



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- 131.8 Hz PL



Volume 4, Issue 6  
 October 2010  
 Grant, KB3QFQ - Editor

## What's new in the BVARA

### MAIN ARTICLE EXCERPT

This month, we have 6 pages dedicated to photos from August's Corn Roast at Brady's Run Park!



### UPCOMING EVENT



Oct 15-17

### Inside this Issue:

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### READER'S POLL OF THE MONTH

*“What would you like to see done each BVARA club meeting?”*

Answer by emailing Grant at [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)

What would you like to see added to the newsletter?

Would you like to help, but don't know how?

Email me at [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org) and let me know!!

I need ***YOUR*** opinion!

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



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**Letters and Emails to the Editor – Please email [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)**

The eQRM encourages letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must 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.

**The BVARA 10 Meter Net Lunch group meets every Thursday at Rainaldi's in Center Twp at 10:30 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Lunch.**

**VE TESTS are held by the BVARA VE Team at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center in Ambridge. IF YOU DESIRE TO TAKE A TEST, CONTACT CHRIS, W3OUF, FOR THE DATE OF THE NEXT TEST SESSION. All tests will begin PROMPTLY AT 6:00PM. Information and registration on a test session can be obtained by contacting the VE Team Coordinator, Chris Moratis, W3OUF. His address, email and phone number are as follows:**

Chris Moratis, W3OUF  
 1199 Highland Avenue  
 Ambridge, PA 15003  
 PHONE: 724-266-2866  
[cjmoratis@verizon.net](mailto:cjmoratis@verizon.net)

**2010 BVARA Officers**

- President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
- Vice President: Robert De Marco, WA3ZRM
- Second Vice President: Evan Finkelstein, KB3QFR
- Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
- Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS
- Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ
- Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF
- Trustee: Dick Hanna, K3VVY

**BVARA Meetings**

***E-Board meetings are now held the Sat. before the monthly club meeting.***

***VE testing begins at 5:00. Regular meetings are at 7:30.***

- October 14 – Ambridge 911 Center
- November 11 – Ambridge 911 Center
- December - **None**, Christmas party



**RACES & ARES**

**eQRM Urges ALL Beaver County Amateurs to Participate**



As a matter of editorial opinion, the eQRM urges all Beaver County licensed amateurs to participate in the County's RACES and ARES programs.

Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (88.5 PL).

# PITTSBURGH AREA HAM RADIO CALENDAR

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

## October

**3:** Monessen ARC MARCFEST 2010 Hamfest -  
Blaine Hill VFD - Elizabeth, PA - Talkin:  
147.225/443.350 MHz  
More Info: <http://www.w3csl.com> -  
Phone: 412 287-8291 - Email: [grilli@verizon.net](mailto:grilli@verizon.net)

**9:** Two Rivers ARC "Hams n Eggs" Breakfast

**9-10:** PA QSO Party Contest (Tentative) -  
More Info: <http://nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

**17:** Western Pa Repeater Council Meeting

**19:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting

**30-31:** CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB Mode)

More Info: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

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## November

**6-8:** ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) -  
More Info:  
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

**7:** WACOM Hamfest - Washington County  
Fair Grounds -  
2151 North Mail Street - Washington, PA  
Talkin: 145.49 Mhz  
More Info: 724-484-0207 /  
Email: [n3tir@arrl.net](mailto:n3tir@arrl.net) -  
<http://www.wacomarc.org>

**20-22:** ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) -  
More Info:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

**27-28:** CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW Mode)

More info: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

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## December

**3-5:** ARRL 160 Meter Contest - More Info:  
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

**11-12:** ARRL 10 Meter Contest - More Info:  
<http://www.arrl.org/contests.html>

**11:** Two Rivers ARC "Hams n Eggs" Breakfast

**14:** Two Rivers ARC Amateur Radio Exam  
Session



View more photos from the Corn Roast on p. 7!

For more information about these events, please visit

**W3SGJ.org/calendar**



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	
		Subtotal: _____
ARRL MEMBER ?    YES    NO	Donation	_____
		Total: _____

Your License Class (if any):

<input type="checkbox"/> Novice	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra	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**

*Are you interested in writing for the eQRM newsletter?*

There are many ways you can help with the newsletter, even if it is simply sending me an email. We are always looking for new, interesting content; if you read something of interest, tell me!

A publication is only as good as its readers.

Even if you are not the “writer type”, you can still help!

Please help me out by sending one radio-related article, or an announcement that you have read.

**So get involved!**  
 You may end up enjoying it.

To contact me, please email me at [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)



Interested in becoming an **amateur radio operator**?  
 Want to upgrade your license?

Jack Spencer, KZ3Z is **hosting a class** for just these reasons. For details, please contact Jack at 724-869-2429 or visit [www.W3SGJ.org](http://www.W3SGJ.org)

# The BVARA Speaker Series

The BVARA Speaker Series provides a vast array of topics and discussions, with a new topic every month at our club meetings.

Here are a few words from Rich, K3SOM, explaining the idea behind the series:

*“By adding a speaker program with a wide variety of topics, not all necessarily exclusively ham-radio, our club has an opportunity to create excitement, to stimulate discussion, to spark creativity, and to enable people to have some fun as they expand their normal comfort zones with new ideas and possibilities for them to pursue.”*

**Are you interested in attending?**

Just show up at our club meetings, held on the second Thursday of every month. They are held at:

**Beaver County Emergency Operations Center**  
351 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003

*“...our club has an opportunity to create excitement....”*

*Would you like to speak? Contact me or any other BVARA club members to let them know when you would like to speak, and what you would like to speak about!*

**Potential speakers may want to present topics like:**

*On what frequency am I transmitting, and how close to the band edge can I operate?*

*What's it take to operate BPSK31?*

*How can I effectively compete in a contest?*

*What's a fox hunt?*

*How can I find DX?*

Or anything that interests you!

*This Month:*

*Speaker:*  
**Rich Soltesz,**  
K3SOM

*Topic:*  
**Wire Antennas**  
And Friends

*Including:*  
**Trap and NVIS Dipoles**  
**N4PC and Delta Loops**  
**Corner Reflectors**  
**Bruce Arrays**  
**Moxon Antennas**  
**And much more!**

*Rich's Background:*

Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962

Amateur Radio VE  
(Volunteer Examiner)

B.S. Electrical Engineering

Registered Professional Engineer, PA

# Club Announcements + Event Calendar

## *New Repeater Status*

de Jack, KZ3Z

Our new repeater has arrived. It was ordered on March 15 and shipped on May 11.

The new repeater is a Maggiore Hi Pro "E" 35w version.

**The PL tone is now 131.8.**

It will come from the factory wired for our S-Com 7330 controller. It also has an optional IF filter installed, which would be needed if 2 meters goes to 15khz splits.

Our current Trustee, Dick K3VYY, has already downloaded and installed the latest firmware upgrades to the new controller. It will have 13 minutes of digital audio available for messages.

### **Below is the list of donors to the new repeater:**

Pam, W3PMS  
Jack, KZ3Z  
Bob, WA3ZRM  
George, N3HOJ  
Norm, K3NJT  
Dick, K3VYY  
Rick, KB3RXP  
Rich, K3SOM

All donated \$100 each.

The repeater cost is **\$1637**. Further donations would be appreciated. +

## *VE Test Session*

de Chris, W3OUF

The next test session will be at the:  
**Beaver County Emergency Operations Center**  
351 14th Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003

Time: **5:00 P.M.**  
(walk-ins allowed)

Date: **Thursday, October 14**

All candidates wishing to take the test should bring **ALL** of the following:

1. Two (2) forms of identification. **One should be a Photo ID.**
2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
3. Your original **AND a photocopy** of your current license (if any).
4. Your original **AND a photocopy** of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of **\$15.00**.

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered.

**Note:** A new set of Technician test questions has started being used on July 1, 2010.

**For more information**, please contact our VE Test Coordinator:

**Chris Moratis, W3OUF**  
1199 Highland Avenue  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
PHONE: 724-266-2866  
[cjmoratis@verizon.net](mailto:cjmoratis@verizon.net) +

## The BVARA Calendar of Events

For more information,  
please visit [www.W3SGJ.org](http://www.W3SGJ.org)

*October 15 – 17:*  
**Jamboree on the Air**  
at Fern Hollow Nature  
Center, Sewickley, PA

*December 4:*  
**Christmas Party**  
at the Baden Municipal  
Building, Baden, PA

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Do you have any

## *event ideas?*

Send them to us by posting on  
our [Facebook Page!](#)



Are you interested in seeing what  
Boy Scout Troop 405 and  
Explorer Post 73 are doing?

Visit their website at  
[www.Baden405.com](http://www.Baden405.com)  
to see photos, video and info  
about the Troop!

**MAIN ARTICLE****BVARA Corn Roast 2010**

Photos by Rich, K3SOM

*On August 7, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association held its annual Corn Roast at Brady's Run Park. Here are some photos from the event.*

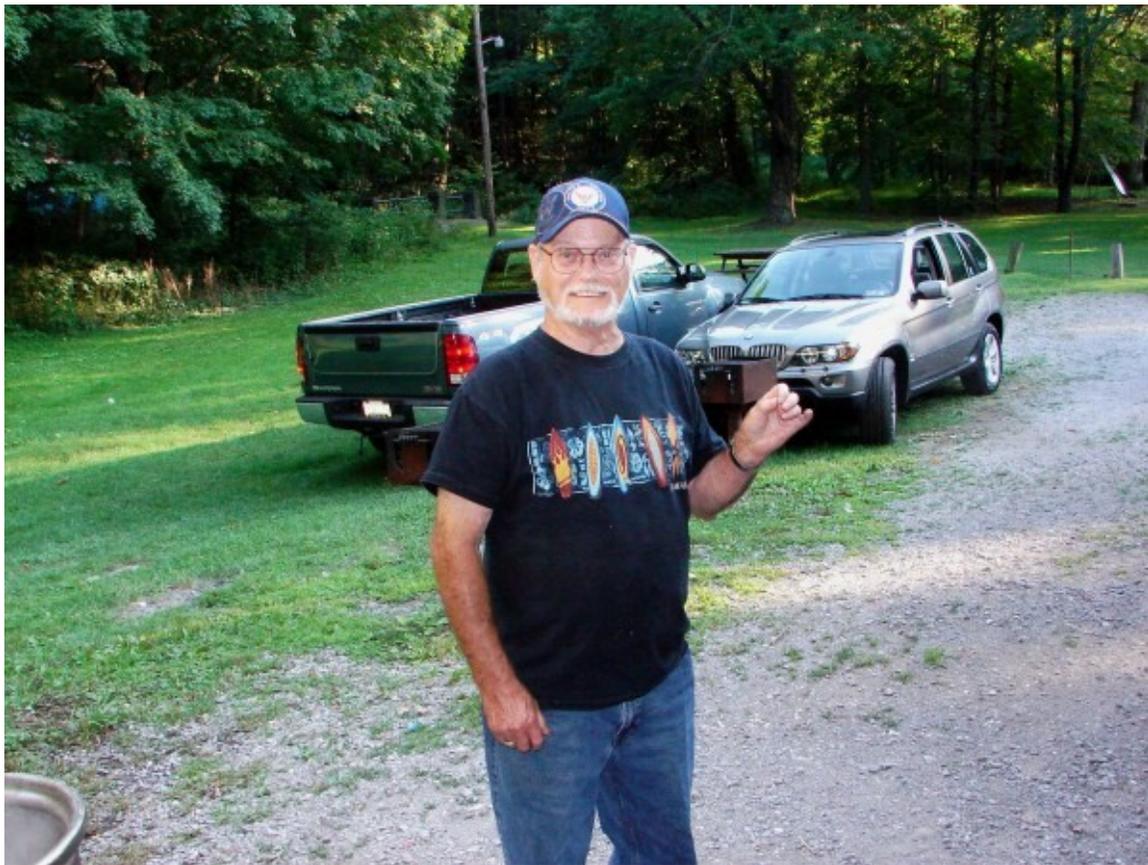


**MAIN ARTICLE**











# BVARA 2 Meter Net Roster

**Below is the net protocol. Please PRINT THIS OUT as a reference for when you run the net.**

CQ, CQ, CQ. Calling the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Two Meter Net. (BK)

CQ, CQ, CQ. Calling the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Two Meter Net. (BK)

This is (**your call**), your net control station for this evening. (BK)

This net meets every Wednesday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the 145.310 W3SGJ repeater with a PL of 131.8 Hz. (BK)

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club and we invite you to visit our website at [www.w3sgj.org](http://www.w3sgj.org). (BK)

The purpose of this net is to exchange general information about the amateur radio service in the tri-state area. this net is also part of the National Traffic System. (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with emergency traffic. Any stations with emergency traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with priority traffic. Any stations with priority traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with routine traffic. Any stations with routine traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with ARRL Bulletins. Any stations with ARRL Bulletins please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations having any announcements for the net. Stations having announcements please call (**your call**). (BK)

**Make sure the following are mentioned either by you or by an announcement station:**

Mention webpage ([www.w3sgj.org](http://www.w3sgj.org)) for our newsletters & information

Mention Rainaldi's Thursday luncheon @ 10:30AM / 11:00AM

**NEW: Monthly Executive board meeting begins at 6:30PM on the Saturday before the club meeting.**

**Mention monthly membership meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 911 Center in Ambridge.**

**VE testing begins at 5:00PM.  
Meeting begins at 7:30PM.**

I will now stand by for any mobile stations wishing to check in. Mobile stations only please call (**your call**) (BK)

I will now stand by for any portable stations wishing to check in. Portable stations only please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations wishing to check in to the beaver valley amateur radio association two meter net. Stations wishing to check in please call (**your call**). (BK)

**Record all call signs and then allow for comments.  
After all stations make comments, stand by for any late or additional check-ins.**

I would like to thank all stations that have checked into our net. Listeners are reminded that the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association's 10 Meter net on 28.470 MHz will follow this net at 9:00PM local time. Everyone is invited to check in. (BK)

I will now close the net at \_\_\_\_\_ local time and return the repeater to general amateur use. This is (**your call**) wishing you 73's and a good evening.

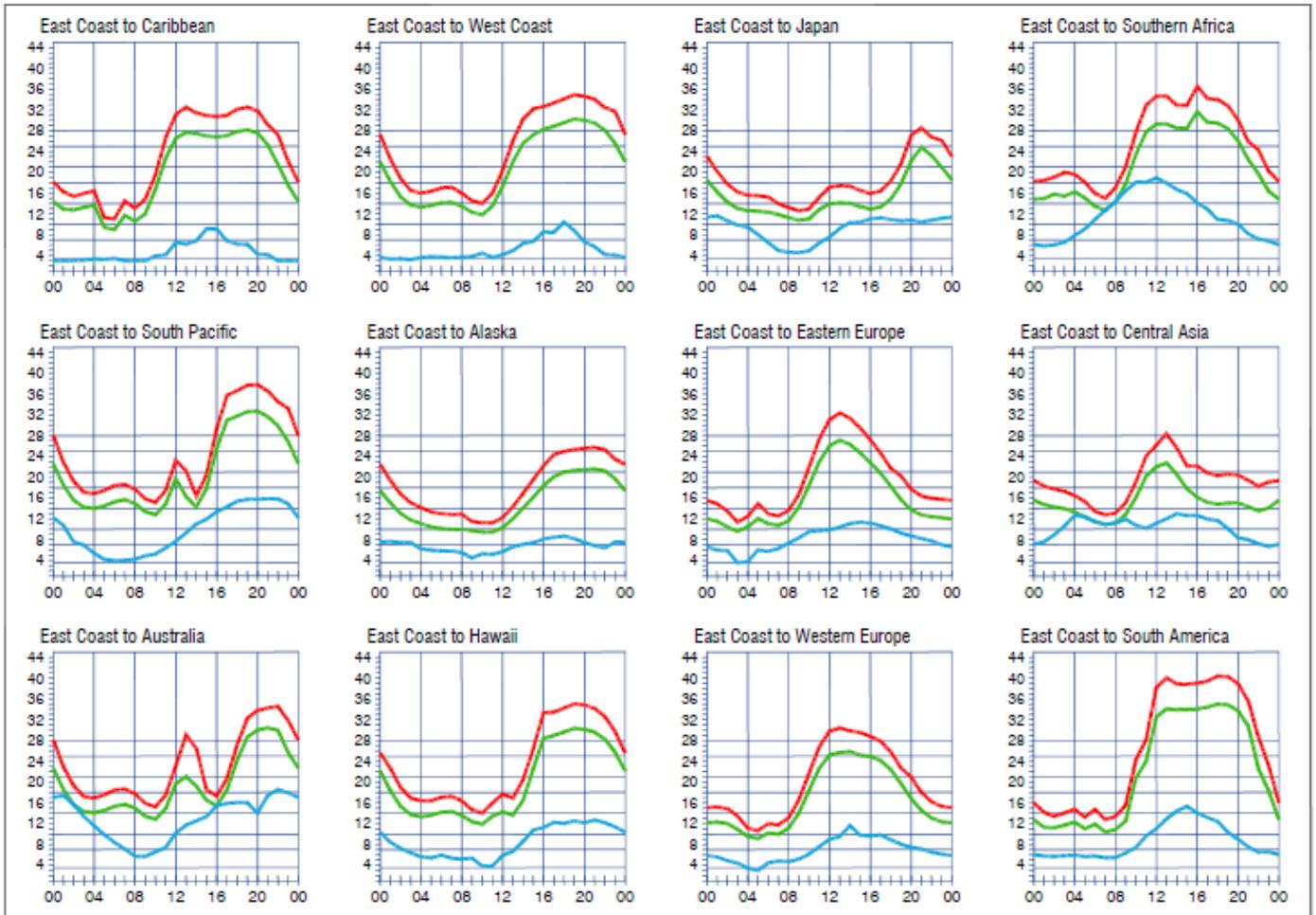
**notes: a (BK) means to pause to allow the repeater tail to beep.**

**If any stations have traffic, ask if any stations on frequency can take the traffic. If not, take the traffic and contact Bob, WA3ZRM at 724-378-7070.**

## THANK YOU!

To Bob, WA3ZRM for the donation of an antique 1940's radio to the club. The radio has an estimated value of approximately \$150-\$200.

# QST Propagation Charts



The above chart is for the month of **October**.

For information on how to read these charts, and on propagation in general, visit <http://www.arrl.org/propagation>

**Beaver County**

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Authenticity Guaranteed **eQSL**.cc

**W3SGJ**

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association  
 P.O. Box 424  
 South Heights, PA 15081, USA

ITU 8, CQ 5, Grid EN90ur, Beaver County

# MONTHLY WPA SECTION NEWS

de John Rodgers, N3MSE

## October 2010

On November 7 The WACOM group will sponsor the final scheduled hamfest for the 2010 season in our section. Additional information regarding the hamfest is available at <http://wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>. A list of vendors and other details is posted there. I will be in attendance as well to answer any questions or help with any problems.

October 9 and 10 is this year's PA QSO Party with K3MJW, Skyview Amateur radio association as the Special Event station for this year. I plan to operate as usual this year and encourage everyone else operate in this contest. It is a great opportunity to determine how efficiently we can make contests throughout the state in the event of an emergency.

Individuals interested in ARES operations are invited to join the WPA ARES yahoo group. You can join this group by sending an email to [wpaares-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wpaares-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and putting the word subscribe in the subject line. Another website I recommend is located at <http://www.wpanbems.org>. This is the website for fldigi which is the digital emergency mode for our section. There is also information regarding training nets and training material for the software.

Those of you interested in contesting might want to check out the Allegheny Valley Radio Association website. This is a virtual contesting group that promotes contesting in the

area. I have been a member for several years and would recommend it to anyone involved in any sort of contesting. Their website is at <http://www.alleghenyvalley.net/>

On October 30th the Western Pennsylvania section will be conducting the annual Simulated Emergency Test. The test will run from 9 am to 1pm. Additional information is available at <http://wpaares.org/2010set.html>. Remember to go to the main page and register for the site as well and become a member of the ARES group. My thanks go to Larry Keller, AB3ER, and others for their efforts in preparing the scenario for the set. This looks like a great opportunity for a fun operation. Please participate and be sure to report your results. The section net will be operating on 3983hz.

Don't forget that we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the RES program. This event started in September of this year. The ARRL has special T-shirts, coffee mugs and also challenge coins available for purchase. Check out the website at <http://www.arrl.org/ares>. Additional information about the anniversary is available at <http://www.arrl.org/ares-anniversary>. PIO's and local clubs can find media information there as well.

I would like to remind everyone that if you have any photos you would like to post on the section pages at arrl.org please forward to me to be

posted. Please have the appropriate permission for the use of the photo and people in them.

Clubs beginning to schedule meetings for next year that would like a section official to speak at their meetings can send a request to me for consideration.

Plans are being considered for a complete revision of the section emergency plan and also a new platform for digital communications. This was part of our discussion at the SET planning meeting last weekend.

Anyone with ideas or suggestions should forward them to myself at [n3mse@arrl.org](mailto:n3mse@arrl.org) or Larry at [ab3er@arrl.net](mailto:ab3er@arrl.net).

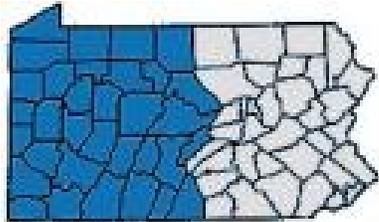
As always I encourage you to join one of the various traffic nets and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as operators struggle to keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983 every evening at approximately 6:00 PM local time. The CW net is at 3585 at 7 PM local time. Also please check in on the Saturday morning ARES net. This net is conducted at 9 AM local during the summer and 10 AM in the fall on 3983 Hz. Please check in for valuable information. There are also several traffic nets on various vhf-uhf repeaters.

Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73

John V. Rodgers, N3MSE  
W. Pa. Section Manager +

# Elect WPA's next Section Manager



ARRL members, you have recently received ballots for the election of our WPA Section Manager, who will hold office for the next two years.

In next month's issue of the eQRM, we will interview John Szwarc N3SPW and John Rodgers N3MSE, both who are running for WPA Section Manager.

We want to know what questions *you* want to ask these candidates. Send your questions to us at [news@w3sgj.org](mailto:news@w3sgj.org), post on our Facebook Page, or send us a Tweet @W3SGJ on Twitter.

**We'll be asking your questions to these two men and printing the interviews side-by-side.**

The deadline for question submission is **Monday, October 18 at 11:59PM EST**. Submit your questions today!

## Who are the candidates?

Highlights from the ballot mailed by the ARRL

### John Szwarc, N3SPW

“One of the biggest challenges I see is the health of the local radio clubs.”

“Many clubs are a shell of what they had once been. It is going to take some creative solutions to allow us to advance at the local level, as well as throughout the section. And yes, section leadership can be the catalyst to make dramatic changes.”

“Section leadership should provide a means for us to stay informed while maintaining an open door policy...Under my leadership, this would be a top priority.”

“It's time for some new ideas. Ideas that will bring the section further along in technology, training, and communication.... Together we will make a difference. Together we will succeed.”

### John Rodgers, N3MSE

“I have served in various field appointments since 1995. I am familiar with various aspects of the field organization. I do not believe in micro managing my appointees and I believe family comes first.”

“Having served as a club president, vice president, treasurer as well as a hamfest chairman I know the issues that face clubs.”

“In 2010 with again combined efforts [between WPA and EPA Section Managers, in addition to hams across PA] we blocked the passage of a bill that would have greatly impaired the use of ham radio while operating mobile.”

“There is still a great deal of work to be done so I ask for your vote and support to allow me to continue to serve the members and the clubs in the Western Pennsylvania Section.”