

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 8 - FEBRUARY 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

RADIO'S NEW RECORD

The record-
breaking flight
of K6RPT-11

PLUS: HAM RADIO AUDIO - THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION SEE P. 5

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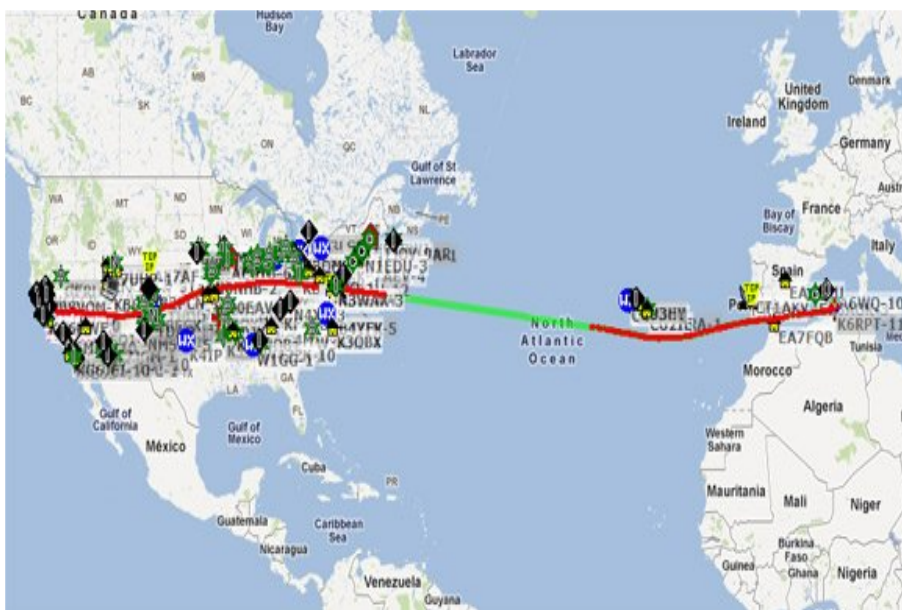
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THE COVER:

*Photo courtesy of
eso.org*



*The path of amateur radio balloon K6RPT-11.
Photo courtesy of theregister.co.uk.*

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a variety of used ham equipment
for sale, while they last!

Announcements

From the Radio Community

SILENT KEY

Bob Poisel, WE3O

Wednesday Jan 26, Bob Poisel, WE3O, passed away. Former calls include KA3NMB and K3BDO. Bob has previously been on the Board of Directors for the Breeze Shooters as Checker and also on the Board of Directors of Two Rivers ARC as Trustee and most recently as 2011 Hamfest Chairman.

Viewing at Striffler's Funeral Home, Lincoln Way and O'Neil Blvd, White Oak, Friday January 27 from 4PM to 8PM.

Service was held at St. Angela Merici Church, 1640 Fawcett Avenue ~ White Oak, 8:30AM, Saturday, January 28.

SILENT KEY

William Bowser Jr., K3KUH

With Sadness.

William F. Bowser Jr., 86, of East Deer Township, formerly of Cheswick, died Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, in Harmar Care Village, Harmar Township. He was born Oct. 4, 1925, in Barking, to the late William F. and Doris Phillips Bowser Sr. and had been a life resident of the local area. An electrical engineer, he worked for Bell Telephone for 30 years retiring in 1980. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a sergeant in the Pacific Theater of the Army Air Force. He was a founding member of the Sky View Ham Radio Club and used the call letters K3KUH. Bill enjoyed spending time at his camp along French Creek north of Meadville, fishing and was a loyal member of the Steeler Nation. Survivors include his sons, Jeffrey (Lori) Bowser, of East Deer Township, and James Bowser, of Tarentum; grandchildren, Jeffrey (Melissa) Bowser Jr., Shawn, Kayla and Karly Bowser; great-grandchildren, Jayda and

Jeffrey Bowser III; and brother, Charles (Dolores) Bowser, of New Kensington. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine V. Skohut Bowser; and a sister, Connie Glowgowski.

-- Bill was a good neighbor and mentor de AG3U...

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



Photo courtesy <http://eduteklabs.com>

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

FEBRUARY 2011

All Western PA ARES Members,

We are planning a Section-wide ARES Conference to enhance ARES communications support and communications support capabilities for emergency and public service. **YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION** is needed to make this possible and to insure a first rate program. Your commitment is important as WPA-ARES has no budget or resource to cover expense. We must also assure participation to justify the time and effort of presenters. Your input is essential.

General concept: Consider a 1 – 1 ½ day conference. A 1 ½ day format starting Friday afternoon may attract more people traveling more than 250 miles. Overnight accommodations and meals are available at reasonable price. This format and offers more contact time and networking opportunities. The May date(s) occur after close of the regular University main session and accommodations are

available.
Theme: Communications Continuum
Target attendance: 150
Program: Served agencies needs and relationships, Digital Applications, Smartphone and Tablet Apps, Repeater WAN , PEMA ACS, OES and more. Parking lot for vehicle display. Special event Table top plus.
Proposed Date: May 11, 12
Place: University of



Pittsburgh, Johnstown. First class facilities, good location and accommodates a wide variety of activities. Examples include an all media auditorium and two classrooms for breakout sessions / displays. Overnight accommodations and meals at a very reasonable cost .
Amenities:

Meals- Breakfast \$7.50 / person, Lunch \$ 9.90 / person; Dinner \$13.20 /person Parking area for displays
Overnight – Two options
Rooms: Conference Center \$60.00 per room per night (carpeted, air-conditioned, have a private bath, a mini microwave/fridge unit and are attached to the LLC meeting rooms.)
Residence Hall: \$40.00 per room per night (Residence Halls are not carpeted or air-conditioned, but have a “suite” style setup where 2 rooms share a bath.)
*All rooms on campus have 2 single beds

Cost: Registration Fee \$20 by March 15, 2012 Meals and overnight accommodations in addition to registration . This may be reduced by sponsorship and donations. If you or your club can donate, please let me know asap.

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, Feb. 9

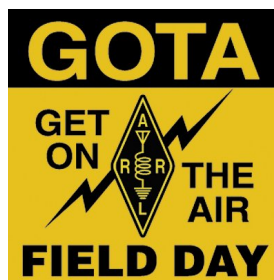
All candidates wishing to take the test should bring ALL of the following:

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 ☑

FIELD DAY PACKETS



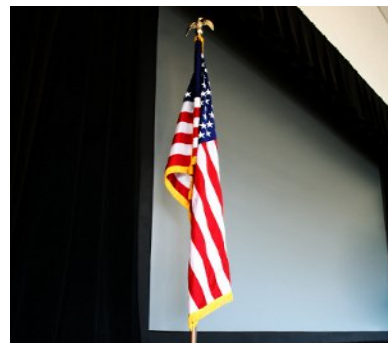
It's time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2012! Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules, as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press. A brief one-page flier with basic "What is Field Day" information has also been included in this year's Field Day packet. Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are encouraged to reproduce this flyer as a handout for information tables.

Find the packet and more information at
www.arrl.org/fieldday
Article de ARRL.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:
Ham Radio Audio

Including:
Audio frequencies, distortion, effects of hearing loss, how to improve our received audio, improving how we sound, and much more!

Are you interested in attending?
Come to the club meeting on
Thursday, February 9 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; VE
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.



Radio's Record-breaking Flight

DE The ARRL

Ron Meadows, K6RPT, and his son Lee - leaders of the California Near Space Project - successfully launched an Amateur Radio high altitude balloon on Sunday, December 11 at 4:43 PM PST.

The balloon reached a cruise altitude between 105,000 and 115,000 feet, where it continued its travel across the United States, the Atlantic Ocean and Spain and into the Mediterranean Sea.

For most of its trip, the balloon traveled at about 150 miles per hour and eventually covered 6236 great circle miles in just 57 hours 2 minutes. According to the CNSP, this is a new Amateur Radio balloon flight record for both distance and duration.

The balloon, which bore the call sign K6RPT-11 and could be tracked via APRS, traveled through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. "When the balloon left the New Jersey shore behind, it was received by coastal stations as far away as Nova Scotia," explained CNSP Team Member Don Ferguson, KD6IRE. "When it exceeded the range



of these stations, we lost track of it and feared that we would not hear from the balloon again."

Ferguson told the ARRL that when they woke up the next morning, the CNSP Team learned that K6RPT-11 was still in the air and transmitting. CU2ARA -- the club station of the Amateur Radio Association of the Azores, located on the island of St Miguel -- reported that they had successfully copied K6RPT-11's signal. That morning, the balloon reached a height of 111,503 feet and was traveling in excess of 160 miles per hour, headed east at 92 degrees. "The rest of the day on Tuesday was exciting, as more stations around the world took note of the little balloon from Silicon

Valley that was heading for the European mainland," Ferguson said.

"The APRS system of digital radio repeaters maintained reception of the data traffic from the balloon transmitter, which transmitted its location from the onboard GPS," Ferguson noted. "In the US, this network is established on 144.39 MHz, but is on a different frequency in Europe. Radio amateurs across the world were able to quickly adjust the European receivers to the balloon's frequency and provided continued tracking worldwide...."

According to the CNSP's Twitter feed, the balloon burst on Wednesday, December 14 at 0946 UTC, off the coast of Algeria. ▀

Fleaspeak by N2FFL; DE Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Flea Speak...

English translations for commonly heard hamfest terms and phrases

<i>FLEA SPEAK</i>	<i>ENGLISH TRANSLATION</i>
This is a really good CW rig	It doesn't work on SSB
This is a really good SSB rig	It doesn't work on CW
This is a really good rig	It doesn't work on CW or SSB
This rig puts out a BIG signal	It's 50 kHz wide
The transmitter is outstanding	It doesn't receive
The receiver is really hot	It doesn't transmit
This rig is really hot	It's stolen
It seems to be a regenerative type	It oscillates
I just re-tubed it	Got 'em from questionable used tube stock
I just aligned it	The slugs on the transformers are jammed / broken
I don't know if it works	It doesn't work, probably never has
It doesn't chirp	It doesn't chirp because it doesn't transmit
The audio sounds great	The 120Hz buzz is faithfully reproduced
I just had it serviced	I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring
It comes with the original box	Just brush out the kitty litter
Better buy it now, cause it won't last	No translation needed
Sure, it works at full power	It sucks all it can from the wall
This rig has wide frequency coverage	It drifts up, down and out of band
Frequency stability is great	The VFO doesn't work - you'll have to use crystals
Real popular rig in its day	There were whole HF nets on the repair and maintenance problems
QST gave this one a really great review	The language broke new ground for profanity
It might need a bit of tweaking	Marconi himself couldn't fix it, much less align it
It was used in government service	It was stored outdoors for decades on a wooden pallet
The dial drive may need lubricating	The gears are stripped and the setscrews frozen
I plugged it in to check that it lights up	The light came from the two foot high flames
I'm selling it because I have two of them	I'm getting rid of my parts radio
You won't find one at a better price	Better from the point of view of the seller that is
This is a collector's item	The manufacturer just went belly up and won't honor the warranty
It came from an estate sale	If you have any problem take it up with the owner
I had it on the air just last night	And you thought the woodpecker was gone
It worked last time I used it	if it still worked I'd still be using it
The only lightning damage was a fuse	The only thing that was left recognizable was a fuse
I have the [] somewhere, I'll send it to you	You'll never see the []
I'll help you carry it to the car	I'll do anything to unload this piece of junk
It works ok on 80 meters	It had some parasitics but I "fixed" it real good
There are a couple of other people interested in it	Someone sat on it to tie his shoelaces while walking by
Great rig! Belonged to my grandfather	It died before he did
You'd better buy it now, because I'm leaving soon	The previous buyer and his brother, Guido, are heading back this way and they're not smiling

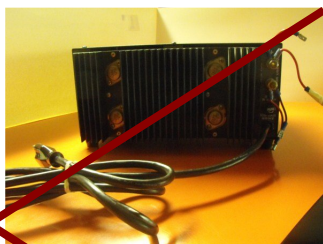
From N2FFL Web Page, <http://www.qsl.net/n2ffl/humor.html>

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.

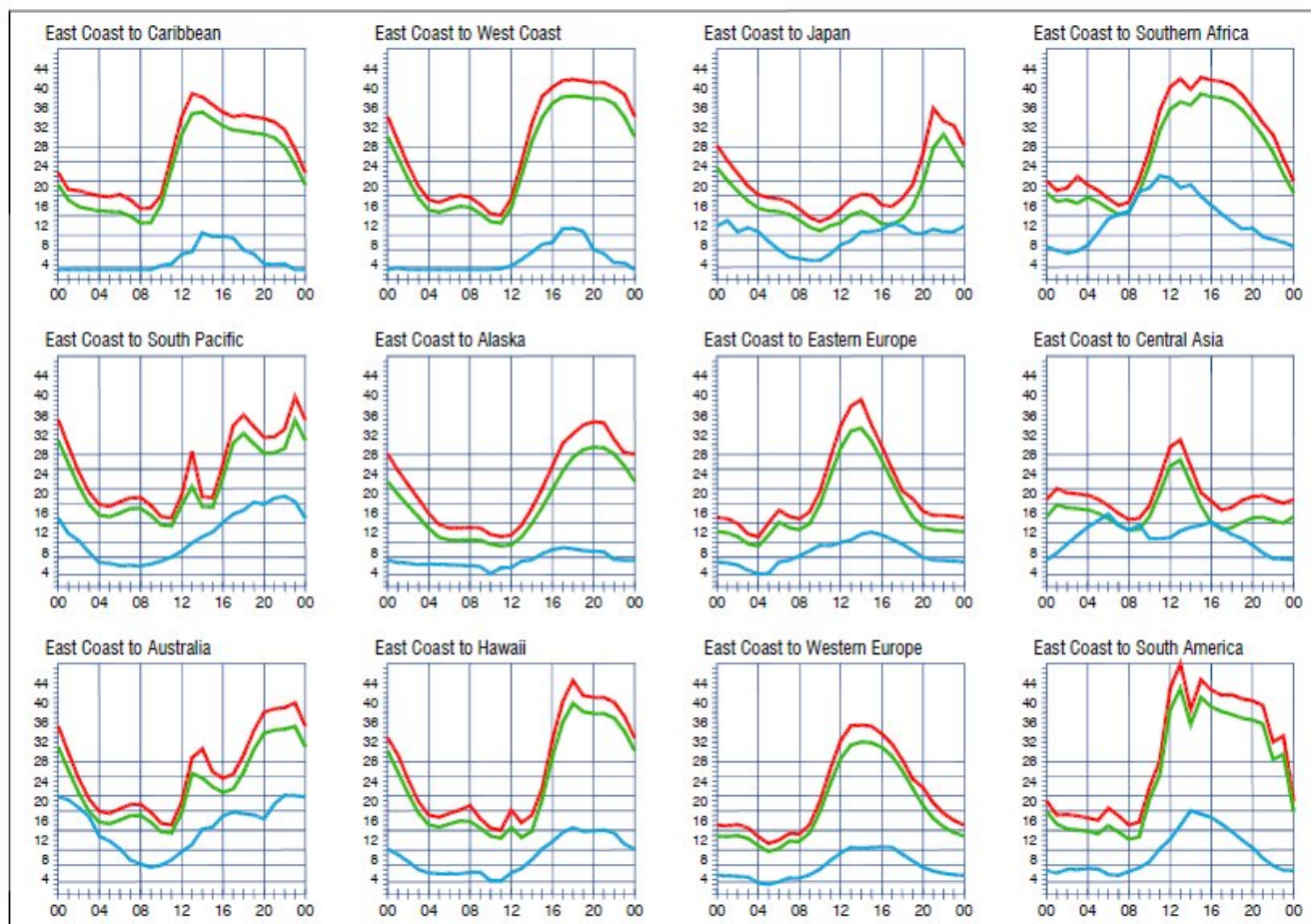


2 Turner Model +3B
microphones. \$15.00
each plus S&H.

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 February 2012.

If you would like more information on how to read these charts, or for more information on propagation in general, please visit <http://arrrl.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

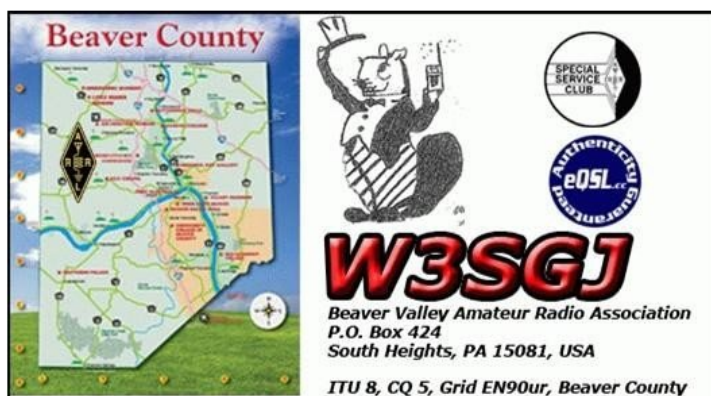
2012

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
 February 14

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH
MARCH 2011

TIM ALLEN ON HAM RADIO

The details on
the new TV
show, Last
Man Standing