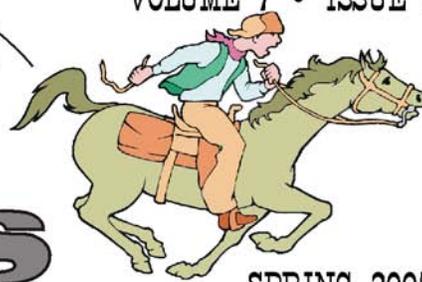




THE PONY CHESS

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FANTASTIC WNTC CAMP

The recent WNTC in Winthrop Maine was the first one on the east coast since 1997. Twenty-five trainees from as far away as North Carolina traveled to the frozen tundra of Maine. The national office had just approved a revised curriculum and our district held the first pilot camp. The staff was top-notch with a combined winter experience of over 50 years of hard-core hiking and camping in the outdoors. Many of those years included working on the professional level in winter search and rescue in the high peaks of the Maine and New Hampshire.

Jerry Love, our district commander, brought a lot of smiles just by being present. He also shared his knowledge of snowmobiles and brought two of his own so that everyone could have a chance to drive one during the snowmobile class. Cmdr Love also shared some of his knowledge in having fun with a sectional field day and had each patrol build a sled. All those who have been around for a while can remember the great time that was had by all during those sectional winter field days. Cmdr Love was also the Chaplain for the weekend and delivered some very thought-provoking and moving devotions.



Jim Spaulding taught a great snowshoeing class

Ken Bustard rounded up the equipment the patrols needed to cook three meals outside and was constantly running off to the store to get the little things that we all had forgotten from duct tape to whiteout. Cmdr Ken showed a true servant's heart. The secrets of conducting his highly successful Maine Yukon Days were revealed during his activities class. Cmdr Ken treated the trainees to a warm place to escape by pitching his wall tent, complete with a working wood stove. What better way to show the trainees an easier and more enjoyable way of

winter camping than the hardcore methods of the camp commander.

Jim Spaulding brought over 10 years of hiking experience, many of those in the winter. Cmdr Spaulding hikes once a month come rain, snow or even the occasional sun. He has hiked all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000 foot mountains, many of them during the winter months. Cmdr Spaulding shows us all that even as you get older you can still enjoy the rigors of winter activities. With his vast experience on snowshoes in all types of terrain he was a natural to teach the snowshoeing

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Ryley Paquette Earns Gold Buffalo

At a recent Council of Achievement for Outpost 11 in Manchester, New Hampshire, Gold Medal of Achievement recipient Ryley Paquette, was awarded his Gold Buffalo. This award is presented to the young man who goes above and beyond his accomplishments as a Gold Medalist. The Gold Buffalo award requires the earning of 5 additional merits beyond the 25 needed to earn his Gold Medal. As of this writing, Ryley is only two merits away from his second Gold Buffalo. Ryley also attended the Regional Ranger of the Year in West Virginia on January 21st, and was awarded the Regional Ranger of the Year medal. (See the article on page 6 for more information about the Ranger of the Year testing.)



District Commander Love presenting the Gold Buffalo to Ryley Paquette

The Pony Express is the quarterly publication of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers, Jerry Love - District Commander. The Pony Express is an excellent way to promote what is happening in your outpost, section and district. We welcome you to submit articles, photos, etc. Please send your articles and pictures to the address found on the back page. Electronic submissions are always welcome. Those should be sent to nneditor@ready-page.com

While a subscription to this newsletter is sent free to the senior commander of each chartered outpost, any offerings to help defray the cost of this publication would be appreciated. If you, or anyone in your outpost would like their own copy, subscriptions are available for \$5.00 per year. Subscription requests may be sent to us at the address found on the back page. Checks should be made payable to N.N.E.D. Royal Rangers.

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Nathan MacGilvary Awarded Medal of Courage

On January 9, 2005, Nathan MacGilvary, a Discovery Ranger from Outpost 11 in Manchester, New Hampshire, was awarded the prestigious Royal Ranger “Medal of Courage” at a special awards ceremony and Council of Achievement. The award was presented during the Sunday service at his home church, First Assembly of God in Manchester.

Nathan saved Leah April from in a pool accident. Leah was only 2 years old at the time of the accident, and did not know how to swim. She jumped into the deep end of a swimming pool and immediately began to struggle. Nathan saw the incident, and immediately jumped in after her, pulling her to the shallow end of the pool and safety.

Due to Nathan’s timely action and courageous response, Leah April is with us today. The National Royal Ranger office in Springfield, Missouri, recognizes Nathan MacGilvary as a recipient of the National Royal Ranger Medal of Courage. Congratulations are in order to this fine young man from Outpost 11 and the Northern New England District of Royal Rangers.



District Commander Jerry Love presents Nathan MacGilvary the “medal of courage”



Nathan MacGilvary, Leah April and District Commander Love

Thank You

The District would like to say thanks to our commanders who are serving in the military around the world. We are grateful to have leaders like them representing our country. We would like to praise God for his hand of protection on Outpost 11’s Commander David

Beecher who has completed his overseas assignment and has returned safely to his family.

By the time of this printing, Outpost 16’s Commander Bob Bussiere should be reunited with his family after serving in Iraq.

Also, please keep Commander Carl Fletcher of outpost 36 in your prayers as he begins an 18 month tour in Iraq.

Rescue on the Mountain

A true story by Commander Dana Lemieux

On February 6, 1994, I retired to bed early at the caretaker's cabin in Tuckermans Ravine, slightly after 9 p.m. I zipped up my mummy sleeping bag, pulled all the drawstrings tight, and quickly fell asleep. Around 9:30 p.m., the two-way radio woke me up. It was 3A, Harvard Cabin, my nearest neighbor. I struggled to get out of the sleeping bag that I had zipped up all the way and had pulled all the drawstrings tight to keep out the cold. Finally, freeing an arm, I responded. I learned that Tim, the Harvard Cabin Caretaker, had heard yelling on the mountainside, and had learned that two people had lost their way. His request was that I go to the top and meet them in the alpine garden. Since I had a landline (telephone), I called our main base and informed them of the current situation. Then I called the weather station on top of Mount Washington, and informed them of the situation, since they are able to assist if needed. They gave me the current weather conditions; a chance of snow, winds of 60 mph, current temperature at +3 degrees F, and a wind chill factor of -29 °F. I would have to be very careful. In those conditions, any exposed skin could freeze in about 10 minutes. With that information, I quickly got ready.

Hitting the trail with my ice axe, crampons, radio, headlamp and other gear, I proceeded up the steep icy trail, climbing over 1,100 feet in 0.7 miles. My cold calves began to burn as my crampons sought purchase on the steep trail. While climbing, Tim informed me that he was on his way up to assist, after convincing the hikers to return to the top to avoid the steep drop-off on that section of the mountain. I continued on towards the alpine garden, while Tim hiked around to

assist. Upon reaching the ridge above the tree line, Tim went down a summer trail. This trail was not intended for winter use, since the trail gets completely buried with snow and is avalanche prone. Tim soon located signs of the lost hikers and contacted me on my radio. The wind was so strong that I had to duck behind a rock to hear what he was saying, but soon was heading back towards Tim. Due to the drifting snow, Tim lost their trail, but was able to reestablish voice contact, and learn that they were heading back up.

“...winds of 60 mph, current temperature at +3° F, and a wind chill factor of -29° F.”

Tim had me bushwhack down the mountain to make physical contact. Sliding down some sections of the mountain, I had to use my ice axe to slow my descent. Over the course of the winter, the small trees became covered with snow, and their branches held up a layer of snow cover making it look firm ground. In reality, there is a large void under the branches, and is referred to as a spruce trap.

I fell into many of these spruce traps, and at times would find myself buried up to my arms pits in the deep snow. After some time, I finally located the lost hikers. They were doing pretty well, though they were thirsty, having used all their water that had not frozen. Taking a break, I shared my water and a few chocolate bars. I learned that they had been out since 7 a.m., after getting up at 4:30 a.m. It was now after 11 p.m. Pat was doing well, but Bob was extremely tired, and was still struggling to go forward. Retracing my steps,



Dana Lemieux

the holes that I had previously made became even deeper the second time, making the drifted snow over our heads at times. I would then have to pull the snow into the hole and pack it down to get out of the hole. Many times I would hook my ice axe onto a nearby tree to help pull myself out. Other times we would use the branches and tops of trees as stepping-stones. After 12 a.m., we finally broke out of the trees and met up with Tim, who proceeded to pass out his water.

After this short break we continued onward, Bob was getting so tired that it would take him a half-minute to answer a simple question, such as where he lived. We continued on the summer trail, thankful that no clouds had descended to our elevation, blocking our visibility. The promised snow was also holding off. Just before reaching the trail junction, Tim took Bob's heavy pack and gave him his lighter pack. Finally reaching the winter trail, I gave fresh batteries to Pat, and Bob changed his as well. With new light, we started the slow trip down.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. we arrived at my cabin where we had a feast of orange cool-aid, country vegetable soup and hot cross buns. At 3:30 a.m. we retired, safe and sound.

Names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Dana Lemieux
NNED Programs Coordinator

class. He also shared his knowledge on how he stays warm during the cold winter days.

Stewart Guay is a deputy ranger in Baxter State Park which contains Maine's highest peak. It would be difficult to find anyone with as much experience as Cmdr Guay. He has lived many winters outside and was the staff's most experienced member. His education includes first-hand experience as well as formal training. Cmdr Guay arrived early and built the snow shelters that were used as models for the entire camp. The instruction received during all his classes was highly professional and full of imperative and up-to-date information.

Dana Lemieux was the camp commander. Much of his winter experience was learned in New Hampshire where he worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club and spent one winter working on the side of Mount Washington in Tuckerman Ravine. During his quest to finish the Appalachian Trail he spent almost two winter months hiking through the snow, finding the trail and

living in the woods. Then he was off to the west coast to challenge the snow and glaciers of the High Sierras along the Pacific Crest Trail.

The camp weather couldn't have been much better. The temperatures were mild with just enough snow to make shelters. The class started on Thursday afternoon and it quickly became apparent that the structure would be a lot looser than at a National Training Camp. Each patrol was assigned a pile of wood and directions to make a sled. This sled would then be used in a race and proved to be helpful in carrying the patrol kitchen to their campsite.

Friday came all too quickly as is usually the case at any national training camp. The trainees began the day with a hearty breakfast provided by the camp kitchen staff at Camp Mechuwana. Classes on winter shelters and winter cooking and nutrition



Wolf Pack Patrol has Jay Woodward from NH.

started the day off. Afterwards the trainees were given the opportunity to practice these skills first hand. Fortunately for the trainees there were some dry patches of ground for the fires. Next came the tents and snow shelters. Each patrol had to pitch a couple of tents and build two different types of snow shelters. That evening after a wonderful devotion the men were given the opportunity to sleep outside in a tent. While many trainees had expressed a desire to give it a try, only few felt up to the challenge after the day's busy activities.

Saturday began with the patrols cooking breakfast outside. They would end up cooking all three meals over the propane stoves. Today, classes included snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and a nature hike out on the frozen lake. Then after one last meal cooked by the patrols outside and a few more classes everyone got ready to spend the night outside. During the night the temperatures dropped to zero degrees F, but everyone survived, though some were warmer than others. Those sleeping on the end of the line next to the shelter wall mentioned that one side was hot while the other side froze.

Sunday dawned bright and clear. Goodbyes were said and after a quick closing ceremony everyone headed back home.



Cross Country Skiing has in furry hat Bruce Paquette from Manchester, NH, Outpost 11.

Ranger of the Year



Congratulations to Ryley Paquette and Adam Forsythe, for being awarded Regional Rangers of the Year. Both young men earn NNED District Ranger of the Year, which was held Saturday January 8th, at First Assembly of God Manchester in Manchester, NH. Ryley Paquette of Outpost 11 is the Adventure Ranger of the Year, and Adam Forsythe of Outpost 36 is the Expedition Ranger of the Year. Both young men moved onto the Regional testing, earning the impressive title of Regional Rangers of the Year.

The District and Regional testing was a learning experience for everyone who attended; Rangers and command-

ers alike. This was NNED's first ROTY under the new program. Next year promises to be bigger and better. Our ROTY coordinator, Rob Cunningham, is developing a Ranger of the Year training packet to help commanders know how to prepare the boys for next year.

Our thanks to all the commanders that came with their boys and those that came just to help. Our hats off to each of you!

You can begin preparing for the 2004-2005 Ranger of the Year by going to the National RR web site and downloading the new requirements for your boys. Contact Rob Cunningham if you have any questions.



ROTY winners Adam Forsythe and Ryley Paquette

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Maine Yukon Day 2005

Our eleventh annual Maine Yukon Day (MYD) reached yet another milestone. This District Winter Pow-Wow has grown each year and become a favored event for many boys and leaders in Northern New England District. We witnessed nine boys accepting Christ as their personal savior.

Thirteen outposts were represented, seven from Maine and six from New Hampshire. This is an interesting statistic, as the first year I coordinated MYD (1998) we had only nine outposts represented, all from Maine. OP #36 from Tilton, New Hampshire was the first NH outpost to participate in 1999. Since then, there has been a steady growth of participation from New Hampshire, despite the long travel and unpredictability of winter weather. This year's attendance of 181 was the highest to date, with 115 boys and 66 adults present. We look forward to the day when we will have a representation from Vermont and even from other Districts.

This year's MYD Top Outpost went to OP #25 from East Millinocket, with Cdr. Kendall Sperrey as Senior Commander. This is only the second year we have had this award. It was first received at MYD 2004 by OP #29 in Bangor, ME where Cdr. Rob Cunningham is the Senior Commander.

The top Discovery Ranger Patrol went to "The Mad Cows" from OP #36 in Tilton, NH. The top Adventure Ranger Patrol went to the "Wraskly Woadrunners" from OP #29 in Bangor, ME. The top Expedition Ranger Patrol was "The Toy Soldiers" from OP #36 in Tilton, NH.

Cdr. Gene Cunningham (OP #29) headed up the Yukon Jack Snowmobile Trek. He was assisted this year by Cdr. Ken Beaufort (OP #21), Cdr. Jonathan Haynes (OP #21), Cdr. Rick Varney (OP #16) and Pastor Tim Haynes (OP #21). Five boys participated, earning their Snowmobile Trek patch.

Cdr. Pat Munsell (OP #33) lead eight boys on the Yukon Jack 10-mile trek. He was assisted by Cdr. Bruce Paquette (OP #29) and Steve Melcher (OP #29).

Cdr. Jim Constable (OP #21) coordinated the Polar Bear Club for the second year in a row. A total of 39 Polar Bear Club patches were earned. This is the first experience for many Rangers sleeping outside during winter months. It has proven to be an effective opportunity for young Rangers to face their apprehension about winter camping and discover how enjoyable it can be.

The Yukon Jack Hunter's Trek was new and improved for MYD 2005. The experience was further enhanced by the fact that Cdr. Dana Lemieux, a.k.a. "hikerdana," oversaw the event and kept both boys on their toes. Two boys endured a 24 hour wilderness survival, with various challenges thrown at them. Sean Munsell (OP #33) and Peter Haynes (OP #21) became only the third and fourth recipients of this final award than can be earned during MYD. Great job guys!

While these were the major events at MYD, awards were also recognized for the fastest dog sled teams for each age group. "Best Uniform" trophies

were presented for each age group. Various Pinewood Derby trophies were presented. A total of thirteen Commander's Awards were presented by the District Commander.

Perhaps the most important and hardest working group at Maine Yukon Day was the four ladies who volunteered to run the kitchen. Irvin Babcock, who faithfully oversaw the Kitchen detail for the several years, has moved to Florida. These dynamic ladies picked up the slack and did a phenomenal job. Sue Haynes, Grace Beaufort, Linda Blomerth and Rhonda Clark took an assortment of donated food and came up with five hot, delicious meals. Ron Daigle and his son Josh were faithful assistants when they weren't running a station during the dog sled race.

Pastor Mark York of the Mattawamkeag Church of God was our Saturday night speaker. He shared a powerful message of the three qualities necessary to be a winner – Consecration, Cooperation and Commitment. Men and boys were glued to his presentation, as he used his background as a prizefighter to illustrate scriptural truths.

In summary, Maine Yukon Day 2005 was a great success. We look forward to 2006 for an even better event. Many great experiences were had, trophies earned and memories forever forged. ***Most importantly, nine boys received Jesus Christ as their personal savior.***

Cdr. Ken Bustard
MYD Camp Commander

District Wide Commander's Meeting and Banquet April 2

Please plan to attend this exciting time of planning and fellowship. The future of our District, and the goals we have set before us, cannot be achieved without the participation of you leaders at the Outpost level.

The conference itself will be a day long event, with lots of information for you to 'sink your teeth into.' Upcoming events, as well as new programs and software from the National Office, will be presented and discussed. If you have a heart for reaching, teaching and keeping boys in your community for Christ, you will not be bored. Throughout the day, there will also be breakout sessions as well as special programs just for the wives.

The banquet will be a special addition to our conference this year, and will be held at one of New Hampshire's premier Inns. There will be a wonderful buffet style meal with light dinner entertainment by the seacoast group 'September.' The dinner will be followed by awards and concluded with a message from our guest speaker, Pastor Wil Canfjin of Cornerstone A/G in Windham, Maine.

Sign up now. Your senior commander will have a full packet of information. Don't miss it!