Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

As the season and weather start to change so does the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All-Stars. I want to express a great thanks to William and Susan Thomas for all their hard work with the 2008 Mid-Winters 4-H All-Stars Conference. I met so many past Big Chiefs and All Stars that I had misplaced in my memories of 4-H All Stars. From the tours, service workshops, fellowships, good food, etc. I feel that the conference was a big success. I look forward seeing them at future conferences.

I would like extend an invitation to each of you to attend our Summer Conference. Be sure to read more about the conference in this issue of The Virginia Star and to mark it down on your calendar to attend.

My final thoughts for this issue are to encourage all 4-H All-Stars to get involve in your local – district – state – and interstate activities. When we were tapped into the Virginia Chapter 4-H All Stars, we were given a challenge of service to 4-H. I hope you all have a great summer and I cannot wait to see all of you at our 4-H All Star events this year.

Steve Wood,  Big Chief

Believing that I was born for the service of mankind, and regarding the care of the commonwealth as a kind of common property which, like the air and the water, belongs to everybody, I set myself to consider in what way mankind might be best served, and what service I was myself best fitted by nature to perform.

—Francis Bacon
Smoke Signals from our Districts

Northwest
At the Mid Winter Conference, the Northwest District elected to maintain its present slate of officers. There was also a spring meeting planned for April 21st at the Shenandoah County Government Center to plan Fall District Conference and the 2009 Midwinter Conference. The Shenandoah County All Stars met on April 21st to plan for the restart of county 4-H summer day camps, Bike-A-Thon, and summer family All-Star picnic.

Southwest
The Southwest District 4-H All Stars met on Saturday, December 8th in the Smyth County Extension Office to review new nominations. Southwest District Senior Contest was held on Saturday, April 5th at Abingdon High School. The Southwest District All Stars awarded a full scholarship to Congress to the winner of the Public Speaking contest and a one-half scholarship for second place in addition to finding the judges for the competition. Our spring meeting will be held Saturday May 3rd at the Smyth County Extension Office. We will be discussing potential fundraisers to continue providing scholarships to our public speaking winners as well as to provide a buffer for our annual Teen Weekend. Southwest District All Star Teen Weekend will be held on August 22-24, 2008 at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Abingdon. The theme for the weekend is “Lights, Camera, Action”. For more information, contact Shai Cullop, scullop@radford.edu.

Virginia 4-H Camp Staff Alumni Association
Calling all former or current 4-H Camp Staff who are Virginia 4-H All Stars!!! The Virginia 4-H Camp Staff Alumni Association (VA4HCSA) provides former Virginia 4-H summer camp staff members with ongoing and enhanced involvement with the six 4-H Educational Centers, 4-H & VCE. Many former camp staff members have become 4-H All Stars in their career as 4-Hers. The purpose of the “Virginia 4-H Camp Staff Alumni Association” is to provide former Virginia 4-H summer camp staff members with the opportunity for on-going and enhanced involvement in the Virginia 4-H program and Virginia’s 4-H educational centers. The activities of this association will emphasize (a) social opportunities, (b) service opportunities, and (c) leadership opportunities related to the six 4-H Educational Centers, 4-H and Virginia Cooperative Extension. One of our first priorities is a coordinated membership drive. Our goal is to spread the word about the VA4HCSA to our friends that worked on camp staff with us who have not yet joined the Association! Please encourage your staff friends to submit an application. If you haven’t already joined, what are you waiting for? The application can be accessed online at: http://www.ext.vt.edu/vce4h/camping/alumniassociation-application.pdf.

Benefits of joining: reconnecting with old friends, meeting new friends, opportunities to camp at 4-H Centers again, discover what’s new with the 4-H camping program, sharing memories, singing camp songs, and many more...

You can also connect on Myspace at: www.myspace.com/va4hcsa. We hope to hear from you soon! For more information feel free to contact your 4-H Center Program Director or Daniel Collins at collindp@vt.edu.

All Star District Chiefs and Contacts

Central
Big Chief
Amy Daubenspeck
amydaubenspeck@hotmail.com

District Contact
Pam Levinson
shlevinson@aol.com
434-385-7907

Northeast
Big Chief
Sarah Gregory
9111 Omaha St.
Richmond, VA 23277
sangregory@vum.edu
804-275-5806

Northeast
Big Chief
William Thomas
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Culpeper, VA 22701
thomaswvc64@verizon.net
540-825-1873

Southwest
Big Chief
Donna Hamm
dhamm@vt.edu
276-783-5175

District Contact
Daniel Collins
collindp@vt.edu

Southwest
Big Chief
Daniel Collins
collindp@vt.edu

Other All Star Contacts

Leadership Council
Audrey Lee
1698 Parker Rd.
Bedford, VA 24523
aullee@vt.edu
540-586-3160

Past Big Chief
Elwanda Luttrell
113 Kerns Circle
Stephens City, VA 22655
elwand@shentel.net
540-809-7198

Congress Cabinet
Representative
Lauren Hartburg
8400 White Diamond Ln.
Scottsville, VA 24580
wildabouthorses719@hotmail.com
540-296-3272 (H) / 540-696-3052 (C)

All Star Advisor
Connie Bryant (2008)
1166 Cambria St., NW
Chesapeake, VA 23473
540-382-2042 (H)
540-299-0849 (C)

All Star Advisor
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1012 Hendrick Street
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thomaswvc64@verizon.net
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All Star Advisor
Barbara Board (2010)
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board@vt.edu
804-527-4246

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Richmond, VA 23294
board@vt.edu
804-527-4246

May 2008 — Page 2
May 2008 — Page 14

4-H All Star Interstate Conference
July 31-August 2, 2008
Garrett County, Maryland
Registration Form

Name:
Preferred Name on Badge:
Address:
Phone Numbers:
Home: Work:
Cell: FAX:
E-Mail:
Arrival Date/Time:

Registration Payment Information:
Check those that apply:

Full Time Registration (by June 20) $185.00
Full Time Registration (after June 20) $195.00
Part Time Registration (by June 20)
Thursday Dinner Only $20.00
Saturday Only $70.00

Conference Total: _______

Yes I would like to join you for the Maryland 4-H Annual Conference on Sunday – Enclosed is $25.00 to cover lunch and snacks.

Make checks payable to Maryland 4-H All Stars and send to:
Debra E. Friend
Interstate Chair
1477 Maryland Highway
Mt. Lake Park, Maryland 21550

Conference Hotel: Wisp Resort—290 Marsh Hill Road—McHenry, Maryland 21541
Rate: $95.00 + 11% taxes – This rate is good through Friday, July 4 at which time the room block will be released if not booked. Contact the hotel directly to book your rooms at: 301-387-5581 or 800-462-9477 mention 4-H All Star to receive the reduced rate.

The 2008 Tapping Ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 25th at 1:45 pm at the Agriculture Quad of Virginia Tech’s Campus (between Price, Hutcheson, Smyth, Seitz, and Saunders Halls). Each All Star is encouraged to attend this special ceremony. For our current All Stars that would like to serve as scouts or stand in the circle to welcome new All Stars, practices will be held Tuesday, June 24th from 7:15 to 7:45 pm and on Wednesday, June 25th from 10:00 to 11:00 am. For those that cannot attend either practice, there are other opportunities to participate in the ceremony including singing, setting up taking down equipment, signing people in, distributing certificates, etc. If you would like to participate in any aspect of the Tapping Ceremony, please contact Michelle Cock, State Scout at mcock@vt.edu or by using Michelle’s contact information on the back of the Star.

Please remember that the official attire for the ceremony is navy and white with no jewelry except for All Star jewelry. Women wear white dresses and shoes. Men wear white shirts with solid navy ties, navy pants, dark socks and shoes. If you do not have this attire, please let us know. Many All Stars have extras they can bring if reminded.

This year, a lunch will be available at the Ag Quad prior to the Tapping Ceremony. If you are already attending Congress, you may eat lunch here instead of in the dining hall for no additional charge. For those of us who are not attending Congress, the lunch will be $10.00. However, we need a head count in order to have enough for everyone. You will need to contact Katie Lafon at (540) 231-3360 and her mailing address is 106 Hutcheson Hall (0419), Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, Virginia 24061. You will need to contact Katie by June 6th so that she has time to contact the caterer with the total count for the luncheon.

We have one other opportunity to serve 4-H Congress this year. On Monday, June 23rd, we are organizing/directing the Congress group photo. You do not have to be participating in the Tapping Ceremony to help. Our official meeting time is 4:30 pm at the April 16th Memorial on the drill field. However, we will be preparing from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (when the picture is taken). If you are able to help for any of that time, please contact Audrey Lee, aulee@vt.edu.

***At the ceremony, All Stars sing the first verse, chorus, second verse and conclude with the chorus.***

Follow The Gleam
(Song that will be sung during the All Star Tapping Ceremony)

First Verse
To the Knights in the days of old
Keeping watch on the mountain height
Came a vision of a Holy Grail
And a voice through the waiting night

Chorus
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Banners unfurled o’er all the world
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the Chalice that is the Grail

Second Verse
And we who would serve the King
And loyalty Him obey
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still holds today

Tapping Attire
Women — All white dress or white blouse and skirt, white shoes
Men — White dress shirt, navy tie, navy pants and dark shoes

May 2008 — Page 3

The Virginia Star

2008 VIRGINIA 4-H CONGRESS

The Virginia Star
The annual Midwinter Conference was held February 2 and 3, 2008 at the Best Western in Ruckersville. Highlights of the weekend included a tour of Montpelier and reflections by former Big Chiefs at the banquet Saturday evening. Twenty-one All Stars who had served a term as Big Chief spoke about their experiences in the organization.


Reid Mackey (1973), Anita Martin Hodges (1974), and Debbie Potter McCormick (1977) reviewed their experiences from the seventies: The decade with the most Big Chiefs present was the eighties. Helen Williams Smith (1980), Irene Ellis Leech (1982), Robert Tilloston (1984), Randy Leech (1986), Steve Wood (1987), and Deb Nester (1988) shared their memories with the group. The program concluded with Audrey Lee (1998), Jim Christensen (1999), Selicia Gregory (2003), and Elwanda Lutrill (2006/2007) bringing things up to date.

The All Stars, who are indebted to these former Big Chiefs for their service, say a special “Thank you!” for an enjoyable and informative evening. Their reflections brought many memories to mind, and no doubt, reminded many of the listeners of just how much the 4-H Program and 4-H All Stars have impacted their lives. Conference participants were also reminded of how many of those who served as Big Chief are now deceased. In addition to those who served from the twenties through the fifties and are now deceased, the All Stars observed a moment of silence in respect and appreciation for those Big Chiefs who met untimely deaths in more recent years. (Wayne Keffer 1972), John Lamingham, Jr. (1973), Allen Boyer (1979), Sharon Dowdy Tew (1985) and Kelly Coggsdale (1994)

The weekend started off with a welcome lunch provided by Greene County 4-H clubs under the leadership of 4-H adult volunteer Rita Eppard and her daughter Kayla, a 2007 All Star. This was a first and allowed time to renew old friendships and to meet other All Stars. Rita also provided copper embossing and flower arranging workshops on Saturday afternoon as an alternative to shopping or touring. Thank you, Rita!

Attendance was good at the business meetings with 55 present on Saturday and 44 on Sunday. The following actions were taken:

1). The group voted on applicants for 2008 All Star membership.
2). The membership directed Big Chief, Steve Wood, to vote to continue to hold Interstate Conferences annually at the Interstate Council of Chiefs.
3). The Constitution was amended to allow officers to serve a two-year term.
4). A Conference Planning Committee was added to the standing committees in the Bylaws.

Although the Conference Planning Committee was just added officially at the Midwinter Conference, Susan and William Thomas from Northern District applied the guidelines for the committee to planning the 2008 Midwinter Conference. Thanks go to them for the overall conference planning, but the other five districts are due thanks for the responsibilities that they carried out. They are as follows:

Northwest—Table favors and decorations
Northeast—Planning the two service projects (Cutting our stars for doors for Congress and providing addresses and supplies for writing Virginia legislators.)
Central—Providing nametags and door prizes and running the registration table
Southeast—Providing items for the hospitality room
Southwest—Morning Devotional Meditation

Maryland’s Annual conference will be held on Sunday, August 3. We invite you to extend your stay and join us for our conference.

We look forward to sharing our adventures with you as part of the 2008 4-H All Star Interstate Conference. For any questions, call me at 301-533-1010 or email peakrehab@gcnetmail.net.

Can’t wait to see you!

Debra E. Friend, PhD
Maryland 4-H All Star Big Chief

Please consider making this fantastic trip to Maryland for the fun, the fellowship and the experiences that these Interstate events have to offer.
4-H All Star Interstate Conference
July 31-August 2, 2008

Thursday, July 31
2:00-5:45  Registration at Conference Hotel
6:00     Depart for Pleasant Valley Community Center
         Amish Dinner and Amish Youth Choir
         Maple Syrup Demonstration/Garrett County History
         Hospitality Room Open

Friday, August 1
6:30-8:00  Hospitality Room Open for Breakfast Snacks
8:00     Depart for Scenic Train Ride/Canal Place Shopping
9:00-11:00 Museum & Canal Boat Tour
11:15   Board Train
1:00     Lunch at Grantsville Park (committee meetings)
2:15    Tour Penn Alps Spruce Forest Artisan Village/Stanton’s Mill
        Depart for Cove Run Farms
        Business Meeting
6:15    Dinner/Entertainment Deep Creek Lake – Western Maryland’s Best Kept Secret
8:45-10:30 Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, August 2
6:30-8:30  Hospitality Room Open for Breakfast Snacks
8:45     Depart for Oakland
         Farmer’s Market
         Oakland Historic Train Depot
12:30   Lunch – Western Maryland 4-H Camp/Tour
2:00    Discovery Center/Forest Canopy Walkway
4:30    Scenic Chair Lift/Adventure Sports
6:30    Picnic Dinner/Entertainment, Program, Silent Auction – GC Fair
         Hospitality Room Open

Sunday, August 3
7:30     Vesper Service
         Safe Travel Home

Claims of Honor
Kayla Anders, a 2004 All Star from Bland County, was awarded the Wayne Keffer college scholarship. She is a junior at William and Mary majoring in psychology and minoring in history with a grade point average of 3.62. She was active in 4-H and locally in All Stars. As a 4-H'er, she competed in Share-the-Fun at county, district and state levels. She was also active in public speaking, Jr. leader at camp, etc. She was an officer several times in her local club. She has been very active in citizenship/leadership activities through 4-H, high school, and college. She was unable to attend the awards banquet because she is spending a semester in Scotland.

Stephanie Fletcher, a 1993 All Star and 4-H Program Assistant in Dickenson County, received the C. Dean Allen Award. She has been very active in 4-H International Exchange programs, finding host families for year-long exchangees and hosting an inbound IFYE from Taiwan herself this past summer. She was a chaperone for the 15 year-long exchangees in VA for several events this past school year, including their trip to New York City.

Ranelle Dulaney of Carroll County is the recipient of the 2008 Bradshaw Service Award. She was tapped in 1995 as a volunteer leader. Her two daughters, Dee Dalton (Carroll 1991) and Tory Easter (Carroll 1993) are also All Stars. Ranelle has served as State Corresponding Scribe, a Southwest District officer and has been the chairman for the Carroll County Unit Chapter since 1997. She hosts the annual county meeting at her home and serves lunch. Ranelle started the “Save the Change Challenge” by saving her change in a bowl on her dresser for a year and then presenting it to the county chapter at the annual meeting. She challenges other All Stars to do the same. Ranelle uses her artistic ability to help with county, district, state, and interstate All Star activities.

In Remembrance
Sympathy to Larry Sykes (Carroll 1963) of Hillsville, VA for the death of his mother, Ethel Alene Sykes, 89, of Galax, VA who died Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

Sympathy to Jennifer Bowman (Carroll 1993) of Atlanta, Ga. for the death of her mother, Jean Jackson Bowman, 57, of Laurel Fork, Va., who passed away April 16, 2008.

Louise Nelson (1974 Honorary from Bland) died at her home on February 10, 2008. A volunteer 4-H leader for many years and an active All Star, she is survived by her husband, Levi Nelson, and her two children, Dottie Nelson (Bland ’74) and Shawn Nelson (Bland ’86).

James H. Fitch, Jr., P.E., 68, previously of Jacksonville, N.C., passed away Tuesday, December 12, 2007 in Charlotte, NC. A lifetime 4-H volunteer in North Carolina and Virginia, Jim was a founding member of the North Carolina 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association and honored member of the Virginia 4-H All Stars (Campbell, ’57). Jim held a Bachelor’s Degree from Virginia Tech and post-graduate certificate from the University of Wisconsin. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. A tireless advocate for the 4-H camping program and Mitchell 4-H Center, he loved football, ice cream, the nightly news, and teaching young people about safety and electricity.
ALL STAR SUMMER FUN ON HOLIDAY LAKE
2008 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Wanted:
All Virginia 4-H All Stars

Young, Middle Age, and Seniors

We want to meet you! We want to know you!

Join us at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center
Saturday and Sunday
July 19 -20, 2008

Two Days/ One Night
Healthy – Fun – Happy Conference Retreat

Bring Your Family for a Great Time!
Be sure to bring some CD’s for the Dance!

Questions: Call 804-275-5806

Hope to see you there!

May 2008 — Page 6
DEADLINE for the next Virginia Star is October 15, 2008

“SERVICE” is our MOTTO

ALL STAR SUMMER FUN ON HOLIDAY LAKE
2008 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Come have summer fun the 4-H way at the 2008 Summer Conference, July 19 and 20, Saturday & Sunday. This is a 2 day/1 Night Conference Retreat. Our Summer Conference will be held at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox County. This location will allow us to take advantage of several different activities.

- Experience the rich Civil War history surrounding Appomattox by visiting the Appomattox Court House Historical Park. The entrance fees are $4.00 per person or $10.00 for a passenger vehicle.
- There will be three classes that include GPS, Jewelry Making, and Health and Wellness. The GPS class has a maximum of 20 participants.
- Come and enjoy a Nature Hike and Service Project.
- The pool at the 4-H Center will also be open for you to enjoy.
- Evening activities will include a DJ Dance Party, an Evening Walk or a night swim.
- For more fun and excitement we have planned for your enjoyment Karaoke, board and card games.

We hope you will take time to come out and join us at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center to have fun the 4-H way with fellow All Stars.

Directions to Holiday Lake 4-H Center

!! Mapquest.com does not give sufficient driving directions for finding the 4-H Center !!

From Lynchburg/Roanoke: Take 460 East to Appomattox, turn left onto Route 24 East toward Appomattox Courthouse, drive 7 miles, turn right onto Route 626, drive 5 miles and keep left onto Route 723. The Center is at the end of Route 723.

From Richmond: Take Route 60 West past Buckingham Courthouse, turn left onto Route 24, drive 10 miles, turn left onto Route 626, drive 5 miles and keep left onto Route 723. The Center is at the end of Route 723.

From Charlottesville: Take Route 20 South turn right onto Route 15 South, drive 1 mile, turn right onto Route 60 West past Buckingham Courthouse, turn left onto Route 24, drive 10 miles, turn left onto Route 626, drive 5 miles and keep left onto Route 723. The Center is at the end of Route 723.

From Farmville: Take Route 460 West to Prospect, turn right onto Route 626 follow Route 626 10 miles, turn right onto Route 723, The Center is at the end of Route 723.

Lodging will be at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center Large Bunkhouse and Lake Lodge, neither of which is air conditioned. You will need to provide your own linens, pillows, towels, fans, etc. If you require alternate lodging, you can contact the Super 8 in Appomattox at 434-352-2339. The room rate is $69.99. Bear Creek State Park and Holiday Lake State Park are also two great places for RV’s.
SUMMER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday Evening July 18, 2008
8:00 – 10:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting (Conference Center)

Saturday July 19, 2008
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Registration (Conference Center)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Activities and Tours:
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – GPS
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Nature Hike
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Appomattox Court House Historical Park
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Service Project: Repair Vesper area
2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Swimming
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Health and Wellness
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Jewelry Making
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner (Casual) and Business Meeting
7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Let’s get Healthy and have a 4-H All Star Party; Dance and Karaoke, DJ (Bring your own CD’s), Evening Walk and/or Swim
9:30 – 11:30 p.m. Table games (phase 10, cards), karaoke and/or movie

Sunday July 20, 2008
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Vespers and Memorial Service
9:45 – 10:30 a.m. District Meetings
10:30 – 12:00 a.m. Business Meeting

All Star Summer Fun on Holiday Lake
July 19-20, 2008
Summer Conference Registration Form

Name: ___________________________ M/F
Address: ___________________________
Telephone: (________) E-mail: ___________________________
Fax: 804-275-5550

Unit & Year Tapped: ___________________________ Guest(s) ___________________________ M/F

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Fee for tour will be paid at the tour location upon arrival.

All Conference registrants need to read and sign the following Code of Conduct. As a Virginia 4-H All Star event participant, I will conduct myself during the course of this conference in a manner which reflects the qualities of an All Star.

All Star Signature(s): ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars ($10 service charge for returned checks)

Send registration and check to: Attention: Randy and Irene Leech, 4220 N. Fork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087

Questions: Phone: 804-275-5806 Fax: 804-275-5550