



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

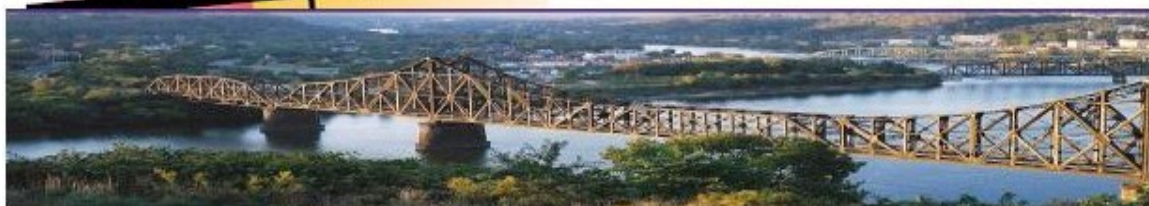
# The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R  
145.310- 100 Hz PL

Volume III, Issue 10

February 2010

Grant, KB3QFQ, Editor



## Beaver Valley TechFest 2010!

Well, the TechFest is finally upon us! After months of planning and hard work, our efforts will pay off on February 14 at the Baden American Legion. Be sure to join us there, and check out this newsletter for all the information you need for our event.

An important announcement: The February 11<sup>th</sup> BVARA meeting will be held at the **Community Room in the Baden Borough Municipal Building at 7:30**, with the E-Board meeting being held at 6:30.

Starting in **March**, we will have our meetings at the new 911 center in Ambridge.

See you at the TechFest, and enjoy the newsletter!

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What would you like to see added to the newsletter?

Would you like to help, but don't know how?

Email me at  
**[KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)**  
and let me know!!

We need YOUR opinions!

Just email me your thoughts on anything that we have posted, blogged, wrote or did, and it will be **PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER!**

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



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[Geocaching](#)

### Letters and Emails to the Editor – Please email [KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)

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, K3VYV**



## BVARA Meeting Schedule

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 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).

Beaver Valley ARA  
BSA Explorer Post 73

# techfest and auction

02.14.10

Where **Technology**, **Scouting**, and **Amateur Radio** come together!  
Technology displays, merit badge info and more!  
**RAIN OR SHINE - Indoor flea market!**

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

**\$5**  
admission

**WALK-IN VE TESTING  
AVAILABLE!**

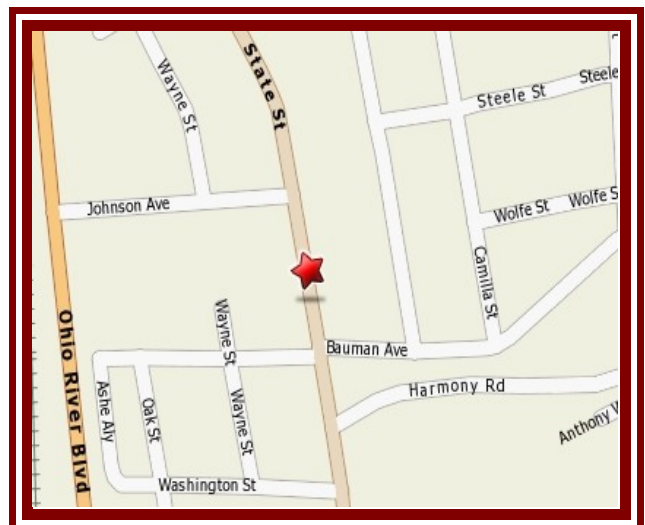
**\$10**  
a table  
includes 1 free  
admission

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT**  
**[www.W3SGJ.org](http://www.W3SGJ.org)**

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

**Baden American Legion**  
**271 State Street**  
**Baden, Pennsylvania 15005**

Contact:  
Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM  
234 Beaver Avenue  
West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001  
[wa3zrm@netzero.com](mailto:wa3zrm@netzero.com)  
724-378-7070



ARRL Atlantic  
Division Director  
**Bill Edgar, N3LLR**  
will be on hand at  
the ARRL booth!



**BSA Exploring Open House**  
Learn how to become an Explorer Scout!

Merit Badge counselors on site that can help  
you earn Radio, Electricity, Electronics,  
Computers, Emergency Preparedness, and  
Space Exploration!

Follow us on **Twitter!**

[twitter.com/w3sgj](https://twitter.com/w3sgj)



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



**Auction registration begins at 8:00 AM. Auction begins at 11:30 AM.**  
**BRING YOUR EQUIPMENT TO SELL OR HAVE AUCTIONED!**

**Auction Rules:**

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 \$90.

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.





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



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](http://www.W3SGJ.org)

## 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.

Beaver Valley ARA  
BSA Explorer Post 73

# techfest and auction

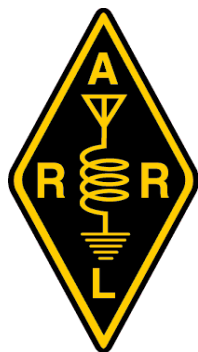
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Where **Technology**, **Scouting**, and **Amateur Radio** come together!  
Technology displays, merit badge info and more!

**RAIN OR SHINE - Indoor flea market!**

## Sunday, **FEBRUARY 14**, 2010

### 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Baden American Legion  
271 State Street  
Baden, Pennsylvania 15005  
**INDOOR LOCATION!**



#### AMATEUR RADIO



Bill Edgar, N3LLR,  
Atlantic Division  
Director of the  
American Radio  
Relay League will be  
in attendance!

**Technology displays  
and more!**

#### SCOUTING



Merit Badge info on  
technology-related  
Merit Badges, plus  
Merit Badge classes!

Earn Cub Scout  
Academics Belt  
Loops and Pins!

#### EXPLORING



Learn how to  
become an Explorer  
Scout!

Explorer Posts  
specialize in a  
variety of career  
skills and hobbies,  
preparing you for  
your life ahead!

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE EVENT?

Technology Displays,  
Geocaching Presentation,  
Merit Badge Info, Cub Scout  
Advancement Classes, Merit Badge  
Classes, Ham Radio License Testing,  
Electronics Auction, Radio Flea  
Market, Emergency Communication  
Info, Scout Tables *and MORE!*

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

**AMPLIFY** your day and  
speak to the world!

Adult admission - **\$5**  
Boy Scout admission - **\$4**  
Cub Scout admission - **\$3**  
Children 6 and under **free**

**OR...** If you wear your Scout  
uniform, admission is only **\$2!**

## ***NO NEED TO REGISTER IF YOU JUST PLAN TO ATTEND!***

If you want to reserve a display table, please contact us at [techfest@W3SGJ.org](mailto:techfest@W3SGJ.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

**techfest.W3SGJ.org**

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

To reserve an exhibit table, flea market table, or auction items; or if you have  
a general question, please [contact us](#) at the phone numbers and  
email addresses listed below!

**Robert De Marco**

[WA3ZRM@W3SGJ.org](mailto:WA3ZRM@W3SGJ.org)  
724-378-7070

**Jack Spencer**

[KZ3Z@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KZ3Z@W3SGJ.org)  
724-869-2429

**Grant Miller**

[KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org)  
724-266-9165

**Contact: Grant Miller**

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA)

Phone: 724-266-9165

Email: [techfest@W3SGJ.org](mailto:techfest@W3SGJ.org)

# Press Release

**TECHFEST 2010:****Where Technology, Scouting and Amateur Radio come together**

On the second weekend in February, hundreds of Amateur Radio operators, Boy Scouts and people interested in technology from all over the tri-state area will converge at the Baden American Legion in Beaver County, Pennsylvania for **TECHFEST 2010**. The event will be held from 8:00AM until 2:00PM on Sunday, February 14.

TechFest 2010 is the perfect opportunity for anyone to learn and see how modern technology can be incorporated into the Amateur Radio hobby. We will have multiple technology displays, including Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), which uses GPS technology to report the location of ham radio operators in real time; solar-powered satellites; Echolink, which enables you to easily communicate with other "hams" around the world using your computer; and more. **There will also be a table explaining Amateur radio's role in emergency communications in disasters like the recent earthquake in Haiti.** You will be able to talk to other ham radio operators all over the world, and learn how to get started in the hobby. We will have a prize drawing and electronics auction at the end of the event, and a radio flea market will also be held throughout the day.

Boy Scout Merit Badge counselors will be on site to help any Scout earn multiple technology-oriented Merit Badges. **We also have a special guest coming from the state of Indiana, over seven hours away.** Mr. Rick Garrett will present a hands-on workshop on geocaching, and will show everyone how to incorporate Scouting and Amateur Radio into this fun, GPS-oriented hobby.

If you ever wondered what ham radio was about, members of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will be in attendance with friendly people to answer any questions you may have. The hobby is open to people of all ages and abilities and is a vital resource in times of emergency such as natural disasters.

We will have exam sessions scheduled throughout the day for those wishing to take their first Amateur Radio license exam or license upgrade. If you hesitated to get your Amateur Radio license because of Morse code, please be advised that Morse code is no longer a requirement to get your license.

Admission is only \$5. Contact us to reserve a display/vendor table for only \$10, which includes 1 free admission. This event will benefit Boy Scout Explorer Post 73 and The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, scientific non-profit organizations of licensed public service amateur radio operators and Boy Scouts.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio, electronics, emergency communications, geocaching, Boy Scouting, or technology is invited to join the fun and learn how to make new friends all over the world. So, come and "amplify" your day at the event that will showcase the future of Scouting and Amateur Radio.

*For more information, please contact:*

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA)

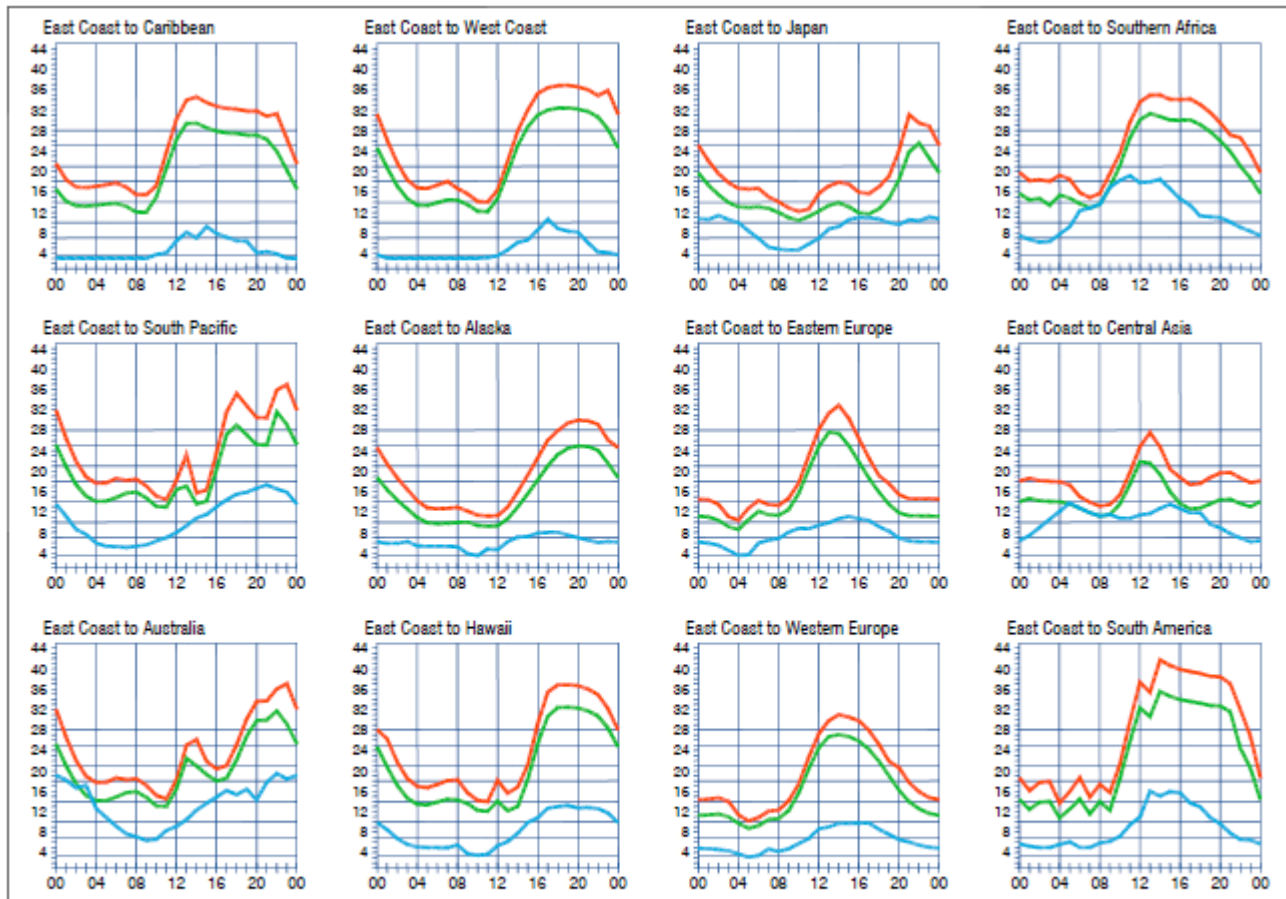
TechFest Coordinators: Robert DeMarco, Grant Miller, Jack Spencer

Website: <http://techfest.W3SGJ.org>Email: [techfest@W3SGJ.org](mailto:techfest@W3SGJ.org)

The BVARA is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL® - <http://www.arrl.org>) affiliated club



# QST Propagation Charts



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of February 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 110. This is a High level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

The above chart is for the month of February.

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

# FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

## From the [ARRL](#)

**Feb 1-Feb 8**, 1900Z-1900Z, Washington, PA. Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. Washington County, Pennsylvania Sportsmen Show. 21.285 14.280 7.260. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, 60 Carl Ave B2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. wa3com@gmail.com or www.wacomarc.org

**Feb 2**, 1000Z-1400Z, Marion, OH. Marion Amateur Radio Club, WW8MRN. Celebrating "Buckeye Chuck Ground Hog Day". 146.550 14.240 7.240 3.860. Certificate. Jack Hale, KD8CUU, 437 Olney Ave, Marion, OH 43302. bjh4c22@verizon.net

**Feb 4-Feb 10**, 1800Z-1800Z, Honolulu, HI. United States Islands Awards Program, N7I. 16th Anniversary of the US Islands Awards Program. 28.460 14.260. QSL. John Reisenauer, Jr, KL7JR, 3705 Arctic Blvd #1830, Anchorage, AK 99503. www.usislands.org

**Feb 5**, 1400Z-2300Z, San Angelo, TX. San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, W5QX. Celebrating National Weatherman's Day. 14.241 7.241. Certificate. SAARC, PO Box 4002, San Angelo, TX 76902. www.w5qx.org

**Feb 5-Feb 7**, 2359Z-2359Z, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. TCSWAT, TC10VF. The 10th Anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Department. All Bands. QSL. QSL Mang. TCSWAT / TA1HZ Tevfik A.K., PO Box 73 Karakoy, Istanbul 34421, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY. www.ta0u.com/2010/Eng/Calendar.html

**Feb 6**, 1500Z-2100Z, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. Commemorating the many Amateur Radio volunteers who assisted during the Shuttle Columbia Tragedy, February 2003. General portion of 20 and 40 meters. QSL. John Chapman, KC5MIB, 214 Warren Dr, Nacogdoches, TX 75964-6134. From McMichael Middle School www.w5nac.com

**Feb 6**, 1500Z-2100Z, Virginia Beach, VA. US Coast Guard Auxiliary, W4Z. 18th Annual Polar Plunge Benefiting Special Olympics. 14.254 7.254. QSL. Robert Dunnington, KI4VCT, 1110 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-3549. qe@flotilla57.com

**Feb 6-Feb 7**, 1600Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, N18G. Celebrating Edison's birthday in Milan OH. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Thomas Edison Radio Club, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. ni8n1@yahoo.com

**Feb 7-Feb 14**, 0000Z-0000Z, Petal, MS. Petal Pow-Wow, W0W. Pow-Wow. Native American Event. 14.230 7.230 7.030 3.930. QSL. Petal Pow-Wow, PO Box 52, Petal, MS 39465. petalpowwow.webs.com

**Feb 13**, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Operations Room, N16IW. Women Marines Birthday and Presidents Day. SSB 14.320 7.250

CW 14.060 7.055 RSK-31 7.070 D-STAR 2m/70cm SOCAL rpters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101-5811. kk6fz@arrrl.net

**Feb 19-Feb 21**, 2300Z-2300Z, Catasauqua, PA. TDF Radio Club, W3G. 278th Anniversary of George Washington's birthday. 18.130 14.226 7.180 3.880. QSL. Elixander Valladares, 841 Poplar St, Catasauqua, PA 18032. www.ka3kdl.com

**Feb 19-Feb 21**, 2300Z-2100Z, Laredo, TX. LaredoHams Amateur Radio Club (W5LRD), W5W. Washington's Birthday Celebration Association. 14.325 7.260. QSL. LaredoHams Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 451708, Laredo, TX 78045. www.LaredoHams.com

**Feb 19-Feb 22**, 2200Z-2359Z, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. George Washington's Birthday. 18.135 14.250 7.225 3.880. QSL. Brian Nielson, W7BJN, 11650 Road 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. w7bjn@nwi.net

**Feb 20**, 1400Z-2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, W0EBB. 6th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event. 14.285 14.060 7.285 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048-9473. w0ebb@juno.com

**Feb 20**, 1500Z-2200Z, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, W0FSB. 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima & the Flag Raisings. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Vernon Mc Nulty, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703. t-mc-nulty@msn.com

**Feb 20-Feb 21**, 1500Z-2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.280 7.240 7.035. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com

**Feb 21**, 0100Z-0500Z, Olathe, KS. Marshall Ensor Memorial Organization, W9BSP/W9UA. CW - 1930s W9UA Transmitter built by MH Ensor, W9BSP. 1.904 1.896. QSL. Marshall Ensor Memorial Organization, c/o Joe Krout, W0PWJ, 514 N 83rd Place, Kansas City, KS 66112. www.ensorparkandmuseum.org

**Feb 24**, 1600Z-2200Z, Mesa, AZ. Sunlife/Venture Out Amateur Radio Clubs, W7Z. Third Annual Snowbird Field Day. 21.225 18.125 14.325 7.125. QSL. Paulette Thompson, c/o Venture Out Amateur Assn, 5001 E Main St - 1368, Mesa, WI 85205. billmaynard@mac.com

**Feb 27**, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, K8BF. 5th Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) QRP Special Event. 21.283 14.283 7.183 3.883 EchoLink Node KC8RKV. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. www.portcars.org