

# STLA NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS LONGHORN ASSOCIATION

## Show Business for 2007-2008 Season Takes Front Seat on July BOD Agenda

At a meeting of the STLA Board of Directors held on July 8, 2007, numerous options and venues for the upcoming show season were discussed and explored. After lengthy discussions and some stiff debate concerning problems with previous shows and the possibilities of new events to be added to the schedule, the BOD voted and approved three STLA-sponsored shows for the 2008 season.

The "Kids & Horns" Longhorn Show at the San Antonio Stock Show will be held in early February 2008 and is an annual event that brings together some of the top young show people from across the state and also includes the always-exciting non-haltered show with the running of the beautiful trophy steers at the San Antonio arena.

The Rockdale 3-Day Show, made up of three separate shows sponsored by three different affiliates in one weekend, is now slated for early April 2008. Now in its third year, this event will concentrate on youth competition primarily with one Open-Haltered show on Saturday afternoon only and a Trophy Steers exhibition on Saturday night.

A new show has been added to the line-up for the first weekend in December 2007 and will be billed as the STLA Winter Festival. The two-day show will be held at the Wharton County Youth Fair and Expo Center in Wharton, Texas and this site promises to be an outstanding facility and the nearby Wharton community—which already has a strong youth program in place—is excited to have the show come to their community. Plans are also in progress to include a breeder's workshop with the weekend activities.

More preliminary information about these show events is detailed on page 3.



It just wouldn't be a Field Day without a big hay-ride and pasture tour! STLA members and guests loaded on the trailers and headed out to see the Longhorns during the Spring Field Day and Annual General Meeting activities held at Star Creek Ranch in Somerville on May 26th. Over 100 people came from all across the state to brave the rains and join in the day's fun and fellowship.

*Field Day Photos by Daniel Harabis*

## Spring Field Day & AGM is The Biggest Splash in Years!

The dark clouds rolled in and heavy rains poured down early on the morning of May 26, making for a muddy and soggy day all across Texas. But the spirits of STLA members and other guests were not drowned out by the weather as more than 100 people traveled to Somerville for the Spring '07 Field Day and STLA Annual General Meeting. The event is one of the most well-attended in recent history.

Hosted by Darlene Aldridge and John Parmley (and their crew) at Star Creek Ranch, the day included a wide variety of activities, fun, fellowship, and learning for the group.

The morning activities were kicked off with a welcome to the group from Suzanne Perry, STLA Events Chair and ranch host, Darlene Aldridge.

Steven Zunker then presented the first scholarship award of the new STLA Scholarship Program. The 2007 recipient was Destiny Rogers of League City who was presented with a \$500 contribution to her college education.

During the later part of the morning, the large crowd then broke into two smaller groups and moved into the barn to attend a workshop on Ultra-sound Use in Pregnancy Determination for Cattle presented by Darlene Aldridge. Members and guests were able to gather around the working chute to observe actual ultra-sound testing on several different females. Aldridge performed examinations on an open cow, and also on other cows at various stages of gestation so all could view the embryos safely implanted in the uterus and see the indication of a heartbeat while watching the ultra-sound screen.

Lunch followed at noon with an outdoor buffet of chicken fried steak, fried chicken, potatoes, and peach cobbler that was rounded-out with an delicious array of pot-luck side dishes and desserts furnished the membership.

After lunch, Star Creek Ranch proudly announced the winners of their door prizes for



### There were some big smiles on Graduation Day!

STLA Scholarship Committee Chairman, Steven Zunker, had the honor of presenting the first award of the new Youth Scholarship Program to recent high-school grad Destiny Rogers of League City, Texas during the STLA Field Day and AGM. Destiny is the daughter of STLA members Dennis and Trisha Rogers and received a \$500 scholarship payable to the college of her choice for future education expenses.

STLA will award scholarships each May to qualified, graduating high-school seniors in the association based on specific program requirements and the completion of an essay and scholarship documents. See the STLA website after Jan. 1st for more information on scholarships for 2008 graduates.



**Darlene Aldridge points out a developing fetus with a heartbeat** as part of the field demonstration of ultrasound technology for pregnancy checking. Field Day attendees were able to watch live ultra-sound testing on different cows at various stages of gestation and see the size and shape of the embryo at those stages of development.

*Field Day Photos by Daniel Harabis*

the day. Charles and Becky Magan, of Tyler, received a free AI breeding at the facility and Gail and Theo Kocian, of Hallettsville, won a pasture breeding of their choice to any of Star Creek's outstanding herd sires.

The early afternoon activities were devoted to the STLA Annual General Meeting, which is required once each year by association by-laws. President, Rick Adams conducted the membership meeting which included general business, announcements, officer reports, and the election of board members and officers for the

2007-2008 term. (See the full election results on the last page of this newsletter; minutes of the annual general meeting are currently available on the STLA website.)

As part of the meeting, a special presentation was made by the Board of Directors to long-time STLA members George and Eileen Gillespie of San Antonio for their many years of dedication and service to the association. The Gillespies were recognized with a Life-Time Membership in STLA and received a beautiful plaque to commemorate that honor.

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## President's Letter

Dear Members,

Our Annual General Membership Meeting and Field Day made for an outstanding day. We were hosted by Darlene Aldridge, DVM and John Parmley at their Star Creek Ranch in Somerville. Thank you to our hosts and to all who worked so hard to make this such a fun and successful day. The Field Day was attended by over 100 members and friends.

At each AGM, the STLA membership elects a Board of Directors and officers to serve for the next year. I would like to thank our nominating committee for their service. Wilton Wilton chaired the committee. Gail Kocian and Daniel Harabis served with him. I want to thank our two outgoing Board members, Lonnie Shan and Jody Beck, for their many years of service to the STLA. Both chose not to run for re-election. We also need to welcome our new Board members: Ray Berger, Cindy Dennis, and Glen West. They join a Board that has been very active in your service.

Please take time to provide the STLA Board with your thoughts and ideas. You will find phone numbers and e-mail addresses listed for each Board member on the website. You can also provide feedback and make suggestions by using the website's Message Board. Please take this opportunity to get involved in your South Texas Longhorn Association

Also, check the STLA Calendar at [www.stla.org/](http://www.stla.org/) for the latest info about our upcoming Longhorn events.

Until next time, *Rick Adams*

# SFFN & noted

## Rork Donations Net Big Funds for STLA Scholarship Program

Long-time STLA members and breeders **Bob and Linda Rork** of San Antonio (Rockhouse Ranch) recently donated the contents of their semen tank and a large collection of old Texas Longhorn sale catalogs and magazines to our association when they decided to leave the cattle business.

The STLA Board of Directors agreed to sell the semen in various lots at some of the Best at West Sales and also made it available for purchase in smaller quantities via the association's web site.

With the hard work of Lonnie Shan, the complete assortment of magazines and sale catalogs was also sold on eBay.

Recently, the last straws of the semen supply were sold at the West Sale in August.

Total proceeds from the sale of all of these donated items were \$2,720.50 and funds have been earmarked by the Rork's to go to the Youth Scholarship Program.

A big "Thank You" again to Bob and Linda for this generous donation that will certainly help support scholarships for our young people for many years to come.

## Membership Renewals and New Memberships Are On the Rise in 2007

Renewals for STLA memberships have been on a steady increase since the May AGM & Field Day and our association is excited to include several new members in recent months. The new 5-year Sustaining Membership option has also proven to be popular with the STLA group.

At this time, there are a total of 103, active members in the association which includes nine life-time memberships. Out of this group there have been 14 who have elected the 5-year membership plan.

During May to July, STLA gained 15 new members. Please welcome the following folks: Jill Douglas, Jim & Carolyn Van Duzee, Annie Wight, Marc Goulait, Keith & Kim Turner, Jeff Saylor, Debbie Macey, Ken & Melissa Rod, Jimmie & Carol Goodman, Asa & Joan Gamble, Mona Alloway, Kathy Jamieson, Frank & Jane Epps, Aaron Wilson, and Danny & Merilou Russell.

Membership dues are payable each year in May. The Board allows an extra 90-day grace period during the summer months for

### Minutes Now on the Website

The minutes from STLA general membership meetings, as well as Board of Directors' meetings will be posted on the website soon after each event. Please allow approximately two weeks' time for transcription. Minutes can be found at the bottom of the Officers & Directors page and are available in a printer-friendly format.

everyone to become current. on their dues. As of September 1st, anyone who has not paid dues for the year will be dropped from running a classified ad, having their ranch listing included on the STLA website, or from participating in a current Trails' Co-op ad. Membership renewal forms are available online. For additional information, please contact Allen Perry, Membership Chair at 512/970-3793 or by e-mail at [aperry@pearl-longhorn-ranch.com](mailto:aperry@pearl-longhorn-ranch.com).

## STLA Show Calendar

*All shows are TLBT / TLBAA sanctioned and World Qualifying*

### December 8-9, 2007

STLA Winter Festival  
Wharton, Texas

A new two-day Longhorn Show in combination with a Saturday evening dinner and other scheduled events; includes Open Haltered Show, Youth Show, and Non-Haltered competition. Show info packets will be mailed out on request.

Contact: *Cindy Dennis, Show Chair at 512 / 565-5340. More information will be posted on the STLA website starting in mid-Sept.*

### February 2, 2008

San Antonio Longhorn Show  
San Antonio, Texas

The annual, all-day Saturday Longhorn Show at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo featuring *Kid's & Horns*; kicks off with the Youth Show on Saturday morning followed by Non-Haltered competition of females and trophy steers in the afternoon. **Entry deadline is December 1, 2007.**

Contact: *Steven Zunker, Show Chair at 210 / 827-3940. Watch for more details on the STLA website in early October.*

### April 4-6, 2008

Rockdale Triple Show  
Rockdale, Texas

Third annual Rockdale 3-Day Show to include youth competition in three separate shows on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, plus Open Haltered Show and a Trophy Steers Show on Saturday.

Contacts: *Tammy Tiner (HOT Affiliate) at 979 / 696-3707 or Rick Adams (STLA) at 512 / 303-7017. More information will be posted on the STLA website in early 2008.*



George and Eileen Gillespie of San Antonio (center) were honored with a special Achievement Award for their many years of dedication and service as part of the Annual General Meeting at the May 26th Field Day. They were presented with a Life Membership by association President, Rick Adams (left) and Treasurer, Bill Plaisance (right)

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

# Cattle STD's: Leptospirosis & Vibriosis

**Leptospirosis.** At least five species of leptospira, a corkscrew-like bacteria, can affect cattle in the United States. The species most commonly found are *hardjo*, *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *canicola*, *L. pomona*, and *grippotyphosa*. The most common species affecting cattle is *L. pomona*.

Multiple abortions in the breeding herd are often the first sign of this disease. The clinical signs in adult cattle include yellow mucous membranes and bloody appearing urine, which are seen only occasionally. The milk of lactating cows may become thick, yellow and blood-tinged. Abortion occurring two to five weeks after infection is common, but most will occur about the seventh month of gestation. Diagnosis is confirmed by a blood test or culturing the organism.

Vaccines are available for five of the leptospira species that affect cattle (L5). Vaccination should be done annually at 30 to 60 days before the breeding season. Leptospirosis vaccine is often combined with the Vibriosis vaccine.

**Vibriosis** (*Campylobacter fetus*) in cattle is an infectious bacterial disease of the genital tract causing infertility and occasional abortions. It is a venereal disease spread by infected bulls when they mate susceptible cows and heifers. It is considered to be *the most important cause of infertility in cattle*.

Good vaccines are available, but the disease still causes losses simply because vaccinations are not done in many herds. Infection introduced into a non-vaccinated herd will spread rapidly during breeding season.

Repeated breeding activity is generally seen in animals that were assumed to be pregnant. Irregular estrus cycles are common. Absorption or expulsion of a small fetus probably explains the long estrus cycle seen with this disease. Varying degrees of vaginal inflammation and uterine infection are present but may be unrecognized. Abortion rates in infected herds generally run from 5% to 30%. Some females may carry the fetus longer and may abort a sizeable fetus at 5 to 6 months into the gestation period. Retained placentas are also common. Diagnosis is confirmed by culture of the causative organism from cervical mucus or from an aborted fetus.

Vibriosis is somewhat self-limiting as most of the cattle recover within a year. Disease carriers are common, however, and new infection can spread to non-exposed animals. Vibriosis is best controlled by vaccination, which renders animals highly resistant to infection. Vaccination involves two injections, 4-6 weeks apart in the first year, and a single dose of vaccine each year thereafter.

Vaccination should be completed 4 weeks before breeding. Vibriosis vaccine is often combined with Leptospirosis in one vaccine (VL5). The use of artificial insemination is also valuable in limiting disease spread. Most A.I. organizations will test the semen to assure that it is free of vibriosis and trichomoniasis.

Annual vaccinations for VL5 are an important component for maintaining a healthy breeding herd. For more specific information, consult your veterinarian.

*Excerpted from CattleToday.com/info/ cattle diseases*

## Field Day Splash

(Continued from page 2)

As the annual meeting concluded, the storms also moved out of the area, the sun peeked out, and the remaining members and guests were able to pile on the trailers and enjoy a traditional hay ride and pasture tour to see the Texas Longhorn herd at Star Creek. John and Darlene drove the group through their extensive pastures, giving background information on their cattle and allowing for numerous photo opportunities.

Throughout the day, members and guests had been able to place bids on a variety of donated Longhorn items and artwork available in the Silent Auction. After the pasture tour, the auction was closed and high bidders were announced. STLA raised almost \$900 from the bidding. All proceeds from Silent Auctions are used to fund the Youth Scholarship Program.

Watch the STLA Calendar of Events to find more fun and educational membership events planned for late 2007 and early next year.

### Board Election Results from the Annual General Meeting, 5-26-07

Board members elected for a new two-year term include:

**Bill Plaisance** (second term)

**Clarence Harabis** (second term)

**Steven Zunker** (second term)

**Suzanne Perry** (second term)

**Teresa Castillo** (second term)

**Ray Berger** (first term)

**Glen West** (first term)

**Cindy Dennis**

(to complete a one-year term)

**Christy Randolph** will remain on the Board as immediate Past President.

#### STLA Officers for 2007-2008:

**President: Rick Adams**

**Vice President: Steven Zunker**

**Vice President: Clarence Harabis**

**Secretary: Barbara Homer**

**Treasurer: Bill Plaisance**

*A complete listing of all STLA Board Members with individual contact information can be found on the STLA website. Go to the Officers & Directors page.*



South Texas Longhorn Association

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