

THE eQRM

OCTOBER 2026



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: Cobweb (not antenna) photo courtesy of R. Reilly!

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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

2026 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: Randy Dinello KC3LZM

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

Oct 08

Nov 12

Dec 05 Christmas Party
at 5:00 pm

2027 Meeting Dates

Jan 14

Feb 11

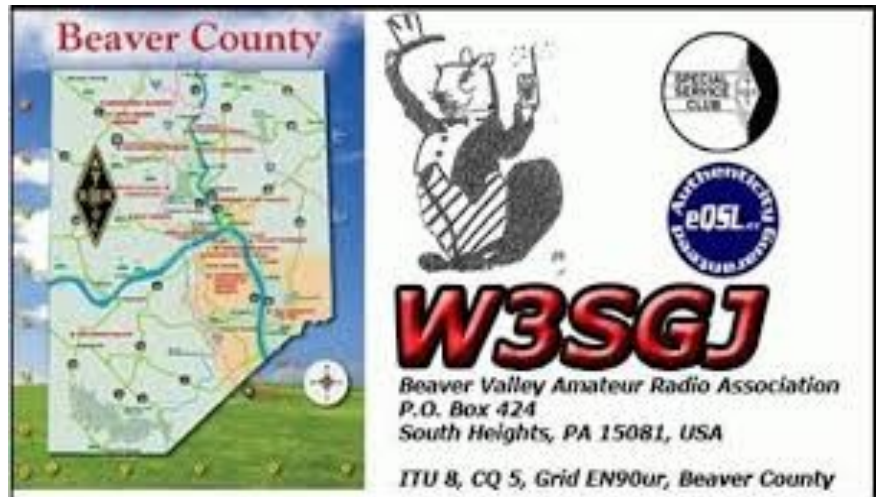
Mar 11

Apr 08

May 13

Jun 10

Jul 15



This Month

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz

K3SOM

Topic:

The Multiband Cobweb Antenna

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month investigates one style of multiband antenna that could be of increasing interest as we begin to slide down the back end of the recent sunspot peak. With a fairly small footprint, the cobweb antenna might be a worthwhile antenna to consider. Some hams have a QTH (location) that may not be practical for a large antenna. But multiband operation would be very desirable. Omnidirectional properties would also be worthwhile, as no rotator would be required. Lower cost of materials would also be a welcome property to have. As with life, some compromises would have to be made. But the possibilities of this cobweb antenna deserve a closer look.

We'll begin with a conventional dipole on one band, at a height where resonance can be adjusted for the middle of the 20-meter band. Then we'll begin folding the two halves until they form a square, all the time looking at how performance characteristics change. As this transformation moves forward, the emergence of a smaller antenna that evolves into some of the characteristics of a cobweb antenna will become evident. As a bonus, we'll verify that our dipole resonance frequency varies significantly as the height above ground changes.

With the availability of combinations of software analysis tools and faster PCs, a detailed analysis of these antennas has become much easier to do. We've converted all of that computational data from *AutoEZ* and *EZNEC 7 Pro/2+ v7.0* into meaningful results. From those results, performance expectations can easily be seen as well as the impact of the height above ground, and the length of the driven element to achieve resonance where desired.

But wait, there's more! If there's time, we'll explore how the cobweb performs compared to a hex beam. Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ham, bring your questions to the meeting because this is one exciting presentation that you won't want to miss.

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

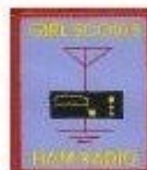
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.



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 :



September 2026 VE Test Session

Our September VE Test Session had one candidate who achieved his Amateur Radio goal by passing his Technician exam. 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.

With a new call sign, congratulations to:

Randy Boyce, KD3DVF, Technician, Baden, PA

If you hear him on the air, please congratulate him on his achievement! 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 **October 11th, 2026**.

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

Keith Custard – KC3TMC
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP
Karen Pelkofer – KC3 SRL (General Class)
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	
☐ BVARA full membership	25.00	_____
☐ BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
☐ BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
☐ 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.)

☐ Technician	Name _____
☐ General	Address _____
☐ Advanced	_____
☐ 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

None?

Where did they all go?

Don't worry more to come in 2027!

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:

larry@kc3ros.net



It's Your Dime

...And Now You Know the Rest of the Story! *

The following article was from the September 20th 2026 Forum Page of QRZ.com:

Speaking Out After Their WRTC 2026 Disqualification



It's your dime

“Braco Memic E77DX and Sven Lovric DJ4MX speak publicly about their disqualification from WRTC 2026. They apologize, accept responsibility for arranging to have their starting frequencies held before the contest, and agree that the Judging Committee made the correct decision in disqualifying them. They also emphasize that they were not involved in the separate fake-multiplier scheme.

“The conversation then expands into a candid discussion about rule violations in contesting, including excessive power, remote receivers, past enforcement practices, and whether stronger consequences can change behavior. Braco and Sven discuss what they believe needs to change, while Kevin WIDED presses them on accountability and whether a culture of tolerated rule-breaking can be changed.

“Finally, Braco and Sven reflect on the personal consequences of the disqualification and what comes next. Sven expects to continue contesting, while Braco is less certain, describing his disappointment, concern about repercussions for people associated with him, and hope that there can still be a positive path forward.”

Rules, no matter what the sport or activity, are made to define what you can do and what you cannot do. In amateur radio, changes in technology whether they involve hardware, software, or automation, necessitate changes in the rules. As one commenter noted: “. . . historical malfeasance in contests was alleged as far back as the ARRL Transatlantic Tests (1921) and the All-Section Sweepstakes (1930). Later another nexus became DXCC and DX'pedition's, with numerous notorious operations.”

Field Day, begun in the mid-1930s, has undergone frequent changes over the years to better emphasize new goals, to plug up loop holes that enabled unfair technological advantages or poorly defined rules, and to stop simply outright cheating. Thankfully, the percentage of participants who display a set of moral values and best practices is very high.

*Thanks to Paul Harvey for reminding us to follow stories that require our attention.

Rich, K3SOM

Of Interest to All

Will RADE Be the Next SSB? *

09/25/2026

It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech.

According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be [downloaded](https://freedv.org/download/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700) (https://freedv.org/download/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700) and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available [from FreeDV](https://freedv.org/radio-autoencoder/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700) (https://freedv.org/radio-autoencoder/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700) and on the [ARDC website](https://www.ardc.net/freedv-rade-a-new-approach-to-digital-voice-over-hf-now-integrated-into-popular-radios/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700) (https://www.ardc.net/freedv-rade-a-new-approach-to-digital-voice-over-hf-now-integrated-into-popular-radios/?utm_source=ARRL&utm_campaign=d6577a0d31-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_24_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-d6577a0d31-443773700).

*Courtesy of the <https://www.arrl.org/> website *Latest News* from September 28, 2026

Of Interest to All

BVARA Coming Attractions

Election time for BVARA Officers. Nominations will be taken in the **October** Club Meeting. Elections of nominated officers will be held in the **November** Club Meeting.

October 2026



State QSO Parties, Mostly No WARK:

California State QSO Party, October 5th – 6th

Nevada State QSO Party, October 10th – 11th

Pennsylvania State QSO Party, October 10th – 11th

South Dakota State QSO Party, October 10th – 11th

New York State QSO Party, October 17th – 18th

Illinois State QSO Party, October 18th – 19th

Oceania DX Contest, CW, **October 3rd – 4th**

Oceania DX Contest, SSB, October 10th – 11th

CW Worldwide DX Contest, October 24th – 25th

Zombie Shuffle, CW, October 30th

Special Events:

Oct. 3, 1200Z – 2359Z, W3ZC, Bedford, PA. Bedford County Amateur Radio Society. **World's Largest Coffee Pot and USA 250th Anniversary**. 7.215 14.255 21.225. QSL. Bedford County Amateur Radio Society, 120 W. Watson St., Bedford, PA 15522. www.bcars.org

Oct. 4, 1100Z – 1700Z, W8H, Fremont, OH. Sandusky Valley Amateur Radio Club. **President Rutherford B. Hayes's Birthday**. 7.040 7.265 14.040 14.265. Certificate. David Dyke, KZ4CW, 2783 E. State St., Fremont, OH 43420. www.w8nck.org

Oct. 8 – Oct. 12, 1200Z – 2359Z, N4N, Sapelo Island, GA. Sapelo Island Expedition Team. **Sapelo Island Expedition Special Event**. 7.195 14.290 21.325 28.375. QSL. *QSL will be via Logbook of The World/QRZ/Club Log during the expedition as the internet allows or within 10 days of expedition completion.* k4jtt@yahoo.com or nv4c.ian@gmail.com

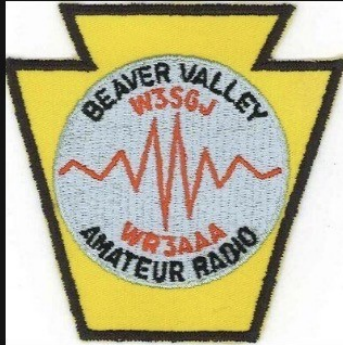
Oct. 8 – Oct. 16, 0000Z – 2359Z, W3T, Harleysville, PA. WV2M. **249th Anniversary of Continental Army Encampment at Towamencin**. 7.030 7.240 14.030 14.240. QSL. Frank Gallo, 106 Tweed Way, Harleysville, PA 19438. *Frequencies include SSB on 20, 40, and 75 meters, and CW and FT8 on 20 and 40 meters.* www.qrz.com/db/w3t

Oct. 17, 1400Z – 2000Z, K3MJW, New Kensington, PA. Skyview Radio Society. **Skyview Founders Day**. 7.260 14.260. QSL. Skyview Radio Society, 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068. www.skyviewradio.net

Oct. 12 – Oct. 21, 0001Z – 2359Z, W7DK, Tacoma, WA. Radio Club of Tacoma. **3rd Annual National Sasquatch Awareness Day**. 14.255. Certificate & QSL. Radio Club of Tacoma, c/o Bigfoot, P.O. Box 1188, Tacoma, WA 98411. *Call signs are W7B, W7I, W7G, W7F, W7O, W7T, and W4S (bonus station). All bands/modes.* <https://w7dk.org>

October can be a great opportunity for POTA, so get outside and enjoy some radio activity, the Fall foliage and cooler weather.

Of Interest to All



Dear Laurence:

Nomination Reply Requested

Please consider nominating a club member or yourself to serve as an officer in the 2027 BVARA.

To nominate a person, just provide their name and/or Call Sign, along with the position to one of the nomination committee members. (Note: nominate one person to each position.) You may reply by email, txt, or phone call to a committee member listed below.

The Positions are:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) 2nd Vice President
- 4) Treasury
- 5) Secretary

The Nomination Committee Members are the following:

Luke	KD3CBU	-	lukedj96@gmail.com	724-888-6203
Greg	KC3TFW	-	gmburns@gmail.com	724-407-3922
Larry	KC3ROS	-	larry@kc3ros.net	724-318-5458

Many thanks and 73,

2026 BVARA Nomination Committee (Luke, Greg, & Larry)

Call to action

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

Welcome to Fall 2026 and good bye Summer 2026. Being it is October, my thoughts go to the PA QSO Party, Halloween, Pumpkin carving parties, etc. Added to the list is to attend this month's club meeting and then afterward listen to Rich's cobweb antenna presentation. There will be no spiders involved I am told, hi hi. Did you figure out the reason for the cover photo that I used? Thanks to Rosie for allowing me to use the photo. She took it on 16 Sep 2016 while she was working at Shenango Dam, Hermitage, Pa.



I am having fun installing my new Kenwood Triband Mobile radio. We (Rosie doing the work and me inspecting and criticizing) just completed installing the LMR 400 superflex coax through the Jeep tailgate. Yep probable overkill and should have went with something thinner. Now "we" just have to solder the center copper to the PL-259 and give the new coax a try.

Thanks again goes out to Rich, K3SOM for creating all the content for this issue. Remember that we will be voting for new club officers at the upcoming club meetings. Please also remember in your thoughts those family and friends that may be facing or recovering from personal health condition(s).

Till next month,

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3ROS for KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

October 2026

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contest-calendar. Check <https://contests.arrl.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 0000	1 0500	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
1 0000	2 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM: RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
2 0000	2 2359	1.8-28	URC DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, 3-letter territory code	unicomradio.com
3 0000	4 2359	No WARC	Collegiate QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), school ID or SPC	collegiateqsoparty.com
3 0600	4 0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
3 0600	4 1800	1.8-28	TRC DX Contest	CW Ph	RST, serial, "TRC" (if mbr)	trcdx.org
3 0700	3 1000	3.5,7	German Telegraphy Contest	CW	RST, LDK	www.agcw.de
3 1200	4 1159	1.8-28	Russian WW Digital Contest	Dig	RST(Q), 2-letter oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
3 1600	4 1100	3.5,7	International HELL Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.darc.de
3 1600	4 2200	1.8-28	California QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, CA county or SPC	www.cqp.org
3 1800	3 2200	50	50 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	packratvhf.com
4 0600	4 1000	3.5,7	UBA ON Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
4 2200	4 2359	3.5-14	Peanut Power QRP Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, peanut no. or pwr	www.nogaqrp.org
6 0000	6 0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	ars-qrp.com
7 2000	7 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid	www.ukeicc.com
7 2300	8 0600	432	432 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	packratvhf.com
8 0000	8 0500	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
10 0000	10 2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrparki.org
10 0000	11 1559	3.5-28	Makrothen RTTY Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.pl259.org
10 0001	10 2359	28	10-10 Int'l 10-10 Day Sprint	CW Ph Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
10 0600	11 0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
10 1200	11 1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
10 1200	11 2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
10 1500	11 0500	1.8-28	Arizona QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AZ county or SPC	www.azqp.org
10 1600	11 2200	No WARC	Pennsylvania QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, PA county or ARRL/RAC Section	paqso.org
10 1800	11 1800	1.8-28,50,144	South Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), SD county or SPC	www.sdqsoparty.com
10 2000	11 2000	1.8	PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
11 0600	11 1000	3.5,7	UBA ON Contest, CW	CW	RS, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
12 0000	12 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
14 0030	14 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
15 0000	15 0500	1296	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
15 0000	16 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM: RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
17 0000	18 2359	3.5-28	JARL WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, avg age or "01"	jarl.org
17 0800	17 1400	902 and above	902 MHz and Up Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	packratvhf.com
17 1400	18 0200	No WARC	New York QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NY county or SPC	www.nyqp.org
17 1500	18 1459	3.5-28	Worked All Germany Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK or "NM" or serial	www.darc.de
17 1500	18 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid	www.kkn.net/stew
17 2000	17 2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
17 2130	17 2330	7	Argentina National 7 MHz Contest	Ph	RS, 2-digit year first licensed	www.lu4aa.org/wp
18 1700	19 0100	1.8-28,50,144	Illinois QSO Party	CW Ph Dig (no FT4/8)	RS(T), IL county or SPC	w9awe.org/ilqp
18 2300	19 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
19 1300	23 2359	No WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
24 0000	25 2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, CQ zone	www.cqww.com
26 2000	26 2200	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
28 0000	28 0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
28 2000	28 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid	www.ukeicc.com
30 1500	30 2359	3.5-28	Zombie Shuffle	CW	RS(T), SPC, Zombie no. or area code, name	www.zianet.com/qrp
31 0000	1 2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
31 1200	1 1159	1.8-28	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST(Q), 2-letter oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
31 1200	1 1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, district code (if UK/EI)	www.ukeicc.com