# THE eQRM

#### JULY 2016



### The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

#### On the cover :

Al Belardia - WA3GFM received special presentations from the BVARA Club and the ARRL for administering his 100th Volunteer Examiner test session. Read more on Pages 13-14 and 15 inside.

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Field Day Results 18

Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter

Wednesday 10 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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### Who We Are

2016 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z Vice President: Dick Hanna, K3VYY 2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

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

2016 MEETING DATES Jul 14 Aug no meeting Corn Roast Aug 20th Sep 08 Oct 13 Nov 10 Dec no meeting Christmas Party Dec 3rd 2017 MEETING DATES Jan 12 Feb 09 Mar 09







# This Month

### **BVARA Club Feature Presentation:**

#### Speaker:

Rich Soltesz K3SOM

#### Topic:

Future Shock with Technology

#### **Including:**

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month deals with the concept of *Future Shock*. According to Alvin and Heidi Toffler's book published in 1970, "Future shock is the shattering stress and disorientation that we induce in

individuals by subjecting them to too much change in too short a time." Six million copies of their book were sold and a 1972 documentary of the same name featuring Orson Welles was released, so the concept resonated with many people.



We'll begin by taking an historical look at some of the many past predictions of what the

future will be like, assuming (and here's the big assumption) that the future progresses exactly as the prognosticator thinks it will. Punxsutawney Phil's descriptor seems to fit here! It's truly amazing how some very bright and technically advanced people got so many of their predictions wrong. It's natural that as we grow older, we become more resistant and less willing to accept newer technologies. Ham radio technology is no exception to this trend. We'll look at how close to the mark those radio technology predictions were as well.

But wait, there's more! Terms like "crowdsourcing", "philanthro-capitalists", "prosumers", "presumption", "cyberdust" and "obsoledge" are now vying for a spot in future predictions. We'll also offer our list of what our crystal ball tells us, assuming that it's cut for the correct frequency. You might like to bring at least one prediction you feel will be strongly influenced by changes in technology. This is one exciting presentation that just might cause you to experience a *Future Shock*!

#### Rich's Background:

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

# More this Month

### Weekly

The Monaca Steak and Shake has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

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 RAC-ES/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) Thursday Morning Breakfast (or you can have lunch)



The BVARA meets every Thursday at Steak 'n Shake in Center Township, by the Beaver Valley Mall, at 10:00 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

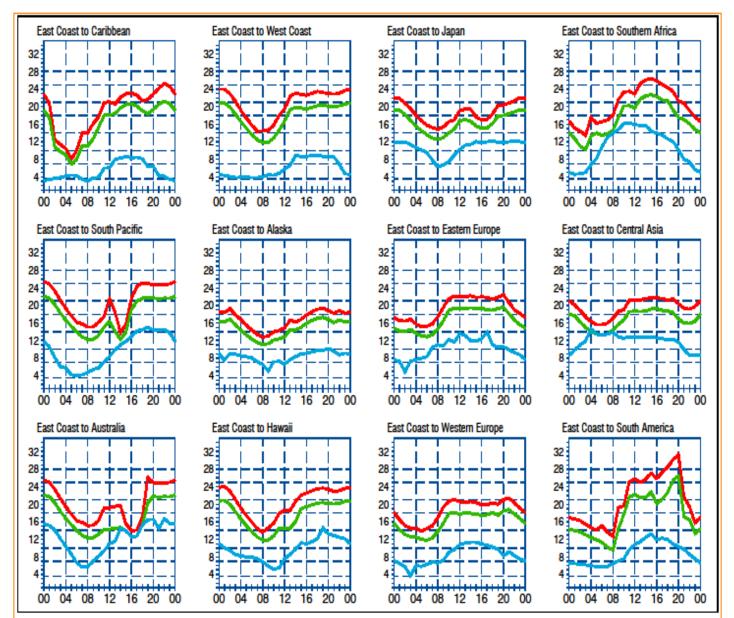
### See you Thursday at



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 July 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 1394 *QST*, pp 27-30, and Feb 1395 *QST*, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 90. This is a 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 July 2016.

If you would like more information on how to read these charts, or for more information on propagation in general,

please visit http://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 Nine One One 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**

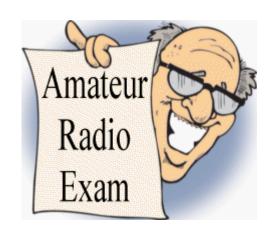
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003. Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings (the second Thursday of the month). All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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.

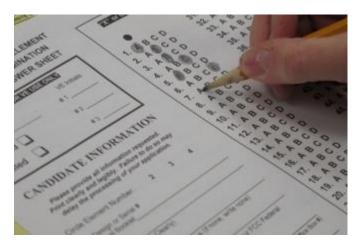
# New License and Upgrades

#### **BVARA VE Testing**





Bart Stack - KB3NFM from Moon Township, PA passed his Extra Class exam at our June testing session.



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 A                                | ARRL           |   |
|--|---|----------------|---|
| Sign up for:   |   | Price          |   |
| BVARA full membership  |   | 20.00          |   |
| BVARA student members  | hip   | 15.00          |   |
| BVARA associate membe  | rship   | 10.00          |   |
| BVARA Child under 21 at  | t home membership                                   | 5.00           |   |
| One year ARRL membersh   | ip  | 49.00          |   |
| A Club Donation  |   |                |   |
| ARRL Member? Yes No  |   | Total Enclose  | d |
| Your License Class (If you have of<br>Technician<br>General<br>Advanced<br>Extra Class | Name<br>Address<br>Email<br>Phone<br>Your Call sign | S<br><br><br>1 |   |

Make check or money order payable to:

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

South Heights, Pa 15081

### Hamfests & General Announcements



### NORTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

#### 31st ANNUAL HAMFEST

SATURDAY JULY 16, 2016

#### GENERAL ADMISSION \$5 EACH Gates open 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

#### RAFFLE : 3 Grand Prizes Plus Hourly Prizes and 50:50 Raffle

1

Set-up Time: 6:00 am Indoor Tables 510 Tailgaters 55/5pace Advanced Reservations Available from:

Eric Fowler—WV3E 319 W. Ingomar Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 wv3e@nharc.org 412-436-WV3E (9833) REGISTER NOW

To Parlwood U.P. Church:

From Rts. 8 south - Travel

to I ght at ML Hoyal Blvc., turs left. Continue to

Parkwood Church on right,

From Ris. 3 north -Travel to Mt. Royal Blvd., turn right. Costinue to Parcwood

Charch on right just past Royalism. From Ris. 13 or Moknight Ris. 2010. - Turn right or Cumberland Rd past UFMC Passavent Hosp. Continue Jeross Petbles on Cample Io Mt. Royal Bivd., tarn right to Partwood Church

From Rie, 12 or Moliniaht

Rd. north -Turn left on Cumberland Rd. part UFMC

Passavant Iloap. Continue across Peobles on Sample

to Nt. Royal Blvd., tarm

right to Parkwood Church

OTHER RAFFLES 50/30 Raffle 50% of the amount collected in the

Prize Jar all day. The winner need not be present. Well call you if you win

the prize. Hourty Door Prizes We

will raffle a prize every hour beginning at 9 sm

until 1 pm. Prizza will in-

and other useful items.

Prizes will be called by

toss it. Winner must be

present

number from your admiss on ticket so please don't

clude gft cartificates for various ARRL Publications

just past Reyalvue.

on light.

on right

Location Parkwood Presbyterian Church 4289 Mt. Royal Boulevard Allison Park, PA 15101 Talk-in Frequency 147.090 PL 88.5 FREE PARKING Vendors + Flea Market Handicap Accessible Light Breakfast and Lunch Available Refreshments and Ple. Bring your appetite! VE Sessions to be held

Gi Hand Ave Parkwood Information

#### THREE GRAND PRIZES

#### First Prize

ICOM IC-7300 HF/50MHZ TRANSCIEVER

New technology is changing the way receivers are being designed and the C-7300 is an incustry frat as an RF. Direct Sampling System is being used in an entry level HF radio. The shifty to digitize RF before various receiver stages reduces the inherent has to that is generated in the enterent H stages of a radio We feel the performance of the 7300 will fair exceed your expectations for p radio considered entry level.

#### Second Prize

#### ICOM ID-880H Dual Band Mobile Radio

D-STAR ready VHF,UHF switchable dual band, Wideband receiver covers 118-173,995, 230-549,995, 810-999,990 MHz, 1052 memory channels, multiple team functions, CTOSS/DTOS encoder/vecescer, keyped navigetion and mener

#### Third Prize

#### SARK-110 Antenna Analyzer by SteppIR

The SARK-110 is a completely new design concept for an Antenna Analyzer. This is a truly pocket size device, so you can take it anywhere. It offers a gorgoous 3' high resolution, active matrix eater display that allows information-nen diagrams. Its small size does not mean compromising the features and measurement performances, it has a frequency range from 0.1 to 230 MHz with 1 Hz of resolution. It has Mill vector measurement capability and accurately mackes the resistive, capability and inductive components of a load.

GENS OR AMMUNITION MAY NOT BE SOLD DURING THIS EVENT

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### Hamfests & General Announcements



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### Contest Corral — July 2016

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.

| Date | Start<br>Time | - Fin<br>Det | ish<br>e-Time | Bands   | Contest name                                  | Mode      | Exchange                            | Sponsor's Website                  |
|------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1    | 0000          | 1            | 2350          | 1.8-144 | RAC Canada Day Contest                        | CW Ph     | RS(T), province/territory or serial | wp.rac.ca/category/prog/           |
| 2    | 0000          | 2            | 0400          | 3.5-28  | FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint                | CW        | RST, SPC, name, mbr or power        | fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints |
| 2    | 0000          | 3            | 2350          | 1.8-28  | Vanazualan Indapandance Day<br>Contast        | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), sorial                       | yv5rcv.org/reglasindep.aspx        |
| 2    | 1100          | 3            | 1059          | 3.5-28  | DL-DX RTTY Contest                            | Dig       | RST, sarial                         | www.drog.de/dkbrtty                |
| 2    | 1400          | 3            | 1400          | 1.8-28  | Marconi Memorial HF Contest                   | CW        | RST, serial                         | arifano.it/contest_marconi.html    |
| 2    | 1500          | 3            | 1500          | 3.5-14  | Original QRP Contest                          | CW        | RST, serial, power category         | www.qrpcc.de/contestrules          |
| 2    | 2000          | 3            | 2000          | 7       | PODXS Ø7Ø 40 Meter<br>Firecracker Sprint      | Dig       | RST, SPC                            | www.podxs070.com                   |
| 3    | 1100          | 3            | 1700          | 28      | DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest                 | Dig       | RST, sarial                         | www.daro.de/referate               |
| 4    | 0001          | 10           | 2350          | 28      | 10-10 International Spirit of 76<br>QSO Party | CW Ph Dig | Name, mbr or "0," SPC               | www.ten-ten.org                    |
| 4    | 1900          | 4            | 2030          | 3.5     | RSGB 80 Meter Club<br>Championship, CW        | CW        | RST, sarial                         | www.rsgbcc.org/hf                  |
| 5    | 0100          | 5            | 0300          | 3.5-28  | ARS Spartan Sprint                            | CW        | RST, SPC, power                     | arsqrp.blogspot.com                |
| 7    | 1700          | 7            | 2100          | 28      | NRAU 10 Mater Activity Contest                | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), 6-char grid                  | www.nrou.net/activity-contests     |
| 0    | 0000          | 9            | 0400          | 3.5-28  | FISTS Summer Sprint                           | CW        | RST, SPC, name, mbr or power        | www.fistsna.org                    |
| 9    | 1200          | 10           | 1200          | 1.8-28  | IARU HF World Championship                    | CW Ph     | RS(T), ITU zone or IARU Society     | www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship  |
| 9    | 1200          | 10           | 2350          | 1.8-50  | SKCC Weekend Sprintation                      | CW        | RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"       | www.skccgroup.com                  |
| 0    | 2000          | 10           | 2159          | 14      | CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush                  | CW        | RST, SPC, class, mbr or power       | www.cqc.org/contests               |
| 3    | 1900          | 13           | 2030          | 3.5     | RSGB 80 Mater Club<br>Championship, SSB       | Ph        | RS, sorial                          | www.rsgbcc.org/hf                  |
| 6    | 0700          | 16           | 1450          | 7-28    | Russian Radio Team<br>Championship            | CW Ph     | RS(T), 3-char code or ITU zone      | news.sm.ru                         |
| 6    | 0800          | 16           | 1400          | 1.8-7   | Trans-Tasman Low-Bands<br>Challenge           | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), sorial                       | vkcc.com/australian-vk-contests    |
| 6    | 1200          | 17           | 1200          | 3.5-28  | DMC RTTY Contest                              | Dig       | RST, sarial                         | digital-modes-club.org             |
| 6    | 1400          | 16           | 1750          | 1.8-50  | Fold Holl Sprint                              | Dig       | RST, mbr, SPC, grid                 | sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub |
| 16   | 1800          | 17           | 0559          | 3.5-28  | North American QSO Party,<br>RTTY             | Dig       | Name, SPC                           | www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf      |
| 6    | 1800          | 17           | 2100          | 50,144  | CQ Worldwide VHF Contest                      | CW Ph Dig | 4-char grid square                  | www.oqww-vhf.oom                   |
| 7    | 0900          | 17           | 1600          | 3.5-14  | RSGB Low Power Contest                        | CW        | RST, serial, power                  | www.rsgbcc.org/hf                  |
| 8    | 0100          | 18           | 0300          | 1.8-28  | Run for the Bacon QRP Contest                 | CW        | RST, SPC, mbr or power              | qrpcontest.com/pigrun              |
| 21   | 0030          | 21           | 0230          | 3.5-14  | NAQCC CW Sprint                               | CW        | RST, SPC, mbr or power              | naqoo.info/sprint201607.html       |
| 21   | 1900          | 21           | 2030          | 3.5     | RSGB 80 Meter Club<br>Championship, Data      | Dig       | RST, serial                         | www.rsgbcc.org/hf                  |
| 7    | 0000          | 27           | 0200          | 1.8-28  | SKCC Sprint                                   | CW        | RST, SPC, name, mbr or power        | www.skccgroup.com                  |
| 80   | 1200          | 31           | 1200          | 3.5-28  | RSGB IOTA Contast                             | CW Ph     | RS(T), serial, IOTA nr (if any)     | www.rsgbcc.org/hf                  |

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates. No contest activity occurs on the 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.homucopla.com/contestcal and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. The ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service. 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.

84 July 2016 ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® www.arrl.org

# Bits and Pieces

I write this Bits and Pieces column each month with safety in mind. So I will start with "Please be safe in all your amateur radio pursuits. Be safe when driving, climbing that tower, installing new equipment or troubleshooting that broken item are a few things that come to mind".

This month it was a privilege to be part of the BVARA as we presented WA3GFM, Albert Belardia with an Outstanding Achievement award for his one hundredth Volunteer Exam session. Maria



Somma, AB1FM, the ARRL VEC Manager sent Al a special certificate commemorating his 100th session achievement also. I do not think many hams could boast that they have been a VE at one hundred FCC exams. This shows Al's dedication to a hobby he is passionate about. He wants to ensure that Ham Radio continues in the future.

I hold Al in high regard. One of my favorite interactions is at Thursday morning breakfasts. I like to hear about his DX contacts. He has also shown me his latest QSL cards that confirm the DX contacts. I am glad to have him as a fellow ham operator and member of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association.

Field Day June 25-26, 2016 was fun. If you look at the results you may think things weren't so good. They were quite good! Many BVARA members were committed to other responsibilities and were absent from the Park this year. I had much to do myself and I was only able to spend only a few hours at our club Field Day event.

I learned about a "Yagi in a bag". Rich, K3SOM ; Bob, N3AZZ and Jacob, KC3ARP educated me on putting together this 10



meter beam antenna. It was interesting. I feel I helped our club make some ten meter contacts by putting up that 10 meter antenna. I enjoyed learning how to put up a Yagi, supported our Field Day event, was part of the team effort and had fun in the process.

I had a wonderful breakfast with everyone Saturday morning, thanks to Chef Norm, K3NJT. There was plenty of time for visiting



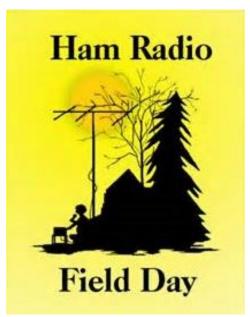
# **Bits and Pieces**

and operating. I didn't operate any stations but I sat by and listened as others did. I just never cease to be amazed that we can contact someone through the airwaves so far away by voice or digital mode. Thanks Tom, AA3TK for your team effort in digital mode.

Propagation conditions were not the best. Despite the less than prime conditions many contacts were made.

I think this year's Field Day was a great success! Thanks everyone for your efforts in making this Field Day 2016 a success. Folks had fun, there was team building, great food, good stories and no one got injured. That last item has the most value in my view of field day. I can't wait for next year.

I end this bits and pieces with safety." Please think safety every time you are about to engage in any radio pursuit. When in doubt, STOP! Give it some second thoughts. Get a little help from your fellow Hams. Seek the advice of someone that has been in the hobby longer than you. They probably have made the same mistake you are about to... Think it through. Don't be in a rush, be safe."



## **Outstanding Achievement**

#### The BVARA takes great pride in honoring Al Belardia, WA3GFM. Al administered his 100<sup>th</sup>

# Volunteer Examination session on June 9, 2016.

On behalf of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Club, Congratulations Al on One Hundred VE test sessions! That is quite an accomplishment. Bart Stack, KB3NFM from Moon Township, PA passed his Extra Class exam during Al's one hundredth VE test session.

I interviewed WA3GFM for the newsletter at one of our



Thursday morning breakfasts. Al told me he got into Ham radio in 1955. A co-worker was an amateur radio operator; he also could administer the FCC exam to get your Ham License. Al's coworker obtained the test and gave Al his first FCC exam at the plant where they worked. He passed. He was licensed as WN3GFM on July 13, 1966. In those days an operator had to upgrade from novice within one year because the Novice license was not renewable. Al took the upgrade test, passed and was given the call sign WA3GFM on February 18, 1967. Today Al holds an Amateur Extra class license.

About 40 years ago Al moved to Beaver County and joined the BVARA club with Tony Petrocelli. Al's first radio was a Heathkit he built himself. He never was into short wave listening or CB radio. His favorite amateur radio mode of operation is Single Side Band Phone. Making two-way radio contact with distant stations (DX) is also much loved. While chasing DX, his first DX contact was Germany using CW (continuous wave, Morse code). Al said that using head phones chasing DX and having to pay very close attention gives him the most enjoyment. He said that a contact with Australia was his most memorable contact.

Thank you for your dedication to amateur radio Al Belardia.

Al started as a VE in 1985 and is shown here setting up for his 100th VE session.



# Some Interesting Links



| Ham related clothing                                  | http://www.cafepress.com/+amateur-radio+clothing                                    |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Top ten secrets                                       | nttp://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/ten-secrets-about-jumping-into-ham-radio.html |  |  |
| Ham radio fun   | http://www.hamradiofun.com/   |  |  |
| Amateur Radio news                                    | http://www.arnewsline.org/  |  |  |
| Ham Community site                                    | http://www.qsl.net/kd4sai/index.html  |  |  |
| Personalized Ham radio items http://www.hamcrazy.com/ |   |  |  |

### For All Radio Operators



#### Whether at home or on the roam



#### The Amateur's Code

**CONSIDERATE** ... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL ...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE** ...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY ...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED** ... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC ...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

# Field Day 2016



W3SGJ - Field Day 2016 3A 100 watts from Old Economy County Park

#### Total Contacts = 327 Total Points = 357

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

| Band  | CW | Phone | Dig | g Total | %   |
|-------|----|-------|-----|---------|-----|
|       |    |       |     |         |     |
| 80    | 0  | 122   | 0   | 122     | 37  |
| 40    | 0  | 101   | 0   | 101     | 31  |
| 20    | 0  | 65    | 30  | 95      | 29  |
| 10    | 0  | 9     | 0   | 9       | 3   |
|       |    |       |     |         |     |
| Total | 0  | 297   | 30  | 327     | 100 |

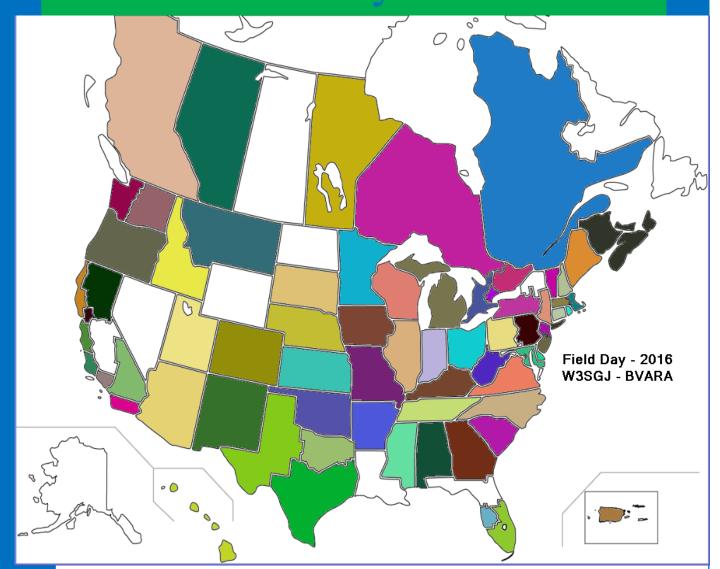
Total Sections Worked = 71 out of 83

#### Total Contacts by Country:

| Country     | Total |    | % |
|-------------|-------|----|---|
|             |       |    |   |
| USA         | 305   | 93 |   |
| Canada      | 18    | 6  |   |
| Hawaii      | 2     | 1  |   |
| Puerto Rico | 2     | 1  |   |



### Field Day 2016



Total Contacts by Operator:

| Operator              | Total | %  |  |  |
|-----------------------|-------|----|--|--|
|                       |       |    |  |  |
| K3SOM                 | 129   | 39 |  |  |
| KR3DX                 | 64    | 20 |  |  |
| K3VYY                 | 36    | 12 |  |  |
| KZ3Z                  | 32    | 10 |  |  |
| AA3TK                 | 28    | 9  |  |  |
| KG3L                  | 26    | 7  |  |  |
| KB3LED                | 10    | 3  |  |  |
| AD6RN                 | 2     | 1  |  |  |
| Total operators $= 8$ |       |    |  |  |

The states, provinces and sections colored other than white are where we made contacts

# Field Day 2016

