

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SIGNAL FIRE

ntd.royalrangers.net

October 2005



First A/G Waco takes first place at district Pow Wow archway competition

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

From Our District Commander

Commanders,

This year sure has passed by quickly. It is hard to believe that we are looking into 2006! Commanders, it is time for us to step forward and take control of our cities and country. We have been the silent majority too long. It is time to get involved in our elections, locally and beyond. I hope each of you have registered to vote and are active in your local and county elections.

It is time we really get serious and bring God back into the picture in our country. We have let the minority viewpoint tell us what and how we can pray, also tell us how we can say our pledge to this great country. Commanders,

it's our job to raise up our boys in the fear and admonition of our Lord and Savior. Let's get involved and be the LOUD MAJORITY!

We have had a rough year with the storms and flood in the gulf states. We have also had some of the same problems on the reservation with Robert Jimenez [see article from Robert]. Let's see what we can do to help these outposts in our sister states rise above these obstacles. If your outpost would like to help, let me know.

In His service,
Paul Patterson, District Commander
paul@royalrangers.net

ATTENTION ALL SECTIONAL STAFF, FCF STAFF, DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS, DISTRICT AIDES

Mark your calendars now for the required staff meeting on January 7th. It will start 8 am at the lodge at Lakeview. Please send your 2006 calendars and staff listings to Mark Oliver before December 15th at mark@royalrangers.net.

Inside This Edition

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| Page 2 | From our District Commander | Page 11 | Look Commander, I Made a Cross |
| Page 3 | Fort Apache Indian Reservation | Page 12 | Mountain Christmas |
| | District Calendar | | North Division Ranger of the Year Results |
| Page 4 | Light for the Lost | Page 13 | India Royal Rangers |
| | First A/G, Waco | | Who Am I, Where Am I |
| Page 5 | Family Days 2005 | Page 14 | Sarge Needs You |
| | Carol's Chuck Wagon | Page 15 | Academy of Ranger Training |
| Page 6 | New Buckskin Members | Page 16 | Civility and Decent Behavior |
| | Frontier Adventure Update | Page 17 | Black Powders Shooters Class |
| Page 7 | Frontier Adventure Photos | | South Central Regional Conference |
| Page 8 | The Good Commander | Page 18-19 | Health and Safety |
| Page 9 | North & West Central Winter Camp | | |
| Page 10 | Divisional Winter Camps | | |

Fort Apache Indian Reservation Toys and Stockings for our Children

Your help is needed to acquire Christmas toys or stockings for the children of White River Assembly of God on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. We continue to suffer from flooding, drugs, alcohol, political unrest and 70% unemployment.

Anything you or your church can do will be greatly appreciated

Please let us know if you can help.

Plan to ship toys and stockings so they will arrive before December 13.

Pastor Robert Jimenez
701 N. Chief Avenue
P.O. Box 597
White River, AZ 85941

wrag@sitlink.net

2005 District Royal Rangers Calendar

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| October | 13-16 28-30 | National Training Camp (NTC) in Oklahoma FCF Family Days |
| November | 18-19 19 | District Winter Camp Regional Ranger of the Year (Christ Church A/G, Fort Worth) |
| December | 10 | FCF Banquet |

2006 District Royal Rangers Calendar

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| January | 7 27-28 | District Staff Meeting with all Sectional Staffs Regional Conference, Houston, TX |
| February | 17-18 | Academy of Ranger Training |
| March | 3-4 | FCF Brush Poppin 24 Hour Prayer Vigil |
| April | 1 21-22 | Sarge Staff In Training (SIT) Commander Conference & Awards Ceremony |
| May | 6 20 | Sarge Staff In Training (SIT) Pow Wow Work Day |
| June | 2-4 25-30 | District Pow Wow Sarge Training Academy |
| July | 17-21 | National Camporama |
| August | 18-19 | FCF Frontier Adventure |
| September | 8-9 23 | Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS) District Ranger of the Year |
| October | 27-29 | FCF Family Days |
| November | 17-18 | District Winter Camp |
| December | 9 | FCF Banquet |

Light for the Lost

By Randy Woods, Deputy District Commander

Light for the Lost (LFTL) was founded as a men's ministry of the Assemblies of God to provide funds to home and foreign missionaries for evangelism literature, such as Bibles, tracts and gospel correspondence courses.

Each year the North Texas District provides a date for LFTL banquets by section. The meal for the banquet typically provides a salad, meat, vegetables and dessert.

The councilmen dues and other funds raised cover administrative expenses which permit 100% of literature funds pledged at the banquets to go directly to providing the literature to the missionaries around the world.

During the banquet, each church represented will be given the opportunity to place faith promises for a variety of missionary needs such as the providing of Fire Bibles, paying for postage, mission projects, needs in nearly every country of the world and many more opportunities.

There are three types of posters available: foreign literature posters, postage posters and home literature posters. You have the opportunity to choose which poster to select as your church goal. You may request others if the project or dollar

amount you want is not available.

The 2005 date for the LFTL banquet in North Texas is October 18. The time and place for each will be available at a later date. You will want to check with your pastor or sectional commander on the exact location closer to the actual date since the location is different for each section.

How do you become a councilman? If you are a commander, at the banquet you will have the opportunity to complete an application to become a councilman. The dues are only \$15.00 per month. That is only about \$0.50 per day. If you are a Royal Ranger, the dues are \$15.00 per year. That is about \$0.04 per day. That is a very inexpensive way to save someone's soul.

If you are already a councilman, you can earn "advancements" by enrolling new councilmen. The LFTL councilman pins may be worn on your Royal Rangers uniform or as a lapel pin on the blazers.

I encourage each of you to participate in the LFTL banquet, the pledges and becoming a councilman. This will allow you to support missions in a new and exciting way.

First A/G Waco takes first place for district archway competition

The Waco Section is proud to have the first place winning archway in the district archway competition held at the 2005 District Pow Wow at the Lakeview Camp. First Assembly of God—Waco, Outpost 1, took home the honor of having the best archway at the District Pow Wow.

had a great time in putting their archway together, and they took great pride in it, especially after they won first place with the archway.



Their archway was made out of bamboo and wood that had been lashed together. They did a phenomenal job in planning, organizing, and creating their archway. The boys



Family Days 2005

By Gary 'Wild Wind' Bierschwale, FCF President

Greetings all you skinkers and skinkettes!
Put October 28-30 on your calendar and make plans to be at the best Family Days yet at Lakeview Camp in Maypearl!

Friday night we will start out with our traditional get-together and dessert auction. We always have awesome pies and other goodies, along with a little pickin' and grinin'.

This year, we're having a fashion show of clothing for men and women that accurately portrays some of the historical eras we all represent, complete with accoutrements and accessories. We may be contacting a few of you who have exceptional outfits to request your participation and let you know how you can help. Some of the ladies clothing that will be shown will be available for auction later in the evening. We know you won't want to miss this fun and enlightening event!

Get your gear together for the family trace on Saturday morning! The trace will be especially for you and your family to walk through and attempt to make points for prizes!



You will need the stuff you would normally go on a trace with... including a shootin' iron.

We'll be having old-time fun and games for the whole family on Saturday afternoon along with fellowship, member demonstrations, and lots of trading, selling, and buying.

Saturday evening we will all come together for the pot-luck meal, praising the Lord with music and singing, and hear a message from our speaker.

Sunday we will have Sunday service, pack-up, and leave.

The cost for this wonderful weekend of family fun and bonding is \$15 for Old-timer's, \$10 for Young-bucks, or \$25 for the whole family. If you are not an FCF member and would like to come anyway, you are more than welcome! The cost for visitors is \$5 each or \$25 for the whole family.

The news has gotten out and I hear there will be FCF visitors from all over our Territory!! There will be a wagon train from Kansas, Oklahoma, and South Texas coming to the North Texas Family Days. So, you better get there early to get a good spot! Don't forget to pray for JC and the Spence family! Hope to see you at the doin's!!!

Carol's "Country Cook'n" Chuck Wagon

At Family Days 2005

New to Family Days: Carol's Chuck Wagon. Have you ever wanted to walk up to someone's fire, stick your plate out and walk away with some great food? Now's your chance! We'll be offering breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast only on Sunday for a reasonable price. Breakfast vittles will be: potato, eggs & sausage tacos, muffins and fruit. Lunch will be grilled marinated chicken breasts with all the fixin's or beans, rice & cornbread.

This first time around we're keeping it simple: Buy your meal token earlier in the day, show up with your plate & tanker when you

hear the dinner bell, then you and your guests mosey on back to your camp and enjoy your vittles!

We need to know if you are interested in this new service. Will you please contact Brave Beaver with your comments? We'll mail out more details (prices, etc.) the first part of October.

Be blessed!

Mark "Brave Beaver" & Carol Woods
Mwoods444@yahoo.com or 214-773-7776 cell

New Buckskin Members

By Dan Syrcle, District Buckskin Representative

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce the 3 newest members to achieve the rank of Buckskin in FCF.



Chris "Yarn Spinner" Trower



Dale "Tent Maker" Haywood

Please not only welcome but congratulate these fine gentlemen if you see them around camp. Art has decided that his frontier trade is that of a "tinker" or a person who does a little bit of everything. Dale is using his skills in sewing to do all manner of canvas goods from tents to haversacks. Chris has selected rug making as a trade. I look forward to seeing his rugs on many lodge floors in the future.



Art "Flintlock" Sullivan

Frontier Adventure 2005 Update

The Frontier Adventure has come and gone, and once again we had a great class for 2005.

The Adventure challenged our candidates in FCF skills. Most dug deep, persevered, and hit the mark in the end. I am proud to welcome the FCF Adventure Class of 2005!

Old Timers: Brian House
Jeffery Ortner, Jr
Jimmy Sill
Kris Walker

Young Bucks: Josiah Coburn
Dylon Conner
Harlan Dixon
Ethan Groce
Jonathon King
Nathan Maxwell
Andrew Mc Connell
Zachary Nelon
Spencer Phinney
Taylor Sill
Jonathan Stewart

Jonathan Tompkins
Matthew Tompkins
Zachariah Villarreal

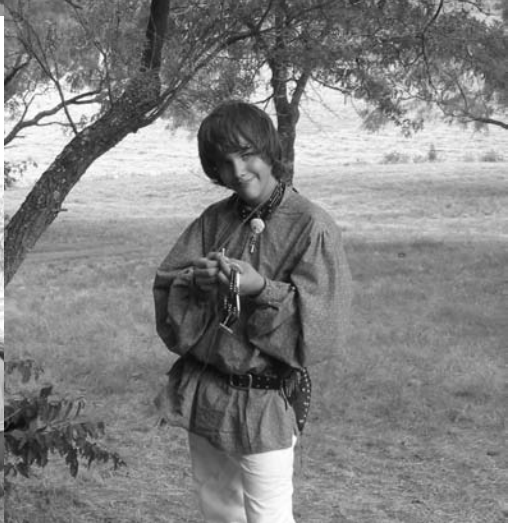
I am proud to call them my FCF brothers, and they are welcome to share my fire anytime.

I want to encourage their sponsors to continue to be their mentors and help them to be the best they can be for the Lord. We want to make the Shawnee Trail Chapter the very best chapter in the country... and it starts, and must continue, with sponsorship. I look forward to seeing all of you at Family Days.

God Bless,

Art "Flintlock" Sullivan
FCF Vice President

Frontier Adventure 2005 Photos



The Good Commander

By Randy Woods, Deputy District Commander

II Timothy 1:3-4 describes how a person becomes a good soldier for the military. But these principles may be applied to you as a Royal Rangers commander as well. We both are in a battle: one for the government; the other for the souls of boys.

It states we must endure the hardness required of a good soldier. If you have served in the military, you have been given strict training that could save your life or that of another. As a Royal Rangers commander, you have received or have available training that will train you to reach a boy's soul. Everyone wants to aspire to be a leader but we must learn to follow our leader, Jesus Christ. We must be willing to do His command without question or hesitation.

Soldiers learn to trust their leader by learning about him and getting to know him. So must we as Royal Rangers leaders. Not only do we need to know about Jesus but we must spend time with Him and know Him personally. We must feel His love and compassion and react as He commands.

Soldiers do not join for a day or a week. It is a commitment for years or a lifetime. When we are called as a commander, there is no retirement date in our agreement. We are called for a lifetime commitment of service to God.

Not only do soldiers hold loyalty to their leader, they must know the enemy. Ephesians 6:12

says we fight not against flesh and blood but principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and against spiritual wickedness. We must know our enemy well: where he is, the strengths and weaknesses. The enemy is well organized and very strong. We must know his battle tactics and plans he has used for they will be repeated. We, alone, are no match against the Kingdom of Darkness.

Our enemy is a master of deceit. The enemy may dress as we do on Sunday or a Royal Rangers event but change uniforms when we are not around. It takes more than a uniform to fight him.

God has called us to not only defend but to attack the strongholds of Satan. That is not popular in our politically correct world today. It does not fit in with tolerance that we are taught by society.

We attack on command, inflict as much damage as possible and rescue the captives from Hell's path. We must never desert but must finish the race we have been given. Deserters are court marshaled.

Continue being a threat to the Kingdom of Darkness and stay on the cutting edge of evil. You will take a few hits but with the Holy Spirit of God and the training of a Royal Rangers commander, we can only win.

GMA Application Reminder

By Kevin Sluder, GMAA Coordinator

Commanders:

The following are just a few reminders when sending in Gold Medal of Achievement applications:

- A. Be sure the GMA application is the current one; check the National RR website at <http://royalrangers.ag.org> to make sure you have the latest application. (Select Applications and Forms from their menu)
- B. Be sure all 8 merits of choice are either gold, green or silver merits. No other colored merits (such as blue merits) will be accepted for these.
- C. Be sure to include the GMA Christian

Service Project Workbook [found on pp. 15-19 in the Adventure Rangers Workbook] correctly filled out with "before the project" and "after the project" pictures attached.

According to District Commander Paul Patterson, "The new applications for GMA have to be filled out correctly (signatures and all), or they will be sent back to you!" He also stated that all signatures need to be on the applications, other than the district commander's signature, before you send them to the district office.

North and West Central Divisional Winter Camps

(North Fort Worth, Mid-Cities, South Fort Worth, Denton, Greenville, North Dallas, Plano sections)

You and your team are missionaries. But how do you get started? How do you get to your country? What do you do when you get there? Find out as you and your teammates compete in our WINTER CAMP called MISSIONS POSSIBLE!. This year games will be based on a MISSIONS theme. You and 3-7 of your friends will form teams to compete in an amazing set of challenges, set against the challenges you might face as a missions team heading into a strange land.

The competition will be in three phases: Getting Your Country, Getting to Your Country, and Setting Up Your Missionary Church. All those completing the course will receive a Special MISSIONS SPECIALIST Patch in addition to the camp patch. (See Below) There are three ways to win, too! Most Evangelized, Fastest Team, and Most Money Left at the End.

Maybe you will have to traverse a dangerous rope bridge into the jungle, plot a course to your new country, get arrested by the secret police, or find ways to get money to travel to your new land. Whatever, the challenge, you and your team are bound to have a blast.

The tentative camp schedule is as follows:

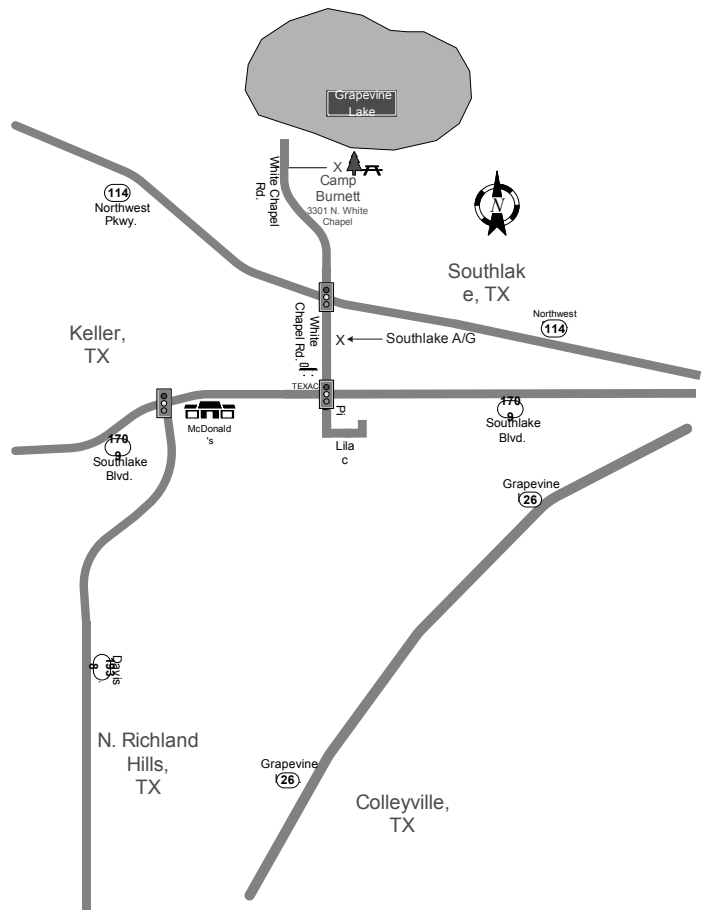
| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Friday, November 18 th | |
| 4:00 – 9:00 PM | Arrive, dinner, set-up campsites |
| 9:00 – 10:30 PM | Council Fire |
| 11:30 PM | LIGHTS OUT |
| Saturday, November 19 th | |
| 6 AM | Good Morning, Sunshine! |
| 7 – 9 AM | Breakfast, Clean-up |
| 9 – 10 AM | Morning Assembly, Devotions |
| 10 – 11 AM | GAMES: PHASE I (Getting Your Country) |
| 11AM – 12 PM | GAMES: PHASE II (Getting <u>TO</u> Your Country) |



| | |
|----------------|---|
| 12 PM — 1 PM | Lunch (At your outpost) |
| 1 PM — 2 PM | GAMES: FINAL PHASE-SETTING UP YOUR CHURCH |
| 2 PM — 3:30 PM | Break down campsites |
| 3:30 PM — 4 PM | Awards Ceremonies and Closing |
| 4 PM | Go Home! |

Packets will be mailed in September, but start planning to attend now! For additional information, contact: Martin Smith (m-smith2@ti.com) or Rick Beebe (irarescue@yahoo.com)

COST: \$10.00
LOCATION: CAMP BURNETT
3301 N. White Chapel Road
(see map)



East Central Divisional Winter Camp

(South Dallas, Waxahachie sections)

East Central Division Winter Camp will be held at Lakeview Camp November 18-19.

Registration will begin at 6:00 PM Friday, with an evening council fire service, going through Saturday 4:00 PM. The cost will be \$10.00.

This will be a laid back camp with a few activities Saturday afternoon. We have an idea of a pot luck lunch Saturday noon.

Each outpost would provide a dish or dishes sufficient to feed their group. We would put these together and have one big lunch with lots of choices. These will be prepared Saturday morning with a panel of judges to decide the best tasting and most original.

For more information, please contact Wayne Word at waynew@templeelectric.com

Southwest and Southeast Division Winter Camps

For those of you in the Southwest or Southeast division, you will need to contact your divisional commander to find out the details of your divisional winter camps. All winter camps will be held on November 18-19, 2005. At the time of publication, these divisions had not had their plans, locations, etc. finalized so they will follow up with your sectional commanders soon.

Southwest Division - (Austin, San Angelo and Waco Section) - Please contact Mark Chapman at 325.388.6545 or chapman@tstar.net.

Southeast Division - (Brazos Valley, Lufkin, and Trinity Valley Sections) - Please contact James Kemp at 979.272.5017 or kempkitkat@wmconnect.com.



Northeast Divisional Winter Camp

(Longview, Texarkana, Tyler sections)

Dear Commanders and Royal Rangers,

We have another exciting event awaiting your Royal Rangers. Our Northeast Division Winter Camp will be held at Kamp Kreekwood in Lindale on November 18-19.

We are planning more exciting activities such as a Frisbee golf course, archery and Ranger challenges like the Air Force pilot rescue and the P.O.W. rescue. The outpost that successfully completes the challenges will receive a good looking trophy.

Back by popular demand, "the old southwest cowboy drama" will be a feature at

the Friday night council fire. This drama features a US Christian Marshall who is on a search for the notorious outlaw named Bad Bart Johnson. Come and find out what happens to Bad Bart Johnson.

Continue to pray for the council fire service. We desire to see God do a mighty work in the lives of the boys.

We are expecting great things to happen,

Jody Fauss
Northeast Divisional Commander



Look, Commander, I made a Cross!

By Jody Fauss

The room was filled with excitement as the Royal Rangers came together once again at the weekly meeting on August 24, 2005. Senior Commander, Jim Brady and the other commanders opened the meeting with prayer and announcements and then began to work on the lashing merit. Eagerly, the boys learned the skills and begin to lash the sticks together. The commanders helped when needed. A Ranger Kid named Christopher Lichty exclaims, "Look, Commander, I made a Cross" As the boys left the meeting that night, no one could have imagined that the next time they would see Ranger Kid Christopher would be at the hospital. Two days later, Christopher was involved in an auto accident that took his life.

A few days later, I received a phone call from the Longview Sectional Commander Shane Vestal asking for all available commanders to attend the funeral. At the request of the family, the commanders served as Honorary Pallbearers. Two rows of seats were filled with commanders in uniform. The pastor honored the commanders and made reference to the Royal Ranger ministry in his message.

We were told that Christopher had placed his trust in Jesus for salvation and we know that he is with the One who died on the cross. We never know when the weekly meeting will be the last one a boy

attends. May God give us a greater anointing to make every meeting count . I am so thankful for all the commanders who have answered the call to reach, teach and keep boys for Christ.

Under His Command,

Jody Fauss
Northeast Divisional Commander

In Memory of Christopher Lichty



What Kind of Difference Can I Make? An Eternal One

By Kevin Sluder

Recently a few fellow commanders and myself got reminded of just how important the role of a Royal Rangers Commander is when we attended the funeral of a 5 year old Royal Ranger. This young boy loved Royal Rangers, so the family had asked for as many commanders to attend as possible. About 11 commanders or so were able to attend.

I was told after the funeral that the whole "atmosphere" of the funeral changed when all the commanders walked into the sanctuary in a single file in our uniforms.

To those who think 4 or 5 is too young to get saved, think again! This young boy had gotten saved

at four and one-half years of age after asking a relative some eternal questions.

I myself got saved between the ages of 4-6 years old!

So the next time you are feeling discouraged after a Royal Rangers meeting or something, remember **why** you are a **Royal Rangers Commander** and then keep **Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping boys for Christ!**

Mountain Christmas

By Dan Syrcle

With a crisp chill in the air, the smell of fresh cut pine, snow on the ground crunching underfoot, the weary trapper heads for his lodge. Another season of trapping, another lonely night in the mountains for this hibernant, 'Is it worth it?' he thinks to himself. So far from friends and family, alone in the hills, no one to keep him company but his old mule, his trusty rifle and piles of pelts ready to be shipped to the rendezvous.

As he rounds the last corner headed to his lonely camp, a curious noise drifts across the clearing, a soft and lilting voice raised in a song familiar to him from the States, "God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay..." a Christmas carol! Breaking through the trees, tents and wagons surround his camp! "What inarnation is going on? Who are you people? Where did you come from?" Question after question tumbles from his lips. Soon he knows that this is a band of travelers, caught in the

mountains after the snow started to fall, they have stopped for the night, the night before Christmas. Would the old mountain man care to join them for their meager feast? And so in this fashion, new friends are made, old friendships renewed and the birth of our Savior celebrated.

FCF members and your families are cordially invited to join the FCF staff in a Christmas celebration. The gala event will be held on December 10, 6:00pm to 11:00pm at "The Oaks Fellowship" 777 S I35, Red Oak TX 75154. The staff will provide the meat for the event and request that you bring a desert and side dish. We will be doing a gift exchange again this year, ladies, men, youngbucks and kids. Please bring a gift — preferably something period appropriate — to exchange. Please come and enjoy a mountain Christmas with us.

North Division's Sectional ROTY Results

by Martin Smith, North Divisional Commander

The sections of North Division came together for the 2005 Sectional Ranger of the Year evaluation on August 27th. This event, held at Grace Community Church of Flower Mound, TX (Outpost 108), demonstrated how 10 boys who love the Lord are being trained and molded into men who will diligently serve Him. Congratulations, guys, on your show of courage, strength and dedication in the Kingdom of the Most High.

Ranger Kids

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| Brandon Bowery | Denton Section | OP108 | Excellent Rating |
| Jonathan Foster | Denton Section | OP108 | Excellent Rating |
| Thatcher Townson | Plano Section | OP535 | Excellent Rating |

Discovery Rangers

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Steven Armentrout | Denton Section | OP108 | Outstanding Rating |
| Timothy Foster | Denton Section | OP108 | Outstanding Rating |
| Stuart Slayton | North Dallas Section | OP11 | Outstanding Rating |

Adventure Rangers

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| Doug Dolley | Denton Section | OP108 | Excellent Rating |
| Tim Hinman | Denton Section | OP108 | Excellent Rating |
| Jordan Hunt | Denton Section | OP108 | Excellent Rating |
| Graham Townson | Plano Section | OP535 | Excellent Rating |

India Royal Rangers

Dear Rangers,

I am writing you to tell you of a unique opportunity that we have. I have been asked to help start Royal Rangers in the country of India. In order to do this, however, I need your help. If ninety people will support me with at least twenty dollars a month and one hundred people will support me with a one time donation of at least eighty dollars I will be able to fulfill this two-year assignment to Bangalore, India.

I have been asked to leave for India as soon as possible, so the window of opportunity is small. Please do not delay. More importantly than just financial support, I also need your prayers. Prayer is the key to success. Scripture clearly states “Not by might nor by power but by

my spirit says the Lord of Hosts.” If you would like to support me please send your contributions to AGWM in Springfield, Mo, and put account number 2940443 on all checks and forms.

In service of India’s children,

David I. Legere
1998 National Ranger of the Year



“Who am I, Where am I” Part II

Dan “Metalbender” Syrcle

Well, considering the number of reviews that I have received from not only the staff, but you my fellow Ranger commanders, this is a hot topic! Wild Wind asked me to add a bit more to the persona process. Since I expected this, I built in a few “errors” into the persona that I published for you last time. We will examine my mistakes and perhaps this will give you a better understanding of how to refine and sharpen the persona you select.

First, I stated that my father was too young to have fought in the revolution. But within a couple of paragraphs I state that my father met my mother during the “Great War for Independence” and they fell in love. Possible but not likely since at the beginning of the war in 1776 my father was only 7; too young even in those days for marriage.

Second at one point I “sold” the family farm to head out on my own. Later I said that my sister and her husband had been farming it. Both facts should agree and I never talked about a sister anywhere else in my persona.

Third any of you who have been to Family Days know that I have a wife and 3 kids. I need to work them into my persona in some way to keep things consistent.

So, that is really the key to a persona, be consistent. Work on making all your facts agree. Learn your facts so they are a part of you. When you have your outfit on, be that person. Try and look at things from the perspective of who you are in history. When you talk about whom you are, do it in first person. For example, “he went west in 1822” should be “I went west in 1822” — it makes the history yours. Also, dig a little in history. Find out when events happened that you would be aware of. For example, if you are a mountain man, you would have known when and where the first rendezvous was, you would also know of important figures that attended. I can almost guarantee you that this little bit of extra effort will make your entire FCF experience more fun for the boys you talk to!

Sarge Needs You!

By Dan "Metalbender" Syrcle NTD Buckskin Rep.

As July slips quickly in to August and September, I thought it would be a good time to say something about my experiences at Sarge Sellers 2005. I noticed in the July *Signal Fire* that 51.4% of the commanders in the district have worked at Sarge. For the remaining 48.6% of you, what are you waiting for... an invitation?

This year, I did accept Jeff Kersey's invitation to join the Sarge team. I was "new meat" as I jokingly heard many times during training leading up to Sarge. I was given the opportunity to be an Advisor/Instructor at the first ever Frontier Brigade Camp held in our district. I would be mentoring a group of 8 boys as an advisor, and teaching the Primitive Snares class. I was a bit worried, but confident I could handle the task placed before me.

Let me say, that when I volunteered for Sarge, went through SIT camp and waited for the start of Sarge, I had some preconceived notions.

1. Sarge would be a week long outpost meeting or lock in.
2. I will lose a week's vacation.
3. It will be hot!
4. As an advisor I may hate the food or starve.
5. I will get very little out of the experience no matter what I invest.

I am here to tell you that most of those ideas were totally wrong!

The boys who come to Sarge come to work! Sarge was nothing like an outpost meeting or lock in, it was an experience of a lifetime. The boys I worked with are the best and brightest in their Outpost and they are at Sarge to learn. Each of these boys has personal goals they are trying to achieve, whether it is joining FCF, earning the GMA or becoming a better leader, all these young men are focused. Discipline? Seldom a problem! Out of control behavior? Never saw it!

Did I lose a week of vacation? In one sense of course I did, I could have spent a week with my family. After I returned from Sarge I even found out that my company decided I had no vacation so I went a week with no pay at all! But, I was able to touch dozens of lives and impact young passionate hearts with not only a greater love of Christ, but with an even greater passion for Rangers. This more than

"paid" me for a week from my family. Do I miss the paycheck? Of course I do, but would I trade that check for the lives I touched? Never!

I did not starve either; in fact the meals my boys prepared were pretty darn good! For you commanders who are teaching and using the patrol system, good job! Your boys have learned it!

As for getting nothing out of Sarge, I could not have been further from the mark! Council fires at Sarge are something special. This is some of the most awesome spiritual time I have ever spent at a Ranger camp. Boys slain in the spirit, talking in tongues and healings, and that was just the first night! Boys coming up "Commander, can I pray for you?" then pouring out their hearts before God seeking his blessing on your ministry! Praise God, what an anointed time. By Wednesday as the boys took over the council fire service we had more than two hours of young prayer warriors testifying before their peers about the goodness of God. Thursday night I had a young man throw his gang colors into the fire and renounce that affiliation to join the mightiest gang in the universe, the Brotherhood of Christ! Did I get more from Sarge than I put in? Wow did I, if I could bottle up the emotions and experiences of a Sarge council fire and sell it, we would have a whole District of Sarge junkies and a full staff every year.

Was it hot? Of course it was, it is Texas in July after all. But, hell is far hotter and I expect that Satan himself was sweating more than a little as Sarge's young prayer warriors strapped on the amour of God, picked up the Sword of the Lord and went to stand in the gap for their fellow Rangers and Commanders.

So, for the 48.6% of you who have not worked at Sarge, here is your invitation:

Commander, If you want the blessing of a lifetime, please make plans to attend Sarge Sellers training camp. RSVP to Jeff Kersey (jeff@royalrangers.net)

2006 Academy of Ranger Training (ART)

By Samuel Kellum, deputy district commander

While ART simply stands for Academy Ranger Training, there is nothing “simple” about ART. We strive always to provide the latest up-to-date and interesting training possible to all Commanders! So, for new Commanders who have finished the Ranger Basic Module, we offer you the LTA CAMP-OUT. This is a required Module in order to achieve the LMA award. (*The other option is to attend NTC or RKTC.*) Here are some important highlights to consider:

- Happens only one time during the year
- Will be held February 17-18, 2006.
- Only LTA Camp-Out Module and Advanced Training Classes will be taught
- Only Certified Instructors will be teaching

If you are a certified instructor and you are interested in teaching at this coming ART, please contact Samuel Kellum at samuel.kellum@royalrangers.net, ASAP.

- NO OTHER MODULE TRAINING will be taught. Module training will be held at the North Texas Module Training day on April 22, 2006
- Visit the NTD RR web-site (<http://ntd.royalrangers.net/training/art.htm>) for LTA Camp-Out Equipment List, Registration Form, and Deadline Date to send Registration monies to the District Office.
- Continue to check the NTD RR web-site for periodic updates for Advanced Class information. (<http://ntd.royalrangers.net/training/art.htm>)

So, make preparations now to attend this beneficial training. God bless all of you and I hope to see you Commanders at the ART 2006.

Ready in His service,
Samuel Kellum, Samuel.kellum@royalrangers.net
Deputy District Commander / ART Coordinator

Academy of Ranger Training

Advanced Classes

Make plans to attend the Academy of Ranger Training (ART) on Saturday, February 18, 2006. Two advanced classes will be offered that are important to all leaders.

The first class is called *Sponsorship*, and will teach you the responsibilities you assume when you agree to be someone’s sponsor. Have you ever been asked to sponsor a boy or a man into Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF) or for advancement within? Did you say that you would, and then just show up at the ceremony, only to find there’s more involved than just being there? It is important that you know what is expected of a sponsor and what you are responsible for. You never know when a boy or man will come to you and ask you to help them as a sponsor. It is hard to lead a boy down a trail if you don’t know the way. Alternatively, if you are planning to get into FCF or advance within it, you need to know what you are asking when you ask someone to be your sponsor. Otherwise, how do you know if they are doing a good job? Please come and take

this class... it is something you all need to know.

The second advanced class addresses the decline in civility and manners in our lives, and the consequences this has on our society as a whole. The class will be presented in two parts. Part one will discuss some of the reasons for the increased rudeness and the reasons for it, and will offer some basic principles of behavior that will help stop the downward trend. Part one was offered at last year’s ART and one class member has remarked that it was the best class he’d ever taken at a Royal Ranger training camp.

Part two will go into more detail, and will end the day with some practical application of the skills learned. Please refer to the article, “*Civility and Decent Behavior: Why Manners Matter*,” elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about this class.

Civility and Decent Behavior

(class to be taught at 2006 ART)

Why Manners Matter

Cell phones go off in church; loud conversations interrupt movies and plays; foul language is rampant; trash is thrown on the side of the street; people fail to show for appointments, or if they do appear, they show up late; cars go through quiet neighborhoods with music blaring; teenagers spit on sidewalks and wear torn, dirty or provocative clothing; men fail to hold doors for women; road rage is on the upswing; people we expect to be responsible fail to follow through.

*Every Action
done in
Company ought
to be with Some
Sign of Respect,
to those that are
Present.*

*G. Washington
Rules of Civility*

If you think rudeness, incivility, anger, vulgarity, bullying, selfish behavior, and bad manners are worse now than ever before, you are not alone:

- 79% say lack of respect and courtesy is a serious problem
- 61% agree people are ruder now than in past
- 88% feel incivility is getting worse
- 90% think incivility contributes to violence
- 80% think it's the parents' fault

Bad behavior is all around us, and it's getting worse. We, as a society, have a problem.

However, you have the potential to influence every person with whom you come in contact, and are a force to stop the general decline in our society's behavior. The people you meet will form an opinion, not only about you, but about whom you represent – our Lord Jesus Christ – within a matter of seconds. They will base that opinion on how you speak, on how you dress, on how you behave – even on something as trivial as how you eat. You can gain or lose your credibility in an instant simply by how you behave and how you treat others.

Matthew 22:39 commands, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If we truly love our neighbors, we should be governed by standards of behavior that express concern for others. Many people don't know the basic ways of doing this, however. And they don't know how to teach their children the fundamentals of civility and decent behavior.

People need to go back to the basics of good manners and civility. The ART in February will help address this need by presenting "Civility and Decent Behavior: Why Manners Matter."

The class will be presented in two parts. In the morning, Part One will focus on some of the reasons for society's lack of courtesy and some basic steps toward changing the trend. Such simple things as the way we communicate, dress, even eat will be discussed. Part Two will expand on the general use of manners in our everyday lives, particularly on the use of simple courtesy and manners at the table. This session will end with the practical application of what we have learned as we enjoy a meal served in a formal setting (at the Lodge...you'll have to use your imagination).

*Honor all
people...*

1 Peter 2:17

Come participate in this timely and valuable class, and take action to re-establish civility and decent behavior in our society.

NRA Black Powder Muzzle Loading Shooter's Card Course

By Art "Flintlock" Sullivan, FCF Vice President

This course will be offered at the ART camp February 17-18, 2006. This course is for **anyone** who is at least 12 years old and interested in learning about black powder firearms. This course provides general knowledge and rifle safety. Students will receive hands-on experience in loading and shooting at the range. You do not have to be involved with FCF to participate in this course, but if you are an FCF member or would like to be, this course is highly recommended. Registration starts at 5:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 17 and the course ends at 4:30 pm on Saturday. The cost will be \$35 and will include meals & books. We will

provide the rifles and accessories for the shooting range, so you will not need to bring your own firearm. You will need to bring your own tent, sleeping bag, clothes, etc. Please pre-register for this course using the ART registration form on the NTD Royal Rangers web site.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at art@royalrangers.net.

Until then, keep your powder dry!

Art 'Flintlock' Sullivan

South Central Regional Conference January 27-28, 2006 Houston, Texas

Start making plans now to attend the 2006 South Central Regional Conference in Houston January 27-28. This conference has always been a great time of fellowship, training, and spiritual renewal. It will be held at the Marriott Hotel by Hobby Airport.

Our speaker this year will be Robert T. Schlipp, a noted children's evangelist. Robert currently ministers throughout the country as Bibleman. While a Royal Ranger, Robert earned his Gold Medal of Achievement and served a term as the national assistant FCF scout. Robert will be speaking Friday night during the evening service, and again Saturday morning during the general session. He will also be teaching a couple of our breakout sessions Saturday on effective ministry to boys.

We will again have a wide assortment of breakout training sessions Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. We will offer both LTA modules and more traditional regional council classes. We will also be offering an IT Seminar on Friday afternoon. The training sessions are always highly rated; you will leave the conference with a wealth of new knowledge that will help you be more effective in your ministry to boys.

If your wife is not involved in Royal Rangers, she is still welcome to attend the conference. Friday evening we would like everyone at the service. On Saturday morning the ladies will meet for a devotion, and then those who would like to will head to Galveston for a day either on The Strand (historical downtown area of Galveston) or Moody Garden.

Additional information on the regional conference will be published in the next edition of the Signal Fire and will also be posted on the regional web site: scr.royalrangers.net

We hope to see you in Houston!



Health & Safety Corner

The Mystery Removed Behind the Brown Recluse Spider

By Robert Cahill

We have all heard the horror stories behind the bite of the brown recluse spider, or known someone who knew someone who had known someone bitten by this evil killer spider. Truth however, is the light shined into the darkness of lies and misinformation.

In doing research for a workers' compensation insurance company in relation to fraudulent claims, I was asked to check out about brown recluse spiders and their habits, range and lethality. You see, this insurance company had several outstanding claims of over \$200,000 each related to brown recluse spider bites, and they wanted to know if the facts were as they thought they were; they were not.

My research led me to a Doctor Phillip Anderson from Missouri. Dr. Anderson is one of only a handful of practicing clinicians in the U.S. whose specialty is brown recluse spider bites, so his opinion is authoritative. He was a university physician specializing in dermatology, in particular on the effects of brown recluse spider bites from Missouri, which is in the heart of the range of the brown recluse, where they are very abundant.

In his practice for over 30 years in brown recluse central, he has seen over 1,000 probable recluse bites. His findings and studies have been published in many peer reviewed medical journals and are considered by nearly everyone as THE AUTHORITY in this field.

"While several deaths from loxoscelism (the scientific name for the brown recluse) were reported in medical journals, none of the reports are convincing. We are not aware of any verifiable deaths caused by the bite of the North American brown recluse spider. Almost all brown recluse spider bites heal nicely in two to three months without medical treatment at all. Also, the long-term medical outcome is excellent without treatment. We estimate that we have seen or reviewed about 1,000 credible recluse spider bites, and we have seen about a dozen cases of impressive, sustained hemolysis." says Dr. Anderson.

So, the logical question then comes as to why this spider has this bad or deadly reputation.

People get bitten by a brown spider that they maybe see in the area or perhaps saw at one time. In the case of one of the claims over \$200,000 that I investigated, the lady was at work, sitting at her desk with her shoes off. She worked outside of Miami Florida and worked during the day. She had seen a small brown spider at her cubical the day before and suffered a bite while sitting there. She did not see the spider bite her nor was the building found to be infested. The physicians noted the bite area and the subsequent necrotic wound and diagnosed it as a brown recluse spider bite. \$200,000 later and many man-hours later, we have our doubts.

You see, the brown recluse spider is a nocturnal creature, doing most of its movement and food gathering at night, not day. Second, Miami has no population of record and is way out of the home range of the brown recluse. In fact many states that report brown recluse bites have NEVER had a brown recluse spider found in that state. The home range of this spider is from Texas to the panhandle of Florida, up through Georgia to Ohio, across to Nebraska and back down to Texas.

Most brown recluse spider bites occur when the spider is threatened by a human pressing against them such as putting on a shirt or pants, or laying on them in bed. As Dr. Anderson pointed out, most of these spider bites will heal without any treatment.

So, what is the cause of these terrible wounds if it is not brown recluse spiders? Per Dr. Anderson and the Department of Entomology of USC, as well as the Health Care Finance Administration in Washington, conditions that can cause necrotic wounds and/or have been misdiagnosed as brown recluse bites include: infections from *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus* species, Herpes simplex, Herpes Zoster, Erythema multiforme, Diabetic ulcers, Lyme disease, Fungal infection, Pyoderma gangrenosum, Lymphomatoid papulosis, Chemical burn, Poison Ivy or oak dermatitis, Squamous cell carcinoma, localized vasculitis, and Syphilitic chancre.

So let's debunk the horror stories of this "aggressive" spider. In its native range, the brown recluse is a very common house spider. A colleague

in Missouri found 5 in a child's bedroom one night, a person in Arkansas found 6 living under his box spring in his bedroom, during a cleanup at the University of Arkansas, 52 were found in a science lab that was being used everyday, a colleague found 9 living under one piece of plywood in Oklahoma, a grad student collected 40 of them in a Missouri barn in 75 minutes, and would have collected more, but ran out of vials to house them. One amazing story is an 8th grade teacher in Oklahoma checking up on his students avidly collecting material by some loose bricks around a flagpole on an insect collecting trip. In about 7 minutes, 8 students collected 60 brown recluses, picking them all up with their fingers and not one kid suffered a bite. An even more amazing story is that of a woman in Lenexa, Kansas who collected 2,055 brown recluse spiders in 6 months in her 1850s-built home. This family of 4 has been living there 8 years now and still not one evident bite. (See Vetter and Barger 2002, *Journal of Medical Entomology* 39: 948-951). When you find brown recluses in an adequate environment, you do not find one, you find dozens. And yet, the people who live with these spiders rarely get bitten nor do they run around in constant fear.

So, since we here in North Texas live within this range, how can we avoid being bitten by this "killer"? Well if you must, try the following: Remove bed skirts from beds. Move the bed away from the wall. Remove everything from under the bed so that the only way the spiders can get up on the bed is to crawl up one of the four legs.

I'm sure your kids will hate me for this one, but don't throw clothes on the floor and then wear them the next day. If you do, shake them out or squish them into a ball before putting on the t-shirt or whatever. Bang out shoes first to see if a spider crawled in during the night.

When you store things in the garage, basement or attic, put them in plastic bags that you can close with a plastic zipper lock or twist-tie. This is especially important for things that you stick your hands and feet into like: roller skates, baseball gloves, gardening gloves, boots, and raingear. Tape up the edges of cardboard boxes so there is no way a spider can squeeze inside. Be careful when you move things out of storage areas, in particular, cardboard boxes. Recluses like to hang out in the space under folded cardboard flaps. Be careful when you carry the boxes as you might place your fingers

on a recluse when you pick up the box or press a recluse against your body when you carry it. Remove any spiders inside boxes using a vacuum cleaner and dispose of the bag. Reseal all open edges of cardboard boxes with tape before restoring them.

Clean up clutter and junk that is lying around. Recluses love clutter and prefer to live under and between items, such as plywood, tarps and cardboard on the ground

Do not stack wood against the house. Recluses like woodpiles and if they take up residence inside wood stacked next to a house, there is more chance that they will wander into the home. Move the woodpile as far from the house as possible, stack it off the ground and cover it with a tarp. These steps make the firewood less attractive to insects and the spiders that feed upon them. Also, when you pick up wood, wear gloves. Of course, check the gloves first for spiders, or stomp on the gloves first to squash a spider (as disgusting as it might seem to put on a glove with a squished spider in the finger, squished spiders don't bite.)

In conclusion, this often blamed, misunderstood spider is here, and it is here to stay. If you already hate spiders, then this little bugger will bug you always, but you should not live in fear that it will eat you with its bite. None of us want to be bitten by anything, but at least now you have some knowledge and truth, and after all does not the Bible say, "My people perish for a lack of knowledge."

Commander Robert M Cahill
Gospel Lighthouse Church Outpost 211
North Texas District First-Aid Assistant

(Information for this article was used with permission from Dr. Phillip Anderson, University of Southern California Department of Entomology, Western Journal of medicine, the U.S. Healthcare Finance Administration, Center for Disease Control, Gertsch, W. J. and F. Ennik. 1983. The spider genus Loxosceles in North America, Central America, and the West Indies (Araneae, Loxoscelidae). Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 175(3): 264-360. Hite, J. L., W. J. Gladney, J. L. Lancaster, Jr., and W. H. Whitcomb. 1966. Biology of the Brown Recluse Spider. Arkansas Experiment Station Bulletin #711, 26 pages. Kaston, B. J. 1978. How to Know the Spiders, 3rd ed. Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Co., 272 pages. Vetter, R. S., and P. K. Visscher. 1998. Bites and stings of medically important venomous arthropods. Intl. J. Dermatol. 37:481-496. Waldron, W. G., M. B. Madon, and T. Suddarth. 1975. Observations on the occurrence and ecology of L. laeta in Los Angeles County, California. California Vector Views 22:29-36)

“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 November 21, 2005. Please send your information to Mark Oliver at mark@royalrangers.net.

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