

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

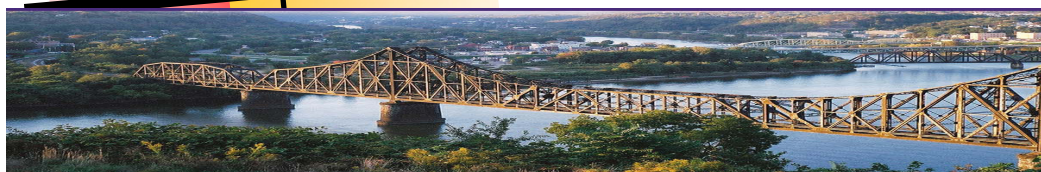
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume 2, Issue 8

March 9, 2008

Bob, WA3ZRM - Editor



DECISION 2008: THE UPCOMING ARRL DIVISION ELECTIONS

Within the past few months, I have received several e-mails asking about upcoming ARRL elections.

The next scheduled Division elections are in the fall for the Atlantic, Dakota, Delta, Great Lakes and Midwest ARRL Divisions. According to League Bylaws, ballots will be counted on November 21, 2008.

In an effort to better promote our hobby and serve as a forum for free and open discussions concerning amateur radio, the following article is offered as the first in what I hope will be a se-

ries that focuses on issues that will have far reaching impact on the future direction of ham radio.

The following article was posted to QRZ.COM by MICKEY D COX, K5MC who is a Candidate for Delta Division Director:

I believe the ARRL needs new leadership if we truly want it to be the National Association for Amateur Radio in the future. In recent years the ARRL Board of Directors has shown poor judgment in a number of ways. Perhaps the most obvious example is the "regulation by bandwidth" proposal

(RM-11306) submitted by the League to the FCC. A large majority of the comments submitted by hams to the FCC on RM-11306 were negative; the League then tried to salvage part of RM-11306 by submitting an ex-parte revision which included an "erratum" that supposedly conveyed the ARRL's true desires. Finally, in the face of massive opposition, the ARRL asked the FCC to withdraw RM-11306 from further consideration.

I have decided to run for Delta Division Director this year.

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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: Save the Date—August 9, 2008

Saturday, August 9, 2008 is an important date! This date marks the return of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association's annual summer Corn Roast that will be held at Shelter 12 in Brady's Run Park.

In keeping with past club tradition established by hams such as Dick Hanna, K3VYY and SK Bob McClain, W3VRZ, I encourage our membership to invite all area amateur radio operators, including members of both the Triple A ARA & Ellwood City ARA to this event. A vote on this matter will be taken at the regular club business meeting to be held this coming Thursday, March 13. Please take the time to attend this important meeting and help make our annual cover-dish Corn Roast a true county-wide ham radio event.

REPEATER ANTENNA FUND

Good news! At the time of this writing, the club's antenna fund has reached the \$450 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 5 of this issue.

TECHNICAL URL OF THE WEEK

-- The Winter 2008 issue of the Pacific Northwest VHF Society's "The Noise Floor"

<http://www.pnwvhfs.org/articles/noisefloor/NF_02-2008.pdf> includes the start of a multi-part series on assembling N-type connectors by Jim W7DHC. The series begins with a description of the various types of connectors that are available. Yes, Jim realizes that by accident, some of the photos show a C-type connector.

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

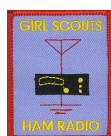
The eQRM welcomes letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must be signed and contain your contact information for verification prior to publication. Preference will be given to letters of 200 words or less. Letters are subject to editing. Unused letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

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.



DECISION 2008 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Fred AA7BQ has given me permission to post my campaign platform on QRZ.COM. Although the election ballots will not be mailed to the ARRL members in the Delta Division (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee) until late September, 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. Depending upon the suggestions I receive here and by other means (emails, discussions at hamfests, etc.), I will "fine tune" my platform in the coming months.

Among the changes I plan to pursue if I'm elected the new Delta Division Director are the following:

1. ARRL members should have the choice of receiving QST, QEX, or NCJ.

A number of League members have complained in recent years about the lack of technical content, contest reporting, etc., in QST. If the content in QST cannot be improved, then the members should have the choice of receiving QST, QEX, or NCJ. Other organizations (e.g., the National Rifle Association) offer similar options to their members and the ARRL should do likewise.

2. The ARRL Board meetings should be open to a limited number of members, including those who write for non-League publications such as CQ Magazine and WorldRadio, as long as personnel issues are not under discussion.

The ARRL Board needs to be more "open" in making League policy; one way to do that is to permit a

limited number of League members to attend Board meetings (at their own expense) unless personnel matters are under discussion. These "guests" would be observers only. It is particularly important that members who write news articles for non-ARRL publications (e.g., CQ Magazine, WorldRadio) be permitted to attend Board meetings.

3. An independent committee of technically qualified hams should carefully determine the advantages and disadvantages of "regulation by bandwidth" through spectrum efficiency studies, etc., to determine if a new proposal should be submitted to the FCC.

The recent ARRL petition included essentially no documentation (engineering studies, band plans, or other data) that justified changing from the current scheme of regulation by mode to regulation by bandwidth. Before we ask the FCC to make such a dramatic change in the Part 97 rules, the ham community needs to be reasonably sure that such a change is warranted and that the Amateur Radio Service will be improved.

4. The ARRL Board should achieve a reasonable degree of consensus within the ham community before submitting any future proposals to the FCC.

The ARRL Board should post drafts of its proposals on the ARRL Web site for comments by hams, both members and non-members. All of the posted comments should be available for everyone to review. Some proposals may have to be revised several

"ARRL Board meetings should be open..."

times over many months before a consensus is achieved. If a reasonable consensus cannot be achieved, then that proposal should not be submitted to the FCC. This policy will prevent future fiascos similar to RM-11306.

5. All petitions released by the FCC for comment that concern the Amateur Radio Service should be made known to the ham community in a timely manner by the ARRL.

In late 2007 the FCC invited comments on RM-11392, a proposal asking the FCC to limit the maximum bandwidth of data transmissions to 1.5 kHz on all HF bands except 10 meters. In addition to not filing any comments itself, the ARRL apparently never even mentioned the existence of this particular petition on the ARRL Web site. There is no excuse for the ARRL not to inform the ham community of the existence of such petitions. In addition, if the ARRL chooses not to comment officially to the FCC, the League should at least discuss within the ham community the various advantages and disadvantages of any submitted petitions. The ARRL once again showed a serious lack of leadership in its failure to do anything regarding RM-11392.

(Continued on Page 4)

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)

6. The ARRL should increase its support of the National Traffic System and should quickly move on the recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee.

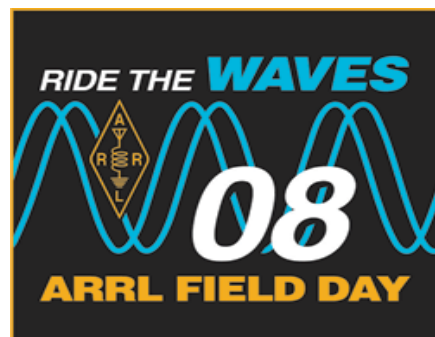
The current national leadership undervalues the training opportunities in emergency communications offered by the League's own National Traffic System (including NTSD, the digital "arm" of NTS) in such fundamental skills as formal message handling and operating in directed nets. The ARRL Board should support the use of all appropriate modes and networks in providing backup communications to the public during emergencies. In addition, since Hurricane Katrina there has been little apparent progress by the ARRL regarding the recommendations of its own National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC). For example, little or no action appears to have been taken by the ARRL Board so far on such issues as credentialing, establishing a national emcomm database of responders, or identifying Major Disaster Emergency Coordinators (MDECs).

I want the ARRL to once again be a membership organization that we all can be proud of, newcomers and old timers alike. If elected, I will work diligently to have the Board adopt the changes described above. Thank you for your support.

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.

CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY de W3SGJ

George, N3HOJ, recently announced that he will be soliciting band allocations for Field Day 2008 at the next regular club business meeting to be held this Thursday, March 13. Any and all club members that desire to operate during Field Day are encouraged to contact George ASAP while bands are still available. George will be providing the eQRM with band allocation updates in future editions.



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>



**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. To this end, a vote will be taken at the next club meeting, this Thursday, March 13 that directs the club's trustee to register W3SGJ with these programs. Additionally, applications will be available for any interested amateur that desires to participate in these 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
☐ 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)

Here's a good set of propagation URL's to bookmark for reading while you look for band openings: KN4LF Daily LF/MF/HF/6M Frequency Radiowave Propagation Forecast <<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf6.htm>> KN4LF Daily Solar Space Weather & Geomagnetic Data Archive <<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf5.htm>> KN4LF Daily LF/MF/HF/6M Frequency Radiowave Propagation Forecast & Archive <<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf6.htm>> KN4LF 160 Meter Radio Propagation Theory Notes: <<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf8.htm>> LF/MF/HF/VHF Frequency Radiowave Propagation Email Reflector: <<http://montreal.kotalampi.com/mailman/listinfo/kn4lf>> (Thanks, Thomas KN4LF)

Steve K7LXC reminds the Rate Sheet's readership that soldered or brazed joints are not appropriate for lightning protection systems. The only NEC approved grounding connections are compression or exothermic (e.g. CadWeld). Why? Because soldered or brazed connections will vaporize from the high current of a strike. If you are trying to protect feedlines, grounding blocks and clamps designed for that use are available at electrical supply houses. Gene AD3F notes that the Polyphaser Web site <http://www.polyphaser.com/technical_notes.aspx> contains thirty white papers on grounding and lightning protections, all of which are good reads.

A portable lap table for equipment would come in handy in a lot of portable or rover situations. This laptop stand project from the Instructables Web site <<http://tinyurl.com/236omu>> will no doubt get the design juices flowing. The comments regarding the adjustable, but locking, joint have some very good ideas.

Electronic Design Magazine's 14 Feb 2008 issue included an excellent tutorial on piezoelectric materials, including quartz and quartz crystals. Browse over to <<http://electronicdesign.com>> and enter 18095 in the Online ID window at the upper right of the page.

If you have some piezoelectrics you'd like to exercise, Chris N7ZWY designed a nice crystal test set circuit during a design project to build some narrow-band crystal filters. A full description of this crystal test set is on-line at <<http://tinyurl.com/2xoh6m>>.

Steve W3HF spotted some printing errors in equations from the RF Design quadrature modulation tutorial. The first equation should be: $\cos(x)\cos(y) = (1/2)\cos(x+y) + (1/2)\cos(x-y)$ In the second equation, the letter 'p' is used instead of the symbol for pi and in the third equation (second page of the article) the terms in the second bracket should be subtracted, not added. For those of you that were following along at home, these corrections should help.

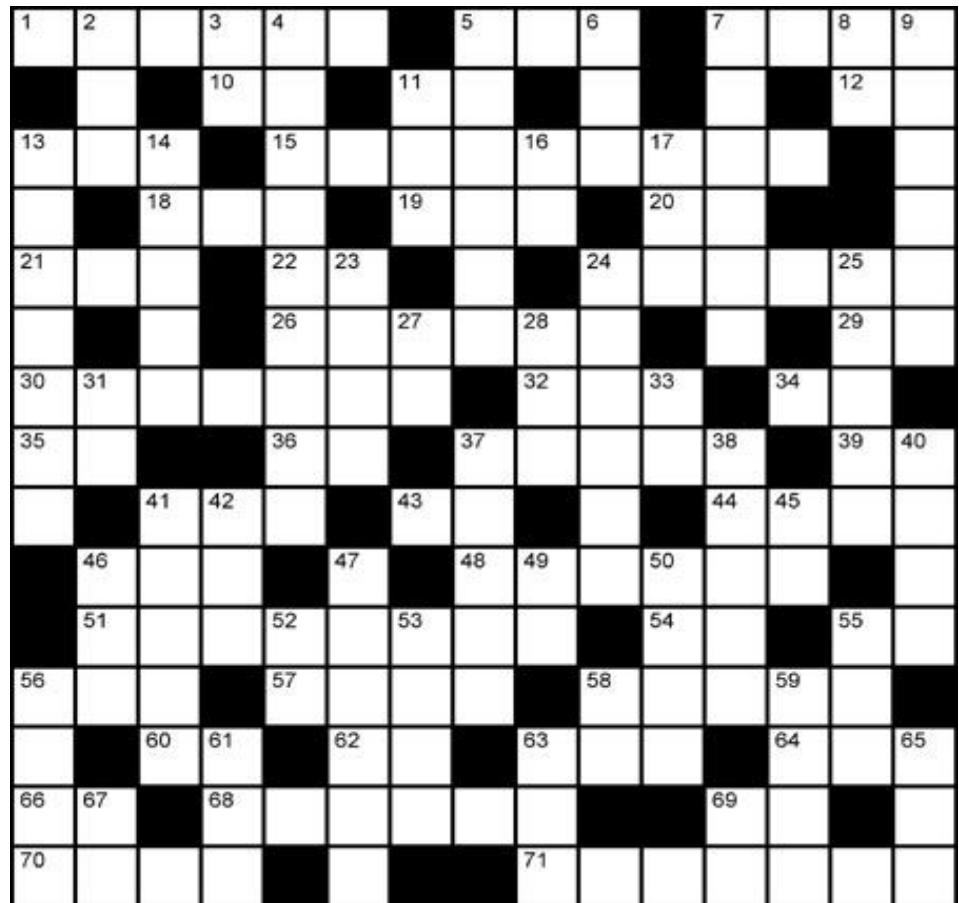
Dean N6BV wrote with a caution about using a change in reactance with frequency to determine its inductive or capacitive nature. If a transmission line of any electrically significant length is connected between the analyzer and unknown reactance, it can greatly affect the reactance presented to the analyzer. In extreme cases, such as one-eighth or quarter-wavelength lines, the reactance can vanish or be inverted! The old trick of using lines that are multiples of one-half wavelength long can be put to use here, since those replicate the terminating impedance.

If you've tried taking photographs of your latest contesting gadget for the club newsletter and wondered why the colors came out so odd, Dave AA3UR posted this interesting guide to color temperature. "The color temperature of a light source refers to the temperature that a black body (such as black metal) must be raised in order to emit the same color of light as the light source. This temperature is reported in Kelvins (the Celsius scale starting at absolute zero, -273 degrees C). Some common color temperatures are: 2856 K - Ordinary tungsten light bulb 3000 K - Tungsten Halogen bulbs 3200 K - Blue tungsten photo floods or tungsten photo flood bulbs 3500 K - "Bright White" CFL 5000 K - The standard for the printing industry roughly the same amount of red as green as blue. 6500 K - Standard Daylight, blue sky and yellow sun 7500 K - North-facing blue skylight without yellow sun The 5000 K lamps are a good idea for photography because of the high output in blue, increasing the signal to noise ratio for the blue channel of the CCD over most sources and slightly reducing noise in the picture.

Here's a good resource to have stashed away for those times when you just need a specific, goofy cable: <<http://www.oddcables.com>> (Thanks, Dennis N6KI)

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



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.



Sights & Sounds via the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

A few select photos from Randy K5ZD's visit to OE4A for ARRL DX CW are online at <http://tinyurl.com/yspxej> The video of the auto-tune amplifier is worth a visit all by itself! As Randy says, "One of the great things about ham radio is you can send an email to someone you have never met saying you will be near their town the weekend of a contest and if they know of a station. Nine days later they welcome you in, hand you the keys, and let you have all the fun."

Joe KC2TN has posted a photo series of the grounding system at his station. <http://tinyurl.com/2geyou> This is not a cookbook for others, but an example of how one ham approached the problem.

Like your science with a sense of humor? Check out the Physics Chanteuse at <http://scientainment.com/pchant.html> or read all about her in the 24 February issue of the Seattle Times at <http://tinyurl.com/yv2kxy>

Here's some Real Science - Wired Science's Top Ten Chemistry videos: <http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2008/03/top-10-amazing.html>. I particularly enjoyed...well, I enjoyed them all. Warning - this will not boost your productivity.

For the sheer strangeness of the advertisement, have a look at this surprising irruption of ham radio in a soft-drink ad: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MieEfkWICB8> Remember, the only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about. And stay inside during storms! (Thanks, Bob N6TV and Dorothy Parker)

And don't we all need Anti-Robot Fluid and Barbarian Repellant? <http://tinyurl.com/28yhu9>

Club Meeting this Thursday, March 13