

THE eQRM

AUGUST 2024



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ



2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: Just an existential “Hello” to August. Summer is about to end soon, have you done all that you have wanted to get done this Summer? I have some last minute things to complete. I still have time to get them done. The Dadgum Poles come to my mind.



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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

2024 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

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 (A.K.A. The 911 Center)
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

2024

Aug 10 Club Corn Roast

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

Dec Club Christmas Party

2025

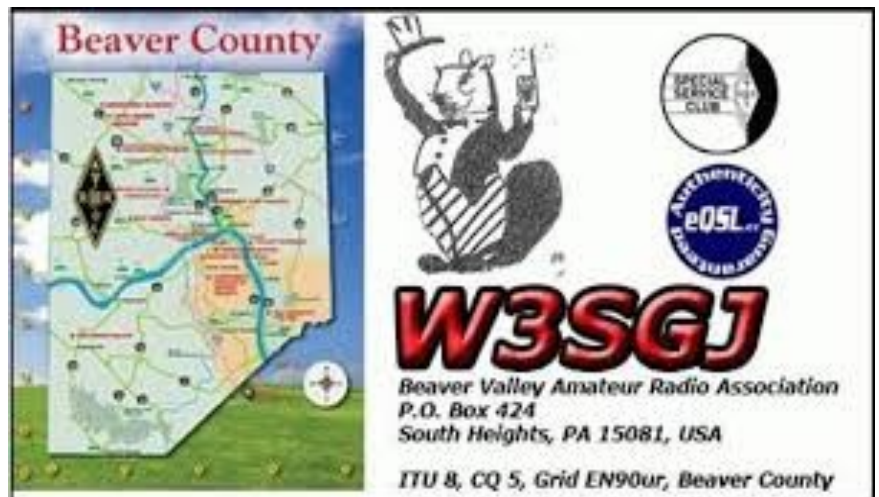
Jan 09

Feb 13

Mar 13

Apr 10

May 08



This Month

This Month:

There is no Club Meeting this month.



**We will all be at the BVARA Corn Roast on
Saturday the 10th of August.**

We will resume our regular Club Meetings on the 12th of September.

More this Month

Weekly

The Freedom Square Diner in Monaca has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)

Come join us!



BREAKFAST

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

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 WW3AAA 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)



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:

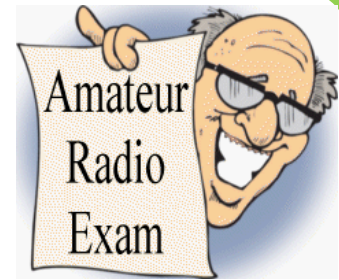
1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash only.
6. Your FRN Number. (free from the FCC, call for details)



New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :



July 2024 VE Test Session Results

Our July VE Test Session had three candidates, with all achieving their license or an upgrade of their license class. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly.

Testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on September 12th, 2024.

Congratulations to:

Steve Perichak, KC3ZMG, Technician, Mars, PA
Gary VanDrie, N5ISE, General, Butler, PA
Wes Wagner, KC3WPW, Extra, Wampum, PA

If you hear them on the air, please congratulate them on their achievement! All of our BVARA testing would not be possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Keith Custard – KC3TMC
Reg Genola – W3REG
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP
Scott Pelkofer - KC3KYZ
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP
Bart Stack – KB3NFM
Ron Victorelli – KC3TZT
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW



73 from Rich Soltesz – K3SOM, VE Liaison



Membership Information

By becoming a BVARA member you help secure the future of Amateur Radio in Beaver County. Additionally, the BVARA receives a portion of each ARRL membership you purchase!

Join the BVARA and ARRL

Sign up for:	Price	
<input type="radio"/> BVARA full membership	25.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> BVARA Child under 21 at home membership	5.00	_____
One year ARRL membership	49.00	_____
A Club Donation		_____
ARRL Member? Yes No	Total Enclosed	_____

Your License Class (If you have one.)

<input type="radio"/> Technician	Name _____
<input type="radio"/> General	Address _____
<input type="radio"/> Advanced	_____
<input type="radio"/> 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



Uniontown Amateur Radio Club

74th Annual Gabfest



Saturday, August 10, 2024



The Uniontown Amateur Radio Club – W3PIE will conduct our
74th Annual GABFEST
Saturday, August 10th, 2024!

The gates open around 8:00 AM with vendors welcome at any time prior to 8:00 AM! Please check our web site www.w3pie.org for updates.

The GABFEST will be held at the Radio Club Grounds located on Old Pittsburgh Road just off Northgate Highway/RT 43 Mon Fayette Expressway— near RT 51 and US RT 119 in Uniontown, PA

Talk in will be provided on 147.045 + (Full Time PL 131.8) Just call for W3PIE Gabfest Talk-In. This talk-in is provided for directions and Gabfest information. No check in is needed if you know how to get here!

As always, free parking is available! Refreshments available! Free Swap-N-Shop Set-up with registration! Check our web site prior to the event for Updates.

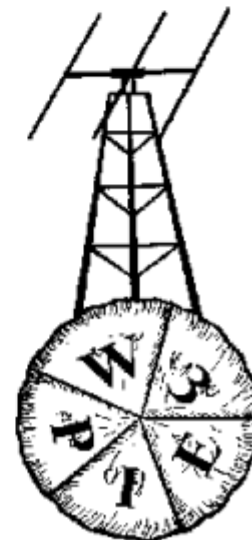
Same Location, Same Free Parking, Same Great Food, New Presentations, More Fun – and always a good time and conversation with area hams

Hamfest Prizes for our event
1 st Prize- Westinghouse 4500W Inverter Generator
2 nd Prize- Xiegu G90 HF Radio
3 rd Prize- Yaesu FT70DR Handheld
4 th Prize- Yaesu FT70DR Handheld

Address of UARC-W3PIE is 433 Old Pittsburgh Rd, Uniontown, PA

Contact Tony Alviar 724-430-1277 (M-F 8-4) or George Syner 724-439-1554 (leave message if no answer) if more information is needed. Also, Information is available anytime on 147.045 + (Full Time PL 131.8). Additionally- email officers@w3pie.org for information

Look forward to seeing everyone this year!



Hamfests & General Announcements



2024 SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY SWAP N SHOP!

SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2024 8:00am until 1:00pm

LOCATED AT OUR CLUB GROUNDS NEAR NEW KENSINGTON PA

Aprox 13 miles northeast of Pittsburgh

2335 Turkey Ridge Road

New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in 146.640- 131.8pl

Admission \$5.00 – Table space is \$5.00 (Bring your own table)

Great prizes – Door prizes – Begali CW key raffle

Breakfast and lunch served – Get your Skyview Burger and your Skyview Dipole Hotdog!

Contact: John Italiano WA3KFS – 724-339-3821

K3mjw@arrl.net



Of Interest to All

Remember back when you could communicate by “Pay Phone” for ten cents? This page is for anyone who wants to communicate with the BVARA community and beyond.

Please send me your article that you would like posted on this page. Please, only topics and language in good taste. As the editor I reserve the option to post it or ignore it. Send your dime to me at: kc3bxc.73@gmail.com



Of Interest to All

BVARA Members,



Debbie Tress, the wife of Tim Tress, KA3JRT passed away, July 21, 2024 after a long struggle with Cancer.

Funeral arrangements for Debbie were finalized and published by the *Noll Funeral Home*, located at 333 Third St, Beaver PA 15009. Our BVARA Club responded with an arrangement of Roses to express our deepest sympathy to Tim and his family and friends.

May she rest in peace.

With deepest sympathy to the Tress family and their friends,
All of us at the BVARA and beyond in the Ham Radio community.

Of Interest to All

The Annual BVARA Corn Roast



BVARA Members and their guests



5 PM

Saturday, August 10

Economy Park shelter #1

Dinner usually starts around 5 PM and we normally begin arriving around 2 PM to setup and just hang out. The club will have fried chicken, hot dogs, and corn-on-the-cob. We ask that everyone bring a side or dessert. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Thank you

Doug, N4YKQ



2024 Enon Valley Community Day with the BVARA and Ham Radio

Regarding the Enon Valley Community Day, including Jim, KC3IXE, Tom, N3XC, and Tim, K2EA from his home, we put HF and VHF stations on the air from our previous location last year just outside of the Enon Presbyterian Church using our club call sign, W3SGJ. July 20th, 2024 was not as hot and humid as it was in 2023. Once again, we had a good time, especially next to the tent with Amish women making and selling their glazed doughnuts.

In preparation on Friday afternoon, we put up a 90-foot sloping antenna near the top of a very tall oak tree. Jim's ICOM AH-4 auto tuner did a remarkable job matching that antenna from the 160- to the 6-meter band. I used the house ground that was conveniently located around the house where we set up. SWR didn't even register any return loss values on the ICOM-7300.

This year, Tom's focus was on Morse Code with a Code Practice Oscillator and straight key. Teaching both young and old how to send letters that formed words and messages with technology that has survived since the 19th Century garnered an interesting audience. Meanwhile, Jim was able to reliably talk to Tim near our two-meter repeater that is located very close to Tim's home. Tim was standing by for us to give him a call on two meters. His support was much appreciated in conversing with the kids.

On the HF Station located above the garage in a screened-in porch area, SSB contacts on 40 and 20 meters are in our log. Propagation was very good during the late morning. Our first contact on 40 meters was with the USS Savannah operating a Special Event Station, K3S. Later, we worked the NASA Special Event Stations at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida, The Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, all of which were celebrating the 55th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. DX contacts included hams in Russia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Propagation deteriorated quite rapidly during the Noon hour on all of the bands that we attributed to some form of adverse event on the Sun. But two POTA activated stations were squeezed in before the bands went dead.

The parade was noisy with all of the fire engines and police cars. Horse-drawn carts followed as many onlookers waved flags and cheered on the parade. Some photos follow below, with our www.Flickr.com/photos/w3sgj site with many more photos.

Those doughnuts were awesome!

Rich – K3SOM

Of Interest to All



This is the Site showing Jim and Tom under the Blue Shelter and Rich inside the screened-in porch. The J-Pole two-meter vertical is visible. The HF sloped vertical is barely visible in front of some trees.



Jim with two-meter hand-held radio and Tom with Code Practice Oscillator.

Of Interest to All



Jim and Rich with the ICOM -7300 on 20 meters



This inflatable bouncer fire truck, was our competition with kids

Of Interest to All



Tom and Jim relaxing with the kids enjoying the fire truck.



There was a parade of Enon Valley fire trucks, we saw some Amish women enjoying the parade.

Of Interest to All



Two tiny horses pulled a small cart, as part of the parade too.

I think it is safe to say a good time was had by all.

Of Interest to All

BVARA



August

August 3rd and 4th, North American QSO Party, CW

BVARA Corn Roast, Old Economy County Park, Shelter 1, August 10th, 5:00 PM

August 10th and 11th, Maryland - D.C. State QSO Party

August 17th and 18th, North American QSO Party, SSB

August 24th thru 26th, Hawaii State QSO Party

Skyview Radio Society clubhouse and grounds – Hamfest, August 25th 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd, New Kensington, PA

August 24th and 25th, US Islands and Kansas State QSO Party

POTA, POTA

September

Butler County ARA Hamfest, September 8th – Unionville Volunteer Fire Company Station 14, 102 Mayhood Rd, Butler, PA

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

I have been so busy on my farm that I didn't even make it to the Club Meeting for July. I wanted to go but that night I was mowing pastures and didn't get off the tractor till well after dark. I will make sure I make it to the BVARA Corn Roast. I will ask my better half to keep me on track this time!

This last month the Club has been involved with the Enon Valley Community Day. This is always a good time for our Club. We always have so many children visit. We are planting seeds of encouragement for the next generation to enjoy radio. We encourage the kids to get on the air with us and use the Morse Code Oscillator. The Oscillator is always of interest for the children. The children are pretty bold, seems the adults are much more timid. I'm not sure who has more fun, our volunteer Club members watching & helping the kids or the kids involved. Either way it is a great time. You want to help next year? Just volunteer.

I did get to my Dadgum Poles. The poles are Locust trees I cut down on the farm. Both of them are about 30 feet long. I want to de-bark the poles before planting them in the ground. By removing the bark, it helps the poles to last much longer. De-barking is time consuming and plain hard work. I have just been removing 4-6 feet of bark per work session. This keeps me safe and on task. I have a very sharp hatchet that I use. I have to be very mindful to avoid getting cut. Some of the locus fence posts here on the farm are over 50 years old in the ground! They are still in good shape, they are solid. I will do a more detailed story about the Dadgum Poles and my horizontal loop antenna project soon.

I was on vacation, when I returned, I found I had missed the Funeral for Tim Tress's wife. I am so sorry for your loss Tim, you have my deepest sympathy.

This is all for now till next month... happy radioing and
be safe in your hobby activities.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

August 2024

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 - Finish		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date-Time	Date-Time					
1	0000 2 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM, RST, SPC, name	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
1	1800 1 2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
2	0100 2 0130	(see rules)	NCCC FT4 Sprint	FT4	4-char grid square	ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html
2	0230 2 0300	(see rules)	NCCC Sprint	CW	Serial, name, QTH	ncccsprint.com/rules.html
3	0000 4 2359	3.5-28	Batavia FT8 Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	batavia-ft8.com
3	0001 4 2359	28	10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
3	1200 3 2359	1.8-28	European HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-digit year first licensed	euhf.s5cc.eu/euhf_rules
3	1400 3 1800	144	WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/144MHz_QRP_Phone.php
3	1800 4 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
3	1800 4 1800	222 and up	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest
4	0600 4 1359	144	Hemus VHF Contest — 144 MHz	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid square	radioclub-troyan.bg
4	1400 4 1700	3.5-14	SARL HF Phone Contest	Ph	RS, serial	www.sarl.org.za
6	0000 6 0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
10	0000 10 2359	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, first name, mbr or "0," SPC	fistsna.org
10	0000 11 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.darc.de
10	1200 10 1300	7	SARL Youth QSO Party	Ph	RS, age	www.sarl.org.za
10	1400 10 2200	3.5-28	Kentucky State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	KY park abbr, SP or "DX"	k4msu.com/kypota
10	1400 11 0400	1.8-28	Maryland-DC QSO Party	CW Ph	MDC county/city or SPC	www.w3vpr.org
10	1800 10 2200	50	50 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.packratvhf.com
10	2200 12 2159	144	MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.mmmmonvhf.de
11	1300 11 1600	3.5-14	SARL HF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za
12	0000 12 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
13	1900 13 2000	3.5	DARC FT4 Contest	FT4	RST, 4-char grid square	www.darc.de
14	0030 14 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
14	1300 15 1300	3.5,7,28	YB Bekasi Merdeka Contest	Ph	RS, YB section or "DX"	orari-kotabekasi.com
15	0000 16 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM, RST, SPC, name	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
15	1900 15 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM, RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
17	0000 18 1600	3.5-28	SARTG WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sartg.com
17	0800 18 0800	1.8-28	Russian District Award Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), RU district code or serial	rdaward.org/rdac1.htm
17	0900 19 0759	10 GHz to light	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
17	1200 18 1200	1.8-28,50	Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	CW	RST, JA prefecture/district code or CQ zone	kcj-cw.com/contest/rule/2024_45_kcj_dx.pdf
17	1600 17 1759	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
17	1800 18 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	NA: name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
17	2100 18 2100	1.8-28	CVA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, type/UF	cvadx.org/regulamento-cvadx-2023
18	0000 18 2359	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, first name, mbr or "0," SPC	fistsna.org
18	1700 18 2100	3.5-28	NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC mbr or power, "W"	www.qsl.net/w2lj
18	1800 18 2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Dig	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, SPC or XE province	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
18	2300 19 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, (mbr/pwr)	qrptest.com/pigrun
23	2200 25 2359	1.8-28	SCRY/RTTYOps WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, 4-digit year license first issued	rttyops.com
24	0000 25 2359	2.3 GHz and Up	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	See rules	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
24	0400 26 0400	1.8-28	Hawaii QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), HI district, or SP	www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
24	0600 25 0559	3.5-28	ALARA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, name	www.alara.org.au/contests
24	1200 25 1200	3.5-28	YO DX HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YO county, or serial	www.yodx.ro
24	1200 25 0300	1.8-28,50	US Islands QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), island designation or SPC	usislands.org/qso-party-rules
24	1200 25 1200	1.8-28	World Wide Digl DX Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	ww-digl.com
24	1400 25 2000	3.5-28,50	Kansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), KS county, SP or "DX"	ksqsoparty.org
24	1600 25 0400	1.8-28	Ohio QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), OH county, SP or "DX"	www.ohqp.org
24	2100 25 2100	1.8-28	CVA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, type/UF	cvadx.org
25	1400 25 1700	3.5-14	SARL HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za
31	0000 31 2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
31	1200 1 1159	1.8-28	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, 2-char oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
31	1200 1 1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UK/EI district code (if UK/EI)	www.ukelcc.com