

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 10 - APRIL 2012

# THE eQRM

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association  
*Beaver County's Only 75-Year ARRL-Affiliated Club!*

Home of W3SGJ/R  
145.310 - 131.8 Hz PL

## REMEMBERING THE **RMS TITANIC**

APRIL 15, 1912

SEE PAGE 5 **100 YEARS LATER -  
SPEAKER SERIES THE TITANIC**

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

# THE eQRM

APRIL 2012

## CHECK IN TO THE NETS!

### 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

### 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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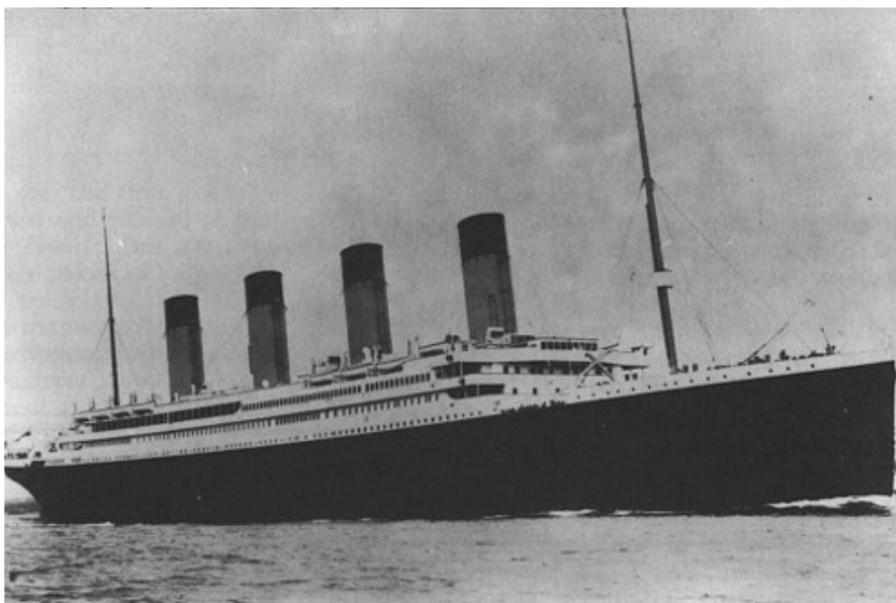
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*Photo courtesy of  
djbarthez.com*



*Photo of RMS Titanic before its maiden voyage.  
Photo courtesy of Wormstedt.com.*

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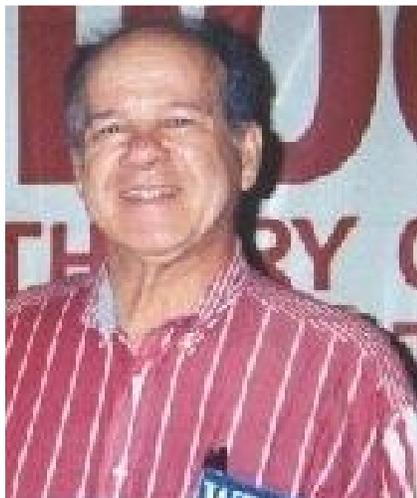
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# Bulletins

News From the Radio Community

## SILENT KEY

### Fred Maia, W5YI



CQ columnist Fred Maia, W5YI, a leading amateur radio journalist, educator and pioneer of volunteer examining, passed away on March 28 after a battle with cancer.

Maia, 76, published "The W5YI Report," dubbed "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter," from 1978 to 2003, and has been a CQ contributing editor since 1985. His regulatory affairs column, first titled "Ticket Talk," then "Washington Readout," offered news and perspective on FCC and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) actions, and helped untold numbers of hams wend their way through often-confusing mazes of the volunteer examining and vanity call sign systems.

"Fred was one of those unusual people who was more focused on doing the job than he was on getting credit for doing it," noted CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA. "His 'job' was to help this hobby grow,

and he succeeded admirably."

Maia was also a driving force in amateur and commercial radio licensing and education materials since late 1970. He was the first Volunteer Examiner Coordinator appointed by the Federal Communications Commission in 1984, and his W5YI-VEC group grew into the nation's second-largest VEC after the ARRL. Fred served as President of the W5YI-VEC until his retirement in October of 2000. In 1986, he founded The W5YI Group to develop, publish and sell amateur and commercial radio license study materials. Fred also formed National Radio Examiners to provide examination services as a Commercial Operator License Examination Manager (COLEM), and co-wrote a commercial radio licensing study manual with Gordon West, WB6NOA.

As a longtime member of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) and its Question Pool Committee (QPC), which develops and maintains the question pools for amateur radio license exams, Fred was deeply involved in many of the changes in amateur radio licensing over the past quarter century. This includes the phased elimination of Morse code requirements for amateur licenses and the current system of three license classes, Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

A resident of Arlington, Texas, Fred was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Radio Operator's School, and was first licensed as an amateur radio operator as a teenager in Rhode Island, where he grew up. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and two daughters. A memorial service was held March 31, 2012 at Moore Funeral Home, Arlington, TX. - CQ MAGAZINE

## IN THE CITY

### Pittsburgh Marathon: May 6



The Pittsburgh marathon is back for another run this spring! May 6, 2012 will be the date of this year's marathon, and with more than 5000 runners registered in the first week alone, this promises to be another record breaking year for the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success.

We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators. There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

Volunteering online is quick and easy; just fill out our registration form at <http://marathon.central.org>. You'll receive confirmation via email right away, and your assignment and detailed instructions will arrive by mail in early May. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to seeing you on race day.  
- JEFFREY HUTZELMAN, N3NHS

# Rookie Roundup

Section News From the ARRL

One of the most common concerns expressed by clubs is they want to help their new hams get on the air and learn HF operating skills.

Field Day is a great opportunity – and many hams made their first HF QSOs on that last full weekend of June – but it only comes once a year. That’s where the ARRL Rookie Roundup comes in.

The Rookie Roundup is a contest especially for new hams – those first licensed in the current and preceding two years – and it occurs three times a year on the third Sunday of April, August, and December. Each contest uses a different mode. April is the SSB contest, RTTY is featured in August, and December is a Morse code contest.

April QST includes a feature on the Rookie Roundup – this is a great opportunity to open up the club station or arrange for a member to host a multioperator effort as described below. Now there are a total of six ARRL HF contests for newcomers every year: Field Day, three Rookie Roundups, and two School Club Roundups. (Eight, if you count Kid’s Days in January and June.) Take advantage of these opportunities to get your new hams on HF!

## Multioperator Category

Many clubs asked about adding a category for multiple rookies sharing a single station – such as a club station. Beginning with the April 2012 contest, a multioperator category has been added! Any number of rookies can participate – assisted by any number of non-rookie helpers and Elmers – as long as a single transmitter is used. This is a bit different than the usual Multioperator, Single Transmitter category which allows a second radio to make contacts. Certainly, the rookies not making contacts can tune around and find other stations to work – the contacts have to be made from

one operating position, though.

There are no restrictions on what type of station may be used, the number of rookies, the number of helpers and mentors – it’s very much like Field Day or a regular contest multioperator effort. You can go fast or slow, call CQ or search and pounce. This is not only a great, low-pressure way for newcomers to try HF operating and get comfortable with a microphone, key, or keyboard but it’s great training for Field Day, too! These new operators will be able to contribute at a much higher level having had experience in the Rookie Roundup.



## Team Competition

Another requested feature for Rookie Roundup was to support team competition. In response, we added a competition for five single-operator Rookie category entrants to add their scores together to create a single team score. A Rookie’s individual score will still be listed separately so now they can compete in two ways at once! Note that multioperator entries can not be included in team scores.

A team registration form will be available on the ARRL Rookie Roundup website before the contest – watch the website for information on how to submit and deadlines for submitting team information.

## Contest Ideas

In no particular order, here are some ideas to jump-start your club’s thinking about operating

in Rookie Roundup – use one of these ideas or make up your own! As the note at the end of this article suggests, be sure to let us know about your ideas, too.

## ROOKIE ROUNDUP IDEAS

- Break out the club’s emergency communications gear and set up an HF station
- Create two teams of rookies and have a competition within your club
- Challenge another local club to a multioperator competition
- Combine Rookie Roundup with a post-contest pizza feed to share stories
- Pair up individual mentors and rookies and form teams to combine scores
- Set up a “mini-Field Day” station in a public place for some ham radio publicity
- Invite non-hams to participate as spectators
- Have young rookies challenge the older rookies
- Award prizes for most contacts made, most states contacted, most rookies worked, etc.
- You’ll find plenty of other ideas to try – have fun with the contest!

## Other Notes

Since 6 meters did not turn out to attract much attention, we dropped 6 meters from the Rookie Roundup effective with the April 2012 contest. We will continue to publish the results of Rookie Roundup during the same week of the contest. Score submissions will still be required 72 hours after the contest. N1MM Logger (hyperlink to n1mm.com) remains the only standalone package supporting Rookie Roundup along with the online logging website, In The Log (hyperlink to inthelog.com). You may also log on paper log sheets – a downloadable log sheet is available on the contest’s website. ▣

# Et Cetera

Amateur Radio News, Club Announcements and Speaker Series

### AMATEUR RADIO DAY

On April 18, 2012, radio amateurs will be celebrating World Amateur Radio Day, on the 87th Anniversary of the founding of the IARU.

This year's theme for the World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio Satellites: Celebrating 50 Years in Space" in remembrance of the launching of OSCAR 1 on December 12, 1961 and OSCAR 2 on June 2, 1962.

In celebration, several special event stations from IARU's Member Societies will be operating throughout April:

6H6IARU - active from April 13 to 18 in all modes and bands.

3G87IARU - active throughout the month of April.

LZ1WARD - active throughout the month of April.

EL2RL- active on April 18 on 10, 15, 17 and 20 meters.

HB9WARD - active on April 18, 2011.

HF87WARD - active from April 17 to 30. ☑

### VE TEST SESSION

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, April 12

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) ☑

### 50 YEARS!

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association would like to congratulate Rich Soltesz, K3SOM on 50 years as an amateur radio operator!

So, what does this ham enjoy? As Rich, K3SOM states on his QRZ profile:

"I was first licensed in 1962 and I enjoy making contacts with people across the world, contesting for fun, field day, designing antennas with software, ragchewing, chasing DX, building equipment and many other aspects of the amateur hobby. Some of my other hobbies include fishing, amateur astronomy, photography, camping, travel and spoiling my six grand children.

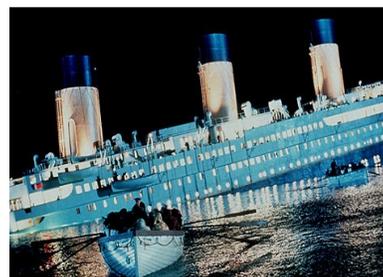
With an electrical engineering background, my interest in amateur radio activities lets me continually learn and tinker as new technologies and challenges present themselves."

Again, we congratulate Rich, K3SOM and thank him for his continued dedication to the amateur radio hobby! ☑

### MONTHLY

## Speaker Series

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



### This Month:

**Speaker:**  
Rich Soltesz  
K3SOM

**Topic:**  
100 Years Later -  
The Titanic

**Including:**  
The ship, the route, the iceberg,  
The passengers, the wireless,  
the antennas,  
and much more!

Are you interested in attending?  
Come to the club meeting on  
**Thursday, April 12 at 6:30PM,**  
held at:

Beaver County  
Emergency Operations Center  
351 14th Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003

### RICH'S BACKGROUND

Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962  
Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner (VE)  
B.S. Electrical Engineering  
Registered Professional Engineer, PA ☑

### WEEKLY

## Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA 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 Breakfast.





# REMEMBERING TITANIC

BY ADELE MACGREGOR, WALESONLINE

**ARTIE MOORE** was in his South Wales bedroom when he learned the Titanic was sinking – two days before the news reached the UK.

It was 1912 and wireless telegraphy, or radio, was still a pioneering field of science that was not widely understood. Amateur radio operator Artie's discovery was dismissed by his local police in Pontllanfraith, and it was not until the news reached the British press that he was finally believed.

Caerphilly council's museum, The Winding House in New Tredegar, is to feature Artie's extra-ordinary story in an new exhibition focusing on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and its links to the region.

Artie, from Gelligroes Mill, Pontllanfraith, heard the Titanic's first SOS call on his homemade receiver soon after the passenger liner struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City. He had turned his hand to model engineering and radio after losing his leg in mill machinery at a young age, after which he was unable to continue working.

With the aid of an engineer friend, Richard Jenkins, Artie experimented sending radio messages up the Sirhowy Valley to Mynyddislwyn.

In 1911, he made front page news by picking up a message of Italy's declaration of war on Libya but six months later, when the Titanic sank, few believed that he could hear a message from half way across the Atlantic.

The duty officers at the police station simply refused to

believe his explanation that he could pick up a "message in the air."

Their disbelief was not so unreasonable. Even the inventor of the radio Guglielmo Marconi, who owned the radio equipment on board the Titanic, believed it only had a range of 500 miles.

Artie, or Arthur, was 3,000 miles away from the scene of the disaster when he picked up the Titanic's distress signal. Marconi, who shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Karl Ferdinand Braun for "contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy," was so impressed by Artie that he visited the young Welshman and gave him a job with the Marconi company.

Artie went on to patent an early version of the sonar system of measuring ocean depths, inventing a very early form of sonar called the Echometer, and worked at the Marconi company until his death in 1949 at the age of 62. Artie's historic achievements are celebrated at Gelligroes Mill to this day with an exhibition of his radio equipment and related artefacts. In 2002, Millvina Dean, the last living survivor of the Titanic, visited the mill, seven years before her death in May 2009.

Museums officer Emma Wilson said: "The story of Titanic has long held fascination for many people and here in Caerphilly county borough, we have an amazing local link."

The Winding House is urging anyone with relevant objects or images dating from the 1890s to 1914 to get in touch. ▀

# Morse Code is 'Perfect' for Google

BY ARRL

On April 1, Google announced that it has unveiled a new way to use its popular Gmail e-mail system. Called Gmail Tap, it uses dots and dashes to form letters, a system of communicating that should be very familiar to radio amateurs. "Morse code is perfect," said Gmail Tap Engineer Mitch Fedenko. "It's just a dot and a dash. What's simpler than that?"

According to Google, Gmail Tap will let you tap without looking at your screen, replace the 26-key keyboard with two keys and double productivity by typing two e-mails at once.

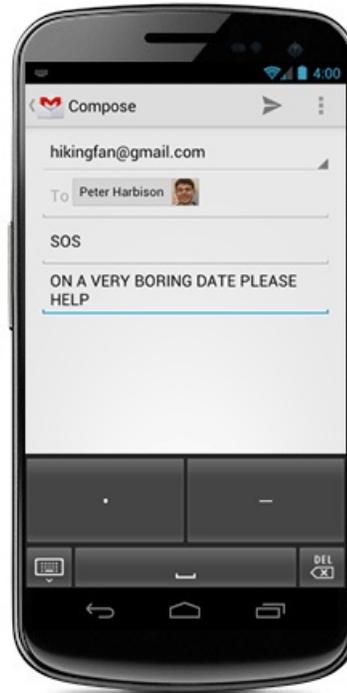
"Technology is everywhere today," explained David Brook, Google Vice President for Communication Services in a video announcing Gmail Tap, "and everyone has a smart phone. Think about the size of [a smart phone]. It's only two inches, two-and-a-half inches, and we're trying to cram an entire 26-key keyboard into that space. It's time to think about 'How can we do this better?' using the technology that we have today. And that's where Gmail Tap comes in."

Gmail Tap replaces the default keyboard in the Gmail application with one that only has two buttons: One for a dot and one for a dash. Brook said that every single letter in the alphabet can be spelled out by using just these two characters.

The QWERTY keyboard -- invented in 1874 -- is still used today, largely unchanged. "In Morse code, every letter of the alphabet is represented by a simple pattern of dots and dashes, and once you know them, you can type without even looking at your screen," Brook said. "This makes it ideal for situations where you need to discreetly send e-mails, such as when you're on a date or in a meeting with your boss."

When Google Software Engineer Reed Morse came to Brook with the idea of bringing Morse code back, Brook said he got "really excited." Morse claims that Samuel F.B. Morse -- the creator of Morse code -- was his "great-grandfather's grandfather's brother. Morse is also the Lead Engineer for Gmail Tap.

Benefits of Gmail Tap include a split-screen function, enabling



*Gmail Tap reduces your smart phone to a simple Morse Key, making emailing easier and faster.*

you to send two messages at once, to two completely different recipients. "Gmail Tap multitasking, it's an improvement over speech," Brook said. "You can say two things with your fingers that your mouth can only say one of. People are going to be twice as productive, and people are going to be able to write e-mails anytime they want." A planned "ship-to-shore mode" will "activate your phone's flash to communicate with other power users across an ocean (of people)." Also planned for the future is the Double-Black Diamond mode that will "add a third, fourth and more keyboards for writing up to eight messages at once."

Gmail Tap Product Lead Todd Smith said that "you can tap it in the morning, you can tap it at night, you can tap it in the bathroom. It [takes] a dot and a dash to have a conversation with the entire world. It's great!"

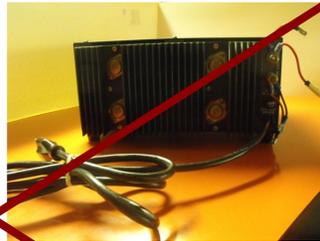
*Editor's Note: April Fools.*

# Equipment for Sale



**Astron RS-35M Power Supply**  
25 amp cont. 35 amp surge 13.8vdc.  
\$100.00 plus S+H.

**SOLD**



**Ritz Electronics Power Supply**  
**PS-1001MR regulated.**  
13.8 vdc, 8amps , 115vac input.  
\$25.00 plus S&H.



**Dentron Ant Tuner AT-1K**  
with manual, 160meters-  
10 meters, 500 watts  
\$75.00 plus S&H

**SOLD**



**Ramsey Electronics PA-1**  
2 Meter Amplifier,  
20W out with 4W in  
\$30.00 plus S&H.



**Palomar TX75 Amplifier.**  
\$35.00 plus S&H.



**American Electronics**  
**SWR/Watt Meter, model**  
**95/134. 52 Ohms, 100 W**  
**\$20.00 plus S&H.**



**Daiwa SWR Model CN-520,** 1.8-60mhz, 50 ohms, 2KW. (with manual).  
\$50.00 plus S&H.



**Daiwa SWR Model CN-550,** 140-250 mhz, 50 ohms, 200 W, (with manual).  
\$40.00 plus S&H.



**Trionyx TR-1000,** 600 mhz Frequency Counter. (with manual).  
\$40.00 plus S&H.

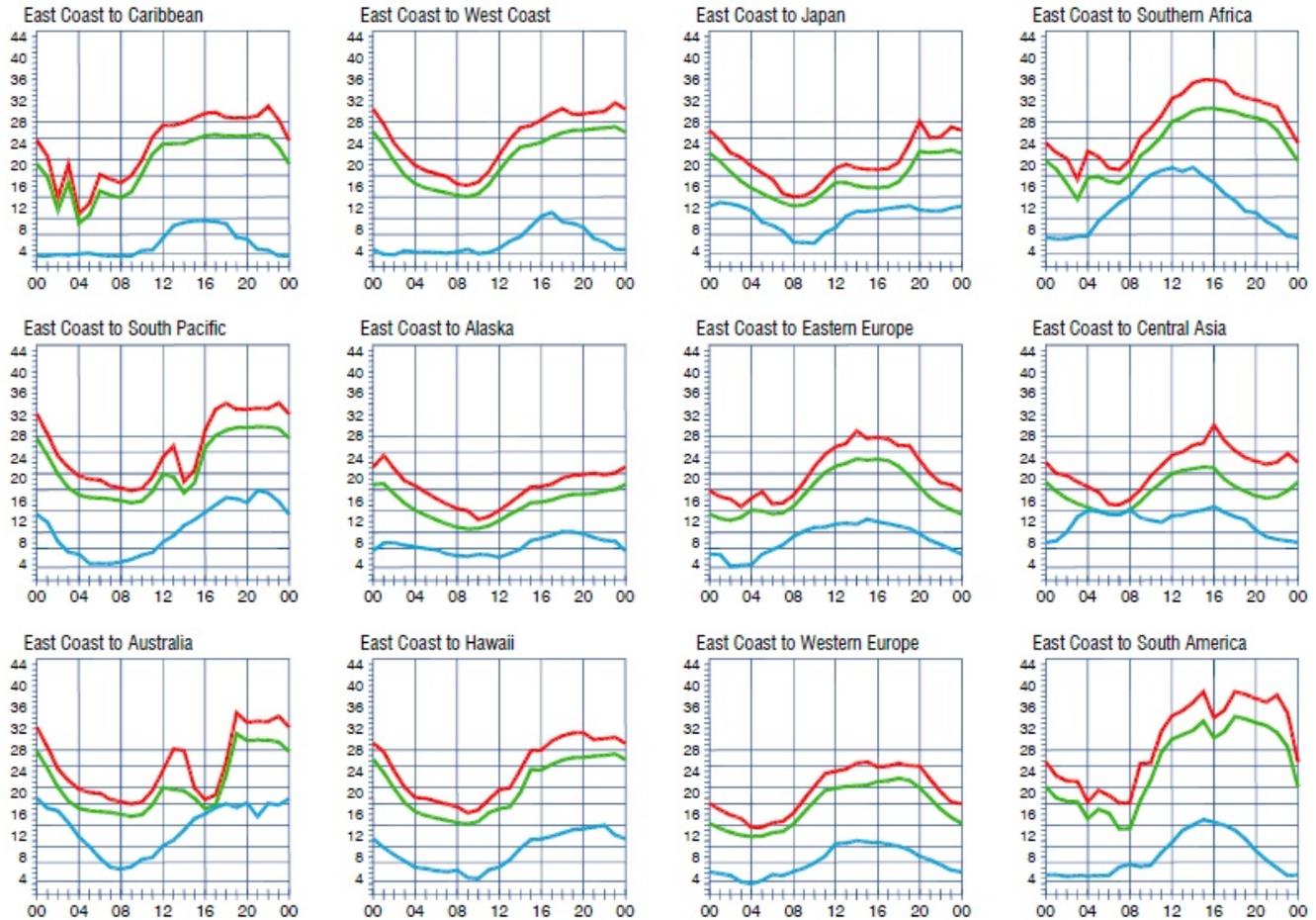


**2 Turner Model +3B**  
**microphones. \$15.00**  
**each plus S&H.**

**If you are interested in buying an item, please call Chris, W3OUF at 724-266-2866**

# Prop Charts

From the ARRL



## RACES / ARES

### eQRM Urges All County Hams 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 (131.8 PL)

#### PROPAGATION

The propagation chart listed above is for April 2012.

If you would like more information on how to read these charts, or for more information on propagation in general, please visit <http://arrl.org/propagation>



# Who We Are

Membership Information and Club Officers

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 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Technician Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 General \_\_\_\_\_  
 Advanced Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

### 2012 BVARA OFFICERS

- President:** Jack Spencer, KZ3Z  
**Vice President:** Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM  
**Second Vice Pres.:** Tom Workman, AA3CE  
**Secretary:** Norm Trunick, K3NJT  
**Treasurer:** Pam Spencer, W3PMS  
**Director:** George Caffro, N3HOJ  
**Director:** Adam Homiak, KG3L  
**Trustee:** Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

**E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting. VE testing begins at 5:00. Regular meetings are at 6:30.**

**All meetings are held at Beaver County Emergency Operations Center**  
 351 14th Street  
 Ambridge, PA 15003  
**on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).**

### MEETING DATES

- 2012**  
 April 12  
 May 10  
 June 14  
 July 12  
 August – No meeting (Corn Roast)  
 September 13  
 October 11  
 November 8  
 December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

- 2013**  
 January 10  
 February 14  
 March 14  
 April 11

QSL CARD

**Beaver County**  
**W3SGJ**  
 Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association  
 P.O. Box 424  
 South Heights, PA 15081, USA  
 ITU 8, CQ 5, Grid EN90ur, Beaver County

**NEXT MONTH**  
**MAY 2012**

Joe Walsh, WB6ACU,  
takes it easy as an  
'Analog Man'