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Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23

Ad Dare Seivre



FIVE STAR CHAPTER

JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH CHAPTER - SUMMER 2005

FRONTIER TIMES

The Chapter Rolls Are Replenished

The Trapping Company's rolls have been replenished - The Jed Smith chapter took on 28 new frontiersmen. Running from a fierce snow storm and ruthless banditos, the greenhorns survived the Frontier Adventure. The likes of Sweetie, Bam Bam, Bookworm, Dudawus something and others will prove to be good additions to the chapter's fellowship and character.



Speaking of character - we have to commend the heavily out-gunned Abajos on their victory in the Battle of the Socorro Line.

...running from a fierce snow storm

It was extremely good to see Jim 'Two Persons' Ellis, Bruce 'Skinner' Chitwood, and Jon 'Daisy Duke' Dunn.

We celebrated chapter fellowship at the Spring Trace and now we look to the Territorial Rendezvous as the next opportunity to show the mettle of the Jed Smith chapter. Plan on taking some of those new Young Bucks to rendezvous as we head to northern New Mexico to commune with smelly frontiersmen from Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Oak

WCS FCF Project Night Frontier Beds

We will be gathering at Valley Gospel on Saturday, June 11, at 4:00 pm to make frontier beds. If you would like to make an authentic looking frontier bed, bring the following materials:

- 2 1x6 8'
- 1 1x6 10'
- 1 1x6 6'
- 3 1x4 8'
- 2 2x2 8'
- 1 4x4 10'
- 1 3/4" dowel 1'

waterproof wood glue (Titebond II or equivalent), clamps, and 100 grit sandpaper. Check page 4 for pictures of a finished bed. *Pictures - page 4*

Recent Highlights

Cooking Competition Winners

- Paul 'Kitten' Hopkins
- Paul 'Golden Arrow' Hoffman
- Cody 'Spike' Smith

Socorro Line

Abajos

Rio Grande Run

- Jayson 'Young Flame' Kringel
- Julian 'Light Arrow' Leyba
- Riley 'Gadget' White
- Jim 'Two Persons' Ellis

2003 Youngbuck of the Year

Keith 'Silver Arrow' Garrison

2004 Youngbuck of the Year

Cody 'Spike' Smith

2005-5007 Chapter Scout

- Scout - Ray 'Torrito' Del Toro
- Asst. Scout - Keith 'Silver Arrow' Garrison

New Lifetime Members

- Paul 'Golden Arrow' Hoffman
- Jason 'Standing Bear' Hoffman
- Clayton 'Apple' Schwers

Upcoming Dates

- WCS FCF Project Night - June 11
- ECS FCF Project Night - June 23
- Black Powder Class - June 24, 25
- Territorial Rendezvous - July 14-16
- NM Merit Camp - July 18-22
- NM District Pow-Wow - August 5-7

Quick Hits

Buckskinners - Turn in your applications for Wilderness soon.

Pay your dues - \$15 for annual dues or \$150 for a lifetime membership - Sap.

Sectional reps are needed in Northwest and Northwest sections - contact Oak.

Come work on the Range - June 18, 25
Bragging Rights Final - Gadget vs. Oak

A Spoonful ...



Greetings Old timers and Youngbucks,

What a wonderful Trace we had this year. The weather gave us a little scare just before the Frontier Adventure. We survived with 27 new frontiersmen and what an adventure it was. Thanks to everyone that helped with the Adventure.

Congratulations to your new chapter scout, Torrito, and assist scout, Silver Arrow. We had some great Youngbucks running this year. To all of you Youngbucks, keep up the good work and don't give up. You make us all proud that you are in our chapter.

The cooking contest - as far as I am concerned, you all are winners. We have some of the best cooks in our chapter. I feel sorry for the judges trying to pick a winner. Special thanks to the Governor, Little Mountain and Skinner for judging the contest for us. Congratulations to team P, C and P (Paul, Cody and Paul). That was a wonderful meal that you prepared. Like I said before, all of it was good. Keep up the good work. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Rendezvous and sharing a campfire with you. Remember to keep your light shining.

Jim "Spoon" Chappell (happyjtc@wmconnect.com)



Dear Fellow Smithers,

Hey, this past trace was a great success, we had 27 new frontiersmen enter our chapter. I was excited to see how God is really moving in the Royal Ranger program of New Mexico. God

has blessed it because we have not lost sight of our goal, which is reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Jesus Christ. God blesses those who's hearts are in the right place with Him. As a Ranger, I've grown up to see that Royal Rangers and FCF are not only about fun, games, or even winning, but about Jesus and about what He has done and can do for us. Let us not lose sight of the main purpose of Rangers; If we keep our eyes on getting boys to know Christ, then God will bless us tremendously. We still have a lot to look forward to this year; Pow-Wow, Sectional Campout, and Fall Trace - lets keep our eyes on the goal that has been set before us so that we can serve the Master Ranger to the fullest extent.

In His Service,
Torrito

I Timothy 4:12

"Let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, love, in faith and in purity."

Jed Smith Website

www.nmroyalrangers.org/FCF/fcf_index.htm

News, staff, events, recipes, patches, general store, history, pictures, frontier skills, etc

Authentic Rendezvous Camps

In the early 1800s, trade in furs flourished in the American west, based mostly on beaver pelts, used to make the tall, shiny hats of well-to-do eastern gentlemen. At first, the trappers themselves transported these furs from the Rocky Mountains all the way back to St. Louis, Missouri, where the furs were sold or traded for supplies and equipment needed for the coming year. In 1825, the traders figured out there was a lot of money to be made by transporting trade goods to the mountains and trading there for the furs. The trappers, whom we call Mountaineers or Mountain Men, were quite agreeable to this, since many of them preferred life in the wilderness and didn't much care for the long trip back east.

These annual summer gatherings were called rendezvous, and were held at a designated spot known to both trappers and traders. While these rendezvous were intended as a business arrangement, they soon became the trapper's Christmas, New Years Eve and birthday party; a general-purpose annual blowout and trade fair. These rendezvous came to an end about 1840, due in large part to the depleted beaver population in the Rocky Mountains and the changing fashion in hats.

The theme of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship is to be modeled after the pre-1840 Rendezvous era. Recreating the aura of the pre-1840 Rendezvous is often difficult as we rely on modern camping conveniences when we set up the rendezvous camp. It will take some time and money to accurately portray the 'living history' of the Rendezvous camp. Here are a few hints for new frontiersmen or reminders for those Oldtimers.

Tents in the primitive camp must have started life as white or tan canvas. No army green, blue, or any other color of the rainbow in the primitive area. Obviously medicine lodges or tentage with personal decorations are acceptable. Poles must be wood, and stakes should be wood or iron. No plastic or aluminum. No nylon ropes or plastic/metal line tighteners. If you have modern stuff inside your tent and someone can see it, keep the door closed, no matter how hot it is. Make some wooden boxes about two-three feet long and the width of a 1x12 with a hinged lid. Use rope handles. This hides a lot of stuff (like all your cooking cans, boxes, and coolers). As an alternative, you can hide a lot of plunder just by piling it up on the side of the tent and throwing a cotton or woolen blanket over it. A big chunk of white canvas (comes 6 feet wide at the sewing store) also works to hide it.

New rendezvous participants start with enameled cookware as a basic set. Get the darkest blue you can find. The other colors shout "newbie". None of the enamelware is authentic, but over time, has become accepted, especially for beginners. Avoid any and all plastic cookware and utensils. In fact, avoid stainless steel utensils. Have a period mug or cup to drink out of. Open your beverage, pour it into the mug, then get rid of the container. All pots, pans, and skillets should be either tinware or cast iron. No aluminum or painted cookware. Keep all modern cooking dohickys under cover, even when in use. That means paper plates, catsup bottles, baggies, aluminum foil, etc. *continued on page 4*

Special Feature - Frontier Outfits

The Western Mountainman

One of the first things a new member should do after joining FCF is to get started making an authentic frontiersmen outfit. The historical period that FCF members are to research is the fur trade era between 1800 and 1830. The Jed Smith Chapter is in the South Central Region-Plainsmen Territory so the clothing should reflect any mix of clothing that a fur trapper would wear including Mexican and Indian influences. Other FCF chapters wear clothing types that portray the dress of their area such as the eastern longhunter, French voyager, and colonial militia.

Outfits made from cloth are a much more cost-effective way to start. The mountain men wore clothing made from cloth when they began their journey into the mountains. As their clothing began to show signs of wear, they were forced to improvise with the materials that were available to them in replacing their clothing. With no manufactured clothing available and no stores to buy them from, they turned to the only source they could for clothing, Indian trading. The clothing they made was from animal hides such as deer, elk and buffalo. Indian women would make a new outfit of leather to replace his worn out cloth clothing in trade for something of equal value. Suffice it to say that fabric clothing is acceptable to wear. For starters, all you need is a pair of cotton canvas pants and a calico shirt.

Shirts were usually made from calico and called a trapper's shirt, which was a drop sleeve style, usually colorful with large wide spread printed designs. The next most common shirt was a crude, manufactured buckskin shirt in a style much like that of the Indian. The Indian style shirt was not common because that limited him to a certain area with that Indian tribe. When traveling outside of the area and captured by Indians wearing that shirt meant death, when if he was wearing some other shirt could have traded his life for much of his positions.

In cold weather you will need clothing to keep you warm at night. Every mountainman will want to own his own capote. Capotes are nothing more than a thick wool blanket that has been made into a long overcoat. Whitney and Hudson Bay blankets made the most authentic capotes. These blankets can be rather expensive but some FCFers have been known to pay as little as three dollars for one of these blankets.

Belts were usually a made from thick leather and were about 2 to 3 inches wide. They were strong enough to hold up the tools that the mountain man carried with him like his knife and hawk. Woven sashes and matching woven sock garters were less common and usually worn by the French voyager mountain man.

Breeches, Pantaloon, Trousers, and Drawers Trousers were generally straight legged with drop fronts and usually made from linen material. Breeches were knee-length men's garments that fit snugly at the lower edges and had a button or straightened closure just below the knee. These styles of breeches fit somewhat tight in the legs were baggy or loose fitting in the seat and were tightened about the waist by means of a drawstring by a gusset at the back.

Moccasins were and are the most popular footwear. Many different styles of moccasins were used during the fur trade era from pucker toe, to sideseam, to the high boot moccasin of the Plains Indians. The cost can range from a few dollars to over a hundred dollars for a fine pair moccasins. There are also many patterns available if you want to make your own.

The most common hat was the round low crown broad-brimmed, wool felt hat. Sometimes they would even have a silk headband sewn into the interior. They also had fur caps much like the ball caps of today. Usually made of some cheap fur like wolf, fox, raccoon, skunk; but never, beaver or otter. A variation of this hat was bigger and longer, more like a hood. Sometimes using the face and the ears of the chosen animal for the head covering. A not so common hat was one of a full-length animal from head to tail including the paws even though it looks very impressive. Another common hat was the toque, a knitted cap with a tassel at the tip of the hat. No matter which hat was worn, each was made different by decoration or hatband. Feathers, snakeskin fur tails and beads were all used to make a unique mountainman hat.

It will be an enjoyable experience researching the fur trapping era and creating your own frontier persona and outfit.

Useful Resources: "*The Book of Buckskinning*" vols. 1-8, Scurlock Publishing; "*The Frontier Rifleman*", Richard La-Crosse; "*The American Frontier*", William Davis; "*Buckskins, Blades, and Biscuits*", Allan Johnston; FCF Handbook

Next Issue: Accoutrements (powder horns, possibles bag, belts, hawks, knives, beads, etc)



2005 Plainsmen Territorial Rendezvous

The 2005 Plainsmen Territorial Rendezvous will be held July 14th through July 16th at the Whittington NRA Center located just south of Raton NM. The Jedediah Strong Smith chapter has the honor of hosting the 2005 Plainsmen Territorial Rendezvous. This event is right in our back yard so let's plan on having a good representation of New Mexico frontiersmen. Come and join our frontiersmen brothers from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas in a great time of Christian fellowship.

Black Powder rifles are up for grabs for the top Old Timer and Young Buck competitors. Jed Smith will attempt to defend it's top Old Timer and Young Buck titles from the 2003 Territorial.

New Territorial Scouts will be selected. Cooking contests, stump preaching, draughts, shooting, throwing, the timely Trail Walk, patch and bead trading, Praise, Worship - there is something for everyone. Plan on attending. Online registration will be available soon on the SCR Regional Website. Registration will be \$50 for OldTimers and \$40 for Young Bucks. Full facilities will be available at the Whittington center - restrooms, showers, developed camping sites, etc. For more details - <http://scr.royalrangers.net/>

Black Powder Class

We will be conducting a NMLRA Black Powder class June 24,25 at Valley Gospel in Albuquerque. The class will start Friday evening at 6:00 pm through 10:00 pm. The Saturday session will start at 9:00 am through 2:00 pm. The cost will be \$20.00 per participant. Fifteen participants required to conduct class. Make your reservation prior to June 18. For more information, contact Ted 'Oak' Schmidt at 505-890-5464.

Authentic Rendezvous Camps *cont*

Start your fires in the traditional method of flint and steel. Do not use charcoal lighter to start a fire. Set an example for your neighbors, and the Youngbucks in your camp. Keep all coolers and water bottles out of sight at all times. Burlap bags work nice to hide a trash sack or a water jug.

Modern camp lighting proves to be one large eyesore during rendezvous gatherings. Candle lanterns and oil lamps are appropriate. There is little documentation to support that kerosene lamps were ever used in the fur trade. They did not have propane or electric lights back then. You can tell at a glance when they are in use inside a lodge. Remember, if someone else can see it, here it, or smell it, and it is modern, it has to go.

Buckskin Ceremony & Wilderness Vigil

Are you ready to advance to Buckskin or Wilderness? If you have all the requirements completed for advancement, plan on attending a combined Buckskin ceremony and Wilderness Vigil. We are planning on conducting this event in late September. Fill out and send in the FCF advancement application as soon as possible. Check the website for details.

New Smithers

Twenty seven new frontiersmen were added to the chapter rolls after surviving a memorable Frontier Adventure. Congratulations to:

Patrick 'Peppermint Patty' Barajas
 Jeremy 'Frostbite' Campbell
 Trevor 'Peach Fuzz' Chitwood
 Michael 'Monkey Boy' Clayton
 Brandin 'Bam Bam' Cryer
 Roy 'Tree Monkey' Cryer
 Daniel 'Sir Chonez' Diaz
 Doug 'Duduwus' Evans
 Zach 'Pookie Bear' Evans
 John Robert 'Tonka' Granger
 Joseph 'JoJo' Granger
 Ron 'Woody' Granger
 Adrian 'Dawgfood' Gurule
 Daniel 'Mop' Hanz
 Randy 'Churrys' Heras
 Robert 'Flower' Martinez
 Jose 'Mega Mouth' Ortega
 Nathaniel 'Dew' Pfeifer
 Cody 'Sweetie' Romero
 Clayton 'Apple' Schwers
 Norm 'Homer' Schwers
 Robert 'Junebug' Shook
 Allen 'Redneck' White
 Daniel 'Bookworm' Godfrey
 Matthew 'Church Mouse' Godfrey
 Jacob 'Weeoh' Padilla

