THE eQRM

OCTOBER 2021



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover Fall in Western Pennsylvania is so beautiful! I encourage you to get out and enjoy the Fall colors. Soon the weather will be unforgiving, do you have any last minute outdoor ham projects? Now is a great time to finish them.

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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

2021 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Oper

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP

Director: Jim Allen, KC3IXE

Trustee: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

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).

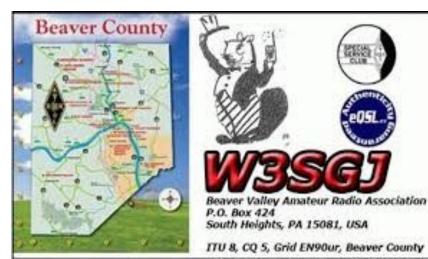
All meetings subject to Covid restrictions and cancellations.

Club Meetings 2021

Oct 14 Nov 11 Dec 08 Christmas Party

Jan 13 2022 Feb 10 Mar 10 Apr 14 May 12 Jun 09 Jul 14







This Month

October Special Session

Speakers: BVARA Club Members and You

Topic: New QRP Equipment Discussion And Roundtable Help with Questions from You

What's It All About?

Are you new to ham radio and equipment? Are you wondering about new digital modes with your equipment? Maybe you have questions about antennas, setting up your station, how to make an HF contact, power sources, or how to interface your computer to your ham equipment. Perhaps your questions are even more basic like rules and regulations, which bands are best to use, where to find operating resources like band plans, what to do after you make contacts and how do you save or conveniently create a useful log. Maybe you have problems with annoying noise or need help in selecting some equipment. The list goes on . . .

Since our initial roundtable discussion in November 2019, new hams have continually sought the answers to questions you have about ham radio and operating a station. You don't have to be a member of the BVARA; you may just have a question or two that's been bothering you about our ham radio hobby. In fact, you could be new to the hobby or a seasoned veteran with questions. Maybe the concept of POTA Activation or becoming a POTA Hunter piques your curiosity. Whether it's technical or about rules/ regulations or operating or equipment, we want to help you. We'll start our roundtable around 7:15 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center at 351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003. *Please join us with your questions!*

Rich Soltesz - K3SOM 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.

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 WW3AAA 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL) Thursday Morning Breakfast (or you can have lunch)

Come join us!



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



RACES / ARES The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



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 Beaver County Emergency Services 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.





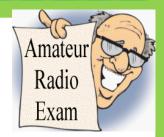
ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

- 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 only.
- 6. Your FRN Number. (free from the FCC, call for details)

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this month :



September 2021 VE Test Session Results

Our September VE Test Session had two candidates, with each participant achieving their goal of passing the exam. Our new electronic filing system once again worked superbly with completion of new and/or upgraded licenses available in just two days. A congratulations email was then sent to each candidate with a snippet of their license page for their new callsign and/or verification that all information was entered correctly.

Our testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. We are anticipating the continued use of the facility for our VE testing.

Congratulations to:

Karen Pelkofer - KC3SRL, Baden, PA, Technician Bob Brandenstein – KC3SGS, Freedom, PA, General

All of our BVARA testing would not be possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Reg Genola – W3REG, Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP, Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP, Bart Stack – KB3NFM, and Bob Winkle – N3AZZ



73 from Rich Soltesz - K3SOM, VE Liaison



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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 u	ıp for:	Price	
\bigcirc	BVARA full membership	25.00	
\bigcirc	BVARA student membership	15.00	
\bigcirc	BVARA associate membership	10.00	
\bigcirc	BVARA Child under 21 at home n	membership 5.00	
	One year ARRL membership	49.00	
	A Club Donation		
ARRI	L Member? Yes No	Total Enclosed	
Your	License Class (If you have one.)		
\bigcirc	Technician	Name	
\bigcirc	General	Address	
\bigcirc	Advanced		
\bigcirc	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



Nope....wait a minute,

Ah.

According to this there will be

a hamfest next month!

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

Last month I missed one of my favorite hamfests. It is one of my favorites because it isn't far to drive. I also like the location. The area is very nice for setting up to sell and it is flat to walk around to buy too. I sure wish I would have remembered it! I was so disappointed when it dawned on me that I missed it. Did you go to the Unionville Hamfest? If you did, I envy you. I just got so busy with things here at home I missed it. I wrote a big note for the next hamfest! I stuck that



big note on my calendar for the November hamfest in Washington Pennsylvania. This should keep me from missing this hamfest! I will also ask my YL to remind me.

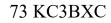
Judging from the first page of this month's eQRM maybe you can tell that Fall is my favorite time of year. I look forward to the warm days and cool nights. The crispness in the evening air gets me motivated to get my last few chores completed before Winter comes. I have some last-minute painting and building to complete this year. I see my neighbor putting up his Winter firewood pile. If I have time, I want to put up a couple of antennas. I have one HF antenna and one two-meter antenna I would like to put up.

This year the Fall leaves are already beginning to change here at my home. I plan to take a trip up into the mountains so I can get an even better view of the leaves changing color. I want to walk thru the colorful noisy leaf litter too.

As the evening temperatures cool even further as Fall progresses, I have a pretty good excuse to stay warm next to my HF rig in my radio room. I don't think my YL minds. She is good to me this way.

As the days have begin to get shorter, I encourage you to get those lastminute outdoor ham plans completed. Let me know what you have been up to. I would enjoy your input.

Clear, but I will be monitoring.







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It's Your Dime

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: <u>kc3bxc.73@gmail.com</u>





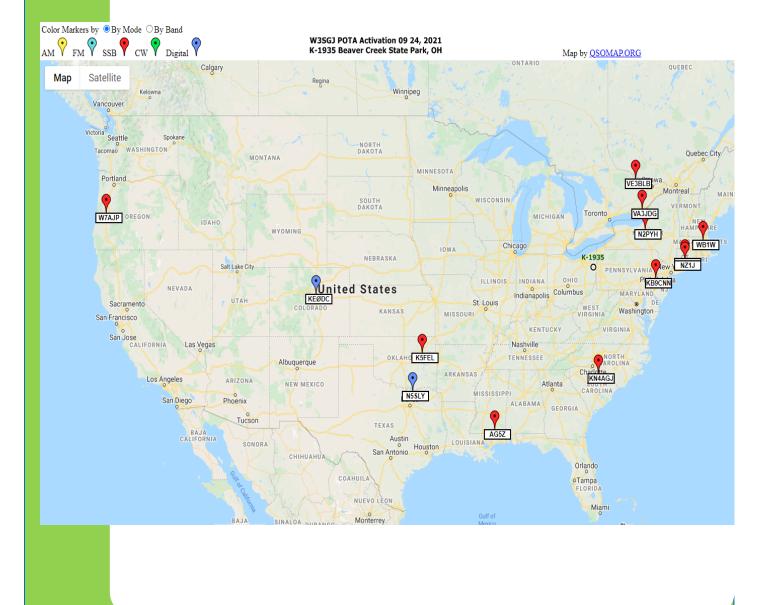
BVARA POTA Park Activation September 24, 2021 K-1935 Beaver Creek State Park, OH

On Friday, September 24th, 2021, club members Tony, K3AHP and Rich, K3SOM activated the Beaver Creek State Park, just over the border in Ohio for POTA 'Hunters' everywhere. The POTA designation for the park is K-1935. With comfortable Fall temperatures and plenty of sunshine, two amateur radio stations running on LiFePO4 batteries were set up. A PowerFilm 30-watt portable solar panel was deployed and a BuddiPole Mini2 Charge Controller worked flawlessly to reliably provide power.

Although 100-watt radios like the ICOM-7300 can be used for POTA, the inability to hike and operate from less accessible sites severely limits some of the more choice locations. Two QRP radios with each using a Wolf River vertical antenna with multiple radials enabled a total of 13 contacts to be made on 20 and 40 meters. Both FT8 and SSB modes were employed. At a height of 1066 feet above sea level with the horizon visible in most directions, reception conditions were very good. Although a modest number of contacts were made, the lessons we learned tend to make every next outing an improvement.

It's Your Dime

The US Map shows markers and call signs for each station that we worked on this activation. The color of the marker indicates whether the contact was on FT8 or SSB. *QSOMap.org* was used to generate this custom map by using the ADI log of contacts file as the input source.



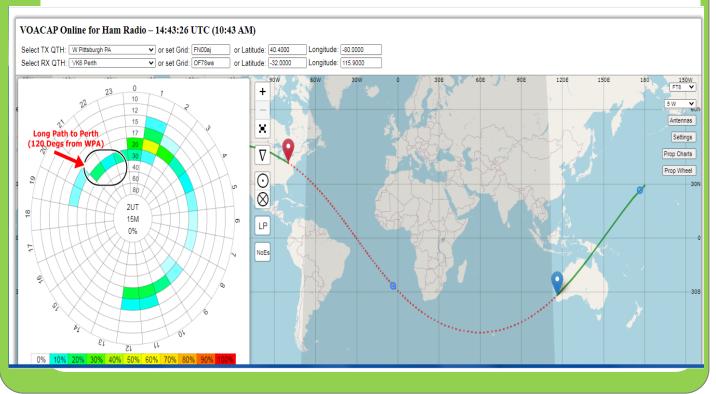
Of Interest to All

Best DX Yet on 5 Watts

There's joy in Mudville because I worked my best DX yet with only 5 Watts. Tim Jones, VK6EI in Perth, Australia running FT8 called CQ and I got him on the 2nd call. He was -3 dB and I received a -8 dB with the FT8 mode at around 6:30 pm EDT this evening (9/19/2021) on 30 Meters.

Short path, the miles were 11,339 and long path, the miles were 13,518. Short path is 2,267.8 miles per watt and long path, that is 2,703.6 miles per watt. Either way is a very long distance!

Curious, the next day I ran VOACap Online to review the propagation forecast at the time of the contact. There was no propagation for short path but about a 20 percent chance of a long path contact. So, I concluded that my personal record is 2,703.6 miles per watt.

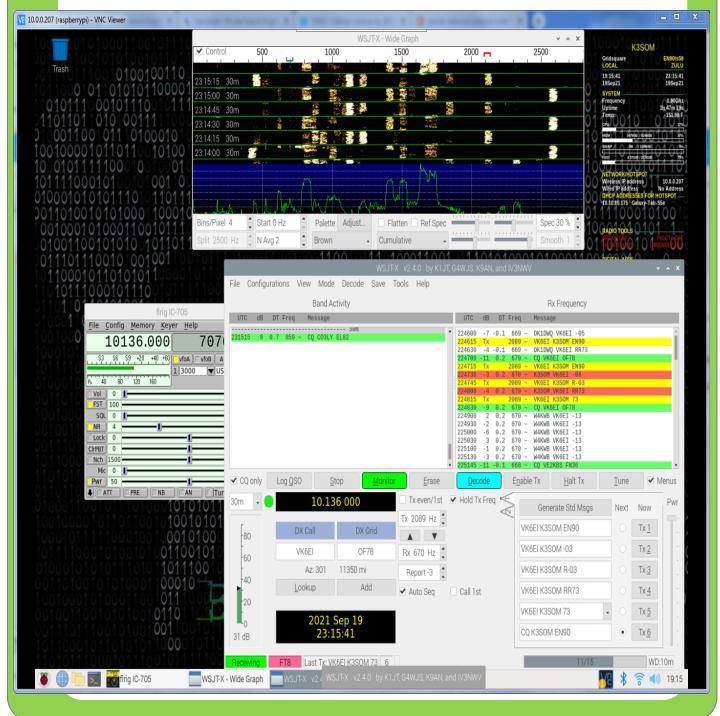


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Of Interest to All

I used my 140-foot doublet antenna with open-wire line to the Palstar BT-1500A tuner and then with a 1:1 match, about 40 feet of RG-8X to the ICOM IC-705 and the Raspberry Pi. Virtually no QRN was observed and band noise was very low.

Rich - K3SOM



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Of Interest to All



Free on-line Tech and General Classes

COVID-19 has been a factor complicating in-person classes. Last year the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, CFARC (www.cfarc.org), decided to offer their Tech and General Licensing classes online. They used *Google Meet* for online conferencing and *Google Classroom* to manage the class, distribute materials, provide sample quizzes, share resources, etc. A combination of local students, wider-ranging Ohio students and students from three other states studied with them.

CFARC will be doing this again this year and would like us to invite people from our area. Their plan is to do their usual local recruitment of students for their classes, but would also like to enlist the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association to help in recruiting candidates from our local area. The CFARC will refer any students from the Beaver County, Pennsylvania area to the BVARA for membership and most importantly, in-person mentoring (Elmering).

The Tech License classes will begin Sunday, Oct 10th and run for six weeks. Classes are 1:30 to 4:00 PM and all students must pre-register. The General License classes are not yet Scheduled, but will run in January/February 2022.

We have agreed to put their free online training offer in our *eQRM Newsletter* to help support local people who need a little help to be able to pass the exams. We welcome the opportunity!

Note: Participating students may need to purchase their own booklet (Amazon or their choice) at a nominal cost.

Resources/Links : Class Info- tiny.cc/beaham

Class Registration- link (http://tiny.cc/cfarc-tech)

Contact Information

- Anthony Luscre, K8ZT <u>k8zt@arrl.net</u> 330-650-1110
- Jim Grover, N8PZL <u>n8pzl@arrl.net</u> 330 928-8921

73 David Covalt KC3BXC

Radio Sport

Contest Corral

October 2021

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 -	Finis	sh					
Date	e-Time		e-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2	0600	3	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
2	0600	3	1800	3.5-28	TRC DX Contest	CW Ph	RST, serial, "TRC" if member	trcdx.org/rules-trc-dx
2	0700	2	1000	3.5, 7	German Telegraphy Contest	CW	RST, LDK (if member)	agcw.de/index.php/en
2	1200	3	1159	1.8-28	Russian WW Digital Contest	Dig	RST(Q), oblast code or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
2	1300	2	1330	144	Two-Meter Classic Sprint	CW Ph	Serial, 4-char grid square	fwrc.info/2021/05/21
2	1600	3	1100	3.5, 7	International Hell-Contest	Dig	RST, serial	darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste
2	1600	3	2200	1.8-28	California QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial CA county or SPC	www.cqp.org/Rules.html
2	1800	3	1800	AI	SKCC QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, name, 4-char grid	www.skccgroup.com
3	0500	3	2300	3.5-28	RSGB DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
3	0600	3	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, ON Section (if ON)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
3	2200	3	2359	3.5-14	Peanut Power QRP Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, peanut nr or power	nogagrp.org/PeanutPower
4	1900	4	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
5	0100	5	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6	1700	6	2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
6	1900	6	2300	432	432 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	svhfs.org
6	2000	6	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
7	1700	7	2000	3.5	SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid locator	www.sarl.org.za
7	1700	7	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrricontest.no
7	1900	7	2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	1400	9	0200	All	YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	yirl.org/wp/dx-na-yi-contest
9	0000	9	2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparci.org
9	0000	10	1559	3.5-28	Makrothen RTTY Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.pl259.org/makrothen
9	0300	10	2100	1.8-UHF	Nevada QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NV county or ARRL section	nvqso.com/contest-rules
9	0600	10	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
9	0800	9	1400	902 and	Microwave Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	svhfs.org
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9	1200	10	1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
9	1200	10	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	1500	10	0500	1.8-144	Arizona QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), AZ county or SPC	www.azqp.org
9	1600	10	0400	144-432	Cosack's Honor VHF/UHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	cshonor-vhf.ho.ua/eng1.html
9		10	2200	1.8-UHF	Pennsylvania QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, PA county or ARRL section	paqso.org
9	1800	10	1800	1.8-144	South Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SD county or SPC	www.sdqsoparty.com
9	2000	10	2000	1.8	160-Meter Great Pumpkin Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
10	0001	10	2359	28	10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint		Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
10	0600	10	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, ON Section (if ON)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
11	0000	11	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
13	0030	13	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
13	1700	13	2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
13		13	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16		17	2359	3.5-28	JARTS WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, age of operator	jarts.jp/rules2021.html
16	0001	17	2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
16	1400	17	0200	All	New York QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NY county or SPC	www.nyqp.org
16	1500	17	1459	3.5-28	Worked All Germany Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK or "NM" or serial	darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste
16	2000	16	2359	1.8-7, 21-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
16	2130	16	2230	7	Argentina National 7 MHz Contest	Ph	RS, 2-digit year first licensed	www.lu4aa.org
17	0000	17	0200	14.21	Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	ĊŴ	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint
17	0700	17	1000	144	UBA ON Contest, 2 Meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, ON Section (if ON)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
17	1700	18	0100	1.8-144	Illinois QSO Party	Ph	RS(T), IL county or SPC	www.w9awe.org/ilgp
17		17	2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo CW	ĊŴ	RST, previous 6-char grid received	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
17				1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	grpcontest.com/pigrun
18		22	2359	A	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph	RS(T), Class (I/C/S), SPC	arrl.org/school-club-roundup
	1900		2030	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
20	1900	20	2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CŴ	RST, serial, year first used a bug	alt.agcw.de/index.php/en
23		24	2359	2.3 GHz	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	arri.org/eme-contest
23	1200	24	1200	and up 3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, District Code (if UK/EI)	ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php
23	1500	24	1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	www.kkn.net/stew
23			0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
24		27	0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, radio model	www.classicexchange.org
		26	0300	1.8-144 1.8-UHF	Telephone Pioneers QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Chapter nr or RS(T), name	www.classicexchange.org
27			0200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
27		27	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
28	1900		2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
28	1600		2030	3.5-14	Zombie Shuffle	CW	RST, SPC, Zombie nr or area code, name	www.rsgbcc.org/nf www.zianet.com/grp
20			2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, CQ Zone	www.cgww.com
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