

The Ranch Review

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A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

GIRL SCOUTS OF SAN JACINTO COUNCIL *COPPER CORNERS SERVICE UNIT*

Copper Corners Service Unit would like to thank all those adults and older girls who volunteered to help at our Rally Nights in September! Special thanks to Susan Bartos and Diane Massie who coordinated the events. We formed 13 new troops, and many of our new leaders have already been attending their first training sessions! These new leaders also participated in an Investiture ceremony at our service unit meeting in October, where they received their Girl Scout pins. We also enjoyed a special birthday cake to honor both Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouting in the United States (born on Oct 31), AND Girl Scouting's 100th birthday.

Copper Corners Service Unit is planning a number of events for the coming year. Girl Scout events begin with girl planning, so we'll be recruiting girls from the service unit to bring their suggestions and ideas to these planning boards. Some of these events will be Daisy Day and Brownie Day, for those two age levels, as well as an event for older girls (Junior level and above).. Leader/Daughter Weekend is a chance for busy leaders to spend time with their OWN daughters . Past Leader-Daughter weekends have included a mix of camp activities with the extra fun of visiting Wimberley on the way home.

We are also planning a "Me and My Guy" event later in the year, when girls will have a special evening with their special "guy" (dad, grand-dad, other relative or special friend). . It is always a memorable event, whether it involves a formal dance or a baseball game!

If you have plans to visit the State Fair of Texas, be sure to see the Girl Scout exhibition area. Those who have say it is very impressive, and quite an experience!

Don't miss out on the fun! It is never too late to join Girl Scouts! Girl Scouting is open to all girls between the ages of 5 (must be in kindergarten) to 18, who are willing to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.. Girls may join at any time, and at any level, and no previous scouting experience is required. Don;t forget that many of our most exciting opportunities are available for older girls!

Copper Corners Service Unit serves girls in the residence areas for Birkes, Fiest and Lowery Elementary schools, Aragon and Labay Middle schools, and the corresponding high schools. Home schooled and private school students are always welcome. Please contact Diane Massie at 281-550-9148. for more information. The website for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council is www.gssjc.org.



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Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
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Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
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Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

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Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office.....	800-275-8777

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Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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NEWSLETTER

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Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to riataranch@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

Cy-Fair ISD & Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)

Where "Volunteers are Treasures!"

"Heroes take journeys, confront dragons, and discover the treasure of their true selves."

-- Carol Lynn Pearson

All of our volunteers are true treasured heroes. They help in the library, sell school spirit items, organize fundraisers, read to a classroom, make costumes and test vision & hearing. The list is endless and their experience is vast. If you listen to their stories though, you will find that in all the things volunteers do, there is an element of discovery. They find not only what a child can do, but what their own treasured gift might be. And yes, there has probably even been an encounter with a dragon or two along the way.

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is so fortunate to be able to draw from such a great diversity of skills and knowledge in our community. VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) in Cy-Fair ISD center the attention of their service on supporting students and staff and making a significant contribution to the education of children. These jewels in our district give freely of their time and resources and have an impact on the academic and personal development of Cy-Fair ISD students.

If you are interested in being involved in Cy-Fair schools as a volunteer and making a difference, or would like more information, please contact Pam Scott, Partners in Education Director at 281-894-3950.

CY-FAIR ISD & VOLUNTEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November & December 2012 Events

November 8: VIPS General Meeting – 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Berry Center: Open to all CFISD volunteers, parents, staff and community members. Get the latest information on CFISD volunteering and learn ways to improve your volunteer program through networking with other volunteers in our district!

November 27: PIE Mentor Training – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Berry Center: Training for individuals committed to serve as a role model and friend to CFISD students. There are no VIPS events scheduled for the month of December at this time. Be sure to check us out in January when the opportunities for volunteering are in full swing again.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING

Register for training by emailing the PIE office at vipsrsvp@cfisd.net. Provide your name and the name and date of the training you wish to attend. Registration is required to guarantee a seat and training materials. Adults only please.

Cypress-Tomball Democrats Host Election Night Watch Party Nov. 6th

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats' next monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 6th, will be an election night watch party. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club. For more information, contact Olga Moya at cytomdems@yahoo.com.



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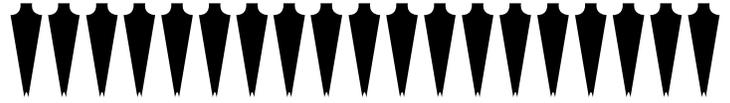
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Elisha Roberts Chapter, NSDAR

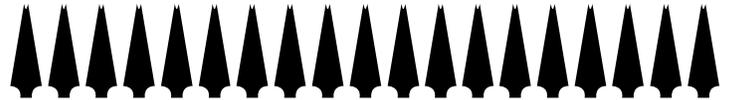
The wonderful ladies of the Elisha Roberts Chapter, NSDAR, extend an invitation to any female, 18 years or older, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

We are a family oriented, non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education. Our motto is God, Home and Country. If this sounds like you, please come and join us for a meeting.

We meet the third Thursday of each month, September through May, at the Backyard Grill, located at 9453 Jones Road. Our next meeting will be on November 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the chapter Regent, Cheryl Partney, at cpart86@comcast.net or by phone at 832-654-0306.

We look forward to meeting you.



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"If I Installed Solar, How Much Electricity Would It Generate and How Much Would I Save?"

By Chris Lee

For those of us living here in Houston, we're all acutely aware that the sun is a plentiful, if not unrelenting, source of heat and sunlight (okay, the heat is really a byproduct of the intense sunlight). And for many of us I bet that we've thought, "Gosh, if I could harness just some of that free sunlight...." The harder part is trying to answer the obvious questions about installing a solar array or solar panel system on the roof of your home - "How much electricity would it generate and how much money could I save on my electric bills?"

Without having to know much about solar or needing to contact a solar installer or solar company, you can easily get those estimates at your fingertips. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which is operated by the US Department of Energy, has created a website allowing anyone to calculate the amount of electricity a PV (photovoltaic) system (aka: solar panel array system) would generate. Here's the website (notice that it already takes into account that you're in Houston): <http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/calculators/PVWATTS/version1/US/Texas/Houston.html>

Here's a shortened link: <http://goo.gl/bRurv>

Once on the website, for your initial estimate, you can use the default information presented and just click on "calculate" at the bottom. On the results page you will see that in Austin, a South facing solar panel array (which means the Array Azimuth = 180 degrees) that's built for 4 kW of electricity generation, would generate 4879 kWh in a year and save you \$473.26. To give you a better estimate, there are 3 settings you can go back and change:

- 1. Array Azimuth in degrees.**
- 2. DC Rating in kW.**
- 3. Cost of Electricity in cents.**

ARRAY AZIMUTH:

If you're considering placing your solar array on the side of your roof that gets the most sunlight and that part of the roof faces due South, then the Array Azimuth would be 180 degrees. If your proposed solar array will be facing Southwest, the azimuth would be 225 degrees. Southeast would be 135 degrees. And so forth. The more accurate your submission, the more accurate your estimate.

DC RATING:

The DC Rating (in kW) default is 4 kW in the calculator. This would be the "size" of electricity generation by your solar array - basically, by adding (or subtracting) more solar panels to your proposed system, the DC Rating would increase (or decrease). Makes sense - if you add more solar panels to your array, you'll increase the amount of electricity generated and therefore increase the amount of money saved.

COST OF ELECTRICITY:

The default is the Texas state average of 9.7 cents per kWh. For those of you with an electricity provider with higher (or soon to be higher) rates, you should change the rate accordingly to get a more realistic estimate.

So that's it, an easy way to determine what you would be generating with a solar array on the roof of your home. This is a simple but fairly accurate way to determine the benefit of installing solar on your home. Of course, YMMV (your mileage may vary) but by getting a fairly accurate estimate of the amount of electricity generated and the money saved, you can better determine whether or not installing a solar array on your roof would make financial sense for you and your family. If you have any questions, please ping me at leec89@gmail.com.

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

Houston-F-Body's First Anniversary Meet

Houston-F-Body's First Anniversary is coming up soon, so to celebrate we are going to have our biggest and best meet ever!

WHEN

Saturday, November 17th, 2012 2:00-6:30

WHERE

Tom Bass Park, Pavilion #5, at the Sam Houston Tollway & 288: <http://hcp1.net/Portals/0/ParkMaps/TBassIII.pdf>

There will be food, prizes, lots of F-Bodies and more! There is parking for about 70 cars, two BIG BBQ pits, bathrooms, a playground and plenty of room to bring the whole family.

There will be a small admission fee of \$10 (\$15 on site) to reserve your registration. Please send your donations via PayPal to: PayPal@Houston-F-Body.org. (Please mark it as a gift.) One paid admission entitles you to enter one car in the car show and receive two raffle tickets and two food tickets.

We will provide food (Burgers, dogs and soda) to those who register. If you would like to bring something else, there will be an additional BBQ pit available.

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Learn to Increase Business Success with Speed Networking

Linda Stiles shares a 7-Touches List technique at the Nov. 15 CYFEN meeting

What are the relationship and business networking skills needed to increase business success? Join Linda Stiles to find out as she presents “Seven Steps to Speed Networking” at the Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN) luncheon Nov. 15. President and CEO of Stiles & Associates Leadership Consultants, as well as a dynamic speaker and author of “Team Leaders’ Toolkit,” Stiles is dedicated to turning today’s high-potential employees into the next generation of leaders. After 25 years in the corporate world, Stiles has spent the last decade focused on team building.

All are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of CYFEN, which are held at the Sterling Country Club, 16500 Houston National Blvd. This month’s meeting features an extended program so networking will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed with a prompt 11 a.m. start of the program.

Bring business cards for networking. The meeting cost is \$25 with advanced

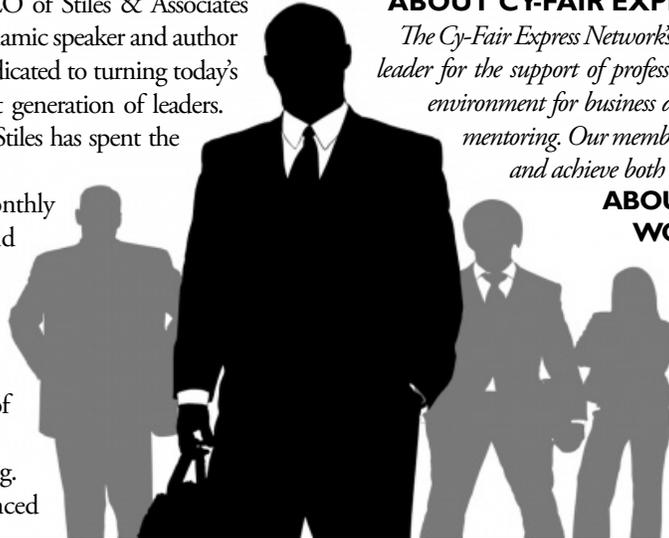
reservations made by the Friday prior to the meeting and \$30 at the door. For information on CYFEN, which is part of the American Business Women’s Association, go to www.CYFEN.org.

ABOUT CY-FAIR EXPRESS NETWORK (CYFEN)

The Cy-Fair Express Network’s vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition.

ABOUT AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

ABWA’s mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition.



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