



THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA

THE 1960s

BY RICH SOLTESZ, K3SOM

THE 1960s

The decade of the 1960s continued the significant activity within the BVARA.

During this decade, increasing evidence of club activities, equipment, and the identification of individuals from the clubs becomes available. We continue our high-

level review of the culture, the current events at that time, both locally and globally, and some of the activities of the BVARA.

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 1960s

The "Sixties" best describes the complex of inter-related cultural and political trends that occurred across the globe. In particular, this was the era of counterculture and social revolution near the end of the decade and also the era of irresponsible excess and flamboyance. The decade was also labeled the Swinging Sixties because of the fall or relaxation of some social taboos, especially relating to racism and sexism.

This was the era of the anti-war movement in the years following the beginning of the Vietnam War. The "draft," the civil rights movement, the peak of the cold war with the Soviet Union, second-wave feminism, the new left, the gay rights movement, and an increase in crime and urban unrest describe some of these complex trends in the 1960s.

In 1960 the first televised presidential debates began and in that same year, a U-2 spy plane



President John F. Kennedy, the 35th US President



Flower-power bus

was shot down and the pilot, Gary Powers was captured by the Russians. Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho was released in 1960. The Soviets launched the first man into space in 1961. Later that year, President Kennedy gave his "man on the moon" speech. In 1962 Andy Warhol exhibited his Campbell's Soup Can. That same year, the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world to the edge of World War III. President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. In 1964 Hasbro launched its GI Joe Action figure. US Troops were sent to Vietnam in 1965. That same year the miniskirt first appeared. In 1966 Mao Zedong launched the Cultural Revolution in China while mass draft protests began in the US. That same year, the TV Series Star Trek began a four-year series that inspired, entertained, and addressed cultural issues of the day. 1967 marked the first heart transplant operation and the first Super Bowl. In 1968 the Tet Offensive in Vietnam marked an

infamous event of that war. In 1969 ARPANET, the precursor of the Internet was created. Neil Armstrong became the first person to land on the Moon in 1969.

TECHNOLOGY EVENTS IN THE 1960s

A horsepower race for cars highlighted automotive technologies in the 1960s. The "big three" automakers enjoyed their greatest sales and profitability during that decade. By the end of the decade, the Detroit automakers segregated their new models by size. The first working laser was demonstrated in 1960. In 1962 the first transatlantic satellite broadcast was made. The Touch-Tone telephone was introduced in 1963 as well as the first video home tape recorder. 1964 saw the introduction of the eight-track format and the compact cassette. In 1967 the ATM (Automated Teller Machine) appeared. The computer mouse first appeared in 1968 while in 1969 the CCD chip



Neil Armstrong on the Moon

for still and video devices was developed.

BEAVER COUNTY IN THE 1960s

The 1960 US Census reported a total of 206,948 people in Beaver County for a growth rate of 18 percent over the 1950 US Census. During the 1960s the Ohio River Boulevard was extended beyond Ambridge resulting in many changes to that community and its businesses. The East Rochester – Monaca Bridge continued as a toll bridge throughout the 1960s until 1973. In 1966 the Community College of Beaver County was begun. J&L Steel started up a Basic Oxygen furnace in West Aliquippa in 1968. Quigley High School opened its doors in 1967 in Economy.

The Vulcan-Kidd Steel Division in Aliquippa was shut down in 1965 because of labor disputes. From this, in 1966 the Forge Shop Division of Universal Cyclops Steel began in 1966. That same year Precision-Kidd began operations.

HAM EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE FCC

In 1960 the ARRL took a survey of its readers to determine operating habits of its ham radio readers. At that time survey results indicated that a 50 – 50 split between SSB and AM modes was occurring. The exception was on 20 meters where about 75 percent of the operation was on SSB. Use of the old modes was now changing rapidly. Within about two years, many if not most hams had switched to SSB.



Atlantic Division director W3YA was featured speaker at a banquet held in January by the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association. News-Tribune photographer K3HHC lined up W3SIK, BVARA president K3PQA, W3YA and W3LPF for this shot.

From April 1966 QST, Featured Speaker, Atlantic Division Director, W3YA

With the re-introduction of SSB technology to hams in the late 1950s, ham transmitters, receivers, and transceivers in the 1960s now included SSB, AM, and CW modes. Familiar names were all American products that included Clegg, Collins, EICO, Gonset, Hallicrafters, Heathkit, Henry Radio, Hammarlund, Johnson, National, Swan, and others. Kit makers like EICO and Heathkit offered excellent value to those hams on a tight budget with a variety of affordable offerings. Construction manuals from Heathkit were generally considered such a high standard that many others attempted to attain their level of quality, attention to detail,

and content. Looking back into history through magazine advertisements, noticeably absent were Alinco, Icom, Kenwood, and Yaesu products. Their time had not yet arrived.

On the international scene, the 11th General Conference on Weights and Measures after long discussions concluded that "Cycles per Second" should be replaced by "Hertz." What was this world coming to? "Mc" would now be replaced by "MHz" and hams would need to replace their QSL cards to stay fashionably current at the very least.

In 1961, a group of American hams built and had launched the very first Amateur Radio satellite,

OSCAR 1 (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) – barely four years after the Russian's first launch of Sputnik 1. 570 hams in 28 countries received OSCAR 1 until its batteries finally fully discharged. In 1969 the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) was formed to foster the continuation by hams of space research and communications.

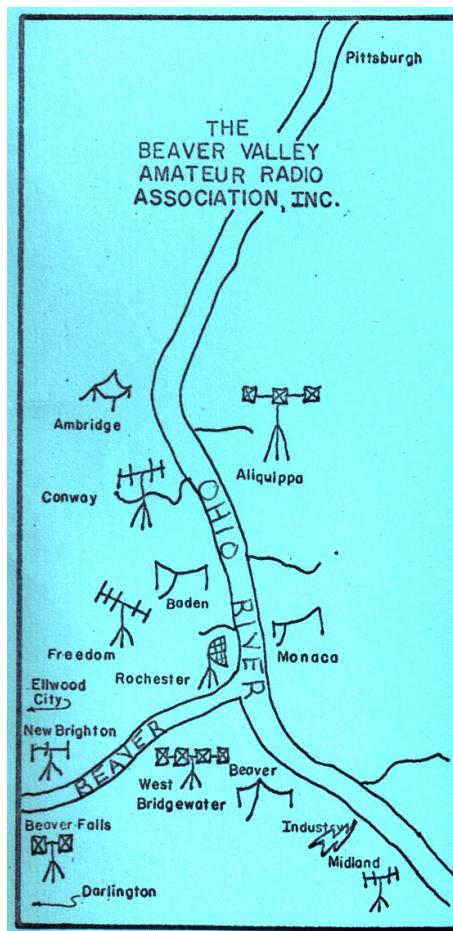
During the 1960s, the FCC once again modified ham privileges. Back in 1952, the FCC gave to all HF classes identical privileges. Many hams with advanced skills wanted the incentive licensing system back and informed ARRL of their position in October 1963. Finally on August 24, 1967 the FCC restored incentive licensing. Exclusive segments on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 6-meter bands were set aside for Amateur Extra and Advanced class licensees and withdrawn from use by General class hams. The FCC's decision continues today to foster debate within forums and columns in several magazines.

HAM CLUB AND MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The 1968 Yearbook of the BVARA provided some interesting insight into the people within the club. This booklet contained an interesting graphic map on the cover of the areas around the rivers with antennas of various shapes and designs at the locations of key members. On Page 2 the names of people who filled various positions as officers and committees were identified. With a total

THE 1968 YEARBOOK

This booklet contained information on the BVARA, a map of the area, club officers, members, and more.



1968

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President.....	Bob Mayer - K3PQA
Vice President.....	Mel Reed - K3LAA
Secretary.....	Charles L. Pike - K3YUN
Treasurer.....	Barbara Mayer - K3PQB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bob Mayer	Barbara Mayer
Mel Reed	Charles Pike
Bill Dunlap	Jim Steppe

TVI COMMITTEE

Bill Dunlap - K3GML

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chester Calvin - W3LEE

FIELD DAY

Steve Fridrick - W3LPF

REFRESHMENTS

George Kmetz - K3OSL

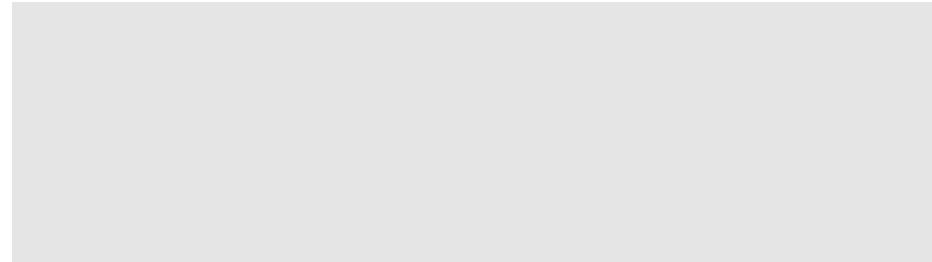
CODE & NOVICE

Mark Moore - W3LPF
Jim Steppe - W3SIK

CLUB STATION ACTIVITIES

Jim Steppe - W3SIK

-2-



membership of 54 people, the next set of pages listed all members, their addresses and phone numbers, as well as their license class and, in some cases, the HF

bands that they frequented. Beginning on Page 12, the nine articles of the club's constitution and by-laws were included, as defined at that time.

Included within Article 1 was a brief description of the early history of the club. In Article 2, the purpose of the club was defined. One of the prominent roles of the club was to render assistance to those with interference to their TV and radio sets from amateur radio. In fact, a prominent committee was devoted specifically for that purpose. Article 3 permitted continuing membership to people actively serving in the Armed Services while on their tour of duty. In Article 4 the yearly dues were \$5.00 and full-time students were only required to pay \$2.50 for club membership. Although Field Day participation was prominently defined in several places within the club's constitution, results were not published within QST Magazine for most of the years of the decade. In the decades that followed, many revisions to the articles of the constitution were made as the club gradually changed.

NEXT TIME

Next time we'll move ahead to the 1970s and continue our journey as we follow the middle history of the BVARA. We'll look at what was happening around the globe and locally during the 1970s. The CB explosion was in full force and had a profound influence on the BVARA. Two meter repeaters began operation across the country, as well. We'll highlight BVARA hams including their many activities and their equipment. Stay tuned! ↩

BVARA FIELD DAY IN THE 1960s

Two pictures of field day round out our glance into this decade's club history.



Images from top:
K3SOM/3 (right)
aided by K3FEO in the
process of erecting a
Field Day vertical for
their 1-B operation
atop Pine Knob with a
beautiful view of
Uniontown, PA (from
QST, Nov 1965);

Field Day with:
(back row) Bob
Mayer, K3PQA; Andy,
W3LCH; Dave Knox,
Bob McClain,
W3VRZ; Steve
Fridrick, W3LPP
(front row) Glenn,
W3RLL; and Rich
Tanner, WA3IVV