

THE eQRM

NOVEMBER 2022



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 very
Happy Thanksgiving.

Have a great time celebrating with family and friends!

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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

2022 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

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).

2022

Nov 10

Dec 10 Christmas Party at 5 PM
No Club meeting

2023

Jan 12

Feb 09

Mar 09

Apr 13

May 11

Jun 08

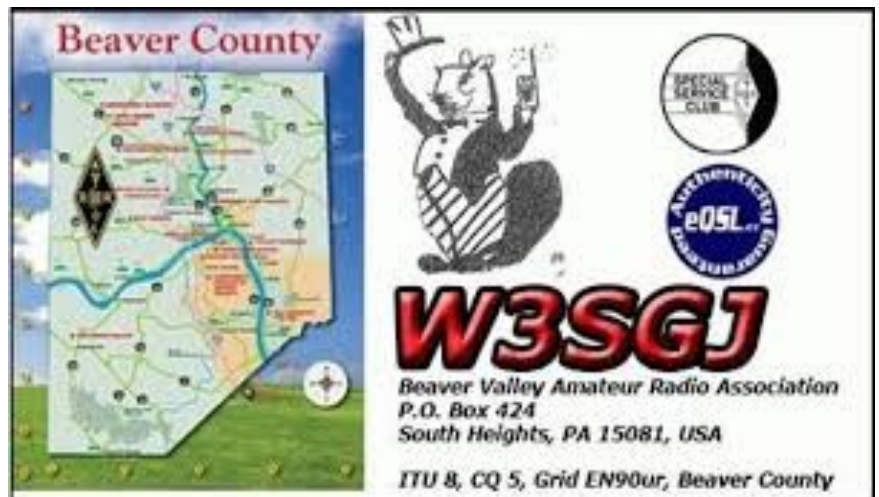
Jul 13

Aug Corn Roast

Sep 14

Oct 12

Nov 09



This Month

This Month: Special Roundtable Session:

Speakers: BVARA Club Members and You
Topic: Roundtable Help with Questions from You

What's It All About:

New to ham radio? Are you wondering about new digital modes with your equipment? Maybe you have questions about antennas, setting up your station, how to make an HF contact, or how to interface your computer to your ham equipment. Perhaps your questions are even more basic like rules and regulations, which bands are best to use, where to find operating resources like band plans, what to do after you make contacts and how do you save or conveniently create a useful log. Maybe you have problems with annoying noise or need help in selecting some equipment. The list goes on and on . . .

Since our initial roundtable discussion in November 2019, some changes have been planned in our roundtable format that will enable you to more easily seek the answers to questions you have about ham radio and operating a station. After our monthly club meeting, our next roundtable discussion with your participation is planned. You don't have to be a member of the BVARA; you may just have a question or two that's been bothering you about our ham radio hobby. In fact, you could be new to the hobby or a seasoned veteran with questions. Whether it's technical or about rules/regulations or operating or equipment, we want to help you. Perhaps your question involves unique HF, VHF, or UHF operating or perhaps some of the newer digital modes. Your question could help others with the same issues!

We'll start our roundtable around 7:15 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center at 351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003. *Please join us with your questions!*



Rich Soltesz - K3SOM
Extra Class Ham
BVARA VE Liaison

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!



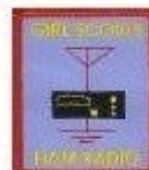
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

**See you
Thursday at**



RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



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 :

October 2022 VE Test Session Results



Our October VE Test Session had one successful candidate, with the achievement of his goal of passing the Extra exam, the highest class of Amateur Radio license. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly. A congratulations email was then sent to the candidate with a snippet of his license page with his new callsign and/or verification that all information was entered correctly.

Our 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 November 10th. Beginning July 1st, the new Technician Tests have begun to be used.

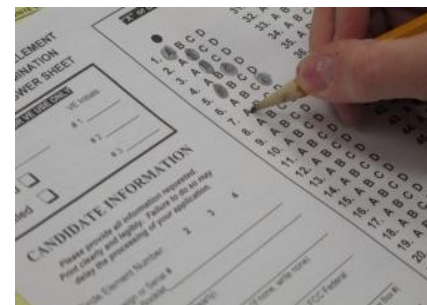
Congratulations to:

Ron Havranek, KC3ROP, Baden, PA passed the Extra exam

All of our BVARA testing would not be possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Reg Genola – W3REG,
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP,
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP,
Bart Stack – KB3NFM, and
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ
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

Hamfests & General Announcements



Hamfests the rest of this year in
Western Pennsylvania...

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



Field Tour of the WKBN (AM) Antenna Site

On October 21st, 2022, seven members from the BVARA and invited guests from Triple A and Steel City ARC met at the antenna site of WKBN 570 KHz and WNIO 1390 KHz near Youngstown Ohio. We were welcomed by the Site Engineer, John Clarke for a most informative tour of the site that included over 14 antenna towers as high as 430 feet, three 5,000-watt transmitters, elaborate day/night antenna switching, and remote monitoring and alarming.



Of Interest to All



Our gracious host
Site Engineer, John Clarke

The station was founded in 1926 by Warren P. Williamson, Jr. and operated on 1400 KHz with just 50 watts. The studios were in the basement of Williamson's home. With the implementation of the FCC's General Order 40 on November 11, 1928, the station moved to 570 kHz where it remains today.

With two AM stations at the same site, special filtering is required to keep interference to a minimum and to preserve the FCC-mandated night-time antenna directional requirements.



Of Interest to All



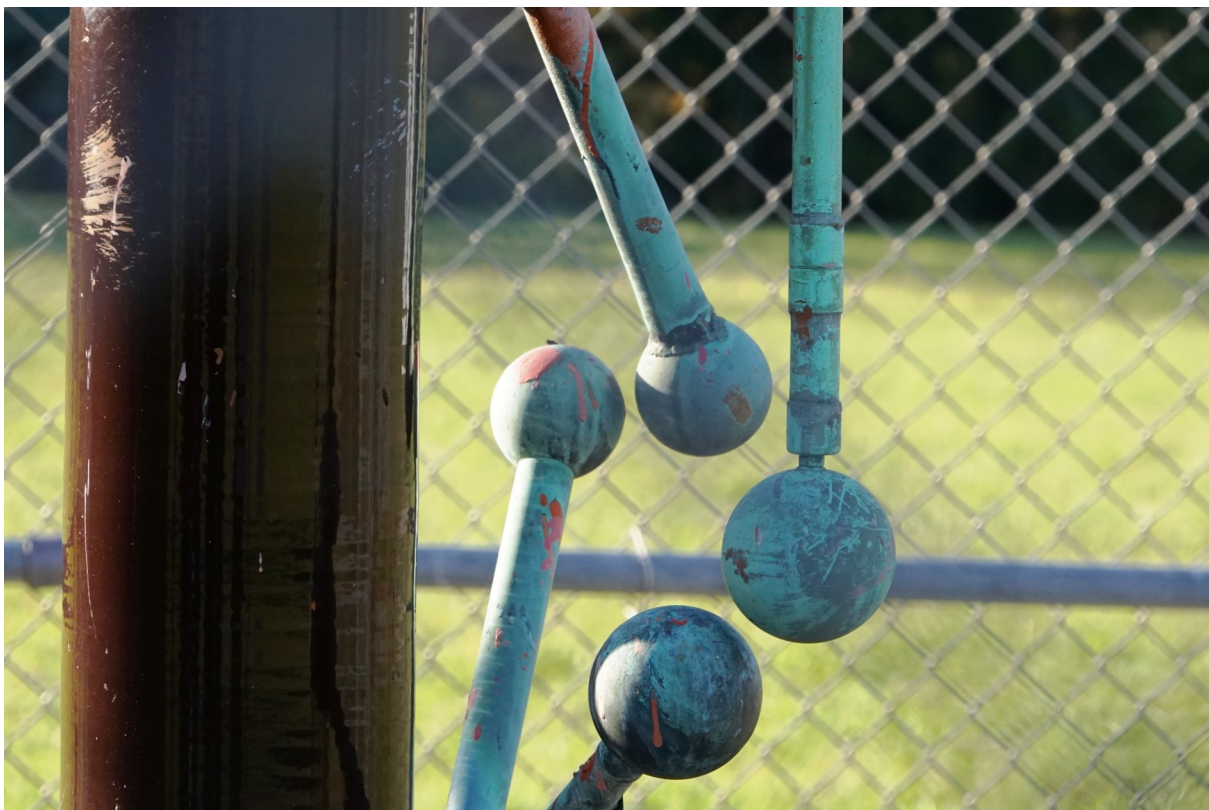
Quality construction and top-notch equipment was installed and maintained over the years to make this commercial AM site a unique example of good engineering practices.

With time and changes in technology, station equipment has been continually updated to reflect not only improvements in equipment but also economic consolidation and remote program origination. Ownership changes have driven some of these more recent capabilities that lower costs, provide early detection of potential problems, and improve the reliability of their service.

We took lots of pictures, asked lots of questions, toured one of the antenna sheds that was not powered at the time, and, as hams, marveled at all of the metal in the air.



Of Interest to All



The difference between ICAS (ham radio) and CCS (commercial broadcasting) conditions became very evident. Many questions about lightning protection were asked by us and answered by our gracious host.



Rich – K3SOM

Of Interest to All

The BVARA 100th anniversary

The BVARA is planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023. We have secured special event callsign W3S for the week of April 15 through April 22, 2023. Our plan is to operate from the Brady's Run ball fields on April 15 and 16 to open the week. On April 22, Rich, K3SOM, has invited us to operate from his house to close the week. We will need operators and equipment for both weekends.

A little of our history....



BVARA Field Day in the 1960s

During the week, club members are encouraged to operate from home using the special event call. Anyone interested would need to sign up for a specific time slot, band, and mode. Operators would also need to log contacts on a program of their choice, as long as it can export an ADIF file.

Doug, N4YKQ

2022 PA QSO Party Results and Trends

The PA QSO Party began in 1957 at a time when many modes were competing for the attentions of the many new hams just joining the hobby who sought easier goals to achieve rather than struggle for DXCC on AM. See paqso.org/party-history.html for much more detail.

In keeping with our recent historical participation in the PA QSO Party, we once again ‘threw our hat in the ring’ in our attempt to ‘reach for the brass ring’ to capture a contact in each of our 67 Counties. Hooray, we did it!



Jim, KC3IXE



Rich, K3SOM

Jim, KC3IXE and Rich, K3SOM operated two transmitters at the 100-watt level using three separate antennas to help us cross the finish line. The workhorse antenna was a full-size 40-meter temporary dipole that was strung from the 50-foot tower on one end to a tree at the edge of the woods about 100 feet away

Of Interest to All

for 140 contacts. Following closely behind was a 140-foot doublet antenna that was raised to between 50 and 70 feet in the air along the edge of the property and was fed with low-loss open-wire line. The doublet resulted in 110 contacts on 80 meters. Finally, a Skyhawk 10-element Yagi beam antenna at 50 feet with no traps put out a commanding signal beyond Pennsylvania borders on 10, 15, and 20 meters. In fact, 12 Countries were easily added to our log.

As we completed our goal around 12:30 PM EDT on Sunday, we discovered that 15 and 10 meters were wide open to Europe. After a brief discussion, we connected a Triplexer to the Yagi with separate bandpass filters attached for 20, 15, and 10 meters so that we could both use the beam antenna at the same time. Technology helped us to easily add contacts on other Continents.

BVARA Recent *Pennsylvania QSO Party* Results*

Year	Total Contacts	Operating Hours	PA Rate/Hr	PA Counties	Total Bands	Operators	Total Countries	Power Class
2013*	457	15:04	32.6	67	3	1	2	L
2014	568	9:00	63.1	65	2	1	9	H
2015	161	9:42	18.7	63	3	1	1	L
2016	438	7:40	57.1	61	2	1	4	H
2017	165	4:42	35.1	51	1	1	4	L
2018	366	16:09	23.8	63	3	3	4	L
2019*	269	8:05	37.2	62	2	1	1	L
2020	358	13:56	26.9	67	4	4	11	L
2021	239	10:54	23.5	64	4	2	7	H
2022	342	18:50	25.8	67	4	2	12	L

*Note: 1. All Results scored with 2022 Version of N3FJP QSO Party Software
2. Results with K3SOM Call. All Others with W3SGJ Call.

2022 BVARA Communications Support for the Outdoor Immersion's Resilient Member's Classic

On October 29th, eight local amateurs from Beaver County amateur radio clubs staffed five checkpoints and a Net Control position at the Raccoon State Park. Operators included:

- Jack, KZ3Z, and Pam, W3PMS, Net Control
- Jim, KC3IXE, Checkpoint 1
- Randy, KC3LZM, Checkpoint 2
- Greg, KC3TFW, Checkpoint 3
- Dan, KB3VSP, Checkpoint 4
- Doug, K3GTX, Checkpoint 5
- Doug, N4YKQ, Rover and General Support
- Sean, K3UKE and Doug, N4YKQ did some additional experimenting with UHF to determine feasibility of deploying a UHF repeater to provide portable coverage within the park for next year's event.

Our amateur radio team arrived Saturday morning at the Recreation Hall and found that each checkpoint had a clipboard with map, log sheet for Bib Numbers, written directions to the checkpoint,



Of Interest to All



and GPS coordinates for those checkpoints that were a little more challenging to locate.

There were approximately 26 runners registered in the two races that we supported. 12 runners completed the 50K race with times ranging from 4 hours and 35 minutes to 8 hours and 10 minutes. Nine runners completed the 20-mile race with times from 3 hours and 25 minutes to 6 hours and 15 minutes.



Of Interest to All



Aid station Riders Ridge

Amateur radio operators reported Bib Numbers for each runner to Net Control, thus giving race organizers a real-time overview of race progress. Only one runner was reported as injured. That runner stopped at Checkpoint 5 reporting a 'rolled' ankle and opted to drop out of competition and received a ride from a race volunteer to prevent aggravating the injury.

That incident was reported by radio to Net Control and, even though the runner required no medical treatment, a medic was on standby upon the runner's arrival at the Recreation Hall.

We even assisted one of the race organizers with a flat tire that apparently had a slow leak and needed to be refilled for the drive home.

A total of 76 volunteer hours were provided to support this event. All amateur radio operators had positive comments about their experiences for the day and expressed a desire to return next year.

Doug, N4YKQ

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

The field trip to the Youngstown AM station WKBN was a great time! See page 11 for the details. We thank our gracious host Site Engineer, John Clarke. If you missed this you really missed another great field trip. Make room on your schedule to attend BVARA trips for 2023. They are always educational, informative and just plain fun.

I have tried to make the best use of the mild weather we have had here in Western Pennsylvania for October. Did you? I have really enjoyed the later part of October with the temperatures in the seventies! We all know this won't last. I am thankful for the nice weather. This helped me get a few more things done in comfortable temperatures before the snow flies.

This year is going by with a record pace for me! I had so much I wanted to accomplish. I have some time before this year comes to a close. I have the important things completed. I got that last pasture mowed. Now I have the things that would just be nice to complete left to do. Did you get everything you wanted to get done completed yet? I still have that Dadgum Pole to put in the ground and install a horizontal antenna waiting to be put together. I have to hurry if I am going to get done before the snow flies.

I was visiting family in Harrisburg. I had opportunity to attend the Harrisburg Hamfest October 22, 2022 that same weekend. It was hosted by the W3UU Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club. The hamfest was on Derry Street in Harrisburg. The hamfest was very nice. There was a building for indoor setups and plenty of tailgating space in the parking lot. The weather was great, it was warm and the sky was clear. I had a good time. It was a nice surprise for me to be able to attend one last hamfest this year!

Happy Thanksgiving, I look forward to celebrating with family and friends. It will be so wonderful to celebrate, visit, play board games and to pray by giving thanks before we eat with everyone. I think of those I lost this year... I am going to make it a point to let those I celebrate with know how precious they are to me. Maybe you will too. This wonderful spirit will be poring over into next month, Christmas!

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

November 2022

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	Date-Time	Date Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor s Website
1	0100	1	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, youth YL, or youth)	www.sac.com
1	0300	1	0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	www.qrp-labs.com
1	0600	1	0859	3.5,7	Silent Key Memorial Contest	CW	RST, SK call sign you wish to recognize	www.skmc.hu/en/rules.html
2	1700	2	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
2	2000	2	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com
3	0000	4	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/power	qrpcontest.com
3	1800	3	2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW/Ph,Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrriccontest.no
3	2000	3	2200	1.8-28.50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
5	0600	5	1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, IPA, US state (if USA)	www.iparc.de
5	2100	7	0300	1.8-28	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	CW	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
6	0600	6	1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, IPA, US state (if USA)	www.iparc.de
6	1400	6	1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
7	2000	7	2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
8	0100	8	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, youth YL or youth)	www.sac.com/rules.html
8	0200	8	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqr.blogspot.com
9	1700	9	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
10	1900	10	2000	3.5,7	EACW Meeting	CW	RST, mbr, nickname, EA province or DXCC prefix	www.eacwspain.es/eacwmeeting
12	0000	13	2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW/Ph,Dig	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
12	0000	13	2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RS, serial	www.darc.de
12	0000	14	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
12	0001	13	2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
12	0300	13	0900	50,70,144, 432,1296	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	CW,SSB, AM,FM	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.sarl.org.za
12	0700	13	1300	1.8-28	JIDX Phone Contest	Ph	RST, JA prefecture number or CQ zone	jidx.org
12	1200	13	1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, 3-letter OK/OM district code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
12	1200	13	2359	1.8-28.50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12	1600	12	1800	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, name, mbr or "0," SPC	fistsna.org
12	1900	14	0500	1.8-28, 50,144,432	CQ-WE Contest	CW/Ph,Dig	Name, location code, years of service	cqwe.cbah.org
12	2300	21	0300	1.8-14	AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	CW	RST, name, QTH, equipment year/type/power	antiquewireless.org
13	0700	13	1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	Ph	RS(T), serial	www.firac.de/FIRAC_HF_CONTEST_E.pdf
13	1400	16	0800	1.8-28, 50,144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rig make/model	www.classicexchange.org
14	0100	14	0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW/Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
15	0100	15	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, youth YL, or youth)	www.sac.com
16	1700	16	2100	12G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
16	2000	16	2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
17	0000	18	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/power	qrpcontest.com
17	0130	17	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
17	1900	17	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	25 WPM max; RST, mbr or "NM"	qsl.net/ntc/party.html
19	1200	20	1200	3.5-28	LZ DX Contest	CW/Ph	RS(T), 2-letter LZ district or ITU zone	lzdxbfrra.org/rulesen.html
19	1600	19	2359	1.8	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, OE district code (if OE)	www.oevsv.at
19	1700	20	0100	1.8	REF 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, department code	concours.r-e-f.org
19	1900	19	2059	1.8-7.21, 28.50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
19	1900	19	2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org
19	2100	21	0300	1.8-28	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Ph	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
20	1300	20	1700	3.5,7	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	CW	RST, serial, class	www.qrpcc.de
20	2100	20	2300	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org
20	2300	21	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com
22	0100	22	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, youth YL, or youth)	www.sac.com
23	0000	23	0200	1.8-28.50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
24	2000	24	2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
26	0000	27	2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, CQ zone	www.cqww.com
28	2000	28	2130	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org
29	0100	29	0159	1.8-28.50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, youth YL, or youth)	www.sac.com
30	2000	30	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com