



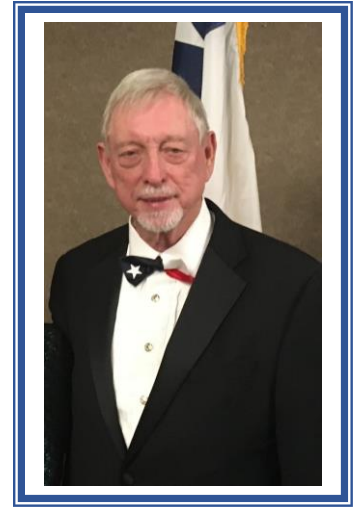
# The Sherman Sentinel

JANUARY  
2024

SIDNEY SHERMAN CHAPTER, NO. 2 - GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

As the New Year begins, we reflect back on our Pioneer Ancestors and wonder what it was like in Texas, January 1836. There was a sense of peace as the Mexican Army had retreated south across the Rio Grande having been defeated by the Texians at Gonzales, the Grass fights, and the Siege of Bexar, among others. Texans were beginning to think about plowing their fields, sowing the seed, and rounding up stray cattle.



However, our ancestors were also faced with numerous challenges: how to declare independence from Mexico and form a new government, how to defend against Mexico, and how to survive on the frontier. The difficulties we face today do not seem as insurmountable when we compare them with the struggles of our pioneer ancestors. We should always keep in mind the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our ancestors as they confronted those challenges as they struggled to establish a new Republic of Texas.

Also in January, Santa Anna and his Mexican Army was on the march towards Texas to quell the rebellion with the focus on Bexar, the political center of Texas and the site of General Cos's defeat. Davy Crockett and his Tennessee Mounted Volunteers stopped at San Felipe in early January to visit Governor Henry Smith and were ferried across the Brazos at that point. As Crockett said to Governor Smith they were "following the scent of a fight." Stephen F. Austin and William Wharton were in New Orleans working to procure supplies and munitions for the Texas Army.

Representatives from across Texas are traveling to meet for a Constitutional Convention that has been called at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Juan Navarro, one of two native Texans, representing Bexar and Richard Ellis from Red River are headed toward the Brazos. Lorenzo De Zavala as a representative from Harrisburg and Thomas Rusk from Nacogdoches are also rushing towards the Convention.

As the new year begins, it promises to be an active one for our Chapter. Quickly coming up will be the Texas City Mardi Gras Parade on January 20. We are honored to have our **Award Winning Float** from the Texas City Christmas Parade entered again. Mirabeau B. Lamar Day, a Texas Honor Day will be January 26, 2024 at Morton Cemetery in Richmond and is sponsored by the Mirabeau B. Lamar Chapter, No. 5, SRT. We had a great attendance from our Chapter last year as we honored the Second President of the Republic of Texas and the *“Father of Texas Education”*.

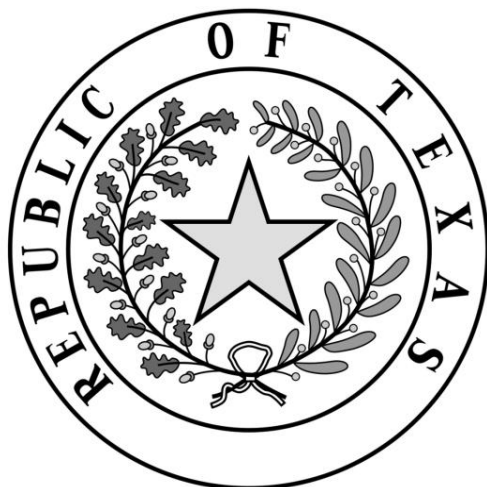
Our January chapter meeting is a very important one as we will be swearing in the new officers for the coming year. Carl Hill, President; Robert Schuniger, First Vice President; Robert Gindratt, Second Vice President; Clark Wright, Secretary; Steve Nicol, Registrar; Larry Armstrong, Sargeant-at-Arms; and Ron Schoolcraft, Past President. We have a wonderful Executive Committee for the coming year and I look forward to working with all of you as we promote our mission as The Sons of the Republic of Texas to

*perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas.*



*God Bless Texas*

*Carl V. Hill,  
President*



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# Upcoming Events January

## January 16th Chapter Meeting

# 2024

Justice Ken Wise sits on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston. He traces his ancestry back to the Republic of Texas in 1836. Born and raised in Houston, he attended Texas A&M University where he competed on the intercollegiate rodeo team. He attended law school at the University of Houston and practiced law for eight years before taking the bench as Judge of the 152nd and 334th District Courts.

Justice Wise has studied Texas history since his youth and has a tremendous passion for the stories and values that built Texas. He enjoys reading and writing about Texas history and has published scholarly articles in several different journals. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Historical Foundation. He is also a trustee of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society. Justice Wise started his podcast, "Wise About Texas," to preserve and promote Texas history.



**Justice Wise will present  
“Indian Raiders tried in  
Civilian Courts” &  
TSHA Update**

# Texas Honor Day

**LAMAR DAY**

**JANUARY 26, 2024**

JOIN US IN HONORING MIRABEAU B. LAMAR, SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN, AND EARLY RESIDENT OF RICHMOND AND FT BEND COUNTY.

A GRAVESIDE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 10:30AM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH, AT MORTON CEMETERY IN RICHMOND.

COME SHOW YOUR TEXAS PRIDE IN ONE OF OUR OWN,

MIRABEAU B. LAMAR.

A small, square portrait of Mirabeau B. Lamar, an older man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark cravat. The name "Mirabeau B. Lamar" is printed in small text below the portrait.

# It's Mardi Gras Time

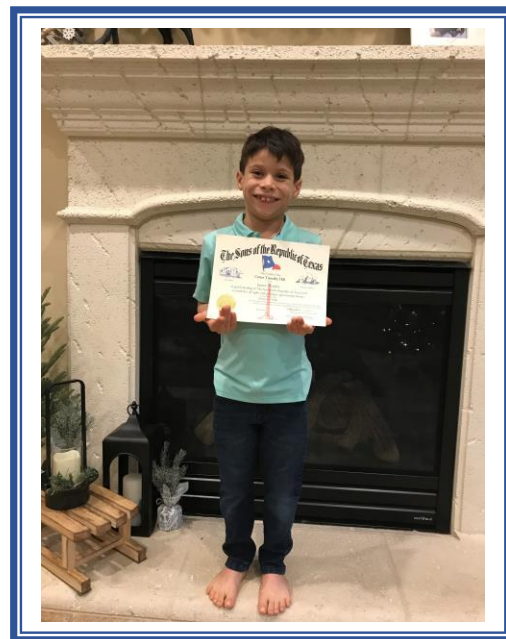
Join the Sidney Sherman Chapter No. 2 Award Winning Parade Float for the Texas City Annual Mardi Parade. The parade is at noon on Saturday January 20th, the route begins at Carlos Garza Park and travels down Palmer and ends on 6<sup>th</sup> street.

We will gather at 10:30 a.m. at Carlos Garza Park to decorate the float and have hot dogs. If you plan to ride in the parade, please contact Carl Hill, President at easygoal1@hotmail.com



## Welcome New Junior SRT Members

Junior members pay no annual dues, and may not vote or hold office. At age 18 they are automatically upgraded to regular membership. Applicants for junior membership pay a, one time, non-refundable application fee of \$50.

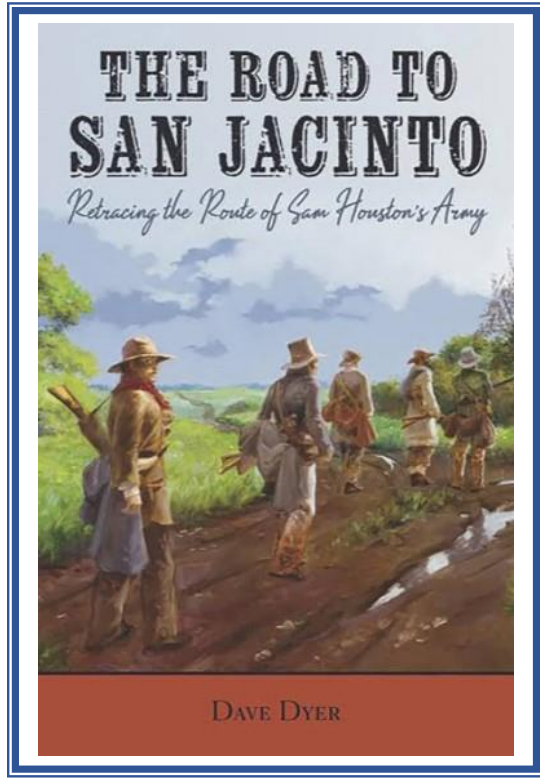
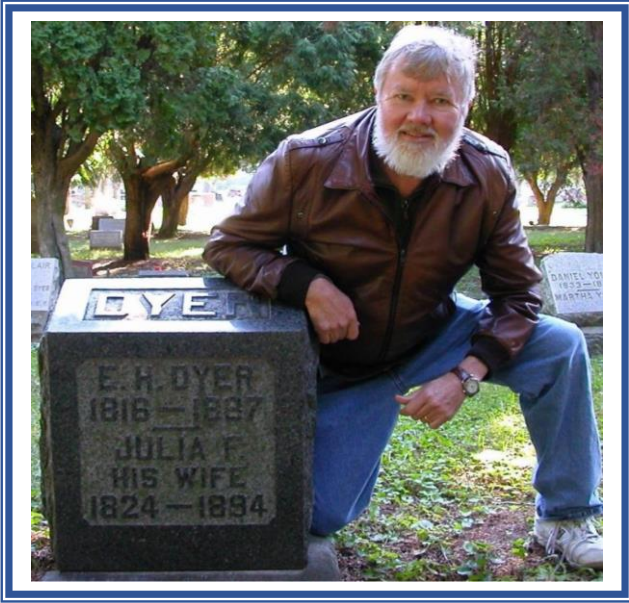


Cameron & Keaton Kittrell



Carter Hill

# Chapter Meeting February 20, 2024

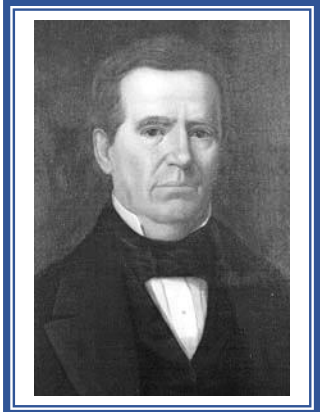


On March 11, **General Sam Houston** took command of the 378-man Texas Army in Gonzales. Forty-one days later and 150 miles east, he faced off against General Santa Anna at San Jacinto. During the retreat east, Houston fought to stay one step ahead of the advancing Mexican army while also holding his growing and increasingly rebellious army together. Houston's often unpopular decisions on the road to **San Jacinto** eventually led to his victory. Without knowing how the Texas Army reached its destination, Houston's actual skill as a military leader cannot be understood. However, despite its significance, the Texas Army's retreat during the **San Jacinto Campaign** is poorly documented and often overlooked. At *The Road to San Jacinto*, author Dave Dyer retraces Houston's route east based on extensive primary and secondary research, bringing each one back to life.

Since this book is not self-published, Mr. Dyer is unable to bring any books to sell. His contract with his publisher gives them exclusive rights to sell the book. It is available from both Texas A&M Press and Amazon. He will be happy to autograph if you bring a book. Here are the links:  
<https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781649670120/the-road-to-san-jacinto/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Road-San-Jacinto-Retracing-Houstons>

# Texas Statehood Day Fly Your Texas Flag

*"The Republic of Texas is no more"*  
... As he lowered the Texas Flag on February 19, 1846.  
**Anson Jones** - Last President of the Republic of Texas

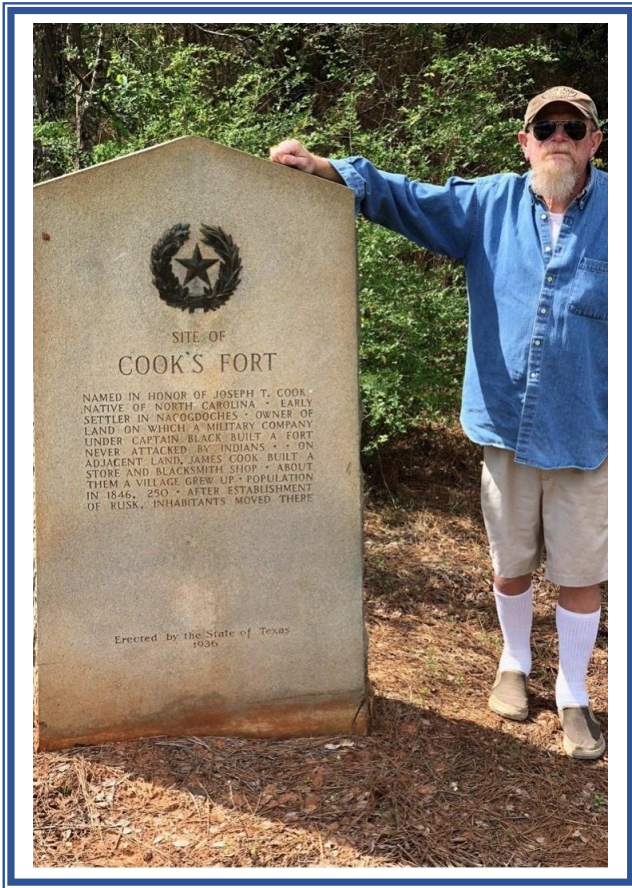


This **Texas Honor Day Event** will be held at the Anson Jones grave marker in Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007 on February 19, 2023. The time of the ceremony will be at 10:30 a.m. and is sponsored by the Sam Houston Chapter, SRT. **Dr. Anson Jones** served as the last President of the Texas Republic before it became a part of the United States. The San Jacinto Chapter, DRT will also lay a wreath in honor of **Anson Jones** and his wife, **Mary Smith Jones**, who was the first President of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

During the Texas Revolution, **Dr. Jones** served as a judge advocate and surgeon to the Texas Army, though he insisted on holding the rank of private throughout the Revolution. After the war, **Dr. Jones** returned to Brazoria and resumed his medical practice.

# Texas Patriot Corner

by John Lucas

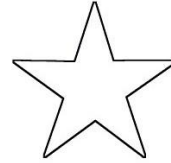


Today the original site of Cooks Fort is owned by John Lucas, SRT #6771

Great, Great, Great  
Grandfather  
**Joseph Thomas Cook Sr**  
Born 1776 – Died 1844

A Texas pioneer and the founder of **Cook's Fort** in Cherokee County, Texas while Texas was still a Republic, **Joseph Cook** was of great importance to the founding of Cherokee County, Texas. **Joseph Cook** received an Original Spanish Land Grant in January of 1835 for a league & labor of land (4600 acres).

A **Texas Centennial Marker** was placed by the state of Texas at the site of Cook's Fort in 1936. - Handbook of Texas Online



**COOK'S FORT.** Cook's Fort, three miles southeast of Rusk in Cherokee County, was built in late 1839 or early 1840 by a military company under the command of Capt. G. K. Black for protection of the settlers against hostile Indians. The fort, named in honor of **Joseph Thomas Cook**, who owned the land and had the primitive fort and stockade built, became a gathering place for new settlers in the area and gave them a sense of security while they scouted for a location of their own. There were no Indian attacks, and no soldiers were stationed nearby. The Cherokee Indians had been removed in 1839 to Indian Territory.

Cook and his wife, Mary (Moore), had come from South Carolina through Alabama and Mississippi before they arrived in the San Augustine area in the early 1830s. By 1834 they were in Nacogdoches. Most of their eleven children, if not all, came with them and lived at the fort. Cook had received Mexican grants of a league and a labor of land. After Texas independence, he spent three months with Capt. Michael Costley's company of rangers (September 11-December 11, 1836), for which service he received 320 acres of land.





Several of his children and his sons-in-law received warrants for land. His son James Cook owned the league of land adjoining that of his father. On it he built a store and blacksmith shop. This was the beginning of a settlement that had an estimated population of 250, including slaves, by 1846, when Cherokee County was formed from Nacogdoches County. At that time the locating commission looked favorably on **Cook's Fort** as the county seat.

It was centrally located, on the well-traveled Nacogdoches-Neches Saline Road, and near the road to Fort Houston. It is said that James Cook was opposed to making Cook's Fort the county seat because that function would interfere with his large-scale farming interests. Thus a new town was formed and called Rusk. Those not engaged in farming moved to the new town, and the little settlement at Cook's Fort declined.

Several hundred acres of land including the fort site were still owned by Cook's descendants in 1967, when they received a **Texas Land Heritage Award** for having a farm in continuous operation for over 100 years. Many of the Bibles, furniture, and silver the Cooks brought to Texas were destroyed in a fire.

Today in 2023 over 200 acres of the Original Land Grant including the site of **Cook's Fort** are still owned by members of the Lucas family. Their Grandmother was Dollie Belle Cook Lucas who inherited the land in the early 1930's when her aunts Belle & Laura Cook who had lived at **Cook's Fort** their entire lives passed away. Dollie Belle Cook Lucas and her husband Frank built a new home there in the mid 1930's. Next their son Jack Lucas & his family lived at the site of **Cook's Fort** for many years.

In the nearby **Cook/Salem Cemetery**, Joseph and Mary Cook are buried on land they donated for the cemetery.

Joseph Cook's older son Joseph T Cook Jr was in the Confederate Army in Galveston. After the war Cook Jr & his family boarded a ship from Galveston & moved to Brazil, the trip went thru New York & Cuba & took two years.

His teenage daughter Mary Emma Cook who was born at **Cook's Fort** met a boy from England in Brazil & they married. After about 10 years later her husband found out he had become a Lord in England, they moved to Lancaster England where they inherited a mansion & large estate called Thurman Hall.

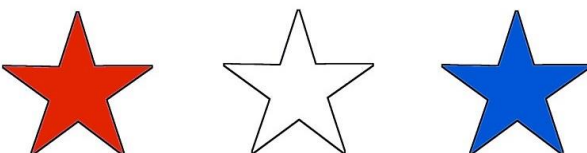


Joseph T. Cook Jr. moved back to Navasota, Tx. after years in Brazil & lived to be over 100 years old, he wrote his life story called "Goodbye to the Lone Star State"

The 50-page story can be found on the [scvpalmbeach.com](http://scvpalmbeach.com) website titled **SUB JT COOK FAMILY**  
scvpalm beach

## *Texas Patriot Corner*

Please honor your Texas ancestor by submitting an article. Articles need to be submitted by the first of each month in Word to be included in that month's newsletter. Please feel free to include a picture of your ancestors. Pictures need to be sent as JPG's. Please note minor corrections for grammar and punctuation may occur.



# Tis' the Season to be Jolly



*From the San Jacinto Dispatch,  
San Jacinto Chapter, DRT  
Christmas Luncheon  
Pioneer Memorial  
Log House*

Debra Grigsby (who designed and created the Texas Our Texas quilt for the raffle) sold all 200 of the tickets for proceeds total of \$1,700 to benefit the log house. New member, Alexandra Herrera drew the lucky ticket winner, Tim Rainey. Tim was present as his daughter and granddaughter were being inducted as new members of San Jacinto Chapter. Tim is a member of the SRT and an admiral in the Texas Navy who reached out to San Jacinto Chapter to have "his girls" join Daughters of the Republic of Texas. He was so proud of their induction to membership that he flew in family to have six of them celebrate the occasion with us.

## The San Jacinto Dispatch Quilt Raffle Results

### The Winner!!!

We raised \$1,700.00 on the quilt raffle. The drawing was done at the Holiday Luncheon by new member Alexandra Herrera. The winner was Tim Rainey, Sons of the Republic of Texas member. He plans to use it as a wall hanging in his hunting cottage in Arkansas. Congrats!



Above Picture  
Molly Rainey, Tim Rainey and Kelly Ware. Not pictured is Kayla Rainey. Their ancestor is Hugh Shannon Stapp.

# In the News

Seaside Scenes: Sons of the Republic of Texas celebrate Christmas

By CARLA PEOPLES Dec 29, 2023



Left picture - Check out Seaside Scenes: *Sons of the Republic of Texas celebrate Christmas* in the Galveston Daily News. There is a nice article and several pictures written by Carla Peoples. Thank you, Carla, for the great publicity.

Right picture - Thank you Billy Mayo for submitting this picture and information.

## GALVESTON COUNTY The Daily News.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, January 4, 2024 | The Daily News | A5

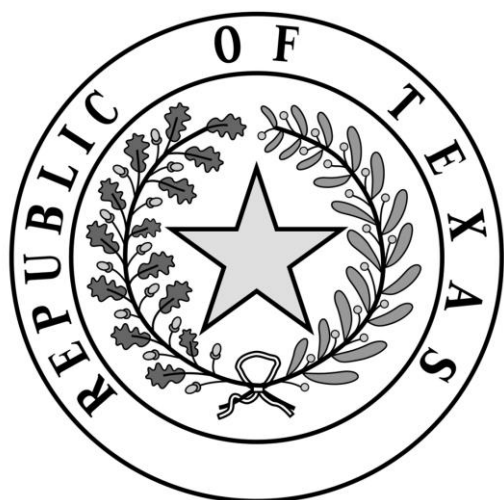


The Sidney Sherman Chapter 2 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) held its annual holiday party in the Antique Pavilion on Post Officer Street. James Nonus, owner of the Antique Pavilion and member of the Sidney Sherman Chapter, hosted the event and provided the food and drink. In addition to Sidney Sherman Chapter members, several guests from other SRT chapters, the Laffite Society, the Texas Navy Association, the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and The Galveston County Daily News were in attendance.



# ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2024

<b>JANUARY 16, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker - Judge Ken Wise “Indian Raiders tried in Civilian Courts” & TSHA Update
<b>JANUARY 26, 2024</b>	<b>MIRABEAU B. LAMAR DAY</b> Father of Texas Education
<b>FEBRUARY 19, 2024</b>	<b>TEXAS STATEHOOD DAY</b>
<b>February 20, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker – Dave Dyer “The Road to San Jacinto”
<b>MARCH 2, 2024</b>	<b>TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
<b>MARCH 6, 2024</b>	<b>ALAMO HEROES DAY</b>
<b>MARCH 19, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker - TBD
<b>MARCH 27, 2024</b>	<b>GOLIAD HEROES DAY</b>
<b>APRIL 16, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker – TBD
<b>APRIL 21, 2024</b>	<b>SAN JACINTO DAY</b>



Chapter Meetings are held at Kelley’s Country Cooking, 4604 Gulf Freeway, La Marque, Texas.

We gather at 5:30 p.m. for dinner. The meeting is gaveled to order at 6:00 p.m.

# *Sidney Sherman Chapter Executive Committee*

President: Carl V. Hill, Jr.  
easygoal1@hotmail.com

Secretary: Clark Wright  
cpwright2@verizon.net

First Vice President: Gene Wueste  
cegw@aol.com

Registrar: Steve Nicol  
stevenicol48@yahoo.com

Second Vice President: Robert Gindratt  
rgindratt@comcast.net

Sergeant-at-Arms: Larry Armstrong  
8325948259@vzwpix.com

Treasurer: Billy Mayo  
bcmayo1@comcast.net

Chaplain: Robert Schnuriger  
rschnuriger@gmail.com



Past President: Ron Schoolcraft  
rettcpdcaptrws@aol.com



**Sons of the Republic of  
Texas – National Office**

**[www.srttexas.org](http://www.srttexas.org)**



**Sidney Sherman  
Chapter, No. 2**

**[www.ss2srt.org](http://www.ss2srt.org)**

## **Office Manager - Janet Knox**

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OR Regular Mail  
1717 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bay City, Texas 77414

To contact Janet by email, go to the SRT Website,  
then Contacts and click on the email link.

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please submit newsletter articles  
by the **First of each month** to  
Carl Hill, President

[Easygoal1@hotmail.com](mailto:Easygoal1@hotmail.com)



*God Bless  
Texas*