



THE BATTLE REPORT

San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

"The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the site's day-to-day natural and cultural resource management activities. Our goal is to inform and educate our staff, partners, and friends – and those we have yet to meet – Welcome!"



24 DECEMBER 2007 - 30 DECEMBER 2007

TPWD Transfers 18 Historic Sites to THC

As the New Year dawns, 18 TPWD-operated historic sites will no longer be a part of TPWD. The historic forts, homes and hallowed grounds will still exist but will be taken over by the Texas Historical Commission in keeping with mandates in House Bill 12.

Along with the 18 transferred historic sites, the THC will receive \$1.3 million in appropriations to operate and staff them. The sites are: Acton, Caddoan Mounds, Casa Navarro, Confederate Reunion Grounds, Eisenhower Birthplace, Fannin Battleground, Fort Griffin, Fort Lancaster, Fort McKavett, Fulton Mansion, Landmark Inn, Levi-Jordan, Magoffin Home, Sabine Pass Battleground, Sam Bell Maxey House, San Felipe, Starr Family Home and Varner-Hogg Plantation.

Last year's legislation mandated that all TPWD employees employed at the affected sites as of Jan. 1, 2008, should be retained in their positions for at least a year, although they would be subject to removal for cause. Many of the historic site superintendents will continue to manage the sites after Jan. 1.

"There were 45 FTEs at the sites, but not quite that many employees because there were some vacant positions," said Kevin Good, special assistant to state parks Director Walt Dabney. "The remaining state historic sites we manage will benefit from our increased park funding for maintenance and a few will receive additional staff."

So, as of Jan. 1, the state parks roster will shrink by 18 sites to 93 total. Historic sites remaining under TPWD's jurisdiction are: Battleship *Texas*, Fanthorp Inn, Fort Leaton, Hueco Tanks, Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery, San Jacinto Battleground, Sebastopol, Seminole Canyon and Washington-on-the-Brazos. Fort Richardson and Lyndon B. Johnson are operated as both a state park and state historic site.

Correction to Last Week's Donation Story

Last week's story on the donation of \$1000 was incorrectly reported to come from the BTARS organization. The donation was from the Houston Vintage Radio Association. We apologize for the error and thank them for their support.

Reveille



Hard Hat Tours wraps another successful year

Photo courtesy of the FTV

As another years draws to a close, the FTV reflects on yet another successful year for Hard Hat Tours. This year's tours had a total participation of 350, raising \$10,625 for restoration projects aboard Battleship TEXAS. Thanks to everyone who made this year a great success. The tours begin again on Jan. 19th. Contact Barbara Graf for reservations at 281-479-2431 x234.

SJHAB Elects New Officers

Photo courtesy of Al Davis, Jr.

The San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board elected a new slate of officers at their meeting held on Dec. 13th. Al Davis, Jr. of Houston has been named as the new Chariman, succeeding Jeff Dunn of Dallas. Trey Strake was elected as Vice Chairman, succeeding Al Davis, Jr. Risher Randall was elected Secretary, succeeding Jan DeVault, who assumed the vacant at-large position after choosing not to continue as an officer during the current term. The board advises Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on proper historical development of the battleground at San Jacinto.



New Chairman
Al Davis

Meet the Staff

***Park Superintendent:
Russ Kuykendall***

Don't let the grin fool you. Even General Sam would be proud of the leadership that Russ provides to our park. A graduate of Angelo State University, he's been with TPWD for 12 1/2 years and calls Baytown home. Russ has been married for 23 years to wife Debbie and has 3 kids and one grandchild. When he's not "steering the ship" out here, he enjoys spending time with his grandson and pets.

"I hope everyone has a fantastic New Year in 2008."



Ship's Store Showcase



***Keep the Kids warm
with the
Battleship TEXAS***

***BB35 Kids
Sweatshirt***

\$18.99

On the Horizon...



Upcoming Events

Jan 12 - Restoration Work Day for FTV onboard BB35. 8:00am - 5:00pm

Jan. 19 - Hard Hat Tour onboard BB35

Jan. 26 - Restoration Work Day for FTV onboard BB35. 8:00am - 5:00pm

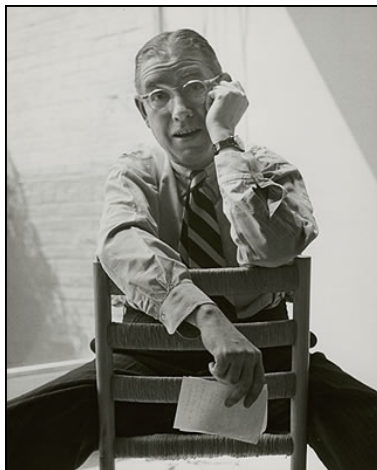
Jan. 26 - Friends of San Jacinto Meeting at Monument Inn Restaurant.

Feb. 16 & 17 - "Remember the Maine" Memorial Ceremony.

Words of Wisdom

"Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else."

- Ogden
Nash
American
Poet



This Week in History

Dec. 24

1852 - The *General Sherman* goes into service as the first locomotive in Texas

1862 - Federal troops occupy Galveston

Dec. 25

1941 - BB-35 hosts kids from the Conway Cove School, Argentia, Newfoundland

1948 - Country western singer "Barbara Mandrell" is born in Houston, Texas

Dec. 26

1874 - Joe McCombs stages the first commercial buffalo hunt in Texas in 1874

1918 - BB-35 arrives at New York City Harbor from France

Dec. 27

1836 - Stephen F. Austin known as the "Father of Texas" dies

Dec. 28

1914 - BB-35 arrives at New York Navy Yard

1856 - Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the US was born at Staunton, Virginia.

Dec. 29

1845 - Texas enters the union as the 28th State

Dec. 30

1895 - Homer Norton, the leading football coach of Texas A&M in history is born in Alabama

1959 - USS George Washington SS BN 598 was the 1st ballistic missile sub to be commissioned

The Year in Pictures

Parting Shot

