



S * M * A * R * T TEXANS

February 2025

Newsletter



Jan Schnoor, President
Rickey Hasley, Vice President
Art Schnoor, Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings Everyone:

Hope this newsletter finds everyone in the Texans doing well and looking forward to a great season of camping and camaraderie.

January closed out with quite a windy and cold snap, but weather drastically changed for the Texans January Muster in Athens, TX at the Athens Lake RV Park. Even though it was a little windy, the temperatures were in the upper 60's and low 70's. Four rigs were in attendance and a couple of members attended the dinners and SMART Texans Business Meeting. Thursday evening attendees we served a dinner that consisted of homemade chili, potato soup, chili dogs with all the fixings and for dessert, Pineapple Dream Cake.

A breakfast of French Toast, eggs and bacon, Friday morning. In the afternoon the group went to check out the Tara Winery about 5 miles north of Athens. Several different wines were sampled with refills and a beautiful charcuterie board with homemade fresh bread with balsamic dipping sauce were devoured. The setting was beautiful in the outdoor vaulted ceiling seating area. The seating area overlooked the main house which has been turned into a bed and breakfast and the vineyards. The Tara Inn, nestled among the vineyards, is a turn-of-the-Century house, originally constructed in the 1880's. Tara Winery is also one of the many East Texas Winery's listed on the Piney Woods Wine Trail. Friday evening, we gathered for a dinner of Chicken and Noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls and for dessert, a cherry cobbler with ice cream. Dinner was followed by a new game of Zoo Animal Racing. Rolls of toilet paper are placed lengthwise on a 6 ft table with roll part connected. Zoo animals are placed at the end of the toilet paper. When the race master says go, participants start rolling the toilet paper back on the roll and the animals ride the toilet paper. The winner is the participant whose animal does not fall off of the toilet paper on it journey across the table. It was a blast and we soon found out very challenging.

On Saturday, the day started off with a breakfast of biscuits and gravy. The Texans business meeting was held after breakfast with 9 members in attendance. In afternoon the group gathered at the Athens Brewing company. Again, they served Tara Wines and some great choices of their own brewed beers. The menu there really looked good so we all decided to have lunch. Their hamburgers were very large and delicious. After lunch we needed some exercise to work off our huge lunch and we made our way to the largest cowboy and ranch store I have ever seen, the famous Cowboy Headquarters store just a short drive south of downtown Athens. The store had everything you could think of if you were a cowboy or rancher. Beautiful iron fireplace covers. Hand carved wooden furniture. High end western clothing and boots. We could have spent a day there.

Saturday evening, our group had grown to eleven with a couple of more members joining for dinner at the Athens Lake Boathouse and Grill, located on the property with the RV park. The 50/50 drawing was held before dinner. \$140.00 was taken in. \$70.00 to Watkins Logans Veterans Home and \$70.00 being divided by drawing. \$35/\$25/\$10. All 50/50 winners donated their winnings back to SMART Texans for purchase of an 6ft American Flag Pole with a 4' x 3' flag, to be used at our meetings. Thank you so much for your donations. Glad we had made reservations at the Boathouse because it was absolutely packed. Why you ask. Because the food there is phenomenal and the portions are huge. Texans sampled their Wagyu Steak, Chicken Fingers (which)are the size of a Chicken Breast), Fish and several other appetizers and entrees. We all met back at the rally hall for a game of card bingo and left right center.

The next muster for the SMART Texans will be April 4-6, 2025 at the Brazos RV Park in Caldwell, TX. You may also stay over Sunday night if you want to leave on Monday. There are 15 sites on hold for our group, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. Jan will need some help with this muster because she is having surgery on February 6th and will not be able to do much lifting or cooking for this muster. If you can volunteer for a meal or a breakfast, please let Jan know. We will also probably be doing a pot luck on one night. Please register as soon as possible and make your reservations. It is greatly appreciated so that we can plan for this muster.

Thank you all for participating in our muster. It's greatly appreciated. Look forward to seeing you in Caldwell in April

Art Schnoor

Secretary/Treasurer