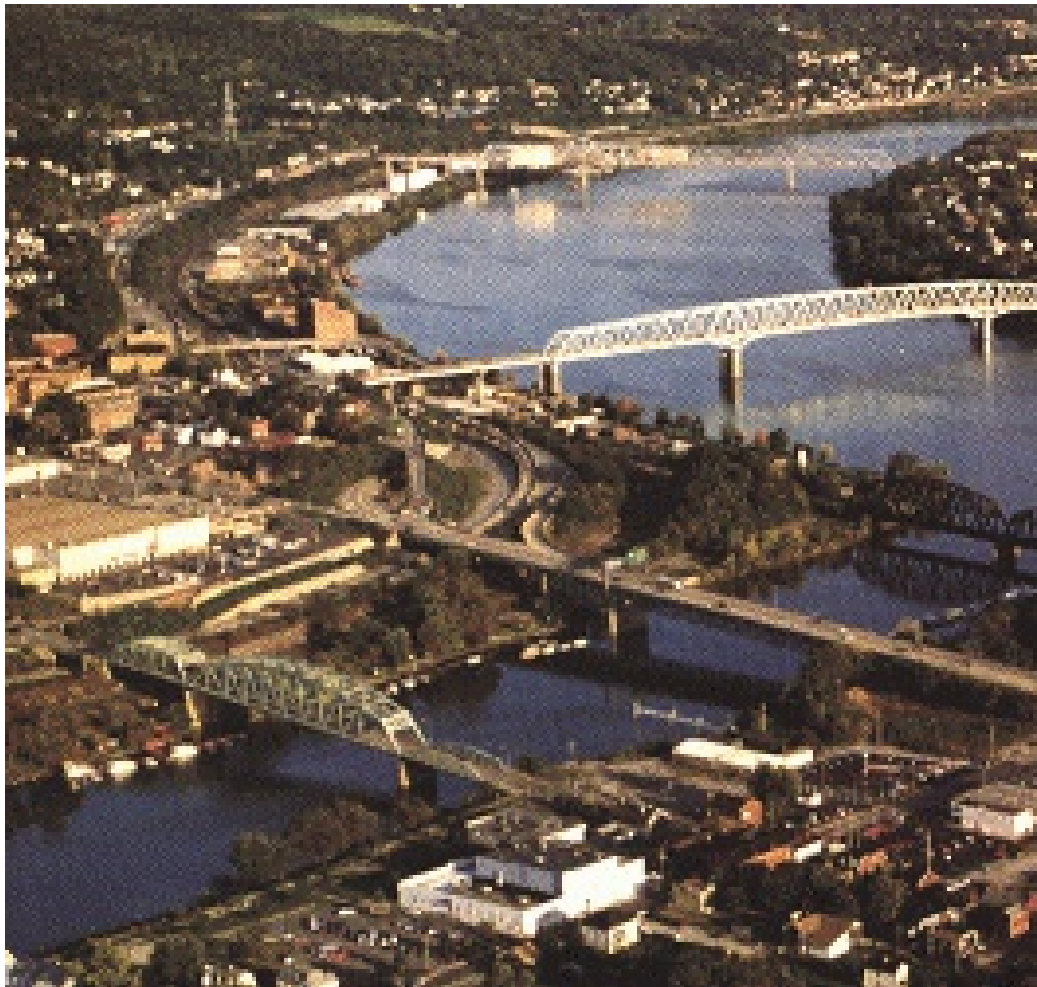


THE eQRM



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

February 2016

THE eQRM

On the Cover : This is a picture of the Beaver River as it empties into the Ohio River. Beaver County has many bridges connecting our communities.

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CHECK IN TO THE NETS

Wednesday 2 Meter

Wednesday 10 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz pl 131.8

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2016. All material presented in this publication is not necessarily the views of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), BVARA, or members of the said organizations. If you would like to contact the editor of the eQRM, please email David at kc3bxc.73@gmail.com. Please visit us online at www.W3SGJ.org. To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php



45th ANNUAL HAMFEST

an A.R.R.L. approved hamfest

Sunday April 24, 2016 8 am – 2 pm

Our 13th Year at: The Spectrum – 6001 Smithfield St. – Boston, PA 15135

GPS Coordinates: 40.3175128, -79.8146132

(Location: Pittsburgh, PA Southern Suburbs)

The location is off of PA Route 48 near the city of McKeesport, Pa.

Landmarks are Boston Bridge, Youghiogheny River, Great Allegheny Passage Bike & Walking Trails

Talk In: 146.73 MHz Repeater – Mobile Check in: 146.52 MHz

**** 8 ft. Exhibitor Tables \$10.00 each ****

Reservations Only Phone: 724-242-5347 -- Email: "n3lqc@comcast.net"

Admission \$5.00

**** Main Prizes ****

Yaesu FTDX-1200 HF/6M Transceiver

Icom ID-880H Vhf/Uhf Digital Transceiver

MFJ 259C Antenna Analyzer

MFJ 4245 MV 45 Amp Switching Power Supply

**** Hourly Door Prizes: Dual Band Handy Talky FM Transceivers ****

**** Amateur Exam Testing Available ****

Registration: 412-751-9657 -- Email: "veteam@trarc.net"

****Hot Breakfast & Lunch Available****

More Information at: <http://www.trarc.net>

Bulletins

Hamfests & General Announcements

12th Annual - Tri State Radio Fest SUNDAY April 17th 2016

Location - Center Stage Banquet Hall

1495 Old Broadhead Rd. Monaca, Pa. 15061
near the border of Pennsylvania & Ohio - see directions below

Flea Market Dealer set up 6:30AM to 8:30AM
Flea Market sales : 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Auction check in your items 9:00AM to 12:00 noon



Contest Display theme - "Crosley Radios" (Antique/Vintage - no reproductions)
Please consider bringing something to show off and compete for prizes.
Door Prize Drawings Through the AM with the main prize at ~11:30 AM.
Auction - Starts at 12:00 Noon
AUCTIONEER - Cledis Estes <http://www.cledisestesauctionsii.com/>
Please check out the Estes link above for his auctions in the Akron Ohio area.
Note that Cledis and his crew are donating their time to this TSRF event!
THANK YOU Cledis and company!
All proceeds go to the supporting clubs to offset the cost of the event.

Sponsored by:
Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society
Buckeye Antique Radio and Phonograph Club
For information: (www.pittantiqueradios.org)
Chris Wells phone 724 942 1113
(radioactive55man@comcast.net)
Andy Manko 412 884 6194
Tom Dixon phone 412 343 5326



This Month

BVARA Club Feature Presentation:



**This Month's
Speaker :**
Dick Hanna K3VYY



Topic :
Amelia Earhart

Including:
Her disappearance, the radios used, the antennas, and the messages.
This is a presentation you won't want to miss!

Dick's Background:
He is semi-retired, has been a ham since 1962 with an extra class license. He enjoys working with "boatanchor" radios as well as new digital technology.



More this Month

VE TEST SESSIONS

Beaver County Emergency Services Center

351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

Tests begin promptly at 5 pm, April 14, 2016.

All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash, check, or money order.

For more information, contact :

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

(724) 847-0610

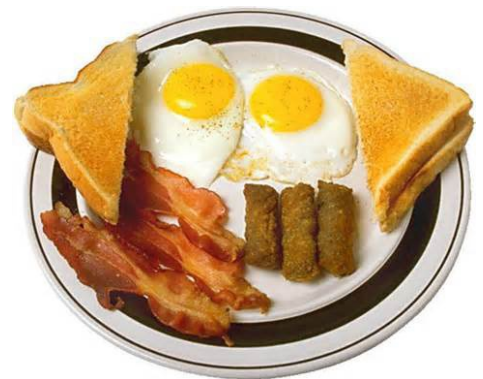
k3som@arrl.net



WEEKLY

Thursday Morning Breakfast

The BVARA meets every Thursday at Steak 'n Shake in Center Township, by the Beaver Valley Mall, at 10:00 AM. All radio amateurs are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

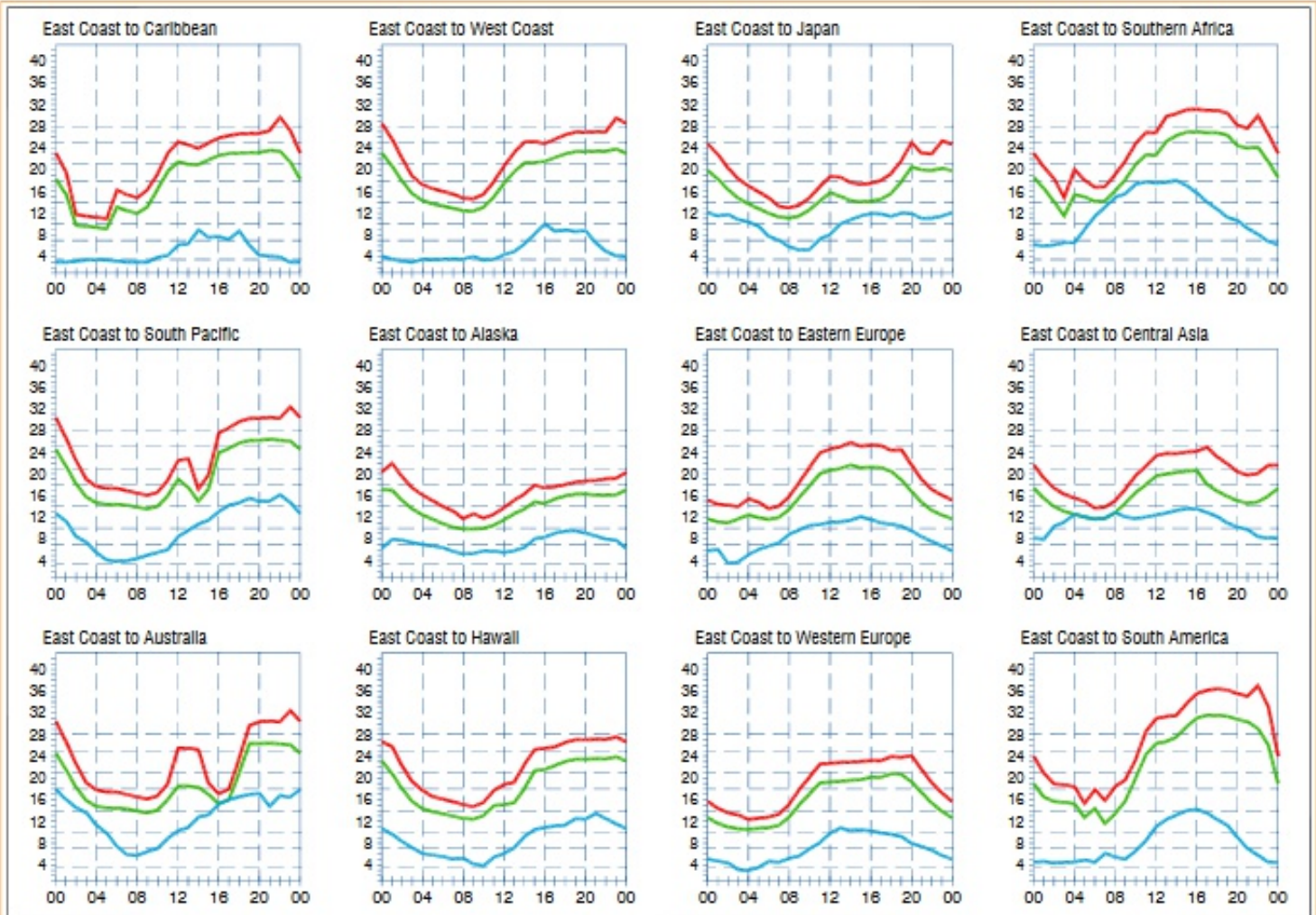


See you Thursday at



Propagation Charts

From the ARRL



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of April for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 80% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1500-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 QST, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 QST, pp 84-86, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 94. This is a Medium level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed above is for April 2016. 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>

RACES / ARES

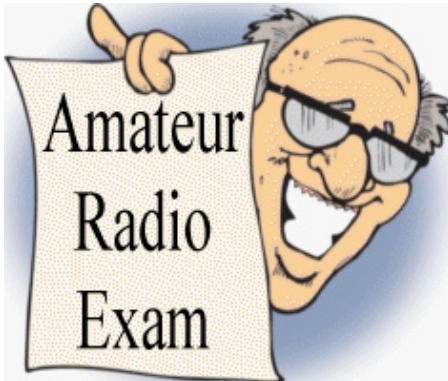
eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate

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)

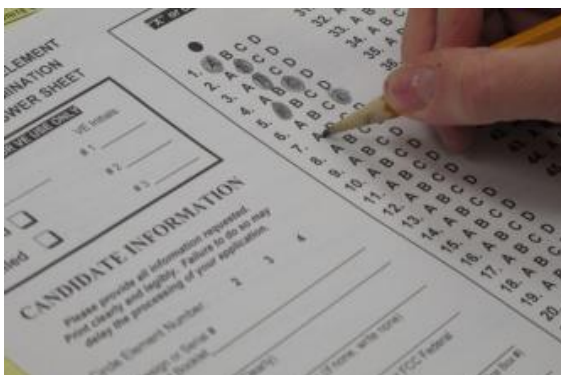


New License and Upgrades BVARA VE Testing



Congratulations!

Tom Boles - KC3GVC from Wexford, PA passed his Technician Class exam at our March testing session.



Who We Are

Membership Information and Club Officers



2015 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dick Hanna,
K3VYY

2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

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 Services Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
on the second Thursday of every
month (unless otherwise stated).

MEETING DATES 2016

Apr 14

May 12

Jun 09

Jul 14

Aug no meeting

Corn Roast Aug 20th

Sep 08

Oct 13

Nov 10

Dec no meeting

Christmas Party Dec 03



Beaver County

W3SGJ

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 424
South Heights, PA 15081, USA

ITU 8, CQ 5, Grid EN90ur, Beaver County

Technical Information



DIY stray RF remover:

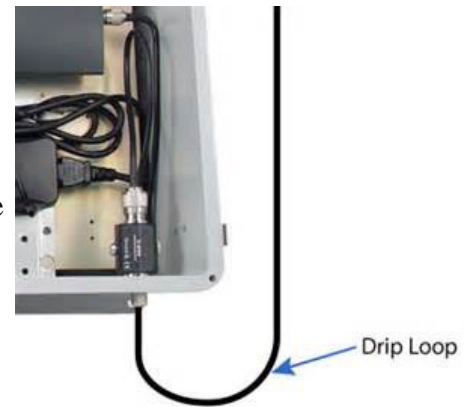
If you have stray RF getting back down your transmission line into your Ham Shack, here is a simple do-it-yourself fix. Forget the balun, SWR tuning and any other traditionally proven methods. This is very simple and works very well. You will need a paint brush, a bucket and some dishwashing soap. Fill the bucket half full with dishwashing liquid and use the paint brush to generously apply the soap to your transmission line. Ensure the entire line is covered.

to generously apply the soap to your transmission line. Ensure the entire line is covered.

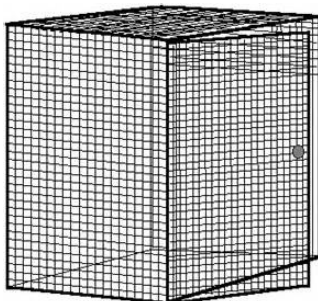


Put a drip loop in the transmission line before it enters your shack. Be careful not to have the transmission line touching any obstacles that could hinder the stray RF from flowing to the drip loop. Place a bucket directly under the drip loop to catch the stray RF as it drips.

You can get an idea of the frequency of the stray RF by its color. Low frequency stray RF is almost clear. Stray Vhf is dark and Uhf is so dark it is chocolate color.



Take extreme care handling the bucket of stray RF. If you were transmitting with over one hundred watts, the stray RF can be quite powerful! If you were transmitting with a kilowatt it will be too powerful to experiment with.



Faraday cage

You will want to safely pour out this powerful stray RF into a Faraday cage that is on the ground in a highly conductive area. The wearing of rubber gloves is highly recommended. Rubber soled shoes should be worn also.

Stray RF collected this way is very volatile. It has an exceptionally peculiar shelf life. It only works on April first...

KC3BXC

Bits and Pieces



I was surfing the net and came across an interesting story about some of the first women in Ham radio. This story is about one remarkable young woman who passed away in 1990. I would liked to have met her and asked her more questions. I find this story fun to read. I share it with you.

At just fifteen years old, Gladys Kathleen Parkin (1901-1990) received her professional ham radio license. Basically, this makes her unique and pretty darn smart, considering that she'd had her amateur radio license since age nine. She was featured on the cover of *The Electrical Experimenter*, and at the time was the "youngest successful female applicant for a radio license ever examined by the Government at that time," according to a 1916 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Parkin began her hobby at age five with her brother, and was the first woman in California to pass the first-class radio license.

Parkin's call sign was 6SO, and she spent her life in the radio industry, developing a reputation for building her own equipment. Here she is, quoted in *The Electrical Experimenter*: "With reference to my ideas about the wireless profession as a vocation or worthwhile hobby for women, I think wireless telegraphy is a most fascinating study, and one which could very easily be taken up by girls, as it is a great deal more interesting than the telephone and telegraph work, in which so many girls are now employed. I am only fifteen. ... But the interest in wireless does not end in the knowledge of the code. You can gradually learn to make all your own instruments, as I have done with my ¼ kilowatt set. There is always more ahead of you, as wireless telegraphy is still in its infancy."



Today her statement is still true, there is "always more ahead of you." As a Ham operator, get into something new. Try some new facet of your Amateur Radio Hobby...

As always my motto is... Safety! Safety!Safety!

Radio Sport

- April 2016 Contests -

2016 April SSB Rookie Roundup

This Rookie Roundup will be Sunday, April 17, using SSB. This is a great way to try out contesting in an event designed for newcomers. Hope to work you then! To pre-register teams or submit your score after the event, please visit the Rookie Roundup page hosted by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

"Old Timers" should also take note of this event. Consider opening your station up to a rookie (or two) and become an elmer. Remember, the more operators are on the air, the more fun the 'Roundup will be for everyone.

Be sure to read the rules before the event. It is also helpful to be familiar with the logging and submission processes ahead of time. Please browse the information and tips on operating the Rookie Roundup. We hope to hear you on the air!

For more information go to the ARRL web site with the Keywords: "contest calendar"

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Radio Sport

Contest Corral – April 2016

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2 0000	3 2359	21	15 Meter SSTV Dash Contest	SSTV	RSV, mbr or serial	contests.wsstvc.org/rules
2 0400	2 0800	7	LZ Open 40 Meter Sprint Contest	CW	Your serial, serial from previous QSO	lzopen.com/zooco40/indexF.htm
2 1400	3 0200	3.5-UHF	Mississippi QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.arrlmiss.org
2 1400	3 2000	1.8-UHF	Missouri QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party.htm
2 1500	3 1500	1.8-28	SP DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), SP province or serial	www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl
2 1600	3 1600	3.5-28	EA RTTY Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es/en/earthy/bases
3 0000	3 0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
3 0600	3 1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6 Meter	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA section (if any)	www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules
3 1900	3 2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo SSB	Ph	RST, previous 6-ch grid received	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
4 1900	4 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter CW Club Championship	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
5 0100	5 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02
6 2000	6 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	Ph	4-ch grid square	www.ukeicc.com
7 1700	7 2000	3.5	SARL 80 Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid square	www.sarl.org.za
7 1800	7 2200	28	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-ch grid square	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
9 0700	10 1300	1.8-28	JIDX CW Contest	CW	RST, Prefecture or CQ zone	www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
9 1000	10 0400	14	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors	Dig	SPC, mbr or name	www.podxs070.com
9 1200	10 1200	1.8-28	OKOM DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, district code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
9 1200	10 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9 1400	10 0200	1.8-50	New Mexico QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.newmexicoqso.org
9 1800	10 2359	1.8-50	Georgia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RST, county or SPC	www.georgiaqso.org
9 2100	10 2100	1.8-28, Sat	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW	RST, ITU zone	gc.qst.ru/en/section/32
10 1200	10 1800	3.5-7	International Vintage Contest HF	CW Ph	RS(T), 4-ch grid square	contestvintage.beepworld.it
10 1500	10 1700	3.5	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, serial, power code	hskc.ha8kux.com
11 1900	11 2300	144	144 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-ch grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
13 0030	13 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info/sprint201604.html
13 1900	13 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter SSB Club Championship	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
15 2100	16 2100	1.8-28	Holyland DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), area or serial	iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest
16 0000	16 2359	1.8-50	TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Test	Dig	Name, prefix	www.n2ty.org
16 0500	16 0859	3.5-7	ES Open HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.erau.ee
16 0600	17 0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China	CW Ph	RS(T), province or serial	www.mulandxc.org/331
16 1200	17 2359	3.5-28	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Test	CW	RST, continent, category	www.cqmdx.com/rules
16 1400	17 2300	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm
16 1600	17 0400	3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, county or SPC	www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
16 1700	17 1300	3.5-28	EA-QRP CW Contest	CW	RST, category, "M" if member	www.eaqrp.com/index.php
16 1800	17 1800	1.8-144	Ontario QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm
16 1800	17 1800	1.8-144	North Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	w0nd.com/ndqso15.pdf
16 2000	16 2359	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr (if any), SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
16 2100	17 1700	1.8-28	YU DX Contest	CW	RST, serial	yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2015/rules.html
17 1200	17 2000	3.5-14	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	Dig	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/Contests.php
17 1800	17 2359	3.5-50	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Ph	Name, year licensed, SPC	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
18 0100	18 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	fqrp.org/pigrun
19 1900	19 2300	222	222 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-ch grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
21 1900	21 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Data Club Championship	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
23 0001	24 2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0"	www.ten-ten.org
23 1200	24 1200	3.5-28	SP DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, province or serial	pkrv.org/strona,spdxrttyen.html
23 1300	24 1259	1.8-28	Helvetia Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, Canton (if any)	uska.ch/agenda
24 1700	24 2100	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	www.bartg.org.uk
27 0000	27 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
27 1900	27 2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-ch grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
27 2000	27 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	CW	4-ch grid square	www.ukeicc.com
30 1200	1 1159	1.8-28	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST(Q), Oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
30 1600	1 2159	7-28	Florida QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.floridaqso.org

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.

No contest activity occurs on the 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. The ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column.

Some Interesting Links

Amateur Radio Stack Exchange Q&A blog <http://ham.stackexchange.com/>

Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers <http://radio-astronomy.org/>

Contact the International Space Station <http://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>

Amateur Radio History and Licensing <http://www.ac6v.com/history.htm>

National World War I Museum and Memorial with amateur radio <https://www.theworldwar.org/amateurradio>

The Christian Amateur Radio Fellowship (CARF) <http://www.carf.net/>

Webopedia ham radio http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/H/ham_radio.html

Amateur Radio Newslines Report <http://www.arnewslines.org/>

Dr. Tamitha Skov Space Weather <http://spaceweather.tv/category/amateur-radio-resources/>
for Radio Amateurs



The Amateur's Code

CONSIDERATE ...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL ...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE ...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY ...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED ...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC ...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

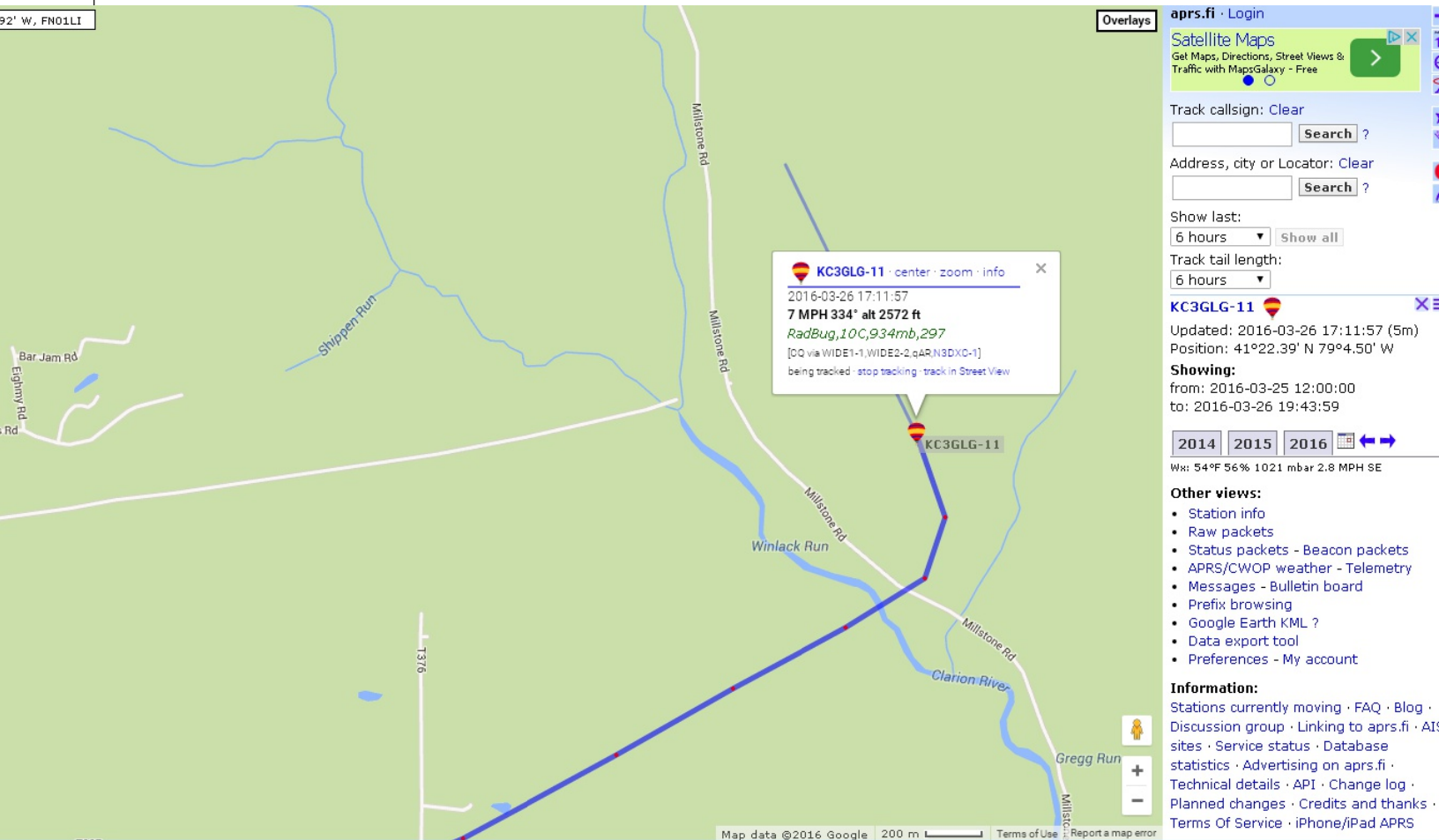
Perseus Project High-Altitude Balloon Flight

BVARA Members Track a High-Altitude Balloon Flight



A number of BVARA club members tracked the high-altitude balloon launch last Saturday, March 26th by CMU students who had taken their Technician exams with the BVARA club in February of this year. Screenshots of their tracking data that were transmitted via APRS and some corresponding Google tracking maps are shown from their APRS data. With this first balloon launch of their Perseus Project, our club members recorded that their balloon reached an altitude of 105,903 feet and measured a barometric pressure as low as 8 millibars. Lowest temperature measured was -53.2 degrees Celsius. Launch began just East of Columbus and ended in the Allegheny National Forest.

Perseus Project High-Altitude Balloon Flight



The balloon's track just after launch

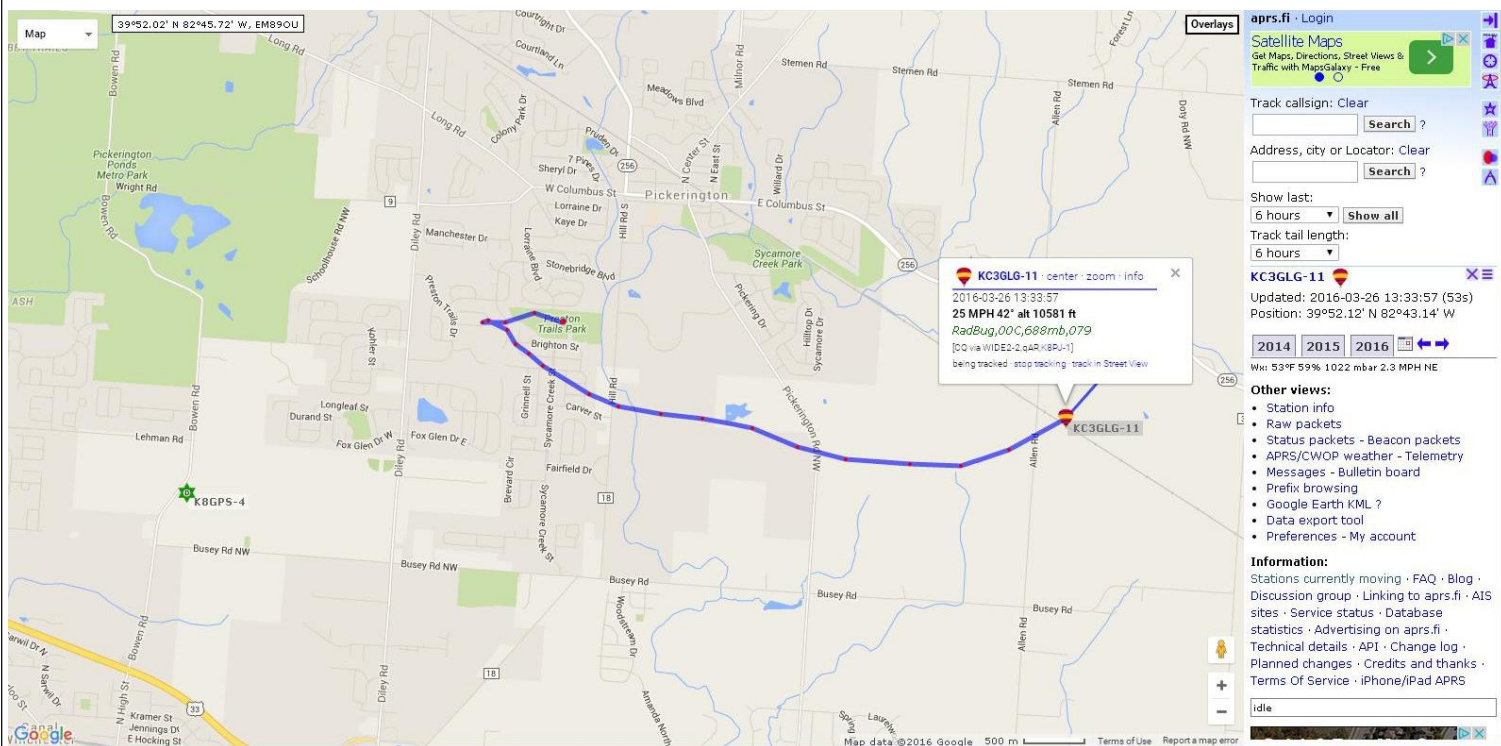
```
2016-03-26 13:13:57 EDT:
KC3GLG-11>CQ,WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2,qAR,K8GFS-4: !3952.52N/08245.89W032
6/002/A=000820RadBug,14C,989mb,059
type: location
format: uncompressed
srccallsign: KC3GLG-11
dstcallsign: CQ
latitude: 39.87533333333333 °
longitude: -82.76483333333333 °
course: 326 °
speed: 3.704 km/h
altitude: 249.936 m
symboltable: /
symbolcode: 0
messaging: 0
posresolution: 18.52 m
posambiguity: 0
comment: RadBug,14C,989mb,059
```

A typical APRS data packet

Perseus Project High-Altitude Balloon Flight

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is an amateur radio-based system for real time tactical digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area. In addition, all such data are ingested into the APRS Internet System (APRS-IS) and distributed globally for other access. Along with messages, alerts, announcements, and bulletins, the most visible aspect of APRS is its map display. Anyone may place any object or information on their map, and it is distributed to all maps of all users in the local RF network or monitoring the area via the Internet. Any station, radio, or object that has an attached GPS is automatically tracked. Other prominent map features are weather stations, alerts and objects and other map-related amateur radio volunteer activities including Search and Rescue and signal direction finding.

For more details about the Perseus Project, please see the March 2016 issue of eQRM. We look forward to future balloon launches from the Perseus Project Team with additional opportunities to follow their progress!



For BVARA Members Only



The Tri State Radio Fest SUNDAY April 17th 2016 :

The BVARA Club will have a table set up at this Radio Fest. Contact a Club officer if you would like to display or sell some radio related item(s).

Membership Dues :

Membership dues are past due. Please come to the 14 April BVARA Club meeting or see one of the Club Officers to get your 2016 membership up to date.

