

THE eQRM

APR 2020



Get Hamvention Alerts – text Hamvention to 888777

Hamvention 2021 May 21 – 23

Dayton Hamvention Cancelled

Refund Information

Due to unfortunate cancellation of Hamvention 2020, we know that many of our attendees and vendors have purchased market spaces. These purchases have been made by online credit cards, mail order checks and purchased from our outside vendors. All refunds will be through the same method of payment. Credit card sales will be refunded to the original card used to make the charge. All check and cash sales will be refunded by check. We anticipate all refunds completed as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after the cancellation.

We are offering the following options.

1. Obtain a refund.
2. Obtain a 2021 ticket instead. (to be mailed around January 1, 2021) Hamvention 2021 May 21-23
3. Donate to Hamvention (no refund)

For all general admission (not inside or flea market) online and mail orders, email tickets@hamvention.org with your preference. All requests will be processed as indicated.

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

On the Cover : With the world health crisis CV-19 there is a lot that has changed. Our Ham Hobby has to change with it. There have been a lot of cancelations. We can still get on the air with no problems. Hang in there and be safe. We are strong Americans, we will make it through this together.

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8

Wednesday 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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Who We Are

2019 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Tony Pavilonis, W6PEF

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM



MONTHLY MEETINGS

E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting.

VE testing begins at 5:00 PM.

Regular meetings are at 6:30 PM

All meetings are held at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

Club Meetings 2020

Apr 09

May 14

Jun 11

Jul 09

Aug Club Picnic TBA

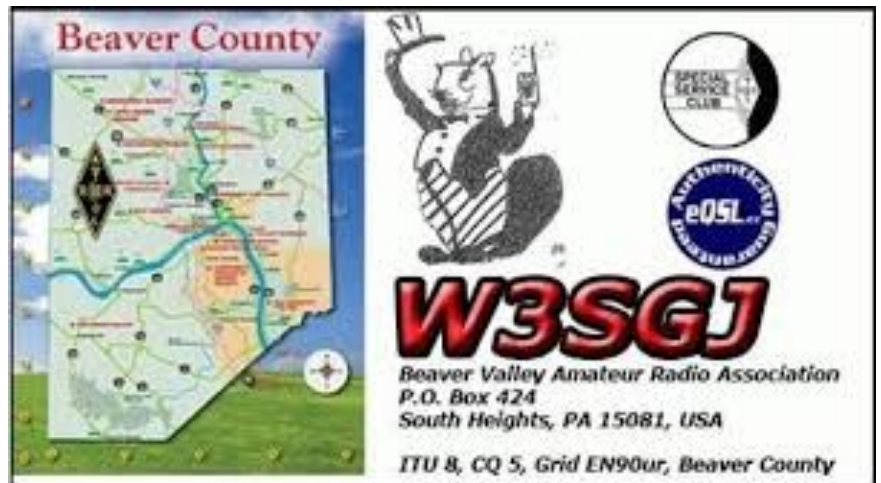
Sep 10

Oct 08

Nov 12

Dec Club
mas Party

Christ-



April fools

Cancelled till further notice

This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:

Practical An-

tenna Analyzer Uses

Including:

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed

B.S. Electrical Engineering

since 1962, VE,

Cancelled till further notice

This Month

April 1, 2020



There has been a breakthrough in RF blocking!

Molecular RF Tape is designed to block stray RF and safely conduct it to the antenna. The tape is clear. The red backing is to make it easier to see the RF tape and install it adhesive side “in”.

Because of the molecular design and the tape being so thin electron flow is only on the adhesive side. The tape can be used to keep RF inside your coax transmission line and out of your shack. You can also put it on your microphone to keep RF inside it too. One particularly great improvement is your signal strength. The tape keeps almost all of the RF in the transmission line till it gets to the antenna itself. The manufacturer suggests that only one layer be used. If you use multi layers the skin effect of the tape changes. The electrons flow on the outside, the same as any other over driven RF insulator. The RF leaks out and is on the outer layer and it permits the RF to come back down the transmission line back into your shack to shock the daylights out of you. You have to be a bit “Wiley” to ensure you have only one layer of tape the entire length of whatever you are trying to keep the RF inside of. You absolutely cannot have any overlapping of layers or the entire outer layer of tape becomes conductive. It’s tricky. You may want to send your project to a taping professional.

This new discovery is Acme RF Tape from the deserts in Arizona. It was discovered by mimicking the local wild life. There is a particular breed of bird and a particular breed of coyote that interact particularly closely that inspired this invention.

It seems impossible but it is so. Currently, as of April first, the government is holding up production. Contact any major ham radio outlet store after the COVID-19 pandemic to order yours. Order it by the roll, case or pallet. Acme RF tape; get it as soon as it can be widely produced.

More this Month

Weekly

The Freedom Square Diner in Monaca has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order and serve you something delicious.

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)



The Diner in Center Town-
teers and those inter-
come join us at our
Thursday morning breakfast.

BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark ship Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio ama-
ested in amateur radio are encouraged to

Cancelled till further notice

See you Thursday at



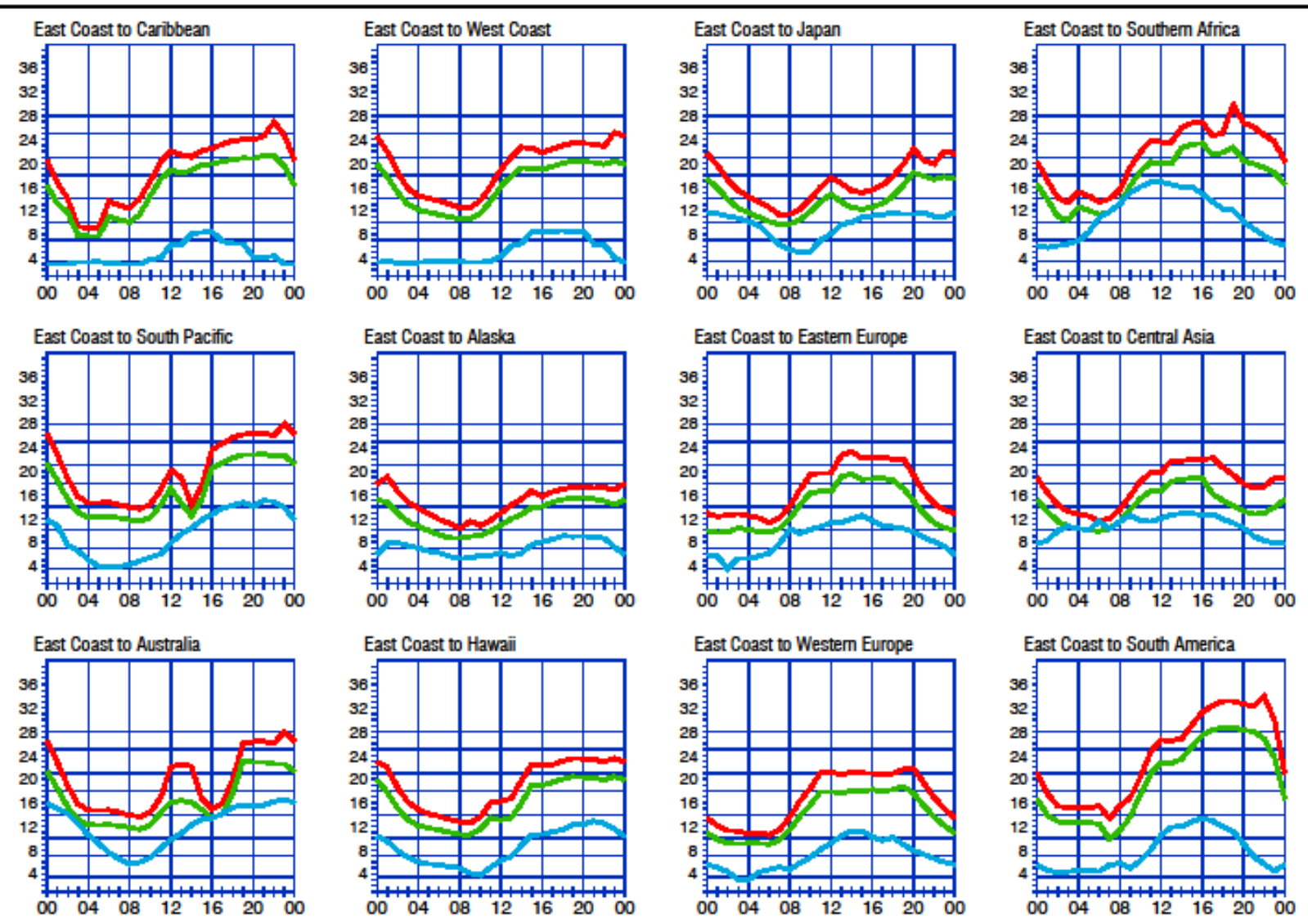
The eQRM urges all Beaver County li-
censed amateurs to participate in the County's RACES and ARES programs.

Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in partic-
ipating in the RAC-
ES/ARES programs can do so by check-
ing into the Beaver County Public Ser-
vice Net which meets every Mon-
day evening at 8:30 PM local time on the WW3AAA 146.850 MHz re-
peater (131.8 PL)

RACES / ARES
The eQRM urges all county hams to participate.



Propagation



When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of April for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1500-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 QST, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 QST, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 73. This is a Very Low level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for April 2020.

If you would like more information in general, please visit

<http://www.arrl.org/propagation>



Get your License or Upgrade

If you are interested in getting your first FCC license or upgrading your current amateur radio license, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association holds VE Test sessions (Volunteer Examinations) the second Thursday of each month at the 911 Center in Ambridge Pennsylvania prior to our BVARA Club meeting. If there is no meeting there is no test session. Please

Cancelled till further notice

For more information, contact :
Rich Soltesz, K3SOM
(724) 847-0610
k3som@arrl.net



VE TEST SESSIONS

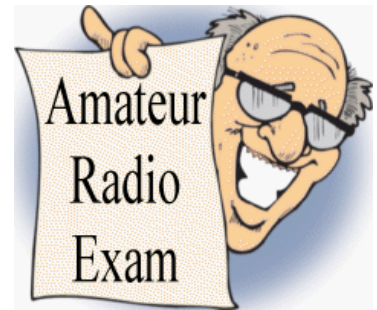
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash, check, or money order.

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



Our March VE Test Session had one candidate who achieved his goal of obtaining a new ham license.

Congratulations to:

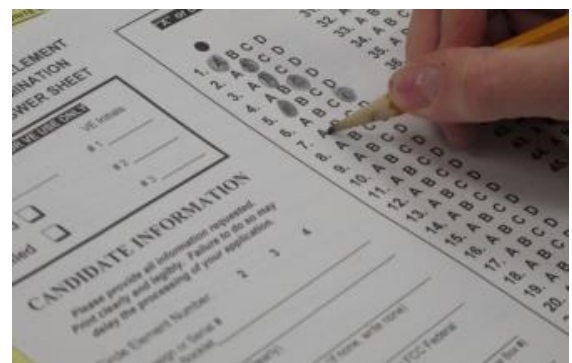
Richard Husing, KC3PDK, New Castle, PA, Technician



Testing in March, 2020 would not have been possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Bob Winkle - N3AZZ, Bob Barker - K5ACD, and Bart Stack - KB3NFM

73 from Rich Soltesz - K3SOM, VE Liaison



Membership Information

By becoming a BVARA member you help secure the future of Amateur Radio in Beaver County. Additionally, the BVARA receives a portion of each ARRL

membership you purchase!

Join the BVARA and ARRL

Sign up for:	Price	
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA full membership	25.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> BVARA Child under 21 at home membership	5.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> One year ARRL membership	49.00	_____
A Club Donation		_____
ARRL Member? Yes No	Total Enclosed	_____

Your License Class (If you have one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Technician	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Class	Email _____
	Phone _____
	Your Call sign _____
	Your Signature _____

Make check or money order payable to:

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424

South Heights, Pa 15081

Hamfests & General Announcements

Cancelled till further notice

Radio Sport

Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

Contest Corral

April 2020

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contest-calendar.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 2000	1 2100	3.5	UKEIQC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	ukeiicc.com/80m-rules.php
2 1700	2 2000	3.5	SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid locator	www.sarl.org.za
2 1700	2 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
2 2000	2 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
4 0400	4 0800	7	LZ Open 40-Meter Sprint Contest	CW	Serial, serial received from last QSO	www.lzopen.com/lzoo40
4 1000	5 0400	14	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	Dig	SPC, mbr or name	www.podxs070.com
4 1300	5 0100	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC (grid square on FT8)	www.arl.org/sections/view/nebraska
4 1400	5 0200	1.8-144	Louisiana QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Parish or SPC	lapq.louisianacontestclub.org
4 1400	5 0200	3.5-UHF	Mississippi QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.arlmiss.org
4 1400	5 2000	1.8-UHF	Missouri QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party
4 1400	5 2200	3.5-28	Florida State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	Park ID or SPC	flspota.org/rules
4 1500	5 1500	1.8-28	SP DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Province or serial	spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl
4 1600	5 1600	3.5-28	EA RITTY Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es/en/ea-ritty-bases
5 0000	5 0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
5 0600	5 1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6 Meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA Section (if ON)	uba.bellfi.com/contest-rules
5 1900	5 2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo SSB	Ph	RS, previous 6-char grid square received	www.rsghc.org/hf
6 0800	12 2000	All	IQFP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	www.animontebelluna.it
6 1900	6 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsghc.org/hf
6 1900	6 2300	144	144 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
7 0100	7 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqp.blogspot.com
11 0000	11 2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	CW	RS, SPC, mbr or power	qrpaci.org/contests
11 0700	12 1300	1.8-28	JIDX CW Contest	CW	RST, Prefecture number or CQ zone	jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
11 1200	12 1900	1.8-28	OKIOM DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, 3-letter OKIOM county code or serial	okiomdx.ork.cz
11 1200	12 1200	3.5-28, 144	FSAA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	www.site.uro.asso.fr
11 1200	12 1200	3.5-28	FTn DX Contest	Dig	RST, US state or VE province or serial	europeanft8club.wordpress.com
11 1200	12 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11 1400	12 0200	1.8-50	New Mexico QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
11 1800	12 1800	1.8-144	North Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	ndar15ec.com
11 1800	12 2359	1.8-50	Georgia QSO Party	CW Ph	RST, county or SPC	www.georgiaoqsoparty.org
11 2100	12 2100	1.8-28, satellites	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW	RST, ITU zone	gc.qst.ru/en/section/32
12 1000	12 2200	3.5-14	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	Dig	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.internip.net/Contests.php
12 1200	12 1800	3.5-7	International Vintage Contest HF	CW Ph	RS(T) 4-char grid square	contestvintage.beeppworld.it
12 1500	12 1600	3.5	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, serial, power code	hsko.h8kix.com
13 0000	13 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
14 1900	14 2300	222	222 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
15 0030	15 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
15 1900	15 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsghc.org/hf
17 2100	18 2100	1.8-28	Holyland DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 4X area or serial	iarc.org/iarc/HolylandContest
18 0500	18 0859	3.5-7	ES Open HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	esu.ee/en/es-open-contests
18 0600	19 0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), BY province or serial	www.mulandao.org
18 0700	19 0659	3.5-28	YU DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YU/YT county or serial	www.yudx.yu1rs.org.rs
18 0800	18 1800	3.5-21	QRP to the Field	CW Ph	RST, SPC, name or SOTA	www.zianet.com/qrp/qptf
18 0900	19 2359	3.5-28	COMMM DX Contest	CW	RST, continent, category code	www.cqmmx.com/rules
18 1400	19 2000	All	Texas State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), park or SPC	www.txpota.org/rules
18 1600	19 0400	3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, county or SPC	www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
18 1700	19 1300	3.5-28	EA-QRP CW Contest	CW	RST, category code	www.eaqrp.com
18 1800	18 2159	1.8-50	Field Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/fieldhellclub
18 1800	19 1800	1.8-144	Ontario QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ON county or SPC	va3co.com/ogp/rules.htm
19 1800	19 2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Ph	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, state/province/VE area/DX	www.arl.org/rookie-roundup
20 0100	20 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr/power	qpcontest.com/pigrun
22 0000	22 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
22 1900	22 2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints
23 1900	23 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsghc.org/hf
25 0001	26 2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or '0', SPC	www.ten-ten.org
25 1200	26 1200	3.5-28	SP DX RITTY Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter SP province or serial	plevg.org/stroma/spdxrittyen.html
25 1300	26 1259	1.8-28	Helvetia Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 2-letter HB canton or serial	www.uska.ch
25 1600	26 2159	7-28	Florida QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	floridaqsoparty.org/rules
26 1700	26 2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	bartg.org.uk
27 1300	28 0400	1.8-28	GCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	qrp-labs.com/party.html
29 2000	29 2100	3.5	UKEIQC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	ukeiicc.com/80m-rules.php

Bits and Pieces

Things in all our lives have changed. In last month's eQRM we only had to make decisions as to what hamfest to attend, how we are going to prepare for our summer radio season or maybe what upgrades we were going to make. This month there is a worldwide health crisis. Unless you have been away from all forms of communication you are aware of the CoVid-19 crisis. This has affected everyone here in Beaver County for sure. So many daily activities have been impacted.



There is no need to panic. We will make it through this. I remember a time in 1999 my family was impacted by a natural disaster.

That year, five of us were in a powerful hurricane with winds over 117 mph and rain of more than 20 inches in 72 hours. Trees were down everywhere, many roads and bridges were washed out, flood waters were rising making travel nearly impossible. We had no power for fourteen days. The flood water came up to the foundation of your house. We were five rows of cement block above the ground. The water was to the third row of block and slowly rising. Our lives were impacted! After the storm passed we took a breather. Things got pretty scary. It was a good time to panic. We didn't. We took inventory of what we had and what we needed to make it through the next few weeks.

We looked at the time after the hurricane like we were just camping at home for a while. It was still summer weather. No air conditioning, no water, no school for the children, no power so most businesses were closed, no TV, no power to wash clothes, no power to cook food, were some of the challenges.

Just to go to town we had to take a canoe ride out to high ground where the car was parked. For the first two days our main road to town had been washed out. It was impassable. When we finally made it out to the stores there were no paper products, water, batteries, milk or bread. If you had food, water, fuel, a generator and a running chain saw you were doing well! There was no power for gas stations to pump fuel and no power for cell phone towers to work

Bits and Pieces

either. Our house water system had no electric to pump water. Our entire state had been devastated. It was going to take time for things to get better. As things progressed; flood water stayed high for over two weeks, dead fish smells, mosquitoes, mud, cabin fever and lack of much to do started to weigh on us all.

The local radio station had a generator installed just weeks before the hurricane hit, thank goodness. It was our only way of receiving news. One really nerve-racking detail was a dam up river from us that was in danger of failing. We needed to be informed if the order to evacuate came...

That local radio station kept us informed, entertained and helped local people in need. The phone system was operating on battery power. There were trailers with batteries placed at key locations to keep the phones going. The battery power had a limited operation time according to how many calls were made. People were asked to make only emergency calls. I remember people would call the radio station for help. I remember a lady calling that had two small children under the age of 3. Her house had several trees fall on it. Inside the house was soaked from the rain. Both of her cars were under huge fallen trees, her husband was out of town and she didn't know what to do. A different caller to the radio station made his undamaged home available to her and her children. He and his wife would drive to the lady's house pick her and the children up, just call the radio station back for details. There were many more such calls for help and calls to help. The disaster brought out the best in all of us.

I see this disaster the same way. I see strangers helping strangers. Is there someone in need that you can help right now? We are all Americans and together we will come through this.

Till next month 73 KC3BXC clear but I'll be listening...

It's Your Dime

Remember back when you could communicate by "Pay Phone" for ten cents? This page is for anyone who wants to communicate with the BVARA community and beyond. Please send me your article that you would like posted on this page. Please, only topics and language in good taste. As the editor I reserve the option to post it or ignore it. Send your dime to me at: kc3bxc.73@gmail.com



* FIELD TRIP *



We are
field trip to
invited on a
Super Station to fol-

making plans for an **April 18th 2020**
DX Engineering and we've been
"funspedition" to the **K3LR**
low.

Cancelled till further notice

We will be leaving about 0730 so we will all arrive at

Summit racing / DX Engineering before 0900.

Everyone is invited to come along!

Please contact Jim Allen KC3IXE at (724) 630-7433

BVARA Field Day Results from 54 Years Ago

54 Years Ago

COMPILED BY ELLEN WHITE, *WIYYM

FIELD Day 1966, June 25-26, wound up the 1965-1966 operating season in a great big way. Statistically, 1339 entries were reported, which adds up to 3266 stations and approximately 13,600 participants, a lot of activity by any standards! The most popular category was the two-transmitter class although most rigs and participants were reported in the three-transmitter group. Averaging out the Class-A entries we find a "typical" figure of 13.6 participants manning $2\frac{3}{8}$ rigs (which makes an intriguing mental picture!)

This year the "Spirit of Field Day Bonus" added an extra fillip by stimulating publicity, traffic-handling accuracy and complete independence-of-mains operation. Never before have such reams of clippings, etc. been received with the FD entries! Headlines all over the U. S. and

An article from the November 1966 issue of *QST Magazine* summarized results and described the uniqueness of the June 1966 Field Day activities. The ARRL received 1,339 entries describing the results of about 13,600 participants. Emphasis was placed on entrants who stimulated publicity in their area as well as complete independence-of-mains operation.

—————SCORES—————

Class A stations are clubs and groups in the field with more than 2 operators. Scores are tabulated according to the number of transmitters operated simultaneously at each station. The figures and letters following each call indicate the number of valid contacts, the power inputs used, the number of participants at each station and the final score. The "power classification" used in computing the score is indicated by the letters A, B or C after the number of QSOs shown. A indicates power up to and including 30 watts (multiplier of 3); B indicates power over 30, up to and including 150 watts (multiplier of 2); C indicates over 150 watts (multiplier of 1).

Stations within an entry could operate at different power levels but had to indicate all of the 'power classifications' that were used in their Summary reporting.

Of Interest to All



The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Assn., **W3SGJ/3**, operated 6-A. One of the operators, W3SIK, literally got sick when Murphy struck again!

The club was ‘fortunate’ to have one of their photos included in the summary article of *QST Magazine*. But the club was ‘unfortunate’ in that Jim Steppe, W3SIK got sick when ‘Murphy’ struck. We can only imagine what may have caused his misfortune!

K4KON/4	Ole Virginia Hams RC.	435- AB-10- 2724
W4PAY/4	Northern Virginia RC.	615-ABC- 9- 2681
K6BJ/6	Santa Cruz County	570-ABC-15- 2569
Six Xmtrs	W3SGJ/3	Beaver Valley AR Assn. 637-ABC-18- 2511
<i>Seven Transmitters Operated Simultaneously</i>		
K6BAG/6	Pacifico RC.....	3139- AB-16-20.157
W6ULI/6	Fullerton RC.....	1679- AB-23-12.164

In 1966, with six transmitters all in operation, the BVARA made 637 contacts at multiple power levels with 18 operators participating.

Of Interest to All

Last Year

2019 ARRL FD Results

Paul Bourque, N1SFE

ARRL Contest Program Manager

For many Amateur Radio operators, ARRL Field Day is the most anticipated event of the year. This year was no exception, as over 36,000 radio operators and participants from all 83 ARRL/RAC Sections and several countries participated in the 2019 ARRL Field Day, held on June 22 – 23.

This year, 3,113 entries were received from local clubs and emergency operations centers (EOCs), as well as individual portable, mobile, and home stations. Participants reported making almost 1.1 million contacts during the 24-hour event.

In 2019, the ARRL received 3,113 entries representing 36,000 operators for Field Day.

Field Day 2019 Results for W3SGJ Call, Contacts, Power, Operators, Points

Ramona Outback ARS					
N6ROR	163	2	50	1,496	SDG
→ W3SGJ	320	2	8	1,490	WPA
Stubblefield Rptr Club					
K4HJ	206	2	10	1,484	KY

The BVARA made 320 contacts during the 2019 Field Day with two transmitter stations and eight operators with no sicknesses reported! Field Day was a great success.

There was a hiccup that threatened to cause our entire Field Day activities to be cancelled. We miss-calculated the date of Field Day months ago when we reserved a shelter location for the weekend **after** the correct Field Day date. Quickly, Pam, W3PMS called the park reservation folks and secured an alternate shelter for us, but the shelter was without any commercial power. But then things just got better each step of the way. The Parks and Recreation people came and power washed the shelter & tables, then the Electric Utility Company turned the power back on... we got an additional station/ frequency on the air. It just got better and better as the ham bands reflected down on us favorably, especially considering that we were in the bottom of the sunspot cycle. The weather was great. What more could we ask for, and why would we? Ahh... good food, good friends, good weather and Ham Radio. Does it get any better? Sure, we can look forward to this year's Field Day!

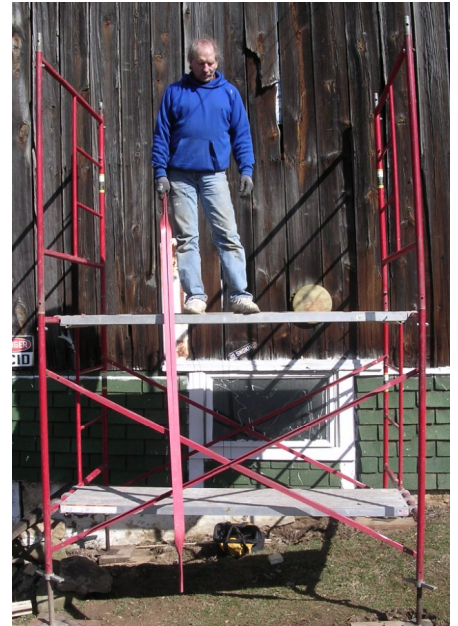
What's your goal for 2020

I hired a man to put this insulator at the peak of the barn.

Installing an insulator at the barn peak for my new HF antenna sounds easy.



It took several arduous backbreaking hours to put the scaffold up and take it down. It took less than 3 minutes to install the insulator.



The insulator is installed! A handy rope has been attached for the antenna to be pulled up there later.

Now that Dad Gum Pole...



How is your goal for 2020



Turns out after all the work to get that Dad Gum Pole in the ground it is too heavy for the tractor's hydraulic system to pick it up! We tried. We shut it down before someone got hurt. Safety first.



Sometimes things do not turn out the way we plan. I decided to take a step back, see if I can figure out another way to get that HF antenna up and running without that Dad Gum pole.

So we filled the hole back in. Fixed the ruts the best we could. I admitted defeat, for now. I will have to wait till the mud dries up to fix the ruts completely. I may hire a regular pole truck to put that Dad Gum pole in the ground. I have been assessing the situation. I think I have another way to get the antenna up in the air. Keep reading the eQRM to see how things progress...

It is always better to admit defeat than get someone hurt. Safety first.

The Score : Insulator installed at peak of the barn = 1
Dad Gum Pole install, still = 0

How about you, what are your radio ambitions?
Please send me your goals.

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