



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

ANNUAL BANQUET – JANUARY 13

No General Membership Meeting in January

The annual BVARC banquet will be held on Friday, January 13, 2006 at the Saltgrass Steak House on the Southwest Freeway between Gessner and Bissonnet. The banquet is in lieu of the general meeting. See the menu and a map elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will start meeting around 7 pm to socialize and tell lies and then order dinner around 8 pm. The restaurant management has asked that we choose from a set menu this year to make the serving go faster. All selections cost \$20 and do not include tip or tax. We hope everyone in BVARC will be able to make it to this annual event.

DECEMBER MEETING – HOMEBREW NIGHT ENJOYED BY ALL



About 6 or 7 members showed their projects. No “winner” was declared as this is not a competition but rather a chance for members to show off their hobby and for others to enjoy and learn.

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST - - March 4, 2006

Please take note that the BVARC “Mix-N-Match Swapmeet” name has been changed. Mark your calendars. See the official flyer in this issue and on the BVARC website.

President's Corner

With the new year just around the corner, Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will have several continuing programs to work on. Many of the functions help the club become more active in the amateur community as well as provide funds for club events. By volunteering for the functions, you are helping the club and the amateur community.

Everyone should come out to the annual BVARC banquet. Everyone has a great time telling old and new lies as well as enjoying great food. More about the banquet is elsewhere in the news letter.

One of the premier sports events for Houston will happen on January 15 and your help is needed. The Houston Marathon is one event that needs communications and amateur radio has proven its worth for this event for many years. If you would like to help, contact Carl Hacker at 713-500-9185 for more information.

Come February is "New Ham & New Member" night. This has become a tradition for the club since it was started in 2003. By bringing in new hams and/or new members, this will introduce someone that is interested in the hobby not only to the club but also to all the different areas of interests in the amateur radio hobby. It will allow someone to learn more about the hobby and if they have just recently received their license, a place to enjoy the hobby. If you know someone like this, bring them to February meeting.

Also in February a training class for Technician will be offered. If you know someone that is interested in amateur radio and needs a class to get going, February is the time to sign them up. Contact John, K5IZO or Ross, W5HFF for more information.

Don't forget the 5th Annual Greater Houston Hamfest which will be held on Saturday, March 4th, 2006 from 9 am to 1 pm. This is a very important function because it helps raise money for the club as well as allow the club to become more active in amateur radio.

These are just a few of the upcoming events for the club. Come on out to a meeting or banquet or a hamfest. Remember it takes the club members to make the club.

73,
n5vcx

BVARC License Classes

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will be holding license classes in February. There are no fees. The Technician Class will be repeated first and will consist of two accelerated classes over two Saturdays. These 4 hour sessions will be held from 9AM to 1PM. The first is on Saturday, February 18 and the second on Saturday, February 25. This will be followed in March with the code class. The General Class and Extra Class will follow.

Classes take place at St. Paul Presbyterian at the corner of Bellaire and SW Freeway. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED; We need at least 3 students to for the class to "make." Contact Ross at W5HFF@yahoo.com or John at K5IZO@yahoo.com if you wish to attend.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

January – Annual Banquet
February: New Ham/New Member Night

BVARC Website URL

The original URL still works but we now also have
www.bvarc.com & www.bvarc.org

2006 BVARC Banquet Menu

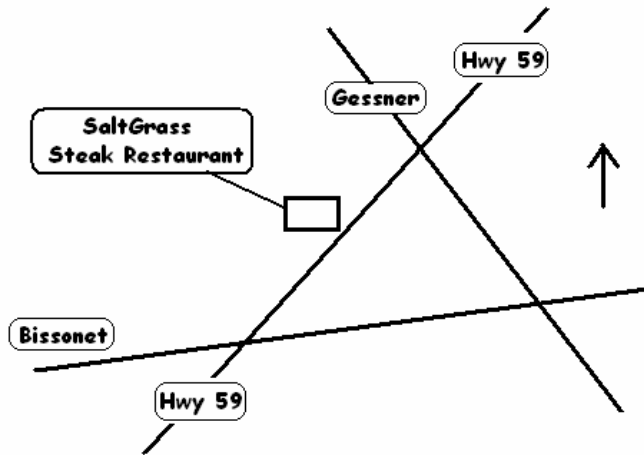
The annual BVARC banquet will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2006 at the Saltgrass Steak House, 9110 Southwest Freeway, between Gessner and Bissonnet. During the banquet awards are presented to club members that have excelled in different areas throughout 2005. Do don't forget to mark the banquet on your calendar.

Lone Star Menu

Choice of one item **\$20.00 per person**

Gulf Coast Steak and Shrimp
12 oz. Pat's Ribeye
BBQ Baby Back Ribs and Gulf Shrimp Combo
Center Cut Pork Chops
Grilled Chicken Breast and Gulf Shrimp Combo

Remember price does not include sales tax or 18% gratuity



Upcoming Hamfests

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

San Antonio 2006 Swap Fest & Texas VHF / FM Society Winter Meeting

Little Joe's Country Gold Sat. Jan. 14, 2006
7405 Old Pearsall Road (1 mile outside Loop 410,
on SW side of San Antonio)

- Tables: \$6.00 (\$7:00 @ door)
- Admission: \$2.00 (\$3 @ door)

<http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm>

BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

March 4, 2006

Sugar Land Community Center

See details at the BVARC Website.

- Individual's Tables: \$5.00 (\$10:00 @ door)
- Commercial Tables: \$10.00 (\$15:00 @ door)
- Admission: \$2.00

<http://www.bvarc.org>

BVARC MONTHLY LICENSE TESTING

As this issue goes to press, this information is not available. Next month's issue should have the information for 2 months. See the schedule and location on page 9.

Public Service Events in January needing operators

Chevron Houston Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K Run

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

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

Premier running event for Houston. Over 100 operators are needed for this event. Meeting locations and frequencies are still being coordinated and organized.

If you would like to volunteer please let me know as soon as possible so the positions can be schedule.

Carl Hacker, KB5LDY chacker@sph.uth.tmc.edu 713-500-9185 or 713-977-9754

And in the Months to Follow

Frost Bike 50

Sunday, January 29, 2006

The Big Chill Bike Ride

Sunday, February 05, 2006

Paws & Puddles Bike Ride

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Wild, Wild West End Ride

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Gator Ride

Saturday, March 04, 2006

The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic

Saturday, March 11, 2006

Bluebonnet Express

Sunday, March 12, 2006

Tour de Cypress

Sunday, March 26, 2006

The Space Race

Sunday, April 09, 2006

BP MS150 Bike Tour

Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 2006

CQ Magazine On-Line

CQ Magazine, <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/> is currently in publication, and has been for over 50 years. It, however, had a significantly different flavor to it back in the 50's and 60's; of a more technical note, for sure. I think that the earlier CQ magazines had some of the best ever antenna oriented technical content of any magazine. I have many of the yearly "Antenna Issues" in my collection. Before the advent of Ham Radio magazine in the late 60's, CQ seemed to be the premier technical magazine.

If you are interested in looking at just what CQ had to offer back then and up thru present day, "Hamcall", <http://hamcall.net/cq>, is scanning the back issues of CQ and placing them on the web. The service is a 'pay for view' on-line service only. There are no plans to produce and sell CD's, as QST and Ham Radio have done. The cost for the view and print service is variable depending on how much content you wish to view. You can view the TIFF files and print, for free, the first 10 pages of each issue, which includes each month's table of contents.

Currently, they have scanned back to 1977 and still have 25 plus years to go. They'll get there in time; however, a bit of patience is in order.

Additionally, to assist you in finding the applicable articles for your particular interest search, a downloadable index of CQ magazine articles from 1980 thru 2005 is available for free in Word format (.doc) at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/infoc.html>. Look at the menu on the left side under the CQ logo. Double click "CQ Master Index 1980 to 2005" to download the .doc file.

In antenna work, it's very enlightening to go back in time and see what the Ham's of the post war period were doing and what materials they were doing it with. Looking at old magazines is an easy way to get a glimpse of those projects.

Enjoy the additional antenna and ham radio reference material and have a Happy New Year.

Rick Hiller – W5RH



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02/03

Old TVs to follow typewriters to dustbin under US Senate bill

Old television sets, still used in about 40 percent of US households, are likely to be banished to the dustbin of history three years from now under a budget bill passed by the US Senate.

The bill, which for the first time establishes that US broadcasters will switch from current analog transmissions to digital ones on February 17, 2009, is certain to result in a windfall for the electronics industry and the government.

The digital signal will help deliver a much sharper image and better sound, and will help high-definition television sets -- available in most US electronics stores -- realize their full potential, according to industry officials.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton sought to assuage concerns, saying that under the bill that has already passed the House of Representatives, both consumers and manufacturers will have three years to prepare for the transition.

"That is more than enough time for manufacturers and retailers to move low-cost digital televisions and converter-boxes into the market ... for broadcasters to finalize their digital facilities, and for government and industry to prepare consumers for the transition," Barton said.

But consumer advocates were not so sure. They said the move may result in a major expense for about 40 percent of American households that own a total of up to 80 million old television sets.

To be able to receive the digital signal, these sets will require converter boxes that are expected to cost 60 dollars or more. The alternative is to replace them altogether with new high-definition models that, at least for now, are significantly more expensive.

According to Consumers Union, the digital television transition was likely to cost US consumers a total of more than two billion dollars in direct out-of-pocket expenses.

Meanwhile, the transition will bring in more than 10 billion dollars for the US treasury through the auction of public airwaves, the group said.

The move is also expected to result in a major boost for television sales.

Jeannine Kenney, a spokeswoman for Consumers Union, decried the fact the bill sets aside only 5 million dollars for consumer education.

"Consumers will have no idea what's coming and what they need to do to prepare for it, making it likely that tens of millions of television sets will go black on February 17, 2009," she warned.

From <http://www.physorg.com/news9291.html>

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

5th Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

www.bvarc.org

Formerly the "BVARC Mix-N-Match Swapmeet"

Saturday, March 4, 2006 - 9 am - 1 pm (setup 8 am)

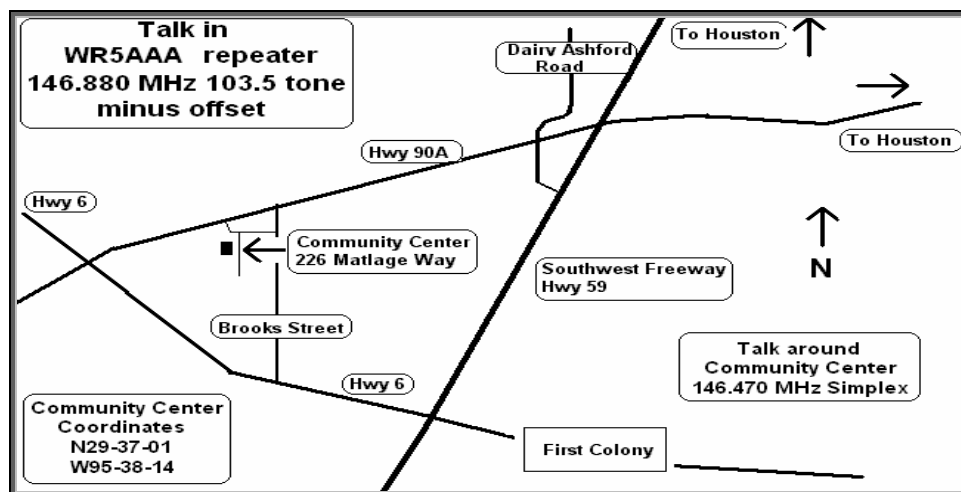
Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, TX

Admission: \$2 per person – children under 14 FREE!

- ★ **Tables:** Club members - 1 table free, \$5 each advanced purchase / \$10 at the door
Non members - \$5 each advanced purchase / \$10 at the door
Commercial - \$10 each advanced purchase / \$15 at the door - includes 1 admission

Go to <http://www.houstonhams.org/2006TableSignup.html> to register for tables

- ★ **Tailgate:** \$5 per vehicle - includes 1 admission
- ★ **Programs:** Amateur Radio for Tomorrow – David Woolweaver, K5RAV West Gulf Vice Director
BPL in Houston Update – Kent Marshall, W5TXV
ARES Hurricane Review – Jerry Reimer, KK5CA
Mini training seminars on antennas, transmitters, receivers and grounding
- ★ **Raffles:** Tickets are one for \$1 and six for \$5
Grand Prize & Boat Anchor - noon – need not be present to win grand prize
- ★ **Displays:** Amateur and Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles
- ★ **Testing:** 9 & 11 am – Sign up 30 minutes before testing – Bring photo ID & copy of license



**KK5W
W5DPA
Club
Calls**

Contact Mike, N5VCX at 713-771-4625 or 713-826-6917 or

n5vcx@arrl.net

for hamfest information

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

Houston, Texas 77388-6038

800-471-7373 281-355-7373 281-355-8007/FAX

Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 3 PM

Repair most brands of radios, amps, and other gear
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Trade-Ins welcome, Consignment Service
30 Day Warranty on used equipment

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

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.

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:

January—NO DINNER—Don't want to compete with Awards Banquet.

Pictures from recent breakfasts:



Part of "The Gang"



Laura (cook) and Vicky (waitress) – sisters:
after we presented them with gift certificates for the Holidays.

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, Net Coordinator K5JWM

Nov 2005 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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 BVARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

11/02/05 - K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, K5LJ, W5LWR, W5HFF, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5CDE, W5RJA, WA5VRB, W5RH, KZ5I, W5UFG,KB5YM, NM5K, KA5MEI, KE5CUT, KD5QPX, WO5O, KE5CFF. Check-ins (21)

11/09/05 - K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5CUT, KZ5I, W5HFF, KE5CDE, WA5VRB, KD5LUK, NM5K, KA5MEI, W5RH, WB5VYR. Check-ins (17)

11/16/05 – K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, WB5VYR, AD5UW, KE5CDE, W5HFF, K5LJ, W5RH, K5IHV, W5RJA, KA5MEI, KB5YM,KE5CUT, KE5FWY . check-ins (17)

11/23/05- K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, N5VXU, KE5CUT, K5IHV, KB5YM, W5RJA, K7PGC. check-ins (12)

11/30/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LJ, KE5SR, K5IHV, KB5YM, KB5SIT, WA5VRB, W5RJA, KA5MEI, KE5CDE, KZ5I. check-ins (13)

2005 BVARC ANNUAL PICNIC & CAMPOUT REPORT

CAMPOUT: NOV. 11, 12 & 13TH; PICNIC: Saturday, November 11, TIME: 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Coushatta Recreation Ranch, between Sealy and Bellville

Those attending the picnic:

“Pump Handle” & Anita Faucett, WA5CYI & WA5JMC, Sugar Land
Charles & Agnes Ellisor, WA5FMK & WB5VWB, Houston
Betty Zermeno, KA0TEN, Houston
John & Vivian Whiteman, K5LKJ, Stafford
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (from the bike ride), Houston

Dennis Dietrick, W5DDD
Ronald Faucett, KD5CDM, Sugar Land
KD5GCX, Pete Sauermilch, (from the bike ride), Sugar Land
John & Karla Gilmore, AC5TL & KC5MEA, Sugar Land
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (radio check-in from Cat Springs), Sugar Land

Those attending the campout:

“Pump Handle” & Anita Faucett, WA5CYI & WA5JMC, Sugar Land
Charles & Agnes Ellisor, WA5FMK & WB5VWB, Houston

Betty Zermeno, KA0TEN, Houston
John & Vivian Whiteman, K5LKJ, Stafford
Orin Snook, KB5F, Missouri City

The weather for the 2005 BVARC Annual Picnic & Campout was great: partly cloudy, temperature around 80 degrees F and a nice breeze blowing through the trees. The campers arrived Thursday and Friday. Orin Snook dropped by late Friday afternoon to visit with us, on his way back from San Antonio. The picnic conversation ranged from amateur radio, to 4X4 adventures, to motorcycling and beyond. It looked to me like everyone attending had a good time, I know I did. I'm looking forward to making plans for an even better picnic and campout next year. John Whiteman, K5LKJ

2006 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:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
k5cam@arrl.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

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

Dec 01, 2005

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:40 pm on Dec 01, 2005 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar land Texas.

Attendees:

President - Mike Hardwick-N5VCX
Vice President - Allen Brier-N5XZ
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary - Ross Lawler-W5HFF
Recording Secretary - Joe Morgan-K5JWM
Two-year at large Director Sid Sherwood - N5ZXD
Pete Sauermilch - KD5QPX
Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM
Charles Frost - K5LBU

Minutes for Oct. & Nov. were presented for reading and approved.
Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Was presented to the Board. All is in good standing and up to date.

New Business: Ross would like to see a extra board member added so to help in having a quorum at board meeting. Cameron Mitchel-K5CAM Was Nominated by Ross Lawler-W5HFF for at large Director Sid made a motion to accept this vote. Board votes and Cameron was elected in as a Board Member
Randy will present a plaque on behalf of KK5W
Web site Bvarc.org & Bvrac.com are up and running. (Ed note: bvarc.org doesn't work)
Bring boy scouts and other groups in for New Ham/New Member night.
Need Radio setup at new ham night.

Old business: Contributions to the club are deductible under this code and qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts.

Schedule: December: Home Brew Night
January: Club Banquet
February: New Ham/New Member Night

Other Business: Public Service Events
30K Warm-up Run
Chevron Jingle Bell Run
Houston Chevron Marathon

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm

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>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, **BVARC** has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County. 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 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, additional 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 Scarella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus, 103.5 tone) or the 145.45 (minus, no 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 281-342-3340 or w5hff@yahoo.com or the BVARC website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

January, 2006

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Annual Banquet – 7PM – Friday, January 13.

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