



S*H*O*R*T*S

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society

Number 15. Volume IV – February 2015

Station and Tower Decommissioned at CAP

It was not to be – After our report in the December of **S*H*O*R*T*S** celebrating our new 60 ft tower at the CAP building at the Bedford County Airport, a series of events brought our radio activity at that location to a close. On 18 January 2015, a reluctant but highly motivated BCARS team removed the HF and VHF equipment from the CAP headquarters. In addition, the tower was dismantled to live another radio life elsewhere in Bedford County. In keeping with the popular expression, “Three Times is a Charm” our tower will find a new home shortly. Braving the raw January Sunday morning to do the job was: Kenny – WB3JEK, Mark – KC3CMF, Jeff – KA3PNL, Steve – KA3UDR, Sharon Burtnett, Kevin – KC3BTC, Jay - K3SCM, John- KB3DFZ, Bill – KB3HUA and Brian Hall. Since we all love antenna projects so much, stay tuned. There's another one coming!

Photo courtesy of Sharon Burtnett



BCARS MEETING



Hey Jay! Did you hear the one about the Ham, who walked into a bar and.....

ARES -RACES goes way back in Bedford County!

Recent review of the club archives reveal that during a BCARS meeting in October of 1961, club officials decided to reach out to what was then the County Office of Civil Defense. Now for you youngsters among us, that was a time of great public fear and uncertainty because of the threat of a nuclear attack by the then Soviet Union. This was one year before the ill-fated "Bay of Pigs" invasion in Cuba and right smack in the middle of "Bomb Shelters, Gieger Counters and "Duck, Cover and Run" drills held in schools all over the nation, including Bedford and Everett. Club members voted to contact the county commissioners and offer their

services for emergency communications. The first nets were on 75 meters AM. The club later migrated to six meter AM, which became the standard for RACES operations until the advent of two-meter FM repeaters in the late 1960s. In the archives **CONELRAD** was also mentioned. That was a system used by the radio broadcast to warn the citizens of imminent attack. It was an acronym for "Control of Electromagnetic Radiation." Most likely the local CONELRAD station was WBFD at 1310. The stations that qualified to had to be able to change their frequency to either 640 AM or 1240 AM. Next time to you make a trip to a place like Hoke E Geez, examine some of the olde radios on sale and you'll see a little CD logo over those frequencies.

Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council Meeting to be hosted at Bedford County Courthouse.

According to Steve, KA3UDR, the council will visit Bedford for their regular meeting on Sunday, 19 April 2015. The council is made up of all repeater operators throughout WPA. The meeting is open to everyone and you are urged to attend and see how repeater coordination works!

How it used to be!

According to a 1961 BCARS Minutes, our members communicated around the county on 50.4 mcs -AM. Our own K3SCM had one of the better six meter stations. Many e BCARS members had rigs like this. Instead of small verticals and solid state synthesized two-meter FM rig, your mobile operation would look like the 1960s vintage VW Six Meter installation below.



Six Meter Halo (Horizontal)

New Net on Tuesday!

Speaking of Six Meters, in addition to the regular two meter net on the BCARS repeater and the ten meter 28.450 net hosted by WB3JEK, there is now a Six Meter net immediately following the ten meter net on 52.020 FM – Check-ins have included: WA3UXP, KA3UDR, KB3DFZ, WB3JEK & K3QNT.

Local simplex signals thus far have been excellent. Join us!

Welcome new members:

Russ, **KC3AZG** of Central City

Steve, **KE3ZT** of Bedford
(Our Third Steve!)

Remember.....
If you have any news for the S*H*O*R*T*S, contact:
Lloyd – K3QNT at 310.2415
or k3qnt@arrl.net.

