THE eQRM

FEBRUARY 2018



Club President Jack Spencer, KZ3Z (right) presents the BVARA

"Ham Of The Year" award to

Bob Winkle, N3AZZ.

Congratulations Bob!

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the cover

Club President Jack Spencer, KZ3Z presented the BVARA "Ham Of The Year" award to Bob Winkle (left), N3AZZ at our first club meeting January of 2018. Bob was voted by his peers as the top Ham in our group. Congratulations Bob!

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter Wednesday 10 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8 9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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Who We Are

2017 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Mark Kavic, KB3LED

2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

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 PM.

Regular meetings are at 6:30 PM

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

2018

Feb 08

Mar 08

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

Jul 12

Aug Corn Roast TBA

Sep 13

Oct 11

Nov 08

Dec Christmas Party TBA







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This Month

BVARA Club Feature Presentation *This Month:*

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz K3SOM

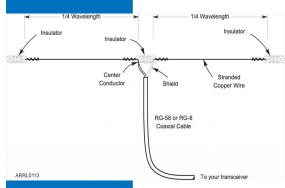
Topic:

Understanding Basic Antennas

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is intended to prepare you for successfully putting up your first antenna this Spring. We'll begin with some basic fundamentals about antennas that apply across the entire spectrum. Whether you're a beginning Technician with a 5-watt hand-held transceiver or a new General with a recently acquired transceiver that covers a wider swath of the radio spectrum, you'll soon discover that your antenna is the most important part of your ham radio station.

Buzzwords like resonance, SWR, wire, insulators, baluns, and coax cable will be explained. If you have a question, just ask it because that's what we want to do is lift that mystical fog around putting up an antenna. We'll enable you to better understand what's important and what isn't.



Next, we'll talk about a fundamental building block in most antennas, the dipole. The dipole concept now enables us to talk about your environment including nearby structures, height above ground, avoiding power lines, and so much more. We'll explore the impact of height above ground on where your antenna resonates, how it changes your antenna gain and directivity, and how to compensate for your unique environment. Can some of these parameters be measured? What about vertical versus horizontal polarization? Come to the meeting and find out!

But wait, there's more! We'll look at some basic antenna designs from international sources that look very intriguing. Some of them are very stealthy and can be esthetically added to your property without causing a protest march outside your front door. We'll keep the complexity at a minimum but give you some great ideas to think about as you then begin your acquisition of the relatively inexpensive materials that you will need to build that first antenna. This is one presentation that you won't want to miss!

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE, B.S. Electrical Engineering

More this Month

The Freedom
Square Diner in
Monaca has a great
wait staff. Come
let them take your
order.

The eQRM urges all

Beaver County licensed amateurs to participate in the County's RACES and ARES pro-

grams.

Weekly

Thursday Morning Breakfast (or you can have lunch)



The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

See you Thursday at



RACES / ARES
The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.

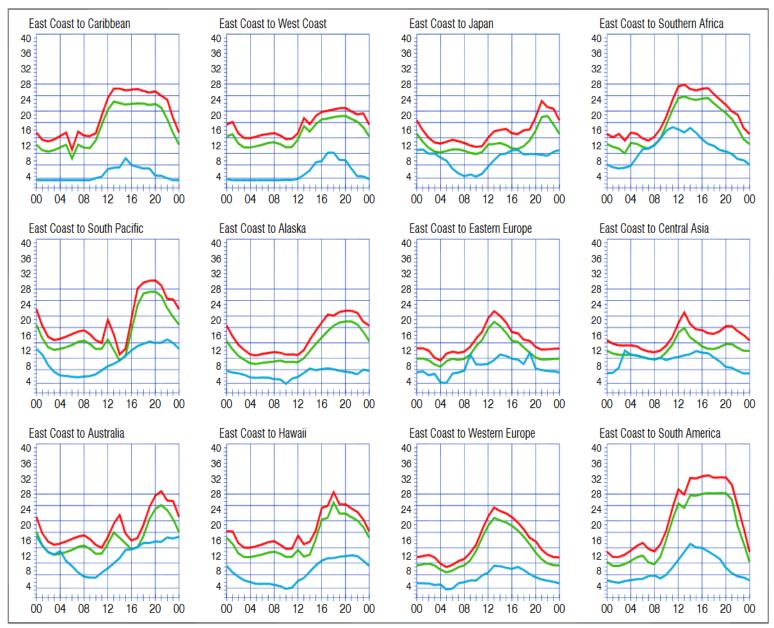


(131.8 PL)



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Propagation



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of February for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1500-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 QST, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 QST, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 73. This is a Very Low level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for February 2018.

If you would like more information in general, please visit http://www.arrl.org/propagation

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Get your License or Upgrade

If you are interested in getting your first FCC license or upgrading your current amateur radio license, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association holds VE Test sessions (Volunteer Examinations) the second Thursday of each month at the Nine One One center in

Ambridge Pennsylvania prior to our BVARA Club meeting. If there is no meeting there is no test session. Please come take your test with us!

For more information, contact: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM (724) 847-0610 k3som@arrl.net



VE TEST SESSIONS

Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003. Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings (the second Thursday of the month).

All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

- 1. 2 forms of I.D. one MUST be a photo I.D.
- 2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
- 3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
- 4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
- 5. The test fee of \$15 cash, check, or money order.

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New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing





Milt Rodgers - KC3KPR, Beaver, PA Technician*

Mark Cleveland - KC3KPS, Mt. Lebanon. PA Technician*

David Treusch - KA3QMO, Beaver, PA Novice to Technician*

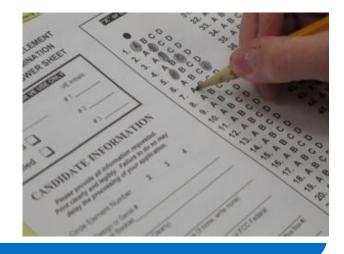
Alex Ward - KC3KPT, Pittsburgh, PA Technician*

Jim Shearer - KC3KPU, Baden, PA Technician*

Bill Fisher - KC3KKB, Cranberry Township, PA Extra

Bob Hawk - KC3KPV, Pittsburgh, PA Technician*

*Eligible for BVARA membership at no cost for 2018



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Membership Information

By becoming a BVARA member you help secure the future of Amateur Radio in Beaver County. Additionally, the BVARA receives a portion of each ARRL

membership you purchase!

Join the BVARA and ARRL

Sign up f	or:		Price			
B	VARA full membersh	ip	20.00			
\square By	VARA student membe	ership	15.00			
B	VARA associate mem	bership	10.00			
\Box B	VARA Child under 21	at home membership	5.00			
On	e year ARRL member	ship	49.00			
A	Club Donation					
ARRL M	ember? Yes N	0	Total	Enclosed		
Your Lice	ense Class (If you have Technician General	Name				
	Advanced					
U	Extra Class	Email				
		Phor				
	Your Call sign					
		Your Signat	ure			

Make check or money order payable to:
The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424
South Heights, Pa 15081



HIRST 7117

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our Twenty Third big year! Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 25th, 2018 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129 Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES TBA — *You've Got to Play to Win!*

ICOM-7300 100 W HF+6M Transceiver First Prize: Yaesu FT-7900R Dual Band V/UHF Transceiver Second Prize: Third Prize: LDT AT200 Pro2 Automatic Antenna Tuner Fourth Prize: Yaesu FT-65R Dual Band V/UHF Handheld



Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)! Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20 All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact: Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2018. Reservations received <u>after</u> February 1st, 2018 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance eight years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION					
Name:			Email:		
Address:			Phone: ()	
City:	State:	Zip:	— Г	Please make all checks payable to:	
Call Sign:		-		WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:	
Tables WITH Electricity:	X \$1	5.00 =		WASHFEST 2017 c/o Carol Danko KB3GMN	
Tables WITHOUT Electricity:	X \$12	2.00 =		4246 Seton Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244	
5 Or More Tables w/o:	X \$10	0.00 =		100000000000000000000000000000000000000	

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!

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Radio Sport

Contest Corral February 2018

Dat	Start - e-Time		sh te-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	1800	1	2200	28	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
2	1400	4	0200	All	YLRLYL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org/index.php
3	1400	3	2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	arizonascqrpions.apps-1and1.com
3	1400	3	2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.w0aa.org
3	1600	3	1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	www.agcw.org
3	1700	3	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
3	0000	4	2359	1.8-UHF	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
3	0001	4	2359	28	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org/
3	1200	4	1159	1.8-28	Black Sea Cup International	CW Ph	RS(T), club/org or ITU zone	bscc.ucoz.ru
3	1200	4	1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
3	1200	4	2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	www.rtty.fmre.mx
3	1600	4	2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), BC district or SPC	www.orcadxcc.org
4	0000	4	0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
5	1900	5	2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
6	0200	6	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
7	2000	7	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
10	1100	10	1300	7, 14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
10	1700	10	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
10	1900	10	2300	1.8	RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if any)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
10	0000	11	2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.cqwpxrtty.com
10	1000	11	1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), number of xmtrs, cat- egory, province (or "DX")	www.sarl.org.za
10	1200	11	1200	1.8-28	Dutch PACC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PA province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
10	1200	11	1200	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, prefecture/district/continent code	www.kcj-cw.com
10	1200	11	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
10	1500	11	1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr (inf any)	omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php
11	1200	11	1800	3.5, 7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	arabih.ba
12	0100	12	0259	3.5-14	CQC Winter QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradoqrpclub.org
12	1300	16	2359	All (no WARC)	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph	RS(T), Class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
14	0000	14	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM/YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
14	0130	14	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
14	1900	14	2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
17	0800	17	1000	7	SARL Youth Day Sprint	Ph	RS, age	www.sarl.org.za
17	1900	17	2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, name, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
17	0000	18	2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	W/VE: RST, SP; DX: RST, power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
17	1200	18	1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	Dig	RST, Oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
17	2300	18	2300	1.8-14	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	www.antiquewireless.org
18	1300	21	0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rcvr/xmtr model	www.classicexchange.org
19	0200	19	0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
21	1900	21	2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, 2-digit year first used a bug	www.agcw.org
22	1900	22	2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
23			2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Ph	W/VE: RS, SP. DX: RS, CQ zone	www.cq160.com/rules.htm
	0600		1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, F Department or serial	concours.r-e-f.org/reglements
24			1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, ON province (if any)	www.uba.be/en
24	1500		0159	1.8-50	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	scqso.com/rules
24			0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	NA: Name, SPC/DC. DX: Name	www.ncjweb.com
25	0900		1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
25			1600	3.5-14	SARL Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za
25	1500		0059	3.5-144	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	NC county or SPC	rars.org/ncqsoparty
28	0000		0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
28	2000	28	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

 $\underline{http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest\%20Corral/2018/February\%202018\%20Corral.pdf}$

www.arrl.org February 2018

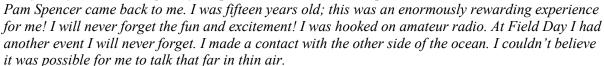
Bits and Pieces



For February I spoke with Grant Miller II, KB3QFQ for the "Interview with a Ham". Grant and I talked for a good while on the phone. He started by telling me how he and nine other Scouts wanted to get their "Radio Merit Badge". "Jack Spencer instructed us on radio". They took their Technician Class FCC tests also. Grant went on to say...

I passed my Tech Test. Jack Spencer gifted me a Wouxun hand held two meter radio. That was so kind and generous.

I was quite mic shy, I was very hesitant about transmitting my call sign for the first time. My very first contact was as I was walking out of a Boy Scout meeting. I keyed up the BVARA two meter repeater.



Being a ham operator is not too far a stretch for me. I think it was a natural progression. I have always been a tech guy. I make my living now by technology. I am an "IT" guy.

I find Emergency Communications very important. In the event of an emergency, I know Amateur Radio will get through. I hope that people do not scoff at ham radio and consider it only as a back-up. Cell phone communications can get overwhelmed; Ham radio will get through. By using nets and practicing disaster communications, Hams know how to efficiently handle communications in an emergency.

You asked what part of the hobby interests me the most. I truly enjoy field day, but it only happens once a year. One must have something else to fill the rest of the year. I enjoy many other features of the hobby; like support of my community. I was part of a special event station. Other hams and I provided event progression and safety communication for the Pittsburg Marathon. This was really cool. I like low power QRP and I have tried my hand at Morse code also. Currently I don't have a station set up. I am planning on having an HF station. I look forward to trying some digital modes.

I have a special desire to help others learn about Amateur Radio. I want to show them that Ham radio is fun. My passion is to demonstrate the "learn as you go" approach. Radio doesn't have to be complicated. You start where you are at and work from there. You don't have to have an expensive, huge or complicated station. Keep it simple. You have a whole life time to grow your station. Have fun, try new things and enjoy the learning journey.

From reading the EQRM "interview with a Ham" the last year or so, I see so many others that have not been on a "Fox Hunt" but would like to. Why doesn't someone in the Club sponsor an event like this? I would certainly support/attend. I think many others would too. Okay David I have to go, I will talk to you again, Happy New Year.

It was very entertaining to hear about Grant's entry into Amateur Radio. Grant conveyed a genuine gratefulness for what others have given and shared with him. Hams are a great group. If you are out there and have not tried Ham Radio; give it a try! The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association is a great Club to be a member of. Come to a "second Thursday of the month" meeting and learn about the amateur radio hobby. If you test (and pass your technician test) with us, we waive your first calendar year BVARA membership fee.

Be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby. Till next month, 73 KC3BXC.

Interview with a Ham

Name: Grant Miller II

Call sign and license class: KB3QFQ, General

Year of first FCC License: Jan 2008

Did you ever make a crystal radio? No, I have planned to.

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? I am trying to think... I don't think so.

Did you ever use CB radio? No, I have heard stories of the "old days".

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? By the technology of APRS, Digital modes. I am an IT Tech Guy.

Did you ever build a Ham Radio? No, not yet. It may be in my future.

What was your first radio? A Wouxun hand held. It was a gift from Jack Spencer.

What was your first antenna? The rubber duck on my Wouxun.

What is your current antenna & radio? The Wouxun hand held.

What are your favorite modes to operate? SSB phone.

Your most memorable contact? My first contact. I was fifteen years old and was walking out of a Scout Meeting. I had my gifted Wouxun and talked to Pam Spencer on 2 meters.

What was your most fun contact? I was at Field Day. I made a contact across the ocean. It amazed me to think I could talk to someone that far away with a radio.

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios) Field Day and Emergency Communications.

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? No. I just haven't had the opportunity yet.

Do you use a logging program? (what is it) Yes. At Field Day and at home. N1MM, I think.

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? That's a definite. Yes!

Do you use automation with your Ham Radio? Yes, with my father's radio at home.

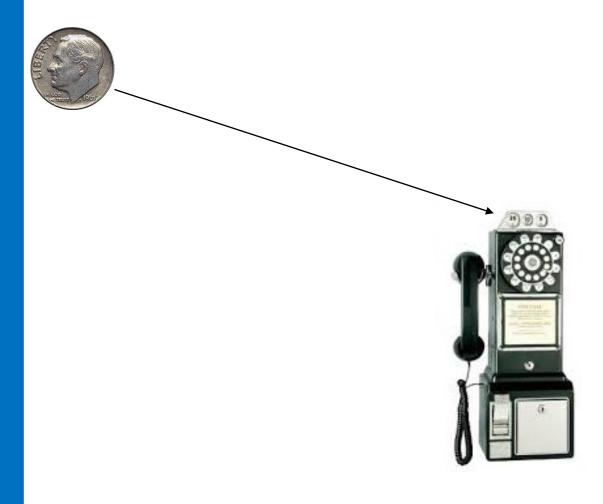
If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why? I would make the hobby less intimidating to new radio partakers. I would show them that it is simply a "learn as you go" fun hobby.

Where do you see ham radio in ten years? I hope that Amateur Radio is seen as a primary means of Emergency Communications... that Ham Radio is not out-of-date and doesn't rate being treated as just a back-up.

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It's Your Dime

Remember back when you could communicate by "Pay Phone" for ten cents? This page is for anyone who wants to communicate with the BVARA community and beyond. Please send me your article that you would like posted on this page. Please, only topics and language in good taste. As the editor I reserve the option to post it or ignore it. Send your dime to me at: kc3bxc.73@gmail.com



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Some Interesting Links



All of these are POD Casts

Radio Lab http://www.radiolab.org/series/podcasts/

TED Radio Hour https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour

ARRL the Doctor is in http://www.arrl.org/doctor

Ham Nation https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation

Solder Smoke http://www.soldersmoke.com/

One Hundred Watts and a Wire http://100wattsandawire.com/

Ham Radio 360 http://hamradio360.com/index.php/category/podcast/

Phasing Line http://phasinglinepodcast.libsyn.com/

Radio Amateur Information Network http://therainreport.com/

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Winter Field Day

BVARA:

Winter Field Day results have now been tallied and electronically submitted to the Winter Field Day Association. Despite about half an inch of rain, we stayed fairly dry and made quite a few contacts. The pictures were added to our picture site



at www.flickr.com/photos/w3sgi for everyone to see. The photos are of our outdoor set-up, our antenna being sorted out and our participants in action.

Winter Field Day Summaries for W3SGJ 10 WPA

- 372 Total Contacts
 - 4 Bands (160, 80, 40, 20)
- 54 ARRL/Canadian Sections
- 43 States/Provinces
- 1488 Points
- 5976 Claimed Score =

(372 x 4 bands x 2 power mult) + 3000 bonus points

31.8 QSOs/Hr (Idle time > 15 minutes not included

(Included in the 372 contacts are two from Hawaii)

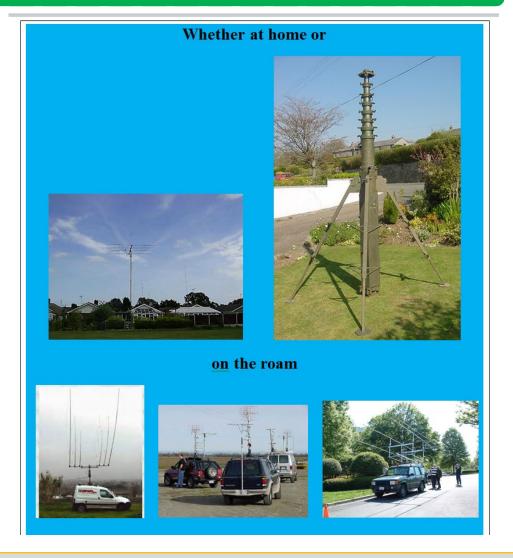




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For All Radio Operators



The Amateur's Code

CONSIDERATE ...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL ...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, a 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 family, job, school or community.

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

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