



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 10

March 23, 2008

Bob, WA3ZRM - Editor

DECISION 2008: THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

Editor's Note: The following article is a commentary and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BVARA or the ARRL.

The amount of e-mails I have been receiving over the past two weeks concerning the upcoming ARRL Division elections has been tremendous. I would like to begin this weeks update with a posting on QRZ.COM from Ray, W5EW. This will be followed up by a posting from Ron, W3WN and yours truly.

W5WE: I would like to hear now from both Delta Division members and

any other amateur radio operators who have constructive ideas on how we can improve the ARRL. The above is a quote from Mickey's campaign statement at the onset of this topic. He is getting his wish and when one reads the comments and questions by Gerald N7WR, Tim AB0WR and Bill W7ARC just to name a few, it is apparent that all desire the same thing, which is, a more responsive and creditable national organization. It really does not matter what ones interest is in the hobby, if there is to be a national organization

representing the entire ham community then one that meets our needs is what we all deserve.

Board meetings should be open with numbers present only limited by the size of the meeting room. I do not know what the mindset is of those in high places at ARRL HQ but one can only wonder when you read in the eQRM Newsletter published by The Beaver Valley (PA) ARA where the next day after Mickey Cox's campaign statement was published, that none other than Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL

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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!

The BVARA Strategic Plan begins April 3, 2008

Those of you who are regular readers of the eQRM should by now be aware of my passion for Strategic Planning. To this end, I would like to begin the planning process for our club at the next Executive Board Meeting to be held on April 3 at 7:00 PM at Eat & Park in Monaca.

During this meeting, I would like to cover the basics of how a Strategic Plan can assist the BVARA in building a solid foundation for the future. These basics will include discussion on where we are now, where we are going, and how are we going to get there.

Since a comprehensive Strategic Plan is a "Living Document" that requires input from all members of the club, I encourage all club members to make an

(Continued on Page 3)

REPEATER ANTENNA FUND

Good news! At the time of this writing, the club's antenna fund has reached the \$470 mark! WOW! The cost of a new four bay dipole for the repeater is \$730 delivered.

Special thanks are in order for all club members that have contributed to the fund. A list of donors will appear in upcoming issues of the eQRM.

Donations to the club's antenna fund can be made by using the membership application found on page 6 of this issue.

ANTENNA FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Dave, KA3SMF	\$20.00
Norm, K3NJT	\$100.00
Pam, W3PMS	\$60.00
Jack, KZ3Z	\$145.00
Bob, WA3ZRM	<u>\$145.00</u>
TOTAL TO DATE	\$470.00



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.

+++PLUS+++

Don't forget to listen to the BVARA club nets every Wednesday Night! 2 Meter Net on 145.310 MHz 100Hz PL at 8:30 PM and the 10 Meter Net 28.370 QSY +/- 10 at 9:00PM.

Letters and E-Mails to the Editor

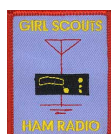
The eQRM welcomes letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must be signed and contain your contact information for verification prior to publication. Preference will be given to letters of 200 words or less. Letters are subject to editing. Unused letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

The BVARA 10 Meter Net Lunch group will be meeting this Thursday at Kings in Center Twp at 11:00 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Lunch.

VE TEST SESSION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 4, 2008: 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.

2008 BVARA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President: Robert De Marco, WA3ZRM
First Vice President: George Caffro, N3HOJ
Second Vice President: Debbie Mehutes, KB3EAQ
Secretary Elect: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
Treasurer: Shawn Hastwell, KB8UDE
Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF
Director: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
Trustee: Tony Petrucci, KE3ED/W3SGJ



ROSSI WINERY WIRELESS SOCIETY



All area Amateur Radio Operators are invited to attend the weekly meeting of the Rossi Winery Wireless Society. The Society meets every Saturday evening at the Winery located in beautiful West Aliquippa. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM with a traditional vino toast followed by homemade Italian foods! The Winery is located on Main Avenue in the heart of West Aliquippa's Cultural & Historic District. Talk-in is on the .31 repeater.



DECISION 2008 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

CEO unsubscribed. Go to www.w3sgj.org and read all about it.

This campaign has reached beyond the borders of the Delta Division and I am glad it has because it is encouraging to hear that hams across the country have basically the same concerns while desiring a healthier national organization.

It is my strong conviction that getting people like Mickey Cox K5MC elected as a division director is a big step in the right direction.

de W5EW

Ron, W3WN, posted the following:

To expand on Scott's question a bit... (Mickey) how do you feel about some specific "hot button" topics in the contest community these days (see below); and based on (a) your feelings & experience as a casual tester, and (b) input

from your current section and future division constituents, what changes if any would you consider to respond to these topics?

W3WN: Should a Major Contest sponsor mandate specific parts of a given band for use by contest participants? Or should contest participants be expected to simply use common sense and Good Amateur Practices to determine where they operate?

K5MC: I would hope and expect that the vast majority of testers would use common sense and follow good amateur practices. If I'm elected Delta Division Director, I would be very interested in listening to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, however, concerning any recommendations for the League-sponsored contests. (I would also try to determine if there's a strong consensus among

the Delta Division members!)

W3WN: Most of the world does not have the stringent sub-band divisions that the FCC imposes on US amateurs. With this in mind, should participants in single-mode contests continue operate outside of the "gentlemen's agreement" band plans in place in other parts of the world? (For example, on 40 meters in an SSB contest, should US SSB testers listen below 7020 or even 7010 kHz for DX -- and should DX transmit in the traditional CW-only 40 meter subband listening up in the US SSB sub bands for US stations?) I ask this not from a strictly legal standpoint, but more from the standpoint of band usage, ethical behavior, and Good Amateur Practices.

K5MC: Band plans that are developed (Continued on Page 4)

The BVARA Strategic Plan begins April 3, 2008 (Continued from Page 1)

effort to attend this important planning session.

Agenda items for this meeting will include:

- The establishment of Strategic Goals and Objectives for the Association over the next three to five years.
- Anticipated growth patterns and the acquisition of new members.
- Training and testing initiatives that focus and place emphases on youth.
- Engineering initiatives that consider the life cycle of club assets.
- Financial analysis and projections that detail club initiatives.
- The development and implementation of fundraising initiatives.
- The clubs roll as a "Scientific Association" and its position on technological trends both present and future.

Although this agenda may seem lengthy in scope, readers are reminded that these topics are just "starting points." A comprehensive Strategic Plan is the "Roadmap to Success" for any organization and is developed over time.

The three key factors in determining the effectiveness of a Strategic Plan are:

1. Plan goals and objectives must be realistic;
2. Plan goals and objectives must be measurable; and finally,
3. Plan goals and objectives must be attainable.

I hope that you will take the time to join us at the Monaca Eat & Park on April 3ed to begin what I hope will be a beneficial endeavor for the future of Amateur Radio in Beaver County.

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									

DECISION 2008 (Continued from Page 3)

via "widely accepted" gentlemen's agreements should be honored by everyone. For example, if the lowest frequency by gentlemen's agreement for DX phone stations on 40 meters is 7020 kHz, then U.S. phone stations operating split should not work DX stations that are transmitting below 7020.

W3WN: What is your position on a Single Operator station using, even in a passive monitoring (virtually undetected) mode, the DX Cluster network for spotting purposes?

K5MC: As I recall, it is against the rules for a "single operator" contester to have any kind of "external" assistance in spotting stations to work. This includes such aids as the packet cluster, "buddy" alerts via 2 meters, telephone, etc. As you point out, it might be virtually impossible to detect if this rule is broken. My position is that this is a traditional rule and I see no reason to change it. Some contests have the "assisted" single-op category for those ops who want to use the packet cluster or other spotting aids, but the classic "single-op" category should be retained in my opinion.

W3WN: A new device referred to as the CWSkimmer has recently come to light. It scans the CW band, detect and decode signals, and provide the user with a band-map showing where other stations are and what their calls are. (A similar feature is available using input from the DX Cluster network in certain logging software -- this wouldn't use the cluster, but a separate receiver or similar input within the home station). What is your position on use or disuse of this device?

K5MC: My quick answer on this new device (CWSkimmer) is that its use would be "illegal" for the classic single-operator category. Even though the details are somewhat different than the conventional contest software that uses input from the cluster, it seems to me that the overall result is similar. Using this new device should put the operator into some category other than the classic one-operator category, such as the "assisted" or multi-op categories.

W3WN: Should contest participants be required to digitally record their entire contest operation, start to finish, and make it available on request to the contest sponsors? If they fail to do so (either make the recording or make the recording available), what penalties if any should be imposed?

K5MC: I would hate to see any contest sponsors require participants to digitally record their entire contest operation. So my short answer to your question is "No." If the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) strongly recommended that such a rule was "necessary" to maintain the integrity of ARRL-sponsored contests, then I probably would support the CAC's recommendation, but I also probably would never submit another contest log to ARRL HQ! If such a rule were to be imposed by a contest sponsor, however, then the sponsor would certainly be within its rights to disqualify any contestants who fail to follow that rule.

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DECISION 2008 (Continued form Page 4)

W3WN: Should spoofing a call for the purpose of making improper posts to the DX Cluster network (either for self-promotion or for misleading or other purposes) be punished? How?

K5MC: Generally speaking, I think any contestant who willfully acts "improperly" should be penalized. If a contestant spoofs a call only one time during a contest, that doesn't strike me quite the same way as someone who does it 100 times. Perhaps someone who only does it a "few" times during the contest should have his score reduced in some manner, but somebody who does it "many" times should be disqualified.

W3WN: How should cheaters be held accountable for cheating? Should there be several levels of punishment, or should it be "one size fits all"?

K5MC: I probably lean toward the different levels of punishment approach, but I would not have any serious objection with a sponsor who simply disqualifies any contestant for cheating.

W3WN: Should the RS/RST exchange continue to be sent in a contest?

K5MC: In a perfect world, testers would send honest signal reports. I certainly would not be opposed to a more meaningful contest exchange. (One reason I particularly like the SS Contest is because of its more demanding exchange.)

W3WN: (i) How do you feel about the use or misuse of cut numbers in a CW contest? Curious testers would like to know. And if you managed to get this far... good luck! It sounds like you intend to be one of the Good Guys, of which there are few and far between these days on the ARRL Board. (N3LLR is one of them... you should give him a call sometime!)

K5MC: I feel about the same on the use of cut numbers as I do on sending 599 (5NN) signal reports for every contact. (It's a "lazy" way to send numbers, but it's widely accepted.) I hope I've answered most of your questions in sufficient depth. If not, I am willing to take another crack at it!

WA3ZRM: I think this thread is great. It's too bad the ARRL does not have forums available on their website. Speaking of which... if you were to become Delta Division Director, would you make any recommendations as to changing the design and content of the official League website? If so, what changes would you like to see? I also have a few other questions that I hope you can answer: Why are ARRL Board meetings not open to a limited number of observers when non-personal matters are discussed?

K5MC: Thanks very much, Bob, for your comments and questions. It is unfortunate that the ARRL currently does not have forums on its website; I think adding such a feature would be very worthwhile. If I'm elected Delta Division Director, I will work on this issue along with the items outlined earlier in my platform. (It is my understanding that the Board of Directors and the HQ staff in Newington do recognize that the layout of the League's website needs to be more "user friendly" than it presently is.) In my reading of the ARRL Articles of Association and By-Laws posted on the League's website, I can't find exactly who is eligible to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors (BOD). Item 14 of the By-Laws defines who the members of the ARRL BOD are (the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and the 15 Division Directors). Item 16 points out that the President is authorized to invite the president of another IARU member Society to attend, whereas Item 41 discusses who may/should attend meetings of the Executive Committee.

It's interesting that those in attendance at the BOD meeting in January 2008 "at the invitation of the Board as observers" (according to the minutes posted on the ARRL website) were the RAC President, the Vice Directors, the ARRL General Counsel, the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, and one Past Director. Thus, the current rules apparently do allow the BOD to invite anyone it wishes to "observe" a meeting. I cannot answer why the BOD, as a general rule as far as I can tell, chooses not to invite a limited number of "rank and file" members (or members who write for non-League publications) to attend Board meetings. However, unless personnel decisions are under discussion, I strongly believe the advantages of open Board meetings outweigh whatever disadvantages might be suggested.

WA3ZRM: Does the ARRL have a working Strategic Plan? If so, how does it address the future of our hobby over the next three to five years? Also, I have been told by more than one League official that the ARRL Strategic Plan is a confidential document. Is this true and if so, why?

K5MC: Concerning your second and third questions, as you know I recently emailed Henry WD4Q (the current Delta Division Director) about the ARRL Strategic Plan. As the current LA Section Manager (but only until the end of March), I asked Henry to forward me a copy of the Strategic Plan or to explain WHY the Board considers it a confidential document. Henry responded quickly but somewhat vaguely to my message; he did state that he would inquire about the current status of the Strategic Plan (assuming such a plan exists) and WHETHER the Board considers it confidential. (Bob, until you mentioned the ARRL Strategic Plan in your recent email to me, I don't recall hearing anything about the ARRL Strategic Plan, even though I've been the LA SM for the past eight years. Perhaps I wasn't paying close attention, however!)

WA3ZRM: Is eliminating the \$3.00 senior member discount in 2009 part of the ARRL's Strategic Plan or just an attempt to provide a quick fix to a much larger problem?

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Dayton Traffic Nightmares

Major construction on two of the main roads feeding the Dayton Hamvention® is threatening to cause significant disruptions. Hamvention Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford, KB8UEY, says Needmore Road, the main link from Interstate 75, will be reduced to one lane in each direction, and I-75 itself just north of downtown Dayton will be subject to lane closures during the Hamvention weekend. Lunsford has put together a list of recommended alternate routes, and plans to have it posted on the Hamvention website, <http://www.hamvention.org>, in time for the big weekend in mid-May. FROM: CQ MAGAZINE NEWS

Tri-State Radio Fest - Center Stage, Monaca, PA

Sunday, April 20, 2008

4 Annual Antique Radio Flea Market and Auction

- No Computers.

Vendor set-up at 6:30 - 8:30 am 6' Tables are \$20 each

- Entrance fee included

Open to buyers from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

- Entrance fee is \$5.00

Door Prizes drawn at 12:00 noon, Auction following



**RACES
&
ARES**



eQRM Urges ALL Beaver County Amateurs to Participate

As a matter of editorial opinion, the eQRM urges all Beaver County licensed amateur's 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 (88.5 PL).

A county wide Simulated Emergency Test involving the nuclear power plant will be taking place in early June. More information on this drill will be forthcoming in future editions of the eQRM.



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

Name _____

☐ Technician

Address _____

☐ General

☐ Advanced

☐ 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**

Technical Tips & Info via the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

An open-source PCB design software suite called Kicad <<http://iut-tice.ujf-grenoble.fr/kicad>> is free and there are versions for Linux and Windows Libraries and worldwide support are available. There is also a support forum at Yahoogroups <<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/kicad-users>>. (Thanks, Martin, OK1RR)

While many of you tower toppers are already aware of the TowerJack appliance for getting tubular tower sections apart <<http://www.towerjack.com>>, are you also aware that the same company makes a device to get them back together again? The Leg-Aliner puts the leverage where you need it and without that banging and those interesting words. (Thanks, Dino K6RIX)

If your feedlines occasionally get hung up on thrust bearing hardware at the top of the tower, Joe WD0M suggests Cool-Whip. "Well, it's the container, actually. I took the container, cut a hole in it the size of the mast, split it down the side so it could slip over the mast, put it on top of the tower upside down, then used tape to cover the container all the way around. That covered up the top of the tower, the thrust bearing bolts, and provided a smooth surface for the cables to slide over." For our non-US readers, Cool-Whip is a non-dairy version of whipped cream sold in round, plastic tubs.

Kiwa Electronics <<http://www.kiwa.com>>, one of the vendors serving the SWL market, also has a number of filters, preamps, and low-band products hams will find useful. I can vouch for the performance of their AM broadcast reject filter.

A post from Stan K5GO <<http://www.k5go.com>> shares some information on an anti-icing paint, Wearlon Super F1. It has a high silicone content and sheds ice quickly. He has verified the anti-icing ability against unpainted antennas at his station. It is made specifically so that ice will not build up on the surface. My experience is that although I did not do the very best job of applying the paint, it works well. It has a high content of silicone. If ice starts to form, it slides off pretty quickly. For questions, he recommends calling distributor Nick Patenaude at Ecological Coatings in Clifton Park, NY (518-664-3468). The paint is expensive (\$189/gal), but far less expensive than replacing an antenna. A visit to Stan's Web site will demonstrate that he has a lot of antenna to protect.

Following a query about how to sample RF in a feed line for display on an oscilloscope, I came up with this little circuit off the 'net—<<http://www.qsl.net/k6ls/rfsampler.html>>. You can either use a Tee-connector to make the feed line tap or build it into a project box.

I uncovered two good on-line resources, should you ever need technical information on fast-scan video.

<<http://tinyurl.com/yq7oz3>> is an application note from Maxim Electronics called "Video Basics". It covers the fundamentals of analog video. The e-Panorama Web page <<http://www.epanorama.net/links/videosignal.html>> is comprehensive, pointing to all sorts of references in support of detailed discussions of various topics. Both are good to file away for future reference -- I did!



For antenna system homebrewers, Ron KK1L has published <http://home.comcast.net/~kk1l/kk1l_2x6switch> his design for a two-radio/six-antenna switch similar to the popular WX0B "Six Pak" <<http://arraysolutions.com/Products/sixpak.htm>>. (Thanks, Al, KE1FO)

Those of you rebuilding an old radio may want to add Old Radio Parts <<http://www.olderadioparts.net/index.html>> to your list of bookmarked sites. They seem to have a quite a selection, including tubes and the ever-popular Magnavox "lion" sticker that would look good on your linear amplifier. I assume they specialize in (Old Radio) Parts and not Old (Radio Parts), but caveat emptor. And why don't radios and amplifiers have names these days? Cars and trucks do...wouldn't you go for a Ramcharger amp or a Cougar as your search-and-pounce rig? (Thanks, Dennis N6KI)

From a popular cartoon, "Now for something you'll REALLY like!" -- Dave K1TTT points us to a site <<http://tinyurl.com/ysvtl9>> that offers some practical and inexpensive methods of controlling cables. I like the foam insulation pipe and jumbo paper clip methods, myself. Actually, the Lifehacker site is full of good stuff.

TECHNICAL URL OF THE WEEK -- An updated oldie-but-goodie, a paper on HF common-mode interference to transducers and sensors is on-line at Analog Device's "Analog Dialogue" Web site <<http://tinyurl.com/29yqrm>>. It discusses how HF signals are picked up and discusses methods of keeping them out of audio and low-frequency equipment. While this article relates to measurement setups, a lot is directly applicable to audio and telephone equipment, too.

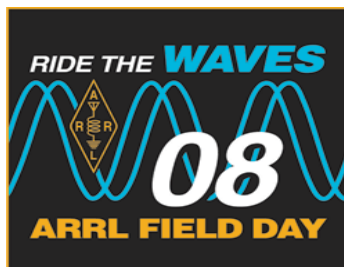
FIELD DAY STATION LOCATOR

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This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>> and follow the instructions.



Decision 2008 (Continued from Page 5)

K5MC: About the only answer I now have to your fourth question is that the minutes of the January 2008 BOD meeting (minute number 26) points out that the elimination of the \$3.00 senior discount starting next year was recommended by the League's Administration and Finance Committee, along with the fact that all Directors voted in favor of the recommendation except Messrs. Allen, Sarratt, and Norton, who voted opposed. (I'm assuming that the Board decided the League needs more money and that the Board took this specific action thinking it would probably result in more income rather than less, at least over the next few years or so!)

WA3ZRM: Does the ARRL have specific projections that detail anticipated growth in our hobby? If so, what are these projections and how were they arrived at?

K5MC: Although I don't have the numbers handy at the moment, I do believe the ARRL has published some projections or goals concerning growth (e.g., 30,000 new hams over some specific period of time?). However, I have no idea how the numbers were arrived at. They may have been "pulled from the air" or perhaps some type of study was made by someone. It might be a simple matter for any member to ask his Division Director for detailed information on this matter, but I haven't done so yet.

Thanks again for your comments and I'm sorry that I can't better answer your questions at this time.

73, K5MC

The eQRM welcomes letters/e-mails to the editor concerning this article. Letters must be signed and contain your contact information for verification prior to publication. Preference will be given to letters of 400 words or less. Letters are subject to editing. Unused letters will not be acknowledged or returned.



The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

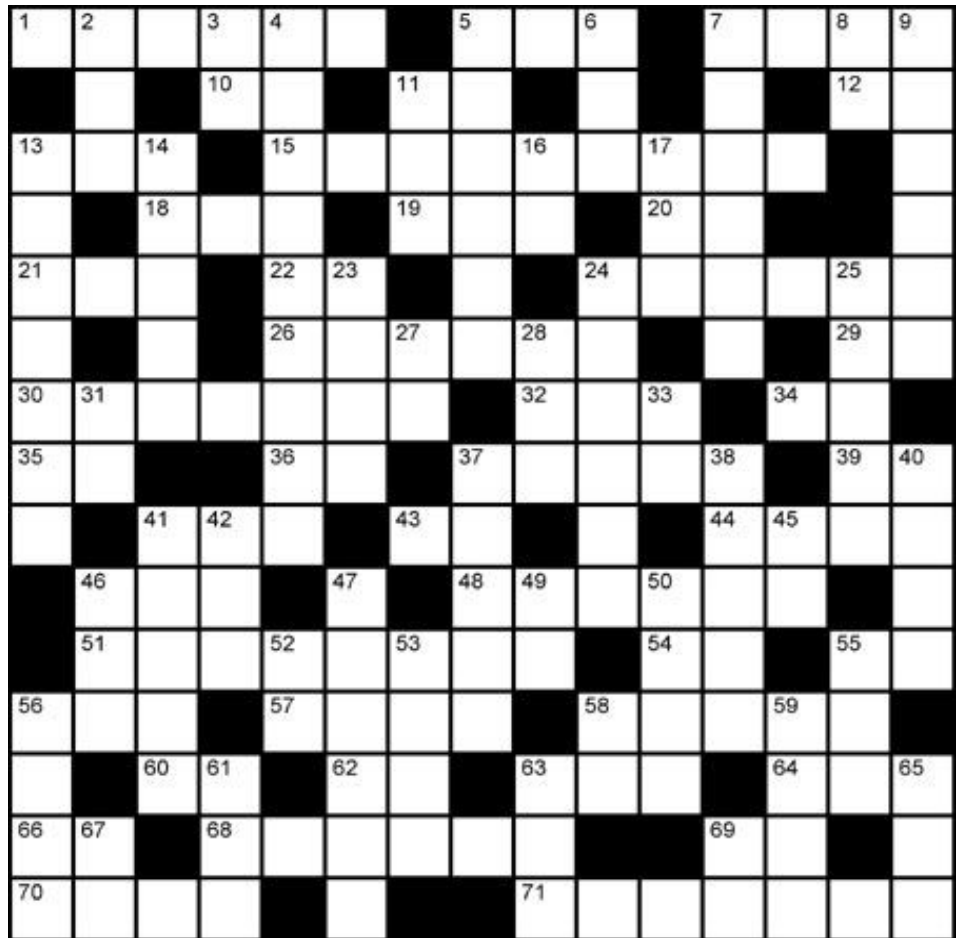
By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

When you turn to the back pages of QST, familiar names present their colorful ads for equipment and gadgets galore. New names pop up every month with a new "gotta have" product. This month the puzzle tests just how many of those manufacturers and vendors have successfully imprinted their names in your head. See next page...



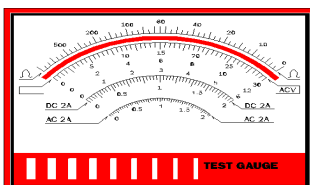
Across

1. Work hard to achieve
5. Largest ham radio distributor (acronym)
7. Power meterer
10. Prefix for the Emerald Isle
11. Prefix for host for WRTC-2006
12. Mt. Rainier is in this state (abbr.)
13. Take a chance
15. Serving amateur radio operators since 1937
18. Most important gear in the shack
19. Clumsy boor
20. Oldest transmission mode
21. Negate or turn down
22. But, .. course!
24. Builder of the DX-70
26. Where radios are built
29. Powered up
30. Their mobile antennas use "resonators"
32. Where you go for cash
34. 25.4 in an inch
35. Display light source (abbr.)
36. Prefix meaning "no longer"
37. Solutions vendor for antenna switching
39. Editor (abbr.)
41. Slang for pictures
43. Chemical symbol for Copper
44. Prefix meaning "against"
46. Large vehicle (acronym)
48. Major American radio manufacturer
51. Maker of chassis punches
54. DX ...!
55. Page (abbr.)
56. Restrictive antenna agreement (abbr.)
57. Submerge to absorb water
58. Their antennas are in motion
60. Home state for 15 Across
62. State where Heathkit was based
63. World time (abbr.)
64. Limit
66. Either a direction or a program (abbr.)
68. Their motorized antennas are high
69. Contacts ordinarily unconnected (abbr.)
70. Makes premium audio gear
71. Noise bridge and toroid makers



Down

2. What gets hurt when you drop a boatanchor
3. Abbreviation preceding an explanation
4. This manufacturer bugs me
5. These guys twist your tail
6. Desirable airline performance (abbr.)
7. Insulator maker
8. Can be read, erased, and rewritten
9. Biggest hamfest is here
11. When the going gets wierd, the wierd turn ...
13. Triangular paddle
14. Southern tower distributor
16. 3 to 30 MHz bands
17. Three basic component types
23. Bend
24. Power supply brand
25. Mobile antenna company
27. End of message (CW prosign)
28. Comes with feathers
31. Safety lab
33. Units of current
37. Antenna analyzer manufacturer
38. Fox-Tango company
40. Dent
41. Runs very smoothly
42. Personally possess (contraction)
45. Opposite of 69 Across
46. They make the Smartuner(tm)
47. Kin to dwarves and elves found in gardens
49. Who designs radios
50. Tip
52. A Baltic prefix and CW abbreviation
53. Den or hiding place
55. Handheld computer
56. Crafty antenna brand
58. Probable mode for handheld radios
59. Maker of the PRO radio lines
61. Broadband data technology
63. Center-fed antenna brand
65. Even with expectations
67. Who holds truths to be self-evident?
69. Deny



WESTERN PA SECTION HAMFEST UPDATE

MARCFEST 2008



March 30th, 2008, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Blaine Hill VFD, 409 Oxford Avenue, Elizabeth, PA, approx. 2 miles from the Elizabeth Bridge — Talk-In on 147.225 and/or 443.350 Repeaters.

More information on prizes and tables, please contact: John Graham N3OVO
n3ovo1@gmail.com (412) 287-8291

Download directions & the latest flyer from the MARC Web Site at:

<http://www.w3csl.org>

27 Apr 2008 + Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/w3oc> Talk-In: 146.130 / 146.730

Contact: Bill Hetrick, N3LQC
 PO Box 225, Greenock, PA 15047-0225
 Phone: 412-751-1937
 Email: [<n3lqc@Comcast.net>](mailto:n3lqc@Comcast.net)
 Boston, PA
 The Spectrum
 6100 Smithfield Street



The BREEZE SHOOTERS



1 Jun 2008 + Hamfest and Computer Show Breezshooters ARC
<http://www.breezeshooters.net> Talk-In: 147.300 (no tone)
 Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP, 1010 Willow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2225
 Phone: 412-366-0488 Fax: 412-366-0488
 Email: [<n3lwp@verizon.net>](mailto:n3lwp@verizon.net)
 Butler Farm Showgrounds
 Route 68, (next to Roe Airport)



13 Jul 2008 + 23rd Annual Hamfest- North Hills Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.nharc.org> Talk-In: 147.09 (PL 88.5)
 Contact: John Gorman, N3RQD, 162 Home Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15223
 Phone: 412-487-9254 Email: [<n3rqd@earthlink.net>](mailto:n3rqd@earthlink.net)
 Pittsburgh, PA - Northland Public Library - 300 Cumberland Road



**24 Aug 2008 * Western Pennsylvania
Section Convention**

Skyview Radio Society

<<http://www.skyviewradio.net/>>

Talk-In: 146.640- (PL 131.8)

Contact: Bob Boehmer, WB3FXC

1240 Hulton Road

Oakmont, PA 15139

Email: <SkyviewHamfest2008@verizon.net>

New Kensington, PA

Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road

eQRM Establishes Yahoo Group

The eQRM is pleased to announce that it has formed a Yahoo Group. The Group is located at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eQRM/>

Many radio clubs across the country have formed Yahoo Groups to help keep members informed on matters of interest. Locally, both the Wireless Association of the South Hills and the Two Rivers Amateur Radio club have established Yahoo Groups for their members. If other local clubs have Yahoo Groups, I would be interested in hearing from them. Yahoo groups allow members to post and share photos, files and have discussions.

There is no cost in establishing a Yahoo Group. All readers of the eQRM are invited to join our Group.



Solar Update via the ARRL Letter

Tad "But by the Sun-spark on the sea" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: ARRL Headquarters is closed for Good Friday on March 21, so this bulletin is coming out a day early, and on the vernal equinox. We had a few more days with visible sunspots over the past week. Sunspot numbers on March 15-17 were 12, 12 and 11. Over the past month, we seem to have a single sunspot appear for a few days, then fade away or rotate out of view, then another pop up after four or five days. Projection for the near term is planetary A index of 5 for March 20-24, then 10, 20, 25, 20 and 8 for March 25-29. There are similar returns to planetary A index of 25 predicted for April 5, April 23 and May 2, but otherwise quiet.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions for March 21, quiet March 22-24, unsettled March 25 and active March 26-27. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page

