



Vol.3 No. 13

December, 2004

*The newsletter of the North Texas Battle Group.*

NAMBA memberships need to be renewed for 2005. Please take care of this immediately, since NAMBA processing is often delayed at this time of year. Members will need their NAMBA memberships current to provide liability insurance.

By tradition, the club sets goals for the coming year at the December general meeting. This is an important meeting for members to attend, as it sets the club's direction for the coming year. All members are urged to make every effort to attend.

While the Allies probably have the combat segment sewn up for the year, cargo is surprisingly close. Despite having only one cargo ship to the Allies' seven, the Axis led for a good part of the year and have a chance to pull it out with one battle remaining.



*A Big Gun R/C Warship Combat International Club*  
North Texas Battle Group  
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Greenville, TX 75401

***“Big Gun Radio-Controlled  
Warship Combat is one of the  
most important advances in  
guy thinking since the potato  
gun.”***

*- Dave Barry*

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## Scuttlebutt from the CO

- Jerry Ethridge, CO

Well, here it is, the last month of the year, and what a year it has been. The NTXBG has gone through many changes. If you recall, we didn't even know where we would be battling in January due to the loss of the Huffines Park battle site. However the last minute move to the Star Brand Ranch was both fortuitous and very successful.

We have implemented a dues policy and started collecting dues and battle fees this year and I think it has worked out well. To aid in the management of this new asset, we implemented a Fund Appropriation and Accounting policy, and for the first time elected a treasurer. Though it is the end of the year, we still have a healthy balance in our account and will get a fresh infusion of money next month when we renew club membership. If I were a CEO rather than CO, I would be issuing a good earnings report this year.

As a club, we got more serious about club promotion and finally finished the promotional video that we had been discussing for years. That video has now been distributed to several hobby shops. We set up a booth at First Saturday, met the public, and gave them a taste of what our hobby was about. Although hampered by weather, we also made a showing at the RC Thunder Boats event.

Not all has gone perfectly well this year however. Despite our promotional efforts, we have not attracted many spectators, new membership, or club participation as we had grown accustomed to in the past. Indeed, our

### ***December, 2004 Events:***

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|---------|---|
| 12-Dec. | General Meeting<br>1:00 PM HobbyTown, Walnut Hill &<br>US-75  |
| 18-Dec. | Battle!<br>Star Brand Ranch, Kaufman<br>10:00 AM Setup<br>10:45 AM Captains' Meeting<br>11:00 AM Start of Battle<br>3:00 PM Last Patching Allowed |

membership has diminished this year, in part due to the new membership policies which have changed the very definition of NTXBG membership. Perhaps our private location rather than a public location is part to blame, but a small part at best. Could be that few people want to make a big hobby investment in hard economic times, although the economy seems to be slowly recovering. We have been affected by bad weather more than usual this year, but despite that, we have managed to successfully hold all of our battles this year.

What is my point with this recounting of the year's events? Simply this: It's been challenging, full of change, eventful, difficult at times, but the club has handled it well. The club has continued to mature, and as we gain experience with our new location and policies, I feel it will continue to get better. Most of all, I see that everyone continues to have fun in our hobby and *that* is what we have all gathered together to do. It's been a great year! See you on the water.

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## November Battle Report

- Mike Duffy, XO

(The XO did not submit a battle report for November)

## 20-November Battle Scores

### Axis:

Ship	Combat Points	Cargo Points	Cargo Runs	Above	On	Below	Result
FNS Richelieu	50			5	0	0	
FNS Dunkerque	40			4	0	0	
DKM Lutzow	0			0	0	0	
DKM Altmark	280	500	1	0	0	0	LOST

### Allied:

Ship	Combat Points	Cargo Points	Cargo Runs	Above	On	Below	Result
HMS Nelson	190			9	2	1	

### Totals:

	Combat (Inflicted)	Cargo
Axis	190	500
Allies	370	0

### 2004 Year-To-Date Standings:

	Segments Won - Combat	Total Points Inflicted - Combat	Segments Won - Cargo	Total Points Achieved - Cargo
Axis	6	34270	7	23250
Allies	7	61715	4	28500

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## Editorial

- *John Mianowski*

As a former CO, I often have to keep quiet when I don't agree with the actions and decisions of the club's officers. After all, it's not my job anymore and those whose job it is would probably not appreciate my interference and have a right to be allowed to do things their way. However, there have been some trends appearing lately that I find disturbing and feel compelled to comment on.

I see a tendency to let things slip and go undone. A prime example is that fact that nobody cared enough to submit a battle report for the newsletter, and this is not the first time that this has happened. I believe that the officers of a club have a responsibility to the membership, and one of those responsibilities is communication. Turnout was light at the battle (another problem) and those who weren't there might have appreciated hearing about what happened. Unfortunately, all that they are left with is the scoring. Even when I do get an

article submitted, it's usually only after several reminders, and late to boot.

Speaking of turnout, it's been terrible this year. One of our goals was to get ourselves on TV, but I would not have wanted to have a news crew come out to any of our events this year. Imagine how it would look, to have a TV crew come out to film a feature and have only two or three ships show up? That would be embarrassing in the first place, but what kind of impression would it make if it ever managed to get aired? I'd rather have no coverage at all.

Yes, we no longer have a centrally-located battle site. I think people were spoiled with the setup that we had in Richardson. One of my expectations when this club was first founded was that we'd have to find a battle site somewhere out of town, and probably a lot farther out than Kaufman. The time that we spent in Richardson was a bonus, not the norm.

With the small number of members that we have, we need to have everybody in the battles, all the time. Members need to make time available and show up. I know that there are good reasons that some people can't make it to some battles. Everybody is busy, and has things to do. I'm busy, too, but I can come up with 6-8 hours, spread out over 3-5 evenings a month, plus a full Saturday. That's all it really takes to keep a ship running.

We all have sizable investments in our ships, tools, and equipment. We all have a vested interest in making sure that this club thrives. A lot of our problems will be solved by increasing the membership, but we seem to have reached a plateau. I don't believe that everybody in the D/FW area that might be interested in Big Gun Combat has been reached. More captains are out there, and we have to get the word out to them.

This club needs to get a lot of things done. Letting things drop by the wayside is no way to get anything done. The 2005 board is going to

have their work cut out for them, to get back on track. It does not have to be an all-consuming task for anybody, if they just work smart. A handful of people, each giving an evening a month, can get an awful lot accomplished if they're working together. We, as members, need to hold the board accountable to us. Everybody needs to understand that the club is here to serve the membership, and the membership needs to have the expectation that the board is working for them.

Make no mistake, serving as an officer is a job. Although it doesn't pay, it's still a job and should be taken as seriously as a job that *does* pay. One of my personal goals is to be able to skip a battle. At this point in our club's life, I don't dare do it. I put a lot of effort into getting this club started. If I have to take a year off, what kind of club will I come back to? I urge all of those who serve as officers to take their responsibilities seriously and try to build a club that we can all be proud of.

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## Treasurer's Report

- Wreno Wynne, Treasurer

As of November 26, 2004

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$909.97</b>
<b>Aug, Sept Receipts:</b>	
0 Membership Dues	
@ \$20 each prorated	\$0.00
0 Prepaid full year battle assessments	
@ \$50 each	\$0.00
0 Monthly Battle Assessments	
@ \$5 each	\$0.00
Fund Raiser Sales (T-Shirts)	\$0.00
Equipment Reimbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Collected in Period	\$0.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Ammunition	\$109.25
CO2	\$0.00
Newsletter	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses in Period	\$0.00
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$800.72</b>

<b>Annual Summary:</b>	
<b>Receipts:</b>	
9 Membership Dues	
@ \$20 each	\$190.00
1 Family Membership Dues	
@ \$30 each	\$30.00
Battle assessments	\$415.00
Fund Raisers	\$120.00
Equipment Reimbursements	<u>\$400.00</u>
Total Collected YTD:	\$1155.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Shows	\$70.00
Ammunition	\$187.46
CO2	\$24.03
Newsletter	<u>\$72.79</u>
Total Expenses YTD	\$354.28
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$800.72</b>

### Outstanding Appropriations:

CO2	\$50.00
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