

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SIGNAL FIRE

July 2004



Inside This Edition

Page 3 . . . 2004/2005 District Calendar
Page 4 . . . Training Corner
Page 4 . . . FCF Update
Page 5 . . . Frontier Adventure Update
Page 6 . . . ART Classes / LTA Campout
Page 7 . . . Message from FCF President
Page 8 . . . FCF Family Days 2004

Page 9 . . . Texas Volunteers Campaign 2004
Page 10 . . . Pow Wow Prayer Vigil
Page 11 . . . FCF Election Results
Page 12 . . . A threat on the Edge
Page 13 . . . Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo
Page 14 . . . Remembering Peter Meier
Page 15 . . . Missionary Highlights

Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Boys for Christ in the North Texas District

Questions to the District Staff

Q Why are FCF dues so high? Since we no longer receive any mailings from the Shawnee Trail FCF, what is the money used for?

- A The FCF funds taken in from dues, camps, and fund raisers are used for many different things.
1. It pays for the FCF president to go to the National Council once a year,
 2. It helps to preplan FCF camps since we cannot get people to pre-register. This would take care of any prizes, food, or material needed.
 3. It helps prepay for other fundraisers like the annual quilt, t-shirt sales, ball cap sales, etc.
 4. These funds help pay for the gifts given out during the year.
 5. It helps pay for any ministry done in the district for other groups as meals, promotional activities, etc.
 6. It pays for FCF items like the cannon, FCF tent, upkeep on cannon, ammo trailer upkeep, etc.

Q At camps like Brush Poppin, why isn't there a "family rate" for the registration fee like there is at Family Days?

- A We give family rates at the Family Days because we promote the whole family to get involved and do not want the expense of the camp to be a reason for a family not to come. There are more people that come to the Family Days camp and therefore we can charge less and still break even with the expenses to run the camp. The Brush Poppin camp is for members only and therefore is a smaller camp. We have the same expenses on both camps but try to give better prizes at the Brush Poppin camp which is a greater expense. It is rather hard to break even on either camp due to the expenses of patches, insurance, food, special speaker, and material needed to run the camps.

Q At Brush Poppin, why can't we have individual competitions in outfits, fire building, hawk throwing, knife throwing, etc. so that boys (and men) who are getting started can try to excel in one or two areas initially? With the emphasis on a trace (or just competitions related to shooting) that excludes many of the members from a meaningful chance of competing.

- A We keep changing the activities at Brush Poppin to make it exciting and give you something new each time. Of all the different ways we have run this camp we have had the most favorable comments regarding the last camp where there was only shooting activities going on. This does not mean we will keep doing a shooting activities type camp though. Next Brush Poppin will be totally different and hopefully just as fun and exciting as the last one. We have found out that when we have too many competitions going on at any camp, we have low participation and problems trying to get people to run each competition.

Q Why is the Brush Poppin registration the same amount as Pow Wow? What does the Brush Poppin registration fee cover?

- A The Brush Poppin camp is an expensive camp to run since we have less participation than most camps. When your camps are smaller, your expenses are greater. Just like the larger camps, we still have to pay for patches (which cost more when you order fewer), special speaker, insurance, prizes, and material to run the camp. I think we are giving out wonderful prizes at Brush Poppin also... have you seen any black powder rifles given away at Pow Wow? If it were not for the generous giving of some folks, we would not break even on the Brush Poppin camp.

Are there questions you would like to get answered? If so, you can submit them to Mark Oliver at mark@royalrangers.net.

2004 District Calendar

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
	20	Regional Council for District Staffs
	21	Regional Ranger of the Year
December	11	FCF Family Banquet

2005 District Calendar

January	8	District Staff Meeting with all Sectional Staffs
	28-29	Regional Conference
February	18-19	Academy of Ranger Training
March	4-5	FCF Brush Poppin
April	2	Sarge Staff In Training (SIT)
	16	Commander Module Training & Awards Ceremony
May	14	Sarge Staff In Training (SIT)
	21	Pow Wow Work Day
June	3-5	District Pow Wow
	26-1	Sarge Training Academy
August	12-13	Academy of Ranger Training
September	9-10	Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS)
	24	District Ranger of the Year
October	28-30	FCF Family Days
November	18-19	District Winter Camp
December	10	FCF Banquet

Training Corner

Spanish translations of all required LMA modules will begin spring 2004. The goal is to phase them in over the next two years with the elective modules to be completed after that.

There will only be three new modules coming in April of 2005. They are Presentation Skills, Teaching Techniques and Classroom Management.

Instructors, please contact Teresa Arra at the District Office to get a course number for your modules that you will teach. Don't forget to give her the contact name and phone number as well as the location of the training.

If you have not turned in your points for your

CI renewal or you have not taught in the last two years then you will need to come to the ICS in September. It will be on Saturday the 11th and will start at 8am. The cost of the ICS is \$10.

CI notebook \$10

CI required modules CD \$5 (CI elective modules CD not available yet)

CI pins \$5

Thanks to all those that attended the District Module Training and to those instructors that taught us. About fifty people attended this one day training session and completed from 1 to 2 modules. Thanks again goes to First Assembly of Stephenville for hosting this training.

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.

FCF Updates

Greetings all you Flatlanders,

You should have been there... amongst all the rain and muck! Those greenhorns that earned their Frontiersman pin really earned it this time! I heard there was a great bunch of guys that were welcomed into the Shawnee Trail Chapter. Ol' Prospector will be givin ye the update on the results.

Be sure to mark the Family Days camp on your schedule for October 29-31 this year. It seems this camp just keeps getting better each year. Even if you don't have the duds or shelter to act the part... come on anyway. We have so many ways to treat you, your bound to like one of them! All those flatlander non-FCF members and their families are

welcome too. It will be a great family activity for the weekend and a time you can all do things together and create memories. We will be doin' all sorts of frontier activities and games. There will be shootin, hawk and knife throwin, bow and arrow shootin and maybe makin, and sangin and praisin the Lord! Friday night we will have a pie auction that will give you something to take to your lodge and share with other hungry sorts. As you can see, this is something you will want to make with your family. See you there!

If you have any questions regarding FCF, be sure to give me a holler. I love you guys!

Gary 'Wild Wind' Bierschwale

District Staff Changes

Recently, Commander Paul has made some changes to the district staff. The following men now serve the areas identified.

Brian Philpott - Deputy District Commanders

Dwain Klopfenstein—District Royal Rangers Alumni President (RRA) - be looking for more information in the future about RRA and what its all about.

FCF Frontier Adventure Highlights

The Adventure started on April 23. It was a cold stormy night. The challenges began right away. This was not going to be a give me a FCF pin Adventure, all would have to work and endure to earn the coveted FCF award pin. Not all would make it through the challenges set forth.



The candidates all had earned the needed merits: Rope Craft, Fire Craft, Cooking, Compass, Lashing, First Aid Skills, Camping and Tool Craft.

Candidates were required to know the plan of Salvation, the 4 red points, 4 gold points, and the 8 blue points. This back ground knowledge was essential to get through. A short review was given to the candidates as part of the Adventure. The review would not keep candidates from entering the great Adventure but for some the review would make the difference on earning their FCF pin or not. Another big factor was the wearing of the Royal Rangers uniform. Candidates needed to look sharp in their class “B” uniform before beginning the night of challenges. Their uniform brought some Rangers across the barrier of making or not making into FCF. I have heard that there is still one candidate out there



that has appealed to the president to view him in his uniform at Pow Wow. So remember future candidates the basics are as important as

anything else in the Adventure.

The Bourgeois met the candidates and led them to the FCF village to be greeted and welcomed by FCFers. We all joined into praise and worship led by the Harris brothers. Even the animals surrounding

the area joined in giving praise. The coyotes howled and we Ranger brothers worshiped the Lord.

Prospector gave his testimony and an altar call. Nine candidates were filled or refilled with the Holy Ghost. So if nothing else happened we had a successful Adventure at this point! Brother Pat felt the Lord was not through, so we feel there is still someone out there that did not come forward to receive what was there for him. It's not too late to come. The FCF family days theme is “Come” — Revelation 22:17 — And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hearth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. There is no time like the present to “Come” and be renewed in Spirit and strength.



After the council fire the Adventure truly began, but I Prospector will not go to deep in the rest of the Adventure for truly Pilgrim you must take part in one. It is no secret what goes on but to understand you must go through it.

I congratulate all candidates! It is not bad or anything wrong if you did not get into FCF on your first Adventure. I, Prospector, did not make FCF my first Phase 1. I am now Wilderness, seeking to help others become true servants of Christ. Please don't give up instead meet the challenge and be ready for the next Adventure.

It truly was an honor to be a part of this year's Adventure. I take my hat off for the great job of the duel Bourgeois, Art Sullivan and Dick Harris. I also thank all of the instructors; you have truly



touched lives and made this Adventure a success. Mining Men & Boys for Christ Lee “Prospector” Fogleman

New Exciting Workshop Classes Academy of Ranger Training (ART) August 13-14, 2004

Civility and Decent Behavior –

This class offers all commanders “Why Manners Matter!” Embrace this unique opportunity to learn what the Holy Scripture teaches about “honor, harmony, brotherly kindheartedness, and humility according to Romans 12:10, 1 Peter 2:17; 3:8, Luke 6:31, etcetera. Come and experience a once-in-a-lifetime exciting class crammed full of so much valuable information regarding proper etiquette with respect to protocol, speaking, dressing, dining/eating, etcetera by demonstrating various methods used from yesteryear to our modern times. Expect a 3-hour jam-packed fun class and leave with a sense of accomplishment.

Rifle Pinging – This class offers a self-paced rifle target shooting opportunity to all men commanders with an option to attend the **Archery** class as well. This will be a time for you men to just relax and have a fun time in shooting at multiple-distance type targets.

Archery – This class offers a fun-filled archery opportunity to all men commanders with an option to attend the **Rifle Pinging** class as well. This also will be a great time to hone-up your skills in this enjoyable sport. Entirely at your own risk, you are permitted to bring your own personal archery equipment.

Canoeing – This class is only offered

to the first 16 pre-registered men commanders! This exciting 6-hour event offers an intense opportunity relating to every aspect of canoeing with respect to safety, first-aid, survival techniques, and so much more.

High Ropes—Low Ropes – This class offers all men commanders a great opportunity to accomplish personal leadership team-building skills through completion of the low rope course. Then to obtain a higher level in personal achievements, take the high ropes course to reach even higher personal goals in life. The high ropes is definitely a personal adventure and “challenge” for each commander. To participate, visit the NTD Royal Rangers web-site under forms to obtain the **2004 Challenge Course Release Form**. Just, fill it out and submit it with your Pre-Registration.

If you have any questions, please email me at longhorn@t-oe.com

Sammy Kellum

Deputy District Commander

Leadership Training Academy Camp-out, August 13-14, 2004

This training module is an overnight camp-out that is required for those commanders working with the Discovery, Adventure and Expedition Rangers. This module will prepare commanders to take boys camping. For more information, please contact

Marty Reese at marty@royalrangers.net. The cost for this module is \$20. If you are a new commander, this camp will introduce you to the aspects of camping and things to think about when taking a group of boys camping.

Greetings from Your NTX FCF President

Dear NTD FCF members,

I am honored you have chosen me as your North Texas District (NTD) Frontiersman Camping Fellowship (FCF) president for the 2004-2006 term. Because many of you are new to the area and to FCF, I've been asked to share a little bit about myself.

My involvement with Royal Rangers began almost by accident in 1985. My family and I had just begun attending The Potter's House Assembly of God in Plano, Texas, when I was asked to help out with a boys' class on Wednesday evenings. The Royal Rangers program was just getting off the ground and the senior (and only) commander needed a backup while he went on vacation. He wound up not really coming back, having finalized a job transfer on his trip, and I got the position by default. God really did some mighty work at The Potter's House, and the little Royal Rangers program really began to grow.

I have always had an interest in history, particularly Early American history, and was excited to learn of a part of Royal Rangers that spoke to that pursuit. The Frontiersman Camping Fraternity (as it was called back then) seemed just the thing that would allow me to continue to grow in the Royal Ranger ministry while indulging my interest in history. Since 1988, the Lord has made FCF my ministry within Royal Rangers.

In 1989, I was honored to be asked by Sherman McDaniel to serve as the NTD FCF scribe. Later, I was elected as the FCF president and I served three terms. In 2000, I served as the FCF territorial representative for the South Central Region. I resigned from this position to concentrate on my local chapter, the Shawnee Trail. And, during the end of 2003, I was asked to fill in as the NTD FCF president due to the office being vacated early.

A lot of people have asked me what my FCF name 'Wild Wind' represents. In the NTD, when advancing to Buckskin, we have always

pushed to have our chosen FCF names, represent something we can tie into the Bible and that can be used as a testimony. I was given my name from a close missionary friend who I had known for years. He said he noticed that when I befriended people or came in contact with them, they always seemed to be different or changed in their attitude and outlook on life. He said I was much like that mighty wind in Acts 3:3 that blew through the upper room long ago and forever changed those gathered there..., My chosen FCF name has been Wild Wind ever since.

Art Sullivan, the newly elected FCF vice president, and I have some wonderful ideas about where we would like to see the Shawnee Trail chapter go. We will be presenting these ideas and asking your help as we blaze these trails together in the near future. We are very excited about leading the NTD FCF to new heights in the next two years!

Please remember to pray for former FCF staff members, because we will use their compass headings to chart our new direction. It is through their efforts and successes we enjoy our current status. Together we can make NTD FCF stronger and better by building on the foundation of past successes.

We look forward to blazing new trails with you in the future. If you ever want to contact me, you can reach me with the info below. I will be more than happy to talk to you anytime!

Again, thanks for your confidence in me as your elected NTD FCF president. I will not let you down!

Gary 'Wild Wind' Bierschwale
5 Carey Lane
Allen, Texas 75002
972-442-1325
gary.bierschwale@verizon.net

Greetings from Your NTX FCF Vice President

I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your FCF vice president for 2004-2006. I just want to share a little bit about myself for those of you who don't know me. I live in Red Oak, Texas and have attended Crossroads of Life AG (formerly Memorial AG) since I was one year old. I grew up through the Royal Rangers program in my church.

My wife, Deborah, and I were married in 1982 and began serving as youth ministry support staff. We served as youth staff members for 20 years. We have two sons, Adam and Andrew, who also went through the Royal Rangers program. Our oldest son, Adam, is a minister and in his second year at Metroplex Master's Commission.

I reentered the Royal Rangers program 12 years ago as a part-time helper (dad) for camp-outs. I joined Royal Rangers full time 2 years ago, and began serving on our outpost's Royal Rangers Council and as a Ranger Kid's commander.

The reason that I like the Royal Rangers ministry is its deep desire to win boys for Christ. Because, by winning them, we have the

opportunity to reach their whole family. I believe this is a critical age group that needs to be reached for Christ. They are the future of our country and of our world!

One of the reasons I joined FCF was to serve, and to serve, and to serve. But, the real reason I joined is because it gives us the opportunity to be the first ones down at the altar praying with the boys and leading them to the Lord. I also have a great interest in the time we portray and the firearms we shoot (black powder flintlocks). I'm also a certified NRA instructor. I love to see a boy's expression the very first time he gets to shoot a black powder firearm.

I'm anxious and ready to serve my outpost, my district, and you as your FCF vice president. You can contact me any time with questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions at:
Art Sullivan
311 Josey Lane
Red Oak, Texas 75154
blackpowderhunter@juno.com.

Your Servant,
Art Sullivan, FCF vice president

FCF Family Days 2004

One of the most important and enjoyable camps of the year, I believe, is the FCF Family Days Camp. It will be held October 29-31 this year.

This camp can be attended by all Rangers and their families regardless if you are in FCF or not. The entire camp is set in a pre-1840 atmosphere with activities and dress of the same period. It is wonderful fun for the entire family! There will be an area set aside for modern camping if you cannot afford a primitive lodge yet. There will be lots of prizes for all sorts of activities



and some really good music and fellowship. There will be a pie auction Friday night for a fund raiser.... so bring your best and let's see who can bring-in the most for their special desert! I will see you and your family there!!

Watch the news letter for more information on this camp in the next issue.

Well, that's about all the news I have for you right now. I hope to meet each of you and shake your hand at the next doin's!! Until then.....

Your servant,
Gary "WildWind" Bierschwale
Acts 2:2

Texas Volunteers Campaign 2004

The Texas Volunteers, headed by Mark Horner, had planned a very detailed attack to take the FCF Cannon held by the 1812 US Artillery Brigade for the 2004 Pow Wow. The Volunteers had obtained mortars, infantry, and pike men. It was a brilliant plan they had worked up and nearly pulled an impossible feat off! Let me tell you the story....

It was a hot, sunny, humid evening when the 1812 US Artillery Brigade was giving demonstrations to the civilian crowds that had gathered for an afternoon picnic. While the artillery commander was giving insight into the workings of the cannon crew, BAMMM, a mortar round hits near the cannon crew!

The commander mustered the cannon crew and immediately prepared the piece for battle! The cannon crew shot towards the Texas Volunteers gathering across the lagoon, but it was over their heads! The Volunteers returned fire from their mortars and hit within yards of the cannon crew! Then we started getting small arms fire from the Volunteer infantry which made the cannon crew a bit nervous.... Could it be that the 1812 US Artillery Brigade was finally outnumbered and out maneuvered? Things were looking bleak..

=The Cannon crew exchanged several volleys with the Volunteer troops across the lagoon when they had another surprise! A group of Volunteers had circled around to our right flank and burst out of the trees ... lead by none other than Mark Horner himself!

The cannon was wheeled around and loaded with



grape shot to meet Horner and his troops! After two canisters of grape shot were dispersed into the yelling and shooting Texas Volunteers on our right flank... we determined it was useless. We were outnumbered and out flanked. We raised our hats on our swords and asked for parley.

The Volunteers accepted and the two commanders met mid field. The cannon crew commander asked about

conditions of surrender. When commander Horner said we must surrender the cannon and be led off the field... something amazing happened! The civilians in the crowds took up arms and overwhelmed the opposing Texas Volunteers saying, "You are not taking our cannon anywhere, sir". With a last ditch effort, commander Horner rushed the cannon Commander with sword in hand.

The Texas Volunteers were a worthy opponent and I am sure we will meet again on the battle field soon. I am sure they will be stronger, bigger, and more wary next time. When this happens, I pray the 1812 US Artillery Brigade will be able to protect the FCF cannon.



So ended the 2004 military reenactment campaign. As the crowds thinned, you could still hear the echoes on the battle field of mortars hitting, cannon blasts, small arms popping, and the words from commander Horner sneaking through the smoke and dirt saying, "That wasn't in the script...."

Hope to see you at the next FCF Doin's!
Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale
Commander of the 1812 US Artillery Brigade
also the NTD FCF President



Pow Wow Prayer Vigil Results

I want to thank all who participated in the Pow Wow Prayer Vigil. I was please with the overall turnout for the Prayer Vigil. There were a few times it appeared that the times were not covered but this could be due to praying in other locations. The intent of the vigil is to have the entire camp bathed in prayer the entire time we are on the camp grounds. Be sure your time slot is covered.

We were able to get some of the prayer requests ahead of time to allow them to be specifically brought before God. Some were added during the Pow Wow. Next year be sure to present the requests at the camp if you would like a day and a half of prayer over them.

There were minimal injuries and/or illnesses again this year. It is because of your prayers for safety over the boys and the camp in general. We

want our health and safety officer to be bored!

I believe that the response to the altar call is a direct answer to your prayers for salvation and filling with the Holy Spirit. You will also be blessed for taking time out of a very busy schedule to pray for 55 minutes. It will have an eternal effect on the boys and on you.

It is my intent to rearrange the time slots at the next vigil in March 2005 and at the Pow Wow so some of you may not have get up at 3:00am but some others will. God will honor the effort and sacrifice of sleep. He will give you the strength to keep going.

Randy Woods
Deputy District Commander
RR Missions Coordinator

Pow Wow 2004

Wow, what a PowWow! We had fun with the Combat Team, the cars and motorcycles, the reenactment, and everything. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Combat Team so much, we might see them again in the future. But oh, the council fires. How God continues to pour out His Spirit on those who come willing to receive. Boys and commanders alike, praying in the altar and receiving. God is good... all the time. I hope that you learned something about the heritage and history of revivals that have shaped this great land that we live in. Our religious heritage should not be forgotten, and we should help our rangers understand how God has shaped this country and how we should work to



keep it His Land.

Plans are underway to make next year another big year, and to prepare ourselves to hear from God and see his hand at work. The theme next year "Each one, teach one" Proverbs 22:6.

Jeff "Skywatcher" Kersey
NTD Productions Coordinator

2004 FCF Election Results

The election for your new FCF president and vice president was held during the 2004 Pow Wow. We are happy to report there were no hanging chads or problems with the voting apparatus. It was a smooth and easy transaction.

The FCF staff that served for the last two years have done an excellent job and should be well commended. Lee "Prospector" Fogelman has served well as the vice president and planned many wonderful camps. His camp is always a big hit for all that come ready to do some serious tradin'. Mark "Brave Beaver" Woods has really done well as the historian (actually most credit should go to Carol Woods....). We have seen some beautiful pictures and great displays by the Woods. Terry "Sky Hawk" Gibbs has done an excellent job as the former scribe and has greatly improved how the records are kept. Allen "Tahlequah" Bennett has taken the Buckskin ceremonies up a notch or two as the Buckskin rep. Steve "Thundering Buffalo" and Chad "Two Tails" Hyatt have done a great job as the quarter master / supply officer. You can always count on them cookin up some great victuals! Daniel "Steady Mallet" Dillow has done well as the company clerk supporting the scribe and other staff positions. Daniel was instrumental in helping to develop new record keeping software.

Our district scouts will remain the same, as they are voted in two years at a time. The district scout is Caleb "Pinetree" Bennett, assistant scouts are Michael "Holy Foot" Avrit, and Kiah "Lightbearer" Bennett.

Since this was the end of the previous FCF staff term, all positions held are considered resigned. The new FCF president and vice president will be choosing new staff members in the next few weeks. Watch the FCF website for the coming staff appointments.

The new FCF president for the next 2 years will be Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale.

Gary has served in many local, sectional, district, and regional positions in the past including district FCF president and territorial representative.

The new FCF vice president for the next 2 years will be Art "S" Sullivan. Art has also served in many local and sectional positions in the past. He has been heading up the work team across the lake building the new hotel.



The new FCF scribe will be Mark "Brave Beaver" Woods (left). Mark has served in many local, sectional, and district positions including district FCF historian.



Please give these new FCF staff members your support and thanks as they attempt to move FCF to higher ground for you.

A Threat on the Edge

Randy Woods, Deputy District Commander

One of my life's goals is to be a threat to the kingdom of darkness. Those who participated in the Pow Wow 35 hour prayer vigil have also become a threat. You have contributed significantly to the saving of boys' souls.

Joshua states (Joshua 1:3, 5, 6, 9) that we might stand against evil but it is God who will do the fighting so none of His is lost. In Isaiah 54:17, it states that no weapon formed against us will prosper. We as Royal Rangers leaders stand on the cutting edge of evil. We are not only on the front line; we are the front line. We expect satanic attacks because we are preventing his evil empire from advancing. We also are taking back territory he once held.

The boys we reach may become evangelists, missionaries or leaders in the local church. Too often we lose boys. But worse, we often give boys away because we don't care, don't pray or don't fight hard enough for them.

During an altar service a few months ago, God was moving mightily. It was obvious that the Holy Spirit was in the place. God spoke to me during this worship time. He said "Where do I fit in at your Royal Rangers meetings?" Needless to say, that was a shock. I replied "We always have Bible Study, prayer time and devotions." He said "I know,

but where do I fit in?" It was then that I realized I had started letting the lesson teach the boys. I was getting complacent. I wasn't teaching the boys about God and what He expects. As a result, we now discuss the Bible Study and how it applies to our lives. I make sure the boys understand the lesson and what it means to them. I don't want to give boys away.

I encourage our Saturday night prayer group to be a threat to the kingdom of darkness. Make Satan tremble when we call out in God's name. Push back the envelope of evil and overtake it. Stay on the cutting edge of evil. As we attack Satan, we are prepared for a fight. That two-edged sword (the Bible) we wield is the separation point between your boys and the devil.

Continue to teach God's word to the boys and the power of prayer. Never surrender, never give up. Press forward at all costs. If God has called you as a commander, you have not been recalled. You have been placed on the front line for a purpose. God knows He can depend on you. You will not fail.

With God's help, as a continuous threat to the kingdom of darkness on the cutting edge of evil, you will change your world.



Russian ANTC

The South Central Region hosted the first ANTC in Russia from April 28th –May 4th. 30% of the Royal Rangers leaders of Russia came to this ANTC.

Some of them travel as far as 1500 kilometers (about 932 miles) to get to this training. The ages range from 19 to early 50's and there were 12 men and 12

women that attend this ANTC. They came with an eagerness to learn and to get hands-on experience.



Mark Broberg stated that Russia Royal Rangers started in the spring of 1997. Thank you to all that made this trip possible.

Can you here me now?
Ronnie Franklin on the satellite phone

Jim Eubanks and Marvin Lemke inspecting a patrol flag.



(photos by Marty Reese)

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo

October 2-3

Are you looking for a new event to take your outpost to? If so, why not consider taking them to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo this year.



Have fun in the outdoors, earn credit toward advancement and receive an exclusive patch for volunteer service. It all takes place at Expo! October 2 & 3, Texas Parks and Wildlife headquarters in Austin becomes the state's largest all-outdoor recreation festival offering youth of all ages a chance to learn about—and do—a wide range of outdoor activities. Catch a fish, shoot clay targets, learn how the Buffalo Soldiers survived in the Texas frontier, scale a climbing rock, get close and learn about wildlife, mountain bike or check out the latest in camping and outdoor gear. It's all at Expo and it's FREE.



Expo is open both days from 9 am to 5 pm. Limited on-site free parking is available, but for convenience, ride the free air conditioned shuttle. See the web site for full shuttle details. Come early and enjoy all fun the outdoors offers!

In return for volunteer service, Royal

Rangers group members can earn an Expo Patch. Register at the Entry Tent to get your volunteer assignment. Participants who work an hour receive a neat patch and help the Expo stay clean. For older participants, there are expanded volunteer opportunities. Participation must be arranged for in advance.

Youth under the age of 17 years old are eligible for the OUTDOORS KIDS CHALLENGE prize drawing that includes complete fishing, camping, or hunting packages. To qualify, each youth attends at least on activity in each of the major activity zones: Shooting Sports, Fishing & Aquatic, Wildlife, Little Critters' Corner, Law Enforcement, State Parks, and the Wet Zone. Participants receive an Activity Checklist to be checked-off in each major activity area. After completion, entry forms are dropped in the prize barrel of their choice. One drawing for each of the three packages is made each day. You don't have to be present to win.

For more specific information about the 2004 Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, activities and presentations, check out their website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo. For group information, contact Gerald Averill at 512.389.8010 or email Gerald.averill@tpwd.state.tx.us.



Remembering Peter Meier



On May 15, Peter Meier passed away at the age of 18 as the result of injuries from a traffic accident. He was finishing his freshman year at Texas A&M where he was a pre-veterinary major. He was a skilled trumpet player and fisherman who was a testimony to his faith. The family is creating a scholarship fund with the Wylie High School for students entering college with pre-veterinary as their major. Peter

received his GMA (#4790) in August 2003 while attending Sachse Assembly of God Outpost 182 where Commander Bierschwale was his Commander for many years. This event serves as a sharp reminder to us as Commanders to ensure our boys are first “Ready” in their salvation as Peter was. We truly never know what tomorrow holds for us on this earth.

Dick Harris
Sr. Commander Outpost 182

Peter Meier was one of the finest Royal Rangers I’ve ever had the privilege of working with. I was honored to be Peter Meier’s first Royal Ranger commander when he and his family moved to Texas from Minnesota. Peter was a very shy boy at first, but warmed up to you quickly. He became the top Ranger in Outpost 361 in Plano, Texas, both in skills and in advancements. I also had the honor of being one of his JBQ coaches, in which he also excelled. Peter was full of fire in everything he did and always became a top performer. Not long after my family and I moved to Sachse Assembly of God several years ago, Peter and his family visited, and soon after were attending regularly. Consequently, I became his commander again and was happy to have him in my new outpost, where he again excelled among a new group of young men. He was one of the sharpest Rangers I ever had the pleasure of training in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Master Ranger.

I remember taking Peter on a few FCF camps with me and my family. He loved camping and, although he never joined FCF, it surprised me when

he developed a fondness of throwing a tomahawk. He spent hours throwing hawks with my daughter, Stephanie, who taught him the proper way of throwing. Peter work hard to master whatever he set out to do. During one Family Days camp, Peter threw a hawk so long that he developed blisters on his hand, and even then, he kept on throwing. I gave him a tomahawk, which he threw often in his backyard.

He was a great help on camps, especially when I needed something done and done quickly. Peter was the sort of Ranger that makes every commander’s job worthwhile.

In May 2004, at the age of 18, Peter received the ultimate advancement of going to meet the Master Ranger. I look forward to the day Peter and I will camp again... in heaven. Maybe we will play a game of splits with our heavenly tomahawks.

I love you, Peter... keep the fire warm... until then, I will miss you.

Your commander,

Gary Bierschwale

Ranger of the Year

Commander Dwain Klopfenstein has just received the Ranger of the Year information from the National Office. He will be calling a meeting with all the sectional commanders and sectional Programs Coordinator very soon. There are several items to go over. He will be discussing the Ranger of the Year procedures and distribute the information needed for Sectional Ranger of the Year testing.

Sectional Commanders, stay tune and watch your mailbox for more information.

Hunt's Highlights

A/G Missionaries Service Latin America & Caribbean

Eugene and Carolyn Hunt were privileged in April to travel to Cuba and team-teach "Family Counseling" in the very first Latin America Theological Seminary (*Facultad*) classes in that lovely yet needy island nation. Twenty highly-capable and hardworking pastors, wives and church leaders gathered for this advanced educational module. The class's dual focus on preventative and enrichment helps, along with solid principles and "practice" counseling for problem issues in families proved to be exactly what the students wanted and needed. How do we know? TESTIMONIES

- "Thank you for the wonderful lessons that have changed my concept of marriage and enriched my personal life and ministry."
- "A student with over 800 house-church members in the Havana area (and a new building in construction with capacity of 1,000), says he is already applying the new principles within his

own family and church, and seeing results!"

- A young pastor of a large congregation in one of the long-term churches in Havana shared: "These new tools will truly help us better serve our families!"
- A medical doctor / pastor and his wife told us, "We praise God for these classes; He knew our needs...exactly!"
- A young pastor's wife / doctor from central Cuba: "The Lord has challenged & equipped me for new areas of ministry."

Thanks be to God for the impact of the *Facultad*-and most importantly that of the Holy Spirit-on students in Cuba!

If you are interested in supporting Eugene & Carolyn Hunt, you can find out more at www.hunt.forallnations.com, A/G World Missions Account: #2838845

YOU are the REAL "heroes"!

You, our prayer-partners and financial supporters, are the REAL HEROES! Even though you do not personally see the results of our partnership in ministry, you continue to make it possible for us to evangelize and disciple those in spiritual darkness. The light of salvation and joy of walking with Jesus Christ reaches over 200,000 men, women, boys and girls in Latin America through Royal Rangers,

Missionettes, and Latin America Theological Seminary. We are more happy to go and make whatever sacrifices necessary, but we could never do all we do without your help. May we take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU for your faithful prayers and financial support! YOU ARE VITAL PARTNERS!!!

Eugene Hunt

North Divisional Report

Denton, Greenville, North Dallas, and Plano Sections

The Royal Rangers in the North Division have had a great spring. There have been all kinds of activities available for boys and commanders to participate in. We had a great weekend at Brush Poppin out at Ken Harris's place – thanks Ken. It was an exciting shooting weekend. All we did was shoot, learn to make lead bullets, and tell stories, some true and some not. Most not.

Denton, North Dallas, and Plano had a combined Spring Roundup. Once again the High Adventure camp was in operation for the Adventure and Expedition Royal Rangers. They have begun, over the past 4 years, to establish separate camps for the boys. It seems to be more exciting to have different activities for different age groups.

North Division showed up in even larger numbers to support Sarge SIT camps to prepare for Sarge

Training Academy and for a workday to plan for Pow-Wow. There were a large number of boys and men at the FCF Frontier Adventure. What a wet weekend that was. Sometimes you almost feel sorry for the Tenderfoots, but the feeling quickly goes away. And a pleasant Commanders Training and Awards in Stephenville. It's always nice to visit inside where it is clean, dry, comfortable, and someone else cooks. There were several individual section activities including Ranger Kids Day Camps.

Thanks commanders for your hard work and congratulations on the success of numerous boys who have been brought to Jesus through your direct efforts and prayer. I would say we have a grasp on the charge to Reach-Teach-Keep boys for Christ.

Pat Reilly, North Division Commander

“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 August 21, 2004. Please send your information to mark@royalrangers.net.

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