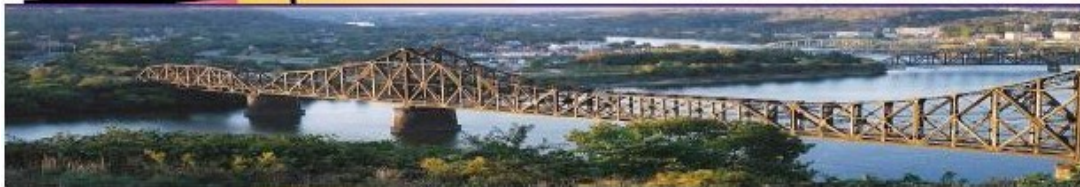




THE BEAVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
 WWW.W3SGJ.ORG  
 BEAVER COUNTYS ONLY 75 YEAR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB!

# The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R  
 145.310- 131.8 Hz PL



Volume 4, Issue 9  
 February 2011  
 Grant, KB3QFQ - Editor

## What's new in the BVARA

### IMPORTANT NEWS

#### Technician License Class Now in session!

To enroll for this *free* class,  
 please contact Jack, KZ3Z at  
 724-869-2429.

If you already have your license, encourage  
 your spouse, child, or friend to attend!

### UPCOMING EVENT



May 15

### Inside this Issue:

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Mark, KB3LED has agreed to serve as the

### 2011 TechFest Committee Coordinator!

Mark will be joined by Grant, KB3QFQ; Bob, WA3ZRM; Jack, KZ3Z; Pam, W3PMS; Rich, K3SOM and George, N3HOJ as committee members.

If you are interested in participating on the committee,  
 please contact Mark at 412-741-5717.

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



[Facebook](#)



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[W3SGJ.org](#)



[Blog](#)



[Geocaching](#)

The Impact of  
**Ham Radio**  
 in the Protest:  
**Egypt**  
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 Radio Association

**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 5:00PM. 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)**

## 2011 BVARA Officers

- President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
- Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
- Second Vice President: Grant Miller, KB3QFQ
- Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
- Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS
- Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ
- Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF
- Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

## 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 6:30.***

- February 10 – Ambridge 911 Center
- March 10 – Ambridge 911 Center
- April 14 – Ambridge 911 Center
- May 12 – Ambridge 911 Center



## 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

## February

- 5-7:** Ten Ten Winter Phone QSO Party (10 meter band)
- 5-7:** Vermont/Minnesota/Delaware QSO Party
- 12:** Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast (note 3)
- 12-13:** CQ World Wide WPX Contest (RTTY) (note 7)
- 12-13:** New Hampshire/Louisiana QSO Party
- 14-18:** ARRL School Club Roundup (HF operating event)  
1300 to 2359 UTC each day  
More info: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- 15:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm (note 1)
- 19:** Breezeshooters Ground Wave Contest (CW Mode)  
7 pm to midnight EST
- 19-20:** ARRL International DX Contest (CW)  
More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>
- 19-20:** AM QSO Party

**25-27:** CQ World Wide 160 Meter SSB Contest (note 7)

**27:** Hamfest-W.A.S.H. 2011 Hamfest  
Castle Shannon VFD-3600 Library Road (Ste Route 88)  
Castle Shannon, Pa-Talkin: 146.955/443.650 Mhz  
Repeater  
More Info: (Phone 412 884 1466)  
(email:[n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net))  
<http://www.n3sh.org>--direct email: [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com)

## March

- 5-6:** ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
- 8:** Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams (note 2b)
- 12:** Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast (note 3)
- 15:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm (note 1)
- 19:** Breezeshooters Ground Wave Contest (Voice Mode)

7 pm to midnight EST

More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>

**26-27:** CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest (note 7)

## April

- 3:** Hamfest-Two Rivers ARC Hamfest -  
The Spectrum-Boston, Pa  
More Info: TBA
- 3:** Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams (note 2a)
- 9:** Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast (note 3)
- 17:** W.Pa. Repeater Council Meeting (Note 4)  
Meeting Location: TBA
- 17:** ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB)
- 19:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm (note 1)
- 23-24:** Ten Ten Spring (Digital) Contest

## May

- 7-8:** Ten Ten Spring (CW) Contest
- 14:** Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast
- 15:** Pittsburgh Marathon - ARES Communications Event
- 17:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8pm
- 20:** Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, OH  
More Info: <http://www.hamvention.org>
- 5:** Hamfest-Breezeshooters Hamfest -  
Butler Farm Show Grounds - Butler, PA  
More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>
- 11:** Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast
- 14:** Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams
- 21:** Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8pm
- 25-26:** ARRL Field Day

For more information about these events, please visit

[W3SGJ.org/calendar](http://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"/> CHILD UNDER 21 IN HOME     | 5.00  |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR ARRL MEMBERSHIP   | 39.00 |          |

ARRL MEMBER ?    YES    NO    Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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 Amateur's Code

The radio amateur is **CONSIDERATE**. . . never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**. . . he offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE** . . . with knowledge abreast of science, well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY** . . . slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED** . . . Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to his family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC** . . . station and skill always ready for the service to country and community.

# 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!



BLAST from the PAST!  
Image DE Adam, KG3L

**IMPORTANT NOTICE DE**  
Frank Cole, N3TN

To all radio operators,

As of October 1, 2010 the PL and CTCSS frequency on the 146.850 repeater has been changed from 88.5 to 131.8 MHz.

Please make note of this and set your memories. Also please pass the word to others as I do not have everyone's email address.

There will be announcements on all nets on the machine and I will be listening the the input frequency to try to catch the ones that are not aware of the change.

This has been done in an effort to eliminate intermod and crosstalk from the public service frequencies here in Beaver County and to bring us up to speed with the rest of the region.

# Club Announcements + Event Calendar

## 2011 Club Officers

de Bob, WA3ZRM

Elections for 2011's BVARA officers occurred at the November meeting. The officers for this year are now as follows:

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM

Second Vice President: Grant Miller, KB3QFQ

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ

Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

2010's **Ham of the Year Award**, presented at the annual BVARA Christmas Party, was presented to

### **Rich, K3SOM**

for the astounding amount he has contributed to the club in the last year, as well as his dedication to amateur radio and his exemplification of the Amateur's Code. Congratulations, Rich!

We would also like to formally congratulate John Rodgers, N3MSE, on his reelection as WPA Section Manager. +

## 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, February 10**

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)

*May 15:*  
**Pittsburgh Marathon**  
in Pittsburgh, PA

*June 24 - 26:*  
**Field Day**  
at Brady's Run Park

More events TBA!

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!

# 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 6:30PM.**

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.**

**Interested in Running  
the 2 Meter Net?**

**Contact Pam, W3PMS at  
724-869-2429**

**The Net is ran Wednesday nights at 8:30PM**

## *Anonymous Internet Users Team Up To Provide Communication Tools For Egyptian People*

By Craig Kanally and Jake Bialer of the [Huffington Post](#)

"Internet not working, police cars burning," sent out one Egyptian. "Today marks a great day for Egypt," sent out another.

These messages weren't coming from mobile phones or computers, but from an amateur radio sending out Morse Code somewhere amidst the chaos in Egypt.

The Egyptian government's efforts to limit communications within the country has triggered a wave of activism from an international group of free speech activists on the Internet called Telecomix.

Organizing using chat rooms, wikis, and collaborative writing tools, this largely anonymous group has worked to inform Egyptians about their communications options while receiving incoming messages from them. Telecomix has previously worked on free speech efforts in Tunisia, Iran, China and other countries who have tried to censor or block parts of the Internet.

Egypt has been identified as a "top priority" for Telecomix on one of its network sites, We Re-Build. It has a wiki set up as a one-stop shop with the latest chat rooms and resources for the ongoing efforts.

There are roughly 20 extremely active members, 50 active and some 300 total including lurkers, according to chat administrator Christopher Kullenberg from Gothenburg, Sweden.

"Think of Telecomix as an ever growing bunch of friends that do things together," Kullenberg says.

For the majority of users, anonymity is stressed and real identities are rendered obsolete.

Said one chat user, in awe from Australia: "I'm new here, just trying to help."

Here's a timeline of recent events for the group:

When Internet and mobile services were cut off in Egypt on Thursday night, though landlines were operational, members immediately got to work to send information to Egyptian fax numbers. Searching for a

common string of characters found in Egyptian fax machines numbers on Google, they discovered a large amount of numbers.

At first, they sent out Wikileaks cables to these numbers, but then they determined the Egyptians didn't need additional motivation. Instead, they were interested in information on how to communicate with each other and the outside world. The activists thus began providing instructions for using dial-up modems and amateur radios, known as Ham radios, which the Egyptian people could use to communicate.

The group says it's also worked on receiving and decoding amateur radio messages, sent on frequencies recommended by the group of activists. While these groups have only been able to receive a small amount of messages of a short length with an unknown source, the Egyptian people's use of amateur radio to transmit messages represents an interesting utilization of old-fashioned technology to circumvent government restrictions.

Most activists behind these messages tell The Huffington Post they wish to remain anonymous. But besides Telecomix, other Internet groups have assisted, including "Anonymous," which has helped by sending out large amounts of faxes into Egypt. "Anonymous" was also involved in denial of service operations against organizations who took actions against Wikileaks. They've also participated in many other operations, with targets ranging from Scientology to Gene Simmons.

Have these efforts proven effective in helping the Egyptian people? "We cannot really tell," said Kullenberg. "Opening up communication channels is enough for us. What that leads up to, is up to the people communicating."

Said another user, wd40\_: "Time will tell."

*Have you read a news article of interest regarding the protest in Egypt? Email Grant at [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org) and your article will be posted on our [Facebook Page](#) and [website](#).*



## *Ham Radio Not a Viable Option for Egypt*

By Nancy Gohring of [PC World](#). Image from Sacbee.com

Despite the best efforts of Internet activists who are trying to help Egyptians communicate with the outside world, ham radio isn't a viable option in this situation, experts said.

The Egyptian government has ordered the shutdown of all ISPs (Internet service providers) as well as some cell phone services. The move appears aimed at disrupting protestors, who have been demonstrating across the country since last week. They are calling for the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.



In order to fill the communications gap, supporters around the world have set up free dial-up phone lines and are trying to get the word out to Egyptians that they are monitoring certain ham radio bands for their transmissions.

However, despite reports of ham radios being used to send Morse code, there have been no confirmed transmissions out of Egypt, said Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the National Association for Amateur Radio. "I haven't heard of any transmissions, period," he said.

The group We Rebuild has set up an IRC for ham radio enthusiasts around the world listening for transmissions on the designated band. They have reported hearing what may be Morse code and possibly some audio messages.

Hearing little, the supporters sometimes voice their frustration. One, called "+HAMguy," joked: "Who needs a social life when you can listen to faint beeps all day long while talking to complete and utter strangers."

There is a long history of using ham radio in

emergency situations, but it is not ideal for the current situation in Egypt, Pitts said. "Ham radio does do wonderfully in situations like this ... but in this particular case, there's nobody transmitting," he said.

That may be partly because there are few ham users in Egypt to begin with. "Most people cannot afford it or do not have the political connections needed to get a license there. Those with licenses are apparently, wisely, keeping low," he said. They may be concerned about who is listening and whether there will be consequences for what they say.

Although there has been little to no traffic coming out of Egypt, ham radio enthusiasts have been having a lively discussion about whether the technology should be used in a situation of political upheaval.

"Amateur Radio should not be used for this political purpose -- Especially to subvert the will of any government. It's not its purpose. This is not emergency communications," a person with the call sign KB3X wrote in a forum for ham radio users.

But others said the situation in Egypt is exactly the type of emergency where ham radio can be helpful, and that the politics behind it is irrelevant.

There is an "international gentlemen's agreement" that people don't talk politics or religion over ham radio, Pitts said. But to use ham radio in a situation of unrest where people are communicating to improve their safety is a good use of the technology, he said.

In fact, some cities, including Seattle, have emergency response centers that include rooms set up for ham radio enthusiasts who volunteer to help with communications during emergencies. It wouldn't matter if the emergency were a natural disaster or political unrest.

*"Amateur Radio should not be used for this political purpose..."*

*This is not emergency communications." - KB3X*

"The bottom line is that aside from politics, people are concerned about the health and well-being of folks that are over there," said Mark Sheppard, who heads emergency communications for Seattle's Office of Emergency Management. It would be totally normal and accepted, for instance, for someone in Seattle to use ham radio to try to speak with someone in Cairo about locating a friend or family member there, he said.

Ham radio was used for communications in other recent emergencies around the globe, including the earthquake in Haiti and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, he said. It was also used during the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, when a dedicated operator continued to broadcast information about what was happening in Kuwait after other forms of communications were cut.

*Agree? Disagree? Post your comments on our [Facebook Page](#) or email Grant at [KB3QFO@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFO@W3SGJ.org).*

## Important ARES Announcement

I am pleased to announce that ARES Registration should be made much easier with the introduction of an on line application system. We will be working with ARRL HQ using new software to compile a current roster in a spreadsheet format. WPA Section was selected to trial and assist in defining enhancements to a system intended to make ARES more efficient. This represents a great step in our efforts to better communicate with each other at all levels, community, county, district and section. The roster offers the advantage of attracting new hams to ARES through the ARRL website and a very streamlined application process and maintaining current ARES member listings for use in callouts, announcements and many others.

The application form is found at [www.arrl.org/ARES-REGISTRATION-FORM](http://www.arrl.org/ARES-REGISTRATION-FORM). It is in the open part of the ARRL site and anyone can access it including non ARRL members. Should you forget the URL just go to [www.ARRL.ORG](http://www.ARRL.ORG) and enter ARES REGISTRATION FORM in the search window. A link will also be added to the [www.wpaares.org](http://www.wpaares.org) website. Note applicants without a computer can still fill out the paper form and you or someone you designate can enter the information directly to your roster, check approve and forward it on to me. for them. Initially, all applications will be compiled for the section at ARRL and sent to me for forwarding to DECs and ECs for approval by a simple Y or N with the spreadsheet returned to me. You keep a copy for your ready reference and updating.

You are requested to asap :

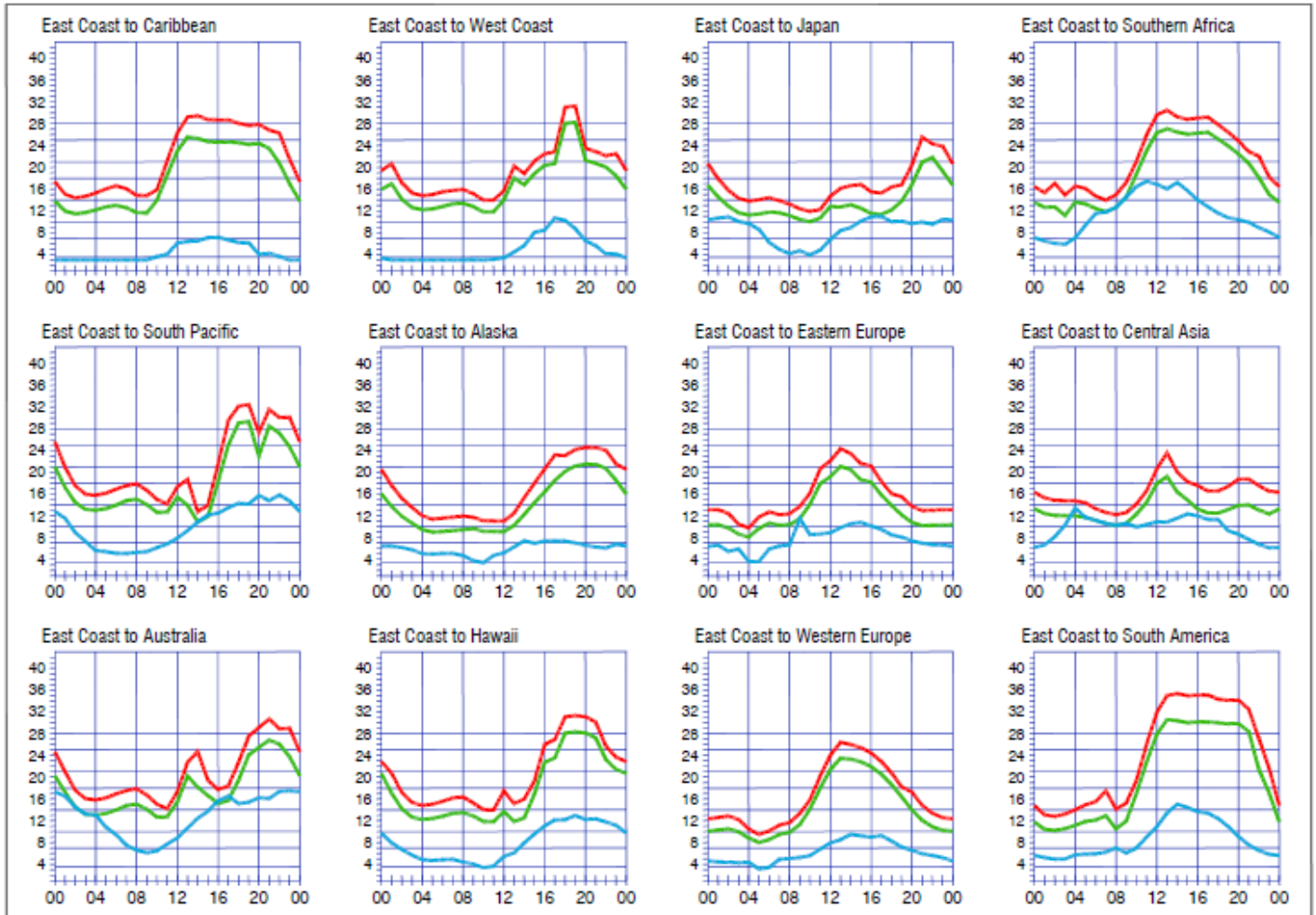
1. Complete your application,
2. Spread the word throughout your areas through nets, newsletters etc. and encourage all interested hams to register.
3. New ARES cards will be provided to you for distribution.

Please contact me with any questions and especially suggestions for improvement. Thanks for your help

WPA ARES NET Every Saturday, 9:00 AM  
(local time) 3.983 MHz, lsb

Larry Keller AB3ER  
Section Emergency Coordinator WPA ARES

# QST Propagation Charts



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

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

**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

**Jan 2011** - The holidays are behind us and the New Year is finally here.

With that we will be doing a restructuring of the section staff and ARES platform. The section emergency plan has not been updated since 1999 and many advancements have been made in technology and requirements.

Every two years emergency coordinators need to have their appointments renewed and with that we are looking to begin a database of enrolled operators in the ARES platform. Larry Keller, AB3ER, section emergency coordinator has already sent an email out on the WPAARES list serve with details on this approach. Individuals with issues or suggestions should contact either Larry or myself to discuss. The ARES program will be a partner to the ACS program the state has been working on for the past few years. This year another two day program will take place in Harrisburg and Larry Keller and I will be attending.

An area we are looking to emphasize this coming year is in technology development and deployment. We will be announcing a leader for this project shortly and he will be putting together a team to work on the platform. Any individual that is interested in Public relations should contact me if you would like to serve as the Public Information coordinator for

the section.

While reading the latest issue of the WASHRAG newsletter I came upon an interesting article with regard to a challenge and contest from WACOM. They are challenging individuals to get on the air and work 100 countries prior to June 15. This is a great little challenge and a good way to generate interest and activity in the club and operating. Many clubs have operating activities like the 2 meter contest sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills and also the several 10 meter contests sponsored by Breezeshooters. If your club has an operating event please let me know so I can inform members in the column. We need to generate interest and activity in our local clubs to increase membership.

I am pleased to see the amount of activity being generated on the Tuesday evening NBEMS net. Check ins from across the state as well as several stations from outside of Pennsylvania are checking in. Join them for a fun evening. With the new ARES platform NBEMS will become a integral part of our platform.

Our first hamfest in the section will be held on February 27 in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. More information is available at [http://n3sh.org/washfest\\_2011.htm](http://n3sh.org/washfest_2011.htm) I know I will be there and I am looking forward to the event.

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 5:00 PM local time during the winter due to propagation. 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 on 3983 Hz. On Tuesday evening a PANBEMS net is conducted at 6 pm on 3583.5 USB. Another net is held Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Please check in for valuable information. Additional information on various NBEMS nets is available at <http://panbems.org/> There are also several nets on various vhf-uhf repeaters.

Join the nets and let's all get Radio Active.

73,  
John V. Rodgers, N3MSE  
W. Pa. Section Manager +

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See you all the  
BVARA club  
meeting, Thursday  
**February 10 @**  
**6:30PM!** p. 2 for details