



The Tyrant's Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume 55

Celebrating 36 Years of Excellence

December 2023



Captain's Post

Once again, as I have done for the last 20 years, I am preparing to attend the annual muster of the Texas Rifles. Half of my re-enacting experience has now been with this organization. I expect some new future members will be attending for their first muster, which I hope will be the first of many and years of fellowship and memories to be.

I still recall that muster at Winedale, my first event with the Texas Rifles, camping in the meeting room, where we also held the stacking competition, drill competition, auction and slide show of the previous year. Returning from Europe, it made a favorable impression on me and I found my new re-enacting

home. It was also an introduction to the dynamic of the organization, as the meeting ran long into the afternoon after lunch. There was not only the schedule for the year, but also items pertaining to the organization of the unit, internal process, and authenticity discussion. I remember being in the set of comrades that won the stacking competition. I also made the finals of the drill competition, when a former captain of the Rifles, who shall remain nameless, calls out “I sure hope a member of the Texas Rifles wins this competition!”

I bring up this memory to illustrate a point about what we believe as an organization. We committed ourselves to accurately portray the people of the 1860s, being determined to have quality impressions, proficiency at military drill and skills, and learn about the past while doing so. This must be our appeal to new members.

It certainly cannot escape notice that we do need new members. The future of living history requires that we attract new blood into the organization and pass on the knowledge we have acquired. I suggest this should be our focus for the year 2024.

I’m currently back from the border and this means that if needed, I can run for re-election as the Captain of the Texas Rifles for the last time. I know I said that last year, but don’t think of it as I lied, but the truth changed. I say this because of what may be the intentions of others on the board. I want to have a good, solid transition toward our future and bringing in new members to the fold that will keep us going past our 50th anniversary as a group. We have already outlived most groups in the living history hobby. Let us add to and enhance our reputation.

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Keeping History Alive





Lieutenant's Inkwell

At the last muster I spoke with a couple of members who were hesitant to sleep in the field. I can understand why this can seem intimidating to someone without primitive camping experience. I thought I might encourage members to attempt "sleeping under the stars".

I once went through 16 months of reenactments without sleeping under canvas. The less gear you carry, the easier it is to march into camp. Here are a few items that are needed:

Buy a good, heavy wool army blanket. This will cost some money, but it will be worth every penny. This blanket can be folded in two, giving you a double layer for warmth.

If temperatures are cool, carry a shelter half for a ground cloth, and a painted blanket to cover you while you are under your army blanket.

Carry an extra shirt and an extra pair of socks. Before you crawl into the sack, put on the dry shirt and dry socks. In addition, carry a sleeping cap, covering your head will keep in a lot of body heat.

If you use these few items, and are an experienced camper, you will spend a cozy night, resting for the next day. If these items don't keep you warm, then consider spooning. That is another article.

Lt. Chris Strzelecki



1SG's Rants

The year 2023 is drawing to an end. While our events were small in number we had some good events. For a quick recap, we did our first in person muster in several years, participated in Houston's Memorial Day Ceremony, had our Fort Kckavett event and already have the Battle of Galveston Commemoration coming up in a week on January 6th. I am looking forward to an in-person muster in Austin this January and we as an organization have some serious questions we need to answer and look at. Muster will be held at the Pioneer Farms in Austin (more details to come) I hope

everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season and will continue to have a prosperous and Happy New Years. I am anxiously awaiting the return to the field.

To Tyrants Never Yield

Best regards,
Joey Alamia 1st Sergeant



Recruiting Duty

If anyone has a referral interested in the Texas Rifles, contact:
Jim Richardson @ 832-673-8393, Houston



Annual Muster January 20, 2024 at Pioneer Farms, Austin

We return to Pioneer Farms in Austin for our 2024 annual muster. There have been changes at the venue which impact the way we used to use the site. Here is a summary of the changes: (1) The only building we can use is the dance hall.

This is where we will camp and hold our meeting and any other indoor activities. We will be expected to break camp in the morning and have the hall cleared of items not in use. (2) No modern kitchen facilities available to us. Thus, we cook on a camp fire (we bring our own firewood), or make other arrangements for meals.

Part of coordinating with a new management is that they have no history with us, and so everything builds in terms of trust anew. We can arrive late afternoon on Friday, set up camping, do our usual Saturday activities, set up camp again, and then depart Sunday morning before the site opens.

Based on those site limitations, I'm planning on the following schedule:

Friday 19 January after 4 PM arrival on site

Saturday 20 January

8 AM Breakfast

9 AM Annual Meeting

12 Noon Break for Lunch

1 PM Stacking

1:15 PM School of the Soldier

2PM School of the Company

3PM Class – Building an impression

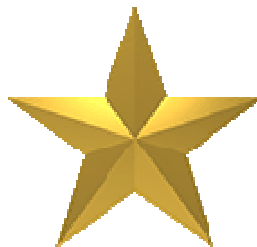
4PM Cartridge Roll

5PM Break for Supper

6:30 Auction

In the next days we need to discuss the meal plans – cook onsite or eat offsite. I have also built into the schedule the items we need to work on to maintain proficiency, and familiarize new members with some of the Texas Rifles culture.

At Prairie Grove in 2022, we did not execute a school of the battalion maneuver properly, and our unit does not make this mistake. We need to ensure our NCOs understand the roles they play in battalion maneuvers.



Events for 2024

Events for consideration for our 2024 Schedule

March 9-10 Ft. McKavett

March 22 – 24 Goliad

May 19th Vicksburg 13th Infantry First at Vicksburg

May 27th Memorial Day at Houston National Cemetery

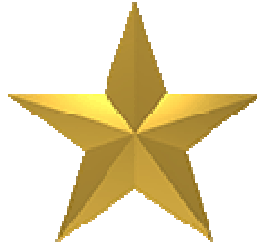
November 11th Veteran's Day at Houston City Hall

January 4th Battle of Galveston Commemoration

January 18th 2025 Annual Muster

I do not yet have the Red River Battalion schedule for 2024, but hope to by the time we meet.

Bring up other possible events for consideration at the meeting.



Lets shoot for a March 15th deadline for the next newsletters' articles so we can get one published for March 31st and be on schedule for 2024.

Please email me at joseph.a.alamia@gmail.com with any and all articles. I'd love to start a book review/recommendation section if someone would like to contribute (preferably Civil War or Texas Revolution related).

Joey

