



NNEP Pow Wow 2007 Taking The “X-Challenge”

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
“Pony X” Editor

On August 16th through the 19th, the NNEP Royal Rangers held their annual Pow Wow at Camp Marist, on the beautiful shores of Lake Ossipee in Effingham, New Hampshire. Nearly 200 men and boys from all across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont gathered for this exciting weekend of fun, camping, competition, fellowship, and most importantly, to draw nearer to Christ. The theme of this year’s Pow Wow was “The X-Challenge”, which was short for “Extreme Challenge”.



This year’s Pow Wow was a back-to-basics approach, with a greater emphasis on basic camping skills and Outposts spending quality time together. It was also the second year in a row that Pow Wow

was held at Camp Marist, as it has become an ideal location for Rangers. Earlier this year, Land Rush was held in order for Outposts to claim and prepare their campsites for Pow Wow, which gave them a head start when they arrived at their campsites on Thursday and Friday to register and set up. As District Commander Jerry Love observed, “Coming on Thursday for many of the Outposts made for a less hectic set up, and a

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better preparation for evening guest meals and the subsequent events that followed on Saturday.” In addition, there was a Staff campsite, known as “Geezerville”, that served as a model campsite for Outposts to replicate. It also housed the FCF Village, as well as a tower that served as a challenge for boys to climb during the weekend. Deputy District Commander Kendall Sperrey, who served as Camp Coordinator, said, “I was impressed with many of the Outposts. We had some great campsites.”

NNED Security Color Guard Coordinator Jason Wright served as this year’s Camp Commander. With Commander Jason stepping into this role, GMA recipient Ryley Paquette stepped into his boots as Security Chief, and performed an extraordinary job! “Although,” the Camp Commander added, “his boots didn’t hit the ground much from his 4-Wheeler! He



did a great job keeping things safe and the Security boys shifts scheduled, rotated and relieved.” Indeed, Color Guard members were active and visible throughout the campsite through the whole weekend, patrolling the campsite and assisting the Camp Staff every step of the way. As Commander Kendall commented, “I was pleased to see the young [SGC] men step up and take responsibility.”

On Friday, there was a wonderful evening service to mark the opening of Pow Wow. Commanders Jason, Jerry, and Kendall officially welcomed everyone to Pow Wow, and offered Outposts the chance to perform songs, skits, and yells, as they would throughout the weekend. To kindle the spirit of competition, the famous Maine vs. New Hamp-



shire Tug-Of-War battle was fought on the lakeshore, with New Hampshire finally emerging as the winner over Maine! Following this, men and boys were led into the presence of God during praise and worship time, and then our Special Guest Speaker, Pastor Josh Burns of Teen Challenge Manchester, came to address the crowd. Using the beautiful sunset God painted that evening, he warned of the consequences that come when we try to “paint our lives with our own paint brushes.” He was also joined by other men who had come to Teen Challenge, giving awesome testimonies about how God had turned their lives around! Commander Jerry commented, “The Guest Speakers...they rocked. Pastor Josh touched the very core of the message these boys needed to hear.” After



Pastor Josh spoke, men and boys were treated to an awesome fireworks display!

On Saturday, the “challenge” in “X-Challenge” took center stage. From dawn to dusk, boys were able to take part in a wide variety of extreme events, such as FCF’s Seneca Run, Xtreme Paintball Challenge, Swim Races, Mountain Bike Races, .22, Air, and Black Powder Rifle shooting, a Cross Country Run, Archery, and the Iron Man X competition, a combination of Swimming, Cross-Country Running,



and a Bike Race! Indeed, Iron Man X was one of the premier events at Pow Wow! And those were just the individual events being held. There were Team Events as well: Capture the Flag, Canoe Races, 3 on 3 Basketball, and Lacrosse, which has become an extremely popular sport in NNED! Participation in these events led to Gold Nuggets, which added

up to valuable points for each Outpost. Also, nuggets could be earned by reciting this year’s Scripture Verse, 1 Timothy 4:12: “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”



Ranger Kids weren’t left out of the fun, either. Saturday was also Xtreme Kids Camp! Led by Commanders Dan and Julie Dubois, Ranger Kids got to take part in a variety of fun activities, such as Ranger Kids Lacrosse, Air Rifle, Treasure Hunt, Capture the Flag, Sheep Roundup Obstacle Course, and the Remote Control Truck Course! Ranger Kids, their parents, and commanders all had a great time!

On Saturday evening, boys and leaders were treated to an Xtremely Wild, Wild West Adventure, put on by the Camp Staff, including a special appearance by Dr. Love and his magic Love Potion!





Indeed, it was a rollicking good time! Yee-ha! After the show, things settled down, as praise and worship began, followed by the second message from Pastor Josh, as he spoke to the boys in front of the Council Fire, using this year's

Scripture verse to challenge them to be examples for Christ to others. Many boys and men responded to his message at the altar call around the fire. Commander Jerry commented, "The way the men and boys lingered after the altar call and prayed and shared...that was powerful. To watch boys embracing each other was quite moving for me personally. Christ walked among us that evening." Later that night, there was another awesome fireworks display, which was twice as spectacular as the night before!



On Sunday morning, following breakfast, boys and Commanders gathered together for one final assembly. Following the inspections of Class "B" Uniforms, it was time for the "hardware" to be handed out. Awards were presented to the winners of the various events, and Outposts, depending upon the number of points they earned, received either the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Outpost award. This was the first year this system was used in NNED at Pow Wow; however, there was still the most coveted trophy: Top Outpost

at Pow Wow. This year's Award went, for the first time, to Outpost 8 in Bethel, Vermont! Following the awards and closing comments, boys and leaders were dismissed, and Pow Wow 2007 drew to a close!



This year's Pow Wow was a highly successful event, and there are already plans for Pow Wow 2008, to continually improve the experience. As Commander Kendall said of Camp Marist, "We've only begun to develop that site." Commander Jason promised, "The scoring system will be even better next year." Finally, Commander Jerry commented, "We are still working on 'tweaking' our events, but overall, we have some of the best events going." Pow Wow 2007 may be over, but the men and boys of NNED Royal Rangers will continue to "Take The Challenge!"



2007 District Wide Commander's Conference- "Hope For the Future- In Your Hands"

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, Northern New England District Royal Rangers held its annual District Wide Commander's Conference and Banquet at the Curtis Lake Christian Church in Sanford, Maine. A total of 80 men and women from 18 Outposts throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont came for this exciting day of training, fellowship, food, and fun! The theme of this year's Conference was "Hope For the Future-In Your Hands." As District Commander Jerry Love explained, "It's the one time of year we, as Royal Ranger leaders, get to fellowship together as men of God in a very special environment; learning, praying, communing, rejoicing, lamenting, sharing and focusing on what God has for us in the coming year." Added Deputy District Commander Kendall Sperrey, "I think DWCC is important for the opportunity it gives the commanders of this District to interact with what takes place in this ministry. It's not just an informational seminar; it's an interactive conference."

The District Staff spent many hours preparing for this event, including setting up displays and tables, buying items for the District Auction, and getting materials ready for the event. The Staff, however, displayed the hearts of true servants during the Conference, even agreeing at Commander Jerry's request to remove all the bars, pins, event patches, and ribbons from their uniforms during the Conference as a way of showing their fellow Commanders that they are there to serve them, not to show how important they are.

Early on Saturday morning, after all the commanders had arrived and registered, the Conference began with worship and a devotion from Pastor Tim Haynes, District Missions Coordinator, that fit in very well with the theme of the Conference, that reminded Commanders of the importance of meeting the needs

of boys. Following this the NNEC Security/Color Guard gave the Presentation of Colors, and then Commander Jerry gave his opening remarks, then introduced his District Staff members, who also gave their Staff reports. Following the reports, and further remarks from the District Commander, Instructor Trainer Ken Bustard presented Commander Jerry a special gift: a life-size cutout of him in his infamous pirate outfit!

After the opening service, commanders then proceeded to the different Breakaway Sessions. Throughout the day, Commanders attended classes on Pow Wow Planning and Preparation, as well as Boys Camps/ Junior Training Academy, and the FCF Business Meeting. Also, four different LTA Training Modules were available during the day: Ranger Kids Activities, taught by Commander Ken; Classroom Management, taught by Pastor Tim; Presentation Skills, taught by Commander Kendall; and Successful Outposts, taught by Instructor Trainer Dana Lemieux. These Instructors play a big role in the success of the LTA in Northern New England! Many commanders took the classes, and got closer to earning their Leaders Medal of Achievement (LMA). Commander Jerry commented, "I was especially pleased with the fact that the leaders chose to take modules as opposed to activities...they chose to learn rather than play, and that speaks volumes as to where we are headed in this District."

For the ladies, there were plenty of special activities for them too! They got to attend a class on Professional Candle Making, taught by Maggie Bean, wife of FCF President Emeritus Sid "Wooley Bear" Bean. In the afternoon, they had a special time of worship, devotion and sharing, led by Becky Hatch, wife of FCF President Tim Hatch, and later tea with Peggy Williams, wife of Pastor Bill Williams of Praise A/G in Tilton, NH. These ladies play an important role in supporting their husbands, the men of this District, and the work that they do. They are

a tremendous blessing!

Following all the classes, there was a closing session where there was an open forum for questions, Commander Jerry gave his closing remarks and a teaser for the upcoming Auction! The evening banquet was a wonderful dinner put on by the Missions Team at Curtis Lake, who will be heading off on an upcoming missions trip to Honduras. Pastor Jim McAtee and the Missions Team served as wonderful hosts, serving and meeting all the needs of the Commanders, at lunch as well as dinner. They deserve a big Thank You!

After dinner, men and women were led into the presence of God by the Grace Worship Team from Park Street Church in Boston, with Commander Jerry's daughter Ginger singing alongside the band as well. Following this excellent worship time, then came the District Auction, in which our District Commander played his famous auctioneering role, auctioning off everything from gift baskets to camping gear to military rations, and raising hundreds of dollars for NNED Royal Rangers in the process!

Then, Commander Jerry gave a short speech, a deeply touching tribute to the man who mentored him and guided him thorough his adolescence and even to this day: Longtime Scoutmaster Roland "Rolo" Robinson, who he still calls his father. He was given a well-deserved Special Recognition Award for his many years of working with boys and men. Also, Commanders and Pastors were presented with various awards for their service during the past year and given plaques to hang proudly on their walls! Following the awards, District Men's Ministries Director Ed Shearer gave the closing remarks, closed out in prayer, and DWCC 2007 drew to a close!

This year's District Wide Commander's Conference was a great success. Leaders not only took classes, listened to speeches, and ate wonderful meals, but truly interacted with the District Staff, as well as one another, to make it a truly worthwhile experience. Looking on the Conference, Commander Kendall commented, "I thought DWCC was GREAT! I thought Sanford worked out very good as a site. The facilities were superb and the hosts could not have

been more accommodating. I thought this was the best Conference yet!" Commander Jerry, recognizing the hard work of the District Staff in making it work so well, said, "What a dynamic group of men I work with...it's no wonder that the Northern New England District is 'on the map'!" And, as you can see by looking at the Commanders of NNED, our District's future is indeed in very good hands!

Pinewood Derby 2007- Back and Better Than Ever

By Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On Saturday, March 10, 2007, for the second year in a row, NNED Royal Rangers held the Northern New England 600 Pinewood Derby at the Curtis Lake Christian Church in Sanford, Maine. This year, a total of 69 boys and leaders from across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont entered in the competition for the thrill of the race, and to earn some fabulous prizes! Boys and leaders spent many hours designing, cutting, sculpting, sanding, painting, fine tuning the wheels, and putting the finishing touches on their sleek wooden racing machines in order to get ready for the competition.

For this year's Pinewood Derby, the goal from the beginning was to make it even better than last year's, and the efforts were clearly visible. As Deputy District Commander Kendall Sperrey, who again this year served as the Derby's Crew Chief, explained, "I think we had a better idea of what was going to take place, we had taken some good notes from last year, some things we wanted to change, we were able to make some enhancements." There were new posters all around the gymnasium, better prizes and trophies for the winners, a PlayStation 2 for boys to play NASCAR 2005, and even an improved concession stand menu, which this year included hot dogs, cheeseburgers, and chicken sandwiches! Boys clearly saw the improvements, too. Adventure Ranger David Drury of Outpost 36 commented, "This year was better than last year. One of my favorite parts



was the food, it was cheap, it was very good. It was pretty cool how one guy brought the PlayStation to hook up to a projector.”

The Derby began at 11:30 AM. Making sure that the focus of the day was on Christ, Commander Ken Bustard began with a devotion on Jeff Gordon, and told the crowd that while winning trophies is exciting, they won't mean anything when we stand face to face before the Lord, and that we will lay our crowns at His feet. It was a very meaningful devotion to start the event. Following the singing of our National Anthem, the races began. Each age group got its turn to race its cars on the track, and the results were tallied electronically, and immediately, thanks to the state-of-the-art Pinewood Derby sensor system! As a result, there were no disputed racing results. Expedition Rangers went first, followed by the Ranger Kids, then Discovery Rangers, Expedition Rangers, and finally Leaders & Dads. Though there was plenty of excitement and competition, everyone was still in good spirits. As Adventure Ranger Kyle Constable of Outpost 21 said, “There's been a lot of good sportsmanship, and no matter what the outcome was, people really had a good time!”

Awards were handed out to the top 3 racers in each group. In addition, each age group had awards for Most Unusual Car and Best Paint Job! In the Overall Competition, Zach Stanley of Outpost #25 was the 2007 NNED Cup Champion! He joined the

rest of the Top 5 overall winners inside the Winner's Circle, another new feature of this year's event. Following the race, boys got to pick prizes, such as baseball caps, t-shirts, and even NASCAR replica cars! These were made possible through the sponsorship of New Hampshire International Speedway, NAPA Auto Parts, and several auto dealerships in Maine. A big THANK YOU goes out to all of our sponsors!

Also, there was a special occasion celebrated for District Commander Jerry Love's 60th birthday. The crowd sang “Happy Birthday” to him, and he was presented with cupcakes arranged to read “60” with candles on them, which he easily and handily blew out. The cupcakes were then made available to anyone who wanted one. Now that truly was icing on the cake!

After all the awards and prizes were handed out, boys and leaders worked together to clean up the gymnasium, take down all of the race banners, and leave everything in better shape than it was before they came. All in all, Pinewood Derby 2007 was a great success. Reflecting on the event, Commander Kendall said, “Overall, I think the Derby went well. I'm very pleased with the way the day turned out. We had a lot of boys who had a lot of fun, and it's all about having fun.” Also, there will be enhancements made for next year's Derby better than this year. But for 2007, Pinewood Derby was back- and better than ever!

“Heroes”- NNE Men’s Retreat 2007

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On May 18-19, 2007, Northern New England HonorBound Men’s Ministries held its annual Men’s Retreat at Sunday River’s Grand Summit Resort in Bethel, Maine. 183 men representing 31 churches across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, gathered for this weekend of fellowship, worship, and drawing closer to the Lord. The theme of this year’s Retreat was “Heroes.”



Royal Rangers made its presence known at the Retreat. For the third year in a row, Rangers was present, as the famous Ranger information booth and display was present for all to see. Many men stopped and took notice of the display, and some even took the time to talk about the ministry with District Commander Jerry Love, who was in attendance, alongside several of NNE’s finest Ranger leaders, including Commander Ron Daigle, who recently lost two of his fingers in a terrible accident, but still showed up with his good spirits intact! Commander Jerry stated, “It was good to see the number of Ranger leaders present at the event. As the men of Royal Rangers in our District, we have a tendency to distance ourselves from the general populace of men in our churches, and this is one way to come into contact with these Godly men and listen to their needs and their hearts.” Commander Jerry added, “Remember, our mission

is to “Reach, Teach, and Keep MEN and boys for Christ.”

On Friday evening, after nearly all of the men had arrived and checked in, the retreat began with



praise and worship, led by NNE Men’s Ministry Director Ed Shearer. Tying into the “Heroes” theme, Pastor Ed was presented a sword by Pastor Lee Hemminger and the District’s Light for the Lost (LFTL) team, for his role as District Men’s Director.

The retreat’s guest speaker was well-known evangelist Randy Ruiz. He has previously spoken at various Ranger events, more recently at National Camporama 2006, as well as the 2006 Northeast Regional Conference. He spoke about the characteristics of heroes, that they have a willingness to stand for God in the face of hostility, a willingness to fight beyond our own strength, using God’s strength, and



they have a deep understanding that there are things worth fighting and even dying for! Many men heroically responded to the Holy Spirit's calling during the altar call! Commander Jerry commented, "Randy Ruiz certainly challenged the men in ways we felt compelled to respond to, and seeing so many men at their face at the altar was a testament to the need for revival in the men of our District."

On Saturday morning, following breakfast, the men were given the opportunity to choose from several different breakout sessions, all building on the "Heroes" theme of the retreat, dealing with such subjects as how to be a hero to God and how to be a hero to your family, among other topics. In addition, Commander Jerry taught the Safety in the Church module, a required module for earning the Leaders Medal of Achievement (LMA). Anyone, not just Ranger leaders, could take this course.

Following lunch, Randy Ruiz led the second general session, in which he challenged the men to avoid becoming double-minded men, and offered a simple solution "God said it. I believe it. That settles it!" Men prayed for one another's needs at the altar call that followed, in preparations for the battles that were yet to come. Just before dismissal, Pastor Ed offered the men a complimentary gift, a miniature version of the sword he was presented, as a reminder of the importance of the message of the retreat. Then, the NNEED 2007 Men's Retreat came to a close, and men left Sunday River as different men from the way they came!

Looking back on the event, Commander Jerry said, "I think the retreat was the best in recent years. The fact that Royal Rangers has taken part in the Men's Retreat for the third year in a row speaks well for our commitment to being an integral part of the District objective to reach out to our men in Northern New England." Also, there is more to come. For the 2008 Men's Retreat, Royal Rangers and LFTL plan to hold a barbeque on the Friday night of the retreat, in order to fellowship with the men. As Commander Jerry put it: "Men and Meat=Ministry to Men"! One thing is clear: the men of our fine District and the men of Royal Rangers truly are "Heroes" for Christ!

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

January 25-26, 2008
Lehigh Valley
Conference Center,
Bethlehem, PA
Special Guest Speaker:
Doug Marsh,
National Commander



Imagine a world where everything always stays the same, because that's the only place where a world like that exists (Bob Briner). A new day often calls for a new strategy, a new shape, a whole new approach. Royal Rangers has changed tremendously over the past several years and recently we even had a change in national leadership. The Regional Conference has been held for 17 consecutive years at Potomac Park Camp in Falling Waters, WV. We have had some great conferences and God has blessed – but "Change is in the air"!

This year's conference will be held at the Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem, PA (near Allentown) on January 25-26, 2008. We are excited to offer the conference at a location that is more central to our region with improved facilities and accommodations. We are also honored to have our new National Commander, Doug Marsh as our guest speaker.

Change is exciting and sometimes takes a leap of faith. We trust that you will make plans to be with us as we take this leap for the Glory of God! You will receive valuable training, experience fellowship with others and grow closer to the Lord. We're looking forward to seeing you in 2008.

For more information, please visit the Northeast Region website: www.northeastregion.org

An Interview With NNED's First RKTC Graduate: Commander Judy Tilton



On April 20-22, 2007, Commander Judy Tilton of Outpost #36 in Tilton, NH, traveled to Gaston, South Carolina, to attend Ranger

Kids Training Conference (RKTC), which is a National Training Event designed specifically for Ranger Kids Commanders. RKTC replaced the old Buckaroos/ Straight Arrows Training Camp (BSTC) under the old Ranger program. Commander Judy made NNED history by becoming the first ever Commander in the District to attend an RKTC! Commander Judy recently shared her experience with The Pony Express.

Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor: What kinds of training did you receive there?

Commander Judy Tilton: We learned about the patrol system and how to use it, how to work with and arrange the classroom environment for the ultimate impact. We had a model outpost meeting. The following classes were included... Advancement, learning about the merits and the merit system. Classroom management, council fire, council of achievement, and counseling the boys. We participated in a day camp, worked on appropriate aged games, music and crafts. We took classes on outdoor safety, and storytelling. We learned how to theme our meetings and correctly plan trips. Of course we did a complete class on soul winning.

JW: What was it like working with your fellow commanders?

JT: I was the newest commander there and went in with wide eyes and great expectations. About 20% of the group was women the rest were men. At first,

my patrol was a little hesitant with me. One, because I was the only woman in our patrol; two, I was a new commander and three, I was by no means a local. Once the guys learned I could hold my own they were great. They became more like big brothers as the Camp wore on. They became very protective of their "little sister". We still e mail every week.

JW: What was the schedule like?

JT: The schedule was very fast paced. There was no down time, including very little sleep time!

JW: How did it change my perspective of Ranger Kids ministry, and Rangers in general?

JT: The instructors really brought it home that "it's all about the boys" and "every detail is important". It was great to have the national staff there to ask questions to directly. Concerns as to why we do and don't do certain things with the boys were answered and we were given time to voice those questions, i.e.: why Ranger Kids don't camp out overnight, why they don't use knives, guns etc in this age group.

This camp made me realize how serious a ministry this is. Every week's lesson plan is set up to reach our boys at different levels. It's not about the merits or the hardware, its about the boys. If we go into our meetings unprepared we are doing a disservice to our boys and God. If we don't feel like doing the work to bring our boys to events because it takes too much time, we need to ask ourselves... how much "time" is one boy worth.? We, meaning all of the commanders at every level, are impacting these guys and young men. What we say and do with them today, will likely mold the men they become tomorrow. Every day we need to remember... "It's all about the boys".

NNED is proud of Commander Judy, and to all the other leaders in the District, for their commitment to attending training events such as RKTC and NTC, and equipping themselves to be the best leaders possible, to further enhance our mission of Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ!

-Quote from Commander Cliff Jewell, RKTC Camp Commander

“A Call To Arms”- NNE D Shooter’s Weekend 2007

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On June 1-3, 2007, NNE D Royal Rangers held the annual Shooting Sports and Camping Weekend at the Pemigewasset Fish and Game Club in Holderness, New Hampshire. This year’s event was fittingly titled “A Call To Arms.” This is the fifth time that NNE D has held this event, and the first in two years, as last year’s event was canceled due to bad weather. A total of nine Commanders were present that weekend, to work with eight Adventure and Expedition Ranger boys who had met the requirements to attend the event.

At Shooter’s Weekend, as in any Ranger event, safety is paramount. As District Commander Jerry Love explained, “We can never be too safe at any of our events, and especially when firearms are involved.” Every shooting range was well supervised by the Commanders present!



The Pemi Valley Gun Club has been a wonderfully accommodating experience for Royal Rangers, and it was also the site for this year’s FCF Frontier Adventure. Its director, Fred Allen, has also opened up the site to other youth groups, such as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, who were also present

during the weekend. Fred joined the Rangers during the weekend, on the Trap range as an instructor, and at the campsite for dinner. His hospitality, as always, was greatly appreciated!

On Friday evening, boys and leaders set up their campsites, tents, and of course, the FCF Village, and settled in for a good night’s rest to the sounds of the nocturnal wilderness. On Saturday morning, it was up and at ‘em, as breakfast was prepared, Colors were presented, and boys were off to their shooting venues!

Boys eagerly responded to the “Call to Arms.” There was a choice of shooting opportunities during the morning sessions, from Skeet Shooting with .12 gauge shotguns to 9MM and .45 caliber handguns! The handgun lessons were taught by a special guest instructor, Scott Kenneson, an instructor for SigArms, a handgun manufacturer based in Exeter, NH, that makes firearms for, and even trains, military and law enforcement! For Scott, it was a great experience working with Rangers. He explained, “They’re a good bunch of kids. They were safe, they listened to me, and their shooting improved as the class went on.”



Following lunch, the afternoon sessions took place. This time, boys got to shoot with .22 small bore rifles and black powder rifles, which are familiar firearms to Rangers, as they are used on the shooting ranges at Pow Wow and Maine Yukon Day! Boys enjoyed a lot of excitement as they aimed at, and

often successfully hit, their targets. Men and boys were definitely hooked on to the smell of gunpowder! Later that afternoon, boys got to see a pair of professional shooters affiliated with the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) practice for their Sunday Cowboy Shoot, explaining the rules and purpose of the event, which is simply to have fun!



Come evening, the activities continued. While FCF was preparing a wonderfully made ham dinner, boys practiced their knife-and-hawk skills at an available target, and even made some dead-on-target hits! Following dinner and fellowship, boys and leaders demonstrated servant's hearts by clearing a path for Girl Scout leaders to get through their nearby campsite! This fit in perfectly with the campfire discussion of that evening. At the council fire, Commanders discussed some important subjects with the boys:



respecting women and treating girls as if they are someone's future wife. These are issues that concern boys, and they need godly men to guide them along their way. Boys responded to the leaders, and really opened up their hearts to the group. The council fire was warm, but God's presence, and the fellowship, warmed everyone's hearts even more! One young Ranger came up to Commander Love after the campfire and said, "You know Commander Love, I've heard a lot of good talks around campfires before, but this one was the best. It spoke to us about things we think about, but rarely talk about...thank you for sharing with us".

On Sunday morning, after the morning breakfast and devotion, boys and leaders got to see the Pemi Gun Club Cowboy Shoot, and watched as professional gunslingers in cowboy costumes work their sharp shooting skills in front of a crowd of amazed Rangers, among others. Following the shoot, boys and leaders broke camp, cleaned up, and left for home, concluding an exciting weekend!



Shooters' Weekend 2007 was an exciting event that was about more than just shooting guns. It was about fun, fellowship, and meeting boys and their needs, mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually, which is the four ways in which a boy grows, and the ways that Royal Rangers ministers to boys. This, and the smell of that gunpowder, really helps us to "Reach, Teach, and Keep Men and Boys For Christ"!

Training Our Future Leaders- NNEED Royal Rangers Junior Academy 2007

By Donn Blomerth, JLTA Camp Commander
& Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

On July 12-15, NNEED Royal Rangers held the Junior Leadership Training Academy (JLTA) in Anson, Maine. 32 boys and 18 Leaders came for this important and exciting training event for boys. The academy was actually three different camps in one: Discovery Training Camp (DTC) for Discovery Rangers, Adventure Training Camp (ATC) for Adventure Rangers, and Junior Training Camp (JTC) for boys who have completed 7th grade. The campsite was named Haynesville in honor of Pastor Tim Haynes and his son Jonathon, who own the large, open fields and woods in which the camp took place!



As a specialized training event for the boys, the preparation for JLTA was done by the host Outpost, OP 21 in Madison, Maine. By Thursday morning the Camp Staff was ready for the boys, who were about to begin a challenging and exciting three days! After an opening ceremony, in which colors were presented by NNEED Security Color Guard, the boys were split up into their various age groups, and began their own different challenging courses.

The most important element of the JLTA was the spiritual emphasis, which helped boys draw closer to the Lord. Each night, for each of the different age groups, there was a Council Fire and devotion, which drew boys and leaders into the presence of God. Boys opened themselves up to the Holy Spirit during these wonderful times in front of the warm fires!



Sunday morning brought JLTA to a wonderful conclusion. Following breakfast, there was a church service in one of the classroom tents, with Pastor Scott Carlson of Bethel, Vermont giving an inspiring and motivating sermon. Later in the morning, with parents and our District Commander present, there was the graduation ceremony, as boys were given their certificates of completion for their respective camp, and medals were given to each patrol. Both ATC patrols, the Lightning Hawks and the Thunder Hawks, received the Gold Patrol medal! Also, Staff members were given certificates of recognition for their hard work and devotion during the weekend. After this, everyone was dismissed, and JLTA 2007 came to a close!

JLTA 2007 proved to be very worthwhile to all involved! Indeed, the impact of this year's JLTA will be felt in NNEED and its Outposts for years to come, as it was not just about training boys, but much, much more. On the first day of the camps none of the patrols were able to effectively work together. On the last day of the camp much was learned about paying attention, obedience, and sharing the workload as a team effort. This was the second NNEED JLTA under



the new program. Our first camp was held here in 2005 with 12 boys in attendance. This camp graduated 32 boys, and focused on training our future leaders, and giving our present Commanders and Staff a hands-on experience in serving on a Boy's Training Camp. Special thanks to all the men who served on staff and made this event succeed. The National Office made many update changes to the ATC and JTC Camps program during 2006. Our first NNED young man to graduate from a 5th Boy's Camp entitling him to wear the JLTA Sabre, Riley Paquette, was on hand in uniform to demonstrate the Sabre. He graduated from his 5th required camp and was presented the Sabre by The Southern New England District, one of the very few districts yet to offer the Sabre. To all the boys and leaders who were at JLTA, NNED is indeed very proud of you!



NNED District and Sectional Royal Ranger Staff

Executive Staff

Executive Director, Men's Ministries

Ed Shearer

District Commander

Jerry Love

Deputy District Commander

Kendall Sperrey

FCF President

Tim "Red Oak" Hatch

FCF President Emeritus

Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean

Camps and Productions Coordinator

Donn Blomerth

Missions Coordinator

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Jason Wright – Security Color Guard Coordinator

The Pony Express is a publication of the North 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 the district. We welcome you to submit articles, photos, etc. Please e-mail your articles to Cdr. Jay Woodward at: jaymwoodward@gmail.com.

Questions or comments?

Call the NNED Royal Ranger Office at:

(603) 323-7120

Winter National Training Camp

February 21-24, 2008

Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop, Maine

Don't miss out on this exciting National Training Opportunity! The Camp Fee is \$190. A pre-registration fee of \$50 must accompany your application. Apply by January 25 and receive a \$35 Discount! Applications are available at the National Royal Rangers Website:

<http://royalrangers.ag.org/training>



Red Oak's Acorn



By Tim "Red Oak" Hatch
NNED FCF Kings Pine Chapter President

"To Give And Serve". This is the motto of the Frontiersman Camping Fellowship. It is because of this that the Trapper's Brigade was established. The Trapper's Brigade awards points for serving outside of the Royal Ranger ministry. By doing this, we extend our Christian influence to the community. Our faith was meant to be visible, not kept in the church alone. So the program basically encourages the donating of time by giving points per hour of service. Here are the guidelines.

A Member must:

1. Be in good standing with his FCF chapter.
2. Have paid his current and previous years dues.
3. Have participated in one half of all District FCF activities for the current and previous year.
4. Be actively involved in his local church and Outpost.

Points are given one half point per hour for local work, and one point for outside the local area, not including travel time. Outside the local area projects

would include, but are not limited to, mission's trips, AIM trips, Convoy of Hope, and disaster relief. If you have questions, ask any of your chapter officers.

The steps of recognition are:

1. Company Trapper 20 points
2. Bourgeois 60 points
3. Free Trapper 120 points
4. After Free Trapper, every 30 points adds numbers onto your pin.

All points are cumulative, meaning any points left over are continuing to add toward the next. In the King's Pine Chapter we end our year on the last day of October, and begin the new year on November 1st. So all members should be keeping lists and turning them in on a regular basis, as this helps the National office keep track on how we are doing as a chapter. In other words, accountability. Please make every effort to turn in your points, time and project description as early in November as possible, since there is a lot of hours / points to be logged.

By the time you read this, we will have returned from Honey Grove, Pa after attending the Territorial Rendezvous. This will be a great opportunity for ministry and building each other up in the Faith. 10 FCF Members from our Chapter will be attending, and we should have some great things to report when we return.