

THE eQRM

THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA

The 1950s

BY RICH SOLTESZ, K3SOM

Plus: Field Day 2013 p. 3

THE eQRM

JUNE 2013



5 THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA, PART 4: THE 1950s

The quest into the history of our club continues into the 1950s. By Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

THIS MONTH

3

Bulletins

Hamfests and general announcements

4

The Month Ahead

Contests, VE testing, and Presentation Series

5

The History of the BVARA

Digging into the past for our 90th anniversary

10

Propagation Charts

Propagation charts for the East Coast

11

Who We Are

Membership information, club officers, and meetings

12

Next Month

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

Club Event/ Field Day 2013

Friday - Sunday, June 21 - 23, 2013.



Field Day is here again! This year, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will be gathering for the ARRL's annual Field Day at **Economy Park**.

The club's 2 meter repeater (145.31 MHz, PL 131.8) will be monitored throughout the weekend. If you would like to check in or call in for questions or directions, feel free to do so!

Following is a schedule of events for the weekend:

FRIDAY

Field Day Setup

Starting Friday afternoon, campers

may begin to set up their campsites and stations in preparation for ARRL Field Day 2013.

Covered Dish Dinner - 6:00PM

This year, the Field Day covered dish dinner will begin at 6:00PM. All club members, and their families and friends, are encouraged to attend. We only ask that you bring a covered dish. The BVARA will provide the main course (hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.), as well as condiments, paper/plasticware and beverages.

SATURDAY

Field Day Begins - 2:00PM

ARRL Field Day 2013 officially

The Facts:

Date:

Friday - Sunday, June 21 - 23, 2013

Location:

Economy Park

Economy, PA 15005

Talk-In:

145.310 MHz Repeater (PL 131.8)



kicks off at 2:00PM.

Band "Reservations"

If there is a specific band you wish to use during the weekend, please attend the BVARA club meeting, which will be held on Thursday, June 13 at the Beaver County 911 Center at 6:30PM.

SUNDAY

Field Day Ends - 2:00PM

24 hours later, ARRL Field Day 2013 concludes at 2:00PM.

The Month Ahead

Contest Information, VE Testing and Presentation Series

CONTEST



RAC Canada Day Contest
July 1, 2013 (Phone, CW)

Sponsored by Radio
Amateurs of Canada

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

BANDS: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15,
10, 6 and 2

Suggested Frequencies:
CW – 25 kHz up from the
band edge.
SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075,
7225, 14175, 21250, 28500
kHz.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC
to 2359 UTC July 1, 2013.

Exchange: Send RS(T) and
a serial number.

Log Submission: Must be
submitted by July 31,
2013.

For more information on
this contest, detailed
rules, and log submission
addresses, please visit
www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests

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, June 13

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.

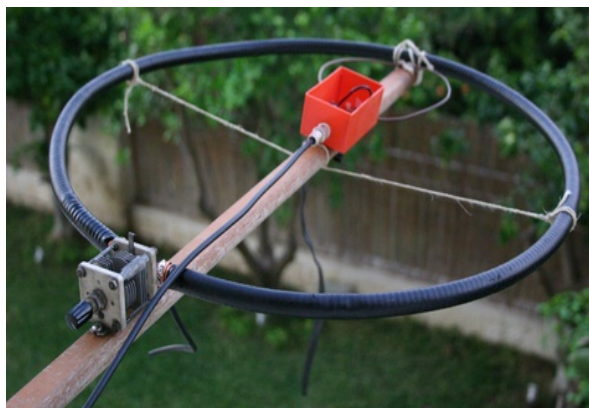
All classes of amateur
radio license tests will be
administered.
Note: No question pool
updates or releases will
take place in 2013.

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.



June 13, 2013 @ 6:30PM

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

Speaker: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic: Shielded, Active-Magnetic-Loop Antenna

Including: The demonstration of a commercially available broad-band
active loop antenna. Loop antennas have been with us since the early
days of broadcasting. This one, however, is special. It's been designed to
pick up the magnetic component of the signal rather than the "normal"
electrical component. The design is based on work done by Dr. Carl E.
Baum in 1964 on a Moebius Strip Loop for the Air Force Weapons
Laboratory. You will be amazed at the difference in performance between
this loop antenna and a conventional antenna!

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 1950s

The decade of the 1950s saw significant activity within the BVARA. War surplus equipment as well as significant “boat anchor” equipment found their way into many stations of BVARA members.

During this decade, increasing evidence of club activities, equipment, and the identification of individuals from the clubs becomes available. We continue our high-

level review of the culture, the current events at that time, both locally and globally, and some of the activities of the BVARA.

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 1950s

At the beginning of the 1950s, a cold war competition had begun between the United States and the Soviet Union. This competition steadily escalated throughout the decade. The post-World War II economy was in high gear now. Clashes between communism and capitalism dominated the decade, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. The conflicts included the Korean War in the beginnings of the decade and the beginning of the Space Race with the launch of Sputnik I by the Russians. Along with increased testing of nuclear weapons, this created a politically conservative climate. In the United States, the Red Scare (fear of communism) caused public Congressional hearings by both houses in Congress and anti-communism was the prevailing sentiment in the United States throughout the decade.

In 1950 the first modern-day

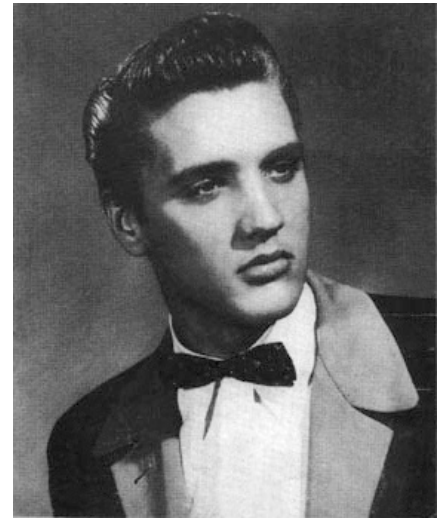


Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier of Monaco

credit card was introduced. That same year President Truman ordered construction of the Hydrogen bomb. In December 1952 the Great Smog killed nearly 12,000 people in London. In 1953 the first issue of Playboy Magazine appeared. Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay succeeded in climbing Mt Everest. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed for espionage against the US that same year. In 1954 the British launched an expedition to search for the Abominable Snowman. That same year the Nautilus Nuclear-powered submarine was launched. In 1955 Disneyland was opened and the McDonald's Corporation was founded. In 1956 Elvis gyrated on the Ed Sullivan TV show, Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier of Monaco, and the Hungarian Revolution and the Suez Canal crises dominated world events. In 1957 Dr. Seuss published The Cat in a Hat. In 1958 Boris Pasternak refused to accept the Nobel Prize, Chinese leader Mao Zedong launched "The Great Leap Forward." That same year NASA was founded and the Lego brick was introduced. In 1959 Castro became dictator of Cuba and The Sound of Music opened on Broadway.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE 1950s

Television gained maturity in the 1950s and by the end of the decade most American households owned a TV set. In 1954, RCA introduced the CTC-1, the first color TV to utilize the NTSC video standard. It



1954 Promotional Photo of Elvis Presley

was expensive however, and black-and-white sets would remain the norm for the next decade. The Chevrolet Corvette became the first car to have an all-fiberglass body in 1953. In 1954 Bell Telephone labs produced the first solar battery. In 1954 you could get a yard of contact paper for only 59 cents. Polypropylene was invented in 1954. In 1955 Jonas Salk invented a polio vaccine which was given to more than seven million American students. In 1956 a solar powered wrist watch was invented. After the Russian launch of Sputnik I, the space race went into high gear. Commercial passenger jet service began during the 1950s.

BEAVER COUNTY IN THE 1950s

Brady's Run Park, located on Route 51, the largest of the Beaver County parks, opened to the public in 1950. Many Field Day events by the club were held here after the park opened. The Beaver County Humane Society received its

BVARA FIELD DAY IN THE 1950s

Some very good pictures of the 1950 Field Day effort at Edgewood Park speak volumes of the people, the equipment, the team spirit, and the experience shared among members.



corporate charter as a non-profit, charitable organization on August 10, 1950. The big snow that fell on Friday and Saturday, November 23-24, 1950 caused considerable problems.

The 1950 US Census reported a total of 175,193 people in Beaver County with 26,132 people in Aliquippa. The J&L Historical Society organized a ceremony dedicating a black granite monument outside the city's police station. The monument recognized former Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. and LTV Corp. workers "who made the impossible possible in the production of steel." By 1950, J&L was the fourth-largest steel producer in the world. In 1967, the company's Aliquippa Works employed 14,000 people. LTV bought the company in 1968.

The "Conway Project" of the mid 1950's had a great impact on the Conway roundhouse. 35 million dollars was spent to upgrade the yard and other facilities at Conway. 145 miles of new track were laid in the classification yard which now measures four and one-half miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide at its widest point. In the engine house eight stalls and an office were torn down. They were thought to no longer be needed as there were no longer any steam locomotives operating through Conway. A boiler room was added in a section of the old backstop, which was to supply steam for heating all the buildings in the area and replace the old power plant that had been torn down.



BVARA Field Day Results

Year	Xmtrs	Call	Contacts	PWR	Hams	Points
1952	5	W3VRZ/3	868	A	12	8055
1953	4	W3VRZ/3	749	AB	20	5382
1955	4	W3VRZ/3	479	B	18	6717

From top of page 7: Bob Peters, Stan Dobrowski, W3LRS and Bob McClain, W3VRZ at Field Day 1950; Stan Dobrowski, W3LRS and Ad Davidson, W3LDZ at Field Day 1950; Fred Ziegler, W3BSF at Field Day 1950; Arch McAlister, W3OEW at Field Day 1950; BVARA Field Day results in the 1950s

HAM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

With the continued availability of surplus equipment, many hams took the path of adapting this rugged equipment to amateur radio use. The pages of QST and CQ Magazines provided many ideas for the enterprising and technically capable club ham.

"Boat anchor" receivers and sometimes matching transmitters during the 1950s really earned their reputation. They were heavy, solidly built, and performed very well. Pictures of equipment that club members used on Field Day and in their home stations aptly illustrate the impact of these technologies.

The first Collins transceiver the KWM-1 appeared in 1957, and this was followed two years later by the KWM-2, which basically combined the circuits of the 75S-1 and 32S-1 in one case. For the enthusiast it is a stirring sight to lift the lid when the radio is switched on, to see a whole family of tubes glowing and to feel the waft of hot air! SSB had arrived big time, and the fundamental design of this transceiver created a paradigm shift that has endured into the 21st Century.

HAM CLUB AND MEMBER ACTIVITIES

A very popular activity for the BVARA was Field Day. From the pages of the December QST issues, published results for three of the years in the 1950s chronicle the scope of effort put forth by the members of the BVARA.

NEXT MONTH

Next month we'll move ahead to the 1960s 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 1960s. The CB explosion was just beginning and later had a profound influence on the BVARA. We'll highlight BVARA hams including their many activities and their equipment. Stay tuned! ➔

MEMBERS OF THE BVARA AND THEIR STATIONS

Two more pictures of the ham stations of club members round out our glance into club history.



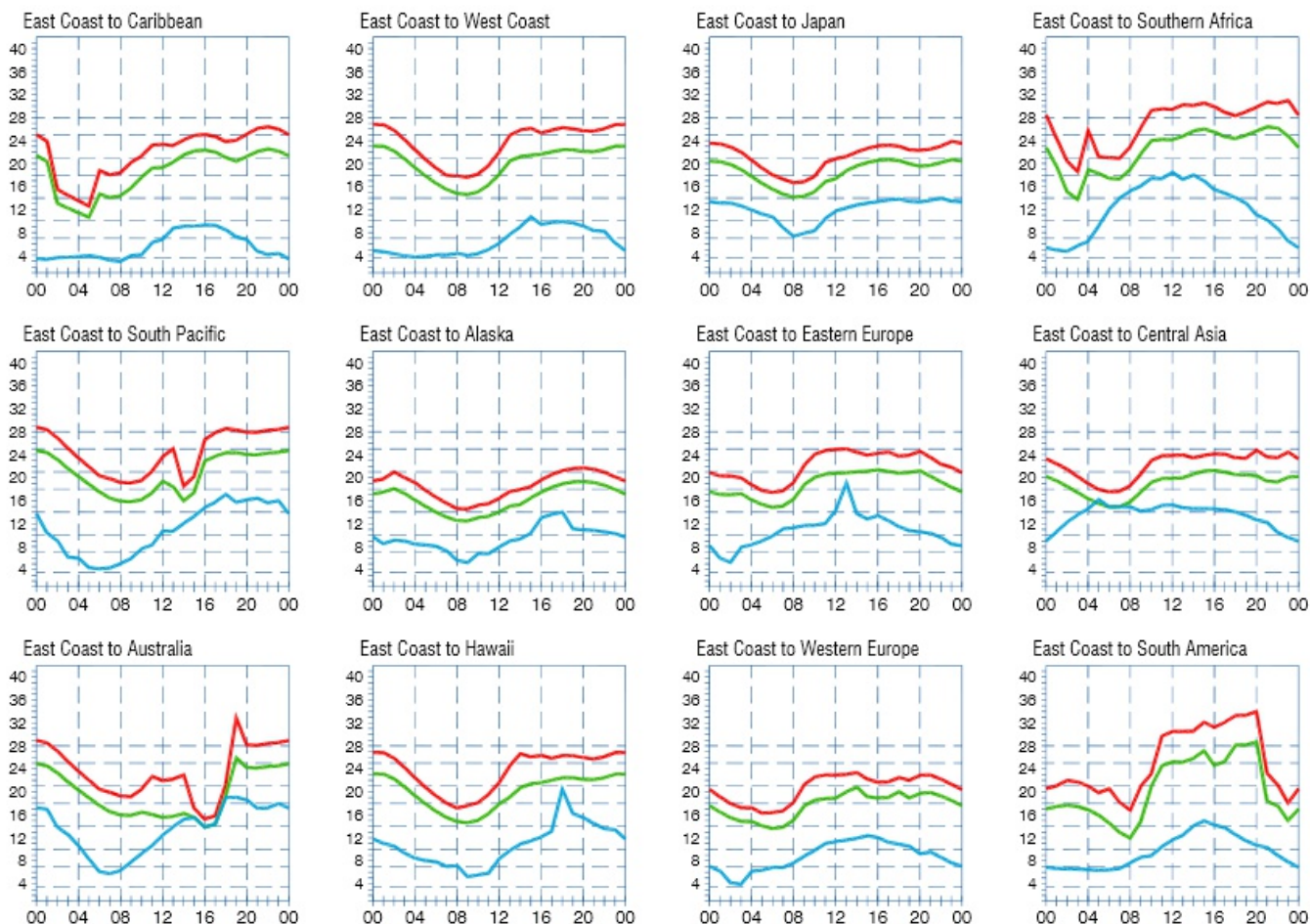
Ken Castelluci,
W3GAE at his Home
QTH



Eddie Woodson,
WN3SIJ's novice
station

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 June 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

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

May 8

QSL CARD
Special 90th Anniversary Edition



NEXT MONTH

JULY 2013

THE SWINGING SIXTIES

Strolling through the history of the BVARA