

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 5 - OCTOBER 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

DEVASTATING

WILDFIRE IMPACT AND AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE

SPEAKER SERIES

**AMELIA
EARHART**

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

SEE P. 5 FOR DETAILS

PLUS:

HAM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE AND ATLANTIC DIVISION DIRECTOR ELECTION



THE eQRM

OCTOBER 2011

CHECK IN TO THE NETS!

2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

THIS MONTH

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Important events in the Pittsburgh region; upcoming hamfests

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LOOKING AHEAD

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THE COVER:

Europe Wildfire

Photo by Radio Netherlands Worldwide



*Harold Lezeur surveys the damage of his home after a wildfire.
Photo courtesy of Tulsa World.*

FEATURES

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Phil Theis, K3TUF
is running

6 Devastation

A Pawnee County, Oklahoma
wildfire affects ham operator
by Tulsa World

8 Equipment for Sale

The BVARA is offering
a variety of used ham equipment
for sale, while they last!

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. To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php

Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

BVARA EVENTS

JOTA Oct 14-16



JOTA will be held at Jack, KZ3Z's home this year. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

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](#)

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

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

ELECTION

Atl. Division Director

Hello WPA, my name is Phil Theis, K3TUF, and I'm running for the Atlantic Division Director position. Directors serve on the corporation's Board of Directors, without compensation, and are responsible for financial and administrative policy decisions in the day to day, and long range operations of the League. They serve for a three year term and are voted upon by the members in their geographic division. The Atlantic director represents 13,000 members in the division.

Growing up in the Philadelphia EPA area I was licensed in 1962 as KN3TUF and served in numerous positions along the way. You can check my website (k3tuf.com) out for all the extremely interesting details of my life :) My wish for this hobby is to keep it exciting and every move I make as a director would take all of the many interests we have into account. We are a diverse bunch of hobbyists and that's what makes it so much fun.

I want to have all of the members in the Atlantic division involved in the decision processes and would publish the agenda prior to board meetings for your feedback.

In previous balloting the majority of ballots ended up in the trash; I'd like to see a good turnout in this election process. Please look for your ballot in the coming days and exercise your right to choose your representative at the ARRL Board of Directors, it's your choice.

And please take a look at my website: k3tuf.com
Phil Theis K3TUF

Section News

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE

SEPTEMBER 2011

September is finally here and as the children head back to school our hamfests begin to wind down for the season. On September 11 the Butler County ARA will hold its annual swapfest. More information is available at <http://w3udx.org/Hamfest.htm> On October 9 the Marcfest event will take place at a new location. Details for this event are available at http://www.w3csl.org/MARCFest/HamFest_Index.html.

Finally on November 6 WACOM will host the finally hamfest of the year for our section. This is always a well attended event and be sure to remember it is also time change day back to standard time so we get an extra hour of sleep. More info can be obtained at <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>

On October 8-9 is my favorite operating event of the year. Since I visit many field day sites in June the PA QSO Party holds my big contesting effort for the year. There are numerous ways to operate this contest and a great bunch of people participate every year. Contest rules and forms are available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html> There is a wealth of information at the site so check it out early. Thanks to the Nittany Amateur radio club for sponsoring this event each year and also to the many clubs and individuals that sponsor the awards.

I want to extend my personal thanks to the numerous hams that stepped forward and volunteered their availability during the potential for the recent Hurricane.

Almost one hundred new members registered on the web site to tell us of their availability and their capabilities in equipment and modes. Each and every one of you makes up an important aspect of the ARES platform.

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. There is a wealth of information available at this site and a great deal of effort has been put into its development. In regards to ARES Larry Keller and myself will be attending the PEMA ACS conference in Harrisburg on Sept. 24 and 25. This platform combines many radio services into one system to help during an emergency. If you have questions or issues you would like to have us discuss please contact Larry or myself.

Several changes have taken place with the NBEMS program including net schedule changes. NBEMS has caught on in a great way and again this year Harry and Dave will be making

presentations at the PEMA conference. If you have not tried working with fldigi I urge you to go to <http://panbems.org> for a wealth of information. The new net schedules are posted there as well as other useful topics. Numerous videos of nbems and fldigi are also available on you tube to assist in setting up and operating the program. Software downloads are available at <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> Our thanks to Dave W1HKJ for his efforts in creating and advancing this platform. Some recent new features of fldigi include some packet operation as well as dtmf tone usage. An app for mt63-2000 was recently posted to the android world and I have tested it on both my droid phone and my Acer tablet. I hope in time we get a complete program for the droids to enhance our capabilities.

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.

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

NEWSLETTER REDESIGN

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, Oct. 13

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:

Speaker:
Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:
Amelia Earhart - Can You Hear Me Now?

Including:
Her Journey,
Her Tragedy, Her Radio,
The Controversies,
And much more!

Are you interested in attending?
Come to the club meeting on
October 13 at 6:30PM, 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.



DEVASTATION

Pawnee County, Oklahoma wildfire
aftermath called 'devastating'

By Tusca World

PHOTO: WILDLANDFIRE.COM

The cedar trees shading Harold Lazear's mobile home were pretty, but in drought conditions they provided the perfect kindling.

When wildfires spread across Pawnee County on Sunday, Lazear jumped onto the roof with a garden hose and faced a wall of flames 100 feet high.

"I wasn't going to leave. I had a lot of expensive stuff," Lazear said in reference to a lifetime of collecting ham radio equipment, which he used as a storm spotter and Red Cross volunteer.

But it was futile. Lazear's was among at least 35 households that were destroyed by the fires that started Sunday and spread across 15,000 acres of eastern Pawnee County's timbered rolling hills.

The fires were under control Tuesday after rainfall Monday night and nonstop efforts by firefighters and crews on Army National Guard Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters. Efforts Tuesday focused on hot spots and damage assessments.

When the heat from the whipping flames became unbearable, Lazear jumped down, hopped into his Chevrolet Tahoe and barreled out the driveway just as his propane tank exploded in the front yard.

He didn't have time to grab anything. In 10 minutes, the mobile home and everything in it burned to the ground.

On Tuesday, Lazear and his girlfriend, Patricia Stephens, returned to the still-smoldering site in the sweltering heat.

The cedars were standing black sticks. Ash still hung in the humid air.

"This is so devastating," Lazear said. "A lot of families live out here, and this area hadn't burned in years and years."

Although he owns the land and loves the woods and the countryside, Lazear isn't eager to move back to that area of Reiman Road, where at least seven families he can think of lost their homes. He said he'd like his next place to be clear of brush.

Up the hill from Lazear lived Earl Hilton, 76, who was critically injured in the blaze that also destroyed his mobile home Sunday. He is a retired bricklayer who moved to the area after raising a large family in west Tulsa.

Hilton's sons, Matt Hilton and Kenny Hilton, who were surveying the damage Tuesday, said their father, who stands about 6 foot 6, defied orders to evacuate.

"I think the No. 1 reason he stayed was because he owns everything but he had no insurance," Miles Hilton said.

They credit a 16-year-old neighbor boy for saving their father's life. The sons said the teenager found Earl Hilton unconscious outside his home with burns to his back and legs. The boy hopped on his dirt bike and got help.

Earl Hilton's dog, Bozo, a stray he had adopted, limped around the charred remains. He would not come to anyone, the Hilton sons said.

The sons said their father is on a ventilator at Hillcrest Medical Center's Alexander Burn Center and that they are waiting to see if he will need skin grafts.

Also losing a mobile home on Reiman Road were Larry Joyner and Ron Sublett, who made a narrow escape with their 10 Chihuahuas early Tuesday.

Joyner, a dialysis patient, was weary and tired in recalling the details. He said their area was evacuated Monday, but that they were allowed back in later that night.

Sublett said he had awakened about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday and smelled smoke.

"I looked up, and ... I thought the sun was coming up. Actually, it was just the end of

the house on fire," Sublett said. By the time they got out, the home was fully engulfed, both men said.

"This kind of thing cannot be classified as anything other than a disaster," said Pawnee County Emergency Management Director Mark Randell. "When a small volunteer agency has this massive an event, it's uncontrollable."

Radar estimates of Monday's rainfall were a quarter- to a half-inch in Terlton and about three-quarters of an inch in Cleveland, Okla., according to the National Weather Service in Tulsa.

"It rained really hard, but it wasn't near enough for me," Randell said.

More than 30 fire departments worked on the fires Sunday, and more than 35 battled blazes on Monday with the help of three helicopters, he said.

The area has not experienced such dry conditions since 1954, Randell said.

"The terrain was against us; the conditions were against us," he said. "We just had nothing working for us. Nothing."

Dry and hot conditions are still against them, and the wildfire threat hasn't gone away.

Randell said Tuesday evening that wildfires in Payne County were moving into western Pawnee County.

"Any fire at this point is bad with the weather conditions we have," Randell said.

The Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has been providing assistance to those affected by the fires as well as to firefighters who were still out in the heat, Red Cross spokeswoman Donita Quesnel said.

About 45 people took shelter with the Red Cross on Monday at Western Heights Baptist Church, 200 N. Gilbert in Cleveland. ➔

Equipment for Sale



Astron RS-35M Power Supply
25 amp cont. 35 amp surge 13.8vdc.
\$100.00 plus S+H.



Ritz Electronics Power Supply
PS-1001MR regulated.
13.8 vdc, 8amps , 115vac input.
\$25.00 plus S&H.



Dentron Ant Tuner AT-1K
with manual, 160meters-
10 meters, 500 watts.
\$75.00 plus S&H.



Pakratt Model PK232
MXB. Multimode Data
Controller.
\$40.00 plus S&H.



Palomar TX75 Amplifier.
\$35.00 plus S&H.



American Electronics
SWR/Watt Meter, model
95/134. 52 Ohms, 100 W
\$20.00 plus S&H.



Daiwa SWR Model CN-
520, 1.8-60mhz, 50
ohms, 2KW. (with
manual).
\$50.00 plus S&H.



Daiwa SWR Model CN-
550, 140-250 mhz, 50
ohms, 200 W, (with
manual).
\$40.00 plus S&H.



Trionyx TR-1000, 600
mhz Frequency Counter.
(with manual).
\$40.00 plus S&H.



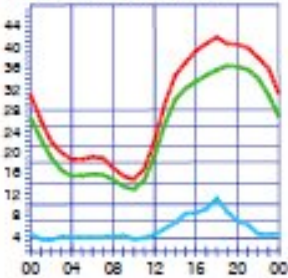
2 Turner Model +3B
microphones. \$15.00
each plus S&H.

If you are interested in buying an item, please call Chris, W3OUF at 724-266-2866

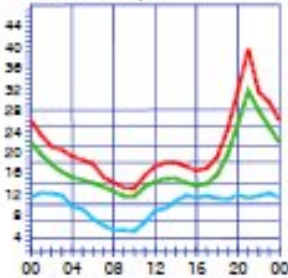
Prop Charts

From the ARRL

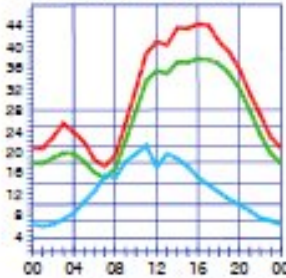
East Coast to West Coast



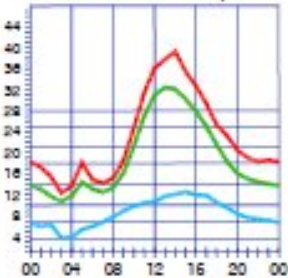
East Coast to Japan



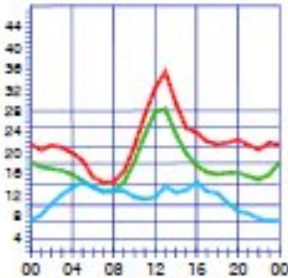
East Coast to Southern Africa



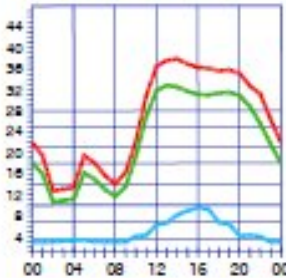
East Coast to Eastern Europe



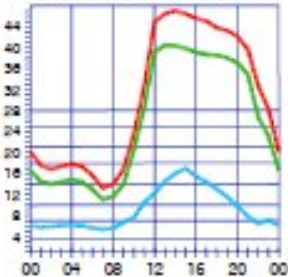
East Coast to Central Asia



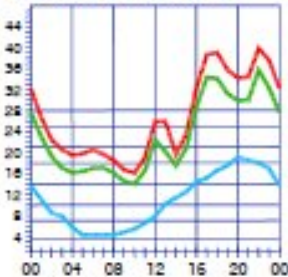
East Coast to Caribbean



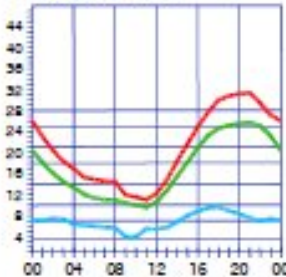
East Coast to South America



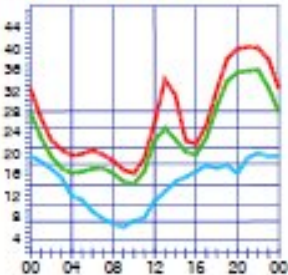
East Coast to South Pacific



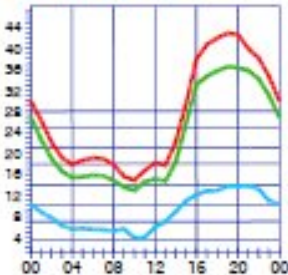
East Coast to Alaska



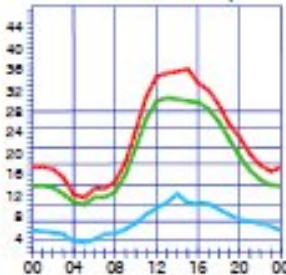
East Coast to Australia



East Coast to Hawaii



East Coast to Western Europe



PROPAGATION

The propagation chart listed above is for October 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>

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)



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

October 13

November 10

December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

2012

January 12

February 9

March 8

April 12

May 10

June 14

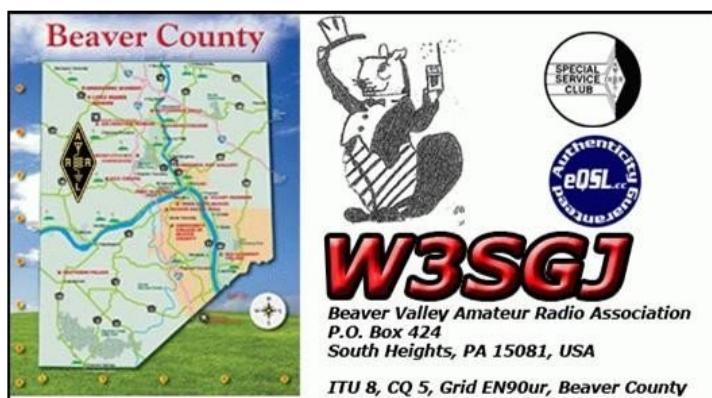
July 12

August – No meeting (Corn Roast)

September 13

October 11

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH
NOVEMBER 2011

GIVE THANKS