

# Topographic Times



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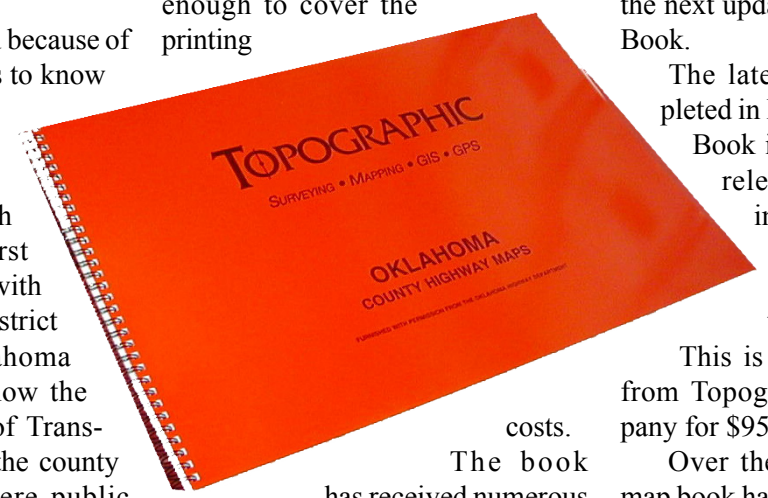
## For Over 40 Years, The Red Map Book

Since shortly after the company was founded, Topographic has been famous for the Oklahoma County Map Book. Famous, you say? Maybe you have not seen the movie *Twister* where the book made its movie debut! We are very proud of Topographic's rich history as we prepare for our 50th Anniversary in 2008 and equally proud of "The Red Map Book".

The book was created because of a need for our field crews to know where roads were located, easily and quickly, on a statewide basis. Marilyn Brooks, a draftsman with Topographic and the first office employee, talked with her father who was a district engineer with the Oklahoma Highway Department, now the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. He said that the county maps they produced were public information so Topographic got extra large scale maps of each county. Townships and section numbers were added to each county map in the 1960s, but now the maps come with this information. Then the books were bound together so one (or more for larger counties) map per county was represented in a book.

Not only were these books found to be indispensable by Topographic employees, but they also became a public relations tool. Topographic began supplying all customers with the map book 40 years ago. Customers then started to request more of the books for additional employees. In response to the demand, Topographic began selling these for \$15.00, just enough to cover the printing

Draftsman with Topographic Land Surveyors of Oklahoma updated any files needed. Since then, 47 of the 77 county maps have been corrected with information from Topographic's field crews. Party Chiefs let Virgil Rogers, Project Manager with Topographic Land Surveyors of Oklahoma, know when a road is incorrect or missing, etc. and the change will be noted in the next updated version of the Map Book.



The latest updates were completed in May, 2007, and the Map Book is \$45.00. Topographic released a digital version in 2000 with each of the county maps available in scanned image files that are georeferenced.

This is available for purchase from Topographic Mapping Company for \$95.00 for the entire state.

The book has received numerous updates to the information as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation comes out with new maps periodically. In 2000, the last major updating occurred by Topographic when the maps were all scanned and sent to Russia. A draftsman there digitized the maps and sent them back in AutoCAD files. A.J. Crager,

Over the years, Topographic's map book has had numerous updates and changes including the overall look of the book. It still remains the good ol' Topographic Red Map Book, though, after all these years. For more information on this historic Oklahoma Map Book, contact Topographic's Map Store at [mapstore@topographic.com](mailto:mapstore@topographic.com) or 800-654-3219.

## Inside the Times...

*The Historic Topographic Oklahoma County Map Book*

*Are You a Surveyor?*

*TMC in 2007*

*Paintballing Roughnecks*

*Topo Notes, Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries*

*Back Safety from Evergreen Consulting Company*

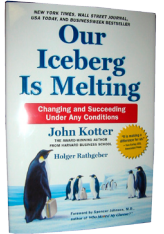
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## Topo Notes

Mike Brown in Topographic's Granbury office and his wife, Adriana, have a new baby boy, Everett Brown. He was born on April 4th at 10:33pm at Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest in Fort Worth. Everett weighed a whopping 10 lbs., 6 oz. and was 23 inches long when he was born! Big brother, Sully, welcomed Everett with open arms. Welcome to the newest member of the Brown family!



Topographic, Inc. recently sponsored the Third Annual Executive Symposium featuring John Kotter. The two-hour event hosted the #1 leadership guru as ranked by *BusinessWeek* at Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City on May 1st. Donna Bjordahl, Kate Burch, Ralph Heatly, Robert Keating, John Skinner, and Beverley Townsend all attended and learned a lot about the face of change on businesses and what leadership entails.



The Geographic Information Science Student Organization of Texas A&M - Corpus Christi held their annual Precision 5K Run/Walk on April 14th, 2007. Topographic was a Gold Level Sponsor in this event that raises money to help students in the GIS program attend the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors annual conference in Arlington, Texas. The students can attend educational courses at the conference and network with Texas land surveyors.



The 5K event had approximately 100 runners and walkers participate making it a huge success and raising more money than was originally anticipated. Topographic was pleased to be involved in such a worthwhile event for up-and-coming land surveyors and GIS professionals.



# Roughnecks Come In 2nd

Contributed by Michael Lain

On April 7th, 2007, Topographic Land Surveyors - Granbury employees, Julio Silva, Kevin Pitts, John Phelps, and Michael Lain entered the Red Dawn Paintball Tournament. Their team name was Roughnecks and the tournament was held at DFWPro Paintball Park, [www.dfwpro.com](http://www.dfwpro.com). A total of 17 four-man teams entered the tournament.

The tournament was set up in three stages, the first two were a timed 3 part course, and the last stage pitted the top teams against each other. In the first and second stage of the tournament the teams had to face various members of the semi-pro paintball team B.O.H.I.C.A. on three courses of "capture the flag". In the first stage all 17 teams ran the course, for the second stage the top 8 teams with the best times from the first stage ran the courses again. For the final stage, the top 6 teams with the best time from the second stage competed head-to-head in a "capture the flag", single elimination round.

Team Roughnecks qualified for each round and came out of the final round in 2nd place. Each member was presented with a PMI Piranha USP Pistol and 3 field and air passes to DFWPro Paintball Park, a value of approximately \$700.00.



Pictured L-R: Michael Lain, Julio Silva, Kevin Pitts, and John Phelps. More pictures and a compilation video can be found on DFWPro's website.

# YOU Might Be a Surveyor If...

This article is reprinted in part with permission from *Professional Surveyor Magazine* as appeared in the March, 2007 issue. [www.profsurv.com](http://www.profsurv.com)

Written by Tommy W. Woodsmall

1. If you've ever used a machete to prune trees and trim hedges around your house, you might be a surveyor.
2. If you've ever stepped on a snapping turtle while running from a water moccasin, you might be a surveyor.
3. If you think that safe sex is checking yourself for ticks before you climb into bed with your spouse, you might be a surveyor.
4. If you have ever crossed a creek on a beaver dam, fallen in on the deep side, and managed to keep the instrument dry, you might be a surveyor.
5. If you've ever screamed at the top of your lungs, "something's in my pants and it just bit me!" while standing waist deep in a swamp, you might be a surveyor.
6. If you've ever been run up a tree by a wild hog after nearly stepping on a rattlesnake and this is really nothing outside of an ordinary work day, you might be a surveyor.
7. If your spouse catches poison ivy more than you because she has to touch your jeans while putting them in the washer, you might be a surveyor.
8. If you have eaten a can of potted meat with a pack of crackers while watching beavers in a creek on your lunch break, you might be a surveyor.
9. If you have fallen in a creek two times in the same day, in the same place, you might be a surveyor.
10. If you groom yourself like a monkey at the end of every workday so you don't contract Lyme disease, you might be a surveyor.

# TMC's Busy Schedule

2007 is a busy year for Topographic Mapping Company with trade shows, new employees, and projects on the calendar. Donna Bjordahl is steering the company through trade shows with Topographic's new trade show booth, Oklahoma Natural Gas projects, and hiring two draftsmen.



In early May, Donna Bjordahl and Kate Burch exhibited at the American Public Works Association's two-day conference. In July, TMC will be hitting the road and going to Tulsa for the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council Conference and the Oklahoma County Assessors Annual Conference. Topographic will also exhibit at the South Central Arc Users Group's Oklahoma Conference and trade show on October 9th in Oklahoma City.

Ongoing projects with ONG include the I-40 relocation that is being done in phases and the I-44 and I-235 interchange work. The I-40 relocation is a large project with numerous companies working on various aspects of the new highway. ONG is relocating pipelines in the area and Topographic is working on the extensive mapping involved. The I-44 and I-235 interchange work began in April. Mark Klepper, Lead Draftsman with Topographic Land Surveyors of Oklahoma, is also working on this project along with the surveying department.

New employees, Scott Bowen and Leroy Cargle, are working with these projects and others. Scott came to Topographic from Reel-O-Matic and lives in Yukon with his wife, Laura, and their two kids, Sean and Josh. Leroy just finished coursework at Francis Tuttle where he studied CADD. He lives in Oklahoma City with his wife, Kayla, and children, Skyler, Sean, Kevin, Camron, and Brandon. Welcome to you both!

# Safety First

Contributed by Charles Smith  
Evergreen Consulting Company

Wow, 50 years. What a great job! A lot of things can and have changed in 50 years. Most companies kept people safe by common sense and hands-on training. We still use these methods. We also have a lot of rules and regulations to follow now. Topographic has been keeping up with those this quarter by completing FA/CPR training, H2S, Process Safety Management, MOC, Fire Safety and EAP. We also reviewed JSA's, STOP's, Near Misses and Hazard Identification processes.

One area of common safe work practice is back safety. Some of you may have bad backs due to injury, age or genetics. There are others who do not have back problems. Here are some suggestions that will help keep you in good back shape, as well as protect those with weaker backs.

**LIFT CORRECTLY** - Let your legs do the work. Bend at your knees, not your waist, to pick up any object. Keep items close to your body as you lift them. Avoid twisting while lifting and moving. To turn, shuffle your feet.

**SIT UP STRAIGHT** - Sit with your back straight. Use the lumbar support on your chair, or a cushion to help support your lower back. Keep both feet on the floor. Avoid leaning into your desk or screen.

**MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT** - Every pound you carry on the front of your body adds 10 pounds of pressure to your back. If you pick up a 5 pound sack of potatoes, your back is subject to 50 pounds of pressure.

**CONDITION YOUR MUSCLES** - Aerobic exercise stretches and strengthens the muscles that support your lower back. Visit your doctor and ask if they have a pamphlet on Basic Conditioning Exercises for Low-Back Syndrome. It contains some very simple and non-stressful exercises. Always check with your doctor before starting any exercise program.

Some of these tips came from TopHealth newsletter.

## Birthdays

May:	June:	July:	
Kevin Rowan 1	Susan Blueher 2	Scott Bowen 6	
Alison Land 6	Tyrone Fennell 14	Jeffery Sauer 6	
Cory Willingham 6	Carey Maxwell 18	Gary Armstrong 8	
Kevin Whinery 12	Jesse Wright 21	Chris Harkins 9	
Mark Klepper 15	Bryan Hyatt 25	Dean Crockett 15	
Brenda Scissons 27		Shawn Hughes 22	
Brian Krafft 29		Dennis Jones 22	
Michael Lain 30		Shelly McCullar 29	
		Ralph Heatly 31	

## Holidays & Safety Meetings

Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother's Day	May 13
Memorial Day	May 28
Offices Closed	
Flag Day	June 14
Father's Day	June 17
Safety Training - Midland	June 18
Safety Training - Granbury	June 25
Independence Day	July 4
Offices Closed	
Safety Training - Pampa	July 30

## TOPOGRAPHIC

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The Topographic Times is a quarterly publication of Topographic, Inc.

We welcome your comments and questions. Send all correspondence Attn: Kate Burch, Marketing and PR Coordinator, [inbox@topographic.com](mailto:inbox@topographic.com).

## Company Anniversaries

Steven Adams	1 Year	Burton Jones	9 Years
Lynn Bezner	28 Years	Mark Klepper	14 Years
Donna Bjordahl	8 Years	Lance Mathis	7 Years
Mike Brown	2 Years	Annie McCullough	1 Year
Kate Burch	10 Years	Eligio Ochoa	4 Years
Curt Carlson	7 Years	Bob Overton	15 Years
Tommy Chernicky	3 Years	Virgil Rogers	35 Years
Sergio Colula	1 Year	Henry Vasquez	14 Years
Codi Downs	1 Year	Hallie Wiggins	2 Years
Wayne Fisch	29 Years	Alvie Wright	7 Years
Pat Fox	3 Years	David Youree	24 Years
Brandon Johnston	1 Year		