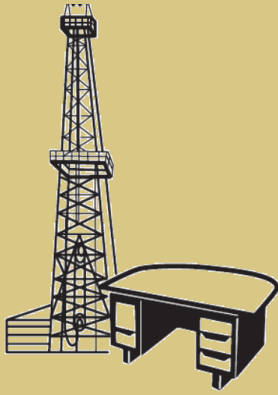


# Dateline

VOLUME 74—ISSUE 5

MAY, 2024



**Greater  
Knowledge -  
Greater Service**

## Inside this issue:

President's Letter— Rena Shaffer	3
Central Region Director's Letter— Michelle Burgard	4
ADDC President's Letter— Wendy Sparks	5
April Program Review	7
Fuel for Thought	29
From the Derrick Floor	31
May Program— John Bernard with Barnard Insurance Co.	42



**DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS**

*Annual Spring Classic*

# GOLF

## TOURNAMENT

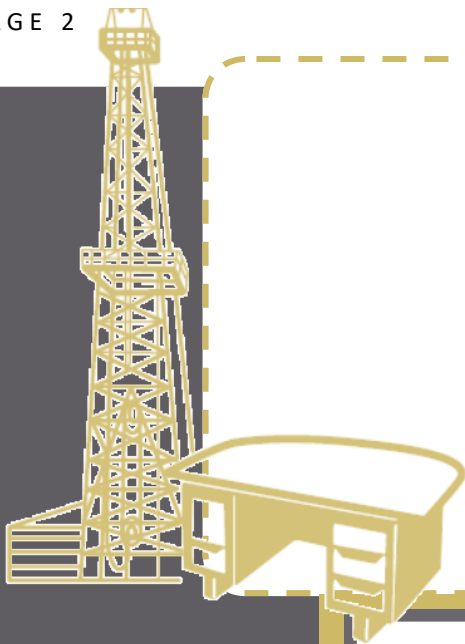
**MAY 17, 2024**



*A great day for Golf, Food,  
Friendships, and Networking  
in true D&D style!!*

See inside for more  
details. Page 23-24

Desk and Derrick Club of *Wichita Falls*



# 2024 Board of Directors

President: Rena Shaffer

Vice President: Tracy Flynn

Secretary: Nichole Harney

Treasurer: Lauren Martin

2 Year Director: Debbie Hicks

1 Year Director: Shirley Bridwell

Immediate Past President: Sheila McGaughey

Parliamentarian: Diana Walker

*Monthly Board Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month in the office of Eagle Oil & Gas Co. at Noon. All members are invited to attend.*

*Eagle Oil and Gas Co.  
2525 Kell Blvd, Ste 510  
Wichita Falls, TX  
76308*



## Club Purpose

The Purpose of the club shall be to promote the educational and professional development of individuals employed in or affiliated with the petroleum, energy and allied industries, and to educate the general public about these industries.

## Club Motto

Greater Knowledge—Greater Service

## Official Colors

Black and Gold

## From the Editors:

April will be a month to remember! Our Central Region Meeting in Great Bend, Kanas was far-out and groovy-man! We had some fantastic field trips, an awesome speaker at the Saturday Luncheon, fun spray painting a VW Bug, tie-dying towels and getting tattoos (temporary, of course) at the Friday Night Ice Breaker. We did really good on all of our contest entries, Rena will let you know everything at our membership meeting. Nichole Harney accepted the gavel to be our 2025 Central Region Director. Yea, Nichole! Nichole is great at everything she does and this will be no exception! Looking forward to what 2025 has in store for her and our club!

We are just days away from our Annual Spring Golf Tournament. The Golf Committee has been working very diligently and we are ready to greet all the players during registration, to see familiar faces and exchange how-do-you-dos from players that we haven't seen in a year and there is nothing better than to hear the ping of those golf shots being made to start the tournament. Everyone loves this tournament!

In this bulletin you will find some great articles from co-editors Nichole Harney and Ashley Pierce, along with a great write-up from Tracy Flynn from our April membership meeting.

Peace, Love and Golf  
Sheila, Nichole and Ashley



If you ever have anything you would like to contribute to the Dateline—please let us know.





Association of  
Desk & Derrick  
Clubs

**Desk and Derrick  
Club of  
Wichita Falls**

**Board of Directors**

**Rena Shaffer**  
President

**Tracy Flynn**  
Vice President

**Nichole Harney**  
Secretary

**Lauren Martin**  
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**Shirley Bridwell**  
One-Year Director

**Debbie Hicks**  
Two-Year Director

**Sheila McGaughey**  
Immediate Past  
President

**Diana Walker**  
Parliamentarian

**May 2024**

We had a Groovy time at our Central Region meeting in Great Bend, Kansas! Our field trip was fun and educational. We toured JACAM where they manufacture more than 800 products across the entire lifecycle of the oilfield, from completions and stimulation to production and pipelines. We learned how the Earth provides for our health while touring Hyatt Life Sciences. We even ate lunch in a park beside a beautiful neighborhood pond – so relaxing! Our Ice Breaker theme was Good Vibes – Groovy Times. We dressed for the times with our bell-bottoms, boots, colored shades, and peace-sign necklaces and grooved to the music while spray painting a VW Bug and Van. Several of us even got a tattoo! It was temporary, but it was really Far Out Man!

Our business meetings were very informative. We will soon be receiving five proposed amendments to discuss from ADDC. The Industry Speaker was Warren Martin, who serves as Executive Director of Kansas Strong, and he was an amazing speaker. The Awards Luncheon was full of awards and recognitions. We will showcase them at our membership meeting next week. It was a great meeting – wish that all of our members could have attended!

Our annual golf tournament will take place next week, May 17 at The Champions Course at Weeks Park. It's always a lot of fun so encourage any golfers you know to sign up! Thank you to our Golf Committee for always making this a successful fundraiser for our MSU scholarships!

Our Field Trip committee has a couple of ideas in mind, so stay tuned for a fun, adventurous, educational trip.

Our speaker this month will be John Barnard, with Barnard Insurance. His topic is "Hard Insurance Market for Oil and Gas". Hope to see you at the meeting!!

Rena Shaffer



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**Angie Corvers**  
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**WEST REGION  
DIRECTOR**  
**Heather Woods**  
Whiptail Midstream

**Michelle Burgard**  
2024 Region Director  
333 W Sheridan Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
405-552-6642  
Michelle.burgard@dvn.com

May 2024

Hello Members,

Happy Spring! I hope the April showers bring all of you beautiful May flowers!

I know May is a busy month with the end of school year, graduations, Memorial Day and the start of summer. I hope all of you get to spend time with your families celebrating, enjoying fun and fellowship!

The 2024 Central Region Meeting is almost here! I'm excited to see everybody on April 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> in Great Bend, Kansas. The Great Bend Club has been working hard on planning a great Central Region Meeting. I have been working on the podium book, program, and the Club President's meeting. We will put our heads together and come up with a plan for the region for the rest of the year. I can't wait to see all of you in Great Bend, Kansas! Let's have a groovy meeting!

We will have an Open Forum at the Region Meeting even if there aren't any proposed ADDC bylaws or standing rules to discuss. I want you all to know that the Open Forum is open for everyone to speak. You may bring up or discuss problems or good things your clubs are doing. We will have the ADDC President and myself there to answer any questions you might have on the ADDC operations so far this year.

Remember, that your Tax forms are due May 15, 2024, to Jennifer Smith ([mactechjas@verizon.net](mailto:mactechjas@verizon.net)) and Melodee Guerrero ([melodee@echoproduction.com](mailto:melodee@echoproduction.com)). If you have any questions or problems let us know. Also, a reminder that any ADDC Treasurer's reports cannot be published on club websites or in club newsletters.

The ADDC 73rd Annual International Convention and Educational Conference will be held on September 25th - 28th, 2024 in Dallas, Texas at the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton - Dallas - Campbell Center. The Certification Course is TBD.

I'm excited to see what May brings our way!

Michelle Burgard,  
2024 Region Director





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SOUTHEAST REGION  
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ExxonMobil Chemicals

WEST REGION  
DIRECTOR  
**Heather Woods**  
Whiptail Midstream

**Wendy Sparks**  
2024 ADDC PRESIDENT  
34627 E County Rd 1517, Paoli OK 73074  
405.760.2884 (cell)  
[wsparks@cegx.net](mailto:wsparks@cegx.net)

May 2024

**ADDC Membership**

Region Meetings have started! As I write this, West Region is getting ready for their weekend in Corpus Christi. They are changing up the "normal" schedule a bit and having their business meeting on Friday and Field Trip on Saturday! Wishing Heather Woods and West Region a wonderful meeting.

Speaking of regional meetings, Southeast Region is holding their meeting virtually so if you are available you might ask for the link! It will be held this Saturday, April 20 at 10am. This will be Angie Corvers first meeting as Region Director so hopefully several of us will be on to support!

Central Region and Michelle Burgard will be in Great Bend, KS April 25-27. The Great Bend club members are EXCELLENT hosts so I am hoping some members from other regions can attend!

Finally, the Northeast Region and Shelly Hildebrand will be hosting in Canonsburg, PA in May! I have attended a NE Region meeting in the past and I can say it was one of the best meetings I've ever been to.

As I mentioned last month, I think it bares repeating. The Board will soon be sending out the **Proposed 39 Bylaw Amendments and 6 Standing Rule Amendments**. The Rules Committee Chair, Diana Walker, Parliamentarian, Evelyn Green, and I will be working diligently on how to make this process go as smoothly as possible. These will be able to be discussed at the regional meetings so PLEASE take the time to read BEFORE and ask questions to your Region Directors during the open forum. As always, I am also available for questions.

Please access the ADDC website as often as you can. Also, if you have changes that need to be made to your information, you can update at your convenience. [www.addc.org](http://www.addc.org),

"Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you."  
~Unknown

Sincerely,  
*Wendy Sparks*

# 2024 COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET & FINANCE**

Diana Walker - Board Contact  
Diana Walker - Chairman  
Lauren Martin, Tracy Flynn

## **BULLETIN/SCRAPBOOK**

Sheila McGaughey— Board Contact  
Sheila McGaughey— Chairman  
Nichole Harney, Ashley Pierce

## **BYLAWS**

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact  
Barbara Pappas - Chairman  
Tracy Flynn

## **EDUCATION**

Shirley Bridwell - Board Contact  
Jordan Moss - Chairman  
Doris Sterling

## **FIELD TRIP**

Sheila McGaughey - Board Contact  
Sheila McGaughey - Chairman  
Cecil Duke, Nelva White

## **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Debbie Hicks - Board Contact  
Debbie Hicks - Chairman  
Shirley Bridwell

## **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact  
Tracy Flynn/Vickie Young—Co-Chairman  
Casie Mass, Jordan Moss,  
Sheila McGaughey

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Diana Walker — Board Contact  
Barbara Franklin/Diana Walker  
— Co-Chairmen  
Nelva White

## **PROGRAM**

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact  
Tracy Flynn - Chairman  
Nichole Harney, Barbara Pappas,  
Vickie Young

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Nichole Harney - Board Contact  
Nichole Harney - Chairman  
Jordan Moss



## Fundamentals of Solar Energy

Nick Gilleland – Davis Electric Co.

What is solar? It is energy produced by the sun's rays. A lot of people have a misunderstanding that it has something to do with heat. Heat is actually a killer of electricity, so the most energy efficient day is going to be a 50° day with a lot of sunlight.

Photovoltaics or PV really just means turning light into electricity.

There's plenty of sunlight here. There's enough energy in one hour, produced on the planet to power the planet for an entire year.

Davis Electric started out with wind and solar but realized that a small wind turbine on a residential or small commercial scale is a very big maintenance issue. Wind requires a lot of space because if the tower is 100 feet tall, it requires 100 feet in every direction in case it falls. There's a lot of maintenance on wind just because it has moving parts. Solar energy doesn't have moving parts and doesn't have maintenance issues.

Big wind systems benefit from more energy at a higher elevation. Plus you can have cattle around all the wind farms. You can't have cattle around all of the solar farms because cattle like to use them as backscratchers, and they will get damaged.

There are two types of solar energy installations. Off grid and grid tied systems, and you need a buffer whenever you're on a grid type system

Most of the energy that we produce is during the day when the sun's out, but we need power 24 hours a day. The grid allows us to use the sun, send the energy back to them and they credit us for it, and we get to use that energy at night. So that's our buffer.

If you don't have a grid system, then you would have an off grid system. You would put that energy that you over produce into batteries and then you would use that from the batteries at night.

We've had windstorms and thunderstorms and we've had some ice storms lately that the batteries have been a good option for that as well as generators. Davis also does generator installations and they're really an efficient way of producing energy whenever you need it.

Mr. Gilleland brought up tax benefits for installing solar panels. From [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov): "The Residential Clean Energy Credit equals 30% of the [costs of new, qualified clean energy property](#) for your home installed anytime from 2022 through 2032. The credit percentage rate phases down to 26 percent for property placed in service in 2033 and 22 percent for property placed in service in 2034. You may be able to take the credit if you made energy saving improvements to your home located in the United States.

The credit is nonrefundable, so the credit amount you receive can't exceed the amount you owe in tax. You can carry forward any excess unused credit, though, and apply it to reduce the tax you owe in future years. Do not include interest paid including loan origination fees.

The credit has no annual or lifetime dollar limit except for [credit limits for fuel cell property](#). You can claim the annual credit every year that you install eligible property until the credit begins to phase out in 2033.”

When it comes to electricity buyback plans, net metering is the ideal situation. You can sell the energy back and they're going to buy it for the same rate that we're buying, and that's what net metering is. A lot of REP's (Retail Electric Provider) will buy and sell energy for the exact same price. If you're over producing energy during the day, which most people are going to, that excess is just sitting there and lost if your energy provider doesn't have a policy to buy back the energy.

There are several different ways which solar panels can be set up:

Roof mounted solar arrays, which is usually the least expensive. They weigh about the same as a layer of composition shingles. If installed correctly there is no chance of leaks. There may be structural concerns and weight and wind load must be considered.

Ground mounted panes are usually the best choice. They get to orient it in the exact way that they want it for optimal sunlight, put it at 30° pitch, take it away from any tree lines. They can be used as equipment shelter or even shade for livestock.

Carport or patio structure mounted is also an option. People can take advantage of the tax credit that way too. Whenever the structure that we build is holding up solar panels, then it is technically just a solar structure you can park underneath it and that's fine, but it's something that can benefit from the 30% tax credit.

If you've bought \$30,000 worth of solar panels, then you'll get money back on that tax credit. Now, you don't pay any federal income taxes. You don't qualify for any federal income tax credits. You can sell those tax credits to corporations, who might buy them for \$0.50 or \$0.75 on the dollar. If you have a \$100,000 tax credit, they'll give you \$75,000 for it. You get to benefit a little bit from it, but they also get to benefit a little bit from it as well. They pay less taxes and you pay less taxes, so there's several ways you can get away from the federal taxpayer problem if you are someone that doesn't pay any taxes, like some retired people. It cannot add taxable value to whatever property that it's attached to. There's paperwork they fill out that says that the tax value on your property cannot be increased because it has solar panels attached to it. It would negate from any tax benefits you get from adding solar panels to the property. A 3000 square foot house with a \$10 electric bill is easier to sell than a 3000 square foot house with \$1000 electric bill. People have both questions and misunderstandings about efficiency. 10,000 watts of inefficient solar panels is the exact same power output as 10,000 watts of the most efficient solar panels. Higher efficiency means the solar will take up less space.



Cities require an engineer's stamp for most roof mounted commercial systems. Unlike anywhere near Dallas, Davis Electric finds it simple to work with local regulations in Wichita Falls and the surrounding areas when it comes to getting approval for the design and project layouts.

If you were to do a solar array at a pump jack or tank battery site, those are typically outside of city jurisdiction and there shouldn't be any problems with regulations.



This is a typical roof mounted solar array.

Davis Electric started installing Tesla Powerwall batteries about 8-9 months ago. They are easy to install. You pick them up, hang them on the wall and you plug them in. There's no screws or anything. You just hang it up and plug it in. The battery can be replaced in 30 minutes.

This customer purchased the batteries from Tesla and Mr. Gilleland installed them.



So how many batteries do you need? Mr. Gilleland has one battery at his 2500 square foot house which is a moderately new build, pretty efficient, spray foam insulation. He doesn't need as much as someone that lives in a less efficient house.

To test his out, Nick turned off his main breaker, not long after he got the battery, because he saw on the weather that it was going to be sun and 50°. He was able to use his electricity for eight days until they ran out of sunlight. It recharges from 40% back up to 100%

within two to three hours.

Q: But if it was winter and it's colder, is it not going to recharge as well?

A: No, actually solar works better in colder, sunnier climates. When it's 105° outside and really sunny, the heat is actually taking a decent amount of the percentage of efficiency away from the whole system. At 55°, even a little lower, and sunny, that's the best for solar to produce energy.

When the system is designed, it's designed per house, based on many factors. Example, what's your largest load? Let's say you turn on your electric heat and your hot tub and you wanted to cook something in your electric oven all at once. That's some of your biggest load right there. All that is taken into consideration when a system is being designed.

Q: What's the cost to install a battery?

A: I think we're installing batteries for \$16,500 for the first one. Then you get the tax credit. It's like \$11,500–12,000 on the second one.

Q: And the IRS just rights you a check back?

A: It's a little different than deducting it from your taxes. You'd think if you made \$100 grand and bought this, you'd deduct it from your income and pay taxes on what's left. This is a little different. If you've paid in \$10,000 and then the IRS owes you \$10,000 back because of the tax credit, they'll write you that check for \$10,000 back. But let's say you paid in \$5000, and they owe you 10,000 on the tax credit. They're only going to write you back the \$5000, and then next year you can get the other.

Q: What if you sell your house?

A: You wouldn't want to take the solar with you. It's mounted physically to the structure or if it's a ground mount, it's concreted in.

Q: Could you pass on the tax credit to the buyers?

A: No, even if you left the house, you still qualified for that tax rate. You still paid for that solar, so you still qualify for that tax rate. You can move four times and still be acquiring that tax credit over the next 20 years.

Q: I've always heard that putting it on the roof, you'll have problems with your homeowner's insurance.

A: There's one company that I've ever seen that had that issue and it was a like a Farmers Branch or something. And they were not insuring people, but all the 10 large ones that we deal with they all insured just fine. My insurance went up \$40 a year. They cover the repairs if the solars get damaged. What typically happens is a hailstorm damages your roof and you need to replace the roof. The insurance company pays us to take the panels off. You get a new roof and then the same panels go back on.



Q: How are they properly disposed of?

A: The solar panel is silica. It's a rock that is good at absorbing photons and then it's just some copper wiring on the backside. It's glass over the top with aluminum framing. So you can just throw them away at the at the landfill, there's nothing hazardous.

Q: What about old batteries, does our landfill take them?

A: No, I don't think so. Whenever I got certified, I didn't realize how difficult it was going to be to get certified for lithium ion transportation. Those lithium battery packs, they're just a whole bunch of AA batteries, all wired in series in parallel.

I have to legally dispose of it, and I'm going to send it back to Tesla.

I'm pretty sure there's nowhere around here that I could drop a 400 lb. battery off at.

Q: What's the warranty on these Tesla batteries?

A: There is a 10 year warranty on the Tesla batteries.

Q: Do they come in different sizes or just a standard size and you add multiples?

A: It's a standard size.

Q: How much does one of these weigh?

A: 360 lbs. In the picture of the Tesla batteries, that customer wanted four of them on a sheetrock wall. They are hung on studs.

Q: Do y'all also install battery chargers for cars?

A: Yeah, we do a lot of those now. We're going to Weatherford to do ten of those tomorrow. I just did one for Best Western across from Herb Easley. I didn't realize how limiting electric vehicle charging is in Wichita Falls. You can look on the map and there's three in between Henrietta and here.

Q: Do you also do recreational vehicles like campers?

A: Yes. We did a job trailer for James Lane a couple of years ago, completely off grid, two batteries in the corner, just enough to run lights, a fan in there and charge all their batteries. They use it every day. It's still working really well. We do anything, I mean, I'll do anything once, at least until I realize it wasn't fun or it didn't make any money. I almost didn't try the Tesla battery, but someone in fact, it was that guy whose batteries are shown in the picture. He bought those himself from Tesla and

wanted us to install them. I said, well, I'll do that because then I don't feel like I'm tied to it as much. And it turned out to be extremely simple. And then we've done a lot of them ever since.

We've done a lot of generators and these things, they hook up exactly like the generators do, the transfer switch in between and everything.

Q: What type of generators do you normally use?

A: We are a Kohler dealer. They're natural gas and propane. We do diesel as well, but that's a very expensive generator. Three times the cost on a diesel versus a natural gas or propane. But we do a lot of generators, probably 50 to 75 generators a year, both residential and commercial.

Q: So you're basically just selling and installing hardware?

A: Yeah. And we do maintenance packages on them.

Q: So if they have to replace their roof, like the one in the picture, and you disassemble all this stuff, take it all off, is that typically covered under the insurance claim?

A: Yeah, I've never had to charge a customer. And we've probably done 150-200 of those and I've never had to charge a custom.

Q: So if somebody gets one of these solar arrays, do you help facilitate anything, getting them hooked up or they just call their retail electric provider?

A: I do all of it. You physically have to make the phone call to your retail electric provider, but I can be sitting right there while you do it and make sure you're on the right plan. There are several providers that offer buyback plans. Reliant, I have Gexa right now at my house, Green Mountain Energy, TXU. There's like six or seven. They've been the ones that have participated in a good buyback for 15-20 years now.

Q: Alliance?

A: No Alliance is locally owned. No, they don't. I don't see it being a great benefit for that company though, because they're moderately small and they keep to a smaller area.

Q: What about Cirro Electric?

A: Cirro, I think they have a policy because I'm pretty sure I had Cirro a while back, but I'm not quite sure. Energy rates right now are astronomically high.

So one thing that a lot of people and this is a little off topic, but a lot of people don't understand that Oncor was in bankruptcy for like 12 years, and when you're in bankruptcy, the court dictates how you run your business because their goal is to get you out of bankruptcy in a legal, ethical way as



fast as possible. So they made a plan. Don't change anything, restructure this, build the exact same and we'll get you out of bankruptcy in a 10 year plan.

Well, it took 12 years. They didn't get to raise their rates because that's part of bankruptcy. Can't raise your rates because raising rates sometimes drops the customer base when that's not true because you don't have the choice. You have to have Oncor, right? They didn't raise their rates until they got out of bankruptcy. They went from charging \$9.99 per meter to now a six cent per kWh charge. So a lot of bills that I've seen have gone from \$10 a month to \$300 a month just from the Oncor charge. That's completely separated from your energy charge.

Even if you go online to Power to Choose and look, it's very misrepresented in there. It'll say 11.9 cents. That's not at all what you're going to pay if you look in at the actual wording, it's this plus this, and you only get 11.9 if you use them between 999 and 1,100. If you use anything outside of that, it's 18.9 cents and then you pay 6 cents. Our average rate right now is 21.22 cents a kilowatt. It used to be 11. So it's changed a lot.

Most of the energy the solar is going to produce is in the 8 hours of sunlight that we get, but only five of that is good, good sunlight. We're trying to produce 24 hours worth of energy in a very short window. If they don't have a policy, all of that excess that you've produced, they're just going to get it and sell it to your neighbor and make money on it. You're not going to get any benefit from it. Now, if you have a battery, it goes into the battery, so the battery is good for that. It's also good for backup, but then you don't really need a battery if you have a good buyback plan with a good policy holder. The easiest thing to do is to switch over to a different provider, if that's feasible

You know, if you're in a co-op like J-A-C Electric you don't have a choice and they don't have policy either. So anything you over produce is just donated, and that's not a good scenario.

Q: But with J-A-C, whatever they make over is shared with you. Don't you get a check at the end of the year for whatever energy is sold?

A: Yeah, at like 1/2 a cent per kWh. Anything that is overproduced and sold to the neighbor, you get a little check. We're doing more batteries on the co-ops right now than anything because they help out with that problem. I don't sell back hardly any energy anymore because now it all goes into the battery, and I use the battery at night and the cycle continues the next day.

Q: So in that scenario, do you not have any electric bill?

A: Mine was negative \$47 last month. They bought \$47 from me last month. And I think my running total right now is \$290, so I have almost a \$300 credit going into summer. I won't use all of that though, because my solar works really good.

Q: Are you charged like a basic charge?

A: They have a \$9.99 fee, but it covers that as well. I just have to produce a little bit more to cover that fee.

Q: So you wouldn't want to be in a plan that I'm going to get charged this, so I have to use a minimum of this at the maximum of this.

A: Right. A lot of people get into these plans where it's 'Free Nights & Weekends'. When you really think about it, it doesn't make sense to anybody, right? No one's going to give you anything for free. What they do is they charge you an astronomical rate whenever it's not free to cover that. We see it all the time. This guy was paying 48 cents a kWh. He's like, but I got free nights and weekends. That doesn't really help you. You work nights and weekends. You're not home anyways.

I didn't come here to sell anybody solar. We educate people on solar, and we help them decide what's best. We probably talk 75 to 80% of people out of getting solar.

Q: Why can't livestock be around solar panels?

A: They can. But cows like to rub up against things and they can break solar panels. We put them in fields all the time. We typically put a three strand or a four strand fence around them.

Q: Do you pay Oncor being you have solar panels?

A: There is an Oncor charge, but you can generate enough energy to take care of that charge. I have a negative electric bill. I don't pay anything. I don't pay Oncor. I don't pay my utility provider. I don't pay anything because I have enough solar to take care of my current bill.

*By Tracy Flynn*



**Breann Hardin—Guest,  
Clint Luig—Guest and Doris  
Sterling (Clint's Aunt)**



**Casie Mass, Ashley Pierce,  
Michelle Yow—Guest and  
Vickie Young**



**Diana Walker,  
Nelva White and  
Barbara Franklin**



**Doris Sterling and  
Susan Van Huss**

## **April Membership Meeting**



**Katie Curl and  
Vickie Young**

## **Fundamentals of Solar Energy**

**Nick Gilleland—Davis Electric Co.**



**Nick Gilleland—Speaker and  
Rena Shaffer—2024 President**



## WICHITA FALLS – TIME LINE - A Brief History of Wichita Falls - Sent in by Nichole Harney

**1872** **Wichita Falls** – last Indian battle at Memorial Auditorium location (Comanche's)

**Wichita Falls** – in 1872, Henry W. Strong, a strong citizen of Wichita Falls until his death in 1927, was firing his army rifle in the last sectional battle with Indians on the bluff where the Memorial Auditorium now stands. Strong told of being with a party of ten United States soldiers under Lieutenant John A. McKinney.

**1879** **Wichita County** – J.H. Barwise moves his family to Wichita County, he became the city of Wichita Falls first permanent citizen. His vision was broad and his spirit was undaunted. He came with his wife from Dallas to find a location where his large family might have a chance to grow into healthy, thriving adults. They traveled in an ox-drawn wagon. When they reached a corner post on the Scott Survey, on the knoll known today as the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> St. and Austin Ave., he paused and looked over the countryside. His wife was weary and wanted to move onward. But his was the faith of Abraham. He believed that God had directed him to this spot. He said "I see a large city, prosperous and with many people. Near me, I see many tall buildings which mark the business section of this city. Surrounding this is a beautiful residence section of lovely homes and paved streets. Here and there are big granaries. Hugh factories give employment to thousands of people. A network of railroads accommodates a big export of grain and cotton in the vicinity of the city. People from all parts of the country come and go. There is a brilliant future for this section of the country." On the day of his burial, the whole city of 60,000 people paused to pay tribute to him, their first citizen.

**Wichita Falls** – December 1879 – Post Office opened and a permanent settlement made in Wichita Falls.

**1880** **Wichita Falls** – Dug-out school at 8<sup>th</sup> & Ohio; 1-room log school at 10<sup>th</sup> & Scott.

**1881-82** **Wichita Falls** – During 1881 and 1882 the residents of Wichita Falls induced the Fort Worth and Denver Railway Company, then building tracks west out of Fort Worth, to run the line through the town by offering substantial property concessions along the right-of-way. The arrival of the first train on September 27, 1882, triggered a boom in the sale of town lots. Also in 1882 the first manufacturing concern, a shingle and sorghum mill, was established along with the first lumberyard.

**1882** **Wichita Falls** – The railroad reached Wichita Falls, opening the door for new settlers and a way to move goods to other markets. This marks the change from the dominance of cattle to farming and other business operations.

**Wichita Falls** – Mayfield Lumber yard (oldest of its kind in Wichita Falls) established in 1882 and sold to Moore and Richolt 10 December 1916.

**Wichita Falls** – Fort Worth & Denver City Railway – On July 24, 1882 – grading and rails reached Wichita Falls. On September 24, 1882, the first carload of construction workers attached to the work train arrived. The engine was small with brass bands around its boiler and a funnel stack and a tender full of coal. A bell on top of the boiler had a string attached for the engineer.

**Wichita Falls** – September 27, 1882: Wichita falls town-lot sale – Coming of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad (FW & DC) regarded as the first birthday of Wichita Falls.

**1883** **Wichita Falls** – Joseph Alexander Kemp, later to become one of the most prominent of the town's promoters, arrived in 1883 and soon established a general merchandise store.

**Wichita Falls** – 6 November 1883, Wichita Falls was voted the permanent county seat, receiving 190 votes, against 6.

**Wichita Falls** - THE FIRST COURTHOUSE – The Commissioners Court was bargaining with R.E. Montgomery for a court house. Montgomery gave the city Bellevue Park and a courthouse site on 8<sup>th</sup> at Lamar and Travis. He proposed to furnish the lot and build the house, and to deed same to the country at the end of six months for the sum of one dollar. The court agreed to accept his proposition, provided he would seal the building, partition off two rooms for offices, and furnish seats for the court room. Further, it stated that a centrally located and suitable place be selected. It is an interesting fact that this good man responded to the suggestions. The result was the erection of a frame house twenty-two by forty feet. The court then appropriated seventy-five dollars for furnishings of the house. Thus in November, 1883, Wichita County's first tribunal of justice came into existence.

**Wichita Falls** – First newspaper – THE WICHITA MIRROR or WICHITA HERALD

Other newspapers published here with dates:

WICHITA WEEKLY TIMES – 1883

THE WICHITA HERALD-LIGHT – 1889

THE WICHITA COUNTY DEMOCRAT – 1893?

THE DINNER HORN – 1897

WICHITA LEDGER – 1902

WICHITA DAILY NEWS – 1910

WICHITA FALLS RECORDS NEWS – 1914

THE WICHITA LIGHT – 1888

THE WICHITA FALLS POST – 1892

THE WICHITA WARRIOR – 1896

THE WICHITA DAILY TIMES – 1898

WICHITA DAILY TIMES – 1907

WICHITA COUNTY SOCIALIST – 1912

WICHITA FALLS POST – 1936



**1886** **Wichita Falls** – “Colored Public School” founded.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita River “falls” washed out.

**1889** **Wichita Falls** – It was officially incorporated on July 29, 1889, and the first meeting of the town council occurred on August 21, with Mayor Otis T. Bacon presiding. Soon the economy was stimulated by the arrival of more railroads. At the turn of the century the Wichita Valley Railroad, the Wichita Falls Railway, the Wichita Falls and Southern Railway, the Wichita Falls and Oklahoma Railway, and the Wichita Falls and Northwestern made the town a transportation and supply center for Northwest Texas and southern Oklahoma. Frank Kell, Kemp’s brother-in-law, arrived in 1896 after buying the Wichita Valley Mills Company. Kemp and Kell were to be the two leading promoters of the city for several decades.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Valley Railroad constructed although not chartered until February 8, 1890. This railroad became necessary because the charter for the FW & DC Ry’s charter did not allow for branch lines. So, since the need existed a railway was constructed first to Seymour and eventually to Abilene. The last passenger train ran October 29, 1949.

*Other railways were Wichita Falls Railway Company, Wichita falls and Oklahoma Railway, Wichita Falls and Northwestern Railway & Wichita Falls and Southern Railway Company.*

**1890** **Wichita Falls** – Keller Building in Wichita Falls, on 7<sup>th</sup> St., between Indiana and Scott built.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Independent School District organized.

**Wichita Falls** – First school bonds voted to build the High School at 11<sup>th</sup> Stret.

**Wichita Falls** – By 1890, the population was 1,987, and as the town continued to grow, its leaders recognized the need for a reliable water supply.

**1893** **Wichita Falls** – St. James Hotel, 7<sup>th</sup> St. and LaSalle, built in Wichita Falls; demolished in 1933.

**USA & Wichita Falls** – National Panic brings on hard times throughout the country and Wichita Falls experienced deflation in business and population.

**1896** **Wichita Falls** – February 25, 1896; Bank robbery at City National Bank (7<sup>th</sup> & Ohio).

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Valley Milling Co. established by Kemp, Kell and M. Lasker.

**1898** **Wichita Falls** – Dr. S.H. Burnside performed first bloodless amputation.

**Wichita Falls** – 30 April 1898 – Organization of local military company by D. M. Perkins to serve in National Army in Spanish-American War.

**1899** **Wichita Falls** – April – May 1899 – “Interregnum” of Wichita Falls Period when city government operated without charter.

**1900** **Wichita Falls** – The Lake Wichita project was begun in 1900 and completed the following year. It was the primary source of water for drinking and irrigation, as well as a major recreation site until the 1920s.

**1901** **Wichita Falls** – Lake Wichita Water and Irrigation Company organized.

**1902** **Wichita Falls** – Wichita Broom Company established.

**1904** **Wichita Falls** – Academy of Mary Immaculate established at 9<sup>th</sup> and Grace.

**1906** **Wichita Falls** – Kemp and Kell, the industrial visionaries of Wichita Falls, saw a need for a rail line from Wichita Falls to the farms of Oklahoma. In buying land for the railroad, they purchased the land of current day Burkburnett (from Samuel Burk Burnett, who was moving his ranching operations to west Texas.

**1907** **Wichita Falls** – In 1907 the population of Wichita Falls was 5,055, and the economy was firmly based upon railroads. In addition to the population, the infrastructure was also growing.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Coca Cola Bottling established.

**Wichita Falls** – Electric facility established in Wichita Falls.

**Wichita Falls** – 14 May 1907 – Wichita Daily Times came into existence.

**Wichita Falls** – Times Publishing Co. founded.

**1908** **Wichita Falls** – Municipal gas system founded (first in United States).

**Wichita Falls** – New Opera House built at 921 Indiana (Wichita Theatre).

**Wichita Falls** – First female doctor practices – Minnie Ola Parrish.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Sanitarium founded by Dr. S>H. Burnside & Robert L. Miller.

**Wichita Falls** – San Jacinto School built at 4<sup>th</sup> & Bluff.

**Wichita Falls** – Travis School established at 3<sup>rd</sup> St (1916).

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Foundry Machine Co. was organized in 1908 by J.V.C.T. Christensen, O.B. Cecil and W.A. Huper. It made various kinds of iron, brass and aluminum castings, which were shipped to numerous points in Texas and Oklahoma.

**1909** **Wichita Falls** – By 1909 Wichita Falls boasted thirty miles of sidewalk, five miles of sewers, and more than 100 businesses. A street-car system also appeared, it featured an extension to Lake Wichita that made the lake a recreation center. Soon a hotel, a domed pavilion, a racetrack, a boardwalk, and vacation cottages sprang up. The lake remained the center of recreation activity for the city until well after World War I, even though the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1918. The abandoned pavilion burned in 1955.

**Wichita Falls** – Kemp & Kell Railroad Office bldg. built (Heritage Society Depot).

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls High School was built at 1104 Broad (now WFISD Administration Building).

**1910 Wichita Falls** – Union Square built; demolished in 1967.

**Wichita Falls** – Alamo School unit at 1912 11th St.

**Wichita Falls** – Pavilion, hotel, amusement area at Lake Wichita built.

**Wichita Falls** – Floral Heights Addition opened by Kemp.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Motor Co. established (Wichita Trucks) at the Factory District. When the city had little more than 7,000 inhabitants, the Motor Truck company was organized for the manufacture of trucks. Prejudice against home manufacturing was still in the air. It required much courage to pioneer such a project. Finally, by producing a superior product, the ban was lifted. As early as 1913, the company began to export. For a while it engaged in one of the widest distributions of any truck manufactured in the United States. It pioneered in numerous cities of the United States, in Mexico, Central and South America, South Sea Islands, France, Near East India, China, and other countries. It had substantial financial backing and gave employment to a great many people. It was incorporated by Frank Kell, J.A Kemp, and C. A. McKiernon.

**Wichita Falls** – YMCA organized in Wichita Falls.

**Wichita Falls** – 22 April 1910 – Pavilion at Lake Wichita officially opened at a dance given by the Elk Lodge for friends. About 100 couples participated in the Grand March led by Sibyl Kemp and Newton Maer. The dance was on 21<sup>st</sup>, San Jacinto Day. Open on three sides, the Pavilion was cool and airy.

Train excursions from Fort Worth cost \$1.50. They spent the afternoon at Lake Wichita, saw the ball games, returned about 6 pm. The entertainment facility was described as “far ahead of anything in the state”.

First paved highway worthy of that designation in Wichita falls was from the city of Lake Wichita .

**Wichita Falls** – List of businesses in Wichita Falls in 1910:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| John Haier – Wines, Liquors, Cigars and Cigarettes                | North Texas Furniture Company – “The Store Dependable”     |
| J.F. O’Conner, Insurance and Real Estate                          | H.M. Snoddy, Real Estate                                   |
| E.M. Winfrey, Sporting Goods, Etc.                                | Field’s Furniture and Stove Repair Company                 |
| Dr. E.M. Wiggs, Veterinary Surgeon                                | Wichita Tailoring and Pressing Club                        |
| Miler’s Drug Store, Dr. Robert L. Miller, Proprietor              | J.C. Ziegler Mfg. Company                                  |
| Exchange Livery Stable  | The People’s Ice Company                                   |
| Alfalfa Lumber Company  | Crown Bottling Works, J.E. Lee, Proprietor                 |
| Crown Bottling Works, J.E. Lee, Proprietor                        | O.K. Wagon Yard  |
| Farmer’s Union Warehouse Company                                  | Wichita Falls Transfer & Livery, J.G. Gilbert, Proprietor  |
| Dr. C.E. Robinson, V.S., Veterinary Hospital                      | The Bank Rooming House, Jack Cunningham, Proprietor        |
| Lake View Hotel   | Mrs. R.E. Clopton, Exclusive Millinery                     |
| A.B. Patterson, Wholesale Eggs, Poultry and Butter                | Ward & Young, Real Estate                                  |
| Wm. Cameron & Company, Lumber and Builders’ Material              | John Haier, Wines, Liquors, Cigars and Cigarettes          |
| Luecke, Mulks & West, Horseshoer’s and Blacksmiths                | Th. H.D. Kirsch Company, Ladies’ Ready-to-Wear & Millinery |
| O.W. Bean & Sons, B.J. Bean, Proprietor                           | The China Palace & Variety Store                           |
| Bachman Real Estate and Insurance Company, General Rental Agents. | R.E. & C.B. Nutt, Dry Goods and Shoes                      |
| Wichita Marble and Granite Works                                  | The Princess Bar – Fine Wines, Liquors & Cigars            |
| Palace Drug Store, Druggist & Pharmacists                         | The Saratoga Café, Frank Kirk, Proprietor                  |
| Frank C. Uttz, Confectionery                                      | The New St. Charles Café, Doggett & Wallis, Proprietors    |
| W. L. Kemper, Contracting Electrician & Supplies                  | Floral Heights Realty Company                              |
| F.A. Smith, Contractor and Builder                                | Bennett & Hardy, Bank Saloon and Mail Order Liquor House   |
| Cleve Chambers, Tailoring, Cleaning, Pressing, Etc.               | P.W. Nolen Mercantile Company, Wholesale & Retail          |
| Patterson-Sanders Lumber Company                                  | Wichita Hardware Company                                   |
| R. F. Simpson, Druggist and Chemist                               | Famous Bar, W.E. Franklin, Manager                         |
| Fain & Ingram, Exclusive Shoe House                               | Wichita Falls Foundry and Machine Company                  |
| Kahn The Clothier   | Hardeman & Roberts, Staple and Fancy Groceries             |
| Wichita Pool Hall, Geo. E. Davis, Proprietor                      | C.A. Turek, Marble and Granite Monuments, Etc.             |
| The Senate Bar, Sid Ratliff, Manager                              | D. B. King, Groceries, Produce, Fruits, Etc.               |
| Red Star Saloon, T. E. Dobson, Proprietor                         | A.S. Fonville, Jeweler                                     |
| The Overland Garage, Accessories and Supplies                     | Kennedy & Barnard, The One Price Cash Store                |
| Weidman Brothers, Paints, Oils, Varnishes                         | The Coney Island Café                                      |
| J.T. Robertson & Company, Paints, Varnishes, Wallpaper, Etc.      | Lowery Grocery Company, W.C. Lowery, Manager               |
| Wichita Drug House, J.E. Reed, M.D., Proprietor                   | Carroll-Brough-Robinson-Gates, Wholesale Grocers           |
| Pullman Rooming House, W.M. Sears, Proprietor                     | Hancock & Davis, Barber Shop and Baths                     |



Strange-White Shoe Company  
 J.L. Jackson, Real Estate  
 Kavanagh & Doyle, Practical Plumbers  
 McConnell Bros., New and Secondhand Furniture  
 Wichita Supply House, P.S. Tullis, Proprietor  
 Oriental Rooming House Company, Mr. Francis A. Smith, Manager  
 E.S. Morris & Company, Druggists  
 W.G. Carter, Racket Store  
 Harrison-Everton Music Company, Musical Merchandise  
 Crescent Candy Company, Manufacturers and Jobbers  
 Old Mission Pool Hall C.R. Coker, Staple and Fancy Groceries  
 Maricle Coal & Feed Company, Dealers in Coal  
 J. M. Cloud, Grocer  
 Texas Road Supply Company, Corrugated Iron Culverts  
 The Newport Bar, Fine Whiskies  
 Charles Wood, Owner and Breeder  
 Freear-Brin Furniture Company  
 E. Von Der Lippe, Architect  
 Walter W. Coleman, Practical Plumber  
 Glenn Bros., Limited, Architects  
 The St. Charles Hotel, Restaurant and Bar  
 The Leader Tailor Shop  
 William's Barber Shop, Ben Williams, Proprietor  
 City Shoeing Shop, G.M. Callahan, Proprietor  
 O.L. Green, Retail Liquor Dealer

The Shoe Hospital, J.S. Reeder, Manager  
 Linton Rooming House, G.M. Linton, Proprietor  
 The Brown Palace Hotel  
 Wichita Valley Mercantile Company  
 A.J. Seitz & Company, Carriage Work, Horse Shoeing, Etc.  
 S. M. Kennedy, Jeweler  
 J.S. Mayfield Lumber Company  
 R.C. Hardy, Grocer  
 Wichita Saddle & Harness Company, K.E. Bauch, Proprietor  
 Brown & Cranmer Lumber Company  
 Cream Bakery and Confectionery  
 First National Bank  
 The Wichita State Bank  
 Wichita Mill & Elevator Company  
 Fred Harrington, Druggist  
 The Monarch Pool Hall, Bruce Poore, Proprietor  
 Palace Meat Market  
 The City National Bank  
 Jones & Orlopp, Architects  
 T. J. Class & Son, Grocers & Butchers  
 Collier & Hendricks, Men's & Boy's Outfitters  
 The Block Rooming House

- 1910** **Wichita Falls** – City National Bank / Kemp – Kell Office Bldg. built at 8<sup>th</sup> and Ohio (Holt Hotel).
- 1911** **Wichita Falls** – In 1911, a year after it was launched in America, the first Boy Scout Troop in this country was organized by Dr. J.L. McKee, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.
- 1912** **Wichita Falls** – Ball Brothers branch factory established at Factory District (Kemp & Kell).  
**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Window Glass established at Factory District – and was taken over by local men two years later. Its capacity was the output of 50,000 square feet of glass daily. It could easily supply all the window glass used in Texas and several other states besides (Lawrence & Kell).  
**Wichita Falls** - April 11-14, 1912 – first airplane flight over Wichita Falls – Andre J. Houpert “The French Bird Man”.
- 1913** **Wichita Falls** – Austin School built at 1309 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
**Wichita Falls** – Sam Houston School built at 2500 Grant.  
**Wichita Falls** – Shamburgers Lumber established in Wichita Falls.  
**Wichita Falls** – By 1913 the North Texas fields were producing 46 percent of all the oil in Texas, and refineries began to appear in Wichita Falls in 1915. The discovery of the Burkburnett fields in 1918 triggered an actual boom. Bank deposits increased by 400 percent in 1919, and oil-related industries increased dramatically. By 1920 there were nine refineries and forty-seven factories within the city. The oil boom also produced a building boom.
- 1914** **Wichita Falls** – Hospital established by Drs. Luther Amason & Robert Hargrave.  
**Wichita Falls** – Scotland subdivision built.  
**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Mill & Elevator Co. built at 13<sup>th</sup> & Burnett/Bluff.  
**Wichita Falls** – “Cheap Fuel” sign erected at east end of 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- 1915** **Wichita Falls** – November 1915 – Wichita General Hospital established at 8<sup>th</sup> & Brook (Now United Regional Health Care System).
- 1917** **Wichita Falls** – First unit of the water filtration was built.  
**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Country Club organized in 1917 with fifty members.  
**Wichita Falls** – Call Field Airfield established.
- 1917-18** **Wichita Falls** – Kemp Library built; dedicated June 14, 1918 (now Kemp Center for the Arts).
- 1918** **Burkburnett** - July 1918 – Fowler’s Folly big oil strike in Burkburnett.  
**Wichita County** – “Spanish Flu” epidemic  
**Wichita Falls** – 25 September 1918 – Division containing most of the Wichita Falls boys ordered to the front.

**Wichita Falls** – Clark Machine Company was installed in 1918. It specialized in winches, pulling machines and other oil machinery. At first the sale was only one spudder per month, as time went on it was hard to keep up with the demand. Spudders (machines made for drilling oil wells) are designed for service and endurance to drill 800 to 4,000 feet. They are made in eight different sizes. The sales covered the United States and foreign countries.

**November 11, 1918** – World War I Armistice.

**1919** **Wichita Falls** – Bank deposits increased by 400 percent in 1919, and oil-related industries increased dramatically.

**Wichita Falls** – 17 June 1919 – Honorable discharge of Wichita Falls boys from National Army.

**Wichita Falls** – Construction of “skyscrapers” along 8<sup>th</sup> St.

**Wichita Falls** – Littlest Skyscraper built at 701 LaSalle Alley without owner’s permission or knowledge.

**Wichita Falls**—Spudder Park built for new pro baseball franchise.

**1920** **Wichita Falls** – 30 March 1920 – City charter adopted, proving for commission-aldermanic form of government.

**Wichita Falls** – Security National Bank opened July 1, 1920.

**Wichita Falls** – Olympic Theater opened July 2, 1920.

**Wichita Falls** – new automated system for telephone dial telephones became effective July 4, 1920.

**Wichita Falls** – By 1920 there were nine refineries and forty-seven factories within the city. The oil boom also produced a building boom. More than a dozen major building projects were inaugurated in the downtown area during the early 1920s.

**Wichita Falls** – Lone Star Refinery located north of town – pump house blew up – no one injured – damage about \$60,000.

**1921** **Wichita Falls** – Bowie School built at 1300 Trout.

**Wichita Falls** – Barwise School built at 205 Jalonic (now A.E. Holland Adjustment Center).

**Wichita Falls** – Booker T. Washington School opens at 718 Flood St.

**1921-22** **Wichita Falls** – State Hospital for the Insane built at Lake Road.

**1922** **Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Junior College incorporates; opens at Wichita Falls High School (1104 Broad).

**Wichita Falls** – Fannin School built at 710 Old Burkburnett Highway.

**Wichita Falls** – Carrigan School built at 1609 Blonde.

**Wichita Falls** – Maid Well Salad Dressing had its beginning June 1922 on a very small scale in the home of Mrs. C.H. Evans. It became so popular that it was necessary to replace the small electric mixer with a twenty gallon one.

**1923** **Wichita Falls** – Wilson Manufacturing established.

**Wichita Falls** – Camp Fire Girls here was launched in 1923 by Miss Glenboro Fisk.

**1924** **Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls High School built at 2149 Avenue H.

**Wichita Falls** – High School at 1104 Broad becomes Reagan Jr. High.

**Lake Kemp and Diversion** constructed.

**1925** **Wichita Falls** – Huey School built at 1516 N. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Wichita Falls** – Crockett School built at 31015 Avenue I.

**1926** **Wichita Falls** – Zundelowitz Jr. High built at 1706 Polk.

**Wichita Falls** – Ben Franklin Elementary built at 2112 Speedway.

**Wichita Falls** – Hargrave-Walker Hospital founded at 11<sup>th</sup> & Grace (Bethania, now United Regional Health Care Systems)

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Clinic Hospital founded by Drs. Everett Jones, Q.B. Lee, O.B. Keil at 8<sup>th</sup> and Bluff (now First Baptist Children’s Center).

**Wichita Falls** – In 1926 there were 11,000 water meters in the city.

**1927** **Wichita Falls** – Memorial Auditorium built at 1300 – 7<sup>th</sup> St.

**Wichita Falls** – O’Reilly Park established (named for Miles O’Reilly, Wichita Falls builder.

**Wichita Falls** – Woman’s Forum built at 2120 Speedway.

**1928** **Wichita Falls** – 9 April 1928 – City charter of 1920 was amended, and the city-manager plan was accepted.

**Wichita Falls** – First passenger air service.

**Wichita Falls** – That same year the city’s first commercial broadcasting station, KGKO, was established.

**Wichita Falls** – Tuf-Nut Manufacturing Company was a part of the movement to establish factories in the south for the manufacturing of raw cotton products. It was established here in 1928, putting out 75 different kinds of clothing, all of which were made of cotton. Overalls, work clothes, playsuits, shirts, and every kind of camp-clothing was made.

**1930** **Wichita Falls** – J.A. Kemp died – November 16, 1930, in Austin while on a trip to South Texas.

**Wichita Falls** – Buildings remaining at Call Field from the Texas-Oklahoma Fair were offered to worthy poor families for living quarters.

**Wichita Falls** – January coldest month in city’s history to date. Snow and ice stayed on the ground for weeks and a minus 3 degrees low temperatures was reached. The Wichita River and Lake Wichita froze over, and ice partially coated Lake Kemp and Diversion Lake for the first time.

**Wichita Falls** – One May 11, one of the worst dust storms blew in, and a week later Holliday Creek was out of its banks and flooding the lowlands.

**Wichita Falls** –The Federal census determined Wichita Falls was the 10<sup>th</sup> ranking city in Texas with a population of 43,607. There were thirty-one parks, forty-seven churches, four railroads, twenty schools, and 118 industrial establishments. The depression slowed growth but did not stop it, due in part to a major oil discovery at nearby Kama in 1938.

**Wichita Falls** – The Spudders in a spring exhibition game defeated the New Yankees, 9-6, even though **Babe Ruth** hit two homers.

**Wichita Falls** – James V. Allred of Wichita falls won the office of Attorney General in Texas.

**Wichita Falls** – New Post Office was selected at Tenth and Lamar.

**1931** **Wichita Falls** – Through a project of the Kiwanis Club, the steel grandstand on the abandoned Texas-Oklahoma Fair grounds was re-erected at the West of the end of Van Buren Street for Coyote Stadium.

**Wichita Falls** – J.B. Marlow, former Mayor who was helping in a cooperative community effort to feed about 1,200 people a day, was beaten after refusing to surrender keys to the relief suppl storeroom to a demanding group. About 20 men also raided the kitchen of the county jail.

**Wichita Falls** – Noted visitors to the city were Will Rogers, Clarence Darrow, J.C. Penney, Amelia Earhart and I. Paterewski.

**Wichita Falls** – First Air Mail Service.

**1932** **Wichita Falls** – Golden Jubilee celebrated 50 years since town and county organized.

**Wichita Falls** – First football game in Coyote Canyon.

**Wichita Falls** – Spudders Baseball team moved to Longview.

**Wichita Falls** – PTA program of free lunch for needy students.

**1933** **Wichita Falls** – Last streetcar ran July 4, 1933.

**Wichita Falls** – Zoo abandoned in Scotland Park.

**Wichita Falls** – Wichita Gardens (subsistence homesteads) established at Loop 11.

**Wichita Falls** – Eleanor Roosevelt visited.

**1934** **Wichita Falls** - Three Wichita Falls neighbors run for governor of Texas: James V. Allred, Tom F. Hunter and C.C. McDonald. Allred won.

**Wichita Falls** – Burlington Zephyr made first run through city.

**1935** **Wichita Falls** – Plans announced for Scott Street overpass.

**Wichita Falls** – Hardin Junior College building constructed (now Midwestern State University Administration Building).

**Wichita Valley Farms** project.

**1936** **Wichita Falls** – Parking meters tried and rejected.

**1937** **Wichita Falls** – Open house for Hardin Junio College on Taft Blvd.

**Wichita Falls** – Bond issued to expand water filtration plant defeated.

**Wichita Falls** – Parking meters approved by voters and installed.

**1938** **Wichita Falls** – FDR visits, speaks from back of train, announced the appointment of James V. Allred to a Federal Judgeship.

**Wichita Falls** – *Wichita Falls Post* suspends operation after two years.

**Wichita Falls** – Woman’s Forum liquidates debt.

**Wichita Falls** - \$60,000 Boys Club planned at 6<sup>th</sup> and Broad.

**Wichita Falls** – Spudder Park (baseball) burned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

**Wichita Falls** - New School administration building.

**Wichita Falls** – Eleanor Roosevelt comes to town.

**1939** **Wichita Falls** – Lake Wichita reaches all time low. Use of Lake Kemp water stimulates thoughts of a new lake.

**Wichita Falls** – CAA established a radio beam for Kell Field.

**Wichita Falls** – Radio station KWFT begins.

**Wichita Falls** – Judge R.E. Huff dies.

**1940** **Wichita Falls** – Frank Kell appointed to head committee on industrial and defense planning.

**Wichita Falls** – In 1940 the population was 55,200. Bank deposits exceeded \$36 million, and there were ninety-two miles of paved streets, seventy-seven manufacturing establishments, 127 wholesale outlets, and 741 retail stores.



- Wichita Falls** – Water filtration plant enlarged.
- Wichita Falls** – Continental Refinery installed a polymerization unit to produce high octane gasoline.
- Wichita Falls** – Schools placed on a 12-year basis.
- 1941 Wichita Falls** – In 1941 the economy was further bolstered by the opening of Sheppard Field, an Army Air Corps.
- 1945 Sheppard Field** – By May 1945, when the base reached its peak strength, there were 46,000 army personnel stationed there.
- 1946 Sheppard Air Force Base** – The base was deactivated on August 31, 1946, but reopened as Sheppard Air Force Base in August 1948. It continues to function as a major training center for air force technicians and a flight training center for NATO.
- 1947 Lake Kickapoo built.**  
Coldest record to date -12.
- 1955 Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls had a population of 110,000 in 1955.
- 1961 Midwestern University** – MU became part of the Texas College & Universities System.  
**Wichita Falls** – By 1960 the population had dropped to 101,724, and while oil production in the area still ranked eighth in the state, it would soon be eclipsed by other areas.
- 1962 Wichita Falls** - By 1962 refinery activity had practically ceased. Recognizing that change was coming, the city’s leaders formed Industrial Development, Incorporated, which sought to diversify the economy by attracting other types of industries.  
**Wichita Falls** – May 28, Explosives at the YWCA – killed one girl.  
**Wichita Falls** – Tornado.
- 1963 Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre formed.  
**Wichita Falls** – The original ninety-three acres for LUCY PARK were donated in 1963-64 by Mrs. Frances Ann Dickerson in memory of her mother, Lucy O’Neil Saunders  
**Wichita Falls** -Booker T. Washington High School moved to a new site in 1963.
- 1964 Sheppard AFB** - Missile Road constructed in 1964 from the north gate of Sheppard west to FM 369.  
**Wichita Falls** - Gates Rubber Company built a plant in 1964.  
**Wichita Falls** – April 3 – Tornado.  
**Wichita Falls** – On August 13 the last guest checked out of the Kemp Hotel and on November 23 the razing of the building began.
- 1965 MSU** – Artist – Lecture series began at MSU.  
**Sheppard AFB** – SAFB adds pilot training program.  
**Wichita Falls** – B.T. Washington High School “leopards” win state championship in 3-AAA division (football).
- 1966 Sheppard AFB** – The first German flying classes began, Sheppard AFB was formally designated the central point for the worldwide field training activities.  
**Wichita Falls** – Sprague Electric and Johnson and Johnson followed in 1966.  
**Lake Arrowhead** was constructed.
- 1967-68 Wichita Falls** – Tex-Color Labs arrived in 1967, followed by Town and Country Mobile Homes and Dowell Division of Dow Chemical Company in 1968.  
**Wichita Falls** – Construction completed on the Wichita Falls Museum and Arts Center.
- 1969 MSU** – MSU opens Fine Arts Center.  
**Wichita Falls** – Wilson Memorial Parkway was dedicated August 19, 1969 for Aubrey L. Wilson, first Negro alderman, 1967-68. He dies in office.  
**Wichita Falls – Feb 21** – Wichita Falls Arts Commission was created by the City council and received \$40,000 for distribution the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- 1970 Wichita Falls** – In 1970 Industrial Development Inc. merged with the Chamber of Commerce to form the Board of Commerce and Industry. This organization was successful in attracting fifteen new industries during the 1970’s, including Pittsburgh Plate Glass, Certain Teed, Washex, Howmet Turbine, AC Spark Plug, and Cieba Geigy.
- 1979 Wichita Falls** – Wichita Falls was devastated on April 10, 1979, by one of the largest tornadoes ever recorded. Sweeping through the southern part of the city, the storm destroyed twenty percent of all dwellings in town and damaged or destroyed numerous business establishments. Miraculously only forty-five people were killed, although more than 3,200 were injured. The city made a rapid recovery, and within three years most of the damage had been repaired.
- 1980 Wichita Falls** – These successes produced great optimism that the new trend would continue, but the economy declined along with oil production by the early 1980’s. Moreover, several companies moved their facilities away. These included AC Sparkplug, Johnson and Johnson, and Sprague. Meanwhile, because of the construction of a large shopping mall in the southwestern part of the city, the downtown collapsed as a viable shopping area.
- 1993 Wichita Falls** – In 1993, Wichita Falls had a population of 97,710 and 2,933 listed businesses.

**DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS**  
Annual Spring Classic Golf Tournament

**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 – The Champions Golf Course at Weeks Park**

4400 Lake Park Drive, Wichita Falls, TX ([www.weeksparkgolf.com](http://www.weeksparkgolf.com))  
"North Texas Scramble" – each foursome playing the best ball. One "A" player per foursome.

- ENTRY FEES:**                   **\$100\*** per person-green fees, cart, driving range golf balls, meals, door prizes and mulligans (Limit 2 mulligans per person)  
**Red Tee - \$25\* per Team (Limit 1 per team)**
- TIMES:**                         **8 AM – Registration.** Breakfast, instructions, range balls, carts, scorecards  
**9 AM – Tee Off – Shotgun Start**
- FOOD:**                         **Lunch and Beverages** – provided on course
- WINNINGS:**                 **After Tournament** - Top three teams, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin

Mail Entry form along with all four entry fees by **May 10, 2024** to:

**DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS**  
c/o Cobra Oil & Gas  
PO Box 8206  
Wichita Falls, TX 76307-8206

**Note Address**

Contact Information: Call Vickie Young at (940) 716-5100 or email [vickie@cobraogc.com](mailto:vickie@cobraogc.com)  
Call Tracy Flynn at (940) 716-5100 or email [tracy@cobraogc.com](mailto:tracy@cobraogc.com)

**DESK AND DERRICK GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM**

**TEAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>PLAYER NAME</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u>	<u>Cell Phone #</u>
1. _____	\$100*	_____
2. _____	\$100*	_____
3. _____	\$100*	_____
4. _____	\$100*	_____

**RED TEE - \$25\* (One/Team)**           \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAID**                           \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Debit or Credit card + 3.5% fee



# DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS

## Annual Spring Classic Golf Tournament

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*The Champions Golf Course at Weeks Park*

*4400 Lake Park Drive, Wichita Falls, Texas*

**9:00 am Shotgun Start**

🔧 **Breakfast and Lunch provided. Each player gets a door prize.** 🔧

### **SPONSORSHIP FORM**

#### ◇ \$1,000 Platinum Sponsor

- ▶ Advertised on all media
- ▶ Tee Box signage

#### ◇ \$500 Gold Sponsor

- ▶ Advertised on all media
- ▶ Tee Box signage

#### ◇ \$250 Silver Sponsor

- ▶ Advertised on all media
- ▶ Tee Box signage

#### ◇ \$150 Tee Box Sponsor

- ▶ Advertised on all media
- ▶ Tee Box signage

#### ◇ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

- ▶ Advertised on all media

Name on Sign/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS**  
**c/o Cobra Oil & Gas**  
**PO Box 8206**  
**Wichita Falls, TX 76307-8206**

**Note Address**

Vickie Young or Tracy Flynn at 940/716-5100 Email: [vickie@cobraogc.com](mailto:vickie@cobraogc.com) or [tracy@cobraogc.com](mailto:tracy@cobraogc.com)

**Debit or Credit cards payments will incur a 3.5% fee**



# Highlights from the Central Region Meeting Great Bend, Kansas



Introducing...

**Nichole Harney**

**2025 CENTRAL REGION  
DIRECTOR**

***“You’ve Got This!”***

**First Timer—Debbie Hicks**  
*Woo-hoo!*

**Great Field Trips:**

Jacam Catalyst—Largest oilfield chemical supplier in the Permian and 2nd largest in the Mid-Con and Rockies production basins.

Hyatt Life Sciences— Learned about natural health support through the power of plants—one plant—*Arum palaestinum*.

*Save  
the  
Date*

2024 ADDC Convention

September 24-28, 2024

Dallas, Texas

\*\*\*\*\*

2025 Central Region Meeting

April 25-26, 2025

Tulsa, Oklahoma

**KANSAS STRONG**

**( Strength Through Reliable Oil and Gas )**

***Are you proud of this industry?***

***Are you willing to share it with others?***

***- Question proposed by Warren Martin—  
Executive Director of Kansas Strong—  
Luncheon Speaker***

**AIMEE AWARDS**

**WE DID GREAT!**

**IT’S A SECRET UNTIL THE MONTHLY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!**

**8**

**Clubs in  
Attendance!**

**36**

**Members in  
Attendance!**

**Good Vibes and Groovy Times from the Great Bend Desk and Derrick Club!  
They are a small, but mighty club, and oh so groovy!**



**Central Region Meeting**  
**Great Bend, Kansas**  
**April 25—28, 2024**

# GROOVY



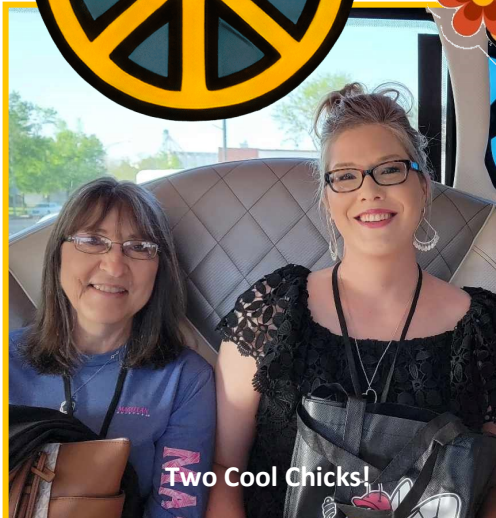
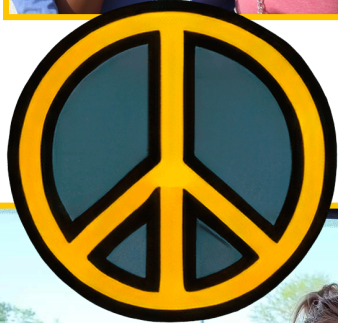
Nichole Harney being installed by Michelle Burgard as the 2025 Central Region Director



Friday Night Ice Breaker!



Field Trip to Jacam Catalyst



Two Cool Chicks!



Far-Out Barbara!



Field Trip to Hyatt Life Sciences



Oil and natural gas are East Texas' greatest natural gifts.

By Ashley Pierce

May is here and the school year is coming to an end. Teachers are exhausted and ready to relax before starting over with a new group of kids. Children are counting down the days looking forward to spending time at the pool or gaming with friends in the A/C. Parents are trying to figure out who will watch their kids for them while they work and are stressing over the increase to their electric and grocery bills. In my home there are teenagers. They can stay at home while I am working, but they are also trying to find summer jobs. They don't want to get too bored after only a couple of weeks at home with nothing to do.

My youngest daughter isn't quite the age to get a job, but she loves to cook so she will be taking over all kitchen duties for the summer. She handles all the meal planning and cooking to give herself something to do while giving me a break. This is her third summer to do this for me and it is wonderful! When we first moved into our current home, I had to take the time to show her how to properly work our stove as it uses gas. It also happens to be a very old stove, so you must use a lighter when you turn it on, and you also must be careful when turning it off. This antique will have the fire out but then continue to leak gas if you haven't turned it all the way off properly. We talked about being mindful of the smell of gas and what to do if or when that happens.

Since I now work for an oil and gas company, she asked me what makes it smell the way that it does. Obviously now that I work in the industry, I must know everything there is to know about every aspect of it. Ha! Anyway, she already knew that gasoline is a different product, but it smells very different than gas from our stove. I told her that to my knowledge natural gas is odorless, colorless, and tasteless, but that I had no idea what gave it that smell. I don't know about you but when we don't know the answer to something in our home, we Google it right then and there.

What we learned is that natural gas companies are required by law to add malodorants. This is "a chemical compound with an extreme stench." The most used malodorant added to natural gas is called mercaptan and is what makes the gas in your home smell of rotten eggs. Well, we had our answer. But we have noticed that typically when there is a safety law in place there is a tragedy of some kind that led to the obvious need for the law. When we dug a bit deeper, we were very surprised and sad to read what we found.

On October 3, 1930, the Daisy Bradford No. 3 well erupted oil near Kilgore, TX. We have all heard this story. What you may not know is that on top of the "Black Giant" right in the middle of this newfound gigantic oil field is a small town called New London. Due to this oil boom during the throes of the Great Depression, this small town grew and prospered. By 1934 they had built the "wealthiest rural school in the nation." Unfortunately, school officials had decided to tap into a pipeline of casinghead gas from the Parade Gasoline Company to cut down on their gas bill. Apparently, this was a common practice during this time. They were right on top of the pipeline after all and if they weren't using it then the gas would just be a waste product that was flared off. Well, I am sure that you see where this is going.



At 3:17 pm on March 18, 1937, just before school would be done for the day, there was a massive explosion. There had been a gas leak and the fumes had slowly filled the school. With just one spark the school was levelled and almost an entire generation of this small town was lost. It is one of the worst school tragedies in our nation's history. The explosion was felt 40 miles away and windows were said to rattle in Kilgore ten miles away. Everyone in the community stopped what they were doing and flooded the site. It didn't matter if they were out in the oilfield or working down the road at the pharmacy. They immediately began digging through the rubble. Survivors were sent to 14 hospitals in the area including one in Tyler that was due to open the following day. Parents were left with the horrible task of identifying their children. There were 298 found dead on the first night. I haven't been able to find a final count and there are varying accounts for how many people were in the school to begin with. From what I can tell there were over 40 teachers and between 500 and 700 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

Man, I hugged my girls a little bit tighter that night. My family has been greatly blessed to become a part of this industry. It generates 35% of our state's economy so needless to say it has been a blessing to an abundance of people. But like all things the history of it has good alongside the bad. In fact, while digging through the rubble of the New London School a blackboard was found that stated, "Oil and natural gas are East Texas' greatest natural gifts. Without them, this school would not be here and none of us would be learning our lessons."

So, there you have it. This is the story of when and why malodorants were added to natural gas for our safety. It was and is quite a tragedy. Survivors and witnesses didn't even want to think about it much less talk about it. They first commemorated the loss 40 years after it happened. Now, there is a museum and a monument for it that I hope to visit sometime with my girls this summer. I hope that you all also enjoy your time with your children, home from another successful but more importantly another SAFE year at school.





# FUEL FOR THOUGHT

SPOTLIGHTING OIL AND SOME OF THE BY-PRODUCTS  
CREATED FROM THIS **BLACK GOLD**

# GOLF BALLS



## How a Golf Ball is Made

By PSC on April 29, 2016

Out of all outdoor sports, Golf is arguably the most divisive.

While some Americans are willing to spend a majority of their paid vacation immersing themselves in the 3-day, worldwide phenomenon that is The Masters, others can't dream of spending their free time in a more unproductive way.

Though *some* of us at Industrial Outpost and PCS have been known to break out the clubs every now and again, our primary interest in golf balls is rooted in their production phase.

We score big time with golf balls while oil-based lubricants are used extensively during the production phase, very few people know that golf balls are made predominately from a rubber that is derived from petroleum so of *course* we love golf!

While some, hyper-manufactured golf balls can go for as high as \$75 per dozen (don't break the bank on these until you've remedied your wide-right slice), the simple, two-layer golf balls you might find at a range are quickly made and mass-produced. The internal core of these balls are made from a petroleum-based polymer called polybutadiene.

Polybutadiene is used exclusively in the production of tires, but this durable rubber is the preferred rubber-type to make golf balls not because it's particularly cheap and convenient, but rather because the immense strength of the bonds contribute to the high durability of golf balls. Thanks to polybutadiene, golf balls are an accessory to our enjoyment of nature instead of volatile, shrapnel-emitting spheres of great fury!

Additionally, while a leather-skinned, feather-filled golf ball was a grand idea in the 1650's, the often mesmerizing power of Bubba Watson would seem comparably mundane, were he to opt for the featherie (as those golf balls were once called). The natural, springy quality of polybutadiene contributes to the initial velocity of the golf ball, letting Bubba and the rest of us get the most out of our swings (personally, this often only amounts to a thrown-out back).

Polybutadiene goes through several processes before being deemed ready for its outer shell. The rubber compound is combined with other chemicals to stabilize it after, the material is pressed into sheets, rolled up, and chopped into little, marshmallow-shaped (first and last time I use that adjective) chunks known as slugs. The slugs are then pressed and heated to form the familiar round shape. After excess rubber is trimmed off, the cores are now ready for their outer shell.

The outer layer which is remarkably thin for how well it stands up to abuse is made from a thermoplastic known as ionomer resin. The melted resin is pushed through tubes and into a mold that encapsulates the rubber core. As the mold presses down on each side of the core, the ever-recognizable, dimply golf ball begins to take shape. Pushed through a few more mechanisms to refine the rough cut into a smooth outer shell, the golf ball is then stamped with a logo and number and is dropped into cases and sold by the dozen.

For the record: after the first few rounds of the season, I found it best to invest in two boxes at a time.



Click the QR code to see how a golf ball is made.

<https://youtu.be/s4WHZJRu-s4>

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Petroleum Service Company—Headquartered in Eastern Pennsylvania, Petroleum Service Company (PSC) was founded in 1924 and incorporated in 1930. We are homegrown, yet international. You may know us a local brick-and-mortar distributor of oil and lubricants, but we've grown to become much more than that.



# FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

## A "Bit" of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

### **Thurber, Texas: Mining Town to Ghost Town**

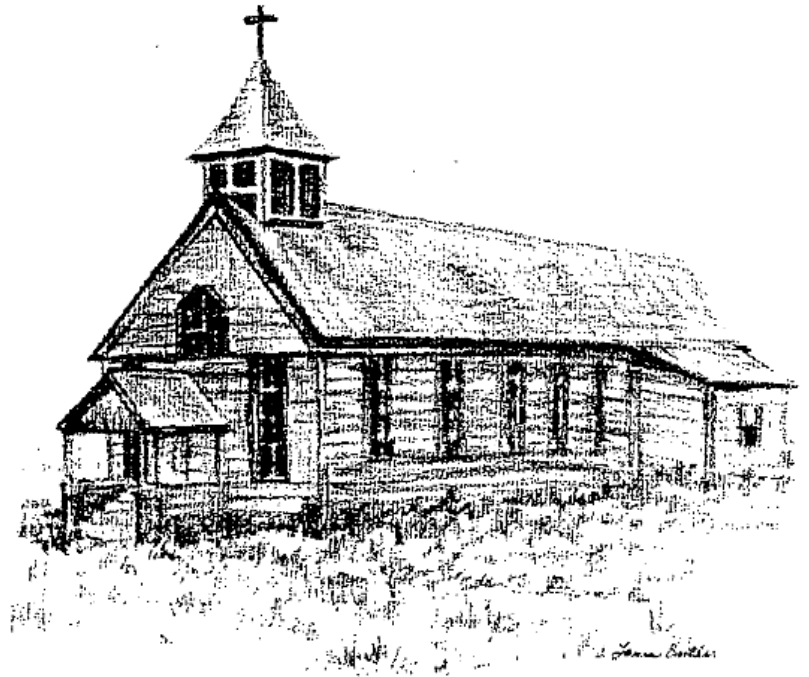
*"Thurber was, but Thurber ain't no more, the trains they went from coal to oil, locking Thurber's door."*

*A poem from the 1880's*

Thurber is located on Interstate 20 about halfway between Fort Worth and Abilene, Texas. It is now virtually a ghost town, but at one time it had a population of about 10,000 and was one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. It is so full of history and interesting facts; I just love going through this area. Thurber now consists of a couple of restaurants, a castle (Greystone Castle Sporting Club), and a 150 ft. smokestack. Some of the surrounding areas are Eastland, Palo Pinto, Strawn, Gordon, and Thurber.

Thurber was founded in early 1880 when Texas & Pacific began laying rails westward from Fort Worth to El Paso. William Whipple Johnson and his brother, Harvey Johnson moved into the area to set up a general store. Their main source of income was selling timber to T & P for the railroad. Will Johnson was out scouting an area for timber when he discovered, by mistake, bituminous coal in 1881. At the time, the only mines in operation were the ones located in Coalville, Texas. They were the main producers but union demands of Coalville would only allow a mine to remain open for five years. Johnson was indeed a businessman; he secured land and began producing the coal. Many of the miners were predominately Eastern European immigrants, mostly Italians and Polish. The immigrants proved to be the hardest working and the cheapest labor. The miners were paid \$1.50 a ton. The Johnson Brothers began to lose money and eventually had to sell the coal mines. Colonel Robert Hunter was a shrewd businessman and founder of Texas & Pacific Coal Company, he purchased the coal mines from Johnson for \$317,000 in March of 1888. At this time, the small area did not have an official name. Hunter decided to name the small town Thurber after his close friend and investor in the coal deal, H.K. Thurber, a wealthy New York wholesale grocer.

The immigrants worked hard during the day, but loved to celebrate in the evening. They were always having get-togethers. They loved to play a game called bocci ball, it was similar to croquet. They started a small band and would give concerts on the weekends.



**St. Barbara's Church**

# FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

## A “Bit” of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Hunter wanted Thurber to be a company town. He placed a barbed wire fence around 900 acres surrounding Thurber. He placed a locked gate around Thurber and day & night guards to patrol the fence perimeter. A self-contained model city with everything company owned, and importantly wages would return to company coffers. This created 1,000’s of jobs within the compound. Everyone who lived in Thurber—worked in Thurber. It was indeed a company town. The fence kept people from going outside to buy, and it kept peddlers from selling inside. But many Thurberites would leave the company grounds and climb back through the fence after dark with purchases made in Thurber Junction or Gordon.

The year 1890 ended with over two hundred miners at work. Coal production was up to 420 tons per day and the Number 3 mine was opened one mile west of downtown Thurber. An increasing number of miners’ families began arriving from Europe. In the early 1900’s it was considered the most modern city in Texas. All of the company house’s had indoor plumbing and electricity, which was a privilege to have in those days. A home could be supplied with electricity for \$1.50 a month and a water filtration plant piped water to each home for \$2.00 a month. A

three-room house could be built for less than \$200 and these rented for less than \$6 a month. For \$18 a month, miners would get bunk space, two meals, a work lunch, and laundry service from families who took in boarders. It was very hard for the wives, but it provided additional income and everyone benefitted. Hunter and the Company promoted “script” for use as money. These coupons resembled theater tickets and were good at all company stores.

With the increasing population, Hunter built Thurber “Little Lake” near downtown Thurber to provide water. Soon the town outgrew this lake, and a new lake, Thurber “Big Lake” was built a mile east.

During the summer of 1891, monthly Latin masses were held in the grocery warehouse. They decided to build a Catholic Church which was finished in the Fall of 1892. It was called St. Barbara—which was the Patroness Saint of Miners. The Italians wanted a bell on top of the church and insisted it come from Italy. They took up a collection and purchased it direct from Italy. It could be heard from 2 miles away. This church is still standing today is over 100 years old. It has been completely restored and renovated.



**Company housing**



**St. Barbara's Church**

# FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

## A “Bit” of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

In March 1897, the Green & Hunter Brick Company was organized. Shale for the brick came from “Steam Shovel Mountain” one mile east of Thurber. With eighteen kilns in operation, peak production was 80,000 bricks a day. Thirty different types were produced, but paving brick was a specialty, and before asphalt and concrete, Thurber bricks paved miles and miles of Texas highways and streets. Some of these roads included Austin’s Congress Ave. and Camp David Bowie Blvd. in Ft. Worth.

The Brick Company also brought in several new buildings, including an Opera House which was built in 1897. It was large enough to hold many balls, plays, concerts, motion pictures, meetings and lectures. Also merchandise buildings, ice plant, power plant, and saloons.

Hunter fought for years to keep the UMW (United Mine Workers) from starting unions with his coal miners. But on September 20, 1903, much to his dismay, the coal mines of Thurber became unionized. It took a long time for the Union officials and the Company to come to an agreement. This was indeed a blessing for the miners, it brought better pay and working conditions were vastly improved. Thurber became the first city in America to be 100% unionized with seven different unions recognized including miners, clerks, meat cutters, bartenders, carpenters, machinists and brick workers. The brick company union was the first in America to put its symbol on each brick. It was an impressed triangle with a letter “B”, a “T” and another “T” at each apex of the triangle. The “BTT” stood for Brick, Tile & Terra Cotta Workers.



By 1908, the building boom in Thurber & Thurber Junction was at a peak and brick layers were in great demand. They constructed a 150-ft. high smokestack for the power plant. (It is still standing today).

By 1915, the miners were producing 2500 tons of coal on a daily basis. Today, a sign on the smokestack reads “beneath this ground lies part of the 127,000,000 tons of coal still owned by Texas Pacific, which may be mined in the future. This is Texas’ only known deposit of bituminous coal and occurs from the surface to a depth of 450 feet.

Oil was found northwest of Strawn in 1914, ten miles from Thurber, and the rapidly growing automobile industry made increasing demands for oil and gasoline. W.K. Gordon had a feeling that the area was going to hit it big with oil production. He secured 300,000 acres in four counties for T & P. The first well in Ranger, the Nannie Walker, hit strong gas but was abandoned. The second well, the McClesky, looked like a dry hole and the company wanted to stop drilling, by Gordon insisted the driller continue. The McClesky finally blew in and it was big. The town of Ranger boasted of “The Oil Field That Won WWI”, because it was the major supplier of oil for this war.



# FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

## A “Bit” of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Thurber coal continued to be mined until 1921. The focus of the company shifted from coal to oil and the name was changed to Texas Pacific Coal & Oil Company.

When the mines closed, the miners needed work, they turned to bootlegging. The Italians were experts at making homemade wines and whiskey. They grew their own vineyards or had the grapes shipped in from California. Wild “mustang” grapes grew abundantly along the country roadsides south of Thurber. The Italians used the leftover grapeskins from wine to produce a “grappo” whiskey which came off at about 170 proof. In 1920, an amendment to abolish bootlegging was passed. The Volstead Act Amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale & transport of intoxicating beverages. The sale of liquor was their only survival. It was also a family affair. Thurber Junction became known as “The Bootleg Capitol of Texas”. It was three years before law enforcement officers could get a hold of the situation. In 1933, the Volstead Act was repealed, one of the first acts of the Roosevelt Democratic Administration. Palo Pinto County, a quarter mile from downtown Thurber, legalized beer and wine, but not whiskey.

The TP Oil Co. ( they changed the name again) began moving its offices from Thurber to Fort Worth. The Ranger oil boom fizzled out. The Great Depression was on. The houses remaining in Thurber were demolished or moved, house by house. By 1936, the only structures remaining in Thurber were the drugstore, dry goods, smokestack, water filtering plant and two homes (which belonged to W.K. Gordon and Dr. Binney).

Today, it is a tourist attraction. Atop New York Hill, a large brass plaque shows the location of significant structures when Thurber thrived. The restored 100-year old St. Barbara’s Church, Thurber Cemetery, a furnished miner’s house, and an authentic Italian bocci ball court gives a glimpse into the past. The old dry goods store is now a restaurant

called the “Smokestack”. There are pictures and momentos displayed for all to see.

Submitted by: Sheila McGaughey

Sources: Bielinski, Leo S., [The Back Road to Thurber](#), 1933



April 17, 2024

## *From the Desk of Alex Mills.....*

HERE'S MY ENERGY COLUMN FOR THIS WEEK A DAY EARLY. I WILL BE TRAVELING THURSDAY. ALL THE BEST.

ALEX

### Has Biden's war on America's oil gas failed?

By Alex Mills

Sometimes events happen over time that are hard to explain and understand.

Take, for example, President Biden's war against America's oil and gas industry yet last year American producers set records for both crude oil and natural gas production becoming the largest producing country in history.

How can that happen?

Well, Mr. Biden has tried, but his attempts have failed, so far.

Biden and his team of bureaucrats have proposed, proclaimed, stated, and issued some 200 actions that will have a negative impact on the oil and gas industry in the U.S., according to a report issued by the Institute for Energy Research.

On his first day in office, Jan. 20, 2021, he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, issued a moratorium on all oil and natural gas leasing activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and revoked Trump administration executive orders that decreased regulations in order to expand domestic production.

For the next three years, his administration has proposed \$150 billion in additional taxes on the industry, strenuous environmental regulations, and even tried to manipulate the price of oil by releasing some 180 million barrels from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., led a coalition of 24 senators expressing "grave concern" about Biden's "continued hostility towards American energy production."

A few weeks ago the U.S. House of Representatives focused on a number of energy issues to increase access to America's oil and natural gas resources and strengthen energy infrastructure. Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX) said: "One of the only promises that President Biden has followed through on is his campaign vow to 'end fossil fuels.'"

*Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.*

*April 17, 2024—Continued*

But instead of driving the industry out of business, oil and gas production is at an all-time high. U.S. oil production has increase 19.8% since January 2020 from 11.1 million barrels per day to 13.3 million barrels per day in December 2023, and natural gas also set records rising 14% since January 2020.

There are a number of reasons for the increase:

- Technology and efficiency development in exploration and production – The oil and gas industry in the U.S. has been a leader in technology development. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques continue to improve to maximize efficiency in recovering hydrocarbon from very difficult reserves.
- Market conditions have changed – The oil and gas industry has become an international game with expanded exports of America’s resources to countries around the globe. International conflicts (Ukraine, Israel and others) have influenced commodity prices.
- Price – Even though the daily price of crude oil and natural gas fluxuates, oil prices have remained above \$60 per barrel. Natural gas prices, however, have declined to less than \$2 per mcf in most location, but in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico natural gas has dropped into negative territory where producers must pay to sell their gas.
- Demand has increased – Energy agencies across the globe project increased demand all the way to 2050.

Many, if not most, of the wells that are producing today were leased, drilled, and began producing long before Biden became President. Certainly, actions of governments can promote or deter activity, but in the end business activity responds to key economic, supply-and-demand conditions.

-30-

*Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.*



## *From the Desk of Alex Mills.....*

### Energy industry surges as demand rises

By Alex Mills

Demand for energy continues to increase from coast to coast, and record production continues to grow from a variety of sources.

Crude oil and natural gas, which account for 80% of the nation's energy, almost set a new record for monthly production in February, according to data released by the Energy Information Administration this week. U.S. oil production was 13.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in February just short of 13.3 million b/d record set in December 2023. Natural gas production totaled 128,058 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) in February also just short of the December 2023 record of 128,883 mmcf/d.

The increase in production has helped the bottom line of many companies, too. The two largest integrated petroleum companies based in the U.S., ExxonMobil and Chevron, reported healthy financials this week. ExxonMobil reported \$8.2 billion in net profit, and Chevron said it had a net profit of \$5.5 billion during the first quarter (January-March).

Oil prices averaged \$80 per barrel, but natural gas has been fighting a large oversupply and unusually low prices just below \$2 mmcf. EIA estimated natural gas consumption in February 2024 was 102.4 Bcf/d a 2.8% decrease compared with February 2023 (105.3 Bcf/d). It was the lowest daily rate of natural gas consumption for the month since 2018, according to EIA.

U.S. electricity generation from wind turbines decreased for the first time since the mid-1990s in 2023 despite the addition of 6.2 gigawatts (GW) of new wind capacity last year, according to EIA. U.S. wind generation in 2023 totaled 425,235 gigawatthours (GWh), 2.1% less than the 434,297 GWh generated in 2022.

U.S. wind capacity increased steadily over the last several years, more than tripling from 47.0 GW in 2010 to 147.5 GW at the end of 2023, EIA said.

"The 2023 decline in wind generation indicates that wind as a generation source is maturing after decades of rapid growth," EIA stated.

Nuclear power got a boost this week with the announced completion of a nuclear power reactor in Georgia. Georgia Power said Unit 4 of the reactor at Plant Vogtle has entered commercial operation, which completes the 11-year expansion project.

May 2, 2024— Continued

Vogtle Unit 3 began commercial operation in July 2023. The plant's first two reactors, with a combined 2,430 MW of nameplate capacity, began operations in 1987 and 1989. The two new reactors bring Plant Vogtle's total generating capacity to nearly 5 gigawatts (GW), surpassing the 4,210-MW Palo Verde plant in Arizona and making Vogtle's four units the largest nuclear power plant in the United States.

Construction at the two new reactor sites began in 2009. Originally expected to cost \$14 billion and begin commercial operation in 2016 (Vogtle 3) and in 2017 (Vogtle 4), the project ran into significant construction delays and cost overruns. Georgia Power now estimates the total cost of the project to be more than \$30 billion, EIA said.

No nuclear reactors are under construction now in the United States, EIA said.

-30-

*Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.*

May 9, 2024—

## *From the Desk of Alex Mills.....*

### Petroleum prices stay steady

By Alex Mills

The prices for crude oil, natural gas and other petroleum products were steady during the week of May 1-8.

The U.S. crude oil price for West Texas Intermediate closed on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$79 per barrel on May 8, which is a 9% increase from a year ago.

Retail gasoline prices across the U.S. averaged \$3.643, which is down \$0.01 for the week but up \$0.11 year over year, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Other petroleum products, such as diesel and home heating oil, were fairly constant. Diesel averaged \$3.894 per gallon on May 6, which is down \$0.053 from the previous week and down \$0.028 from the same period in 2023, according to EIA.

Crude oil inventories decline 1.4 million barrels last week to 459.5 million barrels, and gasoline inventories rose 0.9 million barrels to 228 million barrels.

International oil traders are concerned about the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine might have an impact on crude oil supplies.

Natural gas prices at the wellhead have been around \$2 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) for most of 2024 on trading on NYMEX for front-month delivery. However, natural gas closed on May 8 at \$2.195 per mmBtu, which is the highest since Jan. 29.

U.S. spot natural gas prices are expected to turn negative in the Permian Basin as trading closed at \$0.25 at the Waha hub in west Texas.

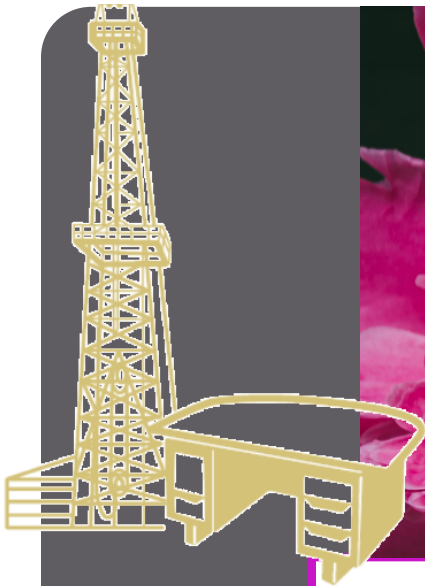
Energy traders have been saying for weeks that they expected gas prices at the Waha hub to turn negative when U.S. energy company Kinder Morgan started conducting seasonal maintenance on pipelines that move gas from the Permian shale in West Texas to the Gulf Coast.

Kinder Morgan told customers it planned to reduce flows on its Permian Highway Pipeline from May 7-12 and its Gulf Coast Express pipe from May 14-21.

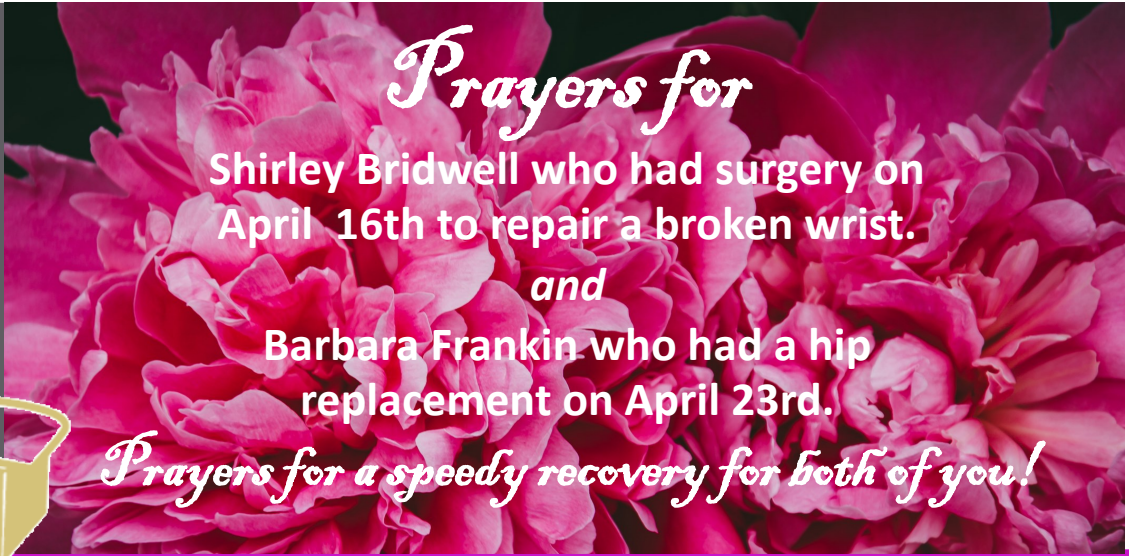
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*Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.*





Membership News



*Prayers for*

Shirley Bridwell who had surgery on April 16th to repair a broken wrist.

*and*

Barbara Frankin who had a hip replacement on April 23rd.

*Prayers for a speedy recovery for both of you!*



**Geneva Wood** is moving to be closer to her family!

She has been a member of Desk and Derrick for 43 years and will be greatly missed.

*It's Graduation Time!*

Our June bulletin will be highlighting our graduates! **Deadline: May 22, 2024**



**Barbara Franklin—May 10th**

**Katie Curl—May 28th**

Happy Birthday to both of you!! Here's to another year of lasting joy and incredible friends.

Thanks for being awesome!



*Elisabeth Lee  
Jackson*

Date: April 16, 2024

Time: 1:17 pm

Weight: 8 lbs 1 oz

Height: 20 inches



*Congratulations Jordan & Chris Jackson!*



# DESK AND DERRICK CLUB of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

May 17, 2024

12:00 NOON

Membership Meeting  
THE FORUM, 2120 SPEEDWAY AVENUE

**PRESIDING**

**Rena Shaffer**

Eagle Oil & Gas Co.

**INVOCATION**

**Sheila McGaughey**

Stephens Engineering

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

**Nichole Harney**

Cobra Oil & Gas Corporation

**PROGRAM**

**John Barnard**

Barnard Insurance Company

**PROGRAM**

***"Hard Insurance Markets for Oil and Gas"***

***What does a hard market mean to our oil & gas industry?***

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED –**

**Reservations Deadline 4:00pm Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Reservations: Diana Walker, [dwalker@sjoc.net](mailto:dwalker@sjoc.net)  
Call/text - 940-636-0971 (C), or call 940-716-5344 (O)

**MEAL COST: \$19.00**

You are responsible for payment if you make a reservation and do not attend.

**(If paying with cash, please bring exact change)**

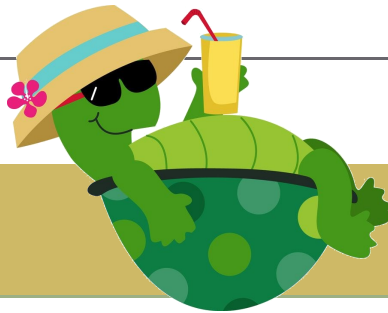




# May 2024

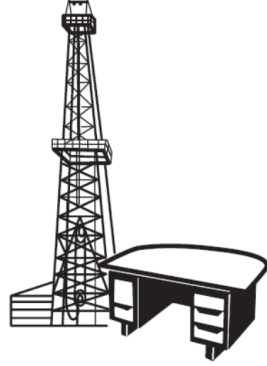
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <b>Board Mtg.</b>	8	9 <b>Deadline for Bulletin</b>	10 <b>Barbara Franklin</b>	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b>	13	14	15 <b>Membership Meeting</b>	16	17 <b>GOLF TOURNAMENT</b>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27  <b>Memorial Day</b>	28 <b>Katie Curl</b>	29	30	31	

# June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 <b>Board Mtg.</b>	5	6 <b>Deadline for Bulletin</b>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <b>Father's Day</b>	17	18	19	20 <b>Membership Mtg</b>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls



Sheila McGaughey, Editor  
P.O. Box 2249  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76307  
Phone: 940-716-5340  
Email:  
smcgaughey@sjoc.net.com

Nichole Harney, Editor  
Email: nichole@cobraogc.com

Ashley Pierce, Editor  
Email: ashley.pierce@burkroyalty.com

The Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls was chartered on October 1, 1952, and has been serving professionals in the energy industry in the Wichita Falls area ever since. Being a member is a great opportunity to connect with professionals in the energy industry and expand your knowledge and network. The club focuses on promoting education and fostering professional development in the petroleum, energy, and allied industries. The club organizes monthly meetings, field trips, seminars and hosts a fantastic annual golf tournament.

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