

FORT CLARK DISPATCH

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



Volume 2 Issue 3

Fort Clark Days

33rd

**March 19 & 20
2022**

Hoggy Nelson Las Moras

Annual

GOLF

Tournament

**2 Person Scramble, \$200.00 Entry Fee Per Person
Long Drive & Closest to the Pin Both Days
Meal after Play on Saturday and Players Meeting**

WE ARE ONLY ACCEPTING THE 1ST 54 PAID TEAMS

**GOLF CARTS ARE LIMITED AND MUST BE RESERVED AND PAID FOR THROUGH
THE PRO SHOP**

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Or the Pro Shop 830-563-9204
Email: Kaboose82@yahoo.com

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...

I hope you had a chance to get out to Fort Clark Days this year. The weather was cooperative, the displays and demonstrations were enjoyable, and the turnout was pretty good. Many student groups attended on Friday. From the looks on their faces and the way they crowded around it seems they were quite interested at every display.

For those who had displays and presentations those I spoke were having a fine time and really appreciated the interest shown by not just the kids, but the adults who attended as well. A lot of work, time, and in many cases, a good bit of expense go into creating the displays and demonstrations. Both by the participants and by those who help support them. For example the Fort Clark Gun Club always donates money to pay for the black powder that the canons use. This can run up to two thousand dollars. This year due to the number of DPS officers staying in the motel some people opened their homes so living history participants had a place to stay.

Many thanks to the Community Council who organize and run Fort Clark Days. Also, to all who helped in so many ways. After the last few years it was a fine thing to have the event again. On many levels. While some are still recovering, most everyone is looking forward to next year's Fort Clark Days. Let's hope the weather is as good next year and that things are bigger and better.



Photo by Amos Trisler

March 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</u> <u>TUES.-SUN.</u> <u>7:00AM-6:00PM</u></p>		<p>1 9A LADIES GOLF 9A NONDENOM. BIBLE STUDY- RV 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK DINNER-RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>2 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P WATER AEROBICS <u>6P FCD</u> <u>COMMITTEE</u> <u>MEETING - AC</u></p>	<p>3 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 1PM CYCLE RIDE- SC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p>4 3P WATER AEROBICS 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>FORT CLARK DAYS</u></p>	<p>5 8-10A RV BREAKFAST 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>FORT CLARK DAYS</u></p>
<p>6 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE & POPCORN - RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>7 12-3P ARTS 3P WATER AEROBICS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE 6P BONFIRE-RV</p>	<p>8 9A LADIES GOLF 9A NONDENOM. BIBLE STUDY- RV 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK DINNER-RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>9 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P WATER AEROBICS</p>	<p>10 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV <u>9:30A M.L. GARDEN</u> <u>CLUB-AC</u> 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 1PM CYCLE RIDE-SC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p>11 3P WATER AEROBICS 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>12 8-10A RV BREAKFAST 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>10A COMMUNITY</u> <u>COUNCIL MEETING-</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>
<p>13 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE & POPCORN - RV KITCHEN</p> <p><u>DAYLIGHT</u> <u>SAVINGS TIME</u> <u>BEGINS</u></p>	<p>14 12-3P ARTS 3P WATER AEROBICS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE</p>	<p>15 9A LADIES GOLF 9A NONDENOM. BIBLE STUDY- RV 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK DINNER-RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>16 9:30-12 CRAFTING- RV 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P WATER AEROBICS <u>3P PRESERVATION</u> <u>COMMITTEE - BR</u></p>	<p>17 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30A COUPLES GOLF 1PM CYCLE RIDE-SC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC 7P LMARCO RADIO GROUP-AC <u>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</u></p>	<p>18 3P WATER AEROBICS 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>19 8-10A RV BREAKFAST 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>9:00A FCS BOARD</u> <u>MEETING-BR</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>HOAGY NELSON LAS</u> <u>MORAS</u> <u>TOURNAMENT - GC</u></p>
<p>20 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE & POPCORN - RV KITCHEN <u>GC - HOAGY</u> <u>NELSON LAS</u> <u>MORAS</u> <u>TOURNAMENT</u></p> <p><u>FIRST DAY OF</u> <u>SPRING</u></p>	<p>21 12-3P ARTS <u>1P BOOK</u> <u>LITERATURE &</u> <u>TEA-AC</u> 3P WATER AEROBICS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE 6P BONFIRE-RV</p>	<p>22 9A LADIES GOLF 9A NONDENOM. BIBLE STUDY- RV 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK DINNER-RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>23 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P WATER AEROBICS</p>	<p>24 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30 COUPLES GOLF 1PM CYCLE RIDE- SC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING- TC</p>	<p>25 3P WATER AEROBICS 5-11P DH BAR OPEN</p>	<p>26 8-10A RV BREAKFAST 8:30A-12P RECYCLE CENTER <u>FCS ANNUAL</u> <u>MEMBERSHIP</u> <u>MEETING</u> 12-3P ARTS 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 5-11P DH BAR OPEN <u>END OF MONTH</u> <u>TOURNAMENT - GC</u></p>
<p>27 1-4P MUSEUM & SUTLER STORE 7P MOVIE & POPCORN - RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>28 12-3P ARTS 3P WATER AEROBICS 3-7P TWILIGHT SCRAMBLE 6P BONFIRE-RV</p>	<p>29 9A LADIES GOLF 9A NONDENOM. BIBLE STUDY- RV 4P ARC-BR 6P POTLUCK DINNER-RV KITCHEN</p>	<p>30 9:30-12 CRAFTING-RV 12:30P MENS GOLF 3P WATER AEROBICS</p>	<p>31 9A MEN'S COFFEE - RV 9:30 COUPLES GOLF 1PM CYCLE RIDE-SC 4-6P RECYCLE CENTER 5-11P DH BAR OPEN 7P LINE DANCING-TC</p>	<p><u>PLEASE LET US</u> <u>KNOW IF YOU</u> <u>WANT TO ADD</u> <u>ANYTHING ON</u> <u>THE CALENDAR!</u></p>	<p><u>CONTACT JULIE</u> <u>@THE ADMIN OFFICE</u> <u>830-563-2493</u> <u>OR EMAIL</u> <u>FCSA@</u> <u>FORTCLARK.COM</u></p>

APRIL 2022

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

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

Fort Clark Naturals

The wild life with Suzanne Mayne

Well the Arizona Ash tree in my front yard firmly believes Spring is on the way. It began budding out several weeks ago and barring a late freeze will be on its way to house birds, lizards, butterflies and a variety of insects again this year. I have found a tiny, tiny beautiful art work of a nest under it in the past; a hummingbird nest I believe. The past two years, I have had a pair of house finches nesting there. The male gave frequent spontaneous concerts I enjoyed listening to from the front porch. Soon mountain laurels will be budding out and blooming, perfuming the air with their rich grape Koolaid fragrance. But please don't think you can eat any part of the mountain laurel, it is poisonous to humans. It is so dry this year that we are missing many of the early flowers/weeds, hardly any dandelions have shown their sunny yellow flowers or green leaves yet!



I went down to Las Moras Creek the other day to see what signs of spring there were - not much yet. A lone male Vermilion Flycatcher, keeping his back to me, was trying to find insects. Along the creek there were a few signs of perennials beginning to leaf out from the dirt. Hopefully by next edition, there will be spring flowers budding out and birds beginning to nest.

Speaking of warming weather. When we last had a several day warming spell, we did have a bit of

excitement at the Dispatch Magazine meeting in the FCSA board room. One of our participants looked over behind us and said "is that a snake or fuzz in the carpet?" We all looked and sure enough it was a small, i.e. young rattlesnake. This odd occurrence precipitated our comments that "young rattlesnakes have more venom because they don't know how to control it yet". I've always heard that so I thought I would check it out.



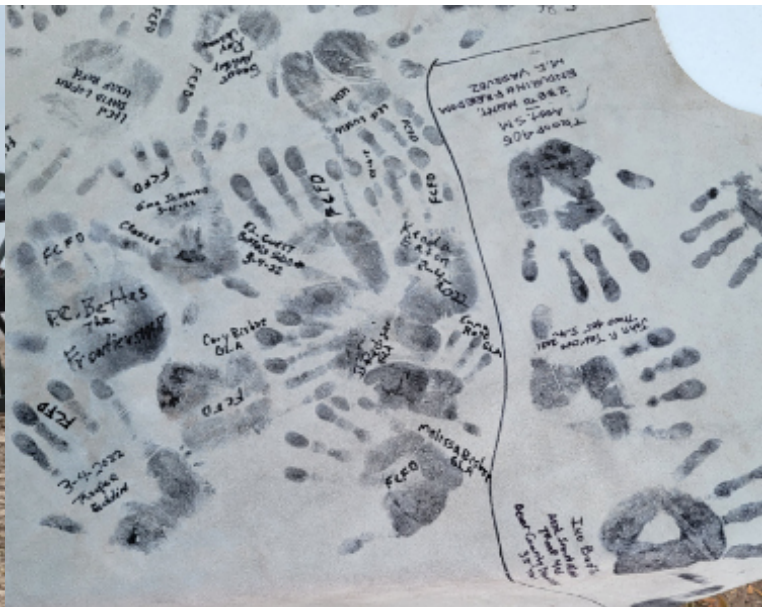
According to numerous sources on the internet, young and old rattlesnakes can control the amount of venom they throw in a strike. While young rattlesnakes may have more potent venom, their venom sacks are far smaller than those of an adult rattlesnake. Adult rattlesnakes can inject 20-50 times more venom than a baby or young rattlesnake. So as we head into spring, please be on the lookout for snakes on those warmer days and stay out of their way. I know as I write this, many of us have chopped away at offending snakes and even venomous ones. Its best to have someone qualified, as in with knowledge and experience being around snakes, to remove them from your yard, home or area. Many snakes, even those with venom, keep the rodent populations under control so please bear this is mind when choosing your removal or elimination method.

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.



**FORT CLARK DAYS
2022
IN PHOTOS**





**FORT CLARK DAYS
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IN PHOTOS**



FORT CLARK SPRINGS ARTISTS - A GAME OF TAG

Kellen Hendricks - Potter

Christine Race “tagged” me to write an article for the March issue of the Fort Dispatch. It sounded fun, so I’m the second artist to participate. Like Chris, I met many talented artists from the fort and the surrounding area at the 2021 Fort Clark Springs Art Show. It’s amazing just how many very talented artists live and produce their art here at Fort Clark! With a little interest and effort Fort Clark could possibly become an artist community – think about it. Some history of me and how I became a Potter...

I was born in San Diego, CA in 1955. As I was growing up I always did crafty things; usually with my mother, Mary Partlow, who taught me to cook, sew my own clothes, and decorate cakes and panoramic eggs, as well as many other things. There wasn’t much I couldn’t do if I set my mind to it.

My father, Joe Partlow, was a sailor, a teacher and a preacher (in that order) which meant we moved multiple times until I graduated high school in Danvers Massachusetts in June 1974. Upon graduation I enlisted in the United States Air Force and became a carpenter, then an Inventory Specialist, and spent three years as an Air Force Recruiter in Westchester County NY. When my time in recruiting ended, in 1984, I was stationed at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX where I met Bob Hendricks (to whom I have been happily married for 37 years and we have two wonderful children). We moved between San Angelo, TX and Tampa, FL a few times throughout the years and in preparation for retirement I accepted a civil service position at Laughlin AFB in 2004 and we moved to Fort Clark Springs to be near our parents (Joe & Mary Partlow at FCS and Lillian Hendricks in San Angelo).

It was at Laughlin AFB in 2010 that a co-worker asked me to participate in a pottery class - she needed 6 people to take a class and only had 5 – so I reluctantly agreed and started lessons at The Firehouse in Del Rio. I loved it and decided that Pottery is what I would do when I retired in December of 2011.

Retirement has allowed me to continue working on my skills and I enjoy experimenting with different methods of making pottery including Raku firing and Crystalline glazing. I create wheel-thrown bowls, slab-built platters, Christmas ornaments and sometimes sculptures and other projects that I think will be fun. In my studio at our home on Anderson Rd I have throwing wheels, kilns, and a slab roller. The process of making pottery soothes me and I am blessed with a wonderful husband who has given up most of his garage to provide me with a studio and showroom. I also demonstrated pottery throwing at Fort Clark Days annually.

Joanna Moody, Tag you’re IT...

Kellen Hendricks,

potterybykellen@gmail.com



Images of Kellen’s work on the next page

Platter made by “Slab work” and bowl thrown on a wheel.



Sculpture



Raku fired decorative vases

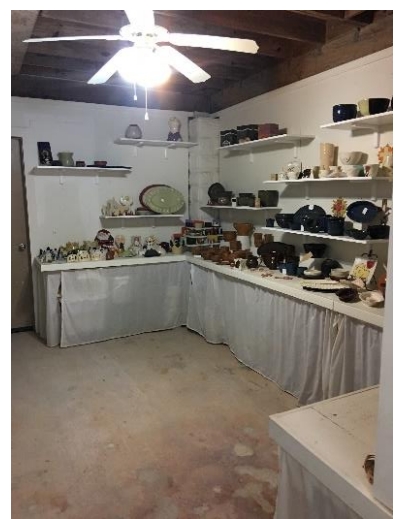


Large wheel-thrown vase

Crystalline ornament



My showroom



Photos provided by Kellen Hendricks

★ Where the Real Stars Gather... ★

Story by Suzanne Mayne

As we move from mid-March to mid-April these planets are visible: Venus blazing in the east before sunrise; Mars and Saturn, also in the east before sunrise; Jupiter, emerging in the east before sunrise by late March or early April. Mercury will return to the evening sky by mid-April, for its best evening viewing. Events for this period include:

March 18: The Full Moon of March, known as the Worm Moon, arrives at 3:18 a.m. EDT (0718 GMT). It is referred to as the Worm Moon because this is the time of year when the ground began to soften and earthworms emerged.



March 20: Spring Equinox signaling the first day of spring. There will be an equal number of hours of day and night. This day is also when Venus at its longest elongation west. It will shine brightly in the dawn sky just before sunrise.

April 1: New moon. 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 4/5: Earth-shine Nights. Have you noticed sometimes that the rest of the moon seems to be faintly visible even though it is visible as a crescent? This is a result of earth-shine, also known as the Da Vinci glow. During the waxing and waning crescent moon phases in April and May, these are the best times to see earth shine, when the unlit part of the moon becomes visible.



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.

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!

Las Moras Amateur Radio Club



Los Moras member and longtime radio operator, David Loftus was a big hit with the students that came through Fort Clark Days on Friday. David gave a little history of the use of Morse Code. He then asked the kids their names and demonstrated how their names sounded in Morse Code, or CW as it is often called. Judging by the enthusiasm and responses of the students that came through David's presentation was a great success. A few local students even stopped by on Saturday to practice a little CW.

The Las Moras Amateur Radio Club (LMARC) enjoyed a great two days manning their display at the 2022 Fort Clark Days. Despite a little wind now and then, the weather was excellent. With several radios set up visitors could get a look at a variety of radios and radio equipment and learn more about both the gear and the many facets of amateur radio. The club enjoyed having so many student groups come by on Friday. They all seemed to really enjoy the presentation.

Club members working the HF radios were able to make contacts around the country and even a few outside the country on both voice and Morse Code (CW). It was also a great opportunity for club members to spend some time together and talk about radio, the weather, and whatever else came to mind.

We even had an individual test for and pass to become a freshly minted Ham. Congratulations to Steve who passed his Tech and General exams

Photos and story by Amos Trisler

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.

Returning to the saga of Wild Cat and John Horse....In 1848, just as Mexico was enticing people north of the border to settle in Mexico for the purpose of helping defend against invaders from across the river, Wild Cat was being frustrated in his attempts to form alliances with Comanches and the other western tribes. When Wild Cat heard about Mexico's offer to give groups of colonists free land, provisions, and building supplies for housing, he turned his attention to figuring out how to get himself across Texas and into Mexico. He figured that the Mexicans would gladly welcome the help of a Seminole chief with extensive experience at fighting Americans. Jeff Guinn's source, Ben Pingnot, also surmised that Wild Cat's long-term goal may have been to form an Indian federation with western tribes inside Mexico, with enough strength in numbers to ignore any contractual obligations with Mexico.

In March of 1849, Wild Cat received permission to travel through Texas on a "hunting trip", and there is speculation that he went as far as south of the Rio Grande, where he may have inquired about the possibility of returning with a band of Indians to form a colony. He must have received a green light from the Mexicans, because upon returning to Indian Territory following his "hunting trip", Wild Cat began recruiting Seminole to leave and head for Mexico with him; however, there would be only about 25 to 30 braves willing to make the trip, which may not be enough in numbers to convince the Mexicans to make good on their promise to provide a paid-for colony.

Frustrated with the tepid response from his fellow Seminole and western tribes, Wild Cat turned for help from his old ally, John Horse.

As it so happened, John Horse had recently been ordered to lead a contingent of Black Seminole southwest from Fort Gibson to Seminole and Creek lands, where they would again be subject to ownership by local tribes and white slavers. John Horse obeyed the travel order – for a short distance. Along the way, he and about 300 travel companions veered off in another direction, where they began creating their own village beside Wewoka Creek. They built huts, planted crops, and acquired guns. From there, it gets complicated. The American authorities knew that the Black Seminole were property of the Seminole and Creek, and basically decided to let the Indian tribes deal with this new village situation. But the Indians were reluctant to engage in a fire fight with the blacks in order to shut down the village, so there was a brief period where nothing much happened between the factions. At some point, however, some of the Americans just couldn't tolerate the notion that there were blacks in the area living free in a slave holding territory, which would send the "wrong message" to white-owned slaves. John Horse and his fellow blacks knew that there would eventually be a reckoning, and they would have to defend their village against the tribes, or the American military, or both. And they knew they would most likely be captured or killed in the process.

In July of 1849, Wild Cat rode into Wewoka. He came alone, so as not to alarm the locals into thinking it was an attack on their village. From here, the story in Guinn's book relies on the story-telling of "Miss Charles", the granddaughter of blacks who were there in that village when Wild Cat and John Horse met to plan their fateful trip across Texas into Mexico. She states, "These are the words told to me, no more and no less".....

To be continued

Romance Lives at Fort Clark

By Teri Marsh

A Fashionable Romance – Felix and Valada

When Valada was asked to ‘walk the runway’ at a fashion show benefiting the Fort Clark Historical Society in 2017, she thought, ‘why not?’ It was for a good cause, and she wanted to be a good citizen and supporter of the Fort community that she had been a part of since 2000.

When a couple of friends invited Felix to attend a benefit event for the Fort Clark Historical Society at the golf club, he thought, ‘why not?’ Felix was a former director of operations at Fort Clark, and a civic-minded resident since 2005. As a single man, he wasn’t much interested in fashion, but the event also included a wine and cheese spread to enjoy with friends, door prizes, and even live music.

As Felix enjoyed socializing with his fellow guests, 12-15 volunteer models moved between the tables. One lively, vivacious gray-haired lady had more clothing to model than the others, since she was the only petite model in the show. Felix, who knew many people on the Fort, hadn’t met her before, and noticed her shapely legs and bright smile.

A few months later in early 2018, Felix was chatting with his friend Rosie while shooting a game of pool at the Adult Center. Rosie worked at the Adult Center; she pretty much knew everyone on the Fort, and was also a notorious matchmaker, always promising her single friends that she would find them just the right person. That day, she mentioned to Felix that she could find him “someone to go with.” She asked if he had anyone in mind, and suddenly Felix remembered the fashion show.

“Well, there was this one girl that I saw at the fashion show. One thing that I noticed was that she had real pretty calves.”

It actually took a while, but eventually Rosie figured out that the woman Felix was referring to was her friend, Valada. Quite some time before this, Rosie had promised Valada and her niece, Kenda, that she would find Valada a husband – though Valada had assured her that she wasn’t actually looking for one.

After her conversation with Felix, Rosie told Valada that there was a gentleman she should meet. Always friendly and outgoing, Valada told Rosie that the gentleman could drop by Unit 37 and look for the home with a horse trailer and decorative ladybugs in the yard if he really wanted to meet her. Shortly thereafter, Felix dropped by Unit 37 to introduce himself. Valada just happened to be out in her yard filling a bird feeder when he drove by, and she invited Felix in for a cup of tea. She told him that she’d be happy to begin a friendship, but that she wasn’t looking for anything more than that. Felix told her that was just fine, since he felt exactly the same way. Yet, somehow, they were soon seeing each other every day.

Just two weeks later, Valada texted Felix this message: “I know what we agreed on, but I just want you to know...put your running shoes on, ‘cause I’m ready to catch ya.”

Valada heard no response for two days – and thought, “well, I guess that didn’t go so well.”

But Felix finally responded: “It took some thinking, but I took my tennis shoes off and put them in the garbage. I want to be caught by you.”

Around this time, Valada, always a planner, was booking arrangements for a long road trip across several states to visit her large family, beginning with her home state of Minnesota. She asked Felix if he’d like to accompany her. In addition to Minnesota, they would be making stops in Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, California, and Las Vegas,

Nevada. After thinking it over, Felix decided that the all-expense-paid travel opportunity was too good to pass up. Since they were both still single, Valada reserved two rooms at each of their stops across the country.

According to Valada, during this time, Felix would often ask, “Do you want to get married?”

Valada would always respond, “Yeah, but ask me when you really mean it.”

One evening, only a few days before their trip, Felix showed up at Valada’s door. When she flipped the porch light on, Felix asked her to turn it off. He then said, “I just want you to know that I’m serious. Would you marry me if I asked you?”

Valada replied, “Of course.”

“Well, then, I’m asking you.”

Three days before their departure, they were married in Judge Tully Shahan’s office. After which, Valada called all those hotels to change the reservations to one room. The two-month trip became a wonderful honeymoon.

Today, Valada and Felix are cozy in their creek-side home, still feeling like newlyweds. It seems surprising that both of them lived on Fort Clark for so many years without crossing paths, but when their paths did finally cross, it was the perfect time for both of them.



Felix and Valada on their honeymoon

RV PARK BREAKFAST

The RV Park is starting up their
Saturday Morning Breakfasts.

Starting When: October 30, 2021

(Every Saturday Until Further Notice)

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Where: RV Park Kitchen

Cost: \$6.00

Menu: Eggs, Sausage, Pancakes,
Orange Juice and Coffee

&

COME JOIN US

At the

RV Park

for a Campfire and Sing-A-Long

If you would like to bring an instrument
to play with the sing-a-long, please do so.

When: Monday Nights

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: RV Park

Everyone is Welcome!!!!

Further Afield

With Teri Marsh

Val Verde Winery

Here's a quick quiz to test your knowledge of Texas: Where is the oldest winery in the state located? If you guessed the Texas Hill Country or the Llano Estacado in the Texas Panhandle, you'd be wrong. Texas' oldest winery is located right down the road in Del Rio, Texas.

The Val Verde Winery has been family owned and operated since 1883. Located in the old section of Del Rio, directly adjacent to the winery's vineyard and olive grove, the winery was founded by the Qualia family, who were Italian immigrants to the Del Rio area. Upon arrival, Frank Qualia discovered Lenoir grapes already thriving in the warm South Texas sun, and was inspired to apply his knowledge of wine-making in his new country. Ownership of the winery was passed to his youngest son, Louis, who in turn passed it on to his youngest son, Thomas, who still manages the winery to this day. The winery produces a selection of award-winning red and white wines, and is best known for Don Luis Tawny Port.



A visit to the winery is a pleasant excursion, and my husband and I often bring out-of-town visitors here. Wine tasting is very reasonably priced in a cozy tasting room where wine vats are visible in the adjoining rooms. Round stone picnic tables behind the winery are shaded by pecan trees right beside the vineyard. Cheeses and charcuterie can be purchased in the

tasting room along with a bottle of wine, or guests can bring a picnic lunch along to enjoy.



On our most recent visit, the tasting menu was much shorter than usual. Supply chain disruptions have slowed the arrival of bottling supplies, a situation which will hopefully be resolved soon. You may want to check before you go to see what's available to try. For more information, visit the winery's website at www.valverdewinery.com.

Photos by Teri Marsh

Over The Fence...

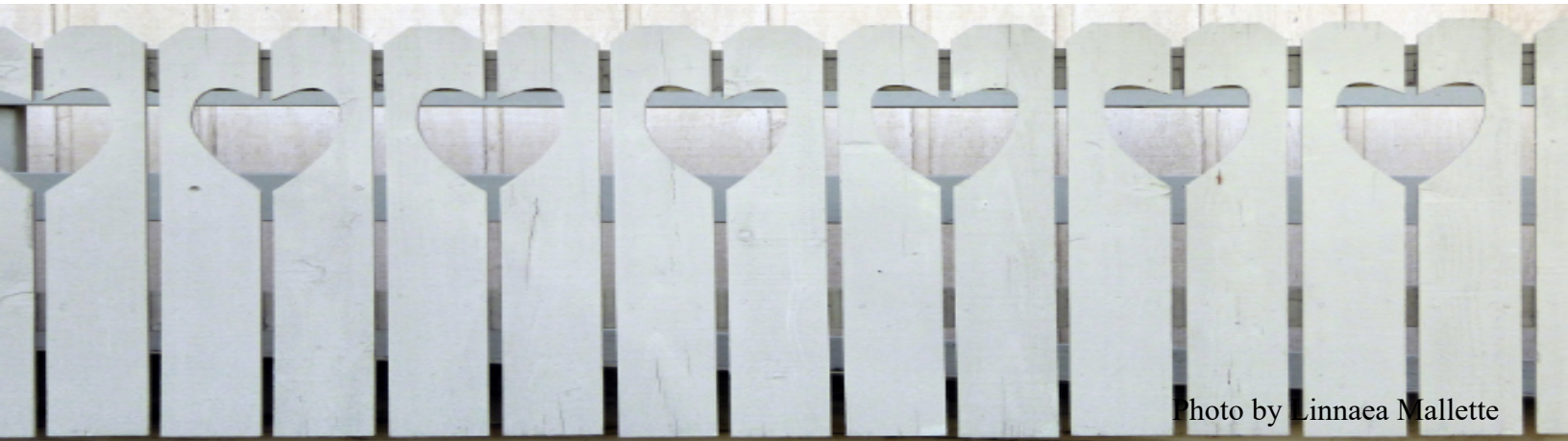


Photo by Linnaea Mallette

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO

ELSA O'ROURKE – March 20th

AMOS TRISLER - March 24th

Visiting

Carole Hayter of Pebble Beach, CA is visiting Fort Clark Springs with friends during the month of March. Carole was a very active lot owner for many years on the Fort.

Missed Items for Last Month

**Feb 14th – HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO**

ED & JANET MILLER

**Feb. 18th – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
JAN METCALF**



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!

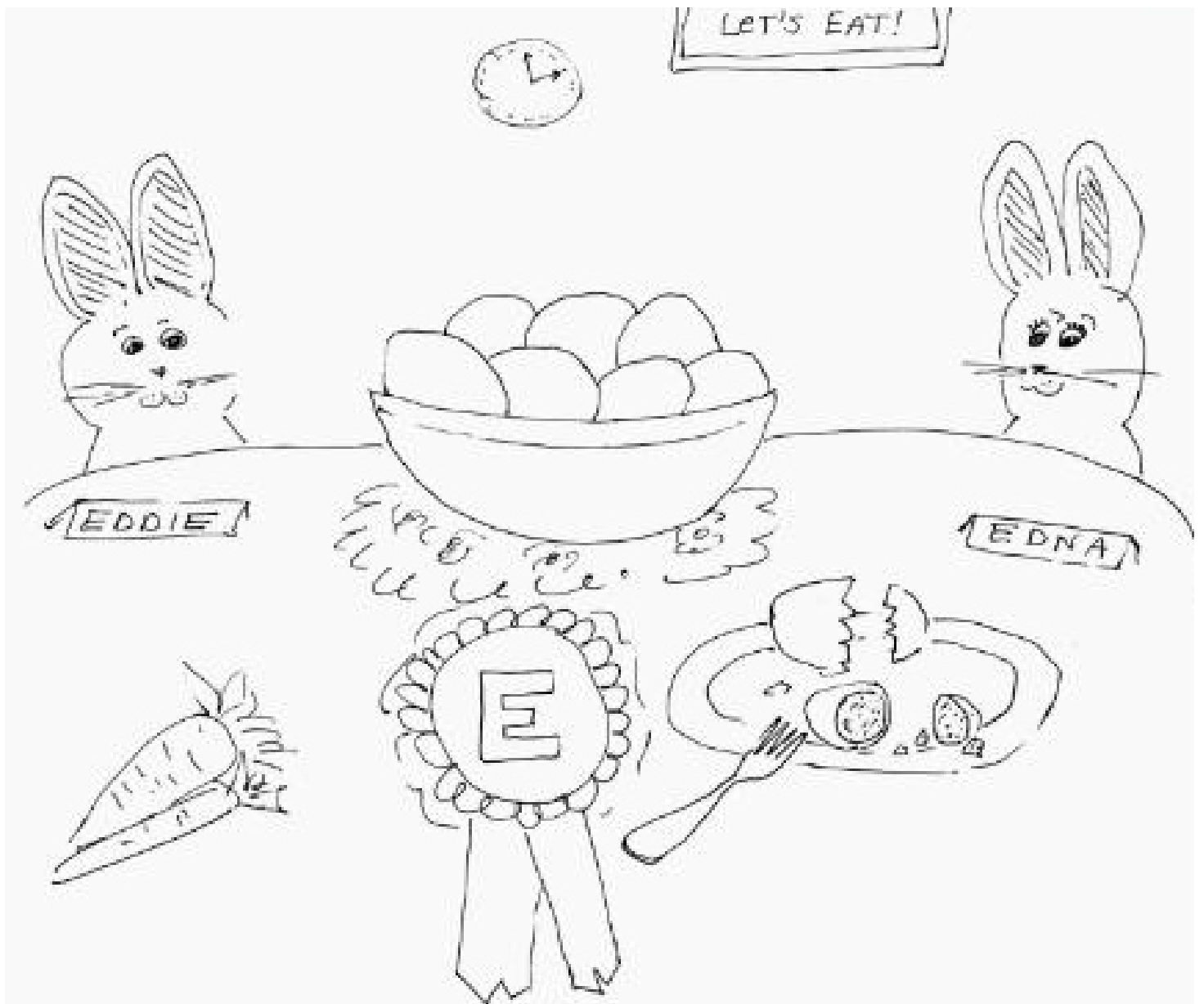
Fort Clark Dispatch Kids Edition!

HELP!

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!



Illustrations by Jenny McBride

Eddie and Edna and Eve Enjoyed Eating Eggs. They would cook the Eggs, take off the shell, cut up the Eggs, and put them on bread. They loved the taste of the Egg sandwich with pickles on the side and Even had some cookies afterwards. They had a good lunch.



Illustrations by Jenny McBride

Frank Finnekee and his wife Fran, Flew Far away to Florida last February. They found a house with a Fireplace. It was warm so they went Fly Fishing. They caught lots of Fish and Fried the Fish in their new Frying pan. They liked eating Fish, and were careful not to eat any Fish bones.

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.

