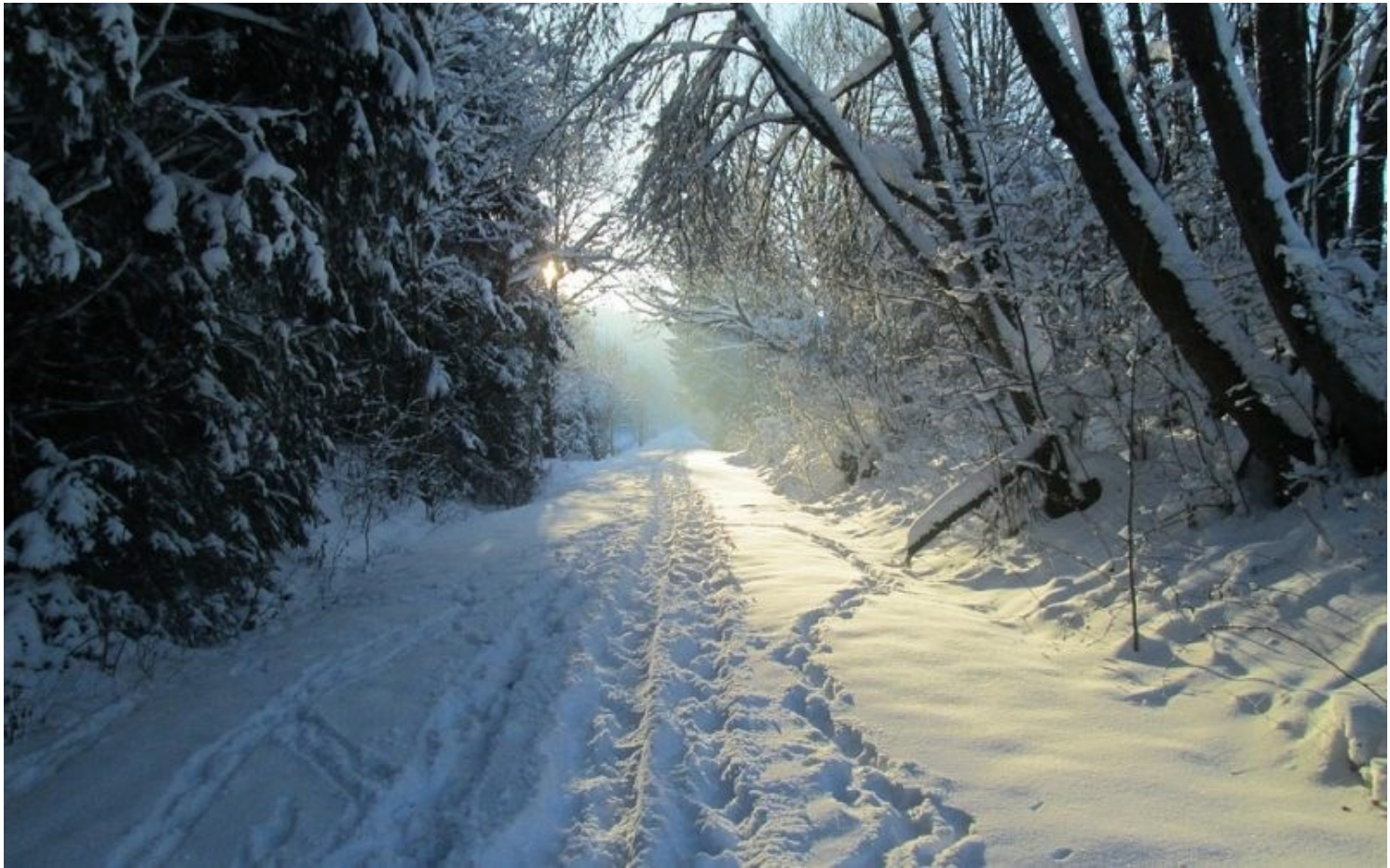




THE eQRM

JANUARY 2020



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover : Happy New Year!

What lies down the trail for your Ham radio hobby this year? Will you follow an old path or break a new trail?

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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

Jan 09 2020

Feb 13

Mar 12

Apr 09

May 14

Jun 11

Jul 09

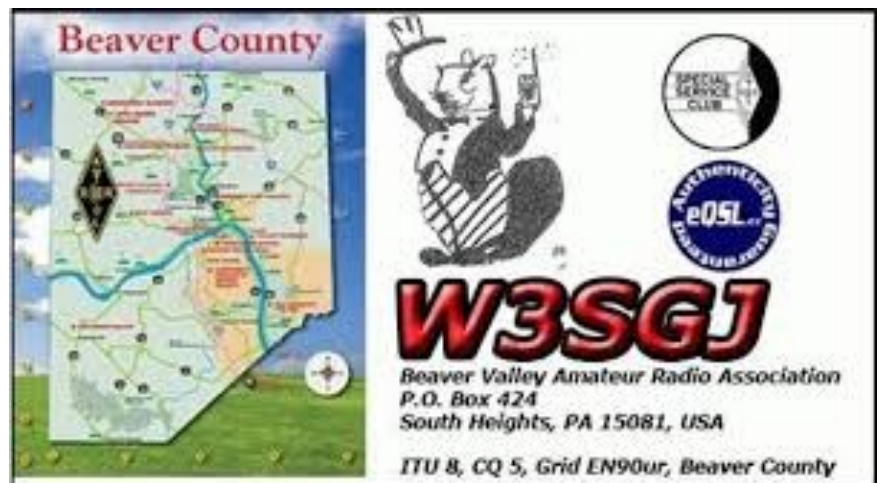
Aug Club Picnic TBA

Sep 10

Oct 08

Nov 12

Dec Club Christmas Party



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:

Attic and Outdoor Stealth Antennas

Including:

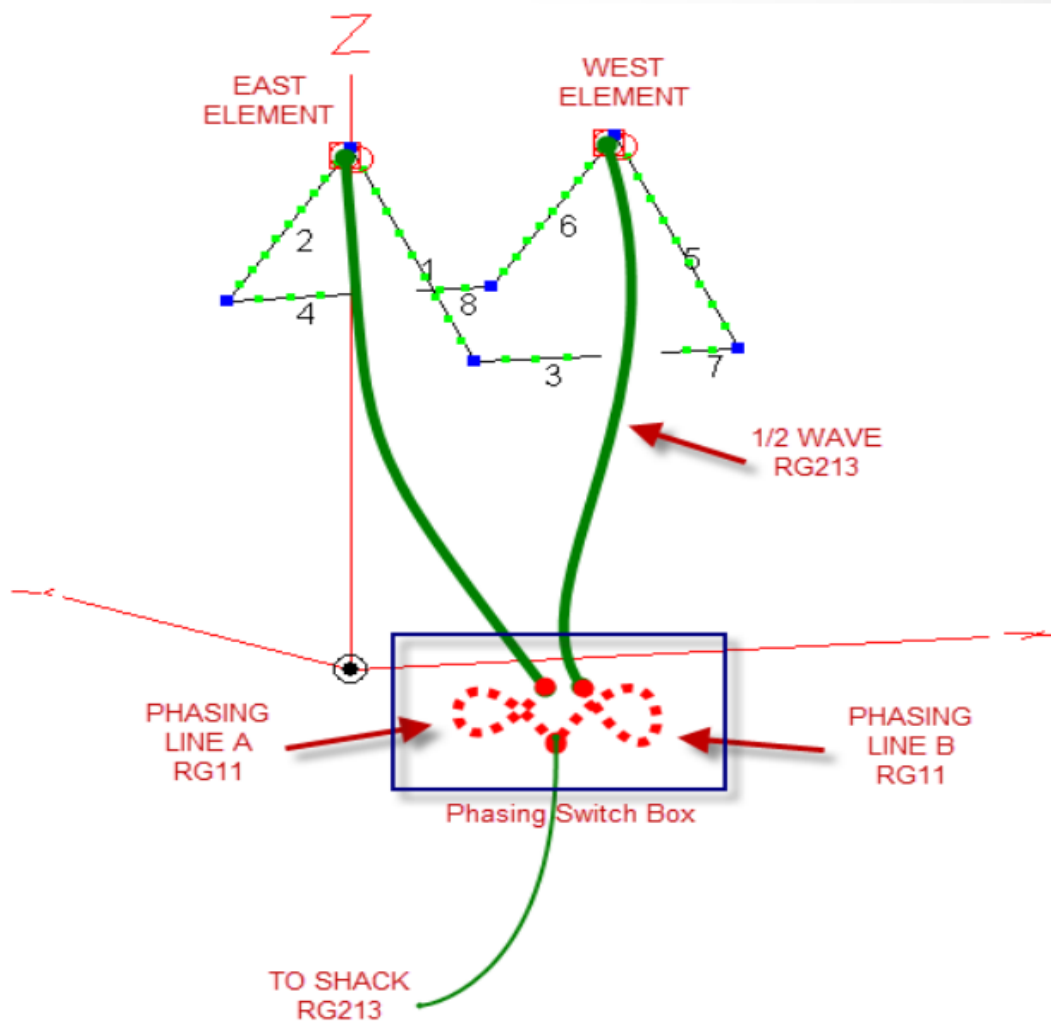
Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month deals with two interesting types of low-profile antennas. Homes located within the bounds of Home



Owner Association (HOAs) agreements have very specific conditions that must be honored. Curb appeal and neighbor sentiment also frequently limit the ham's choices for an antenna. The first type of antennas we will examine are indoor antennas. These home-made antennas are typically placed in the attic of a home. We'll explore several types that have been built and documented. Their performance can't approach what can typically be accomplished with a tower and multi-element Yagi or a full-size wire antenna at a decent height above ground. But with good operating skills and resonant antennas with proper matching, amazing results can frequently be achieved. You may recall our July 2019 presentation by John, K3WWP from Kittanning who has made over 23,000 CW/QRP contacts since 1993 in 225 Countries using simple wire antennas, many of which were on those antennas located inside his home. Very interesting!

Our second antenna type is the 'stealth' antenna style. These are frequently disguised as other objects, or are placed in close proximity to trees so that they become nearly invisible, or are otherwise invisible even to your next-door neighbor. These stealth antennas include a delta loop antenna only seven feet above ground with a tree background, an attractive American Flagpole Antenna to show your patriotic nature with a remote auto tuner and multiple buried radials, and a well-camouflaged commercial vertical requiring no radials but you just might wonder where it is among all of those other trees.

This Month



But wait, there's more! Other important topics include attaching the indoor antennas, tuning the antenna to resonance, including transformers and baluns, as required, and keeping all antenna wires away from telephone and power cables to minimize coupling. Checking on interference with telephone, TV, stereo systems, and ethernet equipment will also be covered. Power levels, modes of operation, hours of operation, and temporary outdoor antennas that come in before you go to bed will also be discussed. This is one exciting presentation that you won't want to miss.

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE,
B.S. Electrical Engineering

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.

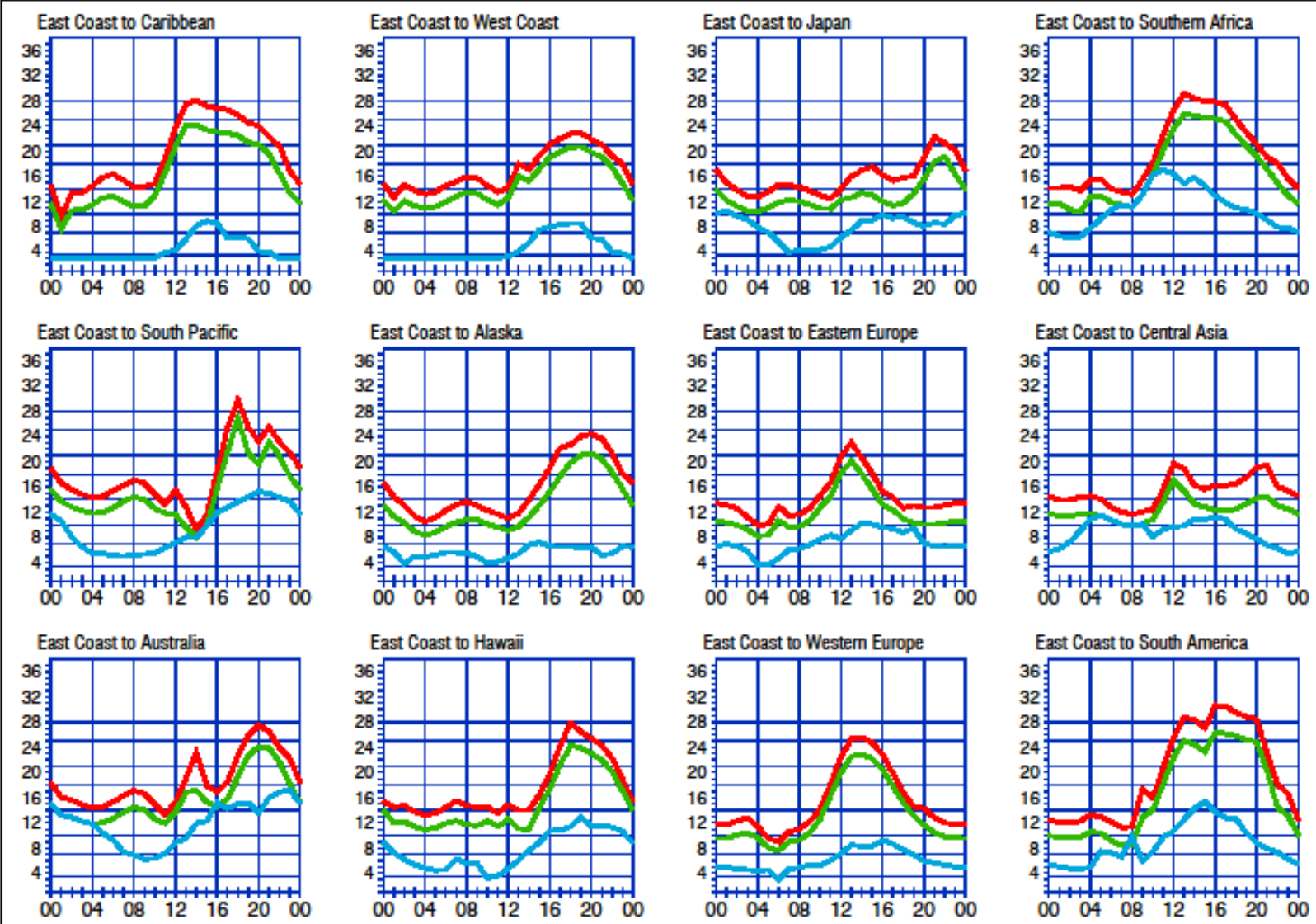
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 January 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 (HFF, 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 January 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 come take your test with us! Testing starts at 5PM, Club meeting starts a 6:30. All are welcome to attend.

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



VE TEST SESSIONS

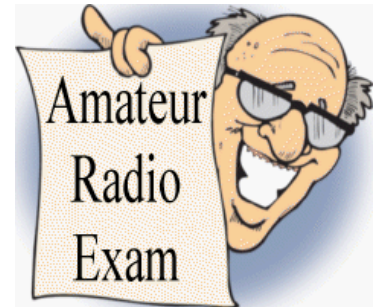
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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



There was no VE Test Session for the month of December. The BVARA was at our annual Christmas Party.

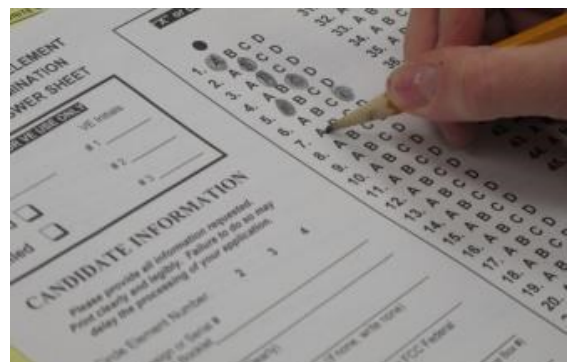
Our normal test sessions resume at 5PM January 9, 2020 at the 911 Center in Ambridge Pennsylvania prior to our BVARA Club meeting.

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.

The only exception is if there is no meeting, there is no test session.

Come over at 5PM and take your test with us and stay for our normal Club meeting that starts at 6:30PM.

All are welcome!



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



Hang on, hang on...
Washfest 2020
Hamfest is February.



Radio Sport

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

Contest Corral

January 2020

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 |
|-----------------|------------------|--|---|-----------|--|--|
| 1 0000 | 1 0100 | 3.5 | AGB New Year Snowball Contest | CW Ph Dig | RST, serial, mbr (if any) | qs1net/eu1eu/agnb_nyeb.htm |
| 1 0800 | 1 1100 | 3.5, 7 | SARTG New Year RTTY Contest | Dig | RST, serial, name, "happy new year" in native language | sartg.com/contest/rtyrules.htm |
| 1 0900 | 1 1200 | 3.5-14 | AGCW Happy New Year Contest | CW | RST, serial, mbr (if any) | www.agcw.org/index.php/en |
| 1 1400 | 1 1800 | 144, 432 | AGCW VHF/UHF Contest | CW | RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid square | www.agcw.org/index.php/en |
| 1 1500 | 1 1800 | 3.5-28 | QRP ARCI New Years Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or power | qrp-arci.org/contests |
| 1 2000 | 1 2100 | 3.5 | UKEICC 80-Meter Contest | Ph | 4-char grid square | ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php |
| 2 1800 | 2 2200 | 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 0000 | 4 2359 | 3.5-28 | PODXS 070 Club PSK-Fest | Dig | RST, SPC | www.podxs070.com |
| 4 1200 | 5 1200 | 3.5-28 | WW PMC Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), PMC abbreviation or CQ zone | www.s59dod.si/index.php/sl |
| 4 1900 | 4 1700 | 3.5, 7 | RSGB AFS Contest, CW | CW | RST, serial | www.rsgbc.org/hf |
| 4 1800 | 4 2359 | 3.5, 7, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 144 operations | ARRL Kids Day | Ph | Name, age, QTH, favorite color | www.arrl.org/kids-day |
| 4 1800 | 5 2359 | 3.5-28 | ARRL RTTY Roundup | Dig | WVE: RST, SP; non-WVE: RST, serial | www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup |
| 4 2000 | 5 0700 | 1.8 | EUCW 160-Meter Contest | CW | RST, name, club and mbr or "NM" | euow.org/eu160.html |
| 6 0800 | 12 2000 | All | IQRP Quarterly Marathon | CW Ph Dig | RS(T) | www.iqrpmontebelluna.it |
| 7 0200 | 7 0400 | 3.5-28 | ARS Spartan Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, power | arsqp.blogspot.com |
| 8 2300 | 12 2300 | 1.8-7 | AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest | CW | RST, eqpt year, input power | www.antiquewireless.org |
| 11 0000 | 11 2359 | 3.5-28 | YB DX Contest | Ph | RS, serial | ybdxcontest.com |
| 11 0500 | 11 0800 | 3.5-28 | Old New Year Contest | CW Ph | RST, sum of operator age and years on the air | radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results |
| 11 1200 | 12 1200 | 3.5-28 | UBA PSK3 Prefix Contest | Dig | RSQ, UBA Section or serial | uba.belen/hf/contest-rules |
| 11 1200 | 12 2359 | 1.8-50 | SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | CW | RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" | www.skccgroup.com |
| 11 1800 | 12 0559 | 1.8-28 | North American QSO Party, CW | CW | Name, state/DC/province/country | www.ncjweb.com |
| 12 0530 | 12 0730 | 3.5, 7 | NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB | Ph | RST, serial, Fylke/Lan/Province/Region | nrau.net/nrau-baltic-contest |
| 12 0800 | 12 1000 | 3.5, 7 | NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW | CW | RST, serial, Fylke/Lan/Province/Region | nrau.net/nrau-baltic-contest |
| 12 0900 | 12 1059 | 28 | DARC 10-Meter Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), serial, DOK (if DL) | darc.dolder-club/referate/contests/darc-10m-contest |
| 12 1300 | 12 1700 | 3.5, 7 | RSGB AFS Contest, Data | Dig | RST, serial | www.rsgbc.org/hf |
| 12 1400 | 15 0800 | 1.8-144 | Classic Exchange, CW | CW | Name, RST, SPC, rev/eqmtr info | www.classicexchange.org |
| 13 0100 | 13 0300 | 1.8-28 | 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint | CW Ph | RS(T), SPC, mbr or power | www.4sqrp.com |
| 16 0130 | 16 0330 | 3.5-14 | NAQCC CW Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or power | naqcc.info |
| 17 1800 | 17 2200 | 3.5, 7 | LZ Open Contest | CW | Serial, serial received from previous QSO | www.lzopen.com |
| 18 1200 | 19 1159 | 1.8-28 | Hungarian DX Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), HA county or serial | www.hz-dx.com/en |
| 18 1300 | 18 1700 | 3.5, 7 | RSGB AFS Contest, SSB | Ph | RS, serial | www.rsgbc.org/hf |
| 18 1800 | 19 0559 | 1.8-28 | North American QSO Party, SSB | Ph | Name, state/DC/province/country | www.ncjweb.com |
| 18 1800 | 19 0559 | 1.8-28 | NA Collegiate Championship, SSB | Ph | Name, state/DC/province/country | www.w9smc.com/nacc |
| 18 1900 | 18 2300 | 1.8 | WAB 1.8 MHz Phone/CW | CW Ph | RS(T), serial, WAB square or country | wab.internip.net |
| 18 1900 | 20 0359 | 50 and up | ARRL January VHF Contest | CW Ph Dig | 4-char grid square | www.arrl.org/january-vhf |
| 18 2000 | 19 0559 | 1.8-7 | Field Hell Sprint | Dig | RST, mbr, SPC, grid | sites.google.com/site/fieldhellclub |
| 20 0200 | 20 0400 | 1.8-28 | Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or power | qrpcontest.com/pigrun |
| 22 0000 | 22 0200 | 1.8-28 | SKCC Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, name, mbr or power | www.skccgroup.com |
| 23 0130 | 23 0330 | 1.8 | NAQCC CW Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or power | naqcc.info |
| 24 2200 | 26 2200 | 1.8 | CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW | CW | RST, SP or CQ zone | www.cq160.com |
| 25 0600 | 26 1800 | 3.5-28 | REF Contest, CW | CW | RST, French Dept or serial | concourse-r-e-1.org |
| 25 1200 | 26 1200 | 3.5-28 | BARTG RTTY Sprint | Dig | Serial | bartg.org.uk |
| 25 1300 | 26 1300 | 3.5-28 | UBA DX Contest, SSB | Ph | RST, serial, Province (if ON) | uba.belen/hf/contest-rules |
| 25 1900 | 26 1900 | All (no WARC) | Winter Field Day | CW Ph Dig | Category, ARRL Section or "DX" | www.winterfieldday.com |
| 27 1300 | 28 0400 | 1.8-28 | QCC Challenge | CW | RST, name, SPC, rig | qrp-labs.com/party.html |
| 29 2000 | 29 2100 | 3.5 | UKEICC 80-Meter Contest | CW | 4-char grid square | www.ukaicc.com |

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 contact 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

Hello All, Happy New Year,

Jim Allen KC3IXE was voted the 2019 “Ham of the Year” for the BVARA by his peers. Jim is an active member. He is always ready to help out. Jim



has been “the man”

when it comes to volunteering to organize and chair some of our most interesting field trips. Jim is an “all around” good guy in my book. It is hard not to be a friend of Jim Allen. Ever since I have met Jim he has been a positive motivator in my radio pursuits and beyond. When you see him, congratulate him. We sincerely thank you Jim for all that you do and have done.



Jim Allen KC3IXE

On the cover page of this month’s eQRM I am hinting about something new for the newsletter. What is in store for your radio hobby? Will you enjoy your hobby the same way you have been or will you enjoy your radio hobby in new ways? Many people make resolutions for the New Year. Will you set a small radio goal or a challenging radio goal? Some small goals may be getting your first FCC license, attending a meeting of a local ham club, getting a QSO card made for your station, a new wire antenna, attend a hamfest, joining the BVARA on a field trip etc. Will you set a more challenging goal like updating your current amateur radio license, learn CW, purchase of that radio you have had your eye on for some time, installing an antenna tower, taking on a leadership position in your local Ham club. Is there something that is an even bigger challenge you wish to achieve?

I am baiting you for this new item in the BVARA Newsletter. I will be interviewing someone each month and asking them to share two goals

Bits and Pieces

they have for the 2020 radio New Year. The person may have an amateur license or maybe not. I will write a short paragraph or two for page one of the “What’s your goal for 2020”. I will do a follow-up; keep a reckoning of the progress of your pooled radio goals on page two. This promises to be great fun. This is not a competition. I just want to share what you have planned for your New Year radio hobby resolution. The page two containing the tally is just to keep updated on your progress and share your completion. I would like to include applicable pictures and diagrams too.

Even if I don’t get to interview you, my hope is to inspire all readers of the BVARA eQRM to set some goals for your radio hobby this year.

Are you ready? I may interview you next!

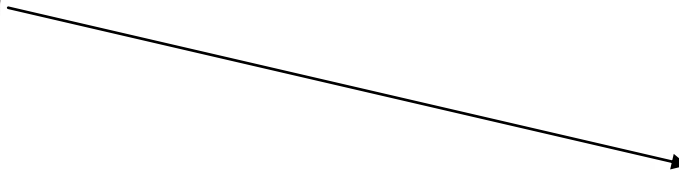
Till next month 73 KC3BXC clear, but I’ll be listening...



Reminiscences...

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 the article 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



Western PA 2M Net - 1974



Of Interest to All



Hello BVARA Members,

It is with great sorrow that one of our alumni, Chris Moratis - W3OUF became a Silent Key (SK) on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the age of 90. Chris was always kind and patient with everyone as well as willing to help out with many of our projects. He was also the club's VE Liaison for many years.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

The BVARA Club sent a donation to his church here in Beaver County where he actively worshiped and participated. May he Rest In Peace always.

With deepest sympathy,

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association



George-NNBJ with Jack-KZ3Z and Chris-W3OUF at Field Day 2009

What's your goal for 2020

Coming next month...

How's your goal for 2020 going

This is the place

I will let everyone know how you are getting along with your New Year's radio resolution. This could also lead to a "Show and Tell" so to speak at a BVARA Club meeting.