

CTCA NEWSLETTER

COMANCHE TRAIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2011

HOLIDAY PARTY REGGAES ON



Santa Claus was busy delivering gifts to 12 children



Moe Monsarrat, center, and his band, Stop the Truck, played reggae and holiday favorites.



Our host, Eddie Abraham, received a gift of appreciation from CTCA President, Lin Swanner

The CTCA Holiday Party was held on December 11 at the home of Eddie Abraham. Over 100 adults sampled fried turkey prepared by Keith Powell, salmon, ham, and cheeses, as well as appetizers, side dishes, and desserts from a potluck buffet.

After dinner and the presentation of gifts to children by Santa Claus, partygoers danced to reggae music from Moe Monsarrat and his band, Stop the Truck.

Jennifer Plent, our event planner, and her committee were congratulated for a festive, well organized, and smoothly running party.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 CTCA DUES?

Send \$20 to CTCA Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Dr., Austin TX 78732

NEXT CTCA BOARD MEETING TO BE ON JANUARY 10

A CTCA Board Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the home of Susan and Gill Cloyd, 14107 Panorama Drive.

Contact information for CTCA Officers, Directors, & newsletter editor is on Page 2.

CTCA Directors, Officers Contact Information

Lin Swanner, President	lswanner@austin.rr.com	266-8997
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Ray Charo	titorac@juno.com	266-1546
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Directors (2011 - 2013)

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Newsletter Editor: ads, corrections, news, and photos to: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com

Neighborhood News



HOLIDAY ON ICE AT OASIS, TEXAS

No need to wait for an exceptional freeze in Austin. The Winter holidays can be celebrated at the ice skating rink installed at Oasis, Texas.

Open from November 17, 2011 through January 1, 2012, skating on 1,800 square feet of ice costs \$10 for skates and one hour of skating.

For business hours and other information: www.oasistex.com

Everyone is Invited!

Join us for our Special.....

~FEATURED PRESENTATION~

The FUTURE of TEXAS DROUGHT

Presented By

**JOHN NIELSEN-GAMMON,
Texas State Climatologist**

6 pm, Thursday, January 12, 2012
Carlos' N Charlie's Restaurant
5973 Hilina Rd, Austin, TX 78734
(512) 266-1683 www.cncaustin.com

Hosted By:



~Brief Business Meeting will Precede
the Presentation~

~Question and Answer Session will
Follow the Presentation~

www.OurWater-OurFuture.com
[www.facebook.com/
centraltexaswatercoalition](http://www.facebook.com/centraltexaswatercoalition)

Character of Comanche II - Comanche Indeed !!

BY DONNA ACKMAN AND JEANNE GRAVES

Do things ever seem a little wild or scary around the Comanche Trail neighborhood? Well that pales quickly when compared to the time when the Comanche Indians roamed this area and camped along the beautiful Colorado River. They were fearless and brutal as they raided the pioneer farms and small settlements throughout Texas from the Red River in the north to the Rio Grande in the south. Some raiding parties into the Texas hill country are recorded to have been extremely and vengefully violent.

The Comanche Indians were particularly harsh with Texans because our methodic encroachment was ending their way of life. Texas was ruled by Mexico in the 1800's but the Comanches were no match for the Mexicans, the early Texas Rangers or the occasional U.S. Calvary. The Comanches amazed everyone with their superior horse riding abilities and their skills with a bow and arrow. While riding at top speed they could pull and shoot five arrows from their quiver with the last arrow being pulled from the quiver before the first arrow found its target.

When Bob Crain moved into the Comanche Trail neighborhood he often walked these



Arrowheads from Comanche Trail: A paddle drill, left, with a broken point and a Montell point, a typical artifact of Central Texas and the lower Pecos. Both are from the Late to Transitional Archaic Period, ca. 1000 BC to 200 AD.

hillsides and found Indian arrowheads, some even predating Comanche Indians. You would enjoy meeting and talking with Bob. He has collections of arrowheads and lots of really interesting stories of the "old days" in our neighborhood when the character of Comanche was indeed a little wilder and it was a challenge and a struggle to settle along the river and among the rocky hills.

If you enjoy reading non-fiction about these fierce Comanche Indians, get *Empire of the Summer Moon* by a local Austin writer, S.C. Gwynne.

CTCA BUSINESS

GRIDLOCK AT THE CTCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At the Membership Meeting on December 6, a dispute arose over an amendment to the CTCA Bylaws. The Board had proposed a change returning our community boundary to that defined before 2006 and as currently listed in the City of Austin Community Directory and our own CTCA Directory. This historical boundary includes Comanche Canyon Ranch.

However, a vocal and determined group of members opposed the Bylaws amendment and insisted on excluding neighbors living in

Villa Montana and the rest of Comanche Canyon Ranch. In face of this opposition, the amendment was tabled and the issue placed in the hands of a Boundary Committee. The committee members appointed are Liz Murray, Chris Maisel, Chuck Graves, Larry Runyan, and Willie Cones.

It is hoped that the Boundary Committee can act promptly to resolve this issue. The dispute is hindering efforts by the CTCA Board to form a community-wide wildfire planning group and to find a solution to the landslides recurrent on the Comanche Trail roadway. Both of these efforts require the support of the developers of Comanche Canyon Ranch.

Minutes of the CTCA Membership Meeting December 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by president Lin Swanner at 7:35. Other officials present were Jennifer Plent, Donna Ackman, Keith Powell, Valerie Rawings, Wille Cones, and Gene Barnes. Members in attendance were Chris Maisel, Larry Runyan, Liz Murray, Charles and Jeanne Graves, Berkley Batte, Sheila Powell, Ron Greening and Ken Wiley. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the last newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance....\$4494.47
2 Withdrawals.....40.19 for End of Summer Party and a potted plant
Closing Balance.....3982.70

Donna reported that we presently have 89 household members.

Directory

Donna and Dick Allen have finished the substantial job of updating the Comanche Trail Community Directory. After a brief discussion it was decided that the directory would be available online, only to our members. There will be 12 copies printed up for those who do not have email access, and have requested a hard copy. It was agreed that the directory is a bonus of CTCA membership and a motivation for people to join.

Holiday Party

Jennifer Plent reported that the party plans are coming along well. The party will once again be at Eddy Abraham's beautiful home. (Thanks Eddy!) His address is 7084 Comanche Trail. The CTCA will provide fried turkeys (fried by master chef Keith Powell) and ham and salmon. Jennifer will whip up a big batch of her famous Mac and Cheese. The attendees will add to the feast by providing scrumptious dishes and desserts. We are all looking forward to the reggae theme and Moe Monsarrat's band, Stop the Truck. Rumor has it that Santa may make an appearance!

Fire Safety

Lin and Gene reported on a meeting they attended at Steiner Ranch on fire safety. They were impressed by the numerous groups involved in the effort to establish a "shaded fuel break". (A shaded fuel break is a border of land, cleared of underbrush and dead trees) This is friendly to the environment while still improving the fire resistance of the area. The Steiner Ranch neighborhood worked together with Lake Travis Fire Rescue, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Travis County (who provided a chipper) and a representative from Sarah Eckhardt's office. Besides these entities there were many volunteers who provided the labor and they made real progress on a big problem. Donna Ackman pointed out that everywhere BCP had fenced areas that border our neighborhood, they had cleared for the fence and then left piles of brush. This is obviously a bad situation in case of fire. Everyone seemed to agree that we should pursue this same kind of effort in our neighborhood. Liz Murray added that we should try and get the Travis County Parks involved as well, since they have "brushy" areas that affect us. Gene and Lin proposed a Wildfire Planning Group that would encompass the above named entities and the LCRA, Villa Montana, Comanche Canyon Ranch, and Volente ESD 14. It was moved and seconded to proceed with this fire safety group.

Neighbor in Need

One time board member Rob Daniels is terminally ill. His wife Gail is struggling to address his quickly changing medical needs and also to continue to work. We have organized a group to enable us to

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Minutes

From Page 4

provide some comfort and help in the form of meals. You can help at Lotsahelpinghands.com. At the website, type in Daniels Helping Hands, it will ask for your info and then send a "request to join group" to Valerie and she will turn it around ASAP so you will get access to the calendar and delivery instructions. If you have any problems with the sign up or delivery, please call Valerie at 422-0654. These are times when neighbors can really make a difference. Please help!

By-Laws Change

After many discussions on the By-Laws changes, the board was surprised Tuesday night by members who attended and were opposed to changing the boundaries. The board's intention was to include Villa Montana once again in our community, since they had been excluded in 2006, and they share many of the same issues that we have, such as roads, schools and fire safety. Chuck Graves explained that the map we were using was different from the one that had been accepted in the past. There seemed to be several discrepancies between the verbal map description and any of the maps at hand. Liz Murray stated that she wasn't sure we could include Villa Montana in our community association without their knowledge or desire to be a part of CTCA. She suggested an alliance with them, but not a boundary change. Chris Maisel said that there were two questions to be answered: 1) Is it the proper wisdom to make this change? 2) Is there a conflict between the verbal description and the map?

Liz Murray also had problems with the low turnout at our Membership meeting and took that as an indication that it was not an appropriate time for a vote on an important and controversial issue. Lin Swanner expressed the opinion that everyone had had ample opportunity to respond to the board's many appeals for input on this matter and that the board is elected to work on behalf of the constituents whether they show up to vote or not. When the dust settled, Willie Cones suggested waiting until the annual meeting for a vote. Chuck Graves moved to table the vote on the map and the worded boundary change, and to wait until the Annual Membership meeting for the vote. This was seconded, and carried in a show of hands. Lin Swanner appointed a Boundary Committee consisting of Liz Murray, Chris Maisel, Chuck Graves, Larry Runyan and Willie Cones, to address the issue of boundary changes. We sincerely hope that they can untangle this messy issue by the April meeting.

Liz Murray also brought up the issue of raising dues, which was discussed for several meetings and voted on and formally approved at the Membership Meeting on November 1, 2011. This five dollar increase was considered fairly innocuous by the board as the membership dues had not been raised in years and years. Liz again insisted that it was too large an issue to be handled by the board, and that it too should wait until April, even though it had already been approved in accordance with the Bylaws. There was some discussion that we could either ratify or reject the fee increase with the larger membership in April, but by then Lin expressed the idea that there was no point in having any business conducted by the board if everything required the "larger membership vote". She felt that we might as well suspend board meetings if the board's "hands were tied" on each and every issue to come up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting will be at Susan Cloyd's home 14107 Panorama Drive, on January 10.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Rawlings, Secretary

New CTCA 2011 Directory

The 2011 edition of the CTCA Directory was emailed to all current members on December 18, 2011. Much appreciation is due to Dick Allen and Donna Ackman for compiling this valuable information. If you are a CTCA member in good standing and did not receive your copy, please contact: donnaackman@austin.rr.com

Warmest Greetings!

SKI SHORES
CAFE

Winter Hours


M-W: Closed
Thurs: 11am - 8pm
Fri: 11am - 9pm
Sat: 10am - 9pm
Sun: 10am - 8pm

NOW ENJOY FULLY HEATED INSIDE SEATING.

- ★ Full menu & full bar during winter hours.
- ★ Happy Hour drink specials Thur & Fri: 4pm - 8pm.
- ★ Watch all the games on 4 flatscreen TVs.
- ★ Contact us at 394.7511 to book a party at Ski Shores or to have us cater your party.

Saturday & Sunday
breakfast menu
served 10am - 2pm

2905 Pearce Rd., Austin 78730

 www.SkiShoresAustin.com 

UNCLE Billy's
LAKE TRAVIS

BREW & QUE

LAKE TRAVIS

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

SATURDAY ★ DECEMBER 31ST

Dinner
\$50
7:30pm - 9pm

Brewer's Dinner
For Reservations Call
512.266.0111

THE DERAILERS

Opening - **MAC WILLIAMS** Presented by Westlake Dentistry

MUSIC STARTS AT 9PM IN THE BREWERY

\$15 in advance at Uncle Billy's or at frontgatetickets.com, or \$20 at the door.
\$10 for Brewer's Dinner guests.



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6550 Comanche Trail, Austin, TX 78732

www.soleilaustrin.com

512/266-0600

the eggmen new year's eve at the oasis!

starlight terrace at the oasis on lake travis. doors open at 5:00pm.

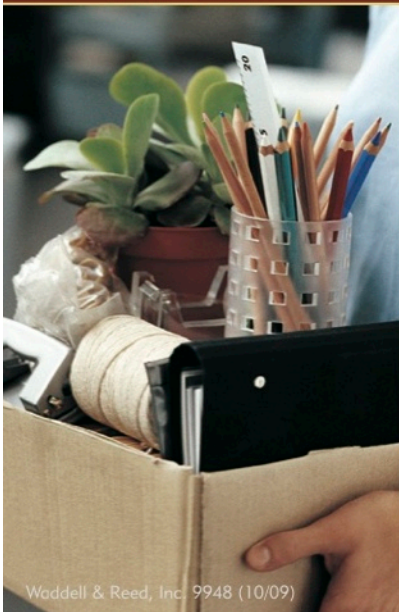


EGGMEN perform from 6:00pm - 10:30pm.
Early New Year's Celebration.

Purchase tickets at www.eggmen.com or Waterloo Records 512/474-2500
\$18 adults, \$8 kids 16 or under.

6550 comanche trail . austin 78732 www.oasis-austin.com

Changing jobs? Don't forget to take your retirement savings with you.



Make your transition easier by creating an IRA rollover account and keep your retirement savings working hard for your future while you pay no income taxes on it today. Contact a Waddell & Reed financial advisor to learn more about IRA rollovers or visit www.waddell.com.

Taxes are deferred until withdrawn. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10 percent penalty and will involve the payment of federal and/or state taxes.

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2012		
	CTCA MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
PERSONAL AD (30 WORDS)	No charge	\$15
BUSINESS AD (30 WORDS)	\$10	\$15
ONE QUARTER PAGE LAYOUT	\$20	\$25
ONE HALF PAGE LAYOUT	\$30	\$50
FULL PAGE LAYOUT	\$60	\$100

All layouts should be in 'ready-to-print' jpeg or pdf format. When monitored on a 7.5 x 10 in page, please avoid fonts less than size 10.

Send copy to the editor at: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com and a check payable to CTCA to Donna Ackman, Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Drive, Austin TX 78732. The deadline is the 15th for each monthly issue.

Newsletter Contact

Corrections, comments, news, and photos are welcome. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Send to the editor at:

ct-editor02@austin.rr.com

Acknowledgements

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