

SHORTS

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society

Number 17 -Volume IV – April 2015

BCARS Prepares for 2015 ARRL Field Day -

At the April membership meeting, the location was discussed for the 2015 BCARS Field Day on June 27th and 28th. This year the club will spend two days at a location to be announced. All members, especially new licensees, are encouraged to participate. KA3UDR is heading up the effort.

KB3DFZ installs modern and innovative APRS system at home QTH

Our master of all things digital, KB3DFZ has continued the ham radio spirit by building a nifty little APRS system from available kit parts and his computer junkie box. A non-ham radio eye would see a somewhat modified desktop computer, but we notice a clever re-use of a computer case with two dual-band transceivers coupled to the necessary peripherals to create an APRS system. John's desktop unit constantly monitors, maps and transmits on 144.390, the national APRS frequency.



**KB3DFZ HOMEBREW APRS
uses two VHF transceivers and a
Signal Link Interface.**

In addition to the larger unit, John is developing a "Mark II" version which will use an HT and a Raspberry Pi computer kit. This unit is small and not only sends and receives APRS information but also uses voice-recognition software. This system talks!



**APRS Mark II
Raspberry PI & Boefeng HT
mounted on discarded chassis**



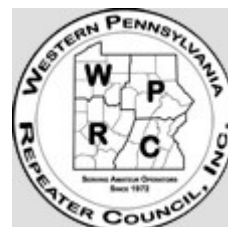
**John and his APRS
"Talking Screen"**



**Raspberry PI Computer
(Not a Duck Dessert Recipe)**

WPA Repeater Association will meet in Bedford

On Sunday, April 19th BCARS will host the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council. Meeting starts at noon in the main first floor meeting room of the Bedford County Courthouse. Come and see how regional repeaters are coordinated.



Bloody Run Canoe Classic uses BCARS for tactical communications



Be at the Burger King at 0800 Saturday, May 2nd as we muster our operators for this annual event. Be sure that your HT batteries are charged. If you're operating mobile, make sure the gear is working correctly. The main two meter repeater on 145.490 will be used.

Rails to Trails Triathlon Scheduled for Sunday 3 May in Everett –

Steve, KA3UDR will coordinate this ARES event held in Everett. In order to receive assignments and instructions, he asks that everyone muster at the Burger King on Route 30 at 0800 that morning.

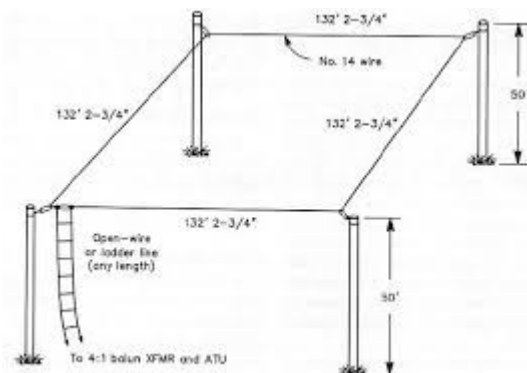


BY-LAWS AMENDED

At the April membership meeting, the BCARS by-laws, first drafted in 1959, were amended to reflect changes in the organization. The proposed changes were drafted by committee, which included KB3DFZ, KC3BTB, WB3JEK, KA3UDR & WA3UXP. Copies of the amended by-laws will be published on www.bcars.org shortly. Final approval will be conducted by a full vote by the membership.

K3QNT installs 30 Meter Full-Wave Loop

Full-wave loops can be a nice solution if you want a little more gain and less noise on HF. QNT has installed a diamond-shaped full wave vertically polarized loop. The antenna uses 100 feet of #22 covered wire and is fed with a 75 ohm coaxial transformer to match the 50-ohm requirements of his transmitter. Many operators of loops experience significant drops in noise over a standard dipole. Lloyd uses his loop primarily on CW and RTTY. Loops can be built for just about any band.



**Want to be in
S*H*O*R*T*S?**

**Send your story and any
pictures to:**

**Lloyd – K3QNT
at 814.310.2415
or k3qnt@arri.net.**