



The Official Newsletter of Northern New England District Royal Rangers

## NNED Pow-Wow 2008 - the Olympics

By Commander Jay M. Woodward  
Pony Express Editor



On August 14-17, 2008, NNED Royal Rangers held its annual Summer Pow Wow at Camp Marist on the beautiful shores of Lake Ossipee in Effingham, New Hampshire. Men and boys from Outposts across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont gathered for this exciting weekend of camping, fun, fellowship, competition, and spiritual renewal! Indeed, summer in Northern New England wouldn't be complete without Pow Wow! The theme of this year's Pow Wow was "The Olympics", a fitting theme, as the Olympics in Beijing were happening at the same time! The Scripture verse of this year's Pow Wow was 1 Corinthians 9:25: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

For the third year in a row, Pow Wow was held at Camp Marist, and there were improvements made to the campsite, thanks to Work Day in May. Perhaps the most noticeable change was the Staff Campsite, "Geezerville", which this year had its own separate location, just across the path from the FCF Village! Also, there was a dedicated Camp Staff, led by District Training Coordinator Jason A.

Wright, who served as Camp Commander, Deputy District Commander Kendall Sperrey, who served as Camp Coordinator, and of course, District Commander Jerry Love. They spent months in advance preparing for the camp and arranging all the details. Commander Jerry commented, "This is the second year in a row that Kendall and Jason have worked on this event...and their work and sacrifice does not go unnoticed". Also, there was a contest for boys in NNED to design this year's Pow Wow patch. The winner was Levi Montoya of Outpost #40 in Plymouth, NH! His design graced both this year's Pow Wow patches and bolo ties!

When Outposts arrived on Thursday and Friday, they also made improvements to their dif-





ferent campsites to create a better camping experience! In addition to setting up their campsites, each Outpost chose a different country as a theme for their gateways and costumes, and also flew their respective country's flag with pride, bringing the spirit of the Olympic Games to Pow Wow! On Friday evening, after all the Outposts had arrived, and following a fun afternoon of swimming, canoeing, and shooting for boys, it was time for

the Opening Ceremonies. With an introduction from the Staff, there was an opportunity for Outposts to perform songs, skits, and yells, and show their Olympic Spirit! Following this, there was a dynamic time of worship led by Josh Koss, Youth Pastor of Praise A/G in Tilton, NH. Boys and leaders alike were brought into the awesome presence of the Holy Spirit! There was also an exciting presentation performed by the drama team from Calvary Temple in East Millinocket, Maine, followed by a first at Pow Wow: a water baptism ceremony! Four boys and one adult made their public confession of faith in Christ by being baptized on the shore of Lake Ossipee! Finally, Guest Speaker Mac Prebble, formerly of Maine but now living in Nebraska, and a proud Royal Ranger, gave a message that stirred in the hearts of



many boys, who responded to the Spirit's calling at the altar! And if that wasn't enough, the evening closed with a spectacular fireworks display!

On Saturday morning, the Games began! The NNED Decathlon was a challenging and fun set of events: The Gum Rubber Relay, Hillbilly Wagon Race, Water Balloon Catapult (of which Commander Jerry became a willing victim), Hill-



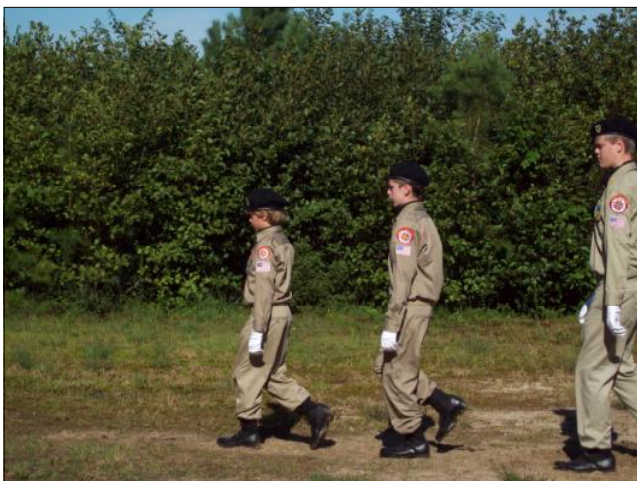


billy Transport, Pole Toss, Black Rubber Flap Jack, 100 Yard Dash, Shot Put, Obstacle Course, and Ranger Basics, which involved the Ranger art of knot-tying! In addition, there was a Canoe Race, as well as Archery, Black Powder and .22 Rifle Shooting, The events challenged the boys physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually, and made for some hungry boys come lunch time! Thankfully, Commander Willy Gusha of Outpost 40, was ready with the NNED Missions BBQ Trailer, and he cooked

up plenty of hamburgers for our young Olympians to refuel with! Ranger Kids weren't left out on the fun, as Ranger Kids Family Day was also held on Saturday. Commander Judy Tilton, District RK Coordinator, led Ranger Kids in fun activities, such as blowing up balloons with a hand-pump and an Egg-and-Spoon Relay Race, followed by an Ice Cream Social! Ranger Kids, as well as their parents and Commanders, had an exciting day!



At the Saturday Evening assembly, there were two more competitive events: The Sword Drill, which was a challenge to see who could most quickly find Bible Verses from the "Swords", and the famous Tug-of-War, which pitted New Hampshire against both Maine AND Vermont! For the second year in a row, New Hampshire prevailed! Following another dynamic worship led by Pastor Josh, and a skit performed by the Calvary Temple Drama Team, Pastor Mac gave another stirring devotion that touched the hearts of boys and leaders, and many responded to the altar call around the Council Fire, where they were warmed by the presence of Holy Spirit! It was indeed a powerful move of the Spirit!



On Sunday morning, following breakfast, boys and Commanders gathered together for one final assembly, as the Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals were handed out for the different competitions. Boys got to represent their Outposts and wear their medals with pride! Also, Commander Jerry handed out the District Commander's Cup to a young man who showed outstanding dedication to Rangers: Daniel Fifield of Outpost #8 in Bethel, Vermont! Following the awards ceremony, Commander Jason gave the dismissal, and Pow Wow 2008 came to a close! This year's Pow Wow was one to remember. Com-

mander Jerry commented, "Once again, we came away from Pow Wow feeling enriched by the wonderful fellowship and by the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. It doesn't get any better than this!" As they strived for the gold medals at Pow Wow, boys were also reminded to keep running the race for the ultimate crown in heaven! Once again, the boys and leaders of the NNED proved that they are all champions in Christ!

## LTA Campout 2008 A Great Success

By Commander Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

On September 27-28, NNED Royal Rangers held the now-annual LTA Campout and Instructor Certification Seminar at Camp Marist in Effingham, New Hampshire. Seven Commanders arrived for a weekend of training, and preparing themselves to be better, more effective Royal Ranger leaders. The LTA Campout is a vital hands-on training exercise. As District Training Coordinator Jason A. Wright explained, "The LTA Campout is more than just an opportunity to experience the camping environment; rarely does a Ranger Commander come through the event that hasn't ever been camping before! What our team of Camp Instructors focuses on are the important highlights of camping safely and enjoyably, the elements of which we want to impart to the boys both prior to the campout and at the campout itself. The goal of the weekend is to encourage our Outposts to take their boys CAMPING, or just get them outdoors from time to time, and the LTA Campout serves to equip, enable, and inspire Commanders to do just that."



On Saturday morning the trainees arrived ready to learn. Throughout the weekend, they received instruction in such camping skills as Firecraft, Ropecraft, Cooking, and other essentials. In addition, the LTA Module "Successful Outposts" was presented to three additional trainees by District Commander Jerry Love. As a result of both course offerings and attendance during the entire weekend, three NNED Commanders- Senior Commander Mark Griswold (OP#57, Claremont, NH), Lt. Cdr. Gaylon Long and Lt. Cdr. Don Allard (OP #36), completed the requirements to earn their Leader's Medal of Achievement (LMA)! The "NNED Top Twenty" LMA Roster is filling up fast and more Commanders are very close to earning this prestigious training award. More LTA Modules are scheduled for December 6th, so mark your calendar!

Also, the District is now blessed with two new Certified Instructors: Commander Larry Hennessy and Commander Judy Tilton, both of Outpost #36 in Tilton, NH. They are both highly valuable additions to an already talented corps of Instructors in NNED!

This year's LTA Campout was a tremendous success! This event and other training events, play a huge role in giving NNED Royal Rangers highly trained leaders who are ready to take our ministry to the next level, and fulfill our mission to "Reach, Teach, and Keep Men and Boys For Christ!"



# A Camp to Remember - ANTC 2008, Gardner, MA

By Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

On July 24-27, 2008, Northeast Region Royal Rangers held Advanced National Training Camp (ANTC) at Camp Collier in Gardner, Massachusetts. Thirty-nine Commanders, including four from NNED- Jason A. Wright, Mike Hills, Ken Beaufort, and this article's author-were in attendance, as was Commander Bruce "Moose Call" Paquette, a previous ANTC graduate who served as a Staff member, teaching classes on building monkey bridges and rope towers! He served on a Staff of 12 that had combined 200-plus years of Ranger experience! A big part of gaining experience in the Rangers ministry comes from training. As Commander Jason, NNED's District Training Coordinator, observed, "While I am always impressed with the quality of training and caliber of instruction that we are blessed with as Royal Ranger Leaders, I can say that ANTC



was a greater and deeper experience for me than I was initially expecting from just reading through the schedule of classes." On Thursday, the Trainees made their arrival, registered, got in uniform, and prepared for the weekend that was to come. Over the next two days, trainees attended classes on such advanced skills as Rope Towers and Bridge Building, Dutch Oven Cooking, Primitive Shelters and Outdoor Survival, Orienteering, Advanced Pageantry, and GMA Ceremonies. The last two classes had the trainees and their patrols putting on a GMA ceremony and an Outdoor Pageantry Play, complete with sets and costumes! Also, there were indoor classes on The Uniform, Priority Setting, Balanced Recreation, and Pastoral Relations. All of these classes provided trainees with a wealth of new information to bring back to their Outposts and become more effective Ranger leaders. When not in class, patrols worked on songs, yells, and patrol flags, continually working upon them throughout the weekend, using their newly-taught skills! Patrols were able to earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Levels of Excellence, and were



able to display pennants for each level on their patrol flags! On Saturday, patrols broke camp and headed out for their Advanced Overnight Campout, and were able to utilize their skills by having a big Dutch Oven cooking smorgasbord and building primitive outdoor shelters! Also, there was the opportunity to relax and have a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and sharing testimonies around the Council Fire! The warmth of the Holy Spirit was definitely present around the evening fire! In the morning, patrols packed up and headed back to the main meeting area for a hot breakfast, closing comments from the Camp Commander and Senior Guide, and the handing out of ANTC certificates and patches. Following a closing prayer, trainees were dismissed, and ANTC came to a close!

Indeed, ANTC 2008 was a great success, due in part to the trainees, who were able to overcome adverse weather conditions and work well together as a team, and in part to the Staff, who performed exceptionally even though they were short-handed! Commander Jason commented, "To see the number of leaders with literally decades of commitment under their khaki belts was an inspiration to me personally, and helped me realize the scope of the calling that I'm answering. To also see GMA recipients at ANTC, not just as camp attendees but as ANTC Instructors and Staff really drove the point home to me that we all have a duty and an obligation to dig in, dig deeper, and rededicate ourselves and our ministry within Rangers to continue to Reach Teach and KEEP Men and Boys for Christ. We're in the business of building strong and fully equipped Christian leaders and we have a divine appointment and calling with the boys in our Outposts to see that they have every opportunity to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually."

The Commanders from NNED who attended ANTC returned back to their Outposts as more effective leaders, and will have a greater impact on their boys which will last for many years to come. ANTC 2008 is definitely a camp