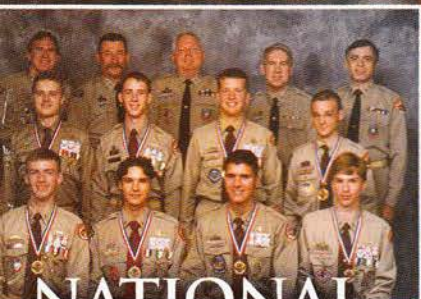


HIGH ADVENTURE

LEADER'S EDITION

SPRING 2001

There is nothing better
for a man than to be
happy and to enjoy himself
as long as he can...
that he should eat
and drink and enjoy the
fruits of his labors,
for these are gifts from God.



**NATIONAL
ROYAL RANGERS
of the YEAR AWARDS**



<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

CODE + ELECTRICITY

American MORSE CODE

Samuel Morse

DARBY JONES

Survival Issue

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large red mustache and a boy sitting on a green couch. The man is wearing a blue shirt and the boy is wearing a red shirt. They are both looking towards the left. There is a small dog on the floor next to the couch.



HIGH ADVENTURE



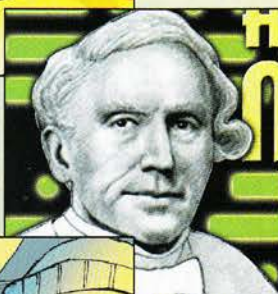
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Eight Rangers Awarded National Honor

by Marshall BRUNER

Eight Royal Rangers traveled to Missouri in July to attend the 2000 National Rendezvous, which about 1,000 members of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship attended. Though the event itself was worth the travel from across the nation, these eight came for another motive: to receive special recognition during the Rendezvous as the National Royal Rangers of the Year 2000.

On July 18 during the morning service at the National Rendezvous, the eight regional finalists were named National Royal Rangers of the Year, one of the most prestigious awards known to Royal Rangers.

Following months of rigorous competition among hundreds of Royal Rangers, the National Royal Ranger of the Year award goes to the eight Rangers who win their outpost, sectional, district, and regional competitions.

The winners of the 2000 National Royal Rangers of the Year competition, listed by region, are as follows:

Great Lakes: Jonathan Wolfson (age 16)
Calvary Church, Naperville, Ill.

Gulf: Benjamin T. Barnett (age 18)
Farragut Assembly, Knoxville, Tenn.

North Central: Matthew D. Brown (age 17)
Maple Grove Assembly, Maple Grove, Minn.

Northeast: Jason Beall (age 17)
Worship Center, Lancaster, Penn.

Northwest: Neal J. Bradshaw (age 16)
World Outreach, Idaho

South Central: Joshua B. Johnson (age 15)
Glad Tidings Assembly, Altus, Okla.

Southeast: Christopher M. Privette (age 17)
Green Acres Assembly, Sumter, S.C.

Southwest: Jeremy Schaefer (age 18)
Central Assembly, El Sobrante, Calif.

As national winners these Royal Rangers will serve as honorary members of the National Royal Rangers Council and as volunteer members of the national staff for 1 year. Each will also have opportunities for special speaking engagements at various Royal Rangers functions within his region.

Following are comments from the National Rangers of the Year on how the ministry of Royal Rangers has impacted their lives:

Jonathan Wolfson

"Royal Rangers has been valuable to me because it teaches boys discipline and to become men. By giving us a sense of healthy pride and a real feeling of oneness in the Lord, Royal Rangers gives us boys and our commanders the chance to build relationships.

Royal Rangers offers something for every boy. It has helped me grow and has equipped me to help others grow mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Royal Rangers has taught me many important skills that are helping me now and will help me in the future. For example, I have become a leader and have learned leadership skills, which have become useful in working with younger boys who see me as an example. I have also learned to set goals and take the steps necessary to accomplish them. I believe the Royal Rangers ministry has equipped me to be 'ready' to help in whatever area I am needed at the time in which I am called to serve."

**The National Royal Ranger of the
outpost, sectional, district,**

**Year
and**

Benjamin Barnett

"Twelve years ago, I was introduced to Royal Rangers by my brother Brent, who became a 1997 National Royal Ranger of the Year. He told me about all the cool things they did in Rangers and proudly displayed his uniform. Ever since that day, I have been hooked. Now I try to instill the same enthusiasm in other hopeful National Rangers of the Year.

"Royal Rangers has affected me spiritually, through the example of great men, by showing me how to worship and get into the true presence of God. The ministry has also affected my life by teaching me discipline, leadership, and how to witness effectively. I have learned many skills, both in the physical and spiritual realm, that I may have missed in the absence of my Rangers training."

Matthew Brown

"Royal Rangers has made an immense impact on me spiritually by teaching me the importance of integrity and purity at an early age. If I would not have been taught these lessons at an early age, I do not believe I would be so close with the Lord today.

"The ministry has also made a great impact on my life by

"I have developed a love for camping as a result of the khaki campers part of Rangers. I have learned, practiced, and used the things I have been taught in Rangers—such as discipline, leadership, and respect for those in authority. I would not have these skills if I were not in Royal Rangers. I have learned to set goals and to work to achieve them without giving up. Finally, I have learned that I have one true Friend, who is and will always be there for me. His name is Jesus."

Joshua Johnson

"Royal Rangers has built my self-confidence, taught me how to make lasting friendships, helped develop important life skills that will carry me into adulthood, and given me the skills and desire to achieve any goal I set for myself.

"Royal Rangers has made a tremendous impact on me spiritually. I have learned the importance of daily devotions, the discipline of prayer, the way to live a godly life, and important life lessons that will carry me to adulthood. It has helped me gain a deeper understanding of the Bible. Also, I might never have learned the fundamental beliefs of the Assemblies of God without Royal Rangers."

Christopher Privette

"The Royal Rangers ministry has not just made an impact on my life, but a massive one at that. Over the years I have slacked in my Christian walk, but Royal Rangers was what brought me back and kept me right with God. I know that God brought me to this program to hold me in His ways and to keep my soul safe. I truly thank Him for the Royal Rangers ministry and the commanders.

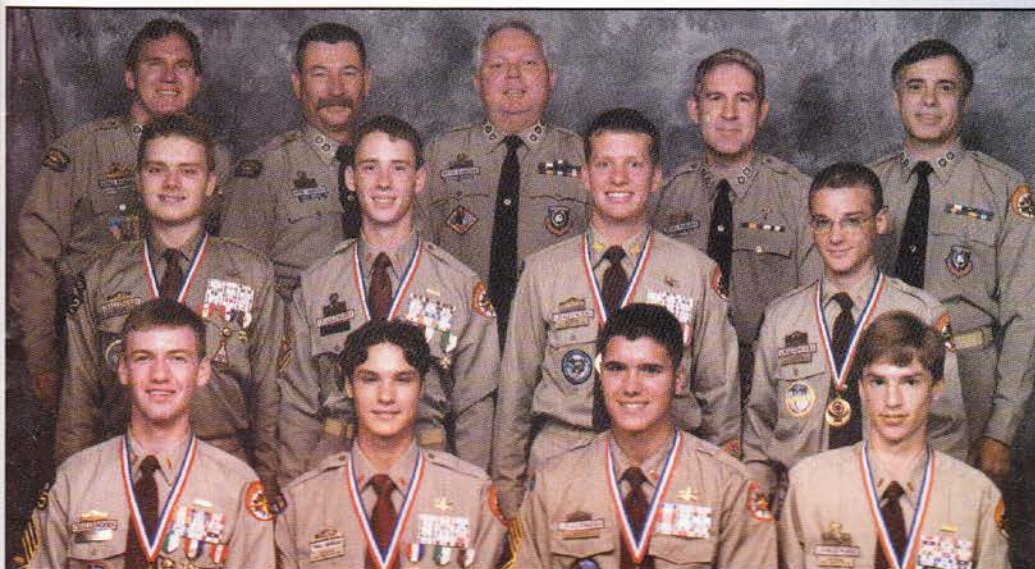
"When I joined Royal Rangers, I was so shy I would hardly talk. This program has helped me to overcome that, and helped shape my character into one I believe Christ likes. It has built me into a person who sets goals and who strives until they are completed. Royal Rangers has caused me to meet some of my best friends and has helped me to know the best commander in the world, Commander Bill Mitchell. The ministry has given me so much to look forward to and has given me

skills and traits that will help me throughout my adult life."

Jeremy Schaefer

"Royal Rangers, it seems, has always been in my life. I started when I was age 5. Royal Rangers has impacted me spiritually by giving me opportunities to stay under God-given authority. While working on my Gold Medal of Achievement, I thought the requirements would never stop. My parents encouraged me to keep on going, but I'd had it and wanted to quit. Then I remembered the principle of authority. God placed my parents in my life to develop the character of Christ in me. I have been taught that if I reject one authority, then God will bring in a bigger authority to work out the rough spots in my character. So while working on my GMA, God used my parents to develop character qualities of Christ in me like diligence, endurance, joyfulness, initiative, thoroughness, wisdom, obedience, and determination.

"Royal Rangers has impacted my life in many ways, but I think the most important way it has affected my life is by proving the secret of success. God, in His Word, gives us an assurance that if we do this one thing, then whatever our hands find to do will prosper. The secret of success is to meditate on God's Word."



FRONT ROW: Jonathan Wolfson, Christopher Privette, Matt Brown, Jeremy Schaefer

MIDDLE ROW: Joshua Johnson, Benjamin Barnett, Neal Bradshaw, Jason Beall

BACK ROW: Brian Hendrickson, Rick Dostal, Richard Marriott, Marshall Bruner, Mike Laliberty

teaching me how to 'rough it.' This has been a key impact on me and sticks in my mind as I think of how spoiled many young people in America are today. Rangers has taught me to pull through tough situations and to strive harder than others, even when I do not feel like doing so."

Jason Beall

"Rangers has taught me Scripture and how to witness to others. It has also given me spiritual examples of both men and boys who are always there for me when I need advice and prayer. I learn from their example.

"Royal Rangers is one of the few places I have felt like I belong and can be myself. It has helped me learn a lot about camping and the outdoors, and how to set goals and to achieve them.

"Royal Rangers has taught me how to be both a leader and a servant. I am a better Christian because of Royal Rangers."

Neal Bradshaw

"The Royal Rangers program has changed me in many ways. First, I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was in Straight Arrows at age 6. Second, I was baptized in water during a Rangers meeting one Wednesday night. Also, I have seen many boys' lives touched during Royal Rangers meetings and events. I have been blessed with the opportunity of leading boys and friends to Christ, and that is an awesome feeling.

Year award goes to the Rangers who win their and regional competitions.



GOING INTO THE LAND

The testimony of Jerry COMELLAS

Jerry John Comellas graduated from Southeastern College with a major in missions and a minor in leadership and administration. He is the administrative vice president for a cryosurgical company in West Palm Beach, Fla., and currently serves as the director of Christian education at Lakeside Christian Church of the Assemblies of God in Boynton Beach, Fla.

I became a Buckaroo in 1977 and went up through the Royal Rangers program in outpost 43 in Tampa, Fla. My commanders were Dell Clark, Leon Spangler, and Lee Jones. Those gentlemen impacted my life in a powerful way. Every week was action packed, and full of the gospel message. They were always there to pray with me, lead me, teach me, and discipline me. They watched me grow through the program and join FCF.

After I became a member of FCF, I joined the youth group of our church and was out of Royal Rangers for about 5 years. When I was 19 years old, I was on a 1-year MAPS assignment to Paraguay, South America, under the direction of Missionary Phil Hutsell. After 9 months, I had planned to return home for a couple of months, then return as we began church planting in the next city in Paraguay. Just before I returned home, I overheard Missionary Tom Bentley speak of a Royal Rangers Pow Wow there in Paraguay—their second Pow Wow in history. I asked if I could go along. It was an excellent camping trip. While sitting at the council fire one evening, I saw the commanders praying over their boys who had come forward to receive Jesus into their lives. I remembered back to when I was at the edge of the council fire with my commanders placing their hands on my head and praying for me. I was so inspired that when I returned home, I spoke for a few minutes at the annual Pow Wow in Florida about the mission in Paraguay. I explained that I wanted to return and plant an outpost in the interior of the country. Rangers commanders and boys gave tents and supplies to be sent to the Paraguay mission. Larry Harper brought all of the camping supplies to my home church in Tampa, Fla., and Rev. Aldin Tinsley had them shipped with the next Florida AIM team going to Paraguay that summer.

I was in the city of Paraguari when the AIM team arrived. I was so excited. I started a small outpost in the city of Ita, the location of our first church plant. We were "Destacamento 11, las Aguilas," Outpost 11, the Eagles. We had our own song and everything.

I arranged with the national commander, Brijido Jimenez, to hold an all outpost camping trip. He informed me that they had already had their annual Pow Wow, and he did not know if the commanders and boys could make it to a second national camping trip. I said, "Well, tell them that every outpost that comes will receive two free tents." Every outpost was present and received their two tents. They were all so excited to have them. The camping trip was great. I was able to speak at one of the evening meetings on the subject of taking Royal Rangers into the interior of the country. I wanted so badly for someone to take up the challenge and do it.

The last day of that camping trip we all gathered in one huge circle and sang, "Dios no nos trajo hasta aqui, para volver atras." "God has not brought us all up here to send us back again. He has brought us here to possess the land that He has given us. Though there be giants in the land, we will not be afraid. He's brought us here to possess the land that He has given us." It was so powerful. Some of my boys asked me why I was crying. I said, "Because I am just so happy."

Since then, I have worked as a Royal Rangers commander at Bethel Temple A/G in Tampa, Fla. (1997-99). Then recently I began working in a Royal Explorers program at a church in West Palm Beach.

Gold Medal Achievement Essays...

by Jacob **THELANDER**

My name is Jacob Thelander and I'm a Gold Medal of Achievement candidate. I have been in Royal Rangers for 8 years and I am a well-respected young man in my church and community. I have moved fast in Royal Rangers for the past couple years. I finished my Pioneers achievements a year early. I recently finished my GMA achievements and will soon be 13 years old. As you can see, I'm younger than most who apply for the GMA, but I am well qualified and have completed all the requirements. The value of Royal Rangers to me in the motto: "Reach, Teach, and Keep boys for Christ."

Reach: I have been "reached" by many different people, because my dad is a pastor and we have moved a lot. I've been in Royal Rangers ever since I was 5 years old, I didn't get a chance to earn all my Straight Arrows achievements, but I did earn everything possible in Buckaroos and Pioneers. I have also reached others. I have been an assistant guide, guide, and senior guide, all in Pioneers and Trailblazers. I was well respected, not only by the boys in our outpost in Northern California, but also by the commanders in the outpost and district. Some of the commanders that have had an

The Value

influence on me and "reached" me are National Commander Richard Mariott, Commander Chuck Sielstad, his son, National Ranger of the Year Jeremy Sielstad, and Commander Brian Hendrickson, who is currently rewriting the Straight Arrows and Buckaroos curriculum.

Teach: My dad taught me until about 3 years ago when we moved to Loyalton, California. Then Commanders Brian Hendrickson, Dan Kelly, and Rob McAdams taught me. These men all helped me while I was going through Pioneers and part of Trailblazers. The main person who taught me, other than my dad, was probably Commander Hendrickson. He is a great man of God and has a big heart for kids. He was one of the men who taught me how to teach other kids and lead them to the Lord. I have used my biblical knowledge to help other boys understand the things that go on in the church. Things like the baptism in the Holy Spirit, being slain in the Spirit, and general misunderstandings.

Keep: Keeping people for Christ is one of the hardest things to do. It has been easy for me to stay in the church because my dad is the pastor of every church I've attended. Many people think that my dad

makes me go to church, and in a way he does, but I have never tried to get out of going unless I was sick. Some also think it is insane to go to church every time the doors are open, but I don't. I have tried to keep people for Christ, but sometimes I have failed. I hope that I have made a difference in many boys' lives.

My life as a Royal Ranger has led me to do many things I probably would not have done otherwise, and it has been interesting. Royal Rangers has had a big part in making me into what I am today. If it weren't for the encouragement from my family and friends, I would never have been able to complete my Gold Medal of Achievement.

by Brandon **LESLIE**

Royal Rangers means a lot to me. It has shaped me and molded me into what I am today. Royal Rangers has also brought me closer to God, and has really blessed me. Almost everything I know about surviving in the wilderness, I learned from Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers has shaped me into the young man that I am today. I started Royal Rangers as a Straight Arrow, and even before that, I was a Rainbow. Now I am a Challenger and have been in all levels of the Royal Rangers program.

I do not know what I would have done, or what I would have been like if I had not been in the Rangers program. I thank God for every minute in those classrooms, with those leaders who have meant so much to me over the years. The leaders really know how to minister to and teach the boys in the Royal Rangers program.

Now that I have been through the program, I feel that I

of Royal Rangers

am better prepared for life. The Rangers program has taught me valuable leadership skills. I use these leadership skills almost every day of my life, as well as almost everything else that Royal Rangers has taught me. All of my skills have improved so much, from my rope skills, to my swimming skills, to my cooking skills. I hope that I will get the chance to become a Royal Rangers leader someday, to teach all of these valuable skills that I have learned to other boys, and to get the same joy that my Royal Rangers leaders get when they teach and minister to boys.

Royal Rangers has brought me closer to God. The Bible studies every Wednesday night really taught me more about God. Royal Rangers taught me how to pray, read my Bible, and encouraged me to do so every day from the time that I was a Straight Arrow. Now I am in the habit of praying and reading my Bible every day.

When it comes time to go to the altar at Pow Wows, the leaders really know how to pray. They just make you feel better all of the time that you are around them. That is one of the reasons that I enjoy being a part of Royal Rangers and value the experience so much. If it was not for the Royal Rangers leaders praying for me, and teaching me about the Lord, I do not know where I would be right now in my spiritual life.

I value Royal Rangers because of the leaders who teach Royal Rangers. I thank God for the leaders and all of the valuable key life skills and experiences that the Royal Rangers program has taught me. Hopefully I will be able to retain these skills for the rest of my life.

A Ranger Who Was Ready

by Ryan Beaty

*former National FCF Scout (1998-2000) Outpost 195
First Assembly of God, Brenham, TX*

In early August of 2000, I was scheduled to preach to my youth group. It had been a great summer for the youth group. They had gone to camp, been on a missions trip, and were really drawing closer to God.

I had seen this growth, and to be honest, the last thing I wanted to preach was a salvation message. But the Lord wouldn't let me get away from it. There was something pressing my Spirit that day—something I couldn't discern. For some reason these kids needed to hear how short their time could be. God gave me understanding two minutes before I took the platform. A friend of mine walked over to me and said, "Jeremy Hartley is dead!" Jeremy died of an undetected genetic heart disorder for which there is no cure or preventive medicine.

Jeremy was 17 years old. He was a vital member of our youth group, a great friend, and the South Texas District Assistant FCF Scout. Jeremy had been raised in Royal Rangers. He was going to be our next GMA. I had been his Senior Guide all the way up. I was his Senior Guide at JLTC. I had taken him and his older brother Jeffrey through FCF. I took him to the trace when he was elected Assistant Scout. My dad was his commander from Buckaroos on up. Jeremy was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, school choir, athletic trainers, Youth Alive, and the track team. He was hard

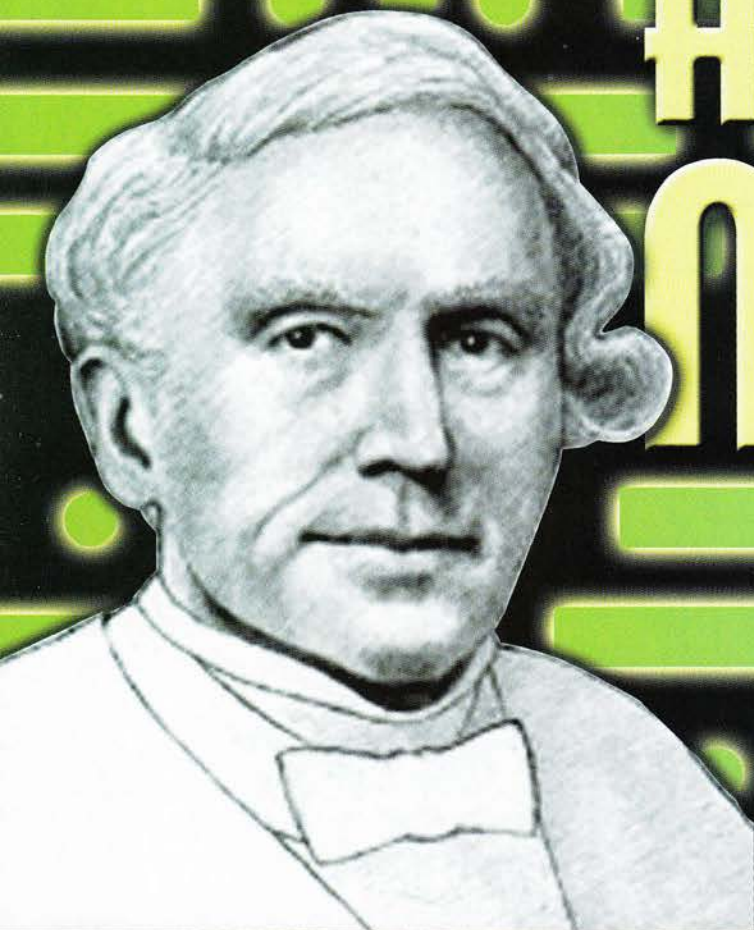
working and ambitious—and now he was gone.

It hit me like a ton of bricks. Our youth pastor, Paul McElroy, immediately went to Jeremy's house with my dad and our senior pastor. The youth group hadn't been told about Jeremy yet. I was a wreck, but God told me to go on—that He still had work to do. Of the 80 kids there that night, 60 responded to the altar call.

The funeral was Saturday. Over 300 people attended, including teachers, school administrators, school friends, church friends, and district Royal Ranger friends. Jeremy had touched so many lives. His former youth pastors, commanders, and high school coaches spoke. And I spoke. Person after person shared memories of Jeremy. They talked about campouts and Pow Wows we had been on, classes he had taken, sports he had played, and the people to whom he had witnessed. People reminded us over and over of what Jeremy was—a hero of the faith—how Jeremy lived "Ready."

Jeremy was a Royal Ranger through and through. Words will never be able to describe the impact Jeremy had on our lives. His brother, Jeffrey, summed it up best as he placed his own GMA into the coffin, into Jeremy's hands.

I will never forget Jeremy. He was one of our own. Our youth group has decided to set up a scholarship in Jeremy's honor and remembrance. It is the least we can do. Jeremy was the boy every commander wished they had in their outpost. Now heaven is a little sweeter, and I look forward to being there a little more.



American MORSE CODE

by Hamor **GARDNER**

If you had been sightseeing around Washington, D.C., on 25 May 1844, you could have witnessed an important event in the history of communications. In a small building away from the downtown area, a serious looking group watched a man tapping out the world's first telegraph message. It was being sent to Baltimore and consisted of four words: "What hath God wrought."

Seven years earlier, Samuel Morse had developed a crude type of code that he hoped to use with a new gizmo—electricity. Before that could happen, Mr. Morse and his partners had to figure out how to get coded letters into an electrical circuit. With the help of \$30,000 from the United States government, Morse's company solved the puzzle. They built an electromagnetic device to "make and break" the electrical circuit in sequence with the code signals. The coded letters were sent on their electrical way.

In 1849 Morse and his partners sold their telegraph

patents. In 1851, a more practical code was developed and named the American Morse code. The clicks, clacks, and spaces sent on a telegraph key were read mentally by a receiving operator from the sound reproduced on a receiving instrument called a sounder (box). Telegraphy swept around the world. It was the 19th century version of the Internet!

Around 1900, inventors were working on another new gizmo called wireless, later known as radio. Guglielmo Marconi's name jumped into headlines on 22 December 1902, when he sent a message from Newfoundland to England using radiotelegraphy.

International Morse code was born when American Morse code proved to be unsuitable for radiotelegraph use. A number of American Morse letters use spaces along with dots and dashes. These spaces were easily missed when copying code during electrical storms.

Governments and shipping companies quickly accepted radiotelegraphy as a new means of keeping in

touch with their ships. Radiotelegraph operators became known as "sparks," a nickname referring to their old spark-gap radio transmitters.

Remember that unfortunate ship, the Titanic? The use of radiotelegraphy saved many of the Titanic's passengers. "Sparks" on sinking ships have helped save thousands of lives.

The original distress signal, and the one used by the Titanic's radio operator, consisted of three letters, CQD. Later, S ... 0---S ... was adopted because it was easier to transmit and recognize. What does SOS mean? "Save our ship." During World War II, different distress signals were used when ships were under attack. For example, if torpedoed by a submarine, you sent the signal SSSS. If attacked by aircraft, you sent AAAA.

"Sparks" use a Q code to ask and answer routine questions. An example is QRU? (Do you have any messages for me?). There are more than 70 Q codes.

The use of International Morse code began to decline after World War II as marine radio telephone equipment became popular. This equipment allows ship personnel to speak directly with anyone ashore via a marine radio coast station and the telephone system. The use of American Morse code on land disappeared as teletype equipment came into service. A teletype is a machine that is part automatic telegraph and part typewriter. A message is whizzed away to its destination while being typed.

Then along came satellites. Today, the captain on a ship anywhere on the ocean can dial a few numbers and speak with you on your home telephone. That wizardry is done through a series of satellites whirling around in the sky. This new form of communication has replaced radiotelegraphy. Effective January 1999, a ship equipped with the appropriate satellite radio communication gear is not required to employ a radiotelegraph operator.

Morse code is disappearing from the radio waves. "Sparks" on older ships may keep using it for a short time, but their days are numbered. Some radio amateurs will keep using Morse code until they too tap out their end of work signal (...-.-).

- -.-.-

THE END

International MORSE CODE Alphabet

A	.-
B	-...-
C	-.-.
D	-.-
E	.
F	..-.
G	-.
H	....
I	..
J	.-.-
K	-. -
L	.-..
M	--
N	-.
O	---
P	.-.-
Q	-.-.
R	.-.
S	...
T	-
U	..-
V	...-
W	.-.-
X	-. -
Y	-. -
Z	..--

Numerals

1	.----
2	..---
3	...--
4-
5	.....
6	-....
7	--...
8	---..
9	----.
10	-----

Punctuation

Period	.-.-.
Comma	--.-.
Question	..--.
Colon	---..
Semicolon	-.-.-
Hyphen	-...-
Quotation Marks	..-..
Brackets	-.-.-

American MORSE CODE Alphabet

A	.-
B	-...-
C	..-
D	-.-
E	.
F	..-.
G	-.
H	....
I	..
J	.-.-
K	-. -
L	-
M	--
N	-.
O	..
P	.....
Q	..-
R	..
S	...
T	-
U	..-
V	...-
W	.-
X	..-
Y	...-
Z	....

Numerals

1	.-.
2	..-
3	...-
4-
5	---
6	.....
7	..-
8	.....
9	..-
0	-

Punctuation

Period	..-..
Comma	..-
Question	..-
Colon	..-..
Semicolon	...-
Hyphen	.....
Quotation Marks	
(on)	..-.-
(off)	..-.-
Brackets	
(on)	.....
(off)	.....

If you live near a railroad crossing, you can hear one Morse code letter many times each day. When a train is approaching a crossing, the locomotive engineer is required to blow two long toots, one short toot, followed by a single long one. An engineer may not know he is blowing a Morse code letter—he is simply following railroad rules. See if you can find two long, one short, one long (---.-) in the list of Morse code signals.



Dear BGMC:

The Royal Rangers ministry in Macedonia (for both boys AND girls) is now one year old. Over the past year we received \$2,000 from BGMC for a computer (vital for translation work and desktop publishing), \$500 to train national leaders, and \$400 to translate Royal Rangers literature into Macedonian. We thank all the boys and girls in the States who gave up allowance money and ice cream cones this summer to fill up the "buddy barrels." Their contributions have made a significant impact on our part of the world, and without them the testimonies such as this one would not be possible:

A Changed Heart

We had no idea when we left for the mission field, that we would end up involved in children's ministry. God stretched our abilities and revealed that He is able to use people like us when He wants a ministry started, despite the fact that we are not "trained" in children's ministry.

We have one boy in our Royal Rangers program named Aleksandar (it seems like half the boys in Macedonia are named this, after Alexander the Great). He was always getting into trouble and was a real headache for some of our leaders. You could call him a "problem Ranger." At one campout, to our horror, he jumped over a large council fire. Thank the Lord he did not get hurt. On another occasion he vandalized some church property.

This summer, however, we began to notice a change in Aleksandar. At one weekly outpost meeting, a leader shared that God cares about us and helps us with our problems no matter how great or small and that Christians care for each other. This leader then asked if anyone had a prayer request that they would like to share. At this point, Aleksandar began to cry. When the leader asked what was wrong, he replied that his grandmother was dying of cancer and that he had been hurting inside for a long time but did not have anyone to turn to for help. All the children in his group spontaneously surrounded him and began laying their hands on him and praying. Afterwards he was visibly comforted.

A few weeks later Aleksandar found some money that a fellow Ranger had lost during a meeting. Instead of putting it in his pocket, he turned it in and the money was returned to the rightful owner. All the children applauded him as an example of honesty, just as the Royal Ranger Code teaches. We could all see that God was doing something in his life.

Finally, late this summer, it happened. Aleksandar asked Jesus into his heart at a camp and his face was beaming as he prayed. Now he is a changed boy. He has gone from being a "problem Ranger" to being a great helper and a "model Ranger." I have seen God do a lot of wonderful things and transform some hard people, but as long as I live I will not forget what He did in the life of this precious boy.

We are greatly indebted to BGMC for all their help. God bless you and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Andrew Whitman and the National Staff of Royal Rangers Macedonia





ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE

Leader

VOLUME 31

SPRING 2001

NUMBER 1

the EVER EXPANDING VALUE *of* ROYAL RANGER MINISTRY

by Terrell R. Raburn

The great value of Royal Rangers is evident at first glance. However, many values are missed upon first inspection. These intangibles are often the solid foundation of Rangers ministry.

THE VALUE TO BOYS

Of course, Royal Rangers ministry cannot be discussed without starting at the target—the boys! Without a ministry to boys there is no reason for the hard work, expense, and sacrifice of producing a Royal Rangers outpost. The first point of meaningful success must be the boys, themselves.

The Rangers programs develop young boys in mind, body, and spirit. Lessons learned at the local outpost, sectional and district events, National Pow Wows and Rendezvous will be retained for life. The powerful truths of meaningful relationships, instructions, and life lessons cannot be overstated. These values build the boy's core and produce an improved opportunity for his success in future life.

All Royal Rangers ministry is based on spiritual needs. Often, more young boys come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior during Royal Rangers events than any other sector of our local church ministries. In like manner, many of those boys are disciplined through spiritual teaching received from Royal Rangers ministries.

In addition to spiritual discipleship, Royal Rangers involves cultural socialization. Boys coming from neglected neighborhoods and disadvantaged backgrounds know little about how to act in polite society. The contact with other boys in their age group, the larger community of the outpost, and the influence of Christian men in the commanders' ranks give boys the opportunity to grow in social graces. Never underestimate the worth of teaching a young boy how to act in public. It can change a life from a future of second-class legal and social problems to one of success and growth.

That leads us to the tremendous value of the local outpost commander. It is not unusual for the commander to be the only righteous role model in many of these boys' lives.

What an opportunity for men to demonstrate a Christlike example of male adulthood! With the help and anointing of the



Holy Spirit, commanders can show many underprivileged boys the way to a prosperous adulthood. The commander has the opportunity to be a catalyst for valuable Christian discipleship in all boys' lives, no matter what their background.

TO THE MEN

That brings us to the hidden value of Royal Rangers ministry to men. Men gain leadership skills, contribute to the work of the body of Christ, experience personal growth and development, and receive the opportunity to minister to the age group most receptive to the gospel message in our present world. Do not take the value of this ministry lightly.

This opportunity demands spiritual, administrative, and personal growth by the commander himself. As he grows and develops as a leader he becomes increasingly valuable to the local church. Many commanders also serve as organizers and personal assistants for their pastors or ministry staff members. Royal Rangers produces men who are more able to minister in the local church setting. They become a wonderful asset to the pastor, the congregation, and the work of Jesus Christ!

TO THE CHURCH

As you might expect, the growth of the commander in the work of the local congregation greatly enhances the work of the church. Men who give of themselves to Royal Rangers increase their commitment to the church and its other ministries.

According to recent statistical studies of local church congregations in America, adult men are usually the weakest sector of the congregation. Royal Rangers can fix that! Research proves that men who are committed to ministries within the church are more



Terrell R. Raburn is currently serving as the Peninsular Florida District superintendent. Terry formerly served as National Director of Church Ministries at the Assemblies of God headquarters in Springfield, MO.



— Continued from front cover

committed to the church itself. Therefore, Royal Rangers produces constant value for the local church.

There is little argument that Royal Rangers is one of the most effective evangelistic ministries in the Assemblies of God. A council fire usually produces several salvations.

As I watch young boys stand and walk forward to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, I think what our evangelistic efforts would lose if Rangers suddenly ceased to exist. Thank God for Pow Wows and campouts that include evangelistic services.

Another little recognized value of Royal Rangers is how it strengthens families. In families with a two-parent configuration, Rangers strengthens the camaraderie and team feeling of male leadership and peer group friendships. In the case of single-parent families—especially those headed by a female—the male leadership of Royal Rangers is an indispensable contribution. Many single mothers have shared testimonies about how Royal Rangers provided the male influence their sons desperately needed. Many boys have grown into better young men because their families were ministered to through Royal Rangers. In the case of blended families, Rangers offers the modeling and instruction which encourages cooperation among stepbrothers and sisters. These lessons cause a better atmosphere for the blended family.

Stronger families mean stronger congregations. Better Rangers ministries mean stronger families.

TO THE COMMUNITY

Finally, Royal Rangers has tremendous value for the communities of our towns and cities. Rangers produces a better boy, who has a wonderful opportunity to become a better citizen. A young man full of hatred and addicted to narcotics or alcohol will hurt his community. That same young man, saved by Jesus Christ and disciplined through Royal Rangers, will forsake those destroyers for the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. As he does that he will become a good citizen, a credit rather than a challenge to his neighborhood.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT



From left to right: Brian Hendrickson, Rick Dostal, General Superintendent Thomas Trask, Richard Mariott, Mike Laliberty

On his way to Rendezvous 2000, General Superintendent Thomas Trask was turned back by Mother Nature. A violent storm tore through the Eagle Rock campgrounds causing a tree to block the entrance along with other structural damage. Due to this event Brother Trask was unable to receive some wonderful handmade gifts.

During headquarters chapel on October 17, 2000, national commander Richard Mariott and his staff presented Brother Trask with the gifts. He wishes to express his thanks to the FCF family for their generosity:

"I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you brethren for the kindness that you showed to me (during chapel) on Tuesday. You men certainly went far beyond the call of duty and I am the recipient of such a blessing. I shall treasure these gifts and want you to know that they are deeply appreciated.

"We appreciate you men. Keep up the good work. We stand with you believing that the best days are ahead for the Royal Rangers of this Fellowship."

Thomas E. Trask
General Superintendent

Rangers commanders become strong in the Lord and in their personal lives. They become citizens who contribute, rather than hurt, their neighborhoods. Better men make better citizens! Royal Rangers produces better men.

I am committed to Royal Rangers ministry. I thank the Lord for its many obvious advantages to our Fellowship and our local churches. I am equally grateful for its hidden values. Let us work diligently to improve and strengthen Rangers every year. As we do, we will help the kingdom of God.

ATTENTION COMMANDERS!



Please send us news of your Pow Wows, district/sectional events, and reports of ministry from the Convoy of Hope, and other events happening in your area.

Thank You!



Richard Mariott: RANGER PROFILE

An Interview with the National Commander of the Royal Rangers

National Commander Richard Mariott accepted his appointment April 1, 1999. Following the prompting of Richard's good friend Fred Deaver, national FCF president, an informative interview is presented by Marshall Bruner.

MARSHALL: *Many have asked questions about you, your family, and your background as a young man. I know you traveled quite a bit while going to school, so give us a rundown.*

RICH: I was born March 11, 1950, to Mary and Allen Mariott. I'm the oldest of four children. I'm one year older than Donald and three years older than Patricia ("Patty"). My youngest brother, Kenneth, was born on my eighth birthday, so I introduce him as my "late twin brother."

I was born in Syracuse, Kan., but our family lived in Pueblo and Colorado Springs, Colo.; Las Cruces, N.M.; El Paso, Texas; and Lompoc, Bulliten, Los Alamos, Sacramento, and Foothill Farms, Calif., while I was growing up. My dad worked with the civil service at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico while we lived in Las Cruces and El Paso. I went to first through fourth grades in El Paso. We moved to California when my dad transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) the summer before I started fifth grade. He transferred again at the beginning of my sophomore year to McClellan AFB in Sacramento. I graduated from Foothill High School in Foothill Farms, a suburb of Sacramento. At the beginning of my senior year my dad transferred to Ent AFB in Colorado Springs. My parents allowed me to stay in Sacramento, where I lived with my scoutmaster and his family, Mr. and Mrs. John Houck. I roomed with Greg, their son, who was in Boy Scouts with me.

After high school I moved to Colorado Springs and enlisted in the Air Force in September 1968.

MARSHALL: *You mentioned that you were in Boy Scouts. Tell us about your scouting experience.*

RICH: I started in Cub Scouts when I was around 8 years old and continued until I was 17 years old. I had a very good experience as a Boy Scout. My dad was one of our leaders, either as the scoutmaster or the assistant scoutmaster. My brother and I were very active and went on many campouts. We went on campouts once a month, had two to three backpack trips a year, and about every week or two went on backpack trips in the High Sierras near Yosemite. I have always enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, backpacking, and the adventure involved. I got poison oak very easily. Many times it would get cleared up just in time to go on the next campout, so I could get it again.

I made Life Scout and Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow. My dad went through the Order of the Arrow at the same time as I did while we were in Los Alamos. My dad and Mr. Houck were the two best scoutmasters I can remember.

Don and I always thought my dad was in Scouts to keep us from get-

ting into trouble and fights. We definitely deserved a full-time leader, since we were always in fights and mischief prior to the last couple of years in high school.

MARSHALL: *Were you and your brother Don involved with boxing?*

RICH: Yes, when we lived in Lompoc we would go to the community swimming pool every day of the summer. Next to the public swimming pool was a supervised park—I think it was the YMCA—that had boxing lessons. Don and I took lessons, then practiced almost every day by boxing with each other. I also took boxing while in junior high school. I don't know if trouble found other boys like it did Don and me, but we seemed to be continually developing our boxing skills. Several communities knew us very well.

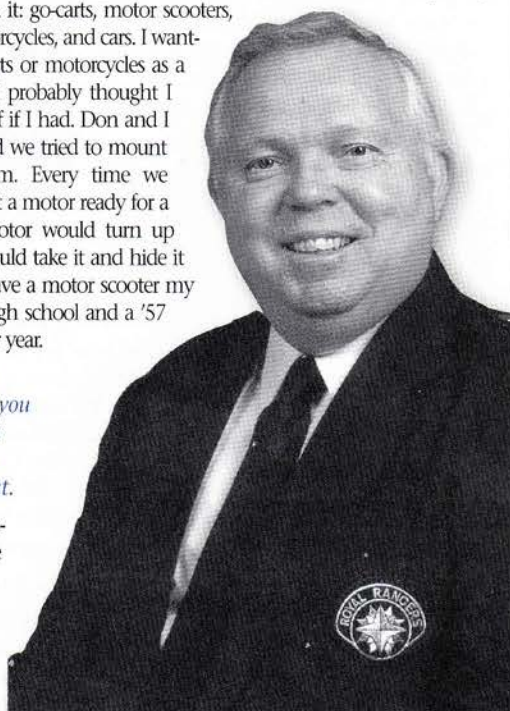
MARSHALL: *What other sports did you enjoy?*

RICH: I enjoyed almost any kind of sport, although I did not try out for many sports in high school. I had part-time jobs during the last three years of high school, working in gas stations, pumping gas, and washing cars in a small car lot. I was on the gymnastics team through the season of my last three years. I was considered the top gymnast for Foothill High School and was able to work out in the mornings before school. The gymnastics coach was also the football coach. He was continually after me to be on the football team, but I could not because of my work schedule. I also played for our church softball team, flag football teams, and golf tournaments.

I have always liked motor sports, as far back as I can remember—anything with a motor on it: go-carts, motor scooters, mini-bikes, motorcycles, and cars. I wanted to race go-carts or motorcycles as a kid, but my dad probably thought I would kill myself if I had. Don and I had bicycles, and we tried to mount motors on them. Every time we would almost get a motor ready for a test ride, the motor would turn up missing. Dad would take it and hide it from us! I did have a motor scooter my junior year of high school and a '57 Chevy my senior year.

MARSHALL: *You mentioned you raced motocross and Supercross. Share about that.*

RICH: I started racing at the age of 22. Motocross and Supercross became my





— Continued from page 3

sports of choice for the next 10 years. I would practice several times a week and race on weekends. I had done a lot of riding in the High Sierra Mountains; that's some of the greatest riding I have ever done. In 1979 I won two championships. The August Supercross series was a 10-race series. I won nine first places and one second place. I was also the season high point champion in my class. The late Rev. Robert D. Clark was my pastor during that time. He never got after me for the Sundays I missed in church from time to time. I would make it to church Sunday evenings and usually raced the Friday-night series.

I won a lot of trophies in outdoor motocross in 1979. My pitman was Pastor Clark's son-in-law and my good longtime friend, Sonny Burkhalter. Sonny's and my families had a blast at all the Friday night races each week. My racing background has given me many opportunities to talk to young kids about a sport they recognize and to share my Christian testimony.

MARSHALL: Tell us more about going to college after being in the military.

RICH: In high school, I started attending college-level extension classes in commercial art school. I also took art, advanced art, and commercial art classes during my last three years of high school. Art was my career choice, and I really like it. I was maintaining straight A's in both the high school and college-level art classes. I won several state and national art awards during my senior year and had a great portfolio.

When I talked to recruiters, the Army sent my portfolio off somewhere. Shortly afterward I was offered a position on the Army's seven-man advertising team in Washington, D.C. I ended up turning it down.

I met LeeAnne my senior year of high school, and she was going to college in Sacramento for nursing. I enlisted in the Air Force, hoping to get stationed in the Sacramento area. That never happened. I continued in commercial art in the Air Force doing poster presentations, murals on walls, comic strips, and other projects. I took many military classes in administration, personnel, and management as well. I became proficient in operations management, reorganization structure, and development, and familiarized myself with early mainframe computers. After the military, I continued pursuing commercial art in college. However, I was not able to afford the college I wanted to transfer to (the Art Center in Los Angeles), so after a couple of years I transferred to Academy Business College and graduated with a degree in computer programming.

MARSHALL: Explain how you met LeeAnne.

RICH: Well, I had not been interested in girls prior to my senior year. I was too busy working, fishing, and getting a car. At the beginning of my senior year, I met LeeAnne. We both had gym class at the

same time. Our school had coed dancing and gymnastics, so that's when we met. We both seemed to know we were to be married one day, but we also knew we were young.

I wanted to see LeeAnne complete her dream, which was to go to nursing college. Also, I was up against the draft. So I enlisted in the military, and LeeAnne completed college. Lee Anne and I have always had a tremendous love for each other. We wrote each other every day the four years we were apart. After LeeAnne finished college, we were together only five months before I had to go to Vietnam. After Vietnam I was stationed at Edwards AFB for eight months before I completed my service. LeeAnne and I were together only 13 months during my four years in the military.

MARSHALL: Tell us more about your family. You have four daughters?

RICH: Yes, I have four beautiful daughters. Amy was born when I was in Vietnam. Tina, Melissa, and Donna were born after I got out of the military. Amy married J.R. Whinery, a Gold Medalist and Royal Rangers outpost leader. They have two children: Kody, who is 6, and Kiana, 4. Kody is a Straight Arrow. Melissa married Gene Brunkhorst. They live in Springfield, Mo., with us and their son Kamden, who is 6 months old. LeeAnne and I both agree grandchildren are great!

Tina, our second daughter, is attending Capital Bible College in Sacramento. Our youngest daughter, Donna, was able to finish high school one year early through an extension high school in Sacramento. LeeAnne and Donna flew back and forth to Sacramento each month the last half of last year for Donna to get her homework and take her tests.

MARSHALL: What was it like to live in a house full of ladies?

RICH: It was different than growing up in a family of three boys and one girl! Our daughters have been great. I liked doing things they liked when they were young. I'd take them shopping, miniature golfing, family camping, vacationing, and fishing. I was careful to not start any arguments while at the dinner table—I was outnumbered! They were always giggling and laughing. They liked to hear the stories about when I was a kid and the mischief I got into.

We had three main house rules LeeAnne and I started when the girls were young. We still like to use them today. House Rule 1: "As for me and this house, we will serve the Lord." Our version was, "You can live and stay here as long as you want, as long as you go to church and serve our Lord." House Rule 2: "Everyone is to be in the house by 11:00 p.m." I had to call a couple of times for an extension when I was traveling back from a meeting or something, though. The girls would remind me of the rules when I broke one! House Rule 3: "Let's all get along and honor each other."

LeeAnne and I like to say, "The highlight of the week is Sunday, when we get to go to church." We went to Neighborhood Bible Church in Sacramento, the same church I had attended since I was 15 years old. It is an Assemblies of God church, now called New Life Community. We were blessed to have a great friends, a great church



"...every boy in each community will have the opportunity to hear a clear presentation of the gospel."



"I was convinced this appointment was God's will for our lives. I was so convinced that if I turned it down, I needed to resign my district position, because I knew I would not be in God's will."

family, and great pastors. I don't remember any time we had problems getting our girls to go to church. We also went to mid-week meetings for Missionettes and Royal Rangers. When the girls were in Missionettes, LeeAnne and I served in Royal Rangers.

MARSHALL: *I understand you owned several businesses before you went to work at the district office.*

RICH: That's correct. While going to college and after I finished, I worked for Mr. Houck, my scoutmaster. He owned a landscape construction business. By the time I finished college, I was making more money than I could as a computer programmer. At that time computer programmers didn't start out making that much, not like today. After I had worked four years for Mr. Houck, and with his backing, I applied and passed the state exam for my own California State contractor's license as a C-27 landscaping contractor and started my own business, mostly commercial work. I did very well. Several years later I applied for and passed the state exam for a general contractor's license. In 1980 I started a building company doing mostly custom homes, remodeling, and light commercial work. I also had an all-terrain vehicle business for a short time and started a duck-hunting club.

MARSHALL: *How did you end up going into full-time ministry with the Northern California and Nevada District Office?*

RICH: I started working in Royal Rangers in our church in 1981, starting a Trailblazers and a Trail Rangers outpost. (The outpost already had the Straight Arrows, Buckaroos, and Pioneers programs.) I went to NTC in 1982. I finished all the LTC's and joined FCF that same year. LeeAnne and I, along with two others from our church, went to the first national BSTC in 1983, held in Saratoga, Calif. In 1983 our district commander, Kent Teeters, asked me to go to NTC Staff School. I started serving on NTC's in 1984. As of this year, I have served with 39 national training camps—NTC, ANTC, BSTC, NTT, and NTC Staff Schools and Academies. Kent Teeters retired as district commander, so in February 1989 I accepted the position. I took six months to complete my company's projects and to transition into the full-time position for our district. In 1993 I accepted the additional appointment as district men's director, and supervision of the Rangers Supply Store leadership in 1994.

I enjoyed working for the district office. It was a pleasure working and getting paid every day for something I loved to do. The district officers were very good to us. We still consider them our extended family. I learned a lot from them and had excellent examples of godly leadership. The pastors and Royal Rangers leaders of the district were also kind and supportive in both the Royal Rangers and men's ministries. Our home church, pastors Rev. Wayne D. Clark and Rev. Mark Tucker, and board members were always a great support team for me. They always helped fund Church Construction Corps or MAPS trips projects to assist other churches at home and overseas that I would bring before them. They offered support both financially and with construction teams to do the projects. I understand the importance of building a great team and being a team player. My 10 years at the district office were great.

MARSHALL: *Was the decision to come to Springfield a difficult one for you and your family?*

RICH: It was the second most difficult thing I've had to do. (The first was leaving LeeAnne to go to Vietnam for a year.) Sacramento was my home for 35 years, and had been LeeAnne's for all her life. We loved the job, the ministry, our home, and our church. LeeAnne's parents lived next door to us. We knew our married children might not want to relocate, and that the transition would be difficult for our youngest daughter, Donna. It's easy to move when things are not going well or when you need a job. It is one thing to say, "Lord I'll do anything You want me to do." But when God calls, it may not be when it's convenient or on your timetable. God's timing is always correct, though.

I was convinced this appointment was God's will for our lives. I was so convinced that if I turned it down, I needed to resign my district position, because I knew I would not be in God's will. Yet this still did not make it any easier. But we knew then and now that God is in it.

MARSHALL: *Explain how the new program is progressing.*

RICH: I'm amazed that so much has been accomplished in the past 18 months. We have an excellent staff here in the national office. We are all working long hours and loving every minute of it. We know the importance of what we're doing and want the best possible product and tools for Royal Rangers. From the beginning we have kept the field updated with PowerPoint presentations at district and regional seminars, conferences, and the National Council. Going at the pace needed to get the product ready for March 2002, we work a lot with e-mail to the national Royal Rangers Executive Committee and program resource members.

The executive officers, General Council Board of Administration, GPH committees, and Headquarters employees are excellent to work with. They have been most helpful, supportive, and challenged to excellence, for the Royal Rangers ministry to boys is at stake here.

The Northern California/Nevada District superintendent, Pastor Cole, changed the district office name to "District Resource Center." I believe that is an accurate perspective of a district, and for the national office as well. We need to be a resource center supporting churches and pastors, outposts and commanders. I did not come to Springfield because I needed a job or a career move. I came because I believe God has called Royal Rangers for such as time as this.

I'm only one piece in the puzzle. If we get all the commanders supporting our pastors and churches as a team, every boy in each community will have the opportunity to hear a clear presentation of the gospel.

I think I'll call our ministry, "To Reach, Teach, and Keep Boys for Christ"—that's a catchy phrase!

MARSHALL: *What would you like to say in closing?*

RICH: The opportunity we have before us is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Let's not let it pass us by, but seize the opportunity to reach the lost. Pray for us, and we will continue to pray for every church and outpost. Thanks, Marshall.



T.R.A.I.N.I.N.G.

by Rick Dostal

Anyone who has been in Royal Rangers for any time at all, knows we love acronyms. If you've been to the LTA and completed your LTC, you now have your LMA. That probably means you have been to NTC and are already preregistered for ANTC. If you've been to ANTC, maybe you plan on going to WNTC. Or perhaps you would rather attend NTT, NCE or even BSTC.

Now some of you may have already completed all of the above. You've procured your DC's approval to complete the SIT workbook and have attended NRRA. Which means you've completed the Academy and a chosen few have perhaps even gone on to Advanced Academy.

So what does all of this really mean to you? It means TRAINING and that's no acronym! Training my friend, is the root of success in Royal Rangers. Without training you won't have a successful Royal Rangers outpost. If you didn't take the necessary training in your career field (I'm talking about where your paycheck comes from) you wouldn't be very successful, would you? Most of our pastors, youth pastors, and music ministers have all taken some formal training. That's why they are successful.

Well then, why shouldn't you as a Royal Rangers commander do the same? Especially when it's already built into the Royal Rangers program. Training is available. As a matter of fact, we have more opportunities for training than many men will ever be able to attend. And that's ok; it's there for your benefit. Take advantage of what you want, need, and can attend.

All of this training talk reminds me of my own NTC back in 1980 on Catalina Island in the Pacific Ocean off the beautiful coast of Southern California. We, Commander Jerrald, Commander Jesse and myself had worked hard to complete our LTA and had recently earned our LMA. Boy, were we proud of those medals. Our pastor had encouraged us to go all the way and even talked the deacon board into paying our registration fee for NTC. Thanks, Pastor. Of course, he mentioned that we would be in real big trouble if we didn't pass.

Wow! What an experience! Johnnie Barnes, Fred Deaver, Kent Teeters, Jim Price and others were there to "minister" to the

trainees. First, our boat was two hours late. Camp Commander Johnnie Barnes was so understanding, he encouraged us to all pull together as a "patrol" and try to catch up to the camp schedule. He even said we would have some "spare time" to get some of our projects done. But according to Senior Guide Fred Deaver it must have been our fault. And like that wasn't enough, he told everyone to

write a word theme on why not to be late. I'm telling you it wasn't my fault, the nerve of that guy! Like I had anything to do with the boat scheduling. Oh, and then when we started setting up camp, another word theme, and it wasn't even my hand axe lying on the ground.

But we still talk about the canoes coming off the ocean and the council fire lighting ceremony on Thursday evening. About the wind storm on Friday evening that drove us into hiding inside the meeting hall for our dedication service, and how one of the men received total healing in his eye that same night. The buffalo herd running through our Sunday morning graduation ceremony must have really been tough for the staff to schedule. I hope, now that I'm in the position of planning these camps, people don't expect that out of me!

Oh yes, and how much the senior guide had changed by Sunday. He even gave his swagger stick to one of our patrol members, which really meant that we all earned it. By the end of camp I was fully aware of what a real patrol system is all about. Even though I didn't like those word themes, I realized how important they were at the time. As a matter of fact, I believe those word themes are so effective, I went to NRRA and may be the one assigning those word themes at your next camp.

To this day I remember the acronym for the 8 Defense plan for water safety, MISS BALL. I still teach that one. Thanks, Commander Teeters. On the way home with our blue berets, gold tipi patches and graduation certificates in hand, we were about as proud of ourselves as ever a man could be. And yes sir senior guide, you better believe we stopped on the way home to pick up flowers for Maggie, Wilma and Della.

My NTC was 20 years ago and brother I believe it was the turning point. What type of commander do you want to be? One who just

holds the title, one who does the job halfway, or one who takes this ministry seriously? Personally, I want to be a commander of a successful outpost. TRAINING, oh yeah, it's out there and absolutely necessary.

ROYAL RANGER ACRONYMS

- LTA** Leadership Training Academy
- LTC** Leadership Training Course I-V and First Aid
- LMA** Leaders Medal of Achievement
- NTC** National Training Camp
- ANTC** Advanced National Training Camp
- WNTC** Winter National Training Camp
- NTT** National Training Trails
- NCE** National Canoe Expedition
- BSTC** Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Training Conference (Soon to be...)
- RKTC** Ranger Kids Training Conference)
- DC** District Commander
- SIT** Staff In Training home study workbook (formerly known as Phase I)
- NRRA** National Royal Rangers Academy
- Academy** Specialized training to be a NTC staff member (formerly known as Phase II)
- Advanced Academy** Specialized training to be a camp commander/senior guide at any of the NTE (formerly known as Phase III)
- NTE** National Training Events, any of the camps or conferences listed above.
- M** medical examination
- I** intelligent discipline
- S** swimming area
- S** swimming classifications
- B** buddy system
- A** adult supervision
- L** lifesaving equipment
- L** lookouts

TRAINING

Why don't you come up with a good one!



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Sunday School Today
Discipline in the Classroom
Creative Lesson Planning
Building a Kid's Church Team
Big Ministry—Small Budget
Making Rangers Thrive
Puppets in the Classroom
Christian Schools Alive
Missions that Thrive
Preparing for a Move of God
JBQ is More than Quizzing
Gospel Balloons
Discipline is Discipling
Volunteers that Last
Rangers Reaching Boys
Teaching Children to Minister
Teaching Kids to Pray
Special Needs Children
The Thriving Nursery
Preschool Power
Reaching the Inner City

The New Ranger Program
Children and the Holy Spirit
New Kids Music
BGMC—Impacting our World
Technology in Children's Ministry
Gospel Illusions You Can Do
Leading Kids in Praise & Worship
An Awesome Sunday School Teacher
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Other workshops include a full track of early childhood workshops, a full line up of "methods" workshops including: puppets, clowning, object lessons, juggling, ventriloquism, drama, human video, balloon animals, and much more.

Early Bird Seminar with Dr. Ron McManus

**Pre-Conference Leadership Seminar • Tuesday, April 24, 2001
• 3:00-9:30 p.m.**

Dr. Ron McManus will be speaking on Leadership for the Twenty-First Century. Sessions will focus on Leadership for Children's Ministry, Motivating Leadership, Involving People in Ministry, and Reaching GenX Families. These sessions will be specifically tailored for children's pastors/directors and Christian education directors.

This seminar usually would cost around \$100.00. The General Council of the Assemblies of God, at Brother Trask's direction, is underwriting this seminar as an investment in the children's leaders of our Fellowship. The cost will be only \$10.00—this includes dinner! **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**



**RICHARD MARIOTT
& BRIAN HENDRICKSON**

**Ready for the 21st Century:
The Royal Rangers Ministry**

Richard Marriott, national Royal Rangers commander, and Brian Hendrickson, staff curriculum developer, will be discussing: 1) the benefits of training, 2) Royal Rangers and the local community, 3) Royal Rangers and church ministries, and 4) proper discipline in the Royal Rangers outpost.

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COLONIALS Territory Northeast Region

OCTOBER 18-21, 2001

Camp Collier, MA

Contact: Herman Geesaman

EXPLORERS Territory North Central Region

SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2001

Camp Thunderbird

Moberly, MO

Contact: Wayne Farrand

MOUNTAINMEN Territory Southwest Region — TBA

Contact: Jim Rounselle

PLAINSMEN Territory

WEEK OF JULY 23, 2001

Hemez Mountains of New Mexico

Contact: Gary Bierschwaile

RIFLEMEN Territory Southeast Region

OCTOBER 18-21, 2001

South Carolina District Campground

Honea Path, SC

Contact: Cecil Norris

TRAPPERS Territory Northwest Region

JULY 25-28, 2001

ABC Mountain Retreat, Tollgate, OR

Contact: Chuck Staton

VOYAGERS Territory Great Lakes Region

JULY 16-21, 2001

Connersville, IN

Contact: Mickey Click

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

I attended a recent NTC held at the Maypearl, Texas, camp. The entire experience was nothing less than a complete blessing to me. I was able to learn a lot about myself. The lessons learned and the fellowship shared in that short four-day period have left a lasting impression on me. The professionalism and organization of the NTC staff is to be greatly admired. I truly know the meaning of the blue beret and everything it stands for. The NTC experience has strengthened my resolve to be the best commander I can be for my boys.

Thank you and God bless.

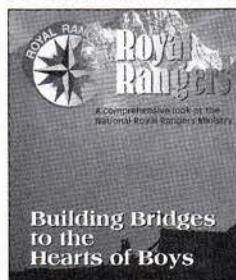
Respectfully yours,

Fernando Mendoza

Rangers Promotional BINDER

*Ideal for section, district, and regional leaders to promote
Royal Rangers in the local churches*

TO ORDER: Call the national office, 417-862-2781, ext. 4177



CONTENTS:

- Instructions for church presentation
- History of Royal Rangers
- Training opportunities
- Articles of interest
- Promotional brochures
- High Adventure/Leader magazine
- *The Last Best Thing*, Junior Councilmen project
- *Leadership Training Course* pamphlet
- *Building Bridges*, 9-minute promotional video

Contact the NATIONAL ROYAL RANGER OFFICE:

1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802-1894

Phone: 417.862.2781 ext. 4181

Fax: 417.831.8230

E-mail: rangers@ag.org

Contact the NATIONAL ROYAL RANGER STAFF:

Richard Mariott , National Commander	EXT. 4181	rmariott@ag.org
Rick Dostal , Training & Camp Coordinator	EXT. 4179	rdostal@ag.org
Brian Hendrickson , Buckaroos/Straight Arrows/Challengers	EXT. 4192	bhendrickson@ag.org
Mike Laliberty , Pioneers/Trailblazers	EXT. 4191	mlaliberty@ag.org
Jerry Parks , Web & Publications	EXT. 4177	jparks@ag.org



While we are updating and making changes for the future of Royal Rangers it is also important to recognize that the Royal Rangers program has many assets. One of these assets is "Leadership Training." The Leadership Training Course (LTC) has been a valuable asset for Royal Ranger leaders. The question we need to address is the high number of leaders dropping out of Royal Rangers each year. Many districts have stated that as much as 90% of their leaders leave before attending LTCs, which would help them understand how to work with boys.

Many commanders agree with me when I say, "We don't have problems getting boys into the Royal Rangers program, our biggest problem is retaining our LEADERS!" Because of this, boys see many different leaders coming and going which can bring instability to the outpost. Many boys have stopped coming due to the instability of the leadership.

As we plan for the future of "Reaching Boys for Christ" we need to review some of our existing procedures, policies, and methods for training our leaders and ask ourselves the following question: "What can we do, or what can we do differently to retain the leaders we are losing?"

We are excited about the LTC updates we are producing and developing into modules. The updated LTC training will help to improve the retention rate of our leaders. The following is an example of where we are in the process, for both LTC and National Training Camps.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

A "KEY" To Success

By Richard Mariott

National Academy

National Academy

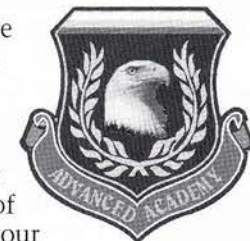
The purpose of National Academy is to prepare leaders to be instructors for NTC, ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC. You must have a recommendation from your district commander and pastor to attend National Academy. Prior to attending the National Academy, you must have successfully completed the "SIT" home study course.



Advanced Academy

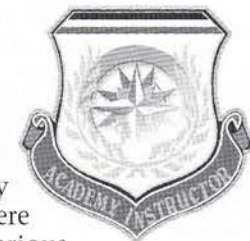
The purpose of Advanced Academy is to prepare staff for the two positions of "Senior Guide" and "Camp Commander." The Academy trainees will not be a part of your responsibility. You will be given specific instruction in both Senior Guide and Camp Commander training. You will be required to demonstrate your proficiency in both areas of instruction. Your evaluation will be determined on your accuracy in following the outlines and instruction. You may be certified in one or both of the positions.

The Staff Academy Instructors will perform the trainee evaluations. You must be nominated by your District Commander and recommended by your Regional Coordinator to qualify for Advanced Academy.



Academy Instructor

This is the designation for staff members who become certified as Academy Instructors for National Academy and Advanced National Academy. Requirements for this are currently being written. Merely serving on the staff will not qualify you for the "Academy Instructor" certification. There are several existing staff positions at the various Academies that will not meet the certification criteria.





Ranger Basics The Ranger Basics course is an eight-hour course. It could be on a Sunday morning or a weeknight in four 2-hour settings, or one 8-hour Saturday session. We are also considering an Internet training site for Ranger Basics. The training will have a comprehensive handbook for the students to complete, with the instructor using a PowerPoint or overhead slide presentation. The training will consist of useful outpost teaching tips to help a new commander get started and become successful. After completing the Ranger Basics, he would earn the "Ranger Basics" patch which can be worn on the left pocket or vest. The Ranger Basics along with the weekly Meeting Planner, which will have "Leader's Tips," will be invaluable to help us retain leaders in the outpost.



Leaders Medal of Achievement

The LMA will continue to be the main goal for a leader to attain. After completing the Ranger Basics course, the leader will be encouraged to continue his training and take the additional modules required to earn the LMA. This represents approximately twenty additional hours of training for the specific age group where the leaders are involved.



Ranger Kids Training Conference

The Ranger Kids Training Conference will replace the present "Straight Arrows/Buckaroos Training Conference." This conference will be packed full of activities, games, outdoor day activities, songs, and special ceremonies for weekly meetings and day outings. This conference will be available in two formats: all day Friday and Saturday, or two all day Saturdays.



National Training Camp

The purpose of NTC is for leaders to learn and understand the importance of the "Patrol Method."

We are developing improved PowerPoint presentations and workbooks for the trainees. Many of these materials will be ready prior to the March 2002 release date of the new program. We will use the updated materials for NTC, ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC as they are finished. The NTC is a prerequisite for the following National Camps; ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC.



Advanced National Training Camp

The purpose (new) for ANTC is to learn the importance of building a "team." Understanding the team concept and the importance of building a team will be designed into the evening classroom sessions. The outdoor sessions will continue to have advanced cooking, advanced lashing with rope towers and rope bridges, advanced map and compass—with GPS being added, building native shelters, plant identification, learning pageantry tips with costumes, staging, special effects, and manuscripts. The final night will be a wilderness campout.



National Canoe Expedition

The purpose of NCE is to learn the techniques of operating a canoe and how to plan for water adventures. Skills that will be demonstrated are canoe handling, canoe safety, proper canoe strokes, packing, launching, landing, and portaging the canoe.



Winter National Training Camp

The purpose of WNTC is to learn winter survival and how to perform various activities in the snow.

Training and events involve the use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, winter shelters snowmobiles, toboggans and sleds. The camp is very limited in size, generally 24 to 30, due to equipment needs. One of the final activities is the "team competition" timed event with a team member participating in each of the following activities: snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and tobogganing. Team members will be carrying and passing a baton to the next team member. The timed event involves two teams competing at the same time. This camp helps a leader learn winter camping skills for outpost outings.



National Training Trails

The purpose of NTT is to learn backpacking and hiking skills while on the trail so these skills can be taught to your outposts. Skills that will be demonstrated are trail cooking, clothing, conservation, field sanitation, compass and map, and much more.





Junior Leader's Training Academy

The committee is currently updating the Junior Training camps course and requirements.

DTC Basic Discovery Training Course Basic —

This course would be designed for the outpost commander to teach beginning Outpost training for new assistant guide, guide, and senior guide boys.

This course could also be taught at a sectional level.



JWC Junior Winter Camp —

The prerequisite to JWC would be JTC and AJTC.



DTC Discovery Training Camp —
Designed after the current PLTC.
Would be a district camp



JTT Junior Training Trails —
The prerequisite to JTT would be JTC and AJTC.

JTC Basic Junior Training Course—

This course would be designed for the outpost commander to use to teach new assistant guide, guide, and senior guide boys.

Note: Discovery boys will be wearing "Red" collar bars, Adventure boys will be wearing "Gold" collar bars, and Expedition boys "silver" bars. This course could also be taught at a sectional level.



JSC Junior Survival Camp —

The prerequisite to JSC would be JTC and AJTC.



JMC Junior Missions Camp —

The prerequisite to JMC would be JTC Basic, JTC, and AJTC.



JTC Junior Training Camp—
Now called JLTC, would be the beginning of the district JLTA. The National JLTA committee is developing the requirements for graduation that each district should teach at each camp for this patch.



Elite JLC

Elite Junior Leader Corps —
Would be a special camp, some have already incorporated it into the Advanced Academy.

This would be the patch used for special drill and ceremonies at districts. The JLTA committee will determine requirements.



Advanced JTC

Advanced Junior Training Camp
The prerequisite for this camp would be completion of JTC.



JCE Junior Canoe Expedition—

The prerequisite to JCE, would be JTC and AJTC.

The National Junior Camps will be designed with minimum requirements for each camp.



National Junior Academy —

This camp will be held at Eagle Rock, possibly other locations, train leaders and boys to serve on staff at the Junior Academies.

Projected starting date would be in 2003.



Why Wait for 2002?

by Mike Laliberty

One of the most frequently asked questions concerning the new Royal Rangers program deals with the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA). It's usually stated something like this. "I have a Royal Ranger who will be close to completing his GMA requirements at the time the new advancement system comes out. Will he have the option of completing his GMA under the old advancement system?"

The answer of course is **YES!!** Our original discussion centered on the idea of providing an 18 month transition period. The question was then asked, "Why wait for 2002? The Gold Medal of Achievement has always been a merit driven award. And the Pioneer and Trailblazer advancements are being changed to a merit driven advancement system too. Is there a way to start the transition sooner?"

The answer of course is **YES!!** Now is the time to start preparing your boys for the Gold Medal of Achievement — Transition Option. The GMA—Transition Option provides a logical transition from the merit requirements under the old GMA to the new defined requirements under the new GMA.

The table to the right lists all the requirements needed to complete the GMA—Transition Option.

Please note there are several changes from the old GMA. First, there are several logical grouping of merits that contain the same theme or emphasis. For instance, the missions theme is reflected by the Christian Missions or Light For The Lost merit options. A boy may select either option to complete the requirement for the GMA.

There are only two(2) old merits missing from the list; the CPR and Hobby merits. The CPR requirement has been absorbed by the First Aid merit since CPR training is now a part of any certified First Aid Course. The Hobby merit will be absorbed into the new Royal Rangers Curriculum as a non-GMA option.

The ** identifies several new GMA options. For example, if a boy has not already completed his Wilderness Survival merit, he may chose to complete the Public Speaking merit instead. The requirements for the new merit options are listed on the Royal Rangers website.

Finally, the total number of merits required for the GMA has been reduced from 29 to 24. This is consistent with our commitment to maintain equivalency with the Boy Scout Eagle Award. The Boy Scout Eagle Award requires a total of 21 merits for completion. A comparison of the Boy Scout Eagle Award and the Royal Rangers Gold Medal of Achievement can be found on the Royal Rangers website.

So, the question remains, "Why Wait for 2002?" The kickoff for the new Royal Rangers program is September 2002. Start your 18 month transition clock right now. There's no need to hold your boys back from earning their GMA. Applications for the GMA — Transition Option will be available from the national office or may be downloaded from the national Royal Ranger website at www.ag.org.royalrangers after 3-1-2001.

Gold Medal of Achievement

(Transition Option) VALID 1/1/2001 – TO - 12/31/2002

Optional Merits

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



Required Merits

- 16) Physical Fitness
- 15) Hiking or Advanced Swimming
- 14) Camping
- 13) Nature Study
- 12) Citizenship or God & Life Award
- 11) Bachelor
- 10) Communications** or Public Speaking** or Wilderness Survival
- 9) Christian Service or God & Church Award
- 8) First Aid
- 7) Home Safety or Camp Safety
- 6) Christian Missions or Light For The Lost
- 5) Bible
- 4) Safety
- 3) Tool Craft
- 2) Cooking
- 1) Family Life** or God & Family

General Requirements

8 optional merits

16 required merits

500 word essay

Gold medal Christian service activity** at the local church or read the Royal Rangers Leader's Manual

6 months in leadership position as:

**The requirements for these merits will be listed on the national Royal Rangers website at www.royalrangers.ag.org after 3/1/2001.

WHY WAIT???
LET'S GET STARTED!



Gold Medal of Achievement

VALID STARTING 9/1/2002

Optional Merits

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



Required Gold Merits

- 12) Personal Fitness
- 11) Hiking or Swimming or Cycling
- 10) Camping
- 9) Environmental Science or Nature Study
- 8) Citizenship or God & Life Award
- 7) Bachelor
- 6) Communications or Public Speaking
- 5) Christian Service or God & Church Award
- 4) First Aid
- 3) Emergency Preparedness or Home Safety or Camp Safety or Lifesaving
- 2) Christian Missions or International Service or Light for the Lost
- 1) Gold Bible Merit or All 25 New Testament and 23 Old Testament Bible Merits

Required Red Merits

- 4 Safety
- 3 Tool Craft
- 2 Cooking
- 1 Family Life or God & Family

General Requirements

- 8 Optional, green, gold or silver merits
- 12 Required gold merits
- 4 Required red merits
- 500 word essay
- Gold medal Christian service activity at the local church
- 6 months in leadership position as:
- 3 months as a Silver medalist

What's New In 2002?

by Mike Laliberty

In the previous article you had an opportunity to examine the Gold Medal of Achievement — Transition Option. Now let's look at the requirements for the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) for September 1, 2002. The table listing all of the requirements for the 2002 GMA is located across from the GMA — Transition Option for an easy comparison.

Please note the similarities with the Transition Option. Once again there are several logical groupings of merits that contain the same theme or emphasis. In fact, a number of the themes now provide additional options. For example, the outdoor activity emphasis now contains an additional option called Cycling. The nature awareness emphasis contains another option called Environmental Science. The missions emphasis contains another option called International Service.

There is now an option to the standard Bible merit in the form of 25 New Testament merits and 23 Old Testament merits. Portions of these merits can be earned during the Bible study portion of a regular meeting. That's six(6) years of Bible study the boys will be able to manage in bite-sized pieces.

One of the most notable groupings is the grouping of gold and red merits. Merits are now designed for age appropriateness. The red merits are designed for the Discovery Rangers(3rd, 4th, 5th grades) age group. The gold merits are designed for the Adventure Rangers(6th, 7th, 8th grades) age group. Half of the Bible merits are designed for the Discovery Rangers, half for the Adventure Rangers. In this way a boy entering Discovery Rangers is immediately working on his GMA merit trail.

One additional old GMA merit is now missing from the list. It is the Wilderness Survival merit. It has now become part of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship's "Trail to the Grizzly" Wilderness advancement requirements. Information regarding the "Trail to the Grizzly" can be found at the national Royal Rangers website at www.ag.org.royalrangers.

The greatest change in the 2002 GMA is not the merit name changes or merit groupings, but in the merits themselves. Each of the merits has been reviewed in detail. Individual merit requirements have been modernized and updated. Unnecessary repetition of requirements in various merits has been eliminated. New areas of emphasis have also been added to various merits. For example, the Bachelor merit has been updated to include requirements that focus on money management and the development of a budget. The Christian Missions merit has been updated with options for other approved churches using the Royal Rangers program to direct their boys to gather information and resources from their missions organizations.

So, what's new in 2002 for the GMA. A new excitement, an enhanced challenge, a modernized and updated merit system, flexibility, and lots of options, options, options!!

See the last page of this High Adventure Leader's Insert for the GMA Application.



Enduring Hardship & Experiencing History at the Rendezvous

by Paul H. Walters, II, National FCF Field Advisor



The word "rendezvous" holds a very different meaning for Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship members than it did to the mountain men of the late 1800s. While still meaning fun, fellowship, and good food, the National Rendezvous adds tremendous ministry opportunities. Both men and boys are encouraged to renew and strengthen their walk with God.

"The rendezvous of old were a place for the mountain men to sell their beaver hides," explains Fred Deaver, national FCF president. "This was an important event, a time for the mountain men to replenish their supplies for the coming year. Our National Rendezvous Trader's Row offers material goods to the members too. But the main purpose of the Rendezvous is to spiritually challenge the men and boys in a way that will supply their needs until the next time we get together."

Approximately 1,000 FCF members made the trip to Eagle Rock, Mo., to participate in the eighth National Rendezvous, July 17-21, 2000. Replications of period shelters dotted the meadows of the National Royal Rangers Training Center.

Each day of the Rendezvous began with a devotional followed by competitions and exhibitions and concluded with an evening service. Members participated in traditional FCF events: hawk and knife throws, blackpowder rifle shoots, flint and steel fire lighting, and competitions for best shelter and best period outfit. Authentic demonstrations in blacksmithing, old time barbershop, gun making, wood-working, and cooking were also held. FCF members who participated in frontier trekking received a special presentation. (Trekking involves the members taking a hike several miles into the wilderness. Everything the member carries must be a replica of equipment predating 1850.)

Special speakers for the morning devotionals included Sonny Green, national FCF vice president, July 18; James McHaffie, Southern Missouri district men's director, July 19; and Richard Mariott, national Royal Rangers commander, July 21. Evening service speakers included Fred Deaver, national FCF president, July 17 and July 21; Richard Mariott, July 18; Terry Raburn, Peninsular Florida district superintendent, July 19; and Sonny Green, July 20.

Satan did not want to see the Lord's work go forward and spiritual opposition was evident in many ways. A pall was cast over the Rendezvous when the news arrived that several FCF members were involved in an automobile accident while en route to Eagle Rock. Blue Ridge (Potomac District) chapter president Upton Joseph Walters was called home to glory when his vehicle veered off the road and struck a tree a short distance from his church. Kevin Stewart, a young buck traveling with Walters, suffered several broken vertebrae in his neck. Thankfully, he is expected to make a full recovery.

A severe thunderstorm, consisting of heavy rain, high winds, thunder, and lightning swept through the camp in the morning hours of July 20. A number of lodges were destroyed or damaged during the storm. Rev. Thomas Trask, general superintendent, was scheduled to speak during the devotion, but was unable to reach the camp due to



fallen trees.

"Although the storm was tough and scary at times," Deaver says, "it was a good life experience. We never know what to expect in life, but a Royal Ranger should be READY for everything."

The first National Rendezvous was in Springfield, Mo., in 1972. From humble beginnings with 100 men and boys in attendance, the FCF has made great strides. "I remember those early days," says Deaver. "Guys would show up wearing rabbit skin hats with coonskin tails. They would have pullover shirts with curtain fringe attached. Even though those guys were green, they were the ones who laid the foundation. Our guys now study history. They know the hardships the early frontiersmen endured. The mountain men risked their lives and many never made it back. The FCF members of today have knowledge of our historical and spiritual heritage. They are applying both of these to their lives."

The Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship has developed into a well-rounded ministry. Members are involved in the Trappers Brigade service ministry as well as the Pathfinder Missions. Pathfinder teams have built churches in remote areas all over the world. The strength and ministry vision that FCF members receive at events like the National Rendezvous make the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship a vibrant and colorful addition to the Royal Rangers program.

Gold Medal of Achievement

Transition Option (Valid 3/1/2001 to 12/31/2002)

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT. All information must be supplied or this application will be returned to the district commander. Allow at least 4 weeks for the National Office to process. Delivery of medal and certificate cannot be guaranteed by date specified.

NOTE: Gold and Silver Buffalo awards are now approved and ordered by the senior commander of the local outpost. These awards may be ordered directly through Gospel Publishing House (See item numbers below.)

The commander may choose to appoint the GMA recipient as a junior commander. The recipient must be at least 14 years of age and have his appointment approved by the senior commander. Junior Commander's Bars may be ordered directly through GPH. (See item numbers below.)

GPH Customer Services: 1(800)641-4310

ITEM NUMBERS — Gold Buffalo: ITEM 15-0276, Silver Buffalo: ITEM 15-0279, Junior Commander's Bars: ITEM 15-0383



Name & Address of GMA Applicant

DISTRICT (Please Print)

OUTPOST #

NAME

DATE OF CEREMONY

ADDRESS

DATE OF BIRTH

CITY

STATE

ZIP

CHURCH ACCOUNT #

PURCHASE ORDER #

CHURCH

()

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

NOTE: The Gold Medal of Achievement will be charged to the church.

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Name of Individual Completing This Form

(Should be group commander or senior commander of an outpost.)

NAME

DATE

ADDRESS

()

PHONE NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP

POSITION

X

COMMANDER'S APPROVAL BY SIGNATURE

Submit This Completed Form to District Commander for Approval.

NAME

DATE

ADDRESS

()

PHONE NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP

DISTRICT APPROVAL

X

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT COMMANDER

4-STEP APPLICATION

DJ-012401

GMA Applicant's Name: _____

Effective March 1, 2001, Royal Rangers may earn the Gold Medal of Achievement through the Transition Option. A Royal Ranger may earn the GMA as early as age 12, although numerous requirements must be successfully completed. A Ranger may complete the necessary GMA requirements while participating in either the Trailblazers or Challengers Trail Rangers programs. All GMA requirements that are necessary appear in the Pioneers and Trailblazers handbooks, except the Communication, Public Speaking, and Family Life merits which are posted on the national Royal Rangers website at www.royalrangers.ag.org.

Verify GMA Requirements

Column A

- ☐ At least 12 years old and at least in the 6th grade.
- ☐ 500-word theme written on the subject "The Value of Royal Rangers to Me."

NOTE: It is not necessary for a boy to complete all ranks of the Pioneer and Trailblazer programs to earn the GMA.

However, all of the required merits must be earned.

Check each box below to verify that all GMA requirements have been fulfilled.

Required Merits

DATE COMPLETED

- ☐ Bachelor _____
- ☐ Bible _____
- ☐ Camping _____
- ☐ Christian Mission or Light For The Lost _____
- ☐ Christian Service or God & Church Award _____
- ☐ Citizenship or God & Life Award _____
- ☐ Communications,** Public Speaking,** or Wilderness Survival _____
- ☐ Cooking _____
- ☐ Family Life** or God & Family Award _____
- ☐ First Aid _____
- ☐ Hiking or Advanced Swimming _____
- ☐ Home Safety or Camp Safety _____
- ☐ Nature Study _____
- ☐ Physical Fitness _____
- ☐ Safety _____
- ☐ Tool Craft _____

Column B

List in the column below the merits this individual has earned.

The GMA applicant must earn the required merits listed below plus 8 additional merits of his choice. Merits of choice may also be from the required merits list, however, a merit may not be used twice.

Merits of Choice

DATE COMPLETED

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

**** NOTE:** The requirements for these merits will be listed on the national Royal Rangers website at www.ag.org after 3/1/2001.

4

The Storm of National Rendezvous

by Arthur Thomas

The Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship National Rendezvous of 2000 took place at Eagle Rock, Mo., July 17-21. The week got off to a great start, both in context to the weather and the events that took place. What we didn't know about, however, was the approaching danger that would level the entire camp.

Thursday morning started out cool and had a rainy feel to it. A group of campers decided to leave early that morning to go fishing, over a more popular choice of sleeping in. The four in our lodge (canvas tent) got up early also, but all we seemed to get out of it was an early breakfast.

After we finished our usual camp chores and visited for a while, I poked my head out the lodge door to see a green and black haze advancing over the horizon. Hearing my words, "That doesn't look too good," my friend abruptly joined me. We decided it would be best to fasten the doors on our pyramid-shaped lodge, and quickly began tying the 10 bows on each side of our primitive tent.

Suddenly, like a brick wall, a wind accompanied by a deluge of rain plowed into us. The walls were billowing at what seemed like a hundred miles per hour, which made it virtually impossible to finish tying the knots. The foot-long, half-inch diameter cast iron tent stakes began vibrating out of the ground. My friend dived out of the untied portion of the door with hammer in hand to pound them back in place. Without warning, the 15-foot center-pole (which holds up the lodge) rose off its pedestal, slammed through a lantern, and toppled onto my friend's bed. Another friend grabbed the pole. As I tried to help him put it back up, I realized that I saw the peak of the lodge, but only about 5 feet worth of pole. We concluded that the pole had punched through the layered canvas, and with much coaxing from our friend outside, we decided to make a run for the shower house.

Then I thought of my guitar in the tent; it could be ruined if it got wet. So, out of stupidity or intelligence, or both, I sprinted the hundred yards to the heap of canvas, reached in through the half-tied door, and rescued my musical friend. Once I arrived back at the shower house and caught my breath, I pulled out my guitar and began singing. One by one, the refugees joined in. The bathroom echoed with praises to God.

In the midst of the singing, the Holy Spirit laid on my

heart the reason for the storm was that we were forgetting our whole purpose for being at the Rendezvous. Of course we were supposed to be fellowshipping—after all, "fellowship" is in our name. But what had happened was at some point too many of us allowed ourselves to center the camp on buckskinning and not on Christ. As if to emphasize the point, the outdoor stage which had flags stapled to it was intact, all except for the roof made from branches which you would expect to take flight. The only things on stage that blew away in the storm were the blank score sheets for the outfit judging competition. Almost all of Trader's Row was torn up. One standing lodge that amazed me housed [President] Fred Deaver's paintings. But despite all that was going on, for a large portion of that morning there were no events to distract us. We became a captive audience to God in a little brick shower house out of reach of the storm.



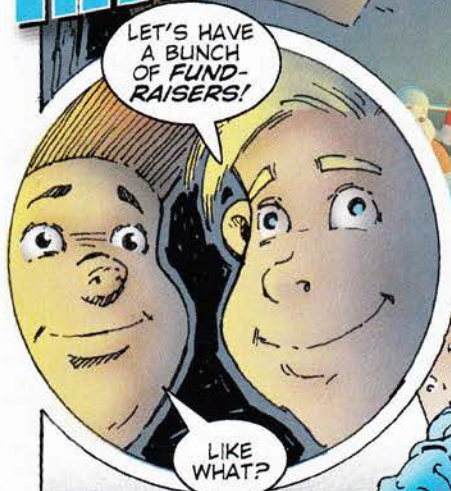
After the downpour, we gazed on a level field littered by white mounds of canvas as far as you could see. The lodge belonging to the group that went fishing was buried beneath a heavy tree that had snapped the two by fours like toothpicks.

As I peered out at the sunlight gracing the peaks of the Ozarks, I thought back on the awesome power of the storm and considered how much more powerful and awesome is the One who created it.

That evening service was the most Spirit-filled service of the entire camp. I still have sympathy for all those who chose to go home and miss the service. Sonny Green spoke about having "Goliaths" in our lives. To summarize, he spoke of the overpowering "storms" we battle with in everyday life. There's nothing we can do to stop these "storms" on our own, but if we put everything aside and focus on God, the storm will blow over. He will take care of it. Remember how much more awesome and powerful God is than the physical downpour, and think about how that relates to spiritual "storms." Most of the camp rebuilt their lodges, making the Rendezvous appear refreshed. In the same way, we can't allow the effects of spiritual "storms" to remain, but we must rebuild our old lives and rededicate them to Christ.

So, the next time you see a storm, be it physical or spiritual, wait it out in God's presence.

RASCAL RANGERS



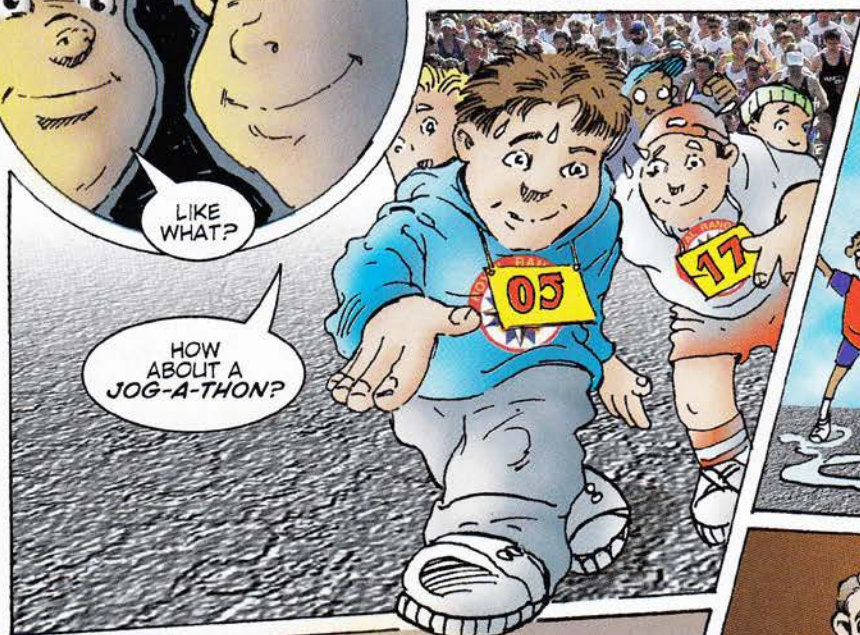
NATIONAL CAMPORAMA WILL BE HERE SOON.

IT WILL BE EASIER IF WE START PREPARING NOW!

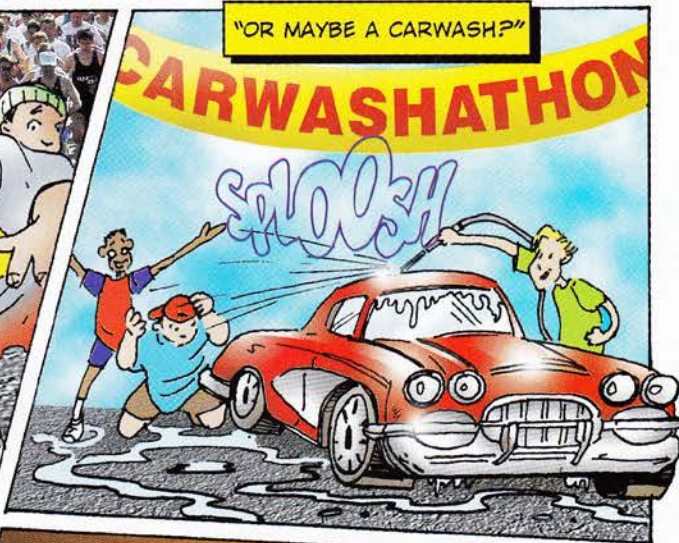
THIS CAMPOUT WAS A LOT OF FUN!

YEA!

YEA!



"OR MAYBE A CARWASH?"



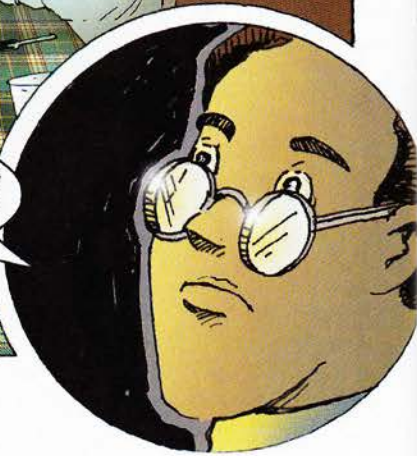
"WHY DON'T WE HAVE A CANDY SALE?"

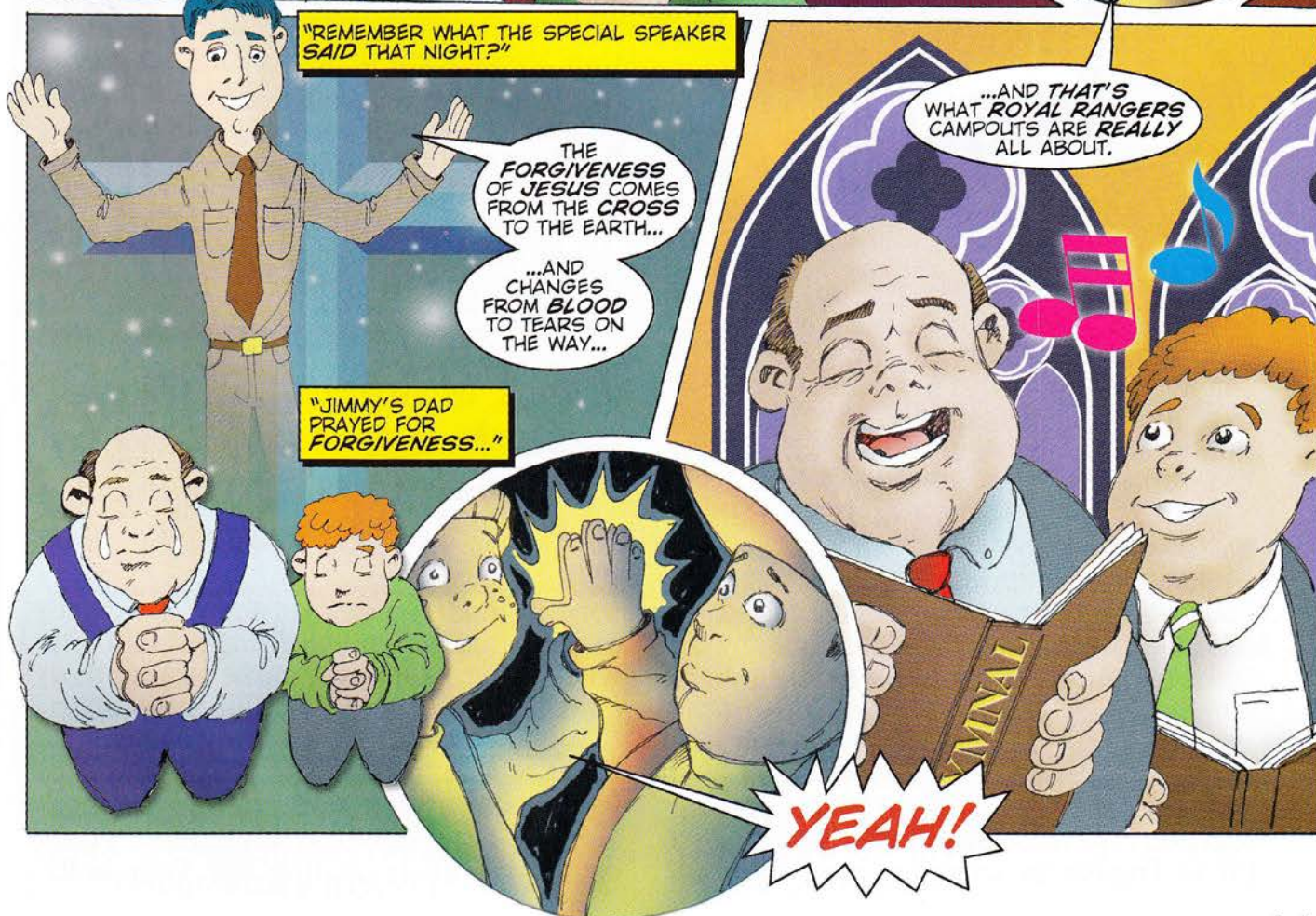
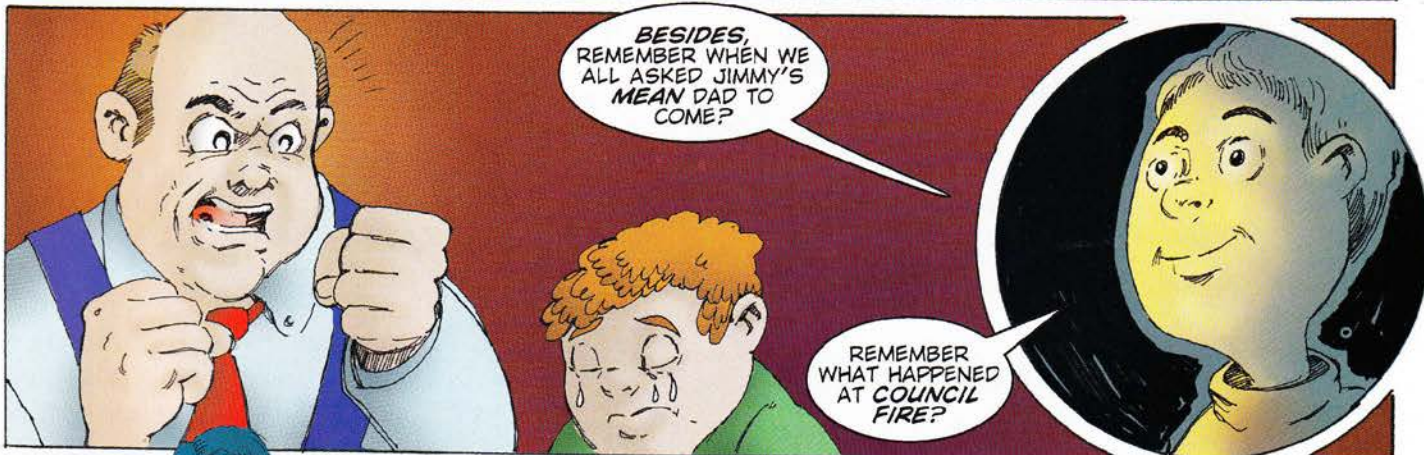
OH, BOY...



"AND DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER."

OH, MAN-- I'M REMEMBERING HOW MUCH WORK ALL THAT IS...





Survival Issue

by Rev. Robb HAWKS

NATIONAL PRODUCTIONS COORDINATOR

The winter in Moscow, Russia, can be deadly cold. My dad, Commander Jones Sr. and I, Darby Jr., had a chance to discover this firsthand. Of course, sometimes the weather inside a Russian home can be just as cold and stormy as it is outside!

My dad had brought me with him to Moscow on a business trip. Seeing Red Square, the Kremlin, and St. Basil's church had been a once in a lifetime experience. But when my dad accepted the invitation to come to dinner at Sergei's house, well, that's when this trip began to take a turn to the dark side. You see, Ivan and I are about the same age. And Sergei and my dad had thought we could have some fun playing together. We did. Ivan had learned quite a bit of English in school so we could talk

with each other. Things had been going great until Ivan's mom came home from church. You see, Ivan's mom was a real born-again Christian. But Ivan's father, Sergei, was a Russian atheist.

Ivan and I sat in hushed silence as we listened to his mother describe the incredible events that happened at church that night. Sergei was not smiling. There was more of a sneer on his face. The more Ivan's mom talked, the bigger the sneer became. At this point I began to wonder if my dad's idea had been very smart.

"That is ridiculous. I have never heard of anything so preposterous in my life," Sergei said.

I have to admit the story Ivan's mom was telling was pretty far out. That night at church everyone had been praying and allowing the Holy Spirit to move. That's right—the Holy Spirit moving in a church in Russia! Well, as they were all praising God, the pastor asked God to give them a sign that He was there in the church. Instantly one of the big overhead light bulbs exploded! You can imagine the reaction of everyone there—total amazement and belief in God's presence.

Now Ivan's mother was telling her husband about this incredible event and he was not buying it at all. It's hard to blame him. Sergei was raised by the communist system to be an atheist. Plus, he was an electrical engineer and scientist.

**“That is ridiculous. I have never heard of anything so preposterous in my life.”
Sergei said.**

"You are so gullible!" Sergei told his wife. "The pastor of the church set up that light bulb to explode! He did that just so that you would be fooled into believing."

Ivan wasn't sure who to believe. He loved and trusted both of his parents. "Father, how would you do that? How could you fix it so that the light bulb



would explode at exactly the right moment?" Ivan asked as I sat there with my eyes as big as pingpong balls.

"Well, let me think. There should be a number of ways," Sergei said as he pulled out a piece of paper and began to do engineering sketches. Finally he stopped and looked up. "Although it is possible to rig a light bulb to explode, it is very difficult and complicated. I guess your pastor would not have the technical skill to make it happen."

"Then it must have been God!" Ivan said.

"I did not say that! I think it must have been just a coincidence," Sergei said emphatically. "And I can prove it!" With that Sergei went back to his piece of paper and began to calculate the mathematical odds of such an event happening.

Five minutes went by. Then 10, then 15 minutes. Finally Sergei looked up and sighed. "The odds of such a thing happening are hundreds of thousands to one. The coincidence is beyond mathematical probability."

"Then how did it happen?" Ivan asked.

"It was God, that's all," his mother answered.

I looked at each of the Russians in the room, one a Pentecostal Christian, one a communist atheist, and one a kid just like me. What was going to happen?

Moments later we all found out. A small tear appeared at the corner of Sergei's eye. He quickly wiped it away. A few minutes later we all prayed with Sergei as he asked Jesus to enter his heart and make him a Christian.

This is a true story about how a Russian named Sergei became a believer. He is a wonderful example of how one Russian survived the bitter spiritual cold of communism. But there are thousands of others who are not surviving. They are losing the battle against the cold of unbelief.

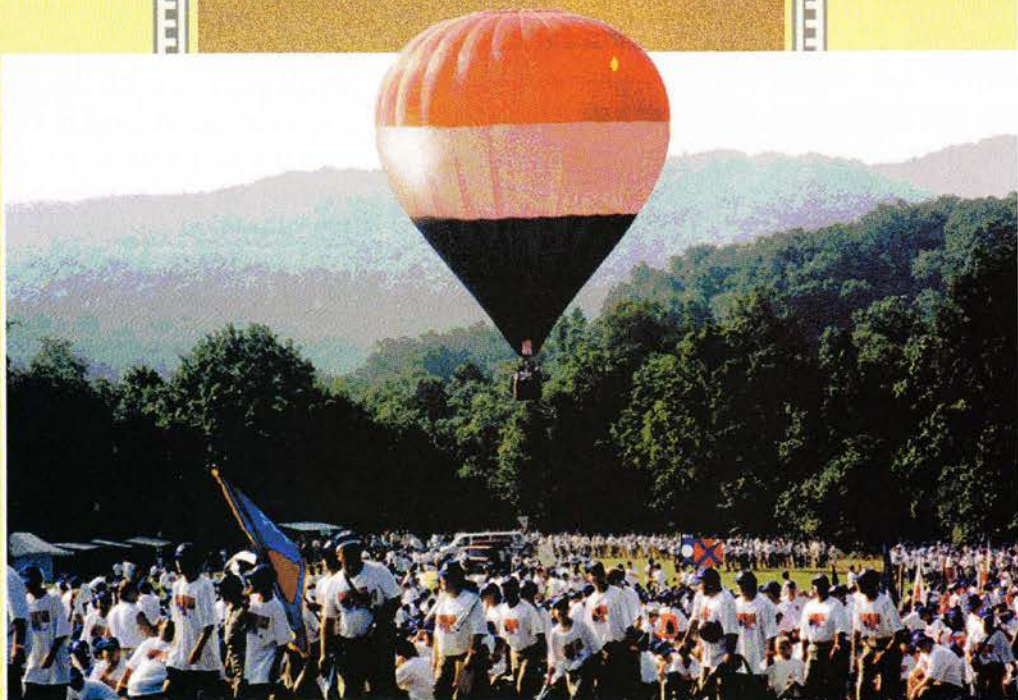
How can we as Royal Rangers help? We can help by praying! That's right, each night as we say our prayers, we can remember that cold winter night when Sergei gave his heart to the Lord and pray that God will send a revival to Russia!

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God's Love Is NO PUZZLE

by Steven LEGGETT

In Deuteronomy 6:5, we find out how God expects His people to love Him. Circle all the words in the puzzle, going up, down, backward, and forward. Write the leftover letters (except for the X's) in the blanks below to find out how God showed His love for us.

S T R E N G T H H E S E N Y
L O V E T A L L L L A Y H O
O I S R W I T H H S O O D U
R N T U O S A Y T V E U N R
D U G O D S D O I F R R A X
T H E Y M O N U W I T H X S
L L A I H E A R T N S O U L

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with
all your strength.*

This is how God showed His love for us.

ANSWER: He sent His son to save us from sin.

COMEDY CORNER



Someone who's career is in ruins!
What is an archaeologist?

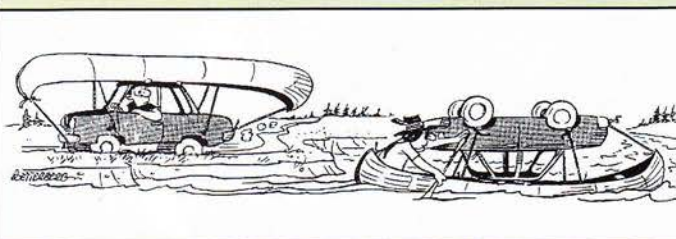
"I had the most awful nightmare last night."

What do you get when you cross a
teddy bear with a pig?

A teddy boar!

What is the most slippery country in
the world?

Greece!



What is a polygon? *A dead parrot.*

Where do hamsters come from?

Hampsterdam.

What has two humps
and is found
at the North Pole?

A lost camel!

If athletes get
athlete's foot,
what do
astronauts get?

Missile toe!



Because they couldn't spell their names.

Why did cavemen draw pictures of hippopotamuses and rhinoceroses on their walls?

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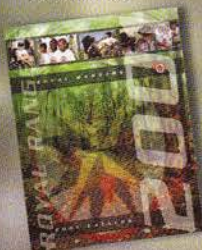


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