



THE PONY EXPRESS



Fall 1997

Volume 4 Issue 1

Mission: Possible!

Pittsfield, NH was the scene of this years very exciting District Pow Wow. The theme of Mission Possible brought 17 outposts together on Aug 8th thru the 10th. With nearly 300 people in attendance on Saturday, you can hardly imagine the excitement. In fact, outposts traveled from as far north as Fort Kent Maine to attend this event.

The FCF village was a huge success with many great things to see and do. In addition to the village, there were lots of exciting events to participate in including Capture the Flag, Carrier Landing, Lashing, Compass and Canoe! Besides the normal excitement of entering an event, the boys had the added incentive of hand made trophies. Each trophy was created by various N.N.E.D. staff members and they were great.

Friday and Saturday nights, Pastor Mac Preble and his family led the attendees in praise and worship as well as an outstanding message. Many boys and men went forward for salvation as well as to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Even on Sunday Morning, Pastor Mac and some commanders were able to led boys to the Lord.

Once again this year, the staff provided the meat for a great Saturday evening Feast. Roast Pig, Turkeys, Roasts and lots of beans were served up to the nearly 300 people. While the feast got off to a late start, everyone agreed that it was worth the wait! Special thanks go out to Rick Philbrick and all of his helpers for the hard labor in the hot sun.

How do you try to evaluate whether a Pow Wow was a success? Some might say...how many attended? Some might say...How many kids were saved? Some might say...Did the kids have fun? I believe the question could be answered by saying GOD MET US THERE. If Pow Wow provided a way for God to meet US (boys and commanders) then Pow Wow was a success. I know God met me there! - Gary Besaw



Ricky "Nightwind" Collins in the FCF village

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Here are just a few of the items inside!

Wooly Bear shares news
from his den.....See page 2

The Pow Wow Pictures are
here.....See page 4

Ready for Anything? A true
story.....page 5

Out with the Old and In with
the newSee page 6



A Note From the D.C.

Mark A. Blanchette - District Commander

There continues to be staff changes as we begin to grow. The White Mountain Section recently brought Kevin McCullough on board as an Area Commander. Ron Daigle has been appointed as the Aroostook Sectional Commander. Ken Bustard has stepped up as the Sectional Commander for the Northern Section. Phil Adams, unfortunately, had to resign the sectional commander position as his job is demanding much of his time and he is unable to fulfill the duties of Sectional Commander. The Northwest Sectional Commander, Jay Hoffman will assume an additional role as Deputy District Commander of Vermont. I would like to thank these men for their willingness to serve in these staff capacities. Please remember to pray for these men as they serve in these staff positions as well as in their local outposts.

Pow Wow 97, Mission Possible, has come and gone. First, I would like to thank Gary Besaw, Pow Wow Camp Commander and my staff for doing an outstanding job this year in conducting Pow Wow. Additionally, I want to thank the Outpost Commanders and their staff for the sacrifice you made to bring the boys and for your diligence in the Royal Ranger ministry. All of you men are truly a blessing! There was a grand total of 296, including visitors on Saturday, that were in attendance. Praise God! I was so blessed to see the boys and commanders getting touched by the Living God. I have never seen an alter call where all who came to the alter seeking, received something special from Him. God has truly blessed us in Northern New England. Let's remember to Praise and Thank *Him* for what *He* has done for us!

There are times when the "winds of life" blow trying to capsize us and cause us to fear what is before us. The enemy would have us be faint hearted and abandon the Liberty the Lord has given to us by focusing on the winds and rain rather than on Him. I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV) says "Stand Firm in the faith; Be Men of courage; be strong." By standing firm in the faith, with the help and strength of the Lord, we can face any circumstance, situation and/or adversity that may be before us. When we stand and face fear with faith, fear is no more. Until then, peace be your journey.

His bondservant,
Mark A. Blanchette

The Pony Express is a quarterly publication of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers, Mark Blanchette - District Commander. The Pony Express is an excellent way to promote what is happening in your outpost, section and district. We welcome you to submit articles, photos, etc. Please send your articles to the address found on the back page. Articles may also be send to us via the internet at READYPGE@sover.net

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Christian greetings to my Brothers & Sisters,

Where do I start this time. Lets start with Pow-wow. The F.C.F. village was great. Thanks to all of the brothers & sisters who helped make it a success. The boys kept *Firestick* busy with the candle making (sorry, *Firestick*). Of course, *Firebird* didn't help out when he started to trade for the candles at the blacksmith shop. *Little Knife*, I want to thank you for giving the boys a chance to use some of the tools from "our time". I think they found out why it took so long to make something (the power tools were hand powered :-)). Once again *Nightwind* did a great job lighting the council fire, but watch out we have a lot of new brothers and they are looking for a job.

Many, many, thanks to *Grizzly*, *Eagle Claw*, and *Tall Timber* for cooking and feeding us. I have told *Bald Eagle* in person that I thought he did a great job as Camp Commander, and would like to let him know again in this column. Great job *Bald Eagle*. The King's Pine brothers have many jobs in rangers, from the District Commander down to a Group Commander (did I get that right, *Wanderer*?).

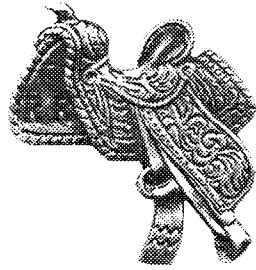
The next item would be the Frontier Adventure. We had 10 new brothers pass and were inducted into the King's Pine Chapter of F.C.F.. They were Jonathan *Tiny Bear* McCullough, Levi Washburn, James Spaulding, Jeremy *Surefoot* Nagle, Peter *Wandering* Pete Ebner, Kenneth *Flame* Hatch, Seth Charest, Steve Tusi, Kevin McCullough, and Kevin Stewart. Welcome to one and all, some of you have earned names and the rest should be thinking of a good name also.

Once again thanks to the brothers who helped run the Frontier Adventure, yo

Continued on page 3 - FCF

FROM WHERE I SIT...

Rev. Gregg Randall
Men's Ministries
Director



I am trying to write this article as I sit in the terminal building at the Washington Dulles International Airport. I am between connecting flights and on my way to Brownsville to attend the revival services. So naturally my thoughts turn to revival.

In just three short decades, 1960 to 1990, the percentage of children living apart from their biological fathers roughly doubled to 36 percent. It is estimated by the turn of the century that nearly 50 percent of our children will be living in fatherless homes. The decline of fatherhood is a major force behind many of the most disturbing problems that plague our society. Fatherlessness is a contributing factor in the increase of teenage pregnancy. Teen suicide has nearly tripled. Alcohol and drug abuse among teenagers continues at a very high rate. Scholastic Achievement Test scores have declined 75 points between 1960 and 1990. Absent fathers seem to be one of the most important causes of these trends.

If ever America needs revival. It is now. I believe we are living at an unprecedented moment in time where God is about to do something incredible in Northern New England. There is a fresh move of the Spirit sweeping across our land and it is beginning to touch us. There is an incredible spiritual hunger and thirsting occurring in men for more of God. This desire is very evident by the anticipated one million men who will be gathering shortly in Washington, D.C. to seek God for forgiveness, healing, and an awakening.

Royal Ranger Commanders are an integral part of the lives of many boys across this district. You are in a key position to influence and impact the boys who have not had the godly influence of a father living at home. Your presence in their lives can usher

FCF

made it a time of learning and fellowship. I heard that there were some notches cut, and one had to trade a notch for some beads. I don't know who would make a Greenhorn do that do you *Snapper*. We had a lot of fun and found out that the new brothers fit right in with the rest of us, so welcome home brothers.

That brings us up to the Trace. Out of the 10 new brothers, there were 7 at the Trace. Praise God!!! I love it when the new brothers are active right away, like I said before, they fit right in and are at home with family. This year we tried something new, a Woods Walk event. *Firebird* did a great job setting it up and running the event. From what I hear some of the brothers don't know what to do if they run upon a snake in the trail. They had fun trying the event, which consists of shooting, throwing the hawk & knife. This year we all made Candle Lanterns for a craft. They were nice kits, and many thanks to *Smoke Signal* for taking the time to make so many kits (30). The new brothers are getting off to a good start on their outfits thanks to you. *Lightning Bolt*, thanks for your help in getting them ready also, even though you couldn't make the Trace, you were missed. We did have a couple of brother who attend the Trace for the first time (The King's Pine trace that is), as they have transfer from N.Y. Jay *Mad Dog* and his son Mike was welcomed into the King's Pine chapter and it was nice to have them. Hope you enjoyed yourself on

the Trace.

Did you get enough to eat? We also did Hawk & Knife throwing along with Blackpowder shooting. It was the first time for some of the brothers (except for the Frontier Adventure) and they did real good. I can see that we have some new eagle eyes in the chapter.

On Oct. 10-13 we will be having the second Family Rendezvous at the village in Pittsfield, NH. I'll let you know how that and the Territorial Rendezvous goes in the next issue. The Territorial Rendezvous is being held in N.J. on the 16-18 of Oct. 97.

One last thing that our Lord has placed on my heart. Please, Please, PRAY for all of our inactive brothers as well as the active ones. There are too many we forget because we don't see them often. Lift them up to our Lord for His will to be done in their lives. Don't forget me, please. One other thing, I have appointed *Wandering Pete* as the Scribe for the King's Pine chapter. Welcome to the King's Pine staff, he will serve out the rest of the term for *Hooper* who has just returned from the mission field and needs some time to get settled. *Hooper*, thank you for understanding my mistake in this matter.

Love In Christ

Wooly Bear

Wooly Bear

revival into their lives. As leaders of your outpost, you have a unique opportunity. So the question becomes, what are the characteristics of a revival leader?

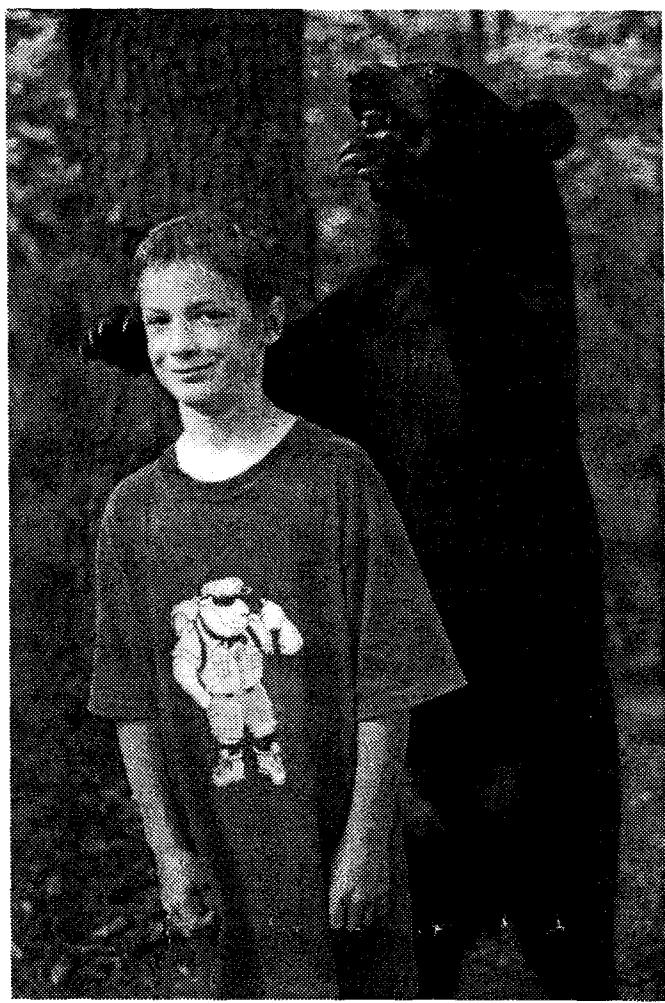
There are many individuals in Scripture that we can look at. Perhaps a character study of such men in the Bible will give us a clue as to what it was that caused them to impact so many lives. Let's look at one. His name is Samuel.

He encouraged Israel to rid their lives of foreign gods and commit themselves to the Lord and serve Him only.

(1 Samuel 7:2-4). He learned to distinguish the difference between man's voice and God's voice (1 Samuel 3:1-18). He was an intercessor and man of prayer (1 Samuel 7:5-9; 8:6-9; 12:16-23; 15:10-11). Samuel was anointed of God (1 Samuel 3:19-21). He was also courageous. He was not afraid to confront wrong doing with Truth even when speaking to a king (1 Samuel 13:13-14; 15:16-29). The Scripture reveals that when Samuel died, all Israel mourned (1 Samuel 28:3). My prayer is that God will raise up many revival leaders.



The F.C.F. Blacksmith



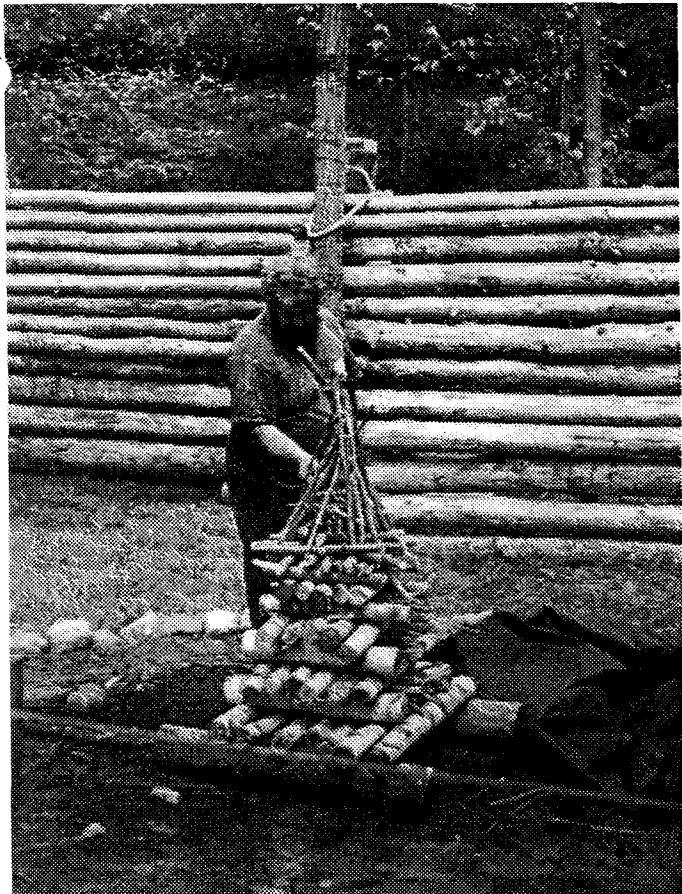
Outpost 11's Black Bear sneaks up
on Jedediah Eliot



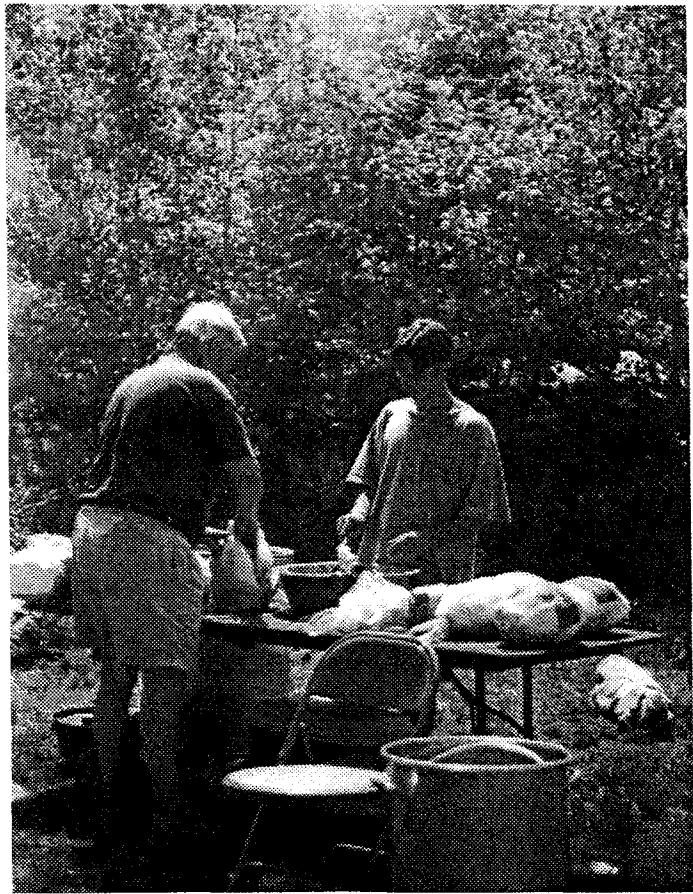
Gary Besaw and Lenny Pettersen doing campsite inspections with Carol Bonner recording scores



Two Outposts meet on the capture the flag field



Wooly Bear prepares the evening
Council Fire



Rick Philbrick, Joshua Philbrick and David Vossberg
prepared another great feast this year!

Ready for Anything...

by George Tusi

It was 1978. I was a Sea Ranger with Outpost #2. I was 16 years old and had my drivers license and a car for only a few months. My neighborhood friends and I were hanging out in our usual place, (a basketball court the city had built the previous summer after tearing down a condemned apartment building. It was late in march and there were snow banks melting on the unusually warm night air.

It was still getting dark early and I had just noticed the full moon, when next to the ball court, a house door opened and a figure stepped out into the light. "Hey George, how about giving these two girls a ride home". It was my Sunday school teacher (Mrs. Hill). "Sure" I replied, "It would be my pleasure". So I left the gang and drove the two girls home, then returned to the court. I was surprised to see that the whole gang had disappeared. I thought to myself that it was too early for everyone to go home and after all, I was only gone for five minutes. I knew they had to be somewhere close by, so I got out of the car and as I did, I heard a lot of loud yelling coming from the back alley of the buildings. Just then a voice yelled out "George, can you get my son, he just went to see the fight". (It was Mrs. Hill again), so without another thought, I ran to the scene of the noise.

There were at least fourteen people mixing it up, some of them were my neighborhood friends. The fighting seemed to be spreading out with most of them on the ground rolling around and slugging it out. I grabbed Philip (Mrs. Hills son) and pulled him to the side. He was swinging his pocket knife around and shouting to me, "You see what they did to Doug!". I noticed blood on my hand from the knife wound when Phil accidentally cut me. I then took his knife away from him and started trying to break up the fight and disarm people. There were a lot of people cut in such a short time, but nothing a few Band-Aids and stitches wouldn't fix. The only one really hurt was David, whom we found out later had suffered a shattered knee cap from a body slam onto the pavement.

Within a few minutes, the fighting

was over and then things turned for the worse. Another figure had appeared on the scene. It was Doug and he was covered with blood. Before I could say anything Doug had zipped past me and caught an adversary named Ryan who was just getting up off the ground. "Your going to Pay!" was all I heard as I saw Doug's right hand raise up into the air and back beside his head. It was then that I noticed a glimmer of light reflect off the 18" machete knife he was wielding. Reason flashed through my mind in a millisecond. Doug's arm was too far away to grab and stop before he swung forward and down. The possible outcome horrified me so that my voice would not work to yell and possibly sway the outcome.

Almost instinctively, I lunged and reached forward and placed my right fist onto the blade of the weapon, just as his forward motion began. The weight of my hand on the blade forced Doug to re-cock for another swing and bought me the time I needed to take another step closer and grab his wrist. With my left hand on Doug's wrist, I was able to disarm him. As I turned around I noticed car headlights coming over the hill and knew it must be the Police. I thought, "Oh great, here are people cut and bloody and I'm going to be the person the cops see standing there in their headlights holding a machete". I quickly thrust the weapon into the snow bank, put my hands into my pockets and began to walk away like nothing had happened. The whole crew began to disappear ducking into hallway doors and around corners. They had all scattered just as the police arrived. I went directly to Mrs. Hills house. Mr. Hill looked at my hand and immediately wrapped a dish towel around them, tied it off like a tourniquet and ordered me to go directly to the hospital. My concerns, however, were for Doug. Where did he disappear to? Does he need stitches?

After a short search, I found Doug hiding in an apartment across the parking lot waiting for things to calm down outside. He was looking pale and white. I forced him to get into my car with me and go to the hospital. On the way, I asked him why he decided to use a machete. The response and

emotion of his reply told me he was telling the truth. "A Machete???" he said. "I thought it was a bill club and I was going to hit Ryan on the head a couple of times because he hit me with a steam iron and it really hurts". Inside the hospital emergency room I explained the situation and what had happened. The doctors did not believe me and asked what really happened. Within 20 minutes, the emergency room was full of people who needed stitches and one with a shattered knee cap. They must have believed me by now, I thought, or why else would they have called in the police and split the groups up.

As I thought about the evenings events, things I learned in Royal Rangers kept coming to mind. The most basic things like the code, "Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient, Spiritual." The motto; Ready!...For anything. The Pledge, "With Gods help I will do my best to serve God, my church and my fellow man. To live by the Ranger code and to make the golden rule, my daily rule". Each one of these things took on a new realization as I personalized them with the nights events.

Alert: With a sense of knowing what was going on around me.

Clean: I was clean in body, without drugs or alcohol. It was clear that substance abuse was the cause of the mishap and mayhem that evening.

Honest: The doctors thought I was lying as I told them what happened and because the truth being realized they were able to call the police and prevent a recurrence at the hospital.

Courageous: A matter of doing what must be done at a time when no one else could have done it.

Loyal: faithful to my friends in helping to get them out of trouble.

Courteous: I thought more about getting medical attention for Doug than I did for myself.

Obedient: On Mrs. Hills request, I rushed to help her son.

Spiritual: God is not willing that any should perish... Now I had a chance to witness to Ryan.

Only with Gods help am I truly Ready for anything.

The Bridge Builder

An old man going down a lonely highway
came in the evening cold and gray
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him,
but he stopped when on the other side
and built a bridge to span the tide.

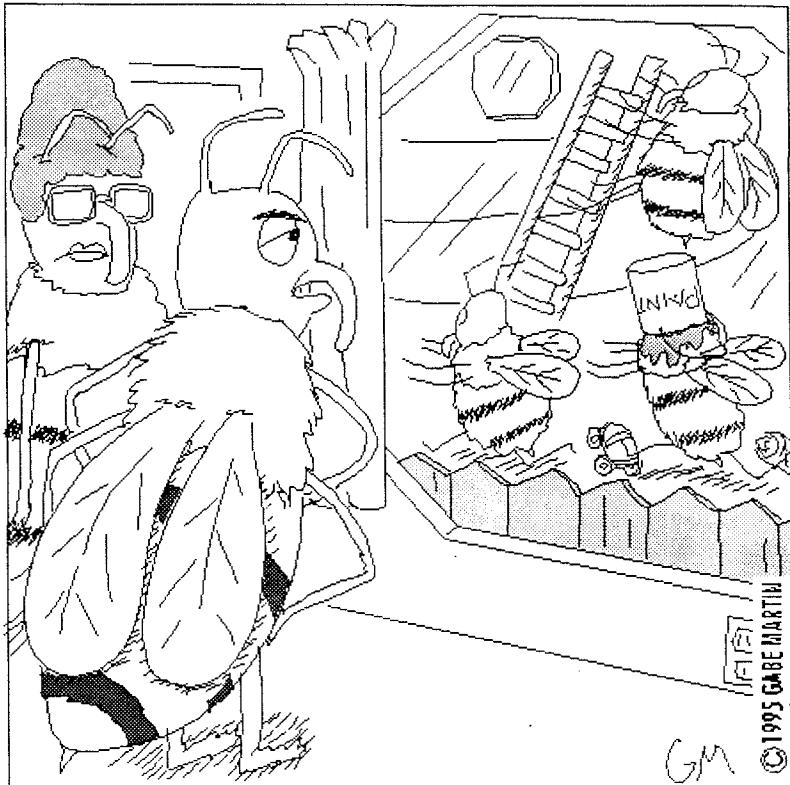
"Old man" said a fellow pilgrim near,
"you are wasting your strength with
building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
you never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
why build you this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray hand.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he
said,
"There followeth after me today
a youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm which has been naught to me,
to that fair haired youth might a pitfall be.
He too, must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building the bridge for
him".

- unknown

THE BORDERLINE

By Gabe Martin
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Out With The Old And In With The New!

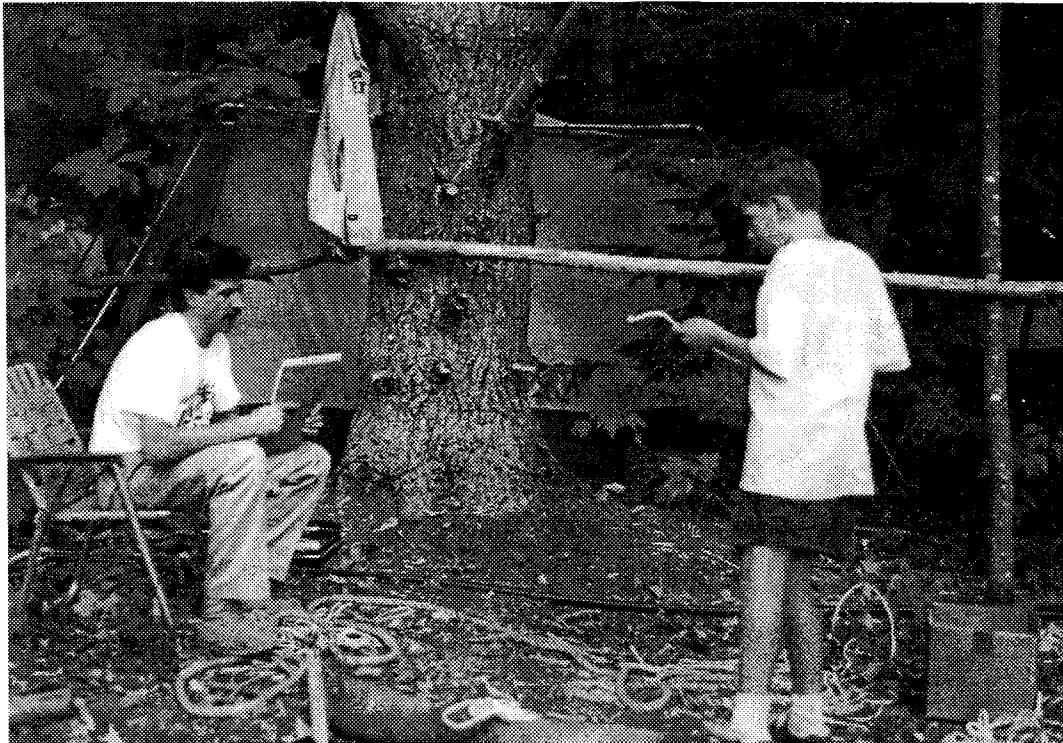
Over a year ago, the national office finished revamping the Pioneer and Trailblazer program. These changes were made to new and exciting challenges while on the road to the Gold Medal of Achievement as well as enhance the Royal Ranger Program. This new change is called the "*Gold Track System*"(GTS) and will be fully implemented on January 1, 1998. After the first of the year, in order for a boy to complete and earn his GMA he must complete the Gold Track System (GTS) in addition to the regular advancement trail. As complicated as all this may seem, it is really a simple and straight forward program.

A Pioneer that comes into the program will begin working on his Powder Horn Advancement and then he will continue to work through the Bowie Knife, Tomahawk, Rifle and Mountain Man Advancements. Each one of these advancements has a "Gold Track Trail". A ranger may choose to work on the GTS after completing each advancement or at the end. The same holds true for a Trailblazer, he will work on his first, second, advanced, and master rating and then he may complete the GTS or work on it in parallel. A boy who enters the ranger program as a Pioneer must complete the Pioneer and Trailblazer advancement trail and GTS for both so he may qualify for the Gold Medal of Achievement. A boy who enters the ranger program as a Trailblazer must complete the advancement trail for Trailblazers and the GTS for both Pioneers and Trailblazers. Once these requirements are met he may qualify for the GMA.

A Pioneer who completes his Advancement Trail may wear the Silver Hawk Award. If he completes the GTS system for Pioneers he may wear a star on the Silver Hawk Award (He must have earned the Silver Hawk Award before earning the star) A Trailblazer who completes his Advancement Trail may wear the Gold Hawk Award. If he completes the GTS system for Trailblazers he may wear the star on the Gold Hawk Award (He must have earned the Silver Hawk Award before earning the star)

Hopefully this will clear some things up for the Gold Track System. You may refer to your Pioneer, Trailblazer or Leaders manual for detailed information. If you have any further questions you may contact your district commander or district staff.

Mark A. Blanchette



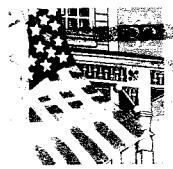
Next Time...
NTT
The New
Year
Contact Info
And More...

It's 'knot' that hard...really.

The Pony Express is always looking for articles. Got something for us?

Page 8

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