

SPECIAL SUMMER SERIES

VOLUME V, ISSUE 3 - AUGUST 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



GREAT
(and not-so-great)
RADIO
MOVIE
MOMENTS

THE eQRM

AUGUST 2011

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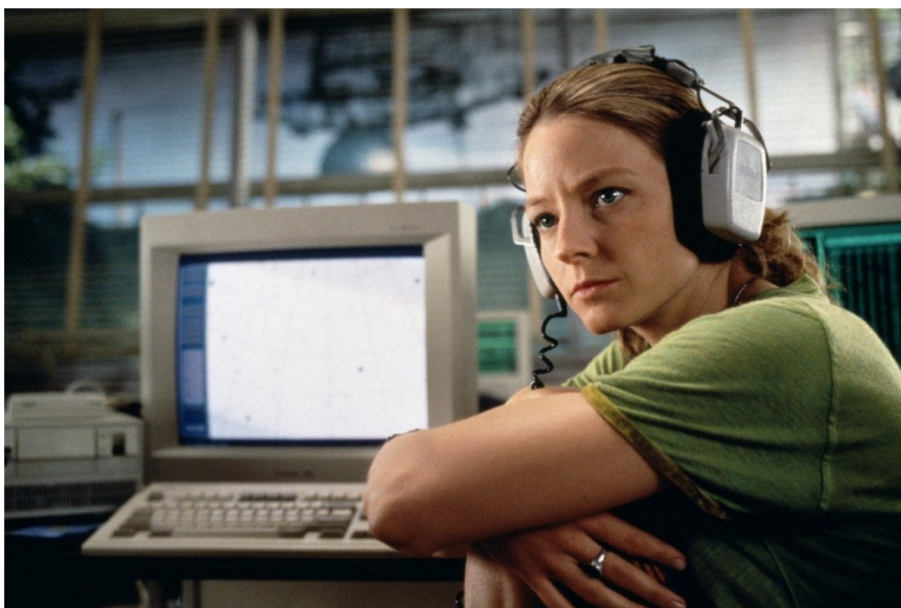
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THE COVER:

Transformers

Promotional Poster by DreamWorks Pictures.



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Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

BVARA EVENTS

Annual Corn Roast August 20

Brady's Run Shelter #13

Time: 5:00PM

Please bring your favorite covered dish!

JOTA Oct 14-16

More Details Next Month

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

Uniontown Gabfest Sept 3

Uniontown ARC Club Grounds
Old Pittsburgh Road, Uniontown PA



8:00AM - 3:00PM
Free Admission, Parking & Coffee

Talk-in on 147.045+ (131.8)

Main Prizes:
Yaesu FT-8900 Quad Band Transceiver
Yaesu FT-2900 144 MHz 75 W Radio
Yaesu FT-1900 144 MHz 55 W Radio

Additional Prizes to be announced
the day of the GABFEST!

For more information, visit www.W3PIE.org

HAMFEST

Butler Swapfest Sept 11

Unionville VFD
102 Mahood Road, Butler, PA

8:00AM - 3:00PM
\$5.00 Admission

Talk-in on 147.36 MHz

Prizes:
Yaesu FT-7900A Dual Band Mobile with
Separation Kit
(2) Icom IC-V80 Sport Handhelds

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

With a magazine-like cover, table of contents, cover story, and crisp layout, our newsletter has received a makeover - and 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 local hamfests, to make you more aware of cost, prizes, times, and the location.

The end of the newsletter now holds club 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, Sept. 8

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.



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.



HAM RADIO + CINEMA

A man and a woman are running through a city street. The man is in the foreground, wearing a dark suit and tie, looking serious. The woman is slightly behind him, wearing a white trench coat, also looking serious. They appear to be in a hurry, possibly from a movie scene.

From Get Smart to Iron Man, Transformers, and Super 8, amateur radio has been present in Hollywood's biggest films - and sometimes not in the best way.

Compiled by Grant Miller, KB3QFO

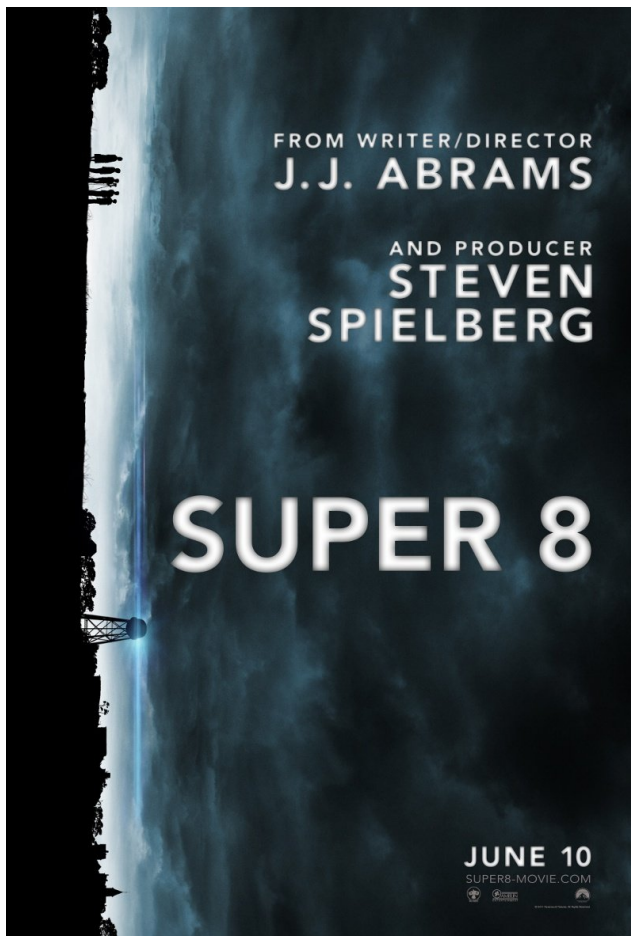
In Transformers, Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and Mikaela Banes (Megan Fox) team up with the Autobots to fight the evil Decepticons, who are intent on taking over the world. Towards the end of the movie, some of the security forces use HTs to communicate after the Decepticons cut off communication. A distress message is also sent to the Army using a Morse Key and computer, which was done quite well. The security forces, however, were not as great. Ham radios are **not** walkie-talkies. - GRANT M.

GRADE: B

TRANSFORMERS



SUPER 8



Super 8 revolves around a group of six middle-schoolers who witness a mysterious train crash in the fictional town of Lillian. Soon after the crash, the Air Force arrives and strange things start happening in the small town. The kids, a group of young film makers (hence the title of the movie) begin to investigate the creepy phenomena.

One of the kids' dads is Deputy Lamb. After the Sheriff mysteriously disappears, Deputy Lamb takes over and holds a town-wide meeting to help allay the fear. One woman thinks that all the strange goings-on are the work of the Soviet Union. But when Deputy Lamb calls on Mr McCandless to ask a question, the man complains that he is hearing strange transmissions on his ham radio. As soon as Mr McCandless mentions ham radio, the residents at the meeting just ignore him.

But when Deputy Lamb privately questions Mr McCandless, he tells the deputy that he can no longer listen to 13.201 (no reference is made to kHz or MHz) due to the strange noises he is hearing. Deputy Lamb mentions this to another deputy, and that deputy says he can bring in his scanner and voice inverter from home so they can monitor the frequency. After the rigs are set up, the deputies overhear vital information about what the Air Force is trying to hide.

While credit has to go to Super 8 set decorator Fainche MacCarthy for finding a radio of the right era, the "scanner" that the deputy brings in is a Heathkit Seneca VHF-1, a 2 and 6 meter CW and AM transmitter. Introduced in 1959, this rig complemented Heathkit's TX-1 Apache transmitter, RX-1 Mohawk receiver and KL-1 Chippewa linear amplifier. - ARRL

GRADE: A-

CONTACT



Eleanor Arrowway (Jodie Foster) first became interested in making long distance contacts using an HF Ham radio when she was very young. As she transmits on 14.2 MHz, she uses her call letters 'W9GFO'. You can see multiple QSL cards on her wall, but the farthest QSL the movie shows her making was to K4WLD in Pensacola, FL.

Eleanor's curiosity continued to grow as she got older and she later became a scientist. Dr. Arrowway traveled to Puerto Rico to work on a project called the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program using the Arecibo Observatory. After years of listening, she finally discovers a strong signal repeating a sequence of prime numbers from the star Vega on 4.4623 GHz. As Eleanor is driving back to the lab, she gets on her Motorola walkie-talkie and lets everyone back at the lab know about the signal. There's a lot of communication back and forth on the radios between her and the other scientists (who also use a Motorola walkie-talkie) while she is on the road. Kent, one of the main scientists, finds a better frequency to receive the signal on and re-tunes to 8.9247 GHz. There are multiple flashbacks to Dr. Arrowway's past showing her using her Ham. If you don't mind subtitles, it's funny to see how they type the call letters. As you can see below, they show it as "W-9 GFO" and "K-4 WLD". Another funny thing I noticed was that one of the scientists was holding the walkie-talkie backwards as he's talking to Dr. Arrowway. - **IMRDB**

GRADE: A

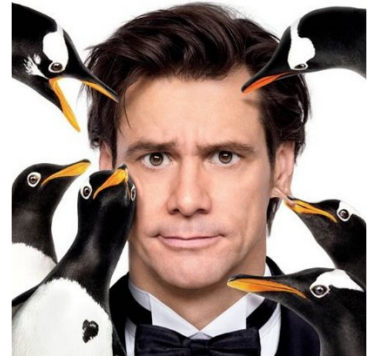
GET SMART

This is an action comedy film adaptation of the 1960's television series Get Smart. Near the end of the movie during a chase scene, Maxwell Smart (Steve Carrell) hijacks a Cadillac from a Secret Service agent in an attempt to catch up to Agent 23 (Dwayne Johnson), who turns out to be a double agent and kidnaps Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway). The Cadillac has a Yaesu FT-1802M mounted under the passenger side dash. The Secret Service agent yells to Maxwell through the the ham radio telling him not to damage the car. As the agent is yelling, the signal strength/busy indicator is not present. Oh well, they tried. - **IMRDB**

GRADE: B-



MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS



In Mr Popper's Penguins -- one of the newest films out this summer -- young Tommy Popper communicates with his father using what many reviews are calling ham radio. But while the Poppers are using a radio tuned to 21.2460 (15 meters SSB), this frequency was not available to US hams as a phone frequency in the 1976-78 time period, as shown in the movie. Neither do the Poppers use call signs. Instead, they use handles: Young Tommy is "Tippy Toe" and Mr Popper is "Bald Eagle." Mr Popper -- who, in one transmission, is in Marrakesh -- calls his son in New York City. There is no interference or static on the frequency; it seems they are the only ones on the band. While it is exciting to see Amateur Radio on the big screen, movies such as Frequency and Contact, and television shows such as Jericho and The Simpsons have presented Amateur Radio more accurately. - **ARRL**

GRADE: F

70cm Safe for Satellites

By Terry Douds, N8KI



Last column's alarming news concerned the possible auction of our 70-cm amateur satellite frequencies by the FCC. A delegation of amateur operators led by Peter Portanova, WB2OQQ, AMSAT New York Area Coordinator from the Long Island/New York City area, met with U.S. Representative Peter King (R-NY) on May 19 to discuss his recent proposed legislation — H.R. 607 — and its impact on amateur radio.

Portanova, who resides in King's congressional district, worked for many months with only the assistance of the town government of Massapequa to arrange the meeting.

In addition, Portanova, who is NLI Local Government Liaison, the delegation included Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, ARRL Section Manager for New York City/Long Island;

George Tranos, N2GA, NLI State Government Liaison (SGL); and Jim Mezey, W2KFV, NLI ARES Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC).

Portanova, Lisenco, Mezey and Tranos spoke about the importance of amateur radio emergency communications and Portanova spoke about amateur satellites and their contributions to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education and disaster communication.

Barry Baines, WD4ASW, President of AMSAT, prepared a letter that was delivered to King by Portanova addressing concerns about HR 607. Congressman King said he understands and appreciates the importance of amateur radio and the Amateur Satellite Service and their contributions to the community. He said he would see to modification of the bill so that the 420-440 MHz

band would be excluded from the spectrum to be auctioned. The Congressman was very receptive to the group and listed Portanova as his point of contact.

"The Congressman went on to explain that it was never his intention to remove the 70-cm band from amateur use. He further asked us to get the word out and inform the amateur radio community that 70cm is not in jeopardy," Portanova said.

On May 26, Portanova learned that Congressman King had requested the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to remove Section 207 — the portion covering the auction of the 420- 440 MHz and 450-470 MHz spectrum — from the bill.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI, (R-Oregon), agreed — so the threat to amateur radio access to the 70-cm spectrum appears to be no longer an issue. Meanwhile, the ARRL has reported the Senate's companion bill to HR607 — known as S-1040, with similar objectives to the House bill — does not call for auctioning any portions of amateur radio spectrum. There's certainly good news all around! If you have the opportunity, please thank these amateurs who went to bat for us all in expressing our concern to the legislators about HR607 and who helped save one of our most important pieces of spectrum to the Amateur Satellite Service. —

2m in Texas

A discussion from the QRZ forums

'D-Star is NOT ham radio.'

K6WXA, wondering why D-STAR is taking spectrum from "real" radio, such as 2 Meters

'Anytime something like this happens, especially when there is only a single manufacturer of hardware involved, I can't help wondering if that manufacturer isn't involved somehow... '

KJ6MDX, questioning ICOM's involvement in Texas' situation

'I don't see a problem.'

K7JEM, in response to the possible loss of some simplex frequencies. Simplex can be reused every few miles, he reasons, and can be used on other channels in the area

'Last time I checked, establishing band plans and frequency allocation assignments in this United States is a function of the FCC.'

KC8VWM, wondering who the Texas Two Meter Society is and why it has the authority to propose this decision

'What is this D-Star you talk about?'

VE3FMC, making a point that D-STAR is not used in his area, mainly because of the cost.

'An interesting issue, hope the FCC squashes them like a road kill armadillo.'

KB3RPE, reacting to the initial forum post. A portion of this post is included in "The Issue" (R)

THE ISSUE

In an effort to make room for D-Star repeater pairs, the Society has proposed a revised band plan that will take spectrum from two meter simplex users statewide. The band plan being proposed by the Texas VHF-FM Society is as follows: 146.450 - 146.490 MHz, High in/low out, 1 MHz offset, 12.5 kHz channel spacing or less, any digital voice/data air interface technology suitable for the Amateur Radio Service that is compatible with the channel spacing. No analog transmission permitted.

This proposal was placed on the table at the March 1, 2008 General Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society and has yet to be voted on, possibly due to opposition from avid simplex users.

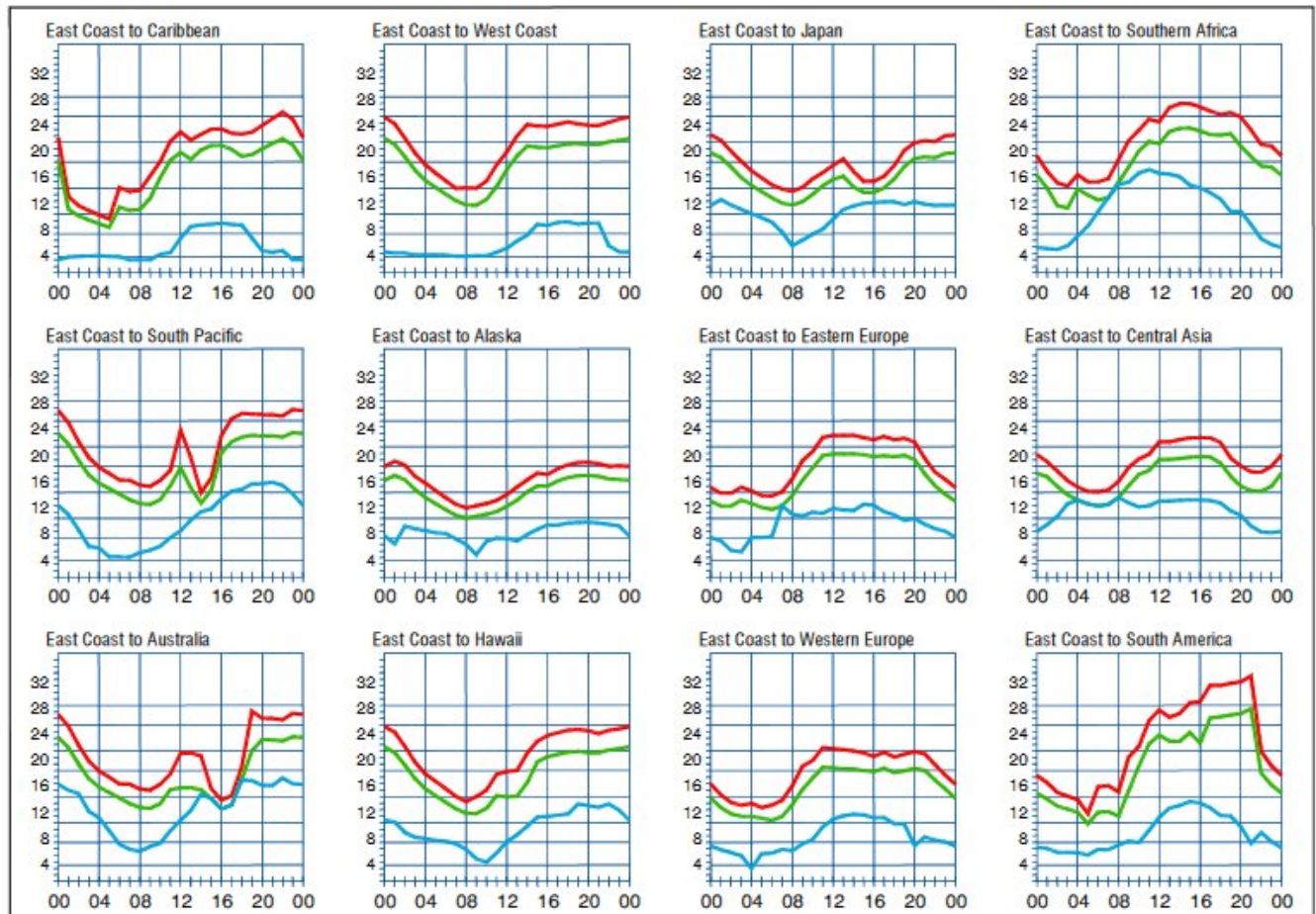
Contrary to public opinion, two meter simplex frequencies are regularly, and in some cases heavily used throughout the state. A well-established group of simplex operators in north and east Texas have used the frequency of 147.420 on a daily basis since the mid 1970's. While that frequency is not in immediate danger of being reallocated, other well used frequencies are!

I believe I speak for most all avid simplex operators when I say, I am in no way anti D-Star. New technology and operating modes are the life blood of amateur radio. What I am against is reallocation of simplex spectrum as repeater pairs! D-star or analog, a repeater is a repeater and should be placed on frequencies that are already allocated for that purpose. If all of the repeater pairs are in use then get on the waiting list; just as analog repeater owners do.

Hams always say "Use it, or lose it" when it comes to radio spectrum. This time it's being used and we still may lose it. - WX5VHF

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 (131.8 PL)

PROPAGATION

The propagation chart listed above is for August 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

August – No meeting (Com Roast)

September 8

October 13

November 10

December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

2012

January 12

February 9

March 8

April 12

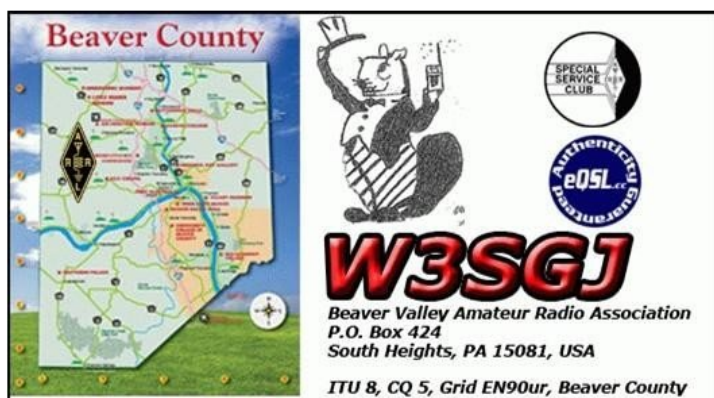
May 10

June 14

July 12

August – No meeting (Com Roast)

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2011



RADIO IN SPACE