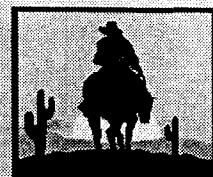




THE PONY EXPRESS



Spring 1997

Volume 3 Issue 3

25 ATTEND W.N.T.C.

Winter National Training Camp (WNTC) was held February 6 - 9th, 1997 at the Christian Fellowship and Renewal Center in North Limington, Maine. Twenty five trainees, including four trainees from North Carolina and one from Kentucky, attended this event. Besides the campers, there were five staff members to oversee this camp. John Benda was the Camp Commander and Commander Larson was the Senior Guide. Both of these brothers are from the Southern New England District. The instructors were Lenny Petterson and Steve Melcher from the N.N.E.D. along with Dana Lemieux from the national office. Many of the commanders may recall that Dana also hails from New Hampshire having been a member of Outpost 5. The campers were especially fortunate to have Dana at the campout since he has spent considerable time in the White Mountains during the winter. Dana's experience includes a winter working at the AMC hut in Tuckerman ravine, giving him excellent experience in winter camping and hiking.

"Upon returning from camping Sunday morning, we were informed that it had dropped to minus ten during the night."

The trainees were broken into four patrols with the guide and assistant guide positions rotated on a daily basis. Each patrol

had the experience of being either the service or program patrol for the day. As we do in our outposts, each patrol prepared a song and yell and performed it during assemblies. The next time you see the District Commander, ask him to show you his owl eyes and to perform the owl rap. He may have a future as a Christian rap artist!

The trainees were instructed in various winter activities such as: hiking, cooking, camping, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, sledding, winter games, snow shoeing and building winter shelters. All the trainees had the experience of driving a snowmobile, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, sledding and building snow shelters. A considerable amount of time was spent on winter clothing and how to keep warm in the cold weather. Winter first aid and hypothermia prevention and treatment were extensively covered. Most of the instruction was carried out outdoors to help the trainees experience winter.

The last evening at the camp, we loaded up our back packs and headed out into the woods for an overnight campout. All the patrols were required to construct a winter shelter such as a snow trench, snow cave or quinzee. Most of the trainees slept in these shelters instead of tents. It was a cold clear night with a beautiful starlit sky. You could hear the trees popping during the night from the cold. Upon returning from camping Sunday morning, we were informed that it had dropped to minus ten during the night. All trainees, including the Southerners survived.

Continued on page 7 - WNTC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Here are just a few of the items inside!

Wooly Bear has some great stuff planned...See page 2

Who is that man who is always smiling? See page 4

So you think you're ready? Check out the story on page 5

Mush was the cry heard on this snowy day...See page 7



A Note From the D.C.

Mark A. Blanchette - District Commander

I would first like to take the opportunity to thank all of you that called me indicating your support and congratulations on my recent appointment as District Commander. It shows the unity of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers but most importantly it shows the unity of Christ's family. I look forward in working with each and everyone of you as we Reach, Teach and Keep Boys for Christ.

I sent out a letter at the beginning of the year and mentioned that I would be stating what the initial goals and objectives would be for our district. Over the next several months you will begin to see additional sectional and district staff members. These men will be placed on staff to be of service to you. There are still needs within the district and if you are interested in serving in this capacity please let me know. There will be a greater emphasis on training current leaders and new leaders. The Royal Ranger ministry has changed over the past few years and will continue to change. It will be important that you stay current with these changes. Presently, we have 24 chartered outposts. I would like to see 50 chartered outposts by this time next year and 100 by the year 2000. Encourage the unchartered outposts in your area to join in the district and get their boys plugged in. There are some exciting events coming up that the leaders and boys will both enjoy. More importantly, these events can be life changing around the altars. These changes and additions will be necessary as we begin to move forward in the district and meet the challenges before us. I ask that each outpost and its commanders "close ranks behind" and hold the District and District Royal Rangers up in prayer. It is with God's help and His blessing that we will be successful in furthering His kingdom. The scriptures tell us that "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." We want God's blessing and His hand to be on our house.

I look forward to talking and fellowshiping with each of you over the course of this year. If there is anything that the District Royal Rangers can do to help make your jobs easier, please call upon us. 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 sent to us via the internet at READYPGE@sover.net

While a subscription to this newsletter is sent free to the senior commander of each chartered outpost, any offerings to help defray the cost of this publication would be appreciated. If you, or anyone in your outpost would like their own copy, subscriptions are available for \$5.00 per year. Subscription requests may be sent to us at the address found on the back page. Checks should be made payable to N.N.E.D. Royal Rangers.



Greetings to all of my brothers & sisters in Christ! Well spring is here and it's time for this "Ole Woolly Bear" to climb out of his den and hit the woods. Anyone with me?

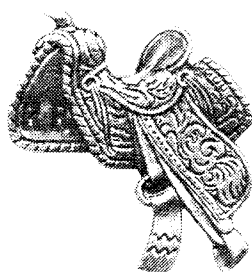
The King's Pine brothers held their annual meeting and sure did make some plans for this year of 97. The very first thing we did was elect some new officers. Our new Scribe is Bob "Hooper" Davison, (welcome home Hooper) New District Scout is Anthony "Tenderheart" Weed, Assistant District Scout is Nate "Empty Lodge" Gagne, and the new Historian is Jim "Firebird" Auchmoody. I hereby charge them all to do the duties of their office. Welcome to the staff of the King's Pine chapter of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship.

The first plan we made was for a work day in the village on May 10, 1997. Please come and help if you would like to. "Many hands make light work." Next was the King's Pine Family Rendezvous which will be held on May 23-26, 1997 for those who want to stay the whole Memorial Day weekend. May 23, 24 are the official days, with the feast and events on Saturday (May 24). The meat will be provided by the chapter. Bring a side dish for Saturday noon meal. If you signed up for one already, that's the one to bring, if not just bring what you want. Once again I want to remind you, that *you* are the most important thing you can bring. If you have an outfit great, if not so what. We plan on putting on the service Sunday night at the Christian Worship Center in outposts (whatever). The service has been turned over to the King's Pine chapter and their families. If you have a music maker bring it, if you have a joy in your heart for the Lord come show it. Right here is a good place to put the word out so here goes. Would you like the King's Pine Family Rendezvous (brothers & sisters) to visit your church.

Continued on page 3 - FCF

FROM —WHERE I SIT...

Rev. Gregg Randall
Men's Ministries
Director



We read in Luke 10:4, Jesus' instructions after having appointed the seventy-two to go out to every town. The instructions were very simple and very clear, **"Do not take a purse or a bag or sandals..."** Earlier, Jesus gave nearly the same charge to the 12 in chapter 9, verse 3. There he said, **"Take nothing for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic."**

Jesus' message to his would be disciples had to do with traveling light. It was about being focused. Jesus' call is for us, his disciples, to keep our lives simple and uncomplicated.

I recently had to do some traveling that took me far from home for a period of two weeks. I thought I had properly packed for the journey. Since the climate of my destination was somewhat warmer than Northern New England, I decided that heavy winter clothing was not necessary. The unexpected occurred. It was unseasonably cold the whole time I was there. I had packed the wrong things in my bag. Because I was unprepared, I was very uncomfortable the whole time I was there. It caused me at times to lose focus of my purpose and reason for being at the meetings.

My question for you is this. What have you been packing for your spiritual journey? In other words, what attitudes, thoughts, actions have you been accumulating in your heart? What kind of baggage are you carrying around that weighs you down and is displeasing to our Lord? The excess baggage of our lives causes us to live in discomfort. It causes us to lose focus on our purpose and reason for being.

The 23rd Psalm begins, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul." Read the last four words again.

From time to time the shepherd must restore his sheep. Sometimes the shepherd finds his sheep lying upside down with its four feet sticking up in the air. The sheep is unable to get back up on its own efforts. The attentive shepherd must set the sheep back on its feet and massage life back into the sheep's limbs. The shepherd restores the "cast down" sheep.

What caused the sheep to become "cast down" in the first place? Most often, it is caused by excess wool! The sheep's wool becomes very long, heavily matted with mud, burrs, and other debris. The sheep becomes so heavily weighted down that it is rendered helpless and useless.

Sheep do not enjoy the shearing process. But when it is done, there is great relief. There is no longer the threat of being turned upside down. The sheep is set free to follow the shepherd.

Jesus' call in our journey is a call to keep our lives simple. It's a call to regain a singleness of eye and heart. What do you need to unpack from your life? Is it the baggage of grudges, bitterness, unforgiveness, or anger? Could it be lust, loose lips, or crude behavior? Revival, restoration, healing has to do with the shedding off of all those things that weigh us down and the accepting of Jesus' invitation to send us out as His disciples.

District ROY

Pioneers

1st Seth Masterson - Outpost 40
2nd Bryan Schmidt - Outpost 34
3rd Andrew Kohl - Outpost 29

Trailblazers

1st Mike Hoffman - Outpost 34
2nd Alex Duckless - Outpost 32
3rd Steven Hoffman - Outpost 34

AST

1st Anthony Weed - Outpost 33
2nd Jeremy Nagle - Outpost 36

FCF

Maybe do the service, music, worship, etc. The FCF would like the chance to be of use to you, to promote Royal Rangers and show this side of Royal Rangers. There are requirements we need, a field (place) to set up the village for a weekend. Please not a church lawn as we need to dig fire pits to cook on. If you can contact me or any FCF brother, please do so.

We also made plans for the Phase I testing which will be held on June 20, 21, 1997 at the village in Pittsfield, NH. Please get your applications into me ASAP, so I can send you the paperwork and information you need.

The Frontier Adventure will be held on Aug. 22-23, 1997 also at the village in Pittsfield, NH. The King's Pine Trace will be held on Sept. 19-20, 1997 at the village. This year's Trace will be better than ever with crafts, new events, fellowship and the best of all worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Remember if you have any ideas for the Trace, let me know or the Trace Committee at C.W.C. P.O. Box 503 Barrington, NH 03825 (*Strong Bow, Tall Timber, Empty Lodge, Firestick, Woolly Bear* are the Trace committee).

The King's Pine chapter plans to go to the Territorial Rendezvous in New Jersey. Are you planning to go? If so please let me know. The cost of all of these events will be given to the brothers later. (We didn't discuss the cost.)

I do have a special request for you all. Pray for myself and the King's Pine staff as we begin our events this year. We are under attack and need your prayers.

Looking forward to seeing you & yours real soon. May our Lord keep you in His hand as you work for Him. Let people see Jesus when they see you.

Love in Christ,

Woolly Bear

Woolly Bear

FOCUS ON THE STAFF



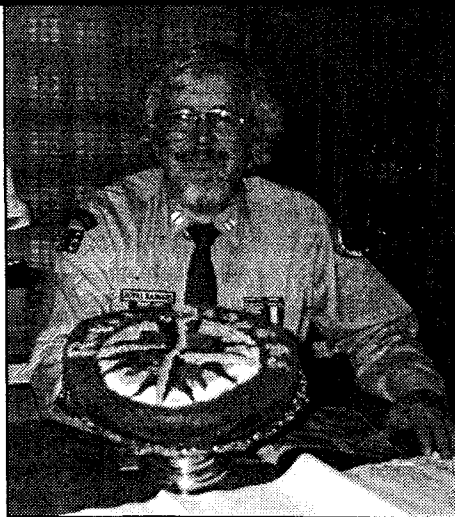
Periodically, the Pony Express will be introducing you to some of the Senior Commanders from around the District. This month, we will be meeting Jerry Love from Outpost 36 in Tilton, NH. Jerry is easily recognized at any Ranger outing by the smile on his face and his fantastic attitude!

Jerry was born and raised in Concord, NH. He was an Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts and also was the New Hampshire State Track and Field and Cross Country Champion. After high school, he attended Idaho State University on a full athletic scholarship and after finishing school, married his college sweetheart, Rita. They remained in Idaho until 1979. By the time they returned to the New Hampshire in 1979, they had 7 children. They returned and started an organic farm and a family hardware and farm & garden business.

In 1974, both Jerry and Rita were baptized in the Holy Spirit and became involved in the Catholic Pentecostal Movement. Upon returning to NH, the Love family attended the Laconia Christian Fellowship and in 1989 found their permanent church family at Praise Assembly of God in Tilton, NH.

Jerry feels his greatest accomplishments are in the lives of his children. The father of seven, he points to their academic and athletic accomplishments, attending such schools as MIT, Princeton, Bowdoin, etc. They have a son in the doctoral program at Duke University; a son studying to be an eye surgeon and preparing to be a health team member for the Peace Corps in Guinea, Africa; a daughter who is an All-American Lacrosse player and another daughter who recently taught English as a second language for three years in Nara, Japan.

Jerry's first involvement with the Royal Rangers came in 1991 when he volunteered to serve as a Trailblazer Commander to the newly reorganized Outpost 36. Within 6 months, he was asked to assume



the position of Senior Commander, a post he has served in since. Outpost 36 has grown by leaps and bounds since 1991. Starting with a small number of boys in the basement of the parsonage, the outpost has grown to a current enrollment of 84 young men for Christ.

Jerry has nine Commanders working with him as well as six dedicated Outpost Councilmen who are actively involved. Jerry attributes the success of the program to prayer and to having a Pastor whose vision is in the raising up of God's children. "Pastor Mike (Washburn) has a heart for young people, and he wears it on his sleeve. I don't know of many other men willing to dedicate their life and their ministry to children as profoundly as this mighty man of God." Partly due to the need for more space for the Royal Ranger program, Praise Assembly will begin its building expansion phase this spring to culminate with the building of a gymnasium before the year 2000.

Jerry presently sells real estate on Squam Lake ("Golden Pond") in NH's Lake Region. He is a member of his Church Board and an active member of Habitat for Humanity.

An Awesome God

(The following is an excerpt from Jerry Love's annual report to the church on the Royal Ranger ministry. We serve an awesome God).

This past fall, the Outpost experienced God's healing power in a very unique and powerful way. Tony came to Outpost 36 two years ago as a bewildered little boy in need of lots of love and attention. His needs were great; Tony could not speak and was partially deaf, and was very tiny for his age. His frailties became the concern for many of the leaders around him, and when he graduated from Rainbows to Straight Arrows, the determination was quickly made that he would not survive in a room full of energetic boys. He was immediately moved back to Rainbows, much as it were, to his consternation. It didn't take long before a decision was once again reversed and Tony was allowed to be where he wanted to be; where the action was.

In the fall it was learned that Tony had a congenital heart defect that amounted to a hole in his heart. His prognosis was not good, yet his family decided to let him continue to participate in Royal Rangers. Needless to say, God's people responded in the best way they knew how...prayer! Little Tony was prayed for, prayed over and prayed through; this tiny little fellow never received so much love and attention in his life. Several weeks after hearing of Tony's condition, we learned he was due for a reevaluation to determine the medical alternatives. Upon entering the hospital for his checkup, the doctors were stymied. The hole which had been so obvious and so life threatening just weeks before, had completely disappeared.

To no one's surprise, Tony is still actively involved in Royal Rangers, and with God's continued blessing and the help of two caring leaders, he has passed one of his Straight Arrow advancements.

“There on the couch was my wife gasping for air. Seconds later the breathing stopped and her body became lifeless.”

Ready For Anything?

As I entered the living room it became apparent why there was a faint cry for “help”. My eyes were not prepared for the sight that greeted them. There on the couch was my wife gasping for air. Seconds later the breathing stopped and her body became lifeless. I knew by the color of her skin that she was in the final stages of life and time was running out rapidly.

Have you ever wondered why the Ranger program encourages leaders to be trained? Or do you feel that the LTC is too hard and takes up too much time? Boys, have you asked why you need the First Aid and CPR merit? Training prepares you for situations or circumstances that you might encounter in life. It will also give you the ability to assess a problem more quickly and develop a workable action plan. Plus, in

some cases you receive “hands on” experience which helps a ranger to acquire knowledge.

Most of the training that I have received in the Royal Rangers program has been geared towards boys and Ranger activities. However, it can be applied to many other aspects of our lives. Sections of the LTC can be used at work as well as our family lives if properly thought out. If you are thinking about taking LTC, don’t pass up the opportunity. With God’s help you can acquire the skills to “Reach, Teach, and Keep boys for Christ.”

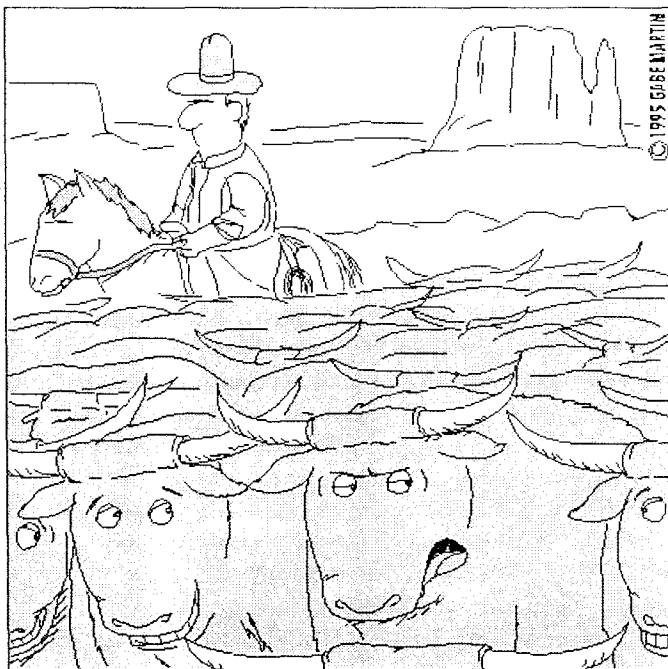
Looking back at that Sunday afternoon crisis brought a lot of “what if’s” to mind. What if I didn’t know CPR or artificial resuscitation? What if I had panicked?

What if this happened when she was alone? I’m pleased to announce that God was in control. Tammie’s medical emergency was a result of acute appendicitis and a unknown anemic condition. This happened two years ago and she has been receiving medical treatment since. We are still grateful for all your prayers.

The surgeon gave me credit for saving Tammie’s life by being properly trained and acting with a “level head”. I give the credit to God for helping me during that crisis. The training I received allowed me to respond to the medical needs. Will you be “Ready for Anything?”

.Lenny Pettersen - (Lenny is a commander at Outpost 3 located in Nashua, New Hampshire and is also a Gold Training Chief)

By Gabe Martin
borderin@cts.com



“Ok men, pass this along-- this is our last chance, so at high noon we all make a break for it-- but this time, don’t everybody all go running in the same direction!”

<http://www.cts.com/~borderin/>

Upcoming Events

April 18-20	3 Day LTC - Waterville, ME
April 26	Commander & Spouse Banquet - Barrington, NH
May 23 - 26	FCF Family Rendezvous Pittsfield, NH
June 8	Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Fun Day 2 Locations
June 14-15	L.T.C. Campout Pittsfield, NH
June 20-21	F.C.F. Phase 1 testing Pittsfield, NH
Aug 8 - 10	District Pow Wow Pittsfield, NH
Aug 22, 23	Frontier Adventure Pittsfield, NH

SE & White Mountain Sectional Pinewood Derby Results

Straight Arrows

1st Riley Paquette
2nd Ryan Grace
3rd Ethan Woodman

Buckaroos

1st Dana Bouochar
2nd Mark Jackson
3rd Noah Holecy

Pioneers

1st Devon St. Cyr
2nd Matt Jackson
3rd Jonathan McCullough

Trailblazers/AST

1st Steven Tusi
2nd Scott Brassard
3rd Matt Buehl

Adult

1st George Tusi
2nd Joe Lemire
3rd Don Filena

Best Looking

1st Chris Bouchard
2nd Dana Bouchard
3rd Myrtle Levesque

Most Unusual

1st Dave Ham
2nd Ethan Woodman
3rd Ralph Merrit
(Tie) Myrtle Levesque

Vermont/ New Hampshire Pinewood Derby Results

Straight Arrows

Caleb Farrah - Outpost 36
Kyle Lacourse - Outpost 36
Justin Rose - Outpost 7

Buckaroos

1st Adam Kinsley - Outpost 36
2nd Robbie MacKenzie - Outpost 2
William Neilsen - Outpost 45

Pioneers

1st Anthony Martin - Outpost 36
2nd Mike Farrell - Outpost 36
3rd Eddie Willingham - Outpost 36

Trailblzer/AST

1st Travis Heath - Outpost 36
2nd Brandon Willingham - Outpost 36
3rd Ben Bascom - Outpost 45

Adult

1st George Tusi - Outpost 36
2nd Anita Neilsen - Outpost 45
3rd Dennis Ellis - Outpost 17

The Vermont/New Hampshire Divisional Pinewood Derby was held on February 15th, 1997 in Littleton, NH. Nearly 100 boys and leaders gathered for this day of exciting racing. In a new format, each racer got to race everyone in their age group or heat. This meant that many boys had 15 - 20 races each! In all, there were over 400 races held in under 2 hours. Talk about racing. This was a great time for everyone involved and we look forward to even more cars and racers next year.

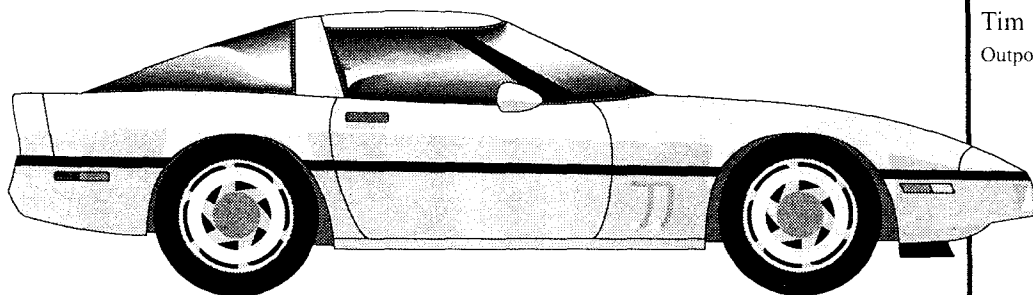
Wives in Rangers?

For those who have not been to LTC or the district meetings, yes wives should be involved in Rangers. Let me clarify. I have been involved in Rangers for 5 years and then in August, I was married. Soon after this, I was asked to consider taking the senior commander's position. After prayer and several discussions, WE agreed.

My position differed a little as I also led the pioneer group. In trying to get my wife interested, I considered the options, but she wanted to stay with me. It took a few weeks of both of us being out of sorts before it started to change. My wife as did I, discovered that she was not meant for being the leader. She was meant for making me a better one. After our third meeting at which I went to great detail and length to explain and give the boys dates of all upcoming events for as far as I could think of, she (still not knowing a lot about Rangers) told me later she couldn't remember anything after the first set of dates. She encouraged me to write it down and hand it to the boys (kind of embarrassing not to think of that myself). She also saw jealousies arising to get my attention. After all this time she is beginning to teach me about the perceptions a leader should have. Truth be known, I don't know how I could do it without my best friend.

The moral of this is even with a wife like mine who is shy and reserved, it is possible to involve her, it just may be different than you thought. A long time ago, I started calling the rangers *my boys*; now their *ours*.

Tim Hatch - (Tim is the Senior Commander of Outpost 18, Fryeburg Maine.)





Doggies Go Mush In The Slush

Warm wet weather and threatening thunderstorms couldn't dampen the spirits of this year's Ranger Yukon Day participants. 12 sleds and 15 teams totaling over 90 boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves this year in Waterville at the 3rd Maine Yukon Day event. As any leader knows, boys are not controlled by the weather conditions, they just do it and have fun. All the boys made stops to:

- 1) Rescue the "Musher" and sled from a 50 foot embankment.
- 2) Make a fire with wet wood and heat hot chocolate for the team.
- 3) Take a break and send a lone member by showshoe to bring back a mid-journey snack.
- 4) Care for an injured dog and take several readings by compass to get to the finish line.

Times ranged from 27+ minutes to 53+ minutes. Each team contributed a camp item to the store and by order of time of finish picked an item to take back to their outpost. Rangers also participated in several other events such as: snow sculpturing, capture the flag and showshoe events.

On Friday night, 120 registered Pinewood Derby cars rolled down the track. For the 1st time, a computer system was used and the 120 cars took just two hours. What a great improvement over previous years. Most boys were in bed by 11:30 and unfortunately, most were up by 6:00 a.m.

Great meals were headed by Cheryl Melcher, Mary Canifijn and Kristin Munsell and many kindhearted dads who jumped in and cooked and cleaned and served (not to mention, kept the coffee brewing).

Also during the events all four Maine sections did their Royal Ranger of the Year sectional test. For the first time in anyone's memory, we had a Ranger of the Year in all four sections of Maine. This also meant that for the first time, all eight sections in the Northern New England District had a Royal Ranger of the Year in at least one group. Good going guys!

The fellowship was great with the trainees having the opportunity to network with others from all over the northeast as well as friends from down south. It is exciting to learn what God is doing in other outposts and to learn from the experiences of other commanders. The food was delicious and unlike NTC, was cooked for us. Brother and Sister Earl, long time Assembly of God pastors in our district, own the retreat center and were very gracious hosts. The only meal we cooked was the evening meal during the campout. This meal was unfortunately the typical freeze dried back packers stuff. Fortunately, one of the men from down south brought a large bag of beef jerky, which was enjoyed by all.

The various members of the staff conducted devotions during the event. The most memorable being the unbelievers Twenty Third Psalm. We all take the promises of this Psalm for granted, but the promises in this psalm are only for the Christian. For the unbeliever, the last verse in this Psalm could read as "Surely evil and hate will follow me all the days of my life and I will never dwell in the house of the Lord". Why do Royal Rangers? To rescue boys from the fate expressed in the unbelievers Twenty Third Psalm.

This event, unlike NTC was laid back. NTC as we all know has an attitude adjustment to it, people get in your face. WNTC did not have this element, it was more like college, rather than boot camp. The only downside to the event was that it was not full of commanders. Where were you? - James Spaulding (Jim is Senior Commander of Outpost 7 - Canaan NH)

L.T.C. Campout

Have you taken or are you currently taking the L.T.C. but have not attended an L.T.C. campout? Now is the time to attend! This year's L.T.C. campout will be held June 14th and 15th in Pittsfield, NH. Call Gary Besaw at (802) 775-7391 if you're interested in attending!



Mush! See page 7 for the story.

Come to Pow Wow and Receive 1 Million Dollars!

Well, not really, but think about it. If we offered you that kind of reward to attend Pow Wow, everyone would come. The fact is we offer something even better...a chance to lead young boys to Christ. One million dollars sounds like a lot of money, but remember you're storing up a treasure far greater in heaven. Please plan to attend Pow Wow on August 8-10 and begin praying NOW for your boys to experience something amazing!

Coming in the Next Issue:

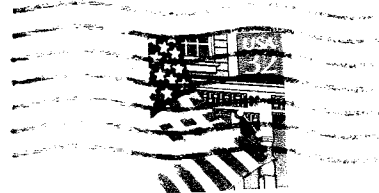
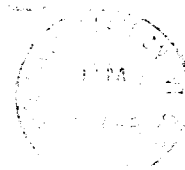
- The Commander and Spouse Banquet
- Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Fun Day
- Pow Wow information

All this and more in the next Pony Express...

Page 8

THE PONY EXPRESS

Commander Gary Besaw
Sunny Hill Rd.
RR#2 Box 288J
N. Clarendon, VT 05759



Jerry Love
P.O. Box 16
Holderness, NH 03245