



**Annual HSPS/GBPS Chili Cook-off**  
*By Lt Jana Palfy, AP*

The weather was chilly (to put it VERY mildly) and the chili was hot. Three teams from Galveston Bay and two from Houston braved the 20-something wind chills at Nassau Bay Park for the yearly gathering of cooking and camaraderie. **Jim and Dorothy Pirrung** were there practically from the crack of dawn, along with Hershey the dog and a very welcome pair of propane heaters. (I camped out with them until things really got going.)

The Galveston Bay teams offered up kolaches and piping hot "Cowboy Bull" drinks to keep us warm while the chili cooked, as well as a fire bowl to huddle around.

**R/C Jean Hamilton** took a break from cooking this year, but did bring her wonderful vodka tomatoes and champagne. Marie Galante and Justinian had a good time running around with Cruiser from GBPS or cuddling up in the plushy village Jean created in the middle of the pavilion.

Finally, it was time for the chili! The Pirrungs' Old Brazos River Chili took home Chunkiest, while incoming Commander **Claire McDonald** won Most Creative for "The Emperor's New Chili" by Smoke and Mirrors Cooking (see if you can tell why from the pictures). Galveston Bay's Red Hots took home so many of the awards that I don't remember them all, but they were the Grand Champions.



*(More pictures on Page 6)*

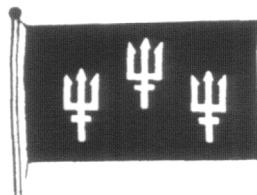
**Poop Sheet February 2010**

- February 3  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- February 11  
USPS University Seminar "Onboard Weather Forecasting" – Bass Pro Shops, Pearland
- February 13  
BoatSmart – Home Port
- February 14  
Happy Valentine's Day, HSPS!
- February 15  
Spring Classes Begin
- February 23  
Happy Washington's Birthday, HSPS!
- February 27  
Frostbite Rendezvous
- March 3  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- March 6  
Vessel Safety Check – Clear Lake
- March 10  
HSPS General Meeting  
Home Port - Potluck
- March 11  
USPS University Seminar "Advanced Powerboat Handling" – Bass Pro Shops, Pearland
- March 13  
BoatSmart – Home Port
- March 20  
Vessel Safety Check – Clear Lake
- March 25-27  
D/21 Spring Conference – NASA Hilton

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of  
Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
District 21



February 2010 Bay Neigh  
Cdr Claire McDonald, SN



Editor  
Lt Jana Palfy, AP

Assistant Editor  
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### Home Port

6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074  
www.usps-houston.org

### Bridge

Commander ..... Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN  
Executive Officer ..... Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S  
Educational Officer ..... Lt/C Richard A. Fisher, JN  
Administrative Officer ..... TBD  
Secretary ..... Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN  
Treasurer ..... Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P  
Immediate Past Cdr ..... P/C James S. Hotop, JN

### Squadron's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer ..... 1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN  
Asst. Secretary ..... TBD  
Asst. Treasurer ..... TBD

### Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers...	Robbie J. Robbins, JN
S. Dennis Fegan, AP	Mary Sandoval, S
Bill Fussell, S	P/C Richard C. Snapp, AP
Kathy Fussell, S	Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Jana Palfy, AP	P/C James S. Hotop, JN

Communications Committee Chairperson  
P/Lt/C Nancy Cunningham, SN

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS, or the Bay Neigh.

### PRAYER

The winter season unwinds  
And we sense the coming spring  
Let us prepare our hearts and our  
homes,  
And make ready our boats  
So that we may rise with the new season  
And join the throng of all God's creatures  
In celebration of this miracle  
That brings new life to the earth.

Amen  
P/C Scott D. McDonald

Welcome to the new watch year! I send my special thanks and sincere appreciation out to all of you who have been so supportive during these last few busy weeks with the Boat Show, the Annual Meeting, the planning meeting, the Chili Cook-off and the Change of Watch. So many of us have recently rolled up our sleeves together, conspired to have fun, shared a good joke and had a good conversations with each other. All of you have been directly involved in helping me support our Squadron in different ways. How lucky can one gal get? As your new Commander, I'm coming after the remaining 25% of you. You will not be able to resist because (You guessed it!) I have a Squadron of some of the most dedicated, talented, brilliant, funny and selfless people you could ever hope to meet right behind me. Our Squadron members are the people you want to encounter on the water, in the classroom, over a good meal or in an emergency. You will not be disappointed. Hold me to it. You will get more than you give. It's going to be another great year.

### Election Dinner Meeting at Spaghetti Western

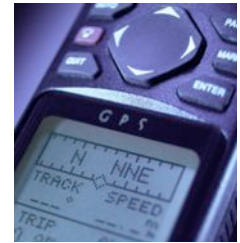


### Editor's Note

The February issue of the *Bay Neigh* was delayed slightly so that we could include coverage of the annual HSPS/GBPS Chili Cook-off and HSPS Change of Watch.

Look for the March *Bay Neigh* also a little late as your Editor will be marrying her boyfriend/fiancé of 5 plus years, Lawrence Wesson, on February 20, and they will be on their honeymoon the week the Bay Neigh usually goes to press.

We expect to return to our usual beginning-of-the-month schedule with the April issue!



**Education News**  
*Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN*

### Spring 2010 MEMBER CLASS SCHEDULE

Course	Class Day, and Registration Date	Instructor	Books and Tuition
Seamanship	Monday, February 15 (Home Port)	Rick Fisher	\$60.00
Advanced Piloting	Monday, February 15 (Home Port)	Bob Stevenson	\$65.00
Marine Electrical Systems	Tuesday, February 16 (Home Port)	Bill Haddock	\$60.00

**(To enroll in any member class, call me, email me, or just show up on the night of the class you wish to attend.)**

#### **2010 HSPS Boating Courses**

**HSPS Boating Safety Course (formerly Boat Smart)** – In 2010, we will once again partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to offer a 1-day boating safety course to the boating public. This course is intended to provide an opportunity for the new boater to become exposed to safe boating practices, and also allows those between 13 and 18 years of age to complete the requirement for a TPWD issued boating safety certificate. Under the current Texas Water Safety Act, the safety certificate is required for those under 18 to operate a powered vessel independently.

The next Boating Safety Course is scheduled for Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Home Port.

#### **USPS Seminars**

In 2010, we will continue to offer monthly USPS University seminars in conjunction with Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Pearland. These seminars will be held on the second Thursday of each month at the Bass Pro facility located at the southwest corner of Hwy 288 and the Sam Houston Tollway.

The next seminar will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, and the topic will be Onboard Weather Forecasting.

**Onboard Weather Forecasting** – Changing weather conditions can convert what was a delightful day on the water into a real challenge. Forecasting what weather you will encounter is one of the top priorities for safe boating. While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. By all means, a forecast is important. It will tell you what weather systems are headed your way, but they are challenged to tell exactly where and when conditions will change. Add your own observations and you have an extra edge. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your observations. The seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature, and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts. The seminar includes the McGraw-Hill *Onboard weather forecasting* waterproof *Captain's Quick Guide* to take aboard your boat.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

***Around the Corner***  
***Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S, XO***

The "New Year" is definitely underway and January just flew by. The Boat Show was quite a success and a lot of fun this time around. It was really nice having Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Coast Guard Auxiliary alongside our booth and no doubt we got a lot more "bites" and walk ups due to the proximity of the 3 booths. We had some bad weather days and nights, but we managed to come away with quite a few names and emails of interested people who'd like further contact.

The weather wasn't much better for the election and dinner meeting but we still had a pretty good turn out and the food at Spaghetti Western is always worth the trip. I for one can't get enough of the blackened chicken fettuccine in the chipotle alfredo sauce! There were no surprises in the election, other than a few positions weren't filled, but hopefully that'll be taken care of before this issue of the *Bay Neigh* "hits the streets"!! (*Nope, not yet – Ed.*)

January was definitely a whirlwind of activity with the election meeting right after the Boat Show and the "Incoming Officers Meeting" right after that. It was held at the NASA Hilton in Clear Lake, and it was an enjoyable few days away from home. Scott McDonald, our new incoming District Commander put on a great presentation, along with the help of the new bridge officers. There was an excellent rib-eye dinner served later that evening and the hospitality suite was not to be missed. Unlike the night of the Christmas Boat Parade, the weather was nice, so we had a beautiful view from the balcony of the hospitality suite. Sadly, there are STILL some exciting finales left at the end of this month that'll have to wait till next months issue but we'll definitely report back on those and I hope to see you all there!!!!

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***Education News***  
***(Continued from Page 3)***

***Boat Operator Certification***

The HSPS Boat Operator Certification program is now up and running. P/C Denny Fegan is the chairperson for the BOC program, and last year we were able to certify four members of HSPS as Advanced Certifiers, meaning that we are now in position to begin training and certifying participants in on-the-water skills. The BOC program requires membership in USPS, and we are confident that as word spreads to the boating public regarding the on-the-water and classroom BOC program, it will generate new member recruitment.

Once again, call me (281) 734-4443 email me at [Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com](mailto:Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com) to sign up for a course, or tell me how I can assist you in furthering your boating education.

Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN  
Squadron Education Officer

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***HSPS at the Houston Boat Show***  
***Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S***



*January 2010 Executive Committee Meeting*  
*Houston Sail and Power Squadron*

Executive Department: Lt/C Claire M. McDonald, SN

- **Cooperative Charting:** P/C Dick Snapp, AP, reported that Galveston Bay is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place and HSPS is currently 2<sup>nd</sup>. One more D/21 Squadron needs to participate in charting for D/21 to make it onto the national Honor Roll.
- **Vessel Safety Checks:** 184 checks performed by 10 VSC examiners in 2009. P/C Bill Haddock deserves many thanks for his efforts on this program. **A new Chair is needed for the next watch year.**
- **Web Site:** The new watch year calendar is needed for posting and to go into the Roster.
  - Status of website development
    - Training occurred Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Content is being entered. Go live is pending resolution of some challenges.
    - Recommendation from the Savings Account Advisory Committee (SAAC) was not available during the meeting. After the regular meeting adjourned, the SAAC met and determined their recommendation. An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 2031, where the SAAC recommended that the E Board approve withdrawal of sufficient funds from the Mellinger Fund to cover the cost of the contract to create the new website. A S. McDonald/Fegan motion to withdraw the funds passed. The emergency meeting was then adjourned.
- **Additional Topics:**
  - Boat Show January 8-17 – HSPS will be in what has been designated as Booth 332, next to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 23 volunteers have stepped up to help, and all 24 time slots are now covered by at least one person. Some people have signed up for multiple slots.

Education Department: Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN

- **Member Courses:** Classes start February 15<sup>th</sup> – Seamanship (Fisher), Advanced Piloting (Stevenson) and Marine Electrical Systems (Haddock)
- **Public Courses:**
  - Seminar – Bass Pro Shop Pearland – Feb.11<sup>th</sup> – Onboard Weather Forecasting
  - BoatSmart – Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Home Port

Administrative Department: Lt/C Robert Leatherwood, S

- **Membership:** Scott McDonald reported that 1 former member requested reinstatement. Also, some family members are being added to the roles. USPS is considering converting Family Members to Active Members for accounting purposes.
- **Public Relations:** Claire McDonald reported that the squadron currently has \$246 of eligible expenses, and should be able to add the website related costs. This would result in a substantial rebate from USPS. Submissions are made to National on a quarterly basis.
- **Upcoming Dinner Meetings:**
  - January 20<sup>th</sup> – Election meeting – at Spaghetti Western
  - January 31<sup>st</sup> – Change of Watch at HYC – replaces February dinner meeting
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - January 8-17 – Winter Boat Show
  - January 23 - Incoming Officers Meeting, Clear Lake Hilton
  - January 27 – Planning Meeting – 7 pm at Home Port
  - January 30 – HSPS/GBSPS Chili cook-off at Nassau Bay Park; hosted by Houston
  - February 2-7 – USPS National meeting; Orlando, FL
  - February 27<sup>th</sup> – Frostbite Rendezvous at Home Port in the early afternoon; Founder's Day presentation

Treasurer's Department: Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach, P

- **Financial Report:** Books for 2009 are closed. No more deposits will be made and no more checks will be written for 2009 expenses. The Squadron is in good financial shape.
- **Additional Topics:** The audit required as part of the Change of Watch will be performed the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**January 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**  
(Continued from Page 5)

**Secretary's Department: Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN**

- **Squadron Newsletter:** January Bay Neigh was published to the website about December 29<sup>th</sup>. Folding and mailing was completed on December 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Additional Topics:**
  - Written and signed Annual Reports from bridge officers are due to Secretary Bob Stevenson at the annual election meeting or before.
  - History Report – Input is due to Bob Stevenson no later than February 10<sup>th</sup> to support filing within 30 days of the Change of Watch.
  - Roster – Input is due to Scott McDonald by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2010 watch year roster will be distributed by mid-February.

**Commander's Department: Lt/C Claire M. McDonald, SN (acting)**

- Star Squadron Report for 2009 – Departments should complete and submit their input to Cdr. Hotop BEFORE Change of Watch.
- Thanks to all those who helped the Squadron – particularly the E Board.
- Best wishes to the Pyles, who leave this month for England and will be gone for 18 months.

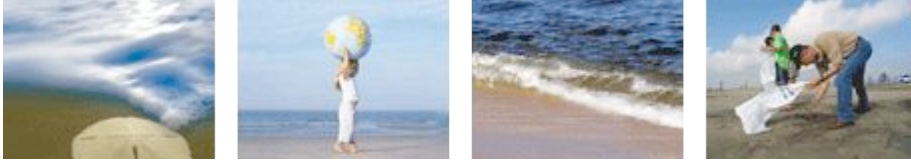
**Unfinished Business**

- Spring D21 conference – Scott McDonald
  - Venues are set and contracts have been signed.
  - Need to assemble and mail out the program and associated materials. Materials will be printed courtesy of Marathon Oil, and they will be mailed from Dallas using that squadron's franking for bulk mailing capability.
  - Need a separate banking account to handle conference expenses. If handled properly, the squadron should break even, because D/21 provides funds and attendees pay for events attended. A S. McDonald/Stevenson motion to set up a separate bank account for the conference passed.
  - An ad-hoc management committee was formed, consisting of Scott, Claire McDonald, Jean Hamilton, Bob Leatherwood, Dick Snapp and Phyllis Stendebach.

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**Annual HSPS/GBPS Chili Cook-off**  
*Photos by Lt Jana Palfy, AP*





## Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't Cool!

The Texas General Land Office has been sending this message across the state for twenty-three years, and Texans have responded. Since the first cleanup in 1986, more than 390,000 Texas Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 7,500 tons of trash from Texas beaches, some of it originating from as far away as South America.

Due to tide patterns in the Gulf of Mexico, trash dumped anywhere in the gulf is likely to end up on a Texas beach. Volunteers record information such as the source and type of debris collected on data cards provided by Ocean Conservancy. This data has been instrumental in the passage of international treaties and laws aimed at reducing the amount of offshore dumping.

Keeping Texas beaches clean and safe is an economic as well as environmental priority. Coastal tourism, a \$7 billion industry, and commercial fishing, a \$1.9 billion business, demand clean beaches and a healthy gulf to thrive.

### *The program strives to:*

- raise public awareness;
- educate citizens about the source of debris; and
- generate public support for state, national and international action to clean up coastal waters.

The Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program, an all-volunteer effort, is dedicated to preserving and protecting Texas beaches. The program's success is due to the generous efforts of dedicated volunteer county coordinators, coastal community leaders, sponsors and citizens. Strong support from the private sector helps carry our message to Texans all across the state.

### *Please join us at our next beach cleanup.*

- **Feb. 12 - Winter Texan Cleanup - South Padre Island**
- **Feb. 13 - Coastal Bend Winter Cleanup - Corpus Christi Area**
- **April 24 - Spring Cleanup - Coastwide**

HSPS will be participating in the April 24<sup>th</sup> beach-clean-up. Watch for details in the March and April Bay Neighs.

## ***TPWD Seeks Volunteers to Remove Abandoned Crab Traps***

*Art Morris and Tonya Wiley with TPWD*

*(Submitted by Cdr Claire McDonald, SN)*

Hoping to add to the mountain of almost 26,000 derelict crab traps hauled from Texas bays since 2002, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are gearing up for the 9th Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program, running this year from February 19-28, 2010.

During this 10-day period, all Texas bays will be closed to crabbing with crab traps, and any traps left in the bay will be presumed abandoned and considered litter under state law, allowing volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find. Before the 77th Legislature authorized the abandoned crab trap removal program, only the trap's owner or a Texas game warden could legally remove a crab trap. State game wardens pick up more than 2,500 traps annually, yet there are many more still in the water to foul shrimpers' nets, snag fishermen's lines, ghost fish and create an unsightly view of Texas shores.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the coast-wide effort to remove the numerous wire mesh traps that have been lost or abandoned since last year's cleanup. To facilitate volunteer trap removal efforts this year, TPWD will provide trap drop-off sites at several locations along the coast Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. Additionally, at most sites, dumpsters marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure. Site locations will be announced in February.

Volunteers can work at their own pace during the closure as time and weather permit, but traps cannot be removed prior to Feb. 19 or after Feb. 28. Last year, volunteers, with the aid of numerous sponsors, removed more than 1,900 traps.

"The success of this program is a reflection of the keen sense of stewardship anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts have for the marine resources of this great state. Volunteers are working themselves out of a job, as indicated by the waning number of traps removed each year, but that is a good thing," said Art Morris, TPWD program coordinator.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program, Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and the Cecil M. Hopper Museum are providing significant support to the crab trap removal program. Additional help is coming from numerous organizations and companies who are volunteering their services.

To participate, volunteers can arrange to pickup free tarps, gloves, trap hooks and additional information at their local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Field Stations. TPWD requests volunteers record and submit information about the number of traps that they collect as well as any sightings of diamondback terrapins.

For more information about the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program and how you can volunteer, please contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Office or Art Morris at the Corpus Christi Field Station: (361) 825-3356, [art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us); or Tonya Wiley at the Dickinson Marine Lab: (281) 534-0131, [tonya.wiley@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:tonya.wiley@tpwd.state.tx.us).



*HSPS Change of Watch at Houston Yacht Club  
Photos by Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN*





**District 21**  
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons



January 21, 2010

D/Lt/C Dot Welch, SN, Secretary  
District 21

Re: 2010-2011 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for the 2010-2011 Squadron year:

**Office**

Commander	D/Lt/C Scott McDonald, SN	HN
Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Jerry W. Madden, S	SH
Education Officer	Cdr James S. Hotop, JN	HN
Administrative Officer	P/C Benjamin A. Garber, JN	LC
Secretary	P/C Betty A. Carr, AP	GB
Treasurer	D/Lt/C William K. Galle, AP	FW
Assistant Education Officer	P/Lt/C Sheryl Dautriel, JN	LC
Assistant Administrative Officer	Cdr Frank Boerner, SN	GB
Assistant Secretary	P/C Ginny Strong, AP	AU
Assistant Treasurer	D/lst/Lt Clorinda P. McVinnie, AP	FW

**General Committees**

**Nominating**

1 Year – Chair	P/C/C Karl E. Fernandes, JN	HN
2 Year	PD/C Joe B. Dorn, SN	AU
3 Year	D/C Shirley D. Heald, AP	DL

**Planning**

1 Year – Chair	P/C Christine Rakestraw, AP	LRGV
1 Year	Lt/C Peter P. Pranis, AP	LRGV
2 Year	P/C Tressa Harvey, S	OA
2 Year	P/Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN	HN
3 Year	P/C Ginny Strong, AP	AU
3 Year	Stf/C William E. Smith, AP	AU

**Rules**

1 Year – Chair	P/D/Lt/C Billie J. Kearney, N	GB
2 Year	P/C Paul Mallett, AP	AU
3 Year	P/D/Lt/C Roger D. Penneman, SN	FW

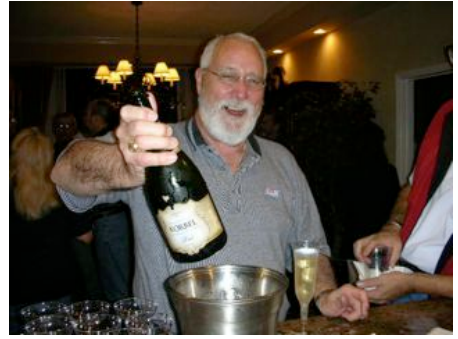
**Auditing**

1 Year	P/C Raymond T. Kearney, SN	GB
2 Year	P/C Christine G. Rakestraw, AP	LRGV
3 Year	Cdr Janet Wood Cooper, P	OA

Respectfully Submitted,

P/D/C Charles V. Strong, JN  
P/D/C Karl E. Fernandes, JN  
P/C Hilton Dickerson, AP  
District 21 Nominating Committee

**Incoming Officers Meeting**  
 Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S



**Sponsors**

The Squadron is seeking companies and individual sponsors to help defray many of the Squadron's expenses. As more sponsors are found, the likelihood drops that your dues will increase. Sponsors may choose to place an advertisement in the *Bay Neigh*. The size of the ad will be relative to the level of their financial support. Sponsors will also be recognized on the Squadron's website, which is being redesigned. Please recommend potential sponsors to Executive Officer Claire McDonald, who will contact them directly. There is no cutoff date for this information. The search for annual sponsors will continue indefinitely.



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Contact *Bay Neigh* Business Manager  
 Ken Brooks

e-mail: kwbrooks@ix.netcom.com

## Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Palfy at [beakboatgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:beakboatgirl@yahoo.com)

Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074

## February Birthdays

Robert I. White	2/4
Kathy J. Fussell	2/8
Peter H. Hames	2/9
Crawford E. Chiasson	2/14
William S. Haddock Jr.	2/16
Vince J. Wall	2/20
Debra L. Gallington	2/21
Johnny Benkenstein Jr.	2/25
Richard C. Snapp	2/28



Come to the  
Frostbite Rendezvous  
Saturday, February 27th  
at Home Port  
11:30 AM - Gather  
Noon - Barbeque Lunch  
1:00PM - Founder's Day Presentation  
Watch for more information.

