

The enturer

A Word from the Southern Region Venturing President:

I have to say that the last few months have been a whirlwind of information and new experiences. I am still settling into my role as the Southern Region Venturing President, but I am happy to say that I am still dedicated to every one of the volunteers and the participants in the program. You guys are the reason that I am doing what I do.

I have been working closely with the Winterfest committee from the Northeast Georgia Council and am happy to report that many changes have occurred. Just a few worth mentioning, Winterfest is now larger and can accommodate more participants as it has acquired the entire facility in Gatlinburg. We will also be able to descend upon the Gatlinburg Gun Club with the help of the NRA. Plus, my personal favorite, a brand new event for Winterfest is a cardboard box regatta. I highly urge each Crew to consider attending the event in February.

Though Venturing always seems about the fun activities, we cannot forget that Gandhi said: "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Scouting is a service oriented organization, and the SR Venturing is the only region to have a charity organization it works for. In the coming months I will be announcing the



organization that will be targeted during my term. I have always found that volunteering is one of the easily forgotten endeavors but one of the most fulfilling. I encourage each Crew to find an organization it feels strongly about and work closely with it.

I'm looking forward in the coming months to continue to strengthen the Area VOAs and promote the program. I have made it a personal goal to hopefully visit each of the Areas this year at least once. I am

pleased with the work that is continuing to happen and the growth of the program, and hopefully over the next year we can exceed the expectations that have been given us.

I must thank you all again for all that you do. Without the support and the drive from you, the Southern Region VOA would have nothing to do. I am here to promote you and can be contacted at sr_venturing_president@rocketmail.com. Do not hesitate to email me, I will do my best to answer your questions and to consider your suggestions.

Thank you and always remember do what's right, do what's kind, and above all do what makes you happy.

Kalla French

Southern Region President 2009-2010

AREA 1

The VOA of North Florida Council puts on an event called Venturing Super Weekend (VSW) every spring and fall of each year. The most recent VSW event was the weekend of September 11-13, 2009 at the Baden Powell Scout Reservation, also known as Camp Shands, in Melrose, FL. The theme for the event was Venturing Olympics. As you can tell with the theme there was a lot of competition between Venture Crews throughout the whole weekend. A few of the many competitions were archery, relay races, volleyball, soccer, a triathlon, canoe race, and greased watermelon, just to name a few. During that

Saturday there were other games and activities to do such as shooting sports, X-treme Course, table tennis, swimming, and open field games. It was an exciting weekend event to participate in. We ate delicious food during the whole weekend, enjoyed the opening and closing campfires, fellowship and made friends with other Venture Crews, earning awards from the competitions, receiving a cool event t-shirt, and so much more.

Amanda Solomons
2008/09 VOA President
North Florida Council

COUNCIL TO SEND FIRST IT'S CO-ED VENTURING CONTINGENT TO PHILMONT

Two hiking crews of 12 will be representing the Mobile Area Council at Philmont in the summer of 2010. What makes this contingent special is the fact that it is a co-ed venturing contingent. The council in its effort to build upon recent successes in the Venturing program has elected to send Venturing Scouts to Philmont as their own group. To commemorate this historic event for the council, a special council strip was designed specifically for this group. As part of the design you can see the Venturing and Scout logos in the background in a subdued ghost effect.

Crew Leaders Manny Rousso and Dr. Tom Sisk are looking forward to the trip. The youth

have begun training for the trip and supporting the effort, the council has also made available a number of trainings.

Thomas M. Sisk, Ph.D.



VENTURING COMMISSIONERS TRAINED.

Thomas M. Sisk:

On Aug. 29th, Scouters from the Mobile Area council traveled to the Gulf Coast Council to participate in Commissioner's College. Of the 11 or so Scouters taking the training, three were Venturing leaders. This represents a sincere effort to attract and train qualified leaders to support the Venturing programs. These volunteer leaders participated in a number of round table like discussions aimed at promoting the program and enhancing communication.



WE FACE SEABASE!! - ALEX BRODIE CREW 106

This June, Venture Crew 106 took the plunge and went diving in the Keys. From the two boats, the Endeavour and the Ciao Bella, we dove various reefs and shipwrecks in the bountiful waters off the Florida Keys. We were participating in the BSA Seabase live-aboard SCUBA adventure, a 7 day experience in which the participants live and dive from a boat geared for SCUBA diving. From the sea life to the pure comfort of the water this was not an experience we will soon forget.



Photo: Left to right, Standing - Jennifer Russell, Jeff Kern, Nate Kern, Katie Brodie, Bill Brodie, Justice Cox, Connor McMullen, Alex Brodie, Ryan Goss, Kyle Snow, Lance Askegard
Kneeling - Ikaika Hamamura, Josh Kern

VENTURING CREWS FROM MOBILE ARE HEADED TO THE SLOPES - THOMAS M. SISK,

Each year Venturing crews from across the council participate in an annual trip to Gatlinburg, TN and try their luck on the ski slopes. Don't let the lack of snow we experience in south Alabama fool you, many of these Venturers are veteran water skiers, and although different, people are surprised to learn the group is from

southwest Alabama. For more information on dates and fees, please feel free to contact the Mobile Area Council Office at scouts@bsamobile.org or (251) 476-4600

FOLEY VENTURING SCOUTS CELEBRATE - THOMAS M. SISK.

After a long summer of planning and work, Venturers of Crew 86 in Foley Celebrated with a much needed dip in the pool. Crew 86 is Sponsored by Saint Margaret's Catholic Church of Foley. The group conducted a number of projects including working with the literacy council, Relay for Life for support of Cancer research and Coastal Clean Up.

The group was recognized with the only two Youth award winners of the Venturing Leadership Award. The group expects to have their first Venturing Silver award recipients by this coming summer prior to Philmont. Most of the youth in this crew also participate in the local High School Marching Band. One of the ongoing projects of the crew is in direct support of an

annual high adventure weekend which is hosted by the Catholic Church. The unit has been awarded quality unit status for the past two years. This crew is home to three Eagle Scouts and is open to all youth who meet the membership criteria set by the BSA.

Don't forget! Anyone can submit stories to the Venturer. If your crew is doing something cool let us know! Please send your articles and pictures with the name of the writer and a crew number or an Area number (or both) to venturernews@gmail.com

AREA 2/3

HELLO FROM AREA 2/3 NORTH. - ALAN JOYCE, CO-PRESIDENT AREA 2/3

It was a busy summer in North Texas and fortunately the weather seemed to be cooler than it has been in recent years. While many of us stayed busy with summer jobs, summer school and summer camp, there were some highlights. Crew 9 from Golden Spread Council, also known as the

Kwahadi Dancers, had a fantastic summer tour in Europe. They kept everyone updated via a blog so that those they left behind could share in their trip. In Circle Ten Council, Crew 25 held a shooting event so venturers could shoot and compare current firearms versus those of the 19th

century. Accuracy was not always at a premium. Over at Longhorn Council they held their annual high adventure camp at Sid Richardson. Now it is time for fall events and school activities. Any crew in 2/3 North who would like to share their adventures with me feel free to contact me.

UPDATE FROM AREA 2/3 SOUTH - CASSIE TUTEN, AREA 2/3 PRESIDENT SOUTH

A gentle breeze blows off Lake Bastrop through pine trees at Lost Pines Scout Reservation in Texas as Sea Scouts from both Sam Houston Area Council and Capital Area Council gather for the first annual Minto Rendezvous. Knot-tying, Snark-sailing, nomenclature, first aid and many other activities challenged the scouts. About 30 youth participants competed and tested their skills at the first Minto Rendezvous which was hosted by Capital Area Council. Additionally, Chelsea Dubose was recognized at the Bridge of Honor for achieving the rank of Quartermaster.

Activities like this have been going on all over Area 2/3 since spring. Kodiak X for Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) took place over this past Spring Break at El Rancho Cima. Over the summer,

SHAC sponsored another Kodiak, July 12-18, where many of the Kodiak X graduates participated on staff. A month later, SHAC was sponsoring their first major Sea Scout/Venturing activity, the Venturing Summit, where a total of 248 people attended. The month of September has been very busy with a different council doing something each weekend. September 5-7 was the Minto Rendezvous, mentioned above, followed by Capital Area Council's (CAC) annual Venturing is Happening event at Lost Pines Scout Reservation on the 12th. This will be considered the third time CAC has hosted this event. September 19th, Longhorn Council hosting their Venturing Summit. That weekend is also the Koch Cup Regional Qualifier in CAC at Lake Travis. Throughout

the month, the adults will enjoy their time with Longhorn Council's Powderhorn, September 11-13 and 25-27. Since last year's devastation from Hurricane Ike, Bay Area Council has been rebuilding. Thanks to their efforts, Safety at Sea is still going to take place, but the date is still uncertain. What IS certain is that Safety at Sea will happen sometime in 2010, along with the Sea Scout Academy. These are just a handful of the events that scouts and adults are enjoying throughout the area.

Thank y'all for all of your hard work and dedication in Area 2/3. I know the long drives and gas prices have many staying closer to home, but you always find some way to support the program. Let's keep up the awesome work.

To the Presses!

Are you doing something news worthy? Write about it! We need articles, pictures and updates from Areas, Councils, Crews and Ships! If you send pictures please give names of people pictured. We also love ideas and contacts for people who are "In The Know"! If you have an idea please pass it on to Sarah Polan at venturernews@gmail.com



AREA 4

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL VOA - CASEY J. REASE, STAFF ADVISOR

Our VOA is made up entirely of youth from Crews, Ships and Teams all over the West Central Florida Council. The goal of the VOA is to share ideas for venturing activities and training. They will also be planning council activities designed specifically for Venturers. The VOA's first meeting was held on August 26th at Camp Soule where officers were

elected by their peers. Congratulations to the new VOA president Andrew Mills from Crew 337, Vice President Damara Stanton from Crew 337, Vice President James Ronacher from Crew 484, and Secretary Jackie Wehling from Crew 484!

The next VOA meeting will be held at Camp Soule on October 14th at 7pm to discuss a

Venturing Camporee early next year. For more information, please contact the VOA Advisor Lisa Howden at LHowden@pscufs.com or the Staff Advisor Casey Rease at crease@bsamail.org or 391-3800. We look forward to seeing you there!

FLORIDA HAPPENINGS - MICHAEL R. BROWN

• Venturing Crew 2125 of Gulf Stream had a great adventure this past summer. There was an article about it in the Palm Beach Post and it was reprinted in the Gulf Stream council newsletter here: <http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/news.asp>

• Gulf Stream Sea Scouters are hard at work organizing the 2nd annual John Leasor Memorial PB Sea Scout Regatta in November, as well as the Florida Koch Cup Qualifier.

• In South Florida, their VOA has been re-organized and is working on several upcoming events. They are under the leadership of Mercedes Brandt, President and Lillian Arguelles, VP, and under the advisement of Michael Brown, Council Venturing Chair and Michelle LaNeve, Staff Advisor. They will be kicking off their program year at their first Council Venturing Roundtable in September. Events include the 11th annual Venturee in January

and VLSC training at University of Scouting, among others.

• South Florida had their first Silver Award recipient of the year in August: Krystle Carmona of Crew 2021. Krystle is hard at work on getting her Ranger award before she ages out in November. We have another young lady completing the paperwork for this award as well, so we should have at least two award recipients this year.

VENTURING SWITCHBACK PANTS NOW AVAILABLE FROM NATIONAL SUPPLY

National Supply recently introduced Switchback pants for Venturers. These comfortable pants feature legs that can zip off to turn them into a pair of shorts for situations when the weather is warm or the wearer simply wants a little extra freedom of movement.

Boy Scouts and Scouters have been able to buy them for field uniform wear for

several years now, and they have frequently complimented them for being lightweight and having plenty of pocket space and loops to hold knives, wallets, and other gear during meetings and while out in the field.

Venturing uniform guidelines do not require crews to adopt the official uniform, but those who do choose to wear it are

encouraged to check out the new Switchback pants. They are available for \$59.99, plus shipping from www.scoutstuff.org or through your local council service center or Scout shop.

By Jeff Justice
"The Venturer" Adviser
Texas Trails Council

The Central Florida Council VOA has been very busy over the last several months. They coordinated and ran their first event as the VOA - Summer's Last Bash. There was a lot of fun with the shooting sports and climbing wall, and also with the fair type games and swimming.

There were movies on both Friday night and Saturday night. When the weather turned bad for a few hours, we passed the time with board games. Saturday night we had an awesome luau complete with the limbo, dance competition, and a large water slide. This was truly a remarkable event!

Central Florida Council also hosted their first Kodiak August 2 - 8. Participants had a water themed week with swimming, tubing, canoeing and kayaking. There was even a day for biking. The Friday night campfire was touched off with cake and ice cream as we exchanged contact information and reminisced about the week's events. This was a very good leadership training course and several of the participants are looking forward to serving as next year's staff. Kodiak X will be coming up on October 23rd - 25th and final preparations are being made for it.

The VOA is proud to welcome Danielle Goad as the Council

Boatswain. Our VOA meets every month and invites all Crews and Ships to join on the even months. Our September meeting will be at Panera while we continue our plans for an upcoming Venturing Summer Camp week at our own Camp LaNoChe. This is set to take place the last week of summer camp in July, 2010. We are also putting together a contingent to attend Winterfest.

Sondra McCulloch
ACC Venturing, CFC
Crew 550 Advisor
VOA Advisor

GULF RIDGE COUNCIL VENTURING - JOEL JONES

Venturers enjoyed a weekend of team competitions in March, 2009 culminating in our very own cooking competition based on the cooking show "CHOPPED". With the assistance of our volunteer professional chef, Dewayne Maxwell, teams were provided with baskets of food from which they had to prepare meals to share with all participants. No traditional camp food from these Venturers, take a look at the food that was prepared.



AREA 6

IN MEMORY OF A FELLOW VENTURER

In late May, tragedy struck the Lincoln Heritage Council in Area 6. Breck Young, LHC's VOA President, Eagle Scout, Silver Award Recipient, and a dear friend of scouting, was killed in a car accident. Breck was a great scout who started a Venturing crew, kept his troop going strong, and stepped up to the challenge of running our local VOA when I accepted the office of Area 6 President. He was also awarded the Venturing Leadership Award at the

council level for his efforts to improve Venturing council wide. He was even dedicated enough to be buried in his tans and even the wool socks according to his mother. In spite of his passing, Breck's spirit follows each of us every day as we spread the joy and good deeds of scouting. All of us here at LHC know that he is looking down at us, still as proud as ever to be a scout.

AREA 7

KODIAK X STANDS FOR EXTREME! - ANN MEYER



Occoneechee Council held it first KODIAK X course over the weekend of May 29th-31st with a total of 12 participants. All but 1 participant were from either the Summer or Winter KODIAK courses. Occoneechee Council put on in

the final 2 commissions -for a total of 7 - to their leadership skills; Evaluating Performance and Mentoring. Each participant wrote a personal commitment to mentor someone, whether it is someone in their Crew/Troop or someone they are involved with outside of Scouting. They set a date by which they will contact that person and wrote down several ideas on how they are going to help mentor that person.

2008. We were very blessed to have an out of council -- better yet, an out of region -- participant who hailed all the way from Champaign, IL and had taken his KODIAK course at Philmont last Summer. Jacob has attended the Kodiak Course Directors Conference with his parents and is now prepared to take KODIAK and KODIAK X in his own Council.

The big highlight of the weekend - outside of the challenge scenarios - was participating in indoor skydiving at Paraclete XP SkyVenture <http://www.paracletexp.com/>. Everyone, staff included, enjoyed 2 1-minute simulated 13,000 foot free fall flights in a HUGE wind tunnel. The tunnel averages wind speeds of 110 -190 MPH! It was exhilarating and something none of us will soon

Arrival started with the participants setting up their personal gear and some getting reacquainted time with "getting to know you" games. Saturday was a day of leadership challenges which rather than focusing on team building was focused on individual leadership skills. Each participant took turns leading their team through a challenge scenario where at the end the team gave feedback to the leader on his/her leadership skills using 3 key questions.

During the weekend the participants added



AREA 8

LAST FRONTIER COUNCIL UPDATE - JOHN HURT

The Venturing members of the Last Frontier Council have participated in many events this year. Several Crews participated in the Venturing Rendezvous at Camp Wisdom Texas back on April 3,5. The days events were shooting sports including (pistol, black powder and rifle), blacksmith shop, canoe tug-a-war and a campfire.

Other events:

- Fourteen members completed their VLSC training and 7 Adult Leaders completed Venture Leader Specifics at Camp Kickapoo.
- Crew 67 of Choctaw Oklahoma made the Philmont trip this summer and completed the Kodiak course while on their trek. (See picture at right).
- Many of the Council Venturers served on staff for Slippery Falls Scout Ranch Summer Camp 2009 teaching scout skills to 1,387 boy scouts.
- The District held a Venturer Luau at Camp Kickapoo during August. The was a large crowd there to enjoy the special events and the

roasted pig with all the trimmings.

- The District will camp as one at the upcoming Last Frontier Council Centennial Camporee on Oct 23 thru 25 in Oklahoma City. Special events will be conducted specifically for the Venturing members.



The schedule of publication for The Venturer is as follows.

- ◆ September 1st 2009
 - ◆ Stories Are Due August 16th
- ◆ December 1st 2009
 - ◆ Stories Are Due November 16th
- ◆ March 1st 2010
 - ◆ Stories Are Due February 16th

Please send articles to Sarah Polan at venturernews@gmail.com



FORT SMITH, AR - BRYAN FEATHER

This summer Steven Feather of Crew 400 (chartered to Central Christian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas) completed his Eagle Scout project. His project was to build a 30'x60' multi-use building in the Village of More Tomorrow located in the jungles of Belize Central America. This facility will be used as a church, preschool, medical facility, and will also serve as a hurricane shelter for the residents of this village and the surrounding area.

Planning began in December with a meeting between Steven and Randy Gaither, a missionary serving in Belize. Once a project was decided upon, approval from the Eagle Board of Review was sought. After the approval was granted, the planning and fundraising began in earnest. Over the course of the next several months engineering drawings were completed, materials lists developed, a construction team recruited, and the funds were raised to complete the project.

Steven arranged to have the foundation laid during the dry season so that it would be ready for

the building when his team arrived on July 19th to begin construction. On July 20th at 6 AM, the team of over 30 volunteers were organized into crews assigned to moving cinder blocks, mixing mortar, mixing concrete, laying blocks, constructing trusses, and managing water that had to be transported from the Belize River nearly a mile away. Once everyone had their assignments, the progress began. By the end of day four, all the walls were complete with rebar and concrete reinforcement and a solid beam around the top of the building had been poured with hurricane clips installed.

On Friday, the fifth day of construction, the trusses were raised. The supporting boards and metal roof were completed over Saturday and in the afternoon on Sunday. After seven days of work the project was complete.

The Venture Crew is already planning a return trip to this village next summer and looks forward to the opportunities that will occur because of the relationships built through this project.

AREA 9

AREA 9 UPDATE - JOHN WASHBURN

The Area 9 VOA developed the first environmentally themed Kodiak course, which was approved by NE GA Council. This course takes place at Stone Mt. Park, with the assistance of their environmental education staff (who were already Venturing Advisors – of course!) The outdoor options include visiting multiple habitats; learning to identify reptiles, amphibians, native plants and butterflies; and potential Hornaday projects such as removing exotic invasive plants and monitoring waterways. If members of your Crew are interested in participating in an environmental Kodiak course please contact the Area 9 President, Catherine Roth.

Atlanta Area Council Venturers celebrated the end of summer with a lock-in at Mountasia.. Eighty participants enjoyed fun and fellowship from midnight to 6am in go-carts, at the arcade, and on the miniature golf course. The pizza was plentiful

and the evaluations ranked it as one of the Council's best Venturing events ever.

More activities are on the AAC Venturing calendar, including VLSC/VSLT training in September, a geocaching event at Woodruff on October 3rd, and the annual Venturing Leadership Awards Banquet on Jan. 27th.

Congratulations to Hannah Irions, the new VOA President in Greater Alabama Council. Hannah and other Venturers played a major role in staffing Greater Alabama's summer camps. The VOA will conduct a VLSC in September, and are partnering with GAC Exploring for the "Birmingham After Dark" event in Dec.

NE GA Council Venturers made a Great Escape to Rainy Mountain.



The Southern Currents

SOUTHERN REGION SERVICE PROJECT 2008-2009 - JOHN WASHBURN

The 2009 Southern Region service project is staffing the outdoor events of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and this presents a special opportunity for Sea Scouts. We get to volunteer for the Leukemia Cup Regattas!

There are four more Regattas in the Southern Region this year: September 19-20 in Birmingham and Savannah, and Oct. 2-4 in Charleston and Austin. (There are also Regattas left in VA that take place within the boundaries of Councils in the NE Region. They might be more convenient for some of our northernmost Ships, and you can get

the dates from the website: http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/regatta/all_page?item_id=140458.)

We help with set-up, registration, meals and silent auctions on shore, and crew in the races, set markers and do photography on the water. These regattas are awesome ways to share our skills and help a great cause, while creating goodwill for Sea Scouting and having fun on the water.

Crews that enjoy sailing and power boating are also welcome to join us. Check the website for contact information.



The American (pictured left) sails on Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City, OK.

“Ship 131's main plans for this fall are to attend the Last Frontier Council's Centennial Camporee. We took possession of another boat this summer, a Catalina 22 and plan to trailer her to the event after we get her cleaned up and ready to show. "Psalms" needs some new lines, trailer tires and scrubbing and she will be ready to go.” According to Skipper Kenna Green of Ship 131.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP - JOHN WASHBURN

Don't forget the International Coastal Clean-up! It is sponsored each year by the Ocean Conservancy and this year's event is September 19th.

The International Coastal Cleanup is not just an ordinary "shore sweep" for several reasons. First of all, it is the largest volunteer activity of this sort in the world, and secondly it is worldwide. Another important detail is that inland waterways are included in the "coastal" cleanup, to stop debris from flowing downstream and ever reaching the coasts. Maybe the most important aspect of the International Coastal

Cleanup is that it collects more than trash – it also collects information and someday that information may make shore sweeps unnecessary.

The information is used in several ways. It helps policy makers know where to focus their attention... and where to put your tax dollars! It gives industry leaders data they use to improve their manufacturing practices, and make their products less likely to show up on the shore. It helps volunteer organizations know where to put their efforts. Collecting information changes a shore sweep from a "one shot

deal" to an effort with lasting impact.

You can learn more about the International Coastal Cleanup at the Ocean Conservancy website: http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc_home. You can also find a clean-up near you, or propose a clean-up on a different date, at the website: <http://www.signuptocleanup.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Projects.Main&CFID=5551655&CFTOKEN=58684549>

When you participate, remember to make some photos for the next issue of The Venturer.

COMMODORE BARRY EKLE

At the BSA Annual Meeting in May, the Southern Region presented the Silver Antelope Award to Barry Ekle, who currently serves as the Southern Region Sea Scout Commodore. This award, one of only 38 presented nationally this year, is given for extraordinary service to youth within one of the four regions of the BSA, and is limited to one award per 30,000 registered adult leaders.

Commodore Ekle started down the Scouting trail as a Cub Scout in Fort Lauderdale, eventually earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He was dynamically involved as a youth member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Society, serving on committees, as a lodge officer, and ultimately Section Chief for the state of Florida.

As a unit leader, Barry formed a High Adventure Explorer Post

and has led 5 contingents to the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico. Working as a coach/trainer in Ceremonies and Publications, Barry has provided



support and training to Arrowmen at both Section and National OA Conferences for over 30 years. After a 15 year involvement with High Adventure Exploring, Barry headed out into the open waters of Sea Scouting. After Venturing

was formed in 1997, Barry was asked to serve as the Area Venturing Chairman and began to serve on both the region Sea Scout and Venturing Committees. In 2007 he began his current role as the Southern Region Sea Scout Commodore and member of the National Sea Scout Support Committee.

In addition to his involvement in Scouting, Commodore Ekle maintains a very active role in his church where he serves on several major committees and as a lector. His fondest Scouting memories include seeing his nephew advance to the rank of Eagle Scout, leading a group of Sea Scouts who hiked across the Grand Canyon, and being a part of the Scouting's national service project last summer, ArrowCorps5, which mobilized 4,000 Scouts and leaders working for a week in 5 different national parks.

MINTO RENDEZVOUS - BARRY EKLE

Ahoy all!

This past weekend the 2009 Minto Rendezvous was hosted jointly by the Capital Area and Sam Houston Area Councils at the Lost Pines Scout Reservation near Austin, Texas.

I was fortunate to be able to attend and to report that they did an excellent job.

The Rendezvous events included many of the traditional Sea Scout competitions but with some new ones too. One of the new items added was the Blind Man Canoe Challenge, with the stated purpose of demonstrating team work and having fun and the teams that competed did just that! After donning PFD's and blindfolds, an onshore crew leader would relay paddling directions.

Often times the commands of the crew leader would be joined by others, which lead several times to the inevitable "brace for impact" advice.

Another interesting event was a walk through Rules of the Road & Aids to Navigation activity where a series of buoys and markers were laid out in approximately a 15' x 25' area representing channels, shipping lanes, several vessels, and open water. Being able to walk about the venue allowed for

various scenarios to be played out. This also provided an opportunity to run what-if situations in a more interesting format than the standard word problem method.

Of special note during the event was a Bridge of Honor that was held on Saturday night. Several Venturing awards were presented at the ceremony: two Gold Awards and a Venturing Silver Award. But the highlight of the ceremony came with the presentation of both the Southern Region Venturing Leadership Award and the Quartermaster Award to Chelsea DuBose, who is our immediate past Southern Region Boatswain. Chelsea, who now attends school in Indiana, also served last year as a key member of the Southern Region Venturing Officers Association. The Quartermaster Award (only the 12th one earned nationally so far this year), was presented to her by her father, Skipper DuBose of the Sea Scout Ship Phoenix. Both her mom and dad were justifiably proud.

A BRAVO ZULU to Council Commodores T.W. Cook and Dan Wilson, along with Douglas Hearn, for planning, executing, and delivering this outstanding event.



SARAH POLAN

Sarah is the Editor-in-Chief for the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff

JEFF JUSTICE

Dr. Justice is the volunteer advisor to the newsletter.



INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING - PETE ARMSTRONG

International Scouting and Venturing, ONE WORLD, ONE PROMISE, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

There is so much going on in World Scouting, and you as a Venturing Scout have the opportunity to participate in one or more of many great opportunities.

Remember to take up World Friendship Fund collections of pocket change at every Venturing event above the Crew/Ship level. That includes Forums, Roundtables, special events, etc. It's really simple to do: you can pass a hat, put a collection can at the registration table, or have volunteers stand at the doors at the end of events. Then, just give the money to a Scout professional to send in. If you need more information about The World Friendship Fund, go to <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/International/Highlights/22-329.aspx>, and check out the reproducible brochure at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/wff.pdf>. This is probably the most simple and direct way for you to become active in World Scouting. It is done locally in your home council and has impact far beyond what you may imagine. Just recently BSA made a grant, funded with these contributions, to Scouts of Mongolia to build a new Scout camp.

How about a trip to Mexico over this year's winter break. The Pan America Jamboree is looking for participants. Contact your council's

International Representative for information. This is a quick trip south of the border and it is INEXPENSIVE!!! Act now, it is only three and a half months away.

Jamboree on the Air and more recently Jamboree on the Internet are two long running world-wide annual fun days, bringing Scouts together without having to travel. On October 17 and 18 Scouts all over the world will be communicating by radio and on the internet in a variety of languages. They share information and news about their lives and about Scouting. The theme this year is C3: Climate Change Challenge. The official websites tell you how to join the fun: <http://home.hetnet.nl/%7Ekavao4un/index.htm> and <http://www.joti.org/en/>. If you think you don't have access to a ham radio set-up to participate in JOTA, think again! The Amateur Radio Relay League will make it possible: <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>. A recognition patch for participants is available through the International Department, BSA.

Sweden 2011 is only 23 months away. The Jamboree site is a mere two hour train ride from the Copenhagen International airport. It is a former military field with lots of open space and a spacious natural bowl forming the meeting area. The Swedes have practiced in this area with several national events and they are exceptional hosts. Weather promises to very comfortable during this time

of the year in southern Sweden. We are hoping to build multiple Crews and hopefully a Ship from Southern Region. Registration is only available on-line through www.scouting.org. Follow the links at My Scouting. It costs only \$10 to submit the initial application.

For those with general interest, contact your council International Representative and ask to be nominated for the standing list maintained in the national office. There are always opportunities arising and the national staff needs a pool of qualified and council approved applicants.

Want to travel and work? European Camp Staff Program offers two month opportunities during summer months. These positions are WITHOUT pay, but upon completion of your contract you are reimbursed at least 50% of your transportation costs. Kandersteg International Scout Center in central Switzerland offers year round opportunity. Their contracts are for three months, a whole new staff each quarter around the calendar. Again WITHOUT pay but up to 50% of transportation cost paid after completion of contract. Korea Scout Association has started a similar program and has one camp in the Southeast part of the country. There is a stipend for this employment plus travel assistance. Again, your International Representative is the key contact for these opportunities.