THE eQRM

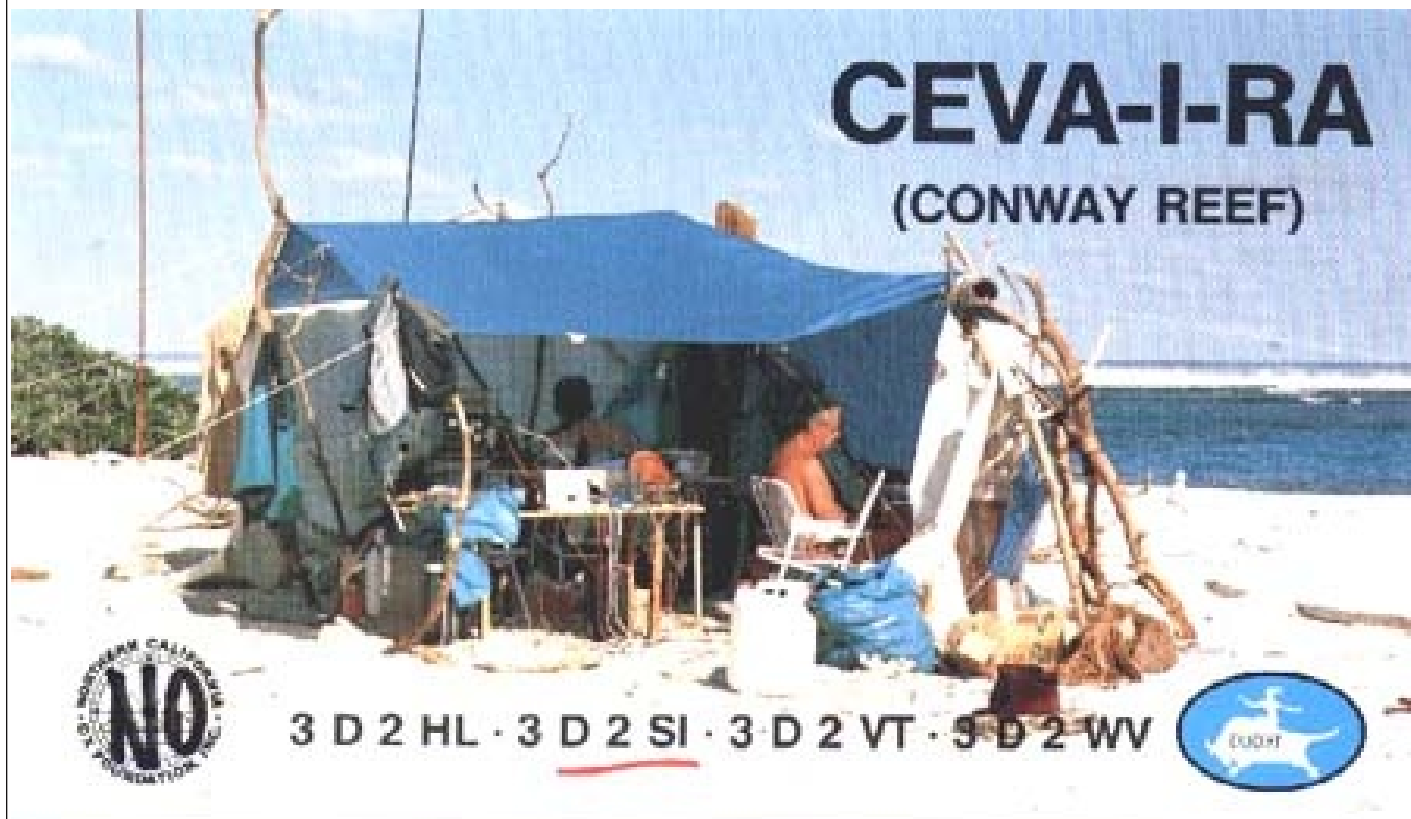CEVA-I-RA
(CONWAY REEF)

3 D 2 HL · 3 D 2 SI · 3 D 2 VT · 3 D 2 WV

This month's presentation: The History of DXpeditions

— THIS MONTH —

Bulletins
Hamfests and general announcements

The Month Ahead
Contests, VE testing, and Presentation Series

Propagation Charts
Propagation charts for the East Coast

Who We Are
Membership information, club officers, and meetings

CHECK IN TO THE NETS

Wednesday 2 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

Wednesday 10 Meter
9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

Bulletins

BVARA

Club Meeting
Thursday, Nov 13th

FREE Police Station Pizza will be served at the meeting, compliments of the BVARA!
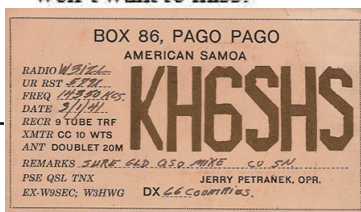
This Month:

Speaker:
Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:
History of DXpeditions

Desecheo Island Project 2005

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is one that has a world-wide following and a history dating back to the 1920s – the DXpedition. A DXpedition is considered an exotic place by amateur radio operators, perhaps because of its remoteness, access restrictions or simply because there are very few radio amateurs active from that place. We'll first look at how these 'expeditions' began, then recall some memorable ones to the North and South Poles, Thor Heyerdahl's 1947 Kon-Tiki trip and the 1948 'Expedition GonWaki'. Then we'll look at the rules for how a place becomes a DXCC candidate. But wait, there's more: we'll look at the dangers, the intense logistics preparation, the propagation forecasting, equipment and antenna selections, power, internet communications requirements, medical, food and water needs, just to mention a few items. Be sure to bring along your passport and sea sickness medications because this is one exciting presentation you won't want to miss!

Rich's Background:
Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE,
B.S. Electrical Engineering

VE TEST SESSION

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

Tests begin 5PM Thursday, November 13th (walk-ins allowed).
All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered.

All candidates 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.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Moratis, W3OUF
1199 Highland Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003
PHONE: 724-266-2866
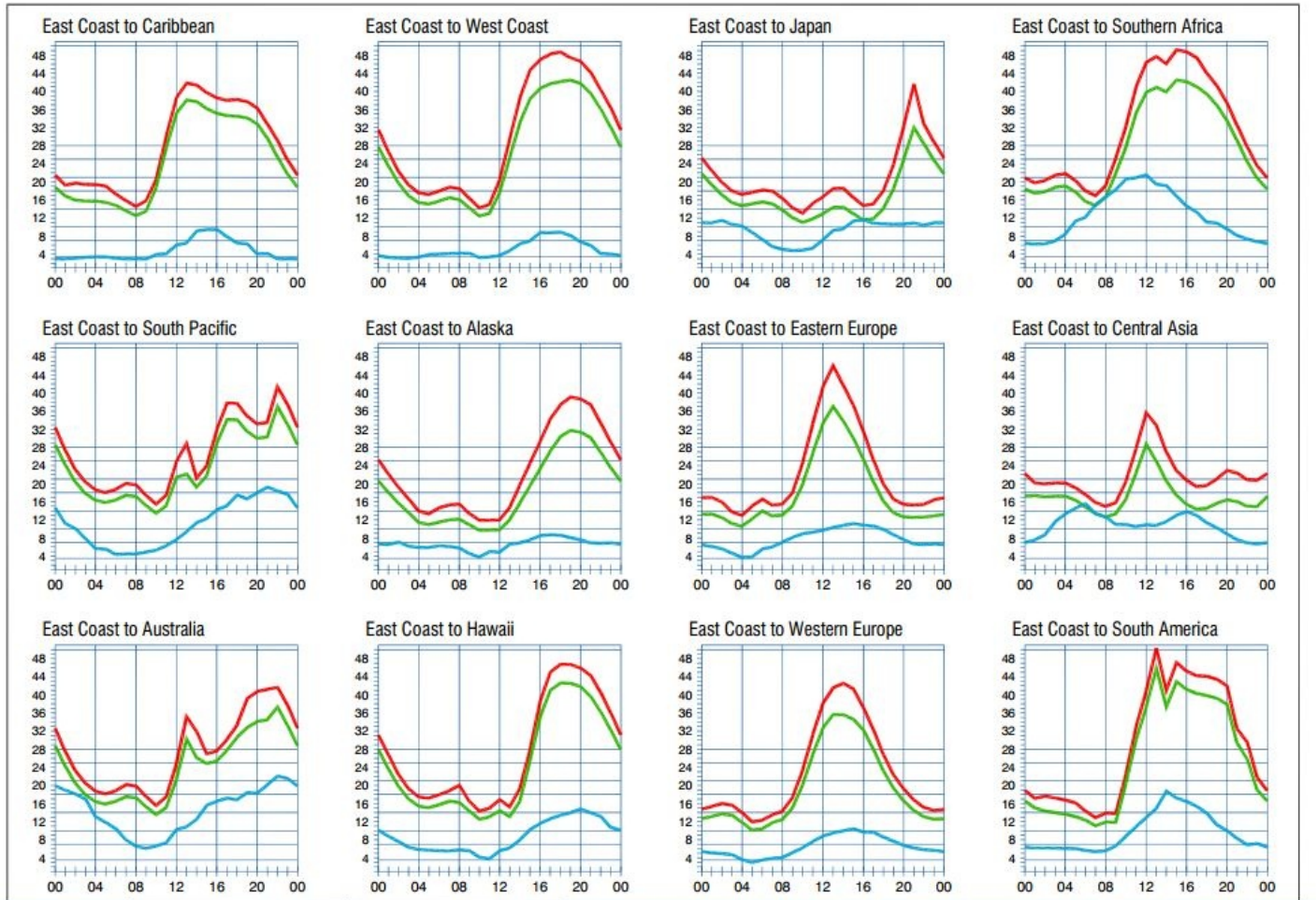cjmoratis@gmail.com

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BVARA Christmas Party

Don't forget to mark your calendar!

Saturday, December 13th

Details in December's eQRM

Propagation Charts

From the ARRL

East Coast to Caribbean · East Coast to West Coast · East Coast to Japan · East Coast to Southern Africa · East Coast to South Pacific · East Coast to Alaska · East Coast to Eastern Europe · East Coast to Central Asia · East Coast to Australia · East Coast to Hawaii · East Coast to Western Europe · East Coast to South America

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed above is for November 2014.

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)

Raspberry Flight Tracker Project

Copyright 2014 J. Richard Hanna, K3VYY

One of the things interesting about the Raspberry Pi© is that for a relatively inexpensive investment you can "dedicate" a computer to a task. No tying up the laptop or the desktop to perform a relatively simple repetitive task.

I saw such a project online recently which is to track aircraft using ADS-B. It works with the Flight Aware servers and uploads data from aircraft you "hear". I decided to try it. This project takes:

> An R820T dongle (the same dongle I used last year for the SDR receiver featured in QST)
>
> A Raspberry Pi© B+
>
> A plastic case
>
> A MicroSD card
>
> A wall wart power supply
> An RJ45 cable to connect to my home network.

You will need to download the PiAware software image from the FlightAware website (free) and the software to copy the image to the SD card, also on the FlightAware website. Your computer will have to have an SD card socket. Full information on the project is available at:
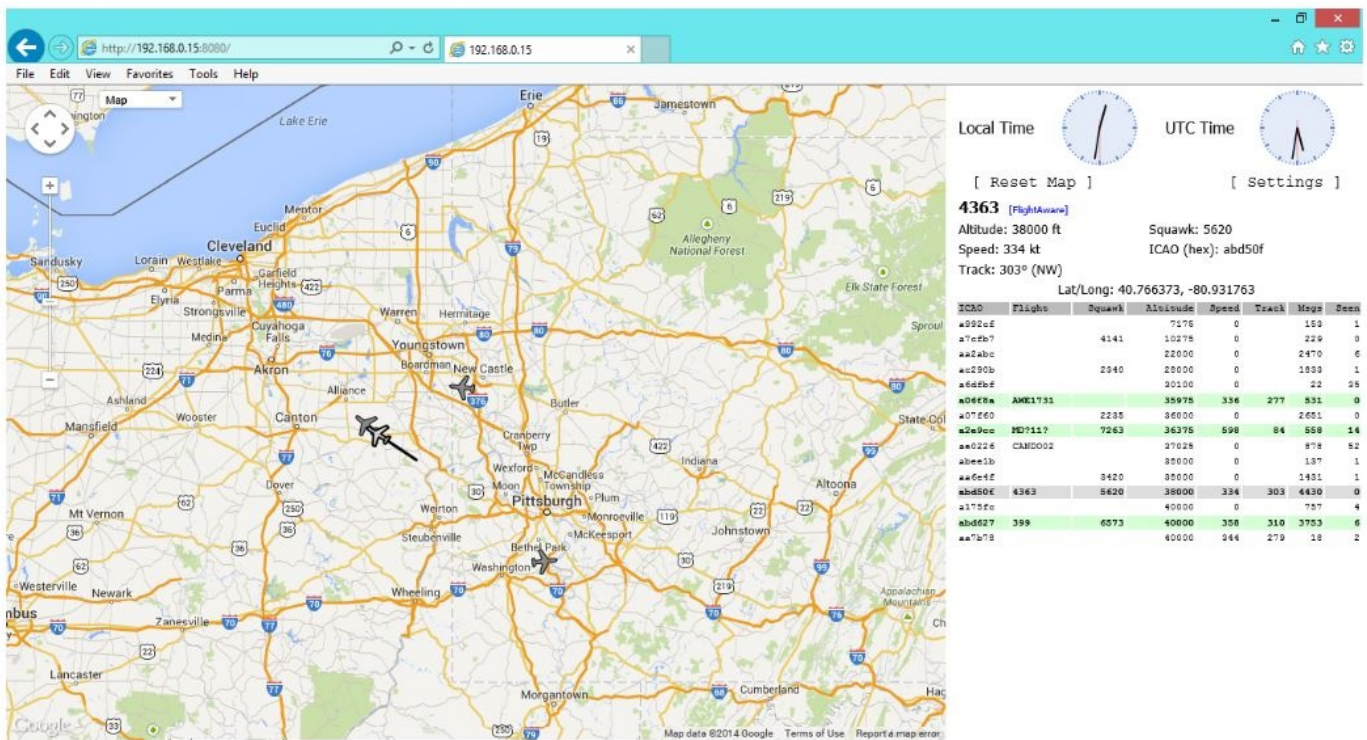
http://flightaware.com/adsb/piaware/build
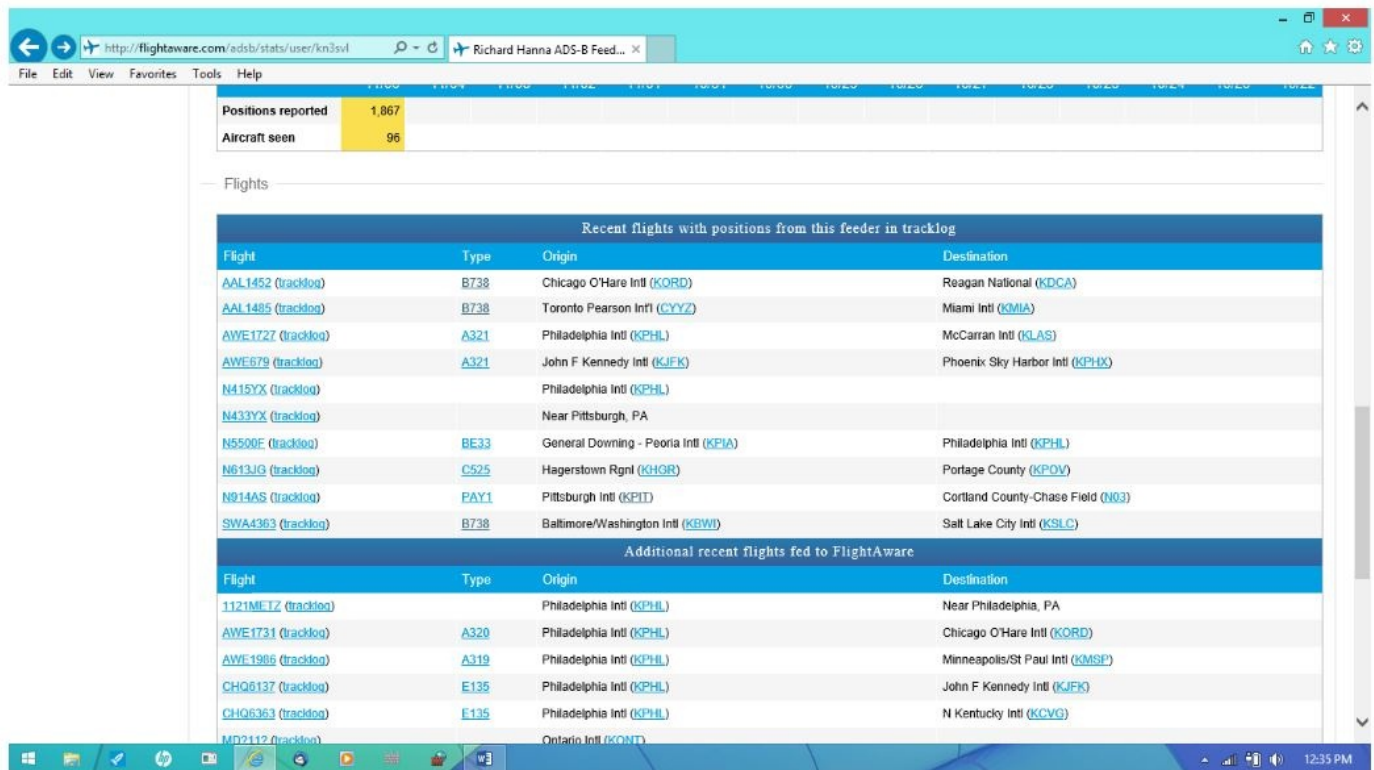
It was easy.

1. Download the img zip file, and the WinDiskImager software.
2. UnZip both programs. Run the WinDiskManager.exe program and put the software image on the SD card.
3. Put the computer in the case, plug in the R820T dongle to the USB port.
4. Plug the SD card into the socket on the computer.
5. Plug the included antenna into the dongle, locate the antenna as high as possible. (Mine sits on a decorative metal can Pam has up on a shelf)

6. Plug in the RJ45 cable to the computer and your home router.
7. Plug in the power supply
8. Wait about 5 minutes and follow the instructions on the web site to set up your account and register your "system".

In total, it took about 2 hours to set everything up and get registered. No building required! Just plugging together and loading software.

Above is a screen that shows what I am tracking. Notice the upper right corner with specific info on an aircraft I selected.

| Positions reported | 1,867 |
| Aircraft seen | 96 |

Flights

Recent flights with positions from this feeder in tracklog

Flight	Type	Origin	Destination
AAL1452 (tracklog)	B738	Chicago O'Hare Intl (KORD)	Reagan National (KDCA)
AAL1485 (tracklog)	B738	Toronto Pearson Int'l (CYYZ)	Miami Intl (KMIA)
AWE1727 (tracklog)	A321	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	McCarran Intl (KLAS)
AWE679 (tracklog)	A321	John F Kennedy Intl (KJFK)	Phoenix Sky Harbor Intl (KPHX)
N415YX (tracklog)		Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	
N433YX (tracklog)		Near Pittsburgh, PA	
N5500F (tracklog)	BE33	General Downing - Peoria Intl (KPIA)	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)
N613JG (tracklog)	C525	Hagerstown Rgnl (KHGR)	Portage County (KPOV)
N914AS (tracklog)	PAY1	Pittsburgh Intl (KPIT)	Cortland County-Chase Field (N03)
SWA4363 (tracklog)	B738	Baltimore/Washington Intl (KBWI)	Salt Lake City Intl (KSLC)

Additional recent flights fed to FlightAware

Flight	Type	Origin	Destination
1121METZ (tracklog)		Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	Near Philadelphia, PA
AWE1731 (tracklog)	A320	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	Chicago O'Hare Intl (KORD)
AWE1986 (tracklog)	A319	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	Minneapolis/St Paul Intl (KMSP)
CHQ6137 (tracklog)	E135	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	John F Kennedy Intl (KJFK)
CHQ6363 (tracklog)	E135	Philadelphia Intl (KPHL)	N Kentucky Intl (KCVG)
MD2112 (tracklog)		Ontario Intl (KONT)	

12:35 PM

Here is a screen showing recent aircraft tracked at my site. Included is Flight Number, Type of aircraft, Point of Origin and Destination.

So, fun little project, can leave it running all the time without tying my "mainframe". And the point is not to convince you to do this specifically, but to encourage you to find a simple little project and try out a Raspberry Pi©! There are hundreds of things you can do for just a few bucks.

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!

Ham Radio Apps for your iGadget

From K0NR.com

The Completely Updated Incomplete List of Ham Radio iPhone Apps
28 October 2014 by K0NR

It is about time I updated one of my more popular posts about my favorite ham radio apps on the iPhone and IPad. As usual, I will focus on free or low cost (less than $5) apps that I am actively using. Some apps have just disappeared from iTunes and new ones have emerged. While this list is completely updated, it is still incomplete, because there are so many apps to choose from.

From the Simple Utility Category:

Ham I Am (Author: Storke Brothers, Cost: Free) A handy app that covers some basic amateur radio reference material (Phonetic alphabet, Q Signals, Ham Jargon, Morse Code, RST System, etc.) Although I find the name to be silly, I like the app!

Maidenhead Converter (Author: Donald Hays, Cost: Free) Handy app that displays your grid locator, uses maps and does lat/lon to grid locator conversions.

HamClock (Author: Ben Sinclair, Cost: $0.99) A simple app that displays UTC time and local time. This one reads out to the second.

There are quite a few good apps for looking up amateur radio callsigns:

CallBook (Author: Dog Park Software, Cost: $1.99) Simple ham radio callbook lookup with map display.

Call Sign Lookup (Author: Technivations, Cost: $0.99) Another simple ham radio callsign lookup with map display.

There are a few repeater directory apps out there and my favorite is:

RepeaterBook (Author: ZBM2 Software, Cost: Free) This app is tied to the RepeaterBook.com web site, works well and is usually up to date.

For a mobile logbook (and other tools):

HamLog (Author: Pignology, Cost: $0.99) This app is much more than a logbook because it has a bunch of handy tools including UTC Clock, Callsign Lookup, Prefix list, Band Plans, Grid Calculator, Solar Data, SOTA Watch, Q Signals and much more.

To track propagation reports, both HF and VHF:

WaveGuide (Author: Rockwell Schrock, Cost: $2.99) This is an excellent tool for determining HF

and VHF propagation conditions at the touch of a finger.

If you are an EchoLink user, then you'll want this app:

EchoLink (Author: Synergenics, Cost: Free) The EchoLink app for the iPhone.

There are quite a few APRS apps out there. I tend to use this one because my needs are pretty simple….just track me, baby!

Ham Tracker (Author: Kram, Cost: $2.99) APRS app, works well, uses external maps such as Google and aprs.fi. "Share" feature allows you to send an SMS or email with your location information.

Satellite tracking is another useful app for a smartphone:

Space Station Lite (Author: Craig Vosburgh, Cost: Free) A free satellite tracking app for just the International Space Station. It has annoying ads but its free.

ProSat Satellite Tracker (Author: Craig Vosburgh, Cost: $9.99) This app is by the same author as ISS Lite, but is the full-featured "pro" version. Although it is a pricey compared to other apps, I recommend it.

For Summits On The Air (SOTA) activity, there are a few apps:

Pocket SOTA (Author: Pignology, Cost: $0.99) A good app for finding SOTA summits, checking spots and accessing other information.

SOTA Goat (Author: Rockwell Schrock, Cost: $4.99) This is my favorite app for SOTA activity (finding summits, checking/posting spots and alerts, etc.)

For ham radio license training, I like the HamRadioSchool.com apps. (OK, I am biased here as I contribute to that web site.)

HamRadioSchool Technician (Author: Peak Programming, Cost: $2.99) There are a lot of Technician practice exams out there but this is the best one, especially if you use the HamRadioSchool.com license book.

HamRadioSchool General (Author: Peak Programming, Cost: $2.99) This is the General class practice exam, especially good for use with the HamRadioSchool.com book.

Morse Code is always a fun area for software apps:

Morse-It (Author: Francis Bonnin, Cost: $0.99) This app decodes and sends Morse audio. There are fancier apps out there but this one does a lot for $1

Who We Are

Membership Information and Club Officers

QSL CARD
Special 90th Anniversary Edition

2014 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: George Caffro, N3HOJ

Director: Denny Herbuth, KR3DX

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Newsletter Editor: Denny Herbuth, KR3DX

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

2014

November 13

December- No meeting (Christmas Party)

2015

January 8
February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11