



## “The Adventure” That Was Camporama 2006!

By Cdr Jay M. Woodward

Pony Express Editor

On July 17-21, approximately 7,500 Royal Rangers from across the United States and several other countries gathered at Camp Eagle Rock, Missouri for National Camporama 2006, a life-changing event that takes place once every four years. The theme of this year's Camporama was “The Adventure: Exploring God's Plan for Our Lives.”

Northern New England was well-represented at the event, with 65 boys and Commanders in attendance. After months of preparation, fund-raising, and much anticipation, NNED finally set sail on July 15 for the two-day journey. They traveled in two vehicles: a large Greyhound Bus owned by Outpost 21 in Madison, ME, and a smaller mini-bus owned by Outpost 36 in Tilton, NH. For many who went, this was the longest trip they had ever been on in their lives, having fun and fellowship along the way. They also got to see some interesting sights, such as the miles of open farmland, a giant cross off the highway and, of course, the St. Louis Arch. But everyone was eagerly awaiting arrival at Camp Eagle Rock, to begin enjoying the many different and exciting events awaiting them. By Monday, everyone had safely arrived, with the “Rising Son” Campsite already prepared for them by Cdrs. Ken Bustard, Rob Cunningham, Bruce Paquette, and Kendall Sperrey, who had arrived earlier as the advance team.

During the course of the week, boys got to participate in a multitude of activities from dawn to dusk, such as: swimming, riding in hot air balloons, climbing an outdoor climbing wall, BMX and mountain bike racing, Pinewood Derby, exploring the large FCF village, visiting the various missionary booths, as well as the many different District Events. Speaking of District events, NNED's event was lacrosse competition, complete with a large lacrosse-themed gateway. District Commander Jerry Love and his son, Dr. Garrett Love, served as instructors



and referees, giving boys and men a crash course in the sport. The NNED gateway won the award for Best Gateway at Camporama!

NNED, along with Southern New England District, helped lend a hand with Camporama security, as members of the Security Color Guard had a visible presence during the week. Commanders were also kept busy, as they were assigned various activities, from accompanying boys, to helping serve at the food pavilions, to helping run the District store. The most popular items sold at the store were the marshmallow guns and marshmallows, which were a big hit with the boys from all over!

One of the biggest challenges during the week was the intense heat and humidity, which many were unaccustomed to. Everyone drank lots of water and PowerAde to keep from being dehydrated. In addition, many boys found relief at the swimming pools, where Cdr. Dana Lemieux served as a lifeguard, helping keep those in the pool safe. For those who didn't go in, there was also misting tents available and Cdr. Bill Forsythe was more than eager to use the hose on anyone standing in the meal lines who wanted it!

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## “Blazing The Trail”- Pow Wow 2006: The Frontier Adventure

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

On August 18-20, 2006, NNED Royal Rangers held Pow Wow 2006, at Camp Marist in Effingham, New Hampshire, on the shores of Lake Ossipee. This year's theme was “The Frontier Adventure.” 190 boys and leaders from across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont loaded up their wagons to make the annual journey to Pow Wow, whose location in recent years has been rotated between the three states. This year was the Granite State's turn!

Cdr. Kendall Sperrey, who served as Camp Commander, said, “It was difficult coming in, only a short time after Camporama, and I'm not sure any of us had recovered by then, but we had a job to do, and a commitment to keep.” For Cdr. Kendall, this was his first time as a Camp Commander, and it was a new challenge for him. He explained, “There are many dynamics that make this event, and you wonder if you're ever going to get everything pulled together in time to see the level of success you desire, and somehow, with God's help of course, it always seems to work out.” He added, “It was a blast being Camp Commander!”

This year's Pow Wow was also special in that Ranger Kids were let in on all the fun, as they were invited for the second year in a row! Cdr. Ken Bustard and his wife Pearl set up Davy Crockettville for the Ranger Kids, and led them through their own specific set of activities, including their own meals!

In addition to Pow Wow, FCF held the FCF Frontier Adventure, which began on Thursday, August 17. FCF President Tim “Red Oak” Hatch, who served as Trail Boss for Pow Wow, explained, “The Frontier Adventure is a time to select new members. They must be willing, and know the things required in the 8 merits needed to apply. It's kind of the “frontiersman spirit”, a need to survive with a positive attitude, and a Godly attitude.” Seven new members were inducted into FCF at this year's event. They made significant contributions to Pow Wow, as FCF had a huge part in the various activities! Added



Color Guard raising the flags, with Cdr. Jerry and Cdr. Kendall looking on.



Outpost 40 and its Conastoga Wagon, a special gift for Cdr. Sonny Greene.

Cdr. Tim, “the new FCF members fit right in. That's what we want, guys who are willing to give. By the way, that is the motto of FCF: ‘To give and to serve.’ ”

This year's Pow Wow had a Frontier feel all around, as boys and leaders discovered upon their arrival when they had to “blaze the trail” –literally. They had to cut and clear lots of brush from the woods in order to set up their campsites, just as the pioneers did. After the brush was cleared, Outposts set up their campsites, making them as neat and orderly as possible in order to pass inspection by the NNED Security Color Guard.

Many different factors contributed to each outpost's point total. In addition to their campsites, Outposts had to have a Frontier themed gateway set up at their entrance. Also, each Outpost had to make a Conestoga Wagon, which they had to bring along with them on Saturday. These added up to valuable points for each Outpost, as each was scored according to the number of “Gold Nuggets” they earned during the weekend. In addition to earning nuggets by participating in the various activities, boys also got to earn “special” nuggets by reciting this year's Scripture verse, Jeremiah 29:11. Boys and Commanders who recited this verse to Cdr. Kendall or District Commander Jerry Love would get a gold nugget.

On Saturday, the events and activities of Pow Wow took center stage. Boys got to participate in a wide variety of activities, such as black-powder, .22 rifle and air rifle shooting, a pie-eating contest, swimming races, knife-and-hawk throwing, lacrosse and soccer, and a favorite of the men and boys, exploring the FCF Village.

Saturday's lunch was special, as all the outposts “circled the wagons” and made their own pre-assigned meals with cooking equipment they had in their wagons. Camp staff taste-tested each food item, which also added to the point total for each Outpost. The staff was treated to a culinary delight, as everything from moose stew and homemade blueberry pie, to jambalaya and ravioli or sausage and pepper subs were served fresh and hot from the pioneer wagons!

On Saturday night, FCF served up a wonderful dinner for everyone present: a choice between turkey or roast pig, with beans and corn on the cob...and even FCF's own special recipe for stuffing! Mmmmmm!

The evening assemblies were special times, and a lot of fun too! On Friday and Saturday nights, various Outposts performed songs, skits, and yells to show their patrol spirit. The evening services were also very special, as God provided a beautiful sunset on the shore of Lake Ossipee, and the praise and worship team from Fryeburg A/G led boys and men into His presence. On both nights, National FCF Vice President Emeritus Sonny Green, this year's Pow Wow Guest Speaker, used his gift of storytelling to stir the hearts of both boys and commanders. Many responded to the altar calls around the campfire, as boys and leaders responded to the Holy Spirit's calling, and laid hands on and prayed for one another.

The events of Saturday evening especially stood out. Maine squared off against, and prevailed over, New Hampshire and Vermont, in a tug-of-war match with new rope provided by Cdr. Dale Bishop, rope made of (continued on page 5)



# An Historic Event - NNED Merit Camp 2006

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

On September 22-24, 2006, NNED Royal Rangers held an historic event: The first-ever Merit Camp in the District, held at the Bethel Camp in Bethel, Vermont. 22 boys and 16 commanders from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont came together for this fun and exciting weekend, which was sponsored by Outpost 8 in Bethel. The event had been in discussion for many years, and Outpost 8, a new and upcoming Outpost in the District, saw the opportunity, and came together to lead the event, which took much effort to put together. Commanders from Outpost 8 served as Executive Staff and other commanders from around the District served as support staff and instructors. All played an important part in helping the camp run well. As Cdr. Larry Danque of Outpost 8, who served as Camp Commander stated, "it was a lot of hard work and a lot of long hours, for myself as well as the rest of the commanders involved."

On Friday, boys and leaders arrived to register and get settled into their rustic, Old West-style cabins, before beginning working on their merits. Each age group was offered two different merit "tracks." Merit Track 1 was nicknamed the "Outdoor Track" and Track 2 was the "Professional Track." Track 1 consisted of the First Aid, Fire craft, Lashing, and Orienteering merits. In addition, Adventure and Expedition Rangers also had the FCF Special: the Primitive Shelters, Primitive Snaring, and Dutch Oven Cooking, merits taught by members of elite FCF Frontiersmen. Jake Blake (OP #40), newly-appointed FCF Scout, said, "Making shelters and using the Dutch ovens was pretty fun, and hanging out with FCF, it was pretty good." Track 2 was just as exciting. It included a Dentistry Merit, taught by Tina Carlson, wife of Pastor Scott Carlson, who works as a registered dental hygienist. Also included were merits for Law Enforcement and Fingerprinting, which involved real interaction with the Vermont State Police. Trooper Paul Feeney came to teach the Fingerprinting Merit, and on Saturday, the boys had the opportunity to travel to the state police barracks located in Bethel, where they toured the station and got to use electronic fingerprinting equipment. Cdr. Larry added, "They also got to get in his patrol car and flip



The boys and commanders who attended Merit Camp 2006.

every single switch, turn on all the lights and the video cameras and everything else. They had a really good time with that, and I think that was one of the highlights of that merit!" The camp's low-key style, as well as the ratio of boys to commanders, really helped the boys and leaders accomplish a lot during the weekend. Cdr. Larry said, "A lot of boys earned a lot of merits and they had a good time." He added, "The commanders also had fun teaching the merits."

Boys worked on their merits on Friday afternoon, going into the evening, and all day Saturday, stopping only for meals, which were wonderfully prepared by the commanders from Outpost 3 on kitchen duty! As in all that Rangers do, the main focus of the event was on Christ. On Friday and Saturday night, boys and leaders gathered together for the evening assembly, held around the campfire. It was a time for everyone to draw closer to the Lord, and to pray for one another. Pastor Scott gave the devotions during these sessions, as well as on Saturday morning. The devotions focused on a young man named "Al" who chose to obey God and follow Him, even into the battlefield. Boys and leaders were curious as to know the identity of "Al."

On Sunday morning, boys got to reap the rewards of all their hard work and dedication, as they received their merit patches and awards. Also, Faith A/G's Sunday service was held in the camp chapel, where Pastor Scott preached and revealed the identity of "Al" as Sgt. Alvin York, a decorated World War I hero. His life story was a truly amazing one of God's divine favor and protection for those willing to obey him and take a courageous stand for Him, even in spite of danger, criticism or threats, which

also happens to be part of the Ranger Pledge! Pastor Scott said, "We discussed some topics about being committed, about being courageous, about being humble; some things that are sometimes hard for us as Christians to swallow, and yet, in every meeting, whether devotional or Council Fire or Sunday service, there were boys who responded to the Word of God, and that's wonderful to see."

After service, boys and leaders were dismissed, and Merit Camp 2006 drew to a close. It was an awesome mix of hard work and fun that left a big impression on both boys and leaders. Riley Paquette (OP #11) said, "It was a lot of work but we had a great time and I hope I can do it again."

Pastor Scott said, "Merit Camp has been a blessing. It's been a blessing to be here, to see so many men and boys, men who were willing to come and serve, some who traveled several hours to be here, and we appreciate that. Of course, to bring boys, and have every state in our District represented at our first ever Merit Camp is very impressive, and I've enjoyed it." Cdr. Larry said, "It's been quite enlightening. I think the camp was a great success, and hopefully we'll be doing this again."

As you can see, Merit Camp 2006 was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of both boys and commanders who gave of themselves and devoted their time and energy to making this first-ever Merit Camp such an unforgettable experience. NNED Merit Camp 2006 truly was a historic event for the District, and another big step forward in its mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys For Christ!"



Cdr. Mike Johnston (OP 8) teaching the Fire Craft merit.

## Camporama 2006

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Trading pins was an especially popular activity at Camporama. Boys and leaders traded their District pins with each other, trying to accumulate as many different ones as possible. Continuing with the tradition of "thinking pink", NNED's pin, which proudly featured our mascot, Fernando Flamingo, was a wildly popular trading item! In addition to pink pins, NNED left its own special and highly visible mark on the event. Cdr. Jerry arranged to bring pink cowboy hats for all of the boys and leaders, which they proudly displayed at the evening services, as well as the official Camporama photo shoot!

However, as in all that Rangers do, the main focus of Camporama is on Christ, and He was the center of the evening services. Boys and men were led into the presence of God by the "Cruz Control" worship band from California, who gave a hip, cutting-edge sound and feel to the praise and worship!

Each night had a different guest speaker, each motivating boys to take a stand for Jesus, and challenging them to become young men of God. On Monday night, HonorBound Director Tom Greene delivered a powerful message to the boys, as did evangelist Randy Ruiz on Tuesday night. There were altar calls for boys to be saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Many boys flocked to the altar, and prayed for each other as well. Daniel Forsythe of OP #36 said, "It was good because I prayed for two kids to be baptized in the Holy Spirit!"

On Wednesday night, Vietnam veteran and evangelist Dave Roevers gave a stirring message from the heart to boys and leaders, bringing both his unique brand of humor and his emotional life story to the crowd. Finally, on Thursday night, contemporary Christian artist Bob Kilpatrick gave a special performance before Terry Rayburn, A/G superintendent for Peninsular Florida, delivered the final motivating message of the week, followed by a spectacular fireworks display, as Camporama 2006 drew to a close!

NNED packed up and left by Friday morning, beginning the two-day trek back home, tired, but sharing their experiences along the way. On the way back, the buses stopped overnight at Christian A/G in Washington, PA, for some much needed rest. The church's Pastor graciously welcomed Royal Rangers, and his hospitality was greatly appreciated! On Saturday, Cdr. Bill helped everyone in the small bus go "out on top" by embarking on a side trip into New York City, to see the Statue of Liberty, and

go to the top of the Empire State Building. The boys loved it!

NNED returned home by Sunday, but they didn't return empty-handed. Cdrs. Rick Varney, Donn Blomerth, and Ken Beaufort went the extra mile in bringing back with them two Ryder trucks, one containing the car and belongings of a pastor who suffered a stroke while visiting friends in Missouri. They drove the trucks back to Maine for the pastor and his wife!

Camporama 2006 will be remembered for many things, from the lengthy bus rides to the trading pins to the activities and awards, and especially the weather! Jake Blake (OP #40) said, "I like camping with all my friends, but the heat was amazing, it was really hot, not like we're used to in New Hampshire." Cdr. Kendall added, "It was hot, real hot. Did I tell you it was hot?"

However, there was a much deeper, profound meaning behind the event. It changed the lives of the boys and leaders who came, by bringing them closer to Christ, and to each other. For NNED, Cdr. Jerry called it, "Probably one of the most spiritually binding events that we've had in the District in many years. I saw more character in this group of men and boys than I've ever seen before."

Already, NNED has begun to lay out plans for the next Camporama, in 2010. Cdr. Ken has been named Camporama Coordinator, and will work towards making it even better in four years than this year! As you can see, Camporama 2006 was indeed a memorable event for NNED, and a large step forward in the Royal Ranger mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ."

See you at Camp Eagle Rock in 2010!



...."One of the most spiritually binding events that we've had in the District in many years."

-District Commander Jerry Love, on Camporama 2006

"It was hot, real hot. Did I tell you it was hot?"

-Cdr. Kendall Sperrey



Best Gateway at Camporama: NNED's lacrosse gateway!



"Cruz Control" leading worship services, with a little help from a couple of the International Rangers!



The candle-lighting at Thursday evening's closing ceremony.



POW

WOW

2006

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stronger material than the one that broke at Maine Yukon Day 2005! Everyone was also treated to a slide show of pictures from Camporama, complete with pictures of the infamous pink cowboy hats!

On Saturday night, FCF provided a very special pageantry. Boys and leaders were treated to a humorous skit that included a great fireworks display, and the setting of a Conestoga Wagon on fire!

On Sunday morning, everyone gathered in the camp's gymnasium, where Cdr. Sonny gave his farewell devotional, followed by an awards ceremony. Cdr. Jerry even gave Sonny a couple of special gifts to bring back home to Ohio with him: a Conestoga Wagon donated by Outpost #40 and Commander Willy Gusha, as well as a gift basket for Mrs. Green, presented by Rita Love, of maple syrup from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont as well as other Northern New England specialties. Now that was a sweet surprise!

Also, the Director of Camp Marist, Scott Merrow, was given a round of applause and a special thanks for allowing Royal Rangers the use of the camp for Pow Wow. The Director was also very impressed by how well the camp was taken care of, especially how boys and leaders cut and cleared all the brush, and moved it to the edges of the roads so it could be easily cleared. This is how Royal Rangers leave campsites and other places they go: in better shape than before they came!

After the awards were completed, boys and leaders packed up their campsites and headed home, and Pow Wow 2006 drew to a close!

Looking back on the event, Cdr. Kendall said, "I cannot say enough about how much I appreciated the cooperation of so many Outpost commanders. When we had surprises thrown at us, guys just rolled up their sleeves, put a smile on their faces, and got the job done. I admire the men of our District and I am humbled to serve such willing and faithful servants as they."

Added Cdr. Tim, "Though it was quite hectic I thought the [FCF] Brothers rose to the occasion and did an excellent job. They put what was needed in front of their own wants or needs."

Commander Jerry Love, the District Commander of Northern New England put it best: "When we honor God in doing what He wills, then He honors us in whatever



Boys competing in the BMX race.

we are doing. Gathering together in fellowship with our brothers in Royal Rangers is a very special privilege, and God has honored this special time we have spent together".

All in all, Pow Wow 2006 was a challenging and rewarding event for all who came. In the Royal Ranger mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ", NNED continues to "Blaze The Trail!"

**Congratulations to Outpost 16, Lewiston, Maine! Second year in a row as "Outstanding Outpost at Pow Wow!"**



"Gathering together in fellowship in Royal Rangers is a very special privilege, and God has honored this special time we have spent together."

-District Commander Jerry Love

"I admire the men of our District and I am humbled to serve such willing and faithful servants as they."

-Camp Commander Kendall Sperrey



"Hey, mom, I was in the pie-eating contest!"



Adam Forsythe and Todd Drury leading the charge for Outpost 36.



The Son also rises over Camp Marist.



Cdr. Bruce "Moose Call" Paquette and Riley "Grin n' Bear" Paquette cooking in the FCF village.

## Start Your Engines...It's Pinewood Derby!

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, NNED Royal Rangers held the Northern New England 600 Pinewood Derby at the Curtis Lake Christian Church in Sanford, Maine. The Royal Ranger Grand Prix was the first District-wide Derby in eight years. 56 boys and 17 commanders from across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont participated in the competition to see who had the speediest car in the District. There was a high level of excitement and enthusiasm leading up to the event, as boys, leaders, and parents spent countless hours working on and building the perfect racing machine from simple blocks of wood.

However, it was far more than just racing wooden cars down a track that made the day. As Cdr. Kendall Sperrey, the Derby's Crew Chief, explained, "The purpose is to create an atmosphere of healthy competition and sportsmanship, and is intended to be a Father-and Son event, and is designed for them to work together, learn together, and compete together." Added District Commander Jerry Love, "It's a great event for families. It brings out moms and dads with their sons. The atmosphere is high today, boys are excited, and folks are ready to race!"

Boys, leaders, and parents were "revved up" the morning of the Derby. Registration and inspection began at 9:00 AM, as those who entered the church were greeted to racetrack banners, life size cardboard cutouts of racers such as Richard Petty and Tony Stewart, as well as NASCAR videos up on the big screen.

Keeping the focus of the day on Christ, Cdr. Bill Forsythe began with a devotion on the need to register to get into heaven by being in the Book of Life, and in finishing the race that God has set for us. Pastor Jim McAtee of Curtis Lake then opened the Derby in prayer, Cdr. David Ramos of Outpost 25 in Bellows Falls, Vermont, sang the Star Spangled Banner, and contestants were ready to go.

The competition officially got underway at 12:30. Each of the four age groups, and leaders/dads, got their turn to race their cars on the 3-lane track, and the results were tallied electronically, by the average amount of time it took each car to cross the finish line in all three lanes.

Awards were given for the Top 3 racers in each age group, and awards were also given for Best Paint Job, and Most Unusual Car



(see below for a complete list of winners in each category).

In the Overall Competition, Derrick Stanley (OP #25) took 1st place in the Derby. Derrick said, proudly holding his trophy, "I had fun racing, and teasing Cdr. Love!" Runners-up were Shane York (OP #25) who took 2nd place, and Steven Kroh (OP #11) who took 3rd place.

Following the race, boys got to pick prizes ranging from autographed pictures of NASCAR drivers to hats to replica racecars. New Hampshire International Speedway provided two hats and one jacket to give away. Cdr. Ken Bustard also put an extra effort into getting prizes from businesses in the Bangor area. At the end of the day, Cdr. Ken announced free hot dogs from the concession stand! Now that was a hit!

At 4:00 PM, Cdr. Jerry closed the ceremony in prayer, and also led boys and adults in a special prayer for Benaiah McCullough, urging everyone to continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Afterwards, everyone helped out in cleaning up, keeping with the Ranger philosophy of leaving things in better shape than before we came.

All in all, a great time was had by all who attended, and Cdr. Kendall, the Pinewood Derby Coordinator, and all the other staff members deserve credit for making Pinewood Derby an event to remember, and keeping true to the Royal Ranger mission of "Reaching, Teaching and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ"!

Left: The trophies, presented to the boys by Tony Stewart himself!

Below: Our Pinewood Derby racers stop and take a "pit stop" with nachos from the concession stand!



### Winners:

- 1st- Zachary Stanley (OP #25)
- 2nd- Nathaniel Merritt (OP #25)
- 3rd- Zachary McAllister (OP #36)

### Discovery Rangers:

- 1st- Derrick Stanley (OP #25)
- 2nd- Shane York (OP #25)
- 3rd- Eric York (OP #29)

### Adventure Rangers:

- 1st- Steven Kroh (OP #11)
- 2nd- Devon Dickey (OP #25)
- 3rd- Riley Paquette (OP #11)

### Expedition Rangers

- 1st- Jake Blake (OP #40)
- 2nd- Bill Rodgers (OP #40)
- 3rd- Lee Bernier (OP #33)

### Leaders:

- 1st- Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean
- 2nd- Jerry Love
- 3rd- David Furgee

### Best Paint Job:

Kaleb Sperrey (OP #25)

Honorable Mention- Bradley Norton

### Most Unusual:

David Drury (OP #36)

Honorable Mention- Daulton Carver



## “Staying on Target”- The Importance of Shooting in Royal Rangers

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

Anyone in Northern New England who has been involved in Royal Rangers knows that shooting sports are an integral part of the program in the District. Black-powder rifles and .22 rifles are present at Maine Yukon Day, Pow Wow, and our Shooting Sports and Camping Weekend, which also features shotguns and handguns. The firearms are quite a popular item among both our boys and commanders. However, there is a much deeper meaning to their presence than just shooting frying pans and other targets at these special occasions. Cdr. Ken Bustard, District Training Coordinator, explained, “Young boys have a natural fascination with shooting firearms. They are a part of our natural heritage. There’s a natural calling to shoot, and boys are naturally gravitated towards it.”

It is an experience that many boys have never experienced prior to Rangers. Cdr. Dale Bishop, District Range Officer, explained it this way: “The average boy has no access to safe shooting or instruction. A lot of boys don’t have a father figure in the house. Rangers satisfies a big portion of what’s missing in a boy’s life, and part of that is the excitement of shooting sports.” One of the biggest concerns raised by parents is the issue of safety. District staff has taken many steps to insure the safety of boys by instructing them to use the firearms properly, while still allowing them to have fun on the range. Cdr. Dale explained: “Kids are naturally attracted, they have a natural curiosity, and that needs to be satisfied in a safe and guided manner, a controlled and safe setting.” Cdr. Dale is also an NRA- certified firearms instructor who has also taught muzzle-loading safety classes at Regional Conferences. He also sets up and supervises our shooting ranges, and is in charge of maintaining our rifles and keeping them in good and safe working condition. Discovery Rangers are allowed to shoot .22 rifles, and older boys can shoot black powder. While they can have fun, the rules are strictly enforced. District Commander Jerry Love explains: “One of the rules we don’t have is a ‘three strikes and your out’ rule. With Royal Rangers and firearms, it’s a ‘one strike and you’re out’ rule. Boys understand they’re not going to

be fooling around when it comes to firearms, or they’re going to be leaving the site immediately. If these young men learn the proper way to handle a firearm, and shoot a firearm, they’re going to respect and enjoy that firearm much better.” Part of the Ranger mission is “keeping boys”, and shooting sports has been a big part of that. As Cdr. Jerry says, “Boys like things that are big, loud and colorful, and this certainly is the loud part of that formula!” It also has helped keep older boys in Rangers. “Once they start smelling perfume and motor oil, we lose them,” Cdr. Ken explains. “We need to keep them smelling gunpowder!”

The efforts are paying off, as the shooting events have gotten rave reviews from boys. Cdr. Dale says, “I’m getting feedback from kids who look forward to shooting that black-powder rifle. They only have a couple chances a year to do it, and that keeps them coming back.” As you can see, shooting sports are more than just an exciting activity. Our aim is to “Reach, Teach, and Keep Men and Boys for Christ”, and we have the right tools in our arsenal to help us to stay “on target” in our mission!



“Once they start smelling motor oil and perfume, we lose them. We need to keep them smelling gunpowder!” -Cdr. Ken Bustard

“Boys like things that are big, loud and colorful, and this is the loud part of that formula!” - District Commander Jerry Love



Boys shooting .22 rifles at Pow Wow 2006, as Cdr. Dana Walker supervises.



Black-powder rifles are a vital part of the FCF Program.



Boys shooting black-powder at the Pemi Gun Club, with Cdr. Bruce Paquette keeping a watchful eye on the action.

## “Walking Straight in a Crooked World” NNED Men’s Retreat 2006

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

On May 19 and 20, 2006, NNED HonorBound Men’s Ministries held its annual men’s retreat at the Grand Summit Resort in Bethel, Maine. 183 men from all over Northern New England gathered for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and growing closer to the Lord.

This was also the second year that Royal Rangers has been present at the retreat, as the Ranger booth and FCF display was set up for all to see. Many of the men visited the displays, as well as our mascot, Fernando Flamingo, proudly shining his bright pink colors. Also, several commanders were visible at the Retreat, proudly wearing their Ranger uniforms. This was an opportunity for many men to learn about Royal Rangers, and discover its mission and purpose. As District Commander Jerry Love explained, “Men are our greatest resource for this ministry. Exposing the men in this District to Royal Rangers is very important.” Cdr. Jerry added, “Raising young men to be the leaders of tomorrow is an essential ministry within the church.”

Ed Shearer, NNED Men’s Ministries Director, said, “We’ve been working together with the Rangers to put on training at these events, to get the Ranger commanders at the Men’s events, to encourage the men at the events as they see the Rangers and learn more about how to become involved.”

As to the overall importance of Rangers to Men’s Ministry, Pastor Ed said, “I think it’s more important that Men’s Ministry has a role in Royal Rangers. Men’s ministry at the heart needs to be bringing up boys.” Friday evening began with praise and worship led by Pastor Ed, bringing the men into the presence of God. Cdr. Jerry then briefly addressed the crowd, reminding the men that Rangers is “the leading soul-winning ministry in the Assemblies of God.”

The theme of this year’s retreat was, “Walking Straight in a Crooked World.” The Rev. Doug Clay, the Ohio A/G District Superintendent, was the featured speaker at the general session on Friday evening. Pastor Doug was involved in Rangers as a boy, and impressively recited to us the Ranger Code and Pledge, which was met with much applause by the Rang-



ers present, before encouraging the men to “Throw our kids a catchable pass”, that today’s kids are looking for something to live for, not die for, and teaching that greatness is determined not by the value of wealth, but by the wealth of our values. Many men responded to the Holy Spirit’s leading during the altar call.

On Saturday morning, following breakfast, the men were given the choice of several breakout sessions. Cdr. Jerry and Pastor Scott Carlson taught the Child and Substance Abuse Prevention Module, an LTA training module that Commanders could take as their elective module to earn their LMA. However, anyone interested in better protecting our boys could take the class. After lunch, Pastor Doug led the second general session on “Walking Straight In A Crooked World”, and gave us biblical guidelines on how to do so. At the end of his sermon, each man received a brand new, uncirculated, “pure” \$1 dollar bill for he and an accountability partner to sign. This bill represented his commitment to moral purity. At about 3:00 PM, the retreat ended, and the men grew closer to Christ, made new friendships, and left different than when they came. NNED Royal Rangers is proud to be a involved in this event, which is another part of their mission of Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ!



## NNED Royal Rangers “Think Pink”



By Commander Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor

If you’ve been to a District Royal Rangers event during the past few months, you may be wondering, “What is this whole pink flamingo thing, anyway?” Well, here are some background details you might want to know to understand it all.

Our new mascot goes by the name Fernando Flamingo. He is an illuminated pink flamingo who shows up at every District event, from District and Regional Conferences to Pinewood Derby and Men’s Retreat. Everywhere District Commander Jerry Love and his staff go, Fernando and his fine-feathered friends go as well. He has made people stand up and take notice, and he has even made a big impact on the District Staff! As FCF President Tim Hatch put it, “I think he’s done a great job. He’s really elevated us to striving to do better, to bring it to another level, to increase our own ability to go out there and be more on the show side, and bring this ministry to another level.” Also, District staff members have their own pink shirts with a flamingo embroidered on the cuff, to wear as part of their “Class C” uniform. And of course, all the boys and leaders who went to Camporama in July got to wear the infamous pink cowboy hats!

However, there is a more significant meaning to Fernando’s presence. As Cdr. Jerry explained, “The pink flamingo is the “bird of paradise”. We are heading for paradise-heaven.” And, of course, Rangers wants to lead as many men and boys as possible to Christ, and to the promise of paradise. This is a great reason for all of us to “Think Pink!”



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The Pony Express is a quarterly publication of the Northern new England District Royal Rangers— Jerry Love, District Commander. Subscription to the Pony Express is given to every chartered outpost in the District as part of the annual chartering dues.

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 e-mail your articles to Cdr. Jay Woodward at : [jaymwoodward@hotmail.com](mailto:jaymwoodward@hotmail.com).

Questions or comments?  
Call (603) 323-7120

**DC's Corner**

By Cdr. Jerry Love  
District Commander



I sat in the waiting room of the hospital today, waiting for Rita to go through some tests. As I was reading the sports page of the daily paper, I glanced up when I heard voices at the reception desk. There,

standing beside a heavily armed Sheriff, was a young man of no more than 21 or 22 years of age. He was clad in bright orange prison garb, and shackled with chains around his legs and wrists. He looked over at me, and with an air of arrogance, exclaimed, "How's it going, man"? I replied, "Fine, how are you?", as he turned away to speak to his burly escort, who promptly told him to keep his comments to himself. I sat staring for some minutes, wanting desperately to walk up to this young man, and ask him who his Dad was...and more importantly, *where* his Dad was. I really didn't need to ask. I knew that this was probably just another case of neglect on the part of the father, and the result was this...a life with so much promise, lost in a world of hopelessness. I knew what he needed, and I wanted so much to reach out at that very moment and take hold of him, speak to him, pray with him, and tell him that all was not lost, all was not hopeless. He needed to hear that someone really cared, but instead, he was being physically and emotionally jostled by another man whose only goal was to keep him restrained, and humbled.

All the way home, I fought back tears, thanking God that my own sons knew their father...and their heavenly Father. I thought about all the young men that cross my path every week, and my mind reached out to those I knew were bound for a similar fate, the fate of this young man in the bright orange suit. God spoke to me that day. Loud and clear He spoke to me. He reminded me of the task He has placed before me, and the short time I have to complete it. He began to instill in me a new fervor for the ministry he has graced me to lead, and the humility to know who is really leading, when all is said and done.

This weekend I was privileged to attend the GMA ceremony of Eric Spaulding in Lewiston, Maine, and award him his Gold Medal. As I watched this young man, and listened to his acceptance speech at the end of the ceremony, I thought how much better this young man looked in a Royal Ranger uniform, rather than a bright orange jumpsuit, and how much more he had to say to the men who surrounded him...so much more than just "how's it going, man". I prayed right then, that God would show me, introduce me, to the next young man bound for orange, but destined for khaki.

District Commander Jerry

SEE US ONLINE!  
WWW.RANGERS-NNED.ORG

### Upcoming Events

Oct. 27-28 All Church Ministries Convention–  
Sanford, ME  
Nov. 18 District Ranger of the Year– Sanford,  
ME  
Nov. 23– Thanksgiving  
Dec. 1 Quarterly Reports Due  
Dec. 9 District Training Modules, Manchester,  
NH  
Dec. 25 Christmas



### 2007 Regional Commanders Conference

The 2007 Regional Commanders Conference is just around the corner. The date is January 26-28, 2007. The region is putting the final touches on the conference and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

We are excited to announce that the **World Class Outpost**, a National Training Opportunity, will be presented at the 2007 Regional Commanders Conference in Falling Waters, WV on January 26-28, 2007. This will be a two day seminar offered Friday and Saturday.

World Class Outpost is designed to expose the outpost leadership team to a successful set of practices, methods, strategies, and tools that will enable them to develop into a "World Class Outpost". The goal is to reach the highest level of excellence, and to soar beyond by constant evaluation and improvement. Being a World Class Outpost is NOT simply being the best outpost in town, or in the city. A World Class Outpost measures itself against a high standard of effectiveness.

Outpost leaders are encouraged to attend and complete this event together. A workbook is included in the fee.



#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Registration for WCO is handled separately through the National Royal Ranger Office and will not be on the conference registration form.

For more information, as well as an application for WCO, go to the Northeast Region Royal Rangers website:  
[www.northeastregion.org](http://www.northeastregion.org)

THE PONY EXPRESS

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