

CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE eQRM

THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA

THE 1970s

BY RICH SOLTESZ, K3SOM

THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2013



5 THE HISTORY OF THE BVARA, PART 6: THE 1970s

We venture into the 1970s, our most exciting decade yet. By Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

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CHECK INTO THE NETS

Wednesday 2 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

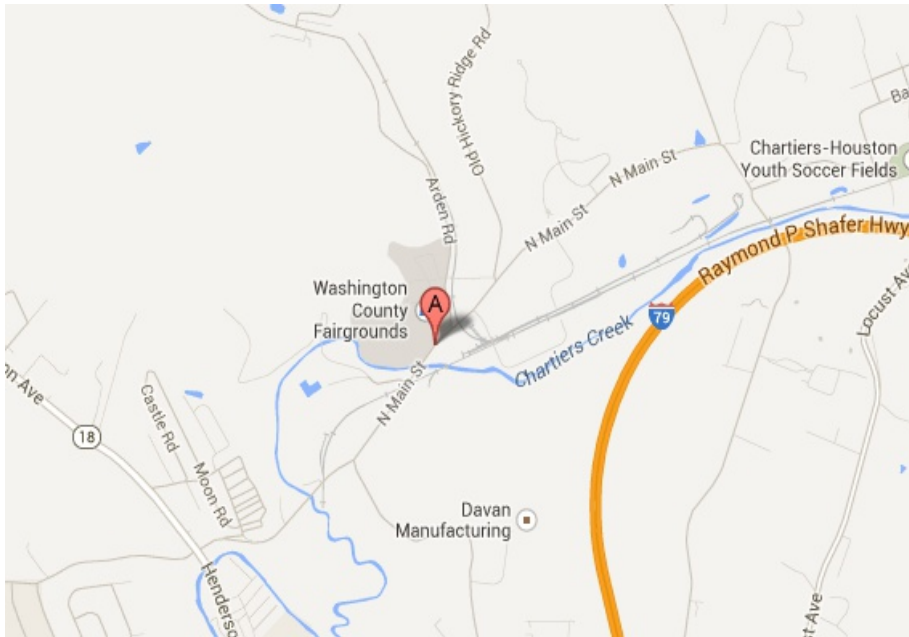
Wednesday 10 Meter
9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

Bulletins

HAMFESTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / CLUB NEWS

Hamfest/ WACOM Hamfest

Sunday, November 3, 2013. 8AM - 3PM



The Facts:

Date: Sunday, November 3, 2013

Time: 8AM - 3PM

Admission: \$5.00

Location:

Washington County Fairgrounds
2151 North Main St.
Washington, PA 15301

Talk-In:

146.790 MHz (no PL)

Top Prizes:

Ameritron HF 811 Amp
Large Screen HDTV
MFJ 266B Analyzer

Sponsored By:

Washington Amateur Comm.

Announcement/ Say "HI" to Juno

Wednesday, October 9, 2013. 8AM - 3PM

NASA's Juno spacecraft will fly past Earth on October 9, 2013 to receive a gravity assist from our planet, putting it on course for Jupiter. To celebrate this event, the Juno mission is inviting amateur radio operators around the world to say "HI" to Juno in a coordinated Morse Code message. Juno's radio & plasma wave experiment, called Waves, should be able to detect the message if enough people participate.

For more information and further instructions, visit <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/hijuno/>

The Facts:

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Time: 18:00 to 20:40 UTC

QSL Card: If you participate and would like to receive a QSL Card, email juno_outreach@jpl.nasa.gov with your call sign and mailing address after the event.

The Month Ahead

Contest Information, VE Testing and Presentation Series

CONTEST



PA QSO Party

October 12-13, 2013

OBJECTIVE: Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities.

BANDS: 160, 80, 75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2.

CONTEST PERIODS:
1600Z, Oct 12, 2013 to
2200Z, Oct 13, 2013

Log Submission: Must be received by the PA QSO Party 30 days after the contest.

For more information on this contest, please visit <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetail.s.php?ref=153>

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, Sept. 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: 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.



September 12, 2013 @ 6:30PM

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

Speaker: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM
Topic: Communications... With Ghosts

Including: Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is an interesting one: Communications with ghosts. This topic has been around for centuries. But with recent developments within the last century, electronic devices have now been made available for those wishing a more sophisticated approach to this haunting topic. We'll look at current thinking on this fascinating subject, dig up a few skeletons, examine the physics behind the measurements, and review the equipment that is available. This is one presentation you won't want to miss!

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 1970s

The decade of the 1970s witnessed explosive growth and activity within the BVARA. What an exciting decade for the club!

During this decade, increasing information about club activities, equipment, and the identification of individuals from the club is reviewed. We continue our high-level summary of the culture, the current events

at that time, both locally and globally, and some of the activities of the BVARA. We also start to see the beginnings of a split of interests and allegiances within the Beaver County amateur radio community.

GLOBAL EVENTS IN THE 1970s

The "Seventies" can best be described as a "pivot of change" in world history focusing especially on economic upheavals. In the Western world, social progressive values that began in the 1960s, such as increasing political awareness and political and economic liberty of women, continued to grow. The hippie culture, which started in the latter half of the 1960s, waned by the early 1970s and faded towards the middle part of the decade, which involved opposition to the Vietnam War, opposition to nuclear weapons, the advocacy of world peace, and hostility to the authority of government and big business. The environmentalist movement began to increase dramatically in this period.

1970 began with the Kent State shootings of protesting students. That same year the Aswan High Dam was completed in Egypt. In 1972 Mark Spitz won seven gold medals in swimming competitions at the summer Olympics in Munich. At that same venue Palestinian terrorists attacked the Olympics and took and later killed 11 hostages. In 1973 an oil crisis gripped much of the developed parts of the world. 1974 brought the resignation of President Richard Nixon while facing impeachment charges for the Watergate Scandal. In April 1975 the war in Vietnam came to a close with the fall of Saigon and the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam. That same year, the

PIVOT OF CHANGE

Below are just a few of the pivotal events that occurred in the 1970s.



President Nixon announces the release of edited transcripts of the Watergate tapes, April 1974



Nuclear Power Generation Facility at Three-Mile Island in 1979, the year of its accident



Gene Cernan of Apollo 17, the last man on the moon

Microsoft Corporation was founded. In 1976 the first Ebola Virus Outbreak struck Zaire and

the Sudan. Elvis Presley died in 1977 while in that same year the Star Wars movie was released. In 1978 the Jonestown Massacre in Guyana resulted in the deaths of 914 people. In late 1979 Iran took 52 American hostages for 444 days under the presidency of Jimmy Carter. That same year the Nuclear Accident at Three-Mile Island caused great concern over the safety of all nuclear-powered reactors used to generate electricity.

In space exploration, the eighth manned mission of the Apollo program was successful with Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell of Apollo 14 landing on the moon in January 1971. While on the moon, Shepard famously hit two golf balls with a makeshift club he had brought from earth. Rumor has it that he sliced them badly. (Just kidding!) Apollo 17 astronaut Gene Cernan became the last man on the moon in December 1972.

Because of budget cuts at NASA, their plans for a Planetary Grand Tour of the outer planets of our solar system had to be severely cut back. As a result, the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 satellites were designed and successfully launched in 1977 with extraordinary mission success. In fact, after over 36 years in space, both craft continue to communicate with earth as they now leave our solar system.

TECHNOLOGY EVENTS IN THE 1970s

In 1970 computer floppy disks were first introduced. VCRs first appeared in 1971 with competing

VHS and Beta formats. That same year the first email was sent. In 1972 the HP-35 pocket calculator became available and used reverse Polish notation for entering complex formulas. The Xerox Alto of 1973 was the first computer to use the desktop metaphor and mouse-driven graphical user interface (GUI). That same year Motorola officials made the first cell phone call. In 1979 Sony introduced the Walkman.

BEAVER COUNTY IN THE 1970s

The 1970 US Census reported a total of 208,418 people in Beaver County for a growth rate of 0.7 percent over the 1960 US Census. In 1970, the Beaver Valley Mall opened with The Joseph Horne Company, Gimbels, and Sears as the original anchors.

Hurricane Agnes brought devastation and flooding to Beaver County in June 1972. In Pennsylvania, heavy rainfall was reported, with much of the state experiencing more than seven inches of precipitation. Furthermore, a large swath of rainfall exceeding 10 inches was reported in the central part of the state. As a result, Agnes is listed as the wettest tropical cyclone on record for the state of Pennsylvania.

Hurricane Agnes caused considerable flooding, particularly in the Bridgewater area. Phone service throughout most of the county was knocked out when the telephone substation on the Rochester side of the Beaver River

was flooded. Later in this article, the efforts of the BVARA and the BVAFMA are described during this crisis situation.

During the night of July 19-20, 1977, eighty-five people were killed in and around Johnstown, Pennsylvania, from a massive flash flood. No flash flood in the United States since then has killed more



Dr. Martin Cooper in 2007 reenacting the first cell phone call in April 1973

people. One spot near Johnstown received about 12 inches of rain.

The rain ran down the steep terrain into the streams and rivers, leading to catastrophic flooding. Runoff from the torrential rains, combined with waters released by at least 6 dams that failed, sent more than 128 million gallons of water down the Conemaugh Valley - about 6 times more than in the famous flood of 1889. Downtown Johnstown was under 10 feet of water.

HAM EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE IARU

The 1970s brought about the immense popularity of repeaters and packet operations. Feeding the incredible growth of repeaters was the availability of commercial equipment. After World War II commercial users discovered the value of channelized FM for mobile use. Throughout the 1950s manufacturers churned out large quantities of equipment designed to satisfy that new demand. As the popularity of the new systems increased, so did congestion on their bands. In order to relieve that congestion the FCC finally required the commercial users to tighten up on their channel spacing. The commercials were obliged to do so, with the result that, throughout the 1960s, large quantities of outmoded (from the commercials' standpoint), but entirely serviceable equipment became available on the surplus market. However, the gear operated on frequencies close to the amateur 6 and 2-meter bands, as well as 70-cm, and was easily converted from commercial to ham use. The era of the ham FM repeater was in full bloom.

Meanwhile in Canada, the development of packet radio techniques utilizing a digital methodology with the emerging digital computers that were becoming available began in 1978. By 1979, enterprising Canadians offered a PC board kit to hams that was capable of assembling and disassembling packets of data. The

kits sold briskly, and as the decade ended, so began the new gold rush—the rush to amateur packet radio.

Another significant event in 1979 occurred in Geneva at the World Administrative Radio Conference. At the end of the conference, due in no small measure to superb planning and lobbying by the IARU delegation, hams had three new HF bands, at 10, 18, and 24 MHz.

HAM CLUB AND MEMBER ACTIVITIES

In the fall of 1972 the BVAFMA (Beaver Valley FM Association) was formed from members of the

BVARA to focus on operating the two meter repeater. Please read the related article in this issue of eQRM about the History of WR3AAA (p. 11), the first repeater licensed in the "3" call area and the third repeater licensed in the US.

A third club formed just a year or two after the BVAFMA was formed and was called the Butler Amateur FM Association. Jim Woods, W3SJK was president of the Butler group.

These three clubs did many activities as a joint venture. For example, a Corn Roast was attended by 200 – 300 people in the mid-1970s. Corn (an entire

pickup truck filled with fresh-picked corn), hot dogs, watermelon, and a side dish were the going food choices at the time.

Many hams belonged to both Beaver County clubs and contributed to each club's diversified growth. With the new Beaver Valley Mall now available, both Beaver County clubs got together each year at the mall on the elevated stage with multiple antennas on the roof to give live demonstrations of ham radio. Suits and ties were required of members. Many messages were sent and phone patches provided for the many people interested in ham

MEDIA COVERAGE IN BEAVER COUNTY

A Beaver Valley Mall ham radio demonstration by both Beaver County clubs

Radio group makes waves with local residents

By BILL SWAUGER

Woody and Vy Willis of New Brighton were concerned about Woody's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilhelm of Randel, Wash., following the eruption of the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington last Sunday. They had tried unsuccessfully to telephone the Wilhelms, whose home is about 60 miles from the volcano, but all the phone lines were either down or jammed.

Members of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association came to the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Willis.

Dave Leiser of Monaca, a member of the association, said he thought he could get a message through to the Wilhelms. He first contacted a ham radio operator in Lynnwood, Wash.

"We contacted him on 20 meters," Leiser said. "He, in turn, got on the two meters and contacted local authorities, who relayed the message to the Wilhelms."

A telephone call from Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm to Mr. and Mrs. Willis reassured the local couple. Their relatives were all right.

"It was fascinating," Mrs. Willis said. "I just couldn't believe it. It was a real relief for my husband. He was really concerned about his sister."

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Beaver Valley Amateur FM Association jointly conducted a three-day demonstration of their capabilities Thursday through Saturday on the main concourse of the Beaver Valley Mall.

From the mall base station, the local ham operators completed hundreds of transmissions, sent free of charge everywhere in the

world.

One such message read: "All fine here. Just wanted to say hello. Love, Aunt Lenny." Its destination was the American Embassy in Moscow.

Sometime over the weekend, an American Army captain and his wife, stationed at the embassy, were expected to receive the cheery greeting.

The Moscow message, according to Tom Peluso of New Brighton, first went to amateur operator KBBDT in Pittsburgh.

"He (the Pittsburgh ham) took it and put it on a MARS net."

Peluso was not talking about any interplanetary communications. He was referring to the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS).

"The message would go by the military net, which would keep passing it along," Peluso said, "from local nets, to regional, to national to international, until it finally gets delivered."

Another curious message, sent by the club members Thursday, went to Gurumad Thing, on Colonial Yap Island, part of the West Caroline Island group in the Pacific Ocean.

Others went to Hawaii, California, Florida and other distant points.

Leo Cipriani, president of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, is proud of the work his association does.

"This type of thing goes on 365 days a year," Cipriani said. "It's not just something we do here at the mall."

Cipriani explained that the club members use exercises like the one at the mall "to keep our proficiency up."

He added, "During an emergen-

cy, these 'Hi, how are you?' messages become 'Need blankets and food.' We were very active during the Johnstown flood."

The club president pointed out that the association is Beaver County's "main communications arm in the event of an emergency."

Typical of the association's activities is its work with the National Weather Service. It's part of the ham operators' Skywarn Program.

Mel Reed of Beaver is the association's Skywarn chief.

"Any time a storm is on its way, Mel is called by the people at the National Weather Service," Cipriani explained. "A network of hams is activated to such points at Toronto, Ohio, Akron and other places. Mel is routinely called by Pat Shingleton," (meteorologist for television Channel 11 in Pittsburgh).

The local association conducts a Field Day in June at Bradys Run Park. Portable equipment is set up on all emergency power and under simulated emergency conditions.

In July, the club holds its annual "Hamfest" at the Community College of Beaver County.

"It's a giant flea market for ham radio equipment," Cipriani said. There is also an all-day corn roast in September.

Ham radio operators come from all walks of life.

"But, I'll be truthful with you," Cipriani said. "It's not a cheap hobby. The equipment is sophisticated and expensive."

It is not unusual for a ham radio operator to own up to \$10,000 in equipment, including transmitters, portable units, antennas and other gear.



Hamming it up

Members of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Beaver Valley FM Association operate some of the equipment they demonstrated at the Beaver Valley Mall the past three days. From left are Robert Bash, Harmony Township, a member of the amateur radio group; John Silvio of New Waterford, Ohio, a member of the FM association; George Moore, Beaver Falls, co-chairman of the ham radio group, and Dave Wurzel, Industry, co-chairman of the FM unit. Members of both organizations sent messages free of charge throughout the world during the three-day event.

An amateur goes through five different levels of licensing: novice, technician, general, advanced and expert.

Cipriani points with pride to the fact he has received confirmation messages from operators in 225 different countries. A confirma-

tion message verifies contact being made with an operator in that country.

Each operator has a five- or six-digit identification, comprised of both letters and numbers. The first letter or two identifies the country, the next digit, a number, tells in what part of the country the operator is located, and the final three letters identify the operator.

Local ham operators are look forward to two big accomplishments.

"We are trying to find out how many Boy Scouts would be interested in forming an Explorer post for ham radio operation," said Cipriani. "We've already selected a post number. It's 73."

He explained that "73" in radio lingo means "Best Wishes" or "Good Luck."

Ham radio even has become part of the world's satellite program. Friday, another amateur radio satellite, called OSCAR 9, was launched to aid worldwide transmission. The satellite was sent "piggy back" aboard a French rocket. OSCAR stands for Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio.)

"We don't have the borders encountered by governments," Cipriani said. "If another country has some other type of satellite being launched, many times they will send our satellite aboard the same rocket."

As far as Mr. and Mrs. Willis are concerned, the work of the Beaver Valley association is already out of this world.

"We're sold on what they can do," Mrs. Willis said. "We went down to the mall again last evening and watched. It's amazing what they are doing."

activities.

Field Day in 1972 was interrupted for the BVARA by Hurricane Agnes with a request by local officials for emergency communications because of the loss of phone services due to flooding. The BVARA and BVAFMA set up emergency communications on two meters between Shelter 12 (formerly Shelter 6) and the County Courthouse. Round-the-clock communications with not only local officials, but also HF communications with state officials was much appreciated. Because of the club's efforts during Hurricane Agnes, county commissioners agreed in writing

to provide the county shelter to the club's Field Day use "forever" at no charge.

With the explosion of CB radio activity and the desire from CB'ers to do more with their radio hobby, the ranks of the BVARA began to swell. To meet the demand for training, theory, and license preparation, the club began to regularly hold classes. A room was provided at the Beaver Railroad Station to the BVARA - the EOC for the county at that time for training purposes. Novice classes were held and approximately 300 novices were trained and passed their exam during a one-year interval at the peak of this activity. The BVARA and the BVAFMA each boasted



Dick Hanna, K3VYY teaching a class for potential novice hams

rosters well over 200 people at the peak during the decade of the 70s. These were good times for ham radio in Beaver County.

During the Johnstown flood of 1977, members of the BVARA went to Johnstown to help with communications efforts. They took a generator and Collins gear with them to the site.

The call sign, WC3AAP, was specially issued to the club thus providing a recognized government license for civil defense and EOC efforts within the county. A radio room was also provided to the BVARA in the basement of the current Friendship Ridge Home and was located adjacent to their morgue. On the roof, two and six meter antennas and an 80 meter dipole were installed. The county provided 40 to 50 Heathkit Sixers for civil defense use by the club. An emergency generator was also available for club use. A weekly six meter net was conducted for communications purposes by the club. The government issued to the club Gonset G50 transceivers for six meters and Gonset Communicator 2 transceivers with CD markings to facilitate emergency communications.

Don't call this 'ham' a CB'er

I am writing about what I consider a gross error in a front-page story in the Feb. 1 issue of the TIMES (which reported on a meeting of local school superintendents in the home of the letter writer to hear a message from state officials in Harrisburg on the gas and oil shortage, "via Citizens Band radio").

I realize the public has great enthusiasm for CB these days, but to have my "rig" called a "Citizens Band hookup" is more than I can bear. What was accomplished by amateur radio operators across the state of Pennsylvania on Feb. 1 is neither legally nor technically possible on Citizens Band radio.

My fellow "hams" and I have no particularly bad feelings about CB, but we do become a little distressed when called CB'ers. We have been doing it a lot longer; since the days of Marconi, in fact. CB has existed less than 20 years.

Hams have handled disaster communications in places all over the world in the past 70 years. Such things as flood-stricken Johnstown and Pittsburgh, the latter in 1936; Alaska, during a devastating earthquake; Hurricane Agnes; Xenia, Ohio, hit by a tornado, and the earthquake in Guatemala, are well known by hams. We handle messages and "phone patches" for servicemen overseas and for people in far-off places to friends at home.

Technically, amateur radio operators have had a hand in just about every means of communication via the airwaves. Hams even played a valuable part in the invention and development of things like radar and television. The whole

broadcasting industry owes its beginning to amateur radio.

Some of us use the full legal kilowatt to talk to friends around the world. Some of us use the one-watt walkie-talkies to communicate through repeaters with friends only miles away. And amateurs have even operated seven of their own communications satellites; the eighth is being readied for launch.

And we really want nothing for it other than to be recognized for what we are and what we have done. I am an amateur radio operator. And I am very proud to be one. Please do not refer to me as "a CB'er."

J. Richard Hanna, K3VYY
Patterson Township

A "letter to the editor" of the Beaver County Times by Dick Hanna, K3VYY, published February 7, 1977

Field Day activities sometimes included over 10 stations and very large numbers of participants during the decade. But the 1972 Field Day was the apex of Field Days during that decade.

Thom Peluso, KF3V was very active in many areas of the hobby. At one point he made several ham contacts with "Jonestown" in Guyana – the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project of Jim Jones. He made multiple contacts with many people there, including Jim Jones. On another occasion, he was approached by people affiliated with a church in Aliquippa who were interested in ham radio as a means to talk to their missionaries in various parts of the world.

NEXT TIME

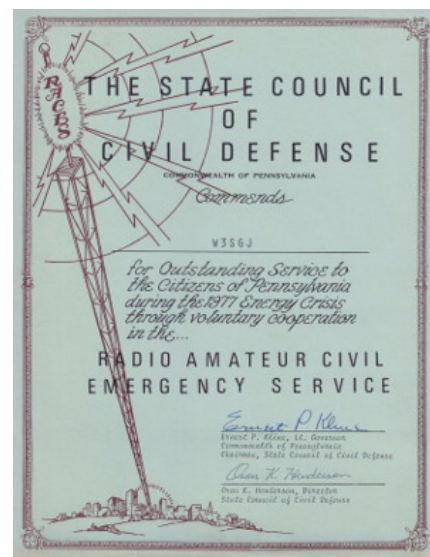
Next time we'll move ahead to the 1980s and continue our journey as

PUBLIC SERVICE



School Superintendents communicate with Harrisburg via K3VYY and the Civil Defense Network during an the energy crisis in Jan 1977

we follow the middle history of the BVARA. We'll look at what was happening around the globe and locally during the 1980s. The continued expansion of the two clubs with the gradual destruction of the camaraderie between the diverging clubs was not pretty. Stay tuned! ➔



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Award for efforts during the 1977 energy crisis



Paul Herter, Sr., W3PZC operating Field Day from his truck



ARRL National Certificate of Merit after Hurricane Agnes

THE HISTORY OF WR3AAA

By Dick Hanna, K3VYY

Since 1972, when WR3AAA went on the air, many members have been added to the BVAFMA. The purpose of this article is to familiarize some of our newer members with the history and development of our repeater.

Two-meter FM really had its beginning during Hurricane Agnes in the Beaver Valley. There was no repeater in our vicinity and only a few FM rigs at that time. Most of you probably don't remember when 146.94 was the ONLY frequency in use! But several rigs were put to very good use, and several individuals began to see the advantages of a repeater.

Repeaters did start to pop up in the area. There was a 34-94 repeater put on in Pittsburgh (W3BNO) and W8IOO had a repeater on WKBN's radio tower in Youngstown. It occupied 16-76 and had fantastic coverage. 28-88 appeared in Pittsburgh and pretty

soon everyone was talking repeaters.

In the Fall of 1972, three individuals brought the subject before the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association. They were Ken Riggle, W3FCQ, Jerry Williamson, WA3SXQ, and Dick Hanna, K3VYY. After much discussion and no action the subject was tabled.

It was then decided to get all interested persons together and form a new group for the purpose of building and running a repeater. In late 1972 several individuals met at the home of Bob McClain, W3VRZ, to lay the groundwork for what was to become WR3AAA.

Several basic criteria were set forth for construction of the repeater. They were: (1) good coverage of Beaver County; (2) repeater should have an emergency power source; (3) become operational as soon as possible -- keep it basic. Several

sites were considered, and the Freedom Valvoline tower on Mengel Heights was the final choice. Antennas were put on the tower in January with about a 40 MPH wind blowing, and the repeater first went into operation in about mid-February. There was no duplexer (two separate antennas were used) and audio was sampled from the speaker and fed to the mic input of the transmitter. It was a pretty hay-wired mess, but it worked after a fashion. We had no license but there weren't really any rules governing repeaters anyway. So there it was -- our own repeater.

It wasn't long before the FCC solved the rules problem -- They released their now famous "Repeater Docket." At first look, it was about as complicated as a commercial license. K3VYY undertook the project of licensing the repeater. One form 610-B, two form 610's, about ten sheets of

typewritten paper and a half-dozen quadrangle maps later, the whole mess was sent in a big envelope to the FCC to see if we could get a license.

The "long wait" began. Meanwhile the repeater was on only for "experimental purposes." That was a nice way of saying we were bootlegging. The waiting was becoming unbearable. QST reported that most applications were being sent back because of errors and still we heard nothing. Was no news good news? In early March the frustration was too much and K3VYY called then-Congressman Frank Clark for help and help we got! In late March WR3AAA was licensed. It was the first repeater in the third call area and the third license issued in the country.

Now that we had the license, we had to ID the darn thing. That was solved with a \$15.00 cassette player and a \$6.00 continuous loop cassette tape. It was actually funny to hear the tape start in the middle of an ID. Well, you can't win them all.

We were still holding sporadic meetings at the home of W3VRZ, but now we were known as the "Beaver Machine" (we probably started the whole "handle" mess on CB). It was really nice to be referred to as "Triple A." We were a proud bunch. We went from conception to inception in about six months. A lot of hard work and



Proudly reviewing their new Repeater license are Bob McClain - W3VRZ, Dick Hanna - K3VYY, Chester Calvin - WA3LJS, and Kenny Riggle - W3FCQ as they stand in front of the 300-foot Valvolene Tower in Freedom, PA

planning paid off.

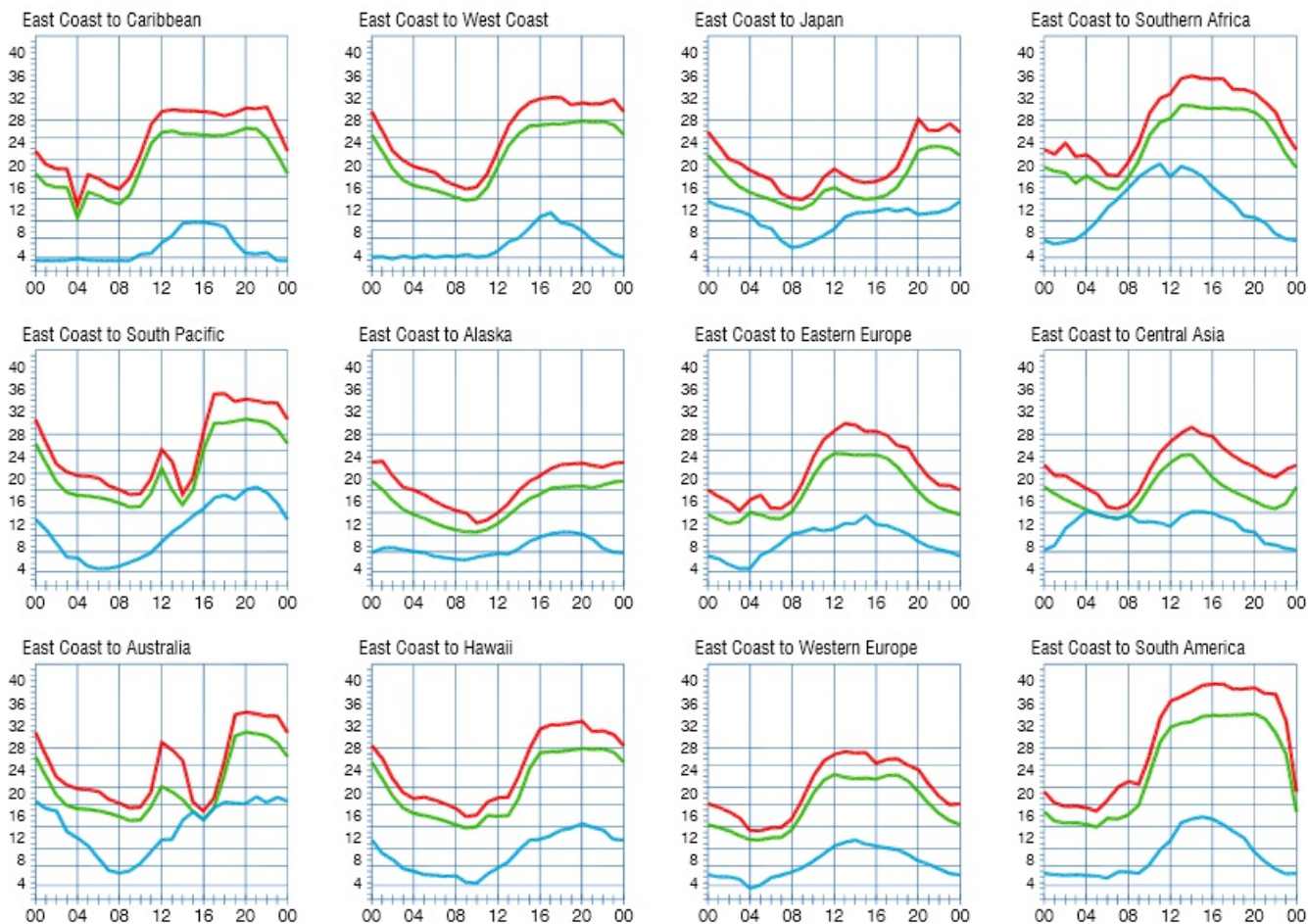
More members joined the organization, regular meetings were held and as money came in improvements were made. We never had much money hanging around in the treasury and we even got away with spending money we didn't have a couple of times.

We have come to expect the repeater to be there when we want

to use it. It has become a valuable asset to us hams. The next time you use it remember that a lot of dreams, a lot of hours, and a lot of money made "Triple A" possible. Please support your repeater. It takes money and time to keep it operating. It just didn't happen to be there and if each of us doesn't do his or her share it could disappear tomorrow. ➔

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 September 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

September 12
October 10
November 14
December 7 - **BVARA Christmas Party**

2014

January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
August - **No meeting (Corn Roast, Date TBA)**

QSL CARD
Special 90th Anniversary Edition



NEXT MONTH

OCTOBER 2013

THE EIGHTIES

We near the end of our journey as we
continue our trek through the history
of the BVARA

IMAGE: WALKERARTCENTER.ORG