

# SHORTS

***The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society***  
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***Kenneth L. Burtnett - WB3JEK, President***  
***Robert P. Young – KC3CMI, Vice-President***  
***Steven G. Stiffler – KC3DNB, Treasurer***  
***Lloyd Bankson Roach - K3QNT, Secretary***

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## **New “Activities Director”      First Skills Night -Huge Blasts out of the gate!      Success!**

Recently appointed, **Steve Strum, KE3ZT** announces a wide range of upcoming activities for 2016. Steve's plan's include: The ARRL W1AW Digital Broadcast schedule, VOA Radiograms, AR-ISS slow scan TV, W1AW CW Qualifying Runs, EMCOM Net Participation on SSB, CW and NBEMS. Steve encourages members to participate in these events. It sharpens your multi-mode operating skills and it's fun!

John – KB3DFZ hosted our first **Skills Night** at the Bedford County Christian Church, next door to where the car dealership used to be on Route 30. The event attracted several dozen enthusiasts, including many hams from as far away as New Stanton and Chambersburg. **Skills Night** featured excellent presentations by KE3ZT on a PC -Radio digital interface, KB3DFZ with a plethora of nifty miniature computers and accessories. On the operational side, KA3UDR conducted an excellent class on antennas from

HF to UHF. Steve demonstrated the effectiveness of “J” Poles on VHF and even our famous “Crutch Antenna” tuned for 15 meters. The editor of the Bedford Gazette chose to use UDR's picture with his antennas. We received a good tutorial from George, KC3EXT on LINUX. Congratulations to John -KB3DFZ for organizing such a successful BCARS event!



KA3UDR and 21 MHz Crutches



KE3ZT PC -Radio Interface

## Join our Nifty Nets!

Every single Tuesday, BCARS runs, not one but **two** local Bedford County ARES-RACES Nets. Sometimes we even have three!

Join us Tuesday evening on the 145.490 (PL 123.0) repeater. Our Emergency Coordinator and Master Blaster Net Control is Steve – KA3UDR. Steve invites everyone to join us, including out of town and out of state stations. One of our regulars is a trucker KC9YEU, who has been exceedingly generous to our club. Then around 8:30 PM, we QSY to Ten Meters to 28.450 kcs, Upper Side Band. Kenny – WB3JEK takes over. When the band opens up we can hear stations from all over the place. Remember, if you have a new Technician license, you are already authorized to operated anywhere on 10 meters. So all of our members can get on. And....then sometimes, some of us QSY again to Six Meters. We operate on 52.010 – FM. The

primary purpose of all of these nets is to exercise our equipment and ourselves in the event we are needed. Remember the old saw, ***“Equipment not tested, is equipment that doesn't work!”***



### ***Bedford County ARES-RACES stages Coup d'état of PEMA – ACS!***

During the recent snow storm, members of Bedford County ARES-RACES sprung to action after an alert was issued by Susan Singer -KB3KDC, the ACS Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Bedford County Emergency Coordinator, KA3UDR alerted BCARS members to check in to the 145.490 repeater as well as

the PEMA state-wide tactical channel, 3993.500 Khz. Operations on the repeater went smoothly and timely weather conditions were sent to the SKYWARN office in State College. HF operations, however, were disappointing. After several calls, no contact was made with the PEMA EOC. KA3UDR telephoned them directly and discovered that the operators there were not able to get their equipment functioning. After some effort on the phone by UDR, a standby rig was finally on the air from PEMA. However, the operator at KB3NIA was unable to conduct a net. So Bedford County's K3QNT took over as net control for the state net until 2200 hours Friday, when he was relieved by K3FAZ in Sarver. As a result Bedford County assumed command of the net both Friday and Saturday during the storm. A total of over 40 check-ins were made all over the commonwealth.

### ***LESSON LEARNED-***

Were it not for the experience gained by participating in local and regional nets daily, this would not have been possible. The most effective participants were

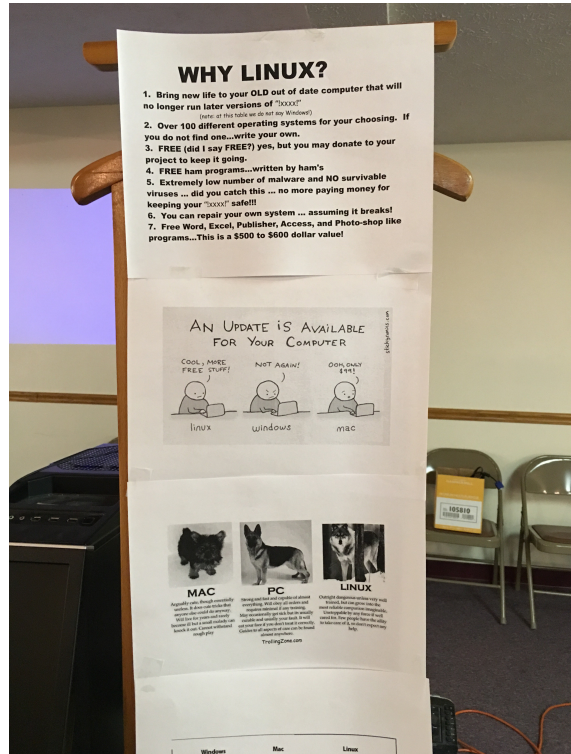
BCARS members and those who are regular members of the Pennsylvania traffic nets. People are just like your equipment. "Gear not tested, doesn't work!"



**Skill Night Crowds**

### ***Special Offer for BCARS Members Only!***

Bernie -W3DRW has announced that he has made room in the luggage compartment of his experimental airplane for up to three BCARS members for a trip to Florida! Just get yourself to Bernie's farm tomorrow. Only \$125,000 per person. Act now while there is space in the plane!



**SIGN POSTED BY KC3EXT**

### **From the Office of the President**

### **2015 In Review**

Congratulations to of the members that got "VE" status and put them to use throughout the year. We had several "VE" sessions and introduced many new people to the wonderful world of Ham Radio and to those who upgraded their license to a higher class.



The year long quest of obtaining Non-Profit status for BCARS came to fruition as we became a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. We also successfully re-wrote our club's constitution and by-laws. These changes were approved by a majority of the full membership.

This past year, we were able to host the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council at the Bedford County Courthouse and saw the professional installation of a new HF trap dipole at K3NQT in the EOC.

Events included the Bloody Run Triathlon, Rails to Trails in Everett, The Float for Charity in Saxton, our rain-soaked Field Day in June, Sixty Mile Bike Ride at Shawnee State Park, and our excellent club Picnic at the lake.

With the assistance of W3BC, BCARS was renewed its designation as an ARRL ***“Special Service Club”*** and we took delivery of a spectacular mobile communications van, complete with an abundance of HF and VHF gear.

You have accomplished much this past year with lots of great stuff. I may have missed something but none of these things would have happened without the tremendous contributions of money, effort and time by the great people of BCARS.

A Big Thank You to all!

Kenny Burtnett, WB3JEK

**President- BCARS**

**Contributions for  
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