

CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

THE eQRM

THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA

THE 1940s

BY RICH SOLTESZ, K3SOM

THE eQRM

MAY 2013



5 THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA, PART 3: THE 1940s

World War II, ham radio and the history of the BVARA: Into the 1940s. By Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

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Get a preview of next month's story

CHECK INTO THE NETS

Wednesday 2 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

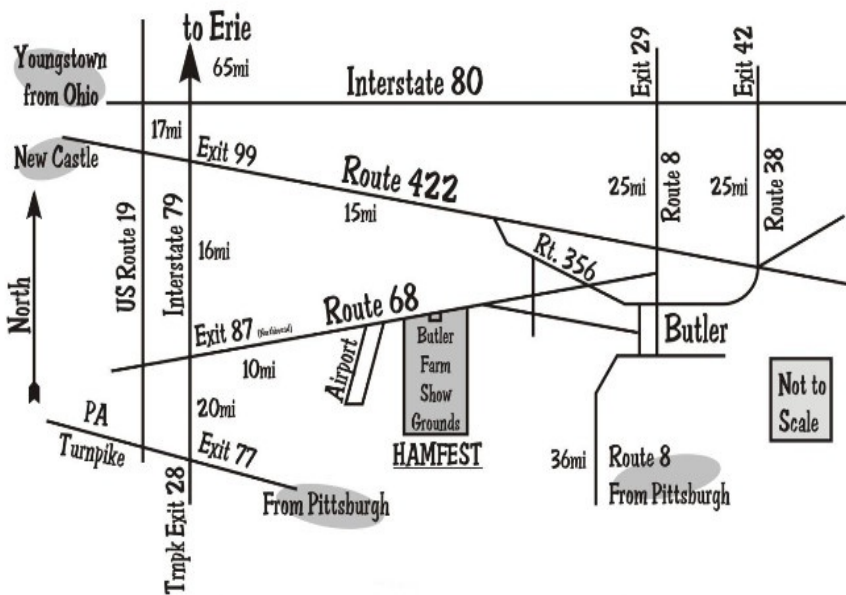
Wednesday 10 Meter
9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

Bulletins

HAMFESTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / CLUB NEWS

Hamfest/ BreezeShooters 2013

Sunday, June 2, 2013. 8AM - 3PM



The Facts:

Date:

Sunday, June 2nd, 2013

Time:

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Butler Farm Show Grounds
625 Evans City Road
Butler, PA 16001

Talk-In:

147.300+ Repeater

Admission:

\$5.00

Sponsored By:

The BreezeShooters

Event/ Ham Radio Yard Sale

Saturday, June 15, 2013. 8AM - 3PM

Free admission and set up on 2+ acres. No alcohol or firearms.

Sponsored by L.C.A.R.E.S, A.R.L.L.C. and E.C.A.R.A.

The yard sale will be held at 914 & 922 Mosser Drive, New Castle PA 16101.

For more information, contact lcares@comcast.net or jamesh@zoominternet.net.

The Facts:

Admission: Free

Date: Saturday, June 15th, 2013

Time: 8AM - 3PM

Food by: Lawrence County
Amateur Radio Emergency
Services

The Month Ahead

Contest Information, VE Testing and Presentation Series

CONTEST



2013 Maritimes QSO Party
June 1, 2013 (Phone, CW)

OBJECTIVE: To encourage and promote contesting within the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

BANDS: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2. No repeater use or cross-band contacts allowed.

PH Operation centered around 1.865, 3.755, 7.255, 14.255, 21.255, 28.455, 50.155, 144.200

CW Operation centered around 1.815, 3.555, 7.040, 14.055, 21.055, 28.055, 144.200 (same as PH).

Contest Period: Saturday, June 1 from 1200 GMT to 2400 GMT.

Log Submission: Must be submitted within **ONE MONTH** after the contest.

For more information on this contest, detailed rules, and log submission addresses, please visit maritimecontestclub.com/maritimeqsoparty.html →

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 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: No question pool updates or releases will take place in 2013.

For more information, please contact our VE Test Coordinator:
Chris Moratis, W3OUF
1199 Highland Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003
PHONE: 724-266-2866
cjmoratis@gmail.com →

MONTHLY

Presentation Series

The BVARA Presentation Series provides a vast array of topics and discussions, with a new topic every month at our club meetings.



May 9, 2013 @ 6:30PM

At Beaver County 911 Center, 351 14th Street, Ambridge PA

Speaker: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic: Batteries for Hams

Including: Batteries have been with us since about 100 AD with the Baghdad Battery. We'll quickly travel through history and examine the many types of batteries today. Then we'll discuss several possible applications of batteries for hams. We'll also examine how batteries are rated and then how they perform under load. You will be amazed at the differences in performance of AA Alkaline batteries from different manufacturers. Price doesn't always guarantee better performance!

Rich's Background: Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962; Volunteer Examiner (VE); B.S. Electrical Engineering →

WEEKLY

Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA meets every Thursday at Steak n Shake in Center Township, by the Beaver Valley Mall, at 10:30 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Breakfast. See you at Steak n Shake!



THE 1940s

When the 1940s began, war had already broken out in Europe. Four days after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, all U.S. ham operations ceased.

World War II would change everything.

During this decade, evidence of club activities, equipment, and the identification of individuals from the clubs begins to surface. We continue our high-

level review of the culture, the current events at that time, both locally and globally, and some of the obstacles those hams faced during and after the war years.

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 1940s

With the entry of our country into World War II, the Great Depression abruptly ended and new priorities changed the landscape completely. The world was in a struggle for power and for survival. The Battle of Britain in 1940 was crucial for British survival. December 7th, 1941 was a day "that would live in infamy" for all Americans. Anne Frank from Amsterdam went into hiding in 1942. That same year, the Bataan Death March of 72,000 American and Filipino soldiers tragically ended many lives in the Philippines. Later that year the Battle of Midway and the Battle of Stalingrad took place. The Guadalcanal Campaign began in 1942. Nazi leaders attended a conference that same year to coordinate the "final solution to the Jewish question" – the systematic genocide of Jews known as the Holocaust. June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, was the very first day of the massive and amphibious Normandy Invasion of Europe by the Allied Forces. In May 1945 Germany yielded to unconditional surrender and the Empire of Japan finally surrendered in September 1945 shortly after two atomic bombs were dropped on her cities.

So many battles, so many places, so many deaths, so many atrocities, and so many examples of courage, bravery and valor – these are the global events that must never be forgotten or allowed to be re-written.

With World War II ended, the

U.S. and the Soviet Union began a long and complex Cold War that would last for decades. But for the remainder of the 1940s, returning U.S. soldiers settled in for peacetime and began the start of a new "baby boomer" generation.

INDUSTRY AND HAMS SUPPORT

THE WAR EFFORT

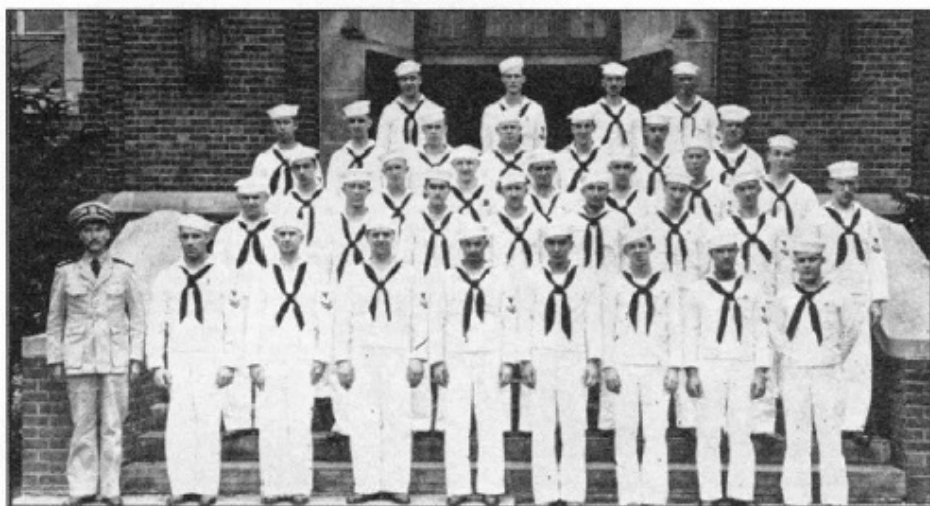
The 1940s arrived with U.S. hams still active on the air, but DXing was essentially a thing of the past. Then came the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; the U.S. was suddenly at war. Amateur activity in the U.S. screeched to a halt, although those on the home front kept their technical and operational skills honed on 112 MHz as members of the War Emergency Radio Service. This service was important and was taken very seriously by the participants, but it still lacked the freewheeling pleasures of normal ham operations.

At the start of hostilities some

51,000 Americans were licensed as radio amateurs. It has been estimated that approximately 25,000 of those served in the armed forces during World War II. Another 25,000 served in critical war industries, or as instructors in military schools. Amateurs formed a valuable pool of trained technicians and operators and were in high demand by the military. By 1942, there were approximately 15,000 Amateurs in the US Military.

Unlike World War I, the ARRL stayed open for business for the duration. QST continued to be published, although with fewer pages than before as a result of wartime paper rationing. ARRL publications were used heavily for military and civilian training, and a special Defense edition of the ever-popular Handbook appeared in 1942.

By June of 1941, tubes and other components were in short supply; each time the military asked hams

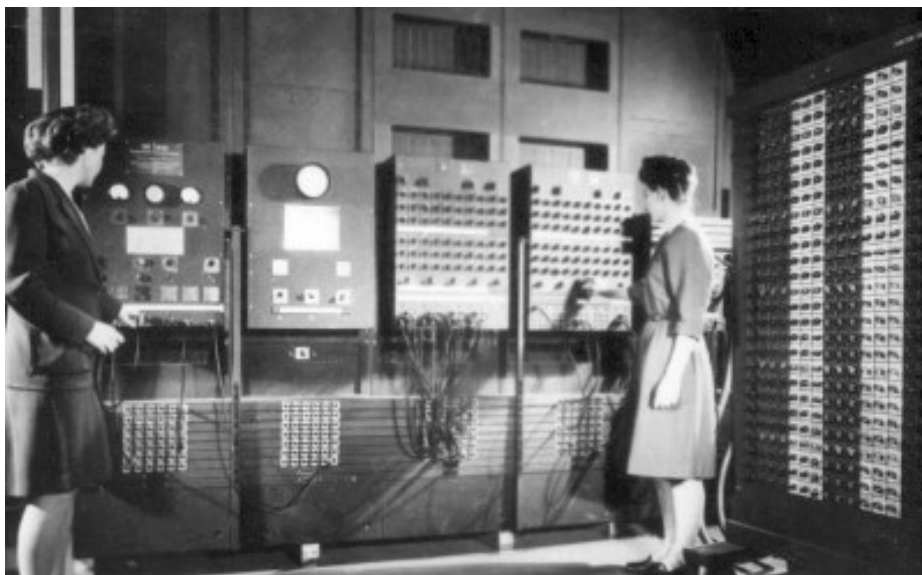


Hams in Navy Radio Training (RT) Class at Grove City College, 1942

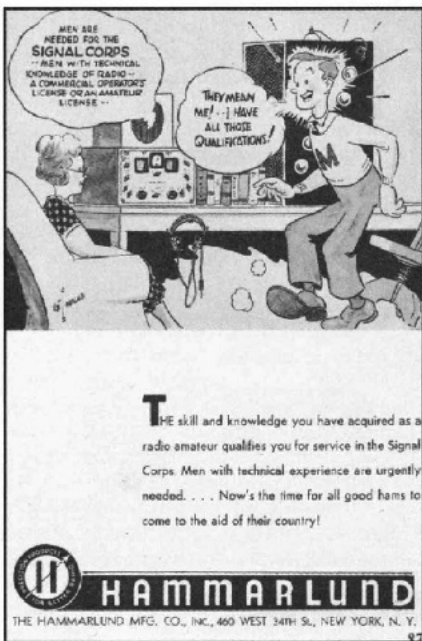
to donate parts, they were flooded with whatever was needed.

Many US hams were recruited for a Civilian Technical Corps to operate and repair British radar equipment. Also at this time, the Office of Civil Defense, at the offering of the ARRL, created a CD communication system with ham radio as its backbone.

Code breakers in England in the massive Project Ultra could recognize German operators from their CW swing, clicks and habits.



Two women operating the ENIAC computer



Hams helped any way they could during the war

The British developed the first programmable computer, containing 1,500 vacuum tubes, to break the German codes. This technology preceded the American ENIAC Electronic Computer of 1945.

TECHNOLOGY EVENTS IN THE 1940s

World War II stimulated the development or invention of many technologies and products including radar, ballistic missiles, jet aircraft, the Jeep, the atomic bomb and so much more. More peaceful developments during the 1940s included nylon hosiery, the Slinky, microwave ovens, Velcro, Tupperware, and the Frisbee.

In the sciences, developments included quantum theory, nuclear physics, game theory, cryptography, radiocarbon dating for archaeology, and more.

BEAVER COUNTY IN THE 1940s

In Beaver County, many industries

sprang up to support the needs for war material. The 1940 U.S. Census reported that the population of the county totaled 156,754 people. In 1943 The Koppers Company, Inc. established the Kobuta plant in Potter Twp. for the manufacture of butadiene (synthetic rubber) and styrene (special plastic). These materials were vital to the war effort. After the war in 1948, WBVP was established, becoming the first radio station in Beaver County.

RADIO TECHNOLOGY AFTER THE WAR

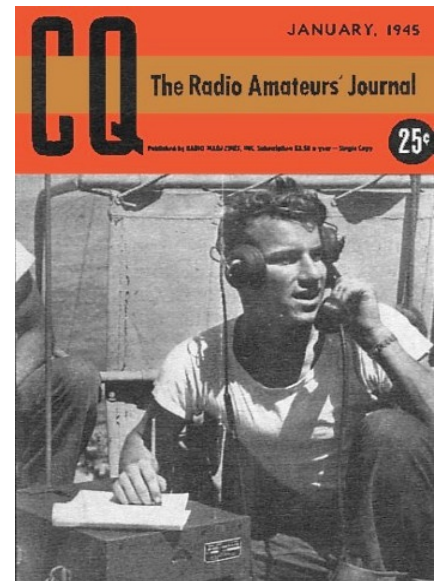
By the beginning of 1945 it was clear that it was only a matter of time until the war would draw to a close. Some hams in New York were so certain that peace was nearly at hand, and that ham radio would have a future following the war, that they kicked off a new magazine called CQ in January 1945. Hostilities finally ended on August 17th of that same year. Only

four days later, amateurs were back on the air on VHF. By summer 1946 nearly all amateur bands were restored, from 3.5 to 30 MHz, with the old bands at 5 and 2.5 meters replaced by new bands at 6 and 2 meters. HF DXing was back, the DXCC program was restarted, and interest in VHF/UHF operations took a jump upward as surplus military gear became available at prices that were near giveaways.

HF operators weren't overlooked, of course. Surplus transmitters, receivers, power tubes, components—just about anything the heart desired were available from the friendly, local surplus emporium. Surplus also

gave a big boost to a new mode, or at least new to hams: RTTY. Many hams had worked with RTTY while in the military during the war, and when machines appeared as surplus, they quickly disappeared into ham shacks throughout the country.

As hams were joyfully getting back on the air, the public was just as joyfully buying TV sets; one of the greatest threats ever to ham radio arrived under the name of Television Interference, the dreaded TVI. The TVI "problem" has decreased over time, although it was significantly reduced when broadcasters switched from analog to digital HD transmissions.



CQ Magazine, January 1945

By September 1947 Mike Villard, W6QYT, and a group of student

RADIO MANUFACTURER WORLD WAR II ADVERTISEMENTS

Many manufacturers lent their technical support by developing special products and technology to the war effort.

These U.S. Navy Planes Carry Collins Autotune Transmitters

The voice of thousands of Navy fliers

The Collins Autotune Transmitter is the most advanced, most reliable, and most efficient of the great autotune transmitters which were adapted to meet the needs of the Navy. Since Japan struck the U.S. it has secured many thousands of advanced design and rugged construction, better A.T.C. reflects the degree of our interest in every quarter of the world. It is a tribute of the reliability and efficiency to be expected of Collins by naval and military users after having Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 11 West Third Street, New York 16, N. Y.

IN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, IT'S COLLINS

"Chalk up another dead duck, Jim!"

—IT'S RCA AIRCRAFT RADIO FOR SPLIT-SECOND BATTLE TALK

24 hours a day—in every part—RCA Radio is "in the job" saving lives and helping to win battles.

A TORPEDO head has lost its "eyes"

A "chink" has been found in the armor of the enemy's attack. The RCA aircraft radio is the key to the solution. It is the only radio that can be used in the most critical moments of battle. It is the only radio that can be used in the most critical moments of battle. It is the only radio that can be used in the most critical moments of battle.

RCA CORPORATION OF AMERICA

RCA VETER DIVISION • GARDEN, NEW JERSEY

hallicrafters Battle Flags!

hallicrafters Battle Flags!

hams started experimenting with SSB at Stanford University. A decade passed before SSB was a common sound on the bands, but it did ultimately displace dual-sideband AM phone, except for a relatively small number of AM aficionados. These folks, quite simply, will always enjoy operating the old rigs and enjoy the sound of a well-adjusted AM transmitter.

HAM CLUB AND MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Local hams actively played many key roles during World War II. As ham radio activities resumed, we get a glimpse of BVARA members in the late 1940s participating in Field Day. Participants included Andy Voinich, W3LCH, Bob McClain, W3VRZ, and his son, Bobbie, and "Big John" Bilinecz, Jr., WA3ECD at the controls of the equipment of John Wojtkiewicz, W3GJY.

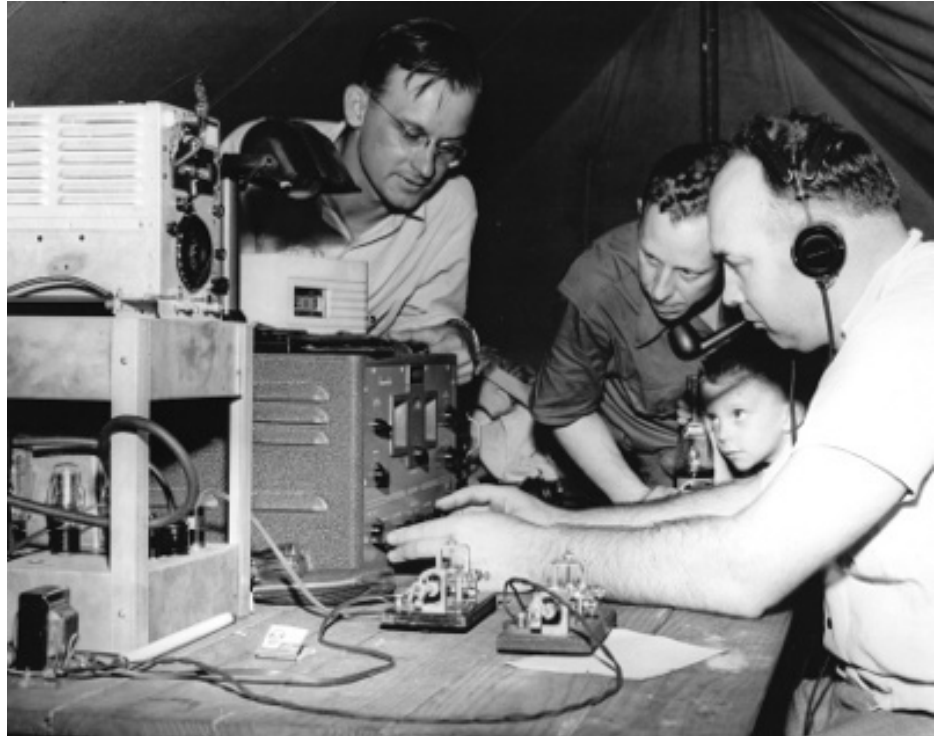
Rounding out the club pictures is a photograph of the equipment of Thomas W. Roney, W8SGJ prior to the redistricting of call areas that took place just after World War II (see "A Glimpse at the BVARA...." at right).

NEXT MONTH

Next month we'll move ahead to the 1950s and continue our journey as we follow the middle history of the BVARA. We'll look at what was happening around the globe and locally during the 1950s. We'll also expand on our coverage of BVARA hams, including their many activities and their equipment. Stay tuned! ➔

A GLIMPSE AT THE BVARA DURING THE 1940s

Two photos from the archives of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association.



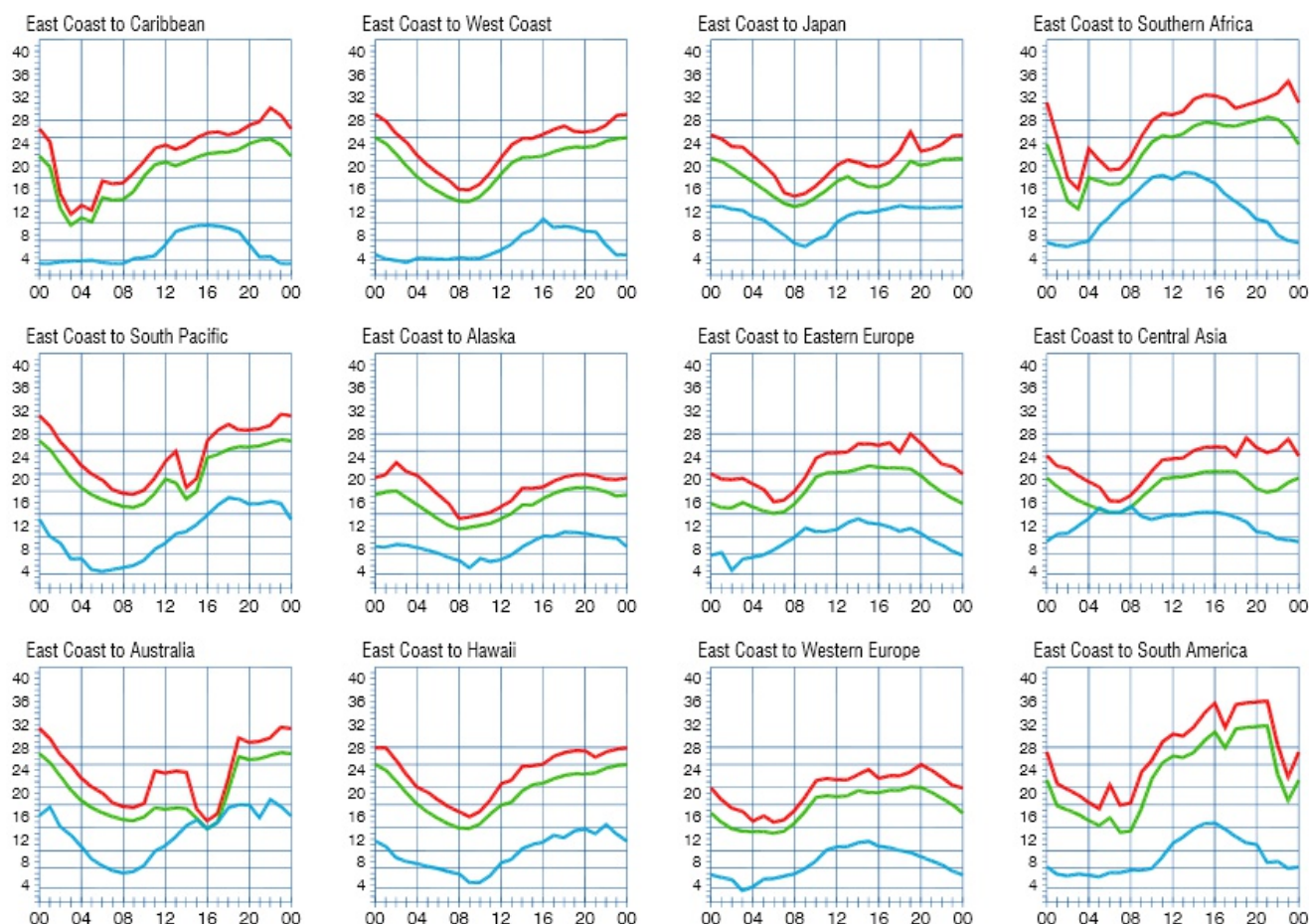
BVARA Field Day during the late 1940s



W3SGJ Station in the early 1940s

Propagation 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 East Coast propagation chart listed above is for May 2013.

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

2013 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
Vice President: Jeff Waite, K3SLK
Second Vice Pres.: Mark Kavic, KB3LED
Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS
Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
Director: Adam Horniak, KG3L
Director: Denny Herbuth, KR3DX
Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM
Newsletter Editor: Grant Miller, KB3QFQ

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

2013
May 9
June 13
July 11
August - **No meeting (Corn Roast, Date TBA)**
September 12
October 10
November 14
December 7 - **BVARA Christmas Party**

2014
January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10

QSL CARD
Special 90th Anniversary Edition



NEXT MONTH

JUNE 2013

The Fifties!

*We continue our
journey through the history
of the BVARA*

PLUS: FIELD DAY 2013