THE eQRM



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8





On the COVEE This is a great photo of brothers Spencer KC3YHD and Quentin Greenholt operating in the dark. This just had to be the front cover!

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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

2025 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z Vice President: Larry Homich, KC3ROS 2nd Vice Pres.: Greg Burns KCTFW Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

Director: Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP

Director: Jim Allen, KC3IXE

Director: Douglas Lawrence K3GTX

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

Jul 10 Aug 09 Corn Roast Sep 11 Oct 09 Nov 13 Dec 06 Christmas Party

2026 Jan 08 Feb 12 Mar 12 Apr 09









This Month

This Month: Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM Extra Class Ham, licensed since 1962

Our Changing Field Day

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is about Field Day 2025 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 once again, do our best in 2025. With an unexpected Solar Flare on Saturday, our number of contacts took a severe hit on Saturday, especially above 10 MHz.

First, we'll discuss the numerical results that we did achieve. The advertising and related emphasis in who we are and what we do, fell by the wayside this year. The results were less than stellar. Then 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 very real threat of severe winds, thunderstorms, and rainfall. We concentrated on people and their contributions to our Field Day with few new and some old visitors. With only three operators over the entire 24-hour period, the results reflected the lack of ham operators even though we could have set up two more stations.

Details for July 10th: 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!



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)



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New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :



June 2025 VE Test Session Results

Our June VE Test Session had no candidates. but July has candidates who have asked to be tested. Stay tuned!

Testing is conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on July 10th, 2025.

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 ı	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	membership 5.00	
	A Club Donation		
		Total Enclosed	
ARRI	Member? Yes No		
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

Hamfest

The Wattsburg Wireless Association holds an annual hamfest in the month of July. The hamfest is held at the Greene Township Municipal Building parking area. The exact date is announced in April but it usually falls on the second Saturday of July.

July 2025



2025 NWPA Hamfest Saturday July 12th

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: 2025 SPECIAL - Free Hamfest no charge for Tailgaters/ Vendors or attendees. Tables are also free if you need one.

NW PA HAMFEST

NW-PA-Hamfest - Rm. 114 9333 Tate Road Rd Erie, PA 16509

Hamfests & General Announcements



Hamfests & General Announcements



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These are the places we made contact with on Field Day 2025.



The BVARA Field Day of 2025



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 about a year left for peak conditions, our attention shifted away from competitive numbers. With the heat and humidity conditions, we simply decided to once again, do our best in 2025. With an unexpected Solar Flare on Saturday, our number of contacts took a severe hit on Saturday, especially above 10 MHz. Static crashes quickly shut down 80 meters, and on 160 meters, the static crashes were almost continuous at about 20 dB over S9 – all noise.

To make matters worse, three heavy downpours with lightning and higher winds further shortened our ability to make contacts. 10, 15, and 20 meters were mostly unusable with some short skip available on 20 meters. Both 6 and 160 meters were unusable. Finally, we only had three operators for the entire 24-hour period.

Potluck Dinner

Prior to our arrival at the Old Economy County Park, the park maintenance crew had cut the grass and blown away any leaves or debris from inside Shelter 4. It was as if our arrival had to have everything in order for the BVARA!

As 5:30 PM approached, members and family began gathering at Shelter 4 with covered dishes that, in a word, were delicious. So many choices among breaded and roasted chicken, hot dogs, smoked ham, pierogi, baked beans, and haluski started the buffet line. A variety of side dishes and salads complemented the taste buds. Following were assorted cookies and deserts to round out your choices.

People moved about following many of the conversations of interest to them. Despite the weather, a sense of camaraderie seemed to keep away the high humidity and temperatures. The bug population was noticeably reduced this year to add a bit to one's personal comfort. Conversations continued until well after dark. No one went home hungry!

Field Day Setup and Startup

David Covalt, KC3BXC arrived at about 8:30 AM to prepare breakfast for all of those who stayed overnight and for those just arriving for the day. Those were probably fresh eggs from his farm.

Setting up the antennas was the next order of business while temperatures were cooler. The Spider Beam, a light-weight 10-element wire Yagi was raised to almost 35 feet above the ground with a setup crew of about eight hams. Experience from previous years helped to make the process and stability better this year with substantial guy wires and enough personnel to minimize any accidents or injuries. Success!

The 60 to 90 foot Inverted-L vertical was next with an LDG remote Auto tuner at the base and about six long radial wires deployed on the ground in various directions. SWR values under 1.7:1 were obtained on all Field Day bands from 160 through 6 meters. In addition, two more smaller Verticals were raised for the other stations to use.

About an hour before the start of Field Day, we gathered with our Red Cross representative, Rich Kulbicki, KC3TOO for a group photo prior to the start of the event at 2:00 PM EDT.

A small delay in the network setup was traced to two Wireless USB-sticks that had to be interchanged with each other. Then the entire network came up and operated flawlessly for the entire 24-hour period. A UPS with battery backup never lost power, but it was there, just in case!

Field Day Two, Shutdown, and Pack Up

With the smell of freshly brewed coffee, Orem's doughnuts, and Orange Juice, a new day began. 10 meters was opening up so a few contacts were made there. Moving down to 15 meters, many more stations were calling CQ and it was like picking the low-hanging fruit.

What would 20 meters be like? 20 meters was **HOT!** Wall-to-wall activity from California to Washington to North Dakota and down to the Southwest part of the country were all coming in. We continued to work as many as we could until time was up.

More members and family came to help with the teardown and pack up activities. Everyone pitched in and helped out. No rush, it was hot, and we could be a bit more relaxed now.

Did we set any new records or try something new? Yes, we used WinLink to send messages using RF to other hams across the country to gain some bonus points that were added this year. Some new vertical antennas were tried out, and returning hams from a first-time last year came back and hit the ground running with their enjoyment of the 'Search and Pounce' style of operating Field Day.

No two Field Days are the same. New challenges and equipment or cable failures teach us to be prepared, should an actual emergency event occur. "When disaster strikes, ham radio is there to help provide emergency communications."

Some Potluck Dinner photos accompany this article and the full complement of 2025 Field Day photos will soon be available on our Flickr.com/photos/W3SGJ web site. Stay Tuned! Rich – K3SOM



Lois and Rich Kulbicki KC3TOO



Jim Allen KC3IXE and Tony Pavilonis K3AHP



Pam W3PMS and Jack Spencer KZ3Z

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Dan Grazulic KB3VSP



Doug N4YKQ and Celeste Hanna

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David Covalt KC3BXC



Team effort to set up Spider beam antenna.



When: August 09, 2025 at 5 PMWhere: Old Economy Park Pavilion #01Who: All BVARA members, family and guests

BVARA Coming Attractions



July 2025

РОТА

Club Meeting

Hamfests

August 2025

BVARA Club Corn Roast

Several Hamfests

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

I am just going to jump in, Field Day. Wow! If we were using the glass half full or half empty...the BVARA club members present and those that weren't; They all drank the glass empty, problem solvers. What do I mean by that? Everyone solved the challenges! We worked as a team.



I vote some nominees for Ham of The Year. I know I will be missing some details; here is what I can think of for now.

Doug Hanna-outstanding supervision & technical expertise pertaining to the set-up of the spider beam, trustee for the Club, informative emails, along with storage of BVARA Club supplies & more. Pam and Jack Spencer-more than I know about... so many behind the scenes and stuff we all could see. Reservation of the pavilion, reimbursing members for what they spent supporting this event, breakfast burritos, pizza, spider beam storage along with other BVARA Club supplies and equipment. Spencer and Quentin Greenholt-these two are brothers. They were the "stealth help", they were everywhere doing anything that needed done. Spider beam set-up, carrying anything that needed moved, placing ground radials and ground rods. Spencer operated a station. There was more I didn't even see. Rich Soltesz-so many things I don't even know, programming the PCs of Club members to track contacts, food, extra equipment, coordinating the "central hub computer" for contact tracking, positive influence, But wait; there is more...Tom Stoops-One of the things he did was make sure he had someone take over his responsibilities at Field Day so he could enjoy some, well deserved, personal family business. He didn't forget to make sure the BVARA business was covered. There are so many BVARA members and their family members I didn't mention that made this Field Day a success. I thank you all! With all admiration, I had my child like Christmas gift Field Day Dream fulfilled once again.

I had a lovely time. The last day of Field Day, there were three of us sitting under the shade of the pavilion; Jeff Waite, Doug Hanna and me (David Covalt) were the last to leave. After Jeff and Doug left, I did one last walk around to see if anyone accidentally left something and a litter patrol. I just didn't want Field Day to end. I had one last moment to savor it all. Thanks everyone present, those that supported without being there and those that did things behind the scenes to make this a great BVARA event.

Till next month...





Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

July 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 -	Fin	ish				100 - 2000	
Dat	e-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	0100	1	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
1	0300	1	0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig type	www.qrp-labs.com
1	0300	1	0400	1.8-28	ICWC Medium Speed Test	CW	Name, serial	internationalcwcouncil.org/ mst-contest
2	1700	2	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
3	0000	4	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
3	1800	3	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net
3	1900		2100	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
	0100	4	0130	1.8-28,50	NCCC FT4 Sprint	Dig	4-char grid	www.ncccsprint.com/ft4ns. html
5	0000	5	2359	1.8-28	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	radioclubvenezolano.org
5	0000	5	2359	1.8-28,50	FOC Old School Classic 1960s QSO Party	CW	Actual RST, 3-letter class, year first licensed, name	www.g4foc.org
5	0800	6	1100	3.5	NZART Memorial Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.nzart.org.nz
5	1200	6	1200	50,144	CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	CW Ph	4-char grid	www.cqww-vhf.com
5	1200	6	1200	50,144,432	TA VHF/UHF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	trac.org.tr
5	1400	6	1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RS(T), serial	www.arifano.it
5	1500	6	1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW Ph	RST + serial + "/" + pwr category	www.grpcc.de
5	2000	6	2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
7	1630	7	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
8	1900	7 8	2030 0200	3.5 3.5-28	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RS(T), serial	www.rsgbcc.org
	0000	-			ARS Spartan Sprint		RST, SPC, pwr	ars-qrp.com
8	0100	8	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
8 9	1800 1145	8 9	1929 1300	3.5,7 1.8-28	DARC RTTY Sprint A1Club AWT	Dig CW	RST, (DOK/"NM") or serial RST, name	www.darc.de a1club.org/contest/awt
9	1700	9	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
12	1200	9 13	1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), IARU HQ soc or ITU zone	www.noactivity.eu www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-
12	1200		2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	championship www.skccgroup.com
13	2000		2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrparci.org
14	0000		0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
15	0100		0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
16	1700		2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
16	1900	16	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS + serial	www.rsgbcc.org
17	0000	18	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
17	0030	17	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, (NAQCC No./pwr)	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
17	1900	17	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
18	0145	18	0215	3.5-28	Weekly RTTY Test	Dig	Name, SPC	radiosport.world/wrt.html
19	0000	20	2359	1.8-28	LABRE DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-ltr state or 2-ltr continent	www.labre.org.br
19	0700	19	1459	7,14,21,28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr code or ITU zone	srr.ru
19	0800	19	1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.wia.org.au
19	1000		2159	3.5-28	YOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	yotacontest.mrasz.org
19	1200	19	1359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, 4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/ feldhellclub
19	1200	20	1200	50,144	CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.cqww-vhf.com
19	1400		1400	70	IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iaru-r1.org
19	1800		0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
20	0900	_	1600	3.5-14	RSGB International Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr	www.rsgbcc.org
20	2300		0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
22	0100		0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph CW	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth) RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	wwsac.com/rules.html
23 24	0000		0200 2030	1.8-28,50 3.5	SKCC Sprint RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, SPC, name, mbr or none RS(T), serial	www.skccgroup.com www.rsgbcc.org
24	0000		2359	1.8-28,50,144	MARAC US Counties QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), state and county or "DX"	www.rsgbcc.org www.marac.org
26	0000	_	2359	28	FRAPR 10M Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), pwr	www.frapr.org
26	1200		1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA no.	www.rsgbcc.org
26	1200		1200	50	ARAM 50 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.aram.pt
26	1500		0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AL county or SPC	alabamacontestgroup.org
27	1700	27	2100	7,14,21,28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, pwr, or Bumblebee number	ars-qrp.com
28	1900	28	2100	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
	0100	00	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM-YL-youth YL-youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html