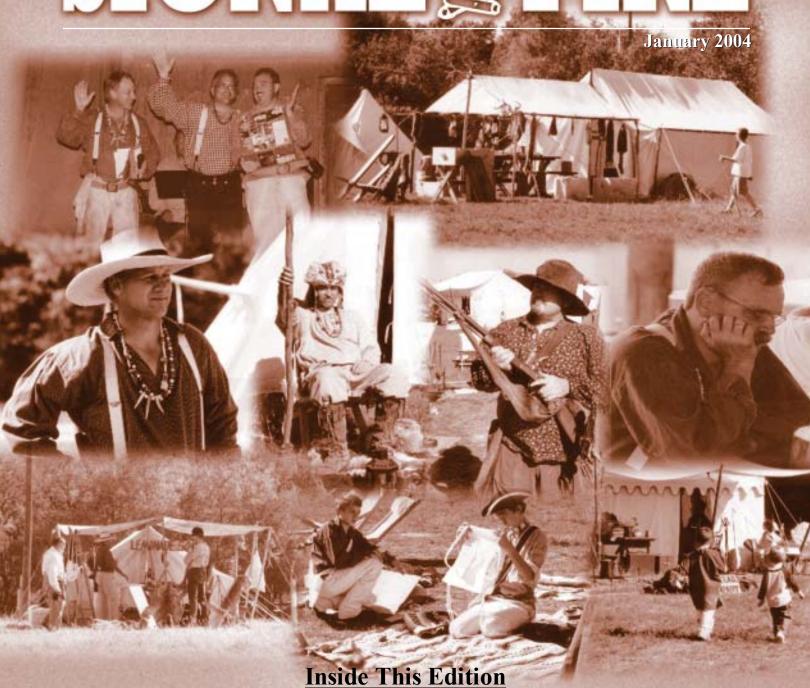
NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SIGNAL & FIRE



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Questions to the District Staff

- Q There is a letter on the national Royal Rangers web site that states that charter fees increased to \$8 for boys and \$10 for leaders. The charter application we received at our church states it is \$12 for both. Why the difference? And why was more added to the fee for boys than for leaders?
- A We are a self chartering district, because of that we incur office fees, for mailings, Signal Fire, and handling the charters. This also helps pay the Rangers secretary at the district office
- Q Why does NTD have "Brush Poppin" when the national guidelines for FCF refers to a "Trace?"
- A Shorty Wills was the FCF president for NTD in the 60's when Royal Rangers started the district traces. Many districts adopted the name "trace" for this event, but some districts gave this event a special name to more closely reflect the demographics of their district. Shorty named our spring trace "Brush Poppin" due to our brushy country, and it stuck.
- Q I have a boy who has earned his Gold Eagle. Will the district send representatives to the Gold Eagle ceremony like they do GMA ceremonies?
- A The district involvement is limited to G.M.A. ceremonies. That is the highest honor a boy can receive and we want to keep it special for him. We send a letter of congratulations to the recipient of these awards. We recommend that you present this in front of your church body so they can see what your Ranger outpost is doing
- Q What does it take if I am interested in joining FCF with the Trail to the Grizzly?
- A To get into FCF both boys and men must earn these required merits (with green bear paw): Rope Craft, Fire Craft, Cooking, Compass, Lashing, First Aid Skills, Camping, Tool Craft. Both boys and men must: 1) explain the plan of salvation, and 2)

explain the meaning of the four red, four gold, and eight blue points of the Royal Ranger emblem.

Boys only need to be at least 11 years old and an Adventure Ranger. They must also be recommended by the outpost commander.

Men only must complete the Ranger Basics module of the LTA. They must also be a Royal Rangers leader in good standing with their church.

After the boy or leader has earned the required merits and other requirements listed above, he has earned the Grizzly Trail FCF Merit Award and is eligible to attend The Frontier Adventure. After successful completion of The Frontier Adventure he will receive his Frontiersmen Pin.

See more about the FCF Frontier Adventure later in this newsletter.

- Q I have a boy who is about to complete his GMA. I know I have to send in the application, but who do I send it to? What is the process for scheduling the ceremony? Is there anyone in the district who can help me put together an impressive ceremony for the boy?
- A The GMA application is sent to the district office with all the proper and up to date paperwork. We have the GMA Association with Craig McCracken overseeing this part of the process. He can help with setting up a special service for your recipient.
- Q What happened to the district commander's conference? I noticed it wasn't on the calendar for 2003, and I don't see it for 2004 either.
- A The commanders' conference was changed to Module Training and Awards Service. We felt like our leaders needed this type of training.

- Q The leaders in my church need training. How can we get it for them?
- A Contact your sectional commander. They are listed on our web site.
- Q What are the steps for becoming an instructor?
- A You must first complete your LTA and obtain the Leaders Medal of Achievement.

 Attend an NTC or RKTC, obtain an application from the district website and fill it out completely with all signatures and mail it to the district office

If you have questions that you would like to see answered, please email them to Mark Oliver at mark@royalrangers.net or you can send them to the district office (address on back page). They will be answered in upcoming Signal Fire newsletters.

- Q How do churches cover the cost of chartering?
- A There are many different ways that an outpost can raise the money for their charter fees. The outpost can have a car wash, collect the fees from each boy, have a bake sale, and even talk to the pastor about covering the fees.

All Registration forms, Award Forms, and applications can be found at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under Forms. If you do not have access to the web, please contact your sectional commander or the district office.

Commander Camp Highlights—September 25-26, 2003 North Division

We held our annual camp this year at Eisenhower State park at Texoma Lake. What a beautiful weekend for camping. This area of the park overlooks the Dennison dam and the east end of Lake Texoma.

We only had seven commanders attending, but each one present was there for a specific purpose. Each commander added to the weekend and each was able to receive a blessing or a word from God to take with them.

Activities, as promised, were quite low key, lots of sitting, lots of talking, and lots of stories. We intended to have the biggest lie contest, but you could not believe anything anyone said so it was a waste of time. We did hold the first annual chickentoe contest. Only five commanders participated, one thought it was a girls game and the other could not count high enough to be included in the game. I do not recall who won. We were so engrossed in the rules and who's turn it was that the actual winner

seemed to escape me.

We also held the first annual hawk and knife throw contest for the north division. Except for commander Hyatt, no self-respecting bear should fear any commander present on this weekend. I have to tell you, our new commander from Oklahoma, Michael Williams, actually puts his hawk head on upside down—go figure.

I am not sure that this activity is on the calendar for next year. It is a great time for sharing and visiting that only occurs at an activity specifically set aside for commanders. If you would like to see the commanders campout placed back on the schedule, please contact me or the district office. If there is enough interest, we can propose to start having it again. Let me hear from those in the North Division, what do you think?

Pat Reilly, North Division Commander

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• •		004 District Calendar		
: January	9	District Staff Meeting		
•	10	District Staff Meeting with ALL Sectional Staff		
•	30-31	Regional Conference, Richardson, TX		
February	20-21	Academy of Ranger Training		
•		LTA Campout		
•		Advanced Training		
March	5-6	FCF Brush Poppin		
April	3	Staff-in-Training for Sarge Training Academy		
•	17	District Modules Training and Awards Ceremony		
•	23-24	FCF Frontier Adventure		
•	23-25	Ranger Kids Training Conference, New Mexico		
April 29—May 2		Advanced National Training Camp, Lakeview		
May	15	Staff-in-Training for Sarge Training Academy		
:	22	Pow Wow Workday		
June	4-6	District Pow Wow		
June 26—Ju	aly 3	Sarge Training Academy		
July	12-16	National FCF Rendezvous		
August	13-14	Academy of Ranger Training		
•		LTA Campout, Advanced Rangers Training		
September	10-11	Instructor Certification Seminar		
:	16-19	National Training Trails, New Mexico		
•	25	District Ranger of the Year Testing		
October	3-9	National Royal Rangers Week		
•	7-10	National Training Camp, Chandler, Oklahoma		
•	19	Light for the Lost Banquets		
•	21-24	National Training Camp, San Antonio, TX		
•	29-31	FCF Family Days		
November	12-13	District Winter Camps		
December	11	FCF Family Banquet		
•				

Chartering

Every commander who was chartered on the back of their outpost charter form receives a copy of the Signal Fire. In addition, every church in North Texas receives one copy of the Signal Fire. If your copy is not making it to your house, the back of the charter form was incorrect, not complete, or incorrectly identified. If you have questions about your chartering status, please contact your Sectional Commander or Mark Oliver (mark@royalrangers.net)

CAMP EAGLE ROCK

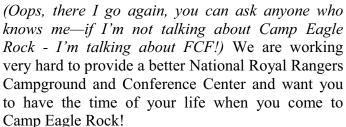
Rick "Simon Tanner" Dostal

As most of you are aware my new title in the National Royal Rangers Ministries office is FCF President and Camp Eagle Rock Coordinator. Now don't get me wrong, as much as I love FCF and can't wait for the next Trace, Rendezvous, or opportunity to tell a good story; this time I am not writing to you about FCF. It's all about Camp Eagle Rock.

Now let's talk about the National Royal Rangers Center - Camp Eagle Rock. There's plenty of hard work in the hot sun and the freezing cold available, but during the other two seasons—when it's absolutely fantastic out there—it more than makes up for those tough seasons. Some of us even like the warm sunshine or the cool Ozark winters! We have new projects starting regularly and we are consistently grading and planning for future offers improvements. This many wonderful opportunities for teams from your church, chapter, or district to come to Camp Eagle Rock and help us with one of these projects.

There are currently several projects ready to start and more are scheduled. The grading is underway for another cabin, a new bathroom and shower house (on the west edge of the Big Lodge Meadow), and a shop building. You FCF'ers will be

happy to know that the new bathroom and shower house should be ready and available for the 2004 National Rendezvous!



For you FCF'ers and MAPS teams, Camp Eagle Rock is now approved as a Bronze Pathfinder project. That means that a team can take on a project, come to work at Camp Eagle Rock and receive the Bronze Pathfinder award. We look forward to accommodating your team, so contact us now and schedule your work trip. Hope to see you soon.

**Did you know that Camp Eagle Rock is also available for your outpost, section, or church to rent? We have primitive camping, full hook-up RV sites, and new cabins with queen-size beds and bunk beds. Interested? Contact Rick Dostal at 417-862-2781 or at rdostal@ag.org for more information.

2004 National Training Camps

There are many opportunities for commanders to gain additional training every year. For 2004, there are lots of national training camps being offered. A detailed listing of locations can be found at http://royalrangers.ag.org/royal-rangers/camps_type.pdf. Below is just a highlight of those camps that will be close to Texas. For additional information about training, please contact Marty Reese at marty@royalrangers.net.



National Training Camp (NTC)

- September 2-5
 Eagle Rock, Missouri
- October 7-10
 - Chandler, Oklahoma
- October 21-24

San Antonio, Texas

Advanced National Training Camp (ANTC)

• April 29-May 2 Maypearl, Texas

National Training Trails (NTT)

- September 2-5 Eagle Rock, MO
- September 16-19 New Mexico

Ranger Kids Training Conference (RKTC)

- April 23-25, New Mexico
- July 23-25 Eagle Rock, MO

National Academy

• May 27-30 Eagle Rock, MO



WHY ATTEND A NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP?

Rick Dostal

So, you're a new Royal Rangers Commander and are taking the LTA modules. That's great! But you're asking yourself: "What's next?" Well, the next step is a National Training Camp or Ranger Kids Training Conference. I don't just say "NTC or RKTC" because of my involvement in the National Royal Rangers Ministries office—I say "NTC or RKTC" because I believe in it!

I have heard numerous testimonies and received many phone calls from men and women who had just completed their NTC or RKTC experience and they can't say enough about it. And after Tim Lyman, National Training Assistant, attended NTC, all I heard was, "NTC this," "NTC that" and "Senior Guide said." This was after he had already been working at the National office for quite some time and had already processed many Camp Commander notebooks, dozens of patrol packets, and hundreds of applications for all of the national camps. It has literally changed his outlook of "Why NTC?" I see a new passion, a sense of importance, and even urgency in each shipment that is sent from the national training office now. There is a

new desire to make sure each national camp is just right.

I remember after I returned home from NTC in 1980 how it made a direct impact on my outpost; the knowledge to use the Patrol System and the excitement in my ministry that the Senior Guide had instilled in me. Then, after I attended ANTC, the "advanced skills" we were taught were immediately put to use. The new information on Dutch oven cooking, Pageantry and so much more! When my parents and wife attended RKTC with me, we all came back ready to start a new Ranger Kids group, even though we already had one! What am I saying? You can't get enough training; you will use your newfound knowledge somewhere along your Royal Rangers career.

If you haven't been to any of the National Training Camps that are available, take that next step and pre-register for the next NTC, ANTC, NCE, NTT, WNTC, or RKTC that's coming soon. You may notice an increased ability to take the boys in your outpost to newer heights. Why attend a National Training Camp? Because it works!

SIT CAMP April 3

You may be asking: "What is a SIT Camp?" If you don't know, perhaps you've not been a part of Sarge Training Academy. SIT stands for Staff in Training, and it is what we use to get our staff together for Sarge Training Academy. We get together and go over changes in the camps, the schedule for the camp, the different job responsibilities for the camp, and many other things regarding our camp. If you've never been, come join us on April 3 and see where you can fit in. If you know someone who's been before, talk to them about their experience and why you should be involved this year. This camp depends on Commanders like you to make a difference in the lives of young men and boys. Come and join us on the first SIT to see where you can fit in.

Jeff Kersey, STA Asst. Program Coordinator, jeff@royalrangers.net

Academy of Ranger Training—February 2004

What is ART?

ART simply stands for Academy of Ranger Training. But there is nothing "simple" about ART. We strive to always provide and offer the latest upto-date and interesting training possible to all Commanders! To see proof of this, just notice what happened at our August 2003 ART.

What happened at the Last ART?

Module training was a great success at the August 2003 ART with people coming from North TX District, South TX District, and as far away as Oklahoma City to receive the latest top-notch training in the new Modules – like Expedition Rangers Activities, Safety and the Church, Ranger Kids Activities, Discovery and Adventure Rangers. While many attended the LTA Camp-Out, our Advanced training classes, like canoeing and the Challenge Course consisting of high ropes/low ropes, offered some great challenges to some other fun-loving adventurous Commanders.

What was "missing" at ART?

Due to extremely low pre-registration, our popular and famous Black Powder Shooters Card and Instructor Courses "bit-the-dust" and had to be canceled for the first time ever at the August 2003 ART. So, in the future, Commanders please do **NOT** wait around to see how many people have pre-registered before you mail in your pre-registration.

Want certain classes taught or scheduled at ART?

Just contact the ART Coordinator, Samuel Kellum at 972.296.6406 or longhorn@t-oe.com

How can I teach at ART?

You must be a current certified Instructor and chartered with the North Texas District Royal Rangers. So, contact the ART Coordinator, Samuel Kellum if you are interested.

What happens next?

February 2004 ART – that's what happens! See a list of classes to be offered at the next ART on the next page of this newsletter. Commanders, please mail all your pre-registrations to the North Texas District office by February 11, 2004! Get the ball rolling and make plans now to attend this upcoming ART. One BIG *Change* is most Modules will not be taught at ART. Contact your Sectional Commander or Certified Instructors to receive module training. While changes are inevitable, we plan to continually offer interesting and exciting Advanced training. Check out the North Texas District ART web-site to get the latest updates for classes and pre-registration.

Registration forms at be found at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under Forms. Look for "2004-02 ART Pre-Registration" form. If you do not have access to the web, please contact your sectional commander or the district office.

Commanders, may God bless each of you!

Samuel Kellum, longhorn@t-oe.com
Deputy District Commander & ART Coordinator

Pow Wow 2004

June 4-6, 2004

Did you enjoy Pow-Wow 2003? We've heard a lot of your comments since last year and are on our way to preparing 2004. Our theme for this 2004 is "Countdown," as we count down major religious events in the shaping of our country. Are you Ready for the final "Countdown?" Stay informed through the website and future mailings as this Pow-Wow comes together.

Commander Awards

If you were chartered from October 1, 2002—September 30, 2003 you may be eligible for Commander Awards. You can find all award forms at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under Forms. If you have questions, contact your sectional commander or the district royal rangers office at 817.589.0082. The national office changed the award forms last year so please make sure you have a current copy. If this is your first year for an award, please enclose \$15.00 with your application. Additional years are \$3.00.

ART Class Descriptions—February 2004

Advanced ART Classes

Council Fires & Pageantry

While this class offers new concepts to ALL SECTIONAL and AREA COMMANDERS to use, likewise, other Commanders can certainly benefit from learning new techniques for winning boys to Christ through having exciting Council Fire services. This class will be taught through Instruction, Demonstration, and Practical Application using new building techniques. Plus, Commanders will learn new ways of lighting fires and in Council Fire presentations. New never-before handout forms will be available to assist you in creating exciting and successful Council Fires from beginning to the end. Last, but not least, we will introduce the use of successful impressive Pageantry.

Wilderness Camping Merit

This class offers a great chance for ALL COMMANDERS to gain new insights in preparing boys to earn the GMA. Our teaching methods, which include *Instruction*, *Demonstration*, and *Practical Application*, will truly be a unique opportunity for Commanders to experience first-hand what it means to live off the land, to make and set-up traps, and to make individual survival shelters.

Low-Impact Camping

This class offers ALL COMMANDERS the latest techniques in "modern camping" using today's modern materials – tents, utensils, stoves, lanterns – in all types of weather conditions. Our teaching methods will demonstrate the proper use and care of all these materials with great emphasis given to conserving and preserving all our resources.

17th Century Proper Etiquette

This class offers ALL COMMANDERS a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn the task of proper etiquette with respect to protocol, speaking, dressing, dining/eating by demonstrating methods used from the 17th century to our modern times. Expect a 2-hour jam-packed fun class and leave with a sense of accomplishment.

Standard ART Modules

LTA Camp-out

This is a required Module to earn the LMA award. The other option are to attend Ranger Kids Skills module, National Training Camp (NTC) or Ranger Kids Training Conference (RKTC).

First-Aid and CPR

This Module is offered for ALL Commanders. It is required in order to achieve the LMA award, and available only to Commanders – <u>no boys</u>.

Black Powder Shooters Card

For many years this popular and famous class has offered to Commanders and boys (12 years of age or older) - who are F.C.F. members - the opportunity to earn the Black Powder Shooters Card for the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship.

All Registration forms, Award Forms, and applications can be found at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under Forms. If you do not have access to the web, please contact your sectional commander or the district office.

Convoy of Hope Held in Fort Worth

By Mark Oliver



The morning started off early. It was October 25 and it was still dark as the volunteers arrived at Christ Church A/G. Most of them were walking as if they

were still asleep. It had probably been years since most of them had been up so early on a Saturday morning. By 6:15 am, the busses were already lined up and ready to take the volunteers to Hillside Park in southeast Fort Worth. Hillside Park, an area plagued with drugs, prostitution, gang activities, and the homeless, had been selected as the site for the Convoy of Hope in Fort Worth.

God had already started answering prayers and



the day had barely started. Instead of the cool, rainy day that was expected, God had other plans. It was a clear, sunny, cool, beautiful day.

The volunteers started off by being dropped off two blocks from Hillside Park. This gave each person the opportunity to pray as they walked towards the park. Even at 7 am as the volunteers walked to the park, many other volunteers had already started working. There were many areas that had to be finalized before activities could begin at 9 am. Even at 7 am, you could already see a line that had started growing before 6 am. The neighborhood was excited and everyone was coming to participate. By the opening of the front gates at 9 am, the line of visitors was so long that the end could not be seen. It was going to be a very successful day.

The day was filled with many activities for everyone who attended. There were doctors, dentists,



chiropractors, family services, prayer teams, food services, kid activities, entertainments, and wonderful preaching services.

One of the biggest tasks was sacking all of the groceries that would be needed. This was the first chance that boys from Outpost 55 in South Forth Worth had to realize how important their jobs were going to be. As the boys and commanders made their constant rounds getting their bags of groceries filled, they began to realize other ways to get done quicker. Instead of carrying one bag, they started carrying two, then three, until they each had four. As they would pass each station, the food items were placed in their bags. By the end, there were many piles of groceries each over 6 feet high. Thousands of bags were piled and everyone from the neighborhood would receive free groceries as they left.

There were more volunteers working in the food service tent. They started cooking early preparing lots of food for the people who would be attending. Each person attending could receive a hot dog, chips, and drinks. And yes, these were available as early as 9 am. By the end of





the day, they had given away around 9,000 hot dogs.

The biggest attraction for the kids was Kids Zone. They would start off hearing the word of God from Pastor Buddy Calzada from Fort Worth Metro Ministries. He would have a game or two, and then end up letting them hear the Word of God. The children even had opportunities to win bicycles throughout the day. With over 35 bicycles, there were plenty to give away. After hearing the Word of God, each child was given free tickets so they could attend the many games and activities in the games area. There were bounce houses, face painting, football throws, paint walls, inflatable obstacle courses, box hockey, balloons, and many other activities to enjoy. The kids had a fantastic time and all left there smiling.

Many men and women took advantage of the free doctor services, dental services, hair cuts, feet washings, and make up assistance. There were some pretty tough looking men getting their feet washed but they appeared to be enjoying every minute of it.

The prayer tent was constantly busy. There were many volunteers just praying for people as they entered. As I looked over there a few times, you could see Royal Ranger boys praying with other kids. This was a powerful sight.



Throughout the day, even though the volunteers were getting exhausted and tired, the attitudes remained positive and it was a real learning experience for everyone.

The last area everyone would enter before receiving their free groceries was an area under the big tent. This would be time for some good singing, preaching, and many salvations. Even though we all live in different parts of the city, it became apparent that we serve the same God. Most of the people knew the songs that were sung and there were many Amen's as the pastor was giving the Word. For the most important reason of the day, every service gave the people attending the opportunity for salvation. There was not one service that went by without a good size group coming to the front of the tent for salvation. The volunteers were ready and blessed as they talked to each one of the individuals accepting Christ. Just some of the statistics for the day include:

141 churches and organizations volunteered 2362 volunteers 8687 guests visited 1456 responded to salvation Over 550 teeth were pulled



After a long and rewarding day, the Royal Rangers were completely exhausted. However, they were already asking when they could volunteer for the next Convoy of Hope. The last event that would teach the boys another lesson of life is when the bus drove them past a cardboard box / mattress area where people lived. Most of the boys had never seen anything like this before. They went home knowing that they were truly blessed.

I would like to challenge each Royal Rangers commander. If a Convoy of Hope comes close to your town, get your church, Royal Rangers, and Missionettes involved. This will be an event they will not soon forget. It truly changed the lives of every volunteer who participated.

For more information on Convoy of Hope, you can visit their website at http://www.convoyofhope.org/

Photos from the day can be found at http://www.christchurch-ag.org/photos/2003-1025/

Gold Medal of Achievement Association Information

The Gold Medal of Achievement Association is being formed as a fellowship of men and boys that have earned the Gold Medal of Achievement. The purpose of the GMAA is to promote the GMA throughout the district and to serve as a service organization within Royal Rangers. The members will serve as mentors to boys that show an active interest in earning their GMA. We believe that the GMAA is a necessary part of Royal Rangers because it finds an active use for those that have earned their GMA but are too young to serve as an outpost commander. Once a boy earns their GMA they are more likely to drop out of the Royal Rangers program because there is nothing left for them to accomplish. In the past the Royal Rangers ministry has done them a disservice by not having a way to plug the GMA recipients into active ministry. That is the goal of the GMAA. We are going to create ways to have GMA recipients to be involved in the Royal Rangers ministry and by keeping them involved we will be keeping the important wealth of knowledge they have as well as an important chapter of Royal Rangers history that is otherwise lost when GMA recipients leave the Royal Rangers program.

The GMAA will be present at all GMA ceremonies and if invited they can show up to be involved in the ceremony as a GMA escort or wherever the need arises to use the GMAA. If you are a GMA recipient and are interested in learning more about the GMAA contact Craig McCracken, the District GMAA Advisor, at kcmc84@ev1.net or David Trower, the District GMAA President, at JDTrower@royalrangers.net to learn how you can become involved in this very important association. The application to join is at http:// www.royalrangers.net/ntd/gmaa/ GMAAapplication.pdf. When you send in your application there is a fee of \$25. This fee includes your first year's dues. For more information on the GMAA visit our website online at www.royalrangers.net/ntd/gmaa. We look forward to welcoming you into the ranks of the GMA recipients and to see you become involved in the GMAA.

David Trower, District GMAA President, JDTrower@royalrangers.net

Brush Poppin' 2004

Greetings FCF'ers,

Are you ready to do some FCF stuff? Brush Poppin is nearly here and we have some very fun plans for you to brush up on your skills and maybe win a black powder rifle, both youngbuck and oldtimer!

Brush Poppin will be held at Ken Harris's property near Hillsboro on March 5-6. The cost will be \$15 each. The main theme of this camp will be shooting and there will be all kinds of different shooting events for you to participate in and earn points to win a rifle! The camp theme is "Prepare the Way," taken from Matthew 3:3. To prepare the way is to revive yourself both spiritually and physically. Friday night will start you out spiritually with a grand time of praise and worship with special guests to lead us.... Then starting Friday night after the brush

arbor meeting we will start with the physical with some shooting!

Also, at this year's Brush Poppin is our selection for the North Texas District FCF Scout and two assistant FCF scouts. Bring your FCF boys with you to camp and let's select the best boys to represent North Texas. The FCF Scout selection guidelines will help us select the best boys to represent us.

Get your shootin piece cleaned up and sighted in and don't miss the chance to compete for a new black powder rifle!! If you need directions to Ken's place just call me at 972-442-1325 or email me.

See you there!!

Gary "WildWind" Bierschwale Gary.bierschwale@verizon.net

FCF Frontier Adventure 2004

If you have green horns that have completed the Trail of the Grizzly and want to get into FCF, the time is near! The FCF Frontier Adventure will be April 23-24 at Lakeview camp near the lake. I will need to get FCF applications by Friday, April 9. Applications will not be accepted after this date, due to arrangements that need to be made based upon a head count. I have provided my address below which is where you should send the FCF applications.

When I get the applications, I will mail the applicant and his sponsor a letter detailing what is expected of them, what to bring, where to come, and what time to be there. It is important that each applicant be sponsored by another FCF member in order for the applicant to be tutored. Applications will not be accepted without a sponsor and his address and phone number listed on the form.

Sponsors, make sure your applicant is taught all the things that he will need to know in order to complete the Adventure. The fee for the applicant will be \$35 which should accompany the application. This fee should be paid by the sponsor. A short reflection will be done before the Adventure to make sure the applicants know the material they should have learned during their Trail of the Grizzly.

I look forward to seeing many new members in the Shawnee Chapter! So, study and be Ready for new Adventures!

Gary WildWind Bierschwale 5 Carey Lane Lucas, TX 75002 Gary.bierschwale@verizon.net 972-442-1325

Winter Camp 2003

Northeast Division



Deep in the woods of East Texas 45 boys and 27 men representing 7 churches met together for our Divisional Winter Camp. Excitement filled the air as Pastor Paul Ransbuger, who serves as Chaplain of the Coffield Unit and pastor of Lindale

Assembly of God brought the message. (Hey, he even had his Ranger uniform on)

Saturday morning brought adventures such as Nature Study and Wilderness Survival. Eight Rangers took on the challenge of Wilderness Survival. We were very impressed to see them begin to work together as a patrol. With 4 primitive shelters all facing each other and a fire in the middle they were in for a good nights sleep.

We were blessed again as Longview Metro church cooked two pigs underground. I have never tasted such a tasty pork roast. Although a few outposts had to leave on Saturday, the camp continued until Sunday. All the Rangers enjoyed a full course fellowship meal Saturday night and a special council fire with Commander Ken Johnson as the speaker.

A special thanks to all the outposts who participated. I know you were blessed.

Together we are Reaching Boys for Christ,

Jody Fauss, jfauss@lcii.net Divisional Commander

East Central Division

East Central Division had our Winter Camp at Maypearl. The weather was great. Just a few sprinkles early Saturday morning and a very comfortable temperature.

The games were all about different types of fighting methods. We had sumo wrestling, boxing, knife and hawk throw, sword fighting, archery, and bb guns. Everyone stayed and enjoyed the whole morning.

Thanks men for getting these games together and manning them. The sumo wrestlers, when getting ready and when they fell, the participants could not get up on their own, so Bill Brown had to lift each one. He sure got a workout. But the one I

really want to praise is Tom Harris. When he broke his neck we were wondering who we could get to take his place at the gun range. He insisted on coming to the campout and manning his game. He was hurting but didn't let on and we could not tell. This is dedication and what an example.

Friday night was great with The Masters Commission of Dallas in charge of the whole evening. They did a great job as evidenced by six boys giving their hearts to God for the first time.

Wayne Word, waynew@templeelectric.com East Central Divsional Commander

All Registration forms, Award Forms, and applications can be found at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under Forms. If you do not have access to the web, please contact your sectional commander or the district office.

Winter Camp 2003

North Division

It started out like a winter camp, light rain most of the day, a break just long enough for council fire and a really good rain Friday night while we were all tucked in and asleep. BUT SATURDAY was a beautiful day, with sunshine and a light wind.

We had plenty to do; I don't think anyone got bored – fishing – compass course – basketball – ping-pong – volleyball – paddle boats – canoes – knife & hawk throw – lashing merit – BB guns - The two fish I saw that were caught were a 15 lb and a 20 lb catfish. Considerably more that I expected, and I think the fishermen were somewhat surprised also. At the end of the day the boys purchased prizes with the beads they collected during the day at games and answering Bible questions. The prize of the day was a hand made sling shot made by Commander Cody Phillips from the Greenville Section. I am hoping Cody will take orders for sling shots, because I would sure like one.

Friday nights council fire was first class, the band Ezekiel from Trinity Lighthouse in Denison started things off with some good music, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit stepped right in. Clay Wallace

from Metro Ministries in Dallas was our speaker Friday night. Clay does know how to reach boys, and there were at least 10 boys that gave their heart to Jesus, and I was too occupied with them to see the number of rededication men and boys. Clay brought two of his young men with him: Vincent and Pedro. They spoke of their personal family situation and how Jesus pointed to the solutions in their lives. A really great time. Thanks Ezekiel and Clay. We went home with new or renewed "Weapons of War."

We did collect enough money to provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family associated with Metro Ministries.

If you had a good time, make some notes and get to thinking on next year. If you didn't have a good time tell me now and let's be sure it is fixed. If you missed this camp, mark your calendar. We do it every year about the same time, the second weekend in November.

Pat Reilly, reilly1@airmail.net North Division Commander

SARGE TRAINING ACADEMY

I had the honor last week of completing some bronze and silver medal applications. I was somewhat surprised to see the number of merits these boys completed in June and July each summer.

The reason they did it then is Sarge Sellers Training Academy. We spend a lot of time working with these boys, but the one on one time to "complete" a merit seems to slip away. Sarge Training Academy is an intensive training time for these Royal Rangers to complete their required merits or to get the "hard" parts of some of those merits finished.

This year Sarge is at the end of June. In addition to prayer, the other significant ingredient is you. The boys need commanders to teach them. After all the time and effort you put in at your own outpost to help those two or three boys that really

work, how would you like to have four to five classes a day filled with Royal Rangers eager to complete the merit you are teaching. Sounds good, doesn't it?

If you have been to Sarge, or sent a boy, you have an idea. This is a great time of the year to plan a week for the summer. Come and give your Royal Rangers the best and send several boys home with completed merits.

How do you sign up? Make a commitment—and contact Jeff Kersey, jeff@royalrangers.net or 817.249.7790, or you can even contact me (reilly1@airmail.net or 214.348.5010).

Pat Reilly, reilly1@airmail.net North Division Commander

The Harvest

by Randy Woods, District R.R. Missions Coordinator

Over the last several weeks and months, there have been more opportunities than ever before for Royal Rangers commanders to directly support home and foreign missionaries. A few months ago, a group from North Texas went to Nicaragua to help construct a children's refuge center. There are several similar events coming up in 2004 in the North Texas District and the South Central Region to support both home and foreign missions.

For those who are motivated this way, there are special medals available for an approved MAPS trips.

In Matthew Chapter 9, Jesus said the harvest is ready but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would send laborers into His fields. There are three ways a Royal Rangers commander can support the mission field:

First, Pray. Every commander should be praying for the home and foreign missionaries, their families and their work. This keeps them going when times get tough. Several missionaries who are friends of mine have told me how much the prayers mean to them. They say without those prayers they could not make each day. Remember their birthdays by sending cards or emails. This lets them know they are not forgotten.

Second, Go. You should be getting directly involved with missions by going on a missions trips, prayer task forces, construction, medical or evangelistic teams. I have been on at least seven trips to Central America. Going and personally seeing what the missionaries are doing will change you. Your biggest complaint will suddenly become a minor inconvenience by comparison. The pastors in theses countries

have very little. When someone from North America comes to pray for them, they are overwhelmed and greatly encouraged by our love.

Third, Send someone. This is where you provide the funds for others to go, whether it is a full time missionary, a missionary associate or a Royal Rangers commander. God has provided us with means to support others. We cannot out give God. Try it! My greatest increases financially came when I started giving more to missions. That should not be our motivation but it is a result.

We as commanders should be doing all three. Anyone of these does not exclude the others.

Here are some thoughts about missions if you are having doubts:

- 1) **You** are responsible for reaching the world for Jesus.
- 2) **You** must give out the message.
- 3) **You** are the remedy. If you don't pray, if you don't go, if you don't send, don't assume someone else will. It could be that you are the one that God has called for this time.
- 4) **You** cannot be replaced. God made you the way you are and placed you where you are for a purpose.
- 5) The **laborers are waiting** to go but need someone the hire (send) them.
- 6) **The Harvest is ready. Are You?** Can you stand before God and say I did all I could do to reach others?

Contact the North Texas District office or the Regional Coordinator for opportunities that are available in 2004.

Russian Royal Rangers in St. Petersburg Mark Broberg



Royal Rangers is opening 5 new outposts in the attempt to reach the children of Russia with the gospel. Please pray for the leadership training that will be going on this year.

Also that God would provide for Royal Rangers Missions Teams to come and help teach leadership skills in Russia.

If your outpost would like to correspond with Pastor Mark, you can email him at Mark.Broberg@admd.org. Let your boys become pen pals with Royal Rangers around the world.

Sarge Training Academy

by Jeff Kersey (jeff@royalrangers.net) STA Asst. Program Coordinator,

June 27 – July 2 is the date that the Lord above is preparing hearts and souls of young men and boys to have their lives altered by the experience of Sarge Training Academy. Sarge Training Academy (STA) is not just a place where boys come to have fun and learn new skills and merits, it is a place where the prepared hearts of those attending are met by the Holy Spirit and their spiritual needs are met by the Glorious Father.

The boys from all of the camps reported seeing the hand of the Lord at work last year, and we're looking for and expecting more of the same this year. Discovery Adventure Camp (DAC) is for Discovery Rangers that have completed the 3rd grade. It is a camp where a boy begins to learn the basics about camping and safety. Advanced Merits Camp (AMC) is a camp for boys who are working toward their Gold Medal of Achievement. The camp will offer over 40 merits for all age boys working on their advancement trail. Junior Training Camp (JTC) is for Adventure Rangers that have completed the 7th grade, and offers the opportunity for learning leadership skills through the patrol method and leadership challenges. Advanced Junior Training Camp (AJTC) offers those boys who have completed JTC an opportunity for advanced training and learning such things as soul winning and the 16 Fundamental Truths and many others. Junior

Training Trails (JTT) is a backpacking trip for those boys who have completed JTC. While on this trip the boys will work as a patrol and work on some advanced merits, all from the comfort of their backpack. Junior Canoe Expedition (JCE) is another option for those boys who have completed JTC. The boys will work as a patrol and canoe down a river while working on advanced merits. Last year was our first year for this camp and it was a great success. We are expecting a larger number this year. So register your boys early.

All of these camps offer fun and excitement, and offer a chance for every one in attendance to experience that something special that God has in store for them. And Sarge isn't just for the boys. There are many opportunities for commanders to assist in the camp. Camp Advisors, Cooks, and Instructors, are all needed to run this camp. The camp has grown to the point that 100 commanders are needed to staff this week. If you haven't committed already, please contact me so we can find the spot to plug you in. God has something in store for you, as you bless the boys that attend this camp, God will bless you. We had 226 boys attending last year and expect more this year. Please consider what the Lord has in store for you and your boys as Sarge draws near. There's a place for both of you at Sarge.

Steps to the Gold Medal of Achievement

So you have heard about the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) but you don't know anything about it and your leader doesn't seem to know much about it. Well, continue reading and you will know the basic information necessary to earn the GMA. The GMA is the highest award that a boy can earn in the Royal Rangers. This award is equivalent to the Eagle Scout that Boy Scouts earn. There have been only about 4,500 boys that have earned the GMA since the medal was created in the early 1960s. Many boys strive to earn the GMA but, sadly, they end up not making the mark. During the last several years the current National office has been working on ways to make the GMA more attainable whhile still keeping the pride and strength that a recipient places in the award. When a boy earns his GMA he wears the award with pride and always is associated with the group of Rangers that are the best of the best. The leadership skills that are learned and developed by GMA recipients stay with them throughout their lifetime making them strong and trustworthy citizens that lead this nation by example.

So why do more boys like you not achieve the GMA? For some, it is the fact that they lack the motivation because they don't know anything about how to go about completing the necessary requirements. So if that is the case let's discuss the steps necessary to earn the GMA.

The national Royal Rangers Office has done research and has noticed that when you take a goal and break it up into smaller parts it is easier to make progress and to finally achieve your main goal. They have incorporated this concept into the whole Royal Rangers Program. They have broken the steps to earn the GMA into three easily attainable goals. You now have the Bronze Medal of Achievement, the Silver Medal of Achievement, and the Gold Medal of Achievement. The requirements necessary to earn each step is based on the steps necessary to earn the previous award.

So, now that you know what it takes to earn the BMA, the SMA, and the GMA what can you do to go about earning the necessary merits and requirements to achieve the GMA? For starters you need to sit down with your commander and talk with him about your desire to earn the GMA. Once you have talked with your commander you need to start finding ways to earn the necessary merits. In the North Texas District one way to earn merits that you need or merits that would work for the merits of vour choice is to attend the Advanced Merits Camp at the Sarge Training Academy. There are also some sections that hold weekend events that teach merits for boys to earn. Take advantage of these opportunities and the opportunities that your commanders offer.

Bronze Medal of Achievement	Silver Medal of Achievement	Gold Medal of Achievement
Be an Adventure Ranger or Expedition Ranger	3 months as a Bronze medalist	3 months as a Silver medalist
3 hours of Christian Service	Additional 3 hours of Christian Service	Gold Medal Service Project
	3 months in leadership position	6 months total in leadership position
		500-word essay on "The Value of Royal Rangers"
		Be at least 12 years old and in the sixth grade
15 orange or brown Bible Merits or the gold Bible merit	30 orange or brown Bible merits or the gold Bible merit	Total of 24 brown Bible Merits and 24 orange Bible merits or gold Bible Merit
2 required red merits	Total of 3 required red merits	Total of 4 required red merits
4 required gold merits	Total of 8 required gold merits	Total of 12 required gold merits
2 additional merits of choice (red, green, gold, or silver merits)	Total of 5 additional merits of choice (red, green, gold, or silver merits)	Total of 8 additional merits of choice (red, green, gold, or silver merits

Gold Medal of Achievement Required Gold and Red Merits only Required gold merits. You must earn all four of these.			
Bachelor	Camping	First Aid—CPR	Physical Fitness
Elective gold merits. You must earn one from each row			
Advanced Swimming	Cycling	Hiking	
Environmental Science	Nature Study		
Citizenship	God and Life		
Communications	Public Speaking		
Christian Service	God and Church		
Camp Safety	Emergency Preparedness	Home Safety	Lifesaving
Christian Missions	International Service	Light for the Lost	
Bible	24 orange and 24 brown Bible merits		
Required red merits. You must earn all four of these.			
Cooking	Family Life or God and Family	Safety	Tool Craft

downloaded at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd under the Forms option. There you will find the applications for the BMA, SMA, and GMA. Good luck in your endeavors as you strive to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement.

David Trower, District GMAA President, JDTrower@royalrangers.net

Commander Camp Highlights—September 25-26, 2003 Northeast "Minute Men" Division

We had a wonderful, refreshing time at the Commander's Camp. Located in the beautiful piney woods of Tyler State Park, we enjoyed the fellowship of 11 men representing the Tyler and Longview Sections. We savored the flavor of pork chops, baked potatoes and mixed vegetables. Commander Shane Vestal, Sectional Commander for the Longview Section, demonstrated his seasoned skills of dutch oven cooking with his dump cake. The fellowship was awesome. There was a special presence of the Holy Spirit as we concluded the night with worship and communion. As for me, I enjoyed a wonderful nights sleep in the woods. Saturday brought new adventures as Commander Shane taught some basic skills of SCUBA diving. Three of the

commanders got "our feet wet....literally" with some SCUBA lessons. Not many men get the chance to hand feed a 6 pound large mouth bass with a hot dog, but we did. It was awesome. Thank you Commander Shane.

I believe this camp helped to build a bond between the Commanders of our division and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Blessings to all the Royal Rangers Commanders,

In His Service,

Jody Fauss, jfauss@lcii.net Northeast Divisional Commander

2004 Regional Conference January 30-31, 2004

You are invited to attend the 2004 South Central Regional Conference. This year's conference promises to be one of the best we have had yet. It will be held January 30-31, 2004 at the Omni Hotel in Richardson, Texas. Commanders from all over the region will be at the conference for outstanding fellowship, training, and spiritual renewal.

Make plans now to attend the conference, and to bring your pastor and the other commanders from your outpost. You will enjoy the ministry, fellowship, and training that you receive, and you will return to your church charged up for ministry to the boys in your outpost and community.

Location

Omni in Richardson TX 701 E. Campbell Rd Richardson, Tx 75081 Hotel Telephone: 972-231-9600 Reservations: 1-800-843-6664

- \$69 per room (1-4 per room)
- Cut-off date January 12, 2004
- Mention "Royal Rangers Conference" for the special rate

We encourage everyone to stay at the Omni during your time in Dallas. Each room booked at the Omni helps offset the cost of the meeting rooms that we use for the Friday and Saturday sessions. Those in the Royal Rangers block of rooms at the Omni will receive a gift of appreciation from the region during their stay.

This is undoubtedly the nicest hotel we have ever had for our Regional Conference, and we have an exceptionally low rate for rooms for our conference. The special rate will be honored before and after the conference if you want to come early and/or stay after the conference for shopping, sight seeing, or golfing (the hotel has their own golf course 5 minutes away with special rates for hotel guests).

Registration and Cost

- \$25 if pre-registered via the website by January 23, 2003, 11:59 pm cutoff
- \$28 if pre-registered by mail by January 21, 2003 (postmark deadline)
- \$30 for registrations at the conference
- GMA Staff Assistants boys who have earned their GMA and who are willing to assist us as GMA Staff Assistants are welcome to attend the conference as our guest (they need to register, but there is no fee for them)
- Registration fees may be paid by check money order, or credit card.

• If you have at least four paid registrations from the same church, your pastor can register for FREE for the conference.

Special Guests

• Randy Ruiz, an evangelist who was called into the ministry while attending a Royal Rangers camp where Fred Deaver was the speaker. Randy was the keynote speaker at the 2003 National Royal Rangers Council, and has spoken at numerous district and national camps and conferences, including the National Honor Bound



- Richard Hammar, the general legal counsel for the Assemblies of God since 1978, will be sharing with us on how to protect our kids and our ministries
- Marshall Bruner, coordinator of ministry development for the Children's Ministries Agency in Springfield, will be sharing with us on effective techniques for reaching beyond our church walls with the Royal Rangers ministry
- Vic Schober, North Texas District
 Superintendent, will be providing a welcome to
 "North Texas District"



Ladies Activities

If your wife is not involved in the Royal Rangers ministry, we encourage you to bring her along anyway. Everyone is welcome for the Friday evening service, and Saturday morning there will be a time for our wives to get acquainted and to have a devotion, and then transportation will be available to several sites around the hotel, including the Allen Outlet Mall and the Northpark Mall, or the light rail connection to the Dallas West End.

Friday schedule

Registration opens at noon Classes from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- Impressive Awards Ceremonies
- Expanding Your Ministry by Reaching Your Community
- Safety and the Church (LTA Module)
- IT Seminar (District Approval Required)
- Puppets and Royal Rangers

Evening service 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

• Randy Ruiz speaker

Saturday schedule

Registration 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. General session 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Classes from 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- Kids and Chemistry
- Changes to the Ranger of the Year program
- Weather Spotting for Royal Rangers
- How to Keep an Outpost ALIVE!
- Faith-Based Initiatives for Outreach
- The Value of Royal Rangers
- Involving Children in Missions
- Legal Concerns for Staff Members
- Legal Issues Every Commander Should Know
- Putting Sparkle & Excitement into the Ranger Kids Meeting
- Effective use of the Ranger Kids Leaders Guide & Activities Awards
- Royal Rangers Alumni
- District Leadership for the Royal Rangers Alumni
- Working with Boys with Disabilities (LTA Module)
- Frontier Camping Fellowship

For descriptions of classes, **online registration forms**, or a **registration form** you can print, visit the Regional website at http://www.royalrangers.net/scr

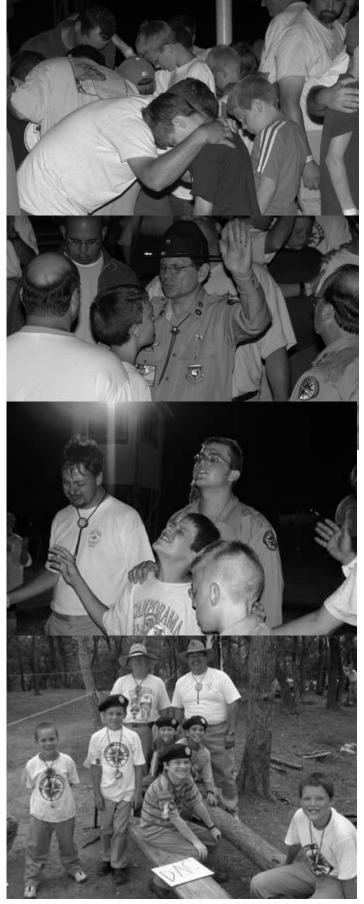
2003-04 Current Charter Statistics

How is your section doing? Is your church chartered?

Below you will see each section, the number of chartered churches, number of chartered boys and the number of chartered men. If you have questions about chartering, please contact the Royal Rangers district office on Mondays thru Wednesdays at 817.589.0082.

<u>Section</u>	Churches	Boys	Leaders	<u>Section</u>	Churches	Boys	Leaders
Abilene	2	27	9	Plano	2	25	6
Austin	5	37	18	San Angelo	4	32	11
Brazos Valley	4	44	22	South Dallas	13	203	93
Cross Timbers	3	26	12	South Fort Worth	5	101	33
Denton	5	89	25	Texarkana	2	16	10
Greenville	3	14	7	Trinity Valley	3	25	17
Longview	6	64	25	Tyler	4	38	18
Lufkin	0	0	0	Waco	12	120	48
Mid-Cities	6	102	28	Waxahachie	6	83	39
North Dallas	6	134	27	Wichita Falls	3	43	14
North Fort Worth	7	89	54				
				Totals	101	1312	516

A Look Back at 2003





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Wild Wind's Wood Shop Corner

Build a Portable Camp Table

Have you ever been camping and had to set things on the ground or eat settin in a chair... or even on an ice chest because there wasn't anywhere off the ground to set something? Well, I have... and it's a crying shame when a simple camp table is so easy and inexpensive to build. I have some very simple plans here to show you how to build a little table that can be used at camp or even at home. All it takes is one sheet of plywood, some glue, some screws, and a little paint.

Here's what you do to construct this little gem:

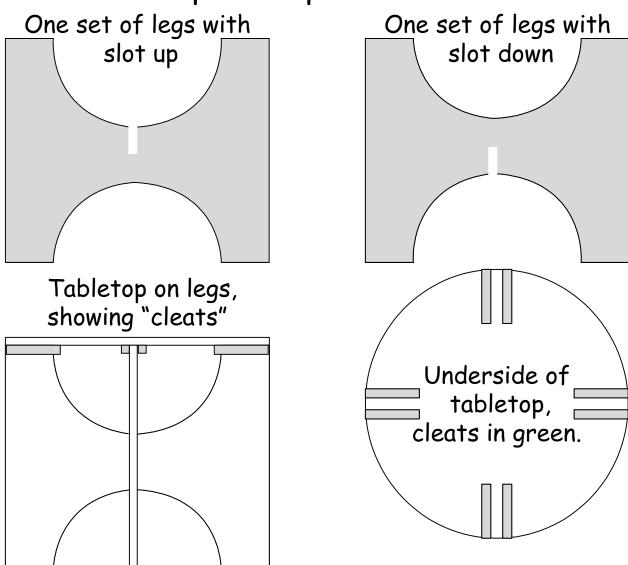
- 1) Draw the pieces directly on the plywood as large or as small as you want the table and with a square or round top.
- 2) Cut the pieces out with a saber saw and sand all edges to make them smooth. The cuts—you make on each set of legs to fit them together needs to be 1/8" larger than the thickness of the plywood you are using to allow for ease of assembly and disassembly.
- 3) Cut some cleats, as pictured, to keep the top in place on the legs. The cleats should be at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 6" long. You can use excess plywood or some 1"x2' lumber.
- 4) Now attach the cleats, as pictured, with wood workers glue and screws. Make sure you space each pair of cleats 1/8" larger than the thickness of plywood you are using to allow for ease of assembly and disassembly.
- 5) Now you can paint or seal your little table.

Now you will have a place to sit and eat your meal a little more comfortable. That's what camping is all about, enjoying God's created nature and doing it comfortably. Try making some of these little tables in your outpost and let me know what you think!

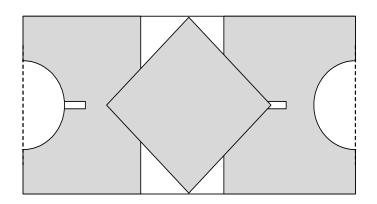
Till next time! Camp right and be wise!

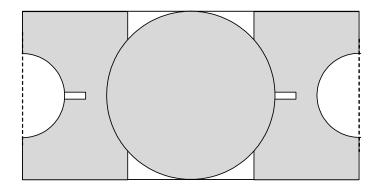
Wild Wind

Simple Camp Table Plans



Pattern for cutting a round or square top from a 4x8 sheet of plywood





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

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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, 2004. Please send your information to: Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglen Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or mark@royalrangers.net.

North Texas District Council Royal Rangers Ministry P.O. Box 1188 Hurst, TX 76053-1188 Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE

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