

THE eQRM

MAY 2026



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: Well these are some unusual May Flowers!
 Not quite what I was expecting from April Showers.... Hee hee.

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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

2025 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

Vice President: Larry Homich, KC3ROS

2nd Vice Pres.: Greg Burns KCTFW

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

Director: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

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).

2026 Meeting Dates

May 14

Jun 11

Jun 27-28 Summer Field Day

Jul 09

Aug 08 Corn Roast

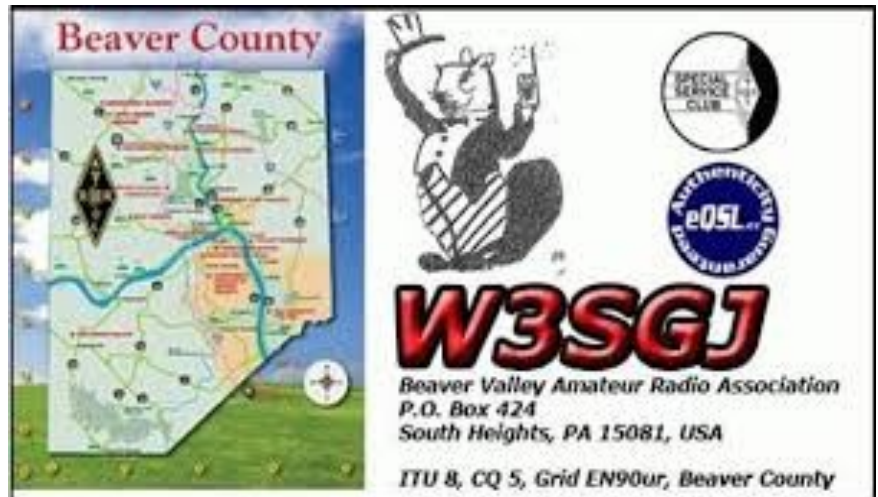
Aug 13

Sep 10

Oct 08

Nov 12

Dec 05 Christmas Party
at 5:00 pm



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:

HamClock, the Lazarus Project

Including:

On April 19th, 2026 an email to current owners of the *Inovato HamClock* app were informed of the imminent shutdown of the server website in June 2026. BVARA members had welcomed the presentation of the *Inovato HamClock* in July 2024 and many purchased the inexpensive hardware and app software. Several members wanted to know: “What to do now?”

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month presents a ‘hands on’ presentation of connecting a *Quadra*, a small PC no bigger than a pack of cigarettes, to the amazing software application called *HamClock* V4.23 with additional open-source backend software and scripts to easily migrate the old version to a new version with a fully-support new backend with automatic update capabilities for future changes. These changes continue using the compact and efficient Linux Operating System with the *Quadra* hardware.

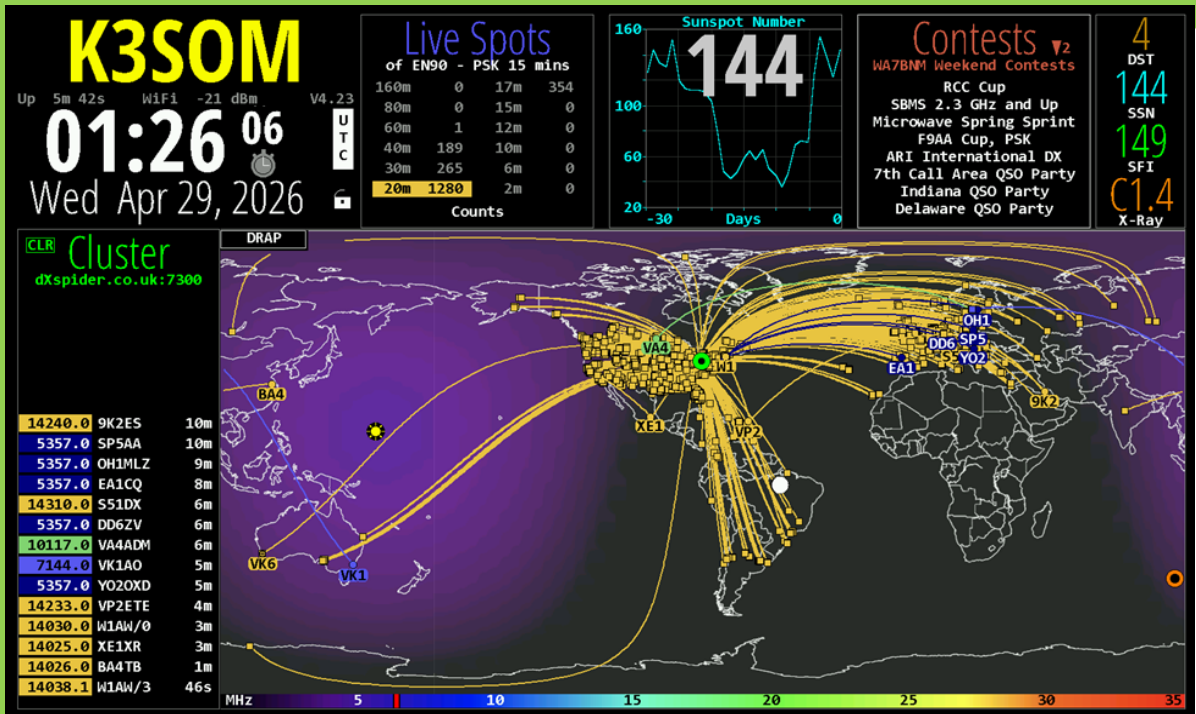
Because *Inovato* offered the package for both the original HD video and later, for 4K video capabilities with a faster PC processor, two very similar migration paths have been developed and will be described.

But wait, there’s more! Because the *Inovato Quadra* hardware has been sold out and the web store closed, another option is available. Additional documentation is available for putting the new *HamClock* V4.23 on a Raspberry Pi (RPI) 3B, 4, or 5. Not one to miss an opportunity to learn, I repurposed an RPI 3B from an old and no longer used purpose. Success! We’ll power it up and show some of the many available displays on the big screen that will dazzle most hams with its capabilities. This is one exciting presentation you won’t want to miss!

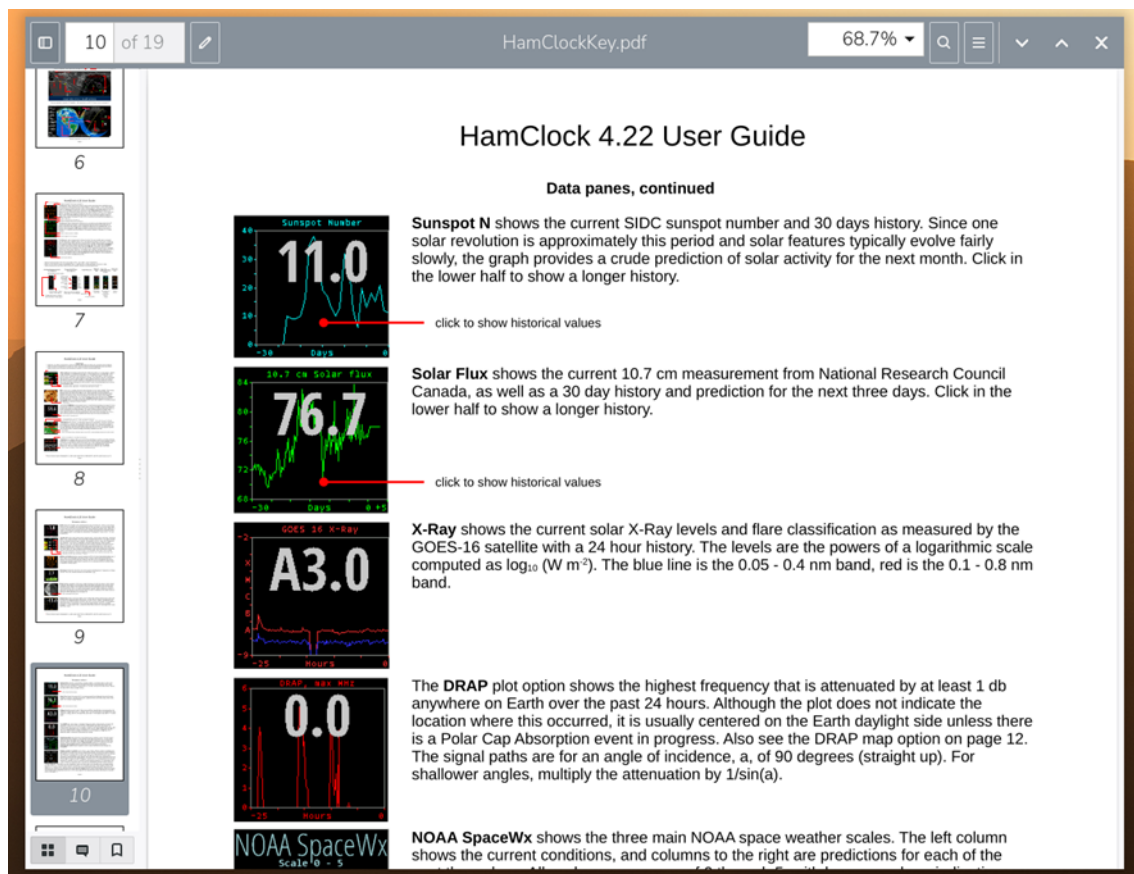
Rich’s Background:

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

This Month



HamClock V4.23 (above) and V4.22 User Guide (below)



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 :



April 2026 VE Test Session Results

Our April VE Test Session had two candidates who achieved their Amateur Radio goals by upgrading their license class. Our electronic filing system continues to work superbly.

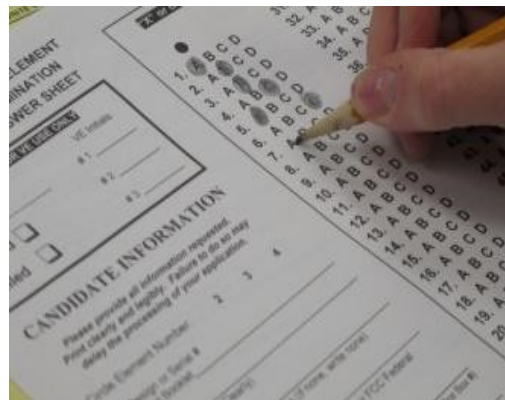
Testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on May 14th, 2026.

With upgraded call signs, congratulations to:

Karen Pelkofer, KC3SRL, General, Baden, PA
Steve Weber, KD3CPK, General, Avella, 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
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW



73 from Rich Soltesz – K3SOM, VE Liaison



ARRL the national association for
amateur radio®

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	_____
A Club Donation		_____
	Total	Enclosed _____

ARRL Member? Yes No

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



No hamfests close-by.

We will have to wait till next month.

The Butler Breeze Shooters hamfest is coming soon!

Hamfests & General Announcements

ARRL VEC Youth License Test Fee Only \$5!

Youth examinees under age 18, you can earn your initial Technician license or upgrade your current license through the [ARRL VEC](#) Volunteer Examiner Coordinator program for only \$5.

The **ARRL** Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, covers the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the [ARRL VEC](#) program.

The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the [ARRL VEC](#) receives the completed reimbursement form and the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer.

Additionally, candidates younger than 18-years old pay a reduced exam fee of \$5 to the [ARRL VEC](#) VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18 regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required at the session ([what to bring to an exam session](#)).



The program is sponsored by **ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®**.

The BVARA is an ARRL VEC VE team that supports the ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program.

We invite all youth to our monthly testing sessions



Hi everyone!



I wanted to create a new page for our newsletter. I am going to call it **Road Trip Hamfests.**

I think our hobby of radio is one of fun, curiosity and discovery. Traveling to a distant hamfest could be another fun facet of our radio hobby. Traveling is always a fun adventure for this ham, KC3BXC.

I will showcase some hamfests that are a little distance away from our Beaver County area.

Step out of your comfort zone, travel to a distant hamfest. How about a day trip to another state? Make plans to explore the local area while there, stay in a hotel for the night there. Maybe take an RV short trip.

Do you have friends that live close to the hamfest? This could be a good reason to visit them. Is it that you made a contact with someone from the hosting hamfest club? It could lead to a great face-to-face QSO. Maybe there is some close-by attraction you would like to visit but needed an additional reason to visit.
Go for it!

How could a distant hamfest adventure feed your curiosity? Just like this newsletter's cover page I want to encourage you to have some fun.

For my first listing on the next page : Toledo Ohio

Road Trip Hamfests

PRIZES

HAMFEST & SWAP MEET



BENEFITTING

LUCAS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO

EMERGENCY SERVICE, Inc.

DATE: SATURDAY MAY-02-2026

TIME: 1000 - 1400

ADMISSION: \$5.00

VENDOR TABLES \$10.00

LOCATION - INDOORS

Merchants Landing (Bingo Hall)

6182 Summit St. Toledo, OH 43611

VE TESTING ON SITE



Provided by the colaberation of

Lucas County ARES and N8LPQ

ARC Amateur Radio Cooperative

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK TO

REGISTER FOR TESTING, OR SCAN

THE QR CODE FOR ACCESS TO

REGISTRATION

<https://tinyurl.com/LCARES2026>



TALK IN 444.925 103.5 PL

Email : swap@lucasares.org

Phone Number: 419-405-3299

It's your dime

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

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, for its Annual Meeting on January 16 – 17, 2026. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presided over the meeting and welcomed new Division Vice Directors that included Marty Newingham, AG3I among the new Division Vice Directors.

Congratulations to Marty, AG3I from the friends and membership of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA).

(Courtesy of the May 2026 *QST Magazine* Pages 65 and 66)



(Photo courtesy of Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R)

Of Interest to All

I have had these two Dadgum Poles in my possession for a very long time. They have been sitting on an old hay wagon next to the rabbit hutches...



There has been little time to do much more than just tar the bottoms and hope someday I take the time to do more. So I... put the post hole auger on the tractor and I drilled the first of two holes! Can you believe it? I actually took time to devote to my radio hobby! Finally! I am working on putting those Dadgum Poles in the ground. I had help.



The first pole is in the ground!

Now I am drilling the hole for the second Dadgum Pole.

Of Interest to All



I hand dug a small trench to guide the pole into the hole.

Great! We are on a rain hold.



Okay, new day it's drying up. I have to bale water out of the hole with a plastic cup tied to some para-cord even though I put a tarp over the entire thing it filled with rain water.

The Dadgum Pole is being picked up with the tractor bucket. Two ropes are tied to the Dadgum Pole to help keep it in the middle of the bucket as the tractor s-l-o-w-l-y slides the Dadgum Pole higher and higher. I have two helpers holding the ropes and adjusting to keep the Dadgum Pole in the middle of the bucket as it slides up a little higher, a little higher, a little...



More.



Of Interest to All



I used a drag blade from our garden tractor, placed at the edge of the hole, to keep the Dadgum Pole from digging into the side of the newly drilled hole. This and the guide trench should help as the tractor puts the pole up.

Ahhhh success! It went right in. The hard part is done! Now that the Dadgum Pole is deep in the hole there is little danger it could fall over.



We use a chain on the Dadgum Pole secured to a steel pipe to twist that dadgum pole. I put an insulator on the top of the pole before we started. The Dadgum Pole simply has to be turned in the correct orientation for the antenna to be held in such a way as to work with the other antenna holding poles.

Now with both Dadgum Poles in the ground where do I find time for an antenna party????

Please understand there were many safety things going on behind the scenes. Because this was an "all hands on deck" the pictures do not show all the other safety measures taking place. This is how I did it, you be careful if you decide to put some dadgum poles up at your radio shack. Maybe hire a professional to install your poles...



Of Interest to All

BVARA Coming Attractions



May 2026

State and Province QSO Parties:

- 7th Call Area QSO Party, May 2nd – 3rd
- Indiana QSO Party, May 2nd – 3rd
- Delaware QSO Party, May 2nd – 3rd
- New England QSO Party, May 2nd – 3rd
- Canadian Prairies QSO Party, May 9th – 10th
- Arkansas QSO Party, May 16th – 17th

Dayton Hamvention, May 15th – 17th, Xenia, Ohio, see www.hamvention.org for details

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, May 15th – 17th

May 9, 1400Z – 1900Z, W4LX, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club. **National Train Day**. 7.044 7.244 14.044 14.244. Certificate. Fort Myers ARC Train Day, P.O. Box 061183, Fort Myers, FL 33906-1183. traindav@fmarc.net

May 9, 1500Z – 2300Z, W7G, Corinne, UT. Ogden Amateur Radio Club. **Golden Spike**. 7.040 7.235 14.040 14.255. QSL. Ogden Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3353, Ogden, UT 84409. www.ogdenarc.org

May 14, 1400Z – 1900Z, KA4TAL, Conway, SC. American Legion Amateur Radio Club. **Honoring the Serving Members and Veterans of Our Armed Forces**. 7.185 7.264 14.255 14.275. Certificate & QSL. American Legion Amateur Radio Club, Horry Post 111, 2830 Oak St., Conway, SC 29526. talarcpst111sc@gmail.com

May 23, 1200Z – 2359Z, KD3KA, Wexford, PA. Allegheny Valley Radio Association. **Amateur Radio Origins of KDKA**. 3.840 7.240 14.240 21.340. QSL. AVRA, P.O. Box 24, Wexford, PA 15090. www.qrz.com/db/kd3ka

POTA in the sun and flowers, all month long!

Of Interest to All

Here are some fun definitions for some words used in last months newsletter.

Strong Polynesian Warrior Names with Deep Roots

MAUI

Origin: Polynesian

Meaning: **Trickster** demigod

Oceanian Mythos

In Oceanian tradition, various mythical creatures are deeply rooted in the beliefs of the Pacific Islands. The **Taniwha** is a revered creature in Maori culture, taking the form of a water monster.

Maui – trickster, goes good in a newsletter name

Taniwha – works well to describe a fluid

KC3BXC

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

You may be asking “What does the picture on the cover page have to do with Ham radio?” Not much, but I wanted this month to be fun... The Road Trip Hamfest page inspired this playful sentiment for me. I always encourage fun and safety in our hobby.

Can you believe I finally got my two Dadgum Poles in the ground? I did!!! What a time of discovery for me. I constantly speak and hope to instill safety during any radio related activity you engage in.



For my Dadgum Pole endeavor I carefully planned, asked for help and put safety in the forefront of the entire activity. I told everyone that helped “If you feel anything we are doing is unsafe, speak up, call everything to an immediate halt! We do not want anyone hurt.” All went well. I now have four points to put up a horizontal loop antenna. I am thankful.

I made sure everyone had the proper safety gear. For myself, I had on a good pair of leather gloves...after we finished, I noticed a cut in my right glove, over my right wrist. I do not recall feeling the cut or anything catching on my glove. The glove prevented what could have been a very nasty laceration on my wrist. I don't want to entertain what terrible catastrophe could have transpired had my glove not been on. It was a close call. Safety for me was as simple as wearing leather gloves.

Please be safe in all your radio objectives. Always think ahead and give everyone involved the power/authority to call the whole thing off if something is or becomes unsafe.

Till next month,

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

May 2026

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrrl.org/contest-calendar. Check <https://contests.arrrl.org> for recent results. 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	1300	1 1900	3.5-28	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	RST, serial, class (A/B)	www.agcw.de/contest/qrp-qrp
2	0300	2 0859	3.5-28	RCC Cup	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr or ITU zone	www.contest.ru/rcc-cup-rules
2	0600	3 2359	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	w6ife.com
2	0800	2 1400	All above 902	Microwave Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2026-information
2	1200	3 1159	3.5-28	ARI International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province or serial	www.ari.it
2	1200	3 1200	3.5-28,144	F9AA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
2	1300	3 0700	1.8-28	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW Ph Dig (no FT8)	RS(T), 5-letter state/county code or SPC	7qp.org
2	1500	3 0259	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), IN county or SPC	www.hdxcc.org
2	1700	3 2359	1.8-28,VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), DE county or SPC	www.fsarc.org
2	2000	3 2359	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), New England county/state or SPC	neqp.org/rules
3	1000	3 1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or SPC	wab.intermp.net/Contests.php
4	2300	5 0300	All, no WARC	MIE 33 Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age, "ME" or "MEJ" or none	www.ztv.ne.jp
5	0000	5 0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	ars-qrp.com
7	0000	7 0500	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
7	0000	8 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
7	1700	7 2100	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
7	2000	7 2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	1200	10 1159	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	cqm.srr.ru/en/rules
9	1200	10 1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, CQ zone	www.contestvolta.it/rules.pdf
9	1200	10 2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	1700	10 0300	7,14,21,28	Canadian Prairies QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), VE4/5/6 district code or SPC	cpqp.v66hams.ca
9	2300	10 0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2026-information
11	0000	11 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
12	1900	12 2029	3.5,7	DARC FT4 Contest	Dig	RST, 4-char grid	www.darc.de
14	0000	14 0500	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
14	1400	14 2200	3.5,7	QRP Minimal Art Session	CW	RST, class, number of components	qrpc.de/contestrules/mas/index.html
16	0600	16 2100	3.5-28	UN DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Kazakhstan district code or serial	undxc.kz/rules-eng
16	0800	16 1100	3.5	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	CW	RST, serial, branch number (if ZL)	www.nzart.org.nz
16	1200	17 1159	1.8-28	His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	CW	RST, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es
16	1200	17 1200	3.5-28	EU PSK DX Contest	Dig	RST, EU area or serial	eupsk.club
16	1400	17 0200	1.8-28,50,144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), AR county or SPC	www.arkqp.com
16	2000	16 2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
17	2300	18 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigrun
18	1900	18 2100	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
21	0000	21 0500	1296	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
21	0000	22 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
21	0030	21 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
21	1900	21 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
24	1600	24 2000	7,14,21,28	Real Time Contest	CW Ph	Serial, 4-char grid	blog.contestonlinescore.com
25	0000	25 0100	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrparci.org
27	0000	27 0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
30	0000	31 2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.cqwp.com/rules.htm
31	0500	31 1700	7,14,21,28	Romanian Diaspora SSB Contest	Ph	RS, YO/ER county/district or "DX"	concursdiaspora.ro/en/regulament