



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2005

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

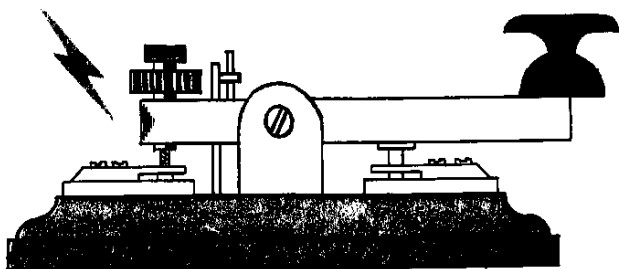
## ANNUAL BANQUET AND ANNUAL AWARDS

The annual banquet always takes place just after the holiday season. This year it will once again be at the Saltgrass Steak House, 9110 SW Freeway, outbound feeder road, South of Gessner on Friday, January 14, 2005. Cash bar begins at 7PM and dinner is at 8PM (order from menu). Awards will then be presented. A video will also be shown depicting the past history of BVARC.

## NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JANUARY

The banquet is always held in lieu of the monthly meeting. The next scheduled general membership meeting will be on February 10.

We'll see you at the banquet.



## The December Homebrew Night Meeting

Each December, the theme of the general membership meeting is homebrew equipment. The meeting took place at the Sugarland Library. It was well attended and there were many exhibits. All deserved an award so it was hard for the members to choose a "winner." For more pictures of the meeting and the exhibits, see the next page and the BVARC website.



**Have a Happy and Prosperous New  
Year**

*MORE PHOTOS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING –  
HOMEBREW NIGHT*



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We want to thank everyone who has submitted suggestions for the content and format of the BVARC Newsletter. For the most part, these have been incorporated and thus, the person making a suggestion saw it come to fruition. There were several however that were suggested that were not incorporated. Some examples include:

How about formatting the fonts so it is uniform?

It is our intent to try to make this newsletter as "homely" and "friendly" as possible. We are not trying to win any Pulitzer Prizes yet still want it to be attractive. The articles are edited as little as possible because we wish to convey the "personality" of the article as submitted. Only gross corrections or known erroneous information is changed. The selection of the font is part of the author's choice. Additionally those reading the newsletter clearly see that it is not a solo effort but rather, is a team effort with diverse submittals.

How about putting names of all entities associated with everything reported?

In general we try to accomplish this. For some of the repeating articles or some of the monthly reports however, the repetitive information is occasionally deleted for layout, space or aesthetic reasons. Also, where the information is included in the "boiler plate" portions of the newsletter, then this information is occasionally left out of the article but the reader is usually directed to the "boiler plate" for this information. Additionally sometimes this information was not submitted with the article or was not available at press time.

Speaking of repetitive information, here is some regarding the article submittals:

The BVARC Newsletter is compiled the last week of the month. The 25<sup>th</sup> of the month is the cutoff date for submittals. Please submit any material that you have to John (K5IZO) at [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)

Submit this material as an attachment in either MS Word (.doc) format or TEXT (.txt) format.

We intend to get the newsletter in the member's hands before the General Membership Meeting each month.

*The club is paying for copying costs typically running around \$75 per issue. We are ACTIVELY soliciting members to talk to their employer to see if they would volunteer to allow us to use their copy machines. We would take ANY sort of help. Examples include - full copying, our providing the paper, our providing the labor, their subsidizing this worthwhile cause. . . .*

John K5IZO

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**ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET**

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Between Richmond & Westpark

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910 LIPAN  
HOUSTON, TX 77063  
02/05

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## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE:

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, Houston.

VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), Stafford.

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

JANUARY – NONE – Too close to Awards Banquet.

FEBRUARY – Tio Pepe's Spanish Restaurant, in Bellaire, 7:30p.m.

# B-VARC Calendar - January 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Net 8:00 pm 145.470	4	5 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	6 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8  7:30 am Saturday morning breakfast
9	10 Net 8:00 pm 145.470	11 VE Session 6:30 pm	12 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	13	14 BVARC Banquet Saltgrass Steak House	15  7:30 am Saturday morning breakfast
16	17 Net 8:00 pm 145.470	18	19 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	20	21	22  7:30 am Saturday morning breakfast
23	24 Net 8:00 pm 145.470	25	26 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	27	28	29  7:30 am Saturday morning breakfast
30	31					

Remember: Saturday morning breakfasts - See details under Club Happenings.  
Third Friday Dinner, 7:30p.m. (sharp). Check into one of the nets for the location.

**Houston Amateur Radio Supply**  
 181 Cypresswood Drive  
 Houston, Texas 77388 - 6038  
 281-355-7373 800-471-7373 281-355-8007/Fax  
 Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Georae Di Letto KD0RW  
 Repair most brands of radios, amps, and other gear  
 Factory Authorized Repair center for ICOM and Yaesu  
 Trade-ins Welcome, Consignment Service,  
 30 day warranty on used equipment 06/04

## Upcoming Hamfests

Here is hamfest info for the next several months. Additional listings are at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

### KCOMM, INC.

10815 Gulfdale  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
<http://home.satx.rr.com/kcomm/>

Parking Lot Swapfest !  
(210) 344-3311

A reminder to all hams in South Texas.

We have renewed our monthly tailgater... Parking lot swapfest.

It's in our parking lot, the last Saturday each month.  
Gulfdale is close to the San Antonio International Airport.  
Hey!!! Free coffee & doughnuts.  
C'mon out and set a spell.

### Humble TEAC ARC Swapmeet

Third Saturday in March, June, September, December in Humble. Sponsored by TEAC - Hugh [W5FM@arrl.net](mailto:W5FM@arrl.net)  
145.43(minus offset)

### San Antonio Swapfest05

[www.w5sc.org](http://www.w5sc.org)

Saturday, January 8, 2005

Little Joe's Country Gold , 7405 Old Pearsall Rd.  
Advanced Registration: Tables: \$6.00 Admission: \$2.00 Must be received by Dec.30, 2004. At The Door: Tables: \$7.00 Admission: \$3.00 Food and drinks available on site. Early Bird Registrations must

be received by Dec.15, 2004. Setup: 7:00 AM Sat.  
Doors Open to Public 8:00 AM Sat.

TALK IN WILL BE: 146.940 OR 444.100 BOTH WITH 179.9 TONE

For more information contact Erik Smith at 210-831-9811 or [swapfest@w5sc.org](mailto:swapfest@w5sc.org)

### Georgetown Sunday Swapmeet

<http://www.wcarc.com>

February 6, 2005

Contact [w5rht@arrl.net](mailto:w5rht@arrl.net) for more information

### Orange and Smithville

These usually occur in February. More information will be available on these in the next issue.

### Brazos Valley ARC

#### Mix-N-Match Swap Meet

March 5, 2005

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/> or [n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net)  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Indoor tables and outdoor Spaces available at Sugar Land Community Center  
Needing volunteers to help with the swap meet!

## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**. 146.88 Mhz, PL 103.5 (backup – 145.45, PL –none). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

9/6 - 32 - Cam, k5cam  
9/13 - 35 - Mike, N5vcx  
9/20 - 23 - Claude, k5hfy  
9/27 - 33 - Doug, kc5vyz  
10/4 - 27 - Cam, k5cam  
10/11 - 33 - Mike, n5vcx

10/18 - 29 - Joe, k5jwm  
10/25 - 21 - Doug, kc5vyz  
11/1 - 30 - Doug, kc5vyz  
11/8 - 23 - Mike, n5vcx  
11/15 - 13 - Joe, k5jwm  
11/22 - 19 - Cam, k5cam

11/29 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd  
12/6 - 25 - Cam, k5cam  
12/13 - 21 - Mike, n5vcx  
12/20 - 23, Joe, k5jwm

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## Public Service Events

### Several Events Still Needing Volunteers!

Here are several upcoming Public Service and other amateur radio related events needing amateur radio operators for communications or participation. Operators of web sites and remail list, post this information on your web site. Please show your support for amateur radio by coming out to help or by attending the events.

## HP Houston Marathon 8:00 a.m. January 16, 2005

<http://www.hphoustonmarathon.com/>

The 2005 Houston Marathon, which will be run **Sunday, 16 January 2003**, needs amateur radio operators and others to provide communications. This is the 33rd consecutive year for this event. Last year over 145 communications volunteers helped assure the safety and welfare of the more than 8000 runners and the public supporting the race.

Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, Chair, Houston Marathon Communications Committee  
10039 Lynbrook Drive, Houston, TX 77042 H: 713- 977-9754 W: 713-500-9185  
e-mail: [Carl.S.Hacler@urh.tmc.edu](mailto:Carl.S.Hacler@urh.tmc.edu) [www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/course/maps/hacker/](http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/course/maps/hacker/)

## BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour 2005

### 7:00 a.m. April 16 & 17, 2005

Premier 2 day cycling event needing 120 amateur radio operators to provide communications for support. Communications will be on HF, VHF, UHF, and APRS. Bike Ride has multiple courses between Houston and Austin and amateur radio covers all areas, medical, break points/water stops, start and finish areas, SAGS, supply trucks, and event staff.

If you are interested in helping, please give Mike Hardwick, N5VCX a call at 713-771-4625.

Thanks, Mike, [n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net)

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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

*By Joe Morgan, K5JWM*  
November 2004 check-ins  
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM  
Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-Varc members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

11/03/04: K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, AD5SS, K5VRJ, K5HFY, WA5VRB, WA5TWL, KG5RQ, AB5BA. (10)

11/10/04: K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5UHZ, N5VXU, NM5K, WA5CYI, WB5HOW (11)

11/17/04: K5JWM, N5CPA, K5LJ, W5HFF, K5IZO, W5UHZ, K5HFY, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB5WZ, K5AVJ (10)

11/24/04: K5JWM, K5LJ, KA5JKI, K5HFY, N5CPA, WA5VRB (06)



## HF Antenna Experimentation Suggestions

by Rick Hiller W5RH

When experimenting with HF antennas there are 3 things that I would suggest doing in order to make building the antennas easier and to make the performance evaluation more fruitful.

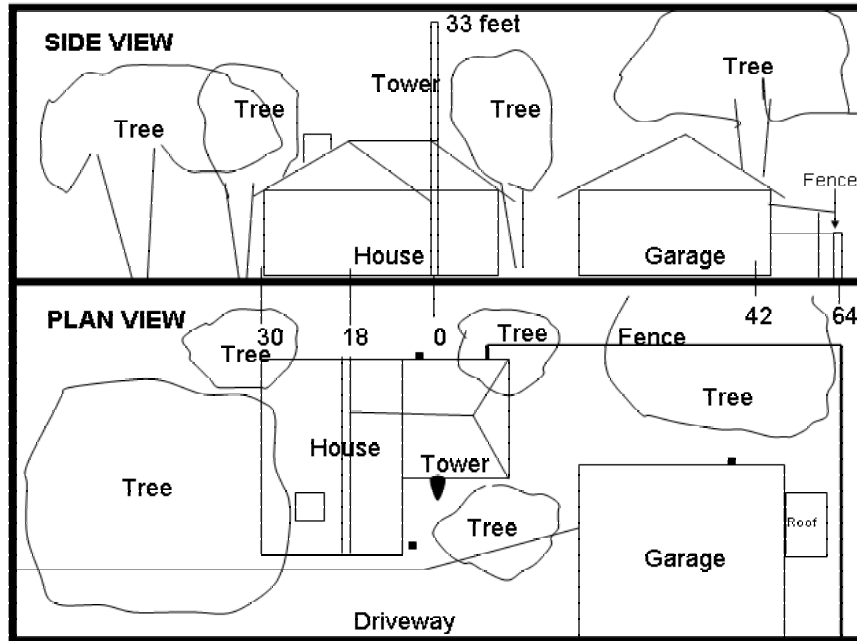
- 1) **Make 'plan' view and 'elevation' view scale drawings of your property.** See figure 1. Make single page copies of each of these 2 views and use these as 'brainstorming sheets'. You can sketch out where the proposed antenna will be, both in the plan view and from the side. This will allow you to see if the new skyhook will fit or just what modifications you will need to do to work it into your property's restrictions. Notice on mine that the Tower is 'Zero' for all measurements.
- 2) **Make a wire length cutting 'ruler' on your driveway.** Find a long expanse of drive way or side walk that can be used for stretching out wire. Make sure it has a convenient tie point at the 'zero' end. (I use a small eyebolt in my garage trim board.) Then measure out 10 foot increments to, say, 80 feet. You might also add 5 foot markings at the 35 and 65 foot points, depending on the bands you like to experiment with. (My favorite is 40 meters and full wave delta loops, so one of my extra markings is at 35 feet). Once marked temporarily with chalk you can add painted markings. A line with a number is best but a simple painted line at each point will do too, as you can always count the markings each time you use them.
- 3) **Put up a reference antenna.** Once you start building different types of antennas, you will appreciate the benefit of a reference antenna. This reference will allow you to compare your new antennas with something that you know performs in a certain way. With the constantly changing propagation, simply putting a new antenna up and using it is a hard way to see if it is any better than the last one. This reference antenna doesn't necessarily have to be high or even outside, it just needs to be a constant that can be referenced. You will most likely utilize it on the receive side of things, due to the reciprocity of antenna performance. Transmitting, however, is not out of the question. A universal suggestion for this reference antenna is the 'doublet', cut for the lowest band you intend to work, center fed with ladder line and tuned, via a matching network within the shack, for multi-band work. One antenna covering all bands.

My reference antenna is a 40 meter dipole fed with homebrew coax twin lead. The antenna is on the East side of my property with a center at 30 feet and stretched North and South along the fence and house line. I even use it on 80 and 160, although not resonant, it provides a constant reference.

I hope you are able to utilize my suggestions to make your antenna experimenting easier and more exciting. A goal for all of us is to erect better antennas, no matter what band you work. With better antennas you make more contacts and, hence, have more fun on the bands. Enjoy. Rick....W5RH

Questions or comments to [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

See Figure 1 next page . . .



**Figure 1**

## BVARC License Testing

RESULTS OF THE December 14th  
 B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION  
 by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD  
 Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
 John Moore, KK5NU

Six examination elements were administered to five applicants. Two new Technician licenses were earned, and two upgrades to Amateur Extra class were attained. A total of five elements were passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 83.66%.

Congratulations to all the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Jeffery P. Fussell	-	KD5VGE	-	Amatuer Extra
Keitar A. Nnamdi	-	{KD5DJH}	-	Technician
John C. Pacini	-	{KD5DJI}	-	Technician
Timothy J. Swarthout	-	WA5QEG	-	Amateur Extra

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.



## 2004 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
w5hff@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM  
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ,  
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O  
foto@texas.net

## Club Happenings:

### General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
226 Matlage Way

### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
226 Matlage Way

### Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur  
License Exams on the 2nd Tuesday  
of each month at the HCC Scarcella  
Technology Campus,

10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.  
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

### Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 7:30 p.m.  
Location announced in the calendar.

### Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:30 a.m. New York Coffee Shop  
9720 Hillcroft, Houston  
7:30 a.m. Viking Den  
2939 S. Main, Stafford

### Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays  
at 7:00 p.m.

### Public Service Net

Monday night on 146.88 (103.5 PL)  
at 8:00 PM

# Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

November 30, 2004 (December meeting)

**Attendees:** President Mike Hardwick-N5VCX

Vise President Allen-N5XZ

Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary Mack Arp-W5EET

Two-year Board Member Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD

Robert Polanski-KD5YVQ

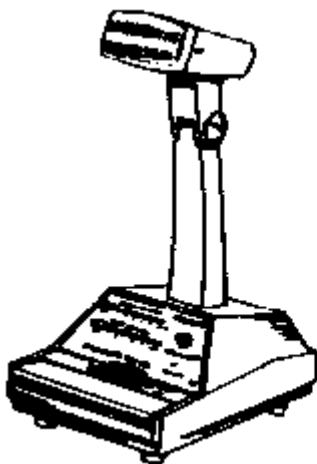
Cameron Mitchell-K5CAM

Meeting called to order at 19:39

No new minutes were presented for approval.

- 1 **Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Mack Arp presented bank balances and CD balance. So far, the service at Washington Mutual is excellent. There are 4 new members and 2 membership renewals. Total number of members is 101. Les Jones, W5KRN, the resident ham at EPO, has joined the club with a life membership. Suggestion that the club present life members with a name tag which shows that they are life members in the club.
- 2 **New business:** Mike brought up the new member drive. John Chauvin has a list of old members and Mike and John are calling some of them. May mail out letters. Allen Brier has a list of hams in Southwest Harris County and Fort Bend County and a flyer may be mailed out to interest potential new members. Ross and John are making up flyers. Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club campout/picnic.
- 3 **Old business:** Mix 'n match in March: People need to spread the word with flyers to other clubs and swap meets. Some of the Charles White estate will be at the swapfest. Houston Amateur Radio and Mike Williams, commercial vendors, have committed to being at the meet. There may be a change in the rental fees for the Community Center. The award for homebrew night will be a gift certificate from EPO. The amount was agreed. The Saltgrass Steakhouse is set for the January banquet. Mike will provide a video showing some past history of the club. February is new ham month and some demonstrations need to be set up at the meeting. There is a possibility of a "road trip" for the March membership meeting similar to the meeting which went to Frosty's school in the past.
- 4 **Meeting adjourned** at 21:00.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM





Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.  
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County  
Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA  
BVARC Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>  
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arrl.net](mailto:k5hfy@arrl.net)

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County areas.

Today BVARC is truly a general interest amateur radio club along with an impressive record of public service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment of service with the coveted status of Special Services Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of the finest in amateur radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlege Way. Talk-in assistance for the club meeting is available on the 146.880 repeater (minus offset, 103.5 tone). General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, addition family members \$2.00 per member per year and life membership \$160.00.

BVARC also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus offset with a 103.5 tone) repeater and a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities contact the club's "Elmer", Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or the BVARC website at [www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc](http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc).

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**VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1**

**January 2005**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1630  
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**Monday Night Public Service Net at 8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Night Rag Chew New at 7:00 P.M.  
Annual Banquet (no Jan. meeting) on January 14, 7:00 PM**

*If your mailing label is highlighted in color its time to renew your membership!*