

# *Smoke Signals*

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## **Spring Campout Schedules!!!**

We are making a good faith effort to get this newsletter into your mailbox before Easter/Spring Break. Whether you're headed for Disney World or Grandma's house, please take a moment to check out the enclosed Spring Campout schedule before you go. There have been a few alterations recently and, considering the current price of gas, we don't want anyone driving to the wrong camp at the wrong time. ☺

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual NCAA Men's Fellowship Night**

Don't forget; April 5<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Prairie Trail Federation NCAA Men's Fellowship Night. Mr. Andy Signa is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of coordinating this ever-growing event. It will be held at the Village Club of Western Springs, from 4pm until the wee hours of the morning. You can watch the Final Four games, play in one of our Texas Hold 'em tournaments, have a cigar, a beer or two (...), a nice catered meal, and more. All can be yours for the low, low price of \$30! Proceeds will once again go toward subsidizing campouts and Federation events.

As a side note, I have received many e-mails from gentlemen who say they are planning to attend, and would like to pay at the door. This is great; we welcome participation in all forms, including last-minute walk-ins. However, just as is the case with campouts, firm numbers ahead of time help immensely with the planning of the food, drink, setup, etc. If you know you will be attending the event, Andy would appreciate your sending in the form ahead of time.

## **Coloring Contest Winners**

Congratulations to our March contest winners, **Alex Scotty** (Jumping Fish) of the **Sioux Princesses** and **Gracie Wantuck** (Dancing Butterfly) of the **Cree Princesses**.

Remember – winning entries receive a free campout and special commemorative patch, as soon as the shipment comes in...

### **Native American Facts**

The Mohawk have a tradition known as the Thunder Ceremony, which is performed this time of year, right after they hear the first thunderclap of the season.

Whom do you suppose is honored at this ceremony?

**See reverse side for more**

## Paintball!!!

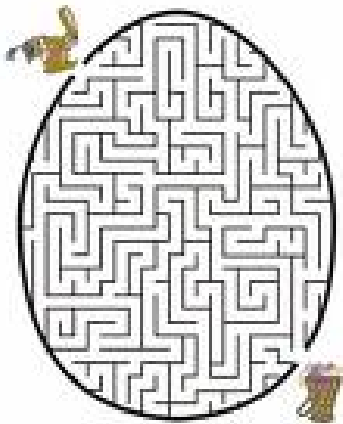
One major effect of the winter blues is pent-up aggression, especially during early April, which is not quite winter and not quite spring. If you and your child (age 10 and over) are looking for an outlet for this aggression, look no further than the Trailblazer Paintball Outing, April 12, at Fox Paintball near Millington, IL. The \$50 entry fee includes gun rental, mask, and 1000 rounds of ammunition. **Nation Chief Eric Sundstrom** promises that this event will be a blast, literally!

The best part is: this is a private event, for Federation members and guests, so we are in no danger of being waylaid by a frustrated Rambo-type (except perhaps, **Nation Chief Eric Sundstrom**). ☺

## The Early Line on Late-Season Events...

Mark your Calendars and Watch for Details on these events:

- **Trailblazer Spring Campout**, May 16 - 18 – Check out the website for details!
- **Prairie Trail Federation Golf Outing**, June 13, Flagg Creek Golf Course, tee times from 1:30-3:30pm. We are currently seeking hole sponsors and gift donations.
- **LaGrange Pet Parade**, May 31. Come join the Federation float, or have your tribe enter its own float!



### Native American Fact

According to Chief Tom Porter of the Mohawk Bear Clan, the thunder represents the spirit and voices of their grandfathers.

During the ceremony, children are given gifts of fruit and candy, as a way of bridging the gap between past and future.

(Source: [www.thecommunicator.org](http://www.thecommunicator.org))

Help Mr. Bunny find the Basket!

# HAPPY EASTER!!!!!!!