



## Texas North Star Sams Area 17 – 2007

# *June Newsletter*

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### **The President's Corner**



Del Duerr

I think since we've lived in Texas this is the first time we've seen so much rain! It makes for great sleeping weather especially when we're in the RV.

Our monthly campout in May we were once again at Pilot Knoll RV Park. Our hosts Jim & Jackie Reid created a wonderful Red, White & Blue patriotic theme for our weekend. Pilot Knoll is centrally located to all our shopping needs and yet always makes us feel as if we are back in the woods and miles away from everything. We have unofficially made this our chapter's favorite camping spot. The view of Lake Lewisville from any site makes it a great place to get away and meet up with our friends.

Some of our chapter members have headed out on nearby destinations while other members are reporting back from the East or West Coast. We always look forward to the stories, travel tips and pictures as we all wish we could be on the road too!

As always, stay safe.

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### **2007 Officers:**

#### **Elected**

President: Del Duerr  
Vice-President: Steve Young  
Treasurer: Laura LaTurner  
Secretary: Jackie Reid  
Wagon Master: Lew Foitek

#### **Appointed**

Newsletter Editor: Sherry Moran  
Special Projects: Pat Foitek  
Sunshine/Chaplain: Tami Patterson  
Web Master: Tim Moran

## **May Meeting:**

### **Texas North Star Same Minutes for May 19, 2007 Pilot Knoll- Highland Village, Texas**

President Del Duerr called the meeting to order at 7:47p.m. She welcomed our guests. Tami Patterson gave the invocation. The club recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**Attendance:** LaTurners, Pattersons, Youngs, Mollers, Morans, Reids, Duerrs, & Runters.

**Visitors:** Deb Saffholm, Herb and Sally Ford, & Doug & Ginger Snider

**Secretary's Report:** Reported by Jackie Reid

Minutes of our last meeting were distributed to everyone by email, and they appeared in our last newsletter. If you are not currently receiving your minutes and roster by email, please let Jackie know so that you can be added to the list.

**Treasurer's Report: Reported by Laura LaTurner**

The Treasurer's Report was passed out to the group.

**Wagonmaster's Report: Reported by Alan LaTurner**

1. Our next campout is scheduled for June 15-17 at Cedar Mills. Everyone is encouraged to make their reservations as soon as possible since only two of eight reserved sites are still available. We will not have a meeting room at Cedar Mills, and we will not be able to meet outside on their porch this time. Steve & Sherry Young will be hosting. Steve reported that they would distribute a sign up sheet at the next Meet & Eat for the Saturday evening meal. The Youngs plan for us to eat at the Marina Restaurant on Friday evening around 7:00p.m. Please let them know if you plan to eat out on Friday night so that the correct number of reservations can be made.
2. There will be no campout or Meet & Eat in July. **Note: At the June M & E, members decided they DID want to M & E in July! Details will be emailed by Darryl Patterson.**
3. Our August campout is scheduled for August 17-19 at the RV Ranch in Burleson. Alan & Laura LaTurner will be hosting. It is the responsibility of the member to let the host couple know if they will be attending the campout. **NOTE: After the meeting, the August campout was changed to Hickory Creek due to a low turnout for Burleson. The campout will coincide with the Balloon Festival visible from Hickory Creek.**
4. Del Duerr reminded us that Dave Helwick & Sherry Young are planning our out of the region trip for 2008. Last year the group went to South Padre Island, and this year we went to Galveston Island.
5. Del also reminded us that our May campout had been planned originally for Mitchell RV Park in Perrin, TX. Lew Foitek reserved for 10-13 rigs. Since only 4 rigs signed up to go, the campout destination was changed to Pilot Knoll where 10 rigs were present. Mitchell RV Park was unhappy that they did not receive more notice of the change.

**Special Projects: Reported by Jackie Reid**

Jackie Reid has the lap robes in her rig.

**Sunshine:** Reported by Tami Patterson

1. Upcoming events are as follows: Darrell Patterson's birthday is May 21, Tami & Darrell Patterson's anniversary is also May 21<sup>st</sup>, Greg Duerr's birthday is May 26, and Sherry & Tim Moran's anniversary is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Tami asked everyone to please sign cards for everyone before they leave the meeting.

**Meet & Eat:** Reported by Darrell Patterson

Our next meet and eat will be announced to the group by email later.

**Webmaster Report:** Reported by Tim Moran

Tim passed out club business cards to our guests and asked if any of our members would like club cards. He stated that the Helwicks, Foitek, & LaTurners have all sent pictures from their recent trips with a write up for the web site and newsletter. Tim would like a page on trips for each of us on the website.

**Newsletter:** Reported by Sherry Moran

Sherry wants to know if you are not receiving your newsletter or if you require a hard copy to be mailed to you. Please let her know if you have a family event that could be mentioned in the newsletter. She is also looking for recipes and helpful hints.

Steve Young asked that we have the 50/50 drawing.

**Old Business:**

1. Del Duerr reminded us that National Good Sam Organization has declared this weekend to be National Cleanup Day. Becky & Jim Moeller made trash bags with labels from our club to be distributed by the front gate staff at Pilot Knoll as people enter the park this week end.
2. Del also reminded us that we had voted on the logo for our club tee shirts at our April campout. Because of the cost, Del opted not to have the white background or the rope border on the logo. Members present at the April campout signed a sheet so that the correct sizes could be ordered from our vendor at that time. Del contacted our Assistant State Directors for Area 17, The Delgados, who gave their approval for the logo on the shirts. We will need to have our shirts available for the mini-rally in September. Del asked that everyone please give her your sizes if you have not already signed the order form. Women's sizes are \$19.50, and men's sizes are \$23.50. If you are larger than 2X, your shirts will need to be ordered differently and the prices will vary.

**New Business:**

Del stated that any questions that members may have regarding a business meeting or procedures should be brought up at a business meeting for everyone to give their opinion or to open for discussion and so that it can be recorded, not through emails.

Tami Patterson moved that our meeting be adjourned at 8:24p.m. Darrell Patterson seconded. The motion carried.

**Past Events**

Our **June Meet & Eat** was held at Logan's Roadhouse at Vista Ridge in Lewisville. We had a whole room to ourselves and it was a good thing! We had a membership full house, plus two visiting couples. One couple was fresh from working at Renaissance Fair, and the other couple was sent to us by Juan and Barbara Delgado, our A.D.'s for Area 17. Judging by the noise and talking, everyone had a good time! Including our waitress, Stormy. We'll probably go back there!



**June 9** found several members back at Pilot Knoll for a surprise birthday party for Greg Duerr. Greg was totally surprised, as he thought the party was for Jim Reid and he kept trying to keep Jim away from the park until 4:30 Saturday afternoon!! Greg finally noticed HIS mother was there! Del threw a great party with the help of the Pattersons, Reids, Youngs, Mollers and the Morans (especially the Pattersons – Darryl made a cake!) The theme was Hawaiian and some people actually wore Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts! The barbeque was melt-in-the-mouth good, plus all the side dishes and two kinds of cake!



## Happenings:

### Happy Anniversary !

May 21



Tami & Darrell Patterson

### Happy Anniversary !

June 2



Tim & Sherry Moran

## **Member's Trips**

### **Dave & Kathy Helwick**

5/21/07 - We're spending our first night (Thursday) in Oregon. We're now in Pacific time zone, and that will take a little time to get used to.

Since we're getting close to our destination, and since we're now in territory we've never seen before, we've spent a lot of the past 3 days sightseeing.

Yesterday, we saw Sun Valley. It wasn't quite what I was expecting. There are many lodges, motels, condos, etc. And there are only 2 mountains -- one for experienced people (picture) and one for new skiers. No matter where you stay, you ski on one of these 2 mountains.



Bald Mountain



The Sun Valley Inn

We walked through Sun Valley Inn; it was beautiful, all done in dark wood, and old, but nothing extravagant compared to today's resorts. I was expecting that skiers could ski right down to the inn, but it was several miles from there to THE mountain. The whole area is very up scale and expensive. Unleaded gas \$3.35/gal.

We also went to Craters of the Moon National Monument. Acres of black lava thousands of years old. Yes, it is really weird, but I wouldn't recommend the 50 mile drive to see it. The Badlands in SD is much better, along the same line.



Oregon Trail ruts

Today we went to the Oregon Wagon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City OR. (only about 5 miles off I84). It is very well done and definitely worth the trip. a 1-hr movie was very informative. And we actually were able to walk in the ruts of the Oregon Trail (picture). What an amazing experience.

**5/21/07** - Saturday May 19 was our first night in our new home at Portland-Fairview RV Park. The campground is much nicer than we were expecting. The pictures on their website do not do it justice. I should have trusted the 5 star rating it has in the Woodall directory.

Today there is a gentle rain and we woke up to temp of 42. Welcome to the Pacific Northwest! The good news is that there's no thunder and Cuddles doesn't seem bothered by the rain. We plan to spend today doing as little as possible. There's a Walmart a mile away that we'll probably have to go check out and buy a few groceries.

Our cell phones work here, and there's free WiFi at our site. And the heater in our RV is working fine. All the comforts of home!

**6/03/07** - We've been here 2 weeks and are starting to know the lay of the land. At least, we've found a good pizza place, the local library, a vet who boards, Walmart, and Lowes! We're adjusting to our situation and recovering from the long (2100 miles) drive to get here.

The campground is different from any we've worked at in past summers. There are 3 distinct areas: where the over-nighters stay, where the repeat snowbirds stay for several months at a time, and where the permanent residents stay. There are no planned activities here, but there is a pool, a hottub, and a workout room. This is definitely not a destination park as our past 2 parks have been. But it's far prettier than it appeared on the website.

The jobs are different from any we've had in past summers. We each work 20 hrs/wk. We both work the same days (Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun), but not the same hours. At first, I didn't like the different hours, but now realize that it gives us each some time alone in the RV and that's a good thing.

Dave works 6am - 11am, helping to keep the antiquated sprinkler system going. It is a total manual system with low water pressure so that only one zone can run at a time. He turns on a zone, walks it, adjusts heads, then turns it off and moves on to the next zone. He wears tall boots and a rain suit. The first week he was exhausted from all the bending over, but I think he's adjusted to that. He works pretty much alone and sets his own pace.

I'm working in the office and that is far more hectic than I ever dreamed. From this day forward, I will have more patience whenever I'm checking into an RV park. I'm on my feet all day, and we never stop. There are 2-4 people working at a time, depending on the day. And there's so much to learn. The monthlies have entirely different requirements than the over nighters. And when you answer the phone, it could be someone in Ohio wanting to make a reservation or someone in the park with a complaint. You just never know what's coming next!

The trip here was uneventful (the best kind!). We allowed ourselves 10 days and made it in 7. We blew through OK, KS, CO, WY, and UT since we'd seen it all before.

Now ! Oregon was a different story.

The Oregon Trail Visitor Center in Baker City is a must-see. Walking in the tracks of the trail is an awesome experience.



In Pendleton we toured the Pendleton Wool Factory.



I-84 approaches Portland through the Columbia River Gorge with spectacular scenery and dams. The road itself is something of a miracle considering its location in the gorge.



But get off I-84 onto US30 to see Shoshone Falls



We've also been to Mt Hood.



It claims to be the only place in the US that you can ski year round, and we saw people skiing and kids having snow ball fights!



The Timberline Lodge (at 6000 ft elevation) is charming.

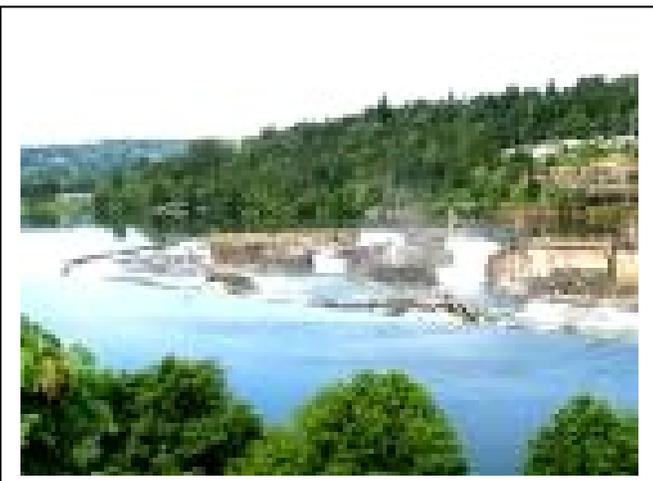
We've taken a couple day trips since we've been here. Downtown Portland on a Saturday afternoon was a surprise. It was a beehive of activity, and trees were everywhere. We never got out of the car, just drove and gawked. We will be back, but probably on the light rail.

This is the week of the Portland Rose Festival, which is apparently a big deal. We plan to attend some of the functions on our days off.

**6/06/07** - Oregon City is where the Oregon Trail ended.

The End of the Oregon Trail Museum supposedly documents that. I was disappointed because I was expecting to learn what happened once the folks got here, but it was really a rehash of the info we had learned back at the museum in Baker City. The museum is very well done, but focused primarily on the decisions to be made in what to take on the trail. It did have an excellent wall map of the trail.

Oregon City is also known for Willamette Falls.



They're really kind of weird because the falls are in the middle of a wide river and the river also runs on either side of the falls. A huge electricity plant has been built at the falls, so it's hard to imagine what they must have looked like originally.

Today's lesson: Willamette is not pronounced the way you think. "Will- lam-it" with accent on middle syllable. It rhymes with "dammit".

Yesterday we rode the light rail (MAX) into Portland center. We are extremely impressed with the light rail system. It runs every 15 minutes. We bought an all-day pass for \$4.25 each and got on and off at will.

Downtown Portland is amazing. a very vibrant city. Lots of trees and people and shopping. All the major department stores. no empty buildings. They were in the process of putting out the spring flowers in Pioneer Square. From what I could tell, these small pots of flowers just sit in big groupings all over the square. Why they don't disappear in the night is a mystery to me. Excellent Visitor Information Center in the square. The baseball stadium is right by a main street -- could actually see the game from MAX.



At the rail stations, we saw "bike lids".



They're fastened to the ground, but lift up on one end for you to put your bike inside, then the lid comes back down and you put your own lock on it.

As I write this, it's 11:00 am and outside temp is 52. A gentle rain falls off and on. I think this may be the true Oregon weather -- unlike the 85 we had all last week. We plan to find a movie theater this afternoon. Then back to work tomorrow. We hope to go to the coast on our next outing.

## Lew & Pat Foitek

**6/03/07** - We are finally in Maine but not at the campground where we will be working. We should get there Friday. We start working June 15th. We spent a few days in Wells, and we are now in Bath. There is so much to see along the coast.

I don't know how much of this I already told you, so if I repeat myself, forgive me.

We loved Virginia! There is so much history there. We visited Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. It was like being back in Colonial America. Jamestown was having its 400th anniversary while we were there, but we just missed the Queen's visit! Williamsburg was wonderful.

Everyone was dressed in period costumes, and you almost expected to see Washington or Jefferson around the next corner.

We visited Monticello, near Charlottesville. It was just as I expected-wonderful. I didn't realize that James Monroe lived so near that you could actually see Monticello from his property. James Madison also lived just north of Charlottesville, near Orange, Va.

We had to visit Mt. Vernon, of course. Washington was almost as innovative as Jefferson. He had a chair with fans that he could operate with his feet, so he could fan himself while writing, reading, etc. The

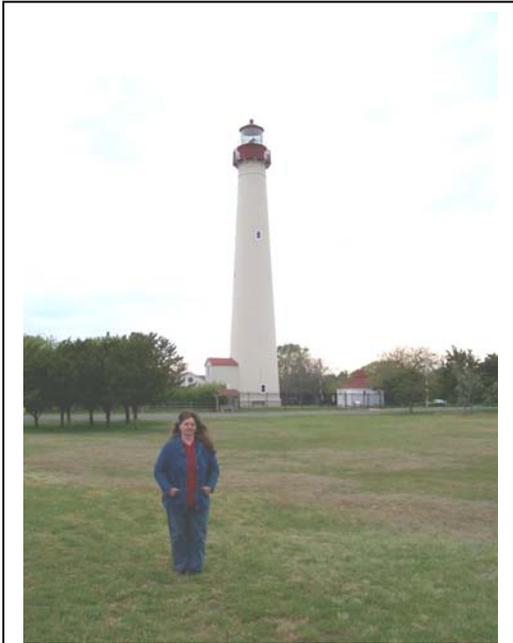


gardens were beautiful, and the view of the Potomac River from his front porch is fantastic.

We had a good time in Washington D.C. We stayed at Cherry Hill campground in College Park, Md.



Pat also sent new pictures from Cape May, New Jersey.



Cape May Lighthouse



Cape May House

Spring has sprung and birds are nesting in strange places! Del Duerr sent this picture of a dove nesting above her front door. Since it's outside the glass, Del can keep up with the growth of the babies. Jim & Jackie Reid had a similar experience last year on their patio.



## **Wagonmaster**



Lew Foitek

### **June Campout:**

**June 16 & 17 – Cedar Mills RV Park  
Gordon, TX**

See [www.ntahc.org/northstarsams](http://www.ntahc.org/northstarsams)  
“[Upcoming Events](#)” for more details and a map

### **July Campout:**

There is no campout scheduled for July

See [www.ntahc.org/northstarsams](http://www.ntahc.org/northstarsams)  
“[Upcoming Events](#)” for more details and a map



## **From the Editor:**



Sherry Moran

Please send any news you'd like included in the newsletter to me before the last week of the month.

Please see [www.ntahc.org/northstarsams](http://www.ntahc.org/northstarsams) for a complete calendar of Up Coming Events, pictures from Past Events, Profiles of our Members, a list of our Officers, a display of our governing procedures, Past Newsletters, the History of the TNSS, and MUCH more.

**Please remember to take LOTS of pictures to share with us.**

[sjmoran@ticnet.com](mailto:sjmoran@ticnet.com)

## **The Parting Shots :**



### Perspective on Marriage

When I was married 40 years, I took a look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 40 years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10 inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25 year old blonde. Now, we have a nice house, nice car, big bed, and 55" plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 65 year old woman."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25 year old blonde, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, watching a black and white TV, and sleeping on a sofa bed.

Aren't older women great. They really know how to solve your mid-life crises....