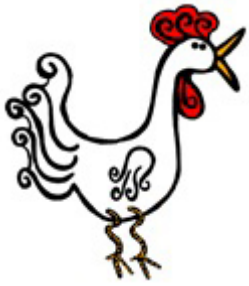


# TOMBALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOVERY CLUB



# THE ROOSTER



VOLUME 6 DECEMBER 2009

[WWW.TOMBALLMDCLUB.COM](http://WWW.TOMBALLMDCLUB.COM)

Welcome to the TARC Monthly Newsletter : *The Rooster*. You will find information from last month's meeting, details on upcoming hunts and coin shows, results from last month's judging, funnies, current news, and maybe even a few spelling errors.

If you have a story or article you'd like to include in *The Rooster*, let Tiffany or Charles know at least a week before the next TARC Meeting.

If you're visiting for the first time...WELCOME! We'd love to know how you heard about us, and most importantly we'd love to know more about you!

If you're a returning guest, welcome back!

Please, feel free to visit our website to learn more about us and what we do. We hope to see you again next month!

## Friendly Reminders

- This is our last meeting here at the Tomball Community Center. In January, we will start meeting in Matthews Park. As soon as Scott has a date and time, he will let us know. Matthews Park is directly across from Mel's Diner on FM 2920. You cannot bring any Metal Detector's on this property.
- Our Christmas Party will be this Saturday, December 5th. We will meet at Juanita's Mexican Restaurant at 6pm for dinner. Afterwards, we will head to Scott's house for fun, games, and the White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you are planning on coming to dinner, Scott needs to know by tonight so he can give the restaurant a head count.
- Lee Zimmerman is in the process of making some quizzes for the Christmas Party. The person who answers the most questions correctly will win a prize. "For some reason, I get the feeling that "Texas" might be a good subject to bone up on." quoted from Lee.
- We also had two new members join last month. A friendly welcome to Mark Riordan and Rich Rankin and their families.

## December's Birthdays

- Cindy Sanders - 3rd
- Trey Baker - 5th
- Larry Payne - 30th
- Benjamin O'Sullivan - 31st

## Upcoming Events in December

- **The Money Show of the Southwest** - December 3rd-5th at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center. Hall E.

## What's Cluckin'?

### Galveston Bay Ship Wreck

GALVESTON —Somewhere on the dark floor of the Texas City Ship Channel lies a piece of history that's 146 years in the making. Divers and archaeologists set course Wednesday to retrieve a Civil War-era relic, a 10,000-pound cannon from a Union gunboat blown up by its crew during the Battle of Galveston in 1863. But the excitement of discovery was tempered by strong currents, bad weather and unexpected ship traffic, setting back efforts to raise the cannon.

Divers working in 47 feet of water with zero visibility and strong currents tested the system Wednesday for bringing up the largest of thousands of artifacts spread across a half-acre of ocean floor. Officials hope to make the first retrieval today, said James Jobling, project manager for Texas A&M's Conservation Research Lab. "This is the first day of operations, and we've had a few problems and sorted them out," Jobling said.

Archaeologists are retrieving the remains of the USS Westfield to allow the deepening of the Texas City Ship Channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The \$71 million project will deepen 7 miles of channel from 40 feet to 45 feet.

### Staten Island Ferry

The law requires the \$3 million preservation effort before the deepening project can proceed, said Sharon Tirpak, Corps of Engineers project manager. The Westfield was being used as a Staten Island ferry when the U.S. Navy purchased it from Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1861. She was outfitted with a 100-pound Parrot rifle, a 9-inch Dahlgren gun and six 8-inch Dahlgren guns and saw action during the siege of Vicksburg before joining in the blockade of Galveston. The USS Westfield was the flagship for a Union squadron of eight ships led by Cmdr. William B. Renshaw on Jan. 1, 1863, as a Confederate land force attacked Union troops in Galveston. Two Confederate gunboats with cotton bales piled on their decks, giving them the name "cotton clads," attacked the union fleet. The Westfield ran aground during the battle, and Renshaw ordered charges set so it wouldn't fall into Confederate hands. The charge ignited just as Renshaw and a launch crewed by 14 sailors returned to check the fuse, killing them all.

### Several Weeks of Work

Confederate salvagers recovered all of the guns except for the 9-inch Dahlgren, said Bob Neyland of the Naval History and Heritage Command. Two cranes mounted on barges — a barge with water-tight containers to hold artifacts and a crewboat — are expected to be anchored over the wreckage site for several weeks near where the Texas City Channel joins the Houston Ship Channel. Divers tethered to a barge by airhoses and

### Eversole ends the puzzling: He'll run

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole announced Friday that he will run for re-election, potentially pitting him against a term-limited Houston city councilwoman and, perhaps, his own tarnished reputation. Eversole, 66, who was hit with a \$75,000 fine this summer by the Texas Ethics Commission over campaign spending violations, said he decided to seek a sixth term to complete a number of highway projects and a major park complex in his precinct. "Well, I enjoy the job, I enjoy getting up in the morning and doing what the job involves," he said. "At the end of the day, I've got projects that were started that I want to see moved along or completed." The question of whether Eversole would run again had been the subject of speculation in political circles for at least the last year. That speculation was heightened after Eversole told the Houston Chronicle in September 2008 that he expected to be forced from office by an FBI investigation into corruption allegations. Councilwoman Toni Lawrence did not return calls and e-mails seeking comment about Eversole's decision, although she declared in a press release last month that "it's time for a new Republican voice for Precinct 4." In July, Lawrence changed her residence on her voter registration card to a 648-square-foot rancher in Oak Forest so she would be eligible to reside in her council district and campaign for the Precinct 4 seat, she said at the time. Her previous residence was in Precinct 1. Texas Election Code requires a candidate live in a precinct for at least six months prior to the January filing deadline for the Republican primary. Court Koenning, a Republican political consultant who had been exploring the possibility of running if Eversole stepped down, said he has decided not to run. "We spoke today and I have given him my full and total support and offered any assistance he would need in any re-election campaign," Koenning said. Eversole said he was not concerned about potential opponents. "I've run against people before," he said. "We will have a plan, we will exercise that plan, and see who's left standing. I used to be a high school football coach, and it's called 'buckling up your chinstrap.'" Eversole said he has been depressed the last few months over the ethics charges, as well as reports that a federal grand jury is investigating his role in construction contracts awarded to local businessmen. "The ethics part of it has been addressed," he said. "I've been through everything the Ethics Commission wished on me." Of the reported FBI investigation, he said, "The investigation, that could be going on right now, I don't know one thing about." Eversole's announcement caught some by surprise. "I assume that he feels that his liabilities have been removed," Rice University political scientist Robert Stein said.

### 'A bargaining chip'

University of Houston political science professor Richard Murray speculated that a strong re-election showing could bolster Eversole's legal standing by giving him the ability to resign as part of a deal with federal authorities should he be

communication lines will be walking blindly on the bottom, guided from the barge by operators using sonar maps, Jobling said. The 9-inch Dahlgren gun and several cannon balls are among about 10 large items that will be brought up first by crane, said Janelle Stokes, Corps staff archaeologist.

Once removed, the large items will be shipped to the Conservation Research Lab in College Station. Then a large dredge will scoop up sections of the bottom and dump them into containers, said Donny Hamilton, head of the Texas A&M anthropology department. The containers will be taken to Freeport to be sifted and categorized before being shipped to the A&M lab, where special preservation techniques will be used to prepare the artifacts for display in museums. The preservation process will take several years to complete, Hamilton said.

charged. “It can be a bargaining chip so the prosecutors can say, ‘Hey, we got rid of this guy,’” Murray said. But County Judge Ed Emmett said he had been told Eversole would announce his re-election bid. “I’ve known Jerry for more than 30 years, before he was a commissioner,” Emmett said. “I consider him a friend, and I think he’s done a good job as county commissioner. People are going to look at the parks and the job he’s done out there, and, hopefully, that’s what the campaign will be all about.” Eversole’s history of problems with campaign disclosure goes back to 1993, when he was indicted on charges of perjury and unlawful record-keeping related to nearly \$90,000 in campaign expenses. The state 14th Court of Appeals dismissed the charges in 1998. Eversole has not faced any serious challengers in more than a decade. Political consultant Bethel Nathan said, “I think Jerry starts out with an advantage. I don’t care what problems an incumbent has, it’s just hard to knock an incumbent off.” Nathan said he did not know if Eversole’s announcement would change Lawrence’s mind about running for the seat, but he expects she almost certainly considered the possibility that Eversole would run before she announced her candidacy. Murray agreed that Eversole remains a strong candidate. “His political situation is, if he can win the Republican primary, he can win the general election, even with the issues that have been raised by the investigation,” Murray said.

### Who ruled the roost in November?

	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Oldest Coin	Carl 1913 Wheat	Blaine 1942 D Wheat	Norm 1946 Wheat
Tokens	Norm Crabtree Amusement	Blaine Class of '06 Token	Carl Crown Token
Jewelry	Blaine '08 .925 Ring	Carl Necklace Charm .925 Ring	Larry .925 Earring
Military, Club, or Pendant	Carl Armed Forces Res.	Dewitt Cub Scout Neckerchief	Larry Pog Slammer
Quantity	Blaine \$27.23	Ronny \$24.72	Carl \$20.13
Most Valuable	Blaine Silver Bracelet	Larry Peace Sign Charm .925	Norm Ike Dollar
Toys	Larry Play Money	Ronny '69 Dodge Super Bee	Norm GI Joe/Pirate
Most Nickels	Ronny 21	Larry 18	Blaine 14
Furthest Foreign Coin	Larry China	Blaine Canada	Dewitt Bahamas
Pull Tabs	Ronny 166	Carl 65	Norm 58
Most Unique	Blaine Cross Breast Plate	Larry 1/2 Mini Handcuff	Ronny Rigging Plate/Tag
Best Coin	Blaine '53 Washington 25¢	Norm '47 Roosevelt 10¢	Ronny '65 Quarter
Judges	Charles	Tiffany	

## TARC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual TARC Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>h</sup> beginning with dinner at Juanita's Mexican Restaurant located at 11550 Louetta, Houston TX 77070 (281-251-0206), approximately ½ mile west of SH 249 and Louetta on the right side of the road. After dinner, we will get together at Scott and Linda's home at 14318 Winding Springs Drive , Cypress Texas 77429 for fun and games. Any questions, please give them a call at 281-620-2184. Hope to see everyone on Saturday night.

- To get to their house from Juanita's, turn right out of Juanita's parking lot onto Louetta.
- Stay on Louetta for 3.2 miles and turn right on to Grant. You will go through 5 red lights, turning right onto Grant at the 5<sup>th</sup> red light.
- Stay on Grant for 1.4 miles (you will go through one red light at Spring Cypress & Grant) and look for the subdivision entrance on the left.
- Turn left at the first stop sign ( Bluebonnet Street ).
- Turn right at the next stop sign (Winding Springs - approximately 0.3 miles)
- Stay on Winding Springs for another 0.3 miles and we will be on the right.