

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 11 - MAY 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



**JOE WALSH** THE  
ANALOG MAN

# THE eQRM

MAY 2012

## CHECK IN TO THE NETS!

### 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

### 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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*Photo courtesy of  
ARRL.org*



*Photo of Joe Walsh.  
Photo courtesy of popmatters.com.*

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The BVARA is offering  
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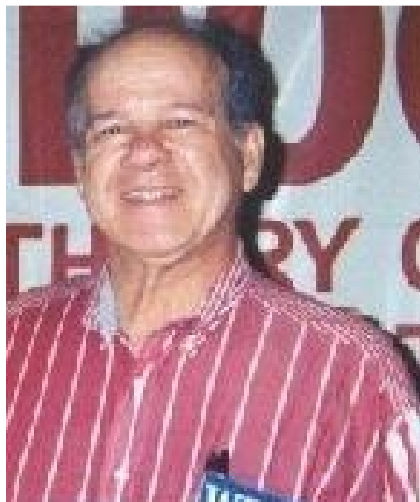
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# Bulletins

News From the Radio Community

## SILENT KEY

### Fred Maia, W5YI



CQ columnist Fred Maia, W5YI, a leading amateur radio journalist, educator and pioneer of volunteer examining, passed away on March 28 after a battle with cancer.

Maia, 76, published "The W5YI Report," dubbed "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter," from 1978 to 2003, and has been a CQ contributing editor since 1985. His regulatory affairs column, first titled "Ticket Talk," then "Washington Readout," offered news and perspective on FCC and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) actions, and helped untold numbers of hams wend their way through often-confusing mazes of the volunteer examining and vanity call sign systems.

"Fred was one of those unusual people who was more focused on doing the job than he was on getting credit for doing it," noted CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA. "His 'job' was to help this hobby grow,

and he succeeded admirably."

Maia was also a driving force in amateur and commercial radio licensing and education materials since late 1970. He was the first Volunteer Examiner Coordinator appointed by the Federal Communications Commission in 1984, and his W5YI-VEC group grew into the nation's second-largest VEC after the ARRL. Fred served as President of the W5YI-VEC until his retirement in October of 2000. In 1986, he founded The W5YI Group to develop, publish and sell amateur and commercial radio license study materials. Fred also formed National Radio Examiners to provide examination services as a Commercial Operator License Examination Manager (COLEM), and co-wrote a commercial radio licensing study manual with Gordon West, WB6NOA.

As a longtime member of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) and its Question Pool Committee (QPC), which develops and maintains the question pools for amateur radio license exams, Fred was deeply involved in many of the changes in amateur radio licensing over the past quarter century. This includes the phased elimination of Morse code requirements for amateur licenses and the current system of three license classes, Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

A resident of Arlington, Texas, Fred was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Radio Operator's School, and was first licensed as an amateur radio operator as a teenager in Rhode Island, where he grew up. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and two daughters. A memorial service was held March 31, 2012 at Moore Funeral Home, Arlington, TX. - **CQ MAGAZINE**

## CLUB EVENT

### Field Day: June 22-24



ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

Beaver County's hams will join with thousands of other Amateur Radio operators showing their emergency capabilities the weekend of June 23-24 at Brady's Run Park, Shelter 12.

Field Day is run on all Amateur Radio bands except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters. If you would like to "reserve" a band to operate during Field Day weekend, please contact a BVARA Club Officer.

See you at Field Day!

- **ARRL.ORG AND BVARA**

# Dayton Hamvention

May 18-20 - News From the ARRL

Looking to go to Dayton for America's largest hamfest? Hamvention is May 18-20 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. This year's theme: "Internationally Connected."

International goodwill is a fundamental principle of the Amateur Radio Service. This year, ARRL extends a very special welcome to the following representatives from national Amateur Radio societies attending Dayton Hamvention. The following booths will be located within the ARRL EXPO exhibit area:

Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) – Germany  
Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) – United Kingdom

Need a few ideas on what to see at Dayton? Here's a list:

## **DXCC Card Checking**

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check applications for all ARRL Award Programs. All cards will be eligible for checking, including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160-Meters. Applications will be limited to 101 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). See [www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc](http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc) for the latest program information and current forms.

Use the new Online DXCC tool and save half on your application! Remember to bring with you to Dayton a printout of your application, card list, and your cards in the order in which they are entered into the Online DXCC.

## **ARRL Project Building Booth**

Friday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Sunday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join in the fun of homebrewing (or project-building). Live classes will be held. Come by to build one of the four affordable kits under the watchful eyes of a team of instructors who will mentor you through the activity. Handle electronic components, circuit boards, and try your hand at soldering. Unlock your inner do-it-yourselfer!

## **QSL Bureau**

ARRL members will be able to drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. If you have



QSLs that you would like to send through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (your QSLs going to foreign stations -- no US-to-US QSLs, please), you can save the shipping cost to ARRL by bringing them to Dayton and the League will transport your cards to the Bureau in Newington. In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the standard QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC country, they must go to countries where a bureau exists and you must be an ARRL member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Cards do not have to be boxed, but should be wrapped with rubber bands.

## **NEW! Presentations on the ARRL "DIY" Stage**

ARRL's newest Amateur Radio recruitment campaign shows how "makers" and "hackers" are using Amateur Radio as a tool

in "Do It Yourself" projects. Hear from other hams who are doing-it-themselves! A variety of creative projects and cool technology will be demonstrated by today's Amateur Radio innovators.

## **ARRL Presents: The Doctor is IN**

May 18, 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – Room 2  
Presenter: Joel Hallas, W1ZR, ARRL Technical Editor

QST magazine's popular column, "The Doctor is IN," offers readers short, insightful answers to a variety of technical questions. Bring your questions to this session — technical ones are best — and The Doctor will do his best to answer them on the spot!

## **ARRL Presents: Ham Radio in Hollywood**

May 19, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. – Room 3  
Presenter: John Amodeo, NN6JA

ARRL welcomes John Amodeo, NN6JA to Hamvention. John, a working TV producer living in Los Angeles, knows that the media has not always been kind to Amateur Radio. The portrayal of Amateur Radio in the media is often inaccurate, sometimes ridiculous -- and occasionally mean. Join John, NN6JA as he discusses why we as hams should care about how the media portrays ham radio and ham radio operators. John is the producer of such TV hits as *Arrested Development*, *Sports Night*, *Samantha Who?*, *Titus* and the current hit ABC comedy *Last Man Standing*.

**For more information on Hamvention 2012, visit [www.arrl.org/2012-dayton-hamvention](http://www.arrl.org/2012-dayton-hamvention) or [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)**



# Et Cetera

Amateur Radio News, Club Announcements and Speaker Series

## BREEZESHOOTERS

The largest hamfest in the tri-state area is back! Breezeshooters 2012 Hamfest and Computer Show is at the Butler Farm Show Grounds on Sunday, JUNE 3 from 8am to 3pm.

Indoor tables on first come first serve basis. \$20.00 per 8' table and may be reserved by contacting Bob Benna, N3LWP at (412) 366-0488 or mail to : P.O. Box 101018; Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Table reservation Cut-off Date May 20th.

### Main Prize Drawings:

1st ICOM IC-7000 160m-70cm

2nd Yaesu FT-897D 160m-70cm Mobile

3rd Ameritron 811 600w Linear Amplifier

4th Yaesu VX8DR 6m-70cm Handheld

5th MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer

Plus 9 other main prizes, in addition to drawings for 2 iPads, a laptop + more!

For more information, please visit [www.breezeshooters.net](http://www.breezeshooters.net)

## 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, May 10

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](mailto:cjmoratis@verizon.net)

## 50 YEARS!

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association would like to congratulate Rich Soltesz, K3SOM on 50 years as an amateur radio operator!

So, what does this ham enjoy? As Rich, K3SOM states on his QRZ profile:

"I was first licensed in 1962 and I enjoy making contacts with people across the world, contesting for fun, field day, designing antennas with software, ragchewing, chasing DX, building equipment and many other aspects of the amateur hobby. Some of my other hobbies include fishing, amateur astronomy, photography, camping, travel and spoiling my six grand children.

With an electrical engineering background, my interest in amateur radio activities lets me continually learn and tinker as new technologies and challenges present themselves."

Again, we congratulate Rich, K3SOM and thank him for his continued dedication to the amateur radio hobby!

## 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:

Restoring a Classic Radio

### Including:

The radio, what to restore, Getting parts, Where to start, and much more!

Are you interested in attending? Come to the club meeting on **Thursday, May 10 at 6:30PM**, held at:

Beaver County Emergency Operations Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003

## RICH'S BACKGROUND

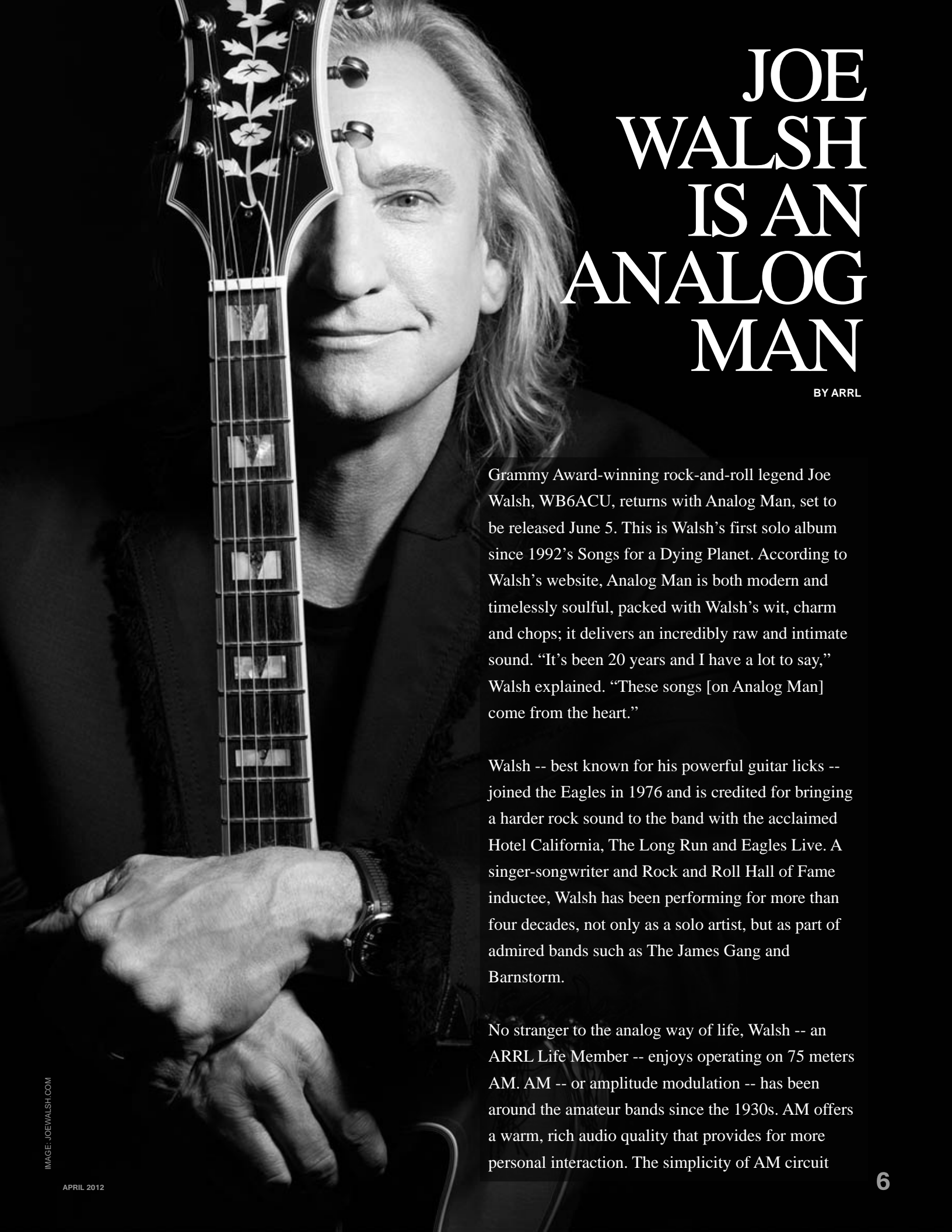
Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962 Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner (VE) B.S. Electrical Engineering Registered Professional Engineer, PA

## 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.





# JOE WALSH IS AN ANALOG MAN

BY ARRL

Grammy Award-winning rock-and-roll legend Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, returns with *Analog Man*, set to be released June 5. This is Walsh's first solo album since 1992's *Songs for a Dying Planet*. According to Walsh's website, *Analog Man* is both modern and timelessly soulful, packed with Walsh's wit, charm and chops; it delivers an incredibly raw and intimate sound. "It's been 20 years and I have a lot to say," Walsh explained. "These songs [on *Analog Man*] come from the heart."

Walsh -- best known for his powerful guitar licks -- joined the Eagles in 1976 and is credited for bringing a harder rock sound to the band with the acclaimed *Hotel California*, *The Long Run* and *Eagles Live*. A singer-songwriter and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Walsh has been performing for more than four decades, not only as a solo artist, but as part of admired bands such as The James Gang and Barnstorm.

No stranger to the analog way of life, Walsh -- an ARRL Life Member -- enjoys operating on 75 meters AM. AM -- or amplitude modulation -- has been around the amateur bands since the 1930s. AM offers a warm, rich audio quality that provides for more personal interaction. The simplicity of AM circuit

design encourages hands-on restoration, modification and homebrew construction to an extent no longer found among contemporary radios. Many hams who operate AM say they enjoy the simple, roomy electrical and mechanical designs of the older radios, claiming that they can more easily be modified and tinkered with than their modern counterparts. Other enthusiasts claim that these vintage radios sound better than their silicon descendants, saying that the tube audio from vintage gear is “warmer” and more aesthetically pleasing than the audio produced by the typical modern transceiver.

A self-proclaimed analog man, Walsh refers playfully to the new digital age in the album’s title track. He notes that he has adapted to the digital age, but says “I am what I am -- I’m an analog man.” Walsh developed the album over the last 10 years, drawing on personal experiences to breathe life into each track. “I just really feel like it’s all come together and finally I feel like a complete person and a complete musician,” he said. “I think there is some confidence in there that I never had. That’s what I was hiding.” Walsh credits his wife of four years, Marjorie, for encouraging him to be the man and artist he is today and fondly dedicates this album to her.

“I have tried to write about the world as I see it,” Walsh said at a February concert, explaining the logic behind the album title. “There are two worlds now -- digital and the old world, analog. For a lot of us, we’ve had to make adjustment. I’m concerned that there’s no time in digital. It’s frozen. When you come out of a digital experience, it’s three days later and you have a beard. Every kid under 12 can land the space shuttle, but nobody can read.”

The 10-track album was produced by Walsh and Jeff Lynne, with Tommy Lee James co-writing some of



*Joe Walsh, Eagles guitarist and ham radio operator WB6ACU, pictured at his station.*

the tracks. Lucky That Way -- one of Walsh’s favorite songs off the album -- speaks to the extraordinary life he’s lived, even through the hurdles, and features Ringo Starr (his real life brother-in-law) on drums. The song serves as a mature sequel to Walsh’s famed Life’s Been Good, a tongue-in-cheek portrait of his rock star lifestyle at the time of its release in 1978.

After expressing his thoughts about the future at the February concert, Walsh turned to his past and talked about the most common questions he gets asked, all of which are about Life’s Been Good. According to Billboard, Walsh explained the construction of each musical segment and how they came together -- basically scraps of several unfinished songs glued together -- before going through the tune line by line, saying that essentially said every line in the song is true, except he’s not the guy who wrecked the cars and he didn’t have his driver’s license revoked. “Actually, I lost my wallet,” he said.

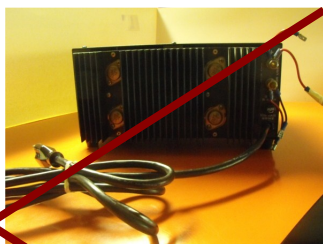
Check out Analog Man -- the title track of Walsh’s new album -- here. For more on AM, please see the AM Phone Operating and Activities page on the ARRL website, maintained by Steve Ickes, WB3HUZ. ➤

# 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. **SOLD**



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



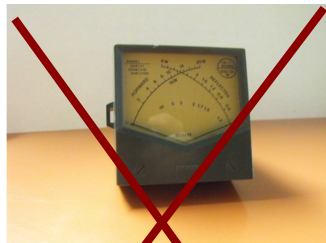
**Ramsey Electronics PA-1**  
2 Meter Amplifier,  
20W out with 4W in  
\$30.00 plus S&H.



**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). **SOLD**  
\$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.



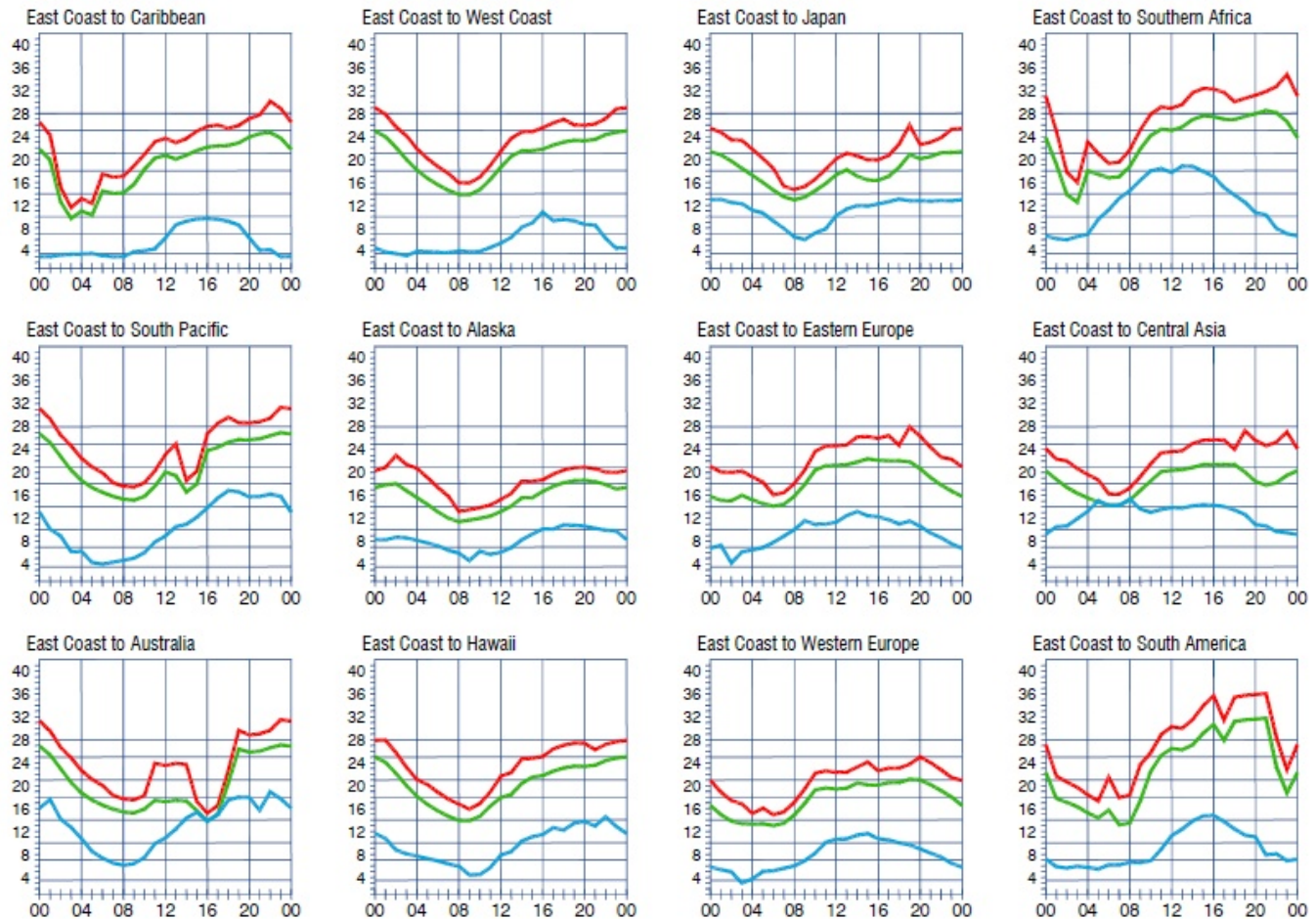
**2 Turner Model +3B**  
**microphones. \$15.00**  
**each plus S&H.**

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 May 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

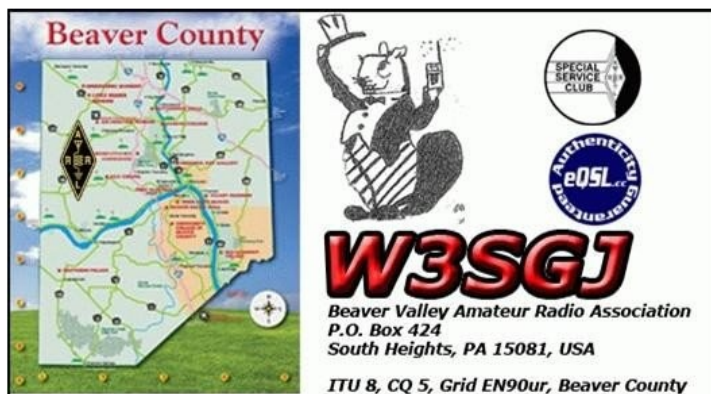
#### 2012

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  
 April 11  
 May 9

QSL CARD





**NEXT MONTH**  
**APRIL 2011**

# **FIELD DAY IS HERE. JUNE 22-24**