

Pine Shavings

**Piney Woods Chapter #51
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

May-August 2008

Volume 18, Issue 9

In this issue:

A Message from the President

Presidents Message	1
Events	2
Liberty Bell in Dallas Area	2
Meeting Schedule	2
May 15 Meeting	3
Community Activities	3
Birthdays	3
Color Guard Activities	4
Additional Photos	5



May 20, 1943, the British Royal Air Force destroyed three dams and Hydroelectric plants on the Rohr River in Germany using a new bomb that was released flying at a low level stopping all electric power to the Rohr Valley War Industry.

Was WWII on fought in America? May 11, 1943, the US Army 7th Infantry Division landed on the Aleutian Island of ATTU at the north and south ends of the Island and pressed toward the Japanese strong hold at Holtz Bay. On this day, May 20, 1943, US Forces had the Japanese in full retreat. Heavy casualties were suffered on both sides. The campaign ended May 29, 1943.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the US Congress on May 20 in 1943 on a visit to Washington to meet with President Roosevelt. He told Congress the joint efforts of Britain and the US was better than expected. He said the war in the Pacific can be won but it will be won quicker with the defeat of the Nazi Forces in Germany.

PineyWoods members have been active in April and May 2008. We have presented thirteen JROTC Cadets Medals and Certificates, and I have one more to present at Crosby High School to bring our total to Fourteen. The new Kingwood High School Campus will have a JROTC Program adding one more.

Ron and Conni Barker, Jim and Dianne Jones, and Barbara and I will attend the National SAR Congress in Sacramento, California, July 5 through July 9, 2008. Any member in good standing can attend. Registration information is on the [National Web site](#).

Larry Stevens

Our largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. We want to eliminate mailing newsletters. We need your email addresses. Help us save money on mailing so we can better manage what we have! Please send your e-mail address to Ron Barker at ron.barker@hp.com and/or Jim Mims at jhmims4@aol.com and/or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com.

The newsletter is now on the website. We are looking forward to year of growth and opportunities for others to be more active in PineyWoods.

- PAST PRESIDENTS**
 Ron Barker
 Tom Green
 Bernie Balsler
 Don Lemon
 Jeff Meadows
 McLeod Smith
 Robert McKenna
 Bob Smith
 Cannon
 Pritchard
 James Jones
 Ray Cox
 Larry Stevens

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Web Master
 Ray Cox
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State
www.txssar.org

TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Holiday Inn Select, Tyler, TX - August 1-3, 2008
 TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Temple-Killeen, TX - October 24-26, 2008



National
www.sar.org

2008 National Congress - Hyatt Regency Hotel - Sacramento, CA - July 5-9, 2008
 Fall 2008 Leadership (Trustees) Meeting - September 25-27, 2008 - Details to be announced



The Revolution

June 15, 1775 - George Washington commissioned General and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress.
 June 23, 1779 - Spain declares war on Great Britain.
 July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was adopted at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 July 11, 1782 - British evacuate Savannah, Georgia.
 August 1776 - British forces land on Long Island, New York.
 August 16, 1780 - Battle of Camden, South Carolina.

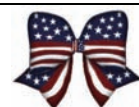
“LIBERTY BELL”

The “Liberty Bell” belonging to David Hall was involved in an accident which damaged the working replica and injured Mr. Hall. Anyone interested in contributing to its restoration may contact Captain Bob Northcraft, Color Guard Commander, SAR Chapter Dallas at 319 Creekside Dr., Keller, TX 76248, or 817-300-3618. For more information visit www.proclaimliberty.us. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Haven't been to a meeting lately? Come see what you've been missing: learning about the Revolution and your ancestor's way of life; camaraderie; good dinner and more! Help make our Chapter better than it already is by being an active participant.



Piney Woods Chapter 51 Meeting Schedule 2008



June	No Meeting
July	No Meeting
August 21	Members Only Meeting and Dinner

May 15, 2008 Meeting



In Larry's absence, VP Ron Barker, presided over the May 15th dinner meeting at Homewood Suites. He presented our Enhanced JROTC Scholarship winner Cadet Massingil (*top right*) with a check for \$200, and our Chapter Eagle Scout contest winner, Joseph Fochtman (*top left*), with a check for \$200. Dr. Brian Shmaesky (*right*), a Science Professor at Lone Star College, Kingwood, was the evening speaker discussing the human DNA history. Attendance at the meeting was very low with only nine chapter members. With all of the other May activities, some members could not attend.



The next members meeting is scheduled August 21, 2008. Hope to see you there. Have a fun summer with friends and family.

Community Activities

We had trouble scheduling presentations in person this year. Ray Cox and Larry Stevens delivered three medals to the JROTC Program Commanders this year, Hargrave, Humble, and Westfield. Westfield High School was new for us. Captain Davis discovered our program at a conference for ROTC leaders in San Antonio and made contact using the Internet. We need more volunteers to present these medals. The young people who receive the NSSAR Bronze JROTC awards are absolutely thrilled. Larry would like to thank Ron Barker, Ray Cox, Jim Jones, and Cannon Pritchard for representing our organization in the presentation of these medals.

Happy Birthday			
JUNE	JULY		AUGUST
James Allen Scott Banewski Douglas Harper, Jr. Jack Lightfoot Walter M ^c Cain, Jr. Woody Reece, Jr.	John Albright Kim Morton Gerald Green Ralph Sasser Ross Partlow, III Greg O'Neal	Robert Marshall Jonathan Marshall Walter Fortenberry John Monk Jim Mitchell	James McKim, III, Richard Shanks Henry Marshall Kevin Thompson

Color Guard Activities

Our Color guard has been active. Jim Jones, Jim Mitchell and Larry Stevens joined in the La Bahia Road Historic Marker dedication ceremony in Anderson, Texas, on April 20, 2008 to participate in a black powder gun salute. Past TXSSAR President Tom Green called us together at the invitation of Daughters of the Republic of Texas VP Anita Cooper, who sponsored the event. If you get an opportunity, drive to Anderson, just north of Montgomery, and visit this historic site and the Fanthorpe Inn. Larry's ancestor, Col. Nathaniel Robbins, with Sam Houston, was a representative from Nacogdoches in 1835. They probably spent the night at the Fanthorpe Inn on their way to San Felipe de Austin. *(on right (L-R) Larry Stevens, Jim Mitchell, Jim Jones and Tom Green).*



April 26, 2008, PineyWoods members Ron Barker, Ray Cox, and Larry Stevens, joined the Daniel Witcher and the Alexander Love Chapters of the DAR, in the dedication of a cenotaph and a SAR patriot marker for Revolutionary War soldier Thomas C. Holmes. The ceremony was at the Trout Creek Cemetery in Newton County Texas. Holmes was buried off Highway 63 near Farrsville and his grave is almost totally inaccessible. TXSSAR Southern Division Color Guard Commander, Marvin Morgan of the Patrick Henry Chapter in Austin, Jim Raines of the Robert Rankin Chapter in Houston, and Mike Everheart of the Capt. William Barron chapter in Tyler, joined the PineyWoods Color Guard for the presentation of the flags. A three gun salute, followed by the firing of Jim Raines two inch cannon, brought cheers from the 150 people in attendance. We owe our thanks to members Bob McKenna, Kim Morton, Jim Mitchell, and Ray Cox for their work with the DAR for this event. *(on left (L-R) Marvin Morgan, Ron Barker, Larry Stevens, Ray Cox, and Jim Rains).*

in Houston, and Mike Everheart of the Capt. William Barron chapter in Tyler, joined the PineyWoods Color Guard for the presentation of the flags. A three gun salute, followed by the firing of Jim Raines two inch cannon, brought cheers from the 150 people in attendance. We owe our thanks to members Bob McKenna, Kim Morton, Jim Mitchell, and Ray Cox for their work with the DAR for this event. *(on left (L-R) Marvin Morgan, Ron Barker, Larry Stevens, Ray Cox, and Jim Rains).*



In May, Jim Mitchell traveled to Culpepper County Virginia to mark two Revolutionary Soldiers graves, John Gaar and Andrew Gaar, on Garr Mountain. These are Jim's ancestors. PineyWoods presented the NSSAR Bronze Good Citizen Medal to

Gordon Saunders of Culpepper County for helping Jim Mitchell coordinate the grave marking. Participating in the event were the [Culpepper Minute Men Chapter \(CMMC\)](#) of the [VSSAR](#), Gaar Descendants, Troop 116 and Explorer Post 156 of the Stonewall Jackson BSA Council. *(on right, photo from CMMC Newsletter, May 11, 2008. Jim Mitchell, second from left).*



May 26, 2008, PineyWoods Color Guard will participate in a memorial service at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Additional Photos



ABOVE: photos from Trout Cemetery.

RIGHT: Jim Mitchell in Virginia.

BELOW: Photos from May 15, 2008 Meeting.



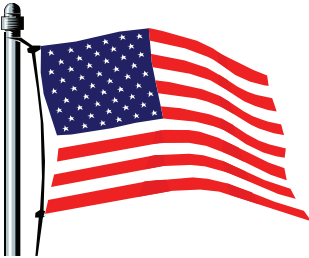
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Sons of the American Revolution

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Official Newsletter
of the
PineyWoods Chapter, #51
Texas Society,



We're on the Web
www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods



PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
P.O. Box 6524
Kingwood, TX 77325
TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RSVP FOR THE AUGUST 21, 2008 MEMBERS DINNER MEETING
At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Friday, August 15th. You can send an RSVP email to Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com OR you can call Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.