



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2014

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 7

## BVARC JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, July 10, 2014

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

### We are going to MARS again, with the Army

This month we will conclude our series which looks at how amateur radio interfaces with today's government. Our guest speaker this month will be Ken Miller, the Assistant State MARS Director of Texas ARMY MARS. Ken will share with the club how Army MARS is working together with the officials and how interested operators can get involved. On July 10, your fellow Houstonian radio operators will be meeting at the Eldridge Park Community Center to hear a great talk and share in the camaraderie with other radio aficionados. Please come and join us.



### June Meeting Recap – ARES

During our June meeting, our club was visited by Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, who introduced us to the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. We would like to thank Jeff for taking the time to come out and give us the story of ARES and RACES.

Next month, August, we will put our diets aside and share in some frozen treats as we once again come together for the BVARC Ice Cream Social.



## BVARC Newsletter Format Change

As previously announced, beginning with this issue, the changes below are being incorporated into the newsletter. The extended "Boiler Plate" (much of the information previously on the last 2 pages) will only be inserted every 3 months. An abbreviated reference to some of the material is being made the other 2 intervening months. A version of the extended information is on the website and each issue of the newsletter with the abbreviated information will refer the reader to the website. This will result in less printing and postage costs and will allow greater flexibility for inclusion of additional current information.



## From the President, Bill Stone, WS5H

Greetings BVARC and all involved with Amateur Radio,

The Month of June proved again that with planning and setup coordination great BVARC events and contests can unfold into fun worthy on air operations. The Museum Ship Weekend Event Sponsored by NJ2BB Battle Ship New Jersey first weekend in June was no exception. BVARC again sponsored the 2 ship for 1 contact with on air activation to represent the Submarine USS Cavalla and Destroyer Escort USS Stewart this year from Ft. Travis, Galveston County on the Bolivar Peninsula. The change of location to the Galveston County Park gave us overnight camping privileges with tent setups and the use of the cabanas made for great overnight radio room operations. In my 7 years of participation in the MSWE event I must say that this year was the most fun with less stress representing the ships. 720 contacts are in the log and 24 ships were contacted by KK5W. A Big Thank You goes to Cookie K5EWJ for the superb effort as BVARC 2014 MSWE Chairman.

The contest and emergency deployment of our KK5W Tri Club Field Day put together by BVARC, TDXS, and the ECHO Society at the Richmond Fire Training Grounds was a huge success. The planning and logistics, on site setup preparations with recorded documentation really paid off with the combined effort given by Roy W5TKZ our KK5W Field Day Chairman, Mike N5MT TDXS/ ECHO FD section chief and Glenn WB5TUF TDXS/BVARC FD section chief. I also want to thank all the Captains, work setup crews and WN5A Jack's BBQ cook team that put a conscious volunteer effort into the overall setup and operations of the KK5W Field Day. You will find that the contest and bonus points shall prove to be a top of the list score in a future issue of QST showing the national overall statistics of 2014 Field Day. We look forward to attend presentations of MSWE and Field Day at upcoming BVARC general membership meetings.

If you took pictures of MSWE and Field Day send them to Eddie NU5K our web master to post on the BVARC website.

I again want to thank all who have become new / renewed members of Team BVARC. As I am now 6 months into my BVARC presidency, I wish to inform the membership that your elected board of directors / entrusted servants that I preside are doing an outstanding job of carrying the thoughts and comments of the BVARC membership to the agenda item list of our monthly BOD Meetings. That being said included with the necessary out dated Bylaw changes needed are new bylaw changes requested by membership that is set for a vote by a quorum of BVARC membership at our Ice Cream Social in August. I know this is an early request however please make time and schedule to attend the August General Membership Ice Cream Social to have the quorum of membership needed to vote on the proposed bylaw amendments.

CU at the July BVARC General Membership Meeting

73 and have fun with Amateur Radio

Bill Stone WS5H  
BVARC 2014-2015 President



### 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:

3/17 - 22 - Ron, k5hm	4/21 - 24 - Ron, k5hm	5/26 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx
3/24 - 31 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/28 - 13 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/2 - 30 - Cam, k5cam
3/31 - 27 - Terry, k5pgf	5/5 - 37 - Cam, k5cam	6/9 - 20 - Rick, w5rh
4/7 - 34 - Cam, k5cam	5/12 - 13 - Cam, k5cam	6/16 - 25 - Ron, k5hm
4/14 - 28 - Willard, kd5eka	5/19 - 30 - Ron, k5hm	6/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx



**Results of the June 10th  
BVARC Amateur License Examination Session  
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 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

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One upgrade to General class, and one new Amateur Extra class license were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 4. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Matthew T. Delevoras - {AF5RF} - Amateur Extra  
Karl H. Rosenkranz - WL7BKF - 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.

..... 73 .....



**Board member change**

**Due to his retirement and his moving out of town, Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z, has submitted his resignation as the Past President At-Large Board member. In accordance with the current by-laws, the Board of Directors has appointed Nathan Vessey, N5NVY, to fill the remainder of Kirk's term. An election for this at-large position will take place at the November elections.**

**Kirk doesn't intend to disappear entirely so we expect to see him occasionally in the future.**

**Congratulations go to Nathan on his new title.**

## Radiosport Items on Note for July 2014

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

QSO Parties – An easy way to try a contest for the first time. State QSO Parties are relaxed events. If you happen to need these states for WAS, they are a great way to work states you can't easily find on the bands otherwise. .

- No QSO Parties of note this month

SSB Contests

No SSB only contests this month

VHF

CQ Worldwide VHF Contest July 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

Mixed Mode

World Radiosport Team Championship July 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Contestants in the WRTC event have been issued special 1X1 call signs in the W1 Call area. Note the event runs concurrently with the IARU HF Championship below .

IARU HF World Championship July 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

RSGB Islands on the Air Contest July 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

CW Contests

FISTS Summer Sprint July 12<sup>th</sup>

Digital

PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint, July 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

For details on any of these contests, visit the web link at the top of the page or the contest calendar on [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

### Selected Special Events in March

WIAW Centennial Celebration – W100AW ARRL 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary special call sign continues in July.

W!AW portable operation – Work toward WIAW WAS by working WIAW portable in every state. Scheduled in July week beginning are:

\*Utah – 7/2

\*Wisconsin – 7/2

\*South Carolina – 7/16

Indiana – 7/23

Rhode Island – 7/23

\*South Dakota – 7/30

\*Kentucky – 7/30

\*- indicates states that are in their second rotation. This is your last chance for these states.

July 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – Original 13 Colonies Event, K2A – K2M

July 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner – W3FT

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Whiskey Rebellion Festival, W3R

July 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> - 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Apollo 11 – N4A

AND the ever popular:

Catfish Days – July 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> – W9W, Wilmington, IL.

For details on every Special Event in March, go to

[http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-07-01/Date.end:2014-07-31/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-07-01/Date.end:2014-07-31/model:Event)

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM

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## NOTICE OF UPCOMING BY-LAWS VOTE

This is to give members the heads up regarding the upcoming by-laws vote at the August Ice Cream Social. This is NOT the formal notice. The formal notice will be given in the August Newsletter and will include the exact wording as proposed. Most members really enjoy the Ice Cream Social, so please try to attend to also help assure a quorum as required.

There are quite a number of proposed amendments, but they will be all voted on in a single vote – I.e. Up or Down on all amendments. So, as a lot, it should go quickly. Most of the amendments are to simply clean up grammatical or functional errors. Some cover meeting locations, meeting notices, dues and their structuring, clarification of filling vacancies and more.





**BVARC Historical Vignettes –  
1990 BVARC President Bill Dessens, AA5BD, Silent Key**  
by Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

A recent message posted on the BVARC reflector announced that Bill Dessens, AA5BD, had recently passed away. Dessens was president of BVARC in 1990 and very few current members of BVARC knew him or had even heard of him. Bill was a very well-known Western Swing musician and had won a number of prestigious awards. Bill Dessens also played a role in one of BVARC's club legends that deals with his heart bypass surgery in 1997.

Harold Parker, ND9F, was president of BVARC in 1985 and was head of the BVARC VE team from 1985 through 2000. Parker headed an informal project with other BVARC members to assemble Heathkit code practice oscillators for use by people learning Morse code to become amateur radio operators. A secondary use of these code practice oscillators was to help people who were unable to speak to communicate with others.

Immediately after his bypass surgery, Bill Dessens had tubes coming out of his mouth and was unable to communicate with his family. Somehow, perhaps with the help of Harold Parker, a code practice oscillator found its way to Bill Dessens's hospital room. Bill's son, Mark Dessens, KG5JT, was also an amateur radio operator and a member of BVARC. Bill was able to communicate with Mark using the code practice oscillator and Mark could pass on what Bill was saying to the rest of his family. At the recent memorial service for Bill Dessens, Mark spoke and mentioned the use of the code practice oscillator.

At least two or three other amateur radio operators also used the BVARC code practice oscillators while being unable to speak. This informal club project certainly helped these families communicate with their loved ones during their time of need. This is one example of the many ways BVARC has helped people throughout the years.



***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.*



## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

### June Check-ins

06/04/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5HFF, K5CAM, K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5TOM, KE5FGA (Katy), KL7AX (Katy), WA5KXG, KE5OBY (R), WS5H, AF5T, AA5OA, KF5TFJ, W5RH, K5IZO, K0NM, KE5WQU. (19 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 102, SN = 61, A = 7, K = 2

06/11/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, K5IZO, WA5CYI, W5TOM, K5LJ, AF5T, WS5H, KL5AX (Katy), K0NM, AA0ST (Dickenson), WA5KXG, W5RH. (14 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 168, SN = 149, A = 7, K = 2

06/18/14, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, W5HFF, W5TKZ, K5IZO, W5TOM, K5LJ, VK2AJB (RCS)(Sidney, Australiz), KF5TFJ, AF5T, AA0ST (Dickenson), KL7AX (Katy). (12 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 111, SN = 87, A = 8, K = 3

06/25/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5IZO, W5HFF, KF5TFJ, AF5T, K5LJ, WS5H, KF5PHA, KL5AX (Katy), KE5OBY (R). (11 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 97, SN = 97, A = 6, K = 2

(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



## 2014 BVARC Field Day

As this issue goes to press, details of the highly successful Field Day are not available. A detailed article will be included in the August Newsletter. Here are a few highlights:

- This year's FD was a combined effort of BVARC, TDXS and ECHO.
- Once again, it was at the Fireman's Training Center in Richmond, TX.
- It appears that we had a BVARC record score and record number of Qs.
- Several operators made more than 500Qs with one making more than 1000.
- There were also a bunch that made 100+ Qs
- Similarly many many more operators got on the air, if even just to make a few Qs.
- As always, the chow was superb.
- Film at 11.





**Where in the World is . . .  
Grand Fenwick(FWK)  
CQ Zone 14**

This decidedly obscure but geopolitically important country, The Duchy of Grand Fenwick is no more than five miles long and three miles wide and lies in a fold in the Northern Alps. Most of the inhabitants live in the City of Fenwick, which is also home to the only bar/inn/restaurant in the country, the Gray Goose Pub.

The nation is a constitutional monarchy currently ruled by Duchess Gloriana XV, who bears a striking resemblance to Alec Guinness.



Due to its location in a deep valley between France and Switzerland, propagation does not favor contacts with Grand Fenwick, even in the best of times. Hence it is one of the most sought after DX locales on the planet.

The primary industry in Grand Fenwick is the exporting of the local wine, Pinot Grand Fenwick. The annual export is kept deliberately small so as not to disrupt the balance of power in the world. In 1962, the distilled byproduct of the grape was found to be an extremely powerful agent in the manufacture of rocket fuel. Hence there is plenty of the vintage for local consumption.



In 1955, a major DXpedition to Grand Fenwick was organized by famous radio amateur, Larsen E Rapp, WIOU, SK. After months of planning and preparation, the DXpedition was canceled when the tiny nation abruptly declared war on the United States.

Trying desperately to get things back on track, Rapp flew from his home at Kipperington-on-the-Charles, Massachusetts to plead his case before the Duchess. Classified as an enemy combatant, Rapp was reportedly imprisoned in Fenwick Castle for some years before someone remembered to release him.

The Duchy is not a member of the ITU. Having defeated both the USA and the USSR in the Glorious War of 1955, Grand Fenwick believes they are free to choose any call sign prefix wish, resulting in the decidedly different, FWK. As victors they claim the right to be left alone and are not bound by any international conventions regarding radio or anything else for that matter.

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM



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## Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### **07/12/2014 | Texas City Hamfest 2014**

**Location:** Texas City, TX

**Sponsor:** Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://tidelands.org>

### **08/01/2014 | Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest)**

**Location:** Austin, TX

**Sponsor:** Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

**Website:** <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

### **07/24/2014 | Central States VHF Society Conference**

**Location:** Austin, TX

**Sponsor:** Central States VHF Society

**Website:** <http://csvhfs.org>

### **10/04/2014 | HamEXPO**

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

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



## **The Radio Hotel** - Measuring SWR Rick – W5RH

Measuring an antenna system's operational Standing Wave Ratio is quite easy in today's world. Not only can you measure SWR, but you can conveniently measure much more.

Typically, measurements are done with power/watt meters like the Bird 43 Wattmeter, a calibrated industry standard. It measures Forward Power and Reflected Power. That is all. From there, a forward power versus reflected power chart provides the SWR value. Some watt meters like the Diawa or MFJ meters have a crossed needle set-up – 2 independent D'Arsonval movements -- one for forward power and one for reflected power (using a Bruene-type sampling circuit). These 2 orthogonally oriented needles, with a nomograph between them, provides an easy read of the SWR value.

Recently, VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) based power meters have come into wide spread use and at a fairly low price point (thank goodness). They sample the TL (transmission line) voltage and current and then use microprocessors to perform calculations in real time and display all of the information you require: Power forward, power reflected, SWR, Return Loss (Google it), phase, impedance – vector amplitude and phase angle, plus R and +/- jx. These are perfect for analyzing not only SWR, but TL to Antenna matching, and TL characteristics (loss vs. freq or velocity factor, etc.). A bit higher in price level than a basic power SWR meter, the typical VNA based watt meter is a treasure-trove of information. [Google: Telepost LP-100A]

Whatever method of measurement you choose, there is an important point to keep in mind -- measure the SWR as close to the antenna feed point as possible to get a true reading of SWR. Of course, by knowing the TL characteristics and using a TL calculation program such as TL Details or TLW (ARRL Antenna Handbook), you can 'see' the feedpoint VSWR without leaving the ground. Measuring SWR at your transmitter output will show you what the transmitter will see, but that can be a false indicator of TL to Load match, as described in TRH May 2014.

The Ham's typical goal is to get the antenna system to have an SWR of, close to, 1:1 -- meaning maximum power into the antenna for maximum radiation (and reception strength). This can be obtained with proper antenna adjustment, TL matching, low loss coax, etc. At HF frequencies SWR concern is less critical, as the inherent system losses are not so high (they certainly can be though). But, at VHF and UHF frequencies it is best to be as close to 1:1 and even then you have significant "matched losses" that will occur if best practices on TL choice are not followed. One last bit of warning: be wary of antenna systems that require you to use a longer than necessary length of coax (in order to get the SWR down, at the transmitter). This requirement screams "LOSS".

Next time "Antenna Bandwidth and SWR"

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. It is a series (so go back and read the previous columns to get the whole picture), as one month relies on the previous month's information. Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*



## Minutes of the June 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 PM on June 5 2014 at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were: Bill Stone WS5H (Pres), Michael Wrenn K5WRN (V.P.), Bob Tomlinson N5JSL (Cor.Sec./Treas, Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Ron Litt K5HM (2yr At-Large Dir.& Radio Sport), Jerry Muller KF5EYC (2yr At-Large Dir.), Kirk Kendrick KK2Z 1 yr Past Pres.), Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, Suzanne Runner KF5GWZ, John Chauvin K5IZO Newsletter Editor Parliamentarian, Nathan Vessey N5NYV, Roy Storey W5TKZ, Norma Stone KE5NDN

### President's Announcements:

- 1.1 The Texas State Guard drill exercise in Fort Bend Country was handled by BVARC members involved with EMROG
- 1.2 Voted a donation for Don Washburn, the family wishes any donations to be sent to the BMW Motorcycle Club

### Reports:

- 2.1 The Treasurers report by Bob Tomlinson was accepted by the Board
- 2.2 The order for Field Day hats and shirts was sent in
- 2.3 Ron Litt gave a report on the budget; the club is doing very well and is ahead of the budget with a surplus.
- 2.4 The minutes by the Secretary is correct but 'Old Business' heading was missing. A motion was made and seconded and passed that the Board accepts the minutes as corrected.
- 2.5 Roy Storey gave a quick report on Field Day. It seems the barbecue pits are repaired. Also needed is another mast for an antenna. Nine radios are committed. A generator with a backup has been committed.
- 2.6 MSWE is a go, thanks to the Galveston County Parks and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by a county judge.

### Old Business:

- 3.1 Approved \$150 donation to the Fire Field, but need the information just who the check should be made out to.
- 3.2 Survey Monkey discussion: A surprise was that the number two interest was in VHF/UHF. There is a need to separate and identify interests in this area and others. There needs to be another survey. A motion was made and passed that Ron Litt will be the chairman with Bob Tomlinson and Michael Wrenn.
- 3.3 Nathan has agreed to fill Kirk's position. A motion was made and seconded and passed to appoint Nathan to fill Kirk's position. Now as one year At Large Director for 2014.
- 3.4 John Chavin presented the By -Laws and there was much discussion. Highlights are the following: With regards to family membership the person who pays the full dues is called regular member, the other members of the family are called associate members, all have equal rights such as voting. Associate members shall pay 20% of what the regular member in a family membership pays. Members who are delinquent in paying dues etc shall lose all rights such voting or being on the Board if the dues are paid by 45 days then they shall be reinstated. The Board can appoint to fill empty posts till the next general election. There was discussion on whether the Board officers are limited to Generals and above.
- 3.5 Ron Litt made a motion to the proposed By-Law that, all Board members including the President shall hold a current FCC Amateur radio class license of any grade; the motion passed.

### New Business:

- 4.1 Need a chairman for the Ice Cream Social where the By-Laws will be voted on
- 4.2 A prudent reserve increase needs to be set for future meeting discussion. There was much discussion regarding this. Ron Litt will investigate the IRS implications of this.
- 4.3 Next months Board meeting will be on July 3 and this meeting place will be closed. The Board meeting for July will be at Fuddruckers. A motion was passed to approve this meeting place change.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 57PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX



# 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](http://www.bvarc.org). Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 months.

General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$2.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Eldridge Park Conference Center, 2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478,.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

President., Bill Stone, WS5H, [dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

Newsletter Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)

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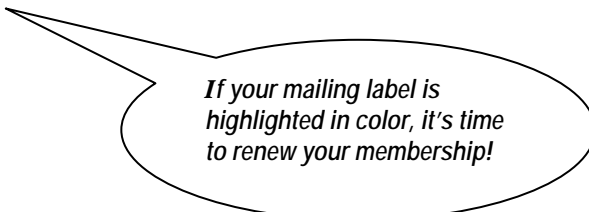
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JULY 2014

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- **General Membership Meeting – Thursday, July 10**



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