

The Creek Critters

The Creek Critters Chronicle CSB Battalion 2733

March 2012

WEB Page: 2733.com

Leadership Team Trip

What is 10 feet long, weighs about 1,000 pounds and is as docile as a house cat?

The answer: A manatee, also known as a sea cow.



The battalion leadership recently took a trip to Homosassa Springs, Florida to get an up close and personal look at these gentle sea creatures. Manatees famously winter in the warmer spring waters of the central Florida coasts where water temperatures hover right around 72° year round. Manatees cannot survive in water below 60°, making Florida the perfect winter playground. Beautiful sunny weather

and ultra clear water gave us a chance to get a really good look at the manatees in their natural environment. It is quite unnerving to look in the water just a few feet below your boat and see a creature as big as your boat and realizing this creature has the capacity

to capsize you with just a flip of its tail. But, the manatee is a curious and often playful animal and if anyone had been capsized, it would have been purely accidental.

We started our adventure right after a hearty breakfast of the standard battalion pancakes and sausage. We put our kayaks (and one canoe) in the water at the campground marina and started paddling down the Halls River towards the Gulf of Mexico. After paddling for an hour or so and not seeing any manatee, we were getting pretty disappointed. Then, we met up with a couple and their Jack Russell Terrier from upstate New York who come to Homosassa Springs every winter because of the manatee. They gave us directions to the most popular manatee sighting area, but explained it may be too late in the day to see them. We turned our boats around and headed back towards the campground.

When we got to the location the New York couple mentioned, we weren't expecting to see much since it was getting near noon. But then, a couple of the guys spotted a manatee and her calf. At first, they thought they were just massive rocks lying in the middle of the channel, but then the rocks moved! A little farther up the channel and we saw a few more manatee. It may not have been the prime time of day to see a lot of manatee, but we did see a few which made the day worthwhile.



We paddled back to the campground – tired and sunburned, but excited because our manatee-sighting day was not a bust.

The following day, we were supposed to kayak the crystal clear waters of the Crystal River, but wind and a small craft advisory kept us close to the campground. We did, however, get a chance to worship with folks at the Nature's Resort Chapel. The folks went out of their way to make us feel welcome and it was obvious they were not accustomed to having such a large group of young men in their service.

This particular trip was the first of what we hope to be an annual trip that is designed for leaders only. It will be an incentive for the younger guys to aspire to be leaders within the

battalion but also provide an opportunity for the senior leaders to interact with the non-coms on a personal level. We don't know what's in store for the next leaders-only trip, but you can be sure it will probably involve water, an animal, camping and a whole lot of fun!

(Dave Taylor Sr - Captain of Red Company)

March Action Time: Astronomy



God is good. All the time. And, all the time, God is good. So, two years ago we are sitting at the table in the upstairs conference room at Trinity Bible Church planning our Action Times for the next two years. Someone suggests astronomy. We like the idea and Coit remembers a planetarium that we can incorporate into a Battalion camping trip. So, we put astronomy on the calendar.

Well January 2012 rolls around and mid month we have our camping trip scheduled to the planetarium. Come to find out that they are not open on Saturday's any longer. So no planetarium. What are we going to do now? None of the senior leaders know enough about astronomy to teach our young men.

While working at SIM, Coit meets a gentleman named Kevin Weaver. Kevin and his wife Heidi just happen to be astronomy enthusiasts. Even though Kevin and Heidi live in the Philadelphia area they will be working with missionaries from SIM throughout February and March. Kevin graciously volunteered to spend four Wednesday nights teaching our guys about astronomy.

As a lead into our upcoming weeks on astronomy it was suggested that the Battalion view a video by Louie Giglio entitled "Indescribable". You must set aside 45 minutes to watch this video and be awe struck by the information Louie presents on how our amazing God created our universe. Here is the link. <http://vimeo.com/23304568>

Kevin has provided the guys with a wealth of information about astronomy. He takes the time to share what the bible says about the stars. Did you know the stars are divided into constellations. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. (Isaiah 13:10). Did you know the bible names some constellations: Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws

of the heavens? (Job 38:31-32)

Did I mention the yummy cookies that Kevin and Heidi treat us to on Wednesday nights. We would like to ask that you pray for Kevin and Heidi's ministry, Lightsys. They help mission organizations with their computer problems. And, pray for clear skies in March because we want to see all the stars we are learning about. God, thanks for sending Kevin and Heidi our way.

(Don Perkins - Captain of Blue Company)

Alumni News

Over the past several decades our Battalion has added many young men to the roles of our Alumni list. Lately we have been attempting to update email addresses and improve communication with this important resource of our ministry. Don't be surprised if you are contacted to help us with the updating process. Dave Taylor Jr has agreed to become the Captain of our Alumni. We plan to hold several Alumni activities each year along with some other interesting projects. On March 24th we will be sponsoring an Alumni ROOK night at the Critter Cave. Let us know if you would be interested in attending the event. Stay tuned...

There are still many Alumni who have not yet signed up for the Creek Critters Chronicle - please help to pass on the word...

(Coit Morrison - Battalion Colonel)

Help our guys with the cost of camping trips

Buy a **Paracord Survival Bracelet**

Check out the details on our WEB site

<http://2733.com/index.php/page/paracord>

Thank You!

Do you buy items on Amazon.com?

Next time, please consider buying through the link on 2733.com
It is no extra cost to you, and
We get a small percentage to help defray the cost of our WEB Site

Thank You!

Upcoming Events

- **Leadership Team Meeting** - Sunday, Mar 4, 2012 at 12:30 pm - El Cancun - 1244 Cherry Rd (continued at 1:30 in the Cave)
 - **Geocaching at Huntington Beach** - Friday, Mar 16, 2012 at 4:30 pm - For more information check out our [Trip Information](#) page
 - **Senior Leaders Meeting** - Saturday, Mar 31, 2012 at 7:00 am - Little Cafe - 1919 Cherry Rd
 - **Alumni Event - ROOK Night** - Saturday, Mar 24, 2012 at 5:30 pm - The Critter Cave
 - **Leadership Team Meeting** - Sunday, Apr 1, 2012 at 12:30 pm - Wendy's - 2367 Cherry Rd (continued at 1:30 in the Cave)
 - **Camp-O-Rama 2012** - Friday, Apr 27, 2012 - For more information check out our [Trip Information](#) page
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