

FORT CLARK DISPATCH

Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, & Future.

Volume 2 Issue 4

Spring Time

In This Issue...

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If you would like to contact the Dispatch with comments and/or questions please email us at fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Be sure to put COMMENT in the subject line.

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Front and back cover photos by Amos Trisler

From the Editor...

Welcome to Spring in South Texas. You know, that kind of weather that passes for summer way up north where they won't see these temperatures until summer. At which time we will be wishing we had these temperatures.

We held off a few days to publish. The annual Easter Egg hunt just offered too much fun in photos and seemed a great way to celebrate Spring and getting outside. As you will see in the photos, the Easter Bunny was a big hit as always. Even a pup or two wanted their photo taken with E.B.

A special note of thanks and appreciation to Events Manager, Sherry Newman and her awesome crew of volunteers who worked hard to make sure the kids of Kinney County, and their parents, had a great time and some tasty food.

Due to a corrupted file and some compatibility issues this month's Artist Tag article will be postponed until next month. It will be worth the wait. It's exciting and interesting to learn about the many creatives on the Fort. Not only about their art, but about what inspired them to take up a particular art form and what continues to inspire what they create.

For those who haven't heard. I have been hired as the Fort's Recreation Manager. I will be starting 18 April. Don't worry, I and the tiny, but awesome volunteers who create this magazine each month will still be producing it. The magazine will continue to be an all volunteer effort. Okay, I may end up writing some recreation related articles about ideas or activities as things develop. However, the photos, layout, and editing on my part will still be done on my own time. The same as the great folks who write the articles for the Dispatch. It's a labor of love and hopefully something that the people of Fort Clark Springs and the surrounding area can be proud of. We do take pride in creating and producing it.

Get out, enjoy, and make the most of things now before the heat really sets in.

Amos



Photo by Amos Trisler

KIDS:

Please stop by the Administration Office

On Friday, April 22nd

Between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.



We have seeds for planting

(Bluebonnets, Wildflowers, Zinnias,
Sunflowers and Butterfly Wildflowers
to choose from)

a suncatcher to paint and some coloring sheets!

One per Child!

APRIL 2022

GC-GOLF COURSE
AC-ADULT CENTER
PT-POST THEATER
ARTS-ART STUDIO
TC-TEENCENTER
AD-ADMIN OFFICE
PB-PALISADO B.
RV-RV PARK

FH-FIREHOUSE
RVP- RV PAVILION
RVK-KITCHEN
SC-SERVICE CLUB
OQ- QLD QUARRY
AMPHITHEATER
BR-BOARD ROOM
DH-DICKMAN HALL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>GOLF COURSE HOURS TUES.-SUN. 7:00AM-6:00PM</u></p>	<p><u>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</u></p>	<p><u>CONTACT IULIE @THE ADMIN OFFICE 830-563-2493 OR EMAIL FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</u></p>			<p>1 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p> <p><u>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</u></p>	<p>2 8-10A PANCAKE BREAKFAST-RV 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>3 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE NIGHT-RV</p>	<p>4 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE</p>	<p>5 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK-RV</p>	<p>6 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>7 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV <u>9:30A M.L. GARDEN CLUB-AC</u> 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p>8 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>9 8-10A PANCAKE BREAKFAST-RV 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>10 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE NIGHT-RV</p> <p><u>PALM SUNDAY</u></p>	<p>11 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE</p>	<p>12 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK-RV</p>	<p>13 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF <u>3P PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - BR</u></p>	<p>14 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC 7P LMARC RADIO GROUP-AC</p>	<p>15 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p> <p><u>GOOD FRIDAY</u></p>	<p>16 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>11A EASTER EGG HUNT</u> 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>17 <u>7A SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE-AMP</u> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE</p> <p><u>EASTER</u></p>	<p>18 12-3P ARTS <u>1P BOOK LITERATURE & TEA-AC</u> 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE</p>	<p>19 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>20 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF</p> <p><u>ADMIN PROFESSIONAL DAY</u></p>	<p>21 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p>22 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>23 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>9:00A FCS BOARD MEETING-BR</u> <u>10A FC HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING-PB</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>CAJUN BASH GOLF TOURNAMENT-GC</u></p>
<p>24 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE</p>	<p>25 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE</p>	<p>26 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR</p>	<p>27 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF</p>	<p>28 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30 COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p>29 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>30 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>END OF MONTH TOURNAMENT - GC</u></p>

May 2022

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OQ- QLD QUARRY
AMPHITHEATER
BR-BOARD ROOM
DH-DICKMAN HALL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>3P DUTCH OVEN WORKSHOP-RV</u>	2 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	3 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR	4 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF <u>WANDERING CATS FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT-GC</u>	5 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC <u>CINCO DE MAYO!</u>	6 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN	7 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A-2P GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE-AC PORCH</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN
8 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <u>MOTHER'S DAY!</u>	9 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	10 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR	11 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF <u>3P PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - BR</u>	12 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV <u>9:30A M.L. GARDEN CLUB-AC</u> 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC 7P LMARC RADIO GROUP-AC	13 1-3P CRAFTING-RV 5-11P DH BAR OPEN	14 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING-</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN
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29 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	30 12-3P ARTS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE <u>MEMORIAL DAY!</u>	31 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARC-BR		<u>GOLF COURSE HOURS TUES.-SUN. 7:00AM-6:00PM</u>	<u>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</u>	<u>CONTACT JULIE @THE ADMIN OFFICE 830-563-2493 OR EMAIL FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</u>

4th Annual Cajun Bash Golf Tournament

FCS Golf Course Fund Raiser

Golf

Shrimp

Tournament



Boil

April 23, 2022

Sign in before 9:30 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. Tee Time

\$100 per person/\$400 per team

Men's and Women's Long Drive & Closest to Pin

Mulligans \$5.00 each, Door Prizes

Side Games You Can Buy On The Course

**All Proceeds Benefit The Fort Clark Golf Course
Improvements**

Shrimp Boil After Golf

For info call the Pro Shop (830) 563-9204

David Mann (830) 563-5657

Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

Spring has surely come and mostly passed since the last writing of this article. Wildflowers are struggling to show their beautiful colors in this region and temperatures are rising to summer norms. I hear of scattered reports of bluebonnets further to the east and north of here. And just this past week as I was driving to Uvalde in the early morning, the pink evening primrose or buttercups as some people call them are very prevalent. The prairie verbena in its brilliant purple pink patches is scattered along the edges of fields and where the dirt has been disturbed while the white poppy thrives in open pastures.

As winter Texans head back north, those of us who live here on the fort year round look up from our own schedules to notice the missing of these annual visitors. For those families with children still in school, there is the rush of finishing up school and planning for summer activities or family vacations. For retirees, like myself, there may be an interest in getting out for close to home adventures and day or overnight trips. My go-to source for “what to do” is most frequently the Texas Parks and Wildlife website. I can only applaud the tireless and amazingly talented resources, paid as well as volunteer, who develop materials on state parks, birds and wildlife, conservation and other areas of natural resources in our great state.

This time I turned to Great Texas Wildlife Trails. These are a series of nine interactive maps covering the state with points of interest identified and a brief description of the location, what to see, limits and terms of visiting the site, etc. The maps include both

public and private sites where access may be granted to visitors under certain conditions. Roadside parks, state, county and city parks, campgrounds, nature preserves, ranches open to the public as specified in the guide and virtually any place where wildlife has been identified to routinely appear or be housed. Historical sites may also be included. The site is located at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails>. As the site states “ whether you are a birder, a wildlife enthusiast, or just was to see the wild side of Texas, these nine driving trail maps will lead you to the best spots to see birds, butterflies, bats, pronghorns and more.” Our area, Heart of Texas West, has a number of loops identified with multiple stops along them. Perfect for a day trip with a picnic or stop at a local restaurant, or up to several days if you incorporate camping, glamping or more luxurious accommodations of a riverside or bush cabin or hotel. Nearby loops include Rio Bravo Loop, Nueces Loop, Rio Frio Loop, Bandera Loop, Sonora Loop, Heart of the Hills Loop and Little Deutschland Loop.

And then if you add into your travels, access to the immense resources of the Texas Historical Commission website there is the Texas Heritage Travel Guide with the famed different trails through Texas and the historical details associated with them. We are in the eastern section of the Pecos Trail Region and if you wish to travel east toward San Antonio, that is the Hill Country Trail Region. The website for the pdf of the guide is found at <https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/texas-heritage-travel-guide.pdf>



For more information on Fort Clark Hiking Trails: Look online at www.fortclark.com , under the Recreation drop down menu,click on Hiking/Biking Trails. There you will find the different designated trails, totaling over 15 miles.

SECURITY DISPATCH

In the month of March, while investigating a criminal trespass case, the investigation turned into a report of possible criminal activity at a residence in Unit 14. This was reported to local law enforcement which came to investigate the matter.

Further investigation ended with the removal of three unregistered individuals (two males and one female) which were found staying at said residence. Two of the individuals were suspected of smuggling illegal aliens. When asked for consent to search inside of the residence, the property owner said he would not allow the search of his residence. All individuals were escorted off of FCSA property.

Security would like to thank all those individuals who call to report suspicious or other activity in your neighborhoods. It is Security's job to observe and report suspicious or otherwise criminal activity to law enforcement.

This residence in Unit 14 continues to be a hot spot which we are getting calls from neighbors on a daily basis. Unit 15 and Unit 31 also have hot spots which we get frequent calls about suspicious activity. The most valuable information you can get when dealing with suspicious activity is; photo's showing who is going in and out of these areas, descriptions of vehicles and/or individuals, license plate numbers, also record the date and time of when this activity is occurring and names of the individuals if you know them. You can call Fort Clark Security at (830) 563-2002 or the Kinney County Sheriff's Office at (830) 563-2788. You do not have to give your name, the information we receive will be recorded and passed on to the proper authorities.



Photo by Matt Bland

History Lives Here

By Teri Marsh

Sanderson Flood Survivor as told to Teri Marsh

Many long-time residents of this part of Texas will remember the Sanderson Flood of 1965. Fort Clark resident Sherry Stavley Hall grew up in Sanderson, and this month she shared her memories of that catastrophic event.

Sherry Stavley was 14 years old in the summer of 1965. She lived on the side of a hill overlooking Sanderson, Texas, which was at that time a thriving railroad town of over 2,000 residents with stores, bakeries, restaurants, motels and a movie theater. Sherry was the second of four daughters born to B. Ross Stavley, a Southern Pacific railroad conductor, and his wife, Pelham Rose Stavley.

The beginning of June had been unusually wet for this normally dry area along the Texas-Mexico border. On June 10, a downpour continued all day, and the ground was already saturated from previous rainfall. By evening, Sherry's father Ross had decided he needed to drive out and check on his sister, a widow who lived alone on a ranch outside town. Sherry's older sister was visiting their grandparents in Pumpville, 50 miles northeast of Sanderson, so that evening Sherry was home with her mother and her two younger sisters, ages 7 and 4. As they turned in for the night, the rain continued relentlessly, and Sherry's father had not yet returned home.

Around 7 the next morning, Sherry's mother shook her awake. "Your father never came home last night," she announced grimly. The two of them went out onto the front porch. It was still dark, but a nearby street lamp lit up what Sherry perceived as a waterfall passing below their hillside home. As the sky began to lighten, they saw large objects floating in the water. Sherry realized that she was watching buildings floating by. The wool warehouse had flooded, and huge bags of wool and mohair were tangled among other debris. Shortly thereafter, Sherry's aunt and uncle arrived at the house and Sherry walked with her aunt towards town; the floodwaters were receding

swiftly by that time. When her aunt realized search and rescue efforts were underway, they returned to the house. In the meantime, Pelham Rose decided to walk to the post office where she worked, to see what condition it was in. By this time, it was about 10 a.m., and all electrical and phone services were down for the entire town.

Shortly after Pelham Rose left the house, her father finally made it home. Ross had arrived at his sister's ranch the previous evening, and concluding that it was unsafe for her to remain there, he and a friend who had accompanied him packed up some valuables in a cedar chest and headed back towards town with his sister. By that time, high water had made the road impassable. Ross left his sister, the friend, and the cedar chest in the shelter of a cave. He then continued on foot to cross the floodwaters. Fearful for the safety of his wife and daughters, he was intent on reaching his family.

Home at last, Ross realized his wife was not in the house, and he asked Sherry where she was. When Sherry responded that her mother had walked to the post office, her father's voice tightened as he asked, "When did she leave?" He was relieved to learn that he had just missed her. Had Pelham Rose been at work at her usual start time of 7 a.m., she probably would have been swept away in the deluge that had engulfed Sanderson and seriously damaged the post office.

Gradually, Sherry and other residents began to grasp the extent of the devastation. A flash flood had roared down Sanderson Creek, Three Mile Draw, and Rattlesnake Draw and into Sanderson Canyon, sending a wall of water and debris through the center of the sleeping town. A motel, a restaurant, and several homes and businesses were washed away, and 26 people were killed. The deceased included a mother and her five children; a family of seven who had been staying at a local motel had only one survivor, a twelve-year-old boy. The father of one of Sherry's classmates was swept away as he struggled to reach his son, and

his body was never found. Hundreds of residents lost their homes, and the elementary school became a temporary shelter for many families.

The water level went down almost as quickly as it had risen, leaving a path of destruction and death in its wake. The town was mostly cut off from the outside world. All phone and electric services were out, and most bridges and roads as well as the railroad tracks were washed out or seriously damaged. The first calls for help went out over a ham radio that had been gathering dust in someone's garage.

Later that afternoon, Sherry's older sister arrived from Pumpville. A truck driver had told her grandfather that Sanderson was "washed away," so her grandparents had driven as close as they could to town. The bridge over Sanderson Canyon was washed out east of town, but a basket and pulley system had been devised to move people across the chasm. Only her sister was allowed to enter the town, because she was a local resident. Sherry's younger sisters were packed up and ferried back across with her older sister so that they could stay in Pumpville with their grandparents. Sherry alone remained with her parents.

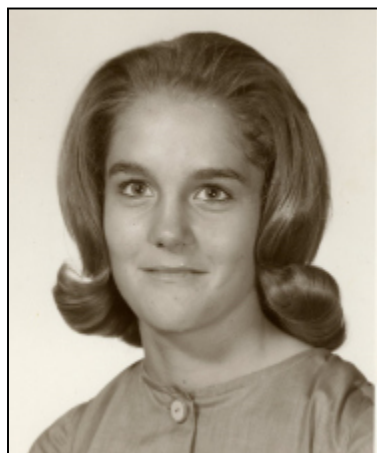
An undertaker lived down the street from the Stavleys, and his backyard shed was converted into a temporary morgue. Sherry witnessed pick-up trucks carrying bodies that paused at a stop sign directly in front of her house. "The sounds of people crying out when they saw the bodies of their loved ones, I can never forget," Sherry recalled, her voice choked with emotion. In addition, the flood had displaced bodies that were previously buried in the town cemetery, and these were ultimately reburied in a common grave marked with a monument, since in 1965 it was impossible to determine the identity of the corpses.

Over the coming days, Pelham Rose Stavley devoted herself to relief work, serving coffee, drinks and sandwiches to volunteers at a

Salvation Army canteen and cleaning out the flood-damaged post office. Ross served as a translator for Spanish-speaking storm survivors at the elementary school. Sherry helped out too, by running errands, but she was often alone during this time, and it was a lot for a 14-year-old to process. Asked how this experience changed her, Sherry reflects that she matured a great deal, and in a way the Sanderson flood ended her childhood. While her family's home was undamaged, everyone in the tight-knit community was deeply impacted by this event.



In next month's *History Lives Here*, readers will learn that this was not the only trauma that Sherry had to deal with in the summer of 1965. The notorious Caveman Bandit would soon enter the lives of the Stavley family.



Flood photo is public domain. Sherry's photo provided by Sherry Stavley.

Sherry Stavley in 1965.

Fort Clark Easter Egg Hunt

April 16, 2022



Photos by Amos Trisler

★ Where the Real Stars Gather... ★

Story by Suzanne Mayne

As we move from mid-April to mid-May these planets are visible: Venus in the east before sunrise; much fainter will be Mars and Saturn, also in the east before sunrise; Jupiter, will be visible in the east before sunrise. From the horizon up in the eastern sky before sunrise, you will observe Jupiter, Venus, Mars and Saturn in an angle across the lower sky. Mercury will be visible in the evening sky. Events for this period include:

April 16: Full moon also known as the Pink Full Moon after phlox, pink flowers that bloom in spring. Other names include Sprouting Grass Moon, Fish Moon, Hare Moon, Egg Moon and Paschal Moon.

April 16-15: The Lyrid Meteor Shower is usually active between April 16 and 25 every year. It tends to peak on the night between April 22nd and 23rd. There are up to 18 meteors visible per hour including some fireballs. Historical Chinese texts identify observing this meteor shower as long ago as 2500 years, making it one of the oldest recorded meteor showers.

April 19-May 28: The Eta Aquarids meteor shower is visible during this period, peaking on the night between May 5-6. During the peak, up to 50 meteors per hour may be observed. The meteors seem to emerge from the constellation Aquarius.

April 25-26: This is the best time to see earthshine, or DaVinci glow, where the unlit part of the moon becomes visible.

April 29: Mercury is farthest from the Sun on this date and may be visible in the evening sky.

April 30: With a dark night sky, this is a great time to see the Milky Way and other notable constellations as well as satellites and space stations.

April 30-May 1: 60 minutes before sunrise in the southeast sky, Jupiter and Venus will appear in very close proximity, called in conjugation.

May 3-4: Earthshine on these nights.

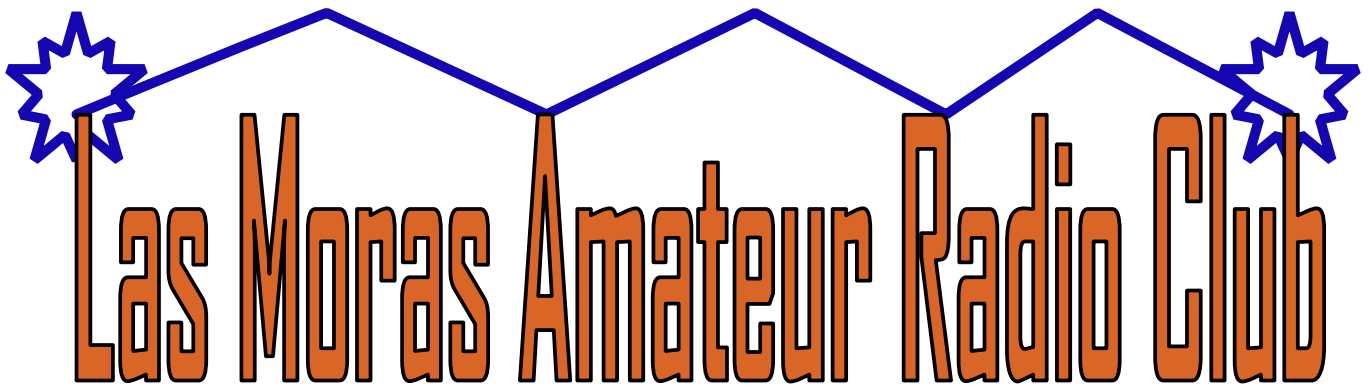
May 5-6: On the night between the 5th and 6th, peak of the Eta Aquarids meteor shower where up to 50 meteors per hour may be observed.

May 16: Full moon, known as the Flower Moon. Other names are Corn Planting Moon, Milk Moon, Hare Moon.

So as the weather warms up, grab your binoculars or telescope, a jacket, beverage and head out to your chair to catch up on a starry, starry, night!

Editor's Note:

Are you interested in meeting up with fellow space watchers? Would you like to participate in Stargazing night events here on Fort Clark Springs? If so please drop a line to recreation@fortclark.com and let us know. If enough people show an interest maybe we can do just that. Get together and enjoy the wonder of the night sky.



Las Moras Amateur Radio Club

Emergency communication has long played a part in Amateur Radio. This is true from the beginnings of radio and continues in the present.

Teri Marsh passed on a side note in her column, "History Lives Here" this month which relates the story of the Sanderson Flood in 1965 as told to her by a survivor of the flood. This is what Teri shared.

Be sure to notice that the importance of ham radio makes an appearance. Not included in my article: the owner who had it stored in a garage had no idea how to use it, and someone else in town was found who knew how to operate it. That's how news of the flood got to the outside world.

More recently the RACES members of LMARC went on standby ready to assist the county with additional communications if needed. The hill country that comprise the north and northeast portions of Kinney County make radio communications into and out of the rest of the county difficult.

With today's reliance on cell phones rural areas such as Kinney County have seen that sometimes

cell and internet can go down. Amateur radio can still be the connection to the outside world. In a disaster it can be the means to let outside agencies know that help is need and to coordinate that help.

Even in recent times after hurricanes and other disasters have heavily disrupted normal means of communications, amateur radio has been the means by which people in those areas have been able to get word to their distant families about their status. This is accomplished by amateur radio volunteers in the area sending messages to other amateurs outside the area that relay those messages to those distant families.

In other club news, the membership is starting initial preparations for the upcoming ARRL Field Day in June. The airwaves heat up as clubs and individuals around the country seek to make as many contacts across the country as they can. Some areas, like Kinney County are prized contacts as we area small county with only a small handful of a radio operators.

LMARC meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Adult Center at 7PM. All are invited to attend if they would like to see what it is all about.

AA5KC

Ramblin Jack

By Jack Marsh

The Many Lives of an Old Fort Part I Black Seminoles - continued

Note: This is the latest in a series of articles concerning the historical relationship between Fort Clark and Black Seminoles. The main source material here is from the Jeff Guinn book, *Our Land Before We Die*.

As told by the granddaughter (Miss Charles) of blacks who were in Wewoka back in July of 1849, Seminole Indian Wild Cat traveled to their village for a meeting with Black Seminole John Horse. He described to John Horse how they could travel together to Mexico with the goal of acquiring and living on free land. If they could convince enough of their fellow Seminole and Black Seminole to go with them, they might be able to convince the Mexican government to give them land and supplies in return for helping guard the Mexican border. John Horse is said to have insisted that if he did help Wild Cat succeed in Mexico, that he and his fellow blacks should be given their own land as a reward, stating, "We want our land before we die. Our land. Not the right to live on yours."

During the same time period, folks in the Bureau of Indian Affairs were listening to concerns expressed by Creek leaders and other Seminole chiefs, that the blacks in Wewoka had been stockpiling weapons, which could lead to some kind of armed insurrection. It also just so happened that some higher ups in the Bureau felt a need to support the interests of certain white slavers who weren't too keen on potential slaves bearing arms. What followed was a disagreement among government agents over whether to send an army to disarm the blacks. While all this dithering among bureau agents was taking place, Wild Cat and some of his fellow Seminole approached Bureau chief Marcellus Duval with the request to allow part of the tribe to move across the Rio Grande into Mexico (he wisely didn't include Black

Seminole in his request), and mentioned the possibility of including Seminole still living in the Florida everglades, which consisted of about 350 tribesmen led by Chief Billy Bowlegs. Duval denied that request, as he preferred the Florida group be sent to Oklahoma Indian Territory.

In the meantime, Wild Cat and John Horse continued strategizing about how to sneak a large contingent of Seminole and blacks out of Indian Territory and across the unforgiving expanse of Texas into Mexico. They estimated that roughly 250 men, women and children would make the 900 mile journey, and included names that may be familiar to those who study Ft. Clark history – names like Dembo and Hardy Factor, John Kibbetts and Sampson July. As stated in Guinn's book, it would be "one of the bravest, most terrible journeys in American history."

Channeling their grandparents and other ancestors who were there, Miss Charles and fellow descendant Willie Warrior go into great detail about the long trek, which began sometime in late October or early November. They describe how this ragged contingent used old single axle carts pulled by a single horse or mule to carry their meager supplies; the older men, women and children were expected to walk the entire way, as the warriors and younger black males needed to be on horseback in order to scout ahead and protect their rear. As fall turned toward winter, frequent northers blew across the plains, leaving the exposed travelers miserable and frostbitten. In order to avoid contact with area law enforcement, possies, slavers and Comanche raiders, they were forced to steer clear of populated areas and well-traveled roads, instead going cross-country over rocky hills, through brush, cactus, ravines, and all

To be continued

manner of frustrating barriers. The search for water and food sources was a daily challenge, and included the need to find nourishment for the work animals. Deep into the journey, several of the horses and mules started giving out, forcing people to pull the supply carts.

As the weary band of travelers reached the Llano river somewhere southwest of Waco, it was decided that they should set up a winter camp, whereupon they built crude shelters and began searching out a winter food supply. If they could survive the winter, they figured to cultivate corn in early spring and use the resulting harvest to feed them until they could get across the border by summer. Back in Indian Territory, Creeks, white slavers and remaining Seminole were freaking out over the fact that a good portion of their slave labor had deserted for Mexico with Wild Cat, and

demanded that U.S. soldiers be sent to round them up and bring them back.

But the commissioner of Indian affairs wouldn't sanction the mission, so Bureau chief Duval requested that the governor of Texas recruit the Texas Rangers to find and return the runaways to Indian Territory, and a \$50 bounty was placed on every Black Seminole the Rangers captured. It needs to be stated here that the Texas Rangers of the 1840s and 50s had yet to become official lawful agents of the Texas government, and most historians describe the Rangers of that era in not very complimentary terms. Many of them held to the adage "The only good Indian is a dead Indian", and since the bounty didn't include captured Seminole, what would happen to them if those Texas Rangers found them?



Photo by Amos Trisler

Over The Fence...

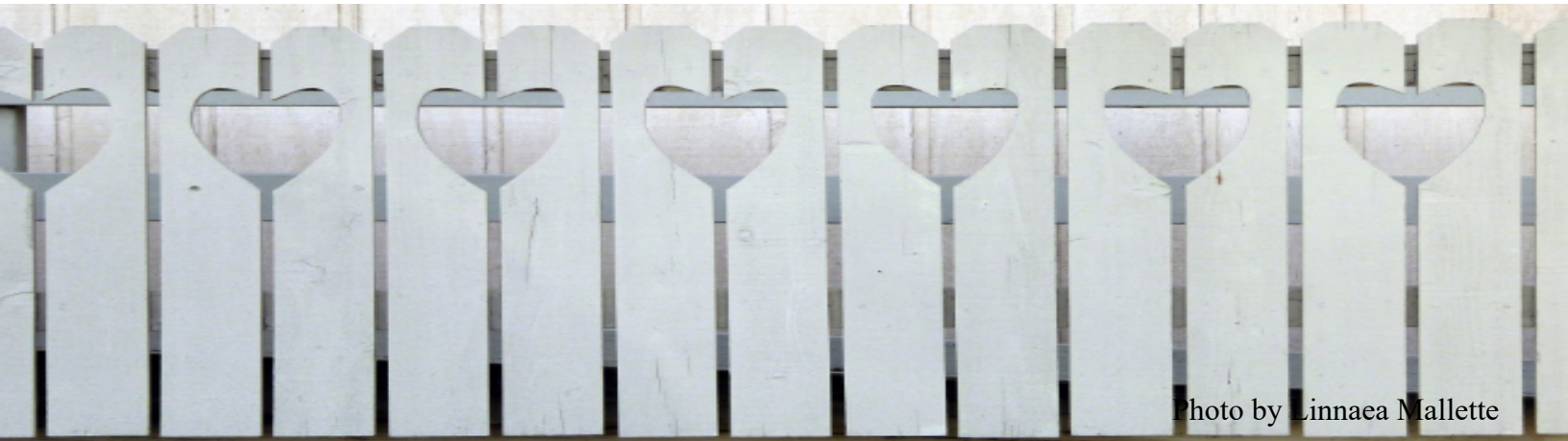


Photo by Linnaea Mallette

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO

MARCH 29th – SUZANNE MAYNE

APRIL 3rd – PATRICIA “PATSY” GRAHAM

APRIL 17th – JUNETTA MYERS

APRIL 23rd – GEORGE NICKOLAY

If you have anything you would like to place in the Fort Clark Dispatch, please send to fcdispatch@fortclark.com by the end of each month.



Hunting on the Fort

Regular Hunting Season on Fort Clark Springs property will end Monday, February 28th, 2022. Starting Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, through September 30th, 2022, we will continue the hunt for Axis Deer only on the 400 acres behind the Gun Club. There will be no hunting in Fort Clark Springs during this time. The new season of hunting will begin October 1, 2022.

If you are interested in hunting this spring, summer and early fall, please call Sherry Neuman at (830) 563-4235 to get details and/or schedule your Hunt.

Fort Clark Dispatch Writer's Guidelines

These are the basic guidelines for articles submitted to the Fort Clark Dispatch. This will simplify submissions, acceptance, and facilitate timely production of the Dispatch

- Subject area is pretty open. Ideally it should relate to life on the fort and/or the surrounding community. History, lifestyles past and present, and recreational opportunities are encouraged. If your story is medically or health related please discuss it with the editorial staff first. Articles that inform about and celebrate the surrounding area are encouraged. How to and DIY articles are another area. Just keep in mind that it needs to fit in a small print area and be something many people can do with basic skills.
- Word count is generally limited to 600 words or less. Preferably at least a 450 word count. Some exceptions can be made for longer articles depending on the subject, relevancy, and/or significant benefit to the readers. These must be discussed and approved prior to final submission by the editorial staff. There may be allowances for How to/DIY stories with heavy illustration.
- Articles need to be submitted in either as a Word document, Open Office Document, or as a straight text (.txt) file. Submissions are due by the first of the month for the month being submitted for .i.e. If or the February issue, then it must be in by 1 FEB.
- Preferably in Times New Roman, 12 pt, regular. Please do not use any fancy formatting. Block paragraphs (no indenting), a single line break between paragraphs. Italicizing something like a book title, etc., is acceptable and encouraged.
- Please check spelling and grammar before submitting. It reduces the frequency of migraines by the proofreaders. We get more work out of them that way.
- While subject areas are open and we welcome a variety of topics we also are striving for a lifestyle and entertainment mission. As such, submissions that are inflammatory, show extreme bias, or seek to push a political, religious, or otherwise divisive slant or agenda will be rejected. We certainly respect everyone's right to their most fervent positions, opinions, and beliefs. Many on the magazine have those that they feel strongly about. It just doesn't fit the mission or the purpose of the Fort Clark Dispatch.
- All submissions will be considered. Final approval of submissions will be made by the editorial which consists of the Editor, Executive Admin, and the General Manager.

We look forward to and encourage ideas and article submissions. If you want to see if we would make a good fit please feel free to attend our weekly staff meetings. Meetings are held at 1:30 PM in the Board Room at the Admin building.

Submissions and queries about submitting can be emailed to fcdispatch@fortclark.com. Please put the words ARTICLE SUBMISSION in the subject line. Thank you for your interest in being part of the growing world of the Fort Clark Dispatch.

Submissions are due by the end of the first week of the month.

FORT CLARK

STILL

NEEDS

YOU!

FORT CLARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AROUND THE FORT.

As members of the community there are many things large and small that you can do to help out while making Fort Clark a better place to live and play.

I might be as simple as volunteering a little time to go through some of the restrooms and change out the aerators in the sinks. Or painting a few benches.

Or you may be one of those people who have advanced

To volunteer or to find out how you can help please contact:

skills and years of experience in a particular field. Your help could move along projects on the fort that are stalled or moving much slower due to shortages of manpower and/or specific skills needed.

From the simple set of extra hands to sharing your hard earned skills and experience.

Fort Clark needs YOU!

Fort Clark Dispatch

Kids Edition!

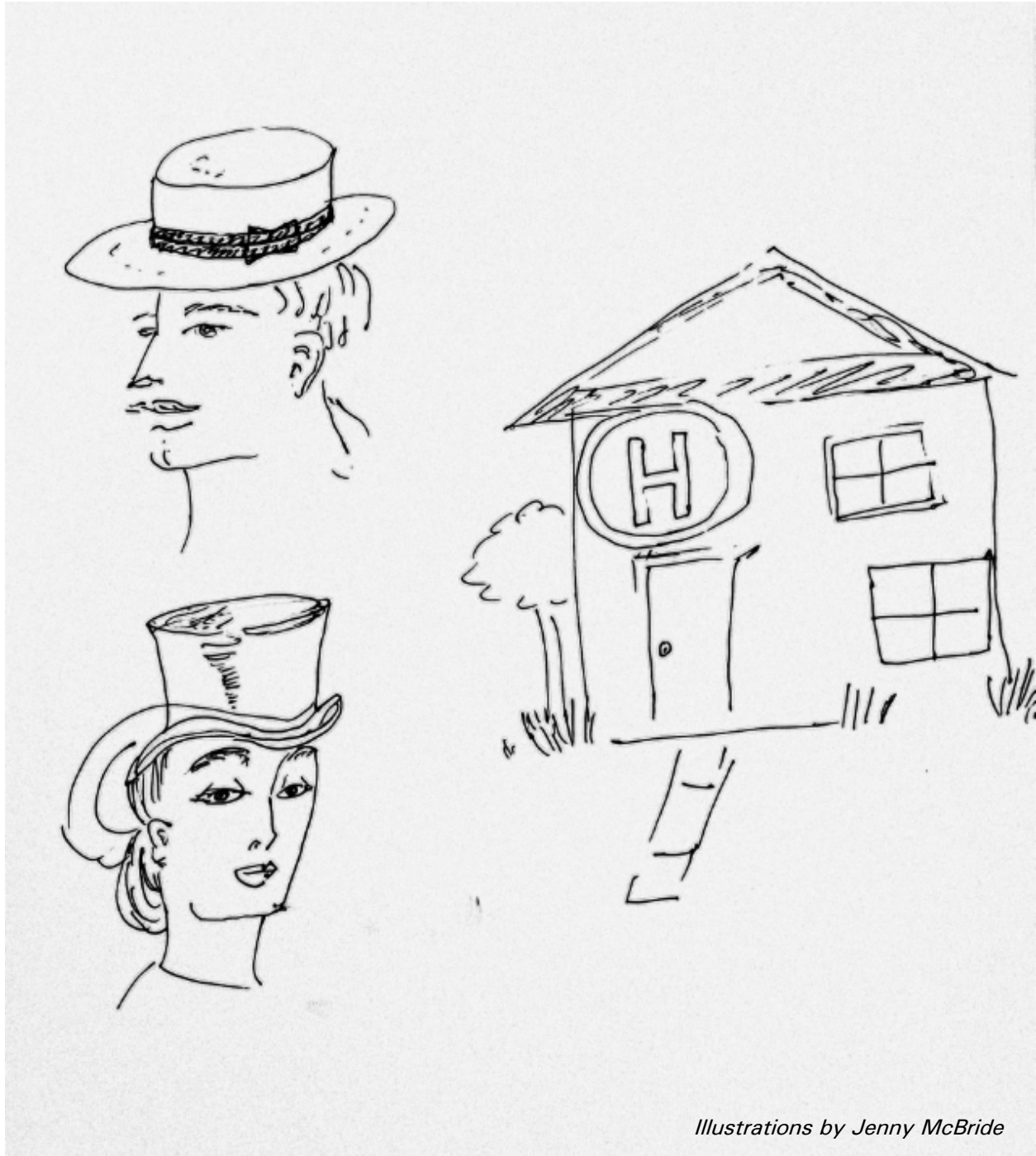
The Kids Edition needs your artwork
for the covers!

Please send your scans of your
drawings, paintings, or photography
(with the permission of your parents)
to FCDispatch@Fortclark.com

Your work might be featured on the
cover of the Kids Edition of the Fort
Clark Dispatch!



Gabbey and Gloria thought Goats were Great. They had a Goat farm in Gettysburg with white Goats and black Goats. Some of the Goats were both black and white. Their Goal was to raise many Goats. Gabbey and Gloria liked all of their Goats.



Henry Halstead and Harriet Ham were married and had two children, Hal and Harry. They lived in a small House in Hemstead. Henry and Harriet and Hal and Harry all wore Hats, some green, some red, some blue. Hal and Harry sometimes didn't like their Hats.



Sunrise Service

17 April 2022

The Old Quarry Amphetheater was filled with songs and messages of celebration today. Local residents and pastors joined together for a Easter Sunrise Service. Easter is the key celebration of the Christian faith as it celebrates the day Jesus Christ rose from the grave in victory over death. To Christians the Resurrection is the promise of salvation and eternal life in heaven. The very foundation of Christianity.



Photos by Julie Moreno

Thank you for reading this issue of the Fort Clark Dispatch. We hope you enjoyed it and will visit with us each month.

The Dispatch is a monthly online magazine that is available on or about the 15th of each month.



Photo by Amos Trisler

To contact the magazine with comments, questions, or to volunteer, please email:

fcdispatch@fortclark.com

Please put “Comment”, “Question”, or “Volunteer” in the subject line. This will help us keep it separate from submissions and administrative emails.

