

# The BATTLE REPORT

1836 1945

## San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

Report for May 21, 2007 through May 27, 2007

Now on the web at [www.usstexasbb35.com](http://www.usstexasbb35.com) & [www.texianlegacy.com](http://www.texianlegacy.com)

*“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!”*



### COMMANDER’S CALL:

- ❖ We begin this week with a legislative update from Ken Kramer of the Sierra Club, which came to us by way of John Cobb, who serves on the board of directors for Texans For State Parks (TFSP):

#### Report from Ken Kramer, Sierra Club - Wednesday evening, May 23

*The Senate passed HB 12 tonight. This is the only bill still alive that deals with the issue of sporting goods tax revenue for parks and the issue of possible transfer of historic sites. As passed, HB 12 does NOT lift the cap on the amount of sporting goods tax revenue allocated to parks but rather sets up an interim study of the sporting goods tax and the revenue generated by it. Also, HB 12 does NOT transfer the state historic sites but rather sets up an interim study of such possible transfers.*

*The bill was amended - as many bill vehicles have been amended in the House and Senate the last few days - with what I would characterize as both germane and non-germane provisions, most of which are bills or parts of bills that had passed the Senate but have died in the House.*

*These include amendments dealing with control of aquatic vegetation (Nichols), use of revenue from Palo Duro State Park (Seliger), TPWD authority to inspect party boats (Watson - modified version of SB 997), continuation of the Texas Historical Commission (Deuell - SB 900 - which was not reached on the House Calendar Tuesday night), Preservation Trust Fund (Janek - small part of the diverse SB 1848, which was killed in the House on Tuesday night by a point of order), and something dealing with physical appearance of licensed officers (Ogden, presented by Duncan - SB 1722).*

*Now the bill will go back to the House for what I assume will be a refusal to concur and a request to go to conference committee.*

*Since SB 3 (the omnibus water legislation) just passed the House on third reading tonight and HB 3 (the stand-alone bill on environmental flows) just passed the Senate on third reading (with Edwards Aquifer Authority legislation added but not reservoir site designation language), the water legislation is still not final - both of these bills will likely go to conference committees and thus are still likely to figure into the deal-making with the Senate on parks funding.*

*Moreover, some reports in recent days have indicated that at least part of the anticipated increase in parks funding that has been in negotiation between the House and the Senate conferees on HB 1 (the state appropriations bill) and related parties is dependent upon the lifting of the cap on sporting goods tax revenue. Therefore, the parks appropriations issue is not resolved yet.*

*That's the bottom line: Parks funding and water issues are not resolved yet. Five more days to go.*

## ON THE HORIZON:

- May 28      Birthday of Park Host Janet Partridge! Happy Birthday Janet!!!
- May 30      Birthday of BB35 Maintenance Technician IV (Welder) Norman Snipe! Happy Birthday Norman!!!
- Jun 9-10    BTARS Museum Ships Weekend Event, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day
- Jun 30      First Texas Volunteers Restoration Workday aboard BB35, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- July 14      San Jacinto Corvette Car Club Show from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Rescheduled)
- July 20      Model Warship Combat, Inc. Awards & Dinner Banquet at BB35 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- July 28      First Texas Volunteers Restoration Workday aboard BB35, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## TROOP MOVEMENTS:

- ❖ It gives us great pleasure to introduce Park Ranger IV/Interpreter Tim Reeves as the heir apparent to take over publishing the Battle Report, effective May 28, 2007. As many of you know from our March 19-25, 2007 edition of the newsletter, Tim is one of the newest additions to our team. He was born in Deer Park, Texas in 1976 and graduated from high school there, and then moved on to the University of Houston where he graduated on May of 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in History, with a minor in Political Science. Married in late 2006 to wife Aimee, who is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for Pasadena ISD, Tim has most recently worked in the Education and Interpretation branch of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Prior to that, he worked at NASA for four years, also in Education and Interpretation. While with NASA, he wrote a monthly newsletter for Space Center, so he has been around the block before on this exercise. He is a quick learner, and we sincerely believe you can look for a consistently quality product that will leave you feeling like we haven't missed a beat. There may be some slight changes to the Battle Report, but we need to give Tim a chance to establish himself and carve out his own niche, without having to be compared with the work done in the past. Please throw all of your support behind him and help keep our weekly newsletter a strong and viable communication vehicle far into the future. Congratulations, Tim and good luck with your new assignment!



*Park Ranger IV Interpreter Tim Reeves*



*(L-R) Ranger Engel, Reggie, & Don Team Up On Project*

- ❖ The park now has a new handicapped-accessible drinking fountain, thanks to Battleground Park Ranger Gene Engel and Park Hosts Reggie Ethridge and Don Ellis. The trio worked on the special project for a few days this week, between the concrete work and plumbing preparations, and the actual fountain installation, illustrated at left. The location of the new visitor facility is between the park store and main restroom buildings, where a fountain has traditionally been available. Kudos for helping out the visitors!

- ❖ The special restoration project aboard BB35 in the Aft Steering area is continuing day by day, and the crew is actually ahead of schedule, following a rocky start. Seems there were some false high, positive lead test results from the BB35 crew in the very first round at the lab. The clinic ended up terminating the laboratory involved, new tests were done, and the special project team has been in compliance ever since. BB35 Lead Ranger George Templin has taken the reins on the project, which is designed to aid the compartment in retaining watertight integrity in the event of hull failure, and prevent compounding of damages to areas forward. The preventive maintenance is a stop gap measure to buy a little more time until the long-term repair plan can be determined. The steering wheels in the compartment are made of mahogany, and along with other irreplaceable artifacts in the space, TPWD is taking these proactive measures in fulfillment of its stewardship role. George passed along some photos which we share below, and will feature on a recurring basis as the project progresses. The original completion date was set for October 2007, but the crew is ahead of schedule and thinks they may be done by July!



*Steel Plate Below Steering Shaft Full Of Holes*



*(L-R) George & Lonnie Fry Look Like Astronauts!*



*Armon Gillespie Working Near Mahogany Wheels In BB35 After Steering Compartment*

- ❖ Next up, a summary of curatorial projects provided to BB35 Ship Manager Andy Smith and Curator Angela McCleaf, from TPWD Curator Joanne Avant:

**This is what was discussed and submitted for next FY:**

<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>FY08 Collection plan and implementation for Battleship TEXAS. Focusing on Cafeteria, Canteen and Soda Fountain. Necessary research. inventory existing collections. Replication and purchasing as well as repair and refurbishing of collections needed. Correction/amending/addition of accession and catalog records, including photos of each object. Additional necessary research. Revision of written collection maintenance and housekeeping plan plus one-on-one training of site's maintenance and housekeeping-responsible staff. Formal written collection plan with object documentation and reference articles that the site staff will use for collection management accountability as well as interpretive programming needs. Supplies at \$15,000, travel at \$3,000, research at \$1,500, printing at \$500.</p>	<p>While several crew spaces have been refurbished, an obvious lack in interpreting the sailors' daily life has been the food service aboard the ship. The refurbishing of these three areas would fill that gap. All three spaces are "clean" and ready to accept objects. In addition, all three spaces are concentrated on the second deck, already secured from most visitor tampering, and protected from the outside elements. Spaces are partially furnished but have not been documented as a written plan; staff needs updated written housekeeping./maintenance plan and training to follow same. Replacement cycle for items with inherent vice and consumable nature such as replica paper items, drapes, and so on.</p>
-----------------	--	--

**Part of the 10-year plan:**

<p>\$13,000</p>	<p>FY10 Battleship TEXAS Collection Management: Cataloging, photography, housing and storage packaging, inventory, etc of all remaining collections (2<sup>nd</sup> deck only has been processed); Supplies at \$5,000 and travel at \$8,000.</p>	<p>Collections have not been fully documented or properly housed.</p>
<p>\$48,500</p>	<p>FY10 Battleship TEXAS Collection Plan: Research and write-up for plans for the currently installed spaces and then implement plan by completing furnishings for 20MM clipping room, Bakery, Barber Shop, Bread Room, Captain's Stateroom, Chart House, Clipping room, CPO Washroom, Crew galley, Crew washroom, Crew watercloset, Dental Office, Disbursing office, Dispensing and Doctor's Office, Executive office, First Lt office, Isolation ward, Laundry, Marine space, Medical office, Movie locker, Officer's Stateroom D, Operating room, Pilot house, Post Office, Prophylactic room, Radar room aux, Scullery, Sick bay, Sterilization room, Tailor shop, Wardroom; revised housekeeping/maintenance plan after collection plan completed; train staff in housekeeping/maintenance. Supplies at \$5,000, travel at \$12,500, furnishings at \$30,000, printing costs at \$1,000. Some out-of-state travel ref other battleships. NOTE: this is a continuation of project started in FY08-09.</p>	<p>Spaces are only partially furnished and have not been documented as a written plan; staff needs updated written housekeeping/maintenance plan and training to follow same.</p>

Joanne added that *“It remains to be seen if funding will appear. I have applied several times before and gotten denied. If this does come through though, it will address all the current exhibit-ready areas onboard.”* We should learn more by next week, at the close of the session of the 80<sup>th</sup> legislature....

- ❖ In another Battleship TEXAS story, a special visitor stopped by this week to renew acquaintances. Mr. R.J. Anders, son of BB35, World War I crewmember Robert Richard Anders visited after coordinating by email for the past several weeks. Barbara Graf, along with BB35 Historian Rusty Bloxom communicated in advance of Mr. Anders visit, and then Barbara came through with some photos, which we intersperse with some of the text from the story:



*R.J. Anders & Rusty Bloxom On BB35*

*Hello All: A gentleman by the name of Robert John Anders called today. Mr. RJ Anders is the son of one of our WWI veterans that served aboard the TEXAS, Mr. Robert Richard Anders. Mr. Robert Richard Anders was a second-class electrician radio operator during WWI in the years of 1919-1921. Mr. RJ Anders is flying in from New York, Monday, May 21st to visit us here around 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. He is bringing some of his father's war memorabilia with him (digital copy of a very large engraved certificate when his father crossed the equator/ January 24, 1921), a photo album, and a copy of the USS Mount McKinley newsletter which Mr. RJ Anders is the editor. Mr. RJ Anders would like to meet with ship staff and walk and talk with us. He said he wants someone to pick out some of the photos his dad had taken during the WWI era and is willing to make copies of those photos for us. Also Mr. RJ Anders would like to visit the radio room where his father served. Andy, I have talked with Rusty and he is cool with walking and talking with Mr. RJ Anders, if your OK with that since, Angela will not be back until next week. Please let me know, if this is cool with you. Rusty I would like to take some pictures of you and Mr. RJ Anders while he is here. Please let me know when it would be a convenient time for me to do so during your walk and talk. Also, as soon as Andy has OK'ed it for you to be our representative of the TEXAS can you please contact Mr. RJ Anders and let him know with whom, where, and when he can meet up with you upon his arrival to the TEXAS. If at all possible Mr. RJ Anders needs to know ASAP before he leaves from NY who he can talk with upon his arrival. Thanks,*

*Barb*



*World War I Era Photograph Of BB35's Richard Robert Anders From Archives*

---

*Sounds great to me . . . thanks to both you and Rusty!*

*Andy Smith*

---

*Mr. Anders, We're delighted that you'll be visiting us next Monday 21 May, and we're very grateful that you are willing to share some of your father's documents with us. When you arrive at the park, tell the folks at the roadside ticket booth that you're here to see me, Rusty Bloxom, and I'll meet you at the gift shop. We'll take a look at the two radio rooms while you're here. We're looking forward to seeing you! Sincerely,*  
*Rusty Bloxom*



*Rusty & R.J. Hold Up Equator Indoctrination Certificate*

---

*Thanks to you all for the opportunity to visit my father's ship. Since our conversation yesterday, I have decided to modify my gift to the Texas. Instead of giving you a digitized reproduction, I will be giving you the original certificate commemorating my father's indoctrination into the "Domain of Neptunus Rex" (crossing the Equator) on 24 January, 1921 aboard the USS Texas. This wonderful document measures 17 X 22 inches. When I crossed the equator aboard the USS Columbus CA 74 (heavy cruiser) in 1956, I received a wallet sized card without any visual interest. Obviously the navy changed. Also, instead of letting you select images from my father's photo album and then providing you with copies, I am also willing to give the photo album, which contains 130 picture postcards produced by the ship. The cards measure 3 3/8 X 5 3/8 inches. It is my guess, and only a guess, that the photographs were taken by navy photographers aboard or from the ship, and then a handwritten caption was inscribed with India ink on some of the negatives and then reproduced for the crew. Interestingly, 22 of these pictures deal with the crossing the equator indoctrination ceremony connected with the certificate. I look forward to our visit.*

*Robert J. Anders*

May 21 – May 27, 2007

- ❖ Our final story from the site this week surrounds our hard working staff at the Battleship TEXAS State Park Store, who has once again managed to turn in a stellar performance in the sale of the TPWD annual park passes! Austin Vieh, a program coordinator at TPWD Austin Headquarters sent the following missive concerning the accomplishment to Region 4 Office Manager Betty Johnson:

*Good afternoon. Please let me start by apologizing for the delayed release of this information. Please distribute this information to your parks. Attached you will find Walt's Awards Notification Memo and the list of specific awards, as well as the Sales Goals for 2007. This past year was great for TSPP sales; as a division we (you) sold more than 4,000 over our 2006 goals. Without your hard work and dedication this program would not be nearly as successful as it has been these last three years. Keep up the good work, you're doing fantastic!*

*Award Recipients: Please let me know how you plan on spending your award money ASAP, as I'll need to process a Budget Change Request in order to complete the funds transfer. Thank you,*

*Austin Vieh*

---

### Texas State Parks Pass Awards 2006

#### Group Awards: (\$11,000)

Group 1 (\$2,000) – Government Canyon

Group 5 (\$1,000) - Balmorhea

Group 2 (\$2,000) – Goose Island

Group 6 (\$1,000) – Colorado Bend

Group 3 (\$2,000) – Tyler

Group 7 (\$500) – Battleship Texas

Group 4 (\$1,000) – Fairfield

Group 8 (\$500) - Big Bend Ranch

Group 9 (\$1,000) – Cust. Service Center

#### Grand Prize Drawings: (\$31,000)

1<sup>st</sup> place – \$10,000 – South Llano

4<sup>th</sup> place – \$4,500 - WOB

2<sup>nd</sup> place – \$7,500 – McKinney Falls

5<sup>th</sup> place – \$2,500 – Fulton Mansion

3<sup>rd</sup> place – \$5,500 – Lake Somerville/Birch Creek

6<sup>th</sup> place – \$1,000 - Buescher

#### SCUTTLEBUTT:



*All: Appreciate your responses to the smoke tester. We did find it and will be utilizing it soon. If anyone has a need to borrow it let me know. Thanks,*

Scott Triebes, Asst. Park Mgr.  
San Jacinto Battleground S.H.S.

**Editor's Note:** *Follow up to last week's smoke tester search – found at Stephen F. Austin. Thanks Alan!*



*Dear Mr. Irwin, we would like to thank you for our wonderful adventure aboard the Battleship TEXAS on May 4. Our group had a great time and, as always, our guides were informative and entertaining. Thanks again for providing such a great adventure for our students. Sincerely,*

Becky Geeslin, Teacher  
Corrigan-Camden Elementary

**Editor's Note:** *Battleship Texas Foundation's Overnight Program Coordinator Jerry Irwin passed along the kudos from this elementary school teacher, in a letter dated May 23, 2007. Congrats!*



*All: I invite anyone who would like to participate, to be part of a training exercise intended to improve our GPS and GIS skills. In the future, we want to use GPS to log the trails throughout Region Four parks. The eventual goal will be to have all trails in the Region projected in GIS for use on interpretive panels that give visitors accurate information concerning our trails. However, before we can get to that point, we need to hone our skills. Region Four staff need to practice using GPS equipment to log trails and I need to practice both using the equipment to log trails and to practice processing the resulting data into GIS. At this point, I propose only a training exercise. However, the exercise will certainly get us closer to producing better information and interpretive products for our trails. This exercise will begin right away. However, participants may work at a pace that fits conveniently within their busy schedules. I only need:*

A firm commitment from each participant that they will map what they consider as the significant lines and points of one or more of their site's trails within the next year (by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2008).

A commitment to send me the resulting data files with the information needed for me to interpret and label the data in GIS (e.g. name of each trail, identity of points marked).

*I expect participants to have questions as they work. So you'll also need to agree to, whenever questions arise, ask me for help, which I'll either provide directly or in consultation with the GIS lab staff. If you will participate in the exercise please reply to this email by May 31st. Thank you.*

Walt Bailey, Region 4 State Parks  
Regional Interpretive Specialist

**Editor's Note: *Mixing high technology with interpretation and education - the trend is here to stay.***



*Jack, I got a call from Charriss York with the Texas A&M Cooperative Extension Service today about the larger Bald cypress trees at the wastewater plant. She is the person that has been talking with Andy Sipocz about getting the trees. She is planning on picking up 40 trees next Tuesday May 29, 2007 around 10:00 am. She will be stopping by headquarters and I will be contacting you to show her where the trees are located. Thanks,*

Scott Triebes, Asst. Park Mgr.  
San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

**Editor's Note: *An associate of Andy's from a fellow state agency needed a helping hand with some trees.***



*I will introduce you to Stennie when we get this stupid session of the legislature behind us. Perhaps, we can all have lunch. Thought you might find this of interest. Best,*

Jan DeVault, President  
Friends Of San Jacinto

*Dear Texbirders,*

*The number of bird conservation issues and the sentiments expressed by Texbird messages, prompted me to ask David Sarkozi if it was possible to set up a TX-Bird-Conservation Listserv as a clearing house and resource for all bird/wildlife conservation issues. David set it up within minutes and now it's ready for you to subscribe! In fact, I dealt with a bird conservation issue this morning that is not a bird sighting so I would not have posted it to Texbirds, but now, there is an appropriate place to post it, so others do not have to reinvent the wheel, or worse, think there are no resources available.*

*To subscribe, send to: [listserv@listserv.uh.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uh.edu) and in the first line of the message box type "subscribe tx-bird-conservation your name" all on one line. It will reject the subscription if your name is on the second line, as mine was the first try. I will advertise this list to all that I have worked with on the TPWD issue and all other conservation issues. The Houston Sierra Club, The Park People and Houston Audubon worked very effectively together as a team, each bringing something different to the TPWD effort. I see that as a model for future bird/wildlife conservation issues.*

*We are very fortunate to have this incredible listserv resource available for conservation purposes. Let's make the most of it. Thank you David Sarkozi and Texbirders! Continued best birding!*

Stennie Meadours  
San Leon



Thanks for the info. Analogous to the ship channel in the 1970's? Room for improvement yes, but hope on the horizon???

No way. Most of our birds are definitely doomed. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18803182/> and <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18788333/>. Santa Anna is the premier bird refuge in the U.S. The fence (if built as has been done elsewhere) will pave over most of it.

Andy Sipocz, Region 4 State Parks  
Natural Resources Coordinator



First, thanks to each of you for the dedication and can-do spirit that has carried us through some tough times recently. It has not gone unnoticed. As you know, we have been seeking significant additional funding for State Parks this legislative season. We continue to be very hopeful that financial help is on the way. In March, a State Auditors Office report was released that made 47 recommendations for improvements in State Parks and our financial control processes. Mr. Cook has directed me to lead our effort to effectively respond to each of the recommendations as well as any other related improvements that we might deem beneficial to us. This response is the agency's highest priority, and with your help we will get it done and be a better outfit for it. Also, Mr. Cook has hired Stan Wedel on a part-time basis as a Special Project Assistant throughout this audit response process. Mr. Wedel is our friend and is committed to helping us. He has an extensive background in state government administration, and in order to understand all aspects of State Parks, he will be spending time in all areas of the Parks program. I ask that you cooperate fully and make every effort to help Mr. Wedel understand what we do and why we do it. He is located here at State Parks Headquarters near the "war room". Finally, I want to share my sincere appreciation for the way you represent Texas Parks and Wildlife. It is my great pleasure to be a part of your team.

Scott Boruff, Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Deputy Executive Director, Operations



All Staff: Congratulations to the winners of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Employee Recognition Awards (ERA). These winners were selected from the nominations received by the April 11, 2007 ERA nomination deadline. The selections were made by the ERA Selection Committee, which is composed of previous winners and division representatives. There are eight individual winners and two team winners. Be sure to congratulate your colleagues for their winning contributions to TPWD. The 2007 Employee Recognition Program award categories and winners are listed below (names of team winners attached):

Natural Quality Service	Jamie McClanahan
Partnership	Dave Terre
Conservation	Earl Chilton
Leadership	Clayton Wolf
Innovation	Dijar Lutz-Carrillo
Customer Service	Lorna Herron
Community Outreach	Bill Balboa
Special Achievements	Charles Moon
Outstanding Team	Green Sea Turtle Rescue (see attached) Texas Parks & Wildlife Honor Guard 2007 (see attached)

Mark the date and come celebrate these winners with us at the TDS Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion in Austin, Texas at 6:00pm on August 21, 2007. There will be more information on the dinner and Awards Ceremony to follow.

Robert L. Cook, Executive Director  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



Hi Barry. Thanks for pushing the MOA through. At the same time, I was receiving these non-substantive changes from our Legal Director. I think we can agree on all changes and start this thing through the signing process. I will make the changes and issue it for a final look. That sound OK?

Chris Greer, BB35 Project Manager

**Editor's Note:** Chris wrote this note to Battleship Texas Foundation Executive Director Barry Ward, as negotiations on an MOA between the partner group and TPWD was being finalized for BTF to conduct an engineering survey of BB35 to determine her condition for repairs.



*I received this message last night from John Baker of the Texas Army. As you all know, Randy Billingsley and his wife Connie have been to several of our Friends' meetings. Randy most recently has been the president of the San Jacinto Descendants and has been a strong and faithful advocate for the battleground. Connie has always been at his side and a true help in his endeavors. Please keep Randy and his family in your thoughts.*

Jan DeVault, President  
Friends Of San Jacinto

---

*Thanks Mr. John...My wife of 38 years passed away today at Scott and White hospital...so I have been out of commission since April 18th when she went in the hospital, and since she has passed away, I will be out for a while longer. Take care....*

Randy Billingsley,  
Maysfield, Texas

**Editor's Note:** *Our deepest sympathies to Randy and the entire Billingsley family. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. B at the party for the debut of the Houston History magazine on April 5.*



*Good afternoon, in its meeting on April 5, 2007, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the adoption of the nonprofit partner rules. The rules were published in the Texas Register on Friday, May 11, 2007, at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/sos/adopted/31.NATURAL%20RESOURCES%20AND%20CONSERVATION.html#892>. These rules are effective May 17, 2007. If you have any questions or comments or if I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thanks.*

Ann Bright, General Counsel  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department




**To San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board members and San Jacinto non-profits:**

*Please note that effective May 17, TPWD has adopted new regulations affecting closely related non-profit organizations, referred to as "CRNPs." The San Jacinto Museum of History Association, the Battleship Texas Foundation, and the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground are CRNPs under these new regulations. I am forwarding an email sent by Ann Bright (TPWD General Counsel) on May 14 announcing the adoption of these rules together with attachments. There are several new technical requirements for non-profits and I encourage each of you to read the rules in their entirety, but I want to emphasize §51.163, excerpted below, which will directly impact the relationship among the Museum, BTF and the Friends. This section mandates "public access and transparency" among CRNPs and requires that CRNP "business practices and internal processes" be "conducted in a way that is open, clear, measurable, and verifiable." This requires, among other things, mandatory annual reports and means that the three San Jacinto non-profits are now required to share financial and other internal information and reports with each other on a routine and regular basis when this information is requested. In addition, our three non-profits are now required to notify the other two non-profits of "all meetings and allow a representative to attend." This means that when the Museum, BTF or the Friends holds a board or committee meeting, that non-profit must notify the other two non-profits of the meeting ahead of time and permit a representative to attend that meeting. These new rules coincidentally adopt several of the "communications guidelines" that I proposed at the last advisory board meeting. TPWD should be congratulated for adopting these rules. If properly followed by the three San Jacinto non-profits, the new rules will improve communication, avert some of the problems we experienced last year with the master plan and the visitor center, and enable each of our groups to be more effective advocates for the battleship, the museum and the park, and more effective partners for TPWD. I encourage the Museum, BTF and the Friends to initiate internal procedures to implement these new rules and comply with them diligently. In addition to notification of board meetings, and in light of past requests for financial information and our discussions about these issues, at a minimum each of our three non-profits should begin to distribute their respective financial statements, annual reports, and minutes of board meetings to the other two non-profits and the advisory board on a routine basis with copies to the park manager. Regards,*

Jeff Dunn, Chairman  
San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board

---

**Editor's Note:** *We were not even aware (at our level) that there was any activity underway to revise these regulations and do not know who all was consulted to have input into the process.*


 *Hi Russ, I was reading the Parting Shot at the end of the Battle Report and saw that "... a banner styled after the Texas flag is foisted next to the gangway to the ship." I hope that the crew really wanted the banner and that it was not put there fraudulently or through trickery! Regards,*

Tom Scott, V.P. - Docents  
First Texas Volunteers

---

---

**Editor's Note:** *Sigh...okay, would you believe "hoisted?" I try really hard Tom, but sometimes the words get in the way. No excuses, but thank goodness "reinforcements" have arrived! Tim!!!*


 *ALL: I found this link when I was looking for something else online yesterday. It requires a download, which we can't do on agency PC's unless we get administrator rights. Would anyone prefer to check it out, maybe on their home PC? It truly looks kind of interesting....anyway, please let me know. Thanks. Here is the link: <http://www.mitofx.com/file/1206-hero-ships-hd-series-uss-texas-normandy-map.html>.*

Russ Kuykendall, Park Manager  
San Jacinto Battleground S.H.S.

---

---


**Editor's Note:** *Oh, these park superintendents with their war march music and bomb blasting websites!*

 *Russ, I tried it here at home, but I couldn't get it to play more than about 5 seconds before it shut off. It sounded like the narration that we've reviewed a couple of times. The map looked OK, and the battleship silhouette looked like a pretty good rendition of my old ship, the USS Iowa BB61, but not much like us. At least that's what I got from the few seconds that played.*

Rusty Bloxom, TPWD  
BB35 Historian/Restoration Planner

---

---


 *Russell, thanks for all of your hard work and dedication on this newsletter. Your replacement has some mighty big shoes to fill (pun intended).*

Stormy Reeves, Park Manager  
Goose Island State Park

---

---


**Editor's Note:** *Ahem, yes, those "clown shoes" are awfully big! But seriously, I appreciate your kind words Stormy. On another note, we missed your Assistant Manger Ethan Belicek on April 21, but Slim said he saved enough on his grocery bill for a down payment on a new boat!*

 *Good morning, Dr. Briaud, I just want to confirm about the Pressuremeter boring, which has been rescheduled to be drilled on Friday, June 1, 2007. I have confirmed the schedule with Scott the park manager. He is ok with it as long as we finish the work on Friday. I think if we meet at 7.00 am on Friday we can finish the work. We also have a truck with the ability of using 20 ft rod length, which will speed up the process. I think we will finish the boring this time without any difficulty. Thanks and let me know if you have any questions*

Abhishek S. Shethji, E.I.T.  
Project Professional  
FUGRO CONSULTANTS, INC.

---

---

 *All: Hopefully this will be the last time Fugro will be here for the boring. Please be aware they will be here early Friday June 1, 2007. Thanks,*

Scott Triebs, Asst. Park Mgr.  
San Jacinto Battleground S.H.S.

---

---

 *Who knows, Russ. Thought you might like to see this.*

Jan DeVault, President  
Friends Of San Jacinto

---

---

---

*The Appropriation Conference Report is on the way to the printer. It will probably be voted on Saturday. A reporter told me that Senator Ogden said that the park increase will be at \$400 million which is, according to the Senator, up from \$220 million. Those are not quite the numbers I have seen, but until we see the category by category breakdown, it is impossible to determine what is in the totals. What is possible to say is that this is almost as good as it gets. A few holes and no cap lift yet, but we have raised the bar by almost double. More tomorrow.*

George L. Bristol, President  
Texas Coalition for Conservation

**Editor's Note:** *Thanks for passing this along, Jan.*



*It is getting close.*

Walt Dabney, Director  
TPWD State Parks Division



*Sherrie, many thanks for sending me the lab reports on the sewer plant at San Jac. We now have a good history for the operation of the plant and you do not need to send me any more reports. The staff is doing a great job with the sewer plant and as the reports show the sewer plant is operating within the permit requirements. Again thank you for your help with this little project, I do appreciate it.*

Carl Orbison, TPWD State Parks  
Region 8 Maintenance Specialist

**Editor's Note:** *Carl has assisted San Jacinto over the past several months to get our wastewater plant in compliance with TCEQ. Thanks Carl! By the way, our new UPO starts Monday, June 4!*



*Carl, Jack et al, this is good! Once again, thanks for taking this on and providing a successful solution.*

Dan Sholly, Deputy Director  
TPWD State Parks Division

**Editor's Note:** *Dan's kudos to Carl Orbison and Jack Burris, San Jacinto's Maintenance Supervisor.*



*Liz, Angela asked me to send you my expanded notes on the first draft DVD of the Hero Ships program on TEXAS. I watched the program again over the weekend and made the attached observations. Some of these appear on the initial set of notes that Angela sent you Friday -- while I was at home I had the time to really dig into the DVD and I spent about 2 hours going through it. These comments are more detailed -- they can replace my earlier notes. We're all very excited about the program here! Angela's comments about the music and the transition shots are on target -- when we did our initial viewing last week we were stunned by the impact of the images. I try to get across to our visitors that the ship is more than steel and wood, that she's the flesh and blood of the men who served in her. Your production is teaching that lesson in a very powerful way. Thanks for including us in the creative process. You're doing a wonderful thing for our ship and her people. Sincerely,*

Rusty Bloxom, TPWD  
BB35 Historian/Restoration Planner

**Editor's Note:** *Rusty's message to Liz Reph of Loureda Productions, concerning a new DVD for BB35.*



*Rusty, whoa! Now that's what I call thorough!!!! Thank goodness we have you on staff! Again, excellent job!*

Angela McCleaf, TPWD  
Battleship TEXAS Curator

**Editor's Note:** *Kudos to Rusty for catching three pages worth of errors of BB35 history in the script for the above-mentioned DVD. So fascinating, the editor distributed copies to all the staff!*



To San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board members and San Jacinto non-profits:

*House Bill 1653, which was proposed to clarify the duties of the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board and expand its membership, was reported favorably by the House Cultural, Recreation and Tourism Committee, but died in the Calendars Committee before being brought to the House floor for a vote. This is the third session that the bill (or a version of it) has failed. Prior versions of the bill introduced in 2003 and 2005 passed the House unanimously, but died in a Senate committee. I would like to thank Rep. Wayne Smith for sponsoring the bill again this session and for his tireless efforts in support of the Advisory Board, San Jacinto Battleground, and the Battleship Texas. The Advisory Board has been proactive regarding several elements of the bill, including our informal inclusion of the Battleship Texas Foundation and the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground in our deliberations, creation of ex-officio members, coordination of the San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony, and promotion of educational programs such as the annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium. It would be nice to memorialize these functions in the statute books and include formal roles for the BTF, the Friends, and the executive directors of TPWD and THC, but there is no reason why we cannot continue to be proactive in encouraging the kind of coordination and communication that Rep. Smith intended to accomplish with this bill. Regards,*

Jeff Dunn, Chairman  
San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board



*Andy, sorry for the delay. Here are links to our file server. I can't ship all these over the email system, but you should be able to click on the links and just look at the stuff on the server here. This link includes a movie which shows the drill making a 2.25" hole in a piece of 1" thick A-36 Plate. This is of the 1610 Monarch lathe. Powerturn. See you Thursday.*

Robert Crossman  
General Superintendent  
Texas State Railroad SP

**Editor's Note:** *The links Robert was referring to are on the TPWD server, so sorry for the lack of pix! BB35 Ship Manager and other staff will travel to Rusk on May 31 to check out property (maintenance equipment) which could be transferred from TSRR to us. Happy hunting!*



*The Senate just adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow. HB 12 had not come up as of adjournment. So, the earliest it can will be tomorrow afternoon. There has been some question in how long they will go tomorrow, either 5 PM or Midnight. The bill is still with the Conferee Committee. The members of the Committee are:*

Appointed (05/25/2007) [Hilderbran](#) (Chair) | [Flores](#) | [Gattis](#) | [Howard, Donna](#) | [O'Day](#) in the House

Appointed (05/26/2007) [Estes](#) (Chair) | [Brimer](#) | [Hinojosa](#) | [Jackson, Mike](#) | [Ogden](#) in the Senate

*There is a chance the Bill won't make it out of Committee if they can't work something out pretty quick. As of two hours ago, the House cannot print out the bills before the end of the session. This will be the most dangerous time in the House in that people will not know what they voted on except by the word of whoever is introducing the bill...The House is running far, far behind because of all the fighting going on...On funding for Parks, the HB1 (funding bill) is being reported as:*

**Funding for state parks would increase by \$180 million, including money to increase maintenance at the 600-acre state parks system, refurbish the Battleship Texas and keep the Texas State Railroad operating.**

*However, it has not come up for a vote by either the House or the Senate. They are each reserving three (3) hours for floor debate tomorrow in both Houses...*

John Cobb, Board of Directors  
Texans For State Parks (TFSP)


**Editor's Note:** *John's update late Saturday evening....*



*Congratulations to you and your staff for winning \$500.00! Think of some ideas how best to utilize it and let us know – thanks. Please share the good news with everyone and discuss the FY 2007 goals (for the 3 months remaining). Thanks ALL!*

Russ Kuykendall, Park Manager  
San Jacinto Battleground S.H.S.

**Editor's Note:** *Thanking Park Store Manager Jerry Moak & staff for job well done on annual pass sales.*

 *Everyone: A meeting of FTV will be held this coming Saturday, June 2 at 1400 (2:00pm). This is somewhat short notice, but now that summertime has arrived, individual schedules will become rather erratic as time move on. Lately, some very good ideas pertaining to the recruitment of new members and development of future visitor programs have been voiced and we wish to develop them during the meeting. This is a chance to get your creative juices flowing and to make your mark in the future of FTV, while assisting TPWD in identifying profitable directions to take restoration and proposed visitor interaction. So, come on out. We want to hear your ideas. Ken, would you mind reserving the Dreadnought Room for us that afternoon? And, as an added treat to those of you who just completed the Docent Training Course, please be there at 1:00 pm to take your test. As promised, we will conduct the test at that time. It won't take long and you will still be able to chew the fat with your friends before we start the meeting. See you then.*

Persons to take the test:


Mark Gruver  
David Hickman  
Brandt Schneider  
Sharron Waszkiewicz

*If I missed anyone on this, please raise your paw. See you then, guys!*

Don Fischer, President  
First Texas Volunteers

---


---

 *Conference committee came out after midnight last night...We might or might not get a copy before it comes up for vote. There are tons of reports to print and get out before the end of the session (midnight tonight)...Will pass along information as soon as we can get it...*


John Cobb, Board of Directors  
Texans For State Parks (TFSP)

---

---

 *To San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board members and San Jacinto non-profits: The saga of House Bill 12 will be reaching its climactic moment in a few days. At our last meeting a majority of the Advisory Board adopted resolutions, which were communicated to the legislature, supporting increased funding for state parks (via the release of the sporting goods tax cap), but opposing immediate transfer of any state historic sites from TPWD to THC without a joint interim study. The House passed HB 12 which included a release of the sporting goods tax cap for the benefit of TPWD while also approving the transfer of 18 historic sites to THC (with an earmarked slice of the sporting goods tax for the benefit of THC to fund the management of these sites). San Jacinto/Battleship Texas is not included in the bill, apparently because THC thinks the site has "too many complications" right now. (An understatement maybe?) If the transfer is ultimately approved and signed the Governor, the management of our major Texas Revolution historic sites will be bifurcated, with TPWD in charge of San Jacinto and Washington on the Brazos, and THC in charge of Fannin Battleground (Goliad) and San Felipe. This will become effective September 1 of this year. From what I can tell, THC has not yet adopted any management plans with respect to how it will operate any of these sites. (The Alamo, of course, is operated by the DRT and is not impacted.) The Senate approved HB 12 with amendments that reject both the lifting of the sporting goods tax cap and the transfer of the 18 sites, instead calling for interim study committees to review both issues. (There are other unrelated provisions thrown in the Senate version as well.) Among other things, the Senate version of the bill requires THC to develop "base operating plans" for the sites it wants to manage and mandates public hearings in conjunction with the interim study of this issue. The bill now goes to a conference committee. The session will be ending in a few days, therefore we will know shortly how this will be resolved. You can follow the action at this website: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=80R&Bill=HB12>*

Jeff Dunn, Chairman  
San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board

 *The House adjourned this morning at 12:45 when several members walked out...there was not a quorum...HB 12 had not been heard when this happened...They will meet again on Monday, but it is unknown if there will be a quorum at that time either. It is unknown what kind of funding Parks will have if HB 12 is not brought up for a vote. It was stated several times in both the House and Senate all day that the funding was directly tied to HB 12 to trigger HB 1 Parks funding...I will let everyone know as soon as we know anything...*

John Cobb, Board of Directors  
Texans For State Parks (TFSP)

---

---

## COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE:

Very few people on our staff are aware of this and none of our readers know about it, but our new Battle Report editor, Tim Reeves was published by age 5! The photo of Tim at right was actually taken when he was 4, while on a family trip to the Texas State Railroad. It was in March of 1979, and the family had pulled over the car to enjoy the dogwoods in bloom. The following year, Texas Highways Magazine published the photo in the March issue for a wildflower feature. So if any among the readership have similar or better child prodigy credentials, please let us know. Better yet, let Tim know so he can go check with his parents to make sure there wasn't something earlier on that he overlooked!



*Four-Year Old Tim Reeves In Texas Highways Mag!*

## SHIP STORE SHOWCASE:



We pick up where we left off last week when we introduced the new, Wayne Carver collection of wooden souvenirs. This week at the BB35 Park Store, we have this deluxe keepsake pocket knife in a handsome wooden box. The knife may be eye candy, but handle with care, the blade is razor sharp! It retails for \$23.99, which we think is a bargain for a site specific item that is so well done and is actually functional. Stop by and get one today. Discounts are available for preferred customers (staff, volunteers, partners, and friends). See you at the battleship!

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

- May 21 Dictator Porfirio Diaz resigns, bringing temporary calm to revolution-torn Mexico in 1911
- May 21 BB-35 provides platform for first Atlantic airplane flight in 1919
- May 22 BB-35 has sailed 440,578 total miles to date in 1937
- May 22 BB-35 has sailed 470,742 total miles to date in 1938
- May 22 BB-35 has sailed 495,663 total miles to date in 1939
- May 22 Pres. Dwight Eisenhower signs the Tidelands Bill, giving Texas rights to its offshore oil in 1953
- May 23 In 1541 Coronado gives thanks in Palo Duro Canyon 79 years before pilgrims celebrate Thanksgiving
- May 23 Lawmen ambush Bonnie Parker & Clyde Barrow, who die in a hail of gunfire in 1934
- May 23 BB-35 has sailed 516,667 total miles to date in 1940
- May 24 The Mission San Francisco de los Tejas is founded in east Texas in 1690

- May 25 The first meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy in Texas is held in 1896
- May 25 BB-35 ends first long-range North Atlantic patrol (begun May 5) in 1941
- May 26 In 1900 the famous Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers is dissolved
- May 26 Battleship *TEXAS* rescues passengers of (ship) RYNDAM in 1915
- May 27 Major league baseball player & manager, Michael Pinky Higgins is born in Red Oak, Texas in 1909

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

*“And in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make.” - - Lennon/McCartney*

**PARTING SHOT:**

Well gang, it is the end of the line as your faithful editor of the Battle Report for the past (exactly) 4 ½ years. For many, many years, park managers were required to submit a weekly report to the Region and State Parks Division Director. When it evolved that the requirement would be only on an as needed basis, former Park Manager Jerry Hopkins asked if we could just write a newsletter. Walt Dabney said yes, and soon after, the staff held a contest to name the newsletter. Russ Kuykendall, current Park Manager (but in another position at the time), submitted the winning name, the “Battle Report.” The name had to bring together the interpretive features of both the Battleground and Battleship, and Russ recalled the reading of General Sam Houston’s Battle Report each year at the San Jacinto Day Ceremony. With Jerry in the lead, the first issue was released November 5, 2002 for the week of October 28 though November 3. Russ wrote most of the newsletter, and Jerry added key stories only he would know about, as well as edited for content. It has been a lot of work, but also a lot of fun, and not a single weekly issue has been missed – late on occasion – but never missed. The publication is weekly because there is so much going on at the site,



*Russ At His Computer – Probably Writing A Battle Report!*



*Editor Emeritus, Jerry Hopkins, Aboard BB35 In July 2004*

and current computer software would only allow for a certain file size to be utilized that could be considered practical. Albeit, the “weekly report” is always a week in arrears, but there simply isn’t enough time or enough staff to produce something more current. At the end of the day, our objective was just as our mission statement atop our page 1 masthead proclaimed: *“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.”* We hope we have at least come close to fulfilling that mission. Thanks for coming along for the ride....