



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

# vigor



## A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Retirees



**December 07 / January 08**

### **Coming Events:**

**December 12, 2007 Wednesday** – Lunch at the Golden Corral at 11:00 AM **Please note:** Ordinarily we meet on the third Wednesday of the month, but because of Christmas we are moving this lunch up one week! There will be maps given for those who are going to the Christmas Dinner. Daryl will be giving us a handout, “Jokes”. We could all use a good laugh. You don’t want to miss this. Door prizes will be given as usual.

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**December 13, 2007 Thursday Christmas Dinner Party** at the Safari Texas Ranch in Richmond. (See enclosed flyer for directions) Past president Israel Morales is the event chairman and needs all reservations and payments to be in by November 30. A D J is booked for the entertainment and will play requested songs from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. This is a semi-formal event where ladies can dress in their lovely attire. Men, we expect you to dress appropriately. No shorts, or swim suits! Just kidding! If you want to bring a guest, or two, you may! Unless you plan on picking up their tab be certain to let them know this is not a freebie! Ha! The cost is \$25.00 pp. There will be horns d’oeuvres and a cash bar. The event starts at 6:30 PM; food is served at 7:00 PM. Photos of each guest or couple will be taken upon arrival. Israel will mail the photos to you. Table photos can also be taken. See you there!!!! Israel’s phone: 281-498-2219

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**December 17, 2007 Monday Night-** “Jingle Jaunts on Wheels” escorted and narrated by professional guide, Sandra Lord. There is no dinner planned, just an out-of-pocket dessert stop. Bus leaves Bayland Park at 6:40 PM Bus is full, but you can ask Daryl Moss to put you on an alternate list in event of a cancellation. Daryl’s Phone number is 281-494-7889. The Cost is \$10.00 pp.



# “Happy New Year”



**January 16, 2008 Wednesday Lunch** at the Golden Corral at 11:00 AM  
Start the New Year by having a buffet lunch with your TI friends. Chat about the blessings received during the holidays. Door prizes will be given.

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**Please Note:** Daryl Moss is stepping down as day trip activities director after January 23, 2008. He has done an excellent job this past year. We really appreciate Daryl for all he has done. Now the question is who will step in and continue planning trips? K Daryl has offered to help anyone interested. A detailed, written guide explains the duties to the next director. Pres. Ralph Garcia has that information available. We need you!

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**January 23, 2008 Wednesday** is the trip to St. Arnold’s (micro) Brewery and Mrs. Baird’s (Bimbo Bakeries). Lunch will be at Larry’s BBQ & Smokehouse where you can help yourself to smokey ribs, sliced and chopped beef, sausage, chicken, salad and dreamy desserts. Since we will walk through Mrs. Baird’s manufacturing area a very strict dress code is required for everyone, a safety issue (read below). At St. Arnold’s, tasting includes samples of several draft beers, or alternatively, a fabulous root beer. See enclosed flyer for more details or check the website [www.tiretires.org](http://www.tiretires.org).

NOTE: Bakery tour attire/food ‘SAFETY’ Guidelines: -- if you sign up, please read carefully

1. While in the manufacturing area...
  - a. Bags and purses are not permitted.
  - b. No sleeveless skirts, no shorts, no skirts. Wear slacks.
  - c. Jewelry (except smooth wedding rings) is NOT permitted.
  - d. No articles may be carried in shirt or pants pockets. (An envelope is provided.)
  - e. Chewing gum or eating food (e.g., candy) is NOT permitted.
2. Hairnets and beard covers are required—during the tour Bimbo Bakeries will provide.
3. Hair restraining devices shall contain NO loose decorations or objects such as sequins or other decorations nor be held in place with loose object such as hair pins, clips, combs, etc. Hair pins or clips may be used to tie up the hair under the hairnet, if necessary and secure. Bandanas MAY be worn under a hair net if neat and secure.
4. No open-toed shoes, e.g., sandals (slides/mules).
5. No spitting anytime.
6. Everyone entering the bakery must sanitize their hands. Afterwards, please do not touch equipment, ingredients and breads.
7. No cameras, video cameras or glass containers permitted inside.



**A bus is reserved for February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008** with a possibility of going to the Battle Ship Texas and San Jacinto Monument. We can eat at the Monument Inn. Remember, we need a new director to take over Daryl's work.

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## **Past News:**

**October 17, 2007 Wednesday at the Golden Corral**, there were 34 in attendance. There were three anniversary celebrations for October. They were Lawson and Kay Cook (24), Tony and Dee Amante (59), and Joe and Jeanne Brandt (44) years. Vivian Watkins and Israel Morales celebrated their birthdays. Door Prizes went to Miguel Alva, Thomas Johnson, Betty Parker, and Israel Morales. Daryl Moss gave handouts about "Investing Do's and Don'ts". The November handout will be "About Wine".

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**October 27, 2007** - We have excellent *color* pictures of the **Liberty Opry** this time.

**November 17, 2007** - Our *color* pictures of the "Barbarian Invasion" weekend at the **Texas Renaissance Festival** are on the following pages. Integrated with the pictures of each recent day trip is a companion descriptive write-up. Enjoy them!

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**November 21, 2007** – This being the day before Thanksgiving, we were surprised to see 29 in attendance. Cathy Griggs and Lynn Stefan celebrated November birthdays. There were no anniversaries. Door prizes went to Ligia Haworth, Lydia Barker, Israel Morales, and Lynn Stefan. Our guest speaker was Sandra Lord, who will be our guide and narrator on the "Jingle Jaunts on Wheels" trip on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to enjoy the labor of other people's beautiful decorations while riding in the bus.

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**Daren and Jewel Welch** attended Jewel's family reunion in October. It was held in North Louisiana. They spent several days in Shreveport also. Daren has been elected President of AARP Bayland Chapter 4418.

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**Mercedes and Miguel Alva** attended his 50<sup>th</sup> High School reunion in McAllen, Texas.

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**Charles and Linda Brixey** spent most of the past month traveling. They enjoyed two weeks in Hawaii with several of their children and Linda's Mother. This annual trip is



always filled with such spectacular scenery. They did a lot of hiking on the shore and inland to the waterfalls. They returned on Wednesday and flew Thursday to Cincinnati, Ohio for a niece's wedding. They enjoyed the festivities and time spent with family members they rarely get to see.

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**Howard and Mary Lee Cameron** took a cruise to the Panama Canal for sixteen days on "The Rhapsody of the Sea" in celebration of Howard's birthday in September.

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**Kay and Lawson Cook** spent the first two weeks of October in Dallas. Traveling in their 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer, they stayed at scenic Cedar Hill State Park on Joe Pool Lake. Each day they rode the DART Rail into downtown Dallas and enjoyed many of the museums and other attractions, as well as the State Fair of Texas. Details of this trip and other RV trips they have taken are posted on their web page at [www.cookfamilyhome.com](http://www.cookfamilyhome.com).

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**Tony and Susan Leigh's** youngest daughter, Christina, was married on October 13<sup>th</sup> to Jacob Clark, who is serving in the US Navy. He is stationed at Virginia Beach. Family members traveled from the U.K. to attend the celebration. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon at Disney World. Christina traveled back from Virginia Beach to be the "Lavender Lady" at the DBE Bazaar held in Sugar Land on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Her Dad (Tony) was the "Bobby" English for policemen at the event.

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**Allie and Dale Shroeder** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 8, Unfortunately, Allie has been in a nursing home for months, and Dale is legally blind but manages to visit her every day. If he doesn't get a ride, he takes a cab!!! Such dedicated love!!!

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We are sorry to announce the passing of our longtime, faithful Tier, **Bill Sakwitz** on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. He suffered a long time with cancer, and died in his sleep. We send our condolences to Dee Sakwitz and her family. Dee is a caretaker in her home for her 90 something year old Aunt.

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**Howard and Mary Lee Cameron** took a vacation to Branson, Missouri to see the Christmas Shows, and view the Christmas decorations throughout the city. They had

an especially enjoyable time. On November 13<sup>th</sup> their 6-year-old great grand daughter, Jessica Pastika, had brain surgery at the Texas Children's Hospital. The recovery is slow, but she is doing well. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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**Marian and Bob Gruber** enjoyed two deep-water cruises in two months this fall. They did the U.S. New England cities of New York, Boston, and Newport, and also visited several Northeastern Canadian ports in early October. They traveled with a group which made it all the more fun and the weather was great!

Two weeks later they did a boat tour, as part of a similar group, of the Southern Caribbean Islands for ten days. Except for the first few days of running from Hurricane Noel, it was a pleasant experience capped off by a terrific swim in the clear waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Between the two cruises, Marian & Bob also made a trip to visit their daughter in San Antonio and attend an Alamo Heights High School playoff football game which their son-in-law coached to a big win.

They also visited San Antonio in November for the Thanksgiving holidays. The turkey was super but the cold and wet weather made it a bit unpleasant for the trip home. At least it didn't snow, however, their home furnace did break down while they were gone, causing them to walk around the house like Eskimos for the next three days 'till it got fixed.

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**Vivian Watkins's** 12-year-old grandson, Collin, from Apple Valley, CA visited her from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 12<sup>th</sup>. They invited Grandpa Jerry to go with them to the Kemah Boardwalk several times to ride the rides, play the games and go through the haunted house. Another day they went to Johnson Spaceflight Center to do the NASA Tour. Collin took his first ride on the Bolivar ferry, and they played in the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston. They visited the Museum of Natural Science where they saw an IMAX show, went through the butterfly center, and also saw the Frogs Exhibit. Collin got his first taste of country living at the Fort Bend County fair where he saw his cousin's auction off their prize-winning rabbits. They also went to the FBCF rodeo. Collin is telling his parents he wants to move to Houston. Vivian says she needs a long rest first. His visit also included a Houston Dynamos Soccer Game. Vivian was given a surprise birthday party October 5<sup>th</sup> in Needville, Texas at her son's house with relatives.



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**“Southwest Ministries” on Bissonnet.**

We still have a need for nonperishable foods. Anything will be greatly appreciated. Please bring what you can to the next luncheon. We thank those who bring the food to our luncheons, and **Daren and Jewel Welch** for delivering it to the ministry.



## Sunshine Committee

Please contact the Sunshine Committee if you hear of any of our retirees with serious illnesses, surgeries, or deaths so we can let families know we care by sending cards from the Retirees. Lynn Stefan 713-777-2805

## Vigor Staff



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## Gem of the Day



**“You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.”**

**Merry**

**Christmas**



# Texas Renaissance Festival - November 17, 2007

Our day trip visit to the Texas Renaissance "Barbarian Invasion" Festival on November 17 could only be described as near perfect. Cool, cloudy day with lots of food and numerous attractions...something to suit everyone. Especially interesting were the Joust(s) staged in the Arena (filled to capacity at 1 p.m.)



and on the Falconer's Stage--Birds of Prey: hawk, owls, vulture.



About noon the 20 minute Grand Marche parade of the Royal Courts of Europe--200 performers--gave us the viewers a continuous show of costumes, all colorful, elaborate, some zany, a pleasing sight for the crowd lining the route. Over 30 percent of the paid attendees were in various sorts of medieval costume, everything from head-to-toe covering to almost nothing.



The funnel cakes and turkey legs and other multi-cultural foods and drinks were fabulous: no complaints on quality or variety. Our cameras were clicking to create wonderful memories throughout the day.

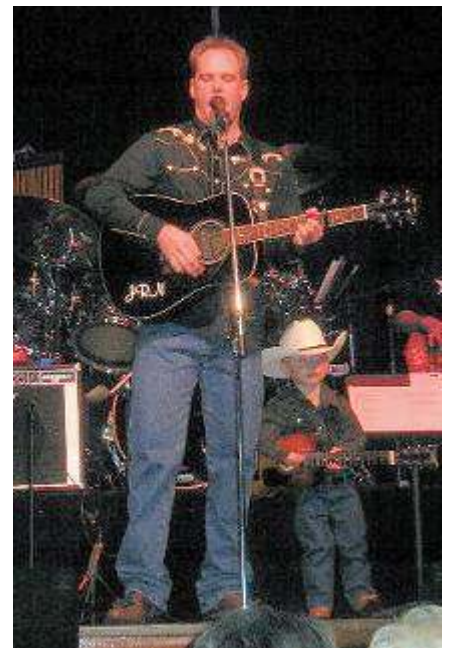


But being there, the sensual seeing and listening along with an enthusiastic crowd reinforced our eventual recall of events. We returned tired but totally satisfied with the day's experiences.



# The Liberty Opry - October 27, 2007

Twenty six members and four guests enjoyed one truly good time at the Liberty Opry Saturday night, October 27. This outstanding "LEGENDS" performance in front of a close-to-sell-out crowd was a tribute to many of the legends of country western music. The Opry band lived up to their reputation as the best in Texas. The starring performers (and comparable legends) follow: Jabbo Cannon (Jim Reeves), Matt Moody (George Strait), Jay Harvey (Merle Haggard, Ray Price), Jason Nelson (Johnny Cash), Glenodean Thomas (Loretta Lynn), Lee Garner (Marty Robbins), Karla Burris (Patsy Cline, Crystal Gayle), John Ray Baxter (Waylon Jennings) and Jim Cox (Vince Gill). Ray Sowell (beside doing a superb job as emcee), assisted in comedy routines [as did Karla] beside comedian Larry Etheridge, a.k.a. as "Bogger Lee", whose build up and final one-liners had the audience hooting. Betty Pekar, one of Sylvia Slanina's guest, won a white flower arrangement during the raffle at intermission. Our Tex-Mex fajita combo buffet at the nearby Casa Don Boni Mexican Restaurant had a wide offering of delicious sides along with a yummy sopapilla dessert, leaving us full, satisfied and ready to be entertained at the Opry.



TIRET : ECONOMICAL SOCIALIZING & FUN IN '08

# Wed JAN 23, 2008

BREWING (10 a.m.) + BAKING (2 p.m.)



BREAD

BBQ

BEER



TEXAS' OLDEST CRAFT BREWERY

**SORRY! 22 MAX THIS TRIP!**  
**STRICT DRESS CODE @BAKERY**  
- read the vigor!

Outlets:

11127 Bellaire Houston 77072  
2303 Ave. H Rosenberg 77471

- See first hand how bread is baked
- Entire op'n: flour, water, yeast, baking, packaging
- Samples included
- Escorted tour



## all you can eat fabulous B-B-Q

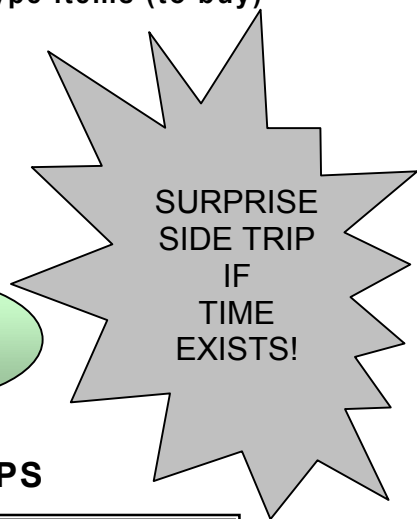
Root beer for non-drinkers

- Hops, mixing, brewing, aging, bottling & **tasting!**
- Escorted tour – ask questions
- Souvenir type items (to buy)

LARRY's BAR-B-Q & Smokehouse Co. – fabulous buffet (only BBQ buffet in Houston) - “best value for your money” – smokey pork ribs...red-peppered sausage...spicy glazed chicken salads & desserts (save some room for samples at Mrs. Baird's...)

Invite a guest to share your fun...

**COST IS ONLY \$17.00 PP**



**INCLUDES ROUND TRIP, FEES, FOOD, ALL TAXES & TIPS**

**WE LEAVE BAYLAND PARK AT 9:30 A.M. (PLS BE THERE AT 9:15)**

CALL IN ORDER TO SIGN UP TODAY TO SECURE YOUR RESERVATION

Send checks to → DARYL MOSS or call 281-494-7889

2007 CHRISTMAS PARTY

TIRET: ECONOMICAL SOCIALIZING & FUN

Thurs DECEMBER 13

Christmas Party

Safari Texas Ranch



Noel



WWW.SAFARITEXASBALLROOM.COM



San Antonio Room

DIRECTIONS

11627 FM1464  
Richmond 77469  
281-277-7888  
SEE LARGE MAP  
ON OUR  
WEB-SITE.

DINING  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
SING ALONG by...

hors d'oeuvres

cash bar

Christmas Photo



all ages  
all occasions

dancing  
song request



Suggested dress – semi-formal

Enjoy fantastic food and beverage service. Request Christmas songs or other favorites (40,000+) from a terrific DJ, Mike Messina. Plan ahead, look forward to a five-course meal with socializing and dancing in a totally pleasant atmosphere among retired friends at the best Fort Bend banquet facility. Invite a guest to share your evening!!

COST IS ONLY \$25 PER PERSON

SIGN UP TODAY – PLEASE PAY TODAY

Free parking – doors open at 6:30 P.M.

Call 281-498-2219, then make out check and send to:

ISRAEL MORALES 11506 Dorrance Meadows Place, TX 77477

## A Message from our President

Time sure flies! Here we are, less than 25 days until **Christmas!** We had two excellent day trips since our last edition of the Vigor. We enjoyed both the Liberty Opry and the Texas Renaissance Festival. The latter turned out to be an excellent outdoor event with almost perfect weather.

We also ratified our new Bylaws and had an election of officers. The board proposed a change to the membership requirement at our October luncheon meeting, but the change was questioned so a Special Committee was formed to look at TI's definition of a "Retiree". It was good the change was questioned because we got a clarification from TI Personnel that actually gave us a better definition and allows us to have members that are still working at TI and provides a broader definition of those who did not retire from TI.

We also re-elected the same officers for another one-year term. Previously I had asked the membership to present nominations to the nominating committee and they did not receive any. The present officers agreed to serve another term. Again, at our November meeting, I asked for nominations and there were none, hence the same officers were re-elected.

We have less than two weeks until our **TIRET CHRISTMAS PARTY**. If you haven't signed up and/or paid up, please call Israel Morales at 281-498-2219.

I want to wish every member and their family a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Ralph Garcia**