



VENTURING VIEWS



Volume 2, Issue 6

Venturing Crew 1100

September 2003

Crew Open House

Can you picture your friends hiking/camping in the Shenandoah Mountains, climbing Old Rag, skiing the snow covered slopes and exploring wild caves in West Virginia, cycling the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, kayaking on the Bay, or canoeing for a week through the remote wilderness of northern Maine along with you?

Please invite your friends to our Crew's Open House to hear more about how you can participate in these exciting activities and be a part of the Venturing program. Our Open House will be **Thursday, September 25th**, from 7:30 until 8:30 PM at the Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA. At that time we will have crew members talk about our various activities, to include some neat pictures, and answer any questions. We will also have a display of some of our equipment and refreshments.



Calendar

Sep 4	Meeting at 7:30
Sep 11	Meeting at 7:30
Sep 18	Meeting at 7:30
Sep 20	Spirit of America/Dinner
Sep 25	OPEN HOUSE
Oct 2	Meeting at 7:30
Oct 9	Meeting at 7:30
Oct 16	PARENTS' MEETING
Oct 17-18	DC After Dark
Oct 23	Meeting at 7:30
Oct 30	Crew Leaders' Meeting
Nov 6	Meeting at 7:30
Nov 7-9	Venturing Hike-o-Ree
Nov 13	Meeting at 7:30
Nov 15	Scouting for Food
Nov 20	Meeting at 7:30



Salem College Corner

By Maria Olivieri

Hi everyone! It is a little strange to be writing to you all in a college corner. It seems like yesterday I was there with you all and not so far away. But college is going great. Everyone is friendly down here and the weather just got really nice. If only I did not have to do schoolwork and if only my mom worked in the cafeteria, things would be perfect, but they're not so bad the way they are. I went camping last weekend in Pisgah National Forest and it was great. I wish you all could have been there around the campfire with me though. I was thinking of you. I miss you all and can not wait to get up there and visit, looks like Thanksgiving will be the first time I get up there. I hope everything is going great and that Eric is being nice to you all. Let me know if he's not. I know where he lives;) I love you all! Maria:)



Crew Web Site

Venturing Crew 1100's website is www.crew1100.com. Please bookmark this site. The crew roster is posted here, protected with a password. Newsletters, forms and flyers, and other information can be downloaded from this site. If you have any additions, changes, or suggestions for the website, please contact Mrs. Gray at 703-455-1425, crew1100@troop1100.com. Thanks. And, yes, the crew has an email address, too!

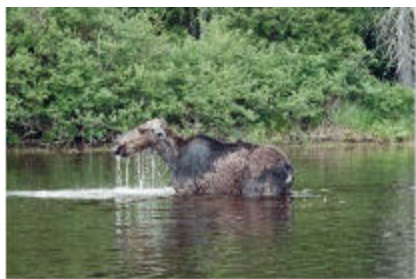


Sam McKee Earns Bronze Award

At our crew awards ceremony on July 31st, Sam McKee was awarded the Venturing Bronze Award for Religious Life and became only the second member of Crew 1100 to earn the Venturing Bronze Award. Sam, a member of Burke United Methodist Church, has been an active member of Crew 1100 and an active participant in her church's religious and educational programs. To fulfill the requirements for this award, Sam's accomplishments included earning the God & Life youth religious award, repairing homes in North Carolina, leading a week-long youth camp for children from low-income families, teaching Sunday school, and participating in other church programs and activities.

Sam is a 2003 graduate of Lake Braddock High School. She has been active in the crew for the past two years and has served as the crew's secretary and activity chair for various events. In addition to her Venturing interests, Sam was an honors student at Lake Braddock, a member of the marching band, Latin Club, Latin and National Honor Societies, and other organizations. She has also been active and a regular performer with the Burke Community Ballet. This fall Sam will attend the University of Tennessee where she will major in nuclear engineering and be a member of the UT marching band. In the future, Sam hopes to continue her affiliation with the crew and to participate in crew activities as her schedule permits.

Congratulations Sam! We are all proud of you and thank you for representing our crew and our community so well. Thank you for what you have given to our crew and good luck with your university pursuits.

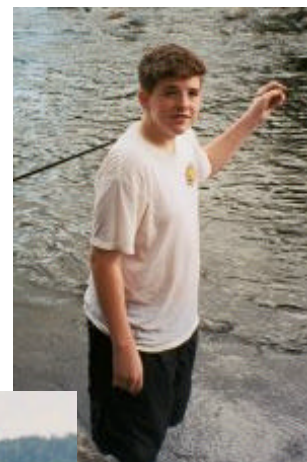
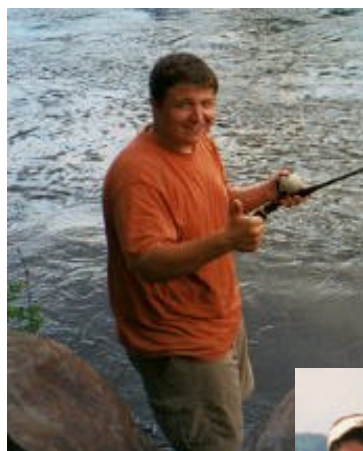


New Crew Officers & Officers' Seminar

Congratulations to our new crew officers. On 14 August, the crew elected its officers to start the 2003-2004 Venturing year. Our new youth leadership is **Crew President Eric Eichelberger**, **Vice President for Programs Will Zivich**, **Vice President for Admin Devin Gray**, **Secretary Anna Sproull**, and **Treasurer Chris Colton**. The crew has given their vote of confidence to our new officer team and we all look forward to their leadership as we begin our third year.

And then on August 28th, the crew president assembled his new team for the annual officers' seminar. The crew officers' seminar is a training and planning seminar for newly elected officers. This important seminar provides leadership training for officers and develops the crew's program of activities for the year. Mr. Melchior and Mr. Meehan facilitated the seminar as the newly elected officers reviewed officer duties and responsibilities, the crew's vision, mission and by-laws, and finalized the 2003-2004 crew calendar. Officers also had the opportunity to learn about leadership and discuss different techniques and procedures. Your officer team is prepared and ready to lead the crew in another exciting year.

(The Moose? Oh, he's just a friend from Maine and a reminder to our new officers that adventure always waits just around the next bend.)



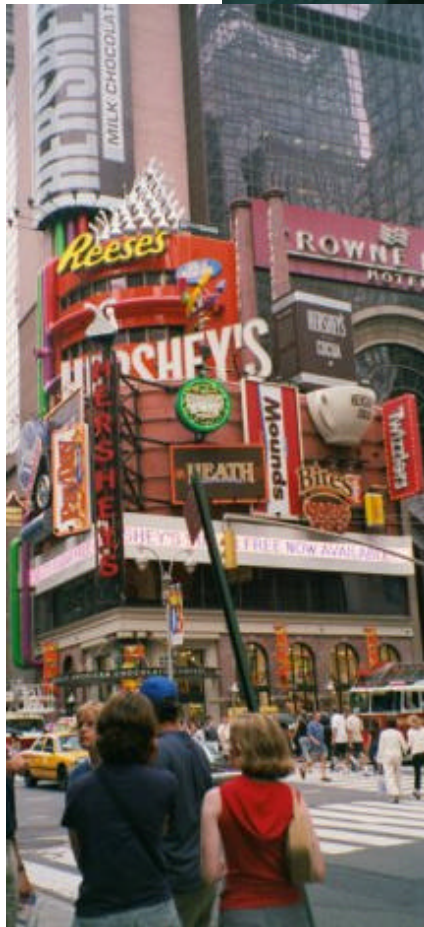


Senior Members Recognized

At a special ceremony on July 31st, Crew 1100 recognized seven senior crew members who had recently graduated from local high schools. **Erin Benedict, Kim Bertrand, Bryan DeRosa, Sam McKee, Maria Olivieri, Matt Robison, and Jennifer Wolf** have all been active participants of Venturing Crew 1100 and have contributed immeasurably to the success of the crew. And these same members have distinguished themselves in school, church, and community activities. It was bittersweet to recognize the accomplishments of these outstanding young men and women and to recognize what they have given to our crew while saying farewell to those leaving for distant colleges and universities. The crew has been truly blessed by their presence and their participation in past crew activities and events.

Among this distinguished class of seniors were charter crew members and officers, youth ministers and organization leaders, school and community servants, and an incredible wealth of talent and energy. It would be an impossible task to quantify the total service provided by this collective group or their contributions to the church, school and community. Each has been a very special person in all of our lives and we will miss them dearly. But this special ceremony was not about farewells, but about recognizing our seniors for their accomplishments and thanking them for their contributions. Hopefully we will see many of them back for crew events/activities during vacation periods or as their schedule permits for those remaining in the area. After all, they have the example of graduates from 2002, **Matt Jackson and Erin Gray**, to imitate.

To recognize their membership in the crew, each was presented a special certificate designed by Crew Committee Chair Mrs. Cass.



New York City – What an End!

By Erin Gray

One day we were in the North Woods of Maine in the Allagash wilderness – the next day we were in the wilds of New York City. Phew! Talk about culture shock! Our crew stopped in NYC on the way home from our Maine High Adventure trek, and camped out at Fort Hamilton, right under the Verrazanno Narrows Bridge.

We arrived at night, set up our camp, and then prepared for a fun day in the city. We visited Ground Zero, the Empire State Building, Times Square in both daytime and at night, Central Park, Rockefeller Center, the exhibit at Sony, Chinatown, Little Italy, and Greenwich Village. Our transportation was primarily subway and walking...the best way to see the town. It was exhausting but LOTS of fun.

A big Thank You to Col. John and Molly O'Dowd for allowing us to camp on the hill outside of their quarters at Fort Hamilton.



Maine High Adventure 2003

By Matt Jackson, Crew Leader

On July 9, 2003, Crew 1100 set out for our 2003 high adventure trek to northern Maine where we planned to hike Mt. Katahdin, Baxter State Park, and to canoe Maine's remote and scenic Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Prior to our departure for this trek, the crew conducted nearly six months of training and preparation.

Departing Nativity Church, the crew drove to Boston, MA the first night and stayed in the Marine Barracks at the Charlestown Navy Yard. That evening the crew went into Old Boston and ate at the historic Quincy Market. The next morning we hiked a portion of the Freedom Trail, touring Bunker Hill Monument and the USS Constitution. Upon leaving Boston, the crew drove north on Interstate 95 stopping in Freeport, ME to visit the L.L. Bean flagship store before arriving at Baxter and setting up camp in Adirondack-style lean-tos at Roaring Brook Campground. That night after a delicious supper everyone slept well with cool weather and the sound of the roaring brook.

The next morning, after breaking camp and breakfast, we began our hike from Roaring Brook for Mt. Katahdin by way of Chimney Pond. With great views of the peaks along the way, we barely noticed the slight drizzle that had begun to fall. By the time the crew reached Chimney Pond, the weather was turning for the worst. After taking refuge in a lean-to near the pond and watching the storm, we decided not to go further and chance the slippery rocks and heavy winds that would only get worse as we got higher up the mountain. And so with a nice hike to our credit we hiked back to the trailhead, loaded the cars and drove to Millinocket where we stayed in a local church.

The next morning started with a delicious breakfast buffet and then a three-hour drive along logging roads into the North Maine wilderness to our starting point at Churchill Dam. Arriving at the dam, we picked up our canoes and pushed off on the Allagash River and Chase Rapids, a four-mile stretch of rapids and the only significant whitewater of the trek. For this particular stretch we were able to have our gear transported around the rapids by the Ranger at Churchill Dam. And so after meeting the ranger at the end of the rapids, we loaded our gear into canoes, had a leisurely lunch, and then pushed off again down the river. Along the way we saw three moose grazing in the river. Arriving at our first big lake, Lake Umsaskis we paddled the 4-mile length of the lake and set up camp at Sandy Point, a nice point overlooking the lake. Dinner and a campfire were next, followed by a sound sleep in our tents.

After breakfast the next morning, we pushed off and entered 8-mile Long Lake hoping that the wind would be blowing the right direction for us to sail. It was and so we rigged up a sail with our dining fly and leisurely sailed the length of Long Lake. Portaging around Long Lake Dam, we continued along the Allagash River to Round Pond. Along the way we fished and saw another moose. At Round Pond we found a campsite occupied by some young women on a 3-week outdoor trek and were invited to use the empty site adjoining theirs. After setting up camp and supper, we enjoyed their company and played cards together while watching the beautiful moon over Round Pond.

The next morning we pushed off with our companion group intent on hiking to the Round Pond fire tower across the lake, but when we arrived at the trailhead we found that it was closed and so opted for a leisurely breakfast at the next available campsite. That day we slowly paddled down the

Allagash and stopped early to camp at Cunliffe Camp. There we found a large campsite in the woods and a great stretch of river for swimming and floating, which we did the rest of the afternoon. After dinner and a campfire it was off to bed.

The next morning we awoke to find that Will, Mr. Melchior and Mr. Colton had gotten up earlier to fix hot blueberry pancakes for breakfast. After breaking down camp, we set out again and soon checked out of the waterway with the ranger station at Michaud Farm. Further downriver we encountered Allagash Falls and were required to portage 1/3 mile around the falls, which the crew did in record time of 36 minutes (causing Mr. Melchior to lose a bet between us). Below the falls, we had the opportunity to do some "rump-bumping" in the fast flowing water. Pushing off again, we canoed to our next night's camp at East Twin Brook, which we also shared with another youth group who gave us some freshly baked brownies that they had cooked in camp. After a fire and cards, it was off to bed in preparation for our last day on the water. On the water again, we passed through the village of Allagash and entered the St. John's River for the last 10 miles of the trip. Though the water was shallow in places, we made it through and even got to navigate some really exciting rapids. Arriving at our final destination, Pelletier's Campground, St. Francis, ME, we unloaded the canoes and headed 1/2 mile down river to the Canadian border. We disembarked on Canadian soil, took a picture, and then headed back upstream and upwind to the campground. That night everyone enjoyed a hot shower and loaded up on junk food and soda at the general store. After a bit of rain, we cooked our last trail dinner and talked about our adventure until it was time for bed.

Early Thursday morning, we got up, broke camp, posed for our official crew picture overlooking the St. John's River and loaded the vehicles. We left St. Francis, ME behind and headed south for that night's destination of New York City and eventually, home. It had been another super high adventure and we all felt a great sense of pride and satisfaction over our accomplishments.



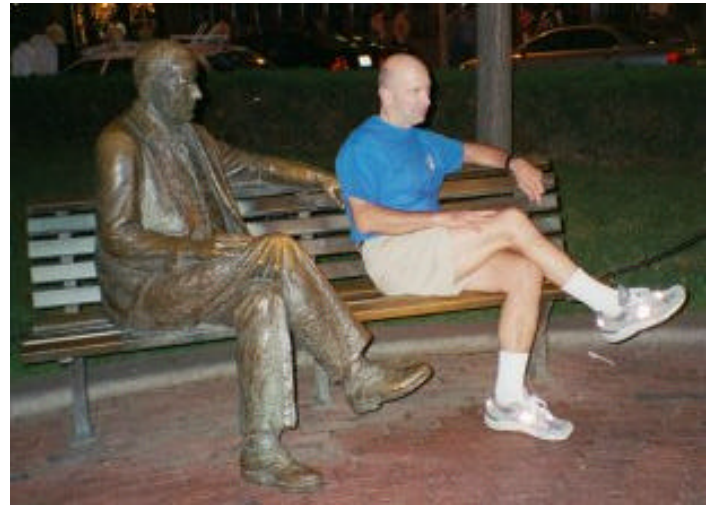


President's Corner

By Eric Eichelberger

Thank you Crew 1100 for giving me the opportunity to lead the crew into the future. I know that the next six months will be a lot of fun, even though there is much work to be done. One reason that there is so much work to do is to make up for all the members and friends that we lost to college. We know that you all are going to be hard to replace. Now that the new school year is beginning we need to get to work and have some fun. I know that the Crew Open House will be another great activity and will give us an opportunity to showcase our crew to new prospects. It will be worth every bit of the hard work we put into it, and our upcoming crew activities will provide us new opportunities for adventure and fun.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone again, and I look forward to the many fun and memorable times ahead. We have a wonderful crew, but we are only as strong as our individual members. We have a great 2003-2004 calendar of activities and hope that everyone will support and participate in as many as possible. See you on the trail.



Advisor's Minute

Reflections by Mr. Melchior

Leadership in Venturing

Congratulations to our new officer team for 2003-2004 and best wishes for another great year. I look forward to working with each of you as the crew enters into its fourth year. From that initial "First Nighter" in October 2000, Crew 1100 has enjoyed unprecedented success and provided a balanced program of outdoor activities, leadership opportunities, service projects, and social events all intended to enhance each individual's mental, physical and spiritual fitness.

The *Venturing Leader Manual* says leadership methods include group activities, adult association, recognition, high adventure and teaching others. As I look back over the past year, I would have to say that Crew 1100 certainly has promoted these leadership methods and the spirit of Venturing. Group activities have been many and varied, from skiing to caving, cycling and canoeing; the youth of our crew have many outstanding adults who are excellent role models and mentors; we have awarded two bronze and one gold Venturing award; we have taught the troop Leave-No-Trace, skiing techniques/safety and safe swim defense/ safety afloat; and finally the crew had an outstanding high adventure trek to Maine this summer.

A final note. Each of our crew members is a leader whether as an elected officer, activity chair or teaching a skill. Outside the crew, Venturing youth are leaders in their school, church and community. This leadership experience is only one aspect of the Venturing program but is an important life skill as the youth of today become the leaders of tomorrow.

This and That

By Mrs. Gray

A lot of our crew members have recently gone off to college. They have left a wonderful example for the rest to follow, as Erin and Matt have before them. So, the crews has only a partial calendar, waiting for your input. Think of it as a blank slate. What worked in the past that you would like to repeat? What didn't that you would like to avoid? What new experiences would you like to take on as a crew? Now is the time to make your voice heard, so we can plan another first-rate year. COME BE A PART OF THE PLAN. BRING YOUR FRIENDS to the OPEN HOUSE on September 25th - no scouting experience required, remember.

Thanks to all for a tremendous past year, and here is to the future. Whoo hooo.

