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# The UNION STANDARD

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Jan 2005

Vol. 13, no 1

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## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

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### Dispatch from the Board

I guess you could say this year ended in typical reenactor fashion.....it rained at an event. Rain on Sunday morning with the prospect for more and a soggy battlefield prompted an early cancellation at Prairie Grove. For the small company that made the trek to NW Arkansas it was an outstanding time. It started on Friday night where just about the entire company made a name for itself at dinner in Fayetteville. Of course one of our party made a bigger name for himself than the others. Of course he shall be unnamed but flying into events may have something to do with it. The fun continued next when the "Beast" Hansen was presented a commemorative shirt during morning drill. Of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention Tula's where the first managed to hold our own on Saturday night. Again no names will be mentioned to protect the guilty err innocent.

Of course there other period correct activities. We did have company and battalion drill, and fought a battle. Mrs. Thomas, bless her soul, made significant contributions to the welfare of the men. She washed our shirts (thank goodness), cooked, and even baked fresh bred on site! Careful Julie, this might become habit forming. And we did make a start filming our Training CD.

It was difficult to put together a schedule this past year. The timing of events forced us to really pick and choose what we wanted to do and keep a balance of different activities. As always we started the year with a drill in Arlington. February found us at Fort Washita for a battalion muster. Who could forget the good captain being "taken out" of action on the march to the drill field. (yes he did recover, thank you very much). This was also the scene of

the Franklin briefing and the big discussion on awarding service stripes. In March we attended Beaumont as a drill day and In April found us way away from the crowd at Cross Timbers. Of course the result of the tactical shall not be mentioned.

Because of the decision to have the Live fire at Fort

Chadbourne in June, the we did the live cartridge rolling in May, and had a small group attend Bellmead. Only time I've ever seen a soldier start out as a sergeant and end up a colonel – all in one day. At Chadbourne in June we had a chance to fire over open terrain and do a live fire skirmish drill. After taking the heat of the summer off we started the fall campaign with a joint training session with the 9<sup>th</sup> TX. In October it was the Franklin National Event where we

joined forces with Syke's Regulars and fielded two good size companies for this three day event. We concluded the year with a drill in November at Old City Park where we skirmished our pards in the 9<sup>th</sup> and of course December found us at the soon to be infamous Prairie Grove.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, following drill we will have a company meeting to discuss events for 2005; bring your ideas. And feel free to join us for lunch afterwards for a beer, some wings, and the scenery. There are a few events on the proposed schedule where we haven't been in a long time.

For me this was a fun year and I'm looking forward to next year's schedule. Of course you couldn't ask for a better group for me to take the field with.

*God Bless the Regulars!*

**Don Gross**



# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

**2005**

**Jan 8 – Drill, Veterans Park Arlington Tx**  
**Feb 11-13 – Muster at Ft. Washita, Ok**

**Nothing else official yet!**

**McFuddy suggests trips to Washington City, New Orleans, Paris France or Dublin and staying far far far away from the fighting.**

**Travel McFuddy shipping lines, large crates are our speciality...**

**Seriously – we'll be talking about Corinth in the fall, Port Hudson in the spring, maybe Jefferson Texas, drills at the drill in Arlington.**

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities.*

Contact Alan P or John Bowen by email if you're interested.

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## Lessons from Lincoln

*When one of Lincoln's generals complained that his efforts had stalled and asked the president for advice, Lincoln told him to use his own best judgment but to keep moving:*

"You see, General, we are like an old acquaintance of mine who settled on a piece of 'galled' prairie. It was a terrible rough place to clear up, but after a while he got a few things growing – here and there a patch of corn, a few hills of beans, and so on. One day a stranger stopped to look at his place and wanted to know how he managed to cultivate so rough a spot. 'Well,' was the reply, 'some of it is pretty rough. The smaller stumps I can generally root out or burn out; but now and then there is an old settler that bothers me, and there is no other way but to plow around it.'"

"Now, General, at such a time as this, troublesome cases are constantly coming up, and the only way to get along at all is to plow around them."

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## Help a Pard, help yourself

Steve Hardy is selling his equipment. Some of you may need gear replaced, or perhaps are new and needing to buy it for the first time. Steve has always been one (unlike McFuddy) to keep his gear in top notch condition, so you can count on good equipment and it will help Steve out as well. Anyone who's priced this stuff out recently will see there are some really GOOD prices here.

Here's the list:

knapsack --\$75  
1 Enfield w/ range rod, bag clean kit, bayonet blank rolling kit -----\$400  
gum blanket &poncho -- \$10 ea.  
1 set leathers -----\$50 wool gloves -----  
\$7  
1 haversack -----\$15  
1 neck scarf -----n/c  
sack coat (44) -----\$25  
pants (36)-----\$30  
suspenders-----\$10  
brogans (9)-----\$65  
2pr. drawers (1g)-----\$5 ea.  
14 packs of blanks-----\$28  
Other camp items-----???

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## Test Your Civil War IQ

see answers elsewhere

1. Who were "Sherman's Gorillas"?
2. What prominent Union general was nicknamed "Spoons" and why?
3. Before the war Confederate Ge. A. P. Hill proposed marriage to a young woman Ellen marcy, who declined the offer. Whom did she later marry?
4. What prominent Union general was known as "Old Fuss and Feathers"?
5. What was the official name of a common camp disease defined by Union Army surgeons as a "temporary feeling of depression ... on account of discomfort, hardships, and exposures"?
6. Who was the only general in American history to capture three separate armies?
7. What Union general was known for always wearing clean shirts, despite the grime of battle?
8. Who boasted, "I'm going to take the cavalry away from the bobtailed generals .... I

intend to make the cavalry an arm of the service”?

9. How much did the standard Union soldier’s uniform weigh?

10. How much did the leather cartridge box weigh as issued to Union infantrymen?

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## The Killing Fields, 1861-65

John J. Bowen

I’ve often wondered just how good was the average Civil War soldier in his marksmanship. Or maybe the question should be, just how good were the tactics utilized in the war as related to the accuracy of the firepower? Hoping not to put you to sleep with a long list of numbers, let’s review some of the statistics from the war’s bloodiest engagement, Gettysburg, from **Ready, Aim, Fire, Small Arms Ammunition in the Battle of Gettysburg:**

The Army of the Potomac consisted of 72,000 infantry soldiers, each equipped with 60 rounds/man, coming to 4,320,000 rounds. Additionally, 80-90 rounds per man were carried in the wagons. (6,000,000 more rounds) Given an average shot expenditure during the three days of about 75 rounds per man, that would mean 5,400,000 cartridges were expended. That comes to 193 tons of lead and 23 tons of powder. Using comparable numbers for the 55,000 infantry of the Army of Northern Virginia, they would have fired about 4,125,000 rounds. That brings the total number of small-arms shots fired to over **9,500,000!**

The list of casualties is:

AOP:	3,070 killed	ANV: 2,592 killed
	14,497 wounded	12,706
wounded		
TOTAL:	17,567	15,298

TOTAL combined: **32,865** casualties (Does not include lost or missing.) It’s also interesting to see that the attacking force suffered fewer casualties!

So during the bloodiest battle of the entire war, a soldier had a 25 % chance of being hit but it took **290 shots** for each casualty (And these numbers include the hits by the artillery so the these numbers for small arms are too low) **Battle Tactics of the Civil War** has a count of about **200 shots** per Confederate casualty (pg 84-5) So a full strength regiment (which there weren’t any) would have to fire 2 to 3 volleys

just to get 1 hit! Makes our live-fire results pretty impressive!!

**The Union Soldier in Battle, Enduring the Ordeal of Combat** lists total Union combat losses for the war as;

Union losses killed in action: 110,100

Union wounded in action: 275,175

Which equals: 385,275 total hits (pg 43)

As there were some 1,680,000 total men involved throughout the war on the Union side, that equates to a 23% casualty rate of killed or wounded.

Admittedly, this next number is not scientifically derived, but if you extrapolate these figures, it took over **110 million** shots just to produce these 385,275 Union casualties! (Again, since artillery casualties are included in this figure, this number is way too low) Seems to me, that the average soldier was not a great shot or something was terribly wrong with the tactics employed.

### Traditional Thoughts on Civil War Marksmanship:

Many students of the Civil War are familiar with the following instance of Civil War marksmanship...

“After Gettysburg, of more than 37,000 muskets salvaged, 24,000 were loaded and of these 18,000 had more than one load. Many of those with a single charge were loaded with untorn cartridges or bullet-down. From this, experts judge that, figuring as many improperly loaded weapons were probably retained by their users as those that were found, 35 per cent of all troops engaged were ineffective.” (**Arms and Equipment of the Civil War**, pg29).

**Battle Tactics of the Civil War** states that

“9% of muskets were misloaded based on muskets found with multiple loads after battle (p86). This is probably a more realistic number. How many times have you shot a double load during a reenactment because you didn’t know you had a misfire?

Considering the battle confusion in war, this would account for this happening. They go on to explain that once a soldier discovered his piece was fouled, it would be easier to just pick up another, which would account for the number found misloaded and you would therefore not extrapolate that number throughout the entire army. Never the less, the ‘heat of battle’ would account for poor marksmanship, to be sure. We found out during live-fires how difficult it is to aim while shoulder to shoulder in ranks.

Front and rear ranks are constantly jostled; sometimes just getting the rifle pointed in the right direction is a chore. And if the captain says ‘Fire’ before you’re really ready, is your aim anywhere

close? I think not. And of course, with all the smoke and confusion, it is often hard to even see the target. These considerations are a large part of the problem.

“There does appear to have been a serious lack of target practice in the armies of both sides, and we find that when it did occur most diarists regarded it as a highly exceptional event.” **Battle Tactics of the Civil War** (pg 87) “If the sights on the rifle were badly set, this angle would be wrong and the shots would miss. Hence accurate firing at long ranges was a particularly delicate operation. There is little in the literature to suggest that the average Civil War infantry regiment even began to judge distances or set sights accurately for battle. On the contrary, there are many references to officers telling their men simply to aim low in order to counteract the natural inclination of a flinching musketeer to shoot high. One bit of advice was to...”take deliberate aim as low as the knee & fire.” These sound counsels are surely designed to produce effective fire at short rather than long ranges...” (**Battle Tactics of the Civil War**, pg 88)

Aimed at a target 300 yards away, the bullet rose some four feet above the line of sight. (**Arms and Equipment of the Civil War**, pg 32) “A bullet fired by a kneeling man at the belt buckle of a man running toward him at an estimated range of 300 yards would pass over the head of a man 250 yards away. Thus, if the shooter had overestimated the range by as little as 50 yards he would have missed.” (**Arms and Equipment of the Civil War**, pg 39) And yet **Battle Tactics of the Civil War** lists the average range (when noted in reports) of engagement by year as:

Average reported ranges of firing:

1861-2: 122 yards

1863: 127 yards

1864-5: 141 yards

And yet the sights are for 100, 300, and 500 yards.

How often do you think they were used properly, if at all during a fight?

How many accounts have you read where the soldier describes a ‘hornets’ nest’? “A lethal hail of fire would knock down twigs and leaves, chip the bark off tree trunks, and kick up dust along the ground. ...Thicker faster they came until it was one continuous humming about our ears,” “The random fall of bullets meant that getting hit was largely a matter of chance. Near misses were much more common than deadly hits...” “Soldiers often were amazed that they could endure this kind of exposure and remain unscathed.” (**Arms and Equipment of the Civil War**, pg 24) From most accounts, it

sounds like the majority of shots were flying harmlessly overhead.

### **A New Theory on Civil War Marksmanship**

This section is culled from “**On Killing, The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society**” by LtCol Dave Grossman, USA. 1995.

As reenactors, we have already been exposed to the concept of explaining the war not from present day concepts, but from the mindset of the men and women of 150 years ago. Our concepts on society, government, slavery, and any other topic are greatly different from how our ancestors viewed these same topics. Death and killing were framed differently also. Families were used to do their own killing and cleaning of domestic and wild animals as a part of life, essential to living. Cruelty was not a part of it and people respected the place of the creatures that sustained them. That however didn’t mean they were more prepared to kill in battle. “...the average musket fire from a Napoleonic or Civil War regiment firing at an exposed enemy regiment at an average range of thirty yards, would usually result in hitting only 1 or 2 men a minute!...Casualties mounted because the contest went on so long, not because the fire was particularly deadly.” (p.10) For all the world’s conflicts involving firearms prior to WWII, it is estimated that only 20 to 25 % of all combatants actually participated in trying to actually kill the enemy. “During WWII, it was found that “of every 100 men along the line of fire during the period of an encounter, an average of only 15 to 20 would take any part with their weapons.” (p.3) “Dyer’s WWII figure of 1% of US Army Air Corps fighter pilots being responsible for 40% of all kills...” (p.181) ...throughout history the majority of men on the battlefield would not attempt to kill the enemy, even to save their own lives or the lives of their friends.”(p.4)...there is within most men an intense resistance to killing their fellow man. (p.4) After the war, rates improved...”changes resulted in a firing rate of 55 % in Korea, and, according to a study by Scott, a 90 to 95% firing rate was attained in Vietnam.” (p.35) Only about 2% of the population has no regard about overcoming the resistance to kill. And they are classified as sociopaths. So why the change?

“The soldier’s response to the overly hostile actions of the enemy is usually one of profound shock, surprise, and outrage...Why does he want to kill me?”(p.79)

“When people become angry, or frightened, they stop thinking with their forebrain (the mind of a humane being) and start thinking with their midbrain (which is indistinguishable from the mind of an animal)... The only thing that has any hope of influencing the midbrain is also the only thing that influences a dog; classical and operant conditioning... precise replication of the stimulus that they will face and then extensive shaping of the desired response to that stimulus”. (p.xviii)

When men are exposed to danger, we have learned that there are two responses; fight or flight, but in all of nature...“when the fight option is utilized, it is almost never to the death.” (p.6) And just as occurs in nature, the one who postures the best, i.e., “makes the loudest noise or puffs himself up the largest— will win.” (p.8) i.e. yelling/ noise of battle/ bright uniforms/ high hats/ Indians ‘counting coup’. The simple fact is that when faced with a living, breathing opponent instead of a target, a significant majority of the soldiers revert to a posturing mode in which they fire over their enemy’s heads.” (p.11) It also explains why there were so few bayonet wounds during the Civil War, or any war for that matter. It was a much too personal way to kill; it was too close. The factor of distance is most pronounced the closer the combat. Most soldiers would reverse their muskets and use it as a club. Or, it was easier to deliver a slashing or hacking blow than a piercing blow. (p.120) And the horror of hand to hand combat usually resulted in one side fleeing. But then again...“the vast majority of the killing in historical battles occurred during the pursuit when the enemy had turned his back. (p.71)—the ‘chase instinct’— you can’t see the enemy’s face.

“Dyer observes that there has never been a similar resistance to killing among artillerymen or bomber crews or naval personnel.” (p.59)...intervention of distance and machinery enable the soldier to ignore the fact that he is killing a fellow human being. There are other factors that make killing easier. Most men need leadership, to be told what to do. So being trained to obey officers and follow orders help them get over their reluctance to kill. In WWI, it was found that when the officer left the vicinity of the battle, the men would often cease firing. Officers direct killing but don’t have to do it personally.

Some factors that enable a soldier to kill:

Authority (officers); need to obey  
Loyalty to your group & belonging to group  
contributes to anonymity

Deny enemy is a human being (labels: Yanks/ Reb/ gook, etc.)

Last but not least: Operant conditioning

After WWII the Army progressively made target practice more realistic. They went from bulls-eyes, to human silhouettes, to human pictures that move, pop up and fall down when hit. Our arcade and computer games have basically removed the natural inhibitions from killing another human with a rifle. So although we would find it strange today to think men would purposely not aim to kill when in battle, times and our ‘conditioning’ have changed us. In this case, the historical figures don’t lie! So next time we’re out there ‘looking the elephant in the eye’, remember, those men didn’t really have their blood up (in a killer sense). If it were up to them, they’d just as soon scare the enemy off as have to kill him. They yelled, cussed, and fired as quickly as they could; but maybe it was all posturing after all. If those men were trained as we train our army today, either the war would have been over much sooner or the casualties would have been much, much higher. Anyway, it gives you sum’tin’ to think on....

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## Ammo

Be advised that Ted Cross, who is the 1<sup>st</sup> US armorer, has powder & caps should you need to stock up before Prairie Grove. Ted’s number is 817-429-6317 and call soon before his stocks run out. Note that the caps are the accepted 4-wing variety.

- \$10 Goex powder, 1 lb.
- \$9 RWS caps (German), 200 per box

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## Quiz answers

1. Soldiers from the Midwest in Wm. T. Sherman’s command referred to themselves by this name.
2. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler acquired the sobriquet “Spoons Butler” for alleged habit of appropriating Southern silverware while serving as military governor of New Orleans.
3. Union Gen. George B. McClellan.
4. Gen. Winfield Scott, commander in chief of the U.S. Army in 1861, was so nicknamed by army officers for his affection for pomp and ceremony.

5. The “disease” was officially termed “nostalgia” – commonly known as homesickness.
6. Gen. U.S. Grant earned this distinction by capturing separate Confederate armies at Ft. Donelson, Vicksburg, and Appomattox.
7. The predictably neat attire was a trademark of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, who distinguished himself in battle from the Peninsula Campaign to Petersburg.
8. U.S. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan made this vow soon after Grant brought him to Virginia in 1864 to command the Army of the Potomac’s three division of cavalry.
9. The all-wool Union blouse, trousers, and undershirt – minus all accoutrements – weighed six pounds and caused discomfort during Southern summer heat.
10. The typical cartridge box weighed 4 pounds when fully loaded. When the cartridge box was worn on a waist belt, according to army physicians, the box caused it’s wearer to suffer a hernia “caused by the pressure of the belt on the abdomen in marching and other laborious efforts.”

**Member at Large(2)** – Beck Martin, Blair Rudy, John Bowen, Alan Prendergast, George Hansen, Aaron Smith, Don Gross

If you are interested in running for office please advise on of the following gentlemen of your intention and the office you would like to run for:

Election Committee

Conway Barton [BARTON49@cs.com](mailto:BARTON49@cs.com)  
 Pete Graham [lcolgraham@yahoo.com](mailto:lcolgraham@yahoo.com)  
 Aaron Smith [amsmith76036@yahoo.com](mailto:amsmith76036@yahoo.com)

Contact Don Gross for a copy of the latest SFR document – [don-gorec@charter.net](mailto:don-gorec@charter.net)

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## Charles Francis Adams’ Diary

“The Union Standard” 2005 installments will feature excerpts from Charles Francis Adams’ diary. Charles Adams (1835 – 1915) is from a prominent Massachusetts family as his forbearers include presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Adams joined the Union army in 1861 and served throughout the war, initially with the 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry, later as an officer (eventually commanding officer) of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mass. Cavalry – the first African American regiment raised by his state. Harvard educated, observant and opinionated, Adams wrote vivid letters to his relatives during the war; many were to his father, who was serving the Lincoln administration as U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. Although he admitted, “Patience, kindness, and self control have not been my characteristics as an officer” (a truth often reflected in his letters), Adams found his army experience profoundly educational in a far different way than his years at Harvard had been. The excerpts from his wartime letters which appear this year in “The Union Standard” are from the two-volume collection “A Cycle of Adams Letters, 1861 – 1865,” edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford.

“I had two men desert the other day also, and under peculiar circumstances .... They had cost the Government \$300 each and were good for

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## 1<sup>st</sup> US Board Eligibility (Election!)

The Election Committee used the Standards For Rank document to determine those eligible to hold office in the upcoming elections. You may run for more than one position, but be elected to only one position. Elections shall be held in the order of highest rank to lowest rank; each office will be elected independent of each other.

- Candidates for rank/board leadership at present are –
- Cpl(2).** – Beck Martin, Blair Rudy, Ron Myers, Neal Rudy, Aaron Smith.
  - 2-4 Sgt.** – Ron Myers, Blair Rudy, Aaron Smith
  - 1st Sgt.** – Kevin Doughtie
  - Jr Officer** – John Bowen
  - Sr Officer** – Alan Predergast

nothing, as by far too many of these “bounty boys” are .... They were posted at an important point on the extreme front of our lines .... When the patrol came round they has disappeared. The case was reported and I supposed that they had grown cold and drowsy and been ingeniously spirited away by guerillas – for such things are done. At the end of 10 days however one of our men accidently found their horses tied to a tree in the woods near their posts, all saddled, just as the men had left them .... There the poor brutes had stood for 10 days, without food or water, until one had died in the agonies of starvation. Meanwhile, the human brutes ... had, I find, quietly ... walked off, enquiring their way to Warrenton .... I am doing all in my power to catch them .... Should I succeed, their fate is not to be envied. They will be court martialed and probably shot.

Charles Francis Adams Jr., letter to his father, Jan. 28, 1863 (camp near Potomac Run)

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## “What They Said About Grant”

from The Civil War Strange & Fascinating Facts, by Burke Davis.

Charge: *Grant was a slave owner who had voted the Democratic ticket and married into a pro-Southern family.*

True. In 1858 Grant bought a mulatto, William Jones, but gave him freedom a year later, though Grant was desperate for money and could have sold William. He voted for the Democrat, Buchanan, hoping that the Union could be held together by compromise. Grant married Julia Dent of St. Louis, who owned at least three slaves; her family was pro-Southern. Grant differed sharply with his father-in-law on slavery and before the war returned his wife’s slaves to her family.

Charge: *Grant was anti-Semitic.*

There is some doubt as to the circumstances and even authorship, but at least the controversial

Gen. Order Number 11 went out over Grant’s name:

“The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the department within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.”

“Post commanders will see that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and any one returning ... will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners.”

Washington overruled Grant almost immediately, and he willingly withdrew the order, but the damage was done.

Charge: *Grant was drunk at Shiloh, causing surprise and near annihilation of his army.*

Certainly false. Numerous diarists and witnesses, some of them outside Grant’s immediate circle, testified as to Grant’s sobriety at this time. Gen. Henry Halleck, by no means a Grant partisan, reported that the army was not surprised at Shiloh. At least no Federal soldiers were killed in bed, as early reports had it. Grant probably made serious miscalculations as to the numbers and proximity of the Confederates, but his troops actually opened the battle with attack.

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### Newsletter contributions –

E-Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard –

[d1stus@gte.net](mailto:d1stus@gte.net) or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007

**Newsletter** – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter,

[beast1st@attbi.com](mailto:beast1st@attbi.com) or (972) 529-5349.

**Address/Telephone changes** – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen,

[jbowen1stus@comcast.net](mailto:jbowen1stus@comcast.net)

or (972) 539-6167.



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## Yearly Membership Dues

Yes, it is that time again for everyone to pay their yearly membership fee. The annual \$25 cost is applicable to individuals/families and is now due. Please make your check payable to **NTRS**, not the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Any check payable to anything other than the NTRS will be returned, as our bank will only accept items payable to NTRS. Please use the below 2005 Dues Form as this form serves a valuable tracking device. (Checks preferred! McFuddy....well.... you know....)

Thank you.

Alan Prendergast  
NTRS Treasurer

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# NTRS

## 2005 DUES FORM

**NTRS Dues**                      \$     25

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

NTRS Member Name(s):

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Make check payable to **NTRS** and mail this form to:

Alan Prendergast  
1403 Barclay Drive  
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**Franklin 2004**



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