

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

District Commander	Paul Patterson
Deputy District Commander	Dwain Klopfenstein
Harvest 2000 Coordinator	Randy Woods
Public Relations Coordinator	Robert Johnson
Productions Coordinator	Steve Landers
Training Coordinator	Marty Reese
Buckaroos/Straight Arrows Coordinator	Mark Oliver
FCF President	Gary Bierschwale
“Signal Fire” Editor	Mark Oliver

NEWS NEEDED

Is there anything specific you would like to learn more about? If you have some ideas or articles to place in the Signal Fire, the next deadline to receive news is May 21, 1999. Please send your information to: Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglan Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or moliver@csc.com.

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North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “Signal Fire”

April 1999

Commanders Conference

Oak Cliff
Dallas, TX

April 23-24

Greeting Commanders!!

Commanders Conference will soon be here. I would like to encourage each commander from North Texas to plan on attending. We have many classes for you to attend. After lunch, we will have a special awards ceremony for all commanders receiving awards. It will be here soon so mark your calendars now.

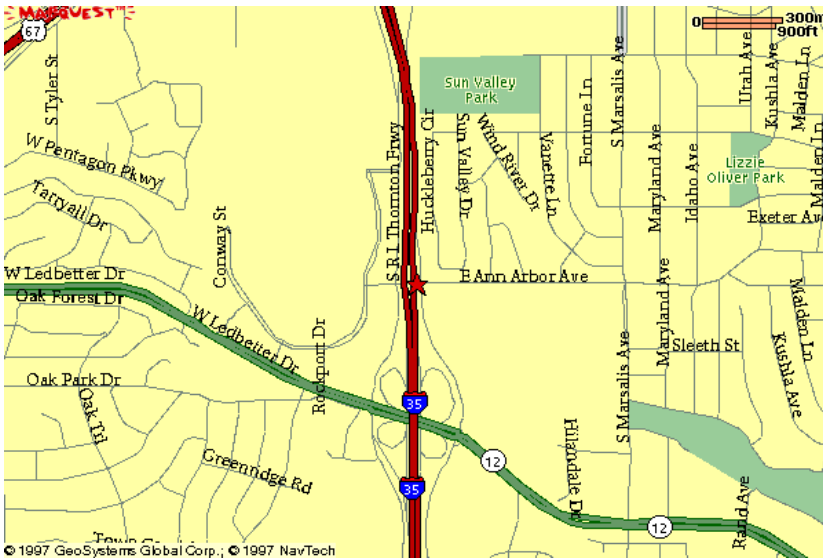
Pow Wow is also slowly approaching. This year's theme is “Called to Finish...” Come to camp on May 8 to help prepare the camp for Pow Wow. This also gives you the right to reserve a campsite for Pow Wow use. I would like each commander to start praying for this camp; we would like to see many boys and men saved.

I look forward to seeing each of you at these exciting events. Plan now to attend.

Paul Patterson, District Commander

District Commanders Conference and Awards Ceremony

Our annual commanders conference will be held April 23-24 in Dallas at Oak Cliff (4400 South R.L. Thornton Freeway, 214-376-8208). This conference is for all commanders in the North Texas District. On Friday evening, April 23, there will be a social time with other commanders. Bring games, dominoes, cards, snacks, drinks, and musical instruments for a fun and relaxed evening. Friday evening the activities will start at 8:00 p.m. Saturday morning will begin at 8:00 am. The cost is \$10 per commander (no meals included).



Each sectional commander will need to bring a door prize for drawings that will be held on Saturday. There are numerous classes planned for Saturday morning. Some of these include Lonely Commanders, Senior Commanders, model outpost meetings, Buckaroos/Straight Arrows meetings, Challengers, new commanders, and other exciting classes. Each of these classes will last 50 minutes. After lunch, plan on attending the divisional break aways so you can find out about events happening within your division. At 2:45 p.m. we will hold our annual commanders award service. Every commander

I would like to say "Thank You" to all the prayer warriors in North Texas. I know without a doubt this is how I got my job back. I just wanted to confirm the Lord is still on throne! I was called back to my old job at Raytheon Monday, February 15th. The Lord is good all the time, even when we do not understand. I know the many prayers from my brothers and sisters in Christ is what made this happen. I had resigned going back to work there and was ready to do what ever. I knew the Lord had things in control and I just needed to yield to him. Praise God!

God Bless,
Commander Lee Fogleman

Ken and Judy Harris along with David and Debbie Weatherred wish to invite you to share in the wedding ceremony of their children Eli Harris and Olivia Weatherred. Saturday May 29, 1999 at 4:00 p.m. at "New Frontier Cowboy" Church. This wedding will be FCF style, so come dressed in your outfits. RSVP to: Harris home 254-632-4007 or Weatherred home 254-687-2200.

Directions to Church:

From Cleburne - Take Hwy. 67 (west) through Cleburne toward Glen Rose. Turn right (north) onto Hwy. 144, and go 5.2 miles to New Frontier Cowboy Church. The Church is on the East side (right) surrounded by Pine trees.

From Granbury - Go south on Hwy. 144 for 7.3 miles, to New Frontier Cowboy Church on the east side (left). Can't miss the church it is surrounded by pine trees.

Academy of Ranger Training

The Academy of Ranger Training was recently held at the Maypearl camp. In attendance were quite a few LTC trainees from various parts of the North Texas District. The LTC portion of the camp was the bulk of the campers. We had a great set of leaders teaching the basic camp crafts to these leaders. They were led by a most gracious and warm Senior Guide, Brian 'One Way' Philpott! Well that's what a few called him!

Also the Black Powder shooters card class was held, a few rounds were fired off so I believe that most were successful in obtaining their shooters cards to give them rights to shoot at the FCF events.

Again this camp had the advanced class of Defensive Sword Techniques. (Looked a lot like Fencing to the untrained eye. Mine.) There were several times I looked out to see men rolling on the ground. They all seemed to be having a great time.

During all the Khaki goings on, the Buckaroos/Straight Arrows leaders were getting some pointers on how to reach the younger boys in our District. Thanks to David 'White Owl' Elliott for coordinating those activities. He has recently taken a promotion to Regional B/SA coordinator. Congratulations David!

The District Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship sponsors this camp twice each year for all leaders in the district. We hope to have topnotch men to teach new leaders in the district and give even the old-timers a brushup on our skills. We are looking forward to you being here this August 20-21 to get your batteries charged for taking this ministry further into your outpost and town to lead more boys to Christ this year.

God was in attendance at a wonderful council fire Friday night. Awesome is a good word!

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Sammy 'Longhorn' Kellum for coordinating a smooth camp.

who has earned a service award for 1998, along with all commanders who have earned the LMA in the past year, will be honored during this ceremony.

Every divisional commander and sectional commander should plan on setting up a display booth for your area. Also, any other commander in the district should feel free to set up a display booth. Contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081 to reserve your booth.

1999 District Calendar

April	23-24	District Commanders Conference
May	8 22	Work Day for Pow Wow Regional Ranger of the Year competition
June	4-6	Pow Wow
July	11-16	Sarge Training Academy
August	20-21	Academy of Ranger Training
September	10-11 23-26 24-25	Instructor Certification Seminar National Urban Leadership Conference, Lakeview Camp District Commanders Campout
October	3-9 29-31	Royal Ranger Week FCF Family Days
November	12-13	District Winter Camp
December	11	FCF Christmas Banquet

1999 Ranger of the Year Results

Congratulations to each of the following boys for their achievements at this year's Ranger of the Year competition.

Straight Arrows

Ranger/Year	Thomas Lewis, Jr.	S. Dallas	39
1 st Runner-Up	Adam Weatherly	Wichita Falls	57
2 nd Runner-Up	Dillon Robinette	Austin	65

Buckaroos

Ranger/Year	Robbie Dubose	S. Dallas	266
1 st Runner-Up	Joshua Horner	S. Fort Worth	221
2 nd Runner-Up	Benjamin Fedorko	Austin	65

Pioneers

Ranger/Year	Jeremy Gell	Austin	65
1 st Runner-Up	Jordon Teel	Wichita Falls	57
2 nd Runner-Up	Grant Permenter	S. Dallas	266

Trailblazers

Ranger/Year	Andrew Potts	Austin	65
1 st Runner-Up	Daniel Dillow	N. Dallas	182
2 nd Runner-Up	Jared Teel	Wichita Falls	57

Trail Rangers

Ranger/Year	Tim Coburn	Athens	194
1 st Runner-Up	Kurt Griffis	S. Fort Worth	62

Prayer Vigil Update

We just completed the first prayer vigil for 1999. This was the 24 hours of prayer for the NTC at Maypearl. Thank you for participating. Many boys will be won to Christ because you prayed for their leaders. You will have a part in that salvation.

For those who did not participate, you don't know what you missed. Being alone with God if for only one hour: meditating on Him, thanking Him for what He has done for you, praising Him, having the wonderful opportunity to bring our needs to Him (and expect an answer), etc. If your prayers accomplish nothing, the change in you will be

Greetings,

This year has started out fast and busy for me and I am sure that it is for you too! On top of everything else... I became a Grandfather 2-5-99 to a beautiful baby Ranger! Yep, I gave him his first hawk in the hospital, but his mother didn't think it was a good pacifier at the time.

Well, let's talk FCF! We have a lot of exciting things going on this year, including the Territorial Rendezvous! This year we will have this camp in the Hemez Mountains in New Mexico again! You may have heard those that have been to this camp remembering it very fondly. It is a beautiful setting for the kind of camping we do. The date for this camp is in mid June and costs \$25. There will be all kinds of competition, prizes, brush arbor meetings, and fun! Bring the family and make a vacation out of it... I am! For more details about this camp call me.

That's about all I have to say right now. Watch your back trail so ol' slew foot can't getch ya by surprise!

Gary Bierschwale

New From The National Office

A change has recently been made to the placement of commander awards for Class A and Class B uniforms. It is now acceptable to wear the drape medals or ribbons on either uniform. However, you cannot wear both the drape medals and ribbons together on the same uniform.

LTC Instructors

Instructors are you looking for a good resting place for those LTC grades and your LTC class dates? Well do I have a deal for you! Please send your information to Marty Reese at 220 Pueblo Dr. Waxahachie TX 75165.

Pow Wow Work Day

Pow Wow Work Day will be held May 8. Outposts may come on this day to prepare their campsite for Pow Wow. Only outposts that have pre-registered by this date will be assigned a campsite. We also ask that you come prepared to clear other campsites or help in other ways to help get the campground ready for Pow Wow.

Pow Wow

Our annual Pow Wow will be held June 4-6, 1999 at Lakeview Camp in Maypearl. The theme of Pow Wow this year is "Called to Finish..." Pow Wow packets will be sent to your church office in April, and will be posted to the district web site (www.royalrangers.net/ntd) when they are available. The registration fee will be \$15 each. Begin praying now for a mighty move of the Spirit in the lives of the boys and men who attend this camp.

Paddleboats Needed

Lakeview Camp needs Paddleboats for use on the lake. If you know of any for sale or that can be donated, please contact Rod or Nona at 972-923-3811.

Regional Training Seminar

Thanks to everyone from the North Texas District for their outstanding support of the 1999 Regional Training Seminar. The North Texas District provided many of the outstanding instructors for the seminar. We had over 460 people registered for the seminar. Begin planning now for the 2000 Regional Training Seminar to be held the last weekend in January in San Antonio.

reward enough.

We will be having a 36 hour prayer vigil during the Pow Wow. Please join us then.

I just returned from a week-long Prayer Task Force in El Salvador. As always, God moved in mighty ways. God handpicks participants in the prayer teams. Each time we prayed for some there, some team member had experienced that problem and could relate that God is always faithful. For example, one pastor was greatly distressed because of a split in the church and personal attacks on him and his family. Several of the team members were board members that had experienced a church split. One member was a pastor's daughter and could relate to personal family attacks. Each time, we were able to assure them that when God shakes a church, a strong core will always remain. When God is finished, the latter is better than the former.

We traveled to King's Castle ministries children's camp. This camp is several hundred feet below the crest in an extinct volcano. The castles overlook a huge lake. One of the castles is known as the Prayer Fortress. Here, prayer continues 24 hours per day, seven days a week. We joined their prayer team in what was to be a 5-minute walk through prayer. An hour and a half later, we were wondering how to end the prayer time. People were waiting on us. I felt much like some of the Old Testament prophets; I had to repent for 15 – 20 minutes just to be worthy of being in that prayer team. God was so present. It was experience that will not soon be forgotten.

But you too can feel God's presence here. It is wonderful to go to some other country to pray for the people there. However, there are people here that need the same prayers. In addition to the Royal Rangers boys, there is Teen Challenge, Chi Alpha, Youth jail ministries or even your next door neighbor.

Wherever you are, find God and pray for those around you. They will win. God will win. You will win.

Randy Woods
Harvest 2000 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 their 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 their abilities, 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, fire building, 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 11-14, 1999 for PTC and July 11-16 for JLTC, AJTC, JTT, and AMC.

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Cost</u>
PTC	Pioneer Training Camp	9-11	\$85
JLTC	Junior Leadership Training Camp	12-17	\$115
AJTC	Advanced Junior Training Camp	13-17	\$115
JTT	Junior Training Trails	13-17	\$185
AMC	Advanced Merit Camp	10 ½- 17	\$115

PTC - Commanders!! Would you like for your Pioneers to go to a District Royal Rangers training camp? We have a 3 ½ 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. We are going to limit this camp to 64 boys. The reason is the area can only handle so many tents. The first 64 boys who turn in their application with the appropriate fees will only be able to attend this camp. Let's get them enrolled now while space is available.

AMC - This camp is designed for boys to work on their 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 this area, this camp will be beneficial to them. You must be 10 ½ or have completed PTC to attend.

JLTC - This is a structured camp for Trailblazers or Trailrangers. 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 - 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 - 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.

We are needing help with this year's academy. It is going to be the largest ever. Please encourage all your Pioneers, Trailblazers, and Trail Rangers (Challengers) to mark their calendars for this exciting camp. We have a camp for everyone so encourage your boys to attend.

Please consider helping at these camps. For more information, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081.

NTC and BSTC

Thank you to all the North Texas District commanders who participated in the recent BSTC and NTC national camps held at our Lakeview Campground. This was the first time North Texas has had the opportunity to host these camps at Lakeview. Because of you, we had 61 commanders at BSTC and 98 commanders at NTC.