



VENTURING VIEWS



Volume 3, Issue 2

Venturing Crew 1100

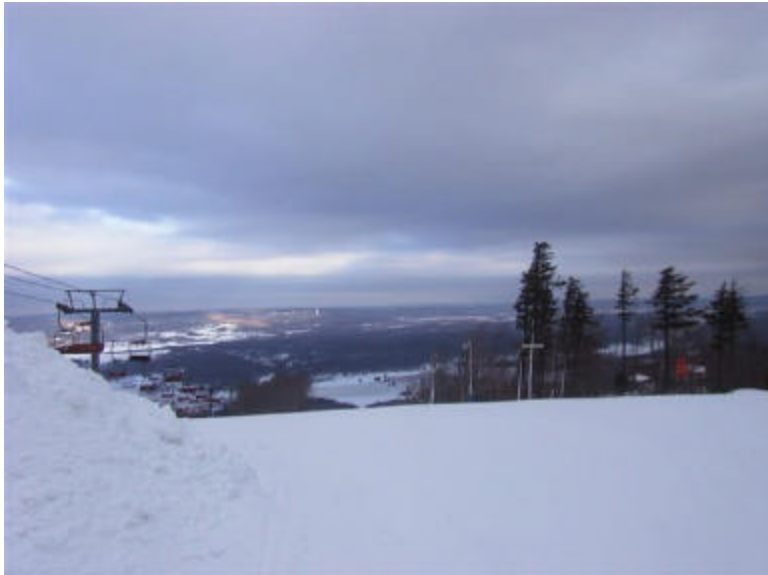
December 2004

Ski, Ski, Ski

The Crew is going on two ski trips this season, as in the past. The first trip is a Crew excursion to the Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania, a first time for the Crew, and planned by Bryan DeRosa. It will be an action-packed weekend, as we are staying at a rental house nearby, skiing for two days, and snow tubing on the last day. Join us for a winter adventure!

The second trip is a joint Boy Scout/Crew trip to Timberline, West Virginia. We have been going there for the last few years, so we know what we're getting into! The bunkhouse is not much to talk about, but the price is right, and it's right on the slopes. This trip is usually a lot of fun for all participants.

As the song goes, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



Calendar

Dec 2	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 9	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 12	Soldiers' and Airmen's Home visit
Dec 16	Dinner at 7:00 – Christmas Party
Dec 23	NO MEETING
Dec 27-29	Ski Seven Springs, PA
Dec 30	NO MEETING
Jan 6	Meeting at 7:30 (Ski/Cold Weather)
Jan 13	Meeting at 7:30 (VLSC #1)
Jan 20	2005 Inauguration Support
Jan 21-23	Ski Timberline, WV
Jan 27	Meeting at 7:30 (VLSC #2)
Feb 3	Meeting at 7:30 (VLSC #3)
Feb 6	Scout Sunday
Feb 10	Meeting at 7:30 (VLSC #4)
Feb 17	Meeting at 7:30 (Caving)
Feb 24	Crew Officers' Meeting
Mar 3	Meeting at 7:30 (Caving)
Mar 4-6	Caving Outing
Mar 10	Meeting at 7:30 (LNT)
Mar 12	CPR/First Aid Training
Mar 17	Meeting at 7:30 (LNT)
Mar 31	Crew Officers' Meeting
Apr 7	Meeting at 7:30
Apr 14	Meeting at 7:30
Apr 15-17	Crew Outing (TBD)
Apr 21	Spring Parents' Meeting
Apr 28	Crew Officers' Meeting

Crew Web Site, Email

Venturing Crew 1100 posts a website at 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, or send an email to crew1100@troop1100.com. Additionally, any help would also be appreciated. Thanks.

Most of the information about Crew 1100 activities is distributed via email. If you are not receiving these email messages, or if there is a problem with the email address used, please advise Mr. Melchior at MelchiorR@aol.com, or your current President, Eric Eichelberger, at UofM1587@aol.com.



Scouting for Food

Well done, and thanks to everyone who helped distribute Scouting for Food (SFF) bags, and then pick them up. Again, Crew 1100 distinguished itself by contributing to the annual SFF campaign.

We canvassed approximately 400 homes in the Burke area, and collected 155 bags representing well over 1400 pounds of food. Congratulations, and well done Crew 1100!

Participants included youth **Chris Barnett, Matt Barry, Bryan DeRosa, Eric Eichelberger, Devin Gray, Megan Jaster, Valerie Jones, Brendan McEnerney, and Zach Siders.** Adults included **Mr. Barnett, Mrs. Cass, Mr. Eichelberger, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Melchior, Mr. Siders and Mr. Zivich.** Special thanks goes to Mrs. Cass for her organization of this activity and **Sean Gray** from Troop 1100 for his assistance.



Dolly Sods Backpacking

By Bryan DeRosa

On October 2-3, 2004 Crew 1100 hiked/backpacked through West Virginia's remote and scenic Dolly Sods Wilderness. On Saturday morning, 2 youth and 5 adults backpacked into the wilderness area, passing through thick mountain laurel and along gorgeous stream banks. About a half a mile in we had to cross a stream/river and it was quite deep; we took our boots off and safely crossed.

Our campsite Saturday night was close to the summit of Breathed Mountain where Mr. Cass conjured up one of his famous meals. We feasted on soup, stuffing and chicken. While at this campsite, which was pristine, we practiced our leave no trace skills ranging from spreading our tent sites out to hanging a bear bag. On Sunday morning we started our climb to the top of Breathed Mountain.

On the way out we once again came across the roaring stream and we crossed again as we had on Saturday, but this time the water was freezing and deeper. We then got to the cars and headed home. On this activity we also welcomed back Mrs. Gray to the wilderness, and she has not stopped ever since. Participants were youth: **Bryan DeRosa** and **Brett Livingston**, and adults: **Mr. Barnett, Mr. Cass, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Melchior and Mrs. Gray.**

Fall Parents Meeting

On Thursday evening, October 21st, forty-six crew members and families gathered together for the Crew's semiannual Parents' Meeting. Beginning with a delicious potluck dinner provided by the families, the program included a review of the crew's activities over the last six months and recognizing several of our members.

Accompanied by a slide presentation, crew members told everyone about the good times had by the crew: rafting the Cheat River and canoeing the Shenandoah in May, going to North Carolina's Outer Banks in July, the high adventure trek to New York's Adirondack Wilderness in July, and backpacking West Virginia's Dolly Sods Wilderness in October. Crewmembers **Patrick Toy, Brendan McEnerney** and **Brett Livingston** were recognized for having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and crewmembers **Eric Eichelberger, Zack Siders, Devin Gray** and **Anna Sproull** were recognized for their service as officers to the crew over the past 6 months. **Bryan DeRosa** and **Erin Gray** were also recognized for organizing the crew's first beach outing.

The final award of the evening was to recognize **Anna Sproull** with the Venturing Bronze Award for Religious Life (see separate article in this newsletter). Thank you to everyone who participated and made for another highly successful Parents' Meeting. The crew's spring Parents' Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 21st, where we will hopefully see all of our families again.

Anna Sproull Earns Bronze Award



At the crew's fall parents' meeting, Anna Sproull was awarded the Venturing Bronze Award for Religious Life. Anna, a member of Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church in Fairfax, has been an active member of Crew 1100 and an active participant in her parish's religious and educational programs. To fulfill the requirements for this award, Anna's accomplishments included earning the Girl Scouts of America Spirit Alive Award, participating in Diocesan work camp, attending a religious retreat, leading high school age youth in Bible study, and volunteering in her church and community. She is an officer and active member of St. Leo's Youth Leadership Council where she currently serves as the Communications and Marketing Chair.

A junior at Paul VI High School in Fairfax, Anna has been active in the crew for the past two years and has served in leadership positions as the crew's secretary, vice president for administration, and activity chair for various events. In addition to her Venturing interests, Anna is an honors student at PVI, a member of the art, chess and gaming clubs, a member of the model UN, National Honor Society, and other organizations. In addition to her school interests, Anna's quest for outdoor adventure has taken her hiking in Blue Ridge Mountains, canoeing local rivers, exploring wild caves in West Virginia, and learning to survive in the wilderness. As a Girl Scout and Venturer, she has participated in a wide variety of outdoor activities, served extensively her church and community, and demonstrated outstanding leadership and support of her various clubs and organizations.

Congratulations Anna! 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 in the past, and we look forward to your continued support and friendship in the future.



NCAC Disaster Exercise

By: Anna Sproull

In October 2004, 16 Scouts from the Northern Virginia area gathered for the NCAC Venturing Disaster Exercise. Representing our Crew were **Mrs. Cass, Anna Sproull and Kat Chelpon**. The day's activities at the Fairfax County Fire Academy began indoors with instruction on disaster scene assessment and the order of response. The Scouts were divided into groups where they then went outside and learned to triage and distinguish critical victims from 'green-tagged' victims. They also were taught evacuation procedures and various rescue techniques including duct-tape first aid. After lunch, a disaster was announced and the groups responded to their assigned perimeters. With over 70 live victims dressed with wounds and in position, the first responder Scouts, with the assistance of Fairfax County and Prince William County fire fighters and rescue professionals, evaluated the scene. Victims had to be marked and successfully evacuated from three burn buildings, a large rubble pile, overturned vehicles, a bus and a train. After a successful afternoon with all victims safely evacuated, the Scouts are prepared if the need arises.



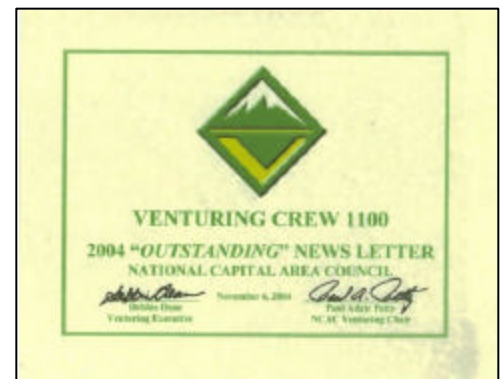
Venturing Crew 1100 Recognized for Excellence

For a second consecutive year, the National Capital Area Council recognized Venturing Crew 1100 for excellence in both communications and overall program. Annually, the National Capital Area Council invites Venturing crews to nominate outstanding individuals and units for recognition in a variety of different categories – Best Newsletter, Best Website, Best Fund Raiser, Outstanding Sponsor, Outstanding Venturer, Outstanding Advisor, Venturing Leadership Award, and Outstanding Crew.

Awards are normally presented in the spring at the annual Venturing Rendezvous, but this year the awards were delayed until the fall Hike-o-ree, which for Crew 1100 was good news in that we had 18 crew members present to witness the awards presentation (and to watch Eric try to come up with an outstanding service project; if you weren't there ask Eric to explain ?) Also, for a report of Crew 1100's activities at the Hike-o-ree see the separate article that appears in this newsletter.

During the awards presentation, **Crew 1100** was recognized as having the Council's **Best Newsletter**, which should come as no surprise to anyone who has seen our quarterly newsletter co-published by the crew and Mrs. Gray. And for the evening's best-in-show award, **Venturing Crew 1100** was recognized as the Council's **Outstanding Crew** for the 2003-2004 Venturing year.

The above awards are indicative of the high quality of Venturing Crew 1100's program and the individuals who make up our crew. Without the collective support of each of our members, none of this would have been possible. Our program exists to support each member and his/her participation and enthusiasm in our various activities demonstrates the character and strength of the collective crew. The crew continues to distinguish itself through an active program of awards, service, and outdoor activities, and a record of participation in all District/Council-level Venturing events. Congratulations to everyone for your outstanding performance and support of the Venturing program.



Crew Delves Into the World of Ethics

By Maria Olivieri

Discussing ethics is no easy task, but crewmembers faced the challenge on Nov. 23, 2004 during their first ever Ethics Forum.

Crewmembers Will Zivich and Maria Olivieri organized and hosted the event to fulfill one of their Silver Award requirements. The event featured panelists Miss Catherine Maloney and Mr. Jack Oliva.

Maloney and Oliva began with their backgrounds and their own definition of ethics. As the forum continued, crewmembers asked questions and were challenged to think seriously about ethics. Maloney and Oliva emphasized the importance of ethics as a part of you that is always there and that you must always be true to. They encouraged crewmembers to take into account appearances and the different dimensions of situations and ethical decision-making.

Ethics were discussed within the realms of sports, media, business, and politics. To conclude the event, Olivieri and Zivich gave their own insight into ethics within their lives and the college world before thanking everyone and inviting them to enjoy some refreshments.



President's Corner

By Eric Eichelberger

First, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. I hope everyone gets to spend lots of meaningful time with their families and friends. I also hope that we all get to spend lots of time together this season. We will kick it off with our very fun Christmas dinner to Damon's, followed up by the ever popular ski trips (Yes, trips, more than one! I know everyone is happy to have another winter packed full of skiing!). While we are having fun we should also be thinking of others. The visit to the soldiers home was a great way to this and I know everyone, especially the soldiers. I hope we can also continue to be so cheerful and helpful through out the season and year. Have a happy holidays and New Year. See y'all next year!



This and That

By Mrs. Gray



This past quarter has been a blast, and I want to thank everyone for my "smooth" transition back into action with the Crew. I realize you can function perfectly without me, but I sure did miss participating in all the activities with each of you. Now we have skiing, caving, canoeing, and all of our other favorites to look forward to.

This time of year always brings to mind the things we are truly thankful for, so I hope each of you are spending time with your families and friends, carrying on old traditions and creating new ones.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and I hope the New Year is filled with all good things for each of you.



Advisor's Minute

By Mr. Melchior

Let Us Give Thanks

With Christmas rapidly approaching, it is a time of the year to reflect upon our many blessings and to give thanks for the many things we enjoy in life. It just seems appropriate at this time for me to briefly recognize the many reasons we have to be thankful within the crew.

We are blessed within Crew 1100 to have a wonderful group of young people who enjoy having fun together and who live their daily lives to the fullest, rich in value and strong in character. We are blessed to have an extraordinary group of adults as advisors, committee members and parents who also enjoy having fun together and who provide incredible support to our crew. We are blessed to have had the support of our church and our community by promoting our Venturing program. And we are blessed to have had the opportunity over the year to explore new areas, meet new people and open our minds to the environment in which we live.

Thank you to the crew members who have brought tears of joy to these old eyes watching you ski down a snowy slope, scramble up an underground silo, paddle through a fast rapid, play in the surf, carry a canoe two miles over a remote portage, or hike/backpack along a mountain trail. And thank you to the adult leaders and parents who have provided leadership and supported the crew so superbly. We are what we are because of all of you.

God bless and Merry Christmas.