



“A New Trail”: Maine Yukon Day 2007

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On February 17-19, 2007, Northern New England Royal Rangers held the 13th Annual Maine Yukon Day at Fairhaven Camps in Brooks, Maine. A total of 214 boys and men—the 2nd highest in Maine Yukon Day history— from New Hampshire and Maine gathered for the yearly Winter Pow Wow. The theme of this year’s Yukon Day was “A New Trail”, and the Scripture verse was from Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Maine Yukon Day is a special event for NNED, one that takes plenty of planning, preparation, and prayer in order to make a success. As Camp Commander Ken Bustard said, the biggest challenge was “just getting the trailer of food, supplies, and equipment.” However, when the outposts arrived at the camp on Friday, everything was all set up and ready to run!

On Friday night, after everyone arrived, an evening assembly was held to prepare everyone’s hearts for the weekend. Commander Ken, District Commander Jerry Love, and the rest of the Camp Staff were introduced to the audience. Commander Jerry said that while he wanted everyone to enjoy the weekend and have fun, he reminded all that attended that the main purpose of MYD was to honor God. On Saturday morning, following breakfast, patrols got their first chance to perform songs, skits, and yells, which had to meet the approval of Commander Ken, or else he would be happy to “gong” them. These songs, skits, and yells added up to valuable points for each Outpost and patrol in their quest to become the Top Outpost! Following the morning assembly, it was time for the outdoor challenges to begin! It was a blessing to not only have snow on the ground this year, but to have, as Commander Ken put it, “the best conditions we’ve had in several years.” There were twelve different stations that each patrol had to pass in order to garnish points: Dog Sled Review, Ice Rescue, Emergency



First Aid, .22 Rifle, Primitive Snares, Fire and Hot Chocolate, (which was getting a fire started to boil water needed for hot chocolate), Matchless Fire, Firecraft, Orienteering, Lashing, (which involved using knot-tying skills to make a ladder), Over The Ridge, (which involves the patrol members pulling the sled to the top of a challenging hill), and, of course, “The Wall”, which involves patrol members climbing to the top of a 12 foot wooden wall, and pulling up their sled over the wall as well! Also, patrols had the chance to compete against each other by age group in the Sled Race, which was done on Lake Passagassawamkeag. Jake Blake of Outpost 40, whose “Flint n’ Steelers” won Fastest Dog Sled for Expedition Rangers, said “My favorite part of Maine Yukon Day was winning the sled race.”

Also, outposts and patrols earned points for various other activities, such as monitoring the gymnasium, performing kitchen duty, and passing uniform inspection, which was done with detailed attention by Security/Color Guard Coordinator Jason Wright.

It wasn’t all about earning points, however. What would a Maine Yukon Day be without the tug-of-war between New Hampshire and Maine, and Maine winning in perhaps the most one-sided match

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Regional Conference & WCO	4
Remembering Fernando	5
Wooly’s Den	5
Adam Forsythe’s GMA	6
Eric Spaulding’s GMA	7
Security Color Guard	8
DC’s Corner	9

Maine Yukon Day 2007

ever at MYD? As Commander Ken put it during the final assembly, "I really feel bad about the way we drug you New Hampshire Rangers around that lake."

Many brave boys (and some brave men) participated in one of three different outdoor treks. Commander Ken Beaufort of Outpost 21 in Madison, ME, led the Yukon Jack Snowmobile Trek, which was a 24-hour snowmobile adventure with plenty of challenges; however, six boys completed this trek. Led by Commander Charlie Poissoner, also of Outpost 21, 15 boys and four Commanders participated in the Yukon Jack 10-Mile Trek, which, as the name implies, involves traveling ten miles on an overnight winter hiking trip! However, the most popular outdoor trek is the Polar Bear Club, which was led by Commanders Tim "Red Oak" Hatch, Kendall Sperrey, and Don Allard. 40 Polar bear patches were earned for completing this outdoor over-nighter, which involves building snow shelters or pitching a tent and sleeping overnight in them. It has exposed many men and boys to winter camping for the first time each year it takes place, and many want to do it again the next year! Commander Ken noted, "It was the most number of boys on the 10-Mile Trek and Polar Bear Club." Commander Beaufort and Jonathan Haynes scouted the snowmobile route prior to MYD, and deserve credit for going the extra mile in preparing for the Snowmobile Trek!

On Saturday night, regardless of whether you slept indoors or outdoors, everyone came together for the evening service. Following the next round of songs, skits, and yells, and the recognition of awards for boys and leaders, our Guest Speaker, Commander Ken Obert from Southern New England, came and gave the evening devotion, building on the chosen MYD Scripture verse from Ezekiel. Many boys responded to the Holy Spirit during the altar call, and some boys accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior for the first time! Following the service, boys on the snowmobile trek got a night ride back to their camp site.

On Sunday morning, the top patrols were announced, and boys could pick prizes in the order of the most patrol points. Outpost 11 from Auburn, NH was named the Top Outpost at Maine Yukon Day 2007! For patrols, Outpost 21's Courageous Crocodiles won top Discovery Ranger Patrol, Outpost 3's Commandos won Top Adventure Ranger Patrol, and Outpost 40's Flint n' Steelers won Top Expedition Ranger Patrol!

Maine Yukon Day was an event for men and boys, but ladies definitely played a big role in making it work! Bethany Philbrick, daughter of Commander Rick Philbrick, led the Ranger Kids activities. She was assisted by Commander Obert's wife Pam, who brought J.B.



Beaver along with her as well! Also, as they have for several years now, Sue Haynes, Grace Beaufort, Linda Blomerth and Rhonda Clark worked wonderfully together and oversaw the kitchen duties, keeping the men and boys well-fed and happy! Thank you ladies!

After all the awards and recognitions, Commander Jerry led the crowd in a moment of silence to remember Nathan Doege and Commander John Hutchinson, who had both passed away recently and are now home with Jesus. Then, the District Commander gave the dismissal, and Maine Yukon Day 2007 drew to a close.

Maine Yukon Day was a great success. As Commander Ken put it, "This was perhaps our premiere MYD event. It marked our tenth year at Brooks. The snow conditions and weather couldn't have been better. Several improvements in the scoring system, Patrol Guides taking more of a leadership role, the development of a Patrol Advisor, Advancement Coordinator and Activity Coordinator, all contributed to taking MYD to a new level. Perhaps the most significant improvement was the amount of support from Leaders and Dads volunteering for KP, Gym Monitoring, night watch, you name it. In fact, this was our first year having someone on watch throughout the night, and we had no problem getting volunteers. Again, the only regret I have was pulling those NH brothers across the lake as they clung to the tug-of-war rope. I just thank the good Lord none of them got hurt." Commander Jerry commented on the tug-of-war and the Top Outpost Award, "Well, you Mainers can win all the tug-o-wars you want, but when it comes right down to it, we'll be happy to take the trophies across the Kittery Bridge to New Hampshire." Already, there are plans to make MYD 2008 even more exciting than this one! As you can see, the men and boys of NNED Royal Rangers are definitely on "A New Trail!"

Top: Boys and leaders heading out on the 10-mile overnight trek.

Below: Special Guest Speaker Ken Obert gives the Saturday morning devotion at MYD.



Border Wars: NH vs. Maine

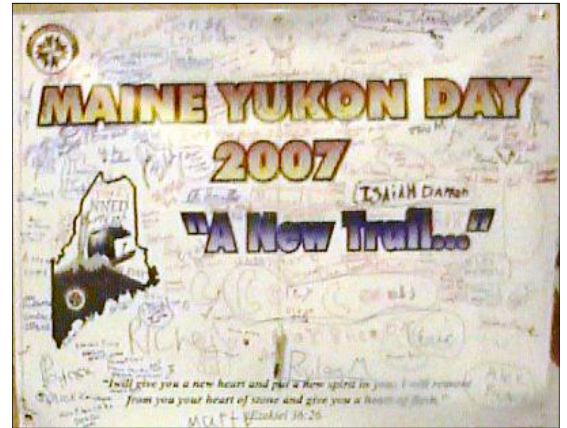
"This was perhaps our premiere MYD event... the only regret I have was pulling those NH brothers across the lake as they clung to the tug-of-war rope."
- Camp Commander Ken Bustard

"Well, you Mainers can win all the "tug-o-wars you want", but... we'll be happy to take the trophies across the Kittery Bridge to New Hampshire."
-District Commander Jerry Love

MYD 2007 Photo Gallery



No obstacle is too big; not even "The Wall" is too high for dedicated Royal Rangers to conquer!



An Annual Ritual at MYD: Boys and commanders leave their mark on the year's poster!



Discovery Ranger Daniel McKinney (OP 36) waits for his Commander, Gaylon Long, to catch his breath!



Our guard dog at MYD. Yes, his bark is A LOT worse than his bite!



"WE'VE FALLEN, AND WE CAN'T GET UP!"
-At The Ice Rescue Station.



A World Class Event- 2007 Regional Commanders' Conference

By Commander Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

On January 26-28, 2007, Northeast Region Royal Rangers held its annual Regional Commanders' Conference at the Potomac Park Conference Center in Falling Waters, West Virginia. 327 commanders and their spouses came from across the Northeastern United States to enjoy this exciting week-end of training, friendship, and fellowship. Northern New England District was well-represented, with 11 Commanders present, and also brought along its impressive displays, posters, Chippewa kitchen, District event photo collages, Yukon sled and yes, even copies of *The Pony Express!*

The theme of this year's Conference was "Building Champions." The Conference was special this year because the World Class Outpost (WCO) seminar, the newest National Training Event, was offered for the first time in the Region, and a record 161 Commanders registered for the seminar! WCO is a two-day seminar is designed to give Outpost Leaders a successful set of strategies, methods, practices, and self-assessments to enable them to become not just successful, but a "World Class Outpost". The class was taught by Deputy National Commander Mike Laliberty, Regional Coordinator Dwight Walters, Regional Training Coordinator Scott Hurt, and Regional Chaplain Mike Petrucci. All four men brought their own teaching style and perspective to the seminar. Commander Dwight said of the seminar, "I am a strong believer in the principles that are taught. The most exciting thing to see was the leaders teaming up by outpost and really getting excited about the material as they assessed their outpost and started to generate a vision and game plan to make improvements." For Commander Laliberty, this was a special event because he is stepping down from his post at the end of February. Added Commander Dwight, "Mike Laliberty is a World class leader and instructor-it was an honor to teach beside him. Commander Laliberty has been a fantastic servant and proponent of Royal Rangers in the National Office and I will certainly miss serving with him- but I know God has great plans for his life."

For those who did not take WCO, there were plenty of other classes available. Options included First Aid & CPR, as well as District and Sectional Staff Workshops, an Archery class, and Ranger Kids Day Camps, which is a brand new Training Module. NNED also played a role in the instruction, as District Commander Jerry Love, who also

serves as Regional Public Relations Coordinator, and NNED Instructor Trainer Ken Bustard taught the newest version of Ranger Basics. Also, for the ladies, Saturday was a special time, as they had a special devotional time, got the chance to make a beautiful craft key chain, and had a special "For Women Only"

seminar with Commander Laliberty's wife Alice as the guest speaker! Also on Saturday, the Regional Auction took place, with Commander Jerry playing his well-known role of auctioneer, and auctioning off everything from blouses to New Hampshire Maple Syrup and Maine Lobsters to Fred Deaver paintings and Maryland Crab Cakes, bringing in over four thousand dollars for the Royal Rangers ministry!

On Friday and Saturday night, attendees were ushered into the awesome presence of God by Rudi and Sharon Swanepoel of South Africa ministered to us in music, both in songs known and prophetically sung, and gave inspiring messages inspired by the Holy Spirit, which also tied in very well with what was taught during WCO. Men and women alike responded to the Spirit's calling during the altar calls, as Rudi prayed with Commanders as they prayed and interceded for one another. God was definitely in the house!

Sadly, the weekend came with tragedy. On Saturday, our beloved mascot, Fernando Flamingo, died tragically and mercifully at the hands of Spanish Eastern District Commander Manny Hernandez (see obituary, next page). At the Saturday evening dinner banquet, commanders paid their respects to Fernando in a special ceremony, where he was remembered for his colorful style and positive influence he left on all those around him. Even his closest and pinkest friends joined in a procession for our fine-feathered friend. Fernando, you will be missed!

On Sunday morning, Rudi and Sharon led the last service before everyone was sent on their way home renewed and refreshed! Commander Dwight said that leaders he spoke to were "very happy with the



NNED's displays and banners make its presence known at Regional Conference.

training and that they were looking forward to going back to their outposts and putting it into practice." He added, "I hope that leaders take back a new passion and burden to expand the Kingdom of God through the Ranger ministry."

Northern New England is proud of the Commanders who attended what truly was a "World Class Event"- the 2007 Northeast Regional Conference and WCO. They are not only on the road to having World Class Outposts, but they are also helping to make NNED a World Class District, taking its mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ" to a whole new level!



Our mascot, Fernando Flamingo, meets an untimely death at the hands of Spanish Eastern District Commander Manny Hernandez.

Remembering Fernando

By Kendall Sperrey
Deputy District Commander

Fernando De Flamingo died unexpectedly in a tragic accident on Saturday January 27th, 2007. Fernando was loved and adored by many Royal Rangers in the Northeast Region but will be especially missed by his close friends of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers. Fernando was born on a small farm in New Hampshire to Ferdinand and Felicia Flamingo on the 12th day of November, 2005. His life was short but full. He sought adventure at every turn. Upon meeting the notorious Jerry Love of New Hampshire his life was changed forever. He was introduced to Royal Rangers and his life was consumed attending Royal Ranger Events. While Attending the 2006 Northeast Regional Conference a whole new set of friends emerged. He found a new home with the Spanish Eastern district where he took up residence with District commander Manny Hernandez. While living with Commander Manny Fernando met Fernendina during a vacation in the Bahamas. Fernando participated in District POW WOW's and National Camporama during the summer of 2006. While at National Camporama he enjoyed the notoriety he received even from National Staff, earning the Gold Feather cluster of honor. His reputation during the past year made him a Royal Ranger National Hero. He lived and died for Royal Rangers, literally. Special services were held January 27 in the Potomac Park Banquet Hall in West Virginia. Interment has been postponed until the spring thaw in August. Fernando will be missed by **almost** everyone. Besides his most loved wife Fernendina, Fernando leaves behind a son Fernando, Jr., many brothers and sisters, and close friends throughout New England and the Northeast Region. May his soul rest in eternal piece and his memory endure in the hearts of his family and friends for years to come. Anyone wishing to pay their respects to Fernando can do so by contributing to the Jerry's Kids fund. All contributions may be sent to the NNED office.



Wooly's Den

By Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean
FCF President Emeritus

Howdy,

Just wanted to let you know we are back from our journey to the Rendezvous. Some of the King's Pine brothers and myself came out of the woods to the Rendezvous. Yes siree, wouldn't miss Rendezvous, as long as the creek didn't rise too high. All the FCF brothers for miles around showed up to show off their skills and fellowship with each other. Yer knew we don't get to see each other for a couple of years, didn't ya? Our very own Moose Call took



"The Grateful Living"- Wooly back in his younger days. What a long, blessed trip it's been!

first place with the best shelter; not too bad for a new brother. Well, with a couple more years under his belt, he will be ready to strike out on his own and keep his hair. Also Cookin (Dana) run away with third in shelters (does it count if there was only three?). Now Weak Tea showed some mighty fine plinking with his smokepole, came in at number 3. Yes siree, we have some great young bucks now. Most of the young bucks sure slicked some of the Old Timers out of things to complete their outfits. Keep your hand on your trade goods when they are around, is all I can say.

Why even the pilgrim Dan got his name (Feather Foot) when he out slicked an Old Timer. Can you trade a feather for some moccasins? Why, when he beat everyone in the drawing, he got himself a hat. Kind of looks like a dude in it, but be careful... he's not. Grin "N" Cub came close to being the scout but lost out to a young buck, who had spent many moons living in the wild. You should have been there to hear Ole "Hawkeye" just a jawing and telling some tall tales. Have to say he did hit the nail on the head though. Made us realize just who we were in Jesus. We are all winners, not a loser among us, the victory has been won by our Lord, we just have to keep up the fight. Praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes siree, sure was a time of praise, and when we got back to camp we had our own time of fellowship with the Lord.

Well, before I leave for the wilderness again, just wanted to let you know that we had some great eats: ribs, chicken, spuds, biscuits, cakes, bacon, eggs... could go on, but my mouth is starting to water. Thank you Echo, Fall "N" Target, Grin "N" Cub, and Caterpillar. Why, one of the brothers even brought the stuff to press apples; the juice was from heaven. Till we meet again, God bless yer all and keep up the fight. Remember our Lord has won already.

Oh Ya, I want to thank a non-FCF brother who has the heart of Christ. (Willy, the Sr. Commander of Outpost 40). Brother, you showed me how much your heart is for your Rangers when you brought them to CWC so they could go, and you even drove down to pick them up at night. I know you are not in FCF but you have the spirit of Christ in you, and your Rangers are blessed because of it. I have heard them talk of you this week-end, and you have set a great example. Thanks you so very much. Until next meeting, keep yer powder dry and your heart on Jesus.

Wooly Bear

A Family Tradition- Adam Forsythe Earns GMA

By Cdr. Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

On October 7, 2006, a Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) ceremony was held at Praise Assembly of God in Tilton, New Hampshire, in honor of Adam T. Forsythe. He is the 35th Ranger in NNED and the fifth at Outpost 36 to earn this prestigious award. He is also the second Forsythe to earn the award, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Jonathan "Buck" Forsythe, who earned his GMA in 2002.

That evening, pastors, dignitaries, special guests, family, friends and Ranger Commanders came to pay tribute to this hard-working young man. Cdr. Ken Burtard served as the Master of Ceremonies, as the NNED Color Guard, led by Coordinator Jason Wright, performed the opening ceremony. Walter McCleod, Adam's brother-in-law, and a 2000 GMA recipient, gave Adam congratulations on behalf of his home state of South Carolina, and a special salute given in that state to GMA recipients!

District Commander Jerry Love, who served as Adam's Senior Commander for ten years, gave the opening remarks, followed by a video presentation of Adam. Commander Love then presented Adam with his Gold Medal of Achievement, as well as his Junior Commander bars!

Among the speeches and accolades given on behalf of Adam were from his father, Bill Forsythe, Senior Commander of Outpost 36, who expressed his pride in his son's achievement. Commander Forsythe stated that, through perseverance and constant "coaching" from Bill and his wife, Louise, Adam was able to get through the difficult times and overcome the difficulties along the journey to earning his GMA! Perhaps the most compelling speech given, was by Adam himself, who admitted that there were times of struggle in the program over the years when he felt he didn't really want to complete the task, but his parents pushed him on to continue, helping him to grow mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. He gave a heartfelt thank-you to his parents for doing this, and to all the others who encouraged him and helped him along the way!

Along with all the compliments and congratulations Adam received, he also was given words of wisdom, caution, and advice for the future from those who spoke in his behalf, that "to whom much is given, much is expected." However, if there was one simple phrase used to describe Adam, it came from guest speaker Mike Washburn, Adam's lifelong Pastor, who told Adam that the Hebrew meaning of his name was "The Man." Clearly, Adam is "the Man"!

Following the speeches, Adam was presented with various awards, read letters from the church board, Senator John Sununu, and even the White House! Following the closing of the ceremony, an honorary reception was held in the church hall, and a new chapter in Adam's life began.

Adam has discussed various plans as he waits upon God and where He will lead him next in his life. Right now he feels "relieved" that the work has all been done and that he has



Top (l-r): 2000 GMA recipient Walter McCleod, Commander Bill Forsythe, GMA recipients Adam and Buck Forsythe, and future GMA recipient Daniel Forsythe.

his GMA! Commander. Bill, his dad, says, "Our goal is that he would grow up as a young man who will follow after Jesus Christ, and draw others to do the same." He would also hope that Adam's children would be followers of Christ and future GMA's. Adam's younger brother, Daniel, is in Adventure Rangers, and is on his way to becoming a GMA recipient in the next couple of years, becoming the third Forsythe to do so! As you can see, for the Forsythe family, and for Outpost 36, earning the GMA is not just an honor. It's a family tradition!

Below: Adam takes a proud photo with his proud parents, Bill and Louise Forsythe.



Eric Spaulding's GMA- An Historic First for Outpost #16

By Commander Jay M. Woodward
Pony Express Editor

On October 21, 2006, at First A/G in Lewiston, Maine, a Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) ceremony was held in honor of Eric Spaulding. For Outpost #16, this truly was an historic occasion. Since the Outpost began in 1962, the same year the Royal Rangers ministry was launched, there had never been a GMA recipient at the Lewiston church. That changed with Eric, who, in addition to becoming the first GMA in his Outpost, is also the 36th young man in NNED to earn this prestigious award!

That evening, family, friends, commanders, and dignitaries from around Northern New England came to pay tribute to Eric. Cdr. Gary Baillargeon of Outpost 16 served as the Master of Ceremonies, and gave the opening remarks. Following greetings from Pastor Donald Cogle and Senior Commander Tom Whittingham, District Commander Jerry Love gave his remarks, in which he stated, "Today Eric, you have shown us that you are made of something very special, you are made of God's choicest materials; you, Eric Spaulding, are a Royal Priest of the highest order, and a mighty man of God."

Following Cdr. Jerry's remarks, a video of Eric was presented to the audience, which brought laughs from all, and even some happy tears from his proud parents! After the slide show, Maine State Representative Scott Lansley congratulated him on behalf of the State of Maine, presenting him with letters from Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, and also presenting him with an official recognition of his achievement, that will be kept on permanent record at the State House in Augusta!

FCF had gifts for him, as FCF President Tim "Red Oak" Hatch and President Emeritus Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean presented him with a copy of *The Frontiersman* by Allan Eckert, a Candle Lantern, and a shelter pole to replace the one he mistakenly cut while on his Frontier Adventure. Also, from Cdr. Kendall Sperrey, he received a special paddle to commemorate an incident when he was younger, in which he tipped a canoe and lost a tackle box and fishing pole at the bottom of the lake! This happened with Cdr. John Hutchinson, who told the story behind it. Following Eric's short speech, in which he thanked his parents, friends, and all of the commanders who helped him along the way, especially Cdr. Rick Varney, Cdr. Jerry presented him with the prized Gold Medal of Achievement, as well as a special GMA jacket, a gift the District gives to every GMA recipient. Cdr. Tom presented him with his GMA certificate. Finally, Cdr. Rick presented Eric with his Lt. Commander bars, and gave the closing remarks. For Cdr. Rick, working with Eric was "a roller coaster ride of epic proportions". He had been so close to getting his GMA for so long, but along the way he had lost his momentum. He had to overcome some distractions in the form of a girlfriend, his work, and car maintenance." However, Cdr. Rick acted as a mentor to Eric, and was able to come up with the work needed to complete his GMA by his 18th birthday! He added, "I couldn't be prouder of him."

Following the ceremony's closing, there was plenty of time for photo-ops with Eric, who was not only the newest GMA recipient, but also the newest Commander in the District! Looking upon his achievement, Cdr. Eric said, "It was an accomplishment of nine years of work, and to God be the glory." He added, "it's about men helping boys. Cdr. Rick and the other commanders definitely stepped up and helped me go all the way through. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have made it through." As for what's next, Cdr. Eric said, "I'm going for my LMA (Leader's Medal of Achievement) and I want to complete that and become a better leader."

As you can see, involvement in Rangers doesn't have to

stop once a boy earns his GMA. He can become involved as a commander, earn his LMA, and work towards Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping the next generation of boys for Christ! Eric Spaulding is the first GMA recipient from Outpost #16, but he definitely won't be the last! NNED is proud of you, Eric!



Eric Spaulding with Commander Rick Varney.



Left to Right: Commanders Ken Bustard, Jerry Love, Eric Spaulding, Kendall Sperrey, and Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean.



Right: Eric gives his GMA speech, thanking all those who helped him along the way to his GMA.

“Servants Behind the Scenes”-NNED Security Color Guard

By Cdr. Jason Wright, Security Color Guard Coordinator, & Cdr. Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

When you go to Pow-Wow, you can't help but notice them. They wear black caps, black cargo pants and bright white T-shirts that are imprinted with the word "Security". They look like a young, elite, special forces unit, patrolling the campsites and keeping an eye on things. Who are these sharp-dressed young men? They are the NNED Security Color Guard, a unique program within the Rangers ministry. NNED and SNED are the only two districts (thus far, but not for long) in the whole country to offer this exciting opportunity to serve the Lord.

While the "history" of the SCG in both NNED and SNED predates the ministry of these authors, it is safe to say that this special brotherhood within the priesthood of Royal Rangers is certainly moving forward in the hands of God. SCG Camp attendance has grown to record numbers, and the utility of the group has developed greatly at Local, Sectional, District, and National events. The future leadership and training of this group of willing servants will continue to be facilitated "by the boys, for the boys, and through the boys" within SCG.

One of the little known facts of the "culture" of SCG is that nearly all the specialized training provided at SCG Camp (a required event for "active" status on the SCG team) is taught and re-taught by boys and young men of the SCG Corps of Leaders, most of whom are under the age of 21. Adult leaders only serve as advisors, correcting the few (if any) errors and issues that may arise. Boys also have the opportunity to attend the camp (offered every two years) as many times as they wish, and with each additional visit to the camp, boys are given more challenging positions of leadership and heightened responsibility. This growth and development could typically have a boy serving in his first camp as a recruit, second camp as a patrol guide, third camp as a member of Junior Staff (an instructor), and, should the Lord Bless, a fourth camp as a member of Senior Staff of the SCG Camp! To accomplish four camps in a boy's Royal Ranger career, it is suggested that an interested boy (or a boy that a Commander deems eligible for "encouragement") take the step of faith and start at Discovery Ranger age. Yes, it is possible, and even permissible. Also, any Royal Ranger interested in pursuing his "Saber" Leadership Award should consider SCG Camp; attendance at a minimum of two SCG Camps (the second one being the leadership opportunity for the boy) could very well be considered a valid qualifier for one camp fulfilled toward the highly-acclaimed and rarely-bestowed Saber and it's corresponding White Beret...talk about impressive!

While the public image of SCG is what some Royal Rangers would describe as "cool"; sharply uniformed soldiers for Christ, whether in utility fatigues or in Class B Khakis with black berets, ascots and "white gear", combined with the opportunity to cruise around in a golf cart or other utility vehicle, the reality of SCG is what most do not see: the servant's heart. Many of the boys that serve on SCG choose to do so because they want to serve the ministry of Royal Rangers, and not always be served by it. When Security is "on-duty" during their scheduled shifts, they forfeit the opportunity to play games, go swimming, hang around in their campsites, and enjoy the relaxed things of Pow-Wow or Maine Yukon Days. They have chosen to serve, work, and obey. Simply put, not all of the duties of SCG are glamorous. While the SCG may look "fun and easy" during presentation of colors, that 5 minutes of fame is only a drop in the bucket of a full day (and night) of "working Security".

It is really only fair to say that SCG has one mission: to serve. Whom they serve and how they serve takes on numerous tasks and challenges. At a District Event, the SCG works for and reports to the Camp Commander, taking on the duties of registration and parking to final inspections and dismissal from campsites or cabins, and everything in between, most of which occurs "on the fly". The SCG serves the Camp Attendees by keeping areas safe, minimizing vehicle traffic through the camp, providing extra eyes at campsites for tool safety and fire safety issues, and for providing assistance and direction whenever and wherever possible. At times, SCG may be required to report an incident to the SCG Commander or Camp Commander, or may have to deal with the issue themselves. It is hoped that all Royal Rangers understand that SCG Staff members need as much cooperation as possible from the boys and men attending the events in order for SCG to fulfill its mission of serving and keeping the camp safe. Rest assured that the boys and men of SCG have received highly specialized training and explicit instructions and orders from their superiors with that very mission in mind. Recently, SCG also was used to help with both Security and Color Guard services at Camporama 2006, braving the heat and the dust, and working with actual law enforcement personnel to help patrol the campsites and help things run smoothly. It attracted new attention to Color Guard, as some of our local NNED boys were even recognized at an evening service in front of thousands of boys and men from around the country!

It is our hope that you will all take a



A Proud Moment: Security Color Guard at Camporama 2006.

moment to pray for the Security Color Guard, for all boys and men of that elite corps of servants everywhere: past, present, and future. Pray also to hear if the Lord's leading is for you to become a part of that unsung brotherhood. The next SCG Camp would potentially be in 2008, to help men and boys get "Ready" for the exciting opportunity to be involved in this dynamic program! Also, next time you see our proud Security Color Guard, take a moment to stop and talk to them, and thank them. They truly are "servants behind the scenes", and a vital part of the NNED Royal Rangers mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ"!

Security should always say "Please" and never ask for a "Thank You", but let's take a moment to recognize and thank the active roster of the NNED Security Color Guard:

Dickey, Deven OP25
 Fajardo, Edison OP3
 Fajardo, Victor OP3
 Geiser, Nathan OP21
 Krys, Ryan OP5
 Lacombe, Nick OP25
 McAdam, Rylan OP25
 Montoya, Job OP40
 Paquette, Ryley OP11
 Philbrick, Peter-John OP
 Philbrick, Zechariah OP3
 Sperrey, Kaleb OP25
 Webb, Nate OP11
 Beaulieu, Ethan OP25
 Belanger, Peter OP21
 Blake, Jake OP40
 Brassard, Jeremy OP11
 Damon, Isaiah OP21
 Damon, Jonathan OP21
 Day, Aaron OP25

Note: Hopefully nobody was missed, and I'd also like to thank ALL the Commanders and families of these boys who also serve to transport these fine young men to SCG Camp and everywhere they need to go to do the Lord's work. THANK YOU AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU! ~Cdr. Jason A. Wright, NNED SCG Coordinator.

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

Pastor Tim Haynes

NNED**District and Sectional Staff**

Steve Adams— Southeast Sectional Commander

Gary Besaw—Pony Express Publisher

Dale Bishop—District Range Officer

Jake Blake— FCF Scout

Ken Bustard—Instructor Trainer

Rob Cunningham— ROTY Coordinator

Ron Daigle—Aroostook Sectional Commander

Willy Gusha— White Mountain Sectional
Commander

Dana Lemieux— Instructor Trainer

Bruce Paquette— FCF Vice President

Keith Poirier— Webmaster

Jay Woodward— Pony Express Editor

Jason Wright— Security Color Guard Coordinator

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@gmail.com.

Questions or comments?

Call the NNED Royal Ranger Office at:
(603) 323-7120**DC's Corner**

I was reading an email from my son Aubrey the other day, and I came across a quote that he included from Robert J. Sternberg, Professor of Education and Psychology at Yale University. It said, and I quote: "A good book is one whose advice you believe. A great book is one whose advice you follow". I pondered that quote for awhile, and it suddenly dawned on me...as a Christian, I've been known to call the Bible, "The Good Book" all of my

life. Well, it is, isn't it? It's good, it's the "good news". It's God's Word, and I certainly "believe" it. But I read the quote from Professor Sternberg again...and again, and it began to have a real impact on my view of this compilation of writings that I've always taken for granted as "God's Infallible Word". I've never doubted, in my 60 years of life's journey, that what was written was true, was real, was unquestionable, was believable...but is believing really enough? This quote began to take hold of me, and I was swept away with the thought of the thousands upon thousands of Gideon Bibles and others, sitting quietly on thousands upon thousands of nightstands across this country, in motels and hotels and who knows where else, all sitting there being comfortably "believed in". I thought of the dozen or so Bibles in my own home, that find their way with me to church, or to a Ranger event, or to my devotional time or ... yup, to my own nightstand. It's comforting, really, having a book such as the Bible to believe in. In a world where the printed word can be so thwarted, misused and misunderstood, we have a word, a Word, we can understand, we can take comfort in, we can "believe" in. Yes, that makes the Bible a "Good Book". So what's the problem? The quote was gnawing away at me, and for good reason. Do I, in my own personal walk with God, make the Bible a "Great Book"? I believe in the advice the Bible gives me, but do I follow that advice? OK, that's easy enough...sure I'm following God's advice, or at least I think I am, you know, that advice He made so clear to me in His Word. I'm not perfect, far from it, but I know good advice when I hear it, and the Bible is full... of...good...advice? Then it hit me like a ton of bricks. What am I thinking? The Bible is not a great book because we follow its advice, because that's not what God is handing out here...good advice. God, in His perfect plan for us, is not giving us "advice", but rather giving us commands by which to live. They weren't the Ten suggestions or the Ten advises, they are simply the Ten Commandments. Jesus didn't say, "My advice to you is to go into all the world..." no siree, He *commanded* us to go to the ends of the earth, to spread the Word, to reach the lost, to...teach, to keep...wait a minute...this command sounds very familiar. God has given me a command...to "reach, teach and keep men and boys for Christ". Now that's something to believe in...and to follow. So, let me change this quote by the illustrious professor to be more salient to you and I as Royal Ranger leaders. And here it is! "A good book is one whose advice you believe, a great book is one whose advice you follow, THE book is one whose commands you live"!

District Commander Jerry Love
April 2007

NNED Royal Rangers Junior Academy

Anson, ME

July 12-15, 2007

Camp Fee: \$100



DTC

For Discovery Rangers



ATC

For Adventure Rangers



JTC

Completed 7th grade

Important Information:

- Must be a member of a current chartered outpost.
- Camp Fee covers meals, lodging, activity patch, insurance, and hat.
- Camp informational flyers to be mailed to trainee upon receipt of application
- All applications must be postmarked by June 12, 2007 or an additional \$10 will be required.
- Application must be mailed with \$25 deposit and medical form.
- Commanders may attend and pay half price, if they bring 4 boys they may attend for free.
- Commanders **MUST** have an **ACTIVITY SUPERVISORY CERTIFICATION FORM** filled out and brought with them along with the medical form. No Refunds will be made after June 12, 2007.
- Make all checks payable to the Northern New England District Royal Rangers.
- **The Application, as well as the Medical Form and Activity Supervisory Certification Form, is available for download at the District website: WWW.RANGERS-NNED.NET**

Mail completed application to:
Cmdr. Donn Blomerth
PO Box 189
North Anson, ME 04958
E-mail: elecun@tds.net
phone:207-635-3474

THE PONY EXPRESS

Dist. Cdr. Jerry Love
PO Box 16
Holderness, NH 03245