

CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 1 - JULY 2012

# THE eQRM

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association  
*Beaver County's Only 75-Year ARRL-Affiliated Club!*

Home of W3JGJ/R  
145.310 - 131.8 Hz PL



## WHEN TORNADOS STRIKE

PLUS: FIELD DAY RESULTS

# THE eQRM

JULY 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 | Bulletins

Silent Key; Hamfest

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Amateur Radio News; Club  
Announcements; Speaker  
Series

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 8 | Prop Charts

Propagation charts for the East  
Coast

### 9 | Who We Are

Membership information; club  
officers; meetings; VE testing

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## THE COVER:

*Original Salt Lake City  
tornado photo courtesy  
of wrh.NOAA.gov.  
Photograph edited/  
dramatized by eQRM*



*Tornado in Illinois, 1972.  
Photo courtesy of blueridgemuse.com.*

## FEATURES

**5 When Tornadoes Strike**  
North Texas hams play a crucial  
role in emergency communication

**6 Field Day Photos**  
This year's Field Day  
at Brady's Run Park

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

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# Bulletins

News From the Radio Community

## SILENT KEY

### James "Bucky" Cottrill, K3LIE



Age 74, of Dormont, on Thursday, July 5, 2012. Beloved husband of JoAnn; father of Jim, Dan (Carol), and Steve (Kristen) Cottrill; grandfather of Danny, Mike, Kaylee, Casey, Shane, Eddie, Rachel, Dylan, Matthew, and Luke; brother of Judy (Les) Mackey, William (Margaret), Nancy (Robert) Chittister, Thomas (Diane), Sandra (Joseph) Brown, and the late Chester (surviving spouse Pat), David (surviving spouse Janet), and Robert Cottrill; also numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements by

BEINHAUERS. Friends welcome at 2828 Washington Rd., McMurray, 724-941-3211, on Monday 2-8 p.m. where Services will be held Tuesday 11 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Please add or view tributes at:  
[www.beinhauer.com](http://www.beinhauer.com)

Send condolences at [www.post-gazette.com/gb](http://www.post-gazette.com/gb)

- From GPVHFS

## HAMFEST

### Swap N' Shop 2012

Sunday, Aug. 26  
8am - 1pm



### SWAP n SHOP 2012

Located at 2335 TURKEY  
RIDGE RD. UPPER BURRELL  
TWP.

Prizes include:

- MFJ 259 B Antenna Analyzer
- Begali "Sculpture KEY"  
Signed by Piero and Bruna Begal
- DX Engineering CABLE  
PREP KIT from Skyview  
Table
- Door Prizes Every Hour

\$3.00 Entrance ----\$5.00 / FLEA  
MARKET SPACE

**\*\*BUY — SELL — TRADE\*\***

ARRL WPA Section Convention  
WPA ARES Meeting with ARRL  
Headquarters Speakers

DIRECTIONS TO SKYVIEW  
RADIO SOCIETY

TALK-IN: 146.640 - pl 131.8  
GPS=40 31'03" N / 790 40'37" W  
Follow the Skyview Signs

Questions and Vendor Pre-  
registration: [AB3ER@ARRL.NET](mailto:AB3ER@ARRL.NET)  
[WWW.SKYVIEWRADIO.NET](http://WWW.SKYVIEWRADIO.NET)

# Et Cetera

Amateur Radio News, Club Announcements and Speaker Series

## HAMFEST

The 11th Annual  
2012 NW PA HAMFEST

Hosted by the Wattsburg  
Wireless Association and  
the Union City Wireless  
Association

Saturday, July 14, 2012  
Hamfest Opens at 7:30 am!

## PRIZES!

Main Prize:  
2 Meter/440 Radio

Talk-In Prize:  
2 Meter/440 Magnetic  
Mount Antenna

Entrance Tickets are \$5,  
under 16 years - free.  
Advanced Tickets are \$4.

Tailgating available

Vendors spaces available.  
Tables prices \$5 per table  
payable in advance.

Tailgating - Vendors -  
Prizes - Food - Restrooms  
- Off street parking

Outdoor picnic area &  
grills - Large playground  
for kids - VE Exams / Ham  
Radio License Exams

Talk-in on 146.700-  
(CTCSS Tone 186.2)

Make your plans now to  
attend! →

## 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, July 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 →

## 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:

### Speakers:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

### Topic:

Field Day Results and  
Three SDR Activities for You

### Including:

Why Field Day Surprised Us,  
Try an SDR Receiver (Free),  
Buy Your Own SDR VHF/UHF  
Receiver for \$29, and  
A Look at the QST Conversion for  
Older Analog Transceivers

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





# WHEN TORNADOS STRIKE

From ARRL.org



On April 3, 2012, perfect conditions conducive to tornado activity converged on North Texas. A slow moving front, combined with abnormally warm temperatures and moist air coming in from the south, produced large hail, numerous funnel clouds, and tornadoes. As the weather worsened, hams in North Texas activated ARES® and RACES nets. Spotters reported their observations to their local Emergency Operations Center, which acted on that information in a timely manner to inform the public of the approaching storms, giving them time to get to safety. A total of 21 confirmed tornadoes -- including one EF3 and two EF2 twisters -- swept through the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex during the seven hour storm.

According to ARRL North Texas Section Public Information Coordinator Jim Pope, N5JCP, the region suffered extensive damage, but thanks to the assistance of radio amateurs and trained weather spotters who tracked the storm's path and passed the information on to local officials who in turn passed the information to the public, there were no fatalities and very few injuries.

Officials in Hunt County -- separated by Rockwall County to the west from Dallas County -- initially told members of the Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association and ARES® that it was not in need of assistance, but that they should continue to monitor the weather. But around 2 PM, the National Weather Service activated the groups and to contact net control on the 147.16 repeater. The ARES® weather net was started just a few minutes later from the City of Commerce's Emergency Operations Center. "ARES net control broadcasted updates from the National Weather Service as they were received," Pope told the ARRL. "They also received reports of golf ball size hail. One storm spotter outside of Commerce reported seeing wall cloud and wind gust up to 48 miles per hour. During the storm, hams at the Commerce EOC reported that they could see 'visible rotation' from a tornado. All ARES® communications were done via FM phone on the 147.16 repeater in

Greenville, Texas (the county seat), with some traffic also being handled on the 147.02 repeater in Commerce and the 146.78 repeater in Greenville."

According to Pope, Hunt County suffered very little damage, even though an EF2 tornado came through the county. "We have 5 residences that were totally destroyed and nine others with damage, he said, "but no deaths or injuries. A colt, horse and donkey were killed by flying debris. Hunt County was on the tail end of the tornado touch down, which mainly occurred in Rockwall County."

The Office of Emergency Management in Dallas requested RACES and SKYWARN net activation around 1 PM the day of the storm. City of Dallas RACES Radio Officer Pat Hykkonnen, N5NPL, initiated a net on the 146.880 Dallas Amateur Radio Club repeater and a SKYWARN net for Dallas County was active by 1:15. "The net handled traffic to the Fort Worth/Dallas National Weather Service office, the City of Dallas Emergency Operations Center, as well as Emergency Operations Center s in Irving, Garland, Richardson, Sachse and numerous others in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex," he told the ARRL. "Amateur Radio operators provided reports to the served agencies regarding severe weather events, including large, damaging hail, funnels and very destructive tornadoes."

"This storm received national media attention," Pope said, "but what did not receive attention was the dedication and commitment of radio amateurs. In every case, Amateur Radio was present and utilized by various Emergency Operations Centers. When asked to provide communication support for a school or business, hams stepped up to the plate and were there. Kudos and thanks go out to the North Texas hams for their dedication and professionalism during this severe weather event."

*Editor's Note: This article contains excerpts from a larger article originally published by the ARRL as "North Texas Hams Respond When Tornadoes Strike." Please visit ARRL.org to read the entire article.*



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# Field Day 2012

BVARA's Field Day at Brady's Run Park. Photos by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM



Visit [flickr.com/photos/W3SGJ/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/W3SGJ/) to see more pictures from Field Day 2012.  
Thank you to Rich, K3SOM for the photos from this amazing weekend!

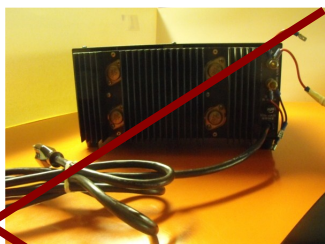


# Equipment for Sale



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**



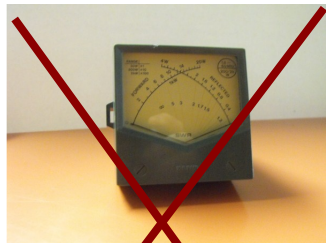
Ramsey Electronics PA-1  
2 Meter Amplifier,  
20W out with 4W in  
\$30.00 plus S&H.



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)  
\$50.00 plus S&H.

**SOLD**



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.

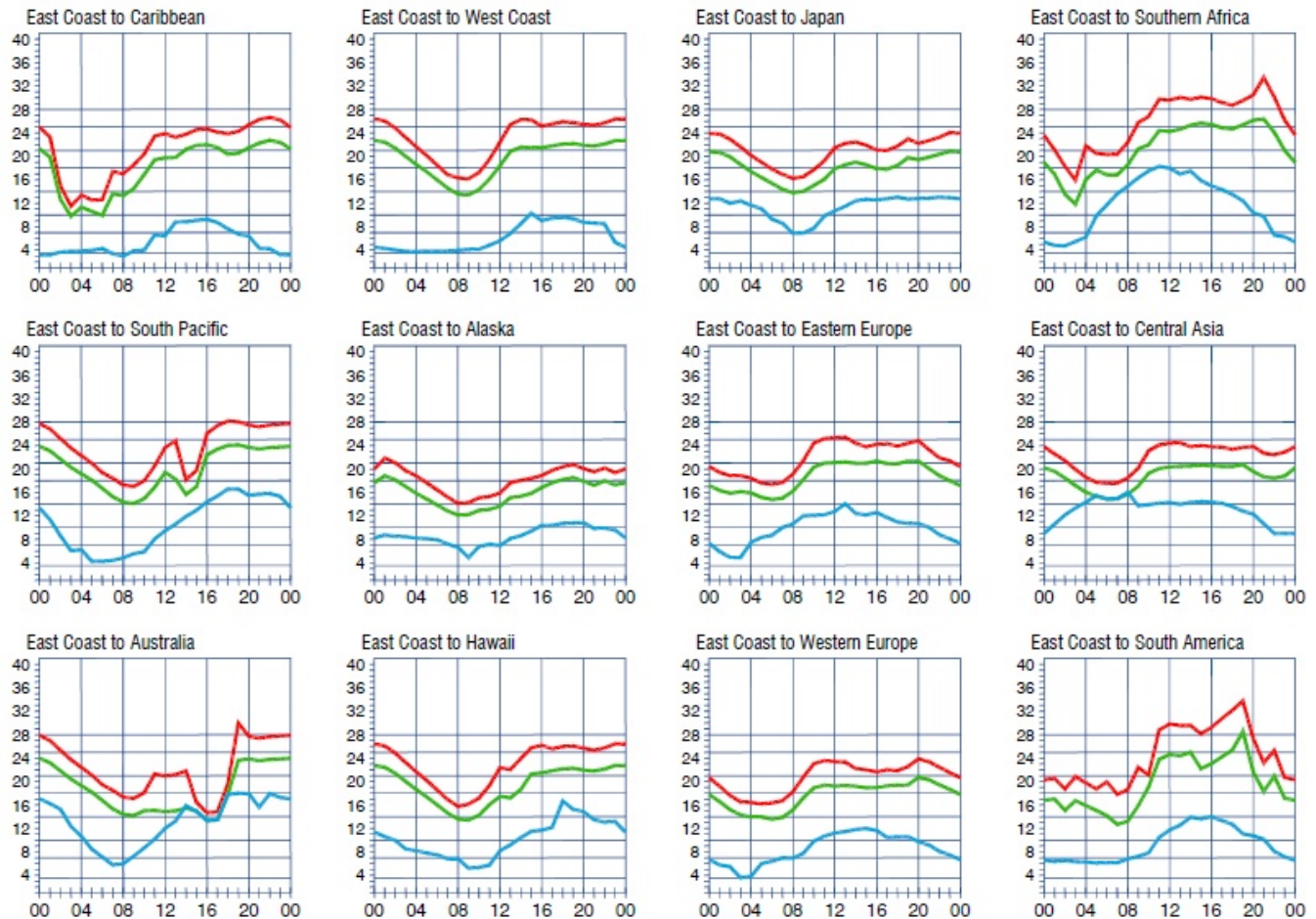


2 Turner Model +3B  
microphones. \$15.00  
each plus S&H.

**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 July 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

### 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.

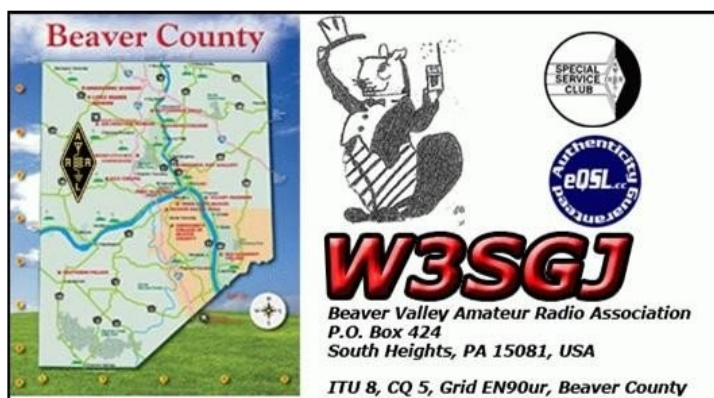
All meetings are held at  
**Beaver County  
 Emergency Operations Center**  
 351 14th Street  
 Ambridge, PA 15003  
 on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

### MEETING DATES

2012  
 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  
 June 13  
 July 11

QSL CARD



NEXT MONTH  
AUGUST 2012

# HOME FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

