

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT THE LONG TOM

Shawnee Trail FCF Newsletter

4th Qtr., 2015

<http://www.ntxrr.org>

2015 Family Days Photos



Thank You, Ron “Pure Heart” Goodnow

Our thanks go out to Ron “Pure Heart” Goodnow, who has served as the Shawnee Trail FCF President for the last several years. Through the years, Ron has shown commitment to FCF through his willingness both to serve and to lead, as is evidenced by his steady record of achievement in the Royal Rangers and FCF programs:

- Joined RR in 2006
- Became FCF member about 2007 and served as company clerk
- Advanced to Buckskin in 2008 and subsequently served as Buckskin Rep
- Attended numerous training camps in leadership positions
- Served as project manager on 2010 Pathfinder mission
- Achieved Wilderness in 2011
- Became FCF President in 2013

Ron and his staff have done a tremendous job. As Royal Ranger outposts and FCF groups across the country are shrinking, and even shutting down, Ron and his staff persevered to hold the Shawnee Trail FCF together against tough odds. We appreciate Ron’s dedication and service, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Pure Heart, you’re always welcome around our campfire!

Staff Updates

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NASB), we are told “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” Through my years in leadership in the Royal Rangers ministry I have seen God raise up leaders for a season, and then others are raised up to continue the ministry and build on what others before them have accomplished in that ministry.

At Family Days in 2011 our then president Art Sullivan told me that he felt it was time for someone else to take the leadership of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship ministry in our district. After praying and seeking counsel from several people we asked Ron “Pure Heart” Goodnow to become our new president, and he agreed. For the past three years Ron has lead our chapter, building on what was established before, and implementing many new ideas that have helped move our chapter along. Our chapter was already a 5-star chapter (an annual rating by the national FCF – 5-stars is the highest rating possible) and we have remained strong, earning a 5-star rating each year Ron was our president. Under his leadership we had a Pathfinder trip to our own campground, resulting in a new commercial kitchen in the Ollie Henley Lodge that is now used to feed everyone at Pow Wow and other camps like JLDA.

But as I recently announced, Ron has decided that it is time for him too to step aside and let new leadership take over in the chapter. Ron’s work demands have grown (from being the manager over one plant to being a regional manager over four plants across the country), and his mother’s health has deteriorated. With these new demands on his time he felt it was the “appointed time” for another transition.

I am pleased to announce, again after prayer and counsel from multiple staff members, that Gary “Wild Wind” Bierschwale has agreed to become our new chapter president. If you have been around for very long in Royal Rangers you may recall that Gary has been our president before, twice. Each time he has assumed the position of president he has continued to build the ministry and has always left it in great shape for his successor. Gary has been busy putting together his staff for the chapter, and you will see some of those announced in this newsletter. Other approvals are still pending and additional members will be added to the staff.

One final note: a president can only accomplish what he accomplishes because he surrounds himself with outstanding staff members. I would like to thank each of the members of the staff who have stood by and helped Ron during these past three years. We are where we are as a chapter in large part because of the outstanding service by each of you.

Jonathan “Bigfoot” Trower

New FCF President

Dear Shawnee Trail Family:

You may know me most recently as the "snack shack guy," but as Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale, I have a long history in this great chapter.

I got my first introduction to Royal Rangers in 1985, when my family began attending a church in Plano that had an outpost. The senior commander was short-handed and asked if I'd be willing to help out. My son was just the right age to really enjoy Royal Rangers, so we joined up. After I had helped out for a few months, the senior commander decided to move to Virginia, leaving me holding the poke! After some prayer and some training, I became the official outpost coordinator.

In 1989, I became very interested in what was then the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity. In those days, to be accepted into the FCF program, a candidate was required to undergo "Phase I" testing, and "Phase II," which was basically "all-in-good-fun" hazing over the course of a weekend.

I was uncomfortable with how Phase I and Phase II were conducted. After the Phase II camp, I seriously thought about quitting FCF and Royal Rangers, but God spoke to my heart and said, "Don't give up! Work to make it better!"

Since that time, my ministry has been 100% FCF.

In 1992, I was asked to become the Shawnee Trail FCF Scribe, which put me in a position to observe many areas I believed could be improved upon. The chance to begin making the organization better and stronger came in 1994, when I was elected FCF President. God was with me every step of the way and I believe He was inspiring changes to the program that would better bring glory to Him. One of the best ideas I believed the Lord put in my heart was that of having new Buckskin members link their FCF name to Bible scripture so that it could be a tool for witnessing. Another change was to make the steps for advancing to Buckskin and Wilderness into solemn and God-centered ceremonies that would help new candidates think about and meditate on service to the Lord and on spiritual goals of mentoring boys and building strong bonds of fellowship with other FCF men.

In 1998, I was asked to serve as the Plainsmen Territorial Representative. During my two-year tenure in this office, I was proud to plan the first Territorial Family Rendezvous, held in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. This camp turned out to be one of the best rendezvous I have ever attended! Welcoming our wives



and daughters to the camp not only gave them valuable insight into the importance of the FCF ministry and the life-changing experiences of many men and boys, it also reaffirmed to those same men and boys the beautiful gift of a strong family unit. I believe if you were to ask any of the more than 300 people who were at that first family rendezvous what they thought of it, they would resoundingly agree!

In 2002, I returned to my roots and was re-elected as the Shawnee Trail president, a position I held for the next six years. Then, in 2008, came an opportunity that I could not miss. To the surprise and disbelief of my wife, I, a dedicated non-cook, a man who notoriously lived on Vienna sausages, crackers and cheese at camp, had the bright idea to open and run the snack shack at the Maypearl campgrounds! With support and encouragement from Jonathan Trower and others, this new endeavor became a great success, and I had a blast in the snack shack until 2014, when the Lord gave me a newly developing Royal Ranger outpost that required my dedicated, full-time attention.

And now, as the saying goes, everything old is new again. I have been asked to serve as the Shawnee Trail FCF president once more. I am excited to start down this trail and help take our chapter up to the next level. However, I need your help to do this. This is a call to the north, the south, the east, and the west; it's a shout to all old timers and young bucks! We have so many new and exciting ideas that cannot come to fruition without you. With the Lord's help, and with you, and my new staff, we can expect REVITALIZED growth and strength, and bring glory to God!

So, come... come with me down this trail and let's lift this chapter to the next level, together!

Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale

"And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. " - Acts 2:2

Men in Kilts

By Sheri Bierschwale

I know a bunch of burly men
who dress in funny clothes.
Fur and leather are their pants
and their shirts are calico.

Some of these gents don't cut their hair,
and some of 'em never shave.
They look like hairy ole mountain men,
and that's how they all behave.

They sit around their campfires
and drink coffee by the pot,
and tell tall tales no one believes
while their knees get smokin' hot!

And so they sat there late one night,
plannin' a rendezvous,
and talkin' 'bout some different ways
to dress for this big to-do.

Then one guy had the bright idea
to dress up like "Braveheart,"
These stalwart men were all so shocked,
they couldn't even ——!

They looked around the campfire
to find the one who spoke.
But courage must have failed the man,
and silence rose like smoke.

Most members were aghast to think
of what true Scotsmen wore,
and Ole Trapper, he just jumped right up
and with loud conviction swore:

"Now, I cain't speak for Skimmerhorn,
nor Wildwind, nor the rest –
but as fer me, let's get this straight,
I ain't wearin' no dadblamed dress!

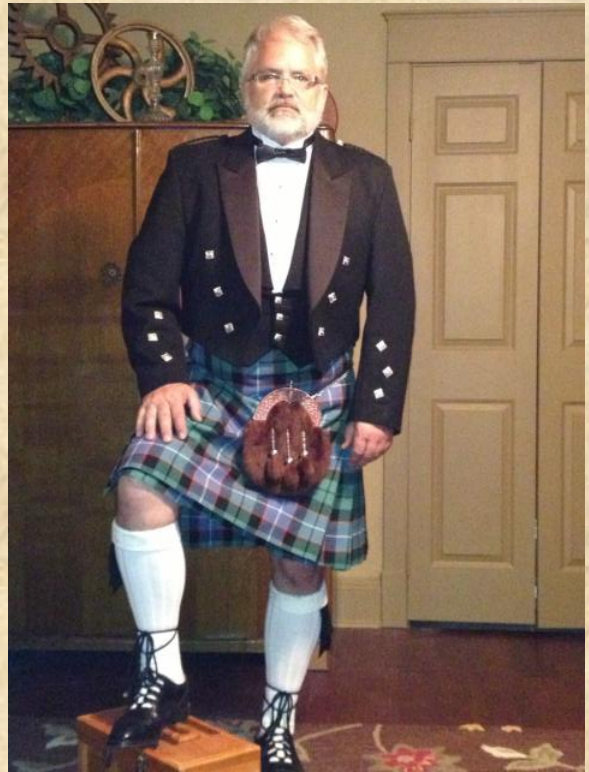
Off he stalked into the night,
and left the others there,
to wonder what on earth THEY'D do,
and exactly what they'd dare.

Now, the first hint that I had of this?
My handsome mountain man
dumped all his gear on the kitchen floor
and took me by the hand.

He gazed into my hazel eyes
with a look that made me wilt,
and whispered softly in my ear,
"Think you can sew a kilt?"

I stared at him in sheer dismay,
not believing what I'd heard!
"I cannot think, my darling mate,
you plan to wear a SKIRT?"

"Dear husband, have you thought," said I,
how much you'll have to bear!
Your friends will howl, and point, and laugh!"
Said he, "I do not care."



"And that's not all," I continued on,
"You'll be subject to the weather.
The wind will cause your knees to show;
You'll wish for something warmer!"

"Dear wife," said he with a wicked grin,
"I'm not worried 'bout my knees,
'cause there are other parts of me,
more subject to the breeze!"

So, we began to read a lot,
and rented videos,
to study Mel and Liam,
and others just like those.

We also searched the Internet,
just looking for a clue,
on how to put a tartan on,
and finally found a few.

A tartan cloth is nine yards long,
and isn't sewn or stitched,
but wrapped around the body,
then over the shoulder hitched.

We ordered the plaid from a Celtic store,
and shirts with flowing sleeves,
and gillie brogues for tender feet,
but nothing for his knees.

Then while we waited for our loot,
we watched again, "Rob Roy,"
and Mel, once more, as William Wallace.
(I do so love that boy!)

We pondered photos by the ton,
but couldn't grasp the trick,
of how to put a tartan on
a figure that is thick.

He said, "I think what we must do
is practice just a little."
And so he pulled a drapery down,
and pleated it in the middle.

He shoved the furniture aside,
and laid the drapery down,
then scratched his head in puzzlement,
and addressed me with a frown:

"I think I've got this figured out,
so here's what I must do.
I'll lay me down and wrap me up,
but, I'll need some help from you."

"Okay, I'll help you out," I said,
"But excuse me just a minute.
I've put a skillet on the stove,
and must put something in it."

When I came back, you should have seen
the sight that met my eyes!
He'd stripped his britches off, you know,
And so exposed his thighs!

I saw a pair of snowy socks
below his furry knees,
and underneath this warrior's shirt...
a pair of BVDs!

He laid himself down on the drape,
and wrapped it round his middle,
then asked me if I kindly would
adjust it just a little.

We finally got him fastened in
my drape of eggshell white
Then, rising from the floor he asked,
"Do you think it looks alright?"

I laughed so hard to see him then,
I thought I'd have a seizure,
'cause when he stood up on his feet,
He looked like.....Julius Caesar!

Now, the things I have related here
all happened long ago.
Years have come and gone away,
But my lad is still gung-ho.

He mastered the art of bending down,
and striding up the stairs.
And rarely gives an unseemly flash,
When sitting down in chairs.

He's marvelous to gaze upon,
this man of grand assurance.
You'd think he was a Scottish laird,
and he's been told it more than once.

His wardrobe's grown – two tartans now!
One's old and one's quite new.
And as for guest appearances,
he's made more than a few.

His emcee skills are in demand,
and he plays them to the hilt!
Especially when the request is made,
"Be sure you wear your kilt!"

New FCF Vice President

Dear Shawnee Trail:

My name is Frank Super, FCF name: "Jawbone." I grew up in the Los Angeles area of California, and served in the United States Marines. I am married to Amie and we have two super-duper children, Frank Ryan and Katie. Through God's grace and supernatural power I was transferred to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1997. It was then that I began working with Royal Rangers Outpost 55. In 2004 I successfully completed a Frontier Adventure, where God spoke to me and gave me my name "Jawbone". Six years later, in 2010, I was finally ready to test for Buckskin, which I completed at Brush Poppin' – thanks to God and His Grace. Then, on February 25, 2011, I began my Wilderness Vigil which I successfully completed early the next morning. Praise God for his incredible mercy!

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your Scribe since 2011. Working together with fellow FCF brothers throughout these years was an exciting time of growth and spiritual development. I was privileged to serve two FCF presidents, Flintlock and Pure Heart, and worked with several different staff members through the years, in many challenging events across the Plainsmen territory and beyond. My sincere thanks to the Chapter and to all you staff members I served with.

The Shawnee Trail is once again in transition. Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale is once again taking on the President's position of our Chapter and he asked me to serve as the Vice President. Through faith in Jesus Christ, I humbly accepted Wild Wind's offer, and I pray that my effort in this new position will bring glory and honor to God's Kingdom. I also pray that the ministry of the Shawnee Trail will bless and enrich the lives of Royal Rangers in our territory.

Please look for my shelter at the next camp. My shelter has a jawbone in front of it. I would love to tell you how FCF has enriched my life as I surrendered to God's will and purpose. God really does bring us life, and life more abundantly through our relationship with Christ. I encourage all of us to press on toward that mark that we are called to – whatever the mark may be for each one of us.

A pleasure and privilege to serve.

In Christ's unending love,

Frank "Jawbone" Super, Shawnee Trail Vice President



New FCF Buckskin Rep

Hello! My name is J.D. "Lawman" Smith, and I am honored to be your new Buckskin Rep. I have served in all leadership positions in my local outposts since joining Royal Rangers in 1992. FCF became a strong influence in my life in 2009. In 2012, I advanced to Buckskin, and plan to achieve Wilderness status soon. I've been Rockwall Sectional Coordinator since 2013 and became the Asst. North Central Region Coordinator earlier this year.

I was born and raised in Allen, Texas. After finishing school and marrying my beautiful wife, Jeannie, I am proud to have served for 12 years in the military, first in the United States Marine Corp, and then in the U.S. Army. Jeannie and I have been married for 36 years, and together we have three lovely daughters and three really cool grandchildren.

I became a Christian and was baptized in 1976. After the Lord showed me that His plan for me was to serve in the Royal Rangers ministry, I rededicated my life, determined to do the best job for Him possible. I know this is what I am supposed to be doing!

If you are a Frontiersman you will be hearing from me real soon. I am looking forward to serving you and talking with each of you in person at the next camp.

Hold onto yer Topknot, Lawman

Chapter Chaplain

Greetings Shawnee Trail

My name is Lee Fogleman, FCF name: "Prospector." I grew up in Pennsylvania, I served 20 years in the United States Air Force and actually had the privilege to work on Air Force One. I am married to Patty (WOLF) and we have four grown children, and ten grandchildren. I always wondered how I ended up in Texas but God knows why! He has given me a calling to serve the North Texas District Royal Rangers. I retired from the Air Force and ended up in Greenville Texas where I found a job working on the airplanes I worked on in the service. The scripture verse for my name is Job 23:10, "But He knows the way that I will take when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold". It was in Texas that I moved up to Buckskin and went through the Wilderness Vigil. These two advances should be everyone's goal in FCF for they truly draw you closer to our Creator! It was an honor to serve you as FCF Vice President under when Wild Wind was President. But my real calling came when I was asked to be Chaplain by our FCF President Flintlock. I gotten my credentials as an Assembly of God minister and feel the Lord has called me to this position. I thank Wild Wind and Bigfoot once more for giving me the honor to serve as the FCF Chaplain and answer the call. My prayers go out to cover our Chapter and my thanks to the Chapter for letting me to give and to serve.

The Shawnee Trail is appointing Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale as our FCF President's position of our Chapter and he has asked me to continue serving as the Chaplain. I with honor accept Wild Wind's offer, and I pray that I will be worthy to serve in this position. It is not about Prospector but it is about serving our God. I join with my brother Jawbone and pray that the ministry of the Shawnee Trail will bless and enrich the lives of Royal Rangers in our territory.

I will be at the camps to trade but most of all to pray for you and our brothers in Christ. My Cross and pick stands for mining souls for Christ come and join me to serve our Savior! It is a pleasure and to serve.

In Jesus's Name,

Lee "Prospector" Fogleman, Shawnee Trail Chaplain

FCF Aide-de-Camp

My name is Michael “Bald Eagle” Clay. I am a Wilderness member with the Shawnee Trail Chapter. I have served as Scribe and as Company Clerk.

I grew up in the ministry, traveling with my family all over America. We began traveling as a family ministry team, singing and teaching family seminars full time when I was about 8 years old. I continued in the ministry with my family until after I got married. I later decided to settle down in Texas after my daughter was born.

I gave my heart to Christ at 6 years old in a Children’s Crusade and was filled with the Holy Spirit at the age of 9. I have had a heart for children’s ministries ever since I was a teenager and God has opened doors for me to continue in the ministry to this day, serving as Children’s Pastor at Terrell First Assembly of God church in Terrell, Texas, Outpost #346. I have been blessed to have the opportunity to teach children through Children’s Crusades, Family Seminars, and as a Children’s Pastor for over 35 years.

Before going on the road full time, I was a Pioneer at our local church in Greenville, Ohio. Traveling full time, I was unable to stay involved, but I was able to become a part of Royal Rangers again later while at Terrell, First Assembly of God. I got involved with my son when he was 9 years old. I have enjoyed attending many camps and events since that time. I have served at several camps and whole-heartedly believe in the Royal Rangers Ministry. I truly believe it is an opportunity to help direct and inspire young men to seek God and follow His ways.

Michael “Bald Eagle” Clay

FCF Scribe

I am looking forward to working with all members of the chapter. I have been involved with Royal Rangers since 1986. During that time, I have held many different positions. Those positions have included outpost positions (outpost commander and outpost coordinator), sectional positions (sectional treasurer and sectional Buckaroos/Straight Arrows coordinator), district positions (district Buckaroos/Straight Arrows coordinator and public relations coordinator), and regional positions (regional public relations coordinator). Throughout my involvement in Royal Rangers, my gift has always been record keeping, history recording, and public relations with newsletters, websites, and emails.

I created and maintain the Royal Rangers History website (www.royalrangershistory.org) for the national office and also maintain websites for different royal rangers districts (www.ntxrr.org) and sections.

Mark Oliver

2015/2016 FCF Calendar of Events

Nov 20-22	Winter Camp
Dec 27-30	Winter Junior Leadership Training Academy
Jan 29-30	South Central Regional Conference
March 10-12	LEAD: National Conference
March 18-20	FCF Brush Poppin' / Frontier Adventure
Apr 29-May 1	Pow Wow
May 16	Early Registration Deadline for Camporama
May 28	FCF Family Picnic
July 18-22	National Camporama
Sep 10	GUIDE 2015: Commanders Conference
Sep 24	Ranger Kids Day Camp
Oct 7-9	FCF Family Days
Nov 18-20	Winter Camp
Dec 28-31	Junior Leadership Development Academy

For additional information about anything you found in this newsletter or for additional FCF answers, please contact any FCF staff member

Contact Your FCF Staff

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