



# The Invincible Newsletter



## Funding of the Second Texas Navy

The Texas Congress had passed an 1837 bill, reluctantly signed by President Houston, to acquire a new navy at the cost of \$28,000. However, Houston, no friend of the Navy, dallied about appointing an agent to expend the funds. Once appointed, the agent decided to run for Houston's to-be-vacated presidential position, but later committed suicide. Former vice president Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected to the presidency, replacing Houston, ineligible to immediately succeed himself because of the Texas Constitution.

The new president championed a national bank, a new education system, an army to protect the republic's extensive landmass and a navy. Once the French fleet departs, he predicted, "the ships of war of our enemy will again appear on our coast and annoy commerce. The protection of our maritime frontier...is a public duty." (Hill, J.D. The Texas Navy).

Public enthusiasm for a new navy was widespread in 1838-39 and a new naval agent began contracting for the vessels previously approved in 1837 but never acquired due to President Houston's foot-dragging. First was a contract to convert a steamship into a warship to be named the *Zavala* in honor of the first Texas vice president who died in office. Next a 600 ton, twenty-two gun, full rigged ship would be built in Baltimore, followed by two brigs and three schooners.

The war steamship *Zavala*, mounting one 9-pound long cannon and four 12-pounders, was commissioned in

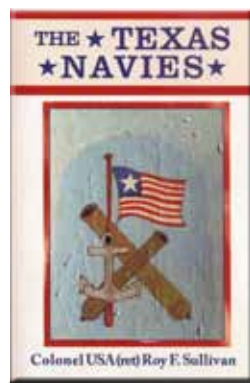
March 1839. The schooner *San Jacinto* with the same armament followed in June. Two other schooners, the *San Bernard* and the *San Antonio*, similarly armed, were commissioned in August. The brig *Wharton* -- named for the minister who brought home U.S. recognition of the fledgling Texas Republic and was captured aboard the *Independence* -- initially mounted one 12-pound long cannon and fifteen 18-pounders.

The 600-ton flagship of the Second Texas Navy, the sloop-of-war *Austin*, named for the "Father of Texas", was commissioned in January 1840. The flagship initially was armed with two 18-pound long cannon, two 18-pound mediums and sixteen 24-pounders. Its full complement was twenty-eight officers and 151 seamen and marines.

The second brig under contract, and sister of the *Wharton*, was the *Archer*. It was built in Baltimore, as were its predecessors except the *Zavala*, but was not commissioned until April 1840. Strangely, the *Archer* was never sent on patrol.

Its major contribution from Galveston harbor was to provide its fourteen 18-pound cannon as replacements, as needed, to the rest of the new squadron. Since the *Archer* lacked a full crew, it may have provided personnel replacements as well.

*Taken from the book of Roy F. Sullivan Col. USA (ret.) "The Texas Navies". Roy is a member of the TNA.*



## TNA Admirals Attend USS Fort Worth Christening

The U.S. Navy has been developing a new fighting ship to be the most mobile, fastest and versatile fighting ship to date. The Littoral Combat Ship has had two editions made so far, the *Freedom* and the *Independence*. The LCS 3, christened the Fort Worth, is the third LCS produced and the first named after a city. The *USS Fort Worth* had been under construction for some 20 months, and the 3,000 ton \$480 million ship, at 80% completion, was now ready for Christening and launching into the water. Five Nimitz Squadron Texas Navy Admirals were present December 5, 2010 in Marinette, Wisconsin at the Lockheed-Martin Ship Yards to witness the Christening of the US Navy's newest combat ship, the LCS 3.



Adm. Diane Dyess, Adm. Jack Dyess, Congressional District #12 US House Representative Kay Granger, Adm. D.A. Sharpe, Adm. Jim Sutton and Adm. Bob Callanan.

“The climatic event of the weekend was departing the hanger at gathering at the pier where the *USS Fort Worth* was dry docked, waiting to be Christened and launched into the Menominee River. A very high scuffling rig was present to enable Representative Granger and the three Matrons of Honor (her daughter and her two daughters-in-law) and a couple of Naval personnel to be at the level suitable for crashing the traditional bottle of Champaign. The act was accomplished efficiently and without any snags. Immediately after the broken bottle was finished, the ship started its slow, but rapidly increasing slide off to the side and into the River. The awesome feeling one had, standing close by as we spectators were, was almost overwhelming. To see such a large mass as this ship, seemingly toppling over into the River was breathtaking. Amazingly, the ship righted it self like a fishing cork with no trouble at all, even after appearing that it may have actually sunk into the water! It was an exceptionally excellent occasion to witness such a fine combat element in the defense of our nation. The Navy personnel there and the Lockheed-Martin team all represent the very best for our country's military”, said Admiral D.A. Sharpe.

Click [here](#) for full story by Admiral D.A. Sharpe.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success (100% sold out) with great food, enjoyable music and a lot of visitation and conversation among the TNA members and guests who were present. The valet attendants were in a car accident on the way to the event causing some delay in getting the cars parked. We were grateful they were all OK. The Artillery Club was festively decorated and had welcoming Christmas music as the members and guests arrived for the event. A huge thank you to David, the Artillery Club Manager!

*2010 Christmas Party at the Artillery Club in Galveston*



Christmas at the Artillery Club 2010



(L) President Pickavance and (R) Adm. Jim Tyson award the Texas Navy Cup along with an Admiral's Commission to Mr. Steve Ryne.

## TNA Members Commissioned in 2010

Lieutenant Avery C. Alcorn  
Lieutenant Christopher A. Gabel  
Lieutenant Gail Hope Thompson

Commander Anne W. Anderson  
Commander Kenneth N. Baguso  
Commander LCDR Corey B. Barker, USN  
Commander Michael W. Brazell  
Commander Michael A. Byrd  
Commander Douglas Keith Conger  
Commander Robert Patrick Eakin  
Commander Brooks L. Flemister  
Commander Matthew Hamilton  
Commander Richard Eugene Hawkins  
Commander Doyle Wayne Hensley  
Commander Bernd Hoehle  
Commander Steven K. Howell  
Commander David L. Larned  
Commander John P. Lenes  
Commander Gabriel Lopez  
Commander Al McGraw  
Commander Bart McLeroy  
Commander Thomas Frank Nemia  
Commander Jeffrey D. Peppers  
Commander William S. Ray, Jr.

Commander Angelo A. Sedacca  
Commander Rhett Gavin Skubis  
Commander David Stephenson  
Commander Roy F. Sullivan  
Commander Christopher N. Taylor

Admiral Jeff Austin, III  
Admiral Donald S. Dildy  
Admiral L. Clay Fisher  
Admiral Judy R. Fisher  
Admiral Robert A. Fry, Jr.  
Admiral Lynn Hejtmancik  
Admiral Richard Lee Hunn  
Admiral Doak McBryde  
Admiral James Douglas McMurrey, Jr.  
Admiral Frank Roesch  
Admiral Elmer Jesse Romigh, III  
Admiral Lewis Monroe Smith  
Admiral Wilbert Smith, Jr.  
Admiral Elizabeth M. Turner  
Admiral Mary C. Vlamides  
Admiral Robert Lee Warters  
Admiral F. Carrington Weems  
Admiral Richard G. Wilbins  
Admiral Raymond K. Woodland

## On-line

The TNA is now using an on-line system to manage our membership data. Each member is profiled and communications are recorded along with dues and documents. We will also have a “suggestions” button on our web site so you will be able give us your ideas. New Board Member Admiral Tyson is our technology director and is doing a magnificent job bringing the TNA up-to-date with the latest technology. Many thanks to Admiral Don Dildy for his donation to the TNA of the Adobe Premium Creative Suite CS5 software which will help improve our web site.

## Austin Business Meeting

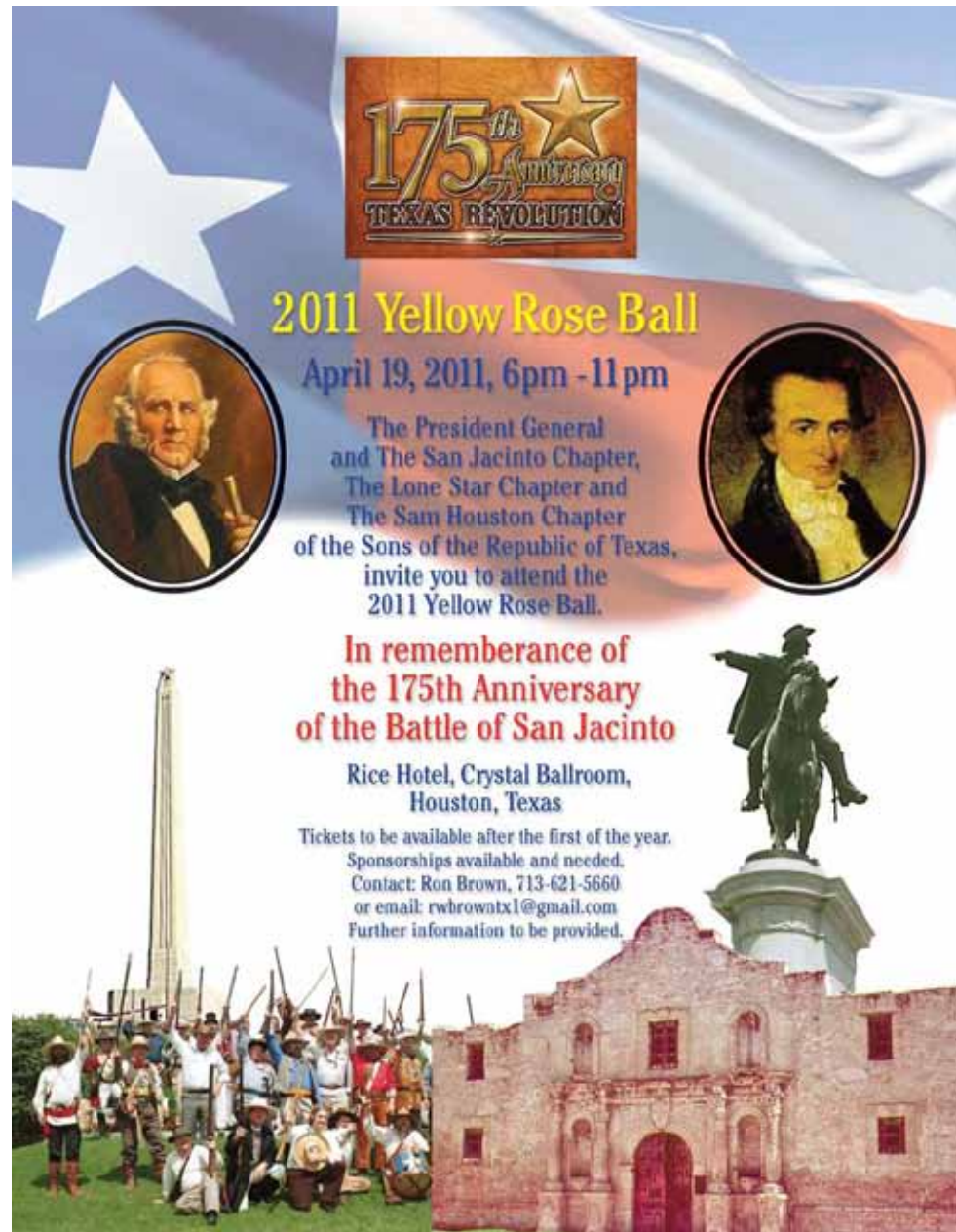
The Open Business Meeting held in Austin January 8th was attended by a number of members who were able to voice their opinions and suggestions benefiting the TNA. Our President Admiral William Pickavance decided to hold the meeting in a “camp fire like” formation of the approximately 35 members present. We all got to introduce ourselves, then the Board opened with information about the Executive session that was held prior to the open meeting. A brief overview of items covered in the Executive Session were:

- Widows/Widowers of our deceased Admirals will be able to continue the membership for 1/2 the cost per year. E.g. Annual membership for Admirals is \$40, therefore the dues for the widow/widower of the member will be \$20/year.
- Dues for the TNA plus a squadron was thought to be too expensive at \$80 per year, therefore this issue is being reviewed by the Board.
- Admirals who already joined the TNA as a Life Member during and after 2010 will be able to receive a rebate 50% of \$350/\$500 if they are able to provide proof of being 75 yrs of age or older.
- The by-laws of the TNA are being rewritten.
- Honorable Jerry Patterson is addressing the issue of re-instating the TNA as “The Exclusive Representative for the Texas Navy” through the Legislature this session.
- Our current membership status is 577 total records which is made up of 248 Life Members, 329 Annual members.
- The Board invited Admiral Bob Callanan to be a Board Director again, however he has decided to decline at this time.
- The Board will hold the next Board meeting in the north Texas area.

**Don't Forget! 2011 Dues are due.**  
**Need info? Click [here](#) to e-mail for help.**

## Save the Date!

An invitation from our friends of the Sons of The Republic of Texas, “The San Jacinto Chapter, The Lone Star Chapter and The Sam Houston Chapter”.



The poster features a background of the Texas state flag. At the top center is a gold star with the text "175th Anniversary TEXAS REVOLUTION". Below this, the event title "2011 Yellow Rose Ball" is written in yellow, followed by the date and time "April 19, 2011, 6pm - 11 pm". Two circular portraits of men are positioned on either side of the text. The central text reads: "The President General and The San Jacinto Chapter, The Lone Star Chapter and The Sam Houston Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, invite you to attend the 2011 Yellow Rose Ball." Below this, it says "In remembrance of the 175th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto" and "Rice Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, Houston, Texas". At the bottom, there is a photograph of a group of men in historical attire holding rifles, and a statue of a man on horseback. The text at the bottom of the poster reads: "Tickets to be available after the first of the year. Sponsorships available and needed. Contact: Ron Brown, 713-621-5660 or email: [rwbrown1@gmail.com](mailto:rwbrown1@gmail.com) Further information to be provided."

**Commander-in-Chief**

Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas

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**President**

William W. Pickavance

**Vice President**

William R. Turner

**Treasurer**

John Nicholson

**Directors:**

Honorable Jerry Patterson  
(Governor's Appointee)

Bruce Marshall

Jim Tyson

James Sterling III

Art Wilcox

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**Many Thanks to our**

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