

Chapter News

Volume 6, Issue 3

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Famous Quotations:

Abigail Van Buren:

The best index to a person's character is [a] how he treats people who can't do him any good, and [b] how he treats people who can't fight back.

John Ciardi:

A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in students.

Sir Winston Churchill:

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Plato:

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

Napoleon Bonaparte:

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

Unknown:

The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'."

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Chapter Members Go to Galveston for TSPS Golden Anniversary Celebration

By Richard L. Worthey (email: rworthey@wortech.com)

The Deep East Texas Chapter was well represented at the TSPS Annual Convention in Galveston. You will probably read



a lot more about the convention in upcoming issues of the Metes & Bounds and Texas Surveyor. Lequin Hilderbrand also discusses some of the highlights and personal experiences in his column elsewhere in this issue. But a word of caution is warranted. Those who know Lequin, know him as a warm, charming, intelligent, articulate

and sometimes witty fellow. Those who know him better, know him to also be a "wild and crazy guy" at times. But those who really know him best, also know that he is sometimes delusional. Like the "Forrest Gump" character, everything is real to him, when the rest of the world knows better. So the warning is to bring your Reality Checklist with you when you read his column.

I can confirm that there were many chapter members present at the seminars, meetings and other events. The exhibit hall was full of interesting items, information, equipment, and..... well, other surveyors.

The tour of the Navy's newest destroyer, the USS Howard, was par-

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President's Column

By W. Joe Breaux (email: wjbreaux@yahoo.com)

If you are like many people that I know you've all been re-evaluating and reflecting lately, especially since September 11, 2001. I've been doing a lot of that myself. It may be my aging, or the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas sea-

son. I've been thinking about what is really important to me. Not the "toys", but the truly important things in life. Like when was the last time I told someone at work "thank you". Or said "I love you" to

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Galveston, Oh, Galveston

(Continued from page 1)

ticularly memorable. It was in port during the convention, and was scheduled to be commissioned on Saturday. A Honor Guard from the ship posted the colors during the opening ceremonies of the convention.

The Lonestar Flight Museum also was interesting and is worth the trip, especially for you aviation buffs. We were treated to our own private airshow of sorts during our visit. Several of the museum's warbirds including the Spitfire, F-4 Corsair, and T-6 Texan, flew over the beach cabin that we were staying at, performing aerilon rolls and other aerobatic maneuvers. They were practicing for the airshow that was being held that

weekend at Ellington Field in Houston. The B-17 bomber was also spotted taking off from Scholes Field, next to the Moody Gardens, on its way to the airshow.

While Darrell and Nedra were sweating on the beach during the Coastal Boundary Seminar, several other chapter members were seen just down the beach refreshing themselves on a cabin verandah while watching a school of dolphins play in the surf. I can also confirm that the sunrises and sunsets were also extremely beautiful on that verandah.

Gilbert Johnston along with Darrell Shine and Jon Hunsberger played their banjos and gui-

tars at the ladies' auxiliary reception Thursday night. Members may recall that Professor Hunsberger entertained us with his banjo during the Chapter meeting last January at the Spindletop Museum Saloon. It was good to see him again, all the way from Austin.

The awards gala Saturday night finished off another great convention. Chapter President Joe Breaux won the Vern Wayne Hanaan Memorial Award. Photographs taken during the convention as well as other events around the chapter will be posted to the Internet website soon. You can see them at www.tsps-6.org. The site is being revamped and should be online soon.

Chapter Participates in Annual High School Student Career Fair

The Chapter hosted a booth at the 4th Annual Southeast Texas Career Fair for High School Students on November 14th and 15th. The Career Fair is a production of Region 5 Education Service Center and was held at the Beaumont Civic Center. A total of over 3800 junior and senior students from 33 area high school attended.

Chapter members Nedra Foster, Jack Meaut and Anna Romano staffed the booth on Wednesday. Lequin Hilderbrand, Richard Worthey and Joe Breaux staffed the booth on Thursday. Other members helped setup the booth or provide exhibits and material. Students had the opportunity to

view a presentation on career opportunities in surveying, get hands on experience operating an electronic total station, view various survey plats and maps, obtain information on colleges offering degrees in surveying, and get applications for scholarships.

Overall, the event was very successful in that we got over 30 students who expressed a genuine interest in pursuing a career in surveying. These students were invited to the upcoming Chapter meeting in January, where surveying students Brianne Savory and Allen Pelloquin from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi will give an

insight on what it is like studying to become surveyors. Prospective surveying students will also get further information on the educational degree requirements and scholarships that are available.

Hosting the booth also gained more recognition for the surveying profession and the society as it was featured on the local evening newscast that Wednesday, and again on the following Thursday. Thanks to all who helped and contributed to investing in the future of our profession.

President's Column (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

someone special, or hugged my children and said "I love you and I am proud of you". Or, that I'm thankful for the opportunities that I have. I'm thinking that I don't do that enough. We as Americans have a lot to be grateful for, living in the "best country (and state, too!)", with many blessings and opportunities, liberties and freedoms. We can enjoy family, friends or recreation. We can pursue our goals and dreams, or be the average citizen. And participate in religious groups or civic groups and to speak out about or against an issue without fear of repression or harm. How wonderful it is, these invaluable things that we, as Americans have and enjoy. I, for one, am so thankful and I'm humbled by the thought of the sacrifices made by others before me, that I may enjoy these blessings and freedoms.

I'm also thankful to all of the chapter members and others that have helped and participated in our activities of the past. Chapter 6 has accomplished a great deal over the years. Until the mid 80's, we were a small group of 10-20, that met occasionally, discussed a little business and shared a meal. Our budget for many years was about \$800 or so, and we did little except collect a few dues and pay for a speaker's meal. Beginning in the early 90's, our numbers began to increase, to the 60 plus members that we have today, with funds

nearly ten times greater.

We sponsor seminars, sell Lucas Gusher Commemorative Disks and Spindletop Oilfield Maps and put on a Sporting Clay Shoot to raise funds. We have come together to relocate the site of the original Lucas No. 1 gusher in the Spindletop Oil Field for the 100th Anniversary of the Lucas Gusher and assisted the Spindletop Centennial Commission in their acquisition of a park for viewing the location of Lucas No. 1.

With our funds, we award two scholarships to college students in a surveying degree program and a scholarship for technicians' continuing education. We co-host a joint chapter meeting with the Lufkin and Houston area chapters. We participate in the BISD Career Fair by staffing a booth to educate and explain to high school seniors and juniors (and their counselors) about the surveying profession.

We are a conscientious group that is concerned about surveying and is committed to our community and our profession. And I'm proud to be a part of such a fine group.

But, we still have our work cut out for us and I'm looking forward to a great year for our Deep East Texas Chapter 6 of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors. I hope that each and every one of you does, too.

Annual Sporting Clays Event Held

The Chapter held its Annual Sporting Clays Shooting Event Saturday, October 6, at the 1-in-100 Gun Club in Lumberton. The weather was nice though a little chilly. And just enough wind was present to make the contest more challenging. Sixteen chapter members from seven area companies participated. Many prizes were awarded to both the winners and other participants. The winners were:

1st Place – Joe Wilson of Arceneaux & Gates with a score of 41.

2nd Place – Robert W. Sutton, III of M.W. Whiteley & Ass. with a score of 36.

3rd Place – Ron Davis of Transit & Level Clinic with a score of 35.

All participants were treated a smoked chicken dinner with all the fixings courtesy of Access Surveyors. This event is a popular event with everyone always enjoying themselves. If you have never participated, you have really missed out.

Special thanks to Anna Romano for putting everything together for another successful event. We also want to thank the many sponsors who donated great prizes.



From Galveston....Chapter Representative's Report

By Lequin Hilderbrand (email: lequin.hilderbrand@lpcorp.com)

Another TSPS Annual Convention has come and gone and your Chapter was well represented.

Nedra Foster, Richard Worthey and Lequin Hilderbrand attended committee meetings, the annual business meeting and the annual Board of Directors meeting. Nedra and Darrell Shine presented a seminar on coastal boundaries. Gilbert Johnston emceed the annual Awards Gala. Chapter members also provided assistance in monitoring various seminars. Allen Peloquin, the student we have granted four scholarships to, was also in attendance. Several members were seen in attendance during one of the many seminars. And, last but certainly not least, our own Joe Breaux received the Vern Wayne Hanan Memorial Community Action Award. We should all be proud of this representation and we should also be proud for Joe's receipt of the above referenced award.

Topics of interest to us all from the business meeting and/or Board meeting was, as always, the title insurance issue, the copyright element to our product and the upcoming Sunset Review. Each of us, out of pride of and out of concern for, should take some role in these and all other issues facing our profession. Lend yourself, directly or indirectly, to these causes. If you can't walk the walk, then talk the walk by

contributing to the SURPAC fund. TSPS has dedicated members who take very seriously the challenges before us as a profession and are fighting a very diligent fight, for you and for me.

Other than the above business items, the time at Galveston provided a much-needed break from the daily routine. The weather was awesome, there was not a heavy population of tourists and fun was aplenty. Because of the lack of room availability at the Moody Gardens Hotel, several members were "forced" to seek alternative lodging. Gilbert and Denice Johnston, Richard Worthey and Lequin Hilderbrand "settled" on the Casa De Amore, an elaborate beach house simply situated on the waterfront southwest of the seawall.

The sunrises were gorgeous, the walks were relieving and the waves were mind settling. Of course, Richard lying around in the sun like a dog all the time was a bit disturbing but we managed to walk around and over him. Immediately Richard broke out the boxers. Of course, that planted intense fear within myself because I thought Richard wanted to sumo wrestle. I'm just not a violent person plus the thought of two grown men wrestling about the Casa De Amore (House of Love in Spanish) was a bit more than I could handle. The first even-

ing was enjoyable; quiet, waves gently crashing in, gentle evening breeze, no conversation for a long while, until Richard says, "Lequin, it just doesn't get any better than this". I slowly replied, "Richard, I like you a lot, a whole lot, but in my book it could get just a little bit better".

Gilbert and Denice Johnston brought a breath of fresh air on Tuesday when they arrived. Actually what they brought was lots of beer. We then went about solving all the problems and formulating all the answers. Gilbert, Denice and myself were forced to arm wrestle over who would have to take Richard as their billiards partner. He was crying because he felt like no one wanted him and being the gentle person I am, I reluctantly accepted him to my team. Of course his very first shot was to promptly knock the 8-ball in the side pocket. Between my crying and scolding Richard, and Gilbert and Denice choking on their laughter, the quiet of the week had been broken.

All in all the week was relaxing but educational. We were all excited to hear that next year's annual meeting will be in Corpus Christi. Any Chapter members interested in lodging with the above scoundrels, I mean surveyors, should apply early, as all vacancies will go fast.

Minutes of Meeting

The Chapter Board of Directors met November 8, 2001 at the Red Onion Restaurant in Lumberton, Texas. Present were President W. Joe Breaux, Vice-President Steve Butz, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Worthey, Past-President Nedra Foster, Chapter Representative Lequin Hilderbrand, and Directors Jimmy Verret, Jack Meaut, Bill Westbrook and Lester Landgraf.

Agenda items discussed:

1. Financial Report given by Secretary-Treasurer Richard Worthey. Each board member received a notebook containing a full summary of all of the Chapter's finances ending fiscal year September 30, 2001.

2. Career Fair - Lequin Hilderbrand gave his report on the upcoming Region V High School Career Fair to be held November 14-15. He stated that he has a list of volunteers to help him during the fair and that he would be contacting them next week to discuss schedule. He asked for suggestions on giveaways to help attract the students to the booth. Jack Meaut reported that his company was donating pens, koozies, etc. It was agreed that the Chapter would purchase a \$25 gift certificate to Academy Sporting Goods as a door prize. Scholarship information will also be available for the students.

3. Christmas Party - Nedra Foster reported that Darrell Shine has offered his once

again for the Chapter's annual Christmas party. It was agreed that the date for the party be set for Thursday, December 13th. Nedra will make all arrangements and notify everyone of the final details.

4. Calendar of Chapter Activities - Discussions were held on a schedule of board meetings and chapter meetings, as well as, other activities for the upcoming calendar year. It was agreed that Joe Breaux prepare a preliminary calendar based upon recent years, and send to all board members for review.

5. Committees - Joe requested volunteers to serve on the standing committees as well as special committees. They are:

(Standing)

Membership:

Program: *Nedra Foster*

Public Relations and Education: *Lequin Hilderbrand,*

Richard Worthey, Joe Breaux

Trig*Star:

Technicians Certification:

Joe Breaux

Nominating:

Auditing:

(Special)

Ethics: *Darrell Shine, Billy*

Howell, Lester Landgraf

NGS Calibrated Baseline:

Jack Meaut

Habitat for Humanity:

Seminars: *Ron Davis*

Joe Breaux will contact other members to serve and report the results to the board at the next meeting.

There being no other business, meeting was adjourned.

The chapter held its Annual Member's Meeting September at VM Catering in Silsbee, TX. TSPS President Dennis Walker attended along with East Area Chapter Representative Michael Parker.

Over twenty-five members and their guests were present. TSPS President Dennis Walker was the guest speaker who gave a recap on what has been happening in other chapters around the state as well as the challenges facing surveyors today and tomorrow. A lively discussion of these challenges ensued with many thoughts and suggestions being offered on how we can improve the society and the profession.

He then installed the new officers and directors for the upcoming year as follows: President- W.J. Breaux;

Vice President - Steve Butz; Secretary Treasurer - Richard Worthey; Chapter Representative - Lequin Hilderbrand; Directors - Lester Landgraf, Bill Westbrook, Jack Meaut, Jimmy Verrett.

Anna Romano of Access Surveyors passed the Spindletop Community Service Award to Jack Meaut of Carroll & Blackman. This award is shared by the chapter and its members who participated in the activities surrounding the 2001 commemorative celebration. The award will be displayed in the offices of Carroll & Blackman for period of time before being passed on to the next company who participated.

Incoming President Joe Breaux presented his thoughts on the challenges the chapter faces over the next year before adjourning the meeting.

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Calendar of Events

December 13; Annual Chapter Christmas Party

Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Home of Darrell Shine
220 West Avenue P
Silsbee, TX

Cost: \$8.00 per person
RSVP to 385-5266 or 385-4250. Members and their guests are invited.

January 17; Quarterly Chapter Members Meeting

(Details are tentative)
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Red Onion Restaurant in Lumberton

Note: Dates and details of scheduled events for 2002 are in the planning stages. Final calendar details will be published in future issues of the Chapter News.



OFFICERS

President	W.J. "Joe" Breaux
Vice-President	Steve Butz
Secretary-Treasurer	Richard Worthey
Past President	Nedra Foster
Chapter Representative	Lequin Hilderbrand

DIRECTORS

Bill Westbrook	Lester Landgraf
Jack Meaut	Jimmy Verrett

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