

# THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2016



## The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

## On the cover :

Why a picture of a Morse Code key and an Elecraft K1? Read the bits and pieces page. You may want to try a new mode for winter...

## Inside this edition

<b>Who We Are</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Hamfests &amp; General Announcements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>This Month</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Propagation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Radio Sport</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Get a license or Upgrade</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Bits and Pieces</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>New license and Upgrades</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Interesting links</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Special Recognition</b>	<b>16</b>
		<b>W3KWH - SCARC</b>	

### 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

## 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

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



## 2016 MEETING DATES

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: *This Month:*

### *Speaker:*

Rich Soltesz  
K3SOM

### *Topic:*

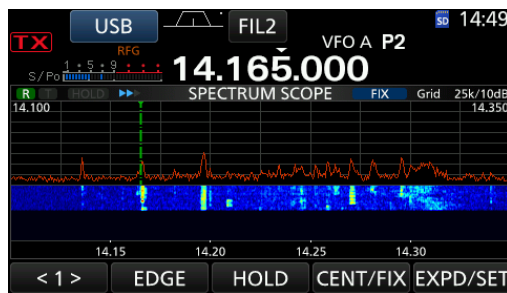
ICOM IC-7300 Impressions

### *Including:*

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month deals with a hands-on demonstration of the new ICOM IC-7300. The IC-7300 is ICOM's first offering of an amateur radio transceiver that moves away from the traditional double and triple conversion architecture to utilize Software Defined Radio (SDR) architecture.



We'll begin by taking a look at both triple conversion and SDR block diagrams to help understand what has changed. Then we'll discuss why roofing filters are no longer needed. Brick wall filter selectivity? It's in there! Real-time spectrum scope and waterfall? Included! Touch screen? Yes! Quality transmit and receive audio that gets noticed? But of course!



But wait, there's more! We'll demonstrate how easy it is to operate in any of the digital modes. Changes to specific internal parameters that enable easy digital operation and easier to read spectrum displays will also be covered. Split operation, transmitting a recorded CQ, recording a QSO, save touch screen display as a graphic file, and so much more. 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 Monaca Steak and Shake has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

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.

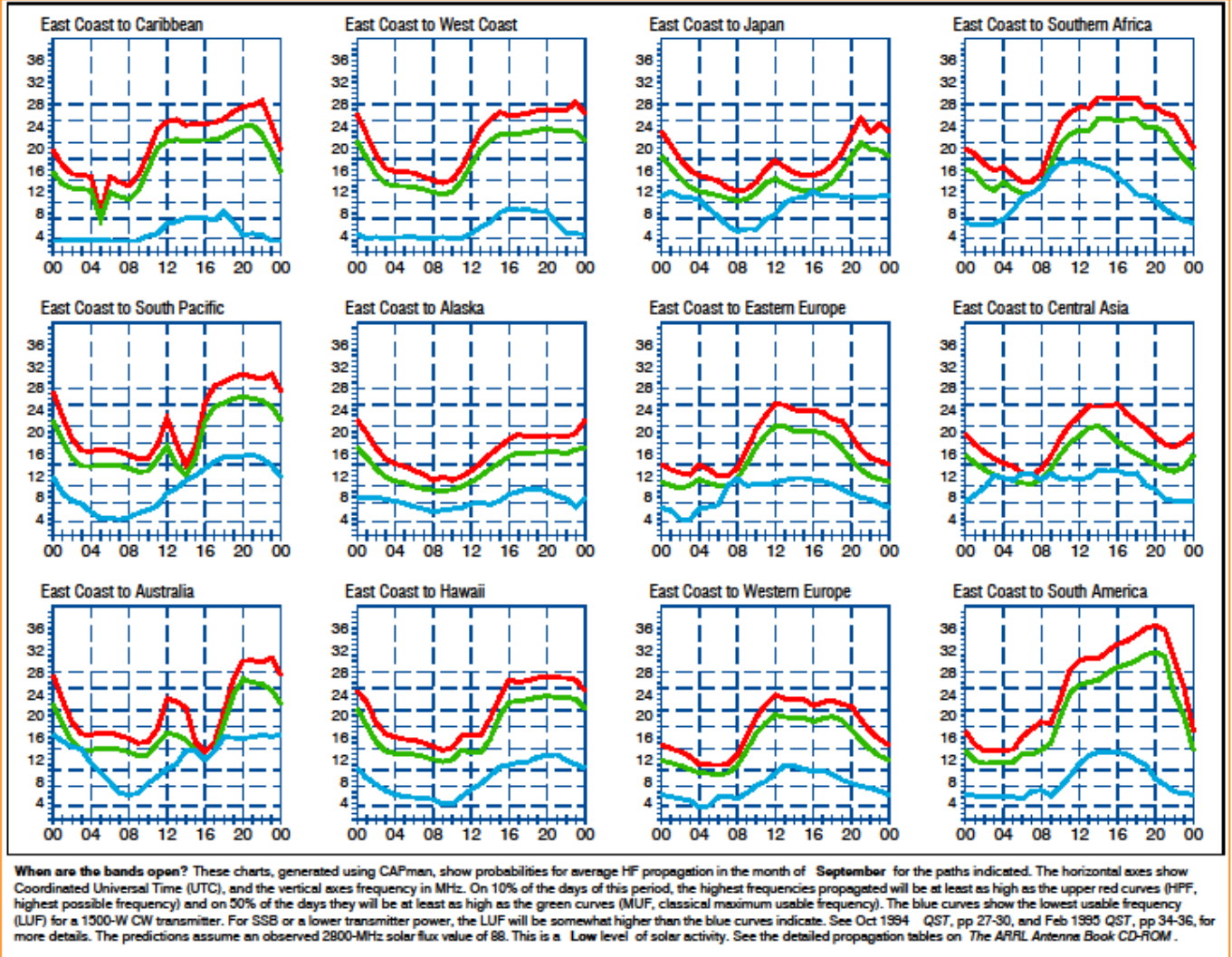


The eQRM urges all Beaver County licensed amateurs to participate in the County's RACES and ARES programs.

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)



# Propagation



## PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for September 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

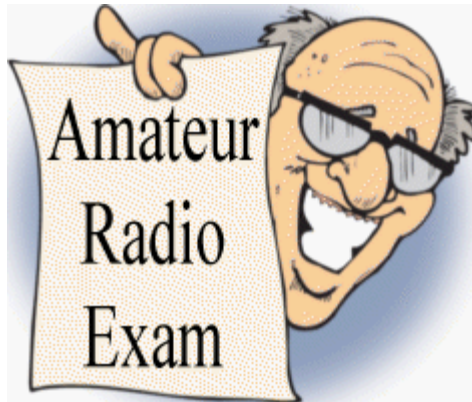
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.  
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings  
(the second Thursday of the month).  
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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.

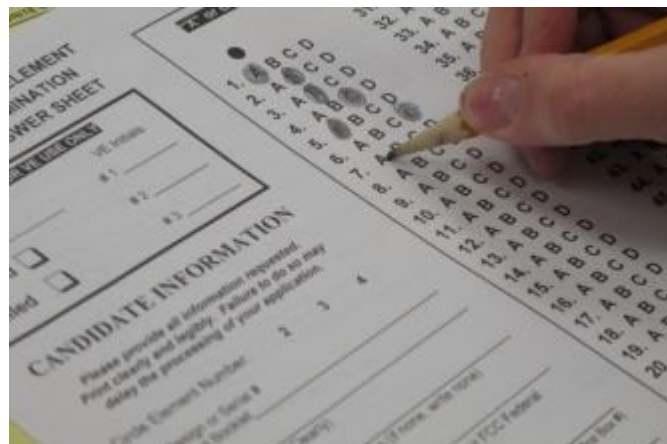
# New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



There was no BVARA Club meeting for the month of August, we had a Club Corn Roast picnic. No testing, so there are no test results for this month. Please come to the 8 September test session!

W3SGJ Corn Roast Pictures - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/w3sgj/>





# 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	20.00	_____
<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



Radio, Computer, Electronics

## SwapFest

Sunday September 11, 2016

8 A.M. to 3 P.M.



***Buy a ticket, and open your trunk!***

Unionville Fire Department  
102 Mahood Road, Butler, PA 16001  
(Along PA Route 8, 4 miles north of US 422)

40° 56' 19" N, 79° 57' 34" W

No firearm sales! No alcoholic beverages permitted in SwapFest area!

### PRIZES

MFJ Antenna Analyzer  
2 Dual Band HT's  
Power Supply

*Winner need not be present to win.*

### 50/50 Raffles

Gate donation of \$5.00 per person includes one main prize ticket.  
Additional prize tickets are available at the club's table.

Talk in W3UDX 147.36/96  
Web Site: W3UDX.ORG

**Breakfast and lunch available from the Unionville VFD.**  
(No individual food sales permitted.)

Information : Rick Melton N3VKM@arrl.net, 724-287-8134

Sponsored by : Butler County Amateur Radio Association , Inc.

## Contest Corral – September 2016

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://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 1700	1 2100	28	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests">www.nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
2 0100	2 0230	14	QRP Fox Hunt	CW	RST, SPC, name, power	<a href="http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org">www.qrpfoxhunt.org</a>
2 2300	4 2300	3.5-28	G3ZDS Memorial Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.fistna.org/operating.html">www.fistna.org/operating.html</a>
3 0000	3 2359	1.8-28	CWops CW Open	CW	Serial, name	<a href="http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html">www.cwops.org/cwopen.html</a>
3 0000	3 2359	3.5-28	Russian RTTY WW Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter oblast or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/s3">www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/s3</a>
3 0000	4 2359	3.5-28	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	<a href="http://www.jarl.org/English/qrp.ru/contest/wakeup">www.jarl.org/English/qrp.ru/contest/wakeup</a>
3 0600	3 0800	7-14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/ppma.org/coop">www.agcw.org/index.php/en/ppma.org/coop</a>
3 1300	3 1600	7	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	<a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/ppma.org/coop">www.agcw.org/index.php/en/ppma.org/coop</a>
3 1300	4 0400	1.8-UHF	Colorado QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	Your national society website
3 1300	4 1259	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
3 1300	5 1300	3.5-28	RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
3 2000	4 2000	3.5	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial	Dig	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.podxa070.com/">www.podxa070.com/</a>
4 1000	4 1400	144	WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
4 1100	4 1700	28	DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de/hf/contest">www.darc.de/hf/contest</a>
4 1800	5 0300	1.8-UHF	Tennessee QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://tnqp.org/rules">tnqp.org/rules</a>
5 2300	6 0300	1.8-50	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub">www.qsl.net/miqrpclub</a>
6 0100	6 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqp.blogspot.com">arsqp.blogspot.com</a>
7 2000	7 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukaicc.com">www.ukaicc.com</a>
10 0000	10 2359	1.8-VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://g4loc.org/qsoparty">g4loc.org/qsoparty</a>
10 0000	10 2359	14	Kulikov Poly Contest	CW	RST, KP* or serial	<a href="http://kpcotest.ru/?pg=contestrulesen">kpcotest.ru/?pg=contestrulesen</a>
10 0000	11 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de/hf/contest/">www.darc.de/hf/contest/</a>
10 1000	11 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of zents, category, province or "DX"	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
10 1200	11 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
10 1500	11 0959	3.5-28	Russian Cup Digital Contest	Dig	Serial, 4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/s6.html">www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/s6.html</a>
10 1800	10 2359	3.5-28	Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	Park abbreviation or "OH" or SPC	<a href="http://www.ospota.org/ospota">www.ospota.org/ospota</a>
10 1800	12 0300	50 and up	ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf">www.arrl.org/september-vhf</a>
11 0000	11 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>
11 1300	14 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rig	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org">www.classicexchange.org</a>
14 1000	14 2000	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint, SSB	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
16 2100	16 2359	3.5	AGB NEMIGA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://www.av5agb.com/contest">www.av5agb.com/contest</a>
17 0600	18 2359	10 GHz to light	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char Maidenhead locator	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a>
17 1000	18 1000	50, 70, 144, 432, 1296	SARL VHF/UHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid locator	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
17 1200	18 1200	1.8-28	All Africa International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules">www.sactest.net/blog/rules</a>
17 1200	18 1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules">www.sactest.net/blog/rules</a>
17 1800	17 2200	1.8-28	QRP Afield	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://newenglandqrp.org">newenglandqrp.org</a>
17 1800	18 2000	3.5-28	New Jersey QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.k2d-bcnc.org/hyp">www.k2d-bcnc.org/hyp</a>
17 1800	18 2200	All	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.w7wqm.org/nhqsos">www.w7wqm.org/nhqsos</a>
17 1800	18 2359	1.8-144	Washington State Salmon Run	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.wedcc.org">www.wedcc.org</a>
17 1800	17 1959	1.8-50	Field Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/fieldhillclub">sites.google.com/site/fieldhillclub</a>
18 0000	18 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>
18 1700	18 2100	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	<a href="http://www.bartg.org.uk">www.bartg.org.uk</a>
19 0100	19 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
19 1900	19 2300	144	144 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://svfhs.org">svfhs.org</a>
22 0030	22 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint201609.html">naqcc.info/sprint201609.html</a>
24 0000	25 2359	2.3 GHz and Up	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>
24 0000	25 2359	3.5-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ Zone, WVE also send SP	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
24 1200	25 1200	1.8-28	Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w1stm">www.qsl.net/w1stm</a>
24 1400	24 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, class, 6-char grid	<a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en">www.agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
24 1400	25 2000	All	Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.txqp.net">www.txqp.net</a>
24 1700	24 2100	3.5-14	RSGB International Sprint, CW	CW	Your call, other's call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
25 0700	25 1000	50	UBA ON Contest, 6 meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, ON section (if any)	<a href="http://www.uba.be/en">www.uba.be/en</a>
25 1300	28 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rig	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org">www.classicexchange.org</a>
25 2000	25 2200	7-21	Peanut Power QRP Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.nogarp.org">www.nogarp.org</a>
27 1900	27 2300	222	220 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://svfhs.org">svfhs.org</a>
28 0000	28 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
28 2000	28 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukaicc.com">www.ukaicc.com</a>
29 1900	29 2000	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>

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.homucopia.com/contestcal](http://www.homucopia.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.



# Bits and Pieces

So you know me and Safety...

I will always encourage you to be safe in your radio pursuits. Please, slow down and think it through before you do something unsafe. You may have gotten away with the unsafe act once. This time, maybe not. Be safe in all that you do.

This month I am thinking about that last “nice weather” radio project before the rains of Fall and the cold weather begins.



Now is the perfect time to get that last outdoor radio project completed. Maybe you can pick up a few things that you need from your favorite vender at a Hamfest. Speaking of Hamfests, there aren't many left to attend in western Pennsylvania for this year. It won't be long and that bad word “snow” will be with us. Get your outdoor projects completed.

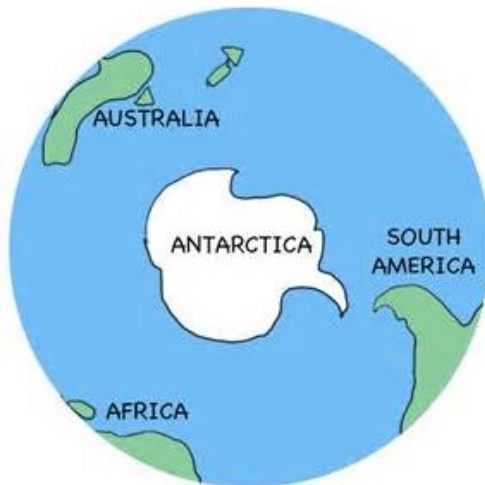
pleted.

The summer has been busy for me. I wager it was for you too. I have not been on the Air much at all since it got nice outside. Winter is the time I operate much more. What about you? Have you been on the Air very much during the nice summer weather? As I contemplate the coming of winter, I think I may set a goal for myself to try some other facet of Ham Radio. You should think about it too! Planning is everything. Having the goal will give you something to do this winter. When you complete your goal you will have a sense of accomplishment. Having a goal will help with the winter doldrums. Plan now to have things set-up for the new operation. I think about things I may need; a different radio, interface for digital, an additional antenna, power supply, cords, a computer, some software or other items. What do I need to reach my goal? I don't know what I will try but I am thinking about trying some new radio pursuit. Maybe I will learn Morse Code. There are some great resources to teach this facet of radio operating. Learning Code will take some time and it is a challenge for me. Come spring, if I get my goal accomplished, I will have a new skill. It will reward me for the rest of my life. Think about a goal you want to set for yourself this winter.





# Bits and Pieces



While I was thinking about the weather changes that will soon be here, it got me thinking about the southern side of the globe. Our fall will be their spring. I suspect they have been operating because of their winter. They were on the Air more because of being indoors. Their weather will be turning nice and warm. They may soon be doing what we have been: picnicking, vacationing, working on our house, cutting grass, just being outside in the nice weather. It was just an odd thought that we will be looking for DX and the southern side of the globe will most likely be spending little time operating their stations and spending time outside.

Coming up in October will be the Pennsylvania QSO Party. That will be a great time to get your skills honed back up if you took the summer off. There is a great internet site for more information, look in this newsletter at the “interesting sites” page.



Before I say 73, have fun & be safe. Keep safety in the forefront of all you radio pursuits.

# Some Interesting Links



Pennsylvania QSO Party info

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html>

Free software N1MM logging

<http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>

Good Propagation site

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

Elmering for the new HAM 24/7

<http://amateurradioclub.net/>

# For All Radio Operators



## 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.



# Special Recognition



On August 21st, 2016 the W3KWH Steel City Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a special Open House and Corn Roast. A large number of local hams joined the members in celebrating their event. Tim Duffy, K3LR, the Section Manager (SM) for Western Pennsylvania was on hand to present special recognition to the club from the ARRL. The BVARA wants to also extend congratulations to our neighboring club near Settler's Cabin Park in Allegheny County.



These two pictures show their HF and VHF-UHF Operating Rooms.

