



VENTURING VIEWS



Volume 4, Issue 4

Venturing Crew 1100

December 2005

Ski Trip

Crew 1100 is going on 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, whether you are new to skiing, trying snowboarding, or are quite the pro.

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

Contact Mrs. Gray (703-455-1425) for more information. We'll see if we can squeeze you in.



Crew Web Site, Photo Site, Notices

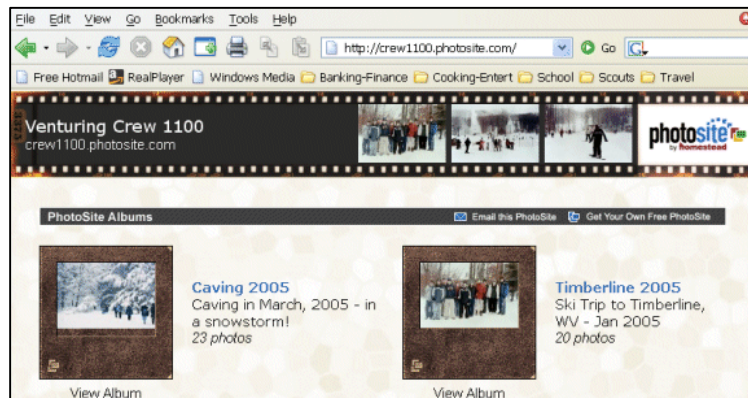
Venturing Crew 1100's website at www.crew1100.com also has photos posted of our activities. Click on the link from our website to view and download photo albums of your favorite trips. If you have other Crew photos you would like to share, or ideas about the website, please send them to Mrs. Gray at crew1100@troop1100.com. 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 President, Anna Sproull, at alamarang@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your support of your Crew!

Calendar

Dec 1	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 8	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 10	Soldiers/Airmen Home
Dec 15	Crew Social
Dec 22	NO Meeting
Dec 29	NO Meeting
Jan 5	Meeting at 7:30
Jan 12	Ice Skating Social
Jan 19	Meeting at 7:30
Jan 20-22	Ski at Timberline
Feb 2	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 5	Scout Sunday
Feb 9	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 10-12	Caving in West VA
Feb 16	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 23	Crew Officers' Meeting
Feb 25	University of Scouting
Mar 2	Meeting at 7:30
Mar 9	Meeting at 7:30
Mar 16	Meeting at 7:30
Mar 23	Crew Officers' Meeting
Mar 24-26	Crew Outing (TBD)
Apr 6	Meeting at 7:30
Apr 13	NO MEETING
Apr 20	Meeting at 7:30
Apr 22	Crew Day Hike (Tentative)
Apr 27	Parents' Meeting



Venture Hike-o-ree

By Megan Jaster

It was a GREAT time for a Hike-o-ree when over the weekend of 4-6 November 2005, nine youth/adults from Venturing Crew 1100 participated in the 16th Annual Venture Hike-o-ree held at the Front Royal 4H Center, Front Royal, Virginia. This annual event has been drawing over 400 Venture-age scouts to the Shenandoah Mountains each fall for the past sixteen years. The annual Hike-o-ree, which promotes high adventure, includes a two-night encampment, one of sixteen day hikes in the mountains, and two evening programs featuring different high adventure activities.

This year was Crew 1100's fifth continuous year of participation in the Hike-o-ree and is the crew's longest running activity having been regular participants since forming the crew in 2001. In the past, the crew has hiked the trails of Jeremy's Run, Hazel Mountain, Little Devil's Stairs, Thornton Hollow, Thorofare Mountain, and this year returned to a perennial favorite, Jeremy's Run. Jeremy's Run is described as one of the most scenic trails in the Northern District of the Shenandoah National Park. The trail is beautifully forested and follows a stream that is a continual series of cascades and pools. For whatever reason, this year was also a year of significant color and a temperature that was perhaps the warmest we have had on a hike-o-ree. The scenery was beautiful and the trail relatively easy as the crew descended down from the ridgeline and linked up with Jeremy's Run in the valley. From there it was an enjoyable lunch along the stream and a moderate hike out of the valley back up to the Skyline Drive and the cars. It was a great day to be on the trail and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time in the mountains.

On Friday and Saturday evenings the Crew, along with other participants, was treated to several excellent high adventure presentations and enjoyed a camp-wide cracker barrel. At the Saturday evening campfire, Crew 1100 was one of six presenters discussing various high adventure programs available to Venturing crews. With pictures and commentary, Crew 1100 presented their two different high adventure treks to New York's Adirondack Wilderness and recommended that crews looking for a convenient, low-cost, rewarding summertime high adventure trip should consider the Adirondacks.

Again this year, the crew enjoyed a great weekend of fellowship and physical exercise. The weather was superb and everyone had a great time hiking and camping in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Congratulations and well done to **Chris Barnett, Sean Gray, Megan Jaster, Bob Toner, Danny and Alaina Sproull, Mr. Cass, Mrs. Gray and Mr. Melchior**. We are all looking forward to returning next year and taking on another challenging hike.



Assateague Camping

By: Anna Sproull

On September 30th members of crew 1100 set out on a new adventure. We arrived well after dark at Assateague National Seashore campgrounds. After setting up camp on the sand in a nice, slightly hidden area, we finally settled in for the night. On Saturday morning we awoke to the neighing of the Assateague ponies.

After breakfast we headed out to the Seashore Visitor Center where we had the opportunity to view a movie of dune life, learn about sea creatures, and hands-on in a touch tank. Next we walked across the bridge, which connects the mainland to the seashore, where we were able to experience the wonderful views and marshes. We also were able to learn about marsh life as they walked along the Life of the Marsh Nature trail.

During the afternoon, we could be found playing on the beach which was just a dune away from our campsite. The water was quite pleasant and we enjoyed some great waves. After a scrumptious dinner of hobo meals, we hung out on the beach around a bonfire. Under a beautifully clear sky painted with stars we laughed, told jokes, and listened to a few camp stories. By the time the fire simmered down we were sad to have to leave such a peaceful place.

On Sunday we broke camp and stopped by a nearby church in Ocean Pines, MD. Finally back at Burke, many of us longed to go back to the beach and none of us were soon to forget the day of fun and friendship we shared together. The crew's participants include youth **Sean Gray, Barbara Lundquist, Anna Sproull, Bob Toner, and Katie Wurdack**, and adults **Danny and Alaina Sproull, Maureen Gray, Bob Melchior and Debbie Wurdack**.



Parents' Meeting

By Katie Wurdack

The Parents Meeting, held on October 20 this year, was another success in the story of our Venturing crew. We reminisced upon past events and remembered all the good times we had had together in the past months. The slideshow presented allowed us to recall all of the adventures we had and we soon became hopeful about all that were soon to come!

The Venture crew members who came enjoyed making dessert for the parents who were glad to eat it! The members used past learned experience with Dutch ovens to cook the food. The atmosphere was very happy and joyful. The sounds surrounding were of laughter and chatter between friends both old and new. The night was one to remember and an enjoyable night for all!



Scouting For Food

Service Project in November

Since 1910, the ideals of Scouting have guided young men to perform "service to others and to the community." Responding to the plight of America's poor and hungry is a traditional Scouting "good turn." During World War I, Boy Scouts planted vegetable gardens to provide food for the hungry. President Roosevelt called on Scouts to collect food for the needy during the Great Depression. Planting Victory Gardens were the Scouting "good turns" organized during World War II. Today, Boy Scouts continue their Good Turn efforts in community stewardship through Scouting for Food.

This year, the crew had about 500 homes in its area, and collected over 200 bags of food, each holding 8-10 items. Between distributing the bags on Thursday night, and collecting the bags on Saturday morning, we had 22 participants. Thanks to all involved, as your support will help many needy families in the community.



Armed Forces Retirement Home

By Erin Gray

First begun in 1994 as a Troop 1100 holiday service project, the annual visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) has become a holiday tradition that always attracts a large number of Scouts, and more recently, Venturers. This year was no exception as Troop and Crew 1100 joined together on Saturday, December 10th, to journey to northern D.C. and the AFRH. While there, troop and crew participants were able to spread some holiday cheer through their conversation, songs, and delicious Christmas goodies. As usual, some residents were more receptive than others to the Venturers' attempts to brighten their days. (Ask about the slammed doors!) This year participants had the opportunity to visit even a larger veteran population as many residents from the Navy Retirement Home in Gulfport, MS, were moved to AFRH after Hurricane Katrina.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home is a retirement community specifically designed for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Established in 1851 as the Soldiers' Home, AFRH is located on 276 acres in the heart of Washington, DC, and is a historic landmark in its own right, having served as temporary residence for four U.S. Presidents to include Abraham Lincoln. Today, retired veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who reside there call it home and receive the best of medical treatment in a supportive and caring environment.

The troop and crew's annual holiday tradition has grown each year and includes parents, siblings and oftentimes prior unit members (like me!) who return to the area for the holidays. This year's group was much larger than previous years, which was due in part to the early date of the caroling expedition. It has become one of our most enjoyable projects. Most residents enjoy sharing their military experiences with Scouts and in return each is captivated by the many stories of distinguished service to our Country. Many residents are the last remaining veterans of our Nation's "greatest generation," and their record of service leaves an indelible mark on the young people who are fortunate enough to visit and spend some time with them.



DC After Dark photo by Sean Gray

DC After Dark

Nationals vs. Mets, Sept. 24

Each year the National Capital Area Council (NCAC) for Venturing puts on a fall program for all the Venturers in the area, as a get-together and ice-breaker. This event is called DC After Dark. This year, the outing was a trip to RFK to catch a baseball game between the Nationals and the Mets. Even though the Nats lost, a lot of spirit was shown by the crew, and especially Katie and her friend with matching tees a poster held high to show support.

In attendance were youth **Katie Wurdack** and friend, **Barbara Lundquist**, **Megan Jaster**, **Devin Gray**, **Sean Gray**, and **Chris Barnett**. Adults included **Mr. Melchior**, **Mrs. Gray**, **Mr. and Mrs. Cass**, and **Mrs. Wurdack**.



College Corner

By Maria Olivieri

Naturalist and conservationist John Muir once said, "The mountains are calling and I must go." Old Rag Mountain near Nethers, VA, has been calling our names for a really long time, and we finally decided to heed its call.

A college contingent including **Bryan DeRosa**, **Eric Eichelberger**, **Will Zivich**, and I (**Maria Olivieri**) sacrificed the opportunity to sleep-in on our first day of Thanksgiving break to join **Mr. Melchior** and finally climb Old Rag together. Luckily the sun was shining bright, although it was cold and we encountered some ice along the way. It was a long trek back and forth across the side of the mountain, but we finally made it up to the rock scramble.

As we scrambled across the rocks, we made a few friends, took lots of pictures, and inevitably missed our exit for the summit. We backtracked to get up to the top and enjoyed our lunch in great company surrounded by the beautiful Virginia wilderness.

After lunch, we headed down the mountain's less steep and rocky Saddle Trail, pausing to enjoy the view or explore the shelters. We thought the fire road would never end, but it did – right after a detour to Will's previous "swimming hole" and an incident involving Bryan's well-known Yankees hat. We made it back to the car, proud of ourselves and a job well-done.

Naturally, we had some traffic to sit through before we could get home, but we finally made it. It was a great day and an adventure that everyone should have at least once in their lives. Old Rag is calling your name, too... when will you go?



President's Corner

By Anna Sproull

The past year has started off excellently. We have many new faces in the crew, and we have gotten to enjoy several outings so far, including beach camping, hiking, and soon skiing. As we begin the new year we will hopefully continue to grow both in number and in the level of fun and adventures we have. By being a part of an amazing Venture Crew, we have so many great opportunities! I urge everyone to seize those opportunities and run with them so we can have an amazing next year. The holiday season has been quite a busy and stressful one. It is because of this that I especially look forward to all of the new adventures we will surely have.



Anna - Disaster Recovery Drill

This and That

By Mrs. Gray

Ah, well, another year over and another one just begun. Our crew keeps changing, taking on new members and trying new activities. After all, isn't that what this is all about – a way to stretch ourselves, and find out other areas of interest? You can try beach camping, skiing, caving, as well as many other outdoor activities. The Venturing Crew is a way to try these activities in a safe and secure manner, especially under the mentoring of Mr. Melchior. Let's see what we have in store this year – what will be our big summer trek this year? What would YOU like to do ☺

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a terrific New Year!



Advisor's Minute

By Mr. Melchior

This is very similar to my comments a year ago, but with the Christmas season upon us and the end of another year, it only seems appropriate to reflect upon our many blessings and to give thanks for the opportunities we share in Crew 1100.

We are truly 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 the support of our church and our community in promoting the 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 every crew member, young and old, who has participated in any one of our many activities or supported our Crew. Whether you are a regular or an infrequent participant, you bring value to our Crew and you enrich our lives in so many ways. We are better individuals and a better crew because of YOU. And to those who joined us to ski down a snowy slope, scramble through a cave, cycle the C&O Canal, paddle a fast river, hike/paddle in Maine or backpack in New Mexico, camp at the beach, hike the mountains, help with a service project or just attend a social, thank you for making all of our lives better.

God bless and Merry Christmas.

