



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 49 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025

General Membership Meeting Thursday March 13 at 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

We will have a special "Show and Tell" event at the March BVARC General Meeting. All members are invited to bring their Parks On The Air (POTA) setups, or any other portable/mobile stations to share with the club.

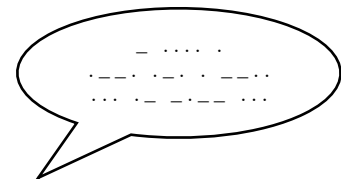
This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your equipment, share your experiences, and inspire fellow radio amateurs with your adventures and setups. Whether you've got a compact portable rig or a fully-equipped mobile station, we want to see it all!

Join us for an evening of learning, sharing, and camaraderie. Let's celebrate the diversity and ingenuity of our club members' radio setups. Don't miss out on this chance to connect and spark new ideas!

Important Announcement: An era is coming to an end for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. After 47 years, this will be the last printed edition of the BVARC Beacon newsletter. BVARC is embracing sustainable practices, reducing our environmental footprint, saving money, and moving into the digital future! After this March 2025 collector's edition print, the BVARC Beacon will be distributed in digital format only. Although we will no longer print, fold, and mail physical copies, you can find the digital newsletter at the BVARC Newsletter Archive <https://bvarc.org/newsletters.php> and it will be sent out through the BVARC email reflector <https://bvarc.org/home/club-listserver/>.

The Prez Says

This will be short since I am in the middle of getting ready for the Greater Houston HamFest which will be in just a few days.



So do not forget the Greater Houston HamFest. Make sure you get your admission tickets early and save \$5. Volunteers are still needed to work the event so if you would like help, please contact me by e-mail or phone. At the time I am writing this, there are only nine tables unsold which is the best the GHHF has ever done. So come on out to the GHHF at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. Check houstonhamfest.org for more information.

I want to thank Lee Glassman, WA5LEE, for his presentation on Emergency communications and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). His expertise from many years in the fire service and ARES in New England covers a wide range that can provide insight to the situations and emergencies. Again, I want to thank Lee for coming out.

Our March 13th general meeting will be a "show us your mobile or POTA station." Many of us have stations for portable operations and now is the time to let others see them, especially with hurricane season right around the corner. So, bring your portable or POTA station for a show and tell at the next general meeting.

Do not forget the Museum Ships Weekend and Field Day in June.

See you at the Greater Houston HamFest on the 7th and 8th!

73, N5VCX

March 2025 –Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Public Service Net 8 PM Mondays R: Rag Chew 3910 kHz 7 PM Wednesdays			S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Monday-Friday T: 10-10 Int'l Local SHOT Net 8 PM Tuesdays			1
2	3 P S	4 S T	5 R S	6 S	7 S VE Testing Greater Houston HamFest	8 VE Testing Greater Houston HamFest
9 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM Zoom	10 P S	11 S T	12 R S	13 S	14 S	15
16	17 P S	18 S T	19 R S	20 S	21 S	22 Houston POTA Sheldon Lake State Park
23	24 P S	25 S T	26 R S	27 S	28 S	29
30	31 P S	Saturday: Belton HamEXPO! 2025 and BVARC HF Orientation Session				

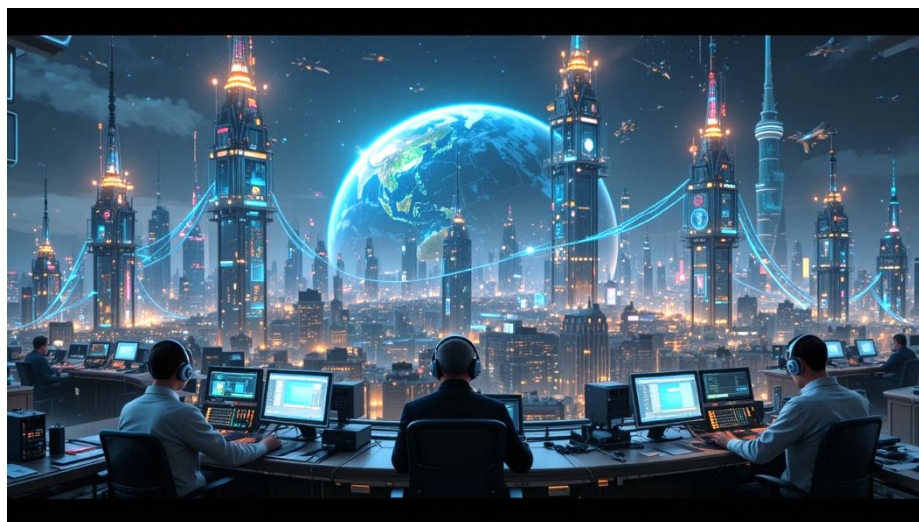
3/7-8/2025 Greater Houston HamFest, Rosenberg, TX, <https://www.houstonhamfest.org>

4/5/2025 Belton HamEXPO! 2025, Belton, TX 76513

4/5/2025 BVARC HF Orientation Session, 12-4 PM at Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston TX 77074

6/6-8/2025 Museum Ships Weekend, Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, Galveston TX

6/28-29/2025 ARRL Field Day 2025, look for more information about preparations for BVARC's Field Day on the reflector, at meetings, and in the newsletter!



Houston POTA 2025 Schedule

3/22 -Sheldon Lake State Park, 14140 Garrett Rd, Houston TX 77044

5/3 - Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM 762, Needville TX 77461

7/19 - Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM 3005, Galveston TX 77554

9/27 - Stephen F. Austin State Park, Park Road 38, San Felipe TX 77473

11/15 - Lake Livingston State Park, 300 Park Road 65, Livingston TX 77351

The Greater Houston HamFest Presents

The ARRL Texas State Convention



Tickets:

On-line - \$10
At the Door - \$15
Children 12 & under
Scouts, Military,
& First Responders
In Uniform - FREE
Tables - \$25
Tailgate - \$5

Friday, March 7, 2025

12 PM to 6 PM

Saturday, March 8, 2025

8AM to 3PM

*Door Prizes Every half hour
starting at 9:00 am!!*

Where:

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 TX- 36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471
29°31'12"N 95°48'38"W

Sponsors/Vendors

- * Ham Radio Outlet
- * The SignMan of Baton Rouge
- * ABR Industries
- * EPO * Shack-in-a-Box

ARRL Forum

Guest Speaker

John Stratton, N5AUS

ARRL West Gulf Division Director

Stuart Wolfe, KF5NIX

South Texas Section Manager

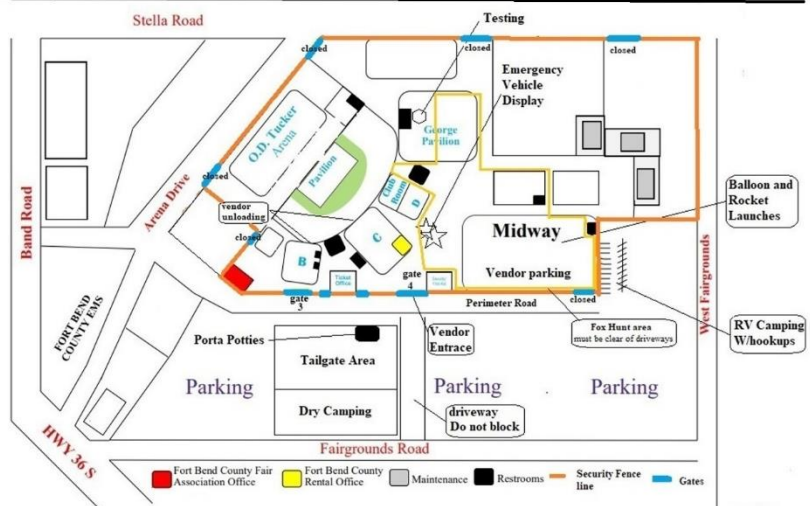
Clubs get 1 Free Table

**Raffle Grand Prize
Yaesu FTDX-10**

Also
FTM-500DR FT5DR
FT70DR

**Raffle Tickets
Single Ticket - \$5
Five Tickets - \$20**

Radio Programming Classes
Testing & Balloon Launches
Overnight camping available
Free Parking Lot Shuttles



Contact:

Chairman: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
713-826-6917
n5vcx@att.net



[FB.com/groups/HoustonHamfest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoustonHamfest)



[Twitter.com/HoustonHamfest](https://twitter.com/HoustonHamfest)

www.HoustonHamfest.org www.HoustonHamfest.org

POTA ACTIVATION OF PE-0051

Article written by Aldo OA4DPM and translated by Stephen OA4/W2WF

On Thursday, February 6, a group of members of the Radio Club Peruano (RCP) in Lima, Perú activated the Puerto Viejo Wetlands National Reserve (PE-0051) for the first time, located 70 km south of the city of Lima. Stephen OA4/W2WF, Giancarlo OA4DSN, and Aldo OA4DPM, set up a portable station with a battery-powered Yaesu FT-891 and a 13m high helical antenna with a MAT-40 antenna tuner.

Operations started around 11:00 AM Lima time with the 1st contact coming from a QRP station based in Sweden, SM3RNY, who reported a resounding 59 in the 10m band. That's when the party started! The three RCP operators didn't even have time to change bands due to the onset of pile-up after pile-up!

The three operators took turns confirming the contacts made. The activation ended at 5:00 p.m. due to the start of rain, a very unusual event on the Peruvian coast. A total of 171 QSOs were logged with European and American stations showing the international spirit of amateur radio.



South East Texas Amateur Club Presents...

Hidden Transmitter Hunt – Mobile

July 19th 2025, 10am

North West Quadrant Inner Loop

Boundaries are I-610, I-45 North, I-10 West

If you are not familiar with mobile Fox Hunts, this is hidden transmitter hunting mobile. The fox will be a mobile set on low power and transmitting at set intervals. The hunters will be attempting to locate the Fox via RDF techniques.

The boundaries for this Fox hunt will be I-45 North, I-10 West, and I610 NW, approx. 1/4 of the inner city.

For those of you with Doppler or other high tech RDF, you are invited to come practice your craft, but I will exempt you guys from the prizes. The Fox will begin transmitting at 10am July 19th on 146.56, and will have a 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes.

If you have questions contact Anthony—ke5gip@arrl.net



[HTTPS://SETAC.Club](https://SETAC.Club)



FEBRUARY 2025 VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the February 8th test session, at Bayland Park - we had 3 candidates and conducted 6 tests

New Licensee:

McParlane, K. (General (credit)) KJ5KCO
Angelino, D. (General) KJ5KBQ

Upgraded:

Atkins, A. (General) KJ5CQC

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K4USN, K5LJ, and KG4NDS – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be at the **Greater Houston Hamfest** on Friday March 7th (4pm-7pm) and Saturday March 8th (9am-11am). We've also confirmed a test session at Bayland on Saturday, April 5th.

Pre-registration is required.

For new licensees the testing fee, paid at the session is \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), will be collected by the FCC separately for new, renewal and vanity calls. License upgrades **do not** pay the added \$35 fee, just the \$15 session fee.

YOUTH LICENSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The ARRL has created a youth program (18 and under) to defray the licensing costs to a total of **\$5** (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the \$15 VE session fee). See: <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program>

Also, BVARC is implementing its own program for **youth** licensing. We'll provide a **new VHF/UHF transceiver (Baofeng, limited supply)** at the VE session, to youth that successfully pass their Technician test. The HT's are a very generous donation (Dec. '23) from a BVARC member, THANKS!

Bottom line, a young person for \$5, can walk into a test session and walk out with a new radio and a pending license.

Examination sessions are held each month, most times the first weekend of the month and usually on the same weekend as the Sunday BVARC Board meeting. These testing sessions are at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

Details for candidates are found at <https://bvarc.org/home/ham-radio-license-testing-houston/>

Pre-register to attend a test session at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (k5mgj@yahoo.com).



HEADS UP – Following the Saturday April 5th test session (at Bayland Park), from noon to 4pm, BVARC will host an **HF orientation session**. An HF station will be set-up for orientation and operations for non-hams and Technicians who are unfamiliar or curious about the HF SSB and CW modes. Stay tuned, food might also be included...



Museum Ships Weekend

Planning and preparations for Museum Ships Weekend, June 6-8, 2025, are in full swing. It's one of BVARC's legacy annual operating events. It is a great introduction to operating in conditions like Field Day, in a non-competitive event. All members are welcome to participate. The event will be held at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island. We'll have up to three stations available for operations. There will be limited overnight accommodations available on the Stewart for operators. <https://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>
Contact Mark Janzer (K5MGJ@yahoo.com), to express your interest and to help out.

Of note:

- The South East Texas Amateur Club (SETAC) members, Anthony, KE5GIP, Norman KD5ZZA and Bob KI5UNT activated the USS Stewart (N5FKP) on Saturday February 15th. They checked and verified a couple of the Stewart's vintage receivers are in working order!
- BVARC member K5LJ, Larry Johnson, was one of the top operators for the 2024 event, having contacted 47 of the ships.

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Agenda

February 16th, 2025 @ 5:30pm via Video Conference

Board Members

President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCK	Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
Treasurer – Dave Ely – N5EKW	1 Year At-Large – Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
2 Year At-Large – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF	2 Year At-Large – Kirc Breden – N5XJB
Secretary – Jeff Greer – W5JEF	

Board of Directors Meeting

- ❖ Establish Quorum - established
- ❖ Call Meeting to Order – 5:32 p.m.
- ❖ Opening Statement – The president thanked those in attendance for joining.
- ❖ Emergency Business
- ❖ Agenda Review – approved
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report – Submitted, but Treasurer not present. Approval tabled.
- ❖ Secretary’s Report – Need to check BVARC mail and send out renewal reminders.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Greater Houston HamFest
 - Meeting following this meeting @ 7 pm
 - Mike working table sales
 - Program schedule finalized (includes Terry!)
 - Catering/food permitting is done
 - **Volunteers**
 - Next Houston POTA – schedule in the newsletter; big trip in November. March 22nd, Sheldon Lake State Park. New homebrew filters ready for testing.
 - Bayland/Eldridge Park – Bayland requires reservations 45-7 days prior to the date of the event. Eldridge Park (suggested by Janzer) now requires detailed club info. Submitted and denied; may not be able to get Duhacsek Park.
 - Houston Christian University Radio Club Alliance
 - Club is now officially sanctioned (as of last Monday)
 - Open document that Terry and Mike are working through (Memo of Understanding regarding shared resources, people, and facilities).
 - Terry to start teaching Technician licenses classes (priority is for students, but this will be open to the public).
 - May roll the “Awards Banquet” into Ice Cream Social.
 - Public BVARC business documents repository established; needs to be used. Link to be added to website. Jeff to get with Eddie to make link public.
 - Cybertruck exhibit at GHFF
- ❖ Programs
 - March – Powerline safety pending Centerpoint agreement
 - April 10 – POTA/Houston POTA with Kori WX5KR
 - May – Museum Ships (and maybe an additional program/presentation)
 - June – Field Day

❖ Committees

- Newsletter – BVARC is looking for a team to assemble the newsletter; if no one volunteers, printed copies will end after March 2025. 8-10 man hours per month. So far, nobody has volunteered. If no one is found, it will end a 47-year streak of BVARC printed newsletters.
- Historical Archives
- By-Laws
- Finance
- Events and Membership
- Food Team – Stepping back a bit this year; will still do major events.
- Club Website
- Parks on the Air
- Elmer/ Subject Matter Experts
- Museum Ships Wknd
- Field Day – Richard
- Winter Field Day
- Greater Houston HamFest – meeting tonight! Meeting March 2nd.
- GHHF Website
- Banquet
- Code of Conduct (New, see below)

❖ New Business

- Terry's request – code of conduct/mission statement that states no disparagement of others on the reflector, repeater, etc. Request a committee of three to draft. Mike agrees.
- Offline meeting will be held to discuss the process for rescheduling (or holding) Board mtgs.

❖ Next Meetings – Pursuant to Article V Section G #1 of the Club By-Laws

- Sunday, March 9th, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

❖ Closing Statement(s) – The president again thanked those in attendance for joining.

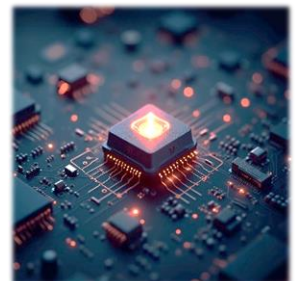
❖ Meeting Adjournment – 6:45 p.m.

Recorded by: Jeff Greer, W5JEF

Ham Exam Question

Why does a PN-junction diode not conduct current when reverse biased?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>A. Only P-type semiconductor material can conduct current</i> | <i>B. Only N-type semiconductor material can conduct current</i> |
| <i>C. Holes in P-type material and electrons in the N-type material are separated by the applied voltage, widening the depletion region</i> | <i>D. Excess holes in P-type material combine with the electrons in N-type material, converting the entire diode into an insulator</i> |



BVARC Rag Chew Net

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:

01/22/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5ICR, K5LJ, W5LIC, W5RH, KI5BAA, K5DBL (Manvel), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), KI5HOC, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), N5TMY. (12 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 225, SN = 158, A = 10, K = 1 / Band Rpt: GOOD

01/29/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, W5RH, KI5HOC, WN5A, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), N5CHB. (8 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 173, SN = 138, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

02/05/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, AB5YS (Harrisburg, LA), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), WW5PA, K5LJ, KI5SLA (Ragley, LA), KI5HOC, W5VOM (T), AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), WB5ITT (Orange), K5BOD (Spiro, OK), WN5A. *** W5RH, W5ICR, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR). (7 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 168, SN = 113, A = 12, K = 2 / Band Rpt: GOOD

02/12/25, K5LKJ (NCS), KI5HOC, K5LJ, WN5A, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), K5DBL (Manvel), (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 191, SN = 159, A = 6, K = 1 / Band Rpt: GOOD

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

Net conditions have been FAIR to GOOD this month. Fire up the rig and learn what others are doing and share your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards.
John K5LKJ

Advertising in the

BVARC BEACON

Business card sized ads are \$10 per month or six months for \$50.

Half page ads are \$25 per month, \$125 for six months, or \$250 per year.

Full page ads are \$50 per month, \$250 for six months, or \$500 per year.

CW Training Classes

Over the last few months, there have been several club members talking about learning CW. Even though it is no longer required for an Amateur Radio license, many hams have an interest in learning it. So.....

I asked John Whiteman, K5LKJ, to do an informal poll on the Stir-Crazy Net to see how many people would be interested in learning CW. There were several people that expressed interest in learning CW, enough that I feel a CW class would be something the club should start up.

Before the class starts though, I want to check with the rest of the club and see if the interest is there with the rest of the membership. If you are interested in learning CW and would like to attend classes, please drop me an e-mail at n5vcx@att.net and let me know. If there is enough interest, a class can be organized.

So let me know if you would like to dive into the world of Morse Code! 73, N5VCX

2024 Club Officers

President (2024-2025)

Michael Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2025-2026)

Kori Rahman WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2025-2026)

Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2025-2026)

David Ely N5EKW davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A (2024-2025)

Terry Leatherland K5PGF k5pgf@yahoo.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B (2025-2026)

Kirc Breden N5XJB n5xjb@yahoo.com

1 Year At Large (2025)

Robert Polinski KD5YVQ kd5yvg@arrl.net

Ham Exam Answer: C. The voltage widens the depletion region.

BVARC EATS

Saturday Breakfast 6:30 AM, IHOP, 12725 Southwest Fwy, Stafford TX 77477

Wednesday Lunch Bunch 11 AM to Noon, Luby's Cafeteria, 10575 W Airport Blvd, Stafford TX 77477

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the **BVARC BEACON**, 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 BEACON every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25 per year, with student dues \$10 per year, additional family members \$5 per member per year.

Club meetings are both in-person and via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you have signed up for the email reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM.

Location: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074. **Before going** please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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

A "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 PM on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org.

Other contacts: **BVARC President** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, **Newsletter Editor** Donovan Balli KG5BDZ dballi@mail.com, **Editor Emeritus** John Chauvin K5IZO k5izo@yahoo.com, **Newsletter Printing, Assembly, and Mailing** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com, Gokhan Koralturk KG0KHN gokkor@gmail.com.

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MARCH 2025

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**


FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors Meeting – 5 PM Sunday, March 9, 2025, via Zoom

General membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, March 13, 2025, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

Greater Houston HamFest – March 7-8, 2025, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36 S, Rosenberg TX 77471



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