



# Banner

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE FC RV  
Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association



## TSA Officers and Staff

Kenn & Paula Green, State Director,  
Chaplain

[kgreen929@aol.com](mailto:kgreen929@aol.com)

Bobby & Charla Yost, Regional Director  
[fcvtx@flash.net](mailto:fcvtx@flash.net)

George & Joan Cross, Texas Retiree  
Director

[joancross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joancross@sbcglobal.net)

George & Joan Cross, President,  
Scholarship Treasurer

[tsacamping@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tsacamping@sbcglobal.net)

Lawrence & Pam Phillips, Vice President,  
DAT Director, Sound Equipment

[pamphillips@netzero.com](mailto:pamphillips@netzero.com)

David & Rita Blair, Secretary

[ritadave2369@aol.com](mailto:ritadave2369@aol.com)

Joy Searcy, Treasurer

[joysearcy@att.net](mailto:joysearcy@att.net)

Julie Leith, Conservation, Members at  
Large

[iljamaica2@suddenlink.net](mailto:iljamaica2@suddenlink.net)

Al & Nancy Bechner, SPC Director

[nancy@bechner.com](mailto:nancy@bechner.com)

Kim Varner, Teen Director

[kaybaby67@yahoo.com](mailto:kaybaby67@yahoo.com)

Judy Ellenburg, Youth Director,  
Scholarship Director

[jellenburg@verizon.net](mailto:jellenburg@verizon.net)

Mike & Dawn Cross, Bluebonnet Banner  
Editors

[bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com](mailto:bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com)

TSA Website

[www.bluebonnetbanner.com](http://www.bluebonnetbanner.com)



*Happy New Year  
And Happy Camping*

*To you and yours*

*From the TSA Officers*

*And*

*The Bluebonnet Banner*

## TURBANS

By Pam Phillips

The ladies of the TSA provided materials and made over 200 turbans for those who are or have lost their hair due to medical treatments. These turbans will be donated to local cancer centers for distribution. If you would like more information on what we are looking for or would like to suggest a group to donate these to, please contact me at [pamphillips@netzero.com](mailto:pamphillips@netzero.com)

## Fall 2008 Campventure

The Fall 2008 Campventure was held at the Lazy L RV Ranch in Barry Texas. A total of 22 rigs were in attendance with over 50 people through-out the weekend. If you were not able to attend, make plans now to attend the Spring 2009 Campventure to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. More information will be upcoming.

We had a hospitality by the Retirees Chapter 89 on Wednesday night, a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with the meat provided by the TSA and cooked by Lawrence Phillips and everyone in attendance providing the rest of the feast. Saturday night was a pot-luck – lots of good food and fellowship.

An auction was on Thursday evening and raised \$275.00. On Friday afternoon the Goodie Walk took place and raised \$68.50. These funds will be used to help offset TSA expenses and help the Teen Queen on her quest to go to Nationals.

Judy Ellenburger showed several of the adults and teenagers how to make Cinnamon Ornaments – not only did they look good, they smelled great also!

Friday night the new Teen Queen was chosen. We had 2 entries for Teen Queen and one entry for Teen King.

On Saturday afternoon, the TSA had a general meeting. Reports were presented and several options were discussed on how to encourage people to become involved.

## Texas Member Updates

Send updates to the Bluebonnet Banner at [bluebonneteditor@yahoo.com](mailto:bluebonneteditor@yahoo.com)

November and December 2008 .....

from JeAnne Selby, ND: "Thought a number of our FCRV family and friends would like to know that former National Trustee and Officer Darlene Burchinal died unexpectedly November 30 (while Jim and I were away on a family cruise). We learned about the loss late Wednesday evening, when we returned to North Dakota; her funeral was yesterday. When I visited with Darlene following our mid-November annual club meeting, she was having a little bit of back pain, but rarely ever complained or commented on health concerns. It is our understanding that she died as the result of a heart attack.

Carrol's address, for those wishing to extend their sympathies, is: 1412 North 21st Street, Bismarck, ND 58501. His e-mail address is: [dburch@mymailstation.com](mailto:dburch@mymailstation.com)



From Nancy & Ron Herberholz, TX, Just thought you all would like to know. Wilma Schroedl called us last night. She is in south Texas with us right now and attended our first FCRV Winter Texans meeting in November. I don't know if you heard, but she lost her son this last year and it was very hard on her. She just got word yesterday, that her daughter, Theresa Edmonds, who lives in New Jersey had terminal cancer and they are only giving her about 6 months to live. Wilma is very upset. She is planning on leaving the Texas valley on Friday, by herself and driving clear to New Jersey for the duration of her daughters illness. Please ask people to pray for this dear 82 year old ladies' travel to New Jersey, for her daughter, Theresa, and for Wilma to be able to withstand all she had had to this last year and in the future.

Wilma's does not have e-mail but her address is 11371 5th Street, La Feria, Texas 78559 and will be forwarded. Her cell phone number is (956)357-5618.



From Lawrence Phillips, TX: "Ken Brady passed away recently from complications of diabetes. Ken was past president of TSA and Texas FCRV Conservation.

Also, Paula Green's mother passed away after a long illness.

Please keep both of these families in your prayers.

I wasn't given an address for Ken Brady's family, but you can send cards to Paula, Kenn, and family to 929 Holly Street, Crowley, TX 76036-3311 or emails to [kgreen292@aol.com](mailto:kgreen292@aol.com)



Needed: New officers names and email addresses for all TSA clubs.

Needed: Article about what your club is doing

Needed: Information for the Bluebonnet Banner – what interests you?

Needed: Email addresses of people who might be interested in The Banner and the TSA

Send information to [bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com](mailto:bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com)

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## Digital TV Transition

By now, everyone has heard about the coming transition to digital TV in the US. Many folks have switched to digital TVs or purchased converted boxes, but a great many have not. For consumers, this can have several implications, and a discussion of the most relevant information might help understand this new system of television.

On February 17th, 2009, all normal, high power television broadcast stations are required to begin broadcasting exclusively in the new digital format. Most are already broadcasting in digital, but they will be required to turn their analog signals off. For some of the smaller local low power stations, and remote translators (repeater stations that re-transmit the broadcasts of larger stations in remote areas), the date for a complete switch has not been set. While there are about 4,700 of these stations in the US, only about 1,800 so far have applied to the FCC for licenses to broadcast in digital. Some no doubt are already doing so, but it appears that the majority will change over at a later date.

Why change to digital format? There are actually several reasons for changing over to an all digital format for broadcast television. First, it should be pointed out that this is not exclusively a US process. Many countries around the globe are planning to switch, and some have already done so. Finland, for example, switched over to digital format in 2007. primary reason for changing over to a digital format is probably one of bandwidth. Simply put, it takes a larger

spread of radio frequencies to transmit an analog signal. Broadcasting a digital allows essentially the same information, and in many cases more information, to be broadcast using less of the electromagnetic spectrum. Radio frequencies in recent years have become valuable real estate. More and more need exists for newer and more frequently used radio signals, and the simple truth is that there are only so many frequencies in the electromagnetic spectrum that are practical to use. Switching to an all digital format for television frees up many "channels" for other uses.



Another valid reason for switching to a digital format, is that more detailed information can be transmitted using a digital signal, which means that higher resolutions and better sound can be sent out over the airwaves. Consumers seem to want bigger and better video signals, more realistic sound, and higher resolution, and a digital signal appears to be the answer.

There are several kinds of consumers in television terms, and a brief discussion of what each will likely encounter should be useful.

First, let's describe how a person using an antenna will be impacted: People using an antenna to receive their television are the ones most likely to be impacted on February 17th. When the changeover occurs, in order to keep receiving television, you need to have in place a television capable of receiving a digital signal, or your TV will stop working. What this means is that either your TV must have a digital tuner built

in, or you must have a converter box installed between the TV and its antenna.

Many locations sell converter boxes, and installation is generally easy. The boxes can cost from \$40.00 to around \$70.00. You can get a coupon to help with the cost of the converter by visiting an FCC web site at <https://www.dtv2009.gov/Options.aspx>, or calling 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009). You are allowed up to two coupons per household. Do this early since the coupons are being mailed rather than printed online.

Your current TV antenna will most likely work if you currently receive a good signal, and are capable of receiving UHF stations (stations from channel 14 and higher). This doesn't necessarily mean that your favorite VHF channel will change channel number, but it is likely that it will be received as a UHF signal. This will be transparent to you, the user, so long as your TV antenna is capable of receiving a UHF signal, as most modern antennas are. Channel 10 will still be channel 10 after the changeover.

If you currently receive television from a translator, or repeater, you may not need a digital converter box just yet, but you will at some point in the future. Some of the things to consider here are if you plan to receive both digital signals directly from a broadcast station and signals from a translator, you will need to have a converter box that will "pass through" regular analog signals, or you can install a switch on your antenna line that will bypass your converter box.

Remember that the converter box coupon program will end in March, 2009. If you currently don't need a converter box because you receive exclusively from translators, you eventually will. It might be a good idea to obtain a coupon anyway. Also, remember that the coupon

expires 90 days after it's mailed, so you'll want to obtain a converter box at some point after you receive the coupon, and keep it for the eventuality that you'll need it at some point in the future.

**Satellite and cable customers:** If you receive your television exclusively from satellite TV or cable, you most likely will not need to do anything at all to continue to receive television. If a change is needed, you've probably already been contacted by your provider.

**HDTV vs SD:** There appears to be some confusion about HDTV (high definition TV) compared to SD (Standard Definition) TV, which is probably perpetuated by the cable and satellite companies as well as the television manufacturers. The point to know about the difference between HDTV and SDTV is that it has nothing to do with digital vs. analog television. When we make the transition from analog to digital television on February 17th, there will be no requirement to have a high definition television. You can certainly use one, and most TV stations will be broadcasting in high definition, but they will also be broadcasting in standard definition digital signals. If your TV is not high definition, but has a digital tuner, or has a converter box attached, you'll be able to receive television in much the same way you do right now.

**What about Canada?** Canadians who view exclusively Canadian stations will not need to switch to digital television until August 31st, 2011. It is presumed that the same issues apply; that Canadians receiving satellite or cable are probably already receiving a digital signal to their receiver boxes. It's not clear at this point if all stations will switch at the same time, but there's enough time until the switch to sort this out.

**Will Mexico switch?** Mexico is in the process of switching to digital at this time. They have been actively working towards an all digital system since 2005. Their plan will take until 2022 to complete totally, but the major markets have either already changed, or will in the next couple of years. As with the US and Canada, satellite and cable customers are probably already digital, but the change has been transparent to their customers.

**In a nutshell:** The question isn't whether you will choose to switch to digital format or not. And, it isn't a question of when. On February 18th, the day after the changeover deadline in

the US, if you want to watch TV over the air, you'll have a digital TV or a converter box installed on your old one. It's kind of like deciding whether you want to use 60hz or 50hz with your electrical appliances. In reality, you don't get a choice. Your only option is simply to use what's available. In the end, though, if you're not interested in replacing all of your televisions, the fix is to acquire a converter box, which is actually a simply remedy if you're not quite ready to explore some of the more robust possibilities. In time, the minor inconvenience now will pay off in more radio frequencies for all of us, and better, more interesting television.

## Important Dates To Remember

January 22-24 22-25	RV Show Victoria Texas RV Show Fort Worth Texas
February 11-15 23-28	RV Show Houston Texas National Retiree Rally Casa Grande AZ
March 26-29	RV Show Austin Texas
April 3-5	Texas Directors Fun Campground Riverview Campground
April 6-9	Texas Retiree Rally Riverview Campground
May 22-25	Spring Campventure To Be Announced
July 3-9	FCRV National Campventure Sedalia MO
September 20-24	Chapter 89 Retiree Campout Gun Barrell City
November 25-29	Fall Campventure Red Oak, Hempstead TX