



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

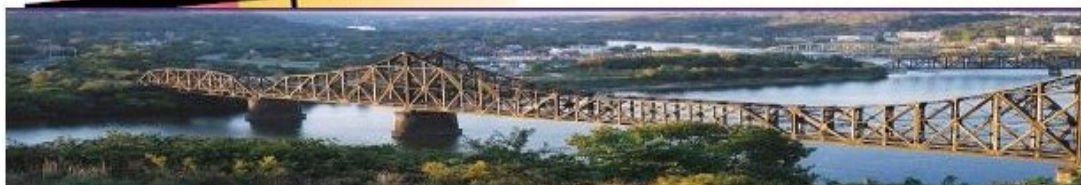
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 131.8 Hz PL

Volume 4, Issue 11

April 2011

Grant, KB3QFQ - Editor



What's new in the BVARA

IMPORTANT NEWS

Pittsburgh Marathon 2011
will be run on May 15, 2011

Over 150 volunteer hams are needed
for this event.

For more info or to volunteer, visit
marathon.central.org

UPCOMING EVENT



May 15

Inside this Issue:

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THIS MONTH

Western PA Hams Respond to Tornado

see p. 8 - and enjoy the "April Fools" ads throughout the issue!

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



W3SGJ.org



[Blog](#)



[Geocaching](#)

Coming in June:



The eQRM Summer Series

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The Beaver Valley Amateur
Radio Association

Letters and Emails to the Editor – Please email KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org

The eQRM encourages letters/e-mails to the editor. Letters must 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 meets every Thursday at Rainaldi's in Center Twp at 10:30 AM. All area Amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Lunch.

VE TESTS are held by the BVARA VE Team at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center in Ambridge. IF YOU DESIRE TO TAKE A TEST, CONTACT CHRIS, W3OUF, FOR THE DATE OF THE NEXT TEST SESSION.

All tests will begin PROMPTLY AT 5:00PM. Information and registration on a test session can be obtained by contacting the VE Team Coordinator, Chris Moratis, W3OUF.

His address, email and phone number are as follows:

Chris Moratis, W3OUF

1199 Highland Avenue

Ambridge, PA 15003

PHONE: 724-266-2866

cjmoratis@verizon.net

2011 BVARA Officers

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
 Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
 Second Vice President: Grant Miller, KB3QFQ
 Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
 Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS
 Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ
 Director: Chris Moratis, W3OUF
 Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM



BVARA Meetings

E-Board meetings are now held the Sat. before the monthly club meeting.

***VE testing begins at 5:00.
 Regular meetings are at 6:30.***

April 14 – Ambridge 911 Center

May 12 – Ambridge 911 Center

June 9 – Ambridge 911 Center

July 14 – Ambridge 911 Center

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).

PITTSBURGH AREA HAM RADIO CALENDAR

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

April

3: Hamfest-Two Rivers ARC Hamfest -
The Spectrum-Boston, Pa
More Info: TBA

3: Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams (note 2a)

9: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast (note 3)

17: W.Pa. Repeater Council Meeting (Note 4)
Meeting Location: TBA

17: ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB)

19: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm (note 1)

23-24: Ten Ten Spring (Digital) Contest

May

7-8: Ten Ten Spring (CW) Contest

14: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

15: Pittsburgh Marathon - ARES Communications
Event

17: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8pm

20: Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, OH
More Info: <http://www.hamvention.org>

5: Hamfest-Breezeshooters Hamfest -
Butler Farm Show Grounds - Butler, PA
More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>

11: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

14: Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams

21: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8pm

25-26: ARRL Field Day

June

5: Hamfest - Breezeshooters Hamfest
- Butler Farm Show Grounds - Butler, PA
More Info: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>

11: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

14: Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams

21: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8 pm

25-26: ARRL Field Day

July

9: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

9-10: IARU HF World Championships

10: Hamfest - North Hills ARC 26th Annual Hamfest
(New Location)

Westview V.F.W. Post 2754 - 386 Perry Highway-
Pittsburgh, Pa

More Info: (Phone: 412 760 7055)

email: k3yub@verizon.net

<http://www.nharc.org>

17: W.Pa. Repeater Council Meeting
Meeting Location: TBA

19: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8 pm

August

6-7: Ten Ten Summer (Phone) Contest

13: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

20: Two Rivers ARC Family Picnic-White Oak Park
Tuliup Tree Grove-White Oak, Pa

21: ARRL Rookie Roundup (RTTY)

28: Hamfest-Western Pa Section Convention/Skyview
RS Hamfest

Club Grounds-2335 Turkey Ridge Road-New
Kensington, Pa

More Info: <http://skyviewradio.net>

For more information about these events, please visit

W3SGJ.org/calendar



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"/> CHILD UNDER 21 IN HOME	5.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE YEAR ARRL MEMBERSHIP	39.00	

ARRL MEMBER ? YES NO Subtotal: _____
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

The Amateur's Code

The radio amateur is
CONSIDERATE. . . never
knowingly operates in such a
way as to lessen the pleasure
of others.

LOYAL. . . he offers loyalty,
encouragement and support
to other amateurs, local
clubs, and the American
Radio Relay League, through
which Amateur Radio in the
United States is represented
nationally and
internationally.

PROGRESSIVE . . . with
knowledge abreast of
science, well-built and
efficient station and
operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY . . . slow and
patient operating when
requested; friendly advice
and counsel to the beginner,
kindly assistance,
cooperation and
consideration for the interests
of others. These are the
hallmarks of the amateur
spirit.

BALANCED . . . Radio is an
avocation, never interfering
with duties owed to his
family, job, school or
community.

PATRIOTIC . . . station and
skill always ready for the
service to country and
community.

The BVARA Speaker Series

The BVARA Speaker Series provides a vast array of topics and discussions, with a new topic every month at our club meetings.

Here are a few words from Rich, K3SOM, explaining the idea behind the series:

“By adding a speaker program with a wide variety of topics, not all necessarily exclusively ham-radio, our club has an opportunity to create excitement, to stimulate discussion, to spark creativity, and to enable people to have some fun as they expand their normal comfort zones with new ideas and possibilities for them to pursue.”

Are you interested in attending?

Just show up at our club meetings, held on the second Thursday of every month. They are held at:

Beaver County Emergency Operations Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

Would you like to speak? Contact me or any other BVARA club members to let them know when you would like to speak, and what you would like to speak about!

Potential speakers may want to present topics like:

On what frequency am I transmitting, and how close to the band edge can I operate?

What's it take to operate BPSK31?

How can I effectively compete in a contest?

What's a fox hunt?

How can I find DX?

Or anything that interests you!

On April 14

At the BVARA Club Meeting

Speaker:

**Rich Soltesz,
K3SOM**

Topic:

**Digital Modes and
Becoming Radioactive**

Including:

**Background Information
BPSK31
SignalLink USB Project
FLDIGI Software Program
Live Demo
And More!**

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962

Amateur Radio VE
(Volunteer Examiner)

B.S. Electrical Engineering

Registered Professional Engineer, PA

“...our club has an opportunity to create excitement....”

Club Announcements + Event Calendar

Beaver County Digital Net

de Frank Cole, N3TN

To all Operators:

WHAT:

The Beaver County Digital Net

WHERE:

146.850 repeater PL 131.8

WHEN:

Every Wednesday at 9pm local.

WHY:

The needs of our served agencies have changed. With the possibilities of large disasters, (flooding, tornadoes, power outages, mass evacuations, etc.), the need to transmit large amounts of information, such as names, addresses, phone numbers of evacuees in shelters, can be accomplished easily and efficiently by using digital transmissions. Health and welfare traffic can also be handled more quickly and accurately using NTS and ICS formats. We will be using the NBEMS protocol.

WHAT'S NEEDED:

Things you already have. Radio, computer, and an interest in new digital modes.

Check in and see what this is all about. Looking forward to hearing you on the net.

Thanks,
Frank Cole
N3TN +

VE Test Session

de Chris, W3OUF

The next test session will be at the:

Beaver County Emergency Operations Center

351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

Time: **5:00 P.M.**
(walk-ins allowed)

Date: **Thursday, February 10**

All candidates wishing to take the test should bring **ALL** of the following:

1. Two (2) forms of identification.
One should be a Photo ID.
2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
3. Your original **AND a photocopy** of your current license (if any).
4. Your original **AND a photocopy** of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of **\$15.00.**

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered.

Note: A new set of Technician test questions has started being used on July 1, 2010.

For more information, please contact our VE Test Coordinator:

Chris Moratis, W3OUF
1199 Highland Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003
PHONE: 724-266-2866
cjmoratis@verizon.net +

The BVARA Calendar of Events

For more information,
please visit www.W3SGJ.org

May 15:
Pittsburgh Marathon
in Pittsburgh, PA

June 24 - 26:
Field Day
at Brady's Run Park

More events TBA!

Do *you* have any

event ideas?

Send them to us by posting on
our [Facebook Page](#)!



Are you interested in seeing what
Boy Scout Troop 405 and
Explorer Post 73 are doing?

Visit their website at
www.Baden405.com
to see photos, video and info
about the Troop!

BVARA 2 Meter Net Roster

Below is the net protocol. Please PRINT THIS OUT as a reference for when you run the net.

CQ, CQ, CQ. Calling the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Two Meter Net. (BK)

CQ, CQ, CQ. Calling the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Two Meter Net. (BK)

This is (**your call**), your net control station for this evening. (BK)

This net meets every Wednesday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the 145.310 W3SGJ repeater with a PL of 131.8 Hz. (BK)

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club and we invite you to visit our website at www.w3sgj.org. (BK)

The purpose of this net is to exchange general information about the amateur radio service in the tri-state area. this net is also part of the National Traffic System. (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with emergency traffic. Any stations with emergency traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with priority traffic. Any stations with priority traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with routine traffic. Any stations with routine traffic please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations with ARRL Bulletins. Any stations with ARRL Bulletins please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations having any announcements for the net. Stations having announcements please call (**your call**). (BK)

Make sure the following are mentioned either by you or by an announcement station:

Mention webpage (www.w3sgj.org) for our newsletters & information.

Mention Rainaldi's Thursday luncheon @ 10:30AM / 11:00AM.

NEW: Monthly Executive board meeting begins at 6:30PM on the Saturday before the club meeting.

Mention monthly membership meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 911 Center in Ambridge.

**VE testing begins at 5:00PM.
Meeting begins at 6:30PM.**

I will now stand by for any mobile stations wishing to check in. Mobile stations only please call (**your call**) (BK)

I will now stand by for any portable stations wishing to check in. Portable stations only please call (**your call**). (BK)

I will now stand by for any stations wishing to check in to the beaver valley amateur radio association two meter net. Stations wishing to check in please call (**your call**). (BK)

**Record all call signs and then allow for comments.
After all stations make comments, stand by for any late or additional check-ins.**

I would like to thank all stations that have checked into our net. Listeners are reminded that the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association's 10 Meter net on 28.470 MHz will follow this net at 9:00PM local time. Everyone is invited to check in. (BK)

I will now close the net at _____ local time and return the repeater to general amateur use. This is (**your call**) wishing you 73's and a good evening.

notes: a (BK) means to pause to allow the repeater tail to beep.

If any stations have traffic, ask if any stations on frequency can take the traffic. If not, take the traffic and contact Bob, WA3ZRM at 724-378-7070.

Interested in Running the 2 Meter Net?

Contact Pam, W3PMS at
724-869-2429

The Net is ran Wednesday nights at 8:30PM

Western Pennsylvania Hams Respond as Tornado Sweeps Through Area

From the [ARRL](#)

At approximately 4:30 on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 23, severe thunderstorms started to roll into Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, producing golf ball-sized hail and heavy winds. Members of the Westmoreland County Public Service/ARES® group began to meet on the W3CRC repeater in Derry, Pennsylvania, which serves as the main ARES®/SKYWARN

repeater in Westmoreland County. Soon after, the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for the area and the Public Service Net was opened formally at 5 PM. Walter Bashaw, W3ZEH, began taking check-ins and reports of severe weather, relaying them to the NWS in Pittsburgh.

“Hams reported a funnel cloud near the Fort Allen and greater Greensburg area to net control, and this information was reported to WX3PIT -- the Amateur Radio station at the NWS office in Pittsburgh -- 15 minutes before it was reported on the local TV stations,” ARRL Westmoreland County Emergency Coordinator Chuck Mills, W3YNI, told the ARRL. “The storm continued to move east toward Latrobe, where additional large sized hail was reported.”

Ralph Ofchinick, W3ZPI, and Jay Schall, KB3NSJ, activated the ham station at the Greensburg Emergency Operations Center, and continued to provide communications support. At 5:30 PM, a second, but not quite as strong



storm, moved through the area, producing additional heavy rain and hail. Rick Varnise, K3EPV, deployed to a shelter in Hempfield Township that had been set up for victims of the tornado.

Mills said that the NWS classified the tornado as an F2 in strength, with winds topping 120 MPH. Many homes in the area were destroyed or damaged as the tornado continued along its seven mile path. Westmoreland County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Dan Stevens said that the tornado destroyed at least 30 homes and damaged at least 90. There were no reports of serious injuries.

“Hams reported a funnel cloud... 15 minutes before it was reported on local TV stations.”

Read an interesting article? Email Grant at KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org and your article will be posted on our [Facebook Page](#) and [website](#).



The Collins 32V-1 Ham-band Transmitter

*You **CAN** take it with you!*

The Collins 32V is the last word in compact, efficient, and versatile transmitters for amateur radio. It is small enough to set right on your operating desk. It is light enough to take anywhere—all you need to put it on the air are a 115 volt a-c power source, key or microphone, and an antenna. The 32V has more desirable features per cubic inch than any previous equipment.

For instance, compare these features with your desires: 150 watts input on CW, 120 watts on phone, v.f.o. control, band-switching, direct frequency reading dial, push to talk, clean keying, 6 bands. A pi network is included for output coupling—and it's easy to use. One control tunes the final and

another control loads it into the antenna.

The v.f.o. is so accurate you'll be using it to calibrate your receiver. It's permeability tuned, and can be set to within 500 cycles on the 80 meter band. The overall accuracy and stability are within one dial division.

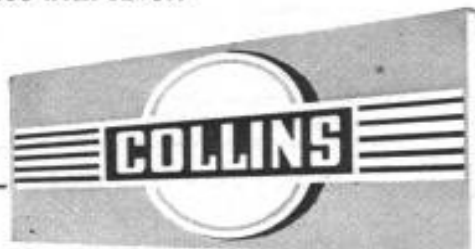
Be one of the first to own this brand new job. You'll be proud of its excellent performance and attractive appearance. Let us send you an illustrated bulletin with complete details.

\$475.00 with tubes.

FOR RESULTS IN AMATEUR RADIO, IT'S . . .

COLLINS RADIO COMPANY, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

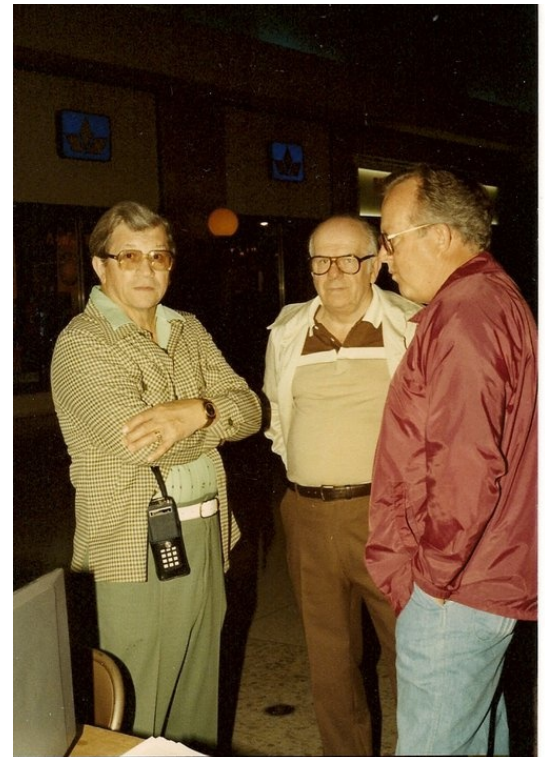
11 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.



458 South Spring Street, Los Angeles 13, California

New Photos from the Past!

de Adam Horniak, KG3L



Adam has unearthed more pictures from the past!

Try and name all of the gentlemen in these photos and post the answers to our Facebook Page.

(photo 1 – top L; photo 2 – top R; photo 3 – bottom L; photo 4 – bottom R)



Opportunity no longer knocks



...IT TELEPHONES!

Telephones ring wedding bells and cash registers. They get people acquainted. Make business run smoother.

In social life or business, the calls you make are only part of the value of the telephone. Often the calls you receive are even more important.

A date for Judy for Saturday night. An invitation to a luncheon for Mother. A neighbor inviting Jimmy over for a birthday party. A

call for Dad, with good news about a job or a business order.

So in looking at your telephone bill, be sure to count the calls you get as well as those you make. Often it means the bill covers about twice as much service as you usually figure.

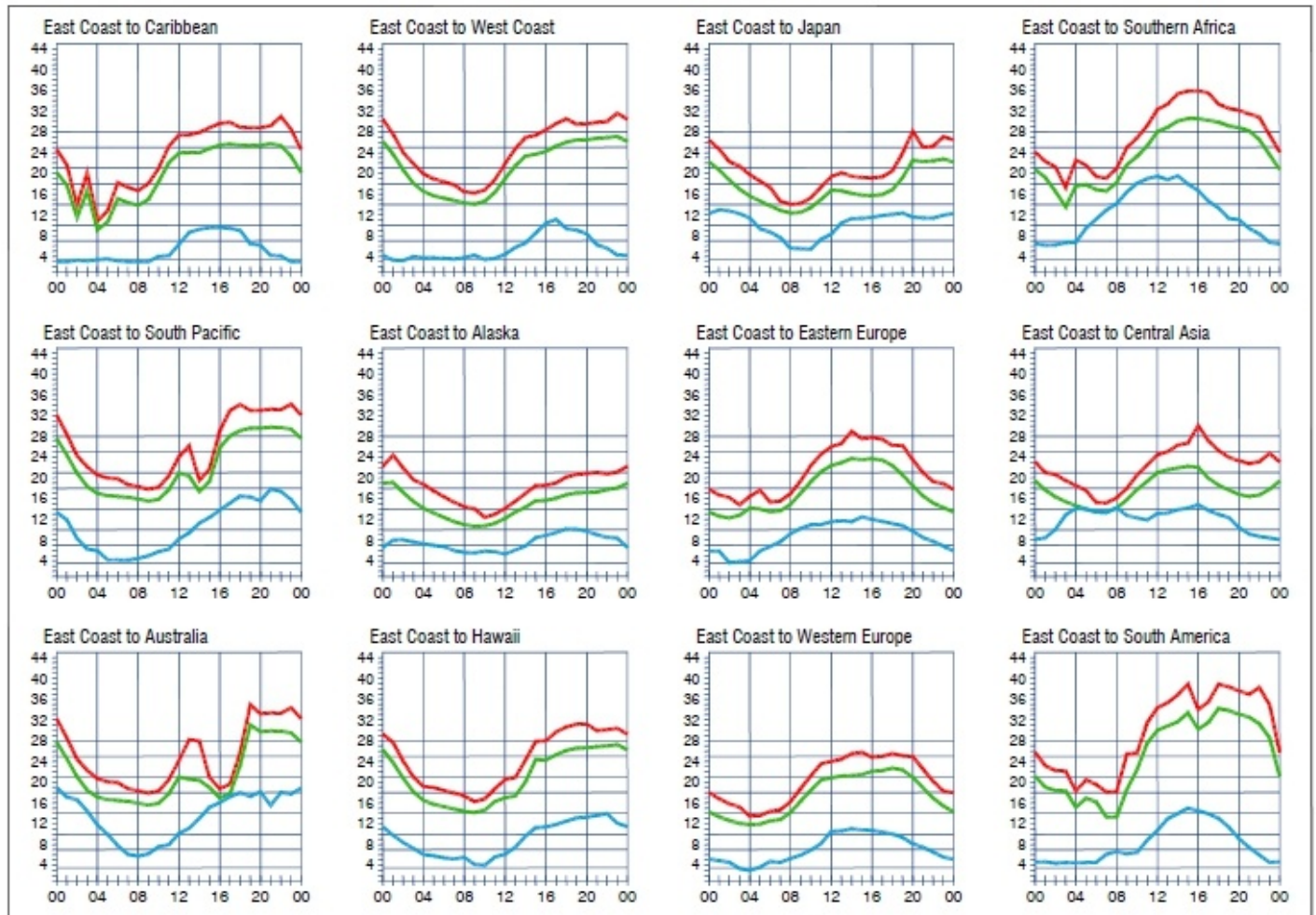
Day and night, every day in the year, few things give you so much for so little as the telephone. It takes you to people and it brings people to you.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM



NEW TV SHOW... "TELEPHONE TIME"... with John Nesbitt's real life stories the whole family can enjoy together.
EVERY SUNDAY OVER CBS... See your local newspapers for time and channel

QST Propagation Charts



The above chart is for the month of **April**.

For information on how to read these charts, and on propagation in general, visit

<http://www.arrl.org/propagation>

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

MONTHLY WPA SECTION NEWS

de John Rodgers, N3MSE

March 2011 - On April 3 the Two Rivers ARC will sponsor their annual hamfest in Boston, Pa. I will be in attendance at the hamfest and look forward to talking to those interested in the upcoming proposals in both the state and federal legislatures that could affect ham radio as we know it today. For information on the hamfest go to <http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest> and download the flyer for the event.

The online ARES registration has seen a large number of individuals signing up via the online form. There has been some difficulty at HQ with the database and the IT folks are working to resolve the issues so I ask everyone to be patient and we will get updated rosters out as soon as the problems are resolved. Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding. This is frustrating for Larry and I as well.

On Saturday March 19 the Atlantic Division will be conducting their annual cabinet meeting. This is an opportunity for section and division officials to get together and discuss issues that we share and suggestions for ways to resolve these problems. I will be attending as well as Larry Keller. This is for me also a great opportunity to discuss issue with my friend Eric Olena the EPA section manager regarding

common goals.

During the night we turned the clocks ahead an hour for the beginning of daylight savings time. This will give us an additional hour of daylight into the evening and will also be a change in DX propagation. Be sure to check the bands for new stations to add to your contacts. Last weekend there was a great band opening during the dx contest and I heard several saying they worked dxcc in one weekend. Get on the air and work some new countries during this time. Don't forget to go to arrl.org and sign up for the logbook of the world program as an aid to tracking your contacts.

Looking at the calendar we are only a short three months away from Field Day. Field Day 2011 will take place the weekend of June 25-26. You can download a complete Field Day package with rules and forms at http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_Packet.pdf download the information and print it for reference. While you are at it be sure to register your field day location so others can find you and stop by for a visit. Let me know your location as well and I will try to stop for a visit while I travel around the sections. Be sure to check the ARRL store and order your field day pins early as these are always a sellout.

I encourage you to join one of the various traffic nets and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as operators struggle to keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983 every evening at 6 PM now that the time change has taken place. The CW net is at 3585 at 7 PM local time. Also please check in on the Saturday morning ARES net. This net is conducted at 9 AM local on 3983 Hz. On Tuesday evening a PANBEMS net is conducted at 6 pm also on 3583.5 USB. Another net is held Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Please check in for valuable information. Additional information on various NBEMS nets is available at <http://panbems.org/> there are also several nets on various vhf-uhf repeaters. Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73,
John V. Rodgers, N3MSE
W. Pa. Section Manager +

See you all the
BVARA club
meeting, Thursday
April 14 @
6:30PM! p. 2 for details

RE-TUBE with Majestic Quality Tubes

**For
Colorful
Tone**



UNIFORMITY—You do not have to "switch" Majestic Tubes in your set for maximum efficiency. Exclusive design of Majestic Tubes practically eliminates all variance. The methods of manufacturing, rigid inspections and numerous tests insure **UNIFORMITY** of all Majestic Tubes.

LONGER LIFE—Filament material is "age tested," which insures Majestic Tubes having a longer life. Higher efficiency is retained in Majestic Tubes during their operating life.

Majestic Tubes are unconditionally guaranteed against manufacturing defects.