

ISSUE 02

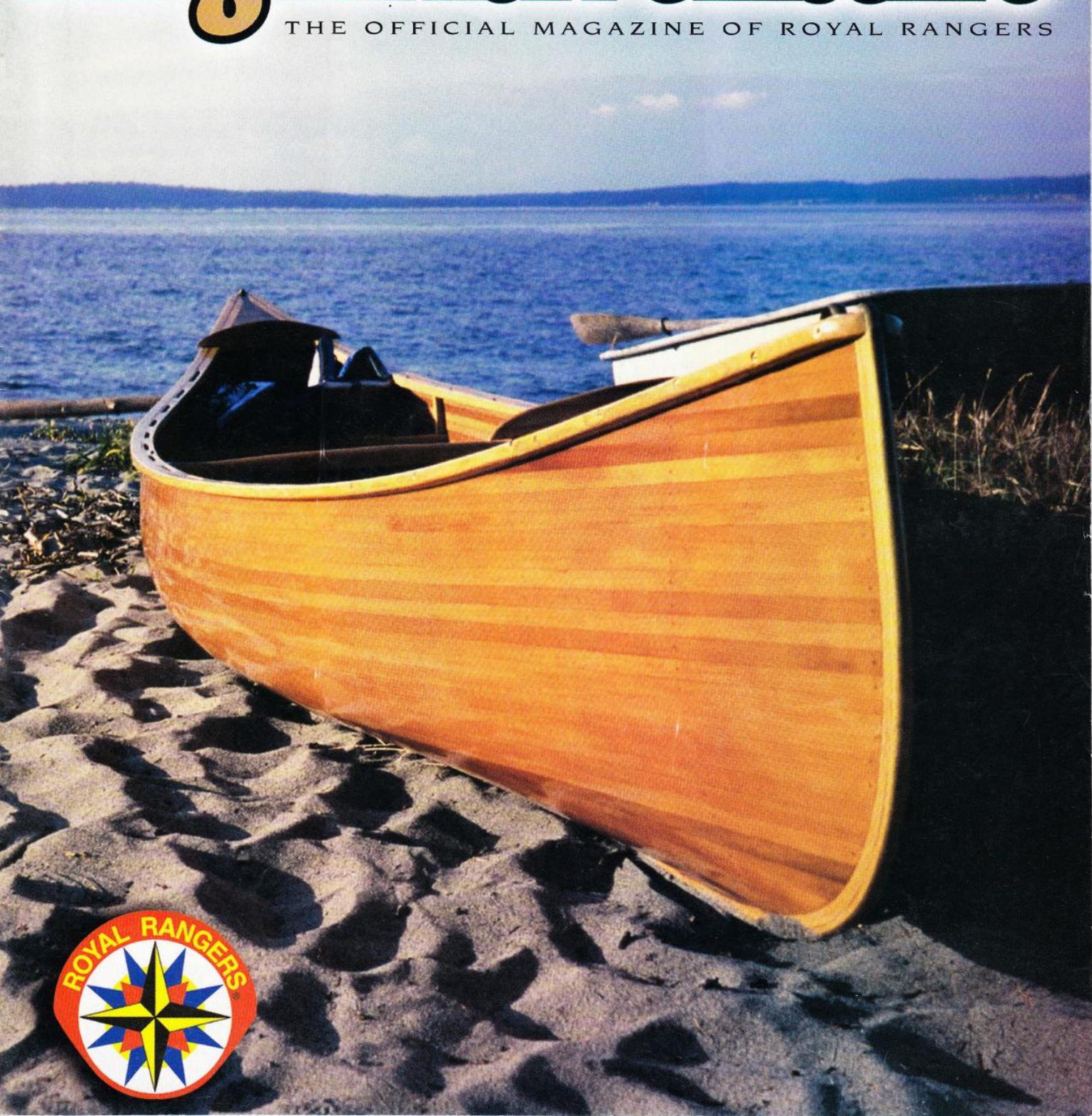


SUMMER 2003

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LEADER'S EDITION

# High Adventure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS



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# High Adventure

ISSUE 02 SUMMER 2003



*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

JOHN 12:26



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# GOLD MEDAL of Achievement

## The Value of Royal Rangers

by Eric BOECKERS

OUTPOST 115 —  
*Christian Life Assembly, Plymouth, WI*

To me Royal Rangers is very valuable. It has helped me to learn a lot of valuable lessons. It has helped me become a more prepared person by teaching me skills I will use the rest of my life. Royal Rangers also helped me with my walk with Jesus by showing me in His creation that He is the one who made the world. Also by putting me through some tough times for me to learn to lean on Him. I will go through my career as a Ranger and point out things that I have learned and how it has been valuable to me.

I started Rangers at 10 as a Pioneer. I quickly earned my Powder Horn and Bowie Knife ratings. By the end of Pioneers, I had gotten my Long Rifle, became the senior guide, earned my cut and chop card, learned how to lash, start a fire, tie knots, cook on a camping trip, and set up and pack a tent quickly. Also I worked double time to achieve my second class Trailblazer rating so I could go to Junior Leadership Training Camp that year. All the skills I learned in Pioneers I put to further use at Ranger of the Year competitions, campouts, and Academy.

In Trailblazers, the first thing I did was go to JLTC. There I learned countless things. I learned how to properly function as a patrol and the importance of being on time. Most importantly, I learned that I can be pushed further than I thought I could, and that God will not allow me to be pushed further than I can be. In Trailblazers, I learned a lot and began teaching our Pioneer group. I have learned much through my course as a Trailblazer: how to speak in a job interview (Royal Ranger of the Year), how to serve (senior patrol at powwow and FCF), how to survive in the wilderness (Junior Survival Camp), and how to pack a canoe (Junior Canoe Expedition).

In Expedition Rangers, I hope to become a lieutenant commander, help my senior commander more, learn how to become a better and more effective leader by graduating from CORE, and try hard to become district Royal Ranger of the Year.

The Royal Rangers goal is to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. It has reached me, and it has taught me many skills I will use the rest of my life. It has made my walk with Jesus all the more stronger by making me lean on Him when I didn't know what to do next as well as giving me comfort and strength when I needed it.

The Royal Rangers program is extremely well suited for its goal. Through outreach programs, word of mouth, and the church, it can reach the kids. Any group can reach kids, but you have to keep them. Royal Rangers keeps them very well, in my mind, with a little learning mixed with some gym or free time plus a devotion, and once in a while camping and other outings. Boys are naturally attracted to camping out and doing outdoor activities. That is why Rangers is so naturally good at reaching and teaching them. On camping trips, during Rangers meetings, and through the commanders' lives, boys are also taught about Jesus to fulfill this goal. Then once a boy has received Christ, he must be kept for Christ. The reasons why Royal Rangers reaches boys so well is also the reason why boys are kept in Royal Rangers—they just want to learn more about the outdoors and Jesus.

Royal Rangers has turned me from a shy, quiet young boy into a confident, ready-to-work young man. I have made friendships that will last a lifetime and many new doors have been opened for me, such as the opportunity to go on a Pathfinder mission trip when I am older and the opportunity to learn new things at Academy. These things and more, I would not have had the opportunity to do or experience without Royal Rangers.

I think Royal Rangers has been very valuable, in my life and in others'. It gives boys, if they want it, knowledge of the outdoors and Jesus, all the way from kindergarten through high school.

by Stephen HUTSON

OUTPOST 24 — *Phoenix First Assembly, Phoenix, AZ*

God has placed me on this earth at this specific time for a specific reason. He is revealing that reason day by day, using special people in my life and activities like Royal Rangers. Royal Rangers has helped me in many different ways. Along the advancement trail, I have developed discipline as I learned skills and earned merits. The time I have spent with my father has given us a special bond that will last forever, and the teachings and experiences I have encountered while in Rangers has enhanced my relationship with God. Royal Rangers has contributed to my dad and me having a fantastic relationship. He participates in most of the activities with me, including campouts, hiking, Pinewood Derby car races, advancements, and Wednesday night Rangers. Spending time in Rangers with my dad is one of the most awesome things in my life. He is so important to me.

He has been a terrific example of how a father should be with his children, investing countless hours to help me earn my advancements and merits. As we work together, Dad teaches me God's Word and shows me how to apply the Scripture verses we are learning to everyday life. As a lieutenant commander, he is involved in the commander meetings and training programs. Every Wednesday night he helps in my Rangers class, leading praise and worship, helping other boys earn their advancements, and teaching cool devotions using props. Just having him around gives me a feeling of security and confidence. Rangers is a great father and son experience!

One of the best experiences for me in Royal Rangers has been achieving all of my advancements and, even better, getting recognized for them. I have developed confidence in myself and learned that perseverance and diligence are extremely important Christian qualities. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). The skills I acquired while achieving the advancements and merits were rewarding and fun. Speaking of fun, I had the time of my life doing the Advanced Swimming Merit. One of the requirements was to jump in the pool with all of my clothes on and then take them off and turn them into flotation devices. (I definitely wore a swimsuit underneath!) Of course, nobody in my family wanted to miss this, so while I was floundering in the pool, they were all observing with huge grins on their faces. Of all the merits I earned, my favorites were Archery, Carpentry, and Knife and Hawk.

Another valuable aspect of Royal Rangers for me has been the discipline I have had to apply in learning all the various skills. One event in particular proved to me how much I had grown in my personal discipline. In the Tucson desert, I attended a Merit Camp, which gave the participants a chance to earn up to three merits in a matter of days.

Now camping has been one of my favorite Ranger activities. Sleeping under the stars, having big campfires, and roasting marshmallows are my idea of a fun time. I have enjoyed learning about the outdoors, how to use a compass, how to make all kinds of fires, and many survival skills. But at the Merit Camp, the scorching hot sun was the reality and a breeze was a rare blessing. Even though it was not actually fun and it was hot at night, I had a feeling of accomplishment because I had disciplined myself to endure the frustration and earn the merits I had been determined to get. I know that this discipline will help me tremendously in every area of my life.

One night, February 14, 1996, I asked my mom about Jesus because I always heard her talking about Him and praising Him. She took me through the plan of salvation, and that night I became a Christian. I love the Lord with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength (Mark 12:30), and Royal Rangers has made my relationship with God soar. My successes in Rangers are because of my faith and trust in Him. Today, I cannot think of my life without Him. God has changed me forever.

Since I have been in Royal Rangers, I have grown closer to the Lord. My dad and I can honestly say that we have a wonderful relationship, and I have learned some valuable lessons and had exciting achievements. The leaders in my outpost, especially Commander Mike, have given me constant encouragement and support. Through their leadership and prayer, I have developed discipline, perseverance, and diligence through the advancements I have accomplished.

by Armin KARIM III

OUTPOST 148 — *Christian Heritage, Avon, OH*

The Royal Rangers program, since its inception in 1962, has been about godly men "reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ." In my life, the evidence of this has been the constant development of my character, the deepening of my spiritual walk, and meaningful fellowship with Christian brothers. Royal Rangers has helped me to lay a Bible-based foundation and to build upon it a godly Christian life.

One of the most influential role models I have had was my Trailblazers commander, Dave Schlak. I looked up to him for his musical talent in playing the keyboard, but more importantly, he represented where I, at 13 years of age, wanted to be in terms of character by the time I was 25. He was a servant in all that I saw him do,

and he impressed me with his desire to follow wholeheartedly after God. In our Trailblazers meetings, his devotions and our group discussions helped me to formulate my views on life and grow spiritually. Each of my commanders have had a bearing on the formation of my personality, most importantly making it more Christlike, and I thank them for that.

Another aspect of Royal Rangers that is invaluable to boys is the element of wholesome Christian friendship so easily engendered in its atmosphere. One of my best friends was a fellow Trailblazer named Dane Spencer. We prayed together at the altar in youth group many a time, but it was on campouts that the friendship in church was cemented. I was with him at a council fire when he was first filled with the Holy Spirit. I especially remember going through Phase II testing for FCF, which was a mental, physical, and spiritual trial, but an experience that strengthened not only our individual personalities, but also our friendship. It is the realization that there are others growing up like you are, enduring trials like you are, and seeking God like you are that makes the efforts of the commanders real to a boy in Rangers.

Of course, the teaching of regular Boy-Scout type know-how is also a beneficial part of Royal Rangers. It is not so important that I know how to start a fire with flint and steel or tie a one-handed bowline knot, although those skills have their uses and may prove invaluable to me one day. The primary element that I have gained through all this camp craft instruction has just been a solid basis of common sense that can be applied to every part of my life, not just camping trips. For instance, after learning the safety rituals that we observe in Rangers for tool craft and fire craft, I cringe when I hear some of my classmates at school talk about the weekend fun they plan to have experimenting with fireworks and other explosive materials. When I see them in school on Monday with bandaged head and sullen eye, I invariably end up moralizing, "Ah! If they'd only been in Rangers..."

The spiritual growth a boy experiences in Rangers can affect the rest of his life. From the Bible doctrine worksheets we filled out in Pioneers, to devotions led by commanders and fellow boys, to intense spiritual and emotional encounters with God at council fires, to the quiet times after council fires where one lies in a sleeping bag thinking about God's greatness, Rangers can serve as the medium by which a boy grows in Christ. I can remember committing my life completely to God with the warmth of the council fire and the warmth of His Spirit pervading me. Then I am reminded of a burly voice striking up, "This Is the Day," and an unpolished chorus joining in wholeheartedly and full of praise around a fire on an FCF campout. I also remember a morning devotion given by Commander Fortunato in the dark, early morning in the drenching rain, when none of us were quite awake yet, at the Academy's Training Trails Camp. Finally, I recall the impact of a sermon about being a vessel of God, given by a fellow Ranger on the last night of Survival Camp. It seems that when one removes himself from society and is out in the very thick of God's great creation, God says, "OK, now that I have your attention, let's talk." Rangers provides a way for this to happen.

Finally, for me, Royal Rangers has been a means by which I have grown as a leader and teacher. Back in Pioneers, when Commander Pete first handed me the double stripe that signified my status as a patrol guide, I thought to myself, "Cool! Yellow stripes. Now what do I do?" Well, my commanders have worked hard on me, rotating me through the Gold Bar staff, sending me off to the FCF Big Adventure, casually bringing up suggestions like, "Now, you are going to the Academy this year, right?"

One way or another, they turned a shy young boy into a knowledgeable leader and teacher. I have taught camp craft to younger boys in our outpost and to boys my own age at the Academy. I have prayed for and counseled fellow Rangers, and I have given devotions to the boys of our outpost, thus having the opportunity to teach spiritually as well.

In short, I feel that I am well prepared to live a godly life and, whether under the title of commander or not, to minister to others as I have so effectively been ministered to through the efforts of the Royal Rangers program.

# Fourth of July DETOUR



by Alan CLIBURN

Brian sat up in bed. From his room he could hear the excited voices of his brother and sister as they talked about the parade.

"Can I buy a balloon, Daddy?" 5-year-old Timmy squealed. "Can I?"

"Sure can," Mr. Patterson's deep voice answered. "You too, Nancy."

"I love parades," Nancy replied. She was 8. "Especially Fourth of July parades!"

Brian, age 11, rested his head against the pillow and swallowed. He loved parades, too, especially since he had been asked to march in one of the bands this year.

Dumb appendix! he thought, feeling his side. Why couldn't it have waited another week to act up? It was bad enough that he wouldn't get to march in the parade, but now he couldn't even see it! It would be the first one he had missed too.

Suddenly Timmy burst into the room. "We're going now!" he exclaimed, waving a little flag. Then he looked at his brother in bed and the smile faded. "I wish you could come, Brian."

"Me too," Brian agreed. "But you know what the doctor said."

"I'll bring you a balloon!" Timmy promised.

"Sure wish you were going with us, Son," Mr. Patterson began as he and Nancy entered the room a moment later. "Won't seem the same without you and Mom along."

Brian frowned. "Mom isn't going either? Why not?"

"Oh, I feel a little tired this morning," Mrs. Patterson replied, coming through the door with a glass of lemonade.

Brian looked at his mother. He knew she was just staying home because of him. That made him feel worse than ever. "I wish you would go on, Mom," he told her. "I'll be OK."

"I need the rest," she insisted with a smile.

"Besides, it's warming up outside."

"Let's go, Daddy," Timmy announced, "or we won't get a good place. Goodbye, Brian. Goodbye, Mom."

"We'll bring you some peanuts or something," Mr. Patterson told Brian with a grin.

"Thanks," Brian managed.

"I'll raise your window," his mother offered when they were gone. "Maybe we can at least hear the parade."

"Maybe," Brian agreed. They lived just a block from the boulevard, after all.

From his upstairs bedroom, Brian could look out the window and see his father, sister, and brother as they hurried along the sidewalk, laughing and talking as they walked. He shook his head.

"There'll be other Fourth of July parades," Mrs. Patterson said.

"I know," Brian replied, "but this one was going to be kind of special."

"You mean because you were going to march in it," his mother surmised.

"They only pick a few kids from each school," Brian told her.

"Well, these things happen," his mother said. "It's too bad, but we just have to accept them. That's what the Bible teaches."

Suddenly the telephone rang. Mrs. Patterson hurried to answer it as Brian lay back down and closed his eyes. Fourth of July and he was stuck in bed!

"Are you asleep?" his mother asked a few minutes later.

"No, just resting," Brian replied, opening his eyes. Then he frowned. "What are you doing with my trumpet case?"

Mrs. Patterson walked over. "I thought you might want to practice."

"In bed? Mom—"

"You know what your teacher says about keeping your lip in shape," his mother went on.

"I know, but—"

"Of course, it might hurt your incision," Mrs. Patterson decided.

"One way to find out," Brian said, shrugging as he took the brass instrument out of its case and inserted the mouthpiece. He raised it to his lips and blew. A clear, clean note filled the room, so he played another.

"Any pain?" his mother wanted to know.

"None at all," Brian replied.

"I brought all the music you were going to play in the parade today," Mrs. Patterson went on, spreading it out on the bed in front of him.

"I don't feel like playing it," Brian told her. "It'll just remind me that I'm not marching in the band."

"Well, I'll leave it here just in case you change your mind," his mother said. "They're patriotic songs, after all. Perfect for the Fourth of July!"

After she left the room, Brian sat there in bed, fingering the trumpet valves but not playing. "Stars and Stripes Forever," he read, looking at the first song. It was his favorite. Brian lifted the trumpet to his lips and began to play the familiar melody. Once he started, he kept playing one song after another and pretending that he was marching along Main Street with the band.

Finally he stopped playing and put the trumpet down, but the music continued. Brian frowned. Where was that music coming from? Mrs. Patterson rushed into the room.

"It's the parade, Brian!" she exclaimed. "Can you hear the band?"

"Yes, but it sounds so close," Brian said. "It almost sounds like it's on our street instead of Main Street."

"Look out the window," his mother advised.

Brian looked and then stared. The parade had left Main Street and was coming straight up their street!

"But they never come up our street—" he began, still staring.

"The bandmaster called a little while ago," Mrs. Patterson explained with a smile. "He knew about your operation, and how badly you felt about missing the parade. He said you've worked harder than anyone else in the whole band, so he talked the mayor into making a detour this year. The parade usually ends just a block from here anyway. He also said that you have to play your trumpet."

"Play my trumpet?" Brian repeated. "From up here?"

His mother nodded, "You'd better start, too."

As the parade came closer to the Patterson home, Brian—wearing his red, white, and blue pajamas and sitting by the window—joined right in with his trumpet. It wasn't quite the same as marching in the parade, but almost. Anyway, this was one Fourth of July he'd never forget!

**"I don't  
feel like  
playing it,"  
Brian told her.  
"It'll just  
remind me  
that I'm not  
marching in  
the band."**



## GOLD MEDAL of Achievement



## SILVER MEDAL of Achievement



## BRONZE MEDAL of Achievement

by Brian HENDRICKSON

# NEW! Bronze & Silver Medals of Achievement

One of my responsibilities in the national office is to travel around the United States to train commanders and promote the new Royal Rangers ministry. The greatest joy I receive is when meeting and talking with boys and commanders from all walks of life and from every region in our country. I get to hear their hearts and it gives me an opportunity to ask questions about their experiences in Royal Rangers and life in general. One question I usually ask boys is if they have earned their Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) or how much more they need to do. I may have asked you this question.

I look back on that question and realize you were not honored as you worked toward the GMA. I know in talking with Richard Mariott, our national commander, that in Boy Scouts he was honored first for being a Star Scout and then a Life Scout. Although he was not able to finish the requirements for the Eagle Scout, he is still recognized as a Life Scout, which is also true of the national director of Boy Scouts, Roy Williams.

It is important to honor boys for their achievements. Therefore, in the new Royal Rangers ministry, we have intentionally established a means to honor you as you progress toward the highest honor in Royal Rangers—the GMA.

Boys in Discovery Rangers have the opportunity to earn the Gold Falcon, Gold Hawk, and the Gold Eagle, also important milestones. But I want to talk about the Bronze Medal of Achievement (BMA) and the Silver Medal of Achievement (SMA). If you are in Adventure Rangers or Expedition Rangers, you can now earn these progressive awards. The requirements for these awards can be found in the Adventure Rangers Handbook and on the national Royal Rangers website, [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org).

If you have earned the GMA already, fill out the forms, making sure to complete all the requirements

such as leadership and Christian service, and send those into the national office now. If you have earned 2 red merits, 4 gold merits, 2 additional merits (green, gold, or silver), the gold Bible award (or 15 orange or brown Bible awards), and completed 3 hours of Christian service you can earn the BMA now.

What are the benefits of earning or trying to earn these medals? First, you need challenges. I've talked with many boys who speak of their hard work to earn a certain merit, but they were glad they put the effort into it.

Second, you need to learn how to set goals and find a means to accomplish them. This process is easier now than before because you can set your eyes on the Bronze Medal of Achievement first, then the Silver, and finally the Gold.

Third, boys like to be recognized for their hard work. It is important that you be honored for what you have accomplished.

How do you apply for these medals? First, read your Adventure Rangers Handbook or get on the national Royal Rangers website and determine what you need to do to accomplish that award.

Second, download the application from the website or call the national Royal Rangers office at (417) 862-2781, ext. 4181 to get an application sent to you.

Third, with the help of your commander, fill out the application and get all the correct signatures. Especially important is your pastor's signature. Why? Because this lets him know how you are doing so he can honor you and see the impact of Royal Rangers in your life.

Lastly, work with your commander to plan a special ceremony to honor you and your fellow Rangers for a job well done. By the way, with your well-earned medals comes a colorful and professional-looking certificate.

So what are you waiting for? Set your goal and start the process now. The next time I travel, the answer I want to hear is, "Yes, I am on my way to earning the GMA. I just received my Bronze Medal of Achievement last month."

"Well done, young man, I am excited for you!" will be my response.

## Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior?

If you haven't asked Jesus into your heart as Savior and asked Him to forgive you of your sins, it is as simple as following these steps:

**A. ADMIT YOU HAVE SINNED.** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

**B. BELIEVE IN JESUS.** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**C. CONFESS AND LEAVE YOUR SIN.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

If you would like someone to pray with you about your decision to know Jesus as your personal Savior, talk with your Royal Ranger commander, your pastor, or call: 1-800-4PRAYER, the National Prayer Center.

# ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

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NUMBER 2

## Royal Rangers Master's Commission

by Reverend Gary J. JONES

What started with inspiration, a God-given dream, has been fulfilled with the first ever Royal Rangers Master's Commission. Tommy Saccenti, an Ohio Gold Medal of Achievement recipient and Junior Training Academy graduate, has had a burning desire to see full-time Royal Rangers commanders and missionaries. From that burden, the Master Ranger birthed within Tommy the concept of RRMC. After considerable prayer, Tommy shared the idea with Ohio District Commander Harry Hunt, who in turn shared it with Reverend Gary J. Jones, pastor of Erie Shores Assembly of God.

In the fall of 2002, Saccenti's dream became a reality,

and the RRMC was started in Port Clinton at Jones' church, where Hunt is the associate.

"Royal Rangers have been blazing new trails for over 40 years. The RRMC is taking ministry to the next level," said Hunt. RRMC is a place where young men can receive intense training in the Word of God, the Royal Rangers ministry, and world missions. Along with academic studies through



Global University, the students receive a well-rounded education that combines book study and practical hands-on experience.

Already, in this first year of training, the RRMC has racked up some staggering statistics. They have organized and led two inner-city mission trips, and ministered to and invited over 10,000 people to church. They have led 78 people to the Lord, and have prayed with 120 people for healing and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They have made 4 prison visitations as well as ministering in 22 different schools. So far, during the

first year of operation, the RRMC has also performed 56 church and community service projects. They have served on four different powwow staffs. They also have developed and coordinated a countywide broom ball league as an outreach to unchurched children and teens. They have done all this while completing the RKTC, serving in the local outpost as commanders, and performing home visitation for the outpost.

When asked how RRMC students are able to per-





form all these tasks and ministries, Saccenti said, "The answer is simple. We spend two hours every morning in prayer. It is during this season of prayer that we receive strength and anointing for the undertaking to which God has called us." That type of intense contact with the Lord has allowed them to touch others with the gospel,

which includes working with the local youth ministry in discipleship and writing the devotion for the youth Web page.

Pastor Jones said, "It is evident that the Lord is using the RRMC. Even in their first year of operation, I can see the tremendous impact and blessing they are to Erie Shores Assembly of God.

"We encourage anyone who would like to pursue the ministry, Royal Rangers missions, or just a more intensified walk with the Lord to consider

giving nine months of their life to RRMC." The training that a student receives will benefit in any walk of life that the Lord calls them to. For more information about this exciting ministry, you can e-mail Tommy at [tommy@ohiorangers.org](mailto:tommy@ohiorangers.org) or visit their website at [www.erieshores.us/masterscommission](http://www.erieshores.us/masterscommission).

## Now Available!



### NEW FRONTIERSMEN CAMPING FELLOWSHIP BOLOS

Here's your chance to purchase these brand new FCF Bolo ties at a great price of \$6.00 apiece.

For further information contact the national office at

**417-862-2781, ext. 4190.**



# "Commander, I Love Camping!"

**F**riday afternoon meeting at the church to load up for the camping trip is always high anxiety. Parents drop off their son, his backpack, and his sleeping bag, while commanders are trying to get all the medical and parent permission forms to account for each boy going on the trip.

This trip was no different than any other. Commander Rick had been collecting the medical forms and I was working with the other commander putting equipment in the trailer when one of the moms said to me "Commander, could I speak with you for a moment?"

She said, "I need to tell you something my sons don't know yet. This weekend while they are on the campout with you, their father and I will be working out the final details and next week will be filing for divorce. We have been able to keep it between their father and I, and we want to make it a joint agreement to minimize disturbance in the boys' lives as much as possible."

I was stunned, and at the same time I felt angry and sorry for the boys. But I replied, "Could I pray with you before you leave?" She nodded yes. I don't remember the whole prayer, but I do remember that I prayed something like, "Father, would you please help this mother and the dad to seek Your will and help them in this time of real need. Father, help them make the correct decision that would be best for this family. Amen."

I asked if I could share this with the other commanders, and we would pray for them over the weekend while we were on the campout. She replied yes.

The camp was about two hours drive from the church and in the Upper High Sierras. It was a magnificent setting called the Lower Lindsey Lake. We had lots of activities, worked on merit awards and advancements, hiked to Upper Lindsey Lake, and then on Saturday evening we had a great council fire service planned. It was hard not to pay specific attention to the two brothers and know while they were having such a great time, their world might come down around them in the coming week. The commanders and I took additional time to pray throughout the day.

The council fire service that evening is still one of the most memorable outpost evening services I can

remember today. We had the campfire set up on the other side of the small lake from our campsite. Near dark one of the commanders led the boys around the edge of the lake to the council fire site. Then we lit a Coleman lantern in our tipi and the boys could see the well-lit tipi across the lake as Commander Rick and I came out in our Indian costumes, got into the canoe, and made our way across the small lake.

We made a grand entrance into the campfire site and had skits, songs and stories. Then, as the devotion was being told, the Holy Spirit came down on this small outpost camp and touched every boy and commander that night like never before. The commanders escorted the boys back to the tent that evening, but several of us continued to pray specifically for this mom and dad.

The next day we had an early Sunday morning service and took prayer requests before we packed up and headed back to the church. (We like to be there about the time church is being let out so the boys can go home with their parents.)

When we got to the church, the mom was waiting for us in the parking lot. The boys were so excited, it was like a swarm of bees jetting around the trailer. While the boys were getting the trailer unpacked, the mom came up and said, "Thank you, Commander, for taking our boys this weekend. It gave us time to sit down and put everything down on paper to list the reasons we were going separate directions and the reasons for and against divorce." She continued, "I don't know if it was your prayer or the prayers at the camp, but we both realized that the issues could be resolved. As we weighed out everything, there was far more positive about our marriage than negative. So we are not filing for divorce and will work harder than ever to keep it together!"

Then the boys came running up to their mom with their packs and sleeping bags. "We're ready, Mom!" Then one of the boys turned to me and said, "Commander, I love camping!"

*Continue to pray for your boys and their families!*

Rich Mariott  
National Commander



# PRINCE Puppets

*by J. Michael Krivianski*

**O**n the streets of gang-infested city neighborhoods, drug dealers, criminals and rampant poverty litter the landscape. It's a place where dreams have left and hope is in short supply. A place where a child's innocence evaporates quickly and is replaced with the "street sense" needed to help each survive. Children who dwell in these situations need to know the love of Jesus Christ.

Armed with a program to teach the inner-city youth about God and Jesus, a Christian puppeteer named Jill Harrington and her company roll into a city's ghetto. Their visits are a weekly occurrence, and children who know them come running from all directions. The children anxiously sit on tarps in anticipation of seeing a puppet program that will teach them about God. For most of these children, going to church is a difficult, if not impossible, task. This is a situation where Jill and her company bring church to them. Prince Puppets, Inc. is dedicated to bringing God's Word to inner-city children through puppet shows.

"When I came to know the Lord at 15 years old, I was fascinated with children's ministries. That was when the big Jesus festivals and the creation festivals were really 'in.' I would hang out in the children's tent to watch all the performances and puppets, thinking that it was really cool. I grew up in a big family, so we were always making puppets and creating things. When I saw how children's ministries were run in churches, I said, 'That is everything I ever wanted to do all wrapped up into one with ministry,'" said Harrington.

In 1989, Prince Puppets began by doing shows for church programs and school assemblies. In 1992, the death of Harrington's 39-year-old husband transformed her into a single mother and full-time missionary. She was a small town girl who knew nothing about the inner city. She went to New York and trained doing sidewalk ministry programs. For the next couple of years, she braved the ghetto life and street gangs to bring the Bible to children.

In 1999, the minister of the church who sponsored much of her program moved to another church, and the program was discontinued. During the next year Harrington watched the news showing the shootings and violent crimes in the city. Filled with anger, she determined to get involved again with the inner-city youth. She found another church to sponsor her, and has returned to performing her inner-city puppet programs.

Harrington's first performance with the puppets was in 1981 at a little festival for a children's center. "It [the first performance] was terrible. I was pregnant, and it was pretty sad. But we were proud of it, and the people seemed to enjoy it. We learned watching other puppet teams. We kept working at it, and pretty soon schools were asking us to



perform. It snowballed, and we realized it was becoming full-time, so we incorporated and made Prince Puppets."

In 1992 she stated doing full time work in the inner city, as that is where she really wanted to be with her Prince Puppets ministry. They go back week after week to the same tough neighborhoods to perform for the children.

According to Harrington, "This is what I like to do, to see the same kids every week and see the changes in their lives."

One of Jill Harrington's summer helpers with the puppet program is 12-year-old Tim Lewis of Shaler, Penn. He is a Trailblazer in his church's Royal Rangers ministry. "Me and my sister are a part of the two-person puppet team, and we do Sidewalk Sunday school. We don't have any real trouble and the kids are really nice. It's really fun," he said.



# BIOGRAPHICAL TRIBUTES



## Fred "Hawkeye" Deaver

*Ad Dare Sevire—To Give, To Serve*

**F**red Deaver was born at high noon in a four-room house in Joplin, Mo. "Mom said Dad came home for dinner when I was born and still made it back to work on time," Deaver reports. Growing up poor during the Great Depression, Deaver loved hunting and fishing outdoors, as well as horseback riding. At 13, he bought his first horse, and later started breaking horses and working the rodeo.

Deaver lived about a mile from a little Assemblies of God church when he was 9. "My family used to sit on the back porch and listen to the worshipers 'whoopin' and hollerin'" under the power of God on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. We would laugh at them," Deaver says. Then his dad got deathly sick, and nothing they did helped. So Deaver's mother asked the A/G preacher to pray for his father's healing. Fred says, "God healed Dad. I gave my heart to the Lord in that church we used to laugh at." He lived for the Lord until he was 15, then turned away.

Deaver first got interested in flying at 17 when he worked at Packard Auto Agency. A fellow employee



would share stories of flying the Spad and Sopwith Camels in WW1. Deaver decided to join the Air Corps, and told the Army recruiter he wanted to be an airplane mechanic or machine gunner on a bomber. The recruiter asked if he wanted to join the Airborne, which paid \$50 extra a month. "One hundred dollars a month was a lot of money in the mid-40's. I didn't have a clue what the Airborne was, but I said, 'Sign me up!' Deaver says. After basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and glider and parachute training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was stationed near the northern seacoast in Japan with the 11th Airborne division as a post-WW2 occupational soldier. They were shipped back to the States, but when the Korean War broke out, Deaver's enlistment was extended a year and he was promoted to staff sergeant.

When Deaver was home on Christmas leave in 1950, he did some fortuitous Christmas shopping. "Joyce was working as a saleslady at Newman's Five and Dime. I was immediately attracted to her long, black hair; big, brown eyes; and beautiful smile." They were only able to go on three dates before his leave was over, but they kept in contact with letters and occasional telephone calls. "I guess you could say we had a 'wartime romance.' We got married by a justice of the peace while I was on a 5-day leave. Several said our marriage wouldn't last. This October we will be married 53 years," Deaver says with a smile.

After Deaver got out of the service, his daughter, Sena Kay was born and he started building the home where he still lives in Riverton, Kan. "I had the American dream: a new home, late-model car, good

wages, a beautiful wife and daughter, and I thought I was on top of the world." Then one day he came home and Joyce couldn't move. The doctor diagnosed her with polio and had Deaver rush her to the K.U. Medical Center. "My world crumbled. That night in my motel room in Kansas City I prayed, 'God, please heal my wife, and I'll live for you the rest of my life.' God healed Joyce, and I've done my best to serve my Lord every day since." Later daughter Kim Lee and son Danny were added to the family.

Deaver was "forced" into Royal Rangers while attending Baxter Springs Assembly of God Church through the maneuvering of Pastor L.F. Ammons, his close hunting and fishing buddy. "My pastor knew that I had been a staff sergeant in the Airborne and loved the outdoors, so he told me about a new boys program and asked if I would be a Royal Rangers leader. I said no way. Then he asked me to go to Parsons, Kan., to meet the national commander. I said I didn't think I would. He said they were having a banquet and that he'd pay for my meal, so I said OK. That was where I first met Johnnie Barnes."

Deaver refused the RR leader job again on the way home. "The next Sunday morning, the pastor met me at the church door, and as I reached out

shake his hand, he put a Royal Rangers Leader's Manual in my hand and said, 'You're the new Royal Rangers leader.' I've been one ever since."

After getting to know Johnnie Barnes in 1969 at the first NTC, Deaver was asked to serve on the NTC staff. Deaver became a Daniel Boone chapter FCF member and attended the first National Rendezvous in 1972 and was invited to become one of four territorial FCF representatives. He was elected national FCF president in 1974 and has served as national president for the last 29 years.



"My greatest memories in FCF are seeing God move on the men and boys around the campfires, district traces, Territorial Rendezvous, and National Rendezvous." During his time as president, four more territories were added, as well as Buckskin, Wilderness Vigil, Trappers Brigade, and Pathfinders. Deaver considers his greatest accomplishment to be "teaching our members to prefer our brothers over ourselves."

Deaver's painting career began when he was "old enough to hold a Crayola." His most famous painting was a portrait of John Wayne commissioned by the Boy Scouts of America in 1978." Deaver became a full-time western and wildlife artist 23 years ago to support his family, ministry, and to free himself from the time clock. "I could also travel to powwows and training camps all over the world. It was Johnnie Barnes, camp commander, and Fred Deaver, senior guide, everywhere I went."

Deaver, "with the King's help, of course," plans to continue to minister in Royal Rangers until he dies. "I find no place in the Word of God to retire."

"Hawkeye" Deaver's legacy to the future is simple. "I can shoot straighter, spit further, track griz and buffaler, spark a fire, and read sign better than any pilgrim that ever wore moccasins. And I'm a modest man. If you don't believe me, ask."

Deaver, a man who loves God, his family, and his fellow man, gives God the glory forever.



# Sonny "Ole Coon" Green

*Ad Dare Sevire—To Give, To Serve*

**S**onny Green has spent more than 40 years in the Royal Rangers ministry as a dedicated servant of our Master Ranger, Jesus Christ. His commitment as national vice president of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship has been exemplary, and we applaud his efforts and worthy results.

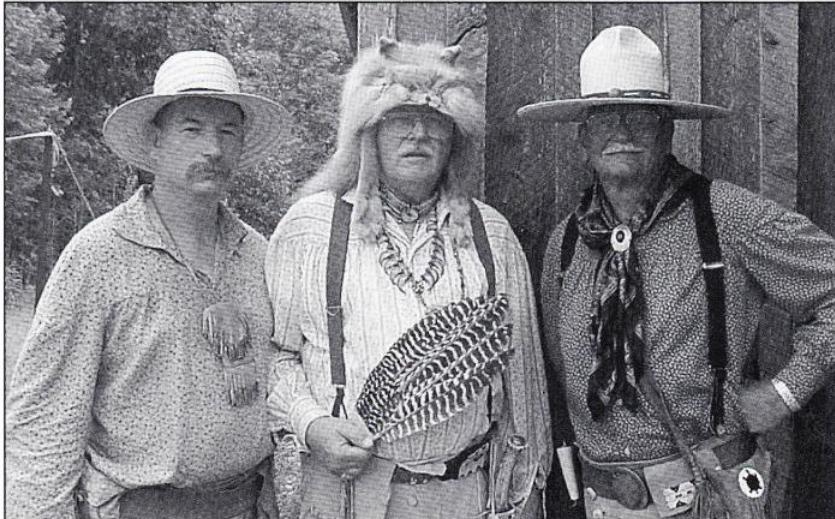
In 1962, Green was 25 years of age and was beginning his journey with Royal Rangers. Johnnie Barnes asked him to serve as an "aide-de-camp" in the Ohio district in 1969. The aide-de-camp was put into place to act as a liaison for the Royal Rangers ministry to the local church and pastor. During the first Aide-de-camp Council that Green attended in Springfield, Mo., 28 aides met for the first time.

Then in 1975, Johnnie asked him to serve as an FCF territorial representative for the Northeast region of the U.S., which Green considered a great honor. It was felt in 1980 that there needed to be an election for a National FCF Vice President. The election was held at the 1980 National FCF Rendezvous, and Sonny Green was elected the first National FCF Vice President.

He has served on the National Royal Rangers Executive Committee for 27 years—25 years of which he has been distinguished on the committee as the National FCF Vice President.

His love for reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ has never been stronger. So where does Emeritus fit in? It is just another chapter in Green's service for Royal Rangers. His commitment to boys has not slackened, in fact it is just as strong. The time involvement that is necessary for this high position in the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship is being directed to his outpost at the 1st Assembly of God, Warren, Ohio, in the Great Ohio district. He, and Fred, have chosen to continue serving, but at a different pace and location.

Former Rocky Mountain District Commander Fred Ladage greatly admires Green's dedication to the Rangers and their commanders, even at times when Green could have lost face with those who looked up to him. "While serving as district commander, I had the honor of inviting Sonny to be our speaker at our annual powwow. Sonny's 'quantity time' was spent visiting with the boys and young men who were attending, but I did get to spend 'quality time' with him. He was very interested in me, my family, and how I was doing as district



commander. Gauging from the responses we had at our evening council fires, it was apparent that not only was Sonny plugged into what God had in store for us, but he also had made contact with the boys and commanders.

"Perhaps the biggest impact that Sonny has had on me came during Phase III training at the 1996 National Academy. Sonny failed the entrance examination. While most of us would have tried to keep it a secret, Sonny turned it into a time to encourage others and to motivate them. He stood in front of the whole camp and confessed his shortcomings and turned it into a teachable moment."

Now as an Emeritus FCF staffer, Green will spend more "teachable moments" and time with his wife of 44 years, Pearl, his children, and grandson. They have two children; son Shawn and his wife Jenny live in Texas; their daughter Jodi, her husband Jeff, and grandson Tyler live in Warren, Ohio, nearby. Tyler (age 14), is a Gold Medal of Achievement recipient and star athlete in several sports.

Green also has a passion for model railroading and has amassed a large collection. (You may see it on display in a future High Adventure issue.) Green has so many trains, he has dedicated a 30 x 24' room to the 'O' gauge trains and beautiful mountain scenery. The Royal Rangers from his outpost get to come in and see the trains travel in and out of the tunnels and over bridges—and even get to blow the whistle at each crossing.

RR National Council Vice President Jim Barger fondly recalls his experiences with Green, "I have known Sonny since 1972, when I saw his outpost from Warren, Ohio, carry him on their shoulders in triumphal jubilation as they won Outpost of the Year at the Ohio District Powwow. It was our first powwow, and we didn't even have tents. I vowed to my boys that we would win that trophy someday (We did just four years later, but my boys didn't carry me on their shoulders).

"We have probably traveled a jillion miles together, and there's not much that each doesn't know about the other, but I don't think Sonny knows or would even believe that he has been my role model. Lots of times I've wanted to give up, but I've always thought, What would Sonny say? Then I turned around and put my shoulder to the wheel once again. My kids love him like a favorite uncle. I think our favorite times together are when he is camp commander and I'm senior guide at an NTC. The stories I have about Sonny would fill volumes, but there's not enough space on the page."

## **Thank You, Fred and Sonny!**

At the 2003 National Council, Fred Deaver and Sonny Green were honored for their many years of service to the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship by being awarded Emeritus status. They receive the continued benefits of their FCF offices, yet this allows them more time for family and local ministry. They would never "retire" from Royal Rangers but are simply readjusting their hectic schedules. The following is a tribute to these two men who have blazed a trail of impeccable character and integrity across this nation and the world.

"Through the years Royal Ranger leaders have been known as men with a goal to 'reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ.' I know of no finer examples of Royal Ranger leaders than Fred Deaver and Sonny Green. Both of these men have dedicated their lives over the past 30-plus years to reaching boys with the Great Commission and training leaders to do the same. It is my privilege to be friends with both Fred and Sonny and continue to count these men as true leaders and Warriors for Christ."

Rich Mariott, *National Commander*

### **FRED DEAVER**

"I have been honored to help Fred 'pass the torch' to younger men by helping to train them in the key roles of NTC leadership at the National Academy. Fred worked so hard over the years to make sure we kept the standard high, and we have. We have laughed and cried together, shared 'unbelievable-but-true' hunting stories, and prayed for each other and our families during times of trial. Fred will always be a real live hero and an inspiration to me. I love him dearly."

— Jim Barger, *National Council Vice President*

"Fred Deaver's convictions and desire to do more for God have set a standard by which many commanders measure themselves."

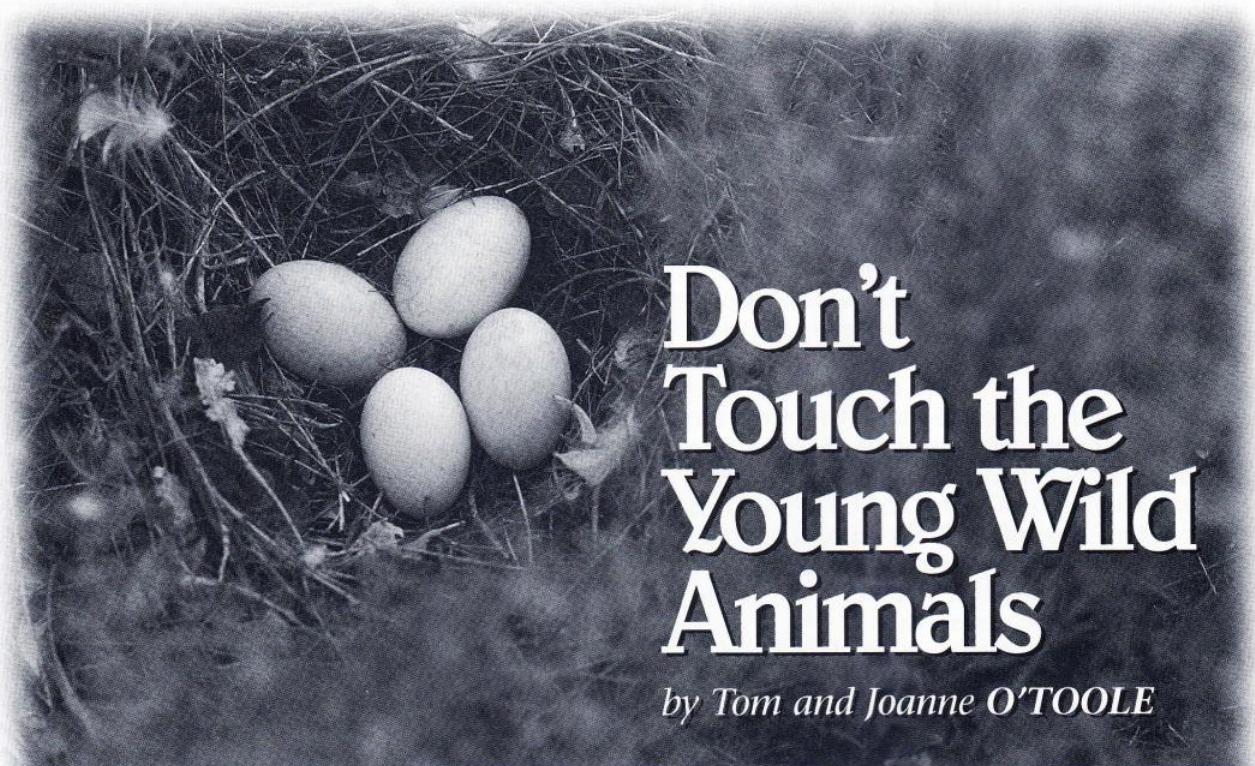
— Fred Ladage, *former Rocky Mountain district commander*

### **SONNY GREEN**

"Ol' Hoss...My buddy, Sonny. If ever there was a book to be written entitled How To Love Boys, there would be no finer person to write it than Sonny Green. Thanks for being my brother, Sonny."—Jim Barger, *National Council Vice President*

"It isn't Sonny, but what Sonny is doing, that is foremost on his mind. And what Sonny does is minister to boys and men."

— Fred Ladage, *former Rocky Mountain district commander*



# Don't Touch the Young Wild Animals

by Tom and Joanne O'TOOLE

This spring and summer millions of wild animals and birds will be born. This is the new generation of wildlife and their survival depends on their mothers, their environment, and you not interfering.

As the weather improves, children and adults go out to enjoy the outdoors, which increases contacts between people and young wildlife. People come across these "babies," ranging from birds in the nest to a fawn lying hidden in a field. If you happen upon them, look, back away, and don't touch.

Many animals leave their youngsters unattended for periods of time, and for a variety of reasons—to forage for food and water; to direct predators away and distract attention from their young; or to otherwise protect them.

Newborn animals have a natural camouflage and a body that gives off very little scent, thus not attracting predators. When the mother leaves, she trusts this natural protection to safeguard her newborn.

When someone thinks they've found an orphan, they should not pick it up nor kidnap it. It's probably under the watchful eye of the mother from nearby cover, too frightened to take on a two-legged intruder. Usually, she'll resume charge as soon as the towering creature (you) leaves. Seldom are the young lost or misplaced. Their instincts are to stay in the place their

***When someone thinks they've found an orphan, they should not pick it up nor kidnap it.  
It's probably under the watchful eye of the mother...***

mother left them and to await her return.

Well-meaning people may feel they are neglecting a responsibility to assist a needy and helpless orphan, but they'll be doing an "abandoned" baby a lifetime favor by walking away. Although it's instinctive to want to "help" forlorn creatures by picking them up or take them home where they will be "cared for," the natural mothers can do a far better job.

Juvenile animals are cute and cuddly, but just touching, or picking up young wildlife may cause the mother to shy away from, or even reject them because of the human scent. Birds, however, don't

have a well developed sense of smell, and fledglings usually can be carefully and gently returned to their nests with mom none the wiser.

Healthwise, it could be dangerous to pick up or take home baby animals. They may be carrying rabies, distemper, Lyme disease, or even a virus that could affect you and your household. Those loveable little foxes, baby raccoons, bear cubs, mountain lion kittens, skunks, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, chipmunks, and fawns also have parasites such as lice, fleas, and ticks. Many wildlife carry transmittable diseases not easily recognized by humans.

Wild young might appear harmless, but even babies can bite and scratch anyone attempting to handle them. Their natural instinct is to protect themselves if they are cornered or feel threatened, and they can



behave unpredictably when confronted by humans.

Removing a young animal or bird from its natural habitat is like issuing the creature a death sentence. Even people with the best of intentions don't know what to feed them (their food is dramatically different from ours), and can cause them dietary problems, diarrhea, dehydration, and in some cases, regressive development.

When humans become frustrated and then release captive animals or birds back into the wild, death usually occurs quickly. They will not have learned the skills needed to forage for food and to avoid predators. Their survival will be, at best, a struggle. Young wild animals are not like domestic kittens and puppies.



Sadly, the life span of "adopted" young is usually much shorter than if left to its family life in the wild. Many die from improper care and an incorrect diet. Others are killed in senseless accidents once they develop little or no fear of humans and their surroundings.

Cute babies eventually grow to adulthood, and some can become extremely dangerous when fully grown. Some "rescued" animals have to be destroyed when they mature and turn territorial, defensive, and aggressive. At times, and for no apparent reason, they attack humans—even the "hand that feeds them." When mating season arrives, they often become agitated and mean-spirited. Many "rescued" wildlife are declawed and/or defanged, rendering them defenseless if returned to nature. Captive wildlife stories never have happy endings.

Even those animals that survive and remain docile are of no value to the wildlife community, because they are no longer "wild," and would not be able to cope, even with their own kind.

In many states it is against the law to keep most wildlife as pets, and certain species are protected under federal law.

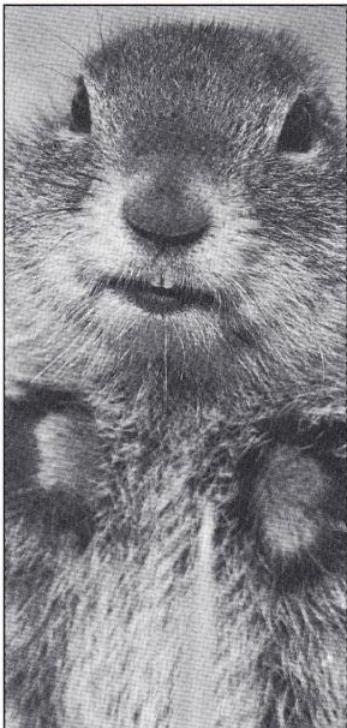
Youngsters should be cautioned to leave infant wildlife alone and told emphatically to not bring a baby home. It should be explained that the mothers routinely leave their young for a great many reasons. If they happen to "find" a young animal with no mother in sight, they should not "save" it. If you're not certain about its status, you can always check on it the next day.

If you are absolutely certain you have discovered an orphaned animal (as when the mother is killed), report it immediately to your local wildlife office or conservation officer. Local game wardens and park rangers will arrange to have legitimate wildlife orphans picked up and cared for properly.

The best good deed humans can provide for young wild animals is to leave them alone. If one must take home something, let it be on film, or in one's memory of the wonders of nature.

(Tom and Joanne O'Toole are fulltime freelance outdoor journalists and photographers.

The husband/wife writing team is published in newspapers and magazines across the country, and throughout Canada. They make their home in a little community in northeast Ohio, where they have woods on and around their property, with plenty of frisky youngsters being born in the wild.)





# How to Recruit Royal Ranger Commanders For Your Outpost

**R**ecruiting quality workers is critical to the success of the outpost. In locating your Rangers commanders, the key component is prayer! God will provide the right workers at the right time for the right position. Seek those who are God-fearing believers and have experience with teaching boys, knowledge of the Royal Rangers program, and a desire to see boys come to the saving knowledge of our Master Ranger, Jesus Christ.

Every commander and volunteer should complete a ministry application, which includes an in-depth police background check. This is done to protect the boys in Rangers who are under your care each week. We can never assume because they are already working in another ministry in the church that they have been approved through a background check.

Everyone who applies must complete and have an approved background check before becoming involved in the outpost.

Developing a job description for each level of leadership in the outpost is a critical piece to the puzzle when fitting someone into a ministry position. It allows the person to know exactly what will be expected.

The most effective method of selecting volunteers is a face-to-face encounter. Meeting the people will enable you to get to know them better and understand where they are gifted. It will also give the other person a chance to respond without feeling any additional pressure of having peers around them. Once you have made contact with them, make an appointment with them, along with your key leaders, to discuss the ministry position and corresponding responsibilities. Review each application and discuss the responsibilities associated with this particular role. Once the person has been approved, ask for a specific time commitment to begin active involvement at the outpost.

Consider utilizing other approved children's workers who may be fulfilling a role in another part of the church. Their expertise is in children's ministry and they would be trained and very helpful in their understanding of children and the layout of the church building. Since they are already in that area of ministry, they would have a soft

heart for boys. They need to know that Royal Rangers is a combination of fun and accomplishment, and it allows boys the distinct opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Look to the parents of the Royal Rangers in the church. Many sets of parents are actively involved in the Rangers program and are outstanding volunteers. Keep the communication lines open with the other ministry groups in the church for those who may be interested in working with boys in Rangers age groups. You may encounter volunteers who may not like being in the classroom setting but can assist with crafts or recreation and vice versa. Place your workers in areas that match their strengths and abilities. That will make them more effective in the overall program, and it will show in the work ethic that is displayed each week.

Whenever you train and work with your commanders and other ministry staff, consider all of them as leaders in your outpost. Whether they are in the classroom or at the check-in desk, they are all influencing the lives of the Royal Rangers.

Pray! Pray! Then pray some more. God will bring the right people to your outpost at the right time for the right reason.

**F**or a while I was having trouble trying to remember the new names of the age groups and the order they came in according to age. Now, I think I figured a clever way to remember them until we all get used to them. It goes like this:

*Starting with youngest: "When Ranger Kids learn from God, they Discover what it means to have an Adventure with Christ. Jesus then leads them on an Expedition to do what God wants them to do."*

I wanted to share this with others who may also be having trouble remembering the new names and what order they come in. I don't know if the national leadership intended the names to follow this concept or not, yet it seemed to fit and helped me memorize the names and their order.

Commander Dave Huckabay  
Royal Rangers Outpost 309  
Gateway Christian Life Church, Fair Oaks, CA

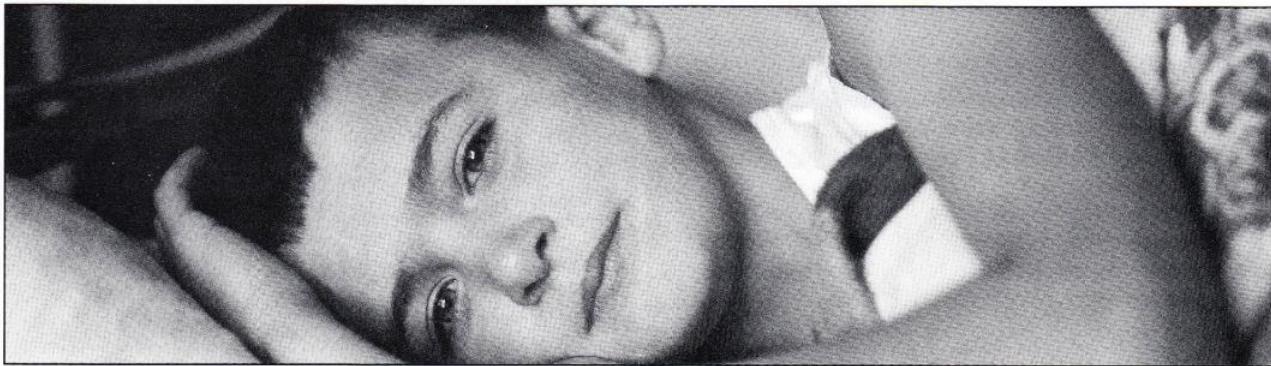


***Developing a job description for each level of leadership in the outpost is a critical piece to the puzzle...***



# Royal Rangers Reach Russian Youth

by Cathy KETCHER



A growing number of Russian boys and girls are accepting Christ as Savior through the Royal Rangers program. According to Mark Broberg, U.S. Assemblies of God missionary to Russia, the ministry has become a tool for evangelism and discipleship among churches, orphanages, and youth halfway houses.

"Russians love the outdoors, and in the summer many people spend as much time as possible outside the cities," Broberg says. "The camping emphasis of Royal Rangers draws many young people to participate."

The concept of scouting has been part of the Russian culture since Czar Nicholas II invited Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, to visit Russia in 1909. Scouting groups grew quickly until the Russian Revolution in 1917. At that time the government banned the program and punished many Scout leaders. During the communist era, the government developed a program called Pioneers and used a scouting theme to indoctrinate youth in communist ideals.

Pioneer clubs disbanded after the fall of communism in 1991, giving the church an opportunity for outreach. "For 72 years children could not study God's word openly in an organized way," says Jerry Parsley, Eurasia regional director for the U.S. Assemblies of God. "Now the Pentecostal Union in Russia is eager to use all available means to instruct children and help shape them spiritually."

Though closely related, the U.S. and Russian Royal Rangers programs are not identical. The Russian program follows an achievement path geared to the Russian culture. Both boys and girls attend Royal Rangers in Russia because in many churches it is the only outreach available for children.

In St. Petersburg, plans are underway for a summer camp that will draw children from across Russia's north-

west region. Organizers expect 250 boys and girls to attend.

Many children at last year's 6-day camp came from unhealthy home situations, according to Broberg. "Some 9-year-olds were already hooked on cigarettes and drinking alcohol," he says. "At the camp they were the center of our attention, and they sensed God's love."

Forty children accepted Christ as Savior and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Omar Belier, area director for the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic Republics, expects these experiences to be repeated in other areas of Russia as additional Royal Rangers groups are established. "The hearts of young people have proven to be fertile soil for the gospel message, and the camp in St. Petersburg is a prototype that can be reproduced across the former Soviet Union," he says.

The potential of Royal Rangers in Russia is enormous, Broberg believes, because economic and social problems have left many children without physical or emotional support.

"Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many children have been left to fend for themselves on the streets, in orphanages, and even in their homes," he says. "In St. Petersburg alone, 130,000 homeless children live on the streets. Josef Stalin knew that in order for communism to survive, he must indoctrinate the children into a communist lifestyle absent of God. Our goal is to teach the children of Russia about the true freedom they can have through a relationship with Jesus."

(Used by permission from Assemblies of God World Missions.)



# Devotionals for Boys

by David BOYD

## OBJECT LESSON ONE

### The Inner Side

#### SUPPLIES:

Two bananas

#### PRESENTATION:

*Hold a banana in your hand. As you tell the story, each time you say, "WHACK," solidly hit the banana on something hard. The banana will get more and more smashed on the inside.*

Andy's mom moved him to a new town. He didn't want to leave all his old friends behind, but he had no choice. He was feeling really sad. "WHACK!" When he walked down the hall his first day of school, kids pointed at him and made fun of his clothes. "WHACK!" (His mom didn't have much money so his clothes were pretty old.) When he got to his first class, he went to sit down, but kids made him move because they didn't want him sitting near them. "WHACK!" At lunchtime, everyone had really nice meals. He opened up the lunch his mom had made him and began to eat his poor little lunch. Some kids pointed at his food and held their noses. "WHACK!" They called his food "stinky food." "WHACK!" In one of his classes he missed an answer the teacher asked. Several kids laughed. "WHACK!"

Ask, "What happens to the inside of this banana every time I whack it?" (Answer: It's getting all bruised.) Ask, "What is happening to Andy every time someone does something mean to him?" (Answer: He is getting bruised on the inside.)

Ask the kids what a Christian should do. Explain that good friends help heal the bruising that kids have on the "inside" of their lives. Hold

up the other banana. "If Andy had good Christian friends to help him, much of the bruising of his spirit could be healed. If Jesus came into his life, Jesus would heal him even more! His insides would be like this good banana."

*Make a list of ways Rangers can befriend other kids.*

## OBJECT LESSON TWO

### God Hates Sin!

#### SUPPLIES:

a grape, tomato, peach, grapefruit, cantaloupe, hammer, goggles, plastic sheeting, and a sharp marker

#### PRESENTATION:

*Hold the grape. Have the kids mention a sin using one word. In tiny writing, write the sins on the grape. It doesn't need to be legible, simply pretend to get all the letters on the grape. As the kids mention a sin, talk about each sin. Examples might be lying, cheating, stealing, swearing, etc. When they mention a sin, you might say, "Lying, that is definitely a sin. It's listed in the Bible as one of the things God hates. It's easy to lie though. You always have to guard your tongue because a lie can slip in very easily. If we do lie, we should always ask God, and the person we lied to, to forgive us. Let me write that on the grape. Who has another sin they can mention?"*

*After discussing 10 to 15 different sins, take the grape, place it on a piece of plastic, have all the kids say, "God hates sin!" Then squish the grape with the hammer.*

*This is a great object lesson to use every week for six to eight weeks. Each week announce what you will be squishing the next week. Kids will come back the next week just to see you squish something. Each larger item gives you more space to write and more time to write about sins.*

## OBJECT LESSON THREE

### How Pure Is Pure?

#### SUPPLIES:

A glass  
Clear soda, like 7-Up  
Dirty spoon  
Ice

#### PRESENTATION:

Ask for a child who is thirsty to come up front. (Note: Don't pick your most daring child. Pick one who is a little more reserved.) Pour a glass of 7-Up. Talk about how good the 7-Up looks. You might say something like, "This 7-Up looks clear, fresh, pure, and sweet! I bet you are really going to like it!" Tell him you are going to add ice. Pick up a dirty spoon with something like dried mustard on it. Make sure the child sees it. Pick up a cube of ice with the spoon and stir it into the glass. Hopefully, some "floaties" will show up in the glass. The goal of this is to get the child to point out "floaties" in the glass and refuse to drink it.

Once the child refuses to drink, talk about what's wrong with it. "How pure is pure? Does what we put into our mouths have to be pure?" Compare the pureness of the 7-Up to our lives. "When Jesus washes our sins away, He makes us pure. When we sin, it is like us sticking a big, dirty, ugly spoon full of stuff into our lives. God isn't pleased when we sin. He will once again wash our sins away, but he doesn't want us to stick sin into our lives."

Have the kids make a list of things that would make their lives impure.

## OBJECT LESSON FOUR

### The Stuffed Pet

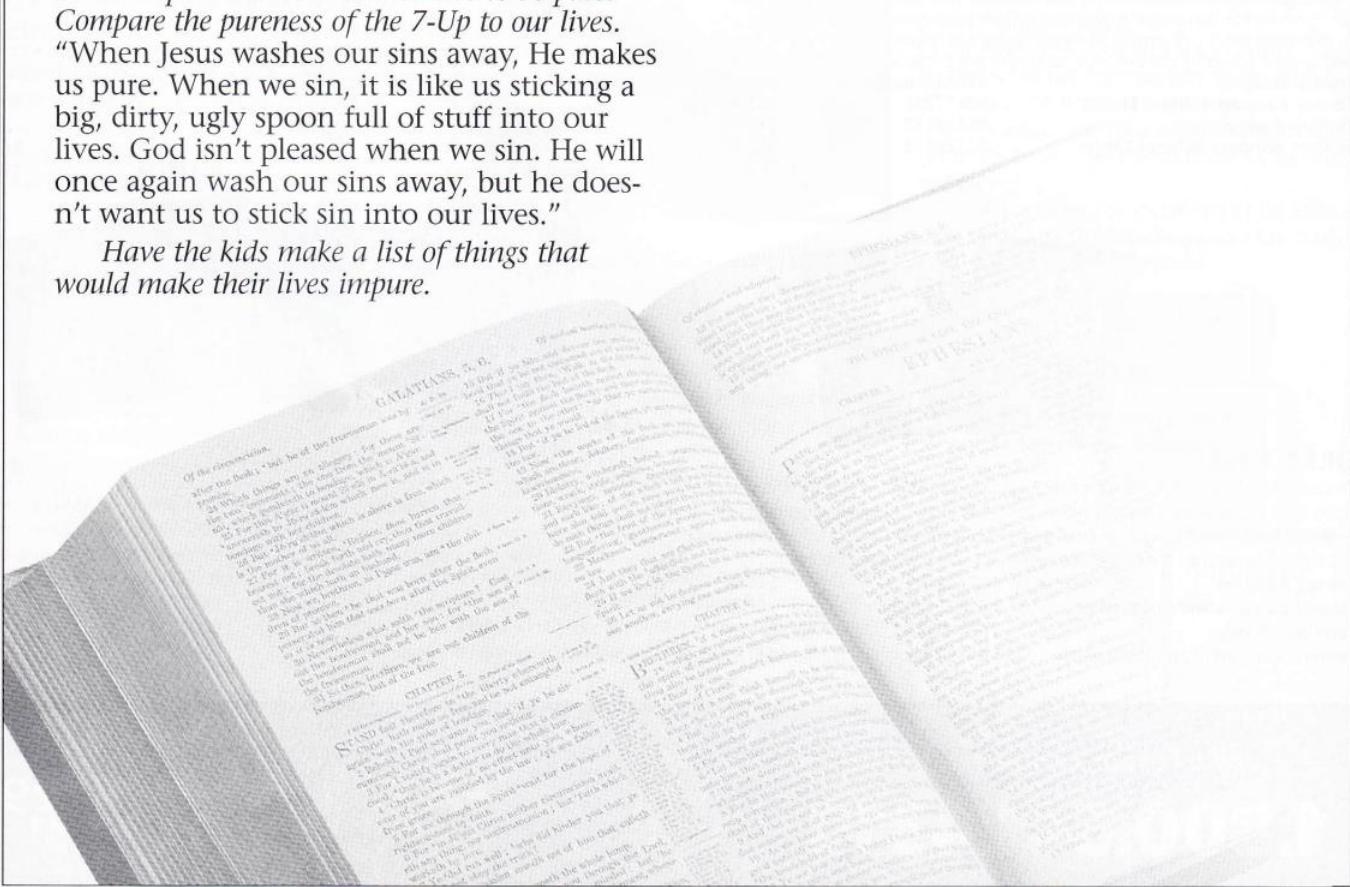
#### SUPPLIES:

Stuffed dog  
Leash

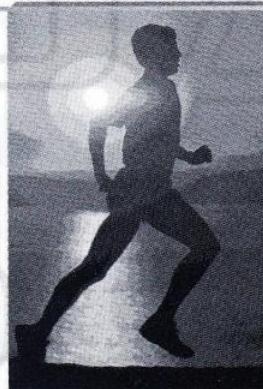
#### PRESENTATION:

Bring in a stuffed dog on a leash. Drag the dog around pretending it is real. Pet it, cuddle it, and talk to it. Explain them how much you love your pet. Tell them how much your pet loves you. Ask the kids, "Don't you wish you had a pet like this?" The kids will say that a stuffed dog isn't as much fun as a real pet. Let them tell you all the reasons a real dog makes a good pet.

Compare this object lesson to God creating us. He could have made us like a stuffed dog. He could have made us robots. But He didn't. God made us so that we could choose to love Him, worship Him, and spend time with Him. He wants us to be His best friend, but it's up to us. If we had a real pet dog and the dog didn't want to come near us, it wouldn't be much fun. God isn't pleased with us when we don't love Him and worship Him or pray to Him and spend time with Him.



# PREPARE

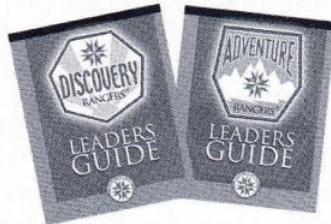


## YOURSELF

*for a revolutionary experience*



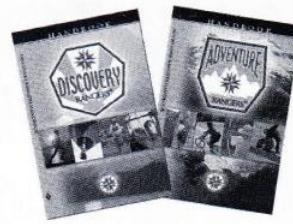
INTRODUCING ROYAL RANGERS NEW PROGRAM RESOURCES



### LEADERS GUIDES

Everything you need for a 3-year program in one easy resource. Each manual fully describes the Advancement Trail and recommends which skill merits to teach in order for the boys to complete their advancements. Includes complete meeting plans, quarterly review/missions-emphasis meetings, Council of Achievement (awards ceremony), and reproducible forms. 3-ring binder.

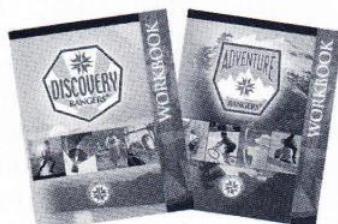
|                                  |          |         |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Discovery Rangers                | 02KZ2120 | \$42.99 |
| Discovery Rangers Without Binder | 02KZ2121 | \$37.99 |
| Adventure Rangers                | 02KZ2132 | \$42.99 |
| Adventure Rangers Without Binder | 02KZ2133 | \$37.99 |



### HANDBOOKS

Explains the program and Advancement Trail in age-appropriate language so your boys know exactly where they're going and what to do to get there. Details how the boys should wear their uniform and how the patrol system works. **Discovery Rangers Handbook** provides all requirements for red and blue merits. **Adventure Rangers Handbook** provides all requirements for gold and green merits. Includes a copy of Preventing Child and Substance Abuse. Paper.

|                   |          |        |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Discovery Rangers | 02KZ2126 | \$6.99 |
| Adventure Rangers | 02KZ2136 | \$9.99 |



### WORKBOOKS

Color-coded sections include every required and elective merit for the Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers Advancement Trails. Includes age-appropriate activities to fulfill certain merit requirements. Commander's sign-off section serves as a detailed record of merit requirement completion. 3-ring binder.

|                                  |          |         |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Discovery Rangers                | 02KZ2127 | \$14.99 |
| Discovery Rangers Without Binder | 02KZ2128 | \$9.99  |
| Adventure Rangers                | 02KZ2138 | \$19.99 |
| Adventure Rangers Without Binder | 02KZ2139 | \$14.99 |



### LEADERS MERITS REFERENCES

These complete references provide convenient overviews and answer guides for every merit of the Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers Advancement Trails. Most merits also include lesson plans to use with the Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers Leaders Guides. Paper.

|                          |          |         |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| Red. Discovery Rangers   | 02KZ2129 | \$19.99 |
| Blue. Discovery Rangers  | 02KZ2130 | \$19.99 |
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[www.RoyalRangers.ag.org](http://www.RoyalRangers.ag.org)

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# **NEW! ROYAL RANGERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!**

by Steve SCHULTZ

**H**ow would you like to compete against Royal Rangers from throughout the country in specialized events? Well now you can. The new National Royal Rangers Championships were released at the 2003 National Council. There are several events to compete in, so Rangers will have the opportunity to see how they measure up. The following explains what the National Royal Rangers Championships are and how you can participate.

## PURPOSE:

- To offer Royal Rangers the opportunity to compete in specialized events at a national level.
- To recognize outstanding accomplishment in specialized events.
- To encourage boys to discover and develop specialized skills or talents outside of the traditional Royal Rangers program.
- Encourage healthy competition with other Royal Rangers from throughout the nation in specialized events.
- To encourage outstanding individuals to participate in national competitions sponsored by organizations outside of Royal Rangers.
- To encourage Royal Ranger participation in the Fine Arts Festival and Bible Quiz programs

## METHOD:

### Annual Events

- Traditional Competitions:
  - Royal Rangers competing in the Junior Bible Quiz and Senior Bible Quiz competitions will compete under current guidelines.
  - National finalists who are Royal Rangers will be recognized by the national Royal Rangers office.
  - Certificates and Awards for outstanding accomplishment will be mailed to top individuals in each category from the national Royal Rangers office.
- "Postal" Competitions:
  - Local events are held from January 1-October 31 using the specified guidelines. May be regional, district, sectional or outpost event.
  - Local results (scores) and entry fees are "mailed" to a central location using official reporting forms where they are compared to other results from throughout the nation.
  - Scores are tabulated and awards are posted and sent to individuals as specified by the event guidelines.

Postal Competitions available in 2003:  
(All age divisions are according to age the Ranger will attain during the calendar year.)



**Archery** will have a long bow and compound division. Each division will be divided into the following categories: ages 8 and under, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14-15, 16-18\*, and adult.

*\*To compete as an 18-year-old, the competitor must be an Expedition Ranger and may not be serving as a Lt. Commander in the outpost.*

The archery event is sponsored by National Alliance for the Development of Archery (NADA), 14260 W Newberry Rd #334, Newberry, FL 32669, (352) 332-9984, nadaemail@aol.com.

Questions about the event should be directed to the NADA or the National Royal Rangers office.



The **5-meter BB Gun** event is for ages 8-15. Both individual and team competitions are available. The official gun for the match is the Avanti Champion Model 499 to ensure fair competition scoring.

The **10-Meter Air Rifle** event, both individual and team competitions, has the following categories:

- Sub-junior: 14 years old and under
- Intermediate-junior: 15-16 years old
- Junior: 17-18\* years old

*\*To compete as an 18-year-old Junior, the competitor must be an Expedition Ranger and may not be serving as a Lt. Commander in the outpost.*

The **Small Bore Light Rifle** event, with both individual and team competitions, has the following categories:

- Junior: 14-15 years old
- Senior: 16-18\* years old
- Adult: Must be a member of church that has chartered outpost.

*\*To compete as an 18-year-old Senior, the competitor must be an Expedition Ranger and may not be serving as a Lt. Commander in the outpost.*

The individual **Trap Shooting** event has the following categories:

- Junior: 14-15 years old
- Senior: 16-18\* years old
- Adult: Must be a member of church that has chartered outpost.

*\*To compete as an 18-year-old Senior, the competitor must be an Expedition Ranger and may not be serving as a Lt. Commander in the outpost.*

Finally, the **Black Powder Rifle** event, including both individual and team competitions, is available in the following categories:

- Sub-Junior: 11-13 years old
- Junior: 14-15 years old
- Senior: 16-18\* years old
- Adult: Must be a member of church that has chartered outpost.

*\*To compete as an 18-year-old Senior, the competitor must be an Expedition Ranger and may not be serving as a Lt. Commander in the outpost.*

The BB gun, air rifle, small bore light rifle, trap shooting, and black powder rifle events are sponsored by the NRA Competitive Shooting Division, Postals Programs, 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030, (703) 267-1482, Postals@nrahq.org.

Questions about the shooting events should be directed to NRA Postals Coordinator Dian Coleman or the national Royal Rangers office.

Flyers for all of the postal events are available from the sponsor organizations or the national Royal Rangers office. Further information may be found on the Royal Rangers website ([www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org)) under National Royal Rangers Championships. Contact your district and/or sectional commander to see which events will be hosted in your area.

So brush up on your favorite events and get ready to compete with those from your age group!

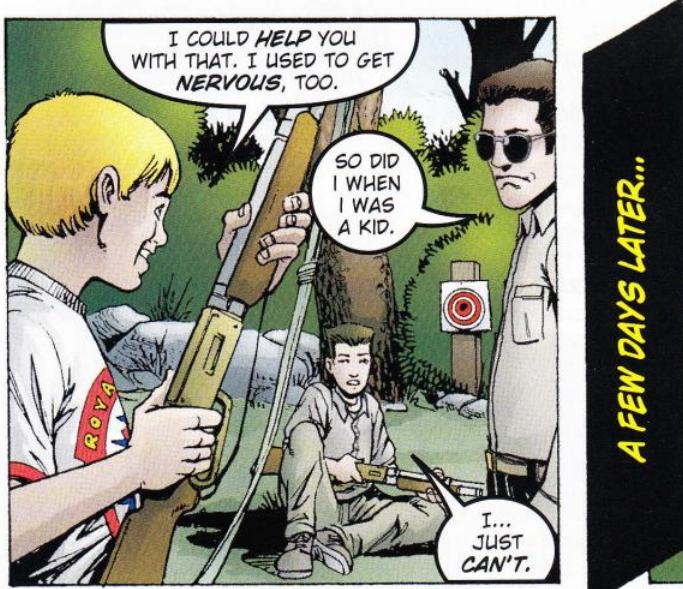
Look for these competitions to be added next year: bass fishing championship and Fine Arts Festival recognition.





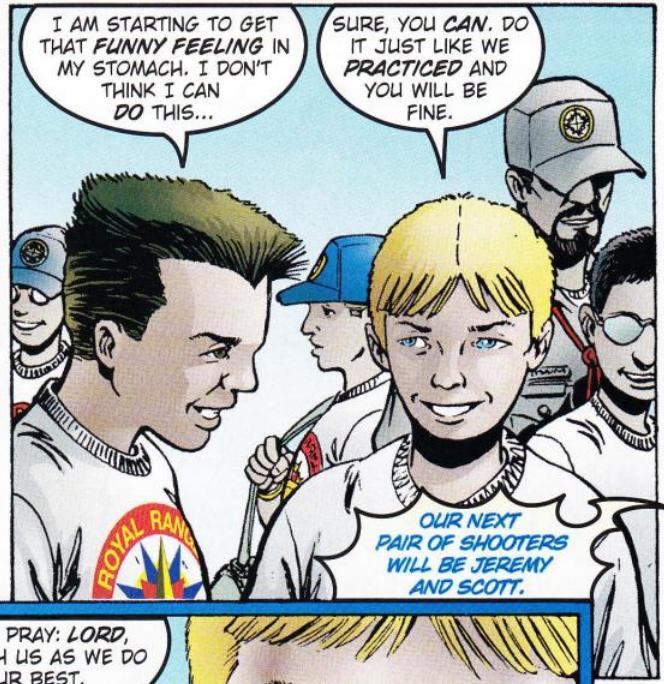
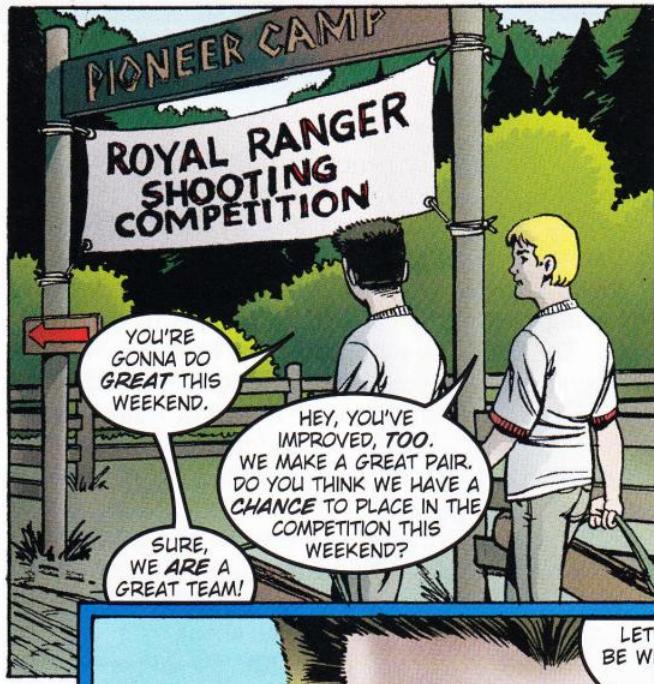
# ROYAL RANGERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

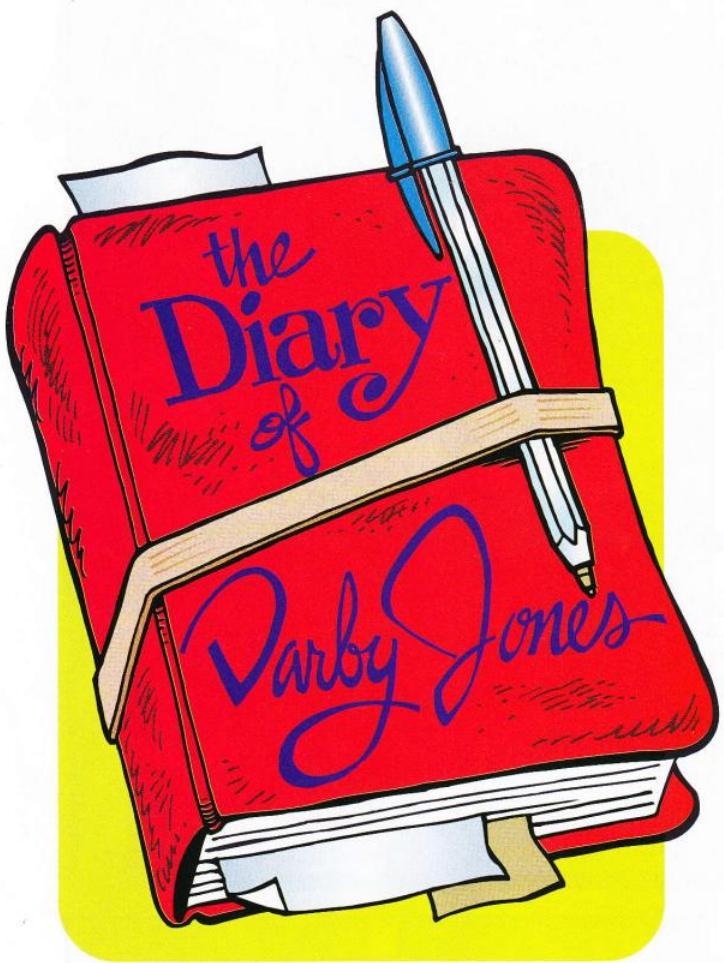
STORY BY  
VICKY WHITE  
ART BY  
TOM LYLE  
COLORS/LETTERS BY  
CRAIG SCHUTT



A FEW DAYS LATER...







# Mystery of the Messy Campsite

by Rev. Robb HAWKS

"What has happened to our campsite? What a mess!" Commander Jones exclaimed.

Indeed it was a mess. That's my dad, Commander Darby Jones, but everyone just calls him Commander Jones. Me, I'm Darby Jones, Jr., and our outpost was having its annual High Adventure camping trip.

The California mountains were beautiful. We were camping next to a creek in the National Sequoia forest. The trees towered overhead. The creek water was ice cold. We could actually see the rainbow trout in the shallow water. It was in this beautiful setting that the crime had been committed.

For the third night in a row we had gone to bed only to wake up and find the camp kitchen a total mess. The ice chest had been tipped over and food wrappers were torn and scattered about.

"Hey, look at this!" Roy yelled. We all rushed over to where he was kneeling on the ground. There were paw prints. Small lean fingers with five toes.

"It looks like raccoons." Commander Jones announced.

"But how did the raccoons open the ice chest?" Tommy asked.

"That's a good question." Commander Jones said.

"And how did they unlatch the camp kitchen box?" I asked.

"Well, raccoons are really smart animals. I guess we will have to do a better job of locking things up tonight," Commander Jones said with a sigh.

"But you said that last night. What more can we do? I am getting tired of cleaning up this mess every morning!" Roy said.

Tommy just stood to the side shaking his head.

---

**The camp  
was trashed.  
Food and paper  
wrappers  
everywhere.  
We were all  
quickly up  
and dressed.**

---

It was obvious that he just couldn't understand where all the mess came from. But we had no choice. The camp had to be cleaned up. Then it was off on a hike and another afternoon of fishing for rainbow trout.

Later that night we carefully latched the ice chest. The camp kitchen area was carefully closed up and every latch and catch was securely fastened. There would be no mess in the morning! But just in case there was, I had a plan. I was only a few minutes late for bed, but I would sleep better knowing that the camp would be protected.

The sun was just rising when I heard my dad's voice. "Oh no! Not again!" We each crawled out of sleeping bags and poked our heads out of our tents. Oh yes! Again! The camp was trashed. Food and paper wrappers everywhere. We were all quickly up and dressed.

"I just can't explain it. I can't believe the raccoons are that clever," Commander Jones said. "How are they getting everything unlatched?"

Roy and Tommy just looked at each other in shock. But I had the answer. Well, not exactly at that moment, but I would have the answer. I climbed up the tree that grew along our kitchen area and carefully removed my dad's video camcorder that I had placed there the night before. Soon we were all gathered around the camera looking at the tape that had been recorded the night before. I

had set the camera in the long play mode so that it could record up to six hours. I hoped that it would be enough. We fast forwarded through the tape until we saw some movement. Sure enough, there were raccoons! But the raccoons couldn't get into the ice chest or the camp kitchen. Suddenly I did not feel so confident. What had happened? Was it bears?

Then we all watched in surprise as our tent slowly unzipped. Then a head poked out. It was Tommy! He carefully snuck out of the tent, opened the ice chest and pulled out a soda. Then walking over to the kitchen he unlatched



the cookbox and pulled out a bag of potato chips. Then, after finishing his snack, he snuck back into bed. Within moments the raccoons were back. Only now they found everything unlatched! And boy did they enjoy themselves!

We all looked at Tommy. He just stood there speechless. Finally, he blurted out, "Hey, I was hungry!"

Our entire outpost learned a valuable lesson that day. You see, Tommy never thought that he would be discovered. Yet, one morning he was embarrassed to discover that every one knew what he was up to. The Bible says "you may be sure that your sin will find you out."

# Running High

by DeMar REGIER



**A member of the group  
races down a 3,000-foot jungle  
path competing with the speed  
of the zigzagging bus.**

**H**igh in the Andes at the ancient site of Machu Picchu (MAH-choo PEEK-choo), a group of boys have found a unique way to make money, prove their running skills, and have fun—all at the same time! It is also a way to show others how proud they are of their heritage.

At 8,000 feet, Machu Picchu is an incredible sight. Incan ruins, unearthed in 1911, include stone temples and citadels, steeply terraced fields, and a network of intricate trails. There is even an astronomical observatory. Because little is known about the Quechua-speaking Indian inhabitants who lived there and mysteriously disappeared (Scholars think about 1550), Machu Picchu is steeped in mystery!

That, of course, makes for many tourists, and many tales and legends surrounding the people who lived there. Stories abound about the incredible Incan ability to move granite boulders that weighed tons, the refined knowledge used to create astronomical structures, and the speed of runners that ran roads and trails in record time. (It is reported that Incas devised a way messengers could travel about 150 miles a day! This was done by building huts occupied by runners every mile or so along certain routes. When a runner neared the hut, its occupant came out, ran alongside the runner to hear the message, then took his turn racing to the next hut. Two centuries later, Spanish mail by horse took four times as long!) Amazed, mystified, filled-with-wonder visitors soak up these stories as they view the sites.

So it is not surprising that a group of area boys have found a way to show visitors a part of this heritage. Perhaps the idea occurred when the boys retraced the old trails and realized how quickly they could be run.

However it began, today it is an organized group of boys with definite rules. To belong, each prospective member must be voted in by the others, be between 6 and 12 years old, be an exceptional runner; and come from a needy family. Here is what they do.

As tourist buses descend from Machu Picchu, a member of the group, chosen to run that day, races down a 3,000-foot jungle path competing with the speed of the zigzagging bus. The bus occupants, not realizing what is going on, are astonished to see at the first hairpin curve, a boy dressed in a colorful Incan toga waving and shouting, "Goo-ood-bye!"

When he appears at a lower switchback, people start to talk. "Who is he?" "What is he doing?" Soon everyone anticipates each decline, each lower elevation. "Will he make it this time?" "What if he trips or falls?" The excitement builds. When he always shows, at every different level, travelers laugh and clap. This continues the entire way down, until, at the very bottom, on a river bridge, the runner stands waiting. He outran the bus!

It is then that the bus driver opens the door, the boy climbs aboard, and shyly passes a small purse. Tourists smile and generously contribute. It is a surprising feat. After the boy leaves, a guide explains how the race is restricted to needy boys, and that the money must be used for family necessities or the boy's future education.

Travelers nod their approval. The legend of Incan runners is preserved!

How many times can you subtract 5 from 25? Once, then you're subtracting it from 20!

What turns everything around but does not move? A mirror!

How many times can you subtract 5 from 25?

Once, then you're subtracting it from 20!

A mirror!

What turns everything around but does not move?



"How did the early settlers survive without a microwave?"

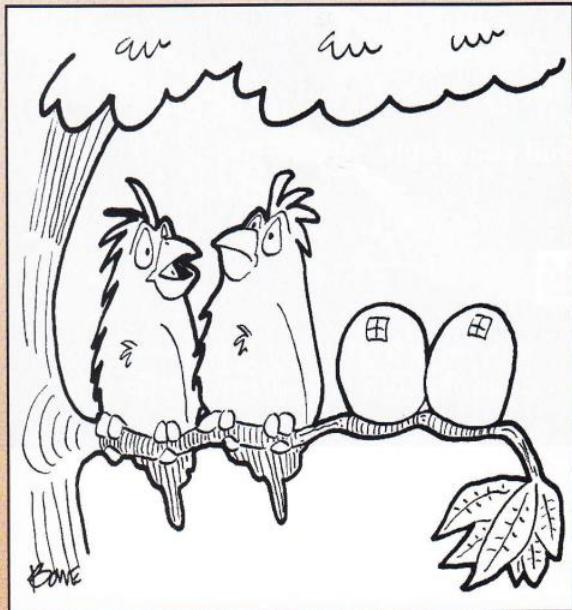
Is your refrigerator running?  
*Well you better catch it before it gets away!*

Did you hear about the fight at the fish shop last night?  
*Two fish got battered!*

What do you add in oil to make it boil?  
*The letter B!*

The maker doesn't want it.  
The buyer doesn't want it.  
The user doesn't see it. What is it?  
*A coffin!*

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?  
*Mt. Everest, it just hadn't been discovered!*



"I don't know how to build a nest, so I glued the eggs to the branch."

*Put ice cubes in her bed!*

*Roosters do not lay eggs?*

*If a rooster lays an egg on top of a pointed roof which side does it roll down on?*

# COMEDY CORNER

## Happy Birthday, USA!

by Guy BELLERANTI

Join other Rangers this July 4th and celebrate our country's adoption of the Declaration of Independence. As a way to get started, try finding the Independence Day words hidden in the puzzle below. Unused letters spell out a Fourth of July favorite.

|             |           |              |         |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| ANNIVERSARY | FOURTH    | JULY         | PICNICS |
| CELEBRATION | FREEDOM   | PAGEANTRY    | SUMMER  |
| COUNTRY     | HOLIDAY   | PARADES      | USA     |
| FLAG        | PATRIOTIC | INDEPENDENCE |         |

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

Fourth of July favorite:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | O | N | E | D | N | E | P | E | D | N |
| O | G | R | K | S | H | O | L | I | D | Y |
| P | A | G | E | A | N | T | R | Y | W | S |
| A | L | S | U | M | M | E | R | L | E | U |
| R | F | R | E | D | O | M | U | I | D | Y |
| A | S | C | I | N | G | I | P | D | O | N |
| D | P | A | T | R | I | O | T | I | O | N |
| E | N | O | I | T | A | R | B | E | L | E |
| S | Y | A | S | R | E | V | I | N | N | A |

Fourth of July favorite: FIREWORKS

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\*729041\*

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|----------|-------------|
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| 63       | 6.6%        |
| 66       | 6.8%        |
| 70       | 7.2%        |
| 73       | 7.6%        |
| 76       | 8.0%        |
| 80       | 8.9%        |
| 83       | 9.7%        |
| 86       | 10.8%       |
| 90       | 12.0%       |