



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2015

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4



BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 9th, 2015

2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge Park Conference Center

It's time to cook some hotdogs!

When you are in the middle of installing the latest and greatest skyhook (or at least the one your budget can afford,), you normally get a little tired, thirsty and hungry. So while the XYL/YL is getting you a cold one, you try and decide the easiest way to cook a couple of hot dogs. You don't want to get the grill out for a few dogs so you look around the back yard for other ideas. You notice your 40 foot antenna mast laying on the ground right under the power lines and you say to yourself "I bet if I use my antenna mast, I can get that hotdog right next to the high power line and cook it". What a wonderful idea you came up with.....NOT! Come out to the next BVARC meeting and watch Centerpoint Energy show you why it is such a bad idea for you to cook hotdogs with your antenna mast. Centerpoint will also tell you about power line safety and the do's and don'ts on working around power lines. Don't worry, Centerpoint is supplying the hotdogs.



March Meeting Recap – There were wires but not the normal ones.

Our annual TDXS BVARC combined meeting was a great success with over 45 people attending. Nizar Millani, N0NM, of BVARC did a presentation on remote rig operation and how much fun it can be operating a radio remotely. Nizar, our local subject matter expert on remote operation, demonstrated how anyone can set-up remote operation in 5 minutes or less (not quite but he tried).



Upcoming Meetings

Below is a list of the plans for future meetings. Mark your calendars so you will not miss out.

April	Power Line Safety (confirmed)	presented by CenterPoint Energy
May	Open – taking suggestions.	
June	ARES, Hurricanes & Ham Radio (confirmed)	presented by Jeff Walter, KD5FGA

If there is a program you would like, let me know and I will try to get it set-up at a club meeting.

Come on out to the BVARC meeting for a good time!

73, N5VCX



Editor's Note: Because of the Hamfest, and because this Newsletter had to be finished the evening of the Hamfest, some regular articles did not arrive in time. Also, as time did not allow for full editing/review, some errors might be present. Your understanding is appreciated.

The Prez Says

Greetings BVARC members and the Amateur radio community.

At the time of this article submission GHH Texas Convention is just 4 days away. 3 days till Friday setup. I am thankful to all that committed to pitch in on the volley work.

Our Museum Ship Weekend Event (MSWE) and our KK5W representation of the submarine USS Cavalla and destroyer escort USS Stewart is making good headway as Cookie K5EWJ is now in the mist of planning with Ft. Travis Park County officials to set close to what BVARC did last year at the fort. We will get a report for the membership after Hamfest. Thanks Cookie.

After Hamfest we will look to see who will be Chairman for the BVARC KK5W Field day event. Mike N5MT TDXS member stated that he would like to again co-chair for TDXS. ECHO club has not, at the time of this article submission, made the vote of membership if they wish to make this a Tri club event this year. We had much fun with new hams on air and attendance with last years Field Day. The Tri club team also kept the contest spirit up with KK5W first place 9 A category and overall # 12 in the entire contest. Roy W5TKZ our last year BVARC Field Day Chairman documented events leading to, during and after the FD event. This documentation is archived with our Quartermaster/ BVARC rec./sec for review to the 2015 appointed FD chairman.

On a final more personal note it was openly mention by a BVARC member on the web and reflector of my illness. I had hoped to let it be known by me first in this issue of the president says. I will be under weekly chemo treatments and daily radiation just after hamfest. Our VP Mike N5VCX is handling my club hands on legwork for now until treatment ends in 6 weeks. Below is a partial reply post I gave to the surprise open letter of my illness. Please for my wife Norma no more web/ reflector posts on this personal matter and no how is your cancer today phone calls. The normal ham gatherings are still happening at my QTH and I still enjoy the near daily new ham email / calls to work with in projects etc. I may be a bit slower in my responses to these requests for a few weeks, Below my partial response to the open letter

I have not missed to this date any BOD meetings in my presidency and BVARC biz is still at the normal. Your executive BOD with my approval have a watchful eye on my medical condition per my ability to perform my Prez duties. We are all on the GOD clock and mine thus far today is ticking like a Timex. One Day at A Time...Chemo and radiation may create me a new nickname Cue Ball and I might be easy to find glowing in the dark :-}...Barium Mocha anyone?

73 Bill WS5H



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BVARC Rag Chew Net February and March Check-Ins

01/28/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5HFF, W5TKZ, K5LJ, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY, K5CAM, AF5T, WS5H, KF5PHA, AA0ST (Dickenson), W5RH, WN5A, K0NM, KF5OXF (Needville). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 156, SN = 119, A = 12, K = 1

02/04/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TOM, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY, K5CAM, AA5OA, K5LJ, KF5PHA, AA0ST (Dickenson), AF5T, WS5H, WN5A, W5RH.

(15 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 149, SN = 112, A = 16, K = 3

02/11/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, W5TOM, KE5OBY, K5LJ, WS5H, AA5OA, W5RH, KF5TFJ, KF5OXF (Needville). (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 132, SN = 82, A = 7, K = 1

02/18/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5HFF, AA5OA, K5IZO/5 (P)(Jasper), KF5TFJ, AF5T, AA0ST (Dickenson), KD5FBA, WS5H, WA5CYI, KE5OBY, KD5QPX, K0NM. (14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 120, SN = 40, A = 22, K = 2

02/25/15, W5TKZ (NCS), W5HFF, KE5OBY, KF5TFJ, K5LJ, K5IZO, AA5OA, AA0ST (Dickenson), WN5A, AF5T, W5RH, KC5JAR (Katy), KK2Z (Burnet), WS5H, KG5EIB (Walnut Ridge, AR), KB3VQQ (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 113, SN = 63, A = 9, K = 1

03/04/15, W5TKZ (NCS), K5LKJ (T), AA5OA, W5HFF, AF5T, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY, K5LJ, W5RH, WN5A, AA0ST (Dickenson). (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 120, SN = 42, A = 10, K = 2

03/11/15, W5TKZ (NCS), K5LKJ (T), KF5TFJ, W5TOM, K5IZO/5 (P)(Jasper), KE5OBY, K5LJ, AA0ST (Dickenson), AF5T, W5RH, WN5A, WS5H, KD5FBA, KG5FAM, AA5OA, AC5UX (Baton Rouge, LA). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 131, SN = 42, A = 8, K = 2

03/18/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, K5IZO/5 (P)(Jasper), AF5T, K5CAM, KE5OBY, AA5OA, WN5A, W5RH, WS5H, KF5PHA, W5HTA (Pearland), AA0ST (Dickenson), N5JSL, K5LJ, WD6CQO (Nederland) (18 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 119, SN = 60, A = 117, K = 6

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards.

John K5LKJ



2015 BP MS150 Bike Tour Amateur Radio Volunteer Information

Do you think you can handle emergency communications for a large incident? Can you quickly install your radio equipment into emergency vehicles to help provide communications disasters? If you would like to find out if you have the "right stuff" and learn how to be better prepared for emergency communications then sign up to help with event communications for the 2015 BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. Amateur radio communications provided reliable and needed communications for the entire 2-day bike ride that has over 13,000 riders. Operators are assigned at many locations along the route relaying important radio traffic between the Houston Command Post and event officials. Some of the positions that need communicators are:

- **Break points** – Providing communications for supplies, medical problems and SAG control at break points on the route. – This can be just a few hours to a full day commitment. It is dependent on the location.
- **Medical vehicles** – Operators ride in First Responder vehicles for emergency medical communications during the event. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **MS150 Staff** – Operators ride with MS150 staff to provide communications for important issues and problems during the ride. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **SAG vehicles** – Provided communications for the SAG drivers who are on the course picking up riders that have mechanical problems or that can no longer ride. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **Supply Trucks** – Provide communications for the supply trucks so supplies can be routed to the needed locations to deliver supplies and materials. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **Houston Command Post** – The command post interacts with medical incidents, and other problems on the ride. The command post monitors the ride on VHF and UHF amateur bands. Medical vehicles are tracked with APRS and commercial tracking units along the entire course and the information is relayed to the course medical coordinator. The command post is set up to receive calls from event personnel and emergency services along the route through an 800 telephone number to coordinate emergency calls and situations. - This can be a one hour commitment to two days. The command post is open from noon Friday to midnight Sunday so many operators are needed to fill this long time period.

Amateur radio volunteers need a minimum of a dual band VHF/UHF radio that has a minimum of 25 watts output and a gain type magnetic mount antenna (1/4 wave antennas do not work). If assigned to an event vehicle, you must be able to easily transfer between vehicles since assignments do change during the event. Food and sleeping areas (bed linens not provided) are provided for volunteers along the route on Saturday and Sunday by the NMSS organization. A secure parking area will be provided for your vehicle in Houston or Austin if needed. Transportation is available back to Houston for the volunteers that are assigned to event vehicles.

Volunteer hours begin at **4:00 am sharp on Saturday morning and will end between 8 and 10 pm on Sunday**. If you would like to volunteer or find out more information, please go to <http://bpms150hams.org> or call Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 or Charlie Matthew, N0XFD, at 713-498-9802.



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BVARC Historical Vignettes - Project Beacon and Growth Faulting and Subsidence in Houston

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

In December 2014 a detailed study of faulting and subsidence in the Houston metropolitan area was published. This excellent publication discusses some of subsidence issues that BVARC members participating in Project Beacon looked at over 20 years ago.

During the early 1990s, a number of BVARC members were intrigued with the low frequencies below the AM broadcast band. Many of them tuned the 198 – 527 kHz range and logged the navigational non-directional beacons (NDBs) located at many airports and coastal locations. Research conducted at Stanford University at that time had documented ultra-low frequency electromagnetic emissions prior to and associated with the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and a number of us decided to see if anything similar was occurring in Houston. Even though we do not have earthquakes in Houston there is movement along a number of faults that result in subsidence of the ground.

After several weeks of discussion, it was decided that we would monitor four Houston area NDBs that were located near active faults. The beacon monitoring was conducted for a one-year period from February 1993 through February 1994. The primary monitors were Allen Mattis N5AFV, Ralph Cheek KL7AX, Bud King K5CEK, TJ Layton KB5TIB, and “Scanner Jack” Roberts KB5TMY. Over a dozen other BVARC members served as backup monitors during the project. The monitors recorded signal strength and frequency of the four NDBs twice a day for an entire year. Once the monitoring period was over it was time to analyze the data that had been collected.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of extensometers to record subsidence in the Houston metropolitan area, and an examination of the extensometer records indicated that four episodes of apparent NDB frequency shift occurred after periods of several days or more with no movement on the extensometers.

The Project Beacon results were published in the Houston Geological Society Bulletin (April, 1995) in an article entitled “Possible Effects of Active Faulting on Low Frequency Radio Propagation, Houston, Texas Metropolitan Area.” Two months later, a geology professor at the University of Houston wrote a reply to the Project Beacon article and concluded by stating that correlating radio wave propagation events to movement on faults was no more scientifically valid than correlating sunrise with crowing roosters.

During Project Beacon the NDB located near the Long Point Fault in the Addicks area of west Houston showed the greatest frequency shift. The photograph below from the recently published report on faulting and subsidence in Houston shows an engineer using ground penetrating radar (GPR) to measure the displacement on the Long Point Fault.



Figure 69 – GPR Profile 6: Long Point Fault
(Survey in Progress. Looking North.)

Photograph from Michael Campbell et al, 2014, Growth Faulting and Subsidence in the Houston, Texas Area: Guide to the Origins, Relationships, Hazards, Potential Impacts and Methods of Investigation

**Results of the February 10th & March 10th
BVARC Amateur License Examination Sessions
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP
Robert B. Tomlinson, N5JSL

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class licenses were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Kenneth D. Herbert - {KG5FWX} - Technician
Martin F. Smith - WD5DZC - Amateur Extra

Results of the March 10th Session

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP
Robert B. Tomlinson, N5JSL

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. One new Technician class license, one upgrade to General class and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class licenses were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

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

Thomas E. Johnson - {KG5GLX} - Technician
Ernest K. Keith, Jr. - KF5FEM - Amateur Extra
Kathy F. Keith - KG5FNG - General

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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.



Minutes of the March 5th, 2015 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bill Stone called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 7:10 PM on March 5th, 2015, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were:

Bill Stone WS5H (Pres), Bob Tomlinson N5JSL (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (2yr At-Large Dir.), Darrel Kirk KC5JAR (1 yr At-Large Dir), Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, Suzanne Runner KF5GWZ, Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport), Ross Lawler W5HFF Club Elmer, Michael Wrenn K5WRN, Norma Stone KE5NDN

Announcements:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (V.P.) will be back in town after March 15th.

Reports:

- 1.1 A motion was made and passed to accept the February minutes as published in the Newsletter and passed out to the Board.
- 1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.
- 1.3 Hamfest report, a request from John Chavin queried if there were any open spots or uncompleted prep actions. Ron Litt K5HM gave a report that the Hamfest still needs more volunteers. There is lots of interest in Joe Taylor as speaker. There is a need for volunteers to help with the speakers. Shifts will be cut down to one hour so the Hamfest can be enjoyed. A tentative schedule of volunteers will be made this weekend. Need outside signs for "Restrooms". See Rick Hiller W5RH for signs. A comment by Bill Stone "Are there any other comments or discussion ...I appreciate the report, looks like there... are no open spots that cannot be filled there are no uncompleted prep actions, looked real positive..."
- 1.4 Bob Tomlinson N5JSL says there is a need for eight volunteers at the beginning for all the doors. There is a need for a cutoff for the prepaid tickets; deadline seems to be the March 20th.
Discussion to secure the Hamfest cash:
Jerry Muller K9GEM is primary to secure the Hamfest cash; Michael Monsour ACØTX is backup for this function. Michael Monsour can sign checks for the rare need. Cash from the cash boxes is NOT to be used.
Bob Tomlinson Treasurer rules:
 - A. No deposits to banks on Saturday of GHH this to be done on Monday when banks are open. We do not have a night deposit.
 - B. Leave all the cash in the individual cash boxes, no mixing. Total of four cash boxes, 1st front door, 2nd back door, 3rd raffle table, 4th BVARC table. People who work the doors are volunteers; generally the vendor door has been worked by co-chairman and/Club President. Those in charge of cash work front doors, one is for cash and one is for prepaid. The box for cash is only at one door. The prepaid door will have a different type of box that receives not cash. Only those people who preregistered will have an envelope with their name on it with their tickets inside. Some vendors do not register their entrance at the time that they purchase their table BUT may have done it separately and their tickets won't be with their table envelope. Since most if not all vendors will come in only through the back door, the preregistration box will need to be there at that door until the main hall opens at 8:00am. It will be very tricky to make the transition from the back to the front in a timely manner.
 - C. Two people count the cash and sign on the sticky paper with a rubber band around cash and sticky note.
 - D. Cash for the security people and the cleaning person(s) will already been dealt with and handled by Rick Hiller for security and Nathan for the setup/clean up fellow
 - E. Any unusual needs, then they take a check but not cash. No cash out for anything from the cash boxes. This is limited to not necessarily all inclusive. Example: No check for extra cash over entrance, check for the exact amount of entrance fee/fees if for more than one. No exceptions.
 - F. If a vendor needs change it would be up to those in charge of the cash to make that decision. All care should be taken to make sure that the currency the vendor wants to change is real and not counterfeit. It has not been done in the past four years and I would not like to see it started now.
- 1.5 Discussion came up about dedicating the Hamfest to 'Frosty'. There was one comment about "What about the other SKs? The BVARC Board gave the Hamfest Committee '*Carte Blanche*' to do as they see fit, with regards to layout and theme, therefore this issue is not a Board issue.

1.6

Old Business:

2.1 Jerry Muller K9GEM had to resign from the MSWE event. A new co-chair is needed. This event will probably be at the Fort again.

2.2 The Board supports Cookie with regards to MSWE.

New Business:

3.1 Ross Lawler W5HFF discussed that the club call needs to be renewed. Somehow the club was not notified that the KK5W call was in danger of lapsing on April 8th. Need a Field Day committee. TDXS wants to go in with BVARC again.

3.2 Kip Foss N1KIP might have lead on a meeting place in a church in Rosenberg. Mike Hardwick has also been scouting for sites. This discussion is tabled for future discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX



Where is the World is . . . and . . . Radiosport Items of Note for April 2015

As this issue goes to press, due to Hamfest demands, these articles are not available. Look for them to reappear in the next issue of the Newsletter.



The Radio Hotel

Due to Hamfest demands, this article is not available for April. Look for it to reappear in May.



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PARC Tailgate

The Pearland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) would like to invite all hams and area clubs to participate in the upcoming multi-club tailgate in Pasadena, Texas

When:

Saturday April 25, 2015, from 7:00 a.m. to maybe 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m., depending on participation

Where:

Frank Braden Center, 1838 E Sam Houston Pky S, Pasadena, TX 77503-3408, in the central parking lot in front of the Summit. (on the west side of beltway 8) between Red Bluff and Pasadena Blvd.

PARC will be using our repeater for talk in (147.220 MHz, with a positive offset, and has a PL tone of 167.9 Hz.)



Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). 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:

11/17 - 31 - Ron, k5hm	1/5/2015 - 25 - Mark, n5vcm	2/23 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
11/24 - 23 - Pete, kd5qpx	1/12 - 34 - Rick, w5rh	3/2 - 29 - David, n5ekw
12/1 - 26 - Mark, n5vcm	1/19 - 31 - Ron, k5hm	3/9 - 20 - Rick, w5rh
12/8 - 26 - Mark, n5vcm	1/26 - 28 - Rick, w5rh	3/16 - 28 - Ron, k5hm
12/15 - 25 - Ron, k5hm	2/2 - 31 - David, n5ekw	3/23 - 34 - Pete, kd5qpx
12/22 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx	2/9 - 28 - Rick, w5rh	
12/29 - 28 - Mark, n5vcm	2/16 - 25 - Ron, k5hm	



Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows; \$25 per month for ½ page, \$125 for six months and \$250 for one year. The rates for a full page are as follows; \$50 per month, \$250 for six months and \$500 for the year.



Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

04/18/2015 | [HamEXPO](#)

Location: Belton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>

April 25, 2015, **The Pearland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) multi-club tailgate**

Location: Pasadena, Texas

See article inside this newsletter

06/12/2015 | [West Gulf Division Convention \(Ham-Com\)](#)

Location: Irving, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Plano ARC, Dallas ARC, & Irving ARC

Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>

07/18/2015 | [Tidelands Hamfest](#)

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://tidelands.org>

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to www.bvarc.org. Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Eldridge Park Conference Center, 2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

BVARC also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts include:

President:, Bill Stone, WS5H, dragntow@wt.net

Newsletter Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

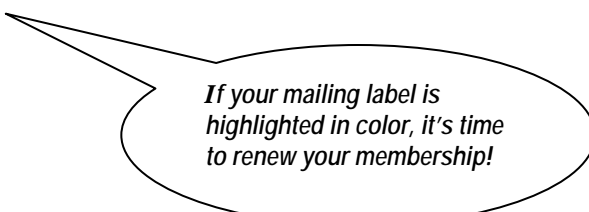
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April General Membership Meeting – April 9



*If your mailing label is
highlighted in color, it's time
to renew your membership!*