



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!"



16 JULY 2007 - 22 JULY 2007



Awards presentation



Ken Grubb accepts the donation from Steve Reichenbach

Model Warship Club meets onboard Battleship TEXAS

Photos by Ken Grubb

Members of the Model Warship Club met for their awards banquet onboard Battleship TEXAS on July 20th. Model Warship Combat, Inc. (MWCI) was founded in 1998 by a group

of veteran model warship combat captains in order to provide a national organization dedicated to the safety, promotion, development and fun of R/C model warship combat. This status means MWC is unique among the other R/C warship combat clubs and allows MWC to provide its membership with certain services not available elsewhere. MWC Inc. also sanctions combat events across the country including an annual National Championship in July and supports local affiliated groups, known as chapters, within several regions of the country. The club made a \$1000 donation to the Battleship TEXAS Foundation. For more information about Model Warship Combat, go to www.mwci.org/chapters/TNB.

Reveille



San Jacinto Staff gets education on Wildlife Rehabilitation

Photo by Barbara Graf

Working in a State Park, we are quite accustomed to seeing all sorts of wildlife while carrying out a normal day's work. From time to time, we come across an animal

that is not acting like it should. Like this little guy, found by a park grounds ranger, special care needs to be taken in order to give the animal the best chance of survival. Cindy Bohannon, a Wildlife Rehabilitator, was the guest speaker at our Monthly safety meeting. She gave our staff a crash course in the do's and don't when dealing with an animal who might need assistance. Learning to identify the symptoms of common diseases and proper handling procedures associated with the different types of wildlife in the park is critical to the overall health of the population and a better park experience for our guests. For more information on what to do with an injured animal at your home, go to www.wrande.org for helpful tips and a listing of wildlife rehabilitators in the area.



Wildlife Rehabilitator Cindy Bohannon and son with Volunteer Services Coordinator Ken Grubb



Morning Maneuvers

State Auditors Office Issues Report

State Auditor John Keel issued a 71 page report detailing the financial processes for the Parks and Wildlife Department. The following is a excerpt from the “Overall Conclusion” section of the report. To read the entire report, go to www.sao.state.tx.us/Reports/report.cfm/report/07-021.

“The Parks and Wildlife Department (Department) should improve its overall management and operation of the state park system. The Department overstated state park visitation data by approximately 43 percent in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. It also does not maximize park entrance fee revenue or systematically analyze opportunities to identify additional revenue sources, such as concessions.

Auditors analyzed the Department's reported entrance fee revenue and park visitation data. Auditors estimated that the loss of potential entrance fee revenue--due to not collecting entrance fees from most after-hours visitors and visitors receiving largely undocumented discounts--was \$16 million in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. It is important to note that this amount could be offset by the costs incurred to collect this revenue and customers' willingness to pay to enter state parks after regular park hours. The accuracy of park visitation data is crucial because it is a reflection of the demands for park services; however, the Department does not effectively use this data in its strategic planning, decision-making, and budgeting processes.

The Department also needs to develop a reliable method to produce consistent cost estimates for park repairs. Historically, there have been significant variances between estimated and actual repair costs. Although the Department has improved its cost estimating process, it has not clearly defined its criteria for prioritizing park repair needs effectively. Auditors visited five state parks and one historic site and verified that repairs were needed, but we could not verify the accuracy of the Department's cost estimates for those repairs.

Significant financial control weaknesses exist in park revenue collection and reporting processes, which has resulted in lost revenue. The State Auditor's Office, the Department's internal auditor, and an outside consultant have previously cited some of these weaknesses and risks in reports issued since 1998. The delay in addressing these weaknesses is not attributed to particular individuals but, rather, is a reflection of the State Parks Division's limited expertise in business and fiscal management.”

Scuttlebutt

Fire Alarm inspection for Monument

Universal Sprinkler Corporation was out this week to conduct an inspection of our sprinkler system at the Monument. Upon inspection they found that the strobe lights on the third floor were not operating. Siemens was contacted regarding warranty repairs to the system. The alarm system was part of the \$2.14 million dollar Life Safety Repair/Upgrade project from 2006

OxyVinyls Plant Manager Announces Retirement



Phil Anastasio, Plant Manager from OxyVinyls, LC Houston, announces his retirement next month after 31 years of service.

“It is with obvious mixed emotions that I begin to start this new phase of my life without the stress of chemical plant operations and at the same time missing the daily interaction with friendships that I have enjoyed in our industry”

The OxyVinyls plant is one of our many valued neighbors at San Jacinto. We wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Have you found a Cave?

Park Ranger Clyde Abernathy was contacted by Mr. J.D. Jones regarding a cave his grandfather discovered in 1904. Mr. Jones was put in contact with Bill Russell, who has been finding and mapping caves in the central Texas area since the late 1950s. The pair are currently planning to visit this apparently unknown cave. We will update this story with pictures when they become available.

Meet the Staff

Ship Curator: Angela McCleaf

The Battleship TEXAS is one giant floating artifact. Whether it's conserving the ship's photographic collection or coordinating restoration work onboard, Angela plays an important role. She is a graduate of East Carolina University, where she originally went to study classical ballet. From there, she pirouetted her way to associate curator for the USS North Carolina before coming to San Jacinto in 2005. In addition to taking care of the ship, she also take care of her 4 cats and is an avid *Star Wars* fan



Ship's Store Showcase

More from the
"Rosie the Riveter"
Collection

Caps

Blue Denim \$14.99

Red Denim \$13.99

Mugs

\$7.99

Tote Bags

\$12.99

On the Horizon



Upcoming Events

Aug 1st - Underwater Hull Inspection for BB35.

Aug. 4th - Birthday for Pansy Covey

Aug. 8th - Battleship Texas Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting

Aug. 14th - Champion exterminating at San Jacinto

This Week in History

July 16

1790- George Washington signed legislation that selected the District of Columbia as the permanent capital of the US.

1930 - BB-35 arrives at Hawaii.

July 17

1861- Congress authorizes paper money.

1920 - Battleship *TEXAS* is designated BB-35.

July 18

1863 - The 54th Massachusetts Regiment leads second assault on Fort Wagner, SC.

1945 BB-35 leaves San Pedro Bay Leyte Gulf.

July 19

1848 - Seneca Falls Conference on the Rights of Women was convened.

1938 - Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan of Galveston, TX flies "by mistake" to Ireland.

July 20

1914 - BB-35 arrives at Anton Lizardo, Mexico

1947 - Carlos Santana born Autlan, Mexico.

July 21

1861 - First Battle of Bull Run at Manassas, VA.

1938 - Best known for the role he played as Tarzan "Ron Ely" was born in Hereford, Texas.

July 22

1933 - A record-breaking rainstorm hits Freeport, Texas

Words of Wisdom

“The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public”

- George Jessel
Actor and
unofficial
“Toastmaster
General of the
United States”



Parting Shot

How well do you know your own History?

As a kid in school, I always looked forward to History class. I loved learning about the past and all of the events that made the world and our country what it is today. The other night, my wife and I watched an episode of the new show “*Are you Smarter than a 5th grader?*”, where adults attempt to answer questions that you would typically find a test in the 5th grade. As I’m sure you can guess, most of the adults have trouble answering these questions in subjects ranging from science and math to history. The questions below were taken from a civics test that is required for immigrants who want to become American citizens. Keep in mind that the actual test consists of 100 questions and are not multiple choice.

See how well you do!!

1. How many stripes are on the U.S. Flag?
 - A. 10
 - B. 13
 - C. 50
 - D. 51
2. Who was the 1st Justice of the Supreme Court?
 - A. Benjamin Franklin
 - B. Alexander Hamilton
 - C. John Jay
 - D. Daniel Webster
3. What is the introduction to the Constitution Called?
 - A. The Preamble
 - B. The Bill of Rights
 - C. The Declaration of Independence
 - D. The Articles of Confederation
4. Which of these is guaranteed by the 1st Amendment?
 - A. Freedom of the Press
 - B. Right to Bear Arms
 - C. Right to happiness
 - D. Right to trial by Jury
5. Who said, “Give me liberty or give me death”?
 - A. George Washington
 - B. Thomas Jefferson
 - C. Thomas Paine
 - D. Patrick Henry
6. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?
 - A. In search of gold
 - B. To meet the Indians
 - C. For religious freedom
 - D. To escape the Revolutionary War

Answers in next week’s edition