



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

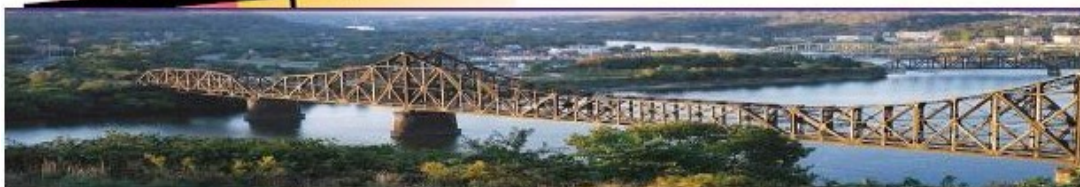
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
 145.310- 131.8 Hz PL

Volume 4, Issue 10

March 2011

Grant, KB3QFQ - Editor



What's new in the BVARA

IMPORTANT NEWS

Pittsburgh Marathon 2011

will be run on May 15, 2011.

Over 150 volunteer hams are needed for this event.

For more info or to volunteer, visit marathon.central.org

UPCOMING EVENT



May 15

Inside this Issue:

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THIS MONTH

Ham Radio vs. 21st Century Tech

In a world of Facebook and Twitter, why ham radio?

see page 8

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



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Do you have an opinion or article to share on ham radio in today's high-tech world?

Visit our Facebook Page and comment!

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Letters and Emails to the Editor – Please email 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

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.

- March 10 – Ambridge 911 Center
- April 14 – Ambridge 911 Center
- May 12 – Ambridge 911 Center
- June 9 – 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

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>

June

- 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

July

- 9: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast
 9-10: IARU HF World Championships
 10: Hamfest-North Hills ARC 26th Annual Hamfest
 (New Location) - Westview V.F.W. Post 2754 -
 386 Perry Highway - Pittsburgh, Pa
 More Info: (Phone: 412 760 7055)
 (email:k3yub@verizon.net)
<http://www.nharc.org>
 17: W.Pa. Repeater Council Meeting
 Meeting Location: TBA
 19: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm

August

- 6-7: Ten Ten Summer (Phone) Contest
 13: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast
 20: Two Rivers ARC Family Picnic -
 White Oak Park - Tuliup Tree Grove - White Oak, Pa
 21: ARRL Rookie Roundup (RTTY)
 28: Hamfest-Western Pa Section Convention /
 Skyview RS Hamfest
 Club Grounds - 2335 Turkey Ridge Road -
 New Kensington, Pa
 More Info: <http://skyviewradio.net>

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"/> 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

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 14th 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

Beaver County Digital Net

de Frank Cole, N3TN

To all Operators:

WHAT:

The Beaver County Digital Net

WHERE:

146.850 repeater PL 131.8

WHEN:

Every Wednesday at 9pm local.

WHY:

The needs of our served agencies have changed. With the possibilities of large disasters, (flooding, tornadoes, power outages, mass evacuations, etc.), the need to transmit large amounts of information, such as names, addresses, phone numbers of evacuees in shelters, can be accomplished easily and efficiently by using digital transmissions. Health and welfare traffic can also be handled more quickly and accurately using NTS and ICS formats. We will be using the NBEMS protocol.

WHAT'S NEEDED:

Things you already have. Radio, computer, and an interest in new digital modes.

Check in and see what this is all about. Looking forward to hearing you on the net.

Thanks,
Frank Cole
N3TN +

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, March 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 +

The BVARA Calendar of Events

For more information,
please visit 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
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. (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) 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

Why Ham Radio Endures in a World of Tweets

By David Rowan of [Wired UK](#) (DE Evan, KB3QFR)

Photo: Gary Soup (from *Wired UK*)

Somehow it makes little sense that amateur “ham” radio continues to thrive in the age of Twitter, Facebook and iPhones. Yet the century-old communications technology — which demands such commitment that you must generally pass an exam to receive a license — currently attracts around 350,000 practitioners in Europe, and a further 700,000 in the United States, some 60 per cent more than 30 years ago.

What is it about a simple microphone, a transmitter-receiver and the seductive freedom of the open radio spectrum that’s turned a low-tech anachronism into an enduring and deeply engaging global hobby?

For a start, there is that thrill in establishing a magical person-to-person long-distance radio conversation that no commodified internet communication can compete with. In a world of taken-for-granted torrents of e-mails, instant messages and Skype video-chats, there is a purity and a richness in the shared experience of exchanging “73s” during a live “QSO” with strangers on another continent.

Why, the very ham slang that defines the community — 73 translating as “best regards”, and QSOs as two-way conversations — tells practitioners that they belong to a special, mutually curious and highly courteous club. And the fact that DXers (long-distance amateur operators) take the trouble to acknowledge received transmissions and conversations by sending their new contacts custom-designed postcards through the analog postal service ... well, that is charm itself in a world where it’s considered excessive to end a communication with anything more effusive than a “bestest”.

You only need study a handful of these cards to understand, even today, the old-fashioned



excitement of connecting with a stranger who might be many thousands of miles away. The postcards — known as QSL cards — can be as quirky and personality-filled as the senders themselves. At times humorous and characterful, at others terse and geographically factual, they have naturally inspired their own subculture that has spurred DXers to collect and display them much as they would colorful foreign postage stamps.

The cards invariably display as a minimum some basic factual information about the sender. This will generally include the radio operator’s individual call sign, his (there are not too many “hers”) location, and a few details about the signal detected. And just to show that the Twitter generation did not invent the linguistic contractions exemplified in text-message speak, QSL cards too rely on slang and abbreviations to pack information into a tight space.

So cards will display the “RST” — the received radio station’s readability, signal and strength; perhaps details of the sender’s “XMTR” (transmitter) and “ANT” (antenna); and occasionally a request to reciprocate, expressed as the shorthand “PSE QSL TNX” (please send an

acknowledgement card, thanks) or the more chatty “hw abt a crd om?” (How about a card, old man?) Old man, by the way, is not a reference to the recipient’s age — just as, on the rare occasions when the DXer is female, she is referred to as a “YL”, a young lady, whatever her chronological age.

DXers have been exchanging QSL cards since at least 1916, when Edward Andrews of Philadelphia — call sign 3TQ — recorded the receipt of a card from 8VX of Buffalo, NY. Over the next decade, the hobby took off — so much so that, by 1928, Paul Segal (W9EEA) had formulated an “amateur’s code” setting out six key qualities to which practitioners must adhere: “The radio amateur is considerate... loyal ... progressive ... friendly ... balanced ... [and] patriotic,” Segal specified, always ready for service to country and community.

Since then, the hobby has captivated royalty and celebrities alike. Among the most celebrated DXers have been the late King Hussein of Jordan (call sign JY1), Queen Noor (JY1H) and Juan Carlos, King of Spain (EA0JC). Had you picked the right moment, you could have chatted to Morocco’s King Hassan II (CN8MH), the former Sultan of Oman (A41AA) or Bhumiphol Adulayadej, King of Thailand (HS1A).

If monarchs have never appealed, you could instead have shot the breeze with Marlon Brando (FO5GJ), prime minister Rajiv Ghandi of India (VU2RG) or the CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite (KB2GSD) — not forgetting the singer Cliff Richard (W2JOF), Joe Walsh of The Eagles (WB6ACU) and genuinely beyond-this-world DXers such as Yuri Gagarin and Helen Sharman.

It’s little wonder that collectors describe the buzz of receiving a new exotic foreign card as akin to that of philatelists discovering a rare commemorative stamp. That explains why the late Jerry Powell, a New Jersey ham between 1928 to 2000 (W2OJW), proudly displayed the 369 cards

he had gathered from Okinawa to Papua.

Another obsessive collector, Thomas Roscoe of Brookfield, Ohio (K8CX), has created an awe-inspiring QSL museum where he displays his trophies from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. (You can see his individual cards at hamgallery.com). Take a journey with Roscoe to Wallis & Futuna Island and Western Kiribati, to Kyrgyzstan and Kerguelen Island; visit “states” whose international status is somewhat contentious, such as the Republic of Ichkeria and the Principality of Sealand; celebrate one-off events such as Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, or the Queen Mary’s last voyage.

But it’s not simply the romance of card-collecting that continues to inspire DXers, nor the blunt urge to communicate. Instead, hams talk proudly about belonging to a global “brotherhood,” with few rules and little bureaucracy and the ability to transcend language, religion and race — while never quite knowing who they might come in contact with.

Plus, of course, the chance to be a genuine real-life hero. Days after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake devastated Haiti in January, amateur radio operators were busy at work connecting rescuers within the country and contacting survivors’ families. When a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile the next month, and the phone network collapsed, a radio operator named Alejandro Jara broadcast the first information from the ground.

Hams stepped in on September 11, 2001, and during Hurricane Katrina. Then there was Tony Pole-Evans, a bird lover with a short-wave radio on Saunders Island, who famously risked his life during Argentina’s 1982 invasion of the Falkland Islands to radio the first news back to Britain that 1,000 soldiers had landed on Goose Green.

How exciting it must have been to intercept that particular radio call. And boy, what a QSL card to top one’s collection. You can tweet all you like, but this is the way to communicate. +

Ham Radio Growing in the Age of Twitter

By Matt Sepic of [NPR](#)

Only a few years ago, blogs listed ham radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear.

They were wrong.

Nearly 700,000 Americans have ham radio licenses — up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago. And the number is growing.

Ham radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone, but it does have a certain nerd appeal, says Allen Weiner, an analyst at the technology research firm Gartner.

"If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here," he says. "If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow."

“You can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do.”

the talk button, announcing the letters and numbers of his call sign (W-0-S-J-S), and then announcing her own (W-0-A-K-I).

Steve Schmitz's voice crackles through Schlarman's radio.

"Hi Helen, how you doing, W-0-S-J-S?" he says, ending his response with his own call letters.

Many "hams," as they're known, hang postcards from global contacts on their walls, the way hunters show off deer antlers, but Schlarman's chats are mostly local. She says this hobby is

perfect for an outgoing person who spends a lot of time inside.

"It's a different community," she says. "There [are] no stereotypes of age; it's just talking and sharing and enjoying."

Until recently, ham radio was declining as older operators died. Then the Federal Communications Commission phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become ham radio operators, according to Maria Somma, an official with the American Radio Relay League.

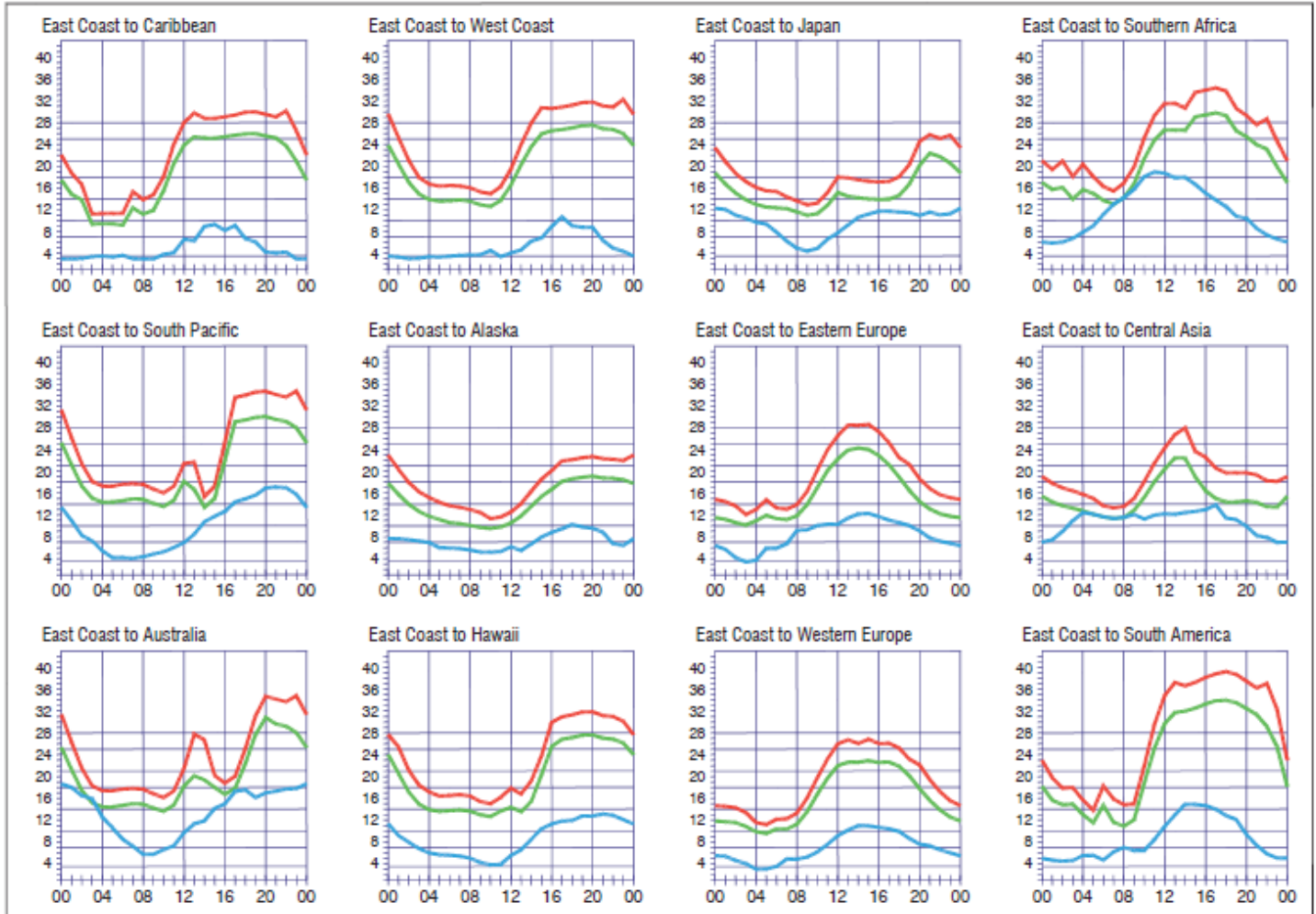
At a ham radio convention near St. Louis, the crowd swapping antenna parts and other equipment is mostly male, and over 50. But 15-year-old Jonathan Dunn is attending along with his father. He says Facebook and texting are fun, but making friends using a \$200 radio that doesn't come with monthly fees is more rewarding.

"With ham radio you can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone," he says.

Jonathan's dad, Steve Dunn, says the polite chitchat between ham radio operators is good for teenagers. "If young people have the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people, that instills a certain amount of confidence in their ability to carry on the lost art of small talk," he says.

Even the most die-hard hams concede that amateur radio will never be a mainstream hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century. +

QST Propagation Charts



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

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**.com

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

Feb 2011 - This year we plan on emphasizing the rebuilding of the ARES program in Western Pennsylvania. Larry Keller is currently reaffirming with ARES leaders their interest in continuing in the position they currently are holding. Any individual interested in a leadership position in the ARES organization should contact Larry Keller, AB3ER for details. He can be reached at ab3er@arrl.net One main area that we are testing is to create a complete roster of ARES members. We are asking all individuals to register with the online platform we have had created so we get a concise up to date roster of members. This is a message from Larry regarding the new roster builder.

The roster build is going very well. Since opened 2 weeks ago, As of Friday 237 WPA ARES members renewed or signed up on line. The system still has some kinks that are being addressed including ARRL servers down and input errors that must be corrected. Please let me know if you experience any problems. Your patience is appreciated. Like PennDot says, "temporary inconvenience, permanent improvement." Please continue to spread the word:

Register at www.arrl.org/ares-registration-form . ALL ARES members and perspective members must be registered on line (give a hand to those without a computer). ECs approve all applications for their County, Those not approved will be considered "unassigned".

I want to remind everyone not to be confused by the two separate areas of ARES and ACS. Ares is and will continue to be our emergency service platform for the section. The ARES platform is an integral part of our

service to our served agencies. NTS is the message handling platform for our ARES network. ACS on the other hand is a state program managed by PEMA for emergency management agencies during emergencies. The ARES platform along with RACES, CAP, REACT, Coast Guard auxiliary and others are partners with that program. Please remember to keep these two groups separated. Larry Keller and I represent the Western Pennsylvania section with PEMA on ACS. All ACS information regarding our involvement with ARES will be issued from us.

Two upcoming webinars are available for individuals to register and attend. Registration is available at <http://www.atldiv.org/training.htm>

On Thursday February 24 from 9:00 to 10:30 pm will be a webinar on 501-c-3 tax status for clubs. This webinar will give basic information about why clubs may want to file for a tax exempt non-profit status; how to file and how to keep your status good once having been issued your tax exempt status.

On Saturday February 26 will be a webinar on updated NBEMS digital mode. This NBEMS webinar will cover advanced features such as the use of NBEMS FLWRAP and FLMSG for the use of sending and receiving spread sheet/database data and form-based messages such as the ICS-213 and NTS/Radiogram forms. We will also be covering HF digital net procedures and protocols and hope to incorporate a live HF demonstration that will be viewable by all those attending the webinar.

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 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 net will return to 6 PM when

the time change occurs. 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 also 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 lets all get Radio Active.

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