

THE eQRM

JANUARY 2017



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

On the cover:

The Beaver Valley has had a mild winter so far. Things will change as winter moves on. Photo from Yahoo images.

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8

Wednesday 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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Who We Are

2017 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Mark Kavic, KB3LED

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 PM.

Regular meetings are at 6:30 PM

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).



2017 MEETING DATES

Jan 12

Feb 09

Mar 09

Apr 13

May 11

Jun 08

Jul 14

Aug Corn Roast TBA



This Month

BVARA Club Feature Presentation:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:

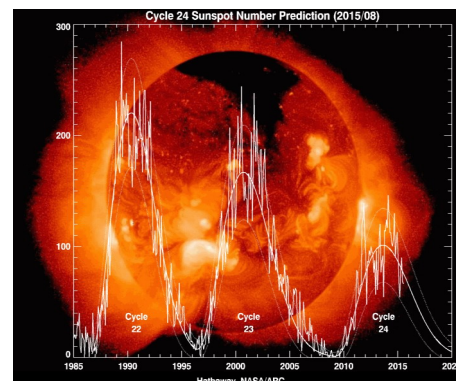
Communications During a Declining Solar Cycle

Including:

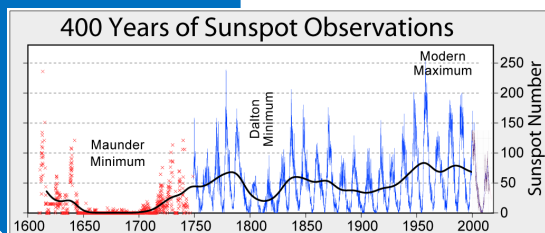
Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month deals with approaches that hams may find very helpful in continuing to make radio contacts during this period of declining propagation and difficult band conditions. We'll first look at the history of events as we now know them and attempt to determine what factors are relevant to unraveling a solution to a very complex condition for which we must face for the next several years.

Looking at techniques that were used during the previous solar minimums combined with reviewing recent research in not only solar activity but also in propagation predictions, can help us to develop a pattern of actions that we can take based on the latest daily data that become available to us. At times our approaches may appear crude and doomed to failure by the standards of 100 years into the future. But if you stop running in a race, you can never win that race. DX and friends are out there; we need to continue with our race to success. What we learn in the process has the potential to make each of us the communications gurus of tomorrow.

But wait, there's more! We'll look at how our equipment may need scrutiny and what modes that we should be using to support our new ideas about making contacts under difficult conditions. Instead of always listening on a 'dead' band, maybe calling CQ several times will result in contacts because we may be the only one calling CQ! Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ham, bring your ideas and success stories to the meeting because this is one exciting presentation that you won't want to miss.



Sun with the solar cycle overlay courtesy of NASA/MSFC. Sunspot Observations The Solar Cycle by David H. Hathaway, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, 2010.



Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE,
B.S. Electrical Engineering

More this Month

Weekly

The Freedom Square Diner in Monaca has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)



The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:45 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

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)

See you Thursday at

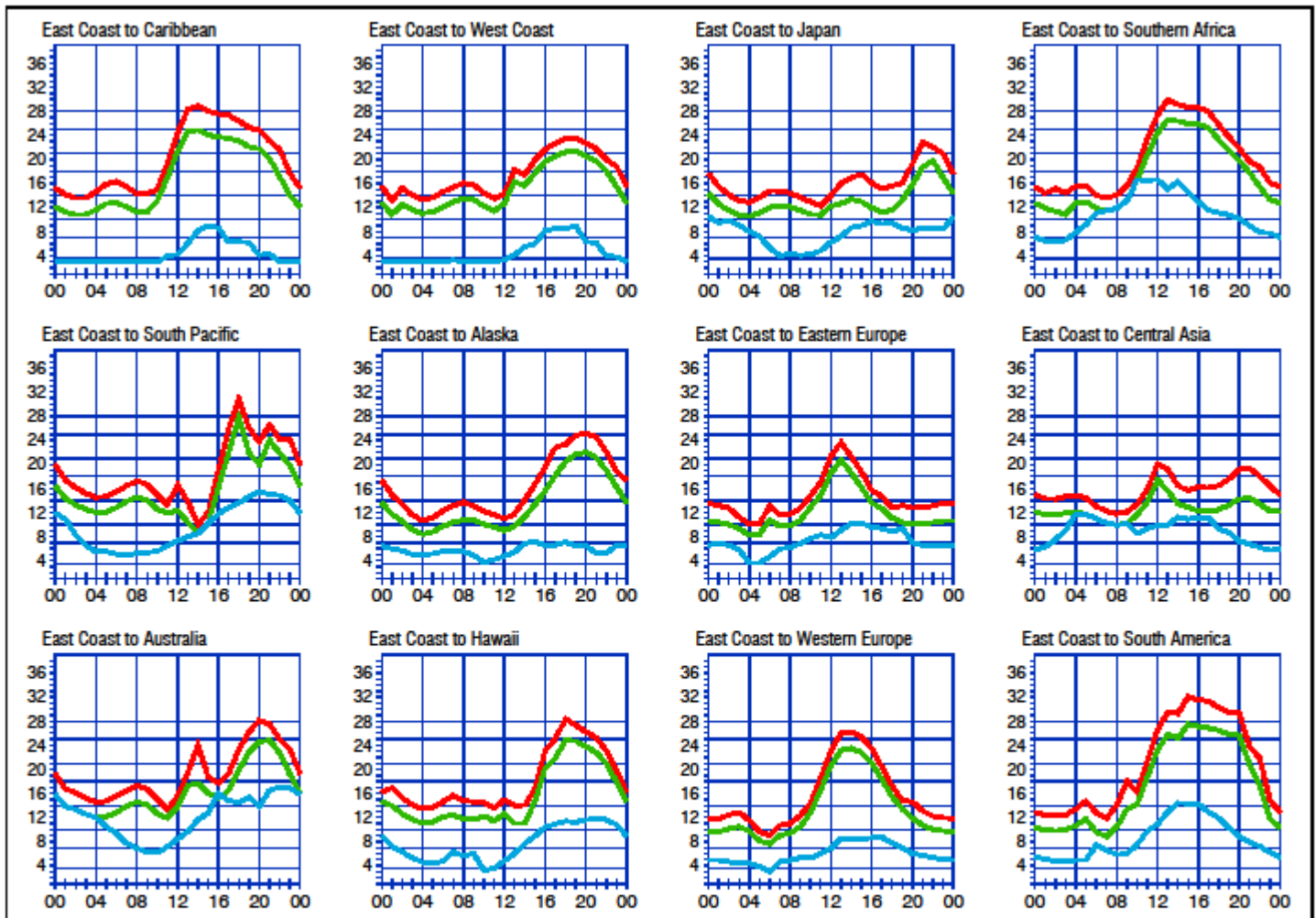


RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



Propagation



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of **January** 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 (HFF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% 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 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 78. This is a Very Low level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on *The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM*.

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for December 2016.

If you would like more information in general, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/propagation>

Get your License or Upgrade

If you are interested in getting your first FCC license or upgrading your current amateur radio license, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association holds VE Test sessions (Volunteer Examinations) the second Thursday of each month at the Nine One One center in Ambridge Pennsylvania prior to our BVARA Club meeting. If there is no meeting there is no test session. Please come take your test with us!



For more information, contact :
Rich Soltesz, K3SOM
(724) 847-0610
k3som@arrl.net

VE TEST SESSIONS

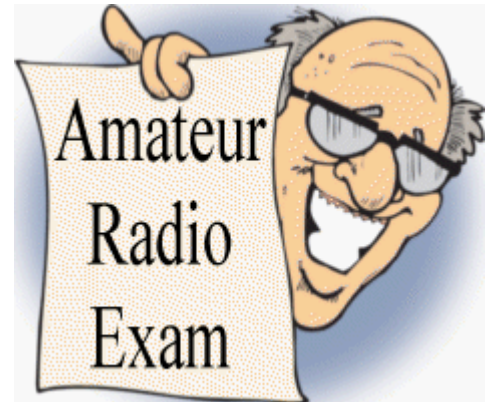
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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.

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

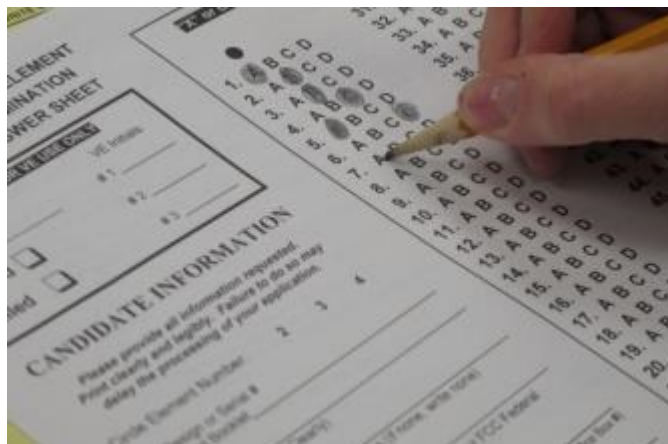


We had our BVARA Club Christmas Party with 29 attendees so there were no ham exams for the month of December.

(see our web page for pictures)

<http://www.w3sgj.org/>

Our next test session will be January 12, 2017.



Membership Information

By becoming a BVARA member you help secure the future of Amateur Radio in Beaver County. Additionally, the BVARA receives a portion of each ARRL

membership you purchase!

Join the BVARA and ARRL

Sign up for:	Price	
<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"/> BVARA Child under 21 at home membership	5.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> One year ARRL membership	49.00	_____
A Club Donation		_____
ARRL Member? Yes No	Total Enclosed	_____

Your License Class (If you have one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Technician	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Class	Email _____
	Phone _____
	Your Call sign _____
	Your Signature _____

Make check or money order payable to:

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424

South Heights, Pa 15081

Yesssssss...



Yes! I waited and there is a February Hamfest here in Western Pennsylvania.

02/26/2017 Washfest 2017
South Park Township, PA
South Hills Radio Club



*Home Economics Building
3735 Buffalo Drive
South Park Township, PA*

Contest Corral – January 2017

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
1 0000	1 0100	3.5	AGB New Year Snowball Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr or serial	www.qsl.net/eur1eul/agh_nysb.htm
1 0800	1 1100	3.5-7	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, name, "happy new year" in native language	sartg.com/contest/tryrules.htm
1 0900	1 1200	3.5-14	AGCW Happy New Year Contest	CW	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	www.agcw.org/index.php/en/
1 1400	1 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid	www.agcw.org/index.php/en/
3 0200	3 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqp.blogspot.com
4 2000	4 2100	3.5	UKIICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	www.ukiicc.com
7 0000	7 2359	3.5-28	PODXS c70 Club PSK-Fast	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
7 1200	8 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
7 1200	8 1200	3.5-28	WW PMC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PMC abbreviation or CQ zone	www.w59dod.si/en/10
7 1500	8 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	www.qrpcc.de
7 1800	8 2359	3.5-28	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Dig	WVE: RST, SPC. Non WVE: RST, serial	www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
7 1800	7 2359	3.5-144, WARC bands (except 30 meters)	Kids Day Contest	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	www.arrl.org/kids-day
7 2000	8 0700	1.8	EUCW 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, name, club and mbr (or "NM")	www.euocw.org/eur160.html
8 0900	8 1059	28	DARC 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, DOK (if any)	darc.de/infometa/dx/contest
11 2300	15 2300	1.8-7	AWA Linc Cundall Memorial	CW	RST, equipment year, power	www.anticwiresless.org
14 0500	14 0900	3.5-28	Old New Year Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), sum of operator age and years on the air	www.radio.ru/q/
14 1200	15 1200	3.5-28	UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	Dig	RSQ, serial (starting with 1001)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
14 1800	15 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	NA: Name, SPC. Non-NA: Name	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
15 0630	15 0830	3.5-7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, 2-letter region	www.nrau.net
15 0900	15 1100	3.5-7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, 2-letter region	www.nrau.net
16 0200	16 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
19 0130	19 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
20 1800	20 2200	3.5-7	LZ Open Contest	CW	Serial, serial received from last QSO	www.lzopen.com
21 1200	22 1159	1.8-28	Hungarian DX Contest	CW Ph	HA: RS(T), county or mbr. Non-HA: RS(T), serial	www.ha-dx.com/HADX
21 1800	22 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	NA: Name, SPC. Non-NA: Name	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
21 1900	23 0359	50 and up	ARRL January VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrl.org/january-vhf
21 1900	22 2300	1.8	WAB 1.8 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.internip.net
21 2000	22 0559	1.8-7	Feld Hall Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhallclub
25 0000	25 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
25 0130	25 0330	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
25 2000	25 2100	3.5	UKIICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukiicc.com
27 2200	29 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	CW	WVE: RST, DX: RST, CQ Zone	www.cq160.com/rules.htm
28 0000	28 2359	1.8-432	Montana QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	fvarc.org
28 0600	29 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, CW	CW	RST, Department or serial	concours.ref-union.org
28 1200	29 1200	3.5-28	BARTG RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial	www.bartg.org.uk
28 1300	29 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, province (if any)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
28 1900	29 1900	All	Winter Field Day	CW Ph Dig	Category, ARRL Section or "DX"	winterfieldday.com/rules.html

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.

Bits and Pieces

I am always on the hunt for an idea that will add to the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association monthly newsletter. I was trying to come up with a way to get to know the members of Club better. I think this next paragraph will help.

This month I have added a new page I call "Interview with a Ham". I think this is going to be great fun each month. This will be an opportunity for me to get to know my fellow members of the BVARA. By personally interviewing them, I get to know them

better. My first interview was with Bob Croft. I met Bob at a Club breakfast on a Thursday morning about two years ago. Bob made it easy for me to talk to him. I had had my amateur radio license only a few months, Bob kindly welcomed me to the Club. Since Bob was easy for me to talk to then, I figured he would make my first interview easy too. It was! Bob and I talked about more than just the questions I had written for the interview. I feel I know him a little better now. This is a facet of my Ham Radio hobby I could not have foreseen. This is almost another way of radio operation. I look forward to the next interview. I hope you do too.



For the year of 2017, I am planning to add a page about some interesting side story that goes along with Amateur Radio. I would like to do this each month for the next year. For the month of February, Solar heating the shack maybe...

This page would not be complete if I skipped my usual safety encouragement. Please be mindful when you are enjoying this amateur radio hobby. Stop, stand back and consider if what you are about to do is safe. Is there a safer way? Can you minimize the risk? Enjoy your radio hobby to the fullest and be safe.

This little 'tidbit' just in, some BVARA club members are talking about participating in the Winter Field Day event on January 28th-29th. Stay tuned to our nets (See page 2) for the latest news!

Till next month 73.



Interview with a Ham

Name : Bob Croft

Call sign and license class: KB3RHN, General Class

Year of first FCC License : 1980s, lapsed license, retested, relicensed 2002

Did you ever make a crystal radio? Yes, a cat's whisker model

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? Yes, a lot

Did you ever use CB radio? Yes, had the handle of "Slick"

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? Friends, in particular Tom McLane, and his uncle Bob McLane

Did you ever build a Ham Radio? No

What was your first radio? Yaesu 101, D104 mic, purchased radio used, donated it to a Church auction, sold for \$10.00, the purchaser was very happy!

What was your first antenna? Simple Dipole

What is your current antenna & radio? Moxon and Hustler antennas, Yaesu FT DX 3000 transceiver

What is your favorite mode to operate? Phone

Your most memorable contact? There are two, an aircraft carrier, the guy was on a break; an airplane, the group was on a mission to intercept illegal drugs into the United States

What was you most fun contact? A baby doctor from Peru, it was exciting, this was my very first DX

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfest, restoring old radios) Antenna building, don't have much room to put them up at my current QTH

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? No, sounds like fun though

Do you use a logging program? (what is it) Yes, yes I do, a pencil and paper

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? No, don't think so

Do you use automation with your Ham Radio? No, I like things simple

If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why? Maybe fewer nets on the air, more of radio amateurs just talking to one another

Where do you see ham radio in ten years? I think it will be all automated, you will just have a "bug" in your ear

Some Interesting Links



Book “Ham Heros” http://3mpub.com/addabbo/ham_radio_heroes.html

Hammarlund site http://www.ai4fr.com/main/page_ham_radio_hammarlund_hammarlund.html

Hallicrafters site http://www.ai4fr.com/main/page_ham_radio_hallicrafters_hallicrafters.html

Earth at night http://w1hue.org/earthlights2_dmsp_big.jpg

NASA earth observatory <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

NOAA space weather prediction <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

Solar winds <http://umtof.umd.edu/pm/>

For All Radio Operators

Whether at home or



on the road



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.