

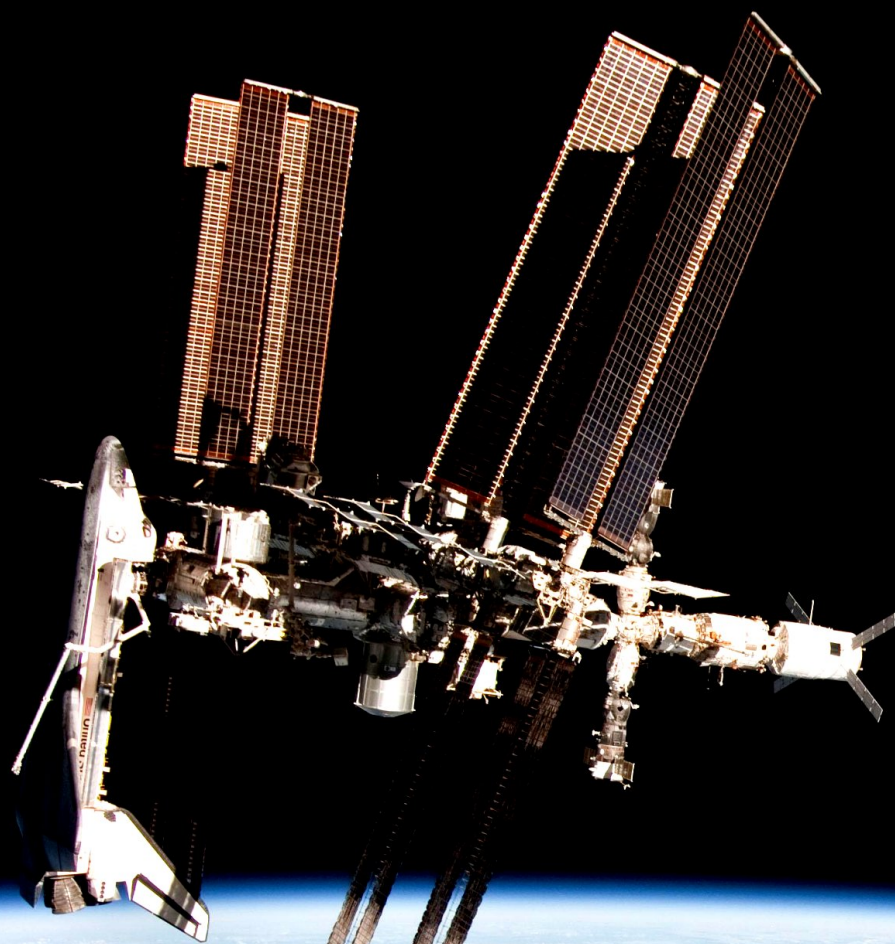
CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 4 - SEPTEMBER 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



HAMS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2011

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THE COVER:

The International Space Station

Photo by NASA, Paolo Nespoli



*Astronaut Sunita Williams, KD5PLB talks with students during an ARISS contact in Belgium.
Photo courtesy of NASA.*

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Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

BVARA EVENTS

JOTA Oct 14-16



Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an international Scouting and Guiding activity held annually on the third full weekend in October. Amateur radio operators from all over the world participate with over 500,000 Scouts and Guides to teach them about radio and to assist them to contact their fellow Scouts and Guides by means of amateur radio and since 2004, by the VOIP-based Echolink. - [Wikipedia](#)

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

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

HAMFEST

MarcFest Oct 9

Rostraver Central Volunteer Fire Hall, Rt 51 South From Pittsburgh to Fells Church Road.

8:00AM - 1:30PM
\$5.00 Admission
includes 1 Main Prize ticket

Breakfast and lunch w/ free coffee

Prizes:

1) Yaesu FT857D HF / 6M / 2M / 70CM
2) Yaesu 2800m 2M 65W Mobile
3) 2 Meter Handheld

HAMFEST

WACOM Hamfest Nov 6

Washington County Fairgrounds
2151 North Main St.
Washington, PA 15301

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

Talk-in on 145.49 MHz, no PL

Main Prize: YAESU 897D - HF/VHF/UHF

Section News

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE

JULY 2011

[Editor's Note: Due to the unavailability of August or September's Section News, we are reprinting July's Section News]
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

July 17 finds us at the Somerset hamfest. Their hamfest flyer is available at <http://k3smt.org/hamfest/HamfestFI>



yer2011.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.

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.



THIS MONTH

HF Propagation Tools And Understanding When Conditions Will Be Favorable

Presented by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Including:
Background Information
Free Propagation Tools to Use
How to Run Them
What They Show
And much more!

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.



FROM THE HEARTS:

Providing a Way for Others to Communicate with the ISS

By the ARRL



PHOTO: JARL.GL.GP



In America and around the world, students use Amateur Radio to talk to astronauts on the International Space Station, orbiting high above the Earth – and it's the students at an all-girls school in Honolulu, Hawaii who help make the connection.

Sacred Hearts Academy is a telebridge station for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS). ARISS is a NASA-sponsored education activity where astronauts and cosmonauts use Amateur Radio equipment aboard the ISS to talk with students around the world. Telebridge stations, like the one at Sacred Hearts, connect schools, museums and others without their own Amateur Radio equipment to astronauts in space.

Sacred Hearts became involved in ARISS by first being a telebridge station for the Space Amateur Radio Experiment. SAREX used Amateur Radio equipment aboard the ISS to connect astronauts in space with students on the ground. Sacred Hearts built its Amateur Radio ground station with help from local radio amateurs and private industry. The project was funded by the school, along with a generous corporate grant, in 1993. The school had its first radio contact with the ISS in the summer of 1994.

"On the morning of July 10, 1994, you could feel the excitement in the air as hundreds of students packed the academy's auditorium to witness their classmates in grades 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12 ask questions and receive answers from astronaut Bob Cabana about life on board the space shuttle and the experiments that were being performed on STS-65," recalled retired Sacred Hearts teacher Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN. "They watched spellbound as the path of the shuttle was projected on a wall-size map via computer simulation. On the news that night, one student remarked how amazing it was that she, a tiny speck on the Earth, was able to talk to an astronaut flying hundreds of miles overhead traveling at 17,500 miles per hour."

After that first contact, Rocheleau, who was then

chairperson of the academy's science department, said the academy offered a course called "Space: A Technological Approach to Integrating Math and Science," in which 20 girls learned Amateur Radio theory and earned their Amateur Radio licenses. Sacred Hearts then established an Amateur Radio club for girls in grades 7-12. The club initially supported SAREX and then, in 2000, began supporting ARISS. Rocheleau explained that club members prepare the school's Amateur Radio station for telebridge contacts so students around the world can have the same exhilarating experience talking to astronauts as the academy students did.

Prior to a contact, students prepare the station by checking the antenna steering and radio operation and loading the most recent orbital elements into the computer. They then run a satellite-tracking program to generate a table of times versus spacecraft position, so the antenna can be steered manually in the event of a computer problem during the contact. Once the equipment is checked out and ready, a call is made to the conferencing center. The center links the participating school students, the ARISS moderator and the Sacred Hearts Academy Amateur Radio station team.

Since 1993, the Sacred Hearts station has run more than 70 contacts, giving students from all corners of the globe a chance to ask questions to astronauts aboard the shuttle and ISS. Every contact is memorable to the students involved, Rocheleau said, but several of the school's most memorable experiences were contacts with astronaut Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, the first female commander of the space shuttle; Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, the first spaceflight participant; Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, the first commander of the ISS, and astronaut Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, in a 2007 telebridge with a school in New Delhi, India.

After Shepherd returned to Earth, he visited the academy and addressed the entire student body. He shared his experiences as an astronaut and answered students' questions about life in space. "One of the perks is several astronauts have come and talked to our students in the school's gym," Rocheleau said. "Edward Lu came. Charles Lacy Veach came. William Shepherd came, and Ellen Baker came. So when they come to Honolulu, we can say, 'Hey, we've contributed to the program; could you come and talk to our students?' It's very exciting for the girls."

Dick Flagg, AH6NM, handles the technical aspects of the station. Flagg said the school's location is a major

factor in its success as a telebridge station for the ARISS program: "There's less potential for interference out here in the middle of the ocean than there is on the mainland, and I think that's one of the advantages that we have. The schools on the mainland might want to have a radio contact during the day at some convenient time. That turns out to be like 3 AM for us here. So very frequently, we're running these contacts sometime between midnight and dawn, when most of the other ham radio operators are asleep and there's very little chance of interference. We've had a very good success record of making contacts."

"Although many contacts occur between midnight and dawn, there are often several students and their parents eagerly monitoring the contact," Rocheleau added.

ARISS is supported within NASA as a K-12 education project of the agency's Teaching From Space office. "Teaching From Space facilitates education opportunities like ARISS that use the unique environment of spaceflight and other flight platforms to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics," explained NASA's Teaching From Space Manager Cindy McArthur.

Rocheleau said the school administration, especially principal Betty White, has always emphasized the importance of science and technology education. They developed a scope and sequence for teaching students various computer technologies. NASA has been instrumental in helping Sacred Hearts Academy expand its science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities, also known as STEM activities, she said.

In addition to involvement with ARISS, radio club members served as beta testers for NASA's Radio JOVE project. This is an educational outreach activity run by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The project allows students, teachers and the public to learn about radio astronomy by building their own radio telescope from an inexpensive kit or by using remote radio telescopes via the Internet. Sacred Hearts students also participate in For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics programs and VEX Robotics.

"We've been very fortunate in having the opportunity to let the students participate in this kind of activity," Flagg said, "Many of the girls have gotten a lot out of it, and it's hopefully been instrumental in their future careers and life paths." ➔

The FEMA App

A discussion from the QRZ forums

'I do not have faith in FEMA.'

W1YW, stating that when an 'all else fails' situation arises,
a smartphone app will not be relevant

'Having a radio license means I will survive a disaster?!
Sweet! I thought I had to do things like heed warnings,
evacuation notices and safety tips. Glad all it takes is the
FCC's blessing and then God will spare me!'

NORC, questioning KC5FM's reasoning (see "The Issue" column on R)

'I think FEMA's intention is
getting information out to
those who will see it.'

N4EYZ, in response to the notion that a smartphone app would be useless;
development costs for said app are also not as large
of a concern as some believe them to be

'Many of these people [using the app] are the ones that are going
to look at the information and say
"Pfftttt... This is BS and it's being over-hyped."'

KJ6MDX, believing that users of FEMA's app will not believe
the severity of the situation anyway and will not evacuate

'Interesting what this
app is not...'

WA4OTD, quoting that the FEMA app will not provide
emergency notifications, and that the FEMA site advises
users to call 911 in the event of an emergency

'Glad they decided to spend my tax money
on this instead of blankets, bottled water, and MRE's.'

KJ4ZFQ, believing this app will be pointless
once 'the power has been out for a few weeks.'

THE ISSUE

As Hurricane Irene threatens the East Coast, I'm excited to announce FEMA's gone mobile (again). I wanted to share two new ways you can get information about how to prepare for and recover from hurricanes and other disasters on your mobile devices, and here's Administrator Fugate to introduce one of them (and then continue reading for even more details):

In the new FEMA App, you'll be able to:

Check off the items you have in your family's emergency kit,
Enter your family emergency meeting locations,
Review safety tips on what to do before, during and after a disaster,
View a map of shelters and disaster recovery centers across the U.S., and

Read our latest blog posts.

When we built the app, we kept the disaster survivor in mind, making sure much of the information would be available even if cell phone service isn't, so you'll be able to access the important information on how to safe after a disaster, as well as your family emergency meeting locations.

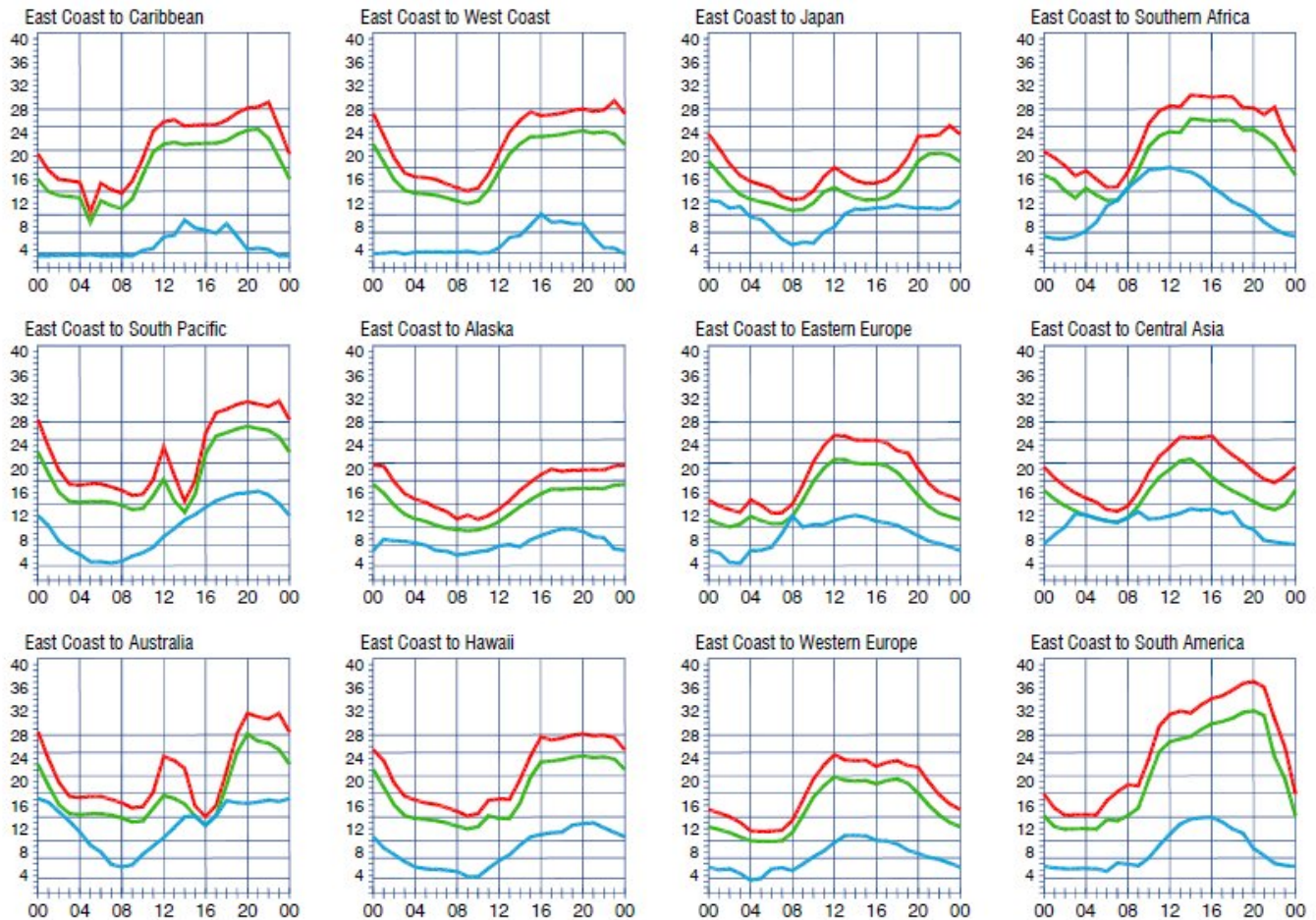
You can download our app today in the Android market, and look for FEMA App for Blackberry version 6 devices and iPhones in the coming weeks. - Shayne Adamski, FEMA

It's too late for your friends, neighbors, countrymen to get their amateur radio license this week.

However, while you are telling them I told you so, encourage them to get the new application and instructions. THEN, if they survive this disaster, tell them about the next amateur radio class they can take. - KC5FM

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 September 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

September 8

October 13

November 10

December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

2012

January 12

February 9

March 8

April 12

May 10

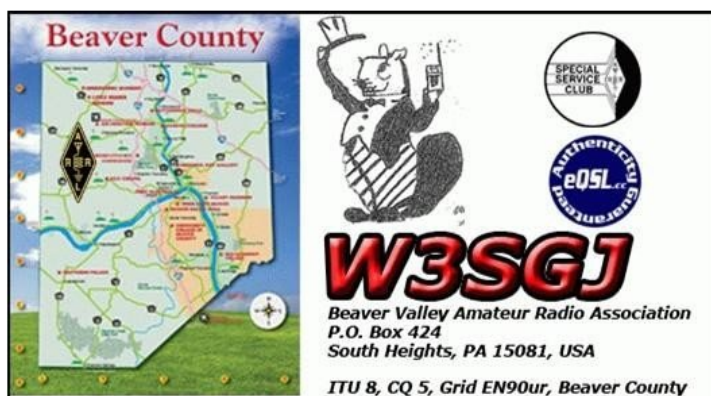
June 14

July 12

August – No meeting (Corn Roast)

September 13

QSL CARD





NEXT MONTH
OCTOBER 2011

IMPACT: WILDFIRE

When talking about amateur radio in emergencies, the obvious catastrophes are always mentioned: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods. We examine a lesser-communicated topic: **Wildfires.**