

CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

THE eQRM

THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA

THE 1990s

BY RICH SOLTESZ, K3SOM

THE eQRM

NOVEMBER 2013



5 THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA, PART 8: THE 1990s

This month, we find ourselves in the near past. By Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

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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

BVARA Event/ Club Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7, 2013. Doors open at 5PM



The Facts:

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2013
Doors open at 5:00. Dinner at 5:30

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Location:

Baden Borough Municipal Building
Community Room
149 State Street, Baden, PA 15005

Grab Bag: \$10 - \$15 -

Please bring with you to the party!

Please make checks payable to
Pamela Spencer and mail to the
following address:

322 Camilla Street
Baden, PA 15005-1843

Deadline date in order to secure
your seat(s) is November 23, 2013.

Announcement/ Radios for Sale

From Dick Hanna, K3VYY

I am trying to clean out the shack, and have some VHF/UHF radios that I would like to sell. All are working fine and come with mounting brackets, mics, manuals, etc. Also have the electronic manuals which I can email. (I think!)

IC2710H 50W 144 Mhz, 35W 440 Mhz. Asking \$200.

IC2350H 50W 144Mhz 35W 440 Mhz. Asking \$200.

IC229H 50W 144 Mhz only. Has a Heil handheld microphone which was made for the ICOM radios. Asking \$150

Maybe some of the new hams are looking for a good radio, of course they are as is, with no warranty, but they are working, and I can demonstrate them prior to sale. They can contact me at k3vyy@arri.net, or k3vyy@verizon.net - Dick, K3VYY

The Month Ahead

Contest Information, VE Testing and Presentation Series

CONTEST



**80th Annual ARRL
November Sweepstakes**

November 16-18, 2013

OBJECTIVE: For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

** Note: number of sections has increased to 83 **

BANDS: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. No contest QSOs on 12, 17, 30 or 60.

CONTEST PERIODS:
2100 UTC Sat., Nov. 16 to
0259 UTC Mon., Nov. 18
(All stations may operate
no more than 24 of the 30
hours)

Log Submission: Must be
submitted within 15 days
of the contest ending.

For more information on
this contest, please visit
arrl.org/sweepstakes

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, Nov. 14

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

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

All classes of amateur
radio license tests will be
administered.

Note: 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

MONTHLY

Presentation Series

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



November 14, 2013 @ 6:30PM

At Beaver County 911 Center, 351 14th Street, Ambridge PA

Speaker: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic: Ham Radio Microphones

Including: Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is about microphones for the radio amateur. We'll begin with a brief history followed by some definitions and a discussion of various characteristics. Then we'll look at the published specifications of microphones from not only a major microphone manufacturer, but also from major transceiver manufacturers. In addition, we'll look at the important parameters for choosing your microphone and much more! This is one presentation you won't want to miss!

Rich's Background: Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962; Volunteer Examiner (VE); B.S. Electrical Engineering

WEEKLY

Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA meets every Thursday at Steak n Shake in Center Township, by the Beaver Valley Mall, at **10:00 AM**. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Breakfast. See you at Steak n Shake!



THE 1990s

The decade of the 1990s witnessed continuing social activities within the BVARA.

The growing separation of the two Beaver County radio organizations continued with worsening relationships during the decade of the 1990s.

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 1990s

Culturally, the 1990s were characterized by the rise of multiculturalism and alternative media. Movements such as grunge, the rave scene and hip hop spread around the world to young people during the decade, aided by then-new technology such as cable television and the Internet.

A combination of factors, including the continued mass mobilization of capital markets through neo-liberalism, the thawing of the decades-long Cold War, the beginning of the widespread proliferation of new media such as the Internet from the middle of the decade onwards, increasing skepticism towards government, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union led to a realignment and reconsolidation of economic and political power across the world and within

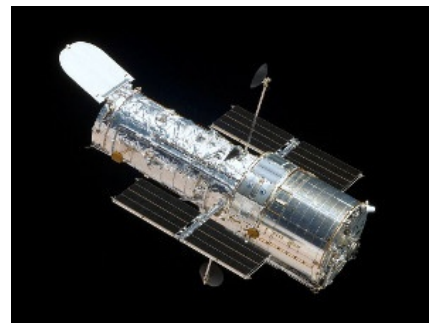


The Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK after being bombed

countries. Many countries such as Canada and Sweden privatized much of their economy, moving power away from governments, and more towards private corporations. The dot com bubble of 1996-2000 brought wealth to some entrepreneurs before its crash in 2000-2001.

The most prominent natural disasters of the decade included Hurricane Andrew striking South Florida in August 1992, the crippling super storm of March 1993 along the Eastern Seaboard, the devastating 1994 Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles, the Blizzard of 1996 in the eastern U.S., the U.S. drought of 1999, and the destructive Oklahoma tornado outbreak in May 1999.

In 1990 the Hubble Telescope was launched into orbit from the Space Shuttle Atlantis. The collapse of the Soviet Union and Operation Desert Storm happened in 1991. The riots in Los Angeles after the Rodney King verdict occurred in 1992. In 1993 the cult compound in Waco, Texas was bombed. That same year, the World Trade Center in New York was also bombed. In 1994 the Channel Tunnel opened between Britain and France. Pro football star O.J. Simpson was arrested for murder that same year. A liquid-sarin gas attack was made in a Tokyo subway in 1995. The Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK was also attacked by bomb in 1995. Mad Cow disease hit Britain in 1996. In 1997 comet Hale-Bopp became prominently visible and the Mars Pathfinder with the



The Hubble Space Telescope as seen from the departing Space Shuttle Atlantis

Sojourner Rover sent back detailed pictures of the surface of Mars. That same year, Princess Diana of



Comet Hale-Bopp is prominently visible

Britain died in a car crash. In 1998 U.S. President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of



F-117 Nighthawk Stealth Fighter use prominently during Operation Desert Storm

Representatives while Viagra went on the market. In 1999, fear of the turn of the century causing massive system failures resulted in much effort to mitigate the "Y2K" bug as it was called. The killing spree at Columbine High School also happened in 1999.

TECHNOLOGY EVENTS IN THE 1990s

In 1991, CERN publicized the new World Wide Web (WWW) project. During the decade of the 1990s advancements in computer modems, ISDN, cable modems, and DSL enabled faster connection to the Internet. The Pentium processor was developed by the Intel Corporation, and e-mail became popular. Businesses began to build E-commerce websites; E-commerce-only companies such as Amazon.com, eBay, AOL, and Yahoo! grew rapidly.

The introduction of affordable, smaller satellite dishes and the DVB-S standard in the mid-1990s expanded satellite television services that carried up to 500 television channels. CD burner drives were introduced and the CD-ROM drive became standard for most personal computers during the decade.

BEAVER COUNTY IN THE 1990s

The 1990 US Census reported a total of 186,093 people in Beaver County for a declining rate of 9.0 percent over the 1980 US Census. The decline of the steel industry was now impacting the population of the county.

In 1992 the Beaver Valley

Expressway opened between Chippewa and New Castle. The toll for that segment was fifty cents. A blizzard buried Beaver County in 1993. That same year USAir cut its workforce affecting many employees living in the county. January 19th, 1994 became the coldest day on record in Western Pennsylvania with a recorded temperature of -22 degrees Fahrenheit. January 1994 recorded a monthly snowfall of 36 inches to accompany the severe cold weather. Widespread flooding on the Beaver River caused considerable damage on January 19th, 1996. Later that year on June 19th five inches of rain fell in Beaver County. At the Northern Lights Shopping Center 21 of 45 stores were damaged from flooding caused by the heavy rainfall.

In 1998 work began on the construction of a new county jail to house 371 prisoners at a site in Hopewell Township near Aliquippa. This new jail would replace the then oldest jail in the state that was built back in 1858 or 1859. In 1998 a new National Gypsum Plant opened in Shippingport and in September 1998 Boscov's opened a new store at the Beaver Valley Mall at the site of the old Lazarus store.

HAM EQUIPMENT, REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Even though the Morse speed requirement was set at 5 WPM for Technicians and Novices, Morse code continued to discourage many potential hams, who could point at

the dwindling importance of Morse in military and commercial communications worldwide. Following intense debate in the amateur community the ARRL proposed that a new, code-free Technician license be created, with access to bands above 30 MHz. The FCC agreed in 1991 and growth of the amateur service took off again, reaching over 700,000 US licensees by the end of the decade. Amid predictions of doom by some, the "codeless Techs" went on the air, built repeaters, joined clubs and emergency organizations and took leadership positions.

The Internet dramatically reshaped the world in a few short years and had a profound and increasing impact over time on amateur radio. The fascination of computers and the Internet attracted many of the young, technically inclined people who in previous years had often found their way into Amateur Radio. Beaver County radio clubs felt their effects. This challenge, and others, caused some to predict the death of our service at the hands of computers in general and the Internet in particular.

HAM CLUB AND MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The BVARA during the 1990s (sometimes known as the "low bands" club) continued to be socially active with Field Day, the Corn Roast, the PA QSO Party, the Christmas Dinner and other activities. Looking at the BVARA's QRM Newsletters from 1991, members could get together each

week for breakfast on Saturday morning at Cosmos and lunch on a different day at Lance's Port. Tom Merz, N4KRA, regularly contributed lists of shortwave broadcasts in English for the newsletter. MARS Net activity was also frequently listed. License exams were regularly offered by club members who were also Volunteer Examiners (VEs). Annual BVARA dues were \$15 with lower rates for other situations. Many packet radio demos were given at the monthly meetings along with construction tips in the newsletter for building "home brew" packet equipment. Space satellite frequencies were routinely listed. Announcements included club participation in the PA QSO Party from the home of Bud Householder, WA3JPJ, using the club call, W3SGJ. Bulletin Board System (BBS) phone numbers were regularly given as well as locations for computer aficionados like the O.C.U.G. for sharing ideas as well as software as the "hammer" had not yet fallen on software piracy. An amusing article appeared in one 1991 issue about applying for membership in the West Virginia Bow Hunter's Association.

In 1991 the club had 96 members. During the decade membership slowly declined to 64 members in 1998. The CB boom was over, conflicts with the other Beaver County club continued as well as some less than appropriate actions by members of both clubs. These and other factors drove membership down and further

BVARA SOCIAL EVENTS

Many of the club's social events were documented with pictures. Below are a few snapshots of these moments in time.



Top image: 1992 Christmas Party at Kathy's Kitchen;
Bottom image: Lunch at King's

deteriorated the image of amateur radio within the county.

Many of the BVARA social events were documented with photographs. One example of the level of participation is shown in the 1992 Christmas Party that was held at Kathy's Kitchen. Field Day was always a popular club event with a food event combined with the contest. In 1993 Eddie Woodson arrived to participate with his CW skills. He was a respected long-time member whose novice station appeared in the historical article about the 1950s. In 1994 George Hostovichak, NN3J, still an active BVARA member, is shown operating in the 1994 Field Day Contest. That same year, a popular group activity at the annual Corn Roast was a rousing game of "Throw the Toilet Seat" as shown in a 1994 picture (bottom R).

The 1995 issues of the QRM Newsletter described a Fox Hunt and also began including paid advertising on the last few pages. In 1997 the BVARA was designated as the Official Special Event Station for the PA QSO Party. The event was held on "Paine Mountain" in Independence Township – the home of Ron Paine, K3OIW. Ron heavily promoted participation in the hopes of putting six to eight



Images from top:
1994 George Hostovichak, NN3J,
operating on Field Day;
1993 Eddie Woodson with his key
for CW work on Field Day;
1994 Corn Roast with "Throw the
Toilet Seat" game

transmitters in simultaneous operation for the QSO Party. By 1999 the PA QSO Party by the BVARA Club included computers at each station with logging software. These were wired computer systems that were interconnected because wireless technology had not yet arrived. Bob Reid, N3SVM, was awarded the 1999 "Ham of the Year" by the

BVARA.

The 1995 Corn Roast picture captures some of the quantities of corn that were required and the number of volunteers that were needed to "shuck" the corn.

NEXT TIME

Next time we'll move ahead into the 21st Century and continue our final historical journey as we follow

the late history of the BVARA. We'll look at what was happening around the globe and locally during the new century. The resolution to the conflict between the two clubs was the result of a final event that required the passage of time and new members to join the organization so that healthy changes could bring about renewal. Stay tuned! ➔



1997 Field Day participant with a beautiful transportable setup



1995 Corn Roast volunteers "shucking" the corn



1994 Christmas Dinner with John Chickness, Sr., WN3W, Ham of the Year recipient

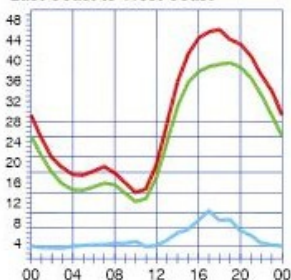


1999 PA QSO Party with Al Belardia, WA3GFM, trying to deal with some ladder line

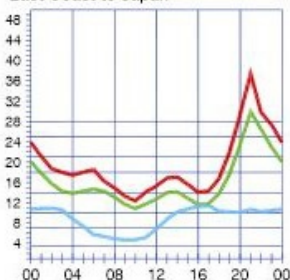
Propagation Charts

From the ARRL

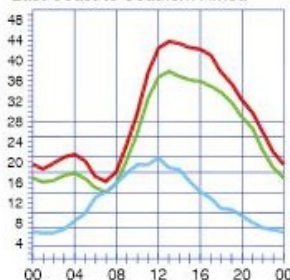
East Coast to West Coast



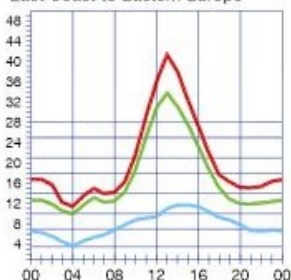
East Coast to Japan



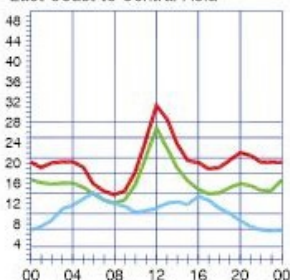
East Coast to Southern Africa



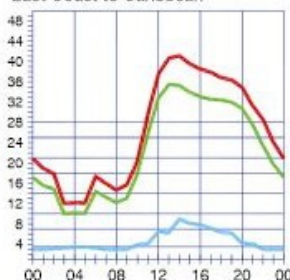
East Coast to Eastern Europe



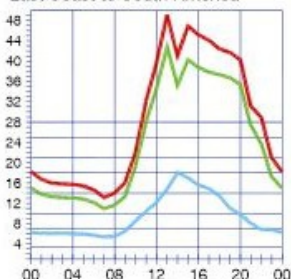
East Coast to Central Asia



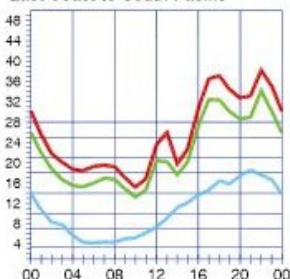
East Coast to Caribbean



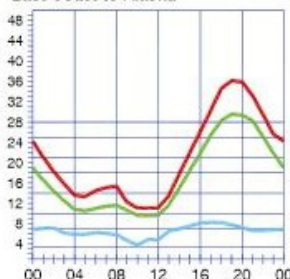
East Coast to South America



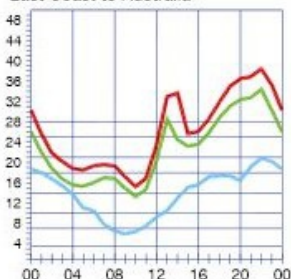
East Coast to South Pacific



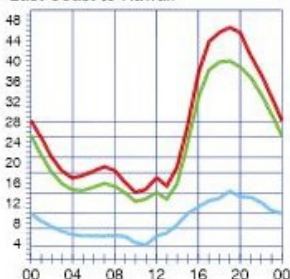
East Coast to Alaska



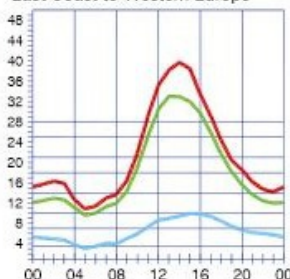
East Coast to Australia



East Coast to Hawaii



East Coast to Western Europe



PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed above is for November 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>

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)



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

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

November 14

December 7 - **BVARA Christmas Party**

2014

January 9

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10

August - **No meeting (Corn Roast, Date TBA)**

September 11

October 9

QSL CARD
Special 90th Anniversary Edition



NEXT MONTH

DECEMBER 2013

THE 21ST CENTURY

We arrive in the present after our
year-long journey through the
history of the BVARA.