

THE eQRM

DECEMBER 2019



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover : May this be your best Christmas to date!
The BVARA wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.

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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.

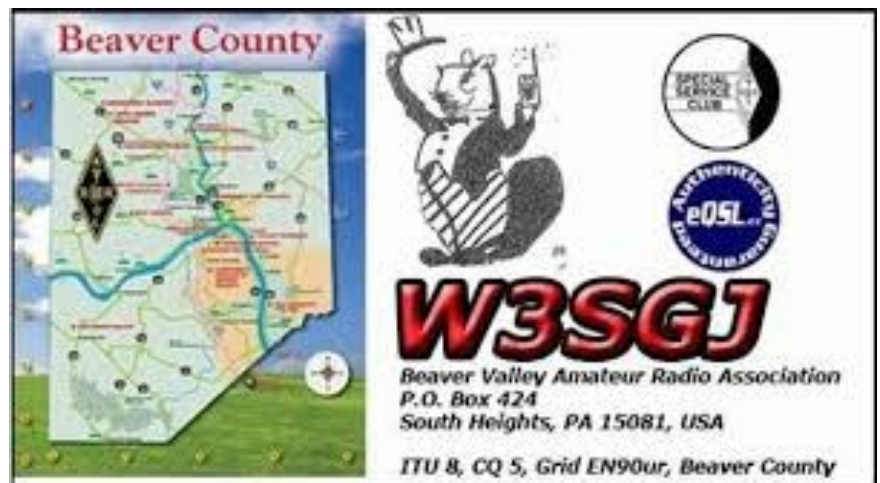
VE testing begins at 5:00 PM.

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 2019
Dec 07 Christmas Party
(no club meeting)

Jan 09 2020
Feb 13
Mar 12
Apr 08
May 14
Jun 11
Jul 09
Aug Club Picnic TBA
Sep 10



This Month

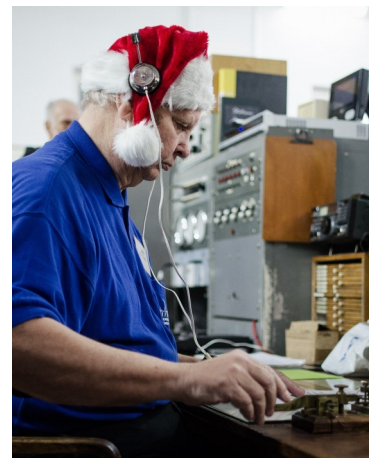


No Club meeting this month. We will all be at the BVARA Christmas Party.
Yolanda's Italian Restaurant in Chippewa Twp, 2228 Darlington Rd,
Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (724) 843-4421

December 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM, Optional \$15 to \$20 Gift Exchange,
As we did last year, order your choice from their menu,
Your choice and your expense!

Please confirm with Pam Spencer early with the number of people at
(724) 869-2429 or (kz3zjack@verizon.net) Space is limited.

See you next year at the regular "second Thursday"
Club meeting on January 9th, 2020 at the 911 Center.



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 BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

See you Thursday at



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

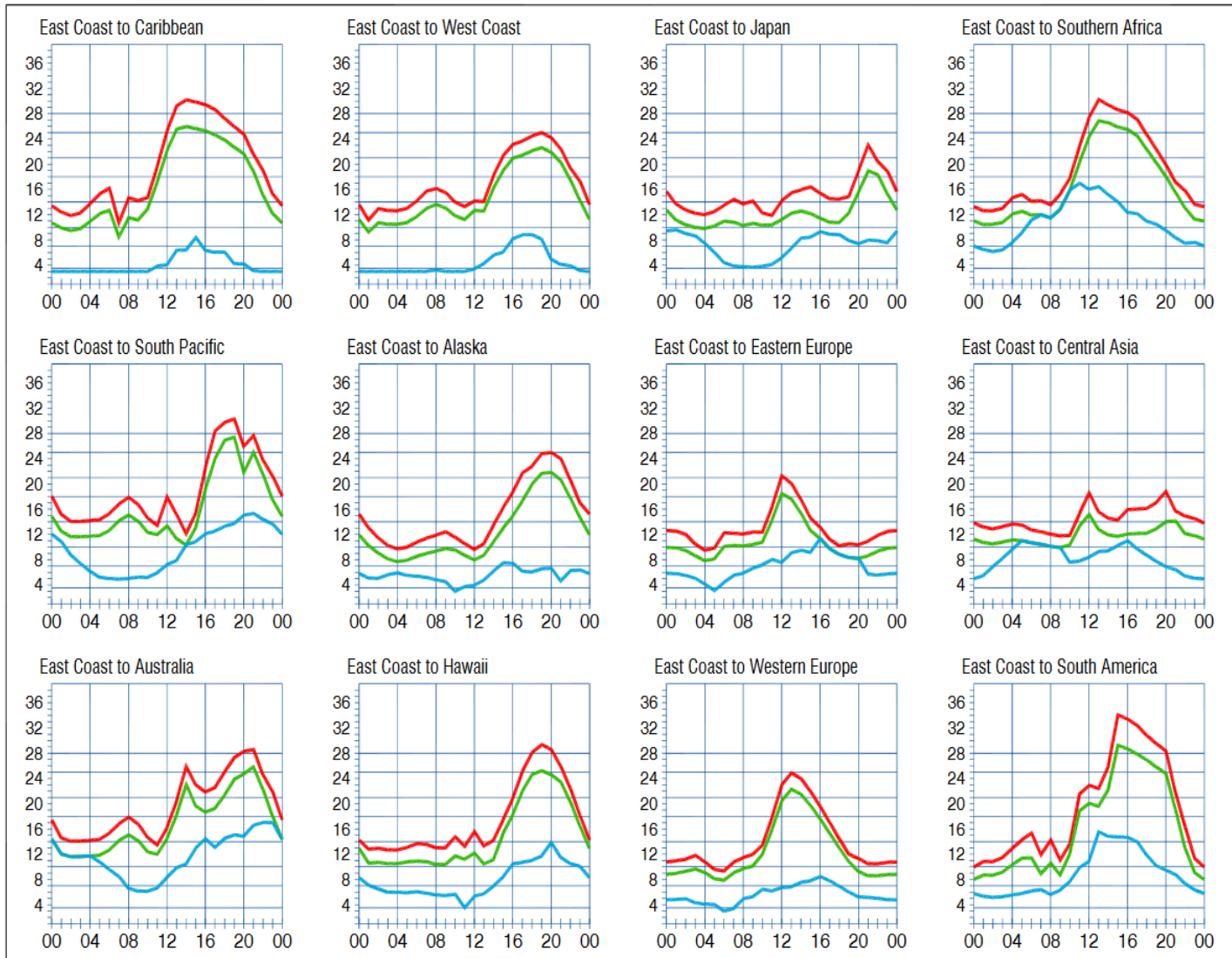
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 **December** 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 December 2019.

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 come take your test with us!

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



VE TEST SESSIONS

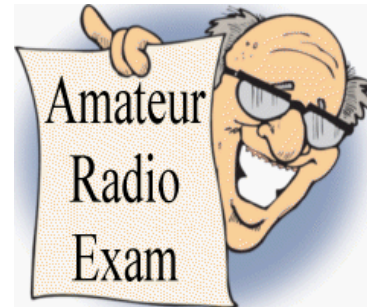
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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 November VE Test Session had seven candidates who all achieved their goals of either obtaining a new ham license or upgrading their existing license.

Two unique items are of note:

Candidates were from four states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

A grandfather and his grandson both obtained their Technician License.

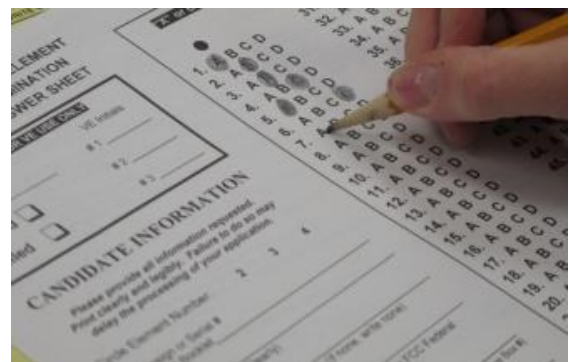
Congratulations to all seven candidates including:

- Jim Atkinson – KA3MRD, Moon Township, PA, General
- Jim Hill – KE8NKV, Steubenville, OH, General
- Mark Douglass – KC3NUD, Aliquippa, PA, General
- Dustin Leonard – KC3OLV, Beaver Falls, PA, Technician
- John Leonard – KC3OLU, Monaca, PA, Technician
- Jim Curtician – KE8NKU, Weirton, WV, Technician
- Jordan Whiting – KD2TBG, West Caldwell, NJ, Technician

All of this testing in 2019 would not have been possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Bob Winkle - N3AZZ, Bart Stack - KB3NFM,
Bob Barker - K5ACD, Tony Pavilonis - K3AHP,
and Reg Genola - W3REG

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



I know you don't want to hear this...

BUT,

No hamfests till next year.



Radio Sport

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

Contest Corral

December 2019

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests. Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
3 0200	3 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST + SPC + Power	arsqp.blogspot.com
5 0000	5 0300	1.8	QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	CW	ARCI: RST + SPC + ARCI No.; non-ARCI: RST + SPC + power	qrpaci.org/contests
5 1800	5 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T) + 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net
5 2000	5 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
6 2200	8 1600	1.8	ARRL 160-Meter Contest	CW	WVE: RST, ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST	www.arrl.org/160-meter
7 0500	8 1000	3.5-28	UFT Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.uft.net
7 0600	7 0800	7, 14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
7 1200	8 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
7 1600	8 1559	3.5-28	International Naval Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr or serial	www.mars.org.uk
7 1600	8 1559	3.5-28	PRO CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, "M" if member	procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html
7 1800	8 2359	3.5-28	FT8 Roundup	Dig	RST, state or province/territory or serial (if DX)	www.rttycontesting.com
7 2000	8 1959	3.5-28	EPC Ukraine DX Contest	Dig	RSQ, Ukraine Admin Region or serial	epc-ukraine.uoqz.com
8 2000	8 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Holiday Sprints Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpaci.org/contests
9 0100	9 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
11 0130	11 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
14 0000	15 2359	28	ARRL 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	WVE: RST + State/Province; XE: RST + State; DX: RST + serial	www.arrl.org/10-meter
14 0000	16 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
14 0600	15 1800	3.5-28	TRC Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "TRC" if member	www.trodx.org/trodx
15 2100	15 2259	14	CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradoqrpclub.org
16 0200	16 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
18 0130	18 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
20 1600	20 1700	3.5, 7	AGB-Party Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if member)	www.ev5agb.com
20 2000	20 2359	1.8	Russian 160-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Oblast code or serial	www.qz.ru/contest
21 0000	21 2359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
21 0000	21 2359	3.5-28	OK DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, CQ zone	okrtty.cz
21 1200	22 1159	3.5-28	Padang DX Contest	Ph	RS, serial	padangdx.com
21 1200	22 1159	3.5-28	Gedebage CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	olib.or.id
21 1400	22 1400	1.8-28	Croatian CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	9eow.org
22 0000	22 1159	3.5-28	RAEM Contest	CW	Serial, latitude, longitude	rsem.sw.ru/en/main
22 1800	22 2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	CW	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, state/province/XE area/DX	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
25 0000	25 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
26 0830	26 1059	3.5, 7	DARC Christmas Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK or serial	darc.de/der-club/referate/contests/weihnachtswetbewerben
28 0000	28 2359	1.8-144	RAC Winter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), province/territory or serial	wp.rac.ca
28 1500	29 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	www.klen.net/stew
28 1500	29 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	qppc.de/contestrules
30 1300	31 0400	1.8-28	CQC Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	qrp-labs.com/party.html
31 0900	31 2359	3.5, 7	Bogor Old and New Contest	Ph	RS, operator age	www.osari-bogor.org

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

Bits and Pieces

Merry Christmas everyone,

This issue of the eQRM is so important to me. It is the Christmas issue! I may have gone a little overboard in the issue with an all Christmas theme. I am really excited this year for Christmas. I have several grandchildren now; this promises to be the most wonderful Christmas so far in my life. I have so much to be grateful for. Thanksgiving was wonderful, this Christmas is so full of hope and excitement I am right there with the jumpy anticipation of a child! I can hardly wait for Christmas!



I have been patiently waiting to get my HF antenna pole in the ground. It is quite the saga. The latest holdup has been a bad cold. I will shake the sickness, it is just going to take time. Homemade chicken noodle soup, oranges, vapor rub, and the list goes on. I will shake this, it is just taking too much time. I will get that darn pole in the ground!

I did get on 80 meters the other day. There was a group of about six from within 300 miles of my station just rag chewing and having a good time. I truly enjoyed my QSO with them. We talked about radio, old cars and life. It was so much fun. The antenna I have is a bit directional, some of the stations were hard to hear and be heard by (a few relays took place). Over all it was great. I am looking forward to installing my new HF antenna because it should be omnidirectional. This antenna install may turn out to be my Christmas present. That would be just fine with me.

I am truly wishing you a very merry Christmas.

I invite you to count your blessings as I will be doing. Christmas truly is “The most wonderful time of the year”. Enjoy your family and friends.

Till next year 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



On Behalf of my fellow Veteran's I would like to thank the BVARA:

Saturday, November 09, the BVARA provided volunteer communications support at five Aid Stations via ham radio on two meters from about 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM for a Veteran's foot race at Raccoon Creek Park. The 5K, 10K and 20 mile Outdoors Immersion Races at Raccoon State Park were a great success. I wanted to thank all the BVARA members that came out that frigid morning (The weather had turned cold with temperatures in the low 20s) to provide radio communications keeping the event organizers as well as the runners informed and safe.

The communications team consisted of Jack – KZ3Z, Pam – W3PMS, Tony – K3AHP, Dan – KB3VSP, Doug - N4YKQ, Norm – K3NJT, Mark – KC3NUD, and Rich – K3SOM.

Thank you all,

David Covalt KC3BXC



For more photos click the link :

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/w3sgj/49086482641/>

Of Interest to All

2020 'Radio Astronomer for a Day' Field Trip at GBT

Description*: The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) is a service of the National Science Foundation. Green Bank, West Virginia is the site of one of their facilities, the Robert C. Byrd *Green Bank Telescope* (GBT). The GBT is a leader in the scientific study of pulsars, dense neutron stars that serve as laboratories in which astronomers study the physics of extreme states of matter and enormous magnetic fields.

The BVARA plans to participate in NRAO's 'Radio Astronomer for a Day' Program that provides operating hands-on time with their Forty Foot Radio Telescope. Under the guidance of a staff astronomer, we will be trained and will collect relevant data to accomplish our mission.

When: May 9th and 10th are the dates for this event. As further details are gathered, times and dates for departure and return will be made available. We are planning for carpools, but you are free to drive yourself and join us at the [Green Bank Telescope](#) site in West Virginia at our planned arrival time.

Where: The *Green Bank Telescope* is located on 155 Observatory Road, Green Bank, WV 24944. Contact phone number is: (304) 456-2150

Who: All club members are invited, but an accurate count and firm commitment is needed of those wanting to participate. Group size is from 6 to 30 people so other interested friends could be included to meet the minimum group size. Participants must be at least 12 years of age.

Why: Because you have bragging rights to operating a huge radio telescope with lots of electronics to gather data on a fascinating astronomy project. Having fun in the process is a huge bonus.

What: The Program is free to our group. We are required to stay on campus. Single rooms are \$50 and doubles are \$70 per night. Breakfast is \$7, Lunch is \$9 and Dinner is \$15. ***A deposit may be required to hold our reservation.*** Other logistics issues TBD.

What else: Also, in the area are the Cass and Durbin steam railroads, Seneca Caverns, the Droop Mountain Battlefield, and Snowshoe for possible side trips.

Deadline: No later than Sunday, December 8th, 2019 to: K3SOM@ARRL.net or (724) 847-0610.



*Photo of the 40-Foot Dish – Courtesy of the NRAO

Of Interest to All



with the ARRL Straight Key Night

Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

All authorized Amateur frequencies may be used, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.

Entries for Straight Key Night must be received by January 31. Votes for 'Best Fist' and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the results.

For more information, go to ARRL.org and do a Website Search on Straight Key Night.

TU ES HNY 73

