



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

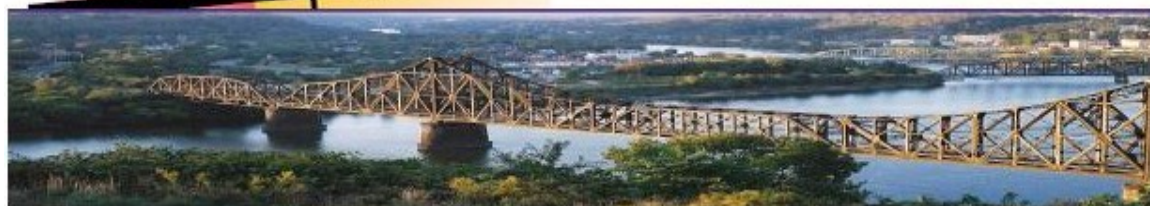
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume III, Issue 9

January 2010

Grant, KB3QFQ, Editor



The Amateur Amateur: Any-Bounce

"Other than the ionosphere, have you ever deliberately bounced your signal off of something in order to improve your propagation?" That was the question asked during one of our recent ARES nets.

By Gary Hoffman, KB0H, from the ARRL

I was surprised that most of the net participants responded "No." Since there were so few "Yes" replies, the net controller went ahead and asked what the respondent had used to reflect his signal. I will tell you the answers later.

We all know about the ionosphere, of course, as it was a significant feature in our license exams. We learned about the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency), the D, E, F1 and F2 layers, gray-line propagation and all manner of technical atmospheric stuff. Some of us have to reduce all that to cartoon images so that we can understand it. My own take is that there is a demi-god up in the sky named Iono. Like most of us, he's awake during the day and asleep at night. When he's awake, he's

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 9!

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Happy New Year!!

Over the course of the next few months, we will be adding new columns and info throughout the newsletter. What would you like to see added?

Email me at
news@W3SGJ.org
and let me know!!

Please note:
The views expressed in articles are those of the authors alone. They do not represent the views or opinions of the BVARA, or any entity of, or affiliated with, the BVARA.

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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

2010 BVARA Officers & Directors

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

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



BVARA Meetings

**E-Board meetings are held at 6:30,
Regular meetings are at 7:30**

January 6 - BADEN COMMUNITY ROOM

February 11 - Ambridge 911 Center

March 11 - Ambridge 911 Center

April 8 - Ambridge 911 Center

May 13 - Ambridge 911 Center

June 10 - Ambridge 911 Center

July 8 - Ambridge 911 Center

August - None, Corn Roast at Brady's Run

September 9 - Ambridge 911 Center

October 14 - Ambridge 911 Center

November 11 - Ambridge 911 Center

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 amateurs 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).



Question? Comment? Email me at news@W3SGJ.org and it will appear here!

*First issue of "Letters to the Editor!" This month's topic is my article, "Radio and Scouting In My Life." (read it on **PAGE 8** of this newsletter)
I invited the folks over at eHam to share their radio and Scouting stories, and here's what I heard back.*

Queen's Scout in Canada

What a story ending with the \$10,000 cheque. Well deserved. [Editor's Note: This is referring to "**Mowing for Mrs. Majdecki**" by Wayne C. Long on [our blog](#)] Congratulations on earning Eagle and your Amateur license.

My story began some 63 years ago when I became a Cub in Canada. Over the years I was a Scout and Rover. I achieved the rank of Queen Scout (roughly equivalent to your Eagle). I have had the pleasure of attending a few World Scout Jamborees, and many other Jamborees over the years – both as a youth and adult. I have also visited Philmont in 1956 and had a private tourguide to show us the "site" in 3 days. What an experience. Over the years I have had the pleasure of being a section leader in all 5 of the Canadian sections before progressing to a WoodBadge 3 trainer. Most of my time is now spent training adults.

My youngest son got me involved in Amateur Radio by helping out doing communications for car rally's and other public service events. I got my license in 1995 and thoroughly enjoy the hobby. My Amateur interest is still mostly the public service aspect and have joined the local ARES group of our Amateur club, and have obtained the ICS level 400 certification.

Keep up the good work.
Graham – Alberta, Canada

Introduced by Scoutmaster to Radio

Great story! Scouting was a big part of my growing up as well. One of the scoutmasters in our troop had been an

active ham for many years. This was back in the mid-90's. My father who was also active as a troop leader and was a ham operator back when he was in college. However between equipment problems and grad school taking up his time, he fell away from the hobby. By the time I was in high school I got interested in getting my license. With the encouragement from my scoutmaster both my Dad and I got our licenses, bought a used TENTEC Omni at a hamfest and got on the air. I remember our troop participating in JOTA on campouts. That was a lot of fun! We also did the radio merit badge and built some kits. Somewhere I still have a Ramsey Electronics shortwave receiver that I built. Scouting is a great way to introduce young people to Amateur Radio. Its too bad many clubs don't get more involved.

Matt – Alabama, United States

Radio Demo at Scout Camp

Great article. I was licensed when I was 11 after seeing a ham radio demo at scout camp. There were about 7 or 8 newly licensed hams in the council, so we started BSA Venture Crew 510 (which is DX in Roman Numerals). Crew 510 is still on the air all the time, including the WPX SSB contest with 100% youth operators at the K1TTT superstation, using the call NE1C (New England's #1 Crew). Ten years later, I'm still involved in scouting and radio. I am also an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. Keep up the good work!

Mike – Massachusetts, United States

Dad Introduced Him to Radio and Scouting

My Dad (WB6CGN-SK) got me started in both Ham Radio and Scouting. Was very active in both during my teen years - Upgraded from Novice and Earned Eagle Scout around the same time. Lots of Hams are involved in both - Lots of fun.

Bill – California, United States

Thank you all for your stories! I enjoyed reading all of these and the many more that are on eHam.

Send in your opinion on the use of Twitter and Facebook in amateur radio. We'll publish it right here next month.

**Grant is the editor of the eQRM.
You can reach him by emailing news@W3SGJ.org or by communicating via telepathy.**



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 be held at:

The Baden American Legion
271 State Street
Baden, PA 15005

The TechFest starts at **8:00 AM** and ends at **2:00 PM**

Technology displays, Merit Badge info, BSA Exploring open house,
flea market, electronics auction, geocaching display, and more!

Rain or shine – INDOOR LOCATION!

Talk in on the **145.310** PL 100Hz repeater!

Be sure to visit **TechFest.W3SGJ.org** for up-to-date information
regarding the TechFest, including registration information, map and
directions, lodging and restaurant information, contact info and more!



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
☐ 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

STUDY GUIDES BEING USED IN 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.



Interested in becoming an
amateur radio operator?
 Want to upgrade your license?

Jack Spencer, KZ3Z is **hosting a class** for just these reasons.
 For details, please contact Jack
 at 724-869-2429 or visit
www.W3SGJ.org

Monthly

Point, Counterpoint – Why Does Morse Code Matter?

From the [QRZ Forums](#)

WA4D [Why does Morse Code matter?] To many (largely elderly) hams, the mode **reflects the essence** of Amateur radio. Those first moments of CW recognition cutting through the crackle and interpreting the message are the "magic" that many old timers speak of... those who never adopt this first mode of our hobby are not "alive". Indeed in my view they are not "real" hams. They know not of the "thrill of recognition" and they have not exhibited the necessary conviction to achieve Morse competence. They entered the hobby through the "affirmative action" plan of Ham radio. The "back door" of the hobby if you will. And they shall forever be "pretenders" to many coded class hams.

CW's relevance is not in dispute. It matters not as learning criteria for licensing. But the heritage, the soul of the hobby and it's "romance" have been defined by Morse Code. And it defines what a **real ham** is in the 21st century

KD5PME I agree that code matters, what I don't agree with is that only a CW operator is a "true" ham. This hobby has a lot of modes and fills the interests of a lot of people who don't do CW.

I am a 5wpm General working on Extra. I do plan on re-learning and using CW someday. But I will not think of myself as any more of real ham than I do today.

AB8MA In days of old,
When Ops Were Bold
And sidebands Not Invented.
The Word Would Pass
By Pounding Brass
And All Were Well Contented!

KR2C You're not going to get anywhere implying that you can only be a "real ham" if you use CW. You're only increasing the divide by alienating the "real hams" who don't use CW.

WA4D I am more than pleased to increase the "divide" to those who seek lower entry standards. Indeed, I subject them to ridicule and mockery. They deserve no less.

We just have different views.

KD5PME Anyone can learn Morse code if they really want to. If the op really wants to impress and prove he's so much better than anyone entering the hobby now, lets see him copy some RTTY by ear.

WB2WIK While the Dawg's [WA4D] post is obviously intended to incite and segregate, I kind of agree.

Not everyone needs to use or like code. But the experience of using it is something non-users cannot comprehend. Phone and digi modes are great and allow communications using more modern and highly effective techniques.

But CW is the only mode you can work with a 1 stage transmitter, a 1 stage receiver (and these two can actually be the same stage), and touching two wires together. And "code" (without wireless) has proven useful in a variety of ways, well outside the realm of ham radio or any kind of radio. You can send it by blinking your eyes, as in "T O R T U R E."

Having known the code since age 12, I kind of feel sorry for anyone who doesn't know it -- not just hams, but the general population.

It's like using keyboards without knowing how to touch type: You can do it, but never as fast as those of us who can. I don't even know what it's like to have to look down at a keyboard to type. Must be tough.

KD5PME I understand your enjoyment of the mode and wanting to spread the good word.

Monthly

Point, Counterpoint – Why Does Morse Code Matter?

From the [QRZ Forums](#) (Continued)

WB2WIK IMO [In My Opinion] if you don't give code a shot, you're missing out on one of the most enjoyable parts of radio communications...and maybe more than that.

N4PRT Another elitist, pointless code thread.

Those who derive their ham radio self esteem from when they took their license and whether some one can or cannot operate manual CW has a real psychological issue. It is akin to country club snobbery. Get over it.

And before the hopping starts, yes--I qualified for General after the Element 1 requirement was dropped. I send at about 26wpm, and can accurately copy to ~30wpm. It's just a hobby, boys.

N5PVL Another response from someone who did not read and understand the original post, all puffed up with their own alleged superiority.

Talk about snobbery! - Get a life.

N5FOG What it really boils down to is he is mad because he had to do it and thinks everyone else should too. I see the words of a bitter older man.

You can ridicule and mock all the hams that upgraded after the code was dropped but their license says Extra just like yours does and you can't stand it.

WB2WIK Bitter attitude, there. We didn't "have to do" it. I think we all very much wanted to do it. There's a difference.

KD5PME I agree with you [N5FOG]. I don't know who he is mad at, though. I got my license by the rules that were in place at the time. I would have done it

under the old rules, too, just would have taken longer. I really don't care.

I just don't understand why he and Steve seem to think that divisiveness on this topic is a good thing.

I think a better approach would be to educate and encourage.

NI7I Sounds like there is a psychological issue but I don't think it is with the original poster. There are many who refuse to recognize the obvious fact that the bar has been lowered significantly. They ignore that fact, I suppose because they would have had trouble getting their license otherwise. There is, as has been pointed out, little difference between a CB op and an Amateur Op. Has nothing to do with "snobbery". The average general or extra licensed today has little actual technical knowledge. This is made evident by the questions they post about what most of us consider simple technical issues. Things you used to need to know to get your license.

The new hams are welcome, of course. Their license just doesn't mean as much beyond giving permission to work the frequencies we are given....

K7JEM The original post was not about "dumbed down" testing, it was about hams using code. Try to pay attention. The OP feels that hams that don't use code are not "real hams".

Everyone is entitled to their opinion. He gets it pretty right that the mode is pretty much obsolete, except for hobbyists. He gets it right that it's a bunch of old men that think that way. He is wrong about what a "real" ham op is though. +

To read the debate in its entirety, please visit <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=228989>
Remember, the opinions stated are those of the authors, not of the BVARA or anyone affiliated with the BVARA.

From the Editor | **Grant, KB3QFQ**

Radio and Scouting In My Life

How Scouting brought me to amateur radio, and its role in my life today

So, you're new to the ham radio thing. You have no clue what "73" means, what DXing is, and seriously, what the HECK is propagation?

Actually, that probably doesn't describe you at all. But that's how I started.

Boy Scouting is a huge part of my life. I have attended Scouts for over ten years and have just received my Eagle Scout award. Scouting has also introduced me to amateur radio, or, as radio operators call it, "ham radio."

Almost two years ago, I started taking a class for my Radio Merit Badge which was taught by a local ham, KZ3Z, and the local radio club. After a few months, I became used to some of the radio lingo and studied on eHam.net for my Tech License relentlessly. Well, in January of 2008 I took the test and passed. My first contact occurred later that month at our annual Scouting dinner, where I received an HT (handheld transceiver) and talked to an operator about twenty minutes away from where I was located.

Fast forward to the present. The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, the local radio club is now very involved with our Scout Troop. I am now a member of the radio club and our Explorer Post,

In the past two years, amateur radio has started out as being "another Merit Badge to earn" to being a central part in my daily life

which is a Scouting branch that encompasses the elements of Scouting, hobbies and career preparation. Our Troop is very involved with Field Day, and we have contacted multiple states across the US and many places in Canada. The Troop loves Field Day, as we can contact many different people from across the world.

Because of the interest from Scouts in the amateur radio hobby, our radio club wanted to hold a Hamfest, which we thought Scouts and ham operators alike would enjoy.

Since we were holding this event, we had to get ideas. Just recently, I have had the honor of meeting with the ARRL Atlantic Division Director, Mr. Bill Edgar, N3LLR, and the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, Mr. John Rodgers, N3MSE. At this meeting, we discussed how we can distinguish our Hamfest from other radio events, and they both came up with an excellent idea: why not host a TechFest, where we could demonstrate how modern technology ties into amateur radio? The event would receive more interest from teenagers, because of the technology aspect, and would also be interesting to amateur radio operators as well. We further discussed the TechFest concept, and we unanimously agreed that this was the direction that our amateur radio event should take.

Our TechFest will combine technology, Scouting and amateur radio and will show Scouts and amateur radio operators how modern technology can be incorporated into the amateur radio hobby.



Now, in addition to promoting the event on the amateur radio side of things, we had to spread word of our event through the local Scouting Council, The Greater Pittsburgh Council. They will be sending out fliers to Scouters Council-wide to promote our event, and the employees at Flag Plaza, the Scouting headquarters for the Greater Pittsburgh Council, are a wonderful help.

In the past two years, amateur radio has started out as being "another Merit Badge to earn" to being a central part in my daily life. I have gone from just learning about ham radio to being the editor of our club's newsletter, website, and blog, and helping coordinate our upcoming TechFest.

So, that was my Amateur Radio story. I would never have started into the amateur radio hobby without Boy Scouts, which is why I think that an event like our TechFest could really bring more young people into amateur radio.

What's your story? How did Scouting and Amateur Radio impact your life?

I hope you enjoyed reading my story, and I look forward to reading yours. +

TECHNOLOGY | CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The Amateur Amateur: Any-Bounce

When the ionosphere just isn't enough

By Gary Hoffman, KB0H, from the [ARRL](#)

... hungry, and his favorite dish is your HF radio signal.

Walking on the Moon

My own early HF experiments consisted of a lot of snack food for Iono. Those few crumbs that escaped him went, well, I don't know where they went. At the time I was trying to reach my brother Chris, K1KC, in Atlanta; I live in St Louis, Missouri. Those of you who do a lot of DXing will realize right away that my vertically polarized signals went right over my brother's head and likely wound up somewhere in the Caribbean. So my first attempts at bouncing a signal weren't particularly fruitful.

I haven't tried DXing since then, though I occasionally do hear distant stations. I use the HF bands, but mainly to send and receive signals locally. That's another kind of bounce called NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave). The signals more-or-less go straight up and bounce right back down (assuming that Iono doesn't get them). It's a very handy technique for getting signals over hills and such, so it is a favorite of ARES groups.

None of the participants during that ARES net appeared to have done

moonbounce or meteor scatter. Of course, neither had I. While those techniques seem like really cool ways to propagate signals, I would have to categorize them as "esoteric" (translation: not for everyone). Don't get me wrong, I would really like to try moonbounce someday, but it would take an awfully long time to acquire the technical knowledge -- and necessary funds. By and large, that puts the date that I'd be ready to give it a try somewhere beyond the end of my life span. Sigh.

The Gateway Arch

Going back to the ARES net again, one of the participants had a rather interesting -- though not terribly surprising -- answer. At least, it wasn't particularly surprising if you lived in St Louis. This fellow, who worked downtown, had carried on an extended conversation on 2 meter simplex with someone who was in his vehicle and driving south. The reason they were able to communicate for a long period of time was that they were bouncing their signals off of the Gateway Arch. The Gateway Arch is a 630 foot tall stainless steel structure that sits at the edge of the Mississippi River. It can be seen from many places around St Louis County. And it makes a dandy RF reflector.

And it's not just hams that do so. A number of local television stations use the Arch as a "passive repeater" when beaming microwave signals from their remote vans back to their studios.

I may have bounced my own signals off of the Arch, though I haven't done so deliberately.



I can't quite see the Arch from my home in Florissant, which is a suburb of St Louis. But I do know that there are spots in Florissant from which the Arch can be seen quite clearly. I've mentioned in the past that I live on the north face of a hill, and that most of St Louis County lies to the south of me. Even with a tall mast that allows my antenna to just barely peek over the hill, I have a difficult time reaching stations to the south of me via simplex. Yet for some reason, I'm able to reach many stations in south St Louis City, even though they are eclipsed by that blasted hill.

My best guess is that my transmissions are hitting the Arch and bouncing back into the south part of the City. If anything is reflecting my signals, the Arch is the best candidate. You just can't beat that stainless steel.

The Spirit of St Louis?

Yes, I was one of the net participants who said that I'd used something other than the ionosphere to deliberately bounce a signal and improve my propagation. But no, it wasn't the Gateway Arch. Here's the story:

Back when my wife Nancy and I first got our licenses, we used both



TECHNOLOGY



handheld and mobile transceivers to communicate. Mostly we did so during the evening commute home from work. In those days, we had very cheap glass-mount antennas on our cars.

Propagation from our cars was awful. Even over level terrain, it seemed like we couldn't communicate much beyond 1 mile. As you might have guessed, the problem was the glass-mount antennas. We've since made a number of improvements and our mobile communications have improved dramatically, but I wanted you to understand how things were when I tried my little experimental bounce.

One afternoon I was at home, waiting for Nancy. I knew that she was probably on the road and I thought I'd try contacting her. I didn't have a roof-mounted antenna in those days, so all I could do was stand in our back yard and try to reach her using my hand held transceiver. It was a long shot at best. But surprise-surprise, Nancy did hear me, at least

marginally. And likewise, I could hear her, but just barely. I cursed our rotten antennas and looked around to see if there was a ladder nearby -- or anything else that might give me a little altitude.

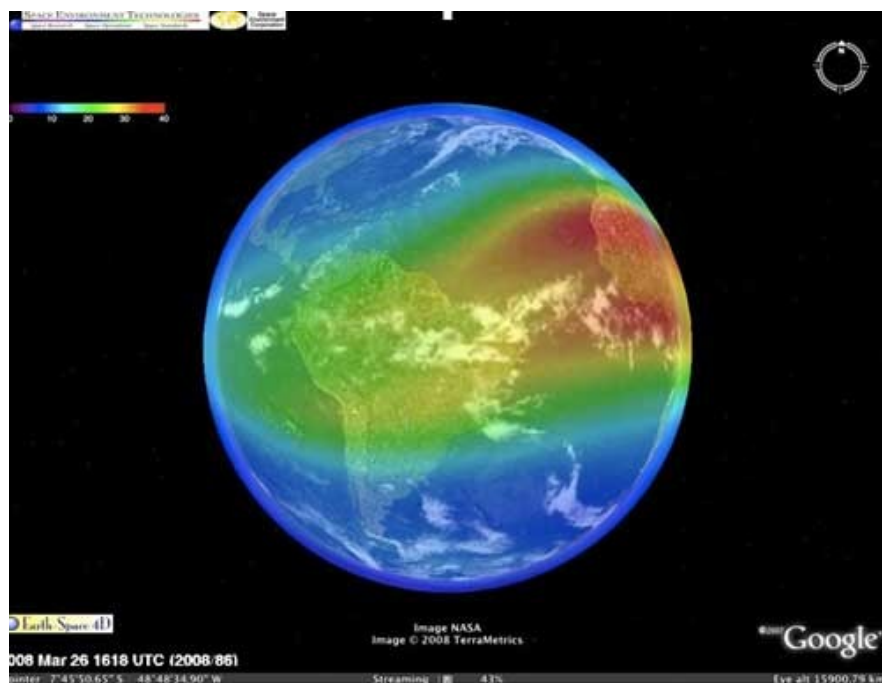
I didn't see anything that I could climb, but I did spot a commercial airliner that had just taken off from the airport.

The word "bounce" popped into my head. And so, just on a whim, I tilted

that airplane. It was a real Eureka! moment.

There was one more person on the ARES net that night that had a signal-bounce story to tell. He said that he'd once bounced a signal off of a fellow ham's wheelchair. He didn't elaborate, and the net controller was afraid to ask. But it does show that hams can be quite innovative when it comes to propagating their signals. +

Editor's note: ARRL member Gary Hoffman, KB0H, lives in Florissant, Missouri. He's been a ham since 1995. Hoffman says his column's name -- "The Amateur Amateur" -- suggests the explorations of a rank amateur, not those of an experienced or knowledgeable ham. His wife, Nancy, is N0NJ. Hoffman has a [ham-related Web page](#). Readers are invited to contact the author via [e-mail](#).



my hand held transceiver back until it was perpendicular to the airliner. I keyed up and called Nancy again.

She responded and said that I was coming in much better. I could hear her much clearer as well. There was a certain pulsing to our signals (Motorboating? Picket-fencing?), but we were able to converse just fine.

Naturally, that lasted only until the airliner passed out of sight, but it was such a neat feeling that I had figured out that I could bounce a signal off of

The Ionosphere
(Pictured above)
Image courtesy of NASA



Hams *Love* to Eat

Recipe of the Month: Raspberry Cream Coffee Cake



Cake

2 ½ cups/600 mL flour
 ¾ cups/180 mL sugar
 1 tsp/5 mL [Ground Cinnamon](#)
 1 cup/250 mL (2 sticks) butter, cold
 1/2 tsp/2.5 mL [Baking Powder](#)
 1/2 tsp/2.5 mL baking soda
 1/4 tsp/1.2 mL salt
 ¾ cup/180 mL sour cream
 1 egg
 1 tsp/5 mL [Double-Strength Vanilla](#)

Filling

1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) cream cheese, softened
 1/4 cup/60 mL sugar
 ½ tsp [Double-Strength Vanilla](#)
 1 egg
 1/2 cup/125 mL raspberry preserves

Glaze (optional) –

probably don't need this much for the glaze

1 ½ cup/375 mL powdered sugar
 ½ tsp [Double-Strength Vanilla](#)
 2 tbsp water

Cooking Directions

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and cinnamon; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Remove 1/2 cup/125 mL of crumbs for topping. To remaining crumb mixture add baking powder, baking soda, salt, sour cream, egg and vanilla extract; blend well. Spread batter over bottom of 8 x 8-inch/20 x 20-cm baking pan.

For Filling: In a small bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and eggs; blend well. Pour over batter in pan. Carefully spoon preserves evenly over filling. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of reserved crumbs over preserves. Bake before adding glaze.

Glaze: combine powdered sugar, water and vanilla, drizzle on top of coffee cake.

Bake at 350°F/180°C for 45 to 50 minutes. Serve warm or cold. Serves 8



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!

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Jan 1, 1300Z-2000Z, Northfield, MA. 72 Rag Chew Group, K1R. Celebrate and welcome in the new year - 2010. 7.272. Certificate. Robert Lobenstein, WA2AXZ, 1958 E 36 St, Brooklyn, NY 11234. www.ragchewers.net

Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, All US Call Areas. Straight Key Century Club (SKCC), K3Y. Celebrating 4 years of steady growth to nearly 6,000 members. 14.050 10.120 7.055 3.550. QSL. Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 618 Seminole Dr, Erie, PA 16505. www.skccgroup.com

Jan 2, 1600Z-2000Z, Clinton, IA. Clinton Amateur Radio Club, W0CS. Eagle Watch on the Mississippi River Dam 13. 14.250 7.250. QSL. CARC, PO Box 1501, Clinton, IA 52733-1501. w0cs@arrl.net

Jan 2-Jan 10, 1400Z-0559Z, Newburgh, IN. Indiana Patriot Guard Riders, N9P. 5th Anniversary of Indiana Patriot Guard Riders. 21.300 14.265 7.210 3.825 SSB CW RTTY PSK. QSL. Rick Williams, 515 E Jennings St, Newburgh, IN 47630. Indiana Patriot Guard Riders first mission honoring Pvt Jonathan Pfender, killed in Iraq December 30, 2005. www.qrz.com/db/n9p or www.themmd.com/N9P

Jan 9, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Radio Room, N16IW. USS Nautilus (SSN-571) Underway on Nuclear Power 1955. 14.320 7.250 7.070 D-STAR. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 North Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101-5811. kk6fz@arrl.net

Jan 23-Jan 24, 1400Z-2000Z, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC, AL7LS. Release date for movie Hot Rods to Hell 27 Jan 1967. 14.105 7.243 7.105 3.952. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119. bioremracnorthbase.club.officelive.com/Documents/htrh2010post.mht

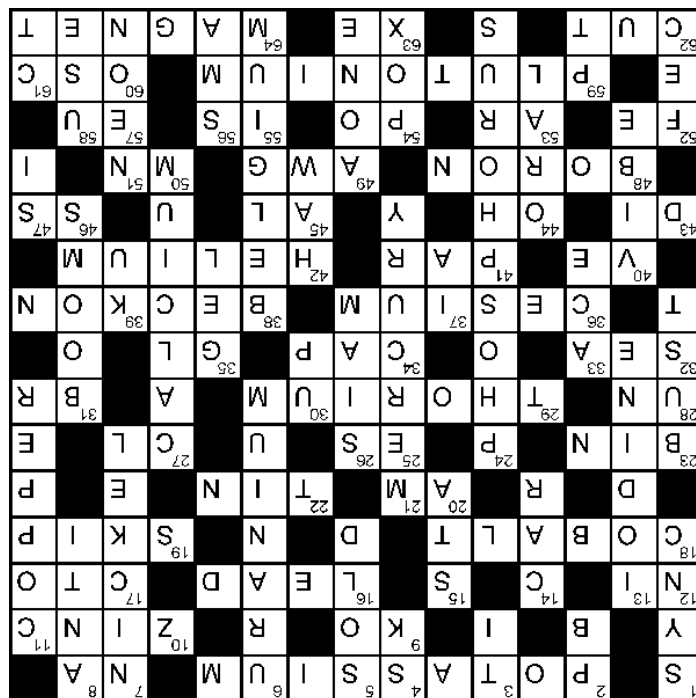
Jan 29-Jan 31, 0001Z-2359Z, Fort Monmouth, NJ. Garden State Amateur Radio Association, K2USA. Farewell to Fort Monmouth from the Fort Monmouth MARS Station (AA2USA). 14.260 7.260 3.860 CW +50 PSK31 +70 W2NJR/R repeater. QSL. Garden State ARA, 8 Donner St, Holmdel, NJ 07733-2004. www.gardenstateara.org

Jan 30, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2010. 14.240 7.240 146.715 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. www.qsl.net/k3hwj

Jan 30-Jan 31, 1700Z-1700Z, Saint Marys, GA. Camden County Amateur Radio Society, KB4CC. Activation of Cumberland Island USI# GA-002S IOTA# NA-058. 14.260 14.040 7.055 7.030. QSL. CCARS - USI#GA-002S, PO Box 2203, Kingsland, GA 31548. www.ccars.org

Jan 30-Feb 4, 1500Z-0400Z, Lubbock, TX. Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 51st anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 18.150 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. Bryan Edwards, 3801 68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. www.amcrc.com/w5b

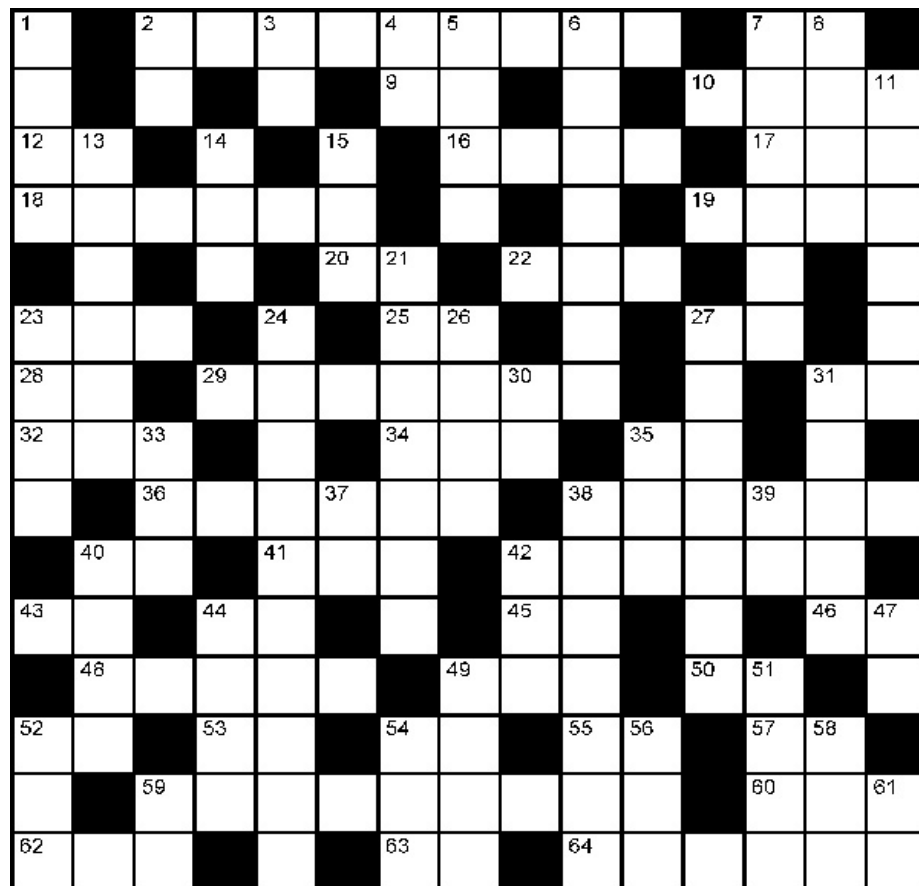
ANSWER TO THIS ISSUE'S CROSSWORD:



CROSSWORD PUZZLE - "It's Elementary"

Elementary, my dear Watson! Elements and their symbols are the focus of this month's crossword.

From the [ARRL](#)



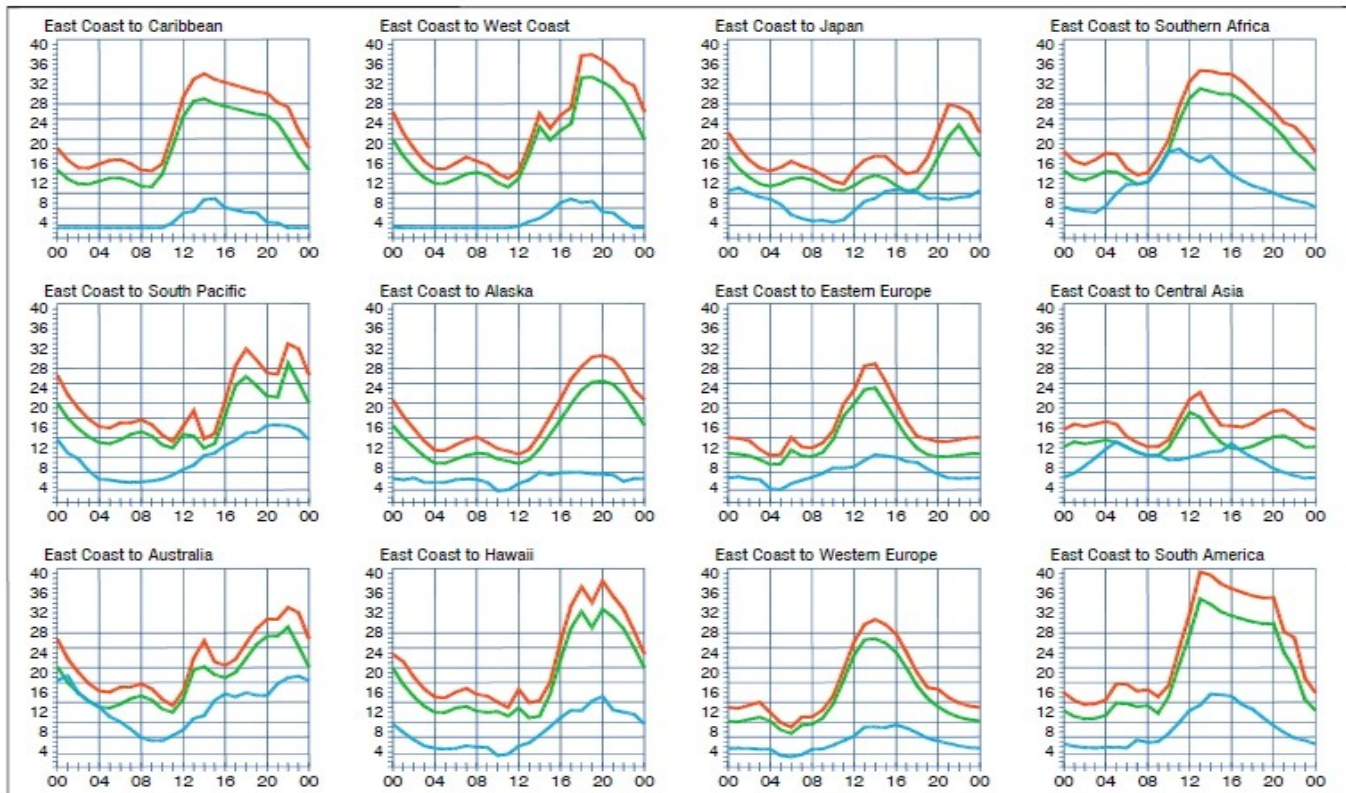
Down

1. Aligned in time
2. Chemical symbol for 16 Across
3. Tough metal used on airplane surfaces
4. Deceased ham (CW abbr)
5. Exchanged for money
6. Its chemical symbol is U
7. Plating on connectors
8. Prefix that means "opposite"
11. Element that makes up most wires
13. Element used to disinfect cuts and scratches
14. Most common mobile station vehicle
15. Special permission from the FCC (abbr)
21. Its chemical symbol is Hg
23. To break or explode
24. Its chemical symbol is P
26. The old name for Thailand
27. Its chemical symbol is Ca
30. Where antennas go
31. These hold up antenna elements
33. Make a top score on an exam
35. Come together as a team
37. Home state to Collins Radio
38. Country whose prefix is ON
39. Abbreviation for band above X-band
40. Feeling or emotion
42. Partners with hem
44. To examine by voice
47. Element used in most semiconductors
49. Exclusive operator's club (two words)
51. Element used to make signs
52. Codes that allow recovery of corrupted data (abbr)
54. What you wish on your enemies
56. Microwave cable connector family
58. Apply or consume
59. Precious metal
61. First widespread contest logging program

Across

2. Its chemical symbol is K
7. One component of salt
9. Take out with one punch (abbr)
10. Galvanizing layer
12. Used in rechargeable batteries
16. One component of solder
17. Officer in charge of technology
18. Its chemical symbol is Co
19. Ionospheric hop
20. Element named for the USA
22. Its chemical symbol is Sn
23. Place to keep parts
25. Prefix of one of the Baltic states
27. The other component of salt
28. Goes with "BAL"
29. Element named for Norse god of war
31. One of the few elements that is a liquid at room temperature
32. Where a mm station is
34. Upper limit
35. Encouraging CW abbreviation
36. Used in atomic clocks
38. The function of a CQ
40. Person that gives ham exams
41. Performed as expected
42. Blows up balloons
43. Prefix that means "two"
44. Scandinavian prefix
45. Metal used in antennas
46. Abbreviation for metal that resists corrosion
48. Its chemical symbol is B
49. Wire size (abbr)
50. This chemical symbol is the same as a midwestern state's postal code
52. Common structural material
53. CW prosign for "End of message"
54. Element named for Poland
55. A 5-dot word
57. Element named for Europe
59. Nuclear waste product
60. Circuit that generates a tone (abbr)
62. Divide into parts
63. One of the "nobel gases"
64. Points to north

QST Propagation Charts



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPM, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of January 2010 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 107. 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 January.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you card from Mrs. Irene Morar, wife of Wes Morar, N3ALS (SK)

Your kind expression
of sympathy
will always be held
in grateful remembrance

To Beaver Valley A. Radio—
We enjoyed being a
"ham" for so many
years. We looked forward
to breakfasts & Weds.
night nets, the picnics,
etc. Thank you for
the check & your
friendship.
Sincerely, Irene Morar

Did you know that you can 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.

You can even buy popcorn all year 'round!

Thanks for your support!

Grant, KB3QFQ

Eagle Scout in Baden Boy Scout Troop 405



I have just received word that George, N3HOJ and Bob, WA3ZRM will be hosting a party.

The following is the email invitation I received.
Stay tuned for more details.



Come to our **"Do The Potty Dance" House Party!**
Ditch the diapers. Do the dance.

Whether you've already started potty training or are thinking about starting the process soon, there's a new song and dance routine that can help take you from diapers to dance in no time! Check it out, at our **"Do The Potty Dance" House Party!**

Pull-Ups® Training Pants and Ralph Covert, the singer/songwriting star of Ralph's World, have collaborated on a *NEW* version of "The Potty Dance". It's the song and dance craze sweeping the nation, to help you celebrate becoming a Big Kid® and reward success throughout your potty training journey.

Next month, you'll get to enjoy the dance party experience of your life by attending this spectacular event! You'll learn the fun dance ritual and share potty training tips and tricks with one another. Everyone will leave the party one step closer to ditching the diapers for good!

Just for attending, you'll also get a **FREE** pack of Pull-Ups® to make your life a potty training success!

Spots are limited. Don't be late to the *potty!*

RSVP NOW! * **

* Please send all RSVPs to BobAndGeorge@ILoveToPottyDance.com

** Yes, this is fake

HUMOR de N3HOJ

