

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

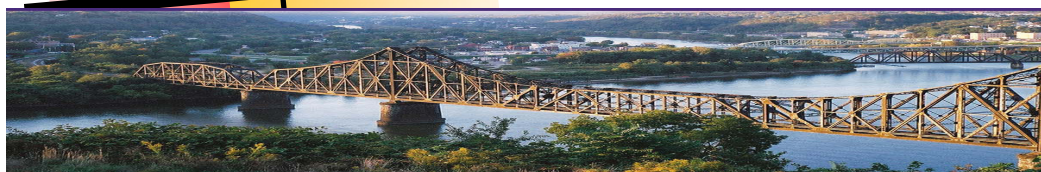
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume 2, Issue 7

March 1, 2008

Bob, WA3ZRM - Editor



FCC DENIES PETITIONS TO BRING BACK MORSE CODE TESTING

In a "Memorandum Opinion and Order" (MOO)

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-59A1.pdf> released February 28, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a "Report and Order"

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf> in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

The "R&O" amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the R&O that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted

that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy." The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to
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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!

Commentary: Where do we go from here? de N7KFD

The following commentary can be found in the articles section of <http://www.eham.net>

Recently I was looking at some of the newest HF rigs manufacturers were offering and recalled a conversation that took place about fifteen years ago in the local radio store. One person was speculating that we would be able to buy a rig that would cover HF, VHF and UHF all in one unit. Another person stated that there was no way they could fit all that in one box. Kenwood's TS-2000 now covers from 60 Meters up to 1.2 Ghz and noise reduction is the best it's ever been with DSP, even digital modes are built into some units. So where do we go from here?

(Continued on Page 5)

REPEATER FUND

At the recommendation of the club's Technical Committee, a Repeater Fund has been established to be used for upcoming projects and repairs on the BVARA's repeaters.

At the time of this writing, over \$256 has been pledged to the fund by various club members.

If you are interested in making a pledge to support our repeaters, please contact Shawn, KB8UDE. Donations can also be made by using the membership application found on page 5 of this issue.

TECHNICAL URL OF THE WEEK

-- While there are many excellent CAD (Computer-Aided Drafting) programs out there, many of us just need a convenient way to make a few straight line and shape drawings on a computer. Terry KK6T recommends Google Sketchup <http://sketchup.google.com/> as easy to learn and it's free. Another of Google's many useful service applications.

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

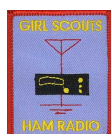
The eQRM welcomes letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must be signed and contain your contact information for verification prior to publication. Preference will be given to letters of 200 words or less. Letters are subject to editing. Unused letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

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: Gary Hutchinson, KA3TYK
First Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
Second Vice President: Debbie Mehutes, KB3EAQ
Secretary Elect: Norm Trunick, KB3QFP
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.



FCC SAYS NO TO CODE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

In the wake of the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235, two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, requested the FCC reconsider their decision for "strictly procedural" reasons.

Gordon asserts that "the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well."

Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as "a 'strategic reserve,'" because there is "no assurance that...voice or digital modes

will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments."

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. "We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission's decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency."

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that "an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition."

In the MOO, Ward states that he



"encountered difficulty" in submitting his comments and reply comments to the NPRM electronically and that his filings were not posted on the ECFS (the Commission's electronic filing system) until after the deadlines had passed. He asserts that "there is no certainty that the Commission considered his comments and reply comments, that the late posting of his comments prevented others from replying to them, and that it is 'quite likely that other comments were treated improperly.'" As a result, Ward requested that the FCC "stay the proceeding, reopen the record and reconsider the NPRM after the close of the extended comment period."

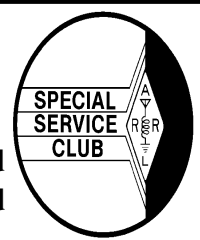
The FCC claims that all comments in the ECFS "were considered before the Commission adopted the Report and Order,

(Continued on Page 4)



2008 Executive Board Meeting Dates Set

At the request of BVARA Executive Board members, Gary, KA3TYK has established time and dates for club e-board meetings.



Meetings will be held on the First Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The next regular 2008 meeting will be held at Eat & Park in Monaca on March 6. E-Board meetings are open to any interested club member; however, if you plan to attend, please let everyone know by checking into the 2 or 10 Meter Wednesday night nets prior to the meeting so seating accommodations can be made for you. Both Gary and I hope to see everyone on March 6th.

THE HAM'S HOROSCOPE

BY MADAM ZELDA, STIARS

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					

FCC SAYS NO TO CODE (Continued from Page 3)

regardless of the how or when they were filed. Moreover, many of the 3900 comments and reply comments expressed the same view as Mr. Ward, so the substance of his views unquestionably was replied to and considered. Finally, he provides no evidence that ECFS mishandled other comments. No other party has complained that his or her comments were not received. We conclude, therefore, that reopening the proceeding for additional comments is not justified, and we deny the petition."

In summary, the FCC said neither petition asserted "any grounds for reconsidering" the decision in the Report and Order. "We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees."



COURAGE

Do one brave thing today... then run like hell.



ATTITUDE

It takes 43 muscles to frown and 17 to smile,
but only three for proper trigger squeeze.

MARCFEST 2008 sponsored by the

Monessen Amateur Radio Club

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

Or Chris Grilli grillil@verizon.com

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

<http://www.w3csl.org>



Where do we go?

(Continued from Page 1)

Could it be Ethernet and USB ports? We could eliminate the computer from the shack! Logging software could be incorporated into the rigs with CRT screens and using the Ethernet port you could plug the rig into your DSL or Cable modem and log onto your favorite DX spotting web site through the radio. With a USB port you could backup your log onto a removable storage device. If your radio had an IP address you could access it from any computer for remote operation and work DX from your office during a lunch break. Obviously safe guards would have to be incorporated to stop just anyone from getting into your radio.

Taking a walk on the wild side, with a small video card you could plug in a monitor and rig control software would be a thing of the past.

Through the video port all of the rig controls could be accessible. One day you may be able to email a QSL card from your rig when you finish a contact. A hard drive would have to be in there somewhere to store all the software and logs but looking at the size of the components in a laptop all this is feasible. Does the future of Ham Radio involve computers built into our radios? What do you think?



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

TECHNICAL TIPS DE NOAX (FROM THE CONTEST RATE SHEET)

I asked a leading question about methods of waterproofing coax pigtails for outdoors connections. I got many useful suggestions, for which the ham radio community is known. Mark K6UFO says "pigtails require barrier waterproofing to the open end and connector "after the fact" by sticky mastics like rubber tape or "coax seal" or liquid applications to flow in/on like liquid electrical tape, Scotchkote, non-conductive silicone sealant or dielectric grease as described at <<http://tinyurl.com/yvf85v>> or <<http://www.paigewire.com/wireconnectors.htm>>. More information is available from the experts at <http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/3Melectrical>, an interesting article "WATERPROOFING 101" at <<http://www.directivesystems.com/waterproofing%20tips.htm>>, and a nice set of pictures at <<http://www.groundcontrol.com/galileo/ch3-waterproofing.htm>>."

At the risk of doing a little self-promotion, your editor is pleased as punch to tell you about the ARRL's release of the "Hands-On Radio Anthology", a collection of the first 61 experiments from the QST column. The book is available via the ARRL Bookstore at <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog>> by selecting "What's New".

Nelson KU0A recommends another coax connector sealing option -- Comfort Seal Rope Caulk manufactured by Dennis & Company for coax connectors and coax pass-throughs. It's hydrophobic, easy to work at temperature ranges above 50 degrees F, won't stick to your fingers, is easy to remove after years of service. Nelson finds it at home supply stores.

If you're confronted with an old tribander that needs some TLC, you should browse through this project of refurbishing a TA-33 that had been on the ground 15 years. The photos and text <<http://www.mindspring.com/~vibroplex/FD/fd1.html>> show one group's step-by-step restoration of the beam including cleaning the aluminum tubing/trap covers, etc. Nice job, including putting up the tower! (Thanks, Derek WB0TUA)

I'm sure we've all imagined using a balloon antenna on Top Band. George K8GG points us to the Web site of Hans, PA1HR who used such an antenna for 160 meters in the Dutch PACC-Contest. You can see the antenna at <<http://www.remeus.eu/>> by clicking on "Ballonantenne:". The feed line is window line and the balloons are each about 1.5 meters diameter - 5 feet. The antenna is about 82 meters tall with an end feed at the bottom.

The long-out-of-print, highly-recommended, and hard-to-find "Radio Antenna Engineering Handbook" by Edmund Laport is now available from the print-on-demand publisher LuLu (<http://www.lulu.com/>) for under \$20 -- almost 600 pages! Other downloadable versions (not printed and bound) are available on-line from other sources. (Thanks, Warren KH6WM)

Bob W6RJC sent this handy link on the right way to do things with the standard international (SI) units - <<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/correct.htm>>. This should make your technical documents look better by avoiding grammatical errors.

Paul WA1GHZ reports (also in the Feb 2008 issue of "Cheese Bits" referenced above) that all of his QEX articles on microwave operating and technical topics are now available on-line at <http://www.w1ghz.org/10g/QEX_articles.htm>.

If you have an antenna analyzer that displays reactance, but without a positive or negative sign, Bob N7XY handed out a handy and simple tip: "Change the frequency slightly. If the reactance goes up with frequency, it is inductive. If it goes down, it is capacitive."

Words to live by on the tower on in the electrical box - "safety", "quality of work" and "quantity of work" in that order. (Thanks, John KE7JGB)

Mar 1-Mar 2, 1500Z-2100Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor Peace Corps volunteers, their service and sacrifice. 21.360 14.290 10.125 7.270. Certificate. John Paskevich, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. *Also 2-meter simplex in the Chicago area.*

jpaskev@aol.com

Mar 7-Mar 9, 1400Z-1100Z, Sweetwater, TX. Nolan County Amateur Repeater Association, W5NCA. 50th Year Sweetwater Jaycees World Largest Rattlesnake Roundup. 14.245 7.275 7.245. Certificate. Gary Armstrong, 806 E 16th, Sweetwater, TX 79556. www.rattlesnakeroundup.net

Mar 7-Mar 10, 2000Z-2200Z, Two Harbors, CA. Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, K6PV. IOTA expedition to Santa Catalina Island. 20M 40M 75M phone bands. QSL. Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes, CA 90274. www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mar 8, 1500Z-2100Z, Vero Beach, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, W4OT. Commemorating America's First Wildlife Refuge, 105 Years. 14.240 14.060 7.240 7.060. QSL. W4OT - Vero Beach ARC, PO Box 2082, Vero Beach, FL 32961. *From the Refuge on The Barrier Island, west of route A1A.*

www.fws.gov/pelicanisland

Mar 8, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the Naval Aviator designation established in 1915. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com.

Mar 8-Mar 9, 1700Z-0300Z, Florence, SC. Florence Amateur Radio Club, N4B. 50th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Mars Bluff, SC. 28.330 14.290 7.263 3.920. Certificate. FARC - Mars Bluff Certificate, PO Box 5602, Florence, SC 29502-5602. *Times are daily. Other frequencies may be used.* www.w4ulh.org

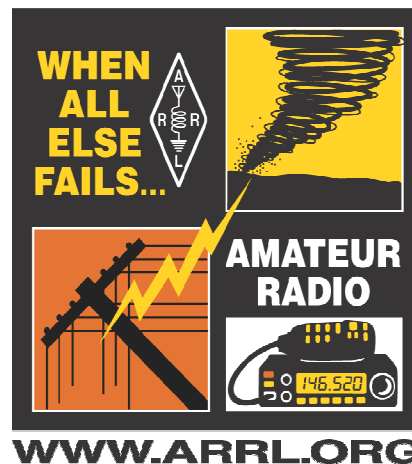
Mar 22-Mar 23, 1500Z-2300Z, Corona, NY. Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, WB2JSM. HoSARC 35th Anniversary. 21.300 14.250 7.225 3.800. Certificate. Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 150131, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. www.hosarc.org

Mar 22-Mar 23, 1700Z-0300Z, Fairport Harbor, OH. Sponsored by KB8QID, W8S. Spring Lights QSO party. 14.255. Certificate. Joe Kulnane, 1388 Summit Dr, Mayfield Hts, OH. jmkulnane@sbcglobal.net

Mar 29, 1300Z-1600Z, Brampton, ON. Peel and Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs, VE3XR. Ham-Ex Annual Hamfest. 14.265 7.260 3.750. QSL. Jeff Richardson, VA3QSL, 36 Crawley Dr, Brampton, ON L6T 2S1, CANADA. *(Remember, US postage not valid in Canada.)* www.ham-ex.org

Mar 29, 1500Z-2200Z, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 26th Annual Macon Cherry Blossom Festival. 14.240 7.055 10.110 14.055. Certificate. MARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208. members.cox.net/w4bkm

Mar 29-Apr 12, 0000Z-2359Z, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM2I. 40th 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



AMATEUR RADIO

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

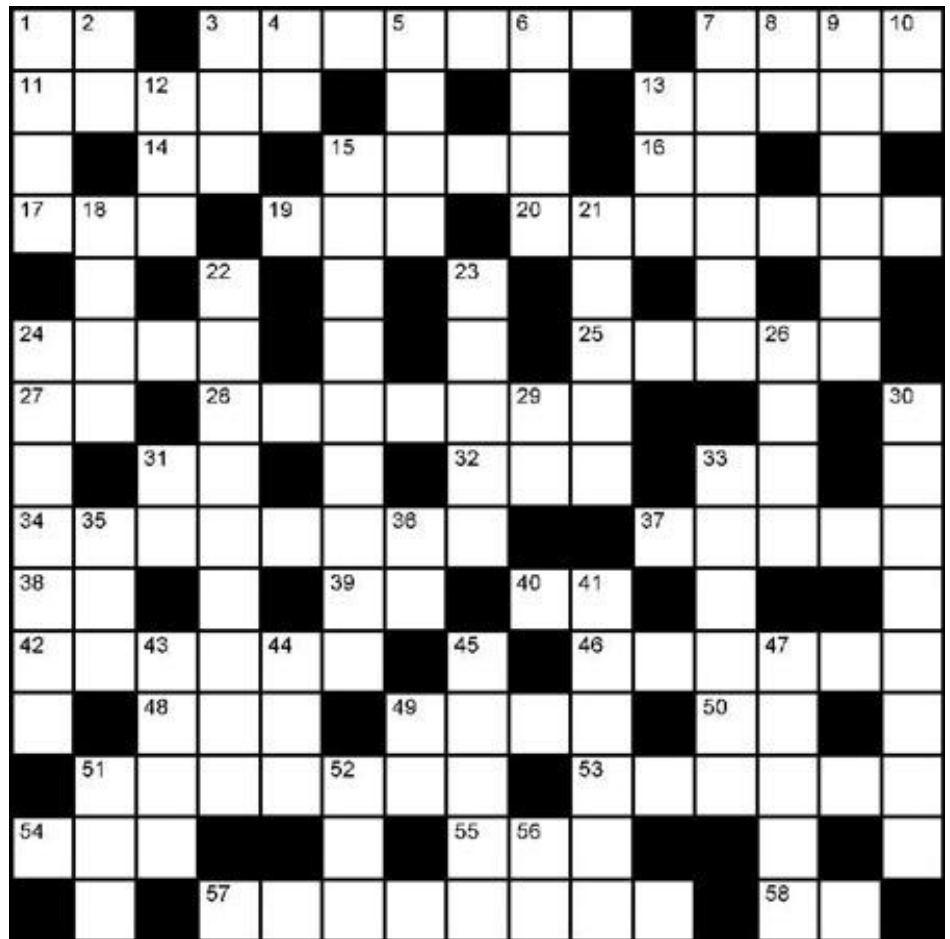
The radio club is as old as radio. Maybe older, since many clubs were formed in order to figure out how to build a radio! They're the social backbone of Amateur Radio. Are you a club member? Bet you can't join just one! Here is a puzzle to get clubby with between meetings. See next page...



The Meeting Will Come To Order

Across

1. British equivalent of OM
3. To direct the proceedings
7. An uninteresting person
11. To be called for publicly
13. The original prize for a Clean Sweep
14. Operator (abbr.)
15. One step from president
16. Hear ... hear ...!
17. That which is picked
19. Achieved victory
20. The person giving the featured program
24. Between soprano and tenor
25. Imbedded
27. From (CW abbr.)
28. Formal meeting record
31. I think, therefore I ...
32. A sheepish antenna
33. Big contest in November (abbr.)
34. Group that leads a club
37. Informal record of events
38. You're (CW abbr.)
39. Prefix that means "no longer"
40. One-thousandth of a meter (abbr.)
42. List of members
46. Famous inventor
48. Large ham radio retail chain (acronym)
49. Weight of one cc of water
50. Impedance matcher (acronym)
51. Selected by the members
53. Rules that govern a club
54. Adapter that connects three cables
55. Moonbounce (acronym)
57. Award without usual pre-requisites
58. Fine Business (CW abbr.)

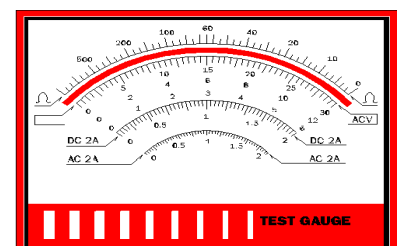


Down

1. A public meeting
2. Has the largest state QSO party
3. Peak sideband power (acronym)
4. Read (abbr.)
5. Rotate rapidly
6. Regular payments to support a club
7. Intermissions
8. On-the-air monitor
9. Wrote the book on order
10. Dorothy's aunt
12. Obtained
13. An uncontested victory
15. Offer services for free
18. Island
21. To have a cool and calm bearing
22. Group with a specific function
23. Count these in an election
24. Terminate a meeting
26. Between north and south
29. A dipole oriented N/S radiates best this way
30. The matters to be discussed

at a meeting

31. Continent east of South America (abbr.)
33. In the company of friends
35. To and ...
36. Receive (abbr.)
41. A formal participant in a club
43. Exchange of money for ownership
44. Keystroke to back up or stop (abbr.)
45. To issue a command
47. A group of assistants
49. Good evening (CW abbr.)
51. Shortest three-letter CW call sign suffix
52. Two thousand pounds
56. Unit of current (abbr.)



WESTERN PA SECTION HAMFEST UPDATE



9 Mar 2008 + Foothills ARC

Prize Tickets \$2.00 each or Three for \$ 5 8ft.TABLE SPACE \$10.00 each

<<http://www.w3lww.org/>> Talk-In: 147.180+ (PL 131.8)

Contact: Frank J. Rossi, Jr., N3FLR

707 9th Street, Irwin, PA 15642

Phone: 724-989-0462

Email: <N3FLR@arrl.net>

Greensburg, PA

Greensburg VFD Hose Co. #1

12 McLaughlin Drive

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>

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: 412-366-0486

Email: <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>

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 "They have never seen the sunshine, nor the glory" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A sunspot emerged a few days ago, a welcome sight at Cycle minimum. Sunspot numbers for February 25-28 were 12, 13, 12 and 12, but that spot (number 983) is now gone over the eastern horizon of our Sun. If the February 29 sunspot number is zero, this means our three-month moving average of sunspot numbers centered on January will be 8.5, slightly higher than the last reading. Our moving average centered on June 2007-January 2008 is 18.7, 15.4, 10.2, 5.4, 3, 6.9, 8.1 and 8.5, with the minimum centered on October 2007. Sunspot numbers for February 21-27 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 13 and 12 with a mean of 5.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.8, 72.4, 71.6, 70.7, 71.4, 70.7 and 70.7 with a mean of 71.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 4, 4, 3, 3, 3 and 12 with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 3, 2, 1, 2 and 6 with a mean of 2.9. Remember that a sunspot number does not represent the actual number of sunspots. The minimum non-zero sunspot number is 11, because a value of 10 is counted for each cluster of sunspots; a value of one is added for each individual spot. So the February 26 sunspot number of 13 represents one group containing three sunspots. 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 <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you courtesy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning.



PAPER BAGS
because sometimes turning off the light just isn't enough



OVERCONFIDENCE
This is going to end in disaster, and you have no one to blame but yourself.