

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 9 - MARCH 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

HAM IT UP

TIM ALLEN'S NEW TV SHOW
AND THE TALE BEHIND HIS
TV CALL SIGN, KAOXTT

THE eQRM

MARCH 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 | Announcements

Silent Keys; Pittsburgh
Marathon

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 courtesy of
ew.com*



*Tim Allen as KA0XTT in ABC's TV show, Last Man Standing.
Photo courtesy of the ARRL.*

FEATURES

6 Ham It Up

Comedian Tim Allen Stars
as a radio amateur on the new
TV show Last Man Standing

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. 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

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>

IN THE CITY

Pittsburgh Marathon: May 6



The Pittsburgh marathon is back for another run this spring! May 6, 2012 will be the date of this year's marathon, and with more than 5000 runners registered in the first week alone, this promises to be another record breaking year for the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success.

We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators. There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

Volunteering online is quick and easy; just fill out our registration form at <http://marathon.central.org>. You'll receive confirmation via email right away, and your assignment and detailed instructions will arrive by mail in early May. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to seeing you on race day.
-- 73, Jeffrey Hutzelman, N3NHS

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, March 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 ☑

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:
Automating Your Station

Including:
Software programs available,
interfacing programs to your rig,
and a hands-on demo of
automation in action

Are you interested in attending?
Come to the club meeting on
Thursday, March 8 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 Volunteer Examiner (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.



HAM IT UP

DE The ARRL

Tim Allen -- star of Home Improvement, Toy Story, The Santa Clause and Galaxy Quest, just to name a few -- stars in Last Man Standing, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of Last Man Standing -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike



Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodeo explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone

numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2x3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, Home Improvement: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were “delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else’s without permission. And because we’ve had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam.” Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer

Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All

seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike’s set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. “The radio equipment was

originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items,” Amodeo told the ARRL. “But since eight of the show’s staff members are radio amateurs, it didn’t take long before we made the radio equipment ‘practical,’ which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we’re not shooting.” He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are



shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of QST, NCJ and QEX, as well as a call sign map, a 2012 ARRL Handbook, a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). “We also sent fake versions of DXCC, Worked All States and

Worked All Continents certificates, as well as a Morse Code Proficiency Certificate,” Keane explained. “Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen’s role in The Santa Clause movie series.”

Amodeo told the ARRL that he

also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) “up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times.”

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis (Three Men and a Baby) as Mike’s wife and Hector Elizondo (Pretty Woman, The Princess Diaries, Monk) as Mike’s boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed Sports Night and Arrested Development.

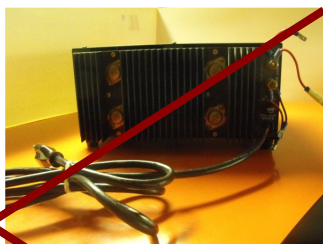
This article was originally posted on ARRL.org under the title "Ham Radio in Hollywood: Comedian Tim Allen Stars as Radio Amateur on New TV Show." Images courtesy ARRL.org and randygeorgewoodworking.com ▀

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.

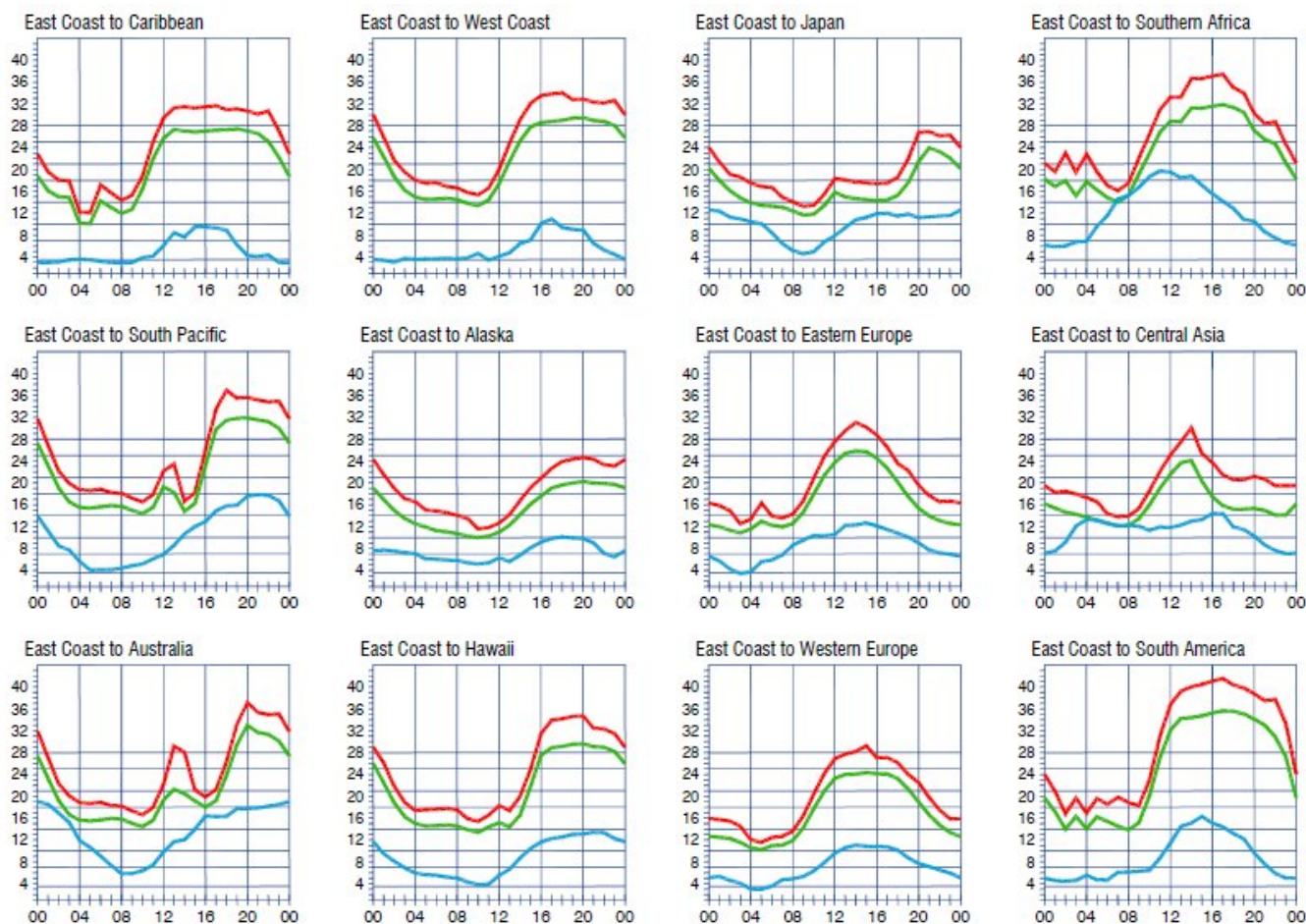


2 Turner Model +3B
microphones. \$15.00
each plus S&H.

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 March 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

2012 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM

Second Vice Pres.: Tom Workman, AA3CE

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ

Director: Adam Homiak, KG3L

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

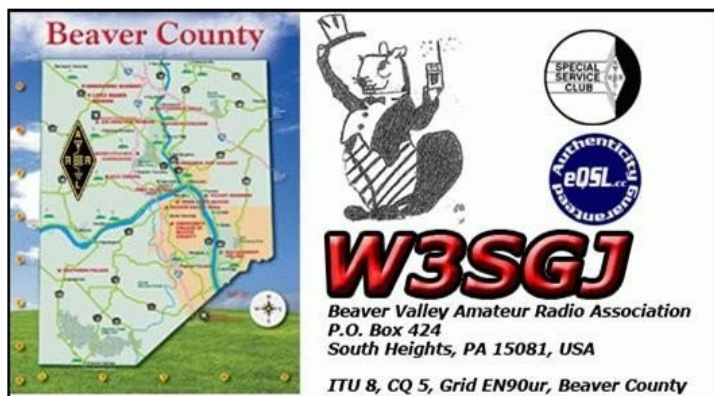
2012

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
March 14

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH
APRIL 2011

100 Years

*April 15, 1912
changed everything.*