THE eQRM

J U L Y 2 0 2 4

Happy 4th of July!



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania



Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ



2M Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

On the Cover As we celebrate our independence please be safe and have a great time with friends and family.

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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

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

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

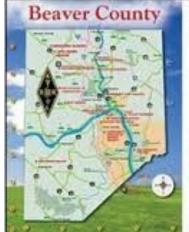
All meetings are held at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (A.K.A. The 911 Center) 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003 on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

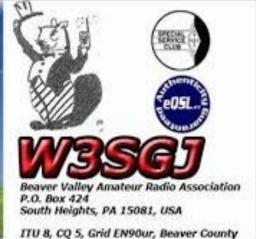
2024

Jul 11 Aug 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:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962 B.S. Electrical Engineering **Our Changing Field Day**

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is about Field Day 2024 and the new direction that we took. Just as Field Day has changed considerably since it first began in 1933, so too has our emphasis this year. With the improving sunspot cycle with one or two more years left for peak conditions, our attention shifted away from competitive numbers; with the heat and humidity conditions, we simply decided to do our best in 2024.

First, we'll discuss the numerical results that we did achieve. Then we'll look at the advertising and related emphasis in who we are and what we do. The results were quite positive.

But wait, there's more! We'll compare the results of each year since 2012. It's always interesting to look at several key factors, some of which may just surprise you.

Please view our information this year, as we ignored the 95-degree temperatures and the threat of severe winds, thunderstorms, and rainfall. We concentrated on people and their contributions to a very successful Field Day with many new and some old visitors. You just might be amazed at the big foot-print that we left in the media walkway of Beaver County and beyond!

Details for July 11th: VE Testing: 5:00 pm, Meeting: 6:30 pm, Presentation: 7:00 pm



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!



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)

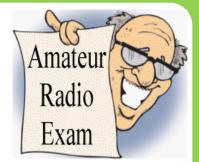


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New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :



June 2024 VE Test Session Results

Our June VE Test Session had two candidates, with both 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 July 11th, 2024.

Congratulations to:

John Dinkel, N3ZLQ, Extra Class, Aliquippa, PA Paul Berendt, KC3TZW, General, 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



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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



2024 NWPA Hamfest Saturday July 13th

Same great location! Open 8:00 am - 12:00 PM Tailgate setup Starts at 7:30 am Rain or Shine. (Inside spots available if it rains.)

Amateur Radio, Computers, Fun & Fellowship

Sponsored by the **Wattsburg Wireless Association** An American Radio Relay League – ARRL sponsored event.

Greene Township Municipal Building,

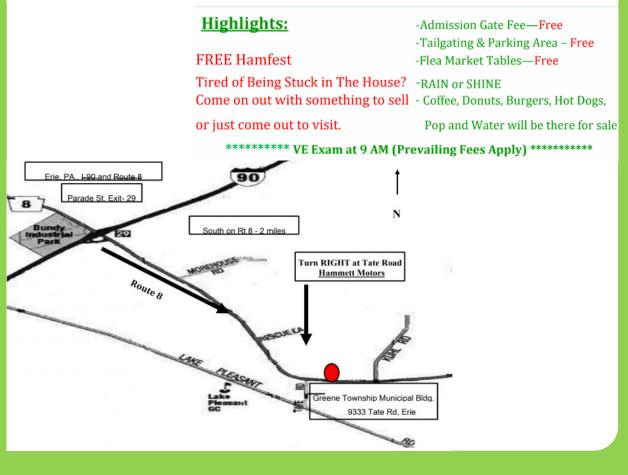
9333 Tate Road, Erie, PA. 16509

Talk-ins on 147.315 - 147.915 PL:186.2

Visit our web page at https://www.wattsburgwireless.org for more details and updated information.

NOTE: 2024 SPECIAL - Free Hamfest no charge for

Tailgaters/ Vendors or attendees. Tables are also free if you need one.



Hamfests & General Announcements



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>





Field Day 2024 Results and Photos

Background

The BVARA Field Day event was quite different from previous recent Field Day efforts. Weather was a primary factor in that temperatures reached the mid-90s on Saturday with high humidity and the threat of both high winds and severe thunderstorms on Sunday. As a result, participation was lower than expected. Fewer operators were available or willing to operate, even though radios were available. The BVARA operated W3SGJ with Class 4A and WPA Section from the Old Economy County Park.

The club reserved Shelter 1, as the shelter is high within the park, is more isolated because it is at the loop at the end of the road, and because it has some high trees for shade and for wire antennas for 40 and 80 meters.

The new SpiderBeam Yagi for 10, 15, and 20 meters had been successfully used for the 100th Anniversary Event back in April 2023 and for Field Day in June 2023. Because of a personal tragedy in the family of one of the club officers, the intense heat & humidity also a mix-up in locating some key mast parts, members decided not to use of the SpiderBeam. This is what Field Day is all about; the event tests the ability of a club to overcome adverse situations and find ways to fix the problems to continue with the task, whether it be Field Day or a "real world" disaster situation.

It is also an excellent venue for trying out new equipment and antennas while 'showing the ropes' to new hams.

Propagation conditions were very good and the band QRN was reasonably low. The next year or two should be even better than what was experienced in 2024. With the exception of 6M, the bands were in very good shape with a large amount of Sporadic E propagation as we predicted.



Here is a view of the site from the side as we prepare to put up a 10-meterYagi antenna.

Pot Luck Dinner on Friday

Over 24 members and significant others actively participated in the Pot Luck Dinner on Friday evening. Quite a variety of foods enabled an enjoyable dinner and many good conversations, as usually happens at these events.

Here are Jim, Doug, and Doug attaching the roll of plastic table covering to each picnic table in preparation for the arrival of club members and their significant others.



Many conversations between both old and new friends helped to promote a fun evening for everyone. Here are some photos from each end of the shelter.





Some of the couples and groups are shown below.









Just prior to the beginning of Field Day around 1:30 PM, we gathered for some group photos.



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Here three BVARA members pose for a photo with Beaver County Commissioner, Jack Manning in the black shirt. Commissioner Manning, thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to come spend time with this 2024 BVARA field day event .

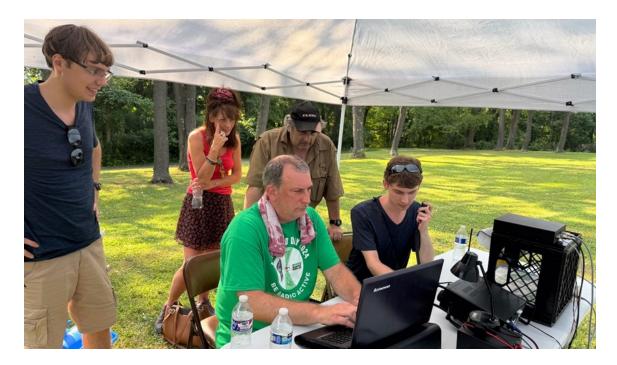


Site Field Day Preparations, Activities, Visitors, and Cleanup

Following safety practices in generator placement, grounding, antenna locations and caution markings, preparations moved smoothly and the main shelter was used for social conversations and refreshments of food and plenty of fluids during the extreme heat. External shelters were used in various shady areas with fans to make the temperatures more bearable.

The Field Day Server and four clients all functioned with near perfection the entire contest period. Below are photos of each Station.

Station 1 was the 40-meter SSB station with Spencer, KC3YHD during a hot calling CQ streak with Doug, N4YKQ doing the logging. Spencer's mother and brother look on as well as Jim, KC3IXE, as our rookie ham broke all previous records with a peak rate of 156 contacts per hour!



Station 2 was primarily our 20-meter SSB station with Rich, K3SOM taking a moment out to snap a picture of other hams putting up the 10-meter Yagi for SSB. In the background, the left-most tree holds up the 90-foot Vertical Antenna with an SGC Remote Coupler at the base with nine radials of various lengths as long as about 120 feet. The third tree from the left shows the red-colored 1KW Honda Inverter/Generator that powered both Station 2 and 3.



Station 3 used a 10-meter monoband Yagi at about 20 feet above ground. You can see the crowd of hams busy at work in safely putting the antenna together and raising it to a suitable height.



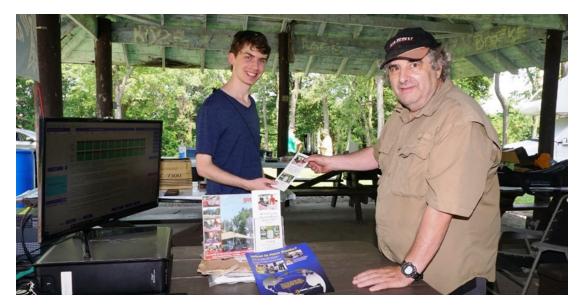


Here is Station 4 with Tom, N3XC operating his Yaesu FT-891 on 15 meters at 100 watts, CW to a Wolf River Coil vertical antenna from a LiFePo4 battery.

Our Visitor Center was a convenient tool for providing an informative flier for visitors that described our club, what activities we do, and how we interact with the community for local events and possible disaster situations.

Even with the high temperatures and humidity, we had many passersby who stopped to find out what we were doing. We took time to inform them and answer their questions. That interaction is something that we always enjoy.

Spencer, KC3YHD takes one of our BVARA brochures from our Event and Public Relations Officer, Jim Allen, KC3IXE



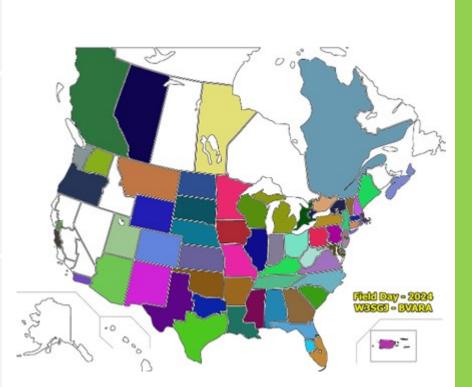
The photo below shows our Trustee, Doug, N4YKQ shaking hands with Richard Kulbicki, KC3TOO in a red shirt and hat who is employed by the Red Cross in Beaver County with his Red Cross identification badge.

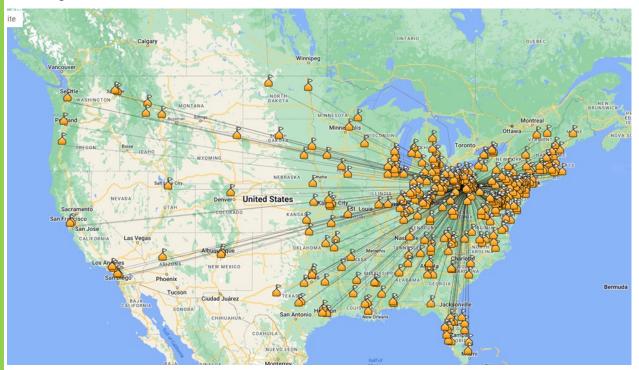


By the Numbers – Wrap Up

Here are some tables and our map that summarize our results.

Year	2024				
Mode					
CW	7				
Phone	381				
Digital	0				
Total	388				
Band					
160	0				
80	0				
40	247				
20	116				
15	10				
10	14				
6	1				
Country					
USA	354				
Canada	25				
Puerto Ric	1				
Hawaii	0				
Alaska	0				
US Virgin I	0				
Other	8				
Misc.					
Operators	7				
Class	4A				





This map shows where our US contacts were located.

Our July 11th 2024 presentation goes into much more depth in reviewing factors that have influenced our performance over the last 13 years.

Our BVARA members always help to take down antennas and restore the shelter for use as customarily expected by the next user. With enough people, these tasks becomes much easier.

Footnote

Our pro membership to <u>www.Flickr.com</u> is now being filled in with the missing photos when we had to pause additional uploads. With this professional version, very soon our pictures are being loaded into the Photostream and then into specific Albums that represent our specific club activities. Many more photos are being added and with choices in the resolution of any photos that you wish to download.

Our unexpected visitors from last year that required us to be careful in packing up our gear returned this year.



Rich-K3SOM

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July

The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event, July 1st – 11th

IARU HF World Championship, July 13th, CW & PH

North American QSO Party, July 20th – 21st, RTTY

Indianapolis Motor Speedway, W9IMS Special Events: July 15 - 21: NASCAR 200 at the Brickyard - Operator Schedule

Alabama QSO Party, July 27th – 28th

РОТА, РОТА

<u>August</u>

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

РОТА, РОТА

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

I have not forgotten about getting my horizontal loop antenna put up. I have had so much to do on the farm, it has taken priority over the antenna build. I will get to it. I just have some other responsibilities to take care of first...

There has been so much that has taken place since last months newsletter. Field day was one of the biggest events! This year was very hot and muggy! This had a negative effect on all the field day activities. The heat & humidity were bad enough, we had the threat of strong winds and thunder storms too.



We still had a good time with those that participated and the others that showed up to support this year's BVARA field day. All things considered it was a good event! I am already looking forward to next year.

The oppressive heat was a huge factor in not erecting the Spider Beam antenna. Everyone was feeling undesirable effects of the weather and we decided on a simple antenna setup. Everything radio turned out just fine. We were a little short of operators. It was HOT, even in the shade. I am certain we will all visit about this year's field day at our next Club Meeting. This will help in planning for next year.

One of our big supporters that didn't even have an amateur radio license passed away. Pam and Jack Spencer lost Pam's mom, Shirley Spence. She was always at our BVARA events. Shirley supported our radio events with her donations of enthusiasm, time, food, money and kindness. Some of her support was "behind the scene" most of us didn't even know how she helped. She may not be a silent key but she will be sorely missed. On behalf of all your radio family, Pam & Jack, we are so very sorry for your loss; you have our deepest sympathy.

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

July 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.

Date	Start - e-Time		sh te-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000	1	2359	1.8-28, 50,144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VE prov/terr or serial	www.rac.ca
1	1900	1	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
2	0000	2	0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqrp.blogspot.com
2	0100	2	0159	1.8-28.50		Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
2	0800	2	0859	3.5	ZL Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), outside temp (C)	www.nzart.org.nz
3	1700	3	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
4	0000	5	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon ORP Contest	CW		
		5					RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
4	1800	4	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest			nrau.net
4	2000	4	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
5	0145	5	0215	3.5-28	Weekly RTTY Test	Dig	Name, SPC	radiosport.world/wrt.html
6	0000	6	2359	1.8-28	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	radioclubvenezolano.org
6	0800	7	1100	3.5	NZART Memorial Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.nzart.org.nz
6	1200	7	1200	50,144, 432	TA VHF/UHF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	trac.org.tr
6	1400	7	1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RST, serial	www.arifano.it
6	1500	7	1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW Ph	RST, serial, pwr	www.grpcc.de
6	2000	7	2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
9	0100	9	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
9	1800	9	1929	3.5.7	DARC RTTY Sprint	Dig	RST, (DOK/"NM") or serial	www.darc.de
10	1700	10	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
10	1900	10	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB		RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
_		_						
12 13	0145 1200	12 14	0215 1200	3.5-28 1.8-28	Weekly RTTY Test IARU HF World Championship	Dig CW Ph	Name, SPC RS(T), IARU HQ soc or ITU zone	radiosport.world/wrt.html www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-
								championship
13 14	1200 2000	14 14	2359 2300	1.8-28,50 1.8-28	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	www.skccgroup.com qrparci.org
15	0000	15	0200	1.8-28	Sprint 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
15	1900	15	2030	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
16	0100	16	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
17	1700	17	2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
18	0000	19	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
18	0030	18	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, (NAQCC No./pwr)	nagcc.info/sprint_rules.html
18	1900	18	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
19	0145	19	0215	3.5-28	Weekly RTTY Test	Dig	Name, SPC	radiosport.world/wrt.html
		_						
20	0000	21	2359	1.8-28	LABRE DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-ltr state or 2-ltr continent	www.labre.org.br
20	0000	28	2359	1.8-28	Maidenhead Mayhem Contest		4-char grid	w9et.com/rules.html
20	0700	20	1459	7,14,21,28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr code or ITU zone	srr.ru
20	0800	20	1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge		RS(T), serial	www.wia.org.au
20	1000	20	2159	3.5-28	YOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	www.ham-yota.com/contest
20	1200	20	1359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	Mbr, SPC, 4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
20	1400	21	1400	70	IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iaru-r1.org
20	1800	21	0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
20			2100	50,144	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest		4-char grid	www.cqww-vhf.com
				3.5-14	RSGB International Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr	www.rsgbcc.org
21	2300	22	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	grpcontest.com/pigrun
23	0100	23		1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
23		23			SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	
						-		www.skccgroup.com
25 27	1900 0000	25 28		3.5 1.8-28, 50.144	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data MARAC US Counties QSO Party	CW Ph	RST, serial RS(T), state and county or "DX"	www.rsgbcc.org www.marac.org/contests.htm
27	1200	28	1200	50,144 50	ARAM 50 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.aram.pt
27	1200	28	1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA no.	www.rsgbcc.org
27	1500	28	0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AL county or SPC	alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp
28	1700	28	2100	7,14,21,28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, pwr, or Bumblebee number	arsqrp.blogspot.com
30	0100		0159	1.8-28,50		Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html