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## Scuttlebutt from the CO

- Michael Weber, CO

This is an appended column since we were in discussion regarding the exact battle date. We had to weigh all the options on who would and who would not be able to make the battle and run through the options. In the end the 15<sup>th</sup> favored the majority of participants so we stuck with that date.

As a result we received some bad news that will affect all of our future operations. The boathouse at the ranch was burglarized and a significant amount of material was stolen from the property. Star Brand lost all their fishing gear and we lost our large locker and its contents. This means all our buoys, guide ropes, guide poles and other site equipment is now gone. We were lucky that they didn't take the CO2 tanks and ammunition with them so we can still battle without replacing all of the lost equipment.

We might have been fortunate that we did not have a locker in the house because there is a good chance they would have taken that with all the other items. That would mean everything, including ammunition, would have disappeared. We'll be working with Wreno to see what we can do to prevent a repeat of this type of event but in the meantime we should look at it as an opportunity to get ourselves situated where we minimize the impact of our activities at Star Brand. Hopefully this event does not make this site unavailable to us.

We'll need to go through the equipment that is still in the boathouse and see what is still in there. A complete list of the equipment we will need to replace must be made, we need to cost the items and then make the appropriations to purchase it. We will be relying on our Quartermaster to be the point man on this so please give Joe all the assistance he asks for as it looks to be a daunting task.

### *April Events:*

15-April	Battle
11:00 AM	Setup
12:30 PM	Start of Battle

While we are discussing replacing our equipment we should take a very objective look at the items we will need for NABGO to ensure we lay in sufficient items have that event. Mike Duffy is in charge of the NABGO committee and will be setting up a meeting with the primary folks sometime this month. If you are looking to help with the event communicate that to Mike so he can have a rough idea who can be tasked with duties. We'd like to get some sponsors and folks to help run battles during the event. We're very excited to keep this event going and we look to expand the number of non-NTXBG folks there. Lets all chip in to help the club make this a great event for folks to come to.

April will be the last month that we are on the cold weather battle schedule. Our current setup of 11:00 and battle at 12:30 works very well in the winter for us to let the wind calm down and the day warm up. Since spring is upon us we'll move back to the 9:00 setup and 11:30 battle to keep folks out of the summer heat. I would also advise everyone to start bringing and using sunscreen to avoid that toasty red glow.

John M pointed out to us that the third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day and suggested we look into contacting someone from a local paper to visit our battle that day. I would like to know if anyone has a contact who we can call for a local paper (Dallas Morning News perhaps??) who might come out, take some photos and do a story on us. We'll discuss it at the April Battle and see what shakes loose for coverage on it.

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## Executive Officers Notes

- David Huffines, XO

Beaching

I am proposing a rule up grade:

All ships must enter and leave water from safe harbor. At the end or during battle any ship pulled from beach should be reported as lost or sunk, with the OD making the decision on its status.

If ship is damaged it must make safe harbor to be retrieved, if decks washed or sink in safe harbor ship must be declared as sunk and being saved by mechanical retrieving device will not and can not save ship.

This is fish food for thought and discussion so talk it up and we'll discuss it at the next meeting.

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## March Battle Report

- Michael Weber, CO

It was a beautiful day for battling and we arrived to find a ready-made audience of Chamber of Commerce folks at the lake fishing. We set up our safety areas according to the site plan and proceeded to get the ships under way. The battle was the Richelieu and the Dunkerque vs the Impero, Scharnhorst and Altmark.

The battle started with some great maneuvering and shooting by all folks involved. The Richelieu and Impero went after each other with particular vengeance each scoring good hits. The Dunkerque waded into the fray and dished out some hits on the Scharnhorst but the Scharnhorst managed to avoid too much damage early on but was ineffective in putting holes in anyone.

The real break for the Axis was the realization the patches on the Dunkerque were not holding very well and she would be in trouble if she remained on the water at all let alone taking hits. She retired for the sortie for patching but an emergency called her captain away from the repairs and she never returned to the water. This left the Richelieu alone with the Scharnhorst to absorb

damage and the Impero to dish it out. The Richelieu did a great job of putting holes out there but it was a classic two vs. one.

The first ship to succumb to the water was the Impero. Something happened to her pump and before it was noted she was low it was too late to save her. The Richelieu suddenly found the odds evened out but suffered a system failure while attempting to capitalize on her advantages. Adrift without power she was drawn to a watery grave.

All ships were recovered and the Scharnhorst and Impero went out for a last man standing sortie. It was quickly established that the Scharnhorst's captain couldn't hit anything and the Impero rode in for the kill. A few heavy salvos were traded and a shot slipped past the blast shielding finding an accumulator. The rupture blew off the Scharnhorst's recovery float and reduced her to a target. Her captain abdicated the field of battle knowing she would just be reduced to splinters.

All in all a great and destructive day!

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## Safety First

- Ron Zieleniewski, SO

Not much to say about the March battle. Turnout was light but everything went pretty good. We had some guests from Paris TX. and they were promptly informed about safety glasses and complied with our safety requirements.

There were also some members of the Kaufman Chamber of Commerce out at the pond fishing. Barriers and procedures were set up with the visitors in mind and through courtesy and cooperation a good time was had by all.

I would like to thank everyone for resisting using the john boat they were fishing from as target practice (although the idea was put out there). We did have one accumulator explosion. Some extra blast shielding might be in order.

Luckily no damage was done, except for the accumulator (of course). Because Gryf used the proper schedule PVC for the accumulator there were no casualties. I hope next months battle will turn out just as successful and safe.

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## Technical Talk

- William Jowers, TO

### Technical Time Out Clarifications

I have been asked about this numerous times in the past few battles so I thought I would cover these few points on the Technical Time Out (TTO) and how it should be applied.

The TTO is a specific time out to correct a technical deficiency that occurs during battle and can be fixed quickly without removing the ship from the water. Classic examples are realigning your guns and fixing your recovery float.

During a TTO all combat should stop and all

## Quarter Master's Notes

- Joe Dey, QM
- Michael Weber, CO

(Since Joe Wrote this prior to the news of the break-in at the lake only the pertinent parts looking for equipment and mentioning direction have been included here. The inventory will have to wait)

We're working to put together a good solid inventory for our equipment. I still am looking for the location of the following:

- three liberty ships and their status
- Shipping invoices from NABGO? I would like to get the weights of the boxes of ammo at the time of shipping.
- Shore Battery
- If anyone has any other club equipment that has not yet been reported please contact me so I can note where it is located

Once we have a complete inventory it will be published noting the person responsible for the equipment.

ships should stop. The person calling the TTO can then work on the issue at hand. If needed a ship may be pulled to demoss and returned to same area. You may not be rearmed or regassed, patch holes or make ship repairs to make the vessel more seaworthy or install new batteries after ship has been in combat

Ship can be pulled on TTO to do this if ship was launched with a major problem, forget to do some thing on ship or system fails **before** combat. Right now we're looking at honesty as the policy to ensure folks are kept within the basic guidelines.

Lets all stay honest with the TTO and not use it to stop combat when your ship is being pounded.

## Treasurer's Report

- Wreno Wynne, Treasurer

### Activity since 1/22/2006

Beginning Balance:	\$1,333.46
Receipts:	
1 Membership Dues, Individual, @ 20 each	\$20.00
0 Membership Dues, Family, @ \$30 each	\$0.00
1 Prepaid full year Battle Assessments @ \$50 Monthly Battle	\$50.00
0 Assessments @ \$5 each	\$0.00
0 Fund Raiser Sales - T-shirts (last NABGO)	\$0.00
NABGO	\$0.00
Gifts/Contributions	\$0.00
Equipment	
Reimbursements	\$0.00
Total Collected in Period	\$70.00
Expenditures:	
Ammunition	\$0.00
CO2	\$0.00
1 Newsletter (2005 - not current allocation)	\$94.50
Equipment Purchases	
KGV, Hipper (post Bismark Swap)	\$0.00
Shows & Events:	
Food	\$0.00
NABGO (other than CO2)	\$0.00
Other (Valve Repair)	
Total Expenditures	\$94.50
Net Change for month:	-\$24.50
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,308.96</b>

### Additional Assets

DKM Altmark	\$250.00
DKM Graf Spee	\$500.00
Hipper Hull	\$100.00
KGV	\$400.00
USS Cimarron	\$250.00
Fleet Total	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Net Club Assets</b>	<b>\$2,808.96</b>

We have squared away all the appropriations and are keeping a running tally of what we have approved.

#### North Texas Battle Group Board of Admiralty (Club Officers) – 2006:

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