

# FORT CLARK DISPATCH

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



Volume 1 Issue 3

{End of Summer Edition}

# JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!



**WHO:** All Brackettville Residents

**WHAT:** **National Night Out** is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

**WHEN:** August 3, 2021, from 5pm – 7pm

**WHERE:** 303 West Fulton St. (next to basketball court)

**COME ON OUT AND JOIN THE FUN!**

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

WATERSLIDE, BOUNCE HOUSE, LOTERIA, BASKETBALL FREE THROW, SACK RACES, WATER BALLOON TOSS, MUSICAL CHAIRS, & RAFFLE

If you have any questions, please call the office at  
830-563-2513



**FOOD, FUN, MUSIC AND PRIZES FOR ALL AGES!!!**  
(FOOD IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE)







## A big **THANK YOU** to the following for their **4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY FIREWORK DONATIONS**

- AAA ROOFING
- CELIA BITTER
- D & D HARDWARE
- SANDRA HAGEN
- HISTORICAL BNB LLC
- LORI JONAS
- KINNEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- KINNEY COUNTY POST
- KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- TERRI & DENNIS KNEUPPER
- RICHARD LAWRENCE
- SUZANNE MAYNE
- MK BUILDERS LLC
- PLANET PARTNER
- CHAD POTTS

- RIO GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
- JUDITH WINCHELL

### **Special Thanks To:**

Sherry Neuman for coordinating the July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities and obtaining financing.

Philip Garcia for coordinating the display and setting off the fireworks.

Matt Bland for taking care of the security.

Robert Mumme for obtaining the fireworks for Fort Clark Springs at a substantial savings.

Kinney County Fire Department for working with Philip on setting the fireworks off safely.

# *In This Issue...*

## **Dispatch Staff**

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If you would like to contact the Dispatch with comments and/or questions please email us at [fcdispatch@fortclark.com](mailto: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...***

**T**he third issue already. Just like Summer, it has gone by fast. We appreciate all those who have had such nice things to say about the magazine. It means that not only are people actually reading and enjoying it, but that we get to be part of sharing life on the fort and the surrounding area with others.

Being a monthly magazine that comes out at the first of the month makes it a little hard to keep up with the seasons. We either seem to be a bit ahead, or more often, a bit behind on things. With the South Texas heat and all the activities still going on it may seem a bit odd to call the the, “End of Summer Editon.” That is until you realize that many families are getting in those last family outings because school starts very soon. I know that as I write this my wife is sad. She is a teacher in Del Rio, and Monday, 2 August, the teachers return to work. The students will start the following Monday.

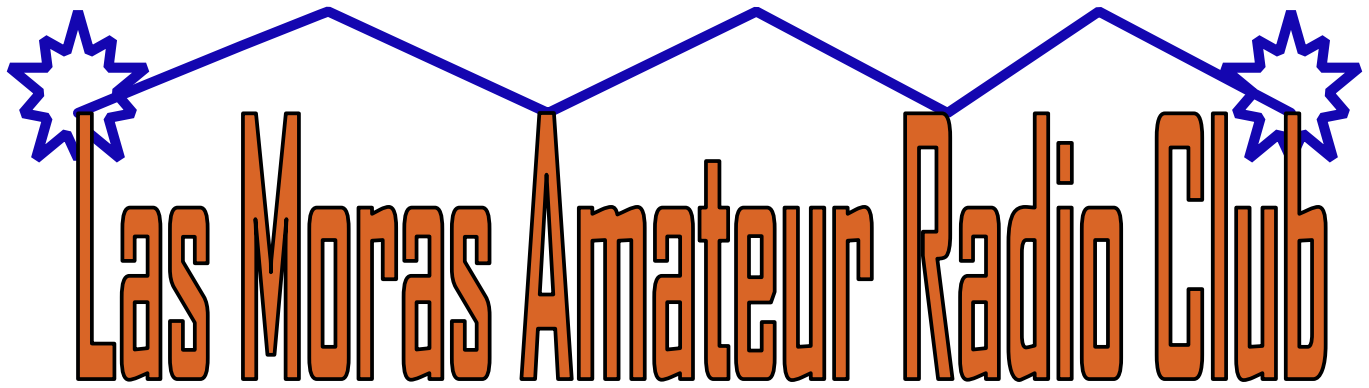
Yes, Summer is waning. As much as we would also like to see the heat and humidity wane with it we know that part of Summer will be with us for a few more months. Of course, you can remember Snowmageddon not so many months ago if you need some perspective.



So, embrace the month of August. Enjoy the photos and stories within of people doing just what the cover says. “Celebrating Fort Clark Life. Past, Present, and Future.” Wrap up Summer and make those plans to get the most of Fall. We encourage you to check out the flyer on page two of this edition for the National Night Out. This is a gtr eat way for the community to have some fun, visit, and show support for, and get to know our Law Enforcement working in this area.

Sincerely,

*Amos A. Trisler*



# Las Moras Amateur Radio Club

As Sunspot Cycle 25 is in the early stages amateur radio operators working in the HF bands are reaching out to chat around the world.

August is a bit slow for contesting. It's time to tune up the radios, build or tweak your antenna installations, and get ready for September for the Texas QSO Party! Due to its sparse population Kinney County is a highly desired contact during contests at state and national levels.

Our own intrepid President, David Loftus is once again planning on taking to the road for the Texas QSO Party. Working mobile both with voice and CW (Morse Code) he will be working to make contacts from mobile locations in several Texas counties.

If you would like to know just what all that involves plan on attending the August meeting of the Las Moras Amateur Radio Club. The meeting will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Adult Center on Fort Clark. Or if you just want to find out a little bit about what amateur radio is about please join us. All are welcome. Even if you are just visiting the Brackettville area that day.

## Texas QSO Party

### 2021 CONTEST DATES

Saturday September 18: 9AM to 9PM CDT

Sunday September 19: 9AM to 3PM CDT

For more information:

<https://www.txqp.net/index.php>



# Fort Clark Naturals

*The wild life with Suzanne Mayne*

## **Spiders – Good or Bad?**

*Little Suzy sat on her couch, eating her chips and dip*

*Along came a spider who sat down beside her*

*Brave Suzy screamed and said “Oh, get a grip!”*

The other night I went into my bathroom, turned on the light and surprised a large grayish spider, which I later identified as a Carolina Wolf Spider. It had somehow made its way into my home and was clearly on the hunt. Hopefully for some nasty bugs I don't want around! I, for the most part, let spiders be. Live and let live, I say. But when I am surprised by them or find them on me, my reaction is not so calm. My scariest moments have been when I foolishly reached under a counter or into a dark shelf and felt thousands of thin hairy legs – a collection of Daddy Long Legs, as we called them growing up. And as I discovered when researching for this article, Daddy Long Legs are not of the spider family, they are called Harvestmen, and while they are Arachnids like spiders, they are a different species called Opiliones. They have neither venom or silky-web making ability, can emit a strong unpleasant odor when disturbed and are viewed as a beneficial scavenger.

There are almost 900 species of spiders in Texas, and in general, spiders function as beneficial managers of pest insects. Some spiders are blend into the background, some jump, others stand out with beautiful colorful shapes on their bodies, like the orb spiders and a very few are seriously dangerous to humans.

Spiders all have some form of venom used to kill their prey. The enzymes in the venom break down and liquefy the prey to make it easier to consume. That is why when we humans get a spider bite, the venom can cause varying degrees of damage to our nervous system, skin and tissue. The two species of spiders whose bite is most dangerous to humans are the Black

Widow and Brown Recluse.

Only the female Black Widow's bite is dangerous to humans. The bite may feel like a pin prick or may not be felt. The venom affects your nervous system. There may be slight local swelling and two faint red spots surrounded by local redness at the bite. Pain will increase within 1 to 3 hours and may last for up to 48 hours. The pain is primarily felt in the abdomen and back and there may be muscle pain and feet or eyelids may swell. Other symptoms progress may progress from nausea through profuse perspiration, tremors, labored breathing and speech, and vomiting. During this time, a feeble pulse, cold clammy skin, unconsciousness, convulsions and even death may result if the victim does not receive medical attention immediately. Additional complications may occur due to the infection of the bite. Bites are uncommon and serious long-term complications or death are rare.

The Brown Recluse spider is most active at night. It lives in and around buildings in warm, dry places, like closets, barns, homes, etc. On its back is a design resembling a violin or fiddle, hence its nickname of “fiddleback” spider. This spider's venom causes death and decay of the tissue surrounding the site of the bite. The tissue decay can be very aggressive and difficult to stop so recovery can be long and painful.

As we live near and within wilder forested and brush areas, where insects are more numerous, it's always a wise idea to shake out shoes first before putting them on. Wear gloves while dusting or reaching into places where visibility is not good, especially if you notice a lot of cobwebs.

*Details and photos courtesy of the Texas Parks & Wildlife website*

Photos on next page...

Story by Suzanne Mayne.

**For more information on Fort Clark Hiking Trails:** Look online at [www.fortclark.com](http://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.



***Orb Spider***

***Black Widow Spider***



***Brown Recluse Spider***



# The Amazing and Useful Milk Thistle

By N. Conrey & S. Shell

It was a picture-perfect day in Brackettville. The recent rains had infused this arid land with life-giving moisture. As we drove north, toward the hills, we were greeted with just some of the hidden beauty and majesty of this enchanted place we call home. The normally brown and dusty hillsides were now carpeted with vibrant yellows, blues, purples and reds as the sage, Mexican Hats, Verbena, Brown Eyed Susans, White Prickly Poppy and Milk Thistle displayed their glory.

We find ourselves in the borderlands of the Chihuahuan Desert. The largest desert in North America and considered to be one of the most diverse in the world. But now, under this clear blue Texas sky with cotton candy clouds, we lose ourselves in the breathtaking floral panorama of color which presents itself as we climb the hills toward Leona Ranch and the Kickapoo Caverns State Park. This land may seem hot dry and dusty most of the time... but it does have its moments.

As we pause, at a respectful distance, for the family of Javelinas to cross the highway in front of us, we reflect on nature's pharmacy just outside our window. The Milk Thistle, within our reach is highly valued for its nutritional and medicinal properties.

Milk Thistle can be a gardener's nightmare. It is seasonal in nature and a single plant can infest an unsuspecting lawn or garden. If left to its own devices that lone plant can produce up to a thousand seeds. Thus, spreading terror in a gardener's heart. If not managed properly a once beautiful garden may become a prickly nightmare.

On the other hand, milk thistle is a valuable plant in our medicinal list of herbal remedies. It has been used, in conjunction with medical care, for liver conditions, blood sugar regulation and stomach problems. According to the Mayo Clinic, one of the active ingredients is called Silymarin and is believed to have antioxidant properties.

With its characteristic white veins on large prickly leaves some personal protection is advised when harvesting. But Milk Thistle is useful as food for humans and animals. The complete plant is beneficial and readily available along our highways and byways.

*Editor's Note: The information contained in the article provides historical background and should not be used or construed as medical advice. For anything health related please consult you physician first. The authors, FC Dispatch staff, or Fort Clark Springs Association accept no responsibility for misuse of this information.*





# SECURITY DISPATCH

FCSA Security would like to remind all residents and guests of FCSA Traffic Rules. Rules state that all persons who operate a motor vehicle of any description, licensed or unlicensed, shall have a valid driver's license. This includes, golf carts, dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs.

As you may have noticed in the news there is an increase in illegal aliens coming into our area. If you see any suspicious activity for this or any reason please call FSCA Security at (830) 563-2002, Kinney Country Sheriff's Office (830) 563-2788, or Border Patrol (830) 653-5000.

Security has received numerous reports of rattlesnakes in and around the various units. Please be aware of your surroundings. Snakes will try to find cool places to hide from the heat. They move more frequently in the late afternoon through the early morning hours. If you see a rattlesnake, or any poisonous snake please contact security and if possible please keep the snake in sight until security arrives.



**FORT CLARK SPRINGS SECURITY  
JUNE 2021  
MONTHLY REPORT**

In the month of June 2021 Fort Clark Springs Security was dispatched to:

1	Air Life Landing
12	EMS Calls
3	Reports Of Gun Shots
4	Reports Of Possible Break-Ins
12	Reports Of Illegals
54	Times Sheriff Deputies Patrolled Inside Fort
12	Times DPS Patrolled Inside Fort
1	Denied Entry To Smugglers Wanting Motel Room
1	Report Of Criminal Mischief
1	Report Of A Vehicle Accident
7	Reports Of Restricted Individuals On FCSA Property
2	Reports Of Curfew Violations
3	Removal Of Inoperable Vehicles Parked In Roadways
2	Reports Of Teenage Unlicensed Drivers
1	Report Of A Rattlesnake
2	Reports Of Domestic Disturbances
2	Reports Of Speeding/ Reckless Driving
1	Reports Of Trespassing
3	Reports Of Loud Noise
8	Reports Of Dogs Running Loose
1	Reports Of Dogs Barking
1	Report Of Theft
8	Reports Of Suspicious Activity
9	Reports Of Sick, Injured or Dead Animals
	Security Personnel also responded to numerous other calls not listed above.

Editor's Note: The Security Monthly Report will always be one month behind. The report is compiled and submitted to the GM and the Board of Directors at the end of each month. The Fort Clark Dispatch is published on the first of each month. For this reason the report you read in the Dispatch will be one month behind.

# Fort Clark Arts

**W**e want to say “Thank You” to everyone who attended our Open House at the Art Studio on Saturday, July 3, in conjunction with the Fort Clark Springs July 4th weekend celebrations.

Attendees were able to enjoy art classes taught by Gage Brown (drawing) and Cheryl Hunter (rock painting). We were happy to welcome approximately 100 people into the studio to enjoy the art that was on display.

We would like to congratulate Suzanne Mayne and Amos Trisler. Their photographs were selected for the F22 Photography Exhibit at the Firehouse (120 E. Garland) in Del Rio. Both have two photographs on display. Amos received Honorable Mention for one of his photos. The exhibit ran from July 2 until July 31.



## REMEMBER

The Studio is open to the public on  
**Mondays and Saturdays from**  
**12:00 - 3:00 pm.**

# *Family Events to Beat the Heat!*

The National Watermelon Day event at Rendezvous Park has been canceled in deference to the National Night Out Day celebration being held in Brackettville. We encourage people to get out and enjoy that event.

August 6th is National Root Beer Float Day. You guessed it. We will be serving Root Beer Floats at Rendezvous Park at 6PM





## Family Reunion Held at the Fort Clark Service Club



It wasn't just the Fourth of July celebration going on at Fort Clark. A family reunion was held 3 July 2021 at the Fort Clark Service club. Pictured above left to right: Flavio Talamantez, Mary Gomez Talamantez, Virginia "Jean" DeLa Rosa, Ignacio DeLa Rosa, Jane Gomez, and Cristoval Gomez. Missing are Ernest and Elleanor Gomez, and Alfred Gomez.

To rent the Service Club or other facilities of Fort Clark Springs for you event please contact Sherry Neuman at (830) 563-2493 or email at [fsca@fortclark.com](mailto:fsca@fortclark.com)

# *The POOL Season is OPEN!*

- \* All persons must stop at the gate to be checked in.**
- \* All Member assessments need to be paid-to-date before entering. Security will be checking current status.**
- \* Guests or a Visitors, you will be charged a fee to enter.**

**Members in Good Standing - No Cost**

**General Public - \$7.00**

**Members Grandchildren - \$2.00**

**(must be registered with the fort)**

**Member Guest Adult - \$5.00**

**(13 and above)**

**Member Guest Child - \$3.00**

**(12 and younger)**

**Brackettville Students w/ID - \$3.00**

**Kinney County Residents**

**Adult (13 and above) \$5.00**

**Child (12 and younger) \$3.00**

**Brackett ISD Students are Eligible  
for a 20 entrance punch pass for  
\$40.00/Season Pass \$153.00**

## **Remember:**

**Membership Privileges do not transfer to renters.**

**Member Guests must be accompanied by a Member.**

**Please remember that all assessments and fees help the fort keep going!**

**Please be safe while having fun!**





## SWIM PARK RULES

- MUST WEAR CURRENT WRIST BAND IN PARK
- NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY
- USE PARK AND POOL AT YOUR OWN RISK
- CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE WITH ADULT
- FCSA MAY DENY ACCESS / USE TO ANYONE AT ANY TIME
- FCSA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, LOSS OR INJURIES
- NO HORSES IN PARK
- NO PETS IN POOL AREA
- KEEP OUT OF SPRING, SPILLWAY AND CREEK
- NO FISHING TACKLE IN POOL AREA
- NO COOKING IN POOL AREA
- NO LITTERING
- POOL CLOSED ON THURSDAYS
- SWIM PARK CLOSSES AT DARK
- NO INAPPOPRIATE ATTIRE (STRING OR THONG BIKINI'S ETC)
- NO BBQ PITS / GRILLS ALLOWED
- MEMBERS AND GUEST MAY USE THE BBQ GRILLS AND PICNIC TABLES ON A FIRST COME, FIRST BASIS.



## REGLAS DEL PARQUE DE NATACION

- DEBE USAR EL BRAZALETE ACTUALIZADO EN EL PARQUE
- NO HAY SALAVAVIDA DE GUARDIA
- USE EL PARQUE LA ALBERCA BAJO SU PROPIO RIESGO
- NIÑOS MENORES DE 12 DEBEN ESTAR ACOMPAÑADOS DE UN ADULTO
- FCSA PUEDE NEGAR EL ACCESO / USO EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO
- NO VESTIMENTA INAPROPIADA (BIKINI DE HILO O TANGA, ETC)
- FCSA NO ES RESPONSABLE POR ROBO, PERDIDA O LESIONES
- NO CABALLOS EN EL PARQUE
- NO MASCOTAS EN EL AREA DE LA ALBERCA
- MANTENGASE FUERA DEL OJO DE AGUA, EL VERTEDERO Y EL ARROYO
- NO EQUIPOS DE PESCA EN LA ALBERCA
- NO COCINAR EN EL DE LA ALBERCA
- NO TIRAR BASURA
- LA ALBERCA ESTA CERRADA LOS JUEVES
- EL PARQUE DE NATACION SE CIERRA OBSCURECER
- NO HAY PARRILLAS PARA BARBACOA / PARRILLAS PERMITIDAS
- MIEMBROS E INVITADOS PUEDE USAR EL PARRILLAS PARA BARBACOA Y MESAS DE PICNIC POR ORDEN DE LLEGADA



# August 2021

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

RVP- RV PAVILION  
RVK-KITCHEN  
SC-SERVICE CLUB  
OQ- QLD QUARRY  
AMPHITHEATER  
BR-BOARD ROOM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	<b>2</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	<b>3</b> 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR <b>5-7P 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</b> <b>303 W FULTON BRACKETVILLE</b>	<b>4</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF	<b>5</b> 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER	<b>6</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS <b>6P - NATIONAL ROOT BEER FLOAT DAY - RENDEZVOUS PARK</b>	<b>7</b> 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE
<b>8</b> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	<b>9</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	<b>10</b> 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR	<b>11</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF	<b>12</b> 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER	<b>13</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS	<b>14</b> 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <b>FIRST ANNUAL COUPLES TOURNAMENT-GC</b>
<b>15</b> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	<b>16</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS <b>1P BOOKS, LITERATURE &amp; TEA "...AND LADIES OF THE CLUB BY HELEN SANTMYER-AC</b> 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	<b>17</b> 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR	<b>18</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF <b>6P - FORT CLARK DAYS MEETING - AC</b>	<b>19</b> 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN	<b>20</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS	<b>21</b> 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <b>9:00A FCS BR BOARD MEETING</b> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <b>RESCHEDULED-HILLCREST MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT-GC</b>
<b>22</b> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	<b>23</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	<b>24</b> 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR	<b>25</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12:30P MENS GOLF	<b>26</b> 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 1P COUPLES GOLF 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER OPEN	<b>27</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS	<b>28</b> 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE <b>END OF MONTH TOURNAMENT-GC</b>
<b>29</b> 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE	<b>30</b> 10A WATER AEROBICS 12-3P ARTS 2:30-6P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE	<b>31</b> 9A LADIES GOLF 4P ARCH-BR		<b>GOLF COURSE HOURS</b> <b>TUES.-SUN.</b> <b>7:30AM-7:30PM</b>	<b>PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THE CALENDAR!</b>	<b>CONTACT JULIE @THE ADMIN OFFICE</b> <b>830-563-2493</b> <b>OR EMAIL</b> <b>FCSA@FORTCLARK.COM</b>

# Ramblin Jack

By Jack Marsh

## The Many Lives of an Old Fort Part I

**T**his article is the first of several that will hopefully provide readers somewhat of a through-line for how an ancient spring of cold water first discovered by Native Americans evolved into the diverse community it is today.

When my family rediscovered Fort Clark a few years ago, leading to several vacation visits and eventual retirement here, we sometimes struggled to explain this decision to friends, many of whom were largely unaware of the community's history. They would ask questions like, "How can you live on a military fort?" Or, "WHY would anyone want to live on a fort in the middle of nowhere?" I think most of them were picturing something like what you find when visiting Fort Davis: Rows of restored barracks, a mess hall, infirmary, parade ground, tall flagpole, and some historical markers, all sitting out on a bald prairie. Having grown up in Uvalde, and having visited the fort many times over the years, I just sort of took it for granted that anyone with Texas roots would automatically know about Fort Clark's long, unique history.

Much of what makes this little oasis the drawing card that it is, is owing to the site's long and prestigious military presence, but a lot of people would be surprised to know that Fort Clark did not officially receive its national historic status as a former military installation until December 6, 1979! A lot of historic data can be found by accessing a copy of the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, submitted to the U.S. Department of Interior on October 10, 1979. This extensive document provides historical data of the area, going back to the days of the

Comanche Trail, used by the Native Americans during their raids into Mexico. Spanish travelers in the 1600 and 1700's discovered the cold spring, calling it Las Moras, named after the mulberry trees growing along its banks. As settlers began moving into the area following Texas independence, a trade route from San Antonio to El Paso and beyond was developed, and grew in importance with the discovery of gold out west in 1849. This route became known as the Lower Road, now U.S Highway 90.

My wife and I frequently take bike rides around the fort, and whenever we ride down to the pool, it's always fun to coast willy-nilly down the hill, feeling a little like teenagers again. But that feeling turns into the reality of old age when we have to peddle back up the hill, sometimes stopping at the amphitheater to gasp for air and wait for the leg cramps to subside. It's only on a bike or afoot that we tend to realize that the little hill overlooking the old spring would have provided a significant advantage for defenders of that valuable piece of real estate. According to the 1979 Nomination Form, "Fort Clark occupies a strategic mesa elevated 60 feet above Las Moras Creek. From this prominent position, federal troops held a commanding view of the surrounding mesquite prairie. The site was chosen early in 1852 and established as a fort in June of that year." Before the new fort was actually manned by troops, it was called Fort Riley, after one of its first commanding officers, but its name was soon changed to Fort Clark, in honor of John C. Clark who died in the Mexican War. For the first four years of existence, Fort Clark was maintained as a "cantonment", a type of temporary military camp containing mostly tents and simple wooden structures, but in 1857 orders were given to "Build a fort; build it to last."

**Note:** For a thorough and entertaining description of Fort Clark's history, there may be none better than the book by William F. Haenn, called Fort Clark and Brackettville, Land of Heroes, from the Images of America series and published by Arcadia Publishing. The pictures alone are amazing and worth the purchase price!



# History Lives Here

By Teri Marsh

*Author's note: This is the first article in a series that will profile interesting life experiences of Fort Clark residents. We are all witnesses to and participants in history, and every Fort resident has a story. If you or someone you know would make a good subject for this series, please contact Teri Marsh at [tmarshtx@gmail.com](mailto:tmarshtx@gmail.com).*

“I have had a lifetime fascination with airplanes. Ever since I saw my very first one when I was five years old or so, I've been nuts about them.” Thus began my conversation with Fort resident Phil Coburn. He went on to describe Sunday afternoon picnics with his family in Iowa, beside a grass airstrip where they watched Piper Cubs take off and land. At the age of 19, that love of aviation led him to seek out an Air Force recruitment office. When he arrived, the Air Force recruiter had stepped out of the office, but the Navy recruiter across the hall had just brewed a fresh pot of coffee. By the time the Air Force recruiter returned, the coffee was gone and Phil had joined the Navy.



In October of 1957, Phil was aboard the brand-new USS Ranger, a CVA-61 super-carrier, as she departed from Norfolk, Virginia for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This was the Ranger's shakedown cruise, when all the ship's systems were tested to make sure they were operational. Phil was assigned to the catapult and arresting gear crew, with responsibility for getting jets successfully launched and returned to the deck safely. Eventually he became the number four catapult console operator. This meant that he controlled every aspect of a catapult that launched a jet from the flight deck. Positioning and steam-powered pressure had to be calculated exactly depending on the type of aircraft, and failure to adjust the catapult correctly could result in disaster and loss of life. Phil loved the job.

At Gitmo, the crew was not allowed to leave the base because the Cuban Revolution was in full swing. However, at every other port of call, Phil took advantage of the opportunity to see the world. In route to the Pacific, they crossed the equator and reached Rio de Janeiro. On shore leave, Phil joined other airmen who visited the famous Ipanema beach. While sailors weren't welcome in most of the upscale shops and restaurants, they could sit on a bench and enjoy a beer while watching, in Phil's words, "extremely beautiful" bikini-clad women walk up and down the beach. The Girl From Ipanema lived up her reputation, although the hit song wouldn't climb the charts until 1963.

Much later, Phil would have an experience on shore leave that could not have been more

*Continued on pages 20 and 21*

opposite – he stood in a small Japanese town outside of Hiroshima and surveyed the devastation that showed the world the nature of nuclear war. The radiation levels were still much too high 13 years later for visitors to actually enter the city.

The USS Ranger was the first super-carrier to round the southern tip of South America and pass through the Strait of Magellan. Despite its reputation for rough waters, the sea was as smooth as glass as the huge ship entered the Pacific Ocean. After stops in Lima, Peru, and Alameda, California, the entire crew stood at attention on the flight deck as the Ranger passed the USS Arizona upon entering Pearl Harbor.



The Ranger was operating training runs in the Sea of Japan in the spring of 1959, and by that time Phil was a seasoned catapult console operator. On one occasion, he was preparing to launch an A-3D Skywarrior. The A-3D was a heavy twin-engine jet with a three-man crew. It was routinely referred to in Navy parlance as “All Three Dead” because it contained no ejection mechanism and was designed in such a way that in the event of a crash there was no likely means of escape for the crew. On this day, a lieutenant was in command of the launch deck who was infamous among the enlisted men for his arrogance. He issued a command to Phil to

adjust “Cat 4” to 400 pounds of steam pressure. Phil knew the guidelines for each aircraft well, and the 86,000-lb. A-3D required 800 pounds of pressure to lift successfully from the flight deck. As Cats 1, 2, and 3 launched on schedule, Phil did not obey the order – he feared for the lives of the jet’s crew if he did. He responded, “It’s not gonna go at that pressure!” When the order came through a second time, Phil released Cat 4 at the ordered 400-lb. pressure with great reluctance. He radioed up to the deck and asked “Did they make it?” The flight deck crew reported that the plane’s wheels actually touched the water before the pilot managed to make adjustments and get enough lift to avoid crashing into the Sea of Japan – but only just barely. Shortly afterwards, the lieutenant appeared at the door of the Cat 4 console. All protocol for addressing an officer forgotten, Phil stood nose to nose with him and screamed, “I almost killed three of my own people. I didn’t join the Navy to kill our own men!” While the officer did apologize, Phil and all of the crew were relieved when he was transferred off of the USS Ranger shortly thereafter.

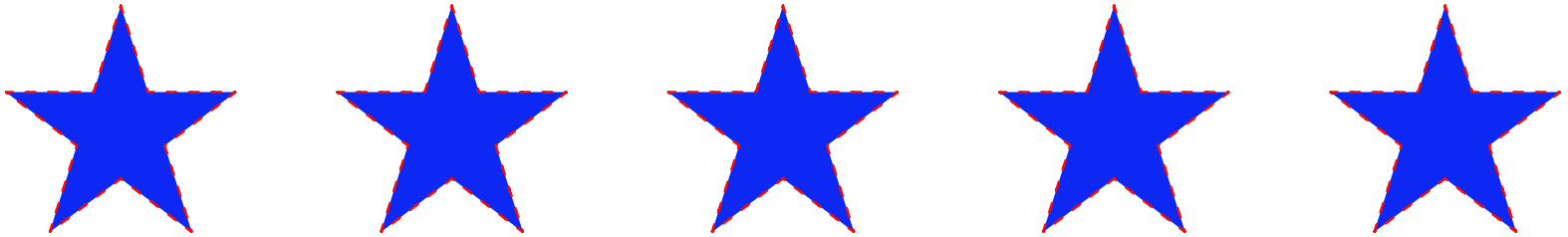
While in port in Yokosuka, Japan, Phil was recovering from a night of shore leave in his bunk when the call for all crew to man their positions within 20 minutes was given. This was not a scheduled training run, and the carrier was underway a short time later towards mainland China. Phil soon learned that “Red Chinese” forces had approached a small group of channel islands controlled by Taiwan, and President Eisenhower had ordered a show of force. Tensions rose aboard the Ranger as tactical aircraft armed with nuclear weapons were launched within five miles of the Chinese coast, and orders were to strike at the smallest sign of retaliation from Chinese forces. Fortunately, China backed down and war was averted.

By 1962, Phil had returned to civilian life, but he proclaims that he loved every single minute aboard the USS Ranger. He is a lifetime member of the Tailhook Association, and he proudly displays the mission patches that he

designed himself in his living room. The super-carrier would go on to see significant service during the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, and was used as a film set for the movies Top Gun and Star Trek IV. The USS Ranger was decommissioned in 1993, and was scrapped in 2017 in Brownsville, Texas. If you meet Phil, ask him about his Navy years- he



*Photos by Teir Marsh except for the image of the USS Ranger. USS Ranger photo from Public Domain courtesy of the U.S. Department of Defense.*



**Ken Polka in Unit 1 took the time to photograph a busy bee doing what bees do. Feeding on and helping pollinate the flowers. Good for the plants and good for the bees. A supportive relationship that humans can also benefit from.**



# Baptist Day Camp Was Fun for All!

*Story and photos by Amos Trisler*



Summer fun was in full swing for the kids and youth counselors alike at the Summer Day Camp held by the Baptist Church at the pool grounds. It wasn't just sitting around doing studies. The older youth who acted as counselors for the younger day campers went out of their way to come up with creative and exciting games for the younger ones. It does appear though that the young men and women who led the activities were having as much fun as their charges. One game that combined kicking a soccer ball, followed by kicking a football, and finally swinging a bat at a pitched ball, was created by the teenage volunteers only four weeks prior to the camp. Another game that had the younger ones laughing and cheering required campers to sneak in and remove a clothes pin clipped to the clothing of a blindfolded "giant" armed with a pool noodle without getting tagged by the giant. If the laughter, smiles, and shouts of joy, were any indication, the camp was a success.



# JUNE WAS SPEED AWARENESS MONTH

In case you did not notice, all along Fort Clark's roads in June there were correct speed signs posted for most of the Fort's busy roads. This was done to encourage everyone driving on the Fort to abide by the speed limit signs and to help keep Fort Clark Members and Visitors safe. The brightly colored signs were visible everywhere and definitely helped those driving to concentrate on their speed.

The Board of Directors is currently working on an updated version of our Rules & Regulations which empowers the Fort's Security and Management to enforce traffic rules, including but not limited to, individuals caught speeding, running stop signs and ignoring other traffic rules. There will be progressive fines assessed for offenses. Also, everyone operating a motorized vehicle, golf cart, ATV or UTV must have a driver's license or be accompanied by a licensed driver. Loss of member privileges could be on the line for those who ignore this rule.

Many thanks to Leila Robins who designed, purchased supplies and made many signs throughout the month of June. Thanks to the member volunteers who helped out with this project and donated money as well.

Next June we will have another June Speed Awareness Month. Our goal is to keep the Fort's roads as safe as possible.

Linda O'Brien, Vice-President

Board of Directors







# Cajun Golf Tournament & Crawfish Boil

**Held July 17, 2021**







# NOTES FROM THE RECYCLE CENTER

*by Helena McBride*

Everyone at FCSA should try to recycle. From 2016 to 2020, we kept 212 tons of trash out of the landfill. Bring us # 1 plastic, # 2 plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, office paper, and mixed paper. We're open Thursdays 4 to 6 and Saturdays 8:30 to 12.

Look for the triangle on the bottom of the item. If its # 1 or # 2 bring it. Do NOT bring # 5 (yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, dishwasher tablets, nutrition drinks, some yellow medicine bottles). Take off caps, lids, handles, then rinse. Crush big items.

**# 1 Plastic:** water bottles, clear plastic from fruits & veggies.

We don't want the caps or lids or handles.

**#2 Plastic** has 2 different boxes, one is Colored Plastic, the other is "Natural Plastic." Some # 1 plastic is black or dark, you can't see through it. Put into the box marked Colored Plastic. Natural Plastic is regular milk, #2 vinegar, cat litter containers. Step on these big items to crush them to make them smaller.

**Aluminum cans:** beer & soda cans & large cat food cans. No aluminum foil or pie pans.

**Steel or Tin Cans:** veggie & soup cans, and small cat food cans

**Office paper:** white or colored paper that go into a printer. Bills or hand-written paper, post-it notes or shredded office paper is good. No construction thick paper, no shredded magazines, no business envelopes with the plastic front.

**Mixed Paper:** broth & waxed juice containers, newspapers, magazines, shredded magazines, boxes from beer & soda, telephone books. No deer food or dog food bags that have a plastic coating.

**No glass, corrugated cardboard, or plastic bags.** Cardboard should be flattened and put out with trash on Monday morning. Maintenance bales it, the Fort gets money for the bales.

**Please Do NOT drop off items at the Recycle gate.** We have to pick up your stuff. Its good if you separate your items at home, This allows you to move quickly & you don't keep the cars behind you waiting to do their drop offs.

**Volunteers, Please Note:** when the plastic bottles reach the top of the trash can, remove the black plastic bag, and continue to fill it up. The bags are costly so please fill them completely. Tie the bag tightly so it doesn't spill and bring it outside. Maintenance takes them and makes bales of the plastic.

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR DOING LOTS OF WORK, especially in the hot summer. Joe builds & organizes the boxes, & runs the forklift, Helena schedules volunteers, organizes paperwork, writes & reports to the Board. Volunteers are Pat, Phil, Memo, Valada, Tim, Mary P, Kathi, Wanda, Lori, John B, John W, Diana, Vida, Linda & John, MaryJane & Dennis, Bob, Viola, Pam, Barbara, Natanya, Phoenix, Griffen, Maria and Helena.

# *Aging and Self Care*

By Contance Kilgore

**I**t's the time of year when people tend to increase their use of alcohol and other addictive substances. I am often asked "How do I know if I (or a friend or relative) have developed a problem? Many people believe the answer to this question has to do with the amount of the substance used. But the answer to this question is not the amount. The answer is: "how is the substance affecting my life?" Is the substance causing problems with my spouse, children, other family members, friends, boss or work coworkers?

Is it affecting my health? Problems with unattended weight gain/loss? High blood pressure? Kidney problems? High cholesterol? Memory or other brain problems such as depression, anxiety or recall? Falls? Accidents?

Is it causing financial problems such as over spending or impulsive spending? Not managing my bank account?

Many people believe the only way to address addiction is through abstinence. For instance, the Alcoholics Anonymous program has a goal of sustained abstinence. AA was started in the 1930's and it was the only game in town. According to evidence based scientific research, it's program has consistently been more successful than any other approach.

In the mid to late 1970's addiction started to be recognized as a medical condition (and not a moral weakness). As a result, inpatient addiction treatment centers began opening in hospitals and patients stayed for three weeks which included medical detox, intensive classes, family/marital therapy, and screening for mental illness that might cause the patient to use substances again.

Today there are a number of different approaches that are available to help with addiction.

Here are some resources for your consideration:

- Ria Health is a telehealth program. It includes medical consultation, online coaching and medication. It costs \$350 per month for an annual program.
- The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has a free website called: Rethinking Drinking. This is a place you can find doctors, therapists and support groups.
- Cutback Coach is an app that helps you track your drinking or drug use. It costs \$79 per year, \$23 per quarter or \$9 per month.
- Our local Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Kinney County Library. It's free and is there for the person with the problem as well as their family members and friends. For more information call Steve at: 830-603-9263.





**SECTION XVI**  
**HUNTING AND FIREARMS AND FISHING**

A. FCSA property shall be considered a wildlife refuge with no hunting, trapping or discharge of firearms permitted except in controlled conditions directly authorized by the Board of Directors under circumstances considered in the best interest of the membership.

B. Fishing - All waters of Las Moras Creek on FCSA property are open for fishing; however, the following rules will apply:

1. All members of FCSA are eligible to fish; guests, if accompanied by a member may also fish. (Texas Parks & Wildlife Rules)
2. No person is allowed to take or possess a fish by any means other than authorized by these rules.
3. Fishing will be by pole and line only (including rod and reel). The use of trotlines, nets, seines, or setlines is prohibited.
4. Use of bow and arrow, spear gun or spear is not allowed.
5. No fishing is allowed from any bridge that has vehicular traffic.
6. Fishing area(s) should be left clean and free of litter.
7. FCSA has a "catch and release" program for all black bass. (Texas Parks and Wildlife Rules)

**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 the first of each month.**



Can you find the face in the tree trunk? Fort Clark has some of the most interesting trees. From the trunk shapes to faces and patterns.

*Photo by Amos Trisler*

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

**[fcdispatch@fortclark.com](mailto: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.**

**On the back cover:**

**Part of the fantastic fireworks display at the Fort on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



# 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Kinney County Style









