



TEXSAR DISPATCH

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

April 2025

In this month's issue

2...From the CEO: Texas is a big state...TEXSAR covers it

3...News and Announcements: Highlights and good news

4...BeforeDuringAfter: Great news about this business resiliency resource for Texas

4...Spotlight on Supporters: Thanks to the Clay Shoot sponsors

5...Partner Perspectives: A California user of ADIAT

5...Development Corner: TEXSAR services are free because of your support

6-7...Gallery of the Month

Back cover...Key Links: Follow us and stay engaged

All contents © TEXSAR 2025.
All rights reserved.



The 8th Annual Memorial Clay Shoot was a great success thanks to participants, sponsors and TEXSAR members. Thank you, everyone!

From the CEO



Each year we are called to serve in counties that we have not served in before. Over the course of our history, we have now served in 104 counties. Texas has 254 counties and our aspiration is to have been called upon in 200 of them by the year 2028. We took an important step in that quest with a formal commitment to collaborate with the National Park Service to assist them with Preventative Search-and-Rescue as well as search and rescue. Our volunteers have been helping prepare visitors to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park with instructions and guidance at the trailheads, as well as being available if someone gets into trouble on the trails.

The NPS is not the first federal agency to partner with TEXSAR, nor will it likely be the last. Every mission that TEXSAR undertakes is in partnership with an agency or critical infrastructure partner because TEXSAR never self-deploys. And, of course, we never charge for TEXSAR services.

We are available statewide because of the commitment of our volunteers who give their time and talents to help those in need. **April 20-26 is National Volunteer Week**, a perfect time to thank all the volunteers who serve so many nonprofits and organizations to make the world a better place, one minute at a time. Thank you, TEXSAR volunteers...TEXSAR is what it is because of you.

- Justin McInnis

News and Announcements

Thrivent Recognized

Thrivent and its family of clients supported TEXSAR significantly just over a year ago when the Panhandle wildfires were raging. Financial support is just the tip of the iceberg for what Thrivent does in communities around Texas (and the country), so it is fitting that Thrivent was named the Governor's Volunteer Award Corporate Champion for 2024. Thrivent representatives will receive their award at a ceremony later in April. Way to go, Thrivent! We are proud of you and honored to have you as part of the TEXSAR family.



Data Analysis...a key to cold cases

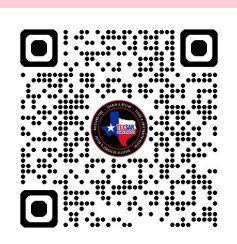
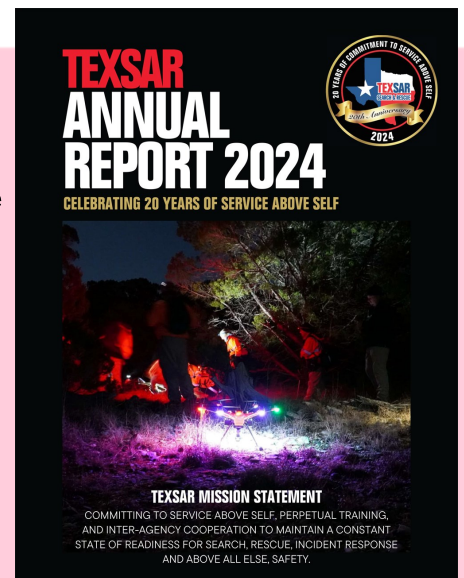
A lot of people think of "search-and-rescue" as jumping into raging waters to save someone, pulling up to a house during a flood to rescue someone, or tromping around fields and streams in search of someone. Well... yes, and no. Those are part of the process, but data analysis and other technology-based tools and assets are becoming key elements of TEXSAR's ability to respond to the needs of agencies. Agencies trust TEXSAR with critical information that enables us to analyze it as part of a true partnership and working relationship. In a recent case, after several missions to explore a field for the remains of a missing person, data analysis of key information led to the discovery of remains after only ten minutes of searching thanks to the new information.

National Park Service Partnership

The National Park Service recently formally recognized TEXSAR as a key resource to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. TEXSAR volunteers will serve at trailheads, helping increase awareness and education of hikers before they head into the mountains, as well as providing rescue assistance when needed. In addition to the preventative services, TEXSAR members have assisted with a myriad of medical and rescue operations.

2024 Annual Report...what a year it was!

TEXSAR aspired to a special kind of year in 2024, its 20th anniversary year. It was a spectacular year! Our [2024 Annual Report](#) is now available. Thank you for making possible all that was accomplished in 2024.



Click [here](#) if someone forwarded this newsletter to you and you'd like to subscribe! Or you can use the "Subscribe" QR code. We look forward to keeping you apprised of all the great things happening at TEXSAR. Please forward to your friends and network, too!

North Texas Municipalities Endorse TEXSAR's BeforeDuringAfter for Business Disaster Preparedness

In Summer 2024, TEXSAR and its partners released BeforeDuringAfter (B4DA), a free resource that brings together important information in one place to help small businesses and their communities prepare for disasters. Response statewide has been exceptional.

Recently, Wise County and the City of Decatur officially partnered with B4DA, marking the first time a city and county have formally adopted the program as a platform for emergency information and resources. The milestone agreement establishes a precedent for other municipalities seeking to protect businesses and sustain economic growth in challenging times.

The B4DA coalition is eager to partner with other Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) seeking an accessible, turnkey approach to disaster response.

Highlights of the Partnership:

- Boosts Business Preparedness: Local businesses now have access to a centralized resource for disaster planning, checklists and emergency contacts.
- Improves Outreach: B4DA will enhance its educational outreach through engaging events such as Lunch & Learns, community business fairs and feedback initiatives.
- Establishes Model for Success: The partnership with Wise County and Decatur creates a framework for working with other municipalities looking to boost emergency awareness and disaster preparedness.

[BeforeDuringAfter](#) is a public-private partnership developed by Texas Mutual Insurance Company, TEXSAR, Texas State Institute for Government Innovation, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, OneStar Foundation and Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, with funding support from Wells Fargo.

Visit <https://beforeduringafter.txst.edu/> to see how this innovative program can protect local businesses and help your community thrive.

Spotlight on Supporters

As the photos in this month's gallery reveal, our recent 8th Annual Memorial Clay Shoot provided a great opportunity to meet new friends, spend enjoyable time with like-minded individuals who believe in TEXSAR and its mission, and raise important funds for TEXSAR.

Thank you, sponsors!

Golf Cart Sponsor

La Cima, San Marcos

Silver Sponsor

GCS Technologies, Inc.

The Honorable Beth Smith, Justice of the Peace

Bronze Sponsor

Dynamic Systems, Inc. (Mechanical Contractors)

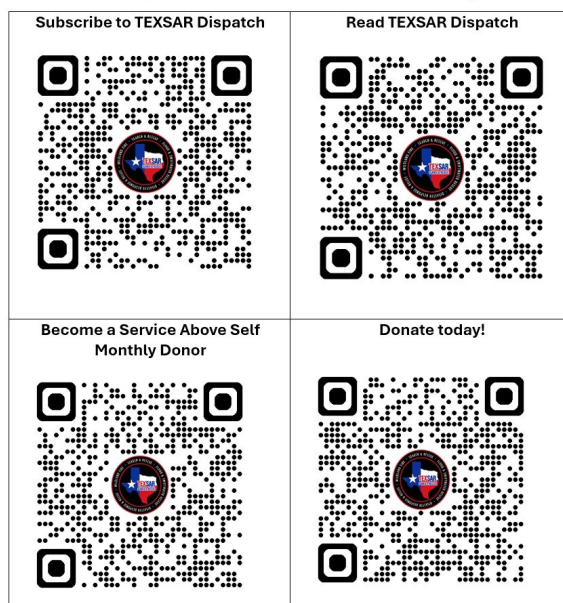
In-Kind Sponsors

Duck Camp

KTLO Solutions

One Shot Distilling

If you would like to learn about sponsorship opportunities for our next major event, the 10th Annual Search Party in September, please contact Shannon Smith, Director of Communications and Outreach, at Shannon.Smith@TEXSAR.org.



Partner Perspective

TEXSAR's efforts touch lives across the state...and beyond.

John O'Keefe is involved with El Dorado County Search and Rescue in California (EDSAR). He recently shared his perspectives on ADIAT ([Automated Drone Image Analysis Tool](#)), the open-source software tool developed by TEXSAR to help maximize efficiency and effectiveness of analyzing images captured by drones in search/recovery/rescue missions. EDSAR works at the direction of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. John said that he believes they appreciate how ADIAT can help identify colors and objects in drone images, and that other organizations are also becoming more interested in ADIAT as it is used in more mutual aid missions.



John joined EDSAR about a year ago. "I am drawn to SAR because I love helping people. I have had CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) experience and was involved in a ham radio club. My profession is developing video games and with the drones I have been able to blend my familiarity with technology with my desire to help people."

When he first joined the drone team, he encountered other software programs that analyze images. "I heard about ADIAT and checked it out because the other packages are expensive. I tried ADIAT and found it to be as capable as anything out there, more user friendly and free. I enjoyed using it. EDSAR got called

into a mutual aid mission and I used ADIAT. It performed great and I thought of other features that might be helpful, so I contacted Charlie to see if he was open to suggestions. He agreed. He is great to work with. He exemplifies what is common among SAR people...big heart."

"Charlie" is Charlie Grove, the long-time TEXSAR volunteer who developed ADIAT. He was recognized in January 2025 with TEXSAR's Distinguished Service Award. Charlie recognizes John as a great champion of ADIAT as well as great partner who contributed to the codebase of the latest release of ADIAT.

John's impressions of "SAR people" are common among those in the profession. "They are the best bunch of people I have ever been around," he said. When it comes to caring for others and the commitment to serve, there are no boundaries. ADIAT helps TEXSAR serve well beyond Texas' 254 counties.

Development Corner

It has been said by many that the word "free" is one of the most powerful marketing messages in the history of marketing. For TEXSAR, the word is a commitment. TEXSAR never charges for its services.

Rescuing your friends, neighbors, family members or relatives from floods? Free. Finding your lost elder or child? Free. Distributing water and other necessities after tornadoes, hurricanes or other emergencies? Free. Helping close a cold case by finding human remains? Free. The list goes on. Free.

Last year at this time, our volunteers were wrapping up service in the Panhandle during the infamous wildfires – the worst in Texas history. Who knows what this year will bring with natural disasters, emergencies and other times when TEXSAR volunteers step up to help out. Missions have expenses, but there is never a charge to requestors.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss how to help with TEXSAR's needs:

Dion.McInnis@TEXSAR.org or 512-956-6727.

Gallery of the Month

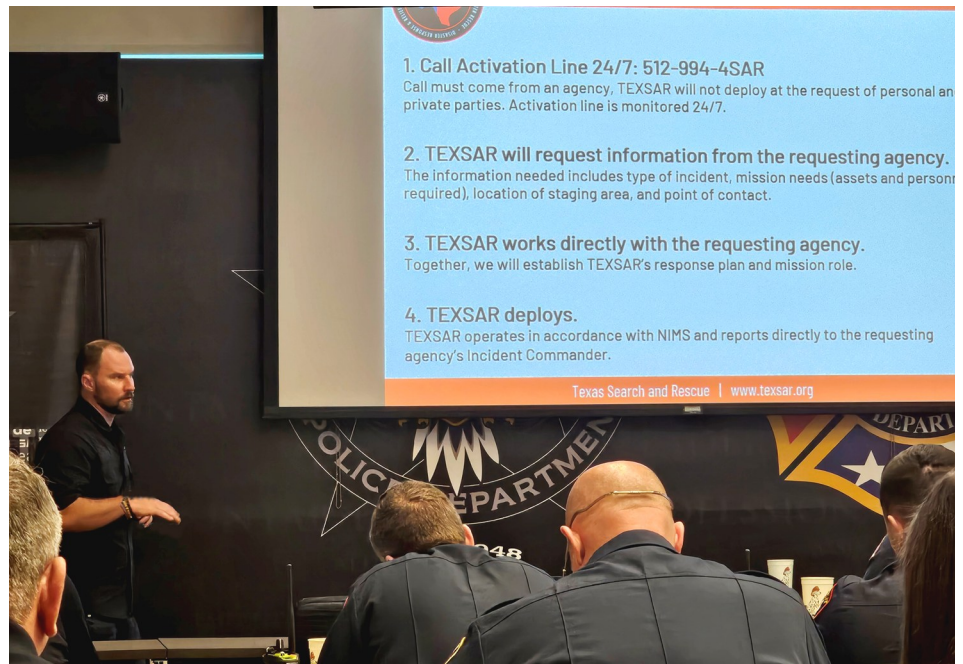


8th Annual Memorial Clay Shoot. We hope to see you next year! See all the images [here](#).



Justin McInnis, President and CEO, and Doug Ross, TEXSAR volunteer and former Division Leader, attended the Williamson County Fire Chief's Association quarterly meeting in Georgetown.

Justin presented TEXSAR capabilities to all of the chiefs, assistant chiefs, and specialists within the fire departments across the county.



Left: Central Texas Division members were busy between missions with maintaining TEXSAR facilities at two sites in the Division.

Below: North Texas Division hosted the first Wilderness Search and Rescue course of 2025. The course is a requirement for all member candidates who aspire to become deployable volunteers. This element of basic training is foundational to their ongoing skills development. The Division's March meeting was held on March 8th to allow for additional training. The training focused on two mock search scenarios and was attended by over 30 members.



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

TEXSAR make things happen, be it missions or fun events like the recent 8th Annual Memorial Clay Shoot.

Thank you, TEXSAR members!

