

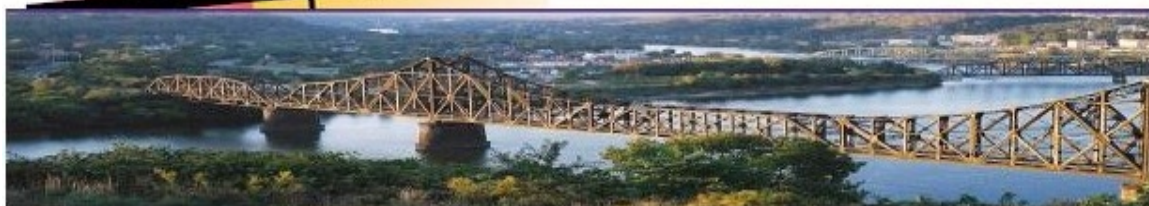


THE BEAVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
WWW.W3SGJ.ORG
BEAVER COUNTYS ONLY 75 YEAR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB!

The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume III, Issue 6
October 2009
Grant, KB3QFQ, Editor



MINIFEST! February 14, 2010

We're ecstatic to announce our
upcoming event:

**The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio
Association and BSA Explorer Post
73's **MiniFest and Auction!****

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The event starts at **8:00AM** on **February 14, 2010**, and ends at **2:00PM** the same day. It will be held at the **Baden Boro Community Room** in Baden, Pennsylvania.

For more information about the event, **[GO TO PAGE 6](#)** of this newsletter to read the whole flier! For additional info, go to our new blog, **w3sgj.org/blog** and read about the event! You can also talk in on the **145.310 PL 100Hz** repeater and ask about the event.

The event will have prize drawings, refreshments on site, a gigantic prize basket, VE Testing, and more! RSVP today!

Letters and Emails 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 every Thursday at Rainaldi's in Center Twp at 11:00 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Lunch.

VE TESTS are held by the W5YI VE Team at the American Red Cross in Brighton Township, Beaver, PA. IF YOU DESIRE TO TAKE A TEST, CONTACT DALE, KE3SV, FOR THE DATE OF THE NEXT TEST SESSION.

Report time is 6:15 sharp, to fill out 605 forms and check I.D. Testing begins at 6:45 PM. Information and registration on a test session can be obtained by calling VE Team Coordinator, Dale Neely, KE3SV after 6PM.

His address and phone number are as follows:

Dale R. Neely Jr., KE3SV

444 Center St.

Zelienople, Pa. 16063

Phone: 724-452-3247

2009 BVARA Officers & Directors

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

First Vice President: Robert De Marco, WA3ZRM

Second Vice President: Evan Finkelstein, KB3QFR

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ

Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF

Trustee: Dick Hanna, K3VVY



UPCOMING MINIFEST!

**Sunday, February 14, 2010
8:00AM – 2:00PM**

**For more information,
[click here](#) or visit the
[BVARA Blog](#)**



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).

MY First HF Contact and Other Stuff

By Phil Chambley Sr., K4DPK, from [eHam](#)

Over 54 years ago, when I first realized someone was actually answering my CQ, I was too excited to return his call. In fact, I couldn't copy his call....I panicked. I forgot the Morse code, my own call and my name. My impulse was to run screaming through the house for my parents (who knew nothing about ham radio) to tell me what to do.

The Old Timer who had answered my call must have understood, because he persisted and called me twice again. I finally calmed down enough to begin remembering a few of the things I had gleaned from listening. That turned into a very nice chat with a gentleman from South Carolina, and thus began my first few steps in a long learning experience about Amateur Radio.

Nowadays, it's much more likely that a first contact will be in voice rather than code, and given the experiences and observations over the past few years, here's how I'd go about a first HF phone contact:

I'd refrain from calling CQ right off the bat. A general call removes your ability to pick and choose someone with whom you feel comfortable. Save CQ for later.

Tune around and find a couple of stations engaged in a conversation. This should be done on a lower frequency band, or at least, under conditions where both sides of the conversation can be plainly heard. Small groups of two or three people are best for these purposes. Make sure they aren't deeply involved in a technical problem or working on something that shouldn't be interrupted, or that the topic isn't something either volatile or tedious. Make sure they're loud, because that improves the chances-- although it doesn't assure-- that they'll hear you OK.

At an appropriate lull, say, "Gentlemen, do you mind if I join you?" and give your call.

I absolutely would NOT say: 1) QSK! 2) BREAK BREAK BREAK!!! 3) CQ! or 4) CONTACT!! These aren't just inappropriate; they set the stage for criticism. By the way, make sure you're in the correct band segment for your license class before you transmit. Assuming the

folks you've chosen to engage aren't complete social abortions, they'll probably invite you to join them.

(Let me say right here, I know a couple of semi-OTs whom I've heard tell people to "go away if they couldn't be any louder than that". Ham radio has no place for that sort of behavior, and these people need to be banished.)

Now..... At that point, you should tell them up front they are among your first contacts, and you'd appreciate a few pointers. Tell them your name and where you're located.

With any luck at all, they'll take it from there.

Be careful not to start right in with terms you've heard other hams use. You'll find there's a vast difference in terminology between HF and VHF operators, and use of some phrases in the wrong arena might create a mistaken impression of irreparable "newness". The use of "Personal" instead of name, or words like "Destinate" or any of the ten-codes is sure to draw fire on HF.

Use plain conversational language, and you can pick up suitable jargon along the way. Just relax and start meeting people. Listen to how conversations go, and you'll quickly see how it all works.

Like my hero Yogi Berra said, you can see a lot by observing. When I first got my ham ticket, I came to understand fairly soon that if I was going to learn anything about my new (what I called then, but have since re-thought) hobby, I would learn it from the old guys. What did I have to trade? My energy! Whenever a tree needed climbing, I was there. Want to run a cable under your house? Hand it here. Stuff like that. Invariably, when I came down from the tree or up from digging a hole, there was a glass of iced tea and a lesson waiting. More often than not, when I left, I was the new owner of some new prize like a capacitor, or a roll of wire. But most importantly, the OTs took an interest and taught me the things I would need to know. Why did they have an interest in helping me? Because I was interested in helping them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE HAM'S HOROSCOPE

BY MADAM ZELDA, S T IARS

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					

My First HF Contact and Other Stuff

Continued from page 3

Now the shoe is on another foot. A couple of years ago, I got a phone call from a young man who would later become a very good friend. He told me his name and his call, and he said he had been referred to me by another ham. He had an intense interest in learning, while building, a linear amplifier. We made plans to begin on a trial basis, but it only took a little while for me to realize this young guy had "the fire" in him. For wrote in his notebook every word I And he did all the work. At the end of couldn't possibly have bought from e-having built something that worked understanding required to repair or why, but I see (more on e-ham than relatively new hams that the older troublesome old codgers that are the mentioned earlier, it's a good idea just to steer clear of these guys. There's no doubt there are some older hams whose patience is thin or exhausted altogether, and these should do what they can to recover. I for one, am impatient with the criticism of "73s".....I've been hearing and saying that for over fifty years...What's the problem? At the same time, although it is rarely mentioned in these forums, there are many, many new operators committing such basic blunders as operating out of band, interrupting a conversation in the midst of a technical discussion, well, the list goes on. Some in both groups behave like angry spiders, rushing to fight when their web is disturbed.

"I am impatient with the criticism of '73s'...I've been hearing and saying that for over 50 years."

the next three weeks, that young man said, formulas, explanations, everything. that time he had two things that he bay or anywhere else: The satisfaction of well, and the knowledge and replace it if the time came. I don't know anywhere else) a lot of complaints by hams are disrespectful, discourteous source of all of ham radios' problems. As

There's a lot of room for introspection in both groups. We old guys need to accept, teach and accommodate, and the less experienced should observe, adapt and, sometimes, tolerate. Once we begin doing that, we'll find there really is only one group...us. I've been afflicted with the love of electronic communication since I was a very small child, and I've always winced when someone referred to ham radio as a hobby. I've said (not really joking) that collecting bugs in a jar is a hobby—ham radio is a lifestyle. We each need to realize that ham radio can be a many-faceted life-long learning experience that has rewards for us all. We can reap those benefits more efficiently if we spend less time bickering and more time educating ourselves.

I've written this in the hope that it will help someone, and if it does, I will be pleased. If it does not, or if you find it disagreeable, I wish you well in your pursuits.



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	

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

STUDY GUIDES TO BE USED IN UPCOMING BVARA LICENSE CLASSES

Technician Class—*The No-Nonsense, No-Code Technician Class License Study Guide* is based on a method developed by Bruce W8BBS. What he did for the earlier question pool is to rephrase each question in the form of a statement and then organize the statements to make them readable. Bruce was unable to update his manual for the question pool that went into effect in July 2006, so he gave us permission to do it.

General Class—*The No-Nonsense, General Class License Study Guide*. This

is the study guide for those taking the General Class license exam after July 1, 2007. It follows the same format as the Technician Class Study Guide. Note, though, that there are more questions in this pool, and in general,

the questions are more technical than the Tech Class, so be prepared to study longer and harder than you did for the Tech test. Visit:

<http://kb6nu.com/techmanual/>

for more info on these guides.

A BIG THANK YOU!

To the family of Donald McMurdy, WB3AIF
for the donation of the IC-765 and Drake TR-4C
and to

George, NN3J for the donation of the Yaesu FT101ZD

MiniFest Announcement from [W3SGJ](http://www.w3sgj.org)
Continued from front page

**Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association
and BSA Explorer Post 73's**

MINIFEST AND AUCTION

Sunday, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$5
admission

**VE TESTING
AVAILABLE!**

\$10
a table
includes 1 free
admission

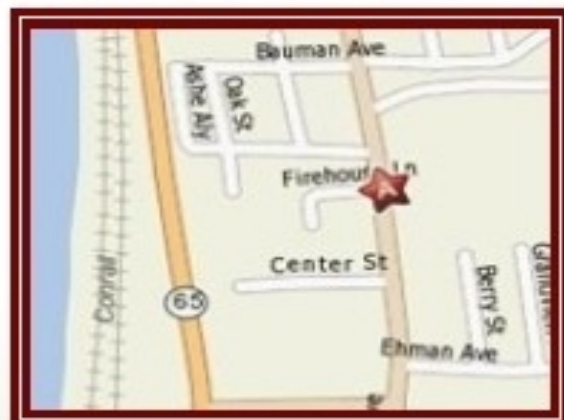
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

www.w3sgj.org or

talk in on the 145.310 PL 100Hz repeater!

**Baden Boro Community Room
Baden Municipal Complex
149 State Street
Baden, Pennsylvania 15005**

Contact
Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
234 Beaver Avenue
West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001
wa3zrm@netzero.net
724-378-7070



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

MiniFest Announcement from [W3SGJ](#) Continued from page 6

Refreshments on site!



Entrance into drawing included in admission price!



**Admission Tickets Include Eligibility For
Prize Drawings Every 30 Minutes
Gigantic Valentine's Day Grand Prize Basket**



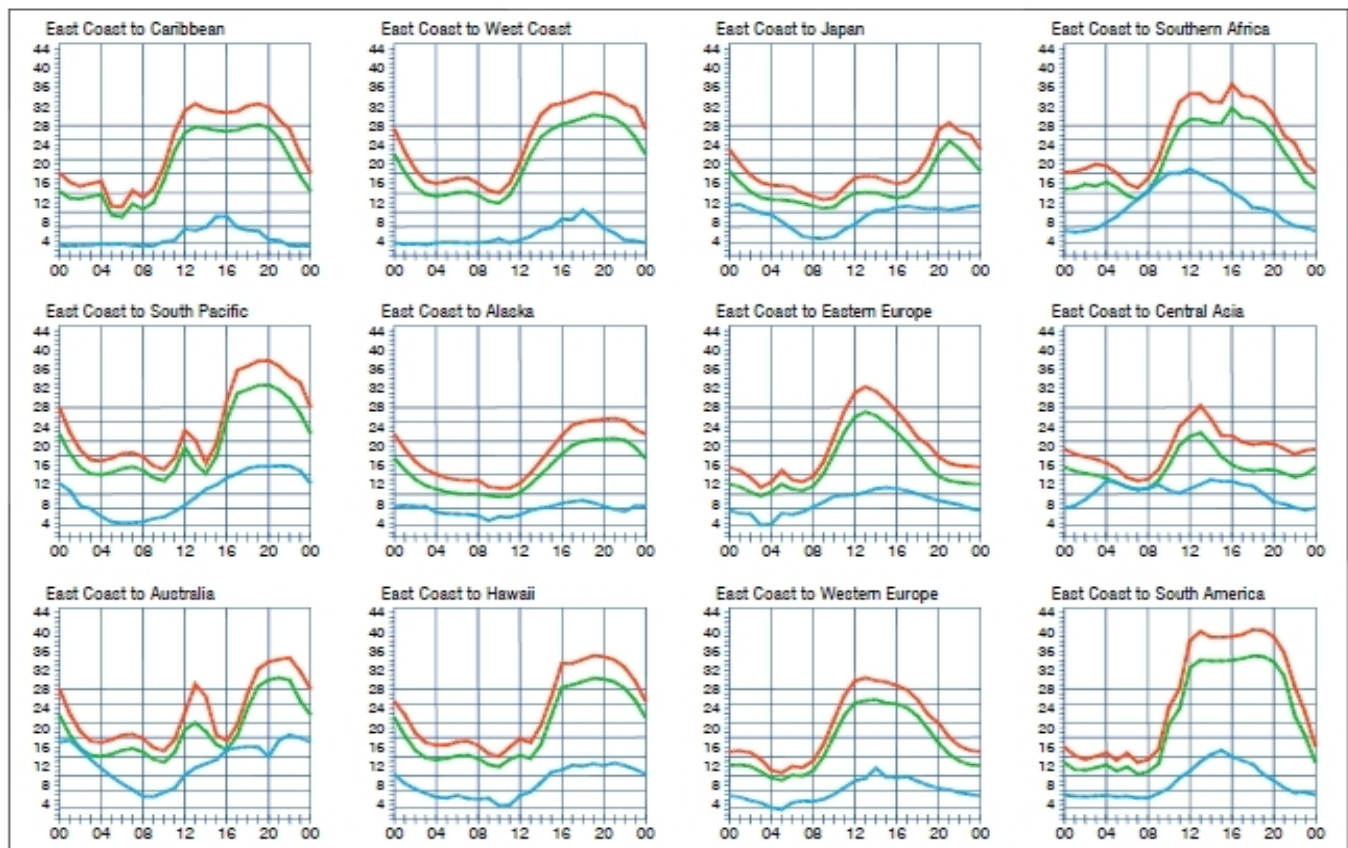
Auction registration begins at 8:00 AM. Auction begins at 11:30 AM.

AUCTION RULES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. All buyers must register and receive an auction number.
Registration will be at the pre-auction check-in area.
A 10% bidders fee will be added to all purchases.
Payment is to be by CASH ONLY - no checks or credit cards.
2. Each seller will be required to fill out an auction form for each item entered into the auction. Consignor #, Minimum bid if applicable, Short Description
The serial number on the form will be the item number.
If an item is not tagged properly, it will not be presented for sale.
3. Any item not receiving a bid of at least the specified reserve will be considered a "No Sale".
4. A 10% commission will be charged by the Radio Fest to the consignor AND an additional 10% paid by the bidder on top of the final bid. This will be a straight percentage. No commission will be charged on "No Sale" items.

FOR EXAMPLE - Winning bid is \$100. Commission due is \$10 from Consignor and \$10 from the bidder on top of the final bid. The Bidder will end up paying \$100 Plus \$10 = \$110. The Consignor will receive \$80.
5. The order of items presented for sale will be at the discretion of the auction personnel.
6. Bidders (Buyers) Will be able to pay and pick up your purchased items during or immediately at the conclusion of the auction. All purchases must be paid for and removed by 4:00PM.
7. Consignors (Sellers) are required to remove all "No Sale" items on Sunday 4:00PM.
Sellers can be paid immediately at the conclusion of the auction.
If you elect not to be paid on Sunday, a check will be mailed to you.
8. Items left in the auction room at the conclusion of the auction are the sole responsibility of the owner.
9. Absolutely no items containing mercury or other hazardous substances may be consigned.

QST Propagation Charts



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of October 2009 for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1000-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 QST, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 QST, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 98. This is a Medium level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

The above chart is for the month of October.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO READ THESE CHARTS,
[CLICK HERE](#)

W3SGJ
 Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association
 P.O. Box 424
 South Heights, PA 15081, USA
 ITU 8, CQ 5, Grid EN90ur, Beaver County

HAMS LOVE TO EAT!

Recipe of the Month: Sugar Cookies

Ingredients

COOKIES

1 cup/250 mL butter or margarine, softened
 1 cup/250 mL sugar
 1 egg, beaten
 1 tsp/5 mL [Original Double-Strength Vanilla](#)
 1/2 tsp/2.5 mL [Almond Extract](#)
 2 tbsp/30 mL milk
 2-1/2 cups/625 mL all-purpose flour
 1 tsp/5 mL [Baking Powder](#)

FROSTING

4 cups/1 liter powdered sugar
 1/2 cup/125 mL butter or margarine, softened
 3 to 4 tbsp/45 to 60 mL milk
 Food coloring, if desired

Cooking Directions

Combine butter, sugar, egg, extracts, and milk in large bowl. Stir in flour and baking powder; mix well. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm (about 2 hours). Heat oven to 400°F/205°C. On lightly floured surface, roll dough one third at a time to 1/4-inch/5-mm thickness. Cut with floured cookie cutter. Place 1 inch/25 mm apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 6 to 9 minutes or until edges are light brown.

Immediately remove to wire rack to cool.

Frosting

Combine all ingredients; beat until smooth.

Makes 5-6 dozen.



This recipe is brought to you by Watkins
watkinsonline.com/w3sgj



Just think of all the products you currently use that can be replaced with Watkins products. By switching to Watkins' superior quality and value, you'll be **saving money** on your monthly essentials and **supporting your favorite organization**.

The BVARA receives 16 to 35% of ALL SALES MADE THROUGH THIS SITE!

If you buy flavorings, spices, salt, cooking oil, soup, desserts, dip mixes, moisturizers, lip balms, room fresheners, glass cleaners, cough medicines, dietary supplements, laundry detergents, or anything similar, head over to www.watkinsonline.com/w3sgj and make the switch to Watkins today!

How Social Networking Can HELP Amateur Radio

By the editor

Just by reading the title, you will know this is a debatable subject. Your opinion may differ. That's fine, and I'd love to read your opinion of this article! Comment on this article at our blog, w3sgj.org/blog

To compliment last month's article, "Using Twitter During Mobile Operation," I've decided to write an article about how social networking can actually help, not hinder, amateur radio. Although I'm familiar with most of the major

social networking sites (FaceBook, MySpace, and Twitter), I'm going to focus on Twitter, and I'm also going to include blogging.

Now, why can Twitter help amateur radio? Because it is a great event tool. Use Field Day as an example. Some members of the radio club can't make it to Field Day, but they own a computer or cell phone. They can follow the club's twitter account for up-to-the-minute updates from the event. Now you're commenting, "but none of the club members at the event are going to sit at a computer and Tweet every minute!" That's where Tweeting from your cell phone comes in. You can send updates to your Twitter account by simply texting Twitter. I think this is a great tool for radio events, and can bring in more people into the radio world. Why? Because anyone can read the club Twitter, and they will probably like what they see. They might even join their local radio club.

Now, on to blogging. This will help because the writers of the blog can send out

information to anyone in a speedy manner. This can compliment the once-a-month club newsletter, and can include information that cannot make it into the newsletter in time, or that cannot wait until the next month. It can also include thoughts on what is happening in the radio world, and can let anyone comment on the newsletter articles, or the club website. If someone that stumbled across the club blog because they were searching on Google read the blog and liked it, they may contact someone to see what an amateur radio operator actually does. If they like what they hear, that leads to more club members and more radio operators.

Many people are going to disagree with me on this. That's fine by me, and I'd love to hear your opinion. Also, if you ever want to write an article on your opinion of anything radio-related, I'd be happy to look over it and post it on the blog or in the newsletter.

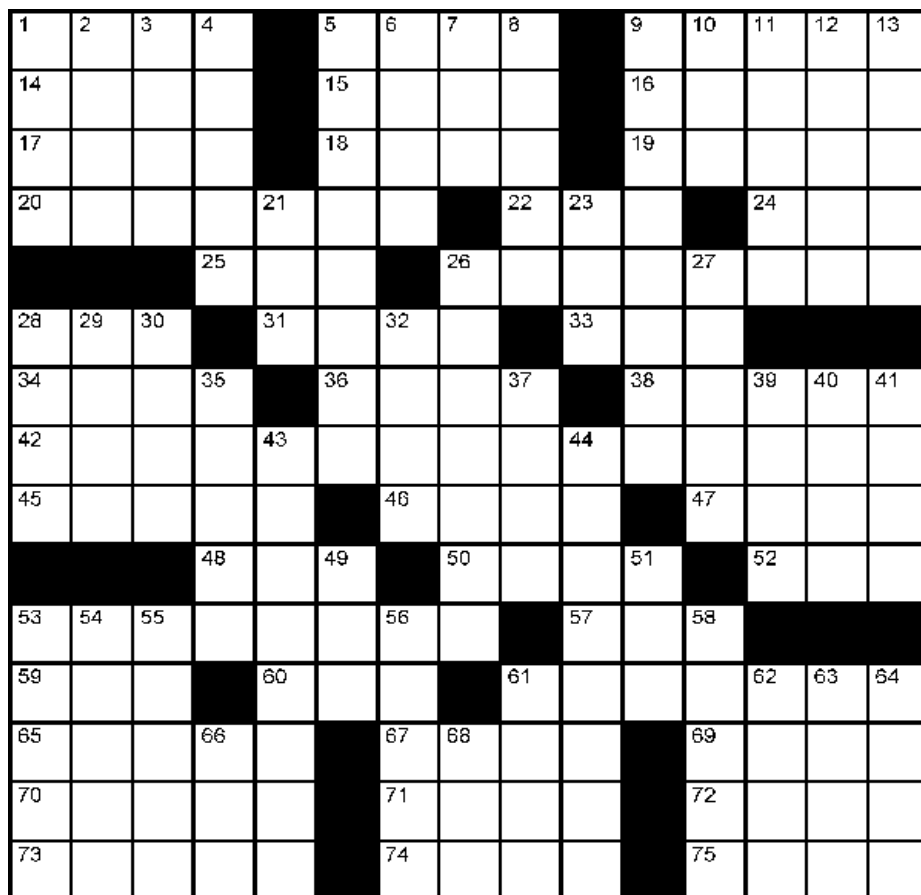
73's,
Grant, KB3QFQ
Editor of the eQRM



CROSSWORD PUZZLE - "Spot Not"

The minimum has lasted long enough. Gimme the spots!

from the [ARRL Website](http://www.arrl.org)



Down

1. Subcompact
2. Desktop feature
3. PA front panel label
4. In-box contents
5. C6 city
6. KH6 rings
7. GMT replacer
8. Veracruz prefix
9. Indy place
10. YA cent
11. Hara, for example
12. Superhet alternative
13. Sent CW
21. It may follow a dot
23. ___ King Cole
26. Picks up, on the air
27. Fab
28. Shamu, for one
29. W0 Clinic
30. Locking connectors
32. Column crossers
35. Sparkle
37. KC4 WX
39. Code for code
40. Receiver rear panel label
41. Con cons
43. Rules out
44. 33 dBm
49. K7UGA, once: Abbr.
51. Ant. Measurement
53. 56 down measurement
54. Second SS weekend
55. GD isle
56. See 53 down
58. Types of 20 across
61. Micro micro
62. Antenna measurement
63. Prefix, with directional
64. What crank-up sections do when cranked-down
66. Dip. or Inv-V, e.g.
68. Propagation condx indicato

Across

1. Eight furlongs
5. Propagation predictor, with solar
9. Early ham technology
14. 7700 maker
15. Network, especially in I-land
16. Blender setting
17. Solar WX org.
18. Kit maker of the 1960s
19. Poem of lament
20. Propagation predictors, with 58 down
22. OX dir. from XE
24. Formerly known as
25. Chop (off)
26. Solar minimum result
28. Fed. fiscal agency
31. "Encore!"
33. 144 MHz
34. Phoned
36. Deteriorates
38. Post det. Stage
42. Hams eagerly await it
45. 1970s sat.
46. Garbage barge
47. "I'm ___ your tricks!"
48. Checks in check ins
50. Calls from NJ or NY
52. What some amateurs are, professionally
53. The 2009 sun, mostly
57. W7 ARRL sect.
59. 440 MHz region, say
60. Prefix, opposite of 63 down
61. Early receiver maker
65. Wanderer
67. Generate RF sig.
69. Handle
70. Nonsensical
71. Tropospheric propagation path
72. Connectors with shells
73. FD abodes
74. Ckts. for CW
75. Put in stitches

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Did you know that help me earn my own way through Scouting by buying popcorn?

Just [click here](#) and place an order on my behalf. There are new products offered online, like flavored almonds and a limited edition BSA tote.

70% of your purchase will be returned to me, my unit and my council. Online purchases help us fund fun, educational activities and help more kids experience all the things that make Scouting great.

Thanks for your support!

Grant, KB3QFQ

Life Scout in Baden Boy Scout Troop 405

Our new blog, w3sgj.org/blog is now live! Come check out the posts and comment on the newsletter!

Help us improve the blog, website, and newsletter by commenting!

Also, for more information about the upcoming MiniFest, the blog is the only source for up-to-date information.

CHECK IT OUT!