

# Texas Voyageur News

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND du TEXAS, THE FORTY et EIGHT

Winner of the Arthur McDowell Award 1991 – 1992 – 1993 – 1994 – 1995 – 1996 for the Best Grand Voiture Publication in the Nation without Advertising

May – December 2008

## The Grand Chef Speaks...



### Greetings,

I hope that each of you had a Merry Christmas and I am looking forward for a great New Year. Let's work together to make 2009 the best year yet for Grande du Texas, both in membership and programs, and we can do it by working together.

As I write this article, our Area is in first place in membership. I do not want Grande du Texas to have the distinction of having caused our Area to fall from this position. I know that you do not either. Grande du Texas is in 12<sup>th</sup> place with 79.76% of its quota and 76.09% of its goal. Our membership currently stands at 331 and our goal is 435. We should be aided in our quest for membership by the change in eligibility requirements: any Honorable Discharged veteran; any Legionnaire; any military member currently serving, can now join us as 40/8ers. You might not agree with this but it is the "law of the land" so let's salute smartly and press on. All you gotta do is ASK. Please don't forget the "I Got 2" program of the Nationale.

Now, how are you coming along in working the various programs of La Societe? These programs are very important and will increase our membership our membership if we publicize what we are doing. Are you? Are you notifying the responsible Directeur about what you are doing? It is bad when a Directeur states that he/she has "no report" because nothing has been sent in. to me, a "no report" simply states that someone is not doing their job. What do you think?

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Merci Boxcar in Austin. It would be nice to have a representative from each Voiture present.

**Milton R. Chatham**  
**Grande Chef de Gare**  
**Grande du Texas**

## The La Presidente Speaks...



### Hello Dames:

I would like to sincerely thank all the cabanes for their hard work and dedication. I hope all the officers have enjoyed their term as they will soon change with the time passing so quickly. We will have to continue to work together and welcome our new members who are our future.

Of course membership is always a challenge for everyone. Take advantage of an opportunity to bring in a new member.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and my wishes for a Happy New Year to come. I look forward to seeing everyone again at Merci Boxcar.

**Carol Cina**  
**La Madame Presidente**  
**La Grande Cabane du Texas**

## Fall Cheminot Hosted by Locale 1031, Harker Heights on Oct 17-18, 2008

If you are not aware, Voiture Locale 1031 has the only independent Forty & Eight Chateau in the State of Texas. They have done a superb job in making it a place for voyagers to be proud of the Forty & Eight. Next time you are going to be in their area - I encourage you to let someone in V-1031 know so they can give you a tour.

The Fall Cheminot was held in the chateau and normal business conducted. The minutes to the cheminot are on pages 4-5. Since it was close to Halloween, many had fun dressing up in costumes, which should explain some of the photos as most of the voyagers do not normally dress that way.

The banquet held at American Legion Post 573, which was nicely decorated by the Dames, and an excellent meal prepared by Ron Wheeler and crew.

# Texas Voyageur News

## From the Grand Correspondant

I hope all had a safe and happy holliday at Christmas and New Years. It's time to work on your renewals and getting new members. If you are wanting to be a Grand officer, get a resolution in so everyone will know. I would like to read a lot of resolutions at the Cheminot. We need more voyageurs and dames to come to our cheminots and have a say in the operations of Grand. Hope to see everyone in Austin.

**Don Barfield**  
**15643 W. FM 171**  
**Wichita Falls. Tx. 76305**  
**(940) 704-0621**



## Texas Membership - Jan 1, 2009

### Voiture Locale                      2008                      2009

#### 1st Division

939	19	15
1123	19	8
1185	48	30
1601	19	12
Total	105	65

#### 2nd Division

163	31	25
266	38	37
312 (new)	15	11
980	37	22
1031	58	45
Total	179	140

#### 3rd Division

175	14	13
231	21	19
542	36	26
1077	6	2
1134	12	12
Total	89	72

#### 4th Division

605	21	22
1055	25	17
1096	16	15
Total	62	54

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Nationale Total</b>	<b>415**</b>	

\*\* This figure has deceased and non-renewals members taken from last years totals.

## Pictures from the Fall Cheminot



# Texas Voyageur News

## Grande Directuers

Grande Directuers are listed below for contact if you have any questions. The 2009 Petite Communique should be delivered to your locale correspondent soon. Most reports will be due by June 1, 2009 to the appropriate Grande Directuer. The forms are also available on the Voyager Nationale website. There is a link to this on the Grande Website: [www.texasboxcar.com](http://www.texasboxcar.com)

Directeur Americanism  
Clifton J. Guillory V-312  
845 Norwood Dr.  
Beaumont, TX. 77706  
409-679-9969  
cguillo@beaumont.k12.tx.us

Directeur Nurses Training  
John B. McKinney V-605  
1532 Charles Owens Dr.  
El Paso, TX. 79936  
915-598-4348  
yjmcki@juno.com

Directeur Disaster Relief  
Glen Cobb V-1123  
100 Pinecrest  
Longview, TX. 75602  
903-757-3804  
glen\_cobb@yahoo.com

Directeur Child Welfare  
Daniel T. Zmroczek V-1185  
1813 Tyler Ave.  
Euless, TX. 76040  
214-876-8752  
zmroctx@att.net

Directeur Voiture Activities  
James W. Fowler V-1031  
1417 Camilla Rd.  
Killeen, TX. 76540  
254-526-3998  
jfowler100@hotmail.com

Directeur Youth Sports  
John F. Winslow V-1185  
12624 Summerwood Dr  
Burelson, TX. 76028  
817-297-8809  
jackwlow@sbcglobal.net

Directeur Boxcar  
Ronnie L. Wheeler V-1031  
6209 Lolly Loop  
Killeen, TX. 76542  
254-690-7389  
punch99@earthlink.net

Directeur VAVS  
Darrell L. Gibbs V-1031  
806 Sutton Dr.  
Killeen, TX. 76541  
254-458-1642  
dgiibssr@hotmail.com

Directeur Ritual  
Oral Van Sickle V-1601  
504 Newport Dr  
Flower Mound, TX. 75028  
972-539-9118  
sickle@gte.net

Directeur POW/MIA  
Thomas W. Larsen V-163  
22 Tiffany Sq.  
Sugarland, TX. 77478  
281-242-4618  
bill5134@aol.com

Directeur Trophies & Awards  
Donald R. Barfield V-939  
15643 W. FM 171  
Wichita Falls, TX. 76305  
940-322-5057  
saybarley@aol.com

Directeur Carville Star  
Gerald E. Brady V-1055  
1859 Avispero Lane  
Kerrville, TX. 78028  
830-792-0775  
klg@maverickbbs.com

## National Box Car Association

Last year we did well in buying Box Car cards and pins but not great. This year we are doing even worse. Every Voyager should have a crew cards and pin, but especially Local, Grand and National Officer. It is up to us to support our programs are we will not have any. If your Local has not ordered pins and cards ask them why. This is one of the most important programs at National. Let's achieve 100% in crew cards sales. We are talking less than a cup of coffee or beer. Your support in this program will be greatly appreciated.

**Ronnie Wheeler**  
**Grand Box Car Directeur**

## Directeur of Nurses Training:

I have 9 2009 Nurses Training pins left at a cost of \$2 each. The following Locales owe for pins taken on consignment, 1055 (25 pins = \$50); 266 (20 pins = \$40); and 542 (10 pins = \$20). The Nurses Training CD has been moved to San Antonio and put in the same bank as the other Grand CDs. This was a discussion topic during the last Nurses Training Committee meeting.

**John B. McKinney**  
**Directuer Nurses Training**

## Grand Avocat:

The Merci Boxcar is a Cheminot. Anyone representing a Locale Chef must have a note to the Grand Correspondant informing him that you represent the Locale and are authorized to vote. Only members of the Cheminot may vote, these being Grand officers, Grand Cheminots, Cheminot Nationale and Alternate, Chefs de Gare Locale, Directeurs, and Grand Chefs Passe.

**John B. McKinney**  
**Grand Avocat**

Apologies to Grande Directuers who got very short deadline for the TVN. Check the website for updates as they become available.

# Texas Voyageur News

## Fall Cheminot Minutes October 17 & 18, 2008 Killeen, Texas

Locale Chef de Gare Gabe Cina opened the fall cheminot in due form at 1:00 pm in the locale's chateau. A welcome to Harker Heights was given by mayor pro-tem Randy Robinson. He ask all present to enjoy the two cities that you do not know when you leave one and enter the other. There are lots to see and do in both. Chef Cina turned the program over to Grand Chef de Gare Milton Chatham. Grand Chef Chatham called on Aumonier Lowell Mix for the memorial for deceased voyageurs and dames.

Chef Chatham called for a 10 minute recess so dames and guest could leave the room. Grand Chef de Gare Chatham reconvened the cheminot at 1:35 pm. Chef Chatham appointed T. J. McDermott acting conducteur for this cheminot because Jack Winslow could not attend the cheminot this weekend. Chef de Gare Chatham suspended business to perform a formal wreek of two P G's from locale 312. Voyageur McDormott and voyageur Murphy helped with installation of the steps to become a voyageur. Chef Chatham seated the new voyageurs and started the business of the cheminot.

Roll call of Grand officers and voiture locales was given by Grand Correspondant Barfield. The call showed 39 officers present, 4 absent and 3 excused, also 12 locales present and 5 absent. The correspondant declared a quorum was present to do business.

The cheminot call was read and the rules of the cheminot were given. Grand Chef Chatham called for reading of previous minutes. A notion was offered by V - Brady to not read the minutes seconded by V - Givens. Grand Chef Chatham called for a voted on the notion voted on and passed. Chef Chatham called for reports to be given.

-Chef de Train Div. 1 - Ron Mick - The first Div. is standing at about 25 % at this time. Renewals coming in slow.

-Chef de Train Div. 2 - George Murphy - No report at this time.

-Chef de Train Div. 3 - David Knutson - No report at this time. I have one locale at zero. That will be corrected soon.

-Chef de Train Div. 4 - John Pepin - I have not visited any locales yet. At this time Div. 4 is at about 50% on renewals.

-Americanism Report - Clifton Guillory - I received 6 reports from locales. They did a great amount work in the program. I wish the other locales would report their work.

-Child Welfare Report - Daniel Zmroczek - I have no report at this time. I do have pins for sale, see me after the cheminot.

-Box Car Report - Ronnie Wheeler - I have new pins and cards you can get on consignment. Every voyageur in your locale should have a boxcar card. At Nationale each year the boxcar committee donates over \$10,000 dollars to the other programs. So you see your dollars goes to a good cause.

-Disaster Relief Report - Glen Cobb - I have not received any request for help.

-Constitution & By-Laws - John McKinney - At the Nationale Promenade in September the resolution on membership requirement change was voted on and passed this time. You can now invite any honorable discharged veteran with a DD214 or any active military service man or woman to join the 40 - 8. Nationale has changed their Constitution and it overrides the locale's constitution so there is no need to change the locale's just for this change. At the Grand Promenade next year we will change the two sections that relates to membership requirement. If any locale changes their constitution you need to send me TWO COPIES to read and approve. I have to sign them and the Grand Correspondant signs them and sends them to Nationale for approval.

-Commis. Intendant Report - Javier Patron - The check book was looked at by checks written and deposits made. As of today the check book has \$7,439.56 in it. The budget line items was gone over showing three items over budget, but the total monies spent was under the budget. A notion was offered by V - Wheeler to except the report, seconded by V - Fowler. Notion voted on and passed.

-Finance Committee Report- John McKinney - The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. Div. 1 Jack Winslow absent, Jim Shannon seating in, Div. 2 Jabe Cina present, Div.3 John Powell present, Div. 4 John McKinney present and acting chairman. A prayer was offered by V- Lowell Mix for guidance. A budget for 2008 - 2009 was worked up by V - McKinney, V - Patron and V - Barfield Friday afternoon to speed up this meeting. We will have an estimated income of \$5,325.77 and the budget line items add up to \$ 5,075.00. The income is based on monies from Nationale plus interest on CDs and raffle money which will given out tonight at the banquet. The budget line items are - Flowers/Memorials \$100.00, History Book \$125.00, Bond \$100.00, Office Expense Correspondant \$150.00, Office Expense Commis. Intendant \$100.00, TVN Newsletter \$200.00, Travel Expense Law Officer \$400.00, Grand Chef Travel \$2,250.00, Past Grand Chef to Nationale Promenade \$300.00, Cheminot Nationale to Nationale Promenade \$300.00, Guest to Grand Promenade \$250.00, Other Expenses \$800.00 There being no further business for the committee it was adjourned 10:10 am. A notion was offered by V - Wheeler to except the finance report seconded by V - Chevalier voted on and passed.

# Texas Voyageur News

(fall cheminot minutes continued)

-Nurses Training Report - John McKinney - The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by chairman John McKinney. Div.1 Ron Mick absent, Seating in was Lanny Givens, Div.2 Doug Pendleton, Div. 3 Javier Patron, Div. 4 John Long. Grand Aumioner Lowell Mix offered a prayer. I have pins for consignment see me after the cheminot. The money market checking account has \$6,693.54, and a 15 month CD of \$6,000.00 in San Antonio. We have a CD in Killeen that has \$12,760.15 in it. This is a total balance of \$25,601.15. A notion was offered by V - Givens to remove the CD from the Killeen bank and place in San Antonio with our other monies seconded by V - Long. The notion was voted on and passed. The bank in Killeen will not release the CD until V - Rick Overturf goes to the bank and tells them to get his name off and put Javier Patron on and move the CD to San Antonio. V - Jim Fowler said he would get Rick by his little hand and take him to the bank to change things. The scholarship fund has \$3,000.00 dollars that can be spent this year. Voiture locale 939 turned in a request for \$250.00 for a student. They have spent all of their scholarship monies that was budgeted for this year. The committee members looked the application over and after discussion approved the request. There being now further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. A notion offered by V - Givens to except the nurses training committee report seconded by V - Wheeler. Voted on and passed.

-Ritual Report - Oral Van Sickle - Not present and on report.

-Youth Sports Report - Jack Winslow - Not present and no report.

-VAVS Report - Darrell Gibbs - Total hours turned in 1,253, miles traveled 10,021, money spent \$2,700.00 this is my report.

-POW/MIA Report - Tom Larsen - There is a list of thousands names you can check out. More information soon.

-Voiture Activities Report - Jim Fowler - Ain't no body sent me nothing so I have no report to give.

-Time and Place Report - Johnnie Washburn - Merci boxcar and cheminot in Austin the third weekend in February 2009. The Grand Promenade will be in Beaumont the third weekend of June 2009. We have no one to host the fall cheminot in 2009. Go back to your locale promenade and see if you can host a meeting and let Grand know at the cheminot in Austin.

-Ways and Means Report - George Bannon - I understand the raffle fund raiser by V - Wheeler was very successful, so if it isn't broke don't change it. V - Wheeler will provide me with the details and I will be sending out information soon. I will be submitting grant requests to

many Wal-Mart Stores since they recognize 501(C) (19) veteran groups for that program.

-Resolutions - None was turned in to the correspondant.

-Cheminot Nationale - Jim Fowler - I have no report since I did not go because of illness.

-Alt. Cheminot Nationale - John Long - I went the Nationale Promenade and was installed when they called Jim Fowler's name. We did not have many voyageurs and dames go because of the long trip. The resolution on membership requirement was voted on and passed . They installed a new Nationale Correspondant Bernie Sampson. David Rabius retired suddenly this summer. The password is still "vets". This is my report.

Grand Chef Report - Milton Chatham - I also went to the Nationale Promenade. I went to the membership committee meeting. The next day the session was mostly giving out awards and speeches. The next day was the vote on changing membership requirement. There were 454 delegate votes total and it took 306 votes to pass. One counter has 309 votes and the other had 311. The correspondant split it and recorded the vote as 310. Each locale still controls who they ask to join.

Old Business - No old business.

New Business - You can download the new membership application form at the 40 - 8 web site. Check out these web sites. Voiture locale 542 - [www.voiture542.us](http://www.voiture542.us) and voiture locale 175 - [www.texasboxcar.com](http://www.texasboxcar.com) they both have information about things going on in Texas.

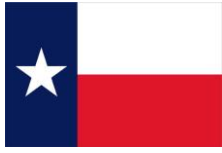
Good of the Voiture - V - Givens spoke on the Central States Promenade coming in May 2009 in Wichita, Kansas. Texas has to put on the party around swimming pool. We need lots of voyageurs and dames there to make bloody marys and margaritas. All voiture locales needs to turn in a income tax exemption. You can fill on line go to - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) - Click on business forms and click on non - profit organizations and follow instructions.

There being no further business Grand Chef de Gare Milton Chatham closed the cheminot in due form at 3:25 pm.

Banquet - Held at American Legion Post 573. Grand Chef Chatham introduced Grand Officers and guests. Grand La Presidente Carol Cina introduced Grand Officers and guests. The meal was very good and plenty for seconds. The raffle winners were drawn and the winners liked the money. Locale 1031 had their door prize drawing and the banquet was over. Grand Chef Chatham wished all a safe trip home..... END  
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*"I know in my heart that man is good.  
That what is right will always eventually triumph.  
And there's purpose and worth to each and every life."  
Ronald Reagan 40th president of US (1911 - 2004)*

# Texas Voyageur News



**60<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to the  
Merci Boxcar  
Austin, Texas  
20-22 February 2009**



**Printable Forms Available on the Website**

**[www.texasboxcar.com](http://www.texasboxcar.com)**

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## **FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**(Be sure to say you are with the 40/8)**

**The Wyndham Garden Hotel**

**3401 South I-35**

**Austin, Texas 78741**

**Phone: (1-800-996-3426)**

**Room Rates:** \$73.00 for Room / \$129.00 for Suites

Room rates are only good until February 10, 2009.

After this date the room rates will be regular rates. No exceptions.

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## **REGISTRATION**

Advance registration will be \$20.00. After February 10, 2009 it will be \$25.00.

All registration should be mailed to the following:

Donald R. Barfield

15643 W. 15643 FM 71

Wichita Falls, Texas 76305-2217

Phone: (940) 322-5057

**Make check payable to:** Merci Box Car

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## **BROCHURE**

E-mail your ad as an attachment to David Knutson at [djk3002@yahoo.com](mailto:djk3002@yahoo.com). All electronic forms of ads are acceptable (Word, Publisher, Excel, Works, etc.) The email attachment is preferred for a better end product. In addition, please send a hard copy with payment.

**THE FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL AD REQUESTS AND AD COPY IS 10 FEBRUARY 2009.**

Full page - \$30.00  
Half page - \$20.00  
Business card - \$10.00  
Booster sheet - \$ 1.00

**Send to:** David Knutson  
1904 Rutherford Dr.  
Leander, Tx. 78641  
Phone: (512) 736-2377

# Texas Voyageur News

Make check payable to: Merci Box Car



## *Agenda for Merci Boxcar February 20, 21, 22, 2009*

### FRIDAY

February 20<sup>th</sup>

2 PM to 6 PM

Registration Open

3 PM to till

Hospitality Room Open

### SATURDAY

February 21<sup>st</sup>

9 AM to NOON

Registration Open

9 AM to 12:30 PM

Hospitality Room Open

9 AM to Till

Grand Committee Meetings (At Hotel)

1 PM

Joint Session (At Hotel)

1:30 PM

Grand Cheminot (At Hotel)

1:30 PM

La Femmes Rendezvous at (At Hotel)

After Cheminot hospitality room reopens until 6 PM

6:30 PM to 7 PM

Assemble at Furr's Cafeteria.

7 PM to 8:30 PM

Dinner

8:30 PM

Hospitality Room Reopens

### SUNDAY

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:30 AM

Merci Box Car Pilgrimage at Post 76

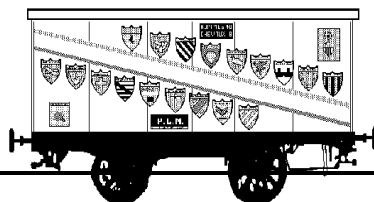
Memorial service by Grand Aumioner

Pictures

Memorial Over

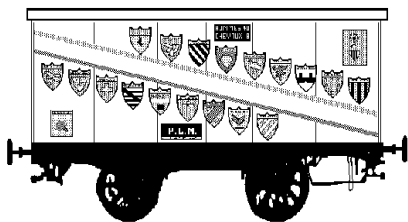
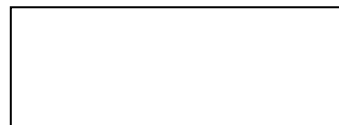


**ALL VOYAGEURS AND DAMES HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO YOUR HOMES.**



# Texas Voyageur News

La Grande Voiture du Texas  
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
1904 Rutherford Drive  
Leander, Texas 78641



ADDRESSEE: Please notify sender of name/address correction  
Chef de Gare – Jammes Flower, Correspondant – Don Barfield, Commissire Intendant – Javier Patron, L'Editeur – Ronnie Wheeler

## FROM THE DESK OF THE L'EDITEUR...



### GRANDE DU TEXAS WEBSITE ONLINE! [WWW.TEXASBOXCAR.COM](http://WWW.TEXASBOXCAR.COM)

David Knutson in Austin is managing the website and advises that we have a large amount of space available and would like to continue to build on this site. Please send past group pictures, links to your Locale, or links to other veteran sites that you think would be beneficial to our members. We make updates on a regular basis and would like to thank Voiture Locale 175 and Voiture Locale 1185 for sponsoring the website for three full years. Please sign the guestbook and forward any feedback to Dave at [djk3002@yahoo.com](mailto:djk3002@yahoo.com)

### Locales that do not have funds for a website of their own can have a website through the Grande Website for FREE.

Contact David for more information.

The website is used to post information on upcoming and past events. There are links to Voiture Nationale, MerciTrain.org, Voiture

Locale 542 (San Antonio) who has an exceptional website and many other sites of interest to veterans. Information on the upcoming Cheminots is posted as it becomes available. As with everyone, Grande du Texas must cut expenses and spend the money it does have wisely. The cost of printing and mailing the TVN is too high to continue as it has been done in the past and the we hope the website will provide quick access to news and events within Grande du Texas. The TVN will be posted in a printable format on the website. Locales that have a member who is not able to access the website are asked to print out a copy for their member. Contact your Locale Chef de Gare or Correspondant for a hard copy. If you have trouble getting a hard copy from your locale, contact David Knutson.

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