

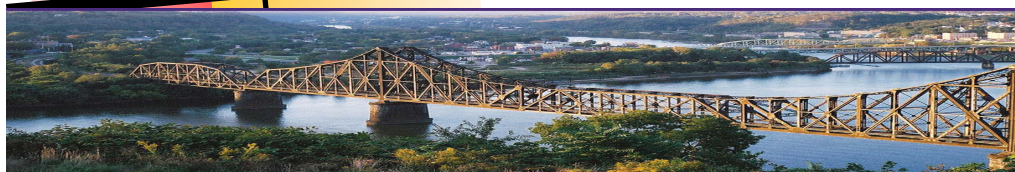
THE BEAVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
WWW.W3SGJ.ORG  
BEAVER COUNTYS ONLY 75 YEAR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB!

# The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R  
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume 2, Issue 1  
January 6, 2008

Bob, WA3ZRM - Editor



## COMMENTARY: WHAT IS KILLING HAM RADIO?

*(Editor's Note: The following article is a commentary and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ARRL or the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association.)*

What follows is reprinted from the qrz.com forum thread:

<http://www.qrz.com/bin/ikonboard.cgi?s=d5ac35ab9c359e884365b5e769902a05;act=ST:f=7;t=179519>

The article was written by Jayson P Galyon, KI4SHQ, in response to a post concerning CW and the death of Amateur Radio.

Hello, I hope that you all will forgive me if I start to rant on this. But I am a fairly new ham I got my ticket last year the week before Thanksgiving. I did not have to know code or look at a schematic like the tests of old but I felt that I still had accomplished something. Getting my ham ticket

was and still is a red letter day in my life.

However, upon getting my ticket and my first rig, I learned of the uglier side of amateur radio that I didn't think existed due to always believing that a ham was courteous and respectful to others.

I learned that a lot of the regulars on 75m phone and on 20m as well are not very nice at all, especially during a contest weekend. And in my never ending quest to find someone to rag chew with on the ham bands I would encounter things on VHF like repeaters that no one uses or repeaters and HF frequencies that are always active but only by a clique and they either ignore you entirely or they tie up the frequency so much that no one other than their clique would want to attempt to say anything.

But cutting right to the chase, what I think the factor in what could "kill"

ham radio is the fact that the new generations are not learning about the radio art as opposed to children and teenagers in the 60s. The word is not getting out about ham radio, people either have no idea what it is or they see it as a group of people mobilized during disasters or a group of old men who tinker with electronics. I was actually once asked when I told a person that I got my Ham License, they asked me what types of ham could I slice with that (and she was dead serious).

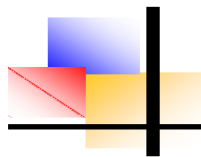
I think that amateur radio clubs should have public exhibitions in places such as parks during field day and also other times of the year where the hams can show off a lot of their toys and get people curious about amateur radio again. I recently helped with my club here with a cub/boy scout jamboree it was during the JOTA  
(Continued on Page 3)

### Inside this issue:

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### Newsletter & Information Exchange Program

- Have your club's latest news and happenings printed here for FREE!
- Is your club having a VE session or classes? Let me know and I'll help spread the word!
- Planning a Hamfest? Drop me a line and get some FREE PR in the eQRM!
- Having an ARRL night, special speaker or program? The eQRM can help by spreading the news within our region!



# JANUARY 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed     | Thu      | Fri | Sat       |
|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|-----|-----------|
|     |     | 1   | 2       | 3        | 4   | DINNER 5  |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | NETS 9  | MEET 10  | 11  | DINNER 12 |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | NETS 16 | LUNCH 17 | 18  | DINNER 19 |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | NETS 23 | LUNCH 24 | 25  | DINNER 26 |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | NETS 30 | LUNCH 31 | 1   | DINNER 2  |
| 3   | 4   | 1   | NETS 5  | LUNCH 6  | 7   | DINNER 8  |

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association meets at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

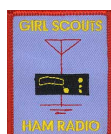
Don't forget to listen to the BVARA club nets every Wednesday Night! 2 Meter Net on 145.31MHz 100Hz PL at 8:30PM and the 10 Meter Net 28.370 QSY +/- 10 at 9:00PM. Also, don't forget the Rip Vanwinkle Net on 2 meters at 7:00AM daily.

The BVARA 10 Meter Net Lunch group will be meeting this Thursday at Kings in Center Twp at 11:00 AM. The Saturday Dinner group will be meeting on January 12 at 6:30 PM. At the time of this printing, the location is unknown. All area amateurs are invited attend these outings.

**FEBRUARY VE TEST SESSION:** The BVARA sponsors ARRL VE examinations at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building, 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA. For more info on the test session, dates and times, contact Tony, KE3ED @ 724-774-4173 or by e-mail at [KE3ED@arrrl.net](mailto:KE3ED@arrrl.net).

## 2008 BVARA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**President:** Gary Hutchinson, KA3TYK  
**First Vice President:** Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM  
**Second Vice President:** Debbie Mehutes, KB3EAQ  
**Acting Secretary:** Phyliss Pander, N3KUG  
**Secretary Elect:** Norm Trunick (Call Sign Pending)  
**Treasurer:** Shawn Hastwell, KB8UDE  
**Director:** Chris Moratis, W3OUF  
**Director:** Jack Spencer, WB1BSU  
**Trustee:** Tony Petrucci, KE3ED/W3SGJ  
**Chief Engineer:** David Heim, KA3SMF



## CLUB NOTES

The following e-mail was sent to me by the Triple A Amateur Radio Association President, Frank Cole, N3TN.

Just a short note to give you some info on the passing of Triple A Second VP, K3NPX –DAVID J. LEISER.

Dave passed away due to a massive heart attack in the Medical Center of Beaver County on New Years Day, 2008.

He will be laid out at:

CAMPBELL'S FUNERAL HOME  
 14<sup>th</sup> St. & 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

Visitation is Friday, January 4, 2008

from 2-4 PM and 7-9 PM.

The Funeral is Saturday, 2008 at 11 AM.

Burial will be at the Beaver Cemetery.

Sorry to have to pass this news.

**Frank Cole, N3TN**

**President, Triple A Amateur Radio Association**

# COMMENTARY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

weekend and we set up some stations there and I took my TS570 and a straight key with me and I had a large crowd of kids and adults who were very fascinated by amateur radio and telegraphy.

I think a way to help amateur radio is for us to educate more and for older hams to have patience with the younger hams or people new to HF if we do something such as call CQ on a calling frequency or on a frequency that is a net runs on. Which happened to me because I was excited and nervous at the same time and I was ready for a QSO and I was so excited that I forgot to ask "is this frequency in use?" and I learned the hard way after being jumped on to pretty harshly that I was on the frequency of a maritime mobile net. I hear about this thing a lot and I know several people who do not want to upgrade from Technician due to horror stories they hear on HF. I learned more about HF and learned what not to do. But that goes on to another story.

If you have read up to this far thank you and sorry for ranting. My last issue which I think is hurting amateur radio is that there is not much that really appeals to kids and teenagers these days. "Why spend all that money and set up an antenna when I can call who I want on my cell phone or talk to them on ventrillo or teamspeak?" Which this question goes back to my belief we need to educate about ham radio in all aspects of the radio art and also show off the digital modes because I believe that they could possess a quality that would attract people but at the same time show off the older

methods as well even CW (which I learned after the code requirement was dropped just because it seemed neat to me and I heard there were more polite people to QSO with on CW).

I almost lost myself in my rants and reminiscing here are the things I think are killing ham radio in a nutshell.

Cliques;

Lack of patience from older hams;  
Lack of publicity and methods to bring it (amateur radio) to public interest;

HOAs;

Them vs Us Mentality (old hams vs new hams; know code vs no code; and, contesters vs ragchewers.)

**We are all hams and we must stick together no matter how new or old someone is or what they do as an amateur or what mode they use.**

I thank you all for taking the time to read my little rant here. I am still a new ham who may not know a whole lot yet but I am always trying and experimenting with amateur radio. And I'm always willing to learn from those who can teach me new things (especially about SSTV or how to use a rigblaster pro).

de KI4SHQ

**Reply de K7MH**

Actually SSB is killing it.

**Reply de N5FOG**

Actually your all wrong, it's the WIN-LINKERS that are killing it.

**Reply de AB8XA**

You're both right. Plus...

It's the whacker EMCOMMS that are killing it;

It's the Japanese manufacturers killing it;  
It's the new know it alls that are killing it;  
It's the Internet forums that are killing it;  
It's the intolerant OTs that are killing it;  
It's the contesters that are killing it;  
It's the pro-coders that are killing it;  
It's the no-coders that are killing it;  
It's the DXers that are killing it;  
It's the nets that are killing it;  
It's MFJ junk that's killing it;  
It's the ARRL that's killing it; and,  
It's the FCC that's killing it.

What's killing amateur radio is radio amateurs... those who brag to others about how diverse the hobby is yet have no tolerance for anyone who isn't in their segment of it.

de AB8XA







# THE HAM'S HOROSCOPE

BY MADAM ZELDA, ST1ARS

| That's Gold | I'm Happy | Can't Complain | Not Happy | Turn down the heat |         |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|
|             |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Sign        | Romance   | Home & Family  | Finances  | Career             | General |
| Aries       |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Taurus      |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Gemini      |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Cancer      |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Leo         |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Virgo       |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Libra       |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Scorpio     |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Sagittarius |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Capricorn   |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Aquarius    |           |                |           |                    |         |
| Pisces      |           |                |           |                    |         |

## CONTESTS for January 12 thru 17

**North American QSO Party** -- CW, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jan 12-0600Z Jan 13. Frequencies: 160-10-meters. Categories: SOAB and M2, 100 W power limit, operate a maximum of 10 hours (off times must be at least 30 min and M2 entries may operate the entire contest). Exchange: Name and S/P/C. Score: QSOs × States + Province + NA DXCC countries (count each once per band). For information:

[www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php). Logs due Jan 27 via Web entry form at [www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php), to [cwnaqp@ncjweb.com](mailto:cwnaqp@ncjweb.com) or Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farndale Ave, Studio City, CA 91604.

**DARC 10-meter Contest** -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z-1059Z Jan 13. Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-28.700 MHz, work stations once only. Categories: SO-Mixed Mode and SO-CW. Exchange: RS(T) and serial number, DL stations add DOK code. QSO points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QSOs × WAE and DXCC entities + DOK codes. For more information: [www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm). Logs due 3 weeks after the contest to [10m-contest@dxhf.darc.de](mailto:10m-contest@dxhf.darc.de).

**NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint** -- sponsored by the North American QRP CW Club from 0130Z-0330Z Jan 17. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC member number (Pwr for non-members). QSO points: member -- 2 pts, non-member -- 1 pt. Score: QSO points × S/P/C, multiply by 2 if all straight key or by 1.5 if all bug. For more information and the yearly contest schedule: [www.arm-tek.net/~voel](http://www.arm-tek.net/~voel). Logs due 6 days after the contest to [naqcc33@alltel.net](mailto:naqcc33@alltel.net) or Tom Mitchell, WY3H, 210 Garretts Run Rd, Kittanning, PA 16201.

**Midwinter Contest** -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Dutch YL Committee, CW from 1400Z-1800Z Jan 12, SSB from 1000Z-1400Z Jan 13. Frequencies: 80-10-meters, SSB 3.600-3.650, 7.080-7.090, 14.270-14.300, 21.270-21.300, 28.470-28.500 MHz. Categories: YL-SSB, YL-CW, OM-SSB, OM-CW, SWL. Exchange: RS(T) and serial number, OMs start with 001 and YLs start with 2001. QSO points: YL -- 5 pts, OM -- 3 pts. Score: QSO points × DXCC entities counted once per mode. For more information: [www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm](http://www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm). Logs due Feb 15 to [ickoekkoek@home.nl](mailto:ickoekkoek@home.nl) or PA3GQG-Contestmanager Midwintercontest, Keulenheide 1, 6373 AP Landgraaf, The Netherlands.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Contests Continued from Page 4

### Worked All Britain Top Band Phone Contest, from 1900Z-

2300Z Jan 12. For more information:

[www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest/rules.php](http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest/rules.php).

Logs due Feb 3 to [g0bfj@worked-all-britain.co.uk](mailto:g0bfj@worked-all-britain.co.uk) or Brian Stocks, 96 North St, Lockwood, Huddersfield HD1 3SL, England.

### Hunting Lions in the Air --

CW/Phone, sponsored by the South African District 410B of the International Association of Lions Clubs from 0000Z Jan 12-2400Z Jan 13. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work stations once per band regardless of mode. Categories: SOAB, MS. Exchange: RST and serial number, Lion club members also sign /L or "Lion" and send name, district and club name. The Midrand Lions station ZS6LCM/L will act as the Melvin Jones Memorial club this year. QSO points: non-Lion station -- 1 pt, with Lions -- 5 pts, 25 points with ZS6LCM/L.

Score: QSO points  $\times$  number of Lions clubs worked (count only once). For more information:

[www.sarl.org.za/under](http://www.sarl.org.za/under)

"Activities." Logs due Feb 28 to [rad.handfield-jones@pixie.co.za](mailto:rad.handfield-jones@pixie.co.za) or to Lion Rad Handfield-Jones, ZS6RAD, Lions Club of Midrand, PO Box 1548, Halfway House, 1685, South Africa.

**070 PSKFest** -- sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2359Z Jan 12. Frequencies: 80-10 m. Categories: SOSB and SOAB (QRP, MP <50 W, HP <100 W). Exchange: RST and S/P/C. QSO points: 1pt/QSO. Score: QSO points  $\times$  S/P/C (counted only once). For more information:

[www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html](http://www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html).

Logs due Feb 15 to [jbudzowski@verizon.net](mailto:jbudzowski@verizon.net) or Jay Budzowski, N3DQU, 109 S Northview Ave, New Castle, PA 16102.



**ARRL**  
The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

**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"/> BVARA SPOUSE/CHILD MEMBERSHIP | 5.00      |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR ARRL MEMBERSHIP      | 39.00     |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORLD RADIO SUBSCRIPTION      | 21.00     |          |
|  | Subtotal: | _____    |
| ARRL MEMBER ?    YES    NO                             | Donation  | _____    |
|  | Total:    | _____    |

Your License Class (if any):

- ☐ Novice  
☐ Technician  
☐ General  
☐ Advanced  
☐ Extra

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**

## DX NEWS VIA THE ARRL

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by F6AJA, NC1L, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**BOUVET ISLAND, 3Y.** Petrus, ZS6GCM is QRV as 3Y0E and will be active for the next few weeks. He has been active on 20 meters around 1500 to 1700z. QSL via LZ3HI.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Jacques, F6HMJ will be QRV as 6W/F6HMJ from January 8 to 29. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

**ANTARCTICA.** Felix, DL5XL is QRV as DP0GVN from Neumayer 2 Base for the next three months while working on setting up Neumayer 3 Base. QSL via DL5EBE.

**ST. BARTHELEMY, FJ.** Yuichi, JR2KDN and Paul, F6EXV will be QRV as FJ/JR2KDN using RTTY and FJ/F6EXV using CW and SSB, respectively, from January 6 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

**MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO.** Jouko, OH1RX, Pertti, OH2PM, Veijo, OH6KN and Juha, OH8NC, will be QRV from Nuku Hiva, IOTA OC-027, from January 9 to 22. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations on simultaneously. QSL via OH2PM.

**JERSEY, GJ.** Sylvain, F4EGD is QRV as MJ/F4EGD and has been

Active using RTTY on 40 meters around 2230 and 0000z. QSL to home call.

**LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0.** Tom, DL2OBO is QRV as HB0/DL2OBO from Chalet Barsula until January 9. Activity is mainly on 160 to 40 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

**ITALY, I.** Operators from Reggio Emilia will be QRV as II4TRI from January 5 to 20 to celebrate 211 years of Trikolore, or the Italian flag. QSL via IK4SWX.

**DJIBOUTI, J2.** Mala, F4FMI is QRV as J20MB until the end of March. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

**AMERICAN SAMOA, KH8.** Larry, AH8LG has been active on 6 meters between 2200 to 0200z. QSL direct.

**PERU, OA.** Jorge, OA4BHY, Daniel, DL5YWM, Rene, DL2JRM and Bodo, DL3OCH are QRV as OC1I from Lobos de Tierra, IOTA SA-076, until January 7. QSL via DL5WM.

**GABON, TR.** Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR from Libreville until January 12. Activity is mostly on 20 meters around 0600 to 0700z. He may try to make a short operation from an island in the IOTA AF-043 IOTA group. QSL via F6AJA.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.** Randy, V73RY is QRV from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, until May.



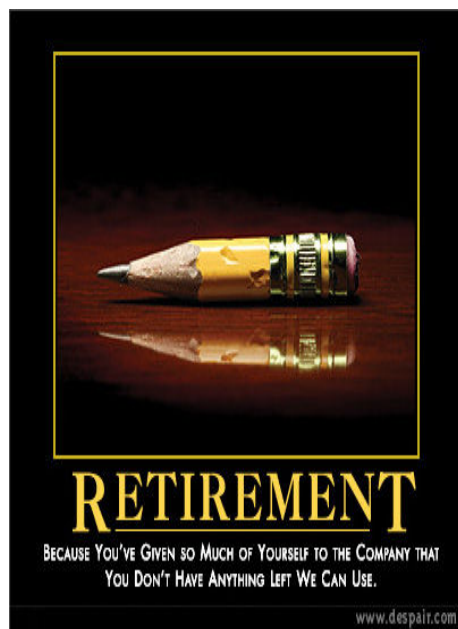
QSL via N7RO.

**ANTARCTICA.** Ludwig, ZS6WLC is QRV as ZS7BYRD from the Antarctic base SANAE IV until February. He is usually active on 20 meters using CW, SSB and AM. QSL via operator's instructions.

**OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Liberia, 5L2MS, 2007 operation; Angola, D2NX, 2007 operation; and Seychelles, S79UU and S79AB, 2007 operation.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The ARRL RTTY Roundup, NCCC CW Sprint, EUCW 160-Meter CW Contest and Kid's Day Contest are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see January QST, page 98 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

## Humor de KZ3Z



# Propagation de K7RA

It's a new year, and now time to review 2007 sunspot cycle progression. In 2006 there was a consensus that solar minimum would occur in early 2007, but we actually may not be there still. The latest projection in the Weekly Preliminary Report and forecast (see <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/> and page 8 in the January 2 issue) shows the bottom of the cycle between December 2007 and April 2008. Note the two predictions for the next cycle, a high estimate and a low estimate, reflecting the split consensus for the Cycle 24 prediction.

Also note the monthly (even though the URL says weekly) forecast issued on January 2 at, <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt> shows a cycle minimum for February 2008.

Exactly one year ago in Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP001 we wrote that 2007 would be "the year we'll likely see the end of sunspot Cycle 23, the beginning of Cycle 24, and the minima between cycles." Now a year later we might say the same about 2008.

The yearly average of the daily sunspot numbers for 1999-2007 were 136.3, 173, 170.3, 176.6, 109.2, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1 and 12.8. Average daily solar flux for the same years was 153.7, 179.6, 181.6, 179.5, 129.2, 106.6, 91.9, 79.9 and 73.1.

Compare 2006-2007 above with the last solar minimum, when in 1995-1997 the yearly averages of sunspot numbers were 28.7, 13.2 and 30.7.

In February 2007 we began calculating and tracking a 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers. This was done to try to spot trends. A three month period seemed like it might give us some smoothing of the often volatile daily numbers, but much shorter than the 12-month smoothed values.

Apr 06 38.5  
May 06 39.7  
Jun 06 28.9  
Jul 06 23.3

Aug 06 23.5  
Sep 06 21.2  
Oct 06 24.1  
Nov 06 23.1  
Dec 06 27.3  
Jan 07 22.7  
Feb 07 18.5  
Mar 07 11.2  
Apr 07 12.2  
May 07 15.8  
Jun 07 18.7  
Jul 07 15.4  
Aug 07 10.2  
Sep 07 5.4  
Oct 07 3  
Nov 07 6.9



Why is November the last month on our list? Because it is the center month for the latest 3-month average, which is for October through December. If we were instead calculating a 12-month moving average, at the end of December the latest number would center on June 2007.

Last week's bulletin reported 10-meter openings, and said that E-skip was unexpected at this time of year. Actually there is a small peak in sporadic-E propagation centered around Winter Solstice, about 1/5 to 1/8 the intensity of the Summer sporadic-E season. The propagation reported by K7HP occurred just hours from the precise time of solstice.

One of several who spoke up concerning Winter E season in response to last week's bulletin was Bill Van Alstyne, W5WVO of Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Bill said that Winter E-skip is, "more likely to happen during the evening hours than during the morning, while Summer Es occurs during morning and evening about equally -- though that's just percentages and probability. We just had a nice morning Es opening a couple days ago on 6 meters."

Another Winter solstice 10-meter report came from Joaquin Montoya, EA2CCG, who reported working a number of Italian and French stations with his "fishing rod antenna." If you

can read Spanish, or even want to try out one of those online language translators, check out his blog at, <http://ea2ccg.blogspot.com/>.

A December 30 10-meter E-skip report came from Oleh Kernyskyy, KD7WPJ of Saint George, Utah. In the morning he heard a strong beacon signal from K5AB, then he called CQ on CW with no response. He moved to phone and had many contacts, including the states of UT, NM, TX, OK, AR and FL.

See <http://www.amfmdx.net/propagation/Es.html> for an interesting treatment of E-layer propagation.

So what's up for the next week? Sunspot 978 reappeared, and the daily sunspot numbers for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were 11, 13 and 13, while solar flux was 79.4, 79.6 and 79.3. The US Air Force and NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast rising solar flux values of 80 for January 4-5, 85 for January 6-8, and 90 for January 9-11. This is a slight move downward and outward. As recently as two days ago, they were predicting flux of 95 for January 7-9.

They also forecast a planetary A index for January 4-10 of 10, 10, 5, 8, 8, 5 and 5. The next unsettled to active period is predicted for January 13-14 with a planetary A index of 15. After 2100z today look for an updated forecast of solar flux and A index at, <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/45DF/010145DF.txt>.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions January 4-5, unsettled January 6-7, quiet to unsettled again on January 8, and quiet conditions January 9-10.

The last few days have had very quiet with stable geomagnetic conditions. This should correlate with lower absorption of HF signals. You can see interesting very quiet numbers at, <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DGD.txt>. Note the planetary A index for January 2-3 was 1 for both days, but all of the K index readings for those days were 0. Contrast that with the

**(Continued on Page 8)**



## HAMTOON

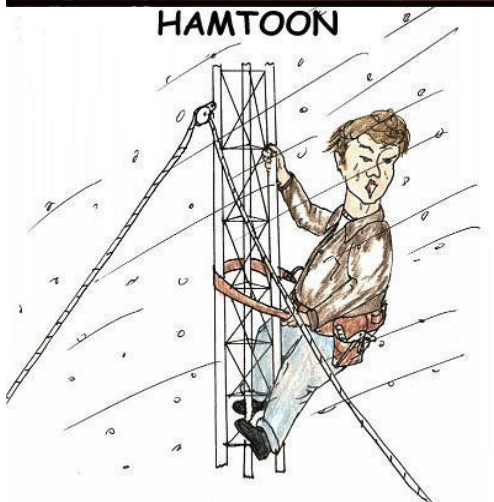


HONEY ! THE GUY IS HERE WITH YOUR QSL CARD !

## HAMTOON



## HAMTOON



NEXT TIME, HOW ABOUT WE PUT UP THE ANTENNA BEFORE THE SNOW BLOWS ?

High latitude college (Fairbanks, Alaska) readings for January 2. There is just one K index reading of 1, but the A index reading for that day is 0.

KN4LF writes that he has decided to make his daily propagation forecasts free again, and you can see them at, <http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf6h.htm>. He also has a sign-up option there for email bulletins.

Last, today I am buying a used car from a private party found via an online ad. The seller turned out to be the grand-daughter of the original holder of VE7BR, A.J. Spilsbury, a remarkable Canadian radio pioneer who manufactured HF gear for marine and wilderness communications in British Columbia. Spilsbury was also an accomplished painter, photographer, author of several books, and he founded a regional airline. He became a Silent Key in 2003 at age 97. I found information on him by googling his last name alone, or combined with other search terms such as "radio."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at, <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Sunspot numbers for December 27 through January 2 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 11 and 13 with a mean of 3.4. 10.7 cm flux was 72.1, 71.8, 72.7, 75, 76.7, 79.4, and 79.6 with a mean of 75.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3 and 1 with a mean of 2.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2 and 1, with a mean of 2.3.



## The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

### Turnabout Is Fair Play

*A challenging puzzle that will turn your world upside-down.*

Crossword puzzle fans know that puzzle makers are often fond of, or desperate for, abbreviations and acronyms to flesh out those pesky blank spaces. This time we turn the problem on its head, or rather, your head. The clues are the abbreviations, prosigns, and Q-signals. The solutions are words closely associated with the clue. There are a couple of off-the-wall combos, just to keep you busy!

(See Page 9)

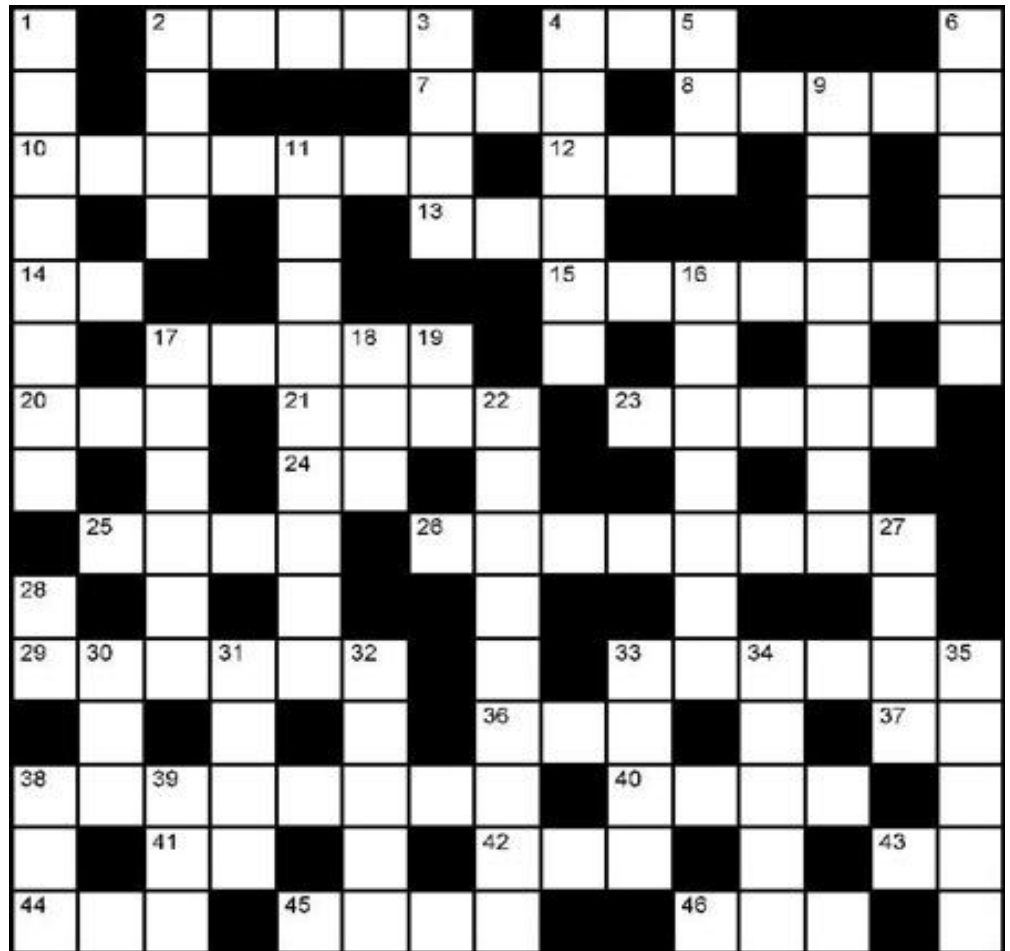




# Turnabout Is Fair Play

## Across

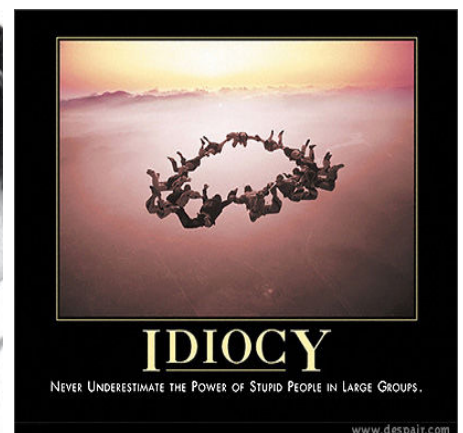
2. HI
4. LID
7. MD
8. OT
10. CL
12. SK
13. HW
14. CHK
15. Spell
17. Mix
20. LSN
21. Sea GND
23. LTR
24. OLF (abbr.)
25. OSB
26. OTC
29. ORQ
33. ORN
36. INT (opp.)
37. CC (volume)
38. OTH
40. K
41. Where U R
42. Officer
43. Connected to NA
44. Pale
45. KN
46. Sum



## Humor de KZ3Z

## Down

1. OSL
2. Round ANT
3. ORO
4. ORS
5. Not VOX
6. Make
9. OST
11. ORM
16. OSO
17. What BK does
18. ONI
19. From
22. ORG
27. WFWL
28. Paired with RF
30. Much ABT NIL
31. TT
32. Rule
33. ORT
34. GA
35. Good WX
38. ORP
39. Headphone



## Delicious Cheese Soup

### Ingredients

1/2 cup/125 mL (1 stick) margarine or butter  
 1/2 cup/125 mL chopped celery  
 1/2 cup /125 mL chopped onion  
 1/2 cup/125 mL chopped carrots  
 1/2 cup/125 mL chopped broccoli  
 2 cups/500 mL water  
 2 tsp/10 mL **Chicken Soup & Gravy**  
 1/2 cup/125 mL margarine or butter  
 2/3 cup/160 mL all-purpose flour  
 2/3 cup/160 mL **Cheese Soup & Gravy**  
 5 cups/1.25 liters milk  
 To taste, **Black Pepper 6 oz**



### Cooking Directions

Heat 1/2 cup/125 ml margarine in 4 quart/liter kettle over medium heat. Add vegetables and cook until tender. Add water and Chicken Soup Base and bring to a boil. Cover and cook on low heat for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, heat remaining margarine in 2 quart/liter pan. Stir in flour and Cheese Soup Base. Remove from heat and gradually stir in milk; cook over low heat until thickened. Do not boil. Add cheese mixture to vegetables; heat through. Adjust seasoning to taste with salt and Watkins Black Pepper. <http://www.watkinsonline.com>

### Something's Fishy...

from Brenda Koth, MS, RD  
Watkins Health and Nutrition Advisor



Have you caught the latest news on fish? Those who consume fish regularly have lower risk of lung and prostate cancer, fewer strokes, and less risk of sudden death from heart attack. Fish eaters are also less likely to experience depressive symptoms as well as macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in older adults. While two to three servings per week are recommended, new studies show that even two to three servings per month provide great health benefits. If you're fishing for the perfect gift for the fisherman in the house, don't get lured into giving the same thing year after year. This time, don't miss the boat-give him something he can "reel"ly sink his teeth into while possibly adding a few years to his life. Watkins Fish & Seafood Seasoning will get the whole family hooked on fish, and will give him plenty of reasons to brag about his latest catch.



### For Sale

#### MFJ -949C Deluxe Versa Tuner II



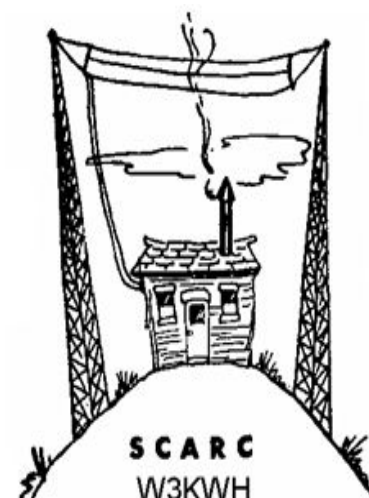
It is designed to match virtually any transmitter to almost any antenna, including dipoles, inverted vees, verticals, mobiles antennas, beams, random wires, and others fed by coax lines, balanced lines, or a single wire. It has a 4:1 balun built in for connection to balanced lines. A built in dummy load for easy transmitter tuning or checking. It will handle up to 300 watts of RF power from a transmitter from 160 through 10 meters. It has a cross needle meter so forward power, reflected power, and SWR may be read simultaneously.

Jack, WB1BSU will donate the proceeds from the sale of his old antenna tuner to the BVARA. It works fine. He just replaced it with an LDG auto tuner. For more information on the tuner, contact Jack on the .31 repeater or by e-mail at:

[ajs322@comcast.net](mailto:ajs322@comcast.net)

# The Steel City Amateur Radio Club

Congratulations to all of the Steel City ARC Officers-elect for the year 2008: For President: Mike, WA3TTS (who won in a secret ballot vs. WB3HDI), VP: Mac, W3MAC, Treasurer: Walt, KA3YNO, and Recording Secretary: Joe, WA3FWA. Special congratulations go out to our new Corresponding Secretary, Sue, KA3JKS. Other than the Presidents position, all nominees for these offices ran un-opposed. These terms will be effective on January 1st, 2008. Congratulations and good luck to all!



## The Steel City Amateur Radio Club

- President: Michael Sapp, WA3TTS
- VP: Madison McKee, W3MAC
- Treasurer: Walt Adkins, KA3YNO
- Recording Secretary: Joe Mielnicki, WA3FWA
- Corresponding Secretary: Harry Trentes, K3GJS
- Trustee: Karl Pastorak, WA3VXJ
- Editor(s): Greg Babin, KQ3DX & W3SVJ



| December 2007   | January 2008  | February 2008  |
|---|---|--|
| S M T W T F S   | S M T W T F S   | S M T W T F S  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--------|---|
|  |   | 1<br>New Year's Day<br>WACOM 10M Net<br>WACOM 2M Net<br>ARRL Straight Key Night<br>SARTG New Year RTTY Sprint | 2<br>SCARC Social Nite<br>Aleg Co. ARES Net                           | 3<br>SkyView 2M Net                                       | 4      | 5<br>ARRL RTTY Roundup<br>EUCW 160M CW Contest  |
| 6<br>WASH Sun. Eve Net<br>ARRL RTTY Roundup<br>ARRL Kids Day<br>EUCW 160M CW Contest                           | 7<br>Breezeshooters Net   | 8<br>WACOM 10M Net<br>WACOM 2M Net  | 9<br>SCARC Social Nite<br>NHARC Business Meeting<br>Aleg Co. ARES Net | 10<br>SkyView 2M Net                                      | 11     | 12<br>North American QSO Party CW<br>070 RSKFest<br>Worked All British Top-Band Contest                           |
| 13<br>WASH Sun. Eve Net<br>North American QSO Party CW<br>DARC 10M Contest                                     | 14<br>Breezeshooters Net  | 15<br>SCARC Business Meeting<br>WACOM 10M Net<br>WACOM 2M Net<br>2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting                | 16<br>Aleg Co. ARES Net   | 17<br>SkyView 2M Net<br>NACCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint | 18     | 19<br>ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes<br>UK DX RTTY Contest<br>Int'l United Teenager Contest<br>LZ Open Championship |
| 20<br>WASH Sun. Eve Net<br>ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes<br>UK DX RTTY Contest<br>HA DX Contest                 | 21<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Day<br>Breezeshooters Net<br>HA DX Contest | 22<br>WACOM 10M Net<br>WACOM 2M Net   | 23<br>SCARC Social Nite<br>Aleg Co. ARES Net                          | 24<br>SkyView 2M Net                                      | 25     | 26<br>WASH Club Breakfast<br>CQ WW 160M CW Contest<br>BARTG RTTY Sprint<br>REF French Contest<br>YLISB QSO Party  |
| 27<br>WASH Sun. Eve Net<br>CQ WW 160M CW Contest<br>BARTG RTTY Sprint<br>REF French Contest<br>YLISB QSO Party | 28<br>Breezeshooters Net  | 29<br>WACOM 10M Net<br>WACOM 2M Net   | 30<br>SCARC Social Nite<br>Aleg Co. ARES Net                          | 31<br>SkyView 2M Net                                      |        |   |



## January 2008 Special Events

**Jan 1-Jan 15, 0000Z-2359Z**, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM8P. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. *Award available for contact with all 5 special event stations. See URL for complete details.* [arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP\\_regles\\_rules.jpg](http://arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg)

**Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z**, All US call areas. Straight Key Century Club, K2A. Celebrating 2 years and over 3500 members on CW. 14.050 10.120 7.055 3.550. QSL. Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 5408 Chillingham Pl, Frederick, MD 21703. [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com)

**Jan 1-Mar 31, 0000Z-2359Z**, Karlovo, Bulgaria. Balkan Contest Club, LZ130LO. 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria. various bands. QSL. Balkan Contest Club, LZ1KZA, PO Box 36, 4300 Karlovo, BULGARIA. *Special awards for multiple contacts. See URL for complete information.* [www.qrz.com/lz130lo](http://www.qrz.com/lz130lo)

**Jan 7-Jan 8, 1200Z-0600Z**, New Orleans, LA. Ohio State Amateur Radio Club, W8LT. Ohio State and LSU Tailgating on the Air. SSB 14.260 7.260 3.960 CW 14.050 7.030 PSK 14.070 7.070. QSL. ARS W8LT, 1080 Carmack Rd, Rm 20, Bevis Hall, Columbus, OH 43210. *Celebrating the BCS Gridiron Championship, Buckeyes vs Tigers. Special QSL for those who contact both Ohio State and LSU Special Event Stations.* [www.w8lt.org](http://www.w8lt.org)

**Jan 7-Jan 8, 1200Z-0600Z**, New Orleans, LA. Amateur Radio Society Louisiana State University, K5LSU. Ohio State and LSU Tailgating on the Air. SSB 14.260 7.260 3.960 CW 14.050 7.030 PSK 14.070 7.070. QSL. ARS K5LSU, c/o Dept of Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, 202 Nicholson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4001. *Celebrating the BCS Gridiron Championship, Buckeyes vs Tigers. Special QSL for those who contact both Ohio State and LSU Special Event Stations.* [www.lsu.edu/student\\_organizations/arslsu](http://www.lsu.edu/student_organizations/arslsu)

**Jan 12, 1700Z-2359Z**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating first aircraft landing on USN ship USS Pennsylvania Armored Cruiser #4 in 1911 and start of Operation Desert Storm 1991. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [kc2gyv@yahoo.com](mailto:kc2gyv@yahoo.com)

**Jan 13, 1500Z-2200Z**, Bethpage, NY. Ham Radio University, W2V. Ham Radio demo at Ham Radio University 2008. 14.260 7.260. QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 W Belle Terre Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. [www.HamRadioUniversity.org](http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org)

**Jan 19, 1300Z-2300Z**, Brooksville, FL. Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club, W4B. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Brooksville Raid, Florida's largest Civil War reenactment. 146.805 18.130 14.260. Certificate. SHARC-BP, PO Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL 34611. [www.kf4ixu.org](http://www.kf4ixu.org)

**Jan 19-Jan 21, 1500Z-2300Z**, Ashton, IA. KB0NMQ Family, KB0NMQ. Operation Desert Storm/1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War Remembered. 18.150 14.280 7.220. QSL. Mark Carlson, Box 272, Ashton, IA 51232. *We also plan to operate week-ends through March 2 as time allows.* [alaskamark@nethtc.net](mailto:alaskamark@nethtc.net)

**Jan 26-Jan 27, 1400Z-2000Z**, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC Edwards AFB North Base, AL7LS. Release date for movie Hot Rods to Hell 27 Jan 1967. LSB 7.243 7.091 3.952 BBS 14.105. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, AL7LS, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119. [www.geocities.com/hrthspecialevent08/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/hrthspecialevent08/index.html)

**Jan 26-Feb 9, 0000Z-2359Z**, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM4A. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. *Award available for contact with all 5 special event stations. Please see URL for complete details.* [arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP\\_regles\\_rules.jpg](http://arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg)

**Jan 31-Feb 3, 1700Z-2200Z**, Washington, PA. Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. Washington County Annual Sports Show. 14.250 7.260. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 60 Carl Ave B-2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. [n3zni@arrl.net](mailto:n3zni@arrl.net)

# AMATEUR RADIO