

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT THE LONG TEAM

Shawnee Trail FCF Newsletter

1st Qtr., 2017

<http://www.ntxrr.org>

Winter Camp Successful



Chapter Greetings

By Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale

Dear North Texas FCF Members,

After much prayer and soul-searching, is with deep regret that I have made the difficult decision to resign from the position of President of the North Texas Frontiersman Camping Fellowship, effective at the year end.

This decision has not come easily, but, as many of you are aware, Sheri and I both have parents who are critically ill. Because both our sets of parents have been divorced and all but one remarried, we have been blessed with seven precious people who have helped shape our lives, advising us, praying for us, and guiding us. Now, all but two of our parents are suffering from life-threatening conditions – cancer, Alzheimer's, stroke, heart disease, and diabetes. My mother had a serious stroke at Thanksgiving that has left her paralyzed, and Sheri's beloved step-father has stage-4 brain and lung cancer. The prognosis for both is dire.

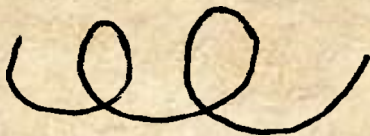
While FCF remains important to me, family must come first. I want to be able to spend as much time as possible with our parents as we all enter this new phase of our lives, and Sheri and I have to be prepared at a moment's notice to help with their care.

This focus on our family members prevents me from giving FCF the time and attention it needs for me to be an effective leader. I do plan to attend FCF events when at all possible, just not in a leadership capacity. FCF has been an important part of my life for many years and I love each and every one of you like brothers.

Sheri and I covet your prayers for strength, courage, and peace for all our family as we face difficult days ahead. We believe the Lord is our healer and our comfort, an ever-present help in times of trouble. We trust Him and know He has a plan.

God bless you all,

Gary Bierschwale



Winter Camp Highlights

By Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale

If you missed Winter Camp this year, that's too bad, as those that were present had a blast! The weather we had made it a true "winter" camp as the temperature dropped to freezing. The theme of the camp was FCF based Highland Games and we even had a few brave souls that wore their kilts to the doings!

Prospector was our speaker and he had some mighty good things to say. At the alter call many came to get prayed for and also enjoy the warmth of the fire! There were many that got prayer for their families, school, and sickness.

The activities during the day on Saturday included Caber Throw, Stone Put, Weight Throw, Hammer Throw, Weight-Over-Bar Toss, and Maide Leisg (Lazy Stick). Everyone had loads of fun with each event and there were many side challenges for the bragging rights of strongest man! The events were divided with half before noon and half after noon.

After the evening service all campers were invited to the FCF Village for hot chocolate and cookies. Every camper came to the Village and we had some wonderful fellowship. We also handed out the camp patches while all enjoyed the "hot" chocolate!

After the wonderful church service Sunday morning the camp was released to head home. If you missed this camp you missed out on a lot of fun! FCF stands ready to help with anything you need and we look forward to seeing you at the next doings!

FCF Staff



Announcement

By Jonathan "Bigfoot" Trower

I would like to thank Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale for his service this past year as our FCF president. This was his third time as our chapter president, and as in the past he has done a great job of bringing new ideas to the FCF ministry. Gary and the FCF staff planned our first May Fete this past May, and I have heard all sorts of positive comments about the Highland Games at Winter Camp that he planned for us to enjoy. Add to that the fun times at Brush Poppin' Trace and Family Days, and we have had a good year for the FCF in our district. Please keep Gary and Sheri in your prayers as they continue to help their parents.

I am currently working on getting our next president approved. I hope to be able to name him by the time of the staff meeting the first weekend in January. He will then work to put together our FCF staff for this next year. Our new president will need our help and support; let's all make plans to be at Brush Poppin' Trace in March to support our new FCF president and staff!

Upcoming Events

By Gary "Wild Wind" Bierschwale

The new year, 2017, is about here and along with the new year comes new FCF events! Please make note of the. Owing events and try to make plans to come and participate with us!!

School of the Piece is a class taught about black powder artillery, the shooting, maintaining of, and the art of safely shooting the piece. This class will demonstrate the different types of early artillery along with shooting each one according to the national safety codes. You will learn how to make the rounds, how to store them, and the different tools used and how to use them for shooting. If you have ever wanted to shoot a black powder cannon, are interested in obtaining one, or you want to be a part of the district cannon crew... you need to take this class. If interested in taking this class, January 20-22, please contact Mark Horner @ 817-707-1681.

The FCF Brush Poppin' Trace is always fun and exciting! Last year the FCF staff created a wilderness survival walk that you had to survive fording a river and having your raft collapse, shooting for your meat, surviving dangerous animal attacks, walking into hostel aggression, and testing your skills with a hawk & knife against large game. The 2017 camp will prove to be even bigger & better, so you won't want to miss it! Also, there will be an Adventure running during this camp for those that want to become an FCF member. The 2017 Brush Poppin' Trace will be held March 10-12, so please watch the news letter & calendar for more information coming!

May Fete is a celebration of the coming spring in the form of a country fair. We will have all sorts of fun games and activities for the whole family. This camp is a family camp that is only scheduled for one day, but you are welcome to come camp for the entire weekend. The activities are similar to those of plan old English county faire. There will be snacks, a store to purchase goods made by FCF members, and lots of fun games! This great camp will be held May 20.

He-Man Chili Beans

By Mike Lyon

As our year comes to an end I hope you had a great time with family and friends celebrating the birth of our Savior. Wishing all a blessed and prosperous New Year. As the New Year comes in we have lots of exciting camps to look forward to so get out your gear, dust it off and plan on being in attendance to help us make these camps great for the boys. Great camps are only great if you are there, so plan on coming. With the cool weather season upon us I would like to leave you with this easy Recipe to warm up your insides. Until next time keep your fires hot.

Ingredients

6 slices bacon	1 pound hot smoked sausage
1 pound ground beef	1 large onion chopped
1 green bell pepper chopped	2 garlic cloves minced
1 hot jalapeño pepper diced	1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon dry mustard	1 teaspoon celery seed
2 tablespoon chili powder	3 cups Italian pear tomatoes
1 tablespoon cayenne pepper	1 15 ounce can pinto beans
2 15 ounce cans kidney beans	

Directions:

Brown bacon in a large Dutch oven. Remove bacon and crumble, and set aside. Slice the sausage into 1 inch pieces and fry in bacon fat until brown. Remove and set aside with bacon. Pour off excess fat from the pot. Brown the beef and drain, and set aside. Cook the onion, bell pepper, garlic, and jalapeño over low heat for five minutes. Stir in the Worcestershire sauce, mustard, celery seed, and chili powder. Simmer for ten minutes. Mash tomatoes, and add with liquid and meats to onion mixture. Stir in cayenne pepper. Heat to boiling, reduce heat and simmer for thirty minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans and let simmer for about one hour, stirring occasionally. Make about ten servings. Enjoy.

Just a little side note my new property is over run with wild hogs so if y'all are interested in a hog killing let Wild Wind know and we will try and schedule one up before it gets to hot.

Prospector's Gold Nugget

By Lee "Prospector" Fogleman

Grace to all!

May God bless you, encourage you, and strengthen you always.

If you didn't make it to Winter Camp you missed a lot of fun and fellowship in the cold. But we felt the warmth and love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit during the services!

Friday night started out as a cold windy night! The fire of the Holy Spirit gave us heat from the inside. Our theme for camp was "Blazing a Trail Home". It is so important that you are on the right trail.

God has given each of us a trail to blaze (a calling on our lives). Have you answered the call?

After worship and speaking I called my grandson, Eric Miller, forward to give a testimony of how he led his friend to Christ. So boys I ask you to reach out and witness to your friends at school, better yet witness every chance you get. Instead of telling someone you will pray for them, stop, and pray for them at that moment. This is what I call blazing a trail, starting a new path in someone's life. With God's help you can change someone's life and lead them to Christ, starting them on blazing a trail to heaven.

We cannot imagine what we can do, with God's help! It's a matter of listening and following the Holy Spirit. We cannot do it on our own. It is not how much we give but giving of what we have. Take time and read John 6: 5-13. It tells of how a little boy gave his lunch to Jesus and Jesus fed 5,000 men plus women and children. The little boy only had 5 small loaves of barley bread and two small fish but see what God can do with what you give. We just must blaze the trail God puts in our heart.

Everyone has something to give God. Instead of asking God to give you something, give God something! If you feel like a failure because of your past give Him your past. If you feel the calling is beyond your ability, give God your inability. If you feel defeated because of a setback, give God your total determination.

We all have something to give to God, and everything counts – even the small stuff – when we give it to God. He is the one who turns small stuff into big stuff.

As the Prospector I found my gift is the gift of trading. I love to trade, it is such a blessing to see a boy's face light up after a trade and shaking of hands. Sometimes the boys don't think they have much to trade but if they step forward and try, it is amazing what they will end up with. I have found in time we all win with God's blessing.

After this wonderful winter camp, I (Prospector) went home to enjoy the trading I have done there. I think of the smiles on the boys' faces and the trails I helped them to start. I love to give out my little pouch with the red glass drop in them. If you do not have one of these pouches, come see me at the next camp. This is one of the gifts God gave me. It is to make these pouches and give them as a witnessing tool to spread the importance of the blood of Jesus!

I was asked by one of the boy's mom (that is in my outpost) if I would baptize her son on December 11th. I checked with my pastor, who said sure. Wolf (Wife of Lee Fogleman) and I worked and earned our credentials to become pastors in the Assembly of God. This is another story to tell, how Christ took the impossible trail to become a pastor for me and made it possible. This was a wonderful event to baptize Hayden and start him on blazing a trail to heaven!

I love all of you and thank each one of you for your prayers. You have made a difference in my life and helped me to blaze a trail as the Prospector!

God Bless, Prospector



Upcoming Events

By Frank "Jawbone" Super

Shawnee Trail:

I wanted to fill you all in on 2017 future events that you really need to put on your calendars and make plans to attend. Here they are:

1) Brush Poppin' Trace 2017: March 10-12, 2017 at the FCF Village at Lakeview Camp. Brush Poppin' Trace will have the theme of "Come Join the Adventure," based upon the Book of Matthew, Chapter 14, verses 22-33. This scripture recalls the account of Jesus walking on the water, calling out to Peter to join Him, and then Peter stepping out, sinking, and then grabbing hold of Jesus to remain above the water. All of us FCF members have been called to step out of the boat, or put another way, to get out of our comfort zones. What is Jesus calling you to do in 2017 that might feel uncomfortable to you? What about those non-FCF Rangers and Commanders who want to join FCF but are worried about the unknowns of "walking on the water?" At the 2017 Brush Poppin' Trace, FCF members can seek God's will and determine to break out of the everyday and increase their commitment to Christ. There will be a Frontier Adventure during the Brush Poppin' Trace, so all you Rangers and commanders who want to get out of the boat can come to camp and go back in time to the pioneer days. You never know what you might find, but I guarantee you that you will find adventure and a closer walk with the one and only Savior.

2) Frontier Brigade Camp (FBC) 2017: June 21-25 during the Junior Leadership Development Academy (JLDA) at Lakeview Camp. A wonderful opportunity to come enjoy the outdoors and learn outdoor related skills and adventure. The FBC will teach required skills needed for the FCF experience such as: knife and hawk throwing; flint and steel fire making; outdoor, pioneer style cooking, and good old time camp fun. A Frontier Adventure will also take place during FBC.

3) 2017 Territorial Rendezvous: July 12-14, New Mexico Mountains. To all you Texans who want to take a break from the summer heat of Texas, this Rendezvous in the mountains of New Mexico is your chance. Come to the mountains and enjoy cool, dry air, cool nights, and mountain solitude. The Territorial Rendezvous is a great adventure to go outside and employ all of your primitive skills. There will be challenging skills competitions for knife and hawk throwing, archery and black powder shooting. The courses at the New Mexico camp are always the best and most creative and getting to enjoy them in the cool dry air in the mountains makes the whole experience that much more enjoyable. The council fires up in New Mexico are delightful, with the clear skies and twinkling stars overhead a clear reminder of our Heavenly Father. Hot and cold running water is at the showers, and the water is always hot or cold depending on what time of the day you take your shower. Start making plans now to go to New Mexico. Its a long trip but absolutely worth it. I hope to see you all there.

Buckskin Update

By J.D. "Lawman" Smith

Well, the year has come to an end. Your staff has been working hard trying to get more excitement and participation in the FCF Events. We have new plans to build a FCF store and a blacksmith shop, and the blacksmith shop will already be equipped with all the tools a blacksmith will need. We have brought new and different ideas and games to the events. The attendance numbers were down, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and to those that didn't attend for one reason or the other, there was a big hole in camp, and in our hearts, where your lodge should have been.

Satan has been real busy this year with all of his attacks and lies. It has been a tough year on some of our fellow Rangers, please keep them in your prayers especially this holiday season. I am thankful for all of my brother Rangers that stand with me in our fight against all that Satan can throw against us. WE WILL WIN!!

A date will be set for Buckskin and Wilderness testing in the beginning months of the new year. Stay tuned for the dates. Prepare yourselves for a new chapter in your walk.



J.D. "Lawman" Smith, Buckskin Rep.

j.d._smith@hotmail.com, 214-502-4358

FCF Item for Sale

Many FCF members likely remember Roddie McEntire from his years of running an FCF store in our chapter. He recently contacted us stating that he has some black powder rifles for sale: 1 Thompson Center 50 caliber, and several 32 and 45 caliber, both Traditions and CVA. He also has a lot of Lodge cast iron cookware, and miscellaneous metal items like tripods, lantern holders, S hooks, grill, etc. If anyone is interested, they may call Roddie at 903-681-0675; cash only.

Upcoming Birthdays

These active FCF members have birthdays this quarter. (If yours is missing, feel free to submit mm-dd-yy to mark@ntxrr.org (for future reference plus make sure you are current on your dues).

January

Frontiersmen..... J. Gallops, S. Parker, J. Torres, J. Wilson

Buckskin (none)

Wilderness Shiny White Cloud, Shofar

February

Frontiersmen..... J. Carpenter

Buckskin Cast Iron

Wilderness Bow Breaker, Red Wood

March

Frontiersmen..... J. Boaz, E. Byers, K. Oliver

Buckskin (none)

Wilderness Brave Heart, Red Wing, Smooth Stone

Current Shawnee Trail FCF Statistics

(status based on 12/25/2016 dues status)

	Active YB (2016)	Active OT (2016)	Inactive YB (2015, 2014, 2013)	Inactive OT (2015, 2014, 2013)	Archived OT (2012 thru 2008)	Historical (before 2008)	Total Members
Frontiersmen	12	13	64	49	66	622	826
Buckskin	0	6	8	7	13	79	113
Wilderness	1	27	3	14	5	67	117
Total	13	46	75	70	84	768	1056

2017 District Calendar

Jan 7	District Staff Meeting	Jun 22-25	Junior Leadership
Jan 20-22	School of the Piece		Development Academy
Jan 27-28	South Central Region Conference, Oklahoma City	July 12-14	South Central Region Rendezvous
Mar 10-12	FCF Brush Poppin' Trace / FCF Frontier Adventure	Sept 9	GUIDE: Leaders Conference
Mar 16-18	LEAD—National Council	Sept 23	Ranger Kids Day Camp
Apr 8	Camp Work Day	Oct 20-22	FCF Family Days
Apr 28-30	Pow Wow	Nov 4	Camp Work Day
May 20	May Fête	Nov 17-19	Winter Camp
		Dec 27-30	Junior Leadership Development Academy

NTX Royal Rangers Email Lists

Are you subscribed to the NTX Royal Rangers email lists? If not, visit http://www.ntxrr.org/about_ntx_email_lists.htm and sign up to be on our mailing list today. You can get updates on news, FCF information, and prayer requests by subscribing to our e-mail lists.

Contact Your FCF Staff

Chairman—Jonathan 'Bigfoot' Trower,
jonathan.trower@hotmail.com

President—(open)

Vice President—(open)

Scribe—Mark Oliver
mark@ntxrr.org

Buckskin Rep—JD 'Lawman' Smith
j.d._smith@hotmail.com

FCF Aide-de-Camp—Michael 'Bald Eagle' Clay
ntdscribe@yahoo.com

Chaplain—Lee 'Prospector' Fogleman
foglemanlee@yahoo.com

Field Advisor—Wayne 'Lone Eagle' Word
waynew@templeelectric.com

Field Advisor—Mike Lyon
mlyon@vectorcontracting.com

Scout—Daniel 'Brave Heart' Kohn

Asst. Scout—Jesse 'Giant Slayer' Laughlin

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

Our Newsletter "The Long Tom" got its name from the Kentucky Long Rifle. It was known for hitting the mark when in the hands of the Master or marksman.