in Lampasas. We were blessed with great weather, and a great service Friday night with Wayne Rogers and Generation X, a Christian band from Glad Tidings in Austin. Many lives were touched during the alter service Friday night. Saturday morning the host pastor, Rev. Keri Smith, presented our devotion during the morning assembly. Activities during the day Saturday included wet-weather fire building, wet-weather shelter building, archery, hawk and knife throwing, and an obstacle course. Plans for next year's camp will have us back around Meridian for Winter Camp 1997. I hope to see you there.

Jonathan Trower, SW Division Area Commander

International Cyber Pow Wow

The first International Cyber Pow Wow is in full swing and will continue until mid-February, 1997. This event, hosted by the Pacific Latin American District, is being held entirely over the Internet. There are a series of activities like Nature Studies, a compass course, an FCF village, and a Scavenger Hunt as well as devotions from many of the US national RR leaders and national RR leaders from other countries. Any commander or boy may participate. For a registration fee of \$5, participants will also receive a patch for the event. Any excess monies received above the actual costs of the Cyber Pow Wow will be donated to Doug Marsh, the Royal Rangers missionary to Latin America. To check out the Cyber Pow Wow, point your WWW browser to <http://www.rangernet.org/> and join the fun.

Royal Rangers Around the World

Royal Rangers are now in 65 countries around the world. Give this list to your boys, and see how many of the countries they can find on the map. How many can you find?

Argentina	France	Romania
Australia	Germany	Russia
Austria	Ghana	Samoa
Bahamas	Guam	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Guatemala	Scotland
Belize	Guyana	Senegal
Bolivia	Haiti	Singapore
Brazil	Holland	Solomon Islands
Canada	Hungary	South Africa
Canary Islands	India	Spain
Chile	Jamaica	Sri Lanka
Colombia	Japan	Suriname
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Sweden
Croatia	Mexico	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	New Zealand	Thailand
Denmark	Nigeria	United States
Dominican Republic	Pakistan	Vanuatu
Ecuador	Panama	Venezuela
El Salvador	Papua New Guinea	Virgin Islands
England	Peru	Wales
Fiji Islands	Philippines	
Finland	Poland	

From the Internet — Devotion: Faithful Father

Bob Richards, the former pole-vault champion, shares a moving story about a skinny young boy who loved football with all his heart. Practice after practice, he eagerly gave everything he had. But being half the size of the other boys, he got absolutely nowhere. At all the games, this hopeful athlete sat on the bench and hardly ever played.

This teenager lived alone with his father, and the two of them had a very special relationship. Even though the son was always on the bench, his father was always in the stands cheering. He never missed a game.

This young man was still the smallest of the class when he entered high school. But his father continued to encourage him but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he did not want to. But the young man loved football and decided to hang in there. He was determined to try his best at every practice, and perhaps he would get to play when he became a senior. All through high school he never missed a practice nor a game but remained a bench warmer for all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him.

When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-in." Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always puts his heart and soul to every practice, and at the same time, provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed.

The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father. His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games.

This persistent young athlete never missed practice during his four years at college, but he never got to play in a game. It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted on to the practice field shortly before the big playoff game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became deathly silent. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?"

The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday."

Saturday arrived, and the game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon.

"Coach, please let me play. I've just got to play today," said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game.

But the young man persisted, and finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in. "All right," he said. "You can go in."

Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked, and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph. The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown.

The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you never heard. Finally, after the stands emptied and the team had showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that this young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone. The coach came to him and said, "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?"

He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?"

The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!"

Like the athlete's father, God is always there cheering for us. He's always reminding us to go on. He's even offering us His hand for He knows what is best, and is willing to give us what we need and not simply what we want. God has never missed a single game.

What a joy to know that life is meaningful if lived for the Highest. Live for HIM for He's watching us in the game of life!

Posted by Joshua Lim (Singapore)

South Central Regional Training Seminar Classes

All of the following classes except for the Outpost Councilmen LTC will meet for one hour, and will be repeated several times during the day. They are Starting Inner City Royal Rangers, Presenting Devotions for Boys, Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Activities, Buckaroo/Straight Arrow - Limited Learning, Crafts (Boat Making), Financing an Outpost, Kids and Chemistry, Gold Track Advancement Program, Royal Rangers Records Keeping, Church Policy and Outpost Liability, Pastors and Royal Rangers, Outpost Councilmen LTC (5 hour course).