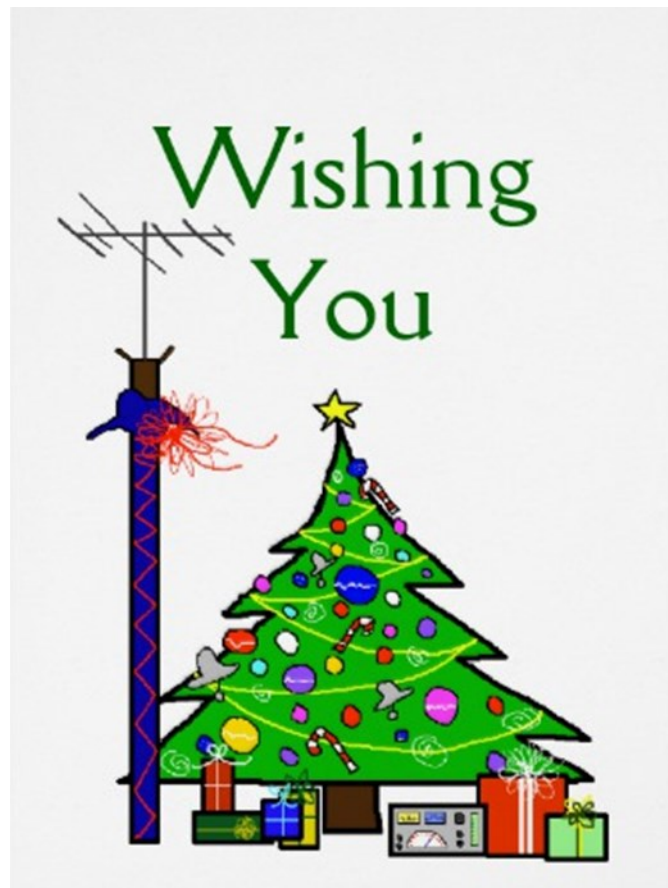


# THE eQRM

DECEMBER 2017

**The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association is**



**A very Merry Christmas!**

**The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania**

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

## On the cover:

We encourage all to enjoy this season of celebration with family, friends and good food. The BVARA is wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

## Inside this edition

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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**

The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2017. 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](mailto:kc3bxc.73@gmail.com). Please visit us online at [www.W3SGJ.org](http://www.W3SGJ.org). To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit [W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php](http://W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php)

# 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

Dec 09 Christmas Party

Jan 11 2018

Feb 09

Mar 08

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

Jul 12

Aug 18 Corn Roast



## This Month

### BVARA Club Feature Presentation

#### ***This Month:***

**There is no club meeting this month.**

**We will be at our December 9, 2017 Christmas Party.**

**Regular club meetings will resume 11 January 2018.**



# 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)



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.

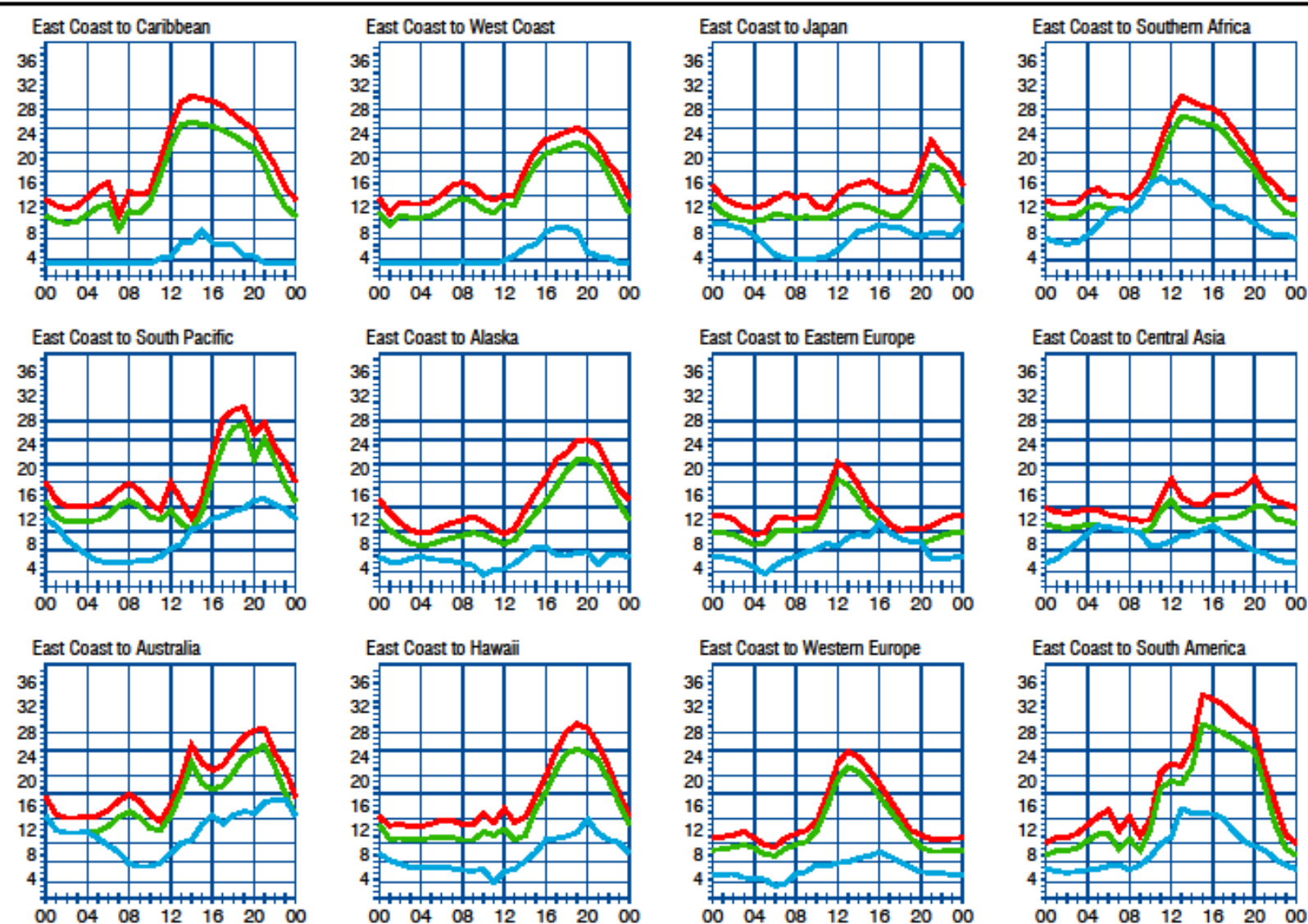
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



# Propagation



**When are the bands open?** These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of **December** 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 (HPP, 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 73. This is a Very 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 December 2017.

If you would like more information in general, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/propagation>

# 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 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

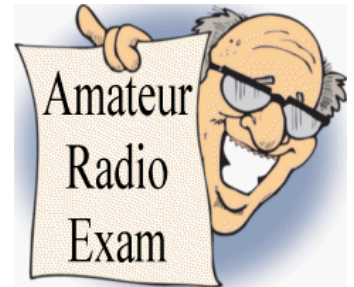
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.  
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings  
(the second Thursday of the month).  
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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

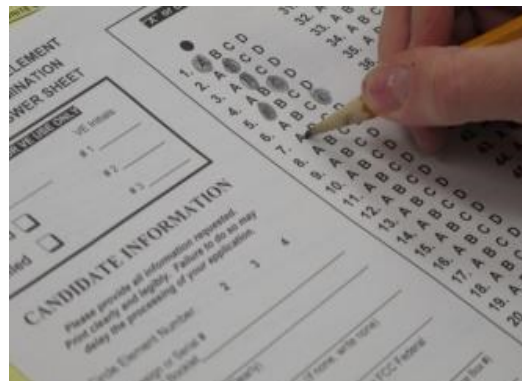
BVARA VE Testing



## No testing this month

December 9 will be the BVARA Christmas Party. There will be no testing or club meeting.

Testing will resume in 2018, January the eleventh at five pm with our regular monthly meeting to follow.





# 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="checkbox"/> BVARA full membership                   | 20.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BVARA student membership                | 15.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BVARA associate membership              | 10.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BVARA Child under 21 at home membership | 5.00  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One year ARRL membership                | 49.00 | _____ |

A Club Donation \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?      Yes      No

Total    Enclosed    \_\_\_\_\_

### Your License Class (If you have one.)

- ☐ Technician
- ☐ General
- ☐ Advanced
- ☐ Extra Class

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

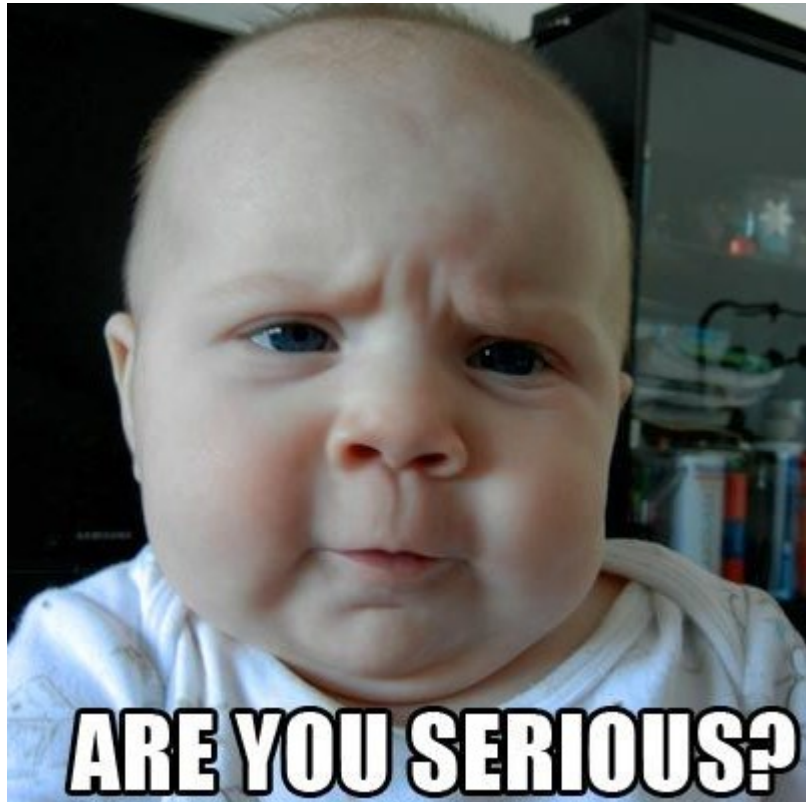
Your Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to:

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424

South Heights, Pa 15081



**Yep!**

**No hamfests till next year.**

## Contest Corral — December 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://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
1	2200	3 1600	1.8	ARRL 160-Meter Contest	CW	WVE: RST, ARRL/RAC section; DX: RST	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>
2	0800	2 0800	7-14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng">qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng</a>
2	1600	3 1550	3.5-28	TOPS Activity Contest	CW	RST, serial, club (if member)	<a href="http://proclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html">proclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html</a>
2	2000	3 1950	3.5-28	EPC Ukraine DX Contest	Dig	RSQ, Ukr Admin Region or serial	<a href="http://qrz.ru/contest/detail/261.html">qrz.ru/contest/detail/261.html</a>
3	0000	3 2350	28	Ten-Meter RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, state (W) or province (VE) or serial (DX)	<a href="http://www.rttycontesting.com">www.rttycontesting.com</a>
3	1300	3 1600	3.5-14	SARL Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
5	0200	5 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
7	0000	7 0600	1.8	QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	CW Ph	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.qrp-arc.org">www.qrp-arc.org</a>
7	1800	7 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://nrau.net/activity-contests">nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
9	0000	10 2359	28	ARRL 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RST, state/province (W, VE, XE) or serial (DX)	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>
9	1200	10 2350	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
9	1600	10 1550	3.5-28	International Naval Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), club/mbr or serial	<a href="http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?pos=16">www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?pos=16</a>
9	2300	17 2300	1.8-7	AWA Bruce Kelley 1020 QSO Party	CW	RST, name, QTH, equipment name and type	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>
10	2000	10 2350	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr, power	<a href="http://www.qrp-arc.org">www.qrp-arc.org</a>
10	2100	10 2250	14	CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	CW	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.coloradoqrpclub.org">www.coloradoqrpclub.org</a>
11	0100	11 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
13	0130	13 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
15	2000	15 2350	1.8	Russian 160-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Oblast code or serial	<a href="http://qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html">qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html</a>
15	2100	15 2350	3.5-7	AGB-Party Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm">ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm</a>
16	0000	16 2350	1.8-50	Fold Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub">sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub</a>
16	0000	16 2350	3.5-28	OK DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, CQ Zone	<a href="http://olethy.ork.cz/index.php?page=english">olethy.ork.cz/index.php?page=english</a>
16	1200	16 2350	3.5-28	Padang DX Contest	Ph	RST, serial	<a href="http://padang.qrzyb.com">padang.qrzyb.com</a>
16	1400	17 1400	1.8-28	Croatian CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://8acw.org">8acw.org</a>
17	1800	17 2359	3.5-50	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	CW	Name, 2-digit year licensed, SPC	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup">www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</a>
18	0200	18 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpccontest.com/pigrun">qrpccontest.com/pigrun</a>
21	0130	21 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
24	0000	24 1150	3.5-28	RAEM Contest	CW	Serial, latitude, longitude (e.g., 57N 85W)	<a href="http://raem.srr.ru/en/main">raem.srr.ru/en/main</a>
26	0830	26 1050	3.5-7	DARC Christmas Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DCK or serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de/?id=820">www.darc.de/?id=820</a>
27	0000	27 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
30	0000	30 2350	1.8-144	RAC Winter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), province/territory or serial	<a href="http://wp.rac.ca">wp.rac.ca</a>
30	1500	31 1500	1.8	Stow Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stow">www.kkn.net/stow</a>
31	1200	31 2350	3.5-7	Bogor Old and New Contest	Ph	RS, operator age	<a href="http://www.omni-bogor.org">www.omni-bogor.org</a>

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands.  
Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. 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. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [www.hornuooopla.com/contestcal](http://www.hornuooopla.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.

# Bits and Pieces

For the month of December I introduce KB3LED, Mark Kavic, in my “Interview with a Ham”. I am not entirely sure the first time I met Mark. I think I remember shaking his hand at one of the regular monthly Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association meetings. Mark told me he had always been exposed to radio at his house. His father, Tom is a radio guy.



As I visited with Mark he told me about his radio interests...

*When I was in elementary school I built a crystal radio at home with my father. It was a kit my dad purchased from Radio Shack. When I was a teen I got into CB radio. As I was growing up my dad was interested in Amateur Radio. Dad's fellow Hams, Bob Winkle, Denny Herbuth and Rob Miller, had a big impact in my radio hobby. With these guys around I was always exposed to quality amateur radio operation.*

*I was a senior in college and was tired of the foul language of CB radio. I was at the Leetsdale Radio Shack; I purchased a Technician Class license book written by Gordon West. That is how & why I got my first Ham radio license and because of “those guys” that my father had around.*

*You asked me about my first radio. It was a Yaesu FT-7800 mobile 2 meter/70cm radio and mag-mount antenna; I still have them on my current vehicle. They work just fine! You also asked about my most memorable and most fun contacts. Tokyo Japan was my most fun because it is my farthest distance away contact. My most fun contact was talking to a pilot of a US Air liner, KB0YRR, Brian Catalucci. We talked on 15 meters and 70 cm while he was flying that big airliner. That was really cool!*

*Field day is my absolute favorite part of the radio hobby. I like the first day of setting up the antennas and radios, getting the shelters set and the entire station setup. I like the excitement of Field Day. The sounds of the portable generators seem to pulse that excitement. I like the little break after setup. We all take time to eat together and the next step is the first contact! Yea I really enjoy Field Day and the Radio camaraderie during the several day event.*

While talking to Mark I couldn't help but get excited about the prospect of next year's Field Day. Take time to visit with Mark next time you see him or hear him on the air.

Be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby. Till next month, 73  
KC3BXC.



# Interview with a Ham

*Name :* Mark Kavic

*Call sign and license class:* KB3LED, General Class

*Year of first FCC License :* 2004

*Did you ever make a crystal radio?* Yes I did, at home with my Dad, a Radio Shack design.

*Did you ever listen to short wave radio?* No

*Did you ever use CB radio?* I did in my early teen years.

*How did you get interested in Ham Radio?* I was always exposed to it I my house.

*What was your first radio?* A Yaesu FT-7800 2 meter/70cm.

*What was your first antenna?* A mag-mount for mobile. Still on mobile today.

*What is your current antenna & radio?* For HF, an inverted V and a Ten Tec Omni VII.

*What are your favorite modes to operate?* SSB phone voice.

*Your most memorable contact?* My farthest DX contact, it was Tokyo Japan.

*What was your most fun contact?* KB0YRR, Brian a US Air pilot. We spoke on 70cm & 15 meters while he was flying.

*What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios)* Field Day! I enjoy the whole event

*Have you ever been on a fox hunt?* No, I would like to.

*Do you use a logging program? (what is it)* Yes, an ARRL log book and a pencil.

*Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio?* Yes, probably.

*Do you use automation with your Ham Radio?* Yes, TRX Manager.

*If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why?* I would like to get more young people interested in the hobby.

*Where do you see ham radio in ten years?* More digital and software defined radios.



# 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](mailto:kc3bxc.73@gmail.com)



# Some Interesting Links



DIY Antenna projects <https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Antennas/>

A contest calendar site <http://www.contestcalendar.com//>

Ham answers <http://dcasler.com/>

DIY loop antenna <http://g4fon.net/>

Frequency list <http://www.textfiles.com/hamradio/FREQUENCIES/>

Radio/Tech museum finder <https://www.radiomuseum.org/museum/usa/#eom>

Electronics kits <https://www.digikey.com/products/en/kits/31>

Soldering surface mount components <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU7wLcuqc-I>

# For All Radio Operators

**Whether at home or**



**on the road**



## **The Amateur's Code**

**CONSIDERATE** ...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL** ...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE** ...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY** ...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED** ...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC** ...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.