

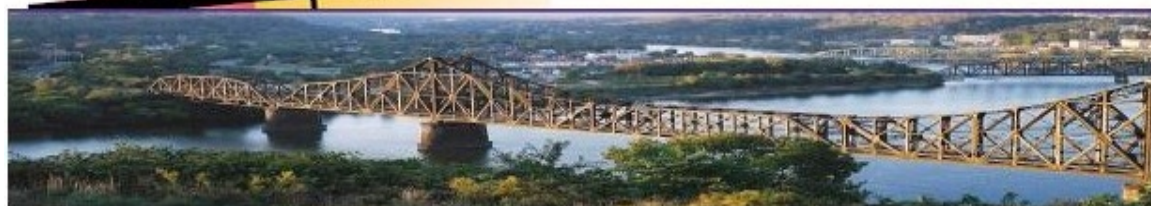


THE BEAVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
WWW.W3SGJ.ORG
BEAVER COUNTYS ONLY 75 YEAR ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB!

The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume III, Issue 7
November 2009
Grant, KB3QFQ, Editor



Annual Christmas Party!

It's that time of year again.
The weather grows colder and the
holidays draw nearer.
That means that it's time for...
The BVARA Christmas Party!

Inside this issue:

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The Christmas Party will be held at the Baden Borough Municipal Building,
in the **Community Room** on Saturday, **December 5**.

The address is 149 State Street, Baden, PA 15005

The party starts at **5:00PM!** The price for this event will be **\$12 a person**.
You must also bring a **\$10 grab bag gift** if you wish to partake!

**To RSVP, contact Jack Spencer, KZ3Z, at 412/427-0427 or talk to him
on the 145.31 repeater!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT, VISIT W3SGJ.org !

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



Meetings at the new 911 Center These are the meeting dates for 2010:

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

July 8

August - None, Corn Roast at Brady's Run

September 9

October 14

November 11

December - None, Christmas party



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).

Scouts' Voices Span the Globe During Radio Rally

By Victoria Guay, from [Citizen](#)

There was excitement in the air as two members of the 68 Boy Scout Amateur Radio Club (68BSARC), part of Troop 68 at St. Josep Parish, listened to closely to discern the voices of other current and former Scouts from around the world during the 52nd annual Jamboree on the Air.

Travis Ryan and Katey Fecteau, both 12 members of the local radio club, said they have been ham radio operators for approximately two years.

Mike Fecteau, scoutmaster of Troop 68, said the troop has 22 members and seven are licensed ham radio operators. The 68BSARC is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and they operate from ham radio station KB1RSP.

The station is located in a small outbuilding behind Holy Trinity Catholic School, which is located next to St. Joseph Parish.

Fecteau said that the club was started two years ago when a member of the Troop's committee donated ham radio equipment with the stipulation that at least some of the troop members become licensed operators.

The radio club has been able to contact Boy Scouts and other ham radio operators from the local area for three to four months, but, Mike Fecteau, scout master of Troop 68, said, it was only within the last week that they were able to obtain and install an antenna big enough to capture the high international frequencies.

Travis said events like Saturday's Jamboree on the Air is why he joined the club.

"I like getting to talk to people all over the world," Travis said, noting that recently, they were able to talk to people from California and Florida.

Another time, Katey said, they heard from a few men from Alabama.

Fecteau said earlier in the afternoon, they were able to hear a transmission from the Netherlands.

He said while they children weren't able to start a conversation, he was pleased they were able to hear a transmission from so far away.

"There's so many people out there that's it's hard to get good conversation going back and fourth, but this is great experience for them," Fecteau said.



**FOR MORE NEWS ARTICLES, VISIT
THE BVARA BLOG!
blog.W3SGJ.org**

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					

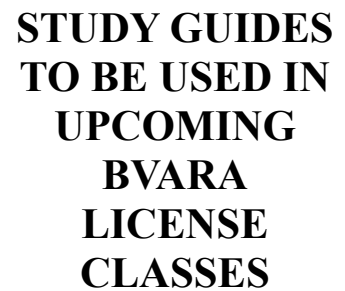


Where Technology, Scouting & Amateur Radio Come Together

The Beaver Valley ARA BSA Explorer Post 73 TechFest and Auction
will be held on ***February 14, 2010***, and will now be held at a ***new, larger location***:

The Baden American Legion
271 State Street
Baden, PA 15005

We will also be offering much more to do and see, including technology displays! Make sure you check out the revised [announcement flier here](#), and be sure to check out www.W3SGJ.org for even more exciting announcements!



Join the BVARA, ARRL and World Radio

Make Check or Money order payable to:
The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424
South Heights, PA 15081

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.

**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

Safety First

By Alan Applegate, K0BG from [eHam](#)

Safety should be the highest priority item an amateur radio operator instills to his hobby. Most of us know better than to stick our hands inside a live HF power amplifier or climb a tower without a safety belt. However when it comes to mobile operation we seemingly forget the dangers involved. In a recent OpEd article (April 2004 issue of QST) I wrote the following words: It is distracting enough to talk on amateur radio and drive without adding further distraction caused by poor installation practices. It is up to us amateurs to set a safe operating environment level, as free of distraction as possible. This is the essence of this article.

I've been operating mobile for over 30 years with a great deal of that time traveling the highways and byways of the mountain west. I averaged over 40 hours each week behind the wheel and mitigated these hours operating the HF bands. I DXed, county hunted, rag chewed, and mostly listened. I wore out about a dozen cars, and not once did I temporarily mount a rig or antenna. Company cars and personal cars alike, I drilled holes and installed ballmounts, screwed down mounting brackets, and hid the wiring all in the name of safety.

I like the readers of this article to recall the part of their high school physics class which dealt with energy. More specifically, the formula for kinetic energy which is $1/2(m*v^2)$, where m equals the mass and v equals the velocity. For example, a 2-pound object traveling 8.8 feet per second (10 mph) will have a kinetic energy of 77+ foot-pounds. Then there is the law of Conservation of Energy, which deals with the change of kinetic energy to potential energy and back again. Using the above 10 mph example, a 2 pound object laying on the top of your car has a potential energy of 77+ foot-pounds. If your car stopped instantly and we ignore any friction losses, all of the potential energy turns into kinetic energy. In any case, I wouldn't want to be hit on the head with the object!

I used the 2 pound example above for two reasons; this is about the weight of the average remote head (face plate), or that of a VHF mag mounted antenna. Let's assume we're merrily traveling down the highway at 60 mph. At this speed the potential energy of our example becomes 7,744 foot-pounds. All of this potential energy would not become kinetic energy in the event of crash because other factors must be considered. For example, the mag mount does have some adherence to the car body, there is

friction, and there are deceleration components as well. But don't kid yourself! If you have a crash while driving 60 mph, that mag mount will dislodge itself and most likely will snap its coax cable allowing the antenna to become a missile with enough kinetic energy to maim and kill! This is true of a remote head as well when we trade magnetic lines of force for the tensile strength of Velcro.

As I inferred above, it is difficult if not impossible to determine the actual kinetic energy of any object without knowing all of the factors involved. In some crashes nearly all of the potential energy will become kinetic, and others just a fraction. The point here is, even 77 foot-pounds can kill.

There is another aspect of safety which most amateurs miss, and that is the distraction factor. Improperly positioned and/or mounted devices can cause an inordinate amount of distraction. Distraction can be described as the length of time your eyes are off the road and/or controls of the vehicle. At 60 mph (88 feet per second) the average vehicle needs 144 feet to come to a stop (102 feet for some sports cars to 208 feet for some loaded 8 passenger vans) and you have used over half of it due to distraction. You may not be paying attention, but our lawmakers are!

Early this year, the NHTSA (National Highway traffic Safety Administration) amended its rules to require reporting of the use of telematics in any vehicle involved in a crash (the word crash is now used in place of accident as crashes are seldom accidents). Telematics is their term for radios, FAX machines, computers, cell phones, etc. installed or in use in a vehicle. The most prevalent of these is of course is cell phones. This fact has spawned a rash of new laws against telematic use.

Go to this site <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ncsl/Index.cfm> and select 'Distracted Driving' from the right-hand popup, and push the button. While most of the listings cover cell phone use, a closer look at the individual laws just might make your blood boil. And the real spotlight is yet to come. The first annual telematic use report is about 9 to 12 months away, but preliminary data indicate an extraordinary high incidence of telematic use in crashes. Incidentally, amateur radio is one of the sub headings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Safety First

Continued from page 6

One of the easiest ways to avoid distraction is to properly mount your equipment in your vehicle. This means Velcro, bungee cords, rubber bands, and other temporary means are not only verboten, they're hazardous to driver and passengers alike. You can add mag mounts and many other temporary schemes to this list.

It is difficult to address every mobile mounting scenario as each piece of equipment and each type of vehicle is different. However, one can list a set of guide lines which should be considered regardless of the telematic or the vehicle in question. Just for brevity I'll use the words rig and car.

1). The rig should be located so it is clear of all the controls yet is easy to operate and view from the driver's seat. This is not always easy to accomplish. In my own car, I mounted the rig face plate along side of the center console just to the right of my right leg using a home brewed bracket made from DIY aluminum purchased from Home Depot. I can get to the rig controls easily and the mic can be stored in the lower dash cubby hole and out of the way when not in use.

Contrary to popular belief mounting a rig on top of the dash in plain sight is not such a good idea from a distraction standpoint or injury one to say nothing of the theft issues.

2). All brackets should be securely affixed to the various surfaces inside of the car. With proper planning the requisite mounting screws can either use existing attachment points or placed where they're not easily seen. On my previous car, I used two screws, which secured the AM/FM radio frame and center console together to secure a home brew bracket. In turn my IC-706 faceplate was bolted to that bracket.

3). Depending on the year, make, and model of car you own, one or more SRS units (supplemental restraint system commonly called air bags which they're not) will be installed. All rig controls, mounting brackets, mic and power cables should be clear of the SRS. In my OpEd article, I sited an instance where the rig faceplate was mounted atop the drivers SRS, smack dab in the center of the steering wheel. Imagine what sort of smack he'd get if the SRS went off?

4). All wiring should be properly sized, fused, and affixed to eliminate interference with in-car wiring and controls, and out of the way to avoid abrasion, shorts and tripping hazards. Avoid using splices and electrical tape. Never use existing circuits for power even though they appear adequate. In other words, always wire directly to the battery with proper fusing in both leads at the battery end.

The accessory sockets which are replacing cigarette lighter sockets these days are never wired adequately for use by rigs? -- No matter how they are fused! And don't do what was recently suggested in QST; modify a mini-fuse to tap power from the electrical system. If you want to have a real rude awakening, induce enough RF into the SRS circuitry to set it off while you're doing 65 mph down the interstate!

5). How many of you have used one of these phrases or ones like it. My wife won't let me drill a hole in our new car. It's a lease car. I'll get docked thousands when I trade it in. I can't speak for you, but I bought and paid for my car and the one my wife drives. If I decide to drill a hole, even in hers, I will.

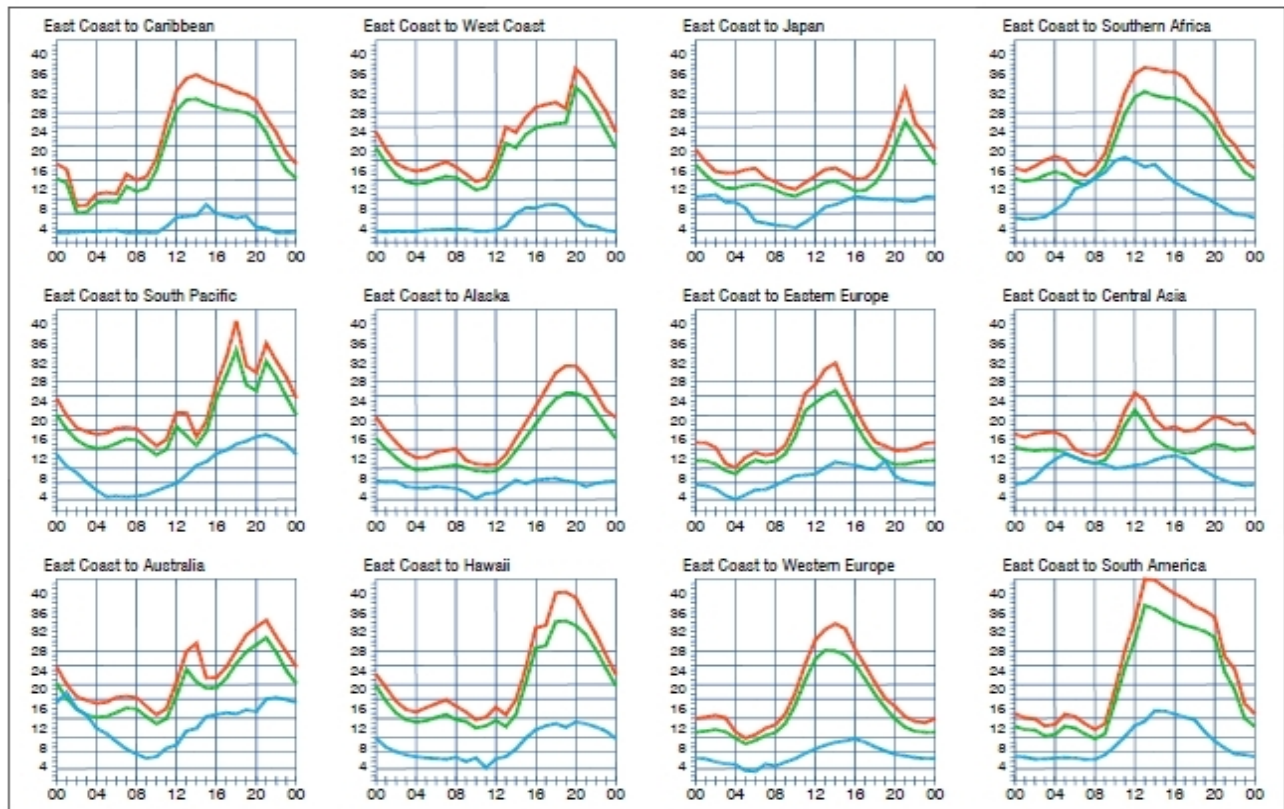
I don't lease cars and unless you can write off the expense of a lease car to business, you shouldn't either especially if you drive over 20,000 miles a year.

I just recently traded my old (1998) car for a new one. I covered the holes in the trunk and quarter panel with rubber plugs I purchased from Radio Shack. Not one word was said about them. Car dealers are much more concerned with overall appearance and mileage. A neat and clean installation is of less concern than a trunk lid all scratched up from using a mag mount. Drill the hole and do it correctly.

6). Clean up your operating practices. Just about every modern rig out there has multiple memories and typically more than you'll ever use or at least remember. If you're like me, and the majority of hams out there, your favorite frequencies can easily be stored with room to spare. The Icom IC-706 is no exception. Whether it be a repeater or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

QST Propagation Charts



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPMAN, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of November 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 1500-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 101. 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 November.

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: Pumpkin Cream Puffs



Puff Pastry	Pumpkin Filling	Maple-Caramel Sauce
3/4 cup/180 mL water 6 tbsp/90 mL butter or margarine 2 tsp/10 mL sugar 1/8 tsp/0.5 mL salt 3/4 cup/180 mL all-purpose flour 3 eggs 1 1/2 tsp/7.5 mL <u>Double-Strength Vanilla</u>	1 cup/250 mL whipped cream 3 tbsp/45 mL sugar 1 tsp/5 mL <u>Pumpkin Pie Spice</u> 1 cup/250 mL canned pumpkin	1/2 cup/125 mL packed brown sugar 1 tbsp/15 mL corn starch 1/3 cup/75 mL half-and-half 1/4 cup/60 mL water 2 tbsp/30 mL pure maple syrup 1 tbsp/15 mL butter 1/2 tsp/2.5 mL <u>Double-Strength Vanilla</u>

Cooking Directions

Puff Pastry

In medium saucepan, combine butter and water. Bring to boil over medium heat. Stir in flour, salt and sugar; cook, stirring constantly, until mixture leaves sides of pan in a smooth ball. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Add eggs one at a time, beating vigorously after each addition, until mixture is smooth and glossy. Stir in vanilla.

Preheat oven to 400°F/205°C. Using either a pasty bag or tablespoon, form the puffs on a greased cookie sheet. Using the back of a spoon, flatten any points. Makes 12 puff pastries. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden and crisp. Remove puffs from oven and cool on wire racks.

Pumpkin Filling

In a large chilled bowl combine whipped cream, sugar and pumpkin pie spice with chilled beaters until soft peaks form. Fold in 1 cup/250 mL canned pumpkin.

Maple-Caramel Sauce

In a small saucepan stir together brown sugar, corn starch, half-and-half, water, maple syrup, and butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until slightly thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or more. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla



Cut puff pastry in half, fill with pumpkin filling and top with caramel sauce. Serves 12

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!

Safety First

Continued from page 7

If you're a logging freak, buy a small voice recorder. The newer solid state ones will record several hours worth of data and they're cheap. I saw one recently at Wal-Mart for \$29 which boasted 4 hours of recording in the low fidelity mode which is more than adequate for any mobile logging function.

8). If it is legal in your area, use a headset with just one earphone so you can still hear traffic noise, sirens, and the like. Make sure it's comfortable for long-term use, and that the mic is compatible with your rig. The Heil I used originally was too hot for the rig it was designed for, so I modified a Pacific Plantronics unit, which I like much better. Make sure the cords do not interfere with your driving.

If possible use VOX rather than PTT. The use of VOX requires a good noise canceling mic and few mobile mics fit this parameter. For several years I used a visor-mounted mic from a Motorola M500 cell phone with good success until it died. I'd like to find another some day. Perhaps this is one item Mr. Bob Heil can address.

9). Traffic conditions should dictate whether you operate, listen, or turn off the rig. No contact you've ever made or will make is worth risking a crash for and the consequences, which follow. If you decide that contact is more important, pull off the road on to a side street to finish your contact.

10). If you're one of those folks who wish to refute or rebuke what I've suggested because crashes caused by distraction only happen to the other guy, remember this; to the other guy, YOU'RE the other guy!

Beaver Valley ARA
BSA Explorer Post 73

techfest
and auction

02.14.10

**Where Technology, Scouting &
Amateur Radio Come Together**

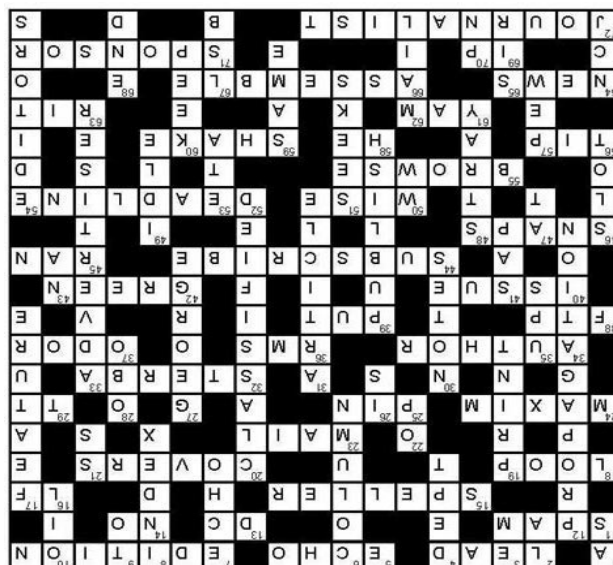
February 14, 2010

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Baden American Legion,
271 State Street, Baden PA 15005

Technology Displays, Exploring
Open House, VE Testing, Indoor
Flea Market, Auction and MORE!

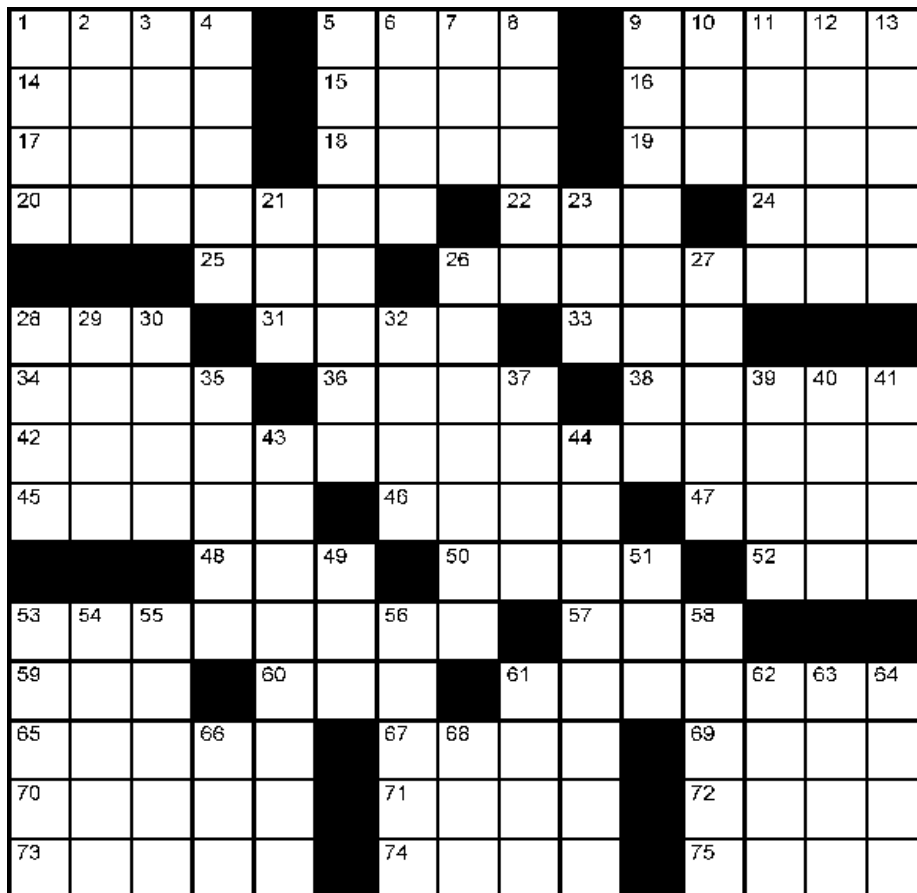
Visit **W3SGJ.org** for more info!



CROSSWORD PUZZLE - "Black and White and Read All Over"

Have fun playing Ham Radio Magazine Publisher! How dictionary words relate to radio magazines...

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



Down

1. Do .. I say
2. Big California city (abbr.)
3. Electromagnetic (abbr.)
4. Regular set of articles (abbr.)
6. Runs every month
7. 5 Across again
8. List of articles
9. In the direction of
10. Lubricate
12. Every ham magazine has a column on this
17. Special article
19. Transfer to paper
20. Ads sorted by topic
21. ARRL sponsors this contest
22. Opinion (abbr.)
26. To be
27. First name of CQ's longest-running columnist
28. Or Best Offer (abbr.)
30. Irwin Math writes this CQ column
31. Story in a magazine
33. Business paying to display information
35. Big brown truck company
39. Own and distribute a magazine
41. Tree fluid
43. Not applicable (abbr.)
46. Long thin hole
47. Antenna tuner (abbr.)
48. QST's short items
49. Not being used
50. CQ sponsors this contest
51. Looks for
53. Estimated Time of Arrival (abbr.)
54. Persons that review and correct material
57. Church seat
59. Identical
60. Retain
62. Send by post
64. Contest magazine
65. Formal salutation for males
67. Bit of least value (abbr.)
68. Last
70. Type of semiconductor junction (abbr.)

Across

2. Main story
5. Repeat a sound
7. One print run of a magazine or book
11. Unwanted ad
13. Battery supplied power (abbr.)
14. What part don't you understand?
15. A writer must also be a good
16. Low Frequency (abbr.)
18. Circular antenna
20. Magazines have one on the front and back
23. Receive magazines via this
24. ARRL and QST founder
25. Sharp and thin for joining or holding
29. Teletype (abbr.)
32. Writes antenna column for Worldradio
34. Writer
36. Type of AC measurement (abbr.)
37. Smell
38. File Transfer Protocol (abbr.)
39. When finished, ... it to bed
40. A completed magazine
42. Founder of 73 Magazine
44. Pay to receive magazine
45. Printed
46. Takes a photo
50. Editors must have this quality
52. Last date for submitting material
55. Scan through quickly
56. An idea or suggestion
58. Opposite of she
59. Jerk back and forth
61. Sweet potato
63. Adjustable receive frequency (abbr.)
64. Timely information
66. Put together
69. Intellectual Property (abbr.)
71. Person or business financing an event
72. Reporter

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

Eagle Scout in Baden Boy Scout Troop 405

Visit the blog for even **MORE news articles and announcements! If you **comment** on the blog, you can affect what **goes in the newsletter** and **on the blog!****

The blog is also the official source for our upcoming TechFest! So if you want the news first, visit our blog!

Make sure you check it out today at

blog.W3SGJ.org