

THE eQRM

FEBRUARY 2025



The BVARA in

Beaver County

Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ



2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: The BVARA wishes you a happy Valentines Day.

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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.

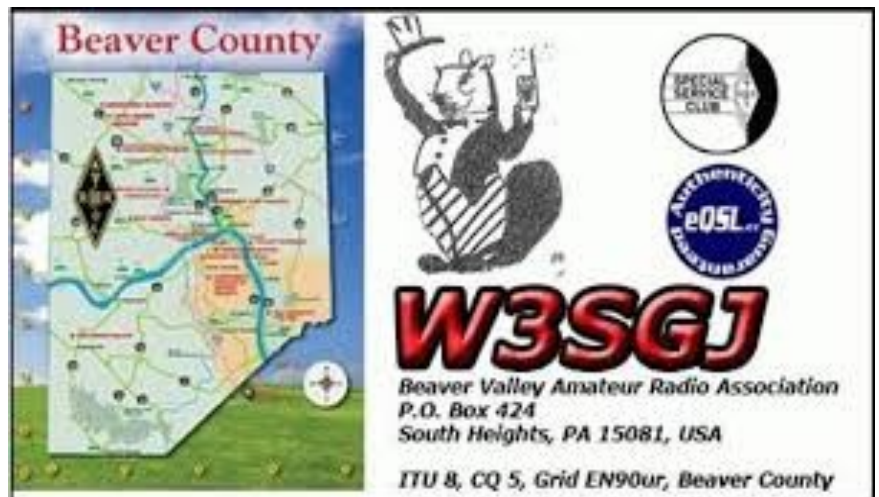
VE testing begins at 5:00 PM.

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).

2025

- Feb 13
- Mar 13
- Apr 10
- May 08
- Jun 12
- Jul 10
- Aug Corn Roast
- Sep 11
- Oct 09
- Nov 13
- Dec Christmas Party



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich – K3SOM

Topic:

The NanoVNA – Part 2

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA presentations this year, we continue our presentation on NanoVNA devices. These devices are significantly more affordable than the antenna analyzers that we looked at early last year. With a much wider frequency range and more precise calibration procedures, significant accuracy over the chosen frequency range can easily be obtained. At our January meeting we included:

- Overview of what's inside and a look at the market availability and prices
- The menu tree
- The calibration process
- SWR measurements, the plus and minus side
- Free software and connection to a NanoVNA
- Lots of good questions and discussions!

This month, we'll continue with an emphasis on hands-on topics that will build upon our initial session to include:

- Calibration strategies
- What you can easily do with one set of measured data
- Coax length and impedance measurements
- Bandpass filter measurements
- Common mode currents and how to measure how different toroids behave
- Keeping RF current where you want it to go

If you already own a NanoVNA, you are encouraged to bring it with you and compare your results with others. We'll try to answer your questions and learn together!

As we gain familiarity with the NanoVNA, other possibilities may emerge that may suggest additional future exploration.

Rich's Background:

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

More this Month

Weekly

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 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)

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 :



January 2025 VE Test Session – No Candidates This Month

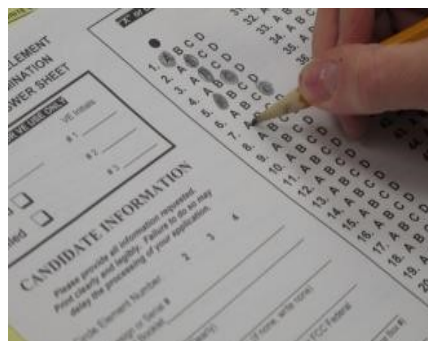
Our January VE Test Session was not held because no candidates registered for the January Session. However, candidates have registered for the February 2025 session. Perhaps the closeness to the holidays and/or the cold weather may have been a factor.

Our February 2025 VE Test Session will be held on February 13th just before our regular club meeting. Are you ready to get your ham radio license or upgrade your current license? We hope to see you there!

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	59.00	_____
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

Hamfests & General Announcements



WASHfest 2025

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY NINTH** big year!
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*



MAIN PRIZES

- First Prize: ICOM IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver
- Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-6000R 144/430 MHz Transceiver
- Third Prize: Yaesu FT-70R Portable Transceiver

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawings)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Ron Telek W3LE at (412) 831-4886 w3le@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2025.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2025 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance fourteen years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2023
c/o RON TELEK W3LE
3065 Aljean drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!

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

For sale

Yaesu VL-1000 Linear Amplifier and Matching VP-1000 Power Supply

Albert Belardia, WA3GFM, 86, passed away on Tuesday (September 27, 2022) at his home in Aliquippa, PA. Al was an active member in the *Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association* and spent hours reaching out to amateur radio operators all over the globe. He made friends with contacts in over 320 Countries and on every Continent. With confirmed DXCC contacts on over 4-½ HF bands, Al was this close, to his goal of five-band D



For sale is his VL-1000 HF / 50 MHz Solid-State Linear Amplifier and VP-1000 matching Power Supply that operates on 120 to 230 VAC. The Linear Amplifier includes a built-in auto-sense tuner with 240 memories. Connecting to a non-Yaesu transceiver is also possible because the internal processor will measure the transceiver frequency and automatically switch to the appropriate band and auto tuner settings. The estate asked the BVARA to assist in finding suitable homes for his prized equipment.

Continued on
next page

Of Interest to All

Included with the Linear Amplifier and Power Supply are:

- Original 2005 invoice
- User manuals for each unit
- Factory/vendor triple boxes for each unit
- Power Supply service invoice document
- AC power cord with a 20-Amp, 220 VAC twist-lock plug
- DC cable that runs from the P/S to the amp
- Data Band 1 cable (8-pin DIN <-> 8-pin DIN, 2 meter)
- Data Band 2 cable (D-sub 15-pin <-> 1/8" miniature, 2 meter)
- Connecting cables for non-Yaesu transceivers (ALC and Transmit cables are not included but are straight forward. All amplifier connectors are described in the 20-page User Manual)

Last year the unit was unboxed, connected to a suitable dummy load and powered up on all bands to verify its operability. The *attached photo* shows full output on the 10-meter band. Al, WA3GFM was the original and only owner of the equipment and was a non-smoker. He was meticulously proud of his equipment and always took excellent care of all of his ham radio equipment.

The club is asking \$2,400 for both units and would consider a reasonable offer. These units are in excellent condition and would be a welcome addition to your station. Questions and serious inquiries should be directed to **Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP** at (724) 612-8043 (cell phone) who performed the check-out and operability of the units.

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Of Interest to All

Announcing The 1st Annual BVARA CW Roundup!

Date: Feb 27, 2025 **Time:** 7:00 to 8:30 PM (Local Time) **Frequency:** 28.04 to 28.06 MHz **100W Max**
Feb 28, 2025 Time 0:00 to 01:30 UTC

Operating Classes: **CLASS A** – BVARA member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS B – Newcomer or newer CW operator (BVARA member or non-member)
CLASS C – Non-BVARA member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS D – Listeners who copy only (log calls of participating stations you heard)

CQing: Send "CQ CWR CQ CWR"

Exchange: Signal report (including operating class) / QTH (your location) / Name

Example: You are a newer CW operator and you are in a QSO with K3XYZ whose signal is readable, their signal strength is registering a '7' on your S-meter and their signal tone is good. Your (example) callsign is W3ABC, you live in Ambridge, and your name is Bruno. You would then send something like:

K3XYZ DE W3ABC (K3XYZ this is W3ABC) BT (break)

RST IS 579 B 579 B BT (signal report and class)

QTH IS AMBRIDGE, PA AMBRIDGE, PA BT

NAME IS BRUNO BRUNO BT

HW CPY? (how did you copy my transmission?)

K3XYZ DE W3ABC K (over)

The other station would then reply with their information using the same format. After the exchanges are completed, short informal remarks can be made during the QSO if desired, after which the contact would end with something like:

TNX FER QSO (thanks for the QSO)

GL ES 73 (good luck and best wishes)

K3XYZ DE W3ABC SK (end of contact)

Description of event:

This 1½-hour event is not a contest.

Rather, it is a celebration of our area newcomers new to CW, returners to the mode of CW, and listeners. Also, it is an invitation to our veteran CW operators to enjoy helping the newcomers in making live, on-air CW contacts. There are no points scored, and no results or standings posted.

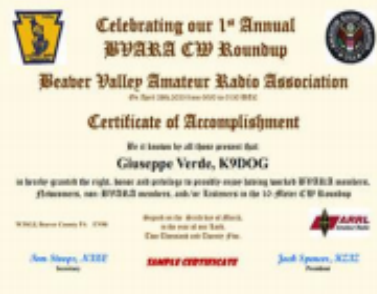
You do NOT have to be a member of the BVARA to participate.

A handsome certificate will be issued to each participant submitting a log entry from the event (see above)

Send logs *no later than Saturday, March 8, 2025*, to Rich Soltesz – K3SOM, 115 Brooks Dr, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 or:

Electronic log: K3SOM@ARRL.net

Attach Cabrillo file: [call].log



Of Interest to All

BVARA



February 2025

State QSO Parties, CW, PH, Dig:

Vermont, February 1st – 2nd

Minnesota, February 1st – 2nd

South Carolina, February 22nd – 23rd

North Carolina, February 23rd – 24th

School Club Roundup, CW, PH, Dig, February 10th – 14th

ARRL International DX Contest, CW, February 15th – 16th

North American QSO Party, RTTY, February 22nd – 23rd

BreezeShooters, 10-Meter Ground-Wave CW Contest, February 22, 8 PM – 11 PM EST

WASHfest 2025 Home Economics Building, South Park, Sunday, February 23rd

1st Annual BVARA CW Roundup, February 27th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM Local Time
28.040 to 28.060 MHz, 100 Watts Max (See Flier in this Newsletter for Details)

March 2025

BreezeShooters, 10-Meter Ground-Wave SSB Contest, March 8th, 8 PM – 11 PM EST

BreezeShooters, 10-Meter Ground-Wave Dig Contest, March 15th, 8 PM – 11 PM EST

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

The cover page of the eQRM may have you asking what has this got to do with amateur radio? Nothing. I was simply thinking about having fun with the cover page. It's visually edgy! You may want to criticize me about it. I just thought it was fun.

I have been thinking about maintenance, inspection and the arrangement of my entire radio room. When was the last time I disconnected everything, dusted, inspected every cable, electrical connection, checked each and every thing... I am going to take a day or two to do this. I think I can make my radio room even better than it has been. I think I will clean out some old, unused or unneeded radio related things; I have some old books that need retired for sure. By remodeling, so to speak, my radio room I can make it more efficient and user friendly.

When the weather gets warmer (breaks for Spring) I will endeavor to do the same for all my outdoor cables and connections. I will make a special effort when it comes to my station grounds. I encourage you to do the same. If you don't have time for all of this, station grounds should be an inspection priority and any problem areas repaired right away. Thunder storms will be a part of summer. Proper grounding is essential for safe radio operations. Inspecting and repairing station grounding is always a great idea. The two most important concerns for any amateur radio station are station grounding (for safety) and the best antenna system you can afford.

Whatever you decide to do with your station always put safety first.

Till next month...

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

February 2025

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	2059	3.5-28	LABRE-RS Digi Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	labre-rs.org.br
1	0000	2	2359	1.8-28,VHF/ UHF	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), VT county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
1	0001	2	2359	28	10-10 Int'l Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
1	1200	2	1200	1.8-28	European Union DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), EU union region or ITU zone	www.eudx-contest.com
1	1200	2	1200	3.5-28,144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
1	1200	2	2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	rtty.fmre.mx
1	1400	2	2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, MN county or SPC	www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules
1	1400	2	2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	azscqrptions.org
1	1600	2	1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	www.agcw.de
1	1600	2	2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), BC district or SPC	www.orcadxcc.org
2	0000	2	0359	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
3	2000	3	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
4	0100	4	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	ars-qrp.com
5	2000	5	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
6	0000	7	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
6	1800	6	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net
6	2000	6	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	0000	9	2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.cqwxprtty.com
8	1100	8	1300	7,14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
8	1200	9	1200	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, JA prefecture or district code	www.kcj-cw.com
8	1200	9	1200	1.8-28	Dutch PACC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PA province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
8	1200	9	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	1500	9	1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr (if any)	www.omiss.net
8	1900	8	2359	1.8	WAB 1.8 MHz Phone	CW Ph	RS, serial or country	wab.intermp.net/Top Band Phone.php
8	2000	8	2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org
9	1300	9	1700	3.5,7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.bfra.bg
10	0100	10	0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqr.com
10	1300	14	2359	All, no WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
11	1900	11	2029	3.5	DARC FT4 Contest	Dig	RST, 4-char grid square	www.darc.de
12	0130	12	0330	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
12	2000	12	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14	0000	14	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM or YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
15	0000	16	2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
15	0000	16	2359	All, no WARC	YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org
15	1200	16	1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
15	1900	15	2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
16	2300	17	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
19	1900	19	2030	3.5,7	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, 2-digit year first used a bug	www.agcw.de
20	0000	21	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
20	1900	20	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
20	2000	20	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
21	2200	23	2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or CQ zone	www.cq160.com
22	0600	23	1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, French department or serial	concours.r-e-f.org
22	1300	23	1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, ON section or serial	www.uba.be
22	1500	23	0159	1.8-28,50	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SC county or SPC	scqso.com
22	1800	23	0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
22	1800	23	0559	3.5-28	NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.w9smc.com
23	0000	23	2359	3.5-28	World Wide Patagonia DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 4-char grid square	www.patagonia-arg-dx.com.ar
23	1400	23	1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
23	1500	24	0100	3.5-28,50,144	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	NC county or SPC	ncqsoparty.org/rules
24	2000	24	2200	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
26	0000	26	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
26	2000	26	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com