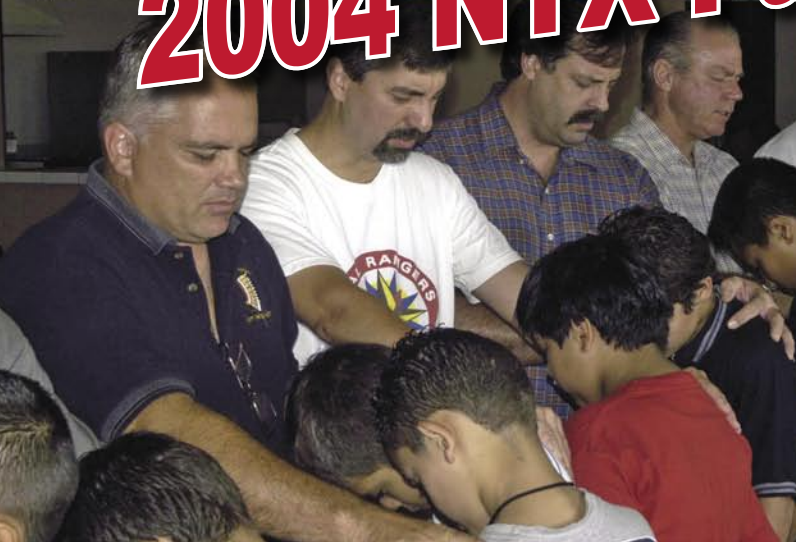


NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SIGNAL FIRE

October 2004



2004 NTX Pathfinder Trip



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

Interview with District Commander Paul Patterson

We had a conversation with Commander Patterson to get an update on the full time district commander project. At Pow Wow this year Commander Patterson unveiled a new fund raising program he was given by District Superintendent Vic Schober to raise the funds necessary for our district to support a full time district commander.

Signal Fire – Commander Patterson, can you give us a brief comment on our district funding a full-time Royal Rangers district commander?

Commander Patterson – Everyone in the district office with the exception of the three executive positions are self-supporting. This means that Royal Rangers, Youth, Men’s Ministry, Youth Alive, etc. all have to raise their own funds to cover their positions. So having to raise funds for a full-time commander is not unusual, it is just that most commanders are not aware that district employees generate their own funds.

Signal Fire – At Pow Wow you covered a “new” way to generate the funds needed. A system given to you by District Superintendent Vic Schober. Would you review that method with us? Lots of commanders may not have gotten all the information at Pow Wow.

Commander Patterson – Brother Schober suggested that since we have close to 100 outposts chartered, that if each outpost would take responsibility for raising \$1,000 a year for three years the work could be spread over a large number of people. He then suggested we give each outpost an envelope with five envelopes inside them. There would be three envelopes requesting a \$20 per month commitment and two requesting a \$10 per month. That comes to \$960 per outpost per year. Outposts were to make arrangements with contributors inside and outside their church to support a full-time district Royal Rangers commander.

Signal Fire – What have been the results so far and what of the funds raised in the past under the old

method?

Commander Patterson – Commitments to date are less than 10% of what is required. That’s kind of disappointing, but I am not certain we have effectively explained the reason for or method to obtain a full-time district commander. Funds pledged and collected previously are held in the district in a separate Royal Rangers commander supplement account.

Signal Fire – One of the reasons for this interview is to “get the word out.” The method to raise the funds seems simple enough. Each outpost gathers commitments from various contributors to total about \$80 per month, but where can we get the paperwork? And a completely new subject you bring up is the reasons for a full-time district commander.

Commander Patterson – Contribution commitment forms are in this issue of the Signal Fire (page 18), are available on our web site, or commanders can call their sectional commander and have forms sent to their outpost. Why full-time? Royal Rangers will only be successful if it is communicated to those inside and outside our organization. Whether it is me or some other person who serves as district commander the North Texas District Royal Rangers requires a person that can completely devote their time and energies to promoting our boys, commanders, and our organization. I have personally contributed over four weeks of work time to Royal Rangers this year and we are just to the end of August. There are numerous meetings, activities, and seminars where Royal Rangers should be represented and currently no one attends. The better our pastors, youth pastors, CE pastors, and church members understand us the more successful we will be. People outside Royal Rangers and our church are significant supporters of our ministry. The more visible our success is the more support we receive from Christians.

Signal Fire – It seems then that you could fill a full year with Royal Rangers requirements when you are allowed the time to do so. With only 10% of your

Interview with Paul Patterson (cont)

required funds available how can you keep us up to date of where you stand and what is next?

Commander Patterson – We are adding a funds measurement Royal Rangers emblem to the Signal Fire and to our website. It will be a black and white Royal Rangers emblem that fills in color as funds are committed. You can easily measure the success of an outpost by the boys. When boys bring their friends to outpost meetings you can be assured you are doing well. Our district is growing considerably. In order to continue with this growth and be prepared for its effects, we must be talking, visiting, and showing pastors and sectional presbyters who we are and what we are accomplishing. As we

continue and increase the training of commanders, senior commanders, area commanders, and section commanders our organization will strengthen from the bottom up. Our boys will be strong Christians and we will be able to properly accommodate many, many more boys.

For more information about supporting the North Texas District in getting a full time district commander, please contact Teresa at the district office Monday—Wednesday. She will be able to send you support forms in the mail.

New District Staff Member

I would like to start off by saying a BIG “Thank You” to Marty Reese. He has served as the North Texas District Training Coordinator for the past 5 years. He has done an excellent job with the training events in this district and will be missed. Even though Marty is stepping down as district training coordinator, you will still see him at events with his outpost.

It is also my pleasure to announce the new North Texas district training coordinator. Roger Stewart has accepted the responsibilities of this new position. Over the next few months, he will be getting up to speed with the national guidelines for training and will be ready to offer a lot more training in North Texas. If there are training classes you need taught in your area, please contact Roger at rstewart@itexas.net.



Roger is the senior commander for Outpost 373, and a member of the Southlake Assembly of God Church in Southlake Texas. He began his life in Royal Rangers in 1965 as a Pioneer in Outpost 178 at the Assembly of God Tabernacle in Gadsden, Alabama. He then moved to Texas, and joined Outpost 373 in 1990. He has taught all age groups of boys in the Royal Rangers. In 1992 he completed his Leadership Training Course (RED), and (BLUE) in 1993. He attended National Training Camp in 1995, and Advanced National Training Camp in 2001. He served on staff for both NTC and ANTC in 2001 through 2004. He served as first aid & safety officer for the North Texas District from 1994 through 2004. Commander Stewart has served as training coordinator

for the North Fort Worth section in 2001 through 2003. In 2003 he was appointed as divisional commander for the West Central Division. Commander Stewart works for the City of Grapevine Fire Department as a certified firefighter, fire inspector, fire investigator, fire service instructor, police officer, and emergency medical technician. Commander Stewart lives in Grapevine Texas, and has been married for 23 years to his wife Brenda, and they have one son Michael Stewart who is serving in the United States Navy as a Master at Arms Third Class (Military Police Officer) in Guam. Roger believes that Royal Rangers made a big difference in his life, and he wants to see that all boys have the same opportunity as he had to know the love of the Lord, and God’s will in our lives.

I am also in the process of interviewing commanders for the divisional commander openings we currently have open. They include the following divisions:

- North Division
- West Central Division
- South West Division
- South East Division

Please feel free to contact me if you need anything. I would like to receive feedback on what you think needs improved in the district, your section, etc. You can reach me at paul@royalrangers.net or the district office at 817.589.0082.

Paul Patterson, NTX District Commander

2004 District Calendar

October	3-9	National Royal Rangers Week
	19	Light for the Lost Banquets
	21-24	National Training Camp, San Antonio, TX
November	29-31	FCF Family Days
	12-13	District Winter Camps
	20	Regional Council for District Staffs
December	21	Regional Ranger of the Year
	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
July	14-16	Territorial Rendezvous
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
	19	Regional Ranger of the Year
December	10	FCF Banquet

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.

2004 FCF Family Days

October 29-31, 2004

Royal Rangers Lakeview Camp

Hey! Calling all Old Timers, Young Bucks, and all who are interested or even mildly curious about Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship! I'm so excited about Family Days and I hope you are, too! This year our theme will be "fellowship" (Acts 2:42 – 47). Our guest speaker is going to be Jeff "Angus the Bard" Hunter and I want to encourage all of you to invite and encourage new families to attend. We want to reach new boys and their families.

This year we will have active demonstrations from some of our tradesmen. The idea is to have a time each of us can demonstrate and teach our trade skills to some of these Young Bucks and our guests. We will also have a time we can trade or sell our wares.

Registration will be Friday, 12:00 noon till dusk. Make plans to arrive early to set up your camp area and visit as other folks arrive. Our first activity will start at dusk to give everyone time to get there and get set up. Camp cost will be: Old Timers - \$15, Young Bucks - \$10, non-members will be \$5, and there is a max family price of \$25.

There will be a special area set up close to the FCF camp for all modern campers. Remember, this camp is open to anyone who would like to attend. We want to encourage our boys who are not members to come out and bring their families and see what FCF is all about. There will be bathrooms and hot showers available to all. We will have one bath house for the ladies and girls to share, and one for the men and boys to share.

On Friday evening, after a word from our speaker, we will have a pie auction. This is an event that a lot of us really look forward to. Also, we auction any hand-made crafts or trade goods that anyone would like to donate. I would like to see everyone participate in this event, if possible. You can make the pie in your camp, or, you can bring it with you already made. Immediately following the auction we want you to invite someone you don't know to your camp and share your desserts and fellowship with them. This will give you an opportunity to share your dessert with someone else and get to know them, all at the same time! After all, fellowship is part of our name!

On Saturday there will be a number of events designed for everyone. There will be the demonstrations of our trades, games for all ages, a cannon shoot, a sword demonstration, and the Texas Regiment. Also, we will have a type of "William Tell" archery contest. Yes, you heard right. We are going to shoot at fruit! If anyone would like to volunteer their child for this competition, please let me know. Just kidding!!!!!!! The competition is open to children as well as adults. There will be prizes awarded for the winners in all categories of the contests. We will also have a hawk and knife throw competition, so brush up on your skills folks!

For the evening meal on Saturday, we will have a campfire cooking contest for categories of main dish and dessert. Please plan your dish(es) ahead of time so you can participate. After the judging, we will be sitting down to a pot-luck meal including the contest entries! You don't want to miss out on this time of fun and fellowship!

On Saturday evening, following the service, we will be having a buckskin ceremony which will be limited to only three candidates. To reserve a spot, contact Art Sullivan at blackpowderhunter@juno.com or (972) 617-7111 as soon as possible. Immediately following the ceremony, we will have "Stories from the Bard" by candlelight in the woods. This is a time of involvement for our children as well as adults.

Sunday morning at 10:00 we will have a church service. Following the service we will be having an awards ceremony for all our winners in the Saturday competitions.

I want to encourage everyone to take time and get to know someone you don't already know. Please invite someone new to share a meal or a time of fellowship with you and your family. We need to encourage and build each other up in the Lord!

Mark these dates on your calendar. Family Days just isn't the same without you! Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me.

Your servant,
Art Sullivan, FCF Vice President

FCF Family Days 2004

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 29th

Noon-Dusk Registration / Setup Your Camp
Dusk-? Service / Auction / Fellowship

Saturday, October 30th

Morning

Dawn—8 am Rise and Shine
8—9 am Breakfast in your camp
9-10 am Devotions at the pavilion and announcements
10—noon Archery contest / Hawk & Knife Throw

Afternoon

Noon—1 pm Lunch (invite someone new)
1-2 pm Trade Demonstrations—Group A
2-3 pm Games in the Center of the FCF Village (All Ages)
3-4 pm Trade Demonstrations—Group B
4-4:30 pm Cannon Demonstration
4:30-5 pm Texas Regiment / Sword Demonstration
5-6:30 pm Prepare your dishes for the Pot-Luck dinner and campfire cooking contest

Evening

6:30 Pot—Luck Dinner (meet someone new)
Dusk Service / Buckskin Ceremony / Stories with the Bard

Sunday, October 31

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIMES ENDS (set clocks back 1 hour)

9 am Breakfast
10:30 am Morning Worship Service / Children's Church
11:30 am Awards Ceremony / Final Thoughts

North Division Ranger of the Year Results



Congratulations to Jackson Watts and Heath Hines for their accomplishments for Ranger of the Year in the North Division.

Jackson Watts is a First Class Ranger Kid from the Greenville section. Jackson earned an outstanding rating on his sectional evaluation.

Heath Hines is a really fine Discovery Ranger from the Denton section. Heath is progressing on to the district Ranger of the Year evaluation after completing his sectional evaluation. Look out North Texas, he is sharp and ready to show everyone.

Divisional Winter Camps November 12-13, 2004

Theme: Arise and Shine

Verse: Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

This year's theme for Winter Camp is following up on the Pow Wow theme of "Countdown" where we were challenged to get up and be part of the moving revival spirit, now let us be challenged to arise and shine so the world may see Jesus in us. Check this newsletter for information on the Winter Camp in your division.

North Division Winter Camp

This year's Winter Camp is November 12 and 13. We will be camping at Tawakoni State Park. Take I-20 to the Wills Point exit #516. Go north on Hwy 47 to FM2475. Also, for those more to the north, Tawakoni State Park is 25 miles south and east of Quinlan, but directions from there are difficult to write. We will establish boundaries that intend keep boys away from the lake.

There will be an old time Pentecostal council fire on Friday night at 9PM. Saturday morning there will be classes or instruction in fire craft, tool craft, rope craft, first aid, etc. In the afternoon we will have section competition for the best in each category. Similar to the paddle boat races last year, each section pick their best teams to compete in fire craft, tool craft, etc. competition. You know, like the 2nd Annual North Division Royal Rangers Outdoor Olympics!

During the day boys will have an opportunity to earn beads. On Saturday afternoon the beads can

be redeemed for prizes at our auction. Each commander — yes that does mean you — each commander is to bring something to contribute for the afternoon auction.

The cost of the camp is \$15 per person. This covers your camp site Friday night and the per person park entrance fee. The park is locked at 10PM. If you will be coming later than 10PM, make arrangements to call someone to meet you at the gate and let you in. If your individual outpost chooses to stay over Saturday night you need to make your own arrangements for camp fee and park entrance fee for Saturday.

Pack your gear, gather all your boys, pick up some marshmallows and I'll see ya at camp Friday November 12.

Pat Reilly
North Division Commander

Divisional Winter Camp

For the following divisional Winter Camps, please contact the divisional commanders directly for additional information about your Winter Camps. The information was not available at the time this newsletter was printed.

For the Northwest Division (Abilene, Cross Timbers, and Wichita Falls sections), please contact Mike Peterson. He can be reached at mikeuel@niinet.net or by calling 940.549.2010.

For the West Central Division (Mid Cities, North Fort Worth, and South Fort Worth sections), please contact Roger Stewart. He can be reached at rstewart@itexas.net or by calling 817.421.0012.

For the East Central Division (South Dallas and Waxahachie sections), please contact Wayne Word. This division will have their Winter Camp at

Lakeview Camp. You can contact Wayne at waynew@templeelectric.com or by calling 972-564-4405.

For the Southwest Division (Austin, San Angelo, and Waco sections), please contact the district office. Currently, this division does not have a divisional commander appointed. You can contact Teresa at rangers@northtexas.org or by calling 817.589.0082.

For the Southeast division (Brazos Valley, Lufkin, and Trinity Valley sections), please contact James Kemp. He can be reached at 979-272-5017.

Plan now to take your outpost to one of the many different winter camps being held. You are free to go to any of the winter camps you select.



North East Division Winter Camp November 12-13, 2004



Dear Commanders and Royal Rangers,

Deep in the pine woods of East Texas, we have another exciting event awaiting your Royal Rangers. Our Northeast Division Winter Camp will be held at Kamp Kreekwood in Lindale on November 12-13. The theme of this camp is

“Fly Away”

All commanders are encouraged to bring your “Flight Suits” to the council fire.

We are planning more exciting activities for all age groups. Does anyone want to experience the P.O.W. Challenge? We will have Ranger challenges and some advanced merit classes for the Discovery and Adventure Rangers. Any boys who wish to earn the Wilderness Survival Merit should make plans for this exciting adventure.

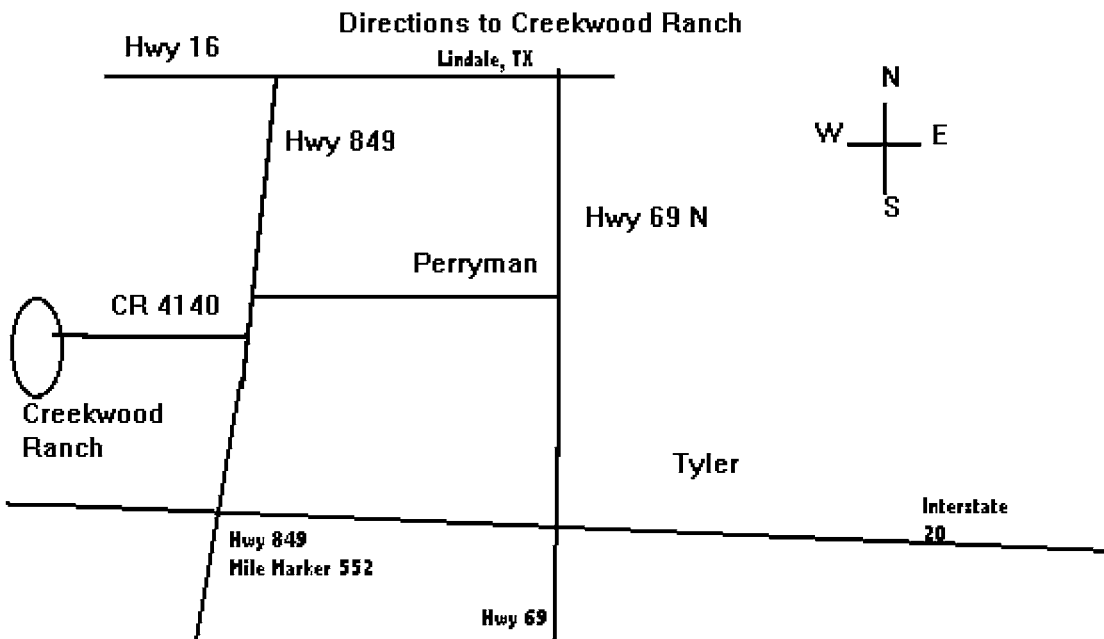
The cost of the camp is \$10.00 per person. (WOW, what a bargain) Winter camp begins at 5:00 or whenever you get there. Any outpost that would like to come early to set up would be welcome.

Continue to pray for the council fire service. We desire to see God do a mighty work in the lives of the boys. If your outpost has a song or skit for the council fire service, please let me know at upon arrival.

We are expecting great things to happen,

Jody Fauss

Northeast Divisional Commander



IF YOU' RE COMING ON I-20 LOOK FOR HWY 849 (Mile Marker 552) . Go North about 3 miles until you see the “World Commission Center” sign (CR 4140) on the left. Turn on CR 4140 and follow the signs to the campground. You can page me at 903-521-5636 if needed.

Are You Ready to be Fired?

When I was a boy, I used to make objects from modeling clay. I spent hours making gallant white (more likely gray) stallions, my favorite dog, the tallest giraffe or some other animal. Since I had little artistic talent, I especially liked to make snakes. They were always the easiest to make. Just roll the clay between my hands and I had a snake.

One of the best things about the modeling clay was when I was ready to do something else, I just rolled it all up in a ball. It would be ready for me the next time I want to make something.

Today, the kids use Play-Doh. I guess the old stuff was not healthy when we ate it. Now the grandkids make all kinds of objects. Some are really much more imaginative than my objects and some I can't quite identify. Still when they are done, they roll it up into a ball, put it in the container (so it won't dry out) and get ready for the next time.

We have a similar story in the Bible. It is the potter and the clay. It implies that if we are not just the way God wants us, He just rolls us up into a ball and starts over. We have been told for years this means to be pliable, flexible and easily molded.

But soft clay is of no use. Have you tried to carry water in an unfinished clay water jug or carry loaves of bread in an unfinished clay bowl? It doesn't work well does it? However, this story relates to a willingness within us to change to what God wants. To be useful soft clay must be finished or fired. A special coating may be applied for decoration or strength. Then, it is placed into a

furnace and baked.

Once complete, the item is ready to be used as planned: a dinner plate, a water jug or a mixing bowl. The item now has strength. It can hold up to weight, withstand pressure or carry a load. So what happened to the clay? It was put through the fire. We always ask God to protect us from trials but will we ever be "cured" if we have none? No one wants to go through trials. It can be uncomfortable, confusing or cause pain. But as long as we remain pliable clay, we have no strength. It is the trial that makes us strong and useful to God. He knows just the right amount of heat and time it takes to make you perfect.

The usefulness of the finished item has no comparison to its former form. The space shuttle is covered with millions of ceramic tiles that protect the space vehicle from the searing heat of reentry. How is the ceramic made to withstand the trial? It comes through the application of hours of heat in the manufacturing process.

Just know that God will not forget His creation. Be faithful. Once we go through the firing, we can be placed on the cutting edge of fighting evil, deflecting the attacks and heat of Satan against our boys.

Be willing to be fired!

Randy Woods
Deputy District Commander
Mission Coordinator

Chartering and E-Mail Lists

The first mailing of the charter applications have been mailed to all the A/G churches. Please see your church staff to get the new charter packet for 2004-2005. Make sure that you get all your paperwork and check or money order mailed in before November 1st in order to avoid the \$20.00 late fee. There will be a second mailing the first week in October just in case you did not receive your packet by then.

You can also find the chartering forms at <http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd> and select forms.

There are currently three mailing lists you can subscribe to in order to get information about Royal Rangers.

North Texas District—updates about events in North Texas.

North Texas District FCF members—updates about events for FCF members in North Texas.

South Central Region—updates about events in the South Central Region.

In order to subscribe to these lists, please review the instructions at http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd/misc/email_lists.htm

FCF Quilt Update

Dear FCF Family,

Every year at the FCF Christmas Banquet Faye Spence has provided a quilt top to be auctioned off for a fund raiser. This year we wanted to make the quilt a little different and we need your help to do it.

We would like you to send in a picture of yourself in FCF outfit. These can be either hard copies (which would be returned at Family Days) or computer file (preferred-it cannot be damaged or lost in the mail). It doesn't have to be a formal picture-maybe there is a picture on the FCF site from one of the events that you really like-we just need it to look period. Oh, and please, no copyrighted photos unless there is written permission from the copyright holder-usually the photographer or establishment they work for.

We would like these pictures as soon as possible; the goal is to have a lot of it done by Family Days at the end of October so everyone can see what it looks like and to sign the quilt.

Photographs can be sent to:

Happi Havel, 11 Starlight Dr., Hutchins, TX 75141 (Please use a box or photograph mailer and make sure it is clearly marked "Photographs-Do Not Bend!")

Computer files (PDF or any standard file format will do) can be sent to:
davidhavel@sbcglobal.net

Thank you in advance for helping us to make this quilt a success!

Happi Havel

2004-05 Ranger of the Year Information

The national office has released the study information for all boys for the 2004-05 Ranger of the Year. You can find this information at <http://royalrangers.ag.org/roty>. Please download the study

guides and applications so you can start preparing your boys for Ranger of the Year testing in the fall of 2005. The study material has changed from last year so please make sure you download new guides.

No Job Too Big; No Job Too Small!

I have been to Costa Rica and other Central American countries several times, usually with Prayer Task Force Teams. Last year, I went to Nicaragua with a construction team but the trip to Costa Rica in August was my first Pathfinder trip.

I appreciate our district commander putting this team together and planning the trip. Most do not have any idea of the difficulties involved in just the planning phase. I have planned PTFs but that is nothing compared to the Pathfinder planning.

As with any trip, communication is essential. There were a few details the missionary left out. But this is where the spirit of team work comes in. We could have easily decided that this job was too difficult or was not worth the extra effort, but the team quickly found ways to accomplish the tasks anyway.

Thanks to Paul's and Mark Chapman's leadership, this team was able to do 5 days work in 3 1/2 even though it rained every day except the last Sunday. The missionary had to find work for us to

do. No job was too small or beneath us. All worked toward the common goal. We allowed God to have His way which caused the efficiencies that were achieved. There were no serious injuries or illness even though we were in the jungle and the rain forest. Even the mosquitoes did not bite most of us.

Each day, one of us did a devotion that related to what we were doing - present or future results. God set His alarm clock for us also. The howler monkeys would awaken us around 5:00am. If they didn't wake us, the lightning and thunder did.

Only God knows how many will be brought into His kingdom because of our effort and those preceding and succeeding us.

Several similar opportunities will be available through the North Texas District or the South Central Region in 2005. Try to attend one of these. You will be the one changed.

Randy Woods
Deputy District Commander
NTD RR Mission Coordinator

North Texas Pathfinders to Costa Rica

To Give and To Serve

Pathfinders - the missions arm of FCF - are simply put - **THE BEST**. I know, I have received and worked full time with MAPS construction teams every month for 6 years. In August of 2004 the North Texas Pathfinders continued this excellent level of giving, serving, overcoming challenges of weather, job site conditions and quickly surpassed the original work goal which they came to accomplish at Camp Summit.

Camp Summit is in the jungle rain forest of Costa Rica. It is the 1st Royal Rangers campground missions outreach in a foreign country. Royal Rangers from all Latin America and Caribbean nations come here for training in Royal Rangers and Men's Ministry. Of course the Costa Rican Royal Rangers are able to take full advantage of Camp Summit.

North Texas Pathfinders completed 15 fixed tents for Royal Rangers men and boys to sleep in. The wet jungle climate (it rains an average of 13' a year) has created the need for permanent tent-sized buildings. In February, North Eastern Pathfinders did the block work on these fixed tents. These and many other buildings at Camp Summit are the fruit of many Pathfinder teams coming to Costa Rica over the last 8 years.

Recently Mike King, Pathfinders coordinator, visited Camp Summit and he commented on the work of the North Texas Pathfinders. "I'm very proud of the North Texas work, carrying on the true spirit of Royal Rangers. I

could see boys coming out of these tents and meeting in their patrol groups honing their Royal Rangers skills. Knowing all this fun and fellowship will lead to the nightly council fires where a multitude will open their hearts to Christ."

With complete gratitude and appreciation I give a huge thanks to Paul Patterson for his leadership of the North Texas Pathfinder team and for his spiritual guidance. The incredible construction work was blessed by Mark Chapman's ability to build jigs and set the work pace. Welding, cutting, grinding was accomplished by Gary Bierschwale, Travis Brann, Alan Gell, Dick Harris, Mark Oliver, Martin Smith, and Randy Woods. A special thanks to electrician Wayne Word. He helped in completing the Royal Rangers store and many other electrical needs.

In conclusion, in our US military the elite are: The Navy Seals, The Army's Green Beret and The Marines Reconnaissance. In the Assemblies of God and Royal Rangers it's **The Pathfinders**. Thanks men.

John Anthony
Camp Summit Missionary

Royal Rangers International

Royal Rangers International has just started up outposts in Iceland! RRI is advancing the Royal Rangers ministry throughout the world. There are nearly 1 billion boys in the world today. The boys we reach are the future male leaders in our churches.

RRI needs support from you and your local church. The goal is \$12,000 per month. Currently, \$335 monthly support has been raised. North Texas is lagging behind the other districts in the US in supporting this ministry. Let's show them what NTD can do. If you can help this worthy cause, please complete a pledge form and submit it to Springfield.

Name: Royal Rangers International
Account Number: 6054936 (40)

Missionaries must have signed pledge forms for their support before they are allowed to go to the field. If you don't have or can't get a pledge form, contact me. I will send you one.

Thanks for your support.

Randy Woods
NTD RR Missions Coordinator

Pathfinder Trip to Camp Summit, Costa Rica

“Bienvenidos” was the Costa Rican welcome seen and heard by our NTD Pathfinder team on a most unique Missions trip. This valiant team of ten Royal Rangers commanders – Gary Bierschwale, Travis Brann, Mark Chapman, Alan Gell, Dick Harris, Mark Oliver, Paul Patterson, Martin Smith, Randy Woods, and Wayne Word – completed the construction of 15 ‘fixed tents’ at Camp Summit, an 80-acre international training camp for Royal Rangers boys and men from all across Latin America. The campgrounds are located toward the central part of Costa Rica, surrounded by pineapple fields, mountains and at least one active volcano. The NTD Pathfinder team was assigned to the assembling and mounting of the steel roofs for the fixed tents. Each roof required over 50 pieces of steel to be cut, welded and screwed together, then welded into place on their concrete base. Other teams took four months to build 20 of these structures while the NTD team completed these 15 in only three days! In addition, they built 30 metal bed frames, 15 metal night stands, 8 window burglar bars, and other miscellaneous framing around the kitchen building which was used by the team as a temporary construction site.



While the NTD Pathfinder team worked hard, they played hard, too. They enjoyed a challenging day off of horseback riding, the infamous canopy runs, and white water rafting. And if you’re interested in a new song that was born out of the domino game of 42, just ask Dick or Gary to sing you one stanza of “The Rookie Woopin”...

The country of Costa Rica is as beautiful as it is enchanting. As the camp is surrounded by jungle and bordered on one side by river rapids, the vegetation and animal life make you feel like you

are right in the middle of ‘Jurassic Park’! Although we didn’t run into any Velociraptors, we did see



geckos, lizards, a green iguana, poison dart frogs, and several native birds

including toucans and vultures. It was not uncommon during work to see a flock of colorful parrots or parakeets fly by. The land is plentiful with pineapples, bananas, coffee and coconuts. Red and white orchids are common. Many trees have at least 4 or 5 other plants or vegetation growing in or on them, and 3” diameter bamboo is readily available. I don’t think anyone on the trip will ever forget waking up each morning to the almost eerie bellows of the howler monkeys. You could set your watch by their quite punctual 5 am sound-off.

What was most rewarding and the true purpose of the trip were the people. Costa Ricans without exception were found to be kind, friendly, and helpful. The NTD team worked with them, played with them, and even worshipped with them. In the two Sunday services the team attended, it was easy to see why the Holy Spirit was mightily present. The people, young and old, love the Lord with their whole heart. And God touched them as well as us in life-changing ways.

Many thanks to John Anthony for allowing us to come work under his direction and to Rudolpho and his family for washing our clothes and fixing us delicious food each day which included many native entrees like black beans and rice, purple potato salad, and that tasty desert *tres leches*. And thanks to the NTD Pathfinder team who made this trip a time well spent which I’ll never forget.

By Martin Smith

Pathfinder Trip to Camp Summit Photos

You can see a complete set of photos at

<http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd/photos/pathfinder/2004/2004.htm>



National FCF Rendezvous 2004

If you were not at the National Rendezvous this year you missed a great time of reenacting, fun, fellowship, competition, Horner heckling, trading, eating, praise and worship, eating, fun, eating, and eating! Yep, our cookie... ol' Brave Beaver cooked enough for our brigade and everyone around us... even

Bladesman. I can't complain though, as Brave Beaver is the best cook I know of.... next to the Mrs. of course.

The North Texas 1812 Cannon Crew was asked to man the national cannon at the rendezvous and we did you proud.... nearly

that is. We were a little short handed and had to ask for the help of one of those Texas Brigade guys. You know, the ones that tried to take the district cannon a few months ago. The one available was a character named Bladesman. Well, he was tickled pink to be on a winning team for once and jumped at the chance. We didn't have an 1812 artillery uniform so he wore a revolutionary uniform... he is easy to pick out in the pictures. We were in a pinch, so we were very glad ol' Bladesman was there to stand in the gap. We also called on our old standby, Chipmonk.

Well, we practiced our cute little twirls and about faces until we were some what presentable and waited for the call to battle. We were told to present the boom at 9:00 each morning and three times on Thursday. The crew worked very well together That is until ... that day.... when they were asked to sound off during the cannonier boogy. It appears the crew took it upon themselves to create a little excitement and broke out into a song and dance of "who let the dogs out, woof woof, woof woof". They gained their composure



quickly and the pop was sounded. It went down hill from there though... it appears they wanted to get more excitement flowing the next day and decided among themselves to give their own report after the cannon went off of "who's your daddy, who's your daddy, hoo, hoo" while doing a little jig.

The North Texas 1812 Cannon Crew (and stand in's) did an excellent job and again, created lots of excitement and photo ops for the national camp grounds!

North Texas entered the outfits contest and did pretty good. Some guy from Illinois won first place (which was well deserved), and our own Mark Horner and his Texas Brigade won a close second! The 1812 Cannon Crew bowed out to give the others a chance.... Just kidding! The two that won did an excellent job on their outfits!

We had a Seneca Run that combined running, flint and steel, running, setting traps, running, hawk and knife, running, shooting, and a lot of running in 100 degree weather. Did I mention that these teams had to run? The Plainsmen Territory took first place!

All in all, we had a good camp. The sad part is... you won't get the opportunity to attend again until 2008.

Take care and see you at the next doin's... which is Family Days in October!

Gary 'WildWind' Bierschwale
Shawnee Trail Chapter President



Belinda Kersey Update

I was asked to update everyone on the journey the Lord has taken us through the last three (!) years. As most (all?) of you know, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in Nov. 2001 and by February 2002 it was evident I had the rare kind that progresses rapidly. Through incredible friends and family such as the Royal Rangers, God has shown us His great love and awesome provision. After 2 years of frustration with setbacks, hospitalizations, and minimal progress through periodic therapy, we are starting to see the fruit of our hope and prayers. In January, God led me to a new therapy clinic just down the road from our home. I know God's hand was in it because I was told by an orthopedist that I needed therapy for arthritis in my knee-not for the ms. When he asked me where I wanted to go, I mentioned a large facility that I knew. He grimaced and that's when I remembered the new clinic. I asked him about them and he was much more enthusiastic. It is close enough that I have even been able to ride my power chair there and not worry about getting a ride. Wouldn't you know it-the owners/therapists are Christians and my therapist has a special interest in ms because her mother died from complications of ms!

The therapy and my twice weekly visits to the pool at the Y really improved my strength and stamina. However, in May, my insurance said I had reached my yearly therapy limit. I wasn't ready to stop and my therapists weren't ready to let me stop but

I couldn't afford the cost, so they offered me the opportunity to do a little clerical work in exchange for the therapy. Isn't God awesome!



I have continued therapy twice a week and pool workouts twice a week. I am now able to walk with loft-strand (forearm) crutches at therapy and also climb out of the pool using the stairs. They believe that before January, I will be using the crutches at home and to enter restaurants or on other short trips.

Over the last year, I have been able to participate in just about any activity I wanted. I have experienced none of the debilitating fatigue that I had in the beginning. My eyes have not bothered me in anyway as they originally did. I know God is healing me slowly but surely. Sometimes we assume that instant healing is the only way God works but He has shown through our journey that He uses many avenues to reach His goals. There have been times of great frustration but we have seen His hand in every step we have taken.

We absolutely would not be where we are without all of the prayer and practical help you have offered. We still need your prayers as God completes this miracle. God has been faithful to provide for our needs even though the medical and therapy bills have at times been overwhelming, we continue to need His intervention to provide in that area, I still experience some frustrating physical challenges and I still have a long way to go towards walking with confidence but oh how far He's brought me!



2005 Regional Conference

You are invited to attend the 2005 South Central Regional Conference. This year's conference promises to be one of the best we have had yet. It will be held January 28-29, 2005 at The Richardson Hotel in Richardson, Texas (same hotel as last year, just a new name). 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.

Conference Schedule.

Friday	10:00 a.m.	Registration opens in hotel foyer
	1:00 – 5:00	Afternoon class sessions (see application for class list)
	7:00 p.m.	Evening service in the hotel ballroom (everyone welcome)
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Registration opens
	8:00 – 9:15	General Session in hotel ballroom
	9:45 – 5:00	Class sessions (see next page)

Friday. We will again have classes Friday afternoon for those who want to attend. Each class will last from 1 to 5 p.m. The classes for this conference are listed on the application form. The evening service will be at 7:00 p.m. Friday night at the hotel; this service will feature a time of praise and worship, and the ministry in song and the preaching of the Word by our special speaker Randy Ruiz. This service is open to everyone. Come expecting an outpouring of the Holy Spirit during this anointed service.

Special Guests. Our special speakers for the conference include:

- 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 Conference and our regional conference in 2004
- Brian Hendrickson, national programs coordinator for Royal Rangers. Brian has been very instrumental in the development of the new curriculum for Royal Rangers, and he will be sharing in classes on the curriculum, and on the Ranger of the Year program
- Fred Deaver, National FCF President Emeritus. Fred will be sharing on Saturday morning during the general session, and again on Sunday morning during a brief Sunday service that will be held for those who

stay over an extra day. He will also have some of his artwork available for purchase in the exhibit area throughout the conference.

Hotel Information. The host hotel where all of the activities will be held is The Richardson Hotel, 701 E. Campbell Road (intersection of US 75 and Campbell Road) in Richardson, Texas. This was our host hotel last year, and is one of the nicest hotels we have had for our Regional Conference. We again have an exceptionally low rate for rooms for our conference. Rooms will be \$69 per night for 1-4 people per room. For a reservation, phone 1-866-593-6300 and be sure to mention "SCR Royal Rangers" for the special room rate. This rate will be honored before and after the conference if you want to come early and/or stay after the conference for shopping or sight seeing. Additional information about the hotel can be obtained from their web site at <http://www.therichardsonhotel.com/>

We encourage everyone to stay at The Richardson Hotel during your time in Dallas. Each room booked at the Hotel 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 Hotel will receive a gift of appreciation from the region during their stay.

Registration. The registration fee for the conference is \$35 at the door. There will be a \$2 discount per person if you pre-register by mail by January 19th. If you pre-register on the regional web site, there will be a \$5 per person discount, making the pre-registration fee \$30. Pre-registration fees may be paid by check or money order, or by credit card (credit card only if you register on the web). If you have at least four paid registrations from the same church, your pastor can register for FREE for the conference.

Boys who have earned their Gold Medal of Achievement and who are willing to help out at the conference as a GMA Staff Aid will have their registration fee waived.

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 presented by Angel Hendrickson. Following this, bus 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.

Additional Information. Additional information about the conference will be posted on the regional web site at scr.royalrangers.net

2005 South Central Region Royal Rangers Conference

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Evening Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Church You Attend: _____

District: _____ Outpost #: _____

May we Email your confirmation? Yes No May we add you to the SCR Email list? Yes No

**In order to have sufficient space for all sessions you must pre-select those sessions that you wish to attend.
To offer more sessions there is no scheduled lunch time, please schedule lunch as needed.
Mark the box for the sessions that you will BE attending**

Friday Class Sessions—January 28, 2005

1:00—5:00	<input type="checkbox"/> RK Leaders Guide and Sample Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> DR/AR Leaders Guides and Sample Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> IT Seminar District Approval Required (LTA)	<input type="checkbox"/> District Leadership Training Conference (LTA Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> DR/AR Activities (LTA Module)
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Saturday Class Sessions—January 29, 2005

8:00—9:15	General Session				
9:45—10:45	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeping up With Ranger of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Method (LTA Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> Setting Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpost Chaplain (LTA Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Influences on Our Kids
11:00—12:00	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeping up With Ranger of the Year		<input type="checkbox"/> How to Obtain Pastoral Involvement		<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Story Telling
12:15—1:15	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Influences on Our Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Management (LTA Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> Motivating Your Boys with Ranger Bucks	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety and the Church (LTA Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> Royal Rangers Alumni
1:30—2:30	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Use of the Ranger Kids Curriculum		<input type="checkbox"/> Setting Priorities		<input type="checkbox"/> Motivating Your Boys with Ranger Bucks
2:45—3:45	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Use of the DR/AR Curriculum		<input type="checkbox"/> How to Obtain Pastoral Involvement		<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Missions Opportunities
4:00—5:00	Reception for Marvin and Carol Lemke				

Ladies Activities: Will your wife be attending the Ladies Activities? Yes No

**Register before midnight, January 23, 2005 ONLINE with credit card at scr.royalrangers.net for only \$30.00
Registration fee: \$33.00 IF POSTMARKED No Later Than January 19, 2005
Registration at the conference will be \$35.00**

Check Number: _____ (Make checks payable to SCR Royal Rangers)

MasterCard Visa Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card (please print): _____

I Authorize SCR to charge my credit card: Yes Signature: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

SCR Royal Rangers
2005 Conference
726 E. Hwy 377
Granbury, Texas 76048
Voice—817-279-8100



District Ministry Pledge Form Royal Rangers



As the Lord enables, I promise to invest \$ _____ each month in the ministry of reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ, through the district Royal Rangers program and its commander, **Paul Patterson**.

Church Donor Information

Individual Donor Information

Church Name

Name

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Church to Receive Credit

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Make checks payable to NTDC, designated for Account 011-4606

Help keep this missionary in the field. Sign, date, and mail this pledge form today along with your first check. Thank You.

Mail to: North Texas District A/G Royal Rangers, P.O. Box 1188, Hurst, TX 76053

Attention: ALL FCF Members

I'm trying to get our database information and get everything up to date. Please fill out the information below and return it to me via "snail mail" (post office) or email.

Commanders: Please check with any FCF young bucks and old timers you have in your outpost. I need their information too. Please send me all the information from your outpost as soon as possible.

With the updated database we'll be much more efficient in getting information to everyone and have better participation in our events.

I can't stress strongly enough how much I need EVERYONE to participate. All entries received will go in a drawing for an extra-special prize, to be awarded at our Christmas party. (One drawing for Young Bucks and one drawing for Old Timers.)

By the way: If you have Trapper's Brigade points please turn them in by January 15, 2005. You can send them to the district office anytime. Cost of pins: \$7 (can be ordered from GPH) and the number pin is \$2

Name: _____ FCF Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

FCF Trade: _____

Circle one: Young Buck Old Timer Fulltime College Student

Circle one: Frontiersman Buckskin Wilderness

Your trusty Scribe trying to keep the records straight,

Mark "Brave Beaver" Woods
P.O. Box 2374 Terrell, TX 75160
972-524-7637
mwoods444@yahoo.com

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

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FCF Staff: Paul Patterson-Chairman, Gary Bierschwale-President; Art Sullivan-Vice President; Mark Woods-Scribe; *open*-Buckskin Rep; Lee Fogleman-Wilderness Rep; *open*-Trappers Brigade Rep; *open*-Historian; *open*-Pathfinder/Missions Rep; *open*-Quartermasters/Supply Officer; *open*-Company Clerk; Caleb Bennett-Scout; Michael Avrit-Asst. Scout, Kiah Bennett-Asst. Scout

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

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