



S*H*O*R*T*S

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society

Number 8 Volume IV - October 2014

Special Fall Foliage Edition

“Ham in a Day” Success Continued

Friday and Saturday 19 & 20 September were busy days for BCARS members. Congratulations and thanks to Steve, KA3UDR, who lead our crew of VECs and other volunteers who accomplished another award-winning “**Ham in a Day**” event. District VEC Scott Zimmerman- KB9WCX traveled from Somerset County to oversee the operations and administer the testing. KA3UDR reports that 9 took the examination and BCARS produced 7 new hams, a 78% success rate! Among the winning candidates were: **Patti Leibfreid**, Bedford Springs -Technician, **Corey Ritchey**, Claysburg – Technician, **Steve Stiffler**, Everett- Technician, , **Richard Reimer**, Holidaysburg- Technician, **Raymond Hunt**, Cumberland, MD – General, **Robert Young**, Everett- KC3CMI upgraded to **General** and **Dylan LaComb**- KC3BTB, Bedford Springs upgraded to **Amateur Extra**.

This was truly a team effort with major contributions of time and effort by WA3UXP, WB3JEK, KC3CMF, K3QNT, AB3LP, KB3DFZ & KA3UDR. Also a big thanks to KB3YVL who provided critical administrative support. Few clubs have success rate that exceeds that of BCARS. Muchas Gracias to KC3AFO, WA3UXP and the Cessna Stations for airing our radio announcement and getting our event on the stations' community bulletin board.

KC3CMF Sports New HF Antenna! As reported in the last edition of *S*H*O*R*T*S*, Mark and his friends attempted an ill-fated project during the BCARS Picnic to erect a new HF dipole at his QTH. Due to the “Fog of Party”, the installation was unsuccessful. However, undaunted CMF pressed on and succeeded in getting an exceptionally elevated multiband Inverted “V” OCF dipole up at his QTH. With lots of help from KC3BTB, Arthur Burnett, WB3JEK and KA3UDR. The antenna system includes a high power MFJ tuner, which now enables CMF to put a rock-crushing signal during the nightly Western Pennsylvania Phone Traffic Net. (WPAPTN) Mark is racking up DX contacts on 40 and 20 meters daily. CMF will, no doubt will soon be added to the “Big Gun” list in Bedford County.

Gigantic Mutant Turkey Buzzard strikes again!

During September, KA3UDR and K3QNT conducted a last minute rescue mission for KB3VZC and XYL at Mile Level. It appears that the pesky buzzard attacked Glenn's Dodge monster truck and rendered Glenn temporarily inoperable. KA3UDR was dispatched by radio and joined by K3QNT, who assisted getting Glen, Arlene and all the vehicles back to VZC's QTH. Centerville PD's CSI is currently examining the truck for Turkey Buzzard DNA.

Speaking of KB3VZC, on Saturday, 13 September - KC3CMI, K3QNT, KA3PNL, KB3DFZ, KC3CMF, KA3UDR and WB3JEK “corrected” the beam-tilt caused by the aforementioned rogue bird. The antenna correction team arrived at KB3VZC and found to their

amazement, not only had the mutant out of state buzzard misdirected Glen's beam but devoured the hoisting line for his dipole as well. President DFZ John donned his state-of-the art climbing belt and climbed VZC's tower to enable the structure to be tilted over. With astonishing swiftness, the beam was realigned, the dipole line was replaced with first class Dacron line from KC3CMF. The entire crew was treated to an exceptional breakfast prepared by VZC's XYL, Arlene.

Slippery Mosley Tribander Antenna Mast Fixed!

After a rain-out, the dashing BCARS antenna repair team made as second and successful visit to the QTH of BCARS legend, Jay Williams— K3SCM. Armed with tools bolts, rigging line and a boatload of optimism, our crack antenna team did it again. After nearly 35 years of service a pesky mast bolt on the telephone pole array at K3SCM decided to go rogue and enlarge itself, which created rotator instability at Jay's station. WB3JEK rapidly ascended the telephone pole with Jay's vastly superior climbing belt and much encouragement from the hams cheering from the ground. JEK swiftly made the repair. Jay expects another 35 years of service from said beam. WB3JEK stated that when this bolt fails, Jay should be reaching his 115th birthday. Kenny said he doesn't plan to be back at that time. The team included: K3SCM, KA3UDR, WB3JEK, KC3CMI, K3QNT and KC3CMF.

Blast from Past!

The staff at the **S*H*O*R*T*S** historical research department has retrieved the club roster from **1964, 50 years Ago this Month**. Although many have passed on to the contest station in the sky, you will note some familiar names, who are still among us. Included in this august list is a young Novice OP, WN3CAY- who was beginning to make some noise!

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|-------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| W3AHS | Walter L. Baldwin | K3SCM – Jay Williams |
| K3DKJ | Joseph W. Stewart | K3VTQ – Ken Henry |
| K3JVQ | Mary E. Stewart | KN3WMP – R. Spellman |
| K3KYT | Lynn D. Whetstone | WN3CAY – Jay Cessna |
| K3MIU | Arden E. Moser | WN3CAZ - Robert Phillips |
| K3MKX | Claude E Koontz | K3QIX -Ron Lutz |
| K3MYC | J.B. Meyers, M.D. | K3MYC – J.B. Myers |
| K3NQT | Walter Knisely | |

**** In 1964, if the second letter in your call was “N”, it meant you had a one year non-renewable Novice license. In order to advance, you had to upgrade to a General or Technician within one year.**

OLD FIELD DAY - DAYS

Harry McCormick -K3ESK and Walt Knisely – K3NQT Circa 1962



H. B. McCormick, left, and Walter Kniseley check the gas engine that provided the auxiliary power for the radio equipment.

K3QNT re-builds RTTY station

Lloyd has re-assembled his all hollow-state (Vacuum Tube) RTTY station. The transmitter is a Collins 32S-3- 100 watt exciter with a foreign embassy surplus Collins 51S-1 general coverage receiver. The system includes a HB vacuum tube AFSK interface and a modern Windows XP using MTTY program. So, far Lloyd has worked several W1AW 100th stations and over a dozen countries, including "King Filip" of Belgium. The RTTY station operates primarily on 20, 40 and 30 meters. Tours are available by appointment.

NK3A heard on 145.490 repeater

, In a rare DX event, KC3CMI was heard working NK3A. As usual, Mahlon's signal was first rate. Any BCARS operator who actually works NK3A, notify this office immediately and we will make sure it's properly logged.

KB3DFZ Moves Corporate Offices to QTH

In a wise business move typical of modern entrepreneurs, President John, KB3DFZ has built a magnificent computer consultation facility within an historic outbuilding on the DFZ estate. This new location has made it possible for DFZ to participate in local nets and assist several BCARS members with a variety of technical and cyberspace issues. John is working on a new very nifty APRS station housed in a former desktop case. He is writing software and working out the technical bugs now.

Fall Foliage

A complete report of BCARS Fall Foliage activity will be in the next edition of S*H*O*R*T*S – Stay tuned.

Di Dah Di Dah Dit

K3QNT -

If you have news for the next issue of **S*H*O*R*T*S**, contact k3qnt@arrl.net.