



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

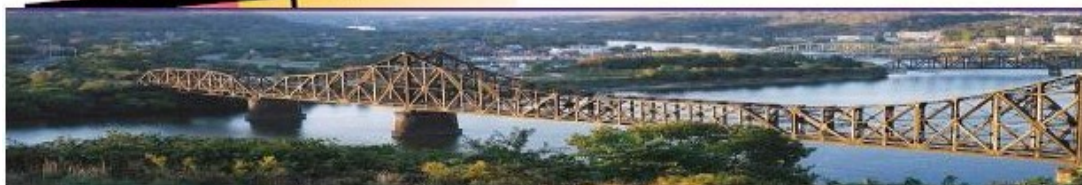
The eQRM Newsletter

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310- 131.8 Hz PL

Volume 4, Issue 12

May 2011

Grant, KB3QFQ - Editor



What's new in the BVARA

IMPORTANT NEWS

Breeze Shooters' Hamfest

will be June 5, 2011 in Butler.

Want to go for free? We're raffling off two tickets at our May meeting.

For more information on the hamfest, [visit the Breeze Shooters website](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



May 15

Inside this Issue:

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THIS MONTH

Explaining Ham Radio: An Elmer's Guide

see p. 8

Check us out on the web by clicking the links below



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Coming in June:



The eQRM Summer Series
see p. 12

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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.***

May 12 – Ambridge 911 Center

June 9 – Ambridge 911 Center

July 14 – Ambridge 911 Center

August – No meeting (Corn Roast)

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

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>

September

3: Uniontown ARC Gabfest-Club Grounds-Old
Pittsburgh Road
Uniontown, PA
More Info: <http://www.W3PIE.org>

10: Two Rivers ARC 'Hams n Eggs' Breakfast

11: Hamfest - Butler Swapfest - Unionville VFD -
102 Mahood Road - Butler, PA
Talkin: 147.36 Mhz
More Info: 724 287 2682
email: okg232@zoominternet.net

13: Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams

20: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting - 8 pm

24: PARS Contest-Contest Clock Radios
(donation & consignment auction)

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	

Subtotal: _____
Donation: _____
Total: _____

ARRL MEMBER ? YES NO

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

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

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 May 12

At the BVARA Club Meeting

Speaker:

**Rich Soltesz,
K3SOM**

Topic:

**The Dark Side of
Radio**

Including:

Strange Signals,

LDEs,

Sweepers,

Interlopers,

Weird Propagation,

And much more!

**What Have You Heard
Lately?**

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962

Amateur Radio VE
(Volunteer Examiner)

B.S. Electrical Engineering

Registered Professional Engineer, PA

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, May 12**

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

An Elmer's Guide to Explaining Ham Radio

By Sterling Coffey, N0SSC (ARRL Youth Editor). From the [ARRL](#)

Hams have always been at the forefront of wireless technology since the dawn of radio in the late 1800s.

Long ago, we were granted an impressively diverse and expansive hobby that allowed the technologically and electronically curious to not only experiment on topics ranging from amplifier design to propagation studies, but to also come together as a worldwide social community to make contact and share various stories about countless topics. With such a large community of technically inclined people, things such as the Internet and cell phones became reality. Even things such as AM/FM radio are still getting attention as Chevy turned to Don Hibbard, W8DBH, to engineer a hidden antenna solution for the 2011 Chevrolet Camaro.

Today our hobby has more facets than the a hundred Hope Diamonds. A fantastic website to view all of what ham radio has to offer is one run by Jeff Dinkins, AC6V. This website contains links to over 700 topics of ham radio. Personally, I can think of at least 15 sub-hobbies of Amateur Radio that I most enjoy -- such as satellite contacts and contesting, as well as high altitude balloon telemetry and radio direction finding. These topics diverge into even smaller sub-categories that make our hobby one of the most diverse activities to think of.

I believe that a few caveats are brought about because of the expansiveness that our hobby has to bring -- how do we spark the interest of non-hams so that they will want to become licensed and bring something new to ham radio? Until coming to the Missouri University of Science and Technology, I've always thought that ham radio was one of

those niches that were only for those with an intense passion and curiosity for it from a young age. Most of the hams I know have the commonality that they were radiomen in the armed forces, or their parents had an equal passion. I split this stereotype, as my family had no ties to radio. I simply became amazed at how 200 foot range walkie-talkies worked when I was a young child. It progressed from that to FRS radios, to CB radios and then finally I became immersed in the world of Amateur Radio. But for most of the technologically inclined in today's youth, the idea of ham radio can be lost, either through the lack of knowing about it or hearing too much of it at the same time.

At my high school, I attempted to advertise Amateur Radio through word-of-mouth. Occasionally, during conversations with friends I would bring it up. Some were curious to hear more, but most were clearly uninterested because either they simply did not care. With others, I could not find the right angle and ultimately buried that person with a seemingly boring lecture. In all, I got one person to follow up in interest by attending a club meeting; however, I think the fact that many hams are older gentlemen and women, he became disinterested.

In the summer of 2010, I was accepted into the Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) in Rolla, Missouri. I was sure that I would be able to influence a lot more with the idea of Amateur Radio where everyone at the school was a high-achieving student pursuing a career in a technical field. I was ecstatic to walk around with an antenna sticking out of my backpack to capture those with experience, and those with questions as to why there is an antenna. Together with a few other hams, we rebuilt the W0EEE club and recruited six new members in one semester.

My story still leaves the question: How do we get

the average youth to become a ham? It seems that it is true that a predisposition for Amateur Radio is necessary to facilitate licensure. But it is also true that a well-versed description and perhaps a demonstration are almost enough to do the same.

Description

Describing Amateur Radio depends on the listener. An Elmer will have to take steps to determine what kind of person he is talking to. Is he or she a leader? A socialite? Or a tinkerer? What are their other interests? Weather? Cars? Space exploration? Amateur Radio can be suited to almost any personality. It is easy to talk circles around your listener without realizing it. The difficulty lies in asking questions first, then catering to specific interests in the listener. A sporty individual might like the contests. A tinkerer might enjoy knowing how different antennas do different things. Stargazers may be shocked to hear that something as far away as the moon or meteors are reflectors to radio signals. It is always vital to establish a connection to your listeners. When describing ham radio, always keep in mind the listeners interests and try to ask questions like "What do you like to do?"

Demonstration

Another tactic that is especially effective with younger audiences is demonstration. To complement a description, a demonstration adds value and emphasis to your conversation. An example of a sort of demonstration is using a handheld transceiver to show how one can communicate around the world over a repeater that uses Echolink. A fun demonstration that the MS&T Amateur Radio Club likes to do is mini-Field Days, where we set up outside on campus to highlight emergency-style communications with the world. With kids, like the Boy Scouts of America during their Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), Elmers should try to involve their listeners as much as possible during such a demonstration, such as talking to a different state or country to demonstrate the lack of boundaries to HF radio. Although not necessary, demonstrations are powerful techniques of a presentation.

Follow Up

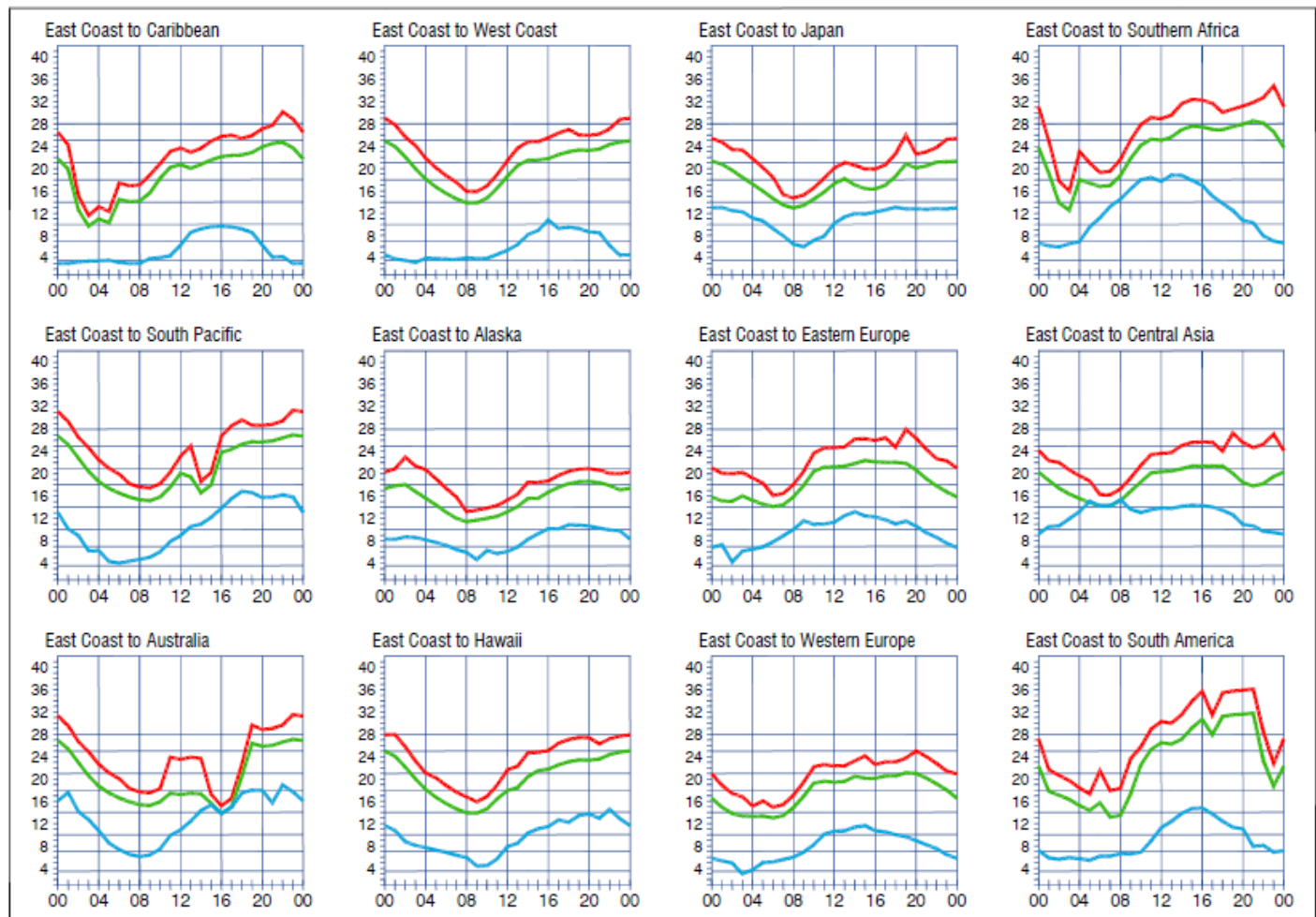
Sometimes your listener will want just a simple answer to the question "What is ham radio?" They may not be completely interested in the entire background, so a simple answer should ensue. But what should you do if your listener is truly interested? One of the biggest put-offs of new recruits is the necessity of licensure. Many people shudder at the fact that they must pass a test to become a ham, and even more so that more tests with increasing difficulty are required to gain solo privileges on HF. For those who don't, you're lucky. Simply forward them necessary information for exams and perhaps allow him or her to borrow your copy of The Ham Radio License Manual. For poor test takers, there are a few ways to get around this, but either way may take time. I tend to compare the vulgarity of CB radio to show what happens when a license is not required. More or less, this negative way might cause the listener to prefer the "freedom" to say anything; however, I think a better method is showing the positive aspects of ham radio that a license ensures.

If in the end, your listener doesn't follow up, don't be discouraged. There are still many more fish in the sea! Sometimes all you have to do is outreach --get your club to reach out to local schools or participate in ARRL Field Day in a public place where you can catch the attention of passersby -- the hams will come squealing in!

Thanks for reading!
73, Sterling Coffey, N0SSC

"Today our hobby has more facets than a hundred Hope Diamonds... our hobby [is] one of the most diverse activities to think of."

QST Propagation Charts



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

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

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

Beaver County

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Authenticity eQSL

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
May 12 @ 6:30PM!
p. 2 for details

next month
june 2011

the eQRM
summer series
is coming.
get ready.

