

THE eQRM

MAY 2024



The Mayflower

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania



Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: April showers bring mayflowers, well not this kind. We had so much rain, in the month of May! I think most of us thought we may have needed a large ship because of how much water fell from the sky!

Inside this edition

Who We Are	3	Hamfests & General	9
This Month	4	Announcements	
Get a License or Upgrade	6	Of Interest to All	10
New License and Upgrades	7	Bits and Pieces	15
Membership	8	Radio Sport	16



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

The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2024. All material presented in this publication is not necessarily the views of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), BVARA, or members of the said organizations. If you would like to contact the editor of the eQRM, please email David at kc3bxc.73@gmail.com. Please visit us online at www.W3SGJ.org. To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php

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

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).

2024

May 09

Jun 13

Jul 11

Aug Club Corn Roast

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

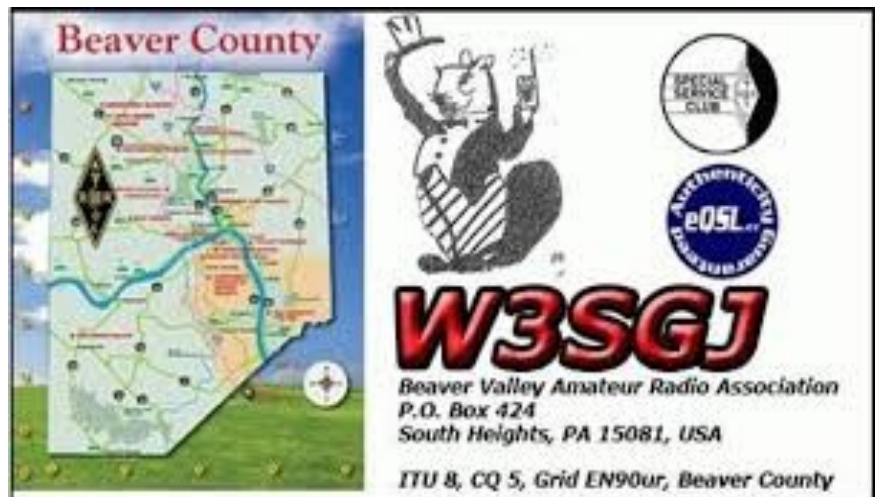
Dec Club Christmas Party

2025

Jan 09

Feb 13

Mar 13



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:

Antenna Analyzer Measurements for Hams



Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is a practical topic that presents fundamental measurement techniques for the most important part of your radio system, your antenna. In particular, our focus will be on using an antenna analyzer. These measurements are basic, non-complicated techniques that cover over 80 percent of your needs.

We'll begin with some definitions and rules about what we are trying to measure and then move on to ways to measure SWR, resonance, coax velocity factors, capacitance, inductance, and even coax stubs and where to use them.

But wait, there's more: you're invited to bring your favorite piece of measuring device so all of us can learn how easy it is to explore as well as how to avoid mis-interpretation of your results. Such an opportunity! This is one presentation you won't want to miss.

Rich's Background:

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

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)



New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :



April 2024 VE Test Session Results

Our April 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 May 9th, 2024.

Congratulations to:

Tom Tronzo, N3ZOL, Extra Class, Freedom, PA

Tim Davis, KC3YYH, Technician Class, Darlington, 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:

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 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

When is the show?

Friday	May 17th	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	May 18th	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday	May 19th	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where is the show?

Greene County Fair and Expo Center
210 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385
Coordinates are 39.702 N – 83.9420 W

Dayton Hamvention®



Dayton Hamvention® is sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is an association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communication in the event of disasters or other emergencies, and for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare DARA is an incorporated association chartered under the laws of the state of Ohio, and is an exempt organization under the Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Its affairs are governed by a Board of Directors, whose voting members are elected every year by the general membership.

DARA is the sponsor of the Dayton Hamvention® and earns its operating revenue from this event. The funds are used for scholarships, education, disasters and public service events, the 10 monthly editions of the award winning “RF Carrier” newsletter, upkeep of the various repeaters and membership activities.



Of Interest to All

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



Of Interest to All



BVARA Field Day, 2024

BVARA members,

Field Day 2024 is fast approaching. Keeping in my mind that Field Day is the fourth full weekend in June along with the fact that there are five weekends in June this year, Field Day arrives a bit early this year. Dates are June 22 and 23, 2024.

BVARA has secured shelter #1 at Economy Park for this year's operation. One just needs to enter 5 Forcey Dr., Baden, PA 15005 into their favorite mapping program or GPS to find the park. Once in the park, stay to the left and follow the road to the end to find shelter #1.

We plan to start the weekend with a picnic for club members and guests on Friday, June 21, 2024. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM. The club provides fried chicken and attendees are requested to bring a covered dish or dessert. Please let me know by June 13 if you plan to attend so we know how much chicken to purchase. I can be reached by email at n4ykq@verizon.net. Setup for the picnic will be at 2 PM and all help is appreciated.

The club will begin setting up for the actual Field Day operation on Saturday morning, June 22, at 8 AM. We plan to use the Spider Beam antenna that was purchased last year. We plan to operate the 24-hour period beginning at 2 PM on Saturday with operation ceasing at 2 PM on Sunday. Again, all help with setup and clean up will be appreciated.

Anyone who would like to bring a station to use at Field Day should contact me so I can fit you into the plan. A station consists of a radio, antenna and feedline, coax jumpers, power supply, generator or battery, and computer for logging. We will likely operate as 3A this year, meaning three transmitters in simultaneous operation and transmitter power will be limited to 100 watts (I know the rules allow for 500 watts this year, but we are not bringing amplifiers). Rich, K3SOM, will again provide the logging server. Anyone who wants to bring a station will need to make arrangements with Rich in the week or so prior to Field Day to ensure that their software is up to date and connects with the server.

Rich has also agreed to provide band pass filters for each station and a tri-plexer so that as many as three radios can connect to the Spider Beam antenna. I think that covers everything for now. I hope to see you all at the event.

Doug, N4YKQ



MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

04/26/2024

Updated 4:26:24 8:00 pm EDT with additional statement from Martin F. Jue, K5FLU.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have “a lot of stock on hand.” They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years. He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members, and loyal *QST* readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ. MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"



(Courtesy ARRL.org at <https://www.arrl.org/news/mfj-ceasing-on-site-production>)

Of Interest to All



The BVARA will be welcoming Bob Nu3Q to speak at our March Club Meeting for approximately fifteen minutes. He will be informing us about the event and recruiting volunteers to provide radio communication during the event.



**2024 DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh
Marathon**

May 5, 2024

Of Interest to All

BVARA



May

Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention, May 17th – 19th, Xenia, OH

Indianapolis Motor Speedway, W9IMS Special Events:

May 5 - 11: Grand Prix - Operator Schedule

May 20 - 26: Indianapolis 500 - Operator Schedule

July 15 - 21: NASCAR 200 at the Brickyard - Operator Schedule

POTA, POTA

June

BreezeShooters Hamfest, Butler Farm Show Grounds, June 9th

ARRL Field Day, June 22-23

July

The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event, July 1st – 7th

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

This month has been so busy for me. Again, I have had some very important farm duties take me away from my monthly newsletter responsibilities. I am hoping things will slow down for next month's newsletter to be out at the beginning of the month.

Some good news for Mr. MFJ and some bad news for us hams. Mr. Martin F. Jue is retiring! All Hams will miss his company. We will all wish him the best. He will be missed.

Dayton Hamfest is this month! I will not be attending. I have so much going on I can't go. I have it on my bucket list to attend one day. I hope many of you get to go. I am sure it will be a great time! Wish I could go this year...Maybe next time.

Did someone say "Field Day"? Oh no!!! I will not be able to sleep! If you have been reading this newsletter for any length of time you know how worked up I get about Field Day! You know I am worse than a kid a Christmas. I can hardly wait for the comradery, the food, the set-up, the radio fun and just all that goes with this "The greatest radio event each year!". I get so excited; I almost can't stand it! As it kicks off, I savor every minute of the year's Field Day.

Did I enlighten you to have some idea of how much I enjoy this yearly event? Well come meet us at shelter #1 at Economy Park and be a part of this wonderful radio fun time. Come for the day, a few hours or spend the entire time with us, just come have some radio fun with the BVARA! See page 11 for details. I have personally invited you! Come.

Field Day is so much fun and it signals that summer is so close. When summer comes, I think a lot of Hams plan on ways to make their stations better. I am the same. I have wanted to put up a horizontal loop antenna for years now. For the last couple of years, I have wanted to put that "Dad Gum Pole" in the ground! I needed to have help from so many people outside my close friends that I didn't get that Dad Gum Pole in the ground. My plans always fell through. Sadly, the Dad Gum Pole rotted from laying on the ground... Well, this year I have formulated a way to put up some poles with what I have right here in my control. I will not need a fancy pole truck or a bucket truck. I think I have a way to do it all myself. I have been preparing some things in advance to planting the poles. I am really hoping this works out this time. And so goes the saga of the Dad Gum Pole.... I will take pictures and keep you filled in. There will be more to come.

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

May 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.

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
1	1700	1	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu
2	0000	3	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; max 13 WPM	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
2	1800	2	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
2	2000	2	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
4	0001	5	2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "none," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
4	0300	4	0859	3.5-28	RCC Cup	CW,Ph	RS(T), mbr or ITU zone	rcccup.ru
4	0600	5	2359	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	CW,Ph,Dig	6-char grid	w6ife.com/Page/2GHzContest
4	0800	4	1400	All above 902	Microwave Spring Sprint	Not specified	6-char grid	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2024-information
4	1200	5	1159	3.5-28	ARI International DX Contest	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province or serial	www.ari.it
4	1200	5	1200	3.5-28,144	F9AA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
4	1300	5	0700	1.8-28	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), 5-letter state/county code or SPC	7qp.org
4	1500	5	0300	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW,Ph	RS(T), IN county or SPC	www.hdxcc.org
4	1700	5	2359	1.8-28, VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), DE county or SPC	www.fsarc.org
4	2000	5	2359	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), New England county/state or SPC	neqp.org/rules
4	2300	5	0300	1.8-28, VHF/UHF	MIE 33 Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), age, "ME" or "MEJ" or none	www.ztv.ne.jp
5	1000	5	1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or SPC	wab.intermip.net
7	0100	7	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqrp.blogspot.com
8	1700	8	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
9	1400	9	2200	3.5,7	QRP Minimal Art Session	CW	RST, "r", class, number of components	qrpsc.de
11	0000	11	2359	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, first name, mbr or "0," SPC	fistsna.org
11	1200	12	1159	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), serial	cqm.srr.ru
11	1200	12	1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, CQ zone	www.contestvolta.it
11	1200	12	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11	1700	12	0300	7-28	Canadian Prairies QSO Party	CW,Ph	RS(T), VE4/5/6 district code or SPC	cpqp.ve6hams.ca
11	2300	12	0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	CW,Ph,Dig	4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2024-information
13	0000	13	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW,Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
13	1900	13	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14	1900	14	2000	3.5	DARC FT4 Contest	FT4	RST, 4-char grid	www.darc.de
15	1700	15	2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
16	0000	17	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; max 13 WPM	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
16	0030	16	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
16	1900	16	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"; max 25 WPM	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
18	0600	18	2100	3.5-28	UN DX Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), Kazakhstan district code or serial	undxc.kz/rules-eng
18	0800	19	1100	3.5	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	CW	RST, serial or branch number (if ZL)	www.nzart.org.nz
18	1200	19	1200	1.8-28	His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	CW	RST, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es
18	1200	19	1200	3.5-28	EU PSK DX Contest	Dig	RST, EU area or serial	eupsk.club
18	1400	19	0200	1.8-144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dig	RS(T), AR county or SPC	www.arkqp.com
18	1600	18	2000	28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
18	2100	19	0200	3.5	Baltic Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), serial	www.lrsf.it
19	0000	19	2359	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, first name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org
19	2300	20	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigrun
20	1900	20	2030	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
22	0000	22	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
22	1900	22	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
25	0000	26	2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.cqwpw.com
27	0000	27	0100	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrparci.org
30	1900	30	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
31	0000	2	2359	1.8-28,50	PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	Dig	mbr or "0000"	www.podxs070.com