



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

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NOVEMBER 2005

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 11

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## NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The monthly general membership meeting takes place on Thursday, Nov. 10. The annual Chili Supper takes place at this meeting as well as the general elections. Bring a pot of your best chili.

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## BVARC PICNIC & CAMPOUT

November 12

The BVARC Picnic and Campout is back. It will be at Coushatta Recreation Ranch between Sealy and Bellville. It will be held on the "Circle" which is to your left after you cross the dam by the lake. It occurs in conjunction with the Amateur Radio Campers November campout. 146.52 is the normal talk in frequency.

Those wishing to camp in their RV's can come Friday and spend two nights if they want to. The camping fee with a group is around \$14 per night. The little red building just south of the Circle has been reserved for our use.

More information is available on the BVARC website at:

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/camp.htm>

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## BVARC IS NOW A FULL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BVARC has received its full classification as an IRS 501 (3) (c) non-profit corporation. This now means that any donations to the society are tax deductible. You will be provided with a receipt for your donations which can be used as proof of your donation. Accolades go to Randy Pollard, AK5G, for making this happen.

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The October general membership meeting featured BVARC member Rick Hiller, W5RH, discussing antennas for use on 75 meters. This was a very well attended meeting with about 55 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the presentation which was very interesting and informative.



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## BVARC License Classes

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will be holding license classes this month. This time we will have accelerated classes over two Saturdays. The first class will be for the Technician Class. Two 4 hour sessions will be held from 9AM to 1PM, the first on Saturday, November 12 and the second on Saturday, November 19. This will be followed after the first of the year with the code class with the General Class and Extra Class to follow.

Classes take place at St. Paul Presbyterian at the corner of Bellaire and SW Freeway. Contact Ross at [W5HFF@yahoo.com](mailto:W5HFF@yahoo.com) or John at [K5IZO@yahoo.com](mailto:K5IZO@yahoo.com) if you wish to attend.

## President's Corner

Well it has been quite some time since I have written a President's corner. With the hurricanes and two months overseas, it has been a chore just to keep everything else going. But enough of the excuses, there is a lot going on with BVARC in the upcoming months and that is what I here to talk about.

Coming up in November is the annual Chili supper and the club elections. If you would like to help with the Chili supper, give Ross, W5HFF a call and let him know. I know Ross will appreciate your call and help.

We will also be having the club elections. Cameron, K5CAM will be coordinator the board's slate of candidates but we will also be taking nominations from the floor. The two year positions that are open are: President, Recording Secretary and at large Director. If you would like to volunteer to help with club functions and event coordination's, contact Cam and let him know or simply have someone nominate you. Remember without your help serving the club, the club will die. We need your help to keep BVARC running and growing.

Also coming up is the BVARC banquet and the Greater Houston Hamfest (formally the Mix-n-Match Swap Meet). The banquet will be held around the second week of January at the Salt Grass Restaurant on the Southwest Freeway between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The date will be finalized sometime in late November.

During the banquet we present three awards for outstanding service for the club. The awards are: The Loop and Zepp; Dr. Bill and the Order of the Key. Your input is needed for these awards. If you would like to know more please check the web site for the qualifications and award history.

The Greater Houston Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 4th at the Sugar Land Community Center. You will start to see flyers promoting it around the meetings over the next few months. We are needing about 20 volunteers for the Hamfest so if you would like to help out, contact anyone on the board of directors.

Don't forget the December meeting where we have home-brew night. Get ready and bring your best home-built equipment to show it off to club. In the past we have had extremely good turn out for this and I hope it continues this year. The meeting will be held at the community center on December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to present your "creation" contact someone on the board and let them know.

Some of the functions planned for 2006 are New Ham and New Member night in February, licensing classes in March, and of course Field Day in June. So get ready for everything that is going on at BVARC!

73,  
N5VCX

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### BVARC Awards

With the banquet coming up, we should be thing about the club awards. The club has 3 awards and for the new folks here is the information on the awards. This is abbreviated for the newsletter but if you would like all the information go to the club's web site.

#### **The Order of the Key**

The Order of the Key is the highest honor for a BVARC member. It is awarded to the member that has made outstanding contributions and exceptional service and commitment to the goals of BVARC and to the progress of the club. These contributions might take the form of a long-term, consistent commitment to service, or might represent an extremely high level of service for a shorter time.

Any club BVARC member may make nominations for the Order of the Key. Nominations must be made in writing, and include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club. Nominations must be submitted to any Board member not later than the December regular membership meeting. The President will poll the Board of Directors secretly to allow them to vote on the nominations. Although any member may enter a nomination, only the Board of

Directors does voting. If in any year, no candidate receives unanimous approval of the Board, then no award shall be made that year.

### The Dr. Bill Award

In 1988 BVARC initiated the presentation of the Dr. Bill Award, which was originated by Keith and Eva Huge (KA5F and KA5CYZ) in honor of Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a silent key, which was very active in the Volunteer Examiner Program in the Houston area.

This award may be presented each year to the club member recognized as the outstanding participant in the BVARC Volunteer Examiner Program. The person receiving the award must receive majority approval of the BVARC Board of Directors.

### The Loop and Zepp Award

In 1989, the Loop and Zepp Award was originated to recognize BVARC members for their efforts to promote operation on the high frequency (HF) bands. These efforts may take the form of dedicated participation in any form or forms of HF activities, the promotion of HF activities or the assistance in furthering HF activities.

The person receiving the award must receive majority approval of the BVARC Board of Directors.

Any member of the club may make nominations for all Awards. Nominations must be made in writing, and must be submitted to any BVARC officer or Board member not later than the December regular membership meeting so awards can be made in time for the banquet. .

So put on your thinking cap and get your nominations in!

Mike, N5VCX

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## Amateur Radio Support Needed! Hams for Hospitals

During Hurricane Rite, an area that ARES and RACES does not cover was “discovered” – hospitals. I know that they area covered but not as a coordinated effort. I was contact by one of the ARES coordinators and asked if I could put together a small group of operators for one hospital group. Before I knew it, it turned out as a coordinating effort for as many hospitals in the Houston area.

In this coordinating effort, the Memorial Hermann system, Methodist system and Tenet system were including. There were eight locations staffed with operators. Unfortunately this left about fifteen not staffed. I felt that there needs to be a better way of doing this so I am starting a “Hams for Hospitals” group. I have talked with a few of the hospital administrators about this and everyone has been very enthusiastic about it. In fact, everyone has agreed to equipment purchases and antenna installations. I hope this will turn out like what has happened in the Austin area where 37 hospitals have equipment and are staffed during emergencies.

So if you are interested in helping out with “Hams for Hospitals”, let me know. I am needing volunteers for this group and only you can help.

Mike, N5VCX

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## Public Service Events

The events for the rest of the year are:

### **Novemberfest Bike Ride**

<http://www.novemberfestmetriccentury.org/>

9:00 a.m. November 12, 2005 Sealy

15 operators are needed and they must have VHF and UHF mobiles

### **25K Warm-Up Run for the Houston Marathon**

<http://www.houstonmasters.org/25K/HMSA25k.html>

6:45 a.m. November 13, 2005 Downtown Houston

8 operators are needed. VHF or UHF handhelds will work

### **30K Warm-up Run for the Houston Marathon**

<http://www.slfinishlinesports.com/home.html>

6:30 a.m. December 11, 2005

First Colony, Sugar Land

18 operators are needed. VHF mobiles are needed

Of course the next big event will be:

### **Chevron Houston Marathon**

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

6:45 a.m. January 15, 2006 Houston

120 operators are. VHF and UHF hand-helds are needed.

Mike, N5VCX

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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

*By Joe Morgan, K5JWM*

Sept 2005 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.

09/7/05\_\_K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, KE5CUT, W5RH, WA5VRB, KZ5I, W050, KB5SIT, KB5ELT. Check-ins(12)

09/14/05\_\_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, K5LJ, KE5CUT, W5LWR, NM5K, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB5SIT, N5VXU, KZ5I, W050, WA5VRB, W5RH. Check-ins(16)

09/21/05\_\_K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WA5VRB, WA5VRB. Check-ins(8)

09/28/05\_\_K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KK5UO, W5HFF, W5RJA, AB5BA, K5VRJ, KB5SIT, KE5CUT, W050, KG5RQ. Check-ins(13)

08/31/05\_\_K5JWM, N5CPA, KK5UO, KE5CUT, W5RH, K5CEK, KB5SIT, K5IZO. Check-ins(8)

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## Harry Hammond, WD5DEF, SK

Harry Hammond passed away in October from heart and cancer problems. He was an active member of the club and almost always an overnigher at field day. Condolences have been passed to his family from the club.

Harry was a friendly, very pleasant fellow, very interested in ham radio and the club. We will miss him very much.

## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.  
VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), in Stafford.

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

November 18, 7:30p.m., THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE  
11534 Wilcrest in Houston.  
December--NO DINNER--Too close to Christmas.

January—NO DINNER—Will have AWARDS BANGUET instead.

### Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

Houston, Texas 77388-6038

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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

**November - the chili supper and elections.**

**December - home brew night.**

**January – Annual Banquet**

**February: New Ham/New Member Night**

## 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:

5/16 - 8 - Joe, k5jwm	7/18 - 19 - John, k5lkj	9/12 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz and Sid, n5zkd
5/23 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz	7/25 - 18 - Larry, k5lj	9/19 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm
5/30 - 13 - Sid, n5zkd	8/1 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	9/26 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd
6/6 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	8/8 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd	10/3 - 18 - Cam, k5cam
6/13 - 28 - Mike, n5vcx	8/15 - 11 - Joe, n5jwm	10/10 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz
6/20 - 13 - Mike, n5vcx	8/22 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd	10/17 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd
6/27 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	9/5 - 15 - Cam, k5cam	10/24 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd

### **BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST. - - March 4, 2006**

Please take note that the BVARC "Mix-N-Match Swapmeet" name has been changed. Mark your calendars. Details will be given in the next newsletter and are on the BVARC website.

# BVARC has a new CLUB CALL KK5W

Through the graciousness of Betty Wilcox Zermeno, the Brazos Valley Amateur Club has acquired the call of her husband, Al Zermeno, KK5W. As you might remember, Betty (KA0TEN) is a Past President of the Club and she thought it only "fitting" for the Club to get Al's call. The FCC granted the call to us on April 8, 2005 with Randy Pollard (AK5G) as the trustee. A plaque with the license and a biography of Al Zermeno will be at all Club functions when the call is used. For those of you that did not know Al, you missed a special person and a special and exceptional amateur radio operator.



# KK5W

**Dr. Alfonso "Al"  
Zermeno**

**1931-2003**

Al Zermeno was a member of our Club for many years. He was always eager to help our Club in any way he could and participated in many public service events. He was a frequent speaker at our monthly Club meetings talking on complex subjects but "in his own way" he was able to make everyone understand the topic. He was the organizing force that installed and ran the radio room at M.D. Anderson Hospital. He was an "Elmer" to all Hams and a friend to all he talked to on the radio. Al retired from the medical field where he worked as a Physicist for M.D. Anderson for 25 years. Al was born in San Antonio, Texas and had four daughters.

## Upcoming Hamfests

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

### Tomball Swapfest Saturday morning in Tomball Nov 11 12

This year's Tomball Field Day exercise will start at 6 PM on Friday the 11th of November and carry on through 6 PM on Saturday the 12th of November.

Field day and Swap Fest will be held at the Pavilion covered area behind Step by Step Christian School on Cherry Street. (South of Main one mile south on left side in Tomball) There will be signage at the road in.

We will have a portable tower and beam for 10/15/20 meters and a Steppir vertical for 40 meters and some wires for the other bands. We will have emergency power and also 110 available from the site. At least two radios with 200 watts power for operators. There might even be a vintage AM station there.

Operators will get on the radio when they choose, whenever an operator on station gets tired or loses his concentration (or is hungry). Voice, CW and maybe even one of those new fangled machine modes may be available. We will even have a paper log to fill out (bring your own pencils)

Young Hams, Bring them along, this is an ideal place for them to get their feet wet on the radio.

Food: If anyone wants food, bring it on. we will have plenty of hungry folks (Tomballians are always hungry) could someone bring the Blue Bell and rolls at mid-night????

Junk stuff. We aren't planning any formal swap meet, but if you have junk and a table, bring them with you too. There is plenty of room under the roof and Saturday will be an ideal time to swap stories and junk, when your not on the radio.

Help. If your so inclined and have a little time, come on over Friday afternoon and help put up the stuff. We will start about 2 or 3 PM, depending...Could use some help so try to make it if you can. Might be nice if you could let me know ahead of time.

While this all sounds laid back, it has a serious side. Ham Radio and field day exercises are all the more important given the world we now live in. This will truly be an exercise to set up portable and useful communications, not for any contest or score, but to give us all a chance to play at the real life side of portable operation.

Hope to see you there!!!

Cal White WF5W El Supremo ,

Tomball Repeater Group/Nars/TDXS

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**San Antonio** has Swapfest06 on Jan. 14.

Don't forget the **BVARC** Greater Houston Hamfest on March 4.

More info will be given in the next newsletter.

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## RESULTS OF THE October 11th 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, October 11, 2005 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD; Larry Jacobson, K5LJ; John Moore, KK5NU; George Ontko, KM5VP

Five examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. Four new Technician licenses were attained, and an upgrade to General class license; with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Leonard D. Martin - {KE5GFP} - Technician  
Kenneth A. Miller - {KE5GFO} - Technician  
Thomas F. Shaw, III - {KE5GFN} - Technician  
Mark W. Shearer - {KE5GFM} - Technician  
James L. Strasen - KC5GXU - 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 Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month. .... 73 ....

## 2005 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@earthlink.net

### One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, 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 text or 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

## Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Oct 06, 2005

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:36 pm on Oct 6, 2005 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar land Texas.

### Attendees:

President - Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary - Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
Recording Secretary - Joe Morgan, K5JWM  
Two-year at large Director - Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD  
Two-year at large Director - Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ  
Cameron Mitchel, K5CAM      Kevin Foto-KD5O  
Randy Pollard, AK5G      John Chauvin, K5IZO Newsletter editor  
Bill Stone, KE5CUT

Minutes for April, May, June and July were presented for reading and approval. A motion was made to pass all minutes for these months motion was passed and all said I. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Will be presented. Total number of members is 104.  
501 c 3 status - Randy AK5G is waiting to hear from the IRS.

**New Business:** 2006 swap meet naming We have taking a vote and the Mix & Match swap meet will be called (Greater Houston Ham Fest) Try to get a Skywarn class set up for around month of March.

A letter was presented to Mike Hardwick which reads Dear Mr. Hardwick Please accept my resignation as Past President/At large Director of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club effective October 6, 2005. Due to time constraints of school and family, I am no longer able to provide the time necessary for the position. I know it is a hardship on the club by my absence at the Board of Directors meetings so I feel that at this time my stepping down will be the right thing to do. I will still support the club and its many functions and I wish BVARC well in all its endeavors.

**Schedule:** Program this month will be on 75 meter antennas

November: Chili Supper & Elections  
December: Home Brew Night  
January: Club Banquet  
February: New Ham/New Member Night

### Old business:

The club has a new call KK5W.  
Ross said Subscription to Worldradio was renewed.  
Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club camp out/picnic time & Place Nov 12 2005 at the Couchatte Recreation Ranch between Sealy and Bellville. Talk-in 146.52. More info and map on website.  
Ross is in charge of the chili cook off.

**Comments:** John-K5IZO went to Belton and talk to the vendors and invited them to the Greater Houston Ham Fest of 2006 in March.  
Bill-KE5CUT Would like to start a 10 meter Rag Chew Net on Tuesday at 7:30pm 28.488 MHz

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:54pm

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 – KK5W  
BVARC Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>  
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**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. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

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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**November 2005**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**General Membership Meeting – Chili Supper – Elections - ,  
7:30 PM., November 10, 2005**

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