


SPECIAL SUMMER SERIES

VOLUME V, ISSUE 2 - JULY 2011

THE eQRM

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

Home of W3SGJ/R
145.310 - 131.8 Hz PL



THE BILL WE WILL FORGET AND THE FUTURE OF 440MHz

Editorial by Grant Miller, KB3QFQ

PLUS:

**PHOTOS AND
OUTCOME OF
FIELD DAY 2011**

THE eQRM

JULY 2011

THIS MONTH

3 | Calendar

Important events in the Pittsburgh region; upcoming hamfests

4 | Section News

From WPA Section Manager
John Rodgers, N3MSE

5 | Et Cetera

Announcements; Speaker Series

LOOKING AHEAD

13 | Prop Charts

Propagation charts for the East Coast

14 | Who We Are

Membership information; club officers; meetings; VE testing

15 | Next Month

THE COVER:

*Photograph by Grant Miller,
KB3QFQ*



U.S. House of Representatives, where HR 607 was first introduced. Photograph by Stephen Masker

FEATURES

6 The Future of 440

HR 607, Rep. Pete King,
and the commercial auction of
the 70cm band *by Grant Miller*

10 Field Day

The outcome of the
BVARA's Field Day extravaganza
Photographs by Rich Soltesz

12 Call Off: Callsign Lookup

Quotes from the QRZ forums
regarding the change to
callsign lookups on QRZ

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Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

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

AUGUST

- 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>

SEPTEMBER

- 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
- 10-11:** 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

HAMFEST

Somerset Cty. ARC July 17

Somerset Technology Center
281 Technology Dr., Somerset PA

8:00AM - 1:00PM
\$5.00 Admission / Free under 13

Talk-in on 147.195+ PL 123.00

Main Prizes:
FT-7900R 50W 2M / 45W 440 FM XCVR
MFJ-259 Antenna Analyzer
JTPS-28M 28Amp Metered Power Supply

Section News

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE

JULY 2011

Field day has come and gone and for most we have all the equipment back where it belongs. I enjoyed traveling to field day sites this year but unfortunately my travels were cut short as I developed stomach flu. Sorry to those clubs I did not make it to and thanks for the hospitality I received at the ones I did manage to visit.

Sadly I was informed of the passing of Jacqueline Gosselin, N3ZEL. She was active in VE testing and WACOM newsletter as well as many area clubs. She was also an avid supporter of YLRL. Our sympathy goes out to all her family and friends.

There has been more updates to the Fldigi platform and software. Please check out the panbems.org site and download the latest versions. With the cost of netbooks down to \$199 a portable emergency station can be quickly established.

July is a busy month with hamfests. On July 9 the Union City and Wattsburg club will again be holding their annual hamfest near Erie. Additional info for this hamfest is available at <http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us/hamfest.htm>.

July 10 the North Hills ARC will be conducting their hamfest. The hamfest is at a new location this year with many exciting changes.

You can view the hamfest flyer at http://nharc.org/links/2011_hamfest_flyer_final_copy.pdf

[Editor's Note: See Page 3 for more information]

July 17 finds us at the Somerset hamfest. Their hamfest flyer is available at <http://k3smt.org/hamfest/HamfestFlyer2011.pdf> Once again this year will be a demonstration of the



NBEMS program with Harry Bloomberg W3YJ and Dave Kleber KB3FXI, our resident experts available to help with any problems or questions. This platform is growing in popularity and is quite flexible. It is the digital mode for the WPA section.

Finally on July 31 we will be at the Foothills Arc hamfest in Greensburg. Additional info is available at

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/farc-hamfest>

Please remember to go to <http://www.wpaares.org> and register for ARES. Even if you have registered before on another site please do so here again. This will finally allow us to have an accurate database for our section.

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

John Rodgers N3MSE is the ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania

Et Cetera

Club Announcements and Speaker Series

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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 ➔

FUTURE IDLEWILD TRIP



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.

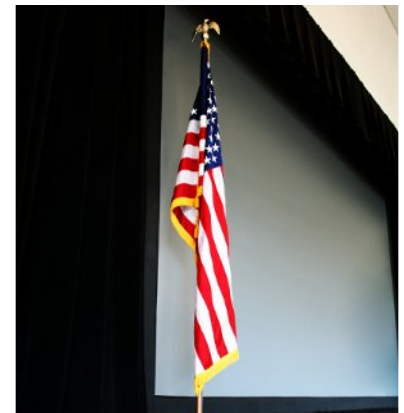
This trip will only be possible if there is enough interest from our radio club members - and any family members you would like to take!

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

MONTHLY

Speaker Series

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



This Month's Speaker

Matt Welch, W8DEC will be speaking on Thursday, July 14 at the BVARA monthly meeting.

W8DEC is the Ohio ARES District 10 Emergency Coordinator and will be discussing one of his favorite topics, APRS. He has been involved in many emergency situations, including Hurricane Katrina, and will share some of his experiences with us. Matt will also explain the basics of APRS, as well as demonstrate how to use it.

Are you interested in seeing W8DEC's presentation? Our club meeting is **Thursday, July 14 at 6:30PM** - held at:

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

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.



THE FUTURE OF 440

Why HR 607 will
have no impact —
yet.

By GRANT MILLER, KB3QFQ

The problem starts with one simple word: Auction.

In February, New York's Congressional Representative Peter King proposed a bill to Congress, titled the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011, also known as HR 607. The bill's purpose is two-fold – to increase public safety spectrum by 10 megahertz, and to decrease commercial spectrum by the same amount. Even though this is a fantastic goal, there is a tiny flaw in the bill. And that is the sacrifice of 420-440MHz.

The bill promises all public safety “entities” between 170MHz and 510MHz will be moved to 700MHz – 800MHz, the “D Block” of spectrum. It also mentions our dreaded word, “Auction,” on the following page. No less than ten years after the passing of the bill, the entire 70cm band, as well as the 450-470MHz public safety band, will be auctioned off by the FCC “through a system of competitive bidding.”

Ironically, the FCC is also interested in auctioning the 700MHz D Block of spectrum, although there is no auction date or further information currently listed.

With 440 auctioned to the highest bidder, radios able to transmit on the band will be useless. The auction will also limit vital ham frequencies in an emergency. 440 is also the lowest frequency with fair propagation able to transmit video signals – something that could be vital after an emergency or natural disaster.

Even though it is a tremendous concern in the amateur community, the current status of the bill is amusing. Since February 10, when the bill was first introduced, it has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, then referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology eighteen days later. Since then, no action has been taken on the bill. No action, at least, from Congress. The ARRL has recently stated that amateur radio operators have sent over 13,000 letters opposing the bill, and Representative King has met with a group of amateurs discussing the bill. He has since stated he no longer favors placing the amateur bands in the bill. Replacement bands are still a mystery, however.

Although HR 607 has not yet passed, and could possibly never pass, there is still a chance 440 could be sold within the next ten years. As the ARRL wrote, keep your pen primed. You never know when you may need it. ➔

IMPORTANT DATES

2.10.11: Bill introduced

2.10.11: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

2.28.11: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

THE FACTS

HR 607

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

The Bill The next two pages show a portion of HR 607, Section 207, detailing the auction of 440MHz and allocating the D-Block of spectrum to public safety. Emphasis ours.

Bill Courtesy of The House Committee on Homeland Security

24

1 enactment of this Act, each Federal law enforcement
2 agency shall move all of their communications, not
3 being carried on commercial networks, to spectrum
4 located in the 700 megahertz and 800 megahertz
5 bands.

6 (b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
8 of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a
9 report to the appropriate committees of Congress that
10 identifies those parts of the radio spectrum above 174
11 megahertz and below 512 megahertz used by public safety
12 entities that should be returned to the Federal Commu-
13 nications Commission for auction in accordance with sub-
14 section (d).

15 (c) MIGRATION PLAN DEVELOPED BY FCC AND
16 DHS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 years after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Com-
19 munications Commission, in consultation with the
20 Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and Federal,
21 State and local public safety agencies, shall issue a
22 report, detailing the plan for public safety entities to
23 end their use of radio spectrum above 170 mega-
24 hertz and below 512 megahertz and move all use to

1 the radio spectrum licensed to public safety services,
2 in the 700 megahertz and 800 megahertz bands.

3 (2) FACILITATION OF MIGRATION.—The Sec-
4 retary shall make amounts available out of the main-
5 tenance and operation grant program established
6 under section 204 to facilitate the migration of pub-
7 lic safety entity use of the radio spectrum licensed
8 to public safety services in the 700 megahertz and
9 800 megahertz bands in accordance with the plan
10 developed under paragraph (1).

11 (d) RECOVERED PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM.—

12 (1) AUCTION.—Not later than 10 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the paired electro-
14 magnetic spectrum bands of 420–440 megahertz and
15 450–470 megahertz recovered as a result of the re-
16 port and order required under subsection (c) shall be
17 auctioned off by the Federal Communications Com-
18 mission through a system of competitive bidding
19 meeting the requirements of section 309 of the Com-
20 munications Act of 1934.

21 (2) ENCOURAGED USE OF CERTAIN AUTHOR-
22 ITY.—In making the recovered spectrum identified
23 under paragraph (1) available through auction, the
24 Commission is encouraged to use its authority under
25 sections 303 and 316 of the Act to configure the

Field Day

The results are in... and it was a blast!

Photographs by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

JULY 2011



TOTAL QSOs: **647** POINTS FROM CONTACTS: **1322**
BONUS POINTS: **1150** FINAL SCORE: **2472**



See all the photos from
Field Day 2011:
www.flickr.com/photos/W3SGJ

Callsign Lookup

A discussion from the QRZ forums

'Yeah!'

N6DZR, stating that he supports the change "100%"

'Excellent move, Fred!
QRZ.COM is a fantastic service to the community
and I really appreciate it.'

W1LVT, in response to the initial post made by AA7BQ, owner of QRZ.
A portion of that post is included in "The Issue" column (R)

'I for one am disappointed.'

W9JAM, in response to the cost of the XML service. He states that, "Us fairly new hams,
don't have tons of money..." and believes that the XML service should be free,
considering the small load it places on QRZ's servers

'Nice way to keep the BOTS away, but it's kinda' a
drag to have to log-in simply to see if my last contact
was in Reno or Sparks.'

KK2DOG, regarding the new requirement of logging in to QRZ to see a person's callsign data

'There's no free lunch!'

WOVYE, in response to DF1PAW, stating that nothing worthwhile is free.
Sites like Wikipedia may not cost anything to users, but there is plenty
of time, money, and effort put into the site. Hence, it is not "free"

'For those that think that there should be a FREE top notch
callsign lookup database, GO MAKE ONE!
After you spend your time and effort making it work,
we will see if you still want to make it free.'

K2DN, reacting to the fact that the QRZ XML service now costs \$29.95 per year

THE ISSUE

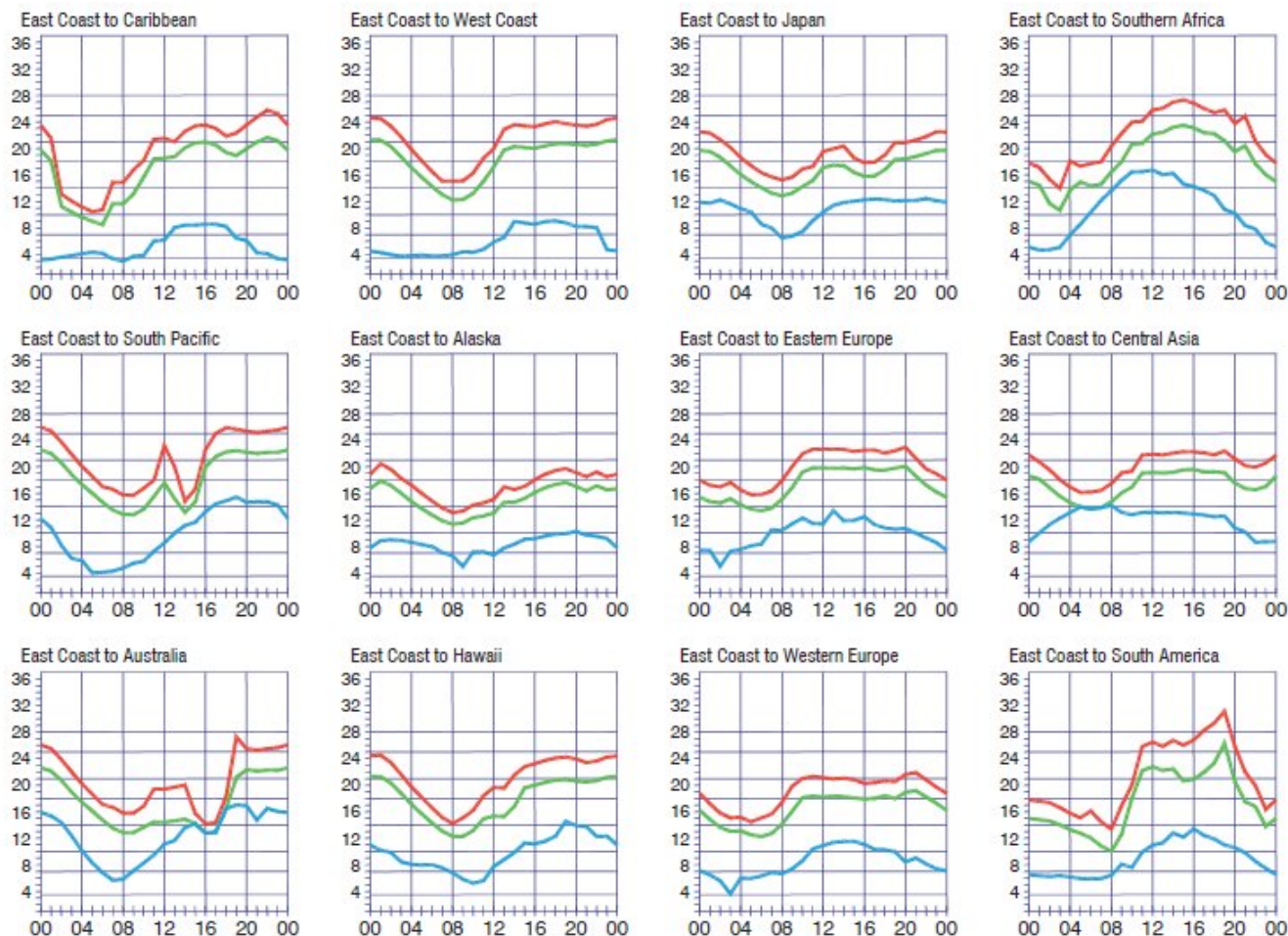
Effective today (6/17/11), the QRZ Callsign database is changing the way we serve callsign data to our web (browser) based users. These changes have been brought on by a steadily increasing number of automated systems that access the QRZ data in so-called hidden or stealth mode. Such systems create a significant load on the QRZ servers and in doing so, deprive ordinary users of the performance that they deserve.

Today's changes address these issues with a new set of constraints that we have developed with the goal of providing fast and fair access to all QRZ users. The following is a summary of what these measures mean:

- Callsign data, including name, address, and other QSL and logging information will be shown only to registered users of QRZ who are logged in at the time of the request. Guests that have not logged in will still see the callsign Bio page and pictures, but no callsign information will be shown.
- Registered users who are logged in will see the full detail on callsign pages.
- Ham users, i.e. those whose user name matches a callsign in our database, are limited to 150 callsign page lookups per day, not including their own callsign page.
- Non-ham users, i.e. users who aren't hams or don't have a username that matches one of our callsigns, will be limited to 25 callsign lookups per day.
- QRZ subscribers, of any type, are granted unlimited daily access to the QRZ callsign data. - QRZ

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 July 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:	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 Name _____
☐ Technician Address _____
☐ General _____
☐ Advanced _____
☐ Extra 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

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

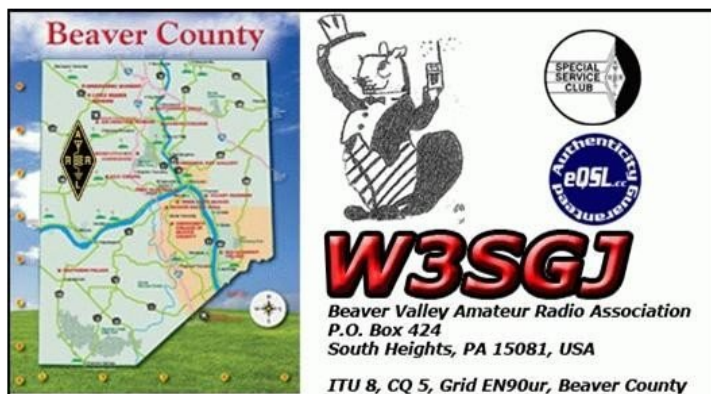
April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH
AUGUST 2011

HAM RADIO BLOCK BUSTERS

With Steven Spielberg's *Super 8* and this summer's *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, ham radio is getting some recent recognition on the big screen.

We'll take a closer look at the use of amateur radio in cinema.

PLUS: Ham Radio at Baden Boy Scout Troop 405's Summer Camp