

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 7 - DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

# 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

## 99 YEARS AND STILL TUNED IN

One operator's ham radio journey

**PLUS: D STAR DAY - JANUARY 28** SEE P. 3 FOR DETAILS

# THE eQRM

DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

## CHECK IN TO THE NETS!

### 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

### 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

## 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

### 9 | Prop Charts

Propagation charts for the East Coast

### 10 | Who We Are

Membership information; club officers; meetings; VE testing

### 11 | Next Month

## THE COVER:

*Photo of Earl Clay by Arlene Clay and Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman*



*Arlene "Buddy" Clay operating on her ham radio.  
Photo courtesy of Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman.*

## FEATURES

### 3 D STAR Day

January 28th  
in West Middlesex

### 6 A Century of Ham Radio

This ham operator's tale  
of her life in radio  
by Heather A. Resz

### 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 - 2012. 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](mailto:KB3QFQ@W3SGJ.org). Please visit us online at [www.W3SGJ.org](http://www.W3SGJ.org), on Twitter @W3SGJ, and on Facebook. To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit [W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php](http://W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php)



# Calendar

From the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### D STAR DAY

January 28



From The Atlantic Wireless Society

**WHEN:** 9am - 4pm January 28

**WHERE:** Radisson Park Inn  
Sharon Hotel,  
West Middlesex, PA

Please pass this info along to your club members, your ham friends, and at club meetings.

Also, please announce this exciting event on your internet groups and repeater nets.

**All day Saturday - January 28th - D STAR DAY - located close by in West Middlesex, PA**

**Held at the Park Inn - special D STAR DAY rates for overnight stays on Friday and Saturday night.**

**Pre D-STAR DAY get together will be on Friday night at the Quaker Steak and Lube (10 minutes drive from the Park Inn) in downtown Sharon - 7:30 PM**

**Registration cost is just \$18.00 and includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration deadline is January 24, 2012.**

Check out the web site:  
<http://dstarday.com>

**The D STAR DAY AGENDA:**

[http://www.dstarday.com/page\\_agenda.html](http://www.dstarday.com/page_agenda.html)

**Registration is filling up fast - so get your tickets quick.**

**If you have any questions - please do not hesitate to contact us [email@k3aws.org](mailto:email@k3aws.org)**

**See you in West Middlesex on January 28th for D STAR DAY**

**Pass the word and 73,  
Tim K3LR  
D STAR DAY moderator**



## SILENT KEY

### Albert Schreamm, W3MIV

Atlantic Division Assistant Director  
Becomes Silent Key

Albert Schramm W3MIV passed away on Friday, December 16th after a short illness. Albert was instrumental in the development of Atlantic Division surveys and his salient advice and counsel will be missed. His sense of humor was legendary.

His family is planning a memorial service to be held in January.

Please join us in extending condolences to his family.

73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR  
Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM  
Atlantic Division Vice Director

## 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](http://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](http://k3tuf.com)

Phil Theis K3TUF

# Section News

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE

## NOVEMBER 2011

The year is quickly coming to an end and with it the last of the hamfests will be held on Sunday Nov. 6. This hamfest is the WACOM hamfest in Washington, Pa. Complete information regarding the hamfest and vendors etc is available at <http://wacomarc.org/hamfest.html> Be sure to stop at the league table and say hi and also at the ARES table.

This year once again at the WACOM hamfest after the VE exams there will be a hot wash discussion of the Simulated Emergency Test that was conducted on October 1. Please plan to attend and provide input on areas that you found beneficial or ideas for next year.

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.

Several of us are considering the sponsoring of a digital

EMMCOMM conference for the spring of 2012. We are looking to have this conference in the Johnstown, Pa. Area as a centralized location. This will include win-link, d-star, nbems and other digital modes. Anyone with comments or ideas as well as individuals willing to participate as presenters should contact myself at [n3mse@arrl.org](mailto:n3mse@arrl.org)



or Larry Keller [ab3er@arrl.net](mailto:ab3er@arrl.net). We will forward your ideas and comments to the others involved in the planning.

The PA QSO Party was a great success once again. I had limited operating hours here as my 5 year old Granddaughter was visiting and informed me I needed to spend time with her playing. I got about two hundred contacts before shutting down and spending the weekend with her. Next year I might have to plan her visit for a different weekend

or get her licensed. Hi HI

A survey has recently been conducted by a sub committee appointed by the directors. This ECAC group is looking at the ARES and NTS platforms to determine if any changes are necessary. No decisions have been made to change anything at this point and the recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at an upcoming meeting.

As always 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, Jan. 12

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.

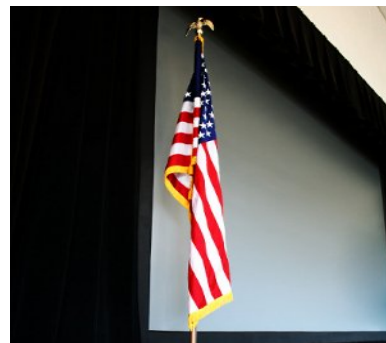
This trip will only be possible if there is enough interest from our radio club members - and any family members you would like to take!

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:**  
QRN, RFI, and Other Nastiness  
What To Do About It

**Including:**  
Sources of Noise,  
Possible Paths To Susceptible Device  
And What To Do About It!

Are you interested in attending?  
Come to the club meeting on  
**Thursday, January 12 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.



# A Century of Ham Radio

By HEATHER A. RESZ

When Arlene “Buddy” Clay says she spends every night on the “net,” she doesn’t mean the Internet.

She was 32 and World War II was raging when she came to Alaska in 1944 with her husband, Earl, to work with the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Nome.

After serving their two-year commitment, the two moved to a new post at Aniak where they served another two-year term with the CAA, a predecessor to the Federal Aviation Administration.

But the young couple liked living with in the Yup’ik village along the shores of the Kuskokwim River and stayed for a third year, she said.

The Clays retired from the CAA, but had grown to love the land, the food and the people in Aniak.

“We liked Aniak and decided to stay for a while, not realizing we’d stay forever,” Clay said Saturday at the Mat-Su Public Safety Building in Wasilla.

She lived in the cabin they built three miles from Aniak overlooking the Kuskokwim River for 67 years — before health issues forced her to move into the Primrose Retirement Community in January.

Now 99, Buddy — as her friends know her — is the only Ham radio operator at the Wasilla retirement community.

“That’s the reason I decided to come to Primrose, because they let me have my radio with me,” she said.

Earl had a Ham radio license when the



couple moved to Alaska. On the East Coast he was WINOP. In Alaska, he was known as KL7EM and Buddy has been KL7OT since she earned her license in 1948.

“There aren’t very many two-letter calls left,” she said.

Earl and Arlene Clay came to Alaska after reading an ad in QST — a monthly magazine dedicated to amateur radio — that the CAA was looking for husband-and-wife teams to join the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

At first they were aircraft controls in Nome and later in Aniak.

“We applied for the job and were accepted,” she said. “Next we went to Boeing Field in Seattle for six months of training.”

And since the couple arrived in Alaska in 1944, Arlene has never left the state.

“I had no reason to go back home, so I

When they arrived in Aniak, there were around 150 Yup’ik people and 15 white people there, she said. Now the village has about 500 people.

In those days, the only phone was at the airport office and the CAA owned the only truck, she said.

“It was Ham radio or nothing,” she said of communication options in her early days in Aniak.

Everyone who lived in the area relied on subsistence to feed their family and their dog team. The Clays used a fish wheel to harvest fish for themselves and their dogs, she said. The couple spent the next decade fishing for food in the summers and traveling the region by sled-dog team in the winter.

After Earl’s death in 1956, she stayed in their cabin near Aniak and went to work to support herself and the dogs. She drove dogs for 35 years, she said.

“The lifestyle has changed. There are



no dog teams. No fish wheels,” Buddy said. “There are only two dog teams in Aniak now and they are racing teams, not work teams like we used to have.”

To feed herself and her dogs after her husband died, Buddy said she worked half the day for the Post Office and the other half at the CAA office. In the winter, she traveled by dog team back and forth to work. In the summer, she used a 30-foot riverboat with a 40-horsepower motor.

“I miss the lifestyle and the diet,” she said. “Alaska used to be a state of dog teaming and mining. It’s not Alaska anymore. Now it’s just like anywhere else state-side.”

### A career in music

On the East Coast, during what Buddy refers to as her first career, she was a musician.

A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, she performed in an all-girls orchestra and did some stage shows, she said.

And music is how she met her husband, Buddy said. She played trumpet and piano, and Earl was first trumpet and later a conductor of the New Hampshire State Symphony when they lived in Manchester, N.H.

The two took their music with them when they began their new careers as aircraft controllers. Buddy said she also played organ in the Aniak church since 1947.

When they arrived in Aniak, from the west coast of Alaska to Anchorage and from the south coast to Point Barrow, the Clays were the only Ham operators.

Buddy describes Ham radio as a hobby, but perhaps it’s more like a tether stretched back through time that connects her to her past, and Alaska’s.

The couples’ first Ham radio set was a

“Homebrew” rig built on an aluminum cake pan running 10 watts powered by a 1.5-volt dry pack, Buddy said.

Every night you can still find her listening to the voices on the radio. She said she’s still trying to sort out all the new people, voices and call signs of members in the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association.

And Thursday nights at 6 p.m., it’s her voice you’ll hear taking roll on the Snipers Net at 3920 kHz. It is a roll call net, but visitors from any part of the world are encouraged to check in after the roll, according to its website, [snipersnet.kl7.net/](http://snipersnet.kl7.net/).

“She checked me in last Thursday,” said Charlotte Rose, secretary for the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association. “In fact, she was the only person who could hear me.”

Tom Rutigliano is the man who delivers the current roster of net members to Buddy each week. He also helped install the antenna for her Ham radio at Primrose earlier this year.

“She’s pretty amazing for someone that age,” Rutigliano said.

### A second career as a judge

Arlene Clay’s next career was as a magistrate for 18 years for the Alaska Court System. She traveled thousands of miles from village to village in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region of Alaska providing services as a magistrate.

“I enjoyed it all. It’s really been a wonderful life,” she said. “The lord has been good to me. He gave me a wonderful life and a long one.”

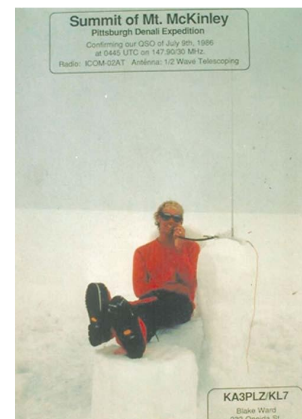
But her life nearly ended in 1986 when the stove in her cabin exploded and caught her and her house on fire. Although she kept two large fire extinguishers near the stove, she couldn’t free the safety pin on either

that day to dose the flames. So she grabbed a nearby pail of water and rolled the water across the floor into the flames. It took three more buckets of water to put out the fire.

“I put it out. If I hadn’t, I’d have lost my cabin and my dogs. I had to,” Buddy said.

Doctors at Providence Thermal Center spent 18 hours grafting the skin back on her scorched frame. Both her feet had third-degree burns, and as a result she uses a wheelchair now to get around.

While recovering in the hospital, she still managed to make history when she got a phone call patched in off the Ham radio from Blake Ward, KA3PLZ/KL, who had reached the top of Denali



A copy of Arlene's QSL card from Blake Ward, KA3PLZ/KL. Image courtesy Arlene Clay and Mar-Su Valley Frontiersman.

about midnight.

“We had a short QSO, as he had to call his mother in New York to let her know he had made the top safely,” Buddy said.

Later, Ward sent her a picture of him taken at the top of Denali on chair made of ice cakes.

On the back of the picture he wrote, “Buddy, I really enjoyed talking with you. I hope this finds you healthy and happy. Blake.

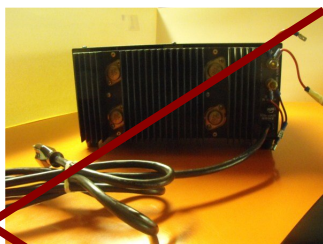
“P.S. How does it feel to be the first person to receive a call from the summit of McKinley?” ▀

# Equipment for Sale



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

**SOLD**



**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.

**SOLD**



**Ramsey Electronics PA-1**  
2 Meter Amplifier,  
20W out with 4W in  
\$30.00 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.



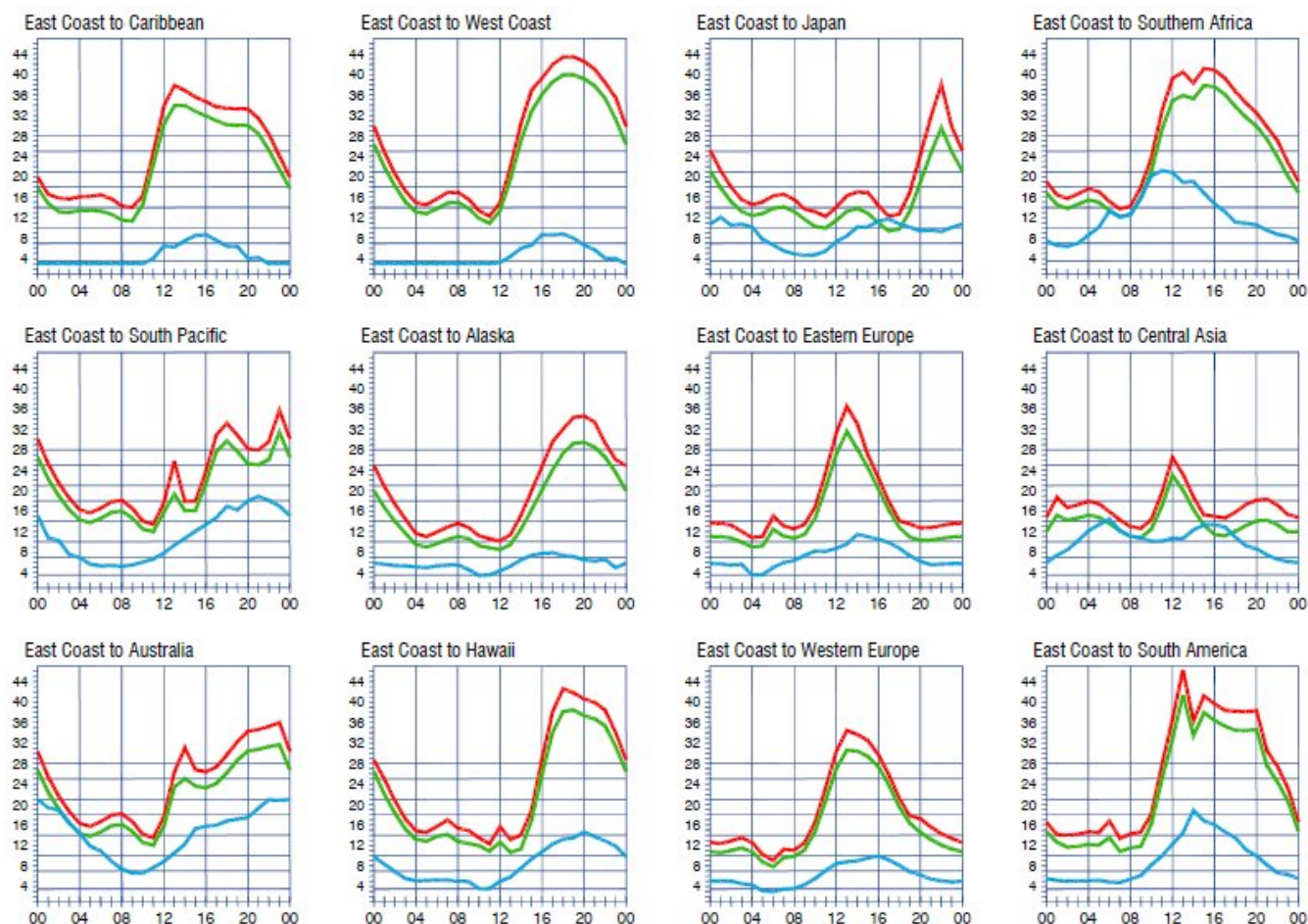
**2 Turner Model +3B**  
**microphones. \$15.00**  
**each plus S&H.**

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



# Prop Charts

From the ARRL



## 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 January 2012.

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 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 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

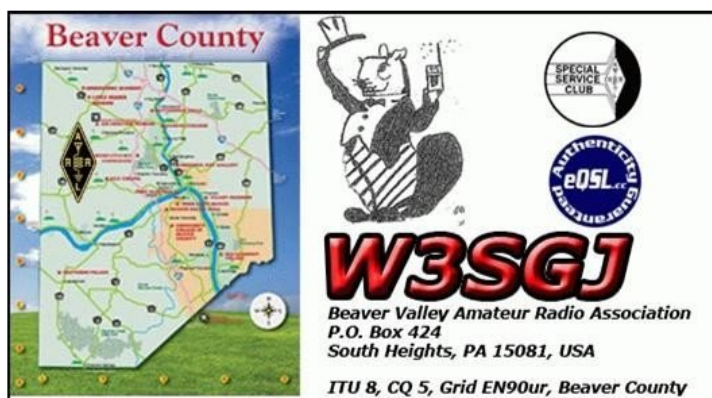
#### 2012

January 12  
 February 9  
 March 8  
 April 12  
 May 10  
 June 14  
 July 12  
 August – No meeting (Corn Roast)  
 September 13  
 October 11  
 November 8  
 December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

#### 2013

January 10

QSL CARD





NEXT MONTH  
FEBRUARY 2011

# WE'VE MADE A FLIGHT RECORD, WILL ROBINSON!

The amateur  
radio balloon  
K6RPT-11's  
record-  
breaking flight