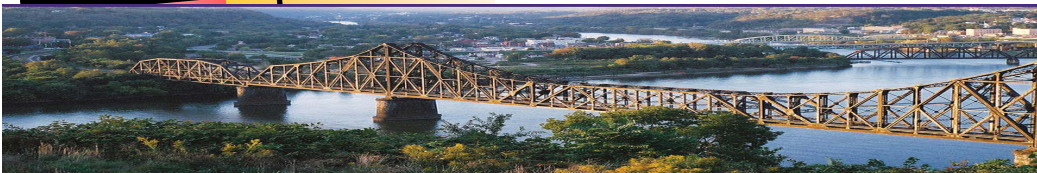


THE BEAVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
 WWW.W3SGJ.ORG
 BEAVER COUNTYS ONLY 75 YEAR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB!

The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
 145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume 2, Issue 6
 WASHfest Special Edition
 Bob, WA3ZRM - Editor



WE CAN DO THIS IN THE ATLANTIC DIVISION

Recently I advocated an initiative that would involve the establishment of an ARRL Atlantic Division task force charged with developing continuing education classes for K12 Pennsylvania Educators. These classes would offer Pennsylvania teachers the ability to obtain PA Act 48 Credits that are required under state law for continued teaching certification. What follows is an example of what can happen if such a program were developed.

On January 15, 2008, 27 students who attend Northwest High School, located near Justin, Texas

(between Fort Worth and Denton) earned their Technician class amateur radio license. The students are all enrolled in an engineering class taught by R. Wayne Day, N5WD. The class, offered for the first time this year as part of an effort to increase the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) course work in public schools, included a study of communications and electronics. As an incentive, the students could "opt out" of their fall semester final examination if they earned their technician



You can find this article at <http://www.eham.net>

license, and will be able to "opt out" of the spring semester exam if they upgrade to General or Extra. Testing was done by the VE's of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, KA5R.

eQRM Establishes Yahoo Group

The eQRM is pleased to announce that it has formed a Yahoo Group. The Group is located at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eQRM/join> Many radio clubs across the country have formed Yahoo Groups to help keep members informed on matters of interest. Locally, both the Wireless Association of the South Hills and the Two Rivers Amateur Radio club have established Yahoo Groups for their members. If other local clubs have Yahoo Groups, I would be interested in hearing from them. Yahoo groups allow members to post and share photos, files and have discussions. There is no cost in establishing a Yahoo Group. All readers of the eQRM are invited and encouraged to join our Group. Feel free to e-mail wa3zrm@yahoo.com for more info.



Newsletter & Information Exchange Program

- Have your club's latest news and happenings printed here for FREE!
- Is your club having a VE session or classes? Let me know and I'll help spread the word!
- Planning a Hamfest? Drop me a line and get some FREE PR in the eQRM!
- Having an ARRL night, special speaker or program? The eQRM can help by spreading the news within our region!

The BVARA @ WASHfest 2008

Several members of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will be attending the 13th Annual WASHfest sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc. on Sunday, February 24th, 2008 from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Rain or Shine (or Snow!). The fest will be held at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA. Talk-In will be on the 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL repeaters.

KZ3Z, W3PMS, N3HOJ and WA3ZRM will be manning a BVARA table at the fest. All BVARA members are invited to stop by to pick up a free hard-copy edition of the eQRM. Additionally, W3PMS will be selling some special "Sweet Treats." N3HOJ will be holding a 50/50 Raffle. Proceeds from both the "Sweet Treats" and 50/50 Raffle will benefit the clubs antenna fund.

Any club member wishing to help out should contact Jack, KZ3Z @ 724-869-2429 (home) or at 412-427-0427 (cell).

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association meets at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

+++PLUS+++

Don't forget to listen to the BVARA club nets every Wednesday Night! 2 Meter Net on 145.310 MHz 100Hz PL at 8:30 PM and the 10 Meter Net 28.370 QSY +/- 10 at 9:00PM.

The BVARA 10 Meter Net Lunch Group will be meeting this Thursday at Kings in Center Township, Beaver County, at 11:00 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Lunch.

VE TEST SESSION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 4, 2008: The BVARA sponsors ARRL VE examinations at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building, 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA. For more info on the test session, dates and times, contact Tony, KE3ED @ 724-774-4173 or by e-mail at KE3ED@arrrl.net.

2008 BVARA

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- President: Gary Hutchinson, KA3TYK
- First Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
- Second Vice President: Debbie Mehutes, KB3EAQ
- Secretary Elect: Norm Trunick, KB3QFP
- Treasurer: Shawn Hastwell, KB8UDE
- Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF
- Director: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
- Trustee: Tony Petrucci, KE3ED/W3SGJ

The next BVARA Executive Board meeting will be held at Eat & Park in Monaca on Thursday, March 6. E-Board meetings are open to any interested club member; however, if you plan to attend, please let everyone know by checking into the 2 or 10 Meter Wednesday night nets prior to the meeting so seating accommodations can be made for you. Both Gary and I hope to see everyone on March 6th.

Letters to the Editor

The eQRM welcomes letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must be signed and contain your contact information for verification prior to publication. Preference will be given to letters of 200 words or less. Letters are subject to editing. Unused letters will not be acknowledged or returned. Letters can be e-mailed to: wa3zrm@yahoo.com



WHERE ARE WE EXACTLY? FRANK MACKENZIE-LAMB, NG1I

Editor's Note: The following article can be found at <http://www.eham.net/articles/>. It is a commentary and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ARRL or the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association.



I have been playing with this thought for quite awhile and I must admit I'm a bit disturbed with the topic I

contemplate. I am a member of ARES and the Worcester Emergency Communications Team (MA) www.wect.com. I am retired two years from the police service and during my tenure, and afterwards, I have attended EMS, Police & Fire Chief's meetings, and town emergency meetings where I always bring up the point that Amateur Radio Operators, who are federally licensed, will assist in a crisis with their own equipment at NO cost to the town.

Each and every time I have been rebuked by these agencies we seek to help because what I feel is the confusion amongst those civilian decision makers that amateur means just that... CB's and hence, their response is always "Hey thanks for your time." and then show us out the door with a "We'll call you, don't call us". And here lies the rub...it's the word Amateur to these officials that I think is the problem. Instead of amateur radio operators, IMHO we should use federally licensed and trained operators assisting as a free back up with our own equipment with NO cost to any agency needing assistance.

I know that with the Katrina, etc. QST expounds on our accomplishments radio amateur's provide, and yes some in the areas stricken with

constant destructive WX events or frequent call for search parties in other areas of the country, already know the difference between the two terms. But in small parochial towns (like in New England where counties play much of a lesser, if any, role), heads of each town agencies up here don't know the difference between these terms. Heck, the past Governor of our state now running for President was asked by network TV if he would also use or recognize amateur help and the role it plays in similar Katrina emergency situations if we had one...he said "NO certainly not." -



- UNTIL he was corrected off camera after his statewide speech. However, the irreversible and

massive negative PR damage had been done.

Lastly in Worcester, MA, the 2nd largest city in MA, our WECT team IS the backup emergency communications to the city of Worcester. The city has only one trunk line, meaning all public services would be down unless WECT steps in. We have constant drills and through testing with a hams; for example, amateurs at each of the 13 fire stations and Net EOC Net Control, found the best repeater and backup frequencies to use if the city's system goes down...so much so that the WFD is purchasing VHF HR antennas for each station where we can plug our 2/440 rigs, HTs, and be embedded at a station to assist the city if such dire events require it. We also have a myriad of hams that are ARES trained and have a pool of trained amateurs from which to choose



"...many are not interested in hearing about what "amateur radio" can do for them."



when the city requests our help. In this case we are luck...we are in the forefront of the City of Worcester's Emergency plans, and not an afterthought.

In conclusion, it's too bad the very parochial cities and towns in MA and maybe other sections of the country have their own way of uncoordinated, separate methods of emergency planning and the majority of them, being reactive and not proactive, are not interested in hearing about what "amateur radio" can do for them. Even though one would think through QST, amateurs are well known for their free and vital services in other areas of the country

they are not because many towns not afflicted don't read QST nor are our services requested and thus not publicized. We preach to the choir. Good, SHORT presentations correctly interpreted terms and other vital info is FREE as outlined in the FCC provisions and guidelines. They must be made more clear and easy to understand.

Looks like we must do a better job of selling ourselves.



MARCFEST 2008

sponsored by the

Monessen Amateur Radio Club

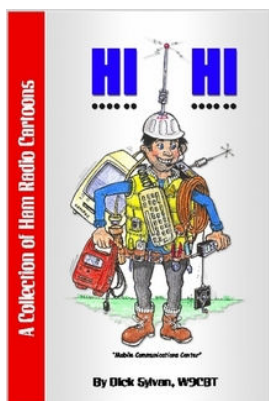
March 30th, 2008, 8:00 Am to 1:00 PM at the Blaine Hill VFD, 409 Oxford Avenue, Elizabeth, PA, approx. 2 miles from the Elizabeth Bridge — Talk-In on 147.225 and/or 443.350 Repeaters

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:

John Graham N3OVO n3ovo1@gmail.com (412) 287-8291

Or Chris Grilli grillil@verizon.com

Download directions & the latest flyer from the MARC Web Site at: <http://www.w3csl.org>



For the past few years the Amateur Radio Club in Chicago, IL has published an excellent free E-Magazine entitled K9YA Tele-

graph. One of the regular features has been a series of cartoons on radio topics by Dick Sylvan W9CBT. Dick is a long-time amateur and he retired in 2004 after a career as an industrial designer. The combination of these and Dick's obvious quirky sense of humour has resulted in an entertaining collection of cartoons that previously appeared in the Telegraph. Dick has managed to cover much of hamdom's jargon and phrases. "Break In" gets special attention! The original cartoons appeared in colour but their reproduction in monochrome in no way detracts from their enjoyment. This booklet is highly recommended as a great present for yourself or a ham friend. It is available through the Internet through the K9YA Web site at www.k9ya.org/w9cbt at the modest price of \$10.95 plus shipping.



BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE BVARA, YOU CAN HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN BEAVER COUNTY. ADDITIONALLY, THE BVARA RECEIVES A PORTION OF EACH ARRL AND/OR WORLD RADIO SUBSCRIPTION YOU PURCHASE!

Join the BVARA, ARRL and World Radio

Sign up for:	Price	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA FULL MEMBERSHIP	20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA SPOUSE/CHILD MEMBERSHIP	5.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR ARRL MEMBERSHIP	39.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> WORLD RADIO SUBSCRIPTION	21.00	

Subtotal: _____
 Donation: _____
 Total: _____

ARRL MEMBER ? YES NO

Your License Class (if any):

- Novice
- Technician
- General
- Advanced
- Extra

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____

Your Call Sign: _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Make Check or Money order payable to:
The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424
South Heights, PA 15081