THE eQRM

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association   W3SGJ

Repeater   145.310   PL 131.8

On the cover:

What a beautiful photo of the Monaca-Beaver railroad bridge crossing the Ohio River. Beaver County has many bridges, some say this is "The Land of Bridges".

Photo by : A.J. Smith

Inside this edition

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

Who We Are

2017 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Mark Kavic, KB3LED

2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

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
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
on the second Thursday of every month
(unless otherwise stated).

2017 MEETING DATES

Aug 12 Corn Roast * No meeting *

Sep 14
Oct 12
Nov 09
Dec 09 Christmas Party

Jan 11 2018
Feb 09
Mar 08
Apr 12
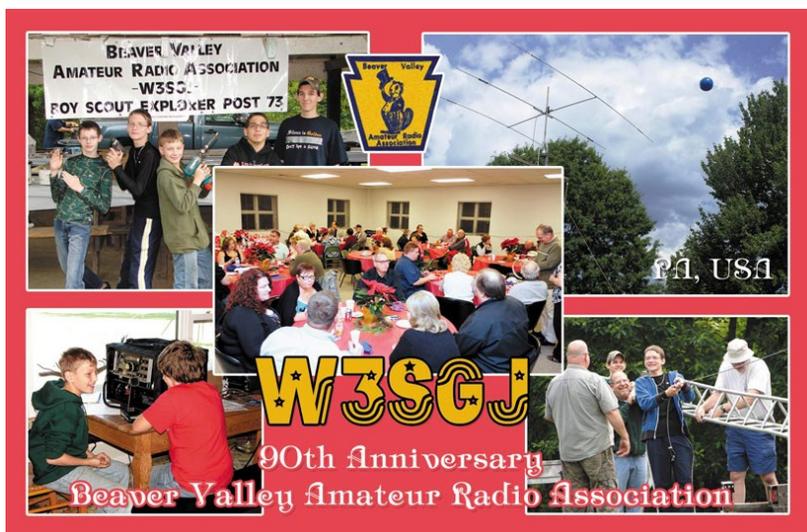
BVARA Corn Roast

Join our Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association celebration of summer!

When: Saturday, August 12th, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Where: Old Economy Park, Shelter 1 (enter the park and turn left at the swimming pool)

Who: All BVARA members and their families and invited guests

What: Club furnishes the corn, hot dogs, and hamburgers – please bring a home-baked dessert and your beverages. All home-brought foods are optional, but home-made extras add to the deliciousness. Coffee, canned pop and bottled water will be available.

RSVP: For planning purposes, we need a count by August 1st of how many people will be there, so please:

Email your response to k3som@arrl.net or

- Call Rich, K3SOM at (724) 847-0610

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)

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

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 N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

RACES / ARES
The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.

East Coast to Caribbean
East Coast to West Coast
East Coast to Japan
East Coast to Southern Africa
East Coast to South Pacific
East Coast to Alaska
East Coast to Eastern Europe
East Coast to Central Asia
East Coast to Australia
East Coast to Hawaii
East Coast to Western Europe
East Coast to South America
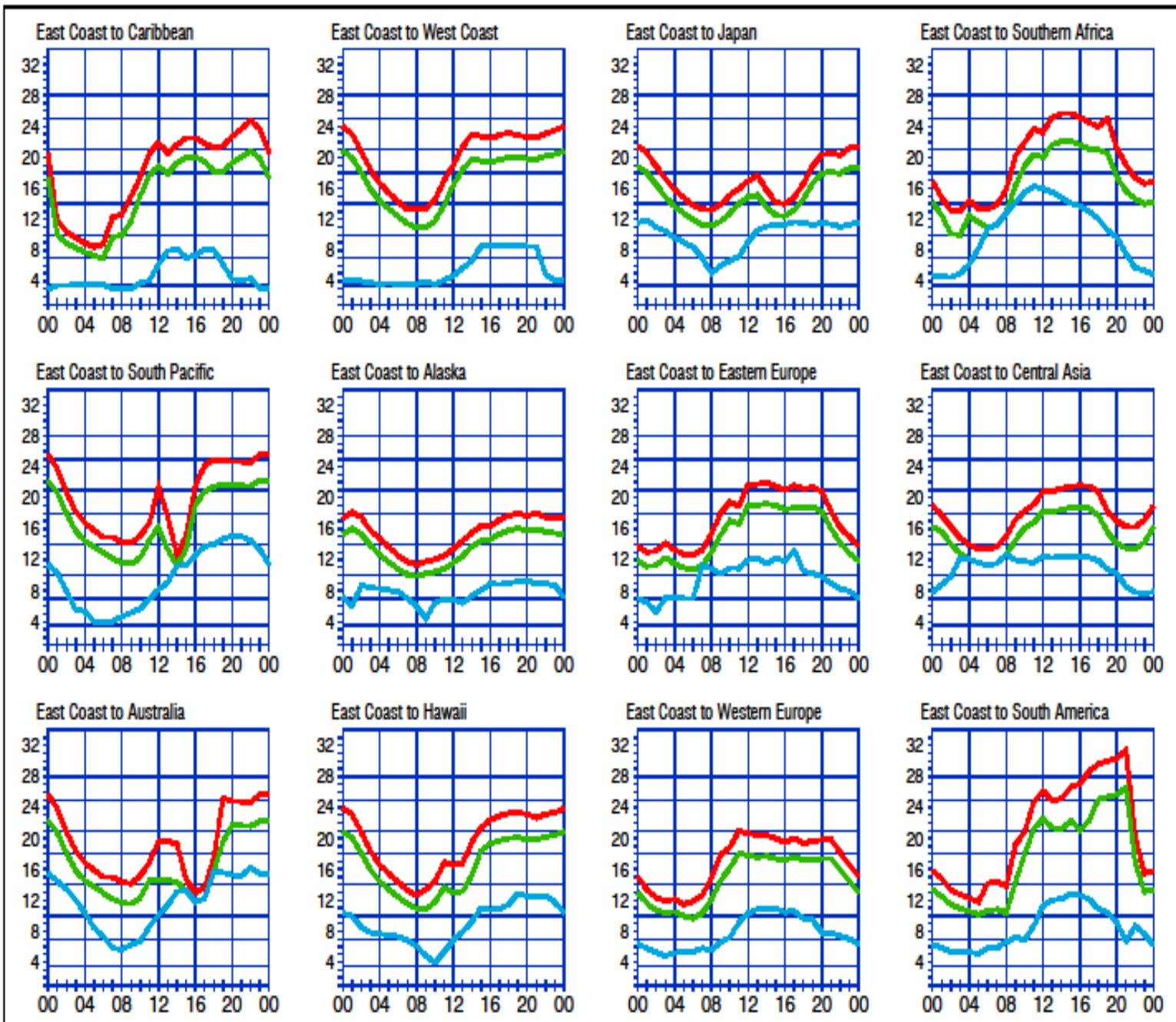
When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of **August** for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1500-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 *QST*, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 *QST*, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 81. This is a **Low level** of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on *The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM* .

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for August 2017. If you would like more information in general, please visit http://www.arrl.org/propagation

Get your License or Upgrade

* No testing for the month of August, but please come to our Corn Roast!

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 Nine One One 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, check, or money order.

New License and Upgrades

* No testing for the month of August, but please come to our Corn Roast!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Amateur Radio Exam

to our newest amateurs.
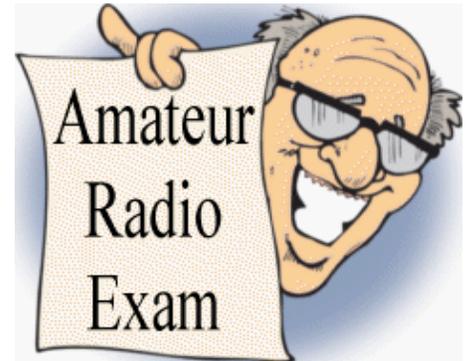
Your new Amateur Radio licenses have been issued. Congratulations! Here are the FCC-assigned call letters and license classes each of you has earned:

Erik Pecchi – KC3JNU, Conway, PA, General

Jonathan Fitzgerald - KC3JNT, Aliquippa, PA, Technician

You both qualify for free membership to the BVARA for the remainder of 2017, if you wish, as our way of helping you to quickly come up to speed with your issues and with any questions that you may have.
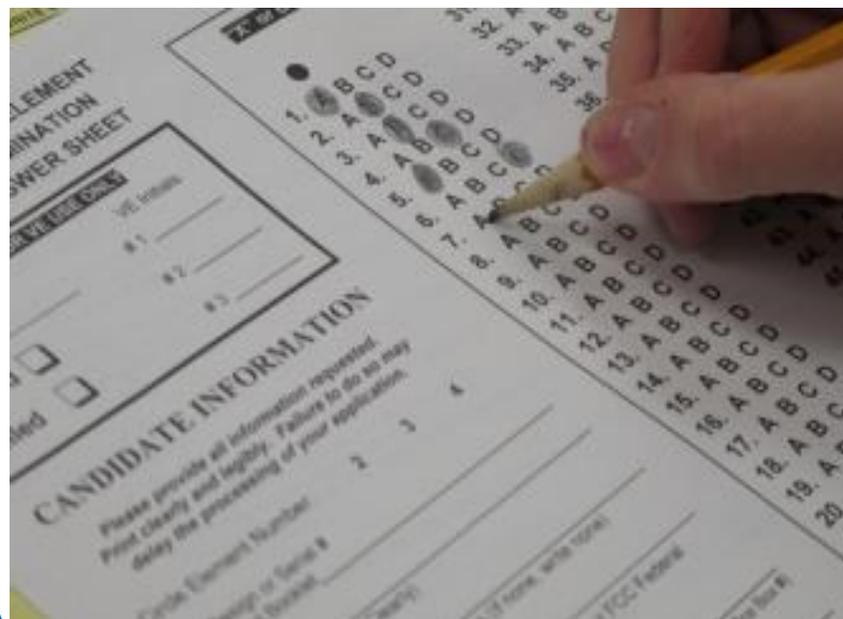
Membership Information

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	20.00	_____
☐ BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
☐ BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
☐ 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.)

☐   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

2017 SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY
SWAP N SHOP!
SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2017

LOCATED AT OUR CLUB GROUNDS NEAR NEW KENSINGTON PA

Aprox 13 miles northeast of Pittsburgh

2335 Turkey Ridge Road

New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in 146.640- 131.8pl

Admission $5.00 – Table space is $5.00 (Bring your own table)

Great prizes

Door prizes

Begali CW key raffle (Nickle plated Pearl)

Breakfast and lunch served

Get your Skyview Burger and your Skyview Dipole Hotdog!

Contact: John Italiano WA3KFS - 724-339-3821

www.skyviewradio.net

Location is near the intersection of Rt. 366 and Rt. 380

From Apollo / Leechburg: Take Rt. 66 S to Rt. 380. Take 380 W to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington) to the end of the 4 lane. Go ¼ mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about ½ mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about ½ mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

From New Kensington: Take Rt. 366 E. Go about 5 miles from the Parnassas area. Look for the Hannan Building on the left. Go about 100 yards past the Hannan Building (If you get to the 4 lane, you went too far). Turn left on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about ½ mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about ½ mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

From Monroeville / Parkway: Take Rt. 286 E to Rt. 380 E. Take Rt. 380 E to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington) to the end of the 4 lane. Go ¼ mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about ½ mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about ½ mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

From Greensburg: Take Rt. 66 N to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington). Cross over Route 380 and then go to the end of the 4 lane. Go ¼ mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about ½ mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about ½ mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

Radio, Computer, Electronics
SwapFest
Sunday September 10, 2017
8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Buy a ticket, and open your trunk!

Unionville Fire Department
102 Mahood Road, Butler, PA 16001
(Along PA Route 8, 4 miles north of US 422)

40° 56' 19" N, 79° 57' 34" W
No firearm sales! No alcoholic beverages permitted in SwapFest area!

FCC Amateur Radio Exams

PRIZES
(subject to change)
Yaesu FTM-100DR Dual-Band Digital Mobile
Diamond SWX-40C VHF/UHF Cross-Needle Wattmeter
Astron SS-25M 20A DC Power Supply

Winner need not be present to win.

50/50 Raffles

Gate donation of $5.00 per person includes one main prize ticket.
Additional prize tickets are available at the club's table.

Talk in W3UDX 147.36/96
Web Site: W3UDX.ORG

Breakfast and lunch available.
(No individual food sales permitted.)

Information : Joe Sciulli N3WHJoe@gmail.com 412-337-1687

Sponsored by : Butler County Amateur Radio Association , Inc.

Contest Corral — August 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org./contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Date-Time		Finish Date-Time		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
3	1700	3	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 61-char grid square	www.nrau.net
5	0001	6	2359	28	10-10 International Summer Contest	CW Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
5	1200	5	2359	1.8-28	European HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-digit year first licensed	lea.hamradio.si/~scc
5	1400	5	1800	144	WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net
5	1800	6	0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, SPC	ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
5	1800	6	1800	222 and up	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest
6	1300	6	1630	3.5-14	SARL HF Phone Contest	Ph	RS, serial	www.sarl.org.za
8	0100	8	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
9	0030	9	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
11	2200	13	2200	144	MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	mmmonvhf.de/ctestinfo.php
12	0000	13	2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.darc.de
12	1200	13	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12	1600	13	2359	1.8-432	Maryland-DC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Entry class, county or SPC	mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org
19	0000	20	1600	3.5-28	SARTG WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sartg.com
19	0600	20	2359	10 GHz and up	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char Maidenhead Locator	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
19	0800	20	0800	1.8-28	Russian District Award Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), District code or serial	rdaward.org/rdac1.htm
19	1200	20	1200	1.8-50	Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	CW	RST, prefecture/district code or continent	www.kcj-cw.com
19	1600	19	1759	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
19	1800	20	0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
19	2100	20	2100	3.5-28	CVA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, station type	www.cvadx.org
20	1300	20	1630	3.5-14	SARL HF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za
20	1800	20	2359	3.5-50	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Dig	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, SPC	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
21	0100	21	0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
21	1400	21	2200	1.8-50	Solar Eclipse QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Other station's call, RS(T), 6-char grid square, your call	hamsci.org/seqp
23	0000	23	0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
26	0400	28	0400	1.8-28	Hawaii QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.hiqsoparty.org
26	0600	27	0559	3.5-28, 144	ALARA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), "A" if member (serial, if not), name	www.alara.org.au/contests
26	1200	27	0300	1.8-50	W/VE Islands QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), USI/CISA Island Designation or SPC	usislands.org/qso-party-rules
26	1200	27	1159	3.5-28	SCC RTTY Championship	Dig	RST, 4-digit year first licensed	lea.hamradio.si/scc
26	1200	27	1200	3.5-28	YO DX HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), county or serial	www.yodx.ro/en/english
26	1400	27	2000	3.5-50	Kansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	ksqsoparty.org
26	1600	27	0400	3.5-28	Ohio QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.ohqp.org
26	2100	27	2100	3.5-28	CVA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, station type	www.cvadx.org
27	1300	27	1630	3.5-14	SARL HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.
No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column.

Bits and Pieces

For the month of August let me introduce KR3DX, Dennis Herbuth as the "Interview with a Ham" amateur radio operator. I met Denny at one of the regular monthly Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association second Thursday meetings. I talked to him at meetings many times. I really got to know him because of interactions at two Field Day events. At the first Field Day I helped him put up an antenna for digital contacts at the BVARA Field Day with an "air-launcher". It was fun and I learned some things. The second Field Day (this year) I helped him take down a very elaborate antenna that was used during the BVARA involved event. I wonder if I was like a kid to Denny asking too many questions? He was gracious and answered my many quests for information.

I have always found Dennis to be very knowledgeable of Amateur Radio stuff. I have asked him many times about radio related things. He didn't know it was something I had been working on at home. I'd be willing to bet he didn't even know how much he had helped me. I have only been a Ham for three years, I have much to learn. Denny has always been welcoming and kind to me.

When I called him for this interview we talked for at least two hours. Two Hams, who would have known we would talk for so long? (hee hee). Anyone that knows us! We talked about Ham radio mostly, though we "chased a few rabbits". Denny has a great love of railroading. That was only one of the "off the track" subjects we had talked about.

One of the particular answers that stuck out to me… I asked "What was your most memorable contact". Denny told me about the time he and a friend from Germany talked on 20 meters, QRP, less than five watts and had a very clear loud QSO. He explained that band conditions on 20 meters are rarely good enough to make such contacts. From the sound of his voice I could tell Denny really found that contact fun. I also asked about his most fun contact… Denny told me they are all fun. He really enjoys Radio! His "Radio Enthusiasm" rubbed off on me a bit. Denny, thanks for the great interview and just fun "Rag Chew 'n". 73 pal.

As always, be safe.

73 KC3BXC

Interview with a Ham

Name :   Dennis Herbuth

Call sign and license class: KR3DX Extra Class

Year of first FCC License : 1978

Did you ever make a crystal radio? The short answer, no. But I wanted to.

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? Yes, a lot!

Did you ever build a Ham Radio? No, I built an amp. But thinking about it, when I was a teen, I did build a three tube LW AM transmitter.

Did you ever use CB radio? Yes, 1972-1975 off and on till I got my Amateur License.

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? I heard Hams talking on my shortwave set.

What was your first radio?   A Midland 213-something, a 220 MHz crystal controlled radio.

What was your first antenna? A 220 MHz mag-mount quarter wave whip.

What is your current antenna & radio?   An Elecraft K3S and a center fed doublet 90 ft. high and 83 feet long.

What are your favorite modes to operate?   Single Sideband phone ragchew'n.

What was your most memorable contact?   A friend in Germany with 5 watts.

What was your most fun contact? It's fun to make contacts anytime I can.

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios)   Rag Chew 'n with people around the world.

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? No.

Do you use a logging program? (what is it)   N1MM logger.

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? Yes, I have one.

Do you use automation with your Ham Radio?   Yes.

If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why?   I would get rid of LIDS, for obvious reasons.

Where do you see ham radio in ten years?   I don't think much will change. I think it will be much like it is now.

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

There is a request by Rick Roderick, K5UR, the president of the ARRL asking Radio Voters to send a letter to each of our Pennsylvania Senators (Casey and Toomey) requesting positive action on the Amateur Radio Parity Act, S. 1534. A companion bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives.

Please go to this linked website and follow the prompts:

https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act

Some Interesting Links

Tesla Spirit Radio DIY   http://www.instructables.com/id/Spooky-Tesla-Spirit-Radio/

Ham radio pod cast   https://www.icqpodcast.com/

Hip ham t-shirts   https://www.hiphamshirts.com/collections/t-shirts

Interesting stuff for sale   http://www.westmountainradio.com/

Video interfaces for a ham radio in your car   http://tvandnav2go.com/

Soldering helpers   https://solderbuddy.com/products/solderbuddy-hobbyist-ham/

Digital panel meters   http://www.datelmeters.com/cgi-bin/webshop.cgi?config=ent-home

Fun For All Radio Operators

Here is some fun from the past…

The March 1935 *Short Wave Craft* magazine contained a caption contest, inviting readers to submit titles for the cover. Winning entries were published in the July 1935 issue.
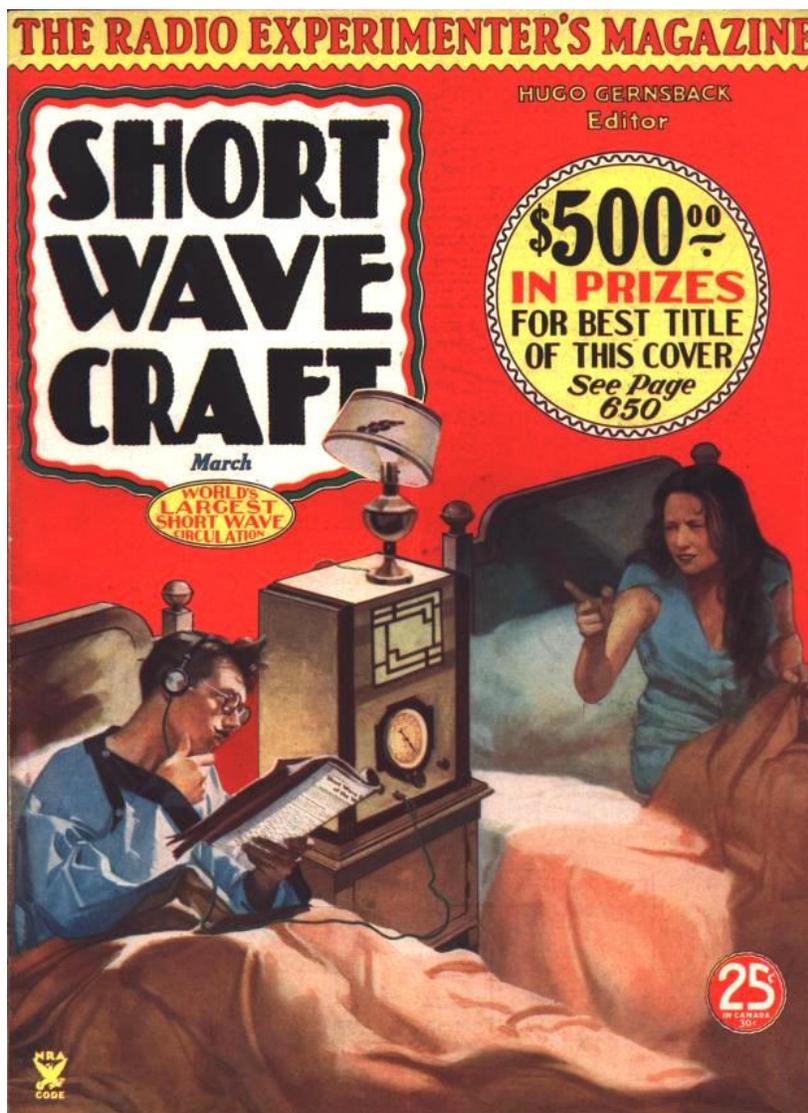
The magazine received an amazing 16,000 entries, including many duplicates. Some of those repeated many times were: When to Listen In, Ohm Sweet Ohm, The Radio Bed-Bug, Scrambled Speech, Uncontrollable Oscillation, Short Waves and Long Raves, The Radio Widow, A Strong Local Cuts In, and Too Much Feedback.

Sigh. Maybe the 1930s just weren't a funny time.

In any case, the first prize winner received a Pilot 11 Super-Dragon receiver, which sounds pretty cool. Second through fifth places hauled in kits. One hundred prizes were awarded in total, although by the time you reached fifteenth place, the prizes were things like a battery or one's choice of any 50-cent book published by the company.

Perhaps it was a custom in early radio circles to make awful puns. In any case, the winners included some of the worst groaners I've ever seen. The publisher provided translations in parentheses in cases where the joke was too obscure to fathom.

Dragon 11
1926-1935
Super-Heterodyne
6 AM circuits Broadcast
plus more than 2 Short
Wave bands

Prize	Winner	Cover Caption
1st	Hoke Wynn	There "Antenna" Justice
2nd	Walter Tracy	The Eternal Triangle
3rd	C.D. Johnson	A Fantastic Dial Log
4th	Bob Feik	She is Super-Het Up
5th	Norman Majors	Yell-A-Vision
6th	William Gracey	Wife Begins at 2:40
7th	Charles Read	Getting H-a-i-l Columbia
8th	John Weitzmann	Deviled Ham
9th	Alfred Boyle	Laying Down the Ohm Law
10th	Sam Weinberg	Free Squealing

You can read more about the Cover Contest here: https://www.antiqueradio.org/welcome.htm

Submitted by Rich Soltesz K3SOM