

North Texas District Royal Rangers “Signal Fire”

January 2001

Greeting Commanders,

The new Millennium is here. Believe it or not, this is 2001! We are looking forward to a fantastic year! For the first time in 10 years or better, North Texas will be hosting an Advanced National Training Camp in April at our camp-grounds. You need to sign up now for this because it will fill up fast. You must have attended NTC first but you will enjoy this camp more than you did NTC.

We are also planning a larger than life Pow Wow. The theme will be “Above and Beyond:” Start planning now to bring your outpost to this camp.

We will also have a National Training Camp (NTC) in October 2001. If you have not been to one, please plan now to attend this camp.

Commanders, there are going to be a lot of changes to the Royal Rangers Ministry, but the training camps will remain the same for the Khaki programs. Please do not let the changes occurring to our ministry prevent you from attending any camps.

Get your applications for commanders awards into the district office by March 15th. You will find forms available in this newsletter for the most common awards. If you need additional forms, please check the North Texas District web site (www.royalrangers.net/ntd) under forms or contact the district office. These forms will need to be in the office by the deadline in order to have your awards ready by Commanders Conference in April. This commanders conference is for YOU. Please plan to attend. It will be well worth your time.

In His Service,

Paul Patterson, North Texas District Commander, paul@royalrangers.net

District Calendar

2001

January	5-6	District Staff Meeting—Lakeview
	6	District Staff Meeting w/ ALL sectional staff members—Lakeview
	26-27	Regional Conference, Houston Texas
February	2-3	Instructor Certification Seminar
	16-17	Academy of Ranger Training—Lakeview Camp LTC Campout Basic Ranger Training Advanced Ranger Training
March	9-10	FCF Brush Poppin
	30-31	Sarge SIT Camp
April	7	District Ranger of the Year, Harvest A/G, Fort Worth
	19-22	Advanced National Training Camp (ANTC) - Lakeview
	27-28	Commanders Conference and Awards Ceremony
May	12	Pow Wow Work Day—Lakeview
	26	Sarge SIT Camp
June	1-3	District Pow Wow—Lakeview
	23	Sarge Staff arrives at Camp
	24-30	Sarge Training Academy
July	16-20	FCF Territorial Rendezvous
	August	17-18
September	7-8	Instructor Certification Seminar
	28-29	District Commanders Campout
October	11-14	National Training Camp (NTC) - Lakeview
	23	Light for the Lost Banquet
	26-28	FCF Family Days
November	9-10	District Winter Camp
December	8	FCF Family Banquet

2000 Service Awards

Have you earned an award for 2000? Enclosed are the forms for the awards that 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 is due when you send in the forms. After you send the forms in, plan to attend the Commanders Conference & Awards Ceremony on April 27-28 to receive your awards.

2001 Ranger of the Year Testing

It's that time of the year to start preparing your boys for the 2001 Ranger of the Year testing. Every year, we try to encourage as many sections and churches as possible to participate in the competition. Ranger of the Year testing is a great way for boys to test their knowledge. Commanders, please do not keep the boys from your outpost from competing in the sectional Ranger of the Year testing. This could be the one thing that gets your boys motivated again. As you prepare for this year's sectional testing, remember that you need to send one boy from each age group who best represents his outpost.

By each outpost participating in their Sectional testing, this will ensure we have a good turnout at the district testing. We would like to see each section represented at district testing by sending their top boy from each age group to the competition.

This year's District Ranger of the Year testing will be held at Harvest Assembly of God in Fort Worth. The church is located at 7501 Crowley Road. We also need at least 80 leaders to assist with our testing. It's only with your assistance that we can make this testing a success for our boys. Each sectional commander will receive directions to this church.

Please contact me if you have any specific questions or if you can assist with the 2001 Ranger of the Year testing.

Robert Johnson, HAlexan648@aol.com, 940-723-6210



Do You Really Want God on Your Side?

We often make plans for our future: plans for jobs, marriage, finances, vacations, retirements etc. We layout the ideas we have planned and express a certain level of self-gratification in our wisdom. We arrange for being at places at certain times and things to do. We ask God to bless us and help our plans work out. Sometime we run out of cash, miss a scheduled flight, get rained out, etc. Then, we try to blame God for not letting us have the time we had planned or ask God why He is not on our side when our plans do not turnout exactly the way we want.

But the Bible says not to plan alone. There is a story of merchants who planned to start a new business in a new city. They planned and calculated how much profit they would earn in a year. They were corrected that when we plan we should say, "If God's will, we will". They were not faulted for planning but rather for not seeking God's will first. We plan and ask God to be on our side.

Sometimes we fall outside God's will by planning things we know are not in His will or plan. One of my former pastors once wanted all departments to meet in the sanctuary for a special Wednesday night service. I felt it was something in which the boys would have little or no interest and held my Royal Rangers meeting as normally planned. The boys were wild. Nothing I could do interested them. God clearly told me that He wanted me to follow the pastor's request. I will never forget that night. I made two major mistakes. One, not obeying the pastor, and two, not listening to God (planning for God to be on my side).

I've decided I don't want God on my side. Often if He is, He will bless but it isn't what is best. We limit what God can do by asking God to be on our side. What we need to do is ask God to allow us to be on His side. That way He is free to help us prosper, flourish and be successful. Most of all He gets the glory. God is then unlimited in doing what He wants to do.

Ephesians 3:20: If we are on God's side, He can bless beyond our wildest dream or imagination.

We think we are giving up something or really sacrificing so much when we do something for God as if He can't do with out us. In reality, everything is His anyway. He just lets us in on some of His plans.

Do you limit God? Do you really want Him on **your** side? Are you willing to give it all including yourself to God? Will you be on **His** side?

Here is an opportunity for you to be on **His** side. There will be a 24-hour prayer vigil on March 9-10, 2001 to pray for the district officials, Royal Ranger staff and the events for the year. We want to reach more boys and men than ever before. Get on God's side for one hour. You will be blessed.

Randy Woods, Harvest Task Force Coordinator

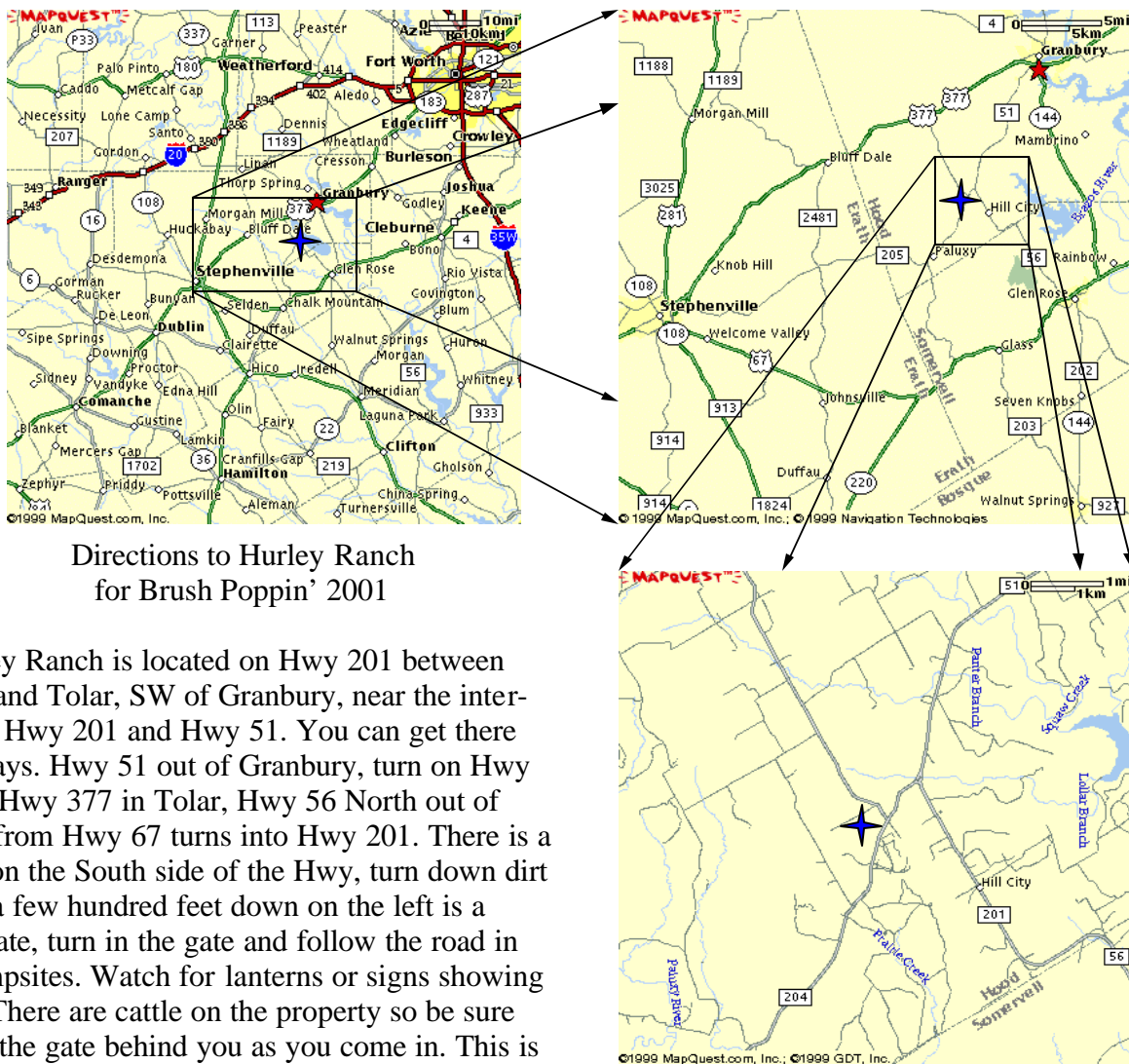
Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS)

Have you earned your Leaders Medal of Achievement (LMA)? Are you interested in becoming an instructor for the North Texas District in order to teach new Commanders their Leadership Training Course. If so, you need to plan now on attending the ICS which will be held February 2-3 at Lakeview Camp. You must have your paperwork completed if you plan to attend.

If you have previously been certified and you have let your certification expire, you should also plan to attend. Remember, if your certification expires in February 2001, you must also attend. If you would like additional information, please contact Marty Reese, reesemarty@yahoo.com or 972-937-5529.

Brush Poppin 2001

Brush Poppin' 2001 is coming up on March 9-10. This year we are going to move the camp out to a different location. The Hurley Ranch SW of Granbury TX. This is a beautiful location with piped in water, shooting areas, multiple camp locations, quiet area, it is scenic and historic. It is a site of an old Indian campsite and is now used for reenacting civil war battles. The cost for this camp is going to be \$10 per person. Pack up your gear and your tradin' blankets, hitch it to your metal donkey and come out for some fun and fellowship. We have several challenges being prepared for this camp. All you Ole timers out there, pick up a young buck and sponsor him out for the weekend.



Directions to Hurley Ranch
for Brush Poppin' 2001

The Hurley Ranch is located on Hwy 201 between Glenrose and Tolar, SW of Granbury, near the intersection of Hwy 201 and Hwy 51. You can get there several ways. Hwy 51 out of Granbury, turn on Hwy 201 from Hwy 377 in Tolar, Hwy 56 North out of Glenrose from Hwy 67 turns into Hwy 201. There is a dirt road on the South side of the Hwy, turn down dirt road and a few hundred feet down on the left is a wooden gate, turn in the gate and follow the road in to the campsites. Watch for lanterns or signs showing the way. There are cattle on the property so be sure and close the gate behind you as you come in. This is a fine facility with drinkable water piped into the campground. It is used as a reenactment site for civil war battles and has many campsites already carved out.

Jeff "SkyWatcher" Kersey
FCF Vice-President

Sarge Training Academy 2001

Sarge Training Academy 2001 is closer than you think. We had an excellent camp in 2000 as we had all 5 camps working and will run them all this year also, with your help. Make special note that the dates this year have changed, June 24-29. That also means our first Staff in Training weekend, or SIT camp, is coming quickly as well for it will be March 31 at Lakeview. There are 5 camps for all ages and advancements of the khaki boys. Pioneer Training Camp for boys 9-11 who are new to Rangers and need basic training in skills, Advanced Merits Camp for boys 10 and older who are needing to earn advanced merits toward their Gold Medal of Achievement, Junior Leadership Training Camp, Advanced Junior Training Camp, and Junior Training Trails. Last year we sent 5 boys to JTT in the mountains of New Mexico, and their staff is already making preparations to go back. Start making preparations now for your outpost fundraisers, days off, whatever is necessary. It takes a lot of men to staff this camp, but the impact it has on boys' lives is indescribable and it's because men like you take the time to give to their lives. We want to have 200 boys take the opportunity this year not only to expand their Royal Ranger knowledge, but to grow closer to the Lord and have him impact their lives. Let's get our boys "Ready" to have a life impacting week. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer for service, please contact me.

Jeff Kersey, jeff@royalrangers.net
Asst. Sarge Training Academy Coordinator, 817-249-7790

FCF Trappers Brigade Update

It was a great year and now I am looking forward to this year. We do have some things that are coming up for everybody to get points. One of the big things is the fence and a building to be built next to the commanders lodge. As soon as we get ready to start, I will let you know. I will have a list of trappers points that I have on file. If you did not get me your points by now it is too late. The deadline was December 9, 2000. This year the deadline is December 9, 2001. I will not count any more past events. May God go with you in all that you do and may your fire never go out.

In His service

Cody "Threebind" Hord, threebind@yahoo.com

ACADEMY OF RANGER TRAINING

All Commanders, start making plans now for our next Academy of Ranger Training (ART), which happens February 16-17, 2001 at Lakeview Camp in Maypearl, TX. We plan to have some new and interesting advanced classes, like, Fencing, Hide Tanning, and Proper Uniform Etiquette, among the usual required LTC camp craft technique classes and more. To save money, time, and confusion, EVERYONE please PRE-REGISTER at the cost of \$20.00. First-aid (No Cards) \$2.00, First-aid/CPR (With Cards) \$12.00 needs to be sent to the North Texas District Royal Rangers office no later than February 14, 2001 prior to ART. If you wait later than this, at ART camp, the registration fee will be \$25.00, First-aid (No Cards) is \$7.00, First-aid/CPR (With Cards) is \$18.00. For those people interested in taking the Black Powder Shooter Card class, the cost is \$10.00 in addition to the registration fee. Regardless, which classes attended, please note that everyone must pay either the pre-registration fee before camp or the normal registration fee at camp.

Family Days 2000 Successful

Anyone for a wheelbarrow ride? For those of you that were at our FCF family days, you'll probably chuckle just remembering that hilarious race! With the wives hollering directions from the wheelbarrow, the innocent, blindfolded husbands navigated an obstacle course, ate a dry biscuit, whistled a tune, and then pushed their wives to the finish line. (editors note: some of you men need to take a refresher course in compass.)

I know we have a greater appreciation for our ancestors after learning how to wash cloths in a tub. By the way, has anyone ever seen that new stick in hawk throw? It seems you have the handle fly one direction with the head stuck in backwards.

This was just a few of the games and activities at our wonderful family get-together. The pie auction was a huge success, both financially and taste! The chili cook-off and desert contest really hit the spot. Congratulations to the winners.

Our attendance was 154 people registered with many guests. A big welcome to all the new families, too. We're glad to have you with us.

The "Thank You's" are many, so I'll list them here: To God, for our safety and holding back the rain; to those who hosted the many games, to all who have invested so much in becoming "authentic", and teaching the newcomers the way; to those great musicians who serenaded us, to our speakers: Prospector, Tinker, Sharp Tack and Leann Philpott.

Next year we are planning more games for children. We know as you share your excitement with others we'll have an even bigger turnout. Come! Make some more great memories with your family and friends at the next FCF family days.

To the Glory of God
Mark "Brave Beaver" Woods, FCF Historian, mark.woods@airliquide.com

WILDERNESS CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate the following new "FCF WILDERNESS" members from our North Texas District:

John "Faithful Squirrel" Flach
Clint "Tinker" Grant
Jeff "Skywatcher" Kersey
Chris "Strong Bear" Philpott
Mark "Brave Beaver" Woods

FCF PHASE I TESTING

Attention all prospective boys and men interested in becoming new FCF members must take the FCF Phase I Test at Lakeview Camp in Maypearl, TX on May 5, 2001 at 8:00 AM at the pavilion. The cost is \$10.00 each. Please bring a pocketknife and wear a complete Royal Rangers Class-B Uniform and look sharp. Also, note that all FCF Sponsors must attend this too! Send your Phase I form to the district office by April 21, 2001.

Sammy Kellum, Wilderness Rep, longhorn@t-oe.com

2001 South Central Regional Conference

(formerly the SCR Training Seminar)

The Regional Conference will be held at the beautiful Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at 9100 Gulf Freeway in Houston, Texas on January 26 and 27, 2001. For the 2001 conference we have made a few changes that we believe will improve the conference. First, all the activities, including the Friday evening service and Saturday classes, will be held in the Radisson Conference Center. Each classroom will seat 250 people, so no more crowded classrooms.

This year we are blessed to have several members of the national Royal Rangers staff with us as presenters and as our featured speaker Friday night. Jim Barger, the president of the National Royal Rangers Council, will be our speaker Friday night. Brian Hendrickson, the national Straight Arrows/Buckaroos Coordinator, and Mike Laliberty, the national Pioneers/Trailblazers Coordinator, will also be with us to provide us updates on the new Royal Rangers program.

The cost of the Conference is still the low price of \$20.00 if you pre-register by January 16, 2001 (and if you pre-register, you will receive a free tie-tac at the seminar). When we receive your registration we will send you a conference packet that will include a map to the hotel. If you do not pre-register, the registration fee at the conference is \$22.00. Boys who have their GMA who would like to assist us as GMA staff assistants register for \$10.00.

Our classes for this year include:

- General session on the new Royal Rangers program
- Adventure and Discovery Rangers
- Leadership Training Academy update
- Disciplining Boys in the Outpost
- Everybody in Your Church Working For Royal Rangers
- Outreach Opportunities in Your Community
- Effective Patrol Method
- Keeping Older Boys Involved in Royal Rangers
- Training: How To Make It Pay Off In Your Outpost
- Ranger Kids
- Expedition Rangers
- Service Opportunities Through FCF
- Presenting Effective Devotions
- Media Influences on Our Kids
- Lonely Commanders
- Overview of Sponsorship in FCF
- Recruiting and Retaining Leaders

The rate for the hotel is \$71.00 plus tax for 1-4 people. When making your reservation, request the Royal Rangers special rate code number RR071. You may also want to pay with a church check—if you provide a copy of your church tax exempt form (check with your pastor for this form), you will save money by not having to pay the state portion of the room taxes. The hotel has great restaurants, indoor swimming pool, workout room, luxurious spa and room accommodations.

Also, for those who would like to minimize their expenses in Houston, a local church that is fairly close to the Radisson will be available for men to spend Friday night. You will be responsible for providing your own sleeping gear.

Secondly, since many of you are driving a long way to get to Houston, the region would like to offer you the opportunity to enjoy the Houston hospitality while you are there. There are many things to see and do in Houston and the surrounding area, and we want you to have a great time with your family. Make this weekend a mini-vacation with your wife -- you both deserve it! We have scheduled a couple of tours that we think you and your wife will enjoy. You will need to sign up in advance on the registration form so we can make the proper arrangements for these tours.

Saturday we have a special trip planned for the ladies who may be in Houston with their husband but who are not attending the Conference. This will be a trip to the Kemah Boardwalk in Houston. For more details, see below.

Saturday evening, after the Conference, we will host an informal dinner for anyone who wishes to join us. A local church is providing the facilities and dinner, and the regional staff is providing the “entertainment.” If you are staying in Houston through Saturday night, please join us. We will provide transportation from the hotel to the church and back. The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Cost will be \$12 per person. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be joining us for this dinner.

NASA SPACE CENTER

Space Houston is NASA’s premier space showcase. This world-class attraction will launch you on a mission that goes beyond the boundaries of our world. The center offers a full day of fun and adventure, where you can see larger-than-life IMAX films, touch a real moon rock, tour NASA, and explore the exciting Kids Space Center plus much more.

NASA is about 15 miles from the Radisson hotel and we will leave from the hotel Friday morning at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. There will be an admission charge for the Space Center.

KEMAH BOARDWALK

Spend the day browsing the shops, taking in the sea breeze on the boardwalk, and experiencing the old fashioned thrill of the amusements. With over 150 shops and restaurants to choose from there is something for the whole family. Come with us and enjoy the day at the Kemah Boardwalk. The Boardwalk is located on Galveston Bay, less than 20 miles from the Radisson Hotel where the conference is being held. The tour will start at 9 a.m. from the Radisson Hotel and we will return to the Radisson hotel by 5 p.m. The tour is free (lunch and shopping is on your own).

FCF Wilderness Vigil

It was a cold overcast night, near freezing, with light drizzle. The owls were hooting and flying here and there catching their supper as the coyote’s were singing their exciting serenades in the not so distant. There was some rustling of twigs and leaves as the feral hogs were rooting for something to eat in the nearby creek. In the midst of all this activity there were 6 small fires burning all night as Buckskin members communed with God and sought His guidance for their lives. Visions and dreams were given this night and logged down in small diaries. It was a beautiful night as all things blended together and fires were kept burning as warriors did battle with the evil one. Lives were changed this night and a battle was won for God!

We just had a wonderful wilderness vigil in North Texas, Nov 17-19! There were 4 men and 2 boys that participated in this wilderness vigil and each one had a very special testimony of their experience that Friday night. The participants that joined the ranks of Wilderness are: Chris Philpott – North Texas, John Flach – North Texas, Jeff Kersey – North Texas, Mark Woods – North Texas, Clint Grant – North Texas, and Tony Garcia III– Gulf Latin.

During the brush arbor meeting Saturday night in the rain we praised and worshipped God and had some very exciting testimonies of the experiences each participant had Friday night. Afterwards we all had communion together and the sponsors of each participant had a very special gift to give them for completing their vigil.

Please be sure to ask each of these new wilderness members about their vigil the next time you see them. Each one will be more than happy to speak of the special things that happened to them that night. If you are carrying a wilderness pouch and would like to participate in the next vigil, please contact me. If you have met the qualifications to become wilderness and would like to participate in a wilderness vigil, please contact your FCF president as soon as possible.

Gary ‘Wild Wind’ Bierschwale, SCR Territorial Representative
Gbierschwale@mindspring.com, 972-442-1325

Royal Rangers

South Central Regional Conference

The conference is going to be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Houston, Texas on January 26-27, 2001.

The cost is \$20.00 if you pre-register and \$22.00 if you register at the door. Boys who attend at GMA Staff Assistants are \$10.00. Please submit a separate registration form for each leader. Pre-registration must be post-marked by January 16, 2001 to qualify for the pre-registration discount, and to receive the free tie-tac. Please do not mail after that date, as it may not be received before the conference

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY)

Last name: _____ First Name: _____

Street or PO Box _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ District: _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

E-mail address: _____

May we e-mail your confirmation to you? ____ Yes ____ No

To help us with planning for the optional Friday tours to NASA, please indicate if you (and your spouse or family) will be attending:

Space Center _____ (number attending)

Lodging is available Friday night at a local church for men who prefer to stay there (you must bring your own gear). Will you be staying at the local church?

____ Yes ____ No

There will be activities scheduled on Saturday for wives who do not attend the Conference at the Kemah Boardwalk. Will your wife be attending the ladies activities?

____ Yes ____ No

Will you (and your spouse) be attending the informal dinner on Saturday?

____ (Number attending)

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Jonathan Trower

PO Box 6211

Waco, TX 76706

Phone: 254-420-1941

Make checks payable to SCR Royal Rangers.

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

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Training Coordinator.....Marty Reese
Buckaroos/Straight Arrows Coordinator.....Mark Oliver
FCF President.....Brian Philpott
“Signal Fire” Editor.....Mark Oliver

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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 February 21, 2001. Please send your information to: Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglenn Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or moliver@csc.com.

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