



# SHORTS

**The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society**  
Number 2 -Volume V –March 2016

***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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## **BCARS Shows its Stuff During January Snow Storm Incident!**

Beginning on 22 January, most of Pennsylvania and specifically, Bedford County got whacked with a major snowstorm. A serious traffic incident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike made national news as hundreds of vehicles were stranded for nearly two days. PEMA opened their emergency operations center in Harrisburg and activated ARES-RACES state-wide. The ACS station at PEMA, KB3NIA, got off to a rocky start. It seems that none of the operators at PEMA

had any amateur radio net experience. KA3UDR had to coach the operators over the phone on how set up and use a Kenwood TS-480-S. Not long after the PEMA operators lost control of the net, K3QNT, K3FAZ and KA3UDR took command of the net. The entire state net from Wilkes Barre to Pittsburgh was operated and controlled out of Bedford County. On 2 February, all of the participating operators throughout the Commonwealth received a congratulatory letter from PEMA'S ComL, Susan Singer. Bedford County was specifically mentioned for taking control of the net.



## **HAMS and Steak in February make for an excellent evening at Ed's Steak House**

BCARS had a record turnout for the mid-winter BCARS Meeting/Dinner at Ed's. The affair was sponsored by BCARS and hosted by Kenny -WB3JEK and Steve – KA3UDR. S/O's and XYLs had a great time meeting and greeting everyone.



The affair was so popular, the club has already scheduled another dinner for Thursday, 5 May at 6:00 PM – Mark your calendar!

## **First Skills Night -Huge Success!**

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.

Near Vertical Incident Skywave System (NVIS) was covered by K3QNT with an operating WinLink and SSB station at the church. The antenna was a temporary Inverted "L" hung between his car and a tree. The editor of the Bedford Gazette chose to use UDR's picture with his crutch antenna. We received a good tutorial from George, KC3EXT on LINUX. Congratulations to John KB3DFZ for organizing such a successful BCARS event!

### ***President Burtnett Heads South to Study Southern Trans-equatorial Propagation***

WB3JEK headed to Florida with XYL, Sharon to conduct highly scientific experiments on the behavior of HF radio signals in warm weather. He selflessly left our winter wonderland in Bedford County to document these important findings. Shown below is "JEK" in his field operation unit using SSB and digital operations under adverse conditions of 80 degree weather and clear skies.

## **Emergency Communications and the Government**

*The government alone, in an overwhelming event, cannot fulfill all of the needs of disaster victims. For too long the American people have incorrectly assumed that to be the case. That perception is slowly changing as the people saw what happened, (or actually what didn't happen) with the state and local emergency response in the aftermath of the recent snow storm.*

*It is time that ARES/RACES expand our efforts in Bedford County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We need to do a more effective job working with local response organizations. We also should strive to improve what we, as radio amateur operators provide; radio communications. This is a critical function in any major response to a disaster.*

*We practice these skills by working public service events and by making ourselves seen in a good light. We need to make a good impression by looking sharp and being professional.*

**Steve Elliott -KA3UDR  
ARES-RACES Emergency  
Coordinator – Bedford  
County**

**If you have any  
contributions to the  
monthly S\*H\*O\*R\*T\*S,  
send your information to:  
Lloyd -K3QNT  
[k3qnt@aol.com](mailto:k3qnt@aol.com)**



**WB3JEK conducts tests**