

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Beaver County's Only 75-Year ARRL-Affiliated Club!

A NEW YORK

Home of W3SGJ/R ≈ 145.310 - 131.8 Hz PL

ERECHANGING FIELD DAY NOU'RE GOING TO LIKE IT

Editorial by Grant Miller, KB3QFQ

PLUS: "SUMMER STYLE" FOR THE NEWSLETTER

THE eQRM

Brady's Run Park Shelter 12, the site of BVARA Field Day 2011. Photograph by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

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The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2011. All material presented in this publication is not necessarily the views of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), BVARA, or members of the said organizations. If you would like to contact the editor of the eQRM, please email Grant at **KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org**. Please visit us online at www.W3SGJ.org, on Twitter @W3SGJ, and on Facebook. If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, visit W3SGJ.org/subscribe.

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THE COVER: Photograph by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

JUNE

- **5:** Breezeshooters Hamfest Butler Farm Show Grounds - Butler, PA More Info: www.breezeshooters.net
- 11: Two Rivers ARC 'Ham n Eggs' Breakfast
- 14: Two Rivers ARC Ham Radio Exams
- 21: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting 8PM

25-26: ARRL Field Day

JULY

- 9: Two Rivers ARC 'Ham 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 8PM

AUGUS1

- 6-7: Ten Ten Summer (Phone) Contest
- **13:** Two Rivers ARC 'Ham 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

EPTEMBER

- **3:** Uniontown ARC Gabfest-Club Grounds - Old Pittsburgh Road Uniontown, PA More Info: http://www.W3PIE.org
- **10:** Two Rivers ARC 'Ham 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 8PM
- 24: PARS Contest-Contest Clock Radios (donation & consignment auction)

OCTOBER

- 8: Two Rivers ARC 'Ham n Eggs' Breakfast
- 15-16: Ten Ten Fall (CW) Contest
- **16:** W.Pa. Repeater Council Meeting -Meeting Location: TBA
- 17-21: ARRL School Club Roundup
- 18: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8 pm
- 29: PARS Contest-Radio Clinic -Multiband Portable Radios

NOVEMBER

- 5-7: ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
- 6: Hamfest-WACOM Hamfest 2011-Washington, Pa -More Info: http://www.wacomarc.org
- 12: Two Rivers ARC 'Ham n Eggs' Breakfast
- 12-13: Ten Ten (Digital) Contest

15: Two Rivers ARC Club Meeting-8PM

19-21: ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

DECEMBER

- **3:** PARS Holiday Luncheon Contest: Novelty Radios
- 3-5: ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 10: Two Rivers ARC 'Ham n Eggs' Breakfast
- 10-11: ARRL 10 Meter Contest

hamfest North Hills ARC July 10

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



8:00AM - 2:00PM \$5.00 Admission / Free parking

Talk-in on 147.09 W3EXW

Main Prizes

Kenwood TS 480 SAT LP 100-A Digital Vector Wattmeter Kit MFJ 259 Analyzer Carolina Windom 40 OCF Wire Antenna Mystery Box (Winner need not be present)

Plus Hourly Prizes and Admission Prize - Must be present to win

For more information, visit www.nharc.org

Section News

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE

MAY 2011

The next few weeks will be filled with a lot of activities for area hams. This weekend will be the annual Armed Forces cross band exercise. Amateurs can contact various services while working split and make a contact with these groups. It is a fun event and also a good exercise in operating your equipment in the split operation mode.

Next week is the annual Dayton hamvention. I know many area clubs and individuals will be making the trek to Ohio for the event. There will be a great many vendors and flea market sellers as well as many interesting forum talks on various topics. Don't forget to stop at the ARRL area and say hi to the folks working there.

For those of us unable to make the trip to Dayton on June 5 is the big Breezeshooters hamfest held at the Butler Farm show grounds. Additional information on the hamfest is available at http://www.breezeshooters.net/index.htm This is by far the largest hamfest in the section and always a worthwhile event. I will be there and we will also be conducting forums on ARES and the ACS program as well as discussions on ARES and clubs. Larry Keller, AB3ER, SEC will also be conducting the seminars.

Larry is also looking for individuals interested in leadership positions in the ARES organization. Many counties are without emergency coordinators and we also are in need of a few individuals to oversee the districts. While on the subject of ARES the online registration program that we attempted using the ARRL website has been eliminated. The form was available however there was no easy way to sort and distribute the data to the field. The online form is gone and we are sorry for the problems associated with this. We currently have some people working on providing this on our section website and when completed we hope that everyone will use it to help get a positive roster.

There seems to have been confusion at times in emails I have seen on various groups list servers. The Section Traffic Manager Bob Bashaw decided to move the 2 meter traffic net from the 88 repeater in Pittsburgh to a repeater in Derry, Pa. At NO time did the repeater trustees or the North Hills club ask the net



www.arrl.org

to move. This was a decision that the traffic manager made. I want to thank everyone involved with the years of service provided to area hams by the owners and sponsors of the 88 machine.

The NBEMS software has seen many updates in the past few months. Be sure to download and install the latest version of this software. The improvements have made the use of NBEMS for Emmcomm service even better than in the past. You can get the latest software at http://w1hkj.com/download.html We were all glad to hear that Dave and his family had no major problems from the terrible storms in the south. Thanks Dave for all your support and help. Looking at the calendar we are only a short 6 weeks 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 10AM. 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 –

John Rodgers N3MSE is the ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania

Et Cetera

Club Announcements and Speaker Series

As you may have noticed, our newsletter has received a makeover. With a magazine-like cover, table of contents, cover story, and concise layout, it is easier than ever to find the information you want to read. Using a different program to design the newsletter has also had a tremendous impact on the style on the newsletter, delivering more versatility than was possible in the past.

We have still kept the same material, such as the prop charts, calendar, meeting dates, and VE testing information - but it is now presented in an easier-to-understand format, with "blocks" dedicated to important events.

We are now highlighting the next hamfest in our area, to make you more aware of cost, prizes, times, and the location.

The end of the newsletter now holds repeated information. such as **BVARA officers and** membership information.

I hope you enjoy the new look of the newsletter, and stay tuned for next month's issue!

VE TEST SESSION

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, July 14

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



A possible trip to Idlewild and Soakzone (date TBA) is in the works with Boy Scout Troop 405. Idlewild is offering a "Scout It Out" program, which costs \$26 on a weekday, or \$28 on the weekend. The package includes a ticket for all Idlewild and Soakzone rides, a meal voucher, a commemorative patch, and an activity packet. This is a greatly discounted rate - an admission ticket to Idlewild, purchased alone, costs \$31.99.

Idlewild Park opens at 10AM, and closes between 6PM and 8PM.

This trip will only be possible if there is enough interest from our radio club members - and any family members you would like to take!

If you are interested in going, please contact Bob DeMarco, WA3ZRM at wa3zrm@w3sgj.org -



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

RICH'S BACKGROUND

Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962 Amateur Radio VE (Volunteer Examiner) **B.S. Electrical Engineering** Registered Professional Engineer, PA



WEEKLY Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA 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 Breakfast



After years of communicating across the world, it's time for something different. And with the introduction of PSK31 and Internet-less, networked computer logging, Field Day is finally getting a makeover.

Ø

BY GRANT MILLER, KB3QFQ

his is Whiskey Three Sierra Golf Juliette." A pause. Again: "This is W3SGJ." Then, "Whiskey back." Three call, come After а frantic involving exchange, the calls and swapping of we have locations, made another contact. I smile, then frown as the operator on the other end states, "Whiskey Three, this is a dupe. I repeat, I have you as a dupe." Frustrated, I move on to a different frequency - and find out hours later that another radio club member had contacted that same person a few hours before we had started to use the band.While I would not say that this is a typical scenario, it does happen - and it makes sending in the Field Day log to the ARRL 00

extremely complicated.

Occurences such as these also makes you wonder how many other duplicate contacts we have made - and do not even know we did.

Fortunately, there is a solution to the problem: computer logging. With a large group of operators, the Internet is typically used to network the computers together, with each laptop sharing the same database of contacts. This way, there are no dupes possible. However, at Brady's Run Park there is no Internet connectivity. In the past, this has made computer logging an unrealistic goal, and no further thought was put into the idea. This year, though, Rich Soltesz, K3SOM, has networked a number of laptops for Field Day, installed logging software on each, and has tested them at a recent club meeting. All contacts entered into the logging software are sent to a central database, located on one of the laptops all without usage of the Internet. And it works marvelously.

There are numerous benefits to having the logging software, as well. Internet-less networking allows each operator to see what band every other operator is on. The software also allows each operator to participate in a chat room, with updates refreshing every few seconds. The software also shows a map, coloring in each Section as a contact is made. The map shown displays everyone's contacts, which highlights the map faster, making logging each contact more exciting.

PSK31

A digital mode called PSK31 - essentially text messaging via amateur radio - is another exciting addition to the Field Day lineup. The way PSK31 works is quite simple: Using a transceiver connected to the sound card on a laptop, the speakers on the PC output a whistle, which is transmit to another operator's radio. That operator's computer decodes the transmission, displaying your message on his or her laptop.

With a mode that is similar to an Internet "chat room," (minus the Internet) there is a lot more of interest to younger kids, such as the Boy Scouts, who text via cell phone on a regular basis. With the potential to "text" anywhere, even without Internet connection or cell phone reception, this mode opens up a new door to the radio hobby.

Another positive aspect of PSK31 is its resistance to interference, such as propagation. This mode would be an excellent one to operate during the night, when most Field Day bands are dead. It could also be a great communication tool for those who cannot hear as well, as the message is displayed on-screen.

Even with the addition of PSK31 and a new logging system, communicating with the world is still the primary focus of Field Day. And with Field Day only a couple weeks away, it is almost time to get your rig packed and make the trip to Brady's Run. Welcome to Field Day 2.0. We know you will love it. ¬

A TYPICAL FIELD DAY EXCHANGE

'CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is W3SGJ - Whiskey Three Sierra Golf Juliette, calling CQ CQ CQ Field Day and listening.'

'W3SGJ, this is W4AI - Whiskey Four Alpha India.'

'Whiskey 4 Alpha India, this is W3SGJ. We are 5 Alpha, 5 Alpha here in Western Pennsylvania - WPA.'

'W3SGJ, copy your 5 Alpha in WPA. We are 3 Alpha here in Alabama - AL.'

'W4Al, copy your 3 Alpha in Alabama. Thanks for the contact. 73s, and good luck in the contest.'

THE FACTS Field Day 2011 June 24-26



www.arrl.org

FRIDAY

Field Day Setup

Starting Friday afternoon, campers may begin to set up their campsites and stations in preparation for ARRL Field Day 2011.

Covered Dish Dinner - 5:00PM

This year, the Field Day covered dish dinner will begin at 5:00PM. All club members, and their families and friends, are encouraged to attend. We only ask that you bring a covered dish.

Please note: Your covered dish will remain at Field Day until Sunday. Leftovers feed radio operators and Scouts for the remainder of the weekend.

The BVARA will provide the main course (hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.), as well as condiments, paper/plasticware and beverages.

SATURDAY

Field Day Begins - 2:00PM ARRL Field Day 2011 officially kicks off at 2:00PM.

Band "Reservations"

If there is a specific band you wish to use during the weekend, you must let a BVARA Club Officer know ASAP.

SUNDAY

Field Day Ends - 2:00PM 24 hours later, ARRL Field Day 2011 concludes at 2:00PM.

FEATURE | FIELD DAY 2011

The Proclamation The next two pages display the document, presented to the BVARA by the Beaver County Board of Commissioners, proclaiming "Amateur Radio Week" in Beaver County



County Commissioners PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BEAVER IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PROCLAIMING JUNE 24TH THROUGH JUNE 26TH, 2011, AS **"AMATEUR RADIO WEEK"** IN BEAVER COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio has continued to provide a bridge between people, societies and countries by creating friendships and the sharing of ideas; and

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators have also provided countless hours of community services throughout these decades; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio's services are provided wholly uncompensated; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also recognizes the services Amateur Radio's people also provide to our many Emergency Response organizations, including the Pennsylvania Emergency and Beaver County Emergency Management Agencies; and

WHEREAS, these same individuals have further demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local parades, bike-a-thons, walk-a-thons, fairs and other charitable public events; and

WHEREAS, the County of Beaver, Pennsylvania recognizes and appreciates the diligence of these "hams" who also serve as weather spotters in the Skywarn program of the U.S. Government Weather Bureau; and WHEREAS, Amateur Radio once again proved its undisputed relevance in the modern world by providing emergency communications when other systems failed in the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the U.S.A. and in the Tsunami catastrophe overseas; and

WHEREAS, the ARRL is the leading organization for Amateur Radio in the U.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, the ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 24-26, 2011 and is a 24-hour emergency encampment exercise and demonstration of the Radio Amateurs' skills and readiness to provide self-supporting communications even in fields without further infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Beaver, a fourth class county under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, AND IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED:

1. That the Board of Commissioners of the County of Beaver recognizes Amateur Radio Week at the Bradys Run Park in Beaver County located at the Calland Arboretum, Shelter 12, in the park.

2. That the Board of Commissioners, for and on behalf of the County of Beaver, hereby designates June 24th through June 26th, 2011, as:

"AMATEUR RADIO WEEK" IN BEAVER COUNTY

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the Commissioners of Beaver County to be affixed this 2(day of , 20 | n BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Chairman Commissioner Commissioner

The Marathon Runs Again With over 18,000 runners, this year trumped all

Photographs by Grant Miller for eQRM



Flood of Runners A group of runners at mile 16.9 of the race



 The Role of Radio Operators Mark Kavic, KB3LED watches runners pass, just in case of an injury

Jubilee Runners at pace marker 5:00 excited they finished half of the marathon

A discussion from the QRZ forums

K4RKY, on Congressional Representative Pete King (NY)'s decision to introduce H.R. 607

'For any of you who are curious, check into which off-shore and domestic two-way radio manufacturers contributed heavily to Rep. Peter King's election and you will know who is pulling his strings."

N6BU, expressing his opinion on why Rep. King introduced the bill

nk situations like tl

W7KEW, stating that it 'would be nice' to use a portion of 440MHz for amateur radio. He feels the ARRL should negotiate for just a 'sliver' of the band

'One of the things that won't help our case is gross exaggeration and a demonstrated lack of understanding of what is in the bill (regardless of whether or not your "representatives" themselves understand what is in the bill).'

WB2RYV, regarding the exaggeration of facts in a few posts in the forum's thread

KE3WH, announcing an email sent to his local representative

'I agree 100% with you. We are only "guests" on the 70cm band. We should act like guests and be happy we have been invited to share the band all these years. Quit acting like "immature kids" when asked to "give back" a little.'

> W8KBF, agreeing with an earlier post by NL7W, who stated that the Federal Government is the primary user of the band. As such, they have the right to allocate the band to commercial users if they wish to.

THE ISSUE

On February 10, 2011, Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, introduced H.R. 607. the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011." which has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee (which handles telecommunications legislation). The bill addresses certain spectrum management issues including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network.

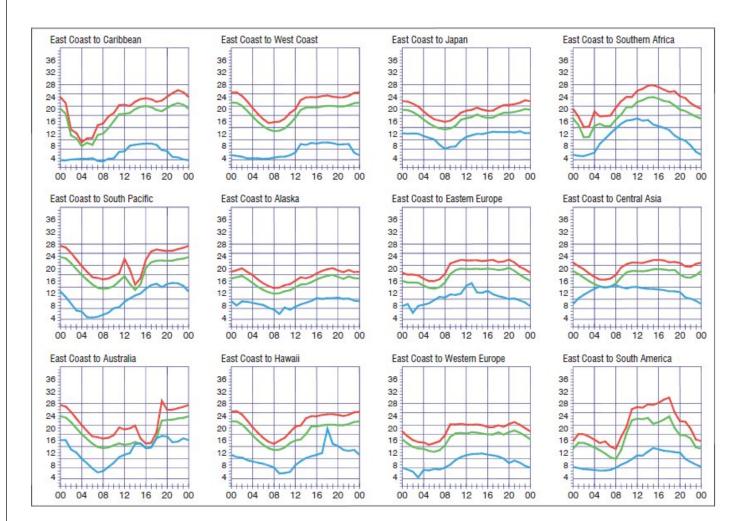
As part of that network, the Bill provides for the allocation of the so-called "D-Block" of spectrum in the 700 MHz range for Public Safety use. HR 607 uniquely, provides for the reallocation of other spectrum for auction to commercial users, in order to offset the loss of revenue that would occur as the result of the allocation of the D-Block to Public Safety instead of commercial auction. H.R. 607 lists, among the bands to be reallocated for commercial auction within ten years of the passage of the Bill, the paired bands 420-440 MHz and 450-470 MHz.

The inclusion of most of the Amateur 70-cm spectrum as one of the replacement bands is a major problem. The 420-440 MHz band is not Public Safety spectrum and should not be included in any spectrum swap of Public Safety allocations.

While the ARRL and all Amateurs support the work of Public Safety and recognize their need for dedicated spectrum which would promote interoperability, the ARRL vigorously opposes HR 607 in its present form. HR 607 is a direct threat to our limited spectrum and the ARRL encourages all amateurs to appropriately voice their opposition to this bill. - ARRL

Prop Charts

From the ARRL



RACES / ARES eQRM Urges All County Hams 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)

PROPAGATION

The propagation chart listed above is for June 2011. If you would like more information on how to read these charts, or for more information on propagation in general, please visit http://arrl.org/propagation



Who We Are

Membership Information and Club Officers

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!

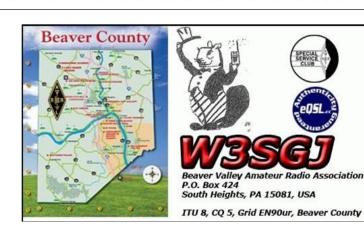
Join the BVARA, ARRL and World Radio

Sign up for:	Pric	e	Quantity	
BVARA FULL MEMBERSHIP	20.0	00		
	15.0	00		
	IP 10.0	00		
CHILD UNDER 21 IN HOME	5.00)		
		00		
ARRL MEMBER ? YES N	O Dor	ototal: nation Total:		
Your License Class (if any):	Name			
Technician	Address			
General				
Advanced				
Extra	Phone			
Your Call Sign:			Exp. o	date

Signature

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

OSLCARD



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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting. VE testing begins at 5:00. Regular meetings are at 6:30.

All meetings are held at

Beaver County Emergency Operations Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003 on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

MEETING DATES

2011

July 14 August – No meeting (Corn Roast) September 8 October 13 November 10 December - No meeting (Christmas Party)

2012

January 12 February 9 March 8 April 12 May 10 June 14 July 12 NEXT MONTH JULY 2011

The House of Representatives is proposing the auctioning off of the 440MHz amateur band.

The ARRL is pushing members to call their representatives and vote against it.

But will that be enough?