

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

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# North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS "Signal Fire"

April 1997

**NEWS NEEDED**

The deadline for the information for the next newsletter is May 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.

## Commanders Conference

### Central Assembly Greenville, TX

### April 25-26

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Commanders,

You will not want to miss this years Commanders Conference. A lot of new information will be covered and this is your opportunity to get you questions answers. We just returned from the National Royal Rangers Council and have update-to-date information for you and your outpost.

The Awards Ceremony Saturday afternoon will be first-class. Every commander should plan to be there. Bring your guests.

Paul Patterson  
District Royal Rangers Commander

## Commanders Conference and Awards Ceremony

This years Commanders Conference and Awards Ceremony will be held at Central Assembly in Greenville on April 25-26. The church is located at 1501 Joe Ramsey Blvd, Greenville, 903-450-GIFT. The Friday evening service will be at 7 p.m. while Saturday breakfast will begin at 7 a.m.

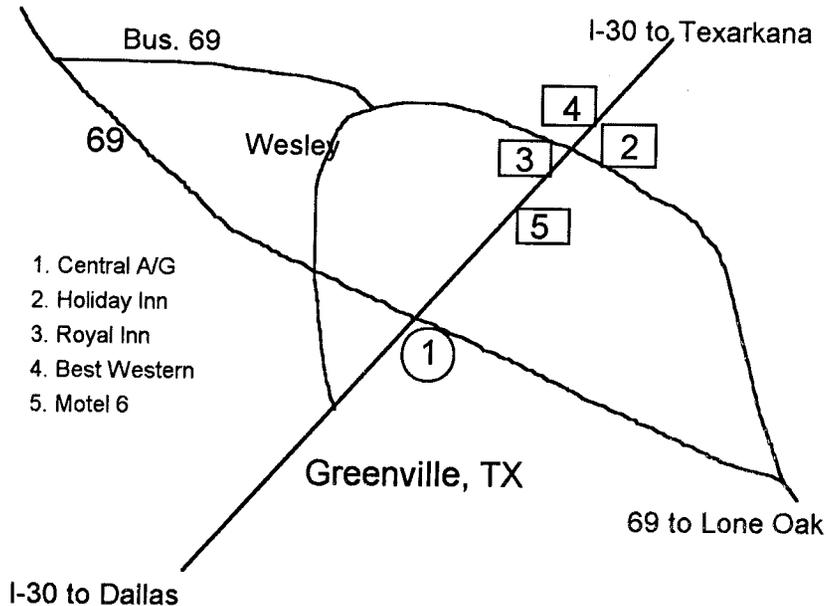
This years conference will be different. We will be giving you all the information we currently have. This conference will be an open forum for you to ask questions and receive answers.

After lunch will be a Division breakaway and a District Staff breakaway. At 2:30 p.m., we will have the awards service.

The conference cost will be \$10 each and additional meals will be \$4.00 for breakfast and \$6 for lunch. Fridays night supper will be on your own. Child care will be provided at the cost of \$7.00 per child.

Pastor Allgood will be speaking at our Friday night service. After the service on Friday, there will be a Sectional Commanders sessions. Sectional Commanders please be there with your staff.

For Friday evening, men will be able to sleep in the Ranger Building. If you prefer, there are 4 hotels close to the church. They are Holiday Inn (903-454-7000, 1215 E I-30), Royal Inn, Best Western (800-795-2300, 1216 I-30 West), and Motel 6. Make sure you tell them you are with Royal Rangers.



## 1997 Pow Wow

This years Pow Wow will be May 30 - June 1. This years theme is "Sound a Clear Call". We would like to see every outpost participate in dressing with the theme for their division. Each of the divisions have a different them. They are:

- North Division - Scottish Warriors
- Northeast Division - Revolutionary War (Minuteman)
- Central Division - Rough Riders
- South East Division - Civil War
- South West Division - World War I

In addition to dressing to the theme, you will also be camping with your division. Make sure you watch your mail. Pow Wow packages will be mailed out next month.

## Work Day

Pow Wow Work day is scheduled for May 17. There is a lot of work to be done in order to prepare for this years Pow Wow. The morning will start early. Please bring 2 x 6 x 12 wood for benches. There will be a lot of work done on clearing campsites so please bring the necessary equipment to clear the weeds (rakes, shovels, bow-saws, etc). We need to make sure everyone will have a cleared campsite when they arrive.

## 1998 National Camporama

The National Camporama will be here before we realize it. It is scheduled for July 13-17, 1998 at Camp Eagle Rock in Eagle Rock Missouri. Mark your calendars and be looking for more information to arrive at your church office.

## Prayer Requests

Commanders, please keep the following commanders in your prayers as they need a physical touch. They are Jerry Atkinson, James Kemp, and Fred Deavers.

## District Ranger of the Year Results

I would like to thank everyone for taking time this year to assist Ranger of the Year testing. This year we had 57 boys registered to compete and the results were closer than they have been in many years. We would like to congratulate every boy who competed and wish the following boys the best as they continue to Regional Testing.

### Straight Arrows

Ranger/Year, Robbie Dubose, 72, South Dallas  
 1st Runner Up, Joshua VanEttinger, 86, Greenville  
 2nd Runner Up, Joshua Russell, 77, N. Ft. Worth

### Buckaroos

Ranger/Year, Andrew Ahles, 145, N. Ft. Worth  
 1st Runner Up, Temi Aina, 72, South Dallas  
 2nd Runner Up, Dakota Dunai, 41, Wichita Falls

### Pioneers

Ranger/Year, John Flach, South Dallas  
 1st Runner Up, Jared Teel, 57, Wichita Falls  
 2nd Runner Up, David McDaniel, 89, Waco

### Trailblazers

Ranger/Year, Josh Teel, 57, Wichita Falls  
 1st Runner Up, Jeff Cotten, 266, South Dallas  
 2nd Runner Up, Andrew Potts, 65, Austin

### Air-Sea-Trail Rangers

Ranger/Year, Dustin Palmer, 444, Denton  
 1st Runner Up, Tim Coburn, 194, Athens  
 2nd Runner Up, 448, Scott Rowell

This testing will be held at First Assembly in Colleyville on May 10. For additional information, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081. Robert Johnson, District Public Relations Coordinator

## SARGE TRAINING ACADEMY

Sarge Training Academy offers top notch training for boys from Pioneers through Challengers (ages 9-17) by providing the resources, instruction, and counseling needed to reach the highest potential in Royal Rangers. The academy provides this opportunity by applying the self-reliant method of camping. It is important for boys to do things for themselves; to gain confidence in themselves; and to gain satisfaction of doing something for others.

Each patrol will be assigned an area for camping and will use the patrol method for giving assignments. Patrols will prepare balanced and nutritious meals. Each patrol member will have many opportunities at cooking, firebuilding, and cleaning up on a rotating basis. There is no better training for boys than this kind of experience. If you want your Royal Rangers to learn more about the patrol method and building patrol spirit and pride, enroll them in the Sarge Training Academy.

**Camp Dates are July 13-16, 1997 for PTC and July 13-18 for JLTC, AJTC, JTT, and AMC.**

Camp	Description	Ages	Fees	Due Jul 1	Due at Camp
PTC	Pioneer Training Camp	9-11	\$75	\$50	\$25
JLTC	Junior Leadership Training Camp	12-17	\$105	\$75	\$30
AJTC	Advanced Junior Training Camp	12-17	\$105	\$75	\$30
JTT	Junior Training Trails	12-17	\$175	\$125	\$50
AMC	Advanced Merit Camp	10 1/2- 17	\$105	\$75	\$30

**PTC (Pioneer Training Camp) Commanders!!** Would you like for your Pioneers to go to a District Royal Rangers training camp? We have a 3 1/2 day camp for them this summer. He will learn all the basic camping skills, which will help him to earn his advancements quickly. Each boy will return to his outpost excited about what he has learned at this camp. This can make a difference in your outpost. Camp space will be limited. Lets get them enrolled now while space is available.

**AMC (Advanced Merit Camp)** This camp is designed for boys to work on their advanced merits, which helps them earn the Gold Medal of Achievement. Most of the required awards are offered at this camp. If your Royal Rangers need a boost in the are, this camp will be beneficial to them. You must be 10 1/2 or completed PTC to attend.

**JLTC (Junior Leadership Training Camp)** This is a structured camp for

Trailblazers. Boys learn to discipline themselves to use the patrol system in getting their assigned daily projects completed. Also the camp has a Senior Guide, which is the liaison between the camp commander and the patrols.

**AJTC (Advanced Junior Training Camp)** This is a camp for all those boys who have completed JLTC. This camp is designed to prepare boys for leadership in the outpost. Each boy will be given opportunity to instruct in one or more classes.

**JTT (Junior Training Trails)** This camp is designed for backpacking. Boys will carry all his personal gear, food, and water over a given trail for a five day trip. This camp is packed with fun, adventure, and excitement in the mountains of New Mexico. The mountain scenic view will be indescribable. This can be a once in a lifetime experience for a boy. Since this camp will be held at a National Park in New Mexico, all the boys attending this camp will be interviewed by the Camp Commander at Pow-Wow. This camp will be limited to three (3) eight man patrols. The requirement for this camp is Trailblazer with his advanced rating and advanced camping merit award. We prefer that each boy attending this camp has been through JLTC. Each boy will submit a letter from his commander recommending him for this camp. Due to the requirements of this camp, each boy must be able to carry his pack and maintain a discipline attitude. This is not a camp for Bullies. If your Ranger boy has a discipline problem on this camp, the Senior Commander will be called to come and pick him up. The park has a lot of wildlife and we as Rangers must respect it.

Commanders! We want to encourage all of you to talk to your boys about these camps and about packing in the mountains of New Mexico. Boy escape the heat of July and will spend 5 cool days in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico. They will get a log of valuable experiences from these camps. You too can gain a great deal of experience by bringing your Rangers and staying with them at this camp. Take a few days for the experience of a life time.

**Fill out the Sarge Training Academy application and send it to the District office. Each boy will receive a packet advising him of what to bring to camp. Do not wait till the last minute. Some camps can only have a limited number of boys. Get your applications in AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (ASAP).**

All Instructors have their teaching assignments, but we are still needing men for camp advisors. Please consider helping at these camps. For more information, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081.

## FCF NEWS

### From the Primitive Side

Greetings Pilgrims,

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Revelations 22:14.

This was the scripture referenced on the '97 Brush Poppin' patch. Yes, we did enter His gates with thanksgiving in our hearts during the Friday night council fire! We had a trumpet, fiddle, banjo, dulcimer, guitars, and spoons playing all in one accord making merriment and praising our Father on high! We had some great yarn to tell too: ask Paul "Old Trapper" Patterson about the bear that buddied up with a beaver for super, or Steve "Big Crow" Norcross about deer that climb trees to shake acorns out, or Ronny "Rainmaker" Gilbert about iron from the heavens! And then to finish the night we received a word from our own, National FCF Scout, Eli Harris about letting the symbol of FCF, the fire, shine bright in our lives for all to see and share.

One of the logs that feed the fire Eli was talking about is friendship. North Texas District Superintendent, Derwood Dubose, spoke of this log in a recent NTD News and he challenged each of us to examine ourselves to see if we are indeed friendly. It is good to see that God is giving similar messages to godly men throughout the NTD that listen to Him.

Eli Harris left Saturday morning during Brush Poppin' to attend a Pathfinders trip to Mexico. They will be rebuilding some church roofs that got damaged from a recent storm. Please keep him in your prayers. He will return Monday, March 16. Also, as I mentioned previously, Eli is on the National Royal Ranger Staff as our National FCF Scout. His job is to visit other districts, attend national and district meetings all over the USA, and represent our boys. He is the only National Scout in the USA for two years and he belongs to the North Texas District! We were already honored to have a boy of such caliber in our District, but our District is even more honored by his accomplishments! He is a good speaker and would be glad to come to your church to share some of God's good news with you, if you ask him. Eli is on the National Staff, but he does not have an expense account for traveling. A special account has been set up for Eli to use as an expense account for his traveling, but it is empty. If you would like to share in Eli's blessings, please consider offering help with this empty account. This is an opportunity that will not soon come again to our District. Eli is the first National FCF Scout from the North Texas District. Let's also help make him and our District the one's that most helped our National Staff better serve our Royal Ranger ministry all over the world!

There were 70 people or pilgrims in attendance at this years Brush Poppin'! We had fun throwing tomahawks and knives, shooting primitive bow and arrows and blackpowder rifles, and starting fires with flint and steel! There was trade blankets spread out all over camp with some serious trading going on. People were trading everything from leather goods to lodges, and cannons to stoves!

If you missed this years Brush Poppin', you will get another chance to experience the same fun and excitement at this years Territorial Rendezvous in the Hemez Mountains of New Mexico! Make plans now to join us July 9-12, as we make our way up to the mountains once more. Its beautiful and Cool during this time of year up there! There will be accommodations for families if you want to make it a family vacation! The only catch here is someone in your family must be an FCF member.

If you want to become an FCF member, there will be a Phase I test during Work Day, May 17. So bring your work cloths to change into after the testing so you can help us get ready for the 1997 Pow Wow. I will need your applications and \$10 by May 10 in order for you to take the test. If you Commanders have boys that want to join FCF, bring them and all you other Commanders to help us get ready for the Pow Wow. We need your help desperately to provide you with the best possible camp this year! The recent rainy weather we had destroyed our council fire area including the nice stage we had. So please, make plans with your local outposts now and lets pull together to rebuild and get ready for the best Pow Wow Ever!

How 'bout that Youth Camp!!!! Hasn't our Superintendent, Derwood Dubose, and his staff done well! They are doing a fantastic job building our youth the best camp facilities available. And don't you think our youth are worth it! You bet! We are talking about our future! If you haven't seen the camp yet, you should drive down there and look at it in Maypearl. I can't wait to see our Royal Ranger Camp come together after attention is shifted to the other side of the lake!

Well, if I can be of any assistance to your or answer any questions relating to FCF, please call me at 872-442-1325.

Your Servant,  
Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale  
NTD FCF President

**FCF Phase 1 Testing**  
**If you would like to join FCF,**  
**you will need to join us on**  
**May 17 at Lakeview Camp.**

## 1997 District Calendar

April	25-26	Commanders Conference & Awards Ceremony
May	10	Regional Ranger of the Year Testing
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

## Latin America Royal Ranger Support

The North Texas District Royal Rangers pledge to send \$1,000 in support of Camp Summit located in Latin America.

Camp Summit is a newly acquired camp in the tropics of Costa Rica—just 58 miles north of San Jose'. It will be the site of the international training center for the 30,000 plus men and boys involved in the Royal Rangers ministry in Latin America.

The 79 acre camp is bordered on the west by a river running the entire length of the property. Its topography is varied, with flat areas for camping activities and future building programs. It has a deep valley and many rolling hills.

Conveniently located near the camp are national parks with trails and boat canals. River rafting and horseback riding are also within close proximity. These factors will further enhance the ministry opportunities of camp Summit.

At Camp Summit we have a singular vision — to build better men in Latin America, because men are God's method for leading home, the church and the community.

By offering a practical, camp based discipleship program, we can teach men and boys that true manhood is found in the person of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in assisting financially, please send your give to the North Texas District Royal Rangers, Hurst, Texas, 76053-1188. Be sure to credit your gift to account #890886(50), project #7474.

## Tibet Missions Trip

The North Texas District donated \$500 to assist Jim Barger with this trip. The following letter was sent after his trip.

Dear Friends and Family,

I have returned from Tibet. I was able to arrive home a few days early since we had to alter our itinerary as we moved along. This was without question the hardest thing I have ever done. The adjustments to your body are incredible as you try to cope with the 12 hour time change, the tremendous altitude adjustments, a complete change of diet and a spiritual wasteland all at once. Put all things into one body, throw it in the back of a jeep, then shake, beat and batter as hard as you can possibly imagine for 10 hours a day. This was life on our mission.

I and 2 missionaries went to conquer a mountain for God, however, He had a much bigger task in mind for us. After we had journeyed 5 days through the mountains, rivers and deserts, we came to a vast snow field that extended for at least 50 miles through the highest country we could traverse. The ruts that served as a road had disappeared many miles back. We were over 60 miles from any help and to be stranded could mean 2 weeks high in the Himalayas as one of us went for help. We determined that to try to continue was foolhardy and that we must turn back. We had decided that we would return to Lhasa regroup and try the much longer northern route. This would mean an extra 2 weeks in Tibet. Alas, we were informed that the northern route would be closed for at least another month and there was no possible way we could reach the mountain.

As we journeyed on our return trip I questioned God over and over, "Why God? Why have I prepared for over a year only to be turned away? What am I to learn? What is your purpose in all this?" The voice of God came to me saying, "The prayers of the saints have redeemed the mountain. You have come so my people would pray. Others will soon come and do great signs and wonders in my name. I am well pleased." Although I am not able to grasp all of this, as yet, it became apparent to me that I was only a focal point that would concentrate much prayer on Tibet, and that soon a great revival will sweep the land.

As I travel this year, most of you will get to hear the story. I'll be telling about life with 2 secret police at your side day and night, of angry Chinese trying to kick in our door in the middle of the night, of a run in with the Chinese army due to irregularities in our travel permit, about the exploitation of the people by the Buddhist monks, of treacherous mountain roads where even a slight error would mean death, about a man God sent from Wales to confirm our journey and about the people including the nomads who live just as they did during Abraham's time. Most of all I want

to tell you of the insight God gave me into the need for missionaries that are willing to go to the remote places of the world, among the unlearned and the unlovely, and look them in the eye and tell them the story of Jesus.

God spoke to my heart about a special task He had for us. He asked us to go to the Jokang, which is to Tibetan Buddhists what Solomon's temple would be to the Jews, and claim it for Him. Slipping our guards for a brief time we went in among the hundreds of pilgrims paying homage to the demonic idols, journeyed to the highest roof we could access and on Easter Sunday morning had holy communion, pouring the extra wine upon the roof of the Jokang and proclaiming that Jesus' blood covers all Tibetans and is sufficient to cover all their sin. I lashed together a small cross out of bamboo that I had brought in with me and erected it on the roof of the temple as a sign of the power of the cross and Jesus' authority over Tibet. We prayed that before this generation passed the Gospel of light would emit from this place of darkness and page after page of the Lamb's Book of Life would be filled with the names of Tibetans.

Will I return someday? I do not know. I do know there are some teams coming from Europe to pray against the mountain later this year. It's obvious to me after being there that many teams will be required over the next few years. Perhaps God will want me to lead one of them I do not know.

To conclude the matter, thank you for sending me. Thank you for praying, for without the prayers it would have been useless to go. Please continue to pray for Tibetans and for the doors to open.

After much reflection I closed my journal with a paraphrase from Ray Boltz' song "Watch The Lamb" by saying, "Abba Father, what have I seen here today? There's so much I don't understand." As I continue to sort out all the ramifications of this trip and seek God's direction for the next step for me, if any, I covet your prayers.

Unfortunately the English language is a finite one with only so many words. There are none that allow me to express my appreciation to you adequately. I love you each and shall ever thank God for the entrustment you gave me. May he bless each of you and make you household a City of Refuge.

I remain His obedient servant and yours truly,  
Jim Barger

## LTC Instructors

Please remember to notify Jonathan Trower if you are in the process of teaching an LTC. Once the class has finished, please make sure you mail your LTC grade reports. His new address is 101 Crestwood Drive, Hewitt, TX 76643, (817) 420-1941. In May 1997, the area code will change to 254.