



TEXSAR DISPATCH



TEXSAR's mounted team moves into action. A lot of people are not aware of this important TEXSAR asset.

TEXSAR DISPATCH is dedicated to sharing the mission and passion of TEXSAR, as well as insight into its people.

March 2025

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From the CEO



I spent a week in Houston in February, meeting with current and potential donors and agency partners. It was a spectacular trip, re-affirming my appreciation for all who enable TEXSAR to serve without cost to those who need us.

Something else struck me about the trip and it has to do with the spirit of TEXSAR and its commitment to relationships. We have connections, as do all organizations. Everyone in TEXSAR is also committed to connectedness, which is the state of being connected. A connection is a person, and connectedness is being connected to that person. We are committed to getting even better at honoring relationships with our donors and partners. Together, we are able to make things better for many. Together, we can deliver solutions. Together, we serve.

Part of connectedness is doing things beyond our core mission. TEXSAR members recently helped the Galveston Bay Foundation with their annual cleanup of abandoned crab traps. While the experience gave our members the chance to exercise our boats and other equipment, as well as practice skills, the project affirmed that TEXSAR takes seriously its commitment to the community in both challenging and good times.

Connectedness. I am reminded of its importance in everything that TEXSAR does.

- Justin McInnis

News and Announcements

TEXSAR Annual Memorial Clay Shoot Coming Soon

Click [here](#) to register. We hope to see you March 29th in Dripping Springs!



Amplify Austin — A Great Time to Support TEXSAR

Amplify Austin, “the biggest giving event in Central Texas” is happening on March 5-6. This is a great opportunity for TEXSAR. Check out our page [here](#).



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Register [here](#) for this informative, exciting forum.

Member Milestones

Family led him to Houston and the Houston Fire Department has him staying.

Carlos Quintero Pena

hails from a small town in Venezuela where he worked in a machine shop and volunteered with the local search-and-rescue team that served the mountainous area. He followed family members to Houston three and one-half years ago. It was not long after his arrival before he felt the call to serve, which coincided with the Houston Fire Department's (HFD) rebuilding process. He joined the HFD academy and graduated in December 2024.

"You have to graduate before you turn 36 and the Academy takes six months. I am 34, so I knew that I had to get it done," Carlos said.

...and get it done, he did. He is now in the midst of six months of training on a pumper truck, a ladder truck and an ambulance. Throughout the Academy phase and the equipment training, physical fitness is a high priority for all the candidates. But the "get it done" attitude more than makes up for the age difference between Carlos and the other candidates. "It is all much harder than I thought it would be. I was injured early in the training but was able to push through it."

Carlos cites his age as an advantage, too, because with age comes experience and experience develops wisdom. He believes his actions help others "... to see that effort and commitment makes you a better person."

He cites the importance of his wife's support throughout the process, which helps him strive to pay back and be useful to society.



"I don't see it as work," he said. "I enjoy it all, like my involvement with TEXSAR. Though I miss the mountains, I wouldn't want to be anywhere other than where I am, doing exactly what I am doing."

Carlos is a member of TEXSAR's Gulf Coast Division.



Spotlight on Supporters

Recent contributions merit attention for their importance in helping TEXSAR accomplish its mission. Special thanks to:

Colonial Pipeline
Ed Rachal Foundation
H-E-B
TC Energy

Mindy Montford, Senior Counsel, Cold Case and Missing Persons Unit with the Office of the Attorney General, posted in LinkedIn, "The Texas AG Cold Case and Missing Persons Unit participated in a search with TEXSAR yesterday trying to locate a missing person. I was blown away by the capabilities of this amazing organization and the dedication of their team of volunteers. If your law enforcement or emergency management agency does not know about TEXSAR, you need to learn about how they can assist your search and rescue efforts. **And if you are a corporation, a community leader, or an individual with access to funding that can support these efforts, please consider helping them with their mission.** After watching them in action yesterday, it is essential that we ensure TEXSAR continues to assist in these critical situations."

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of supporting TEXSAR while meeting Mindy's call to action, please contact Dion McInnis at Dion.McInnis@TEXSAR.org or 512-956-6727.

Development Corner

Will you share your TEXSAR story? How did you get connected to TEXSAR and why do you support us?

One of the most important things for everyone at TEXSAR to do is to listen to those who have a history with us and to those who are considering joining the family. The year 2024 was a waypoint, marking how far TEXSAR had come in its 20-year history as well as serving as the guide to where it is going. I would love to listen to those who helped get TEXSAR to where it is now and those who are excited about its future.

Please contact me if you would like to share. Dion.McInnis@TEXSAR.org or 512-956-6727.

Also, **Amplify Austin Day** is on the horizon – March 5-6. We hope you can join in this effort of I Live Here, I Give Here, even if you don't live in the Austin area. Help TEXSAR win some of the special prizes by donating! Here is TEXSAR's page: www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/texsar.

Options to Support

- Event sponsorships: TEXSAR hosts several events per year, all of which have sponsorship opportunities, for example the upcoming [clay shoot](#) in March or September's Search Party.
- Percentage of sales: Consider this type of support as a way to support TEXSAR and using our network to help with marketing, whether it is a sales event, test drive event, or other promotion.
- Specific sponsorships: TEXSAR's range of services requires a variety of tools and assets. Adopt some of these needs – ranging from fuel for deployments, trailers for missions, and technology to boost efficiency.
- Boost TEXSAR membership: Perhaps your employees would like to know about volunteer opportunities with TEXSAR, or we could have a presence at a percentage of sales event.
- In-kind donations: A variety of opportunities for in-kind donations exist relating to TEXSAR missions, as well as for auction items for special events.
- Waypoint-level support: Our premier donor recognition level for a unique fund that provides current support and future support with an invested fund. A waypoint marks where someone is and guides the direction to which they will be going; Waypoint donors do that for TEXSAR with gifts of \$50,000 payable over two years.

Benefits of Support

- Marketing visibility: Your support will be heralded in our social media, on our website, at events and more, as appropriate to your type of support. Co-branding with TEXSAR brings mutual benefits.
- Networking opportunities with like-minded people: Interconnection of people is important to TEXSAR; our events are great opportunities to network with people who believe in service, in Texas and in Texans.
- Camaraderie and recognition for your team: Use our team-based events to award your staff or entertain clients.
- Making a difference in the lives of Texans: No matter which way you choose to support TEXSAR, you are helping Texans in what may be the worst days of their lives.
- Be eligible for "Supporter of the Quarter" recognition: Each quarter, we recognize a supporter for their "above and beyond" commitment to TEXSAR and its mission. All business donors are considered

Partner Perspective

McCoy's Building Supply is Proud to Support a Network of Texas-Tough Volunteers

By MJ Toops, McCoy's Senior Communications Specialist

When the Memorial Day Flood hit Hays County in 2015, McCoy's Building Supply customers and employees witnessed firsthand the incredible impact of TEXSAR volunteers. TEXSAR teams worked tirelessly to rescue and aid those affected by the disaster, and the dedication of those volunteers left an indelible mark.

That spirit of service resonated deeply with us. At McCoy's, we've spent nearly a century getting to know hard-working people throughout Texas – the kind of folks we describe as "tough as nails," who never hesitate to tackle a challenging project or help a neighbor in need. In TEXSAR's volunteers, we recognize that same grit and dedication to community that we see in our industry every day.

"We're so proud to support TEXSAR in their unwavering devotion to Texas communities. Working with Justin, Shannon and all the folks at TEXSAR has created a great collaboration where we feel like a



friend and partner supporting their worthy cause," shared Jessica Walshak, Director of Marketing at McCoy's Building Supply. "We deeply believe in our relationship with TEXSAR and their steadfast commitment to helping Texans during some of the toughest moments of their lives."

Since we first opened our doors in Galveston in 1927, McCoy's has believed in being there for our communities when they need us most. During Hurricane Carla in 1961, we kept our prices fair while ensuring building materials reached those who needed to rebuild, a practice we've continued ever since. Today, as a fourth-generation family-owned business, we live by a commitment to service whether through donations of building materials, financial support or time given to causes that matter.

Our partnership with TEXSAR embodies these shared values. Since 2022, McCoy's representatives have proudly stood alongside TEXSAR members during Hays County Search and Rescue Week, and we're honored to spread the word about TEXSAR across the state.

TEXSAR isn't just another organization. They're our neighbors and our friends. We often talk at McCoy's about our roots running deep in Texas. The dedication and community spirit TEXSAR exemplifies is another reason why we're proud to call Texas our home.



McCoy's is one of the nation's largest privately held building supply retailers. It has provided quality building products and services to its Born-to-Build® customers since 1927 and has earned the loyalty of builders, contractors, ranchers, and serious do-it-yourselfers. The company is led by Meagan McCoy Jones, President and CEO, and headquartered in San Marcos, TX. Jones is the fourth generation of her family to lead the company. McCoy's employs more than 3,400 people and operates 85 stores, four distribution centers and two millwork facilities in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. They can be found online at mccoys.com.

Mission Matters

After a recent successful mission, Director of Field Operations, Jeff Conrad sent a message to the TEXSAR team that shares insights for all to understand the joys and challenges of the volunteers' efforts. Details of the mission are removed to protect the privacy of all involved. He wrote, in part:

“One of the tenets of TEXSAR is that we don't seek glory, we never publicize our presence at any deployment we respond to unless the agency we are responding under approves of the release. We often don't even issue internal releases of our missions but occasionally we believe it is important to let the team know when we have been successful.

We learned late this week of an ongoing search for a missing individual. This information was sent to us by one of our corporate supporters who had learned of the need through their corporate outreach program. Upon receiving this information, we contacted the local Sheriff's Office, who we had not previously worked with, and offered assistance. The sheriff welcomed our offer and we scheduled a team to join the search. ...

While hoping for the best, but anticipating the worst, the search continued. ...Our teams searched the area based on their training of Lost Person Behavior, beginning at the Last Known Point. Within less than six hours of being on scene one of our HRD K9 indicated a change in behavior and trained final response while searching. Further investigation by our shore teams located the individual submerged in the water near shore. This discovery concluded a week-long effort by local resources and will bring some closure for the family.

We are often requested to search on cold cases where the probability of discovery is low and even though when we clear an area without finding anything, it is still beneficial for law enforcement to know that that area has been eliminated, we often can feel that we didn't help because we didn't find the missing person. Law enforcement is always grateful for our efforts and appreciative of the resources we can provide. This is an important part of what we do. On today's mission, we were able to make that discovery and bring closure to the family who expressed their gratitude to our team despite dealing with their loss.

I would like to thank our team for battling the austere environment and their commitment to the mission. This is the reason we train, the reason we prepare and the reason we leave our jobs, families and other commitments when the call comes. This mission was made possible through the relationships that we continue to build with our supporters and agencies. Our thoughts are with the family who is dealing with the loss and with the small community who rallied behind the search efforts.

Stay safe and Never Stop Searching.”

This grit and humanity is why more and more agencies are looking to TEXSAR for assistance.

[TEXSAR Never Stops.](#)



Gallery of the Month



The Gulf Coast team worked alongside the Galveston Bay Foundation and other local agencies to clear the bay of abandoned crab traps. Although the weather turned sour and most of the traps had already been cleaned up, the team was able to locate a few traps and save a few crabs along the way.



Texans helping Texans!



K9 Murphy and TEXSAR Board Secretary Andrew Rauch engaged attendees at the Central Texas Police Motor Rodeo Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo, introducing TEXSAR to new fans and friends.





Above: TEXSAR members from the North Texas Division have been busy between missions to build out a new 21-foot command trailer. Volunteer efforts include much more than missions. They are busy with training, maintaining assets and myriad other tasks. Bottom left: Soon, the trailer will be “ready for prime time.” Bottom right: Members strategize during a flood support mission in Everman, TX.



Important Links: Stay in Touch!

[Become a Member](#)

[Donate today!](#)

[Service Above Self Monthly Donor program](#)

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#)

[20 Years, 20 stories: TEXSAR's 20th Anniversary Celebrated Through Stories of Its Members](#)

["TEXSAR Never Stops" video](#)

www.TEXSAR.org

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FLURRY, SILENT AUCTION, AND SHOTGUN RAFFLE ON SITE.

PLEASE BRING AMMO, EAR, AND EYE PROTECTION.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

INDIVIDUAL SHOOTER

\$250

SHOT GUN START

10:00 AM

TEAM (4-PERSON)

\$850

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025  **HOG HEAVEN - DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX**  **WWW.TEXSAR.ORG/CLAYSHOOT**