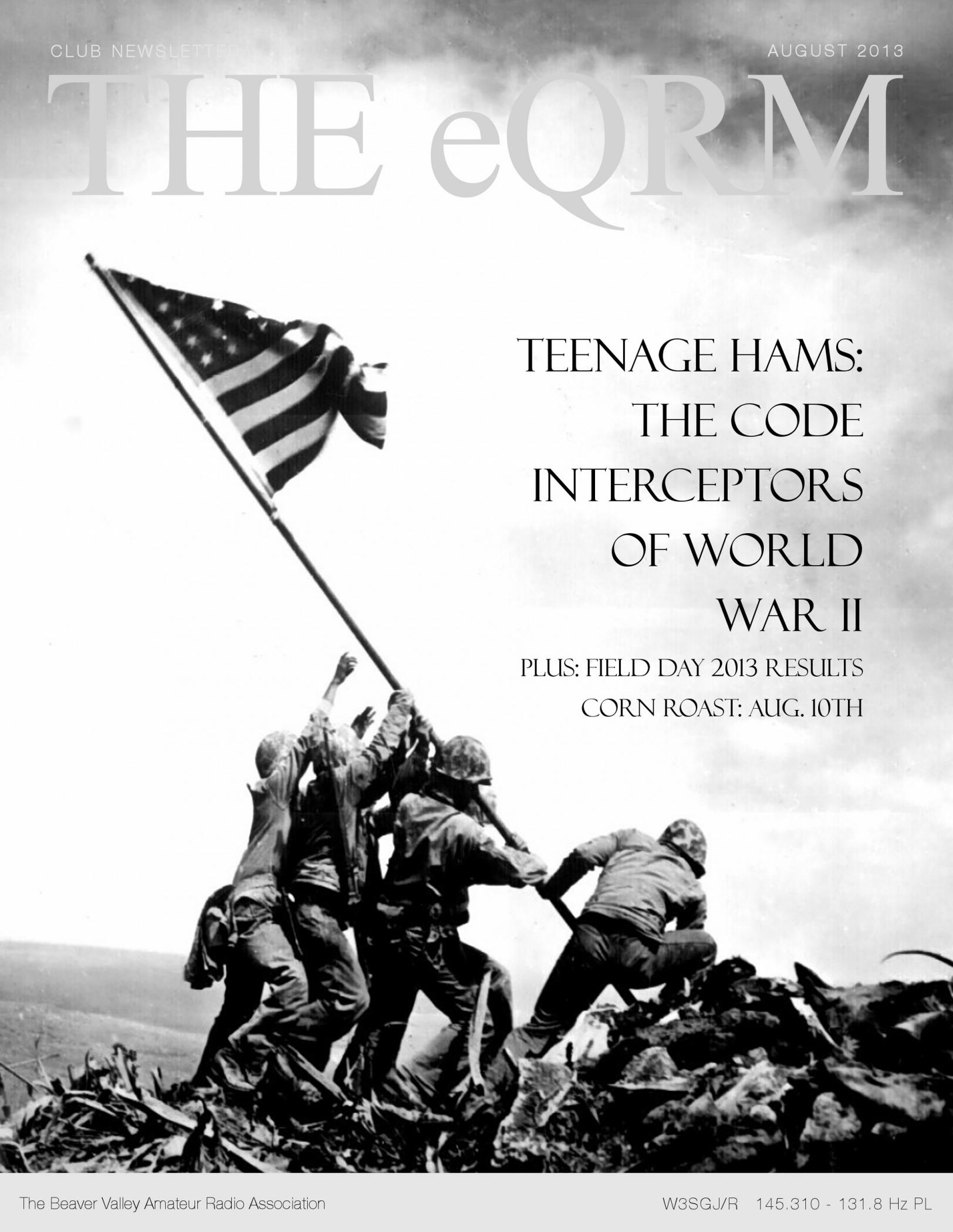


# THE eQRM



TEENAGE HAMS:  
THE CODE  
INTERCEPTORS  
OF WORLD  
WAR II

PLUS: FIELD DAY 2013 RESULTS  
CORN ROAST: AUG. 10TH

# THE eQRM

AUGUST 2013



## 5 THE CODE INTERCEPTORS

Teenage radio enthusiasts who helped win World War II. From BBC News

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## CHECK INTO THE NETS

Wednesday 2 Meter  
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

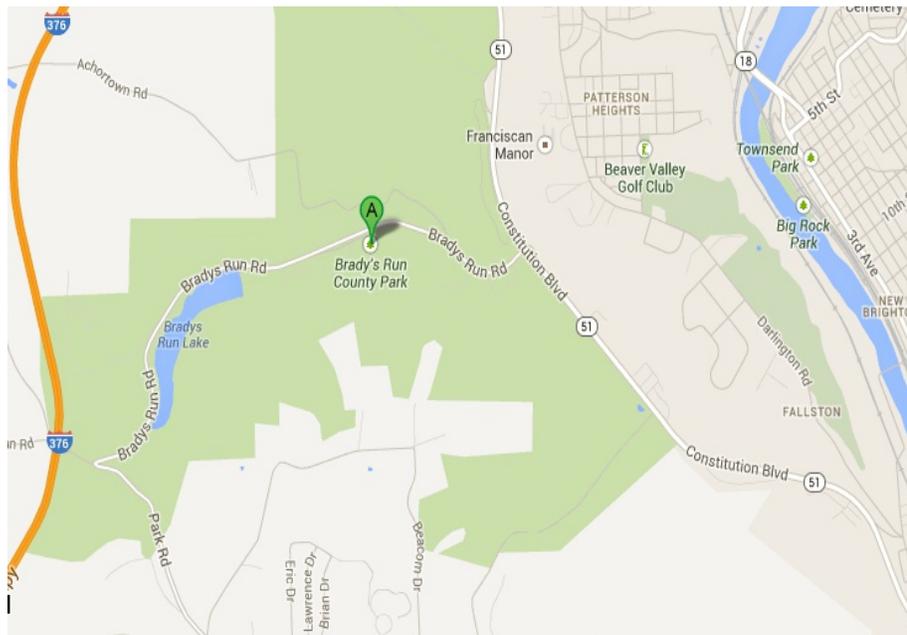
Wednesday 10 Meter  
9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

# Bulletins

HAMFESTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / CLUB NEWS

## Club Event/ Corn Roast 2013

Saturday, August 10, 2013. 6PM



### The Facts:

**Date:**

Saturday, August 10, 2013

**Time:**

6:00 PM

**Location:**

Brady's Run Park, Shelter 12  
(up the hill on the right, previous  
Field Day site)

**Who:**

All BVARA members and their  
families and invited guests

**What:**

Club furnishes the corn, hot dogs,  
and hamburgers – please bring  
a covered dish and your beverages

## Hamfest/ Swap & Shop 2013

Sunday, August 25, 2013. 8AM - 1PM

Talk in on 146.640 - PL 131.8 MHz.

ARRL WPA Section Convention: WPA ARES Meeting and ARRL HQ Speakers

Prizes Include: Peet Brother WX Station, MFJ Antenna Analyzer, "Adventurer KEY" Fits  
Portables, Hourly Door Prizes, and more

For more information, visit [www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net)

### The Facts:

**Sponsored By:**

Skyview Radio Society

**Admission:** \$3.00

\$5.00 / vendor table

**Location:**

Skyview Radio Society  
2335 Turkey Ridge Rd.  
Upper Burrell Twp. 15068

# The Month Ahead

Contest Information, VE Testing and Presentation Series

## CONTEST



North American QSO Party

August 3-4, 2013 (CW)  
August 17-18, 2013 (SSB)

**OBJECTIVE:** To work as many North American stations as possible during the contest period.

**BANDS:**  
160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, except no 160 meters for the RTTY contest.

**CONTEST PERIODS:**  
RTTY: 1800 UTC July 20 to 0559 UTC July 21, 2013

CW: 1800 UTC August 3 to 0559 UTC August 4, 2013

SSB: 1800 UTC August 17 to 0559 UTC August 18, 2013

**Log Submission:** Must be date-stamped/postmarked no later than 7 days after the contest.

For more information on this contest, detailed rules, and log submission addresses, please visit <http://www.ncjweb.com/nqprules.php>

## 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, Sept. 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.

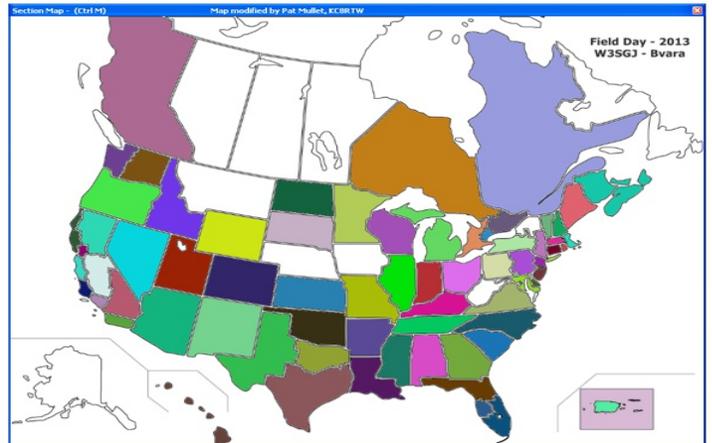
All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered.

Note: No question pool updates or releases will take place in 2013.

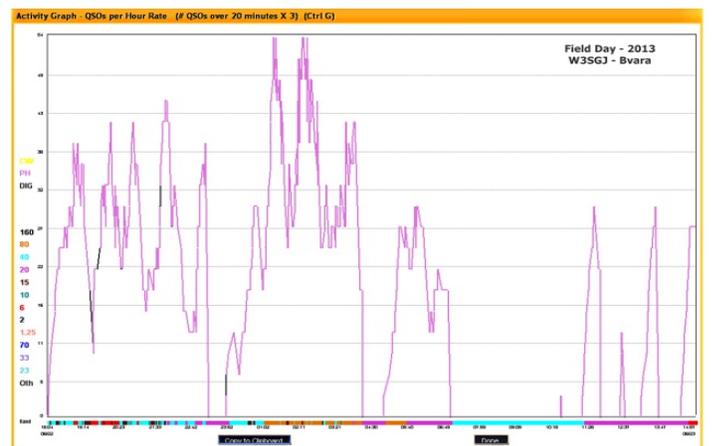
For more information, please contact our VE Test Coordinator:  
Chris Moratis, W3OUF  
1199 Highland Avenue  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
PHONE: 724-266-2866  
[cjmoratis@gmail.com](mailto:cjmoratis@gmail.com)

## FIELD DAY 2013

# Field Day Results



The results from Field Day are in! With 349 contacts and a grand total of 1562 points, Field Day was a great success. Seven operators contributed to this total, with Rich K3SOM making the largest number of contacts (144). Check out the frequency of contacts on the graph below.



## WEEKLY

# Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA meets every Thursday at Steak n Shake in Center Township, by the Beaver Valley Mall, at 10:30 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Breakfast. See you at Steak n Shake!



# THE CODE INTERCEPTORS

The teenage ham radio enthusiasts  
who helped win World War II

By Katia Moskvitch, From BBC News (UK)



To mark the centenary of the Radio Society of Great Britain, one of its members recalls how the amateur organisation played a key role in a covert operation to safeguard the country's independence.

One day, towards the start of World War II, a captain wearing the Royal Signals uniform knocked on a British teenager's door.

The 16-year-old was called Bob King. When he went to greet the visitor, he had no idea that soon he would become one of Britain's so-called "voluntary interceptors" - some 1,500 radio amateurs recruited to intercept secret codes broadcast by the Nazis and their allies during the war.

"The captain asked me if I would be willing to help out with some secret work for the government," remembers Mr King, now 89. "He wouldn't tell me any more than that.

"He knew that I could read Morse code - that was the essential thing."

The captain had heard about Mr King through the RSGB - an organisation for amateur radio enthusiasts. Many of its members were youngsters curious about the possibilities offered by tinkering with radio receivers.

During World War II, dozens were recruited by MI8 - a division of the British Military Intelligence department, and a cover name for the now-defunct Radio Security Service (RSS).

The purpose of their work was to intercept secret wireless transmissions by German and Italian agents in Britain.

Mr King signed the documents the captain had handed to him, which, he says, basically stated that he had "read them and knew what would happen to me if I opened my mouth too wide".

He was then given the instructions to scan shortwave bands and write down Morse code he discovered on a piece of paper.

### **Cracking Codes**

Mr King worked from his home in Bicester, Oxfordshire, but voluntary interceptors were scattered all around Britain.

Many used their own radio equipment to eavesdrop on enemy messages.

The RSS's original headquarters had been in Wormwood Scrubs, London but in 1940 it was moved 12 miles (19km) north to the village of Arkley when German air raids threatened its efforts to analyse

and sort the intercepted data.

By mid-1941, the new base, Arkley View, was receiving about 10,000 message sheets a day from its recruits.

"I worked for five years scrutinising the logs that came in from the other amateurs - thousands of log sheets with the signals which we knew were wanted, and you could only know it from experience," remembers Mr King.

"We knew it wasn't Allied army air force, we knew it was German or Italian - various things gave that away, but it was disguised in such a form that it looked a bit like a radio amateur transmission.

"We knew it was highly important, everything was marked 'top secret,' but only many years later we discovered that it was German secret service we were listening to.



Bob King was only 16 when he was recruited by MI8

"Of course you didn't ask questions in those days, otherwise you'd be in real trouble."

Encoded messages were transmitted to Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, the UK's former top-secret code-cracking centre. Once decoded, the data was sent to the Allied Commanders and the UK Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

### Secret Listeners

Just like thousands of code-crackers working at Bletchley Park during the war, voluntary interceptors had to keep quiet about what they were doing.

Mr King says that they were not even allowed to mention anything to their families. His wife only found out about her husband's secret past in 1980 - more than three decades after he had stopped his interception activities.



Arkley View became the main office of the RSS during the war. It is here that the intercepted data was sorted and analysed

Now that they are allowed to speak up, he seems disappointed that this ghost army of secret civilian listeners has not been given more credit for the part it played in the Allies toppling the Nazis - including the successful invasion of Normandy.

"The main success of the voluntary interceptors was in knowing what the enemy intelligence services were doing, what they believed and didn't believe, and we managed to manipulate them in that way through the agents that we controlled," he says.

John Gould, the organiser of the RSGB's centenary celebrations, agrees. "Not only did the intercepts provide a huge amount of traffic, but through the skills of the radio amateurs 'fingerprinting' the Morse code of the German operators, supported by direction finding, the UK was able to monitor movements of the German forces," he says.

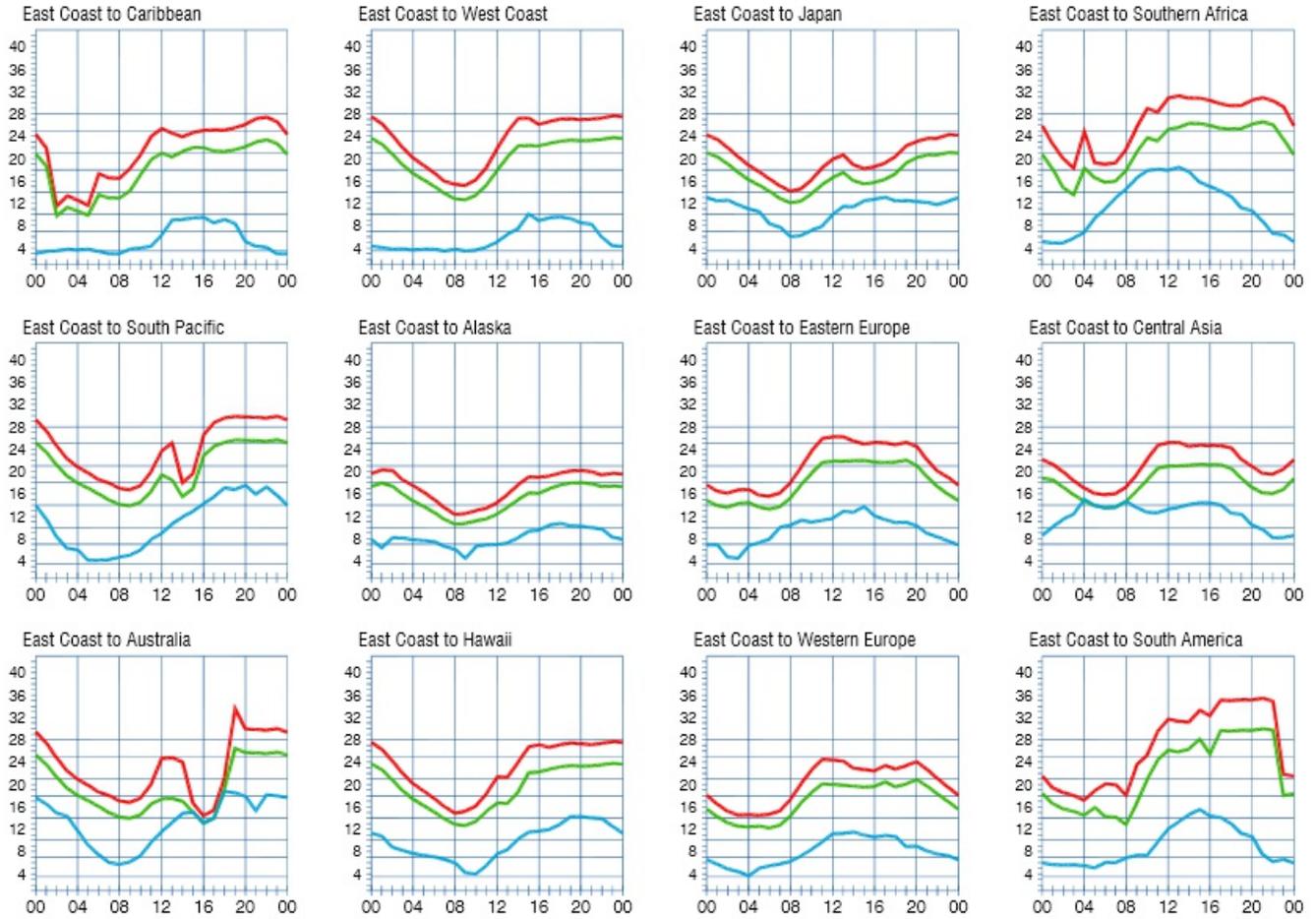
"The intelligence gained from these intercepts was reported to have been of significant importance to control enemy agents and other matters such as sabotage and deception activities." →



Some voluntary interceptors had regular meetings during and after the war - but they were not allowed to talk about their work to anyone else

# Propagation 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 East Coast propagation chart listed above is for August 2013.

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):

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

### 2013 BVARA OFFICERS

- President:** Jack Spencer, KZ3Z  
**Vice President:** Jeff Waite, K3SLK  
**Second Vice Pres.:** Mark Kavic, KB3LED  
**Treasurer:** Pam Spencer, W3PMS  
**Secretary:** Norm Trunick, K3NJT  
**Director:** Adam Horniak, KG3L  
**Director:** Denny Herbuth, KR3DX  
**Trustee:** Rich Soltesz, K3SOM  
**Newsletter Editor:** Grant Miller, KB3QFQ

### 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

- 2013  
 August - **No meeting (Corn Roast, August 10)**  
 September 12  
 October 10  
 November 14  
 December 7 - **BVARA Christmas Party**

- 2014  
 January 9  
 February 13  
 March 13  
 April 10  
 May 8  
 June 12  
 August - **No meeting (Corn Roast, Date TBA)**

**QSL CARD**  
 Special 90th Anniversary Edition



NEXT MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2013

# THE SEVENTIES

Diving deeper into the history of the BVARA