

Invincible

Newsletter

From The Helm



It has been a remarkable year for the Texas Navy Association. Completing the movie and getting it in the hands of the seventh grade teachers. The opening of the Texas Navy exhibit on the USS Lexington was extremely well received. Many thanks to Bill Turner for his efforts. The product is extraordinary. Texas Navy Rum has been a big hit and a great success. If you have not had a chance to try this outstanding product, please rush to your nearest Spec's and pick up a case for the holidays. Search for Invincible is officially underway. This will be the biggest and most expensive undertaking that we have ever done. Your help and support are greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Andy Hall for his efforts. Thanks to Jeff Corbin and the Toby squadron for their fund raising on behalf of the project. A very special thanks to Adm. Richard Weitzel and the Samuel May Williams squadron for their remarkable growth year. I'll bet they will Commission their 20th new Admiral before the end of the year. For 2019, we expect to stand up a squadron in Corpus Christi, do a museum project in San Antonio, develop a mini theater in Fredericksburg, organize a museum project in Dallas, move on to the next phase of the search for Invincible and grow the TNA by 30%. In order to have a chance of success with these goals, we need your help to not only be a member but take on some responsibility in some of these wonderful projects. The Texas Navy Association has a lot to be grateful for. With your help and support, we can continue to grow our success.

God bless Texas and the Texas Navy Association!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. B. Hatch".

Admiral Richard B. Hatch, President
The Texas Navy Association



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TNA Board Election Results



*Admiral Richard M. Dempsey -
Vice President of the TNA*



*Admiral James Tyson -
IT Department Chair*



*Admiral Chester Barnes -
Hawkins Squadron Commander*

Admirals Dempsey, Tyson and Barnes have been elected for a three year term to serve on the Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2019 ending December 31, 2021. On behalf of the membership of the Texas Navy Association we would like to thank all three Admirals for their willingness to serve our association. As we all know... it is always those who are the busiest who step up to serve.

A special thank you to the other members who were so willing to be considered for these three available positions.

Phase 1 Survey on Potential Invincible Site Completed

By: Admiral Andy Hall

Texas Navy Friends and Colleagues: The field work for the Invincible magnetometer survey was completed on Saturday afternoon, November 10, by Bob Gearhart and his assistant, Ed Baxter. The raw data is in the box. They covered the entire area initially on Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9, and after reviewing the data plot, used Saturday to run additional tracks where any data was missing, and then get additional data on some selected targets that seemed significant.

There are numerous anomalies across the 23-acre site. There are a few large anomalies that might be looked at using probing or sampling at some point in the future. There was nothing that immediately jumped out at Gearhart as obviously a shipwreck, but we do now have concrete data to work with. These are very preliminary findings, and will be refined later in his analysis and report, which will take several weeks more to complete. Gearhart has a database of 30 or so known wrecks that he's studied before, and can compare this new data with that, to get a better sense of what we might be looking at. Can we claim to have found Invincible? No. Can we be sure these anomalies are the remains of a vessel? Again, no. But this is a starting point for further study.

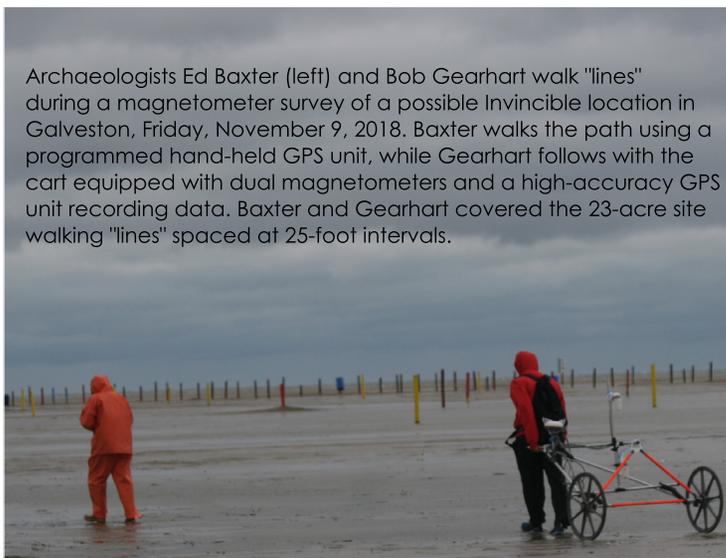
This project was done under a Phase I Survey permit issued to Gearhart by the Archaeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, and reviewed and approved by representatives of the Galveston Parks Board and the City of Galveston.

Gearhart is owner and principal of BOB Hydrographics, that specializes in hydrographic surveys supporting infrastructure and environmental projects on coastal and inland waters. Prior to establishing BOB Hydrographics, he served as hydrographer and marine archaeologist with several firms, notably with PBS&J, Inc. (1998-2010) and Espy, Huston & Associates (1984-92), that did extensive work surveying, recording, and analyzing shipwrecks in Texas coastal waters. Gearhart holds a BA in Anthropology from Iowa State University, and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Gearhart led the archaeological team that recovered the remains of the Civil War gunboat USS Westfield, that was blown up at the end of the Battle of Galveston in

1863, and was long thought to have been lost. Of particular relevance to his role on the Invincible Project, he authored the chapter, "Archaeological Interpretation of Marine Magnetic Data" for the The Oxford Handbook of Maritime Archaeology, published by Oxford University Press in 2014.

A magnetometer is a passive system that detects fluctuations, or anomalies, in the earth's background magnetic field caused by ferrous metal, typically iron or steel. The readings can't give absolute values on the amount of metal, or create a visualization of what those sources look like. (I.e., an iron cannon wouldn't look like a cannon on the plot; it would look like a strong blurp



Archaeologists Ed Baxter (left) and Bob Gearhart walk "lines" during a magnetometer survey of a possible Invincible location in Galveston, Friday, November 9, 2018. Baxter walks the path using a programmed hand-held GPS unit, while Gearhart follows with the cart equipped with dual magnetometers and a high-accuracy GPS unit recording data. Baxter and Gearhart covered the 23-acre site walking "lines" spaced at 25-foot intervals.

Archaeologist Bob Gearhart (center) discusses the project with TNA Admirals (left to right) Bill Turner, Dave Haglund, and Jeff Corbin. Archaeologist Ed Baster stands at right, Saturday, November 10, 2018.



in the normal, background magnetic field.) Importantly, this data also can't reliably indicate the depth of the objects causing the anomaly. We don't know what is at this location, but there is something (or perhaps some things) there. Once we receive Gearhart's final, technical report, we can start looking at the best ways to carry this work forward to the next step, that may be additional remote-sensing testing, sampling by probing or coring, or a combination of those things.

The search for Invincible has been a long-standing project for the TNA, going back to the 1980s. It's involved lots of players over the years, including Clive Cussler's National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA). Many folks in the TNA have contributed time, effort, and funding to those efforts, and we appreciate their dedication to the project. The goal of finding Invincible has

been kept current by many folks in the TNA, most recently by Adm. Will Fisher. It's been a long journey, and we hope that this survey will mark the beginning of a new and exciting phase of it.

In particular, it's taken a lot of work over the last eighteen months to bring the TNA to this point. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to several critical players in this process. Admirals Dick Hatch and Jerry Patterson, TNA President and Past President respectively, were unfailing in their support and encouragement. TNA Past President Adm. Bill Turner tackled the critical (and unenviable) task of fund-raising for the project, and Adm. Jeff Corbin and the Tom Toby Squadron organized a raffle for Warbird rides to raise money for the project. Adm. Tom Oertling developed the archival chart research that suggested this search area as a likely target for investigation. There were many others, besides, who contributed in ways large and small to bring us to this point.

Major Plank Owner donors to this project to date include:

- Adm. Jeremy and Shana Jones, Houston
- Adm. Bob Wright, Shoreacres
- Adm. Brantly Minor, Houston
- Adm. Ed and Marsha Bluestein, Houston
- David and Gloria Walker, Bolivar
- Adm. By Baldrige, Seabrook
- Adm. Dave and Mary Haglund, Houston
- Anonymous, Gonzales
- Adm. Rick M. Dempsey, Dallas
- Adm. Herb Hammond, Dallas

- Adm. Glen Seureau, Houston
- Adm. Tom and Suzanne Hauser, San Marcos
- Adm. Candice Zummo and Adm. Butch Spafford, Groves
- Adm. Richard and Carol Ann Weitzel, San Antonio
- Adm. Chester F. Barnes, III, Lake Jackson
- Adm. Jim and Jo Tyson, Katy
- Skip Harrison, Kemah

Search for the Invincible Committee Members for 2019 include:

- Adm. Chester Barnes
- Adm. Jeff Corbin
- Adm. Dave Haglund
- Adm. Andy Hall (Interim Chairman)
- Adm. Paula Morris
- Adm. Tom Oertling
- Adm. Butch Spafford
- Adm. Bill Turner

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- Adm. Andy Hall
 - Interim Chairman, Search for the Invincible Committee
 - Operations Officer/Historian, Charles E. Hawkins Squadron

Compliments of Blocker Publishing - Many thanks to Admiral Gordon Blocker for sharing a few of his photos with us.

All artifacts are believed to be from the 2nd Texas Navy. These images were taken 35 years ago when the Preservation Renaissance was just beginning in Galveston (before anyone was even looking for these things)



View of full Texas Navy sword © Blocker Publishing



© Blocker Publishing

Texas Navy Officer uniform was very small and I could only get my arm in to hold the Colt pistol...Gordon Blocker.



View of buttons on the Texas Navy Uniform



Detail view of sword handle © Blocker Publishing



Very rare photo of Thomas McKinney from Adm Gordon Blocker's personal collection.

Thomas Freeman McKinney (November 1, 1801 – October 2, 1873) was a trader, merchant, and a co-founder of Galveston, Texas. Living with his family in the western states of Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri, he started trading in Mexico in 1823. The next year he settled in Stephen F. Austin's Colony, claiming a headright to Texas land while continuing his trading activities. He established a partnership with Samuel May Williams in 1834, and they operated a warehouse at the mouth of the Brazos River. The McKinney & Williams partnership loaned money and vessels to the cause of Texas independence. After Texas gained independence from Mexico, McKinney co-founded Galveston, Texas, and the McKinney & Williams company set up a warehouse and dock in the new town. McKinney later sold his share of the McKinney & Williams partnership and retired to Travis County, Texas. The McKinney & Williams partnership lent \$99,000 to the cause for Texas independence. In September 1835, McKinney used his own schooner San Felipe to capture the Correo de Mexico. He borrowed against the credit of the partnership to buy the schooner Liberty in support of the rebellion. [READ MORE](#)

HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL?

Remember to keep your profile current so we can keep in touch! OR, e-mail me and I'll update your contact info for you.

membershipadmin@texasnavy.com

First Drawing Winner!

The winner of the First Warbird Ride Raffle is Mr. Lance Allstun. Congratulations Mr. Allstun.

Do to popular demand the Texas Navy Association will hold another drawing on January 12, 2019. All details are outlined in the post on [page 8](#).



Nimitz Squadron Officers hold the September Board Meeting

Board was called to order 18, September at 6:PM in attendance were;
Admiral Weiland
Admiral Dumble
Admiral Ellison
Admiral Corder
Adm Nolan Stone
Commander Delgado
Commander S. Brooks-Johnson
Commander T. Brooks-Johnson

Discussed

Squadron dues
The next board meeting
The Nimitz Christmas Party

The Final Battle of the Invincible

The Texas Navy returned to Galveston triumphantly on August 26, 1837 with several prize ships. The Brutus towed a prize ship crossing the bar into Galveston Bay, while the See **Final Battle** on page 2.

Discussed

The squadron has gone two years working to build our strength. Its time to start the tradition of Dues.
2019 Squadron dues will be required by the February meeting, members can pay in December if they choose.
Commanders dues \$62.50
Admiral dues \$75.00
Admirals will be contributing \$25.00 to the Nimitz and \$50.00 to Texas Navy Association.
Commanders will contribute \$25.00 to the Nimitz and \$37.50 to the Texas Navy Association. Thank you for your support.

Board Meeting

Next business meeting is November 14, 2018, all interested parties are welcome to attend. Your input to help our Squadron is valuable.
See **Board Meeting** on page 2.



WARBIRD RIDE RAFFLE

North American AT6/SNJ Texan
Ellington Field, Houston

**HELD
OVER!**

To Benefit the Texas Navy Association

INVINCIBLE PROJECT

Second Drawing to be held January 12, 2019

Tickets \$20 each

Tickets can also be purchased online at the
Texas Navy Association website Ship's

<http://texasnavy.org/>

This is a fund-raising project of the Tom Toby Squadron
of the Texas Navy Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Tom Toby Squadron

The Tom Toby Squadron will meet at the Houston Maritime Museum 2311 Canal St, Houston, TX 77003 January 17th 7-8 PM. Admiral Andy Hall will be our speaker.

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the sale of the Raffle Tickets for the Invincible Project. We will continue to sell tickets and hold another drawing on January 13th. This is a very worthy and important project and we would love to see everyone get involved in the fund raising process. Tickets for the second drawing will be sent to each Squadron Commander to be distributed and sold among the Squadron Members.

A second Toby fund-raising project in support of the TNA Search Project has been fully subscribed with 17 "Plank Owner" level donors.

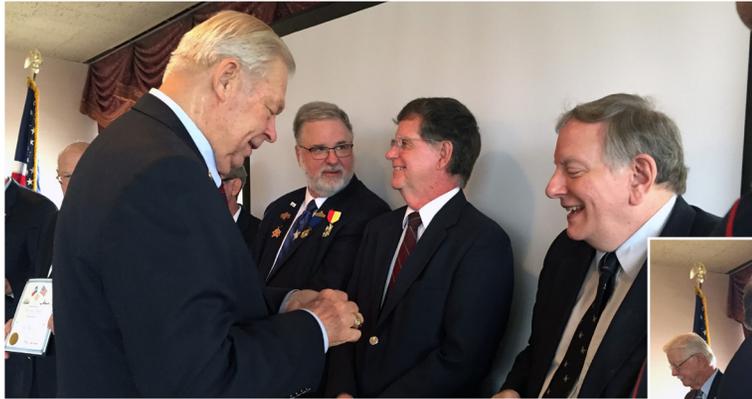
This years prestigious Texas Navy Samuel Rhoads Fisher Cup was won by the S/V Other Woman. This is an offshore sailboat racing series that has a perpetual trophy. I'm proud to say that the Captain and crew of S/V Other Woman consist of 4 Admirals in the Tom Toby Squadron (Admirals Brantly Minor, Bill Turner, Jeff Corbin and Steve Cates).

The Tom Toby Squadron looks forward to an exciting and busy 2019 with several events in the works. Please come and join the Squadron or be our guest at our next meeting at the Museum.

Admiral Jeff Corbin
Commander Tom Toby Squadron



September 21, 2018, San Antonio, Texas at the exclusive San Antonio Petroleum Club, The Samuel May Williams Squadron of the Texas Navy Association held its quarterly meeting. Attending guests were Texas Navy Association President, Admiral Richard Hatch, his wife Dawn and Admiral Bill Turner. Admiral Richard Weitzel, in command, introduced 11 candidates for commissioning. Admiral Hatch and Admiral Weitzel performed the commissioning ceremony of this record number of new honorees. There was a most enjoyable lunch and a program was offered by Admiral Turner on how the first Texas Navy saved the Republic. The recently released film depicting the time from late 1835 to the decisive battle of San Jacinto was shown and Admiral Turner spoke about the making of the film. It was pointed out that the presenting Texas Navy History to their classes. It was a wonderful meeting. Congratulations to all of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Bravo Zulu to Admiral Weitzel and the entire Williams Squadron for a wonderful afternoon.





Texas Navy Warship Invincible, construction update from Master Model Builder, Charlie Cozewith: The masts are in place and rigging on the foremast is almost complete. I will be away from the ship yard for the next couple of weeks, but should be finishing up the rigging in November and be building the ship's boat and adding the anchors and ground tackle in December. (Submitted by: Admiral Bill Turner)



Artist: [Admiral Pete Rindlisbacher](#)

- 16" x 20" , original oil on canvas, gold and brown frame
- \$1950 plus tax (available, first-come-gets-it basis)
- Includes a 10% donation to the TNA
- 11 x 14 reproductions of this image on stretched canvas, \$60 ea. (plus tax, ready for framing, produced on request)

"Texas Flagship INDEPENDENCE Departing Galveston, 1836"

Artist's notes: Baltimore-built in 1831, the INDEPENDENCE was originally launched as the INGHAM, one of 13 U.S. Revenue Cutters of the Morris-Taney Class. She was sold to the Texas Republic in early 1836 for \$1710, designated as Flagship, and armed with six 6-pounders and a pivot gun.

After the San Jacinto victory, she carried Texas President Burnet and prisoner-of-war General Santa Anna to sign the Treaty of Velasco. A year later in April 1837, the ship was trapped up the Brazos River by two Mexican brigs-of-war, and ultimately surrendered with her captain wounded after a running battle.

Did You Know?

There is now a free Mobile App: **"Wild Apricot For Members"**.

Our membership data is managed through "Wild Apricot" and it is now available for **FREE** for iPhones and coming soon for Androids. GET IT NOW IN THE APP STORE ON YOUR IPHONE! (LOG IN WITH YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND PASSWORD)

Access Your Member Directory:

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View member profiles

E-mail and call fellow members

Register for Events:

View an event calendar and event details

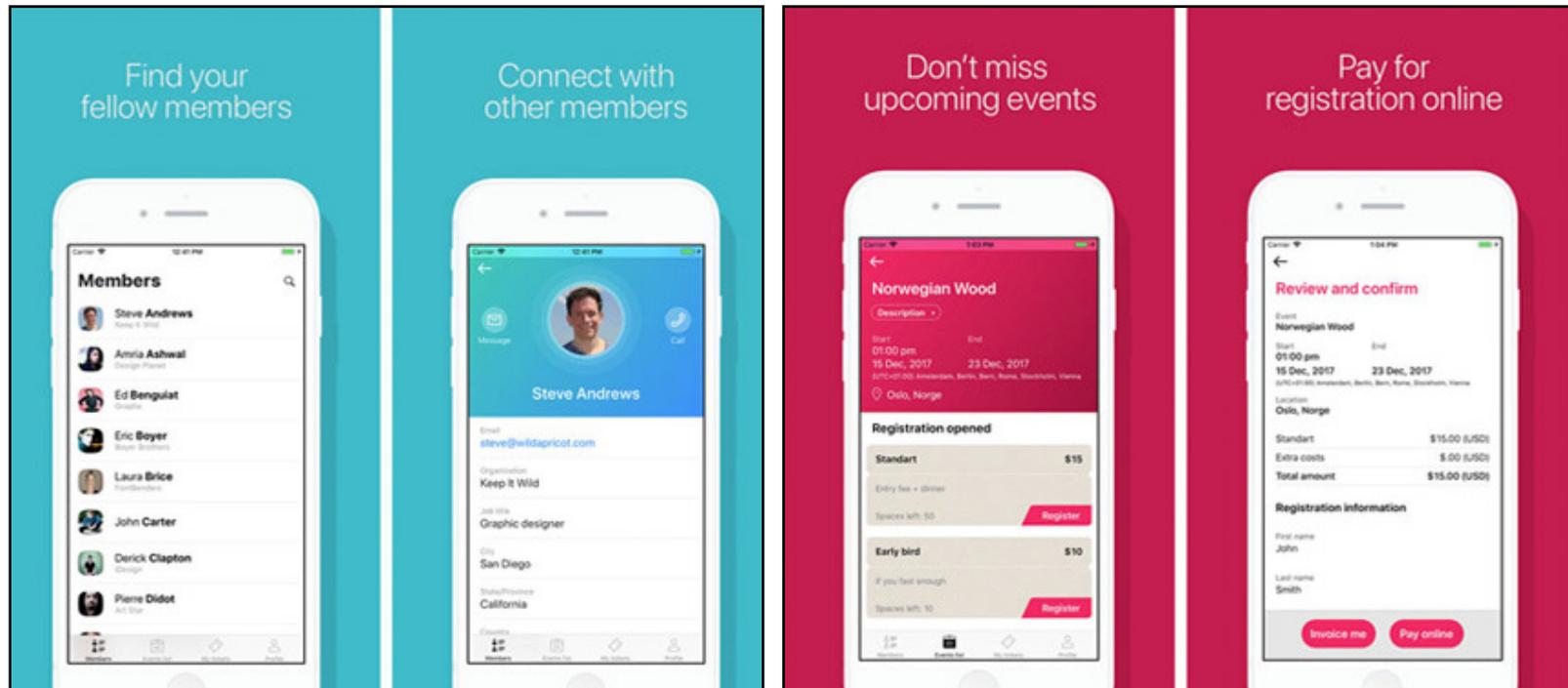
Register for an event through the app

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Pay an outstanding event registration fee

Update Personal Profiles:

Members can view their personal profile, including their membership renewal date



Affiliated Squadrons

Charles E. Hawkins Squadron

If you live in the Galveston or south Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Chester Barnes at chester@barnes.com

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Tim Weiland e7aviation@att.net

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the Austin area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Steve Von Roeder svroeder@sbcglobal.net

Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, Admiral Mike DeHart mikedeh@msn.com

Samuel May Williams Squadron

If you live in the San Antonio area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Richard Weitzel richard.weitzel@gmail.com

The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of the Houston Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron, please contact Squadron Commander Admiral Robert Williams apachenite@aol.com

Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in the Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Jeff Corbin corbinj43@yahoo.com

New Squadrons Forming

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest in joining please contact Admiral Peter Davidson at peterd@cctexas.com

If you would like a Squadron to form near you please let us know. Contact Admiral Dick Hatch rhatch@texasnavy.com



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