

The Chachalaca

Boy Scouts of America, Rio Grande Council

Electronic Issue 11

Summer 2015

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Rio Grande Council
Web Address:
www.riograndecouncil.org

SCOUT EXEC'S MINUTE

Volunteers:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Scout Executive for the Rio Grande Council. My family and I are honored and humbled by this opportunity to be able to work with the volunteers, staff and community to help change the lives of the youth who live in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy, and Zapata.

My vision for the Rio Grande Council is to be the #1 council in the nation when it comes to serving youth.

With the strong volunteer support, I know we can become the organization of choice among volunteers, financial supporters, families, and chartered organizations.

These last couple of weeks have been great! Our luncheon with NASA Astronaut Col. Mike E. Fossum was a BIG success. Thanks to volunteers we were able to raise over \$58,000.00. We are currently about 10% from reaching our Friends of Scouting campaign goal. I am asking all volunteers and families to please help us reach the FOS goal by renewing your FOS donation. We had a terrific summer camp at Camp Perry, and the Rio Grande Council's NYLT is preparing our Scouts for leadership in their units and for their country. Hope to meet you soon, and please let me know how we can meet your needs so the RGC can become the #1 council in the nation.

YIS,
Rudy



FRIENDS OF SCOUTING LUNCHEON 2015

Astronaut Mike Fossum was the featured speaker at a Friends of Scouting Luncheon at the Jackson Street Event Center in Harlingen on June 4th. Fossum, a Valley native and Eagle Scout from troop 7 in McAllen, told an audience of Scouting supporters and Scouts that his time in the Boy Scouts helped him prepare for the space program by teaching him about setting goals and working with others as a team. "Scouting showed me I can strive for excellence," Fossum said. "It taught me to serve others; that I can influence my community for the better."

Fossum has flown on two space shuttle missions, has conducted seven space walks, and has flown on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He was the commander of the International Space Station for almost six months.

Video of his time on the international space station was a hit with the luncheon audience. While circling the earth on the space station four years ago Fossum called Camp Perry via a video/audio link and spoke to Scouts. During his call from space he told Scouts that: "Camp Perry is one of my favorite places on earth."

Also speaking at the luncheon were Scouts Justin MacManus – Eagle Scout, Ali Halloum – Scout Troop 1701, Jerrey Guevara – Eagle Scout, Christopher Hinojosa – Eagle Scout. An adult attending the event told this reporter: "The Scouts were fantastic -- demonstrating confidence, purpose and mature thinking."

Fossum posed for pictures with many of the attendees and with all of the Scouts present. He presented new Scout Executive Rudy Gonzalez with a Rio Grande Council strip patch which he carried with him to space, saying "this council strip has been in space and traveled more than 64 million miles."

The Luncheon Planning Committee chairman Frank Espinoza and co-chairs Ruthie Evers and Dr. Linda Burke led a team which included Scouts of Troop 1701, Chris and Anita Boswell, Shane Strubhart and Dr. Arturo Cavazos, and Nena Siller.





COUNCIL CALENDAR

July

- 25 Fall Round-up Workshop (Training)
- 30 Membership Training for Units
- 30 District, Unit, Roundtable Commissioner Training

August

- 1 Re-Grand Opening of RGC Scout Shop
- 6 Roundtable Meetings---Arroyo, Rio Bravo
- 8 Fundamentals of Training
- 14-16 OA Fall Ordeal
- 18-22 Scout Office and Scout Shop Closed—Staff Training
- 29 Rio Bravo Dist. Intro. To Leadership Skills for Troops/Venturing
- 29 Trainer's EDGE

September

- 2 Membership Kick-off Upper Valley
- 3 Membership Kick-off Lower Valley
- 3 Roundtable Meetings---Arroyo, Rio Bravo
- 5 Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training
- 7 Labor Day-Scout Office Closed
- 9-10 Boy Scout Intro. To Outdoor Leader Skills
- 12 Commissioners Meeting
- 19 Wood Badge "The Gathering"
- 22 Essentials of Merit Badge Counselor Training
- 25 Council-wide Popcorn Kick-Off (evening)
- 26 Council-wide Pop Corn Kick-Off (morning)

October

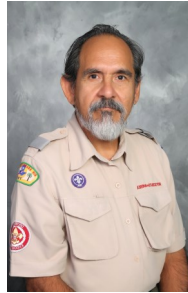
- 1 Roundtable Meetings---Arroyo, Arrowhead, Rio Bravo
- 9-10 Boy Scout Intro. To Outdoor Leadership Skills
- 17 Merit Badge Workshop
- 23-24 Cub Scout & Family Extravaganza
- 24 Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training **November**
- 5 Roundtable Meetings---Arroyo, Arrowhead, Rio Bravo
- 7 New Leader Essentials Training
- 18 Silver Beaver Committee
- 19 DCAD (Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner)
- 26-27 Thanksgiving—Scout Office Closed

December

- 1 Roundtable Meetings---Arroyo, Arrowhead, Rio Bravo
- 4-6 Pow Wow
- 24-25 Christmas—Scout Office Closed
- 26-31 Winter Camp

Event dates are subject to change, so double check events on the website for the complete calendar. For more information and to register for events go to

RGC LOSES ONE OF OUR OWN



Richard Calzada has gone home. He served as a District Executive for the Rio Grande Council from 2007 until his passing last month. He made an impact on Scouting and on all those he dealt with: boys, adult leaders, and friends of Scouting.

After college he taught elementary school and then as a junior high school physical education teacher and coach. He spent many years as an Assistant Principal and Principal.

Richard was a Cub Scout from 1959-1962. Later in his life, like many fathers with young sons, he got involved in Scouting serving as committee member and Assistant Scout Master. When he moved to the Valley he served as a Unit Commissioner and an Assistant Scout Master with Troop 68 in McAllen. Richard attended Wood Badge. He lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law, knew the value of Scouting, and tried to bring Scouting to all boys. Richard took to heart something Baden-Powell said, "Our aim is to give equal chances to all and to give the most help to the least fortunate."

Richard is survived by his wife, Phyllis Calzada, son, Richard-Michael Calzada, daughter, Mari-Luci Calzada Cerda (Carlos), and three grandchildren.

Richard-Michael and Mari-Luci speaking at the Camp Perry memorial service.



United Way ladies at the Camp Perry memorial service.



NEW ON THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF



Let's welcome Ernest Espinoza, his wife Marie Rivera and his three sons, Julian (14yrs old), Michael (3yrs old) and Matthew (2yrs old), to the Rio Grande Council. Ernest has taken the position of Field Director. Among his responsibilities in the Rio Grande Council are operations, finance, program and leadership. He will also serve the Arrowhead District until a New District Executive is named.

Also, he needs help finding his 14yr old son, Julian, a good Troop!

Cub Scout Summer Weekend

Cub Scouts and their families are the ones who inaugurated Camp Perry this summer with a fun filled weekend of adventure and activities. The B.B. guns and archery ranges, and the pool were popular with the campers, but one of the favorite activities was the human foosball. A cadre of Camp Perry summer staff and adult leaders all provided a fun time at the various activities. Nature provided the wildlife complete with sounds and sightings which included the ever present rabbits, armadillos, and a couple of bobcats. The staff hosted campfire was fantastic.



CHECK IT OUT!

scoutingwire.org



WEWANOMA LODGE

ATTENTION ALL ARROWMEN

Come join us for the 2015 Summer Ordeal; a weekend of cheerful service, fellowship and celebration of 100 years of the Order of the Arrow. Scouts and Scouters who were called out as candidates for the Order of the Arrow can complete the Ordeal this weekend and become members of the Order.

Fees:

Ordeal Candidates — \$45.00 (includes Sash, Lodge Flap, Handbook, meals and 2015 dues)

Brotherhood Candidates — \$40.00 (includes Sash and Meals)

Fellowship Registration — \$20.00 (includes Meals)



The weekend begins with check-in on Friday night beginning at 6:00 pm and will run until 11:00 am on Sunday. Bring your swim suit for swimming and work gloves for a bit of cheerful service too. Saturday will be filled with service and fellowship activities. Sunday morning will include chapter and lodge meetings and elections. Please be sure to request a candidate application if you are interested in running for a lodge position (Lodge Chief, Service Vice Chief, Ceremonies Vice Chief, Secretary or Treasurer). The application may be requested from your chapter adviser or the lodge adviser.

Register online at: www.riograndecouncil.org

Deadline: August 10, 2015



ORDER OF THE ARROW



National Youth Leader Training (NYLT)



The Rio Grande Council’s NYLT, an intensive 5½ day, outdoor leadership training experience for troop youth leaders, was held during the second week of July at Camp Perry. Over 30 participants from troops across the council were led by a staff of 16 adult and boy leaders in a curriculum which equips youth with those skills essential for



successful leadership. The principle function of NYLT is to help Scoutmasters by training their top boy leaders in the skills of leadership.

NYLT is a National BSA-developed course that closely parallels the material provided in the 21st Century Wood Badge training for adults. Participants must be at least 13 years old, First Class or higher, have completed Troop Leadership Training, and have their Scoutmaster's or Venturing Crew Advisor's approval. Venturing and Explorer girls are also welcome in NYLT.

SILVER BEAVER NOMINATIONS



An award made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Cub Leaders, Scouters, Varsity Scouters, Venture Crew Leaders and Exploring Leaders within the territory of a local council, the Silver Beaver is the highest honor a local council can award a volunteer. It is time to submit nominations for the Silver Beavers to be awarded at the Council Dinner next February. Nomination forms are available on-line in the council forms library; click on Silver Beaver form.

www.riograndecouncil.org

GRAND OPEINING: SCOUT SHOP TO OPEN ON SATURDAYS

The Rio Grande Council Scout Shop will hold a Re-Grand Opening of its facility to inaugurate Saturday service to Scouts and Scouters on **Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 10AM-2PM**. Come over and check it out-- and pig-out on hot dogs, popcorn and genuine Camp Perry bug juice. All of the new Cub Scout materials are on-hand, so don't miss this opportunity.

The Scout Shop will be open on Saturdays 10AM-2PM. The "open on Saturdays" will give everyone a chance to get to the Scout Shop without having to take time off from work or busy weekly schedules.

2015 EAGLE SCOUTS

Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn. Warm congratulations and best wishes to the following Scout who have earned Eagle this year:

District	Troop	Name
Arroyo	22	Balance, Christopher
Arrowhead	602	Bang, Tyler
Arroyo	22	Berggren, Lars
Arroyo	22	Bredenkamp, Jacob
Arrowhead	76	Buttles, Corey
Rio Bravo	41	Dominguez, Adan
Arroyo	1701	Galamazdin, Maxim
Rio Bravo	41	Garlic, Dmitri A.
Arroyo	2101	Gonzalez, Benjamin
Arrowhead	1954	Jara III, Juan M.
Rio Bravo	41	Montalvo IV, Ramon
Rio Bravo	41	Moreno, Adrian N.
Tip-o-Tex	1	Olivo, Bruno
Rio Bravo	41	Palomo, Ruben
Tip-O-Tex	6	Ramirez, Cameron
Tip-O-Tex	6	Robles, Roberto
Arroyo	1701	Ruiz, Jonathan
Arroyo	1701	Strubhart, Tristan
Arrowhead	68	Teplicsek, Reece J.
Arroyo	1701	Villarreal, Julian
Arroyo	22	Walter, Robert

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

AN OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONERS



Let me introduce myself!

My name is J. David Enos and I am presently the Council Commissioner of our council. There are a lot of new things going on that have been downloaded from the National BSA that impact all commissioners in the BSA. I encourage each commissioner in this council to accept and act on these new ideas for the Commissioners Service. These new actions are part of our council's Journey To Excellence, and are required if our council want to become a high rated council. The Rio Grande Council needs our help.

The first step that commissioners should do is to make sure they are registered as a commissioner. Yes, I know all of you are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, but if you are not in possession of a card that says you are a commissioner, then as far as the council is concerned you are not one. This a very simple thing to correct, just fill out another BSA application stating your title as a commissioner. This will not cost any more money (since you are already registered in the BSA) and it is very important to do so as soon as possible.

The second step is for all registered commissioners to setup an account on "my.scouting.org". Please notice that my (dot) scouting is not the same as the pervious one (myscouting.org) just following rules given to register to this site. The new site is similar to the old one but is more detailed and includes all of the new Commissioner Tools. As always when dealing with BSA site your BSA ID number is very useful. The third and final step is to get your "feet wet" by evaluating a unit meeting and report it on my.scouting.org. I have no problem with you doing this to your own unit first, as long as you are consistent and follow the values of the Scout Oath and Law. I would like every commissioner to try to do these three things before we meet in September. Thank all of you for your unselfish service to our council!"

YIS

Dave Enos davidenos@rgv.rr.com

SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP PERRY



Beginning with the flag ceremony on the parade ground at 7:15AM each morning to lights out at 11PM each night, summer camp at Camp Perry was full of adventure, activity, learning, fellowship, and the making of new friends. A fantastic staff of 30 + adult and youth Scouts and Scouters provided a program which surpassed previous camps. The infectious enthusiasm of the staff seeded itself into the campers, a high point being the family night camp fire at the Liston Bowl.

Camping at Perry in 2015 were some 150 Scouts and leaders who filled the dining hall and took care of any "leftovers." Yes, the meals were really that good. Among the favorite activities were the open docks and the free swim each evening. A patrol of Scouts made the trip to Goat Island a real adventure.

Troops represented at Camp Perry this year were:

Tip-O-Tex	6, 11 59, 61
Arroyo	25, 36, 142, 1701, 1889, 2101
Rio Bravo	999, 1966
Arrowhead	113



Camp Perry was in top condition after the hard work of volunteers and Scouts prior to the camping season. Thanks to their hard work, campers enjoyed working on their Trail To Eagle, merit badges, and the out- of - doors which came complete with wildlife, warm sun, and rain. All in all, Camp Perry 2015 was a stellar year for those fortunate campers who

made history in one of the BSA's oldest camps.



Wood Badge “The Gathering” to be held at CAMP PERRY 2015



Wood Badgers, and those working on their ticket: mark your calendars and get on the council web site to register for the Gathering on **Saturday, September 19, 2015**. Join the past course directors in the picture—and others for an evening of fellowship and a good meal. This gathering is for all those who identify with a forest animal and sing the words “back to Gilwell.” Beads will be awarded at this event to some industrious Scouters. Find out plans for scholarships for future course participants. Re-live part of that Wood Badge experience. Wear those beads!



TOP OF THEIR CLASS



Eagle Scouts took the Scholarship Merit Badge to a new level in Harlingen schools in 2015. Not only had they each earned the highest rank in Scouting – Eagle Scout, but they also graduated at the top of their class. Justin Macmanus, the Valedictorian at Harlingen High School, Anthony McIntosh, Valedictorian at Early College High School, and Joshua Anderson, Salutatorian at Harlingen High School South led the top academic spots in their respective schools. The trio plan to continue their education: Anthony McIntosh at The University of Texas at Austin, and Justin Macmanus and Joshua Anderson at Texas A & M University, College Station.

Not far behind them are other Eagle Scouts from Harlingen who graduated in the top 10 of their class: Chris Hinojosa of Harlingen High School South, Chris Cavazos of Harlingen High School South, and Tommy Yates of Early College High School.

Each of the Eagle Scout graduates attributed working towards Eagle Scout with helping them with set personal goals and with equipping them with the perseverance to achieve at a high academic level. Our best wishes to these young men as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

POPCORN

A good way to earn money for the unit is through Popcorn sales. Proceeds from popcorn are used by many units to pay re-registration fees, Boys Life, summer and winter camp fees, and for equipment needed by the unit. The 30% of sales is a good incentive for units to sell popcorn, and Scouts can earn prizes based on the amount they sell. This year the council will dedicate 30% of popcorn receipts for maintenance and improvements at Camp Perry. Check the council web site in August for the Kick-off dates in your area. There will be a kick-off for the upper Valley and another one for the lower Valley. Information on the popcorn sales, sale sheets, prizes available, and the use of card readers for credit card sales will all be presented at the kick-off meetings. Kick-Off dates: September 25th (evening) September 26th (morning)



SUN SAND SURF SEA = FUN + LAGUNA STATION

The above formula worked for two troops spending a week camping at Laguna Station, the Rio Grande Council's Sea Base. Scouts and leaders alike wore proof of time in the sun- surfing, kayaking, snorkeling, fishing, stand-up paddle boarding, and enjoying the sights of South Padre Island and the Gulf. A big hit was the proximity to Schlitterbaun water park. Several Scouts from outside the Valley were returning to Laguna Station for fun a second time.



Among the on-land activities enjoyed by the campers were competitive rounds of horse shoes.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING RICHARD CALZADA



Scouts, Scouters, friends of Scouting, and families came together at Camp Perry on June 27th to remember and honor Professional Scouter Richard Calzada. Phyllis Calzada wanted an opportunity to meet those who had been the focus of her husband's work, and to thank them.

Full to overflowing with people, the Liston Bowl was decorated with unit flags which formed a background. The memorial service was led by Guadalupe Valdez, Rio Bravo District Chair. Presentation of Colors was conducted by Troop 1966, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout Oath. Scouts from all over the Rio Grande Council presented the twelve points of the Scout Law.



Richard-Michael and his sister Mari-Luci recounted to those attending the dedication and love their father had shown to his family and how important his Scouting family was to him.

A patrol of COWs (Crusty Old Wood Badgers) led by Mike Key prepared the meal which was served in the dining hall. It was a time of remembering Richard Calzada, and a time of rededication to those ideals important to the man we came to honor.

"May the great master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again"



RIO GRANDE COUNCIL MEMORIAL FUND

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember and honor someone, but they soon perish. Material gifts are also good but not always fitting. Words are comforting, but too often fall short of the innermost feelings of the heart—but a gift to the *Boy Scout Memorial Fund* is something that lasts forever and speaks highly of him or her thus honored. It is the ultimate tribute. It is a living gift, conceived in honor and accepted as a sacred trust. It touches and warms the heart of all involved. It crosses all lines of religion and wealth. It is a perfect, acceptable gift.

DONOR:

- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- William H. Heins
- Velma R. Bowman
- James Steven & Christine White
- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- Stephen & Dorothy Vassberg
- John Williams & Leticia Volpe
- Linda Gilliam
- Joe F. & Andrea Banks
- Jose & Laurie A. Cantu
- Douglas & Elaine R. Bready
- Ponce & Maria Duran
- Steve Gerber
- Tex-Best Travel Center
- Robert MacEachern

IN MEMORY OF:

- Carolyn Swanberg
- Lowell Holmes
- Maria Luisa Flores
- Katerine Duddleston
- Rayburn & Sue MacNelly
- Robert Burgan
- Robert Burgan
- Richard Calzada
- Joyce Laverne Greenhill
- Richard Calzada
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Scout Memorial booklets are available at the Scout Service Center, or may be mailed to you on request. Please call the Boy Scout Office – (956) 423-0250.

May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts welcome our brother to His Campfire, and console those left to carry on.

RIO GRANDE COUNCIL #775, BSA
P. O. Box 2525
Harlingen, Texas 78551-2424



Planned Giving To Make A Difference

A gift under a will is one of the easiest ways to make a planned gift benefitting the Rio Grande Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The legal term for a gift under a will is called a bequest. If you already have a will and do not want to have it completely redone, you can make a gift with a codicil, which is an amendment to your current will. A gift under your will can take the form of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your property or the rest and residue of your property after you have made specific gifts to other individuals or groups. Many persons like to make a gift under their will to memorialize a loved one who was impacted by scouting or in honor of a special person or family member in their life.

Contact Scout Executive Rudy Gonzalez at the Council Service Center 956-423-0250, or Council Endowment Board member Mark Browning at 979-255-0336

(markbrowning88@gmail.com for suggested language to give to your legal advisor, to provide us copies of your documents, and to let us know how you would like your gift used.



Get your back-to-school Scouting needs met at the Scout Shop! Make sure that your Scouts have their uniforms for the start of the new school year!

The Scout Shop hours are
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M-F
10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday

Come to the Re-Grand Opening of the Scout Shop on Saturday, August 1st between 10AM and 2PM. You'll be glad you did!

Store closed:

- August 18-22 Staff Training
- September 7—Labor Day
- November 26-27—Thanksgiving Day
- December 24-25—Christmas Day

**Rio Grande Council #775, BSA
P.O. BOX 2424**

**Harlingen, TX 78551-2424
Phone (956)423-0250 FAX (956)421-4950**

Email: chacah@bsamail.org

Web Site: www.riograndecouncil.org

E-mailed to all Unit Leaders, Assistants, Den Leaders, Unit Committee Chairmen, Chartered Organization Representatives, District Committee Members and Commissioners.

RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OFFICERS 2015-2016

Council President	Andrew Hagan
VP - Administration	Col. R. Glenn Hill
VP - Membership	Marsha Gramley
VP - Finance	Sandra Langley
VP - Properties	Vacant
VP - Program	Alex Feigl
Council Commissioner	Jon David Enos
Council Treasurer	Mark Yates
Asst. Treasurer	Steven H. Shimotsu
VP - Endowment	Hon. Christopher H. Boswell
Nominating Comm. Chair	Uvaldo Cantu M.D.

