



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!"



Passing of a TEXAS Veteran

27 AUGUST 2007 - 2 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Battleship TEXAS crew got a little smaller on August 27th with the passing of Ed Gandy. Mr. Gandy served on USS TEXAS as a signalman at the tender age of 16, having joined the Navy at 14. Recalling his experience on D-Day, he told the Florida News-Ledger: "Suddenly all hell broke loose. Our ship and all the ships on the front line began firing, the landing craft were coming in and hundreds and hundreds of B-17 bombers filled the sky. All we could see when we looked up were silver bellies." He was 80.



Proposition 4 Information Effort Planned

Executive Office and Communications Division representatives met last week with key legislative staff and public information employees from several other state agencies affected by the Proposition 4 bond item. Prop 4 is one of 15 constitutional amendments that will go before Texas voters Nov. 6. It authorizes up to \$1 billion in bonds to fund repair and improvement projects for nine state agencies. That includes about \$52 million for TPWD, of which \$25 million would help pay to dry berth the Battleship TEXAS and the rest would help fund statewide state park repairs. Other Prop 4 elements would fund things like Department of Public Safety crime lab expansions, Texas Historical Commission courthouse and historic site renovations, and repair and renovation of state mental health schools, to cite a few examples. One challenge for voters is vague ballot language for Prop 4, which will be identified as "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of up to \$1 billion in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for maintenance, improvement, repair, and construction projects and for the purchase of needed equipment." TPWD and other agencies are coordinating a team effort to inform state employees and the public about Proposition 4. This will be a strictly neutral initiative urging employees and the public to get informed—state agencies will not advocate for or against the proposal. A number of communication tactics are being planned, including a joint Web site to serve as a single Proposition 4 information source

Reveille



Craig Van Baarle retires from TPWD

Photo by Lisa Fitzsimmons

After 33 years, Craig Van Baarle retired from TPWD on August 31st. He worked at San Jacinto as a Park Ranger and most recently as the Park Manager for Garner State Park.



Rob Comstock takes over as Interim Region IV director

While the search for a new Region IV director goes on, Rob Comstock, as of August 27th, will be handling the director duties until a permanent replacement can be found. Currently, Mr. Comstock is the Park Manager for Sheldon Lake State Park. He takes over for Jerry Bartel, who did a fabulous job as the interim director since December of '06. He will return to his normal duties as the Regional Maintenance specialist.



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Outgoing Director Jerry Bartel and new interim director Rob Comstock

Scuttlebutt

Sparky the Fire Dog visits San Jacinto

Photo by Barbara Graf

In preparation for the La Porte Safety Fair, Sparky the Fire dog made a visit to the park on August 29th. Sparky will be appearing at the Fair on Saturday, September 8th



More Parking added

Photo by Linda Tupa

The parking area at Headquarters expanded this week as TXDOT came on September 3rd and laid asphalt for a new parking lot. This is the preliminary phase of the project. We will update progress as it is made.



Road Repair at San Jacinto

Photo by Barbara Graf

TXDOT continued a busy week in the park with the repair of several pot holes on our park roads. Both excessive heat and the large amount of rain we have had this summer have taken a toll on our road system in the Park.

Meet the Staff

***Office Manager:
Sherrie McIntosh***

Our jobs at San Jacinto require a constant flow of supplies. Sherrie is responsible for making sure that we all have everything we need to get the job done. She has been with TPWD for 6 years. When she's not holding the park together, she takes off to Matagorda for some fishing and boating. Sherrie is also a licensed pyrotechnic. As office manager, Sherrie has the Herculean task of attempting to keep Russ and Scott as organized as possible.



Ship's Store Showcase



**Need a place for
your cash?**

BB35 Coin Holder

\$1.99

On the Horizon



Upcoming Events

Sept. 8 - La Porte Safety Fair at La Porte Junior High. 9:00am - 1:00pm

Sept. 22 - La Porte Fall Back Festival

Sept. 29 - National Public Lands Day

Oct. 18 - Hard Hat Tour on BB35

This Week in History

Aug. 27

1908 - Lyndon B. Johnson the 36th President of the US is born in Stonewall, Texas

1937 - BB-35 arrives at New York Navy Yard

Aug. 28

1907 - United Parcel Service (UPS) begins service, in Seattle

Aug. 29

1862 - Second Battle of Bull Run (2nd Manassas)

1918 - Asst. Navy Secretary, Franklin D. Roosevelt visits BB-35 at Firth of Forth, Scotland

Aug. 30

1874 - The first fight of the Red River Indian War takes place in Canyon, Texas

1893- Frances Folsom Cleveland (Mrs. Grover Cleveland) was the first presidential wife to have a baby at the White House when she gave birth to a baby girl (Esther)

Aug. 31

1871 - Gov. Jim Ferguson, who is the “Pa” of “Ma and Pa Ferguson” fame, is born in Bell County

Sept. 1

1927 - BB-35 becomes U.S. Navy flagship

Sept. 2

1844 - Anson Jones is elected as the last President of the Republic of Texas

Words of Wisdom

“If the automobile had followed the same developmental cycle as the computer, a Rolls - Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.”

Robert X. Cringely
a.k.a.
author
Mark Stevens



Parting Shot

It's been a Great Ride.....

Like many of you, I can vividly remember taking that long drive from Houston up to Palestine to smell the dogwoods and take a ride on the Texas State Railroad. Whether it was the blast of the train whistle or the taste of that ice cream cone on the train, it is something I will never forget. As the railroad passes hands from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the American Heritage Railway, we will miss the friends and colleagues that we have worked with over the years. As they move with the railroad, we know that the dedication they have shown will continue under the new regime. It will only be with the hard work of those folks that will keep the engines running and the memories flowing. I hope that one day, my kids will have the opportunity to take a ride on the best railroad in Texas!

