WHEN TORNADOS STRIKE

PLUS: FIELD DAY RESULTS
THE eQRM
JULY 2012

CHECK IN TO THE NETS!
2 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz

10 Meter
9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

THIS MONTH
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THE COVER:
Original Salt Lake City tornado photo courtesy of wrh.NOAA.gov.
Photograph edited/ dramatized by eQRM

Photo courtesy of blueridgemuse.com.

FEATURES

5 When Tornadoes Strike
North Texas hams play a crucial role in emergency communication

6 Field Day Photos
This year's Field Day at Brady's Run Park

7 Equipment for Sale
The BVARA is offering a variety of used ham equipment for sale, while they last!
**Silent Key**

**James "Bucky" Cottrill, K3LIE**

Age 74, of Dormont, on Thursday, July 5, 2012. Beloved husband of JoAnn; father of Jim, Dan (Carol), and Steve (Kristen) Cottrill; grandfather of Danny, Mike, Kaylee, Casey, Shane, Eddie, Rachel, Dylan, Matthew, and Luke; brother of Judy (Les) Mackey, William (Margaret), Nancy (Robert) Chittister, Thomas (Diane), Sandra (Joseph) Brown, and the late Chester (surviving spouse Pat), David (surviving spouse Janet), and Robert Cottrill; also numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements by

BEINHAUERS. Friends welcome at 2828 Washington Rd., McMurray, 724-941-3211, on Monday 2-8 p.m. where Services will be held Tuesday 11 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Please add or view tributes at: www.beinhauer.com

Send condolences at www.postgazette.com/gb

- From GPVHFS

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**Hamfest**

**Swap N' Shop 2012**

Sunday, Aug. 26
8am - 1pm

Located at 2335 TURKEY RIDGE RD. UPPER BURRELL TWP.

Prizes include:
- MFJ 259 B Antenna Analyzer
- Begali “Sculpture KEY” Signed by Piero and Bruna Begal
- DX Engineering CABLE PREP KIT from Skyview Table
- Door Prizes Every Hour

$3.00 Entrance ---- $5.00 / FLEA MARKET SPACE

**BUY — SELL — TRADE**

ARRL WPA Section Convention
WPA ARES Meeting with ARRL Headquarters Speakers

DIRECTIONS TO SKYVIEW
RADIO SOCIETY
TALK-IN: 146.640 - pl 131.8
GPS=40 31’03” N / 790 40’37” W
Follow the Skyview Signs

Questions and Vendor Pre-registration: AB3ER@ARRL.NET
WWW.SKYVIEWRADIO.NET
Et Cetera
Amateur Radio News, Club Announcements and Speaker Series

HAMFEST
The 11th Annual
2012 NW PA HAMFEST
Hosted by the Wattsburg Wireless Association and the Union City Wireless Association
Saturday, July 14, 2012
Hamfest Opens at 7:30 am!
PRIZES!
Main Prize:
2 Meter/440 Radio
Talk-In Prize:
2 Meter/440 Magnetic Mount Antenna
Entrance Tickets are $5, under 16 years - free. Advanced Tickets are $4.
Tailgating available
Vendors spaces available. Tables prices $5 per table payable in advance.
Tailgating - Vendors - Prizes - Food - Restrooms - Off street parking
Outdoor picnic area & grills - Large playground for kids - VE Exams / Ham Radio License Exams
Talk-in on 146.7000- (CTCSS Tone 186.2)
Make your plans now to attend!

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, July 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: A new set of Technician test questions has started being used on July 1, 2010.
For more information, please contact our VE Test Coordinator:
Chris Moratis, W3OUF
1199 Highland Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003
PHONE: 724-266-2866
cjmoratis@verizon.net

50 YEARS!
The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association would like to congratulate Rich Soltesz, K3SOM on 50 years as an amateur radio operator!
So, what does this ham enjoy? As Rich, K3SOM states on his QRZ profile:
"I was first licensed in 1962 and I enjoy making contacts with people across the world, contesting for fun, field day, designing antennas with software, ragchewing, chasing DX, building equipment and many other aspects of the amateur hobby. Some of my other hobbies include fishing, amateur astronomy, photography, camping, travel and spoiling my six grand children.
With an electrical engineering background, my interest in amateur radio activities lets me continually learn and tinker as new technologies and challenges present themselves."
Again, we congratulate Rich, K3SOM and thank him for his continued dedication to the amateur radio hobby!

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

This Month:
Speakers:
Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:
Field Day Results and Three SDR Activities for You

Including:
Why Field Day Surprised Us, Try an SDR Receiver (Free), Buy Your Own SDR VHF/UHF Receiver for $29, and A Look at the QST Conversion for Older Analog Transceivers

Are you interested in attending? Come to the club meeting on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30PM, held at:
Beaver County Emergency Operations Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

RICH’S BACKGROUND
Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962
Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner (VE)
B.S. Electrical Engineering
Registered Professional Engineer, PA

WEJoe
This Month
Thursday Morning Breakfast
The BVARA meets every Thursday at Rainaldi’s in Center Twp at 10:30 AM. All area amateurs are invited and encouraged to attend the Thursday Morning Breakfast.
On April 3, 2012, perfect conditions conducive to tornado activity converged on North Texas. A slow moving front, combined with abnormally warm temperatures and moist air coming in from the south, produced large hail, numerous funnel clouds, and tornados. As the weather worsened, hams in North Texas activated ARES® and RACES nets. Spotters reported their observations to their local Emergency Operations Center, which acted on that information in a timely manner to inform the public of the approaching storms, giving them time to get to safety. A total of 21 confirmed tornados -- including one EF3 and two EF2 twisters -- swept through the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex during the seven hour storm.

According to ARRL North Texas Section Public Information Coordinator Jim Pope, N5JCP, the region suffered extensive damage, but thanks to the assistance of radio amateurs and trained weather spotters who tracked the storm’s path and passed the information on to local officials who in turn passed the information to the public, there were no fatalities and very few injuries.

Officials in Hunt County -- separated by Rockwall County to the west from Dallas County -- initially told members of the Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association and ARES® that it was not in need of assistance, but that they should continue to monitor the weather. But around 2 PM, the National Weather Service activated the groups and to contact net control on the 147.16 repeater. The ARES® weather net was started just a few minutes later from the City of Commerce’s Emergency Operations Center. “ARES net control broadcasted updates from the National Weather Service as they were received,” Pope told the ARRL. “They also received reports of golf ball size hail. One storm spotter outside of Commerce reported seeing wall cloud and wind gust up to 48 miles per hour. During the storm, hams at the Commerce EOC reported that they could see ‘visible rotation’ from a tornado. All ARES® communications were done via FM phone on the 147.16 repeater in Greenville, Texas (the county seat), with some traffic also being handled on the 147.02 repeater in Commerce and the 146.78 repeater in Greenville.”

According to Pope, Hunt County suffered very little damage, even though an EF2 tornado came through the county. “We have 5 residences that were totally destroyed and nine others with damage, he said, “but no deaths or injuries. A colt, horse and donkey were killed by flying debris. Hunt County was on the tail end of the tornado touch down, which mainly occurred in Rockwall County.”

The Office of Emergency Management in Dallas requested RACES and SKYWARN net activation around 1 PM the day of the storm. City of Dallas RACES Radio Officer Pat Hykkonen, N5NPL, initiated a net on the 146.880 Dallas Amateur Radio Club repeater and a SKYWARN net for Dallas County was active by 1:15. “The net handled traffic to the Fort Worth/Dallas National Weather Service office, the City of Dallas Emergency Operations Center, as well as Emergency Operations Center s in Irving, Garland, Richardson, Sachse and numerous others in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex,” he told the ARRL. “Amateur Radio operators provided reports to the served agencies regarding severe weather events, including large, damaging hail, funnels and very destructive tornadoes.”

“This storm received national media attention,” Pope said, “but what did not receive attention was the dedication and commitment of radio amateurs. In every case, Amateur Radio was present and utilized by various Emergency Operations Centers. When asked to provide communication support for a school or business, hams stepped up to the plate and were there. Kudos and thanks go out to the North Texas hams for their dedication and professionalism during this severe weather event.”

Editor’s Note: This article contains excerpts from a larger article originally published by the ARRL as “North Texas Hams Respond When Tornados Strike.” Please visit ARRL.org to read the entire article.
Field Day 2012
BVARA’s Field Day at Brady’s Run Park. Photos by Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Visit flickr.com/photos/W3SGJ to see more pictures from Field Day 2012.
Thank you to Rich, K3SOM for the photos from this amazing weekend!
Equipment for Sale

Astron RS-35M Power Supply
25 amp cont. 35 amp surge 13.8vdc.
$100.00 plus S+H. SOLD

Ritz Electronics Power Supply
PS-1001MR regulated.
13.8 vdc, 8amps, 115vac input.
$25.00 plus S&H. SOLD

Dentron Ant Tuner AT-1K
with manual, 160-meters-
10 meters, 500 watts
$15.00 plus S&H. SOLD

Ramsey Electronics PA-1
2 Meter Amplifier,
20W out with 4W in
$30.00 plus S&H.

Palomar TX75 Amplifier.
$35.00 plus S&H.

American Electronics
SWR/Watt Meter, model
95/134. 52 Ohms, 100 W
$20.00 plus S&H.

Daiwa SWR Model CN-
520, 1.8-60mhz, 50
ohms, 2KW. (with
manual)
$50.00 plus S&H. SOLD

Daiwa SWR Model CN-
550, 140-250 mhz, 50
ohms, 200 W, (with
manual)
$40.00 plus S&H.

Trionyx TR-1000, 600
mhz Frequency Counter.
(with manual).
$40.00 plus S&H.

2 Turner Model +3B
microphones. $15.00
each plus S&H.

If you are interested in buying an item, please call Chris, W3OUF at 724-266-2866
Prop 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 propagation chart listed above is for July 2012.
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
☐ BVARA FULL MEMBERSHIP 20.00
☐ BVARA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP 15.00
☐ BVARA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP 10.00
☐ CHILD UNDER 21 IN HOME 5.00
☐ ONE YEAR ARRL MEMBERSHIP 39.00

ARRL MEMBER? YES NO

Subtotal: ______
Donation: ______
Total: ______

Your License Class (if any):
☐ Novice
☐ Technician
☐ General
☐ Advanced
☐ Extra

Name
Address
Email Address
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

2012 BVARA OFFICERS
President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z
Vice President: Robert DeMarco, WA3ZRM
Second Vice Pres.: Tom Workman, AA3CE
Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT
Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS
Director: George Caffro, N3HOJ
Director: Adam Horniak, KG3L
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 Operations Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

on the second Thursday of every
month (unless otherwise stated).

MEETING DATES
2012
July 12
August – No meeting (Corn Roast)
September 13
October 11
November 8
December – No meeting (Christmas Party)

2013
January 10
February 14
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11

QSL CARD

Beaver County

W3SGJ

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

ITU 8, Q5 5, Grid EN90ur, Beaver County

The QRM
HOME FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION