

# THE eQRM

DECEMBER 2020



## The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

**On the Cover:** From all of us at the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, may you and yours have a very Merry Christmas.

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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

## 2020 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

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

### Club Meetings 2020

Dec 12 Club Christmas Party  
(No Club meeting)

### Club Meetings 2021

Jan 14

Feb 11

Mar 11

Apr 08

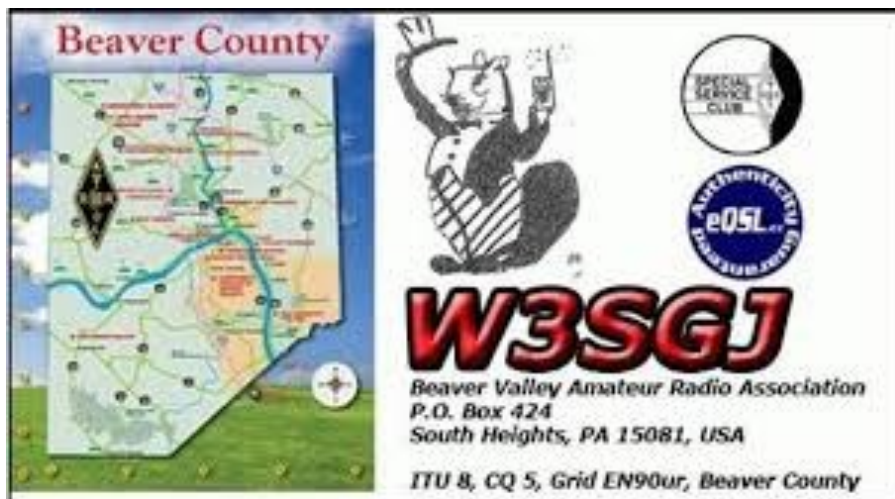
May 13

Jun 10

Jul 08

Aug 12

Sep 09



# This Month

## *This Month:*

### **NO CLUB MEETING**

**The BVARA will be at our Christmas Party.**





# 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 WW3AAA 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

### 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.



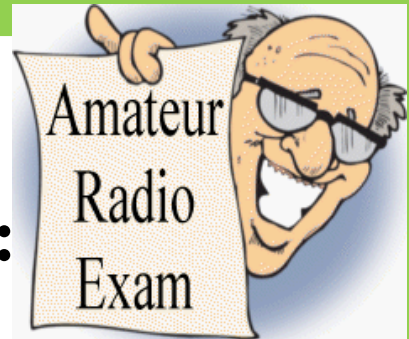
ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

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, check, or money order.

# New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

## Testing this month :



### November VE Test Session Results

Our October VE Test Session had five candidates, with each participant achieving their goal of passing their exam.

Once again, because of the rollback of some of the restrictions that were caused by the corona virus, our testing was still able to be conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA.

Congratulations to:

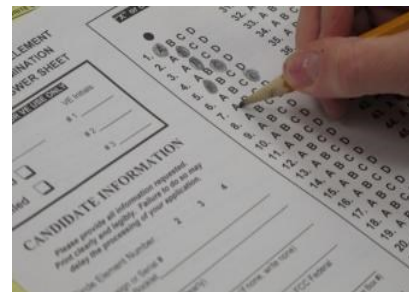
George Freeze – KE8QBF, Struthers, OH, Technician  
Vince Nagy – KC3QOE, Aliquippa, PA, Technician  
Ed Smith – KC3QOF, Butler, PA, Technician  
Gary Furman – KE8PTL, Struthers, OH, General  
Kevin Parker – K3LWP, Freedom, PA, Extra



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

Reg Genola – W3REG,  
Tony Pavilonis - K3AHP,  
Bart Stack - KB3NFM, and  
Bob Winkle - N3AZZ

Thank you and 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

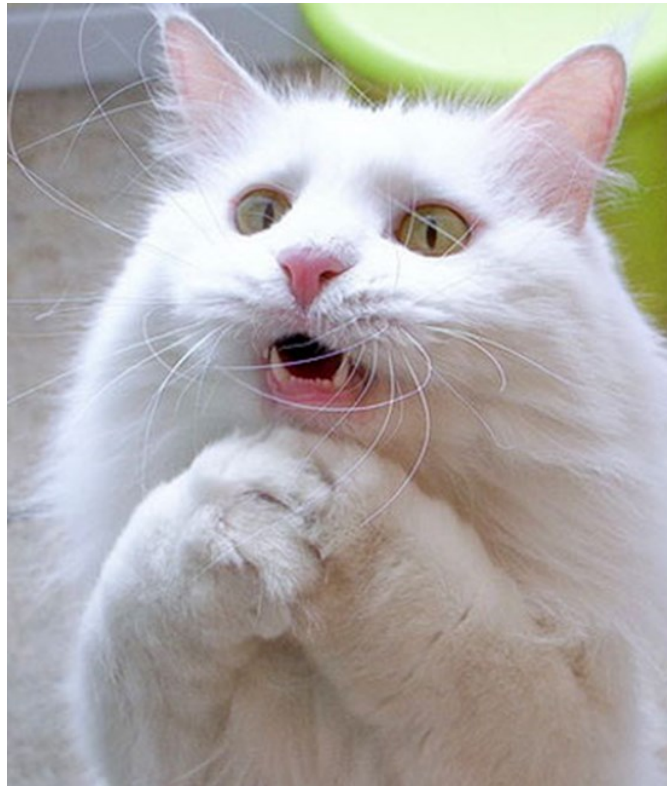
South Heights, Pa 15081



# Hamfests & General Announcements

Cancelled

Hamfest has been Cancelled



Oh please dear Santa may I go to a Hamfest in 2021?

I haven't been on your naughty list even once!

Hamfest has been Cancelled

Cancelled



# Bits and Pieces

Ahhh, the end of another year will soon be here.

This year as a radio club we have had a great time. We have had some great outings, picnicking, hamming events and some challenges.

During this year we had regular monthly club meetings and Thursday brunches. We had some forums on attic and stealth outdoor antennas. We experienced the loss of some great ham friends; Chris Moratis, W3OUF and Paul Hecker, W3PZC.



In January we selected and celebrated with Jim Allen as our 2019 Ham of the Year for the BVARA. We participated in Winter Field Day. This event even got my XYL involved with Ham radio. It was the first time you got to hear about my adventures of trying to get a new HF antenna installed, that Dad gum pole is still lying on the ground. Life gets busy and it just never got done. We held our first “Round Table Discussion”, it was very well received and this lead to a couple more round table discussions. We learned how to use antenna analyzers in another forum. Jim Allen set up a field trip to DX Engineering and a tour of the K3LR superstation. The Triple A Club and BVARA had a meeting with our state representative Elder Vogel Jr. about amending legislation that was to limit Ham radio use in mobile applications. In April we all slowly began to find out just how much the world health crisis was going to affect our daily lives. The largest hamfest in the USA, Hamvention was cancelled. Club meetings and breakfasts, VE testing, all hamfests and more were all cancelled due to the Covid 19 crisis. In May we were still with no face to face contact. Things looked pretty bleak. The VE testing was on hold but we were working with the ARRL and our PA Governor to find a way to adapt. In June, Zoom meetings became common place when it came to club meetings and not just for the BVARA. We found a way to adapt and used it. Field Day presented some more challenges. Our Club’s creative approach to Field Day activities were limited but a good time was still had by the BVARA. Hot weather, bad storms,

# Bits and Pieces

technical difficulties were experienced. This just made the participants more determined to have a great Field Day. My Dad Gum pole antics kicked my butt. I have to wait for a professional to install that pole. I learned from an eQRM reader that it's not the install of my antenna I should focus on; it is the journey of my radio hobby. He told me to slow down, focus on the learning process and the people I meet along the way. He pointed out that the ham radio hobby is about fun and not necessarily the projected, expected outcome. His advice was good; enjoy myself, don't forget to laugh, learn from my mistakes and to never be embarrassed to seek help from my fellow hams. July VE testing was held in the parking lot of a closed elementary school. There were masks, social distancing and other adaptations. There were fourteen participants. The VE Testing was a great success, twelve guests passed. August saw a new way to attend a hamfest, it was the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. It was another example of Hams adapting to circumstances beyond their control. Although limited, we held our BVARA Corn Roast. Despite the daily challenges of Covid, September came with its beautiful Fall leaves just like it does every year. We had a forum that taught us about SOTA activations and Summits on the Air. This particular forum led directly to a group from the BVARA putting Mt. Davis in Somerset County Pennsylvania, the highest summit in Pa, on the air. November brought Thanksgiving and the KDKA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event.

Whew, that was a lot! I can hardly wait to see what we will do in the year of 2021. You are all invited to be a part of it. Come join us!

A little more about the challenges... around March our worlds were turned upside down! That stinking Corona virus really put a damper on our Hamfests, club meetings, face-to-face events and just plain living. We are Americans, we can adapt and overcome. We did.

Another example of adapting was how hams used our technical resources to do radio club meetings via computer. At first holding a club

# Bits and Pieces

meeting this way seemed second rate to me. I didn't like it. I didn't like it at all! After a few sessions I started to accept it as normal for now. I even got to where it was nice not to have to drive to the Club. I could just enjoy the meeting from home. I did/do however miss the face-to-face time, a good hand shake and a hug. A way I looked at this as a bonus was my being able to attend other Ham Club meetings far away each month. Some meetings were out of state. This intrigued me, being able to see what other ham groups were doing with their radio hobby.

There were online meetings held before the virus thing, I just didn't pursue them till I was forced to. I now have another facet to my Ham radio hobby to enjoy. I have learned some new things. I have also had my radio curiosity piqued. This has resulted in a new unfulfilled desire in my radio interests. I have gotten a fresh influx of things to learn and try in the hobby of radio. How about you?

A new year is on the way. I can hardly wait to see and hear from you how things have changed for the better. There is always a silver lining in every dark cloud. Just like the birth of a child, the coming New Year is full of promise. What will you do with your gift of a new year?

But first, Christmas! The BVARA wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas. May you have the best Christmas you have ever had! Celebrate your family, friends and your blessings.



I am reminded about how in the end the Grinch had a change in his heart... I am looking forward to the New Year 2021 and hoping for a change of heart in our world. I am wishing you a Merry Christmas. Enjoy your family and friends as you celebrate truly "the most wonderful time of the year".

KC3BXC 73 Clear, But I'll be monitoring.



# It's Your Dime

## 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)



# Of Interest to All



The BVARA Christmas Party is Saturday December 12, 2020 at 4 PM.  
At Yolanda's in Chippewa, 2228 Darlington Rd, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.

Order from the menu, your meal and drink costs are up to you.

The Club will supply a dessert.

There is a suggested limit of \$15 for the voluntary grab bag.

Also if you would like to bring & share a homemade  
or a store bought dessert item with the group that would be great too.

All are invited to please contact  
Norm Trunick or Pam Spencer  
for your reservations.

*(Please note the time changed to 4 PM)*



# Special Event



## **The KDKA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event**

The BVARA would like to thank Bob Bastone, WC3O for coordinating the KDKA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event for ham participation. The event was a delightful success! I listened to several stations operating in the event from a shortwave radio at my home QTH. There were several stations that returned the CQ calls that I heard on 20 meters. There was a pileup at one time. There were several QRP (low power stations) calling too. The CQ stations took time to carefully make those contacts too. The event stations I heard were not just our BVARA stations. This led me to believe there were many other Hams on the air participating in this Special Event. Wonderful! Thanks Bob!

Our own Rich Soltesz, K3SOM wanted to personally thank Doug Hanna, N4YKQ, Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP, Jim Allen, KC3IXE and Bob Winkle, N3AZZ for their participation in the KDKA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event as representatives of

# Special Event

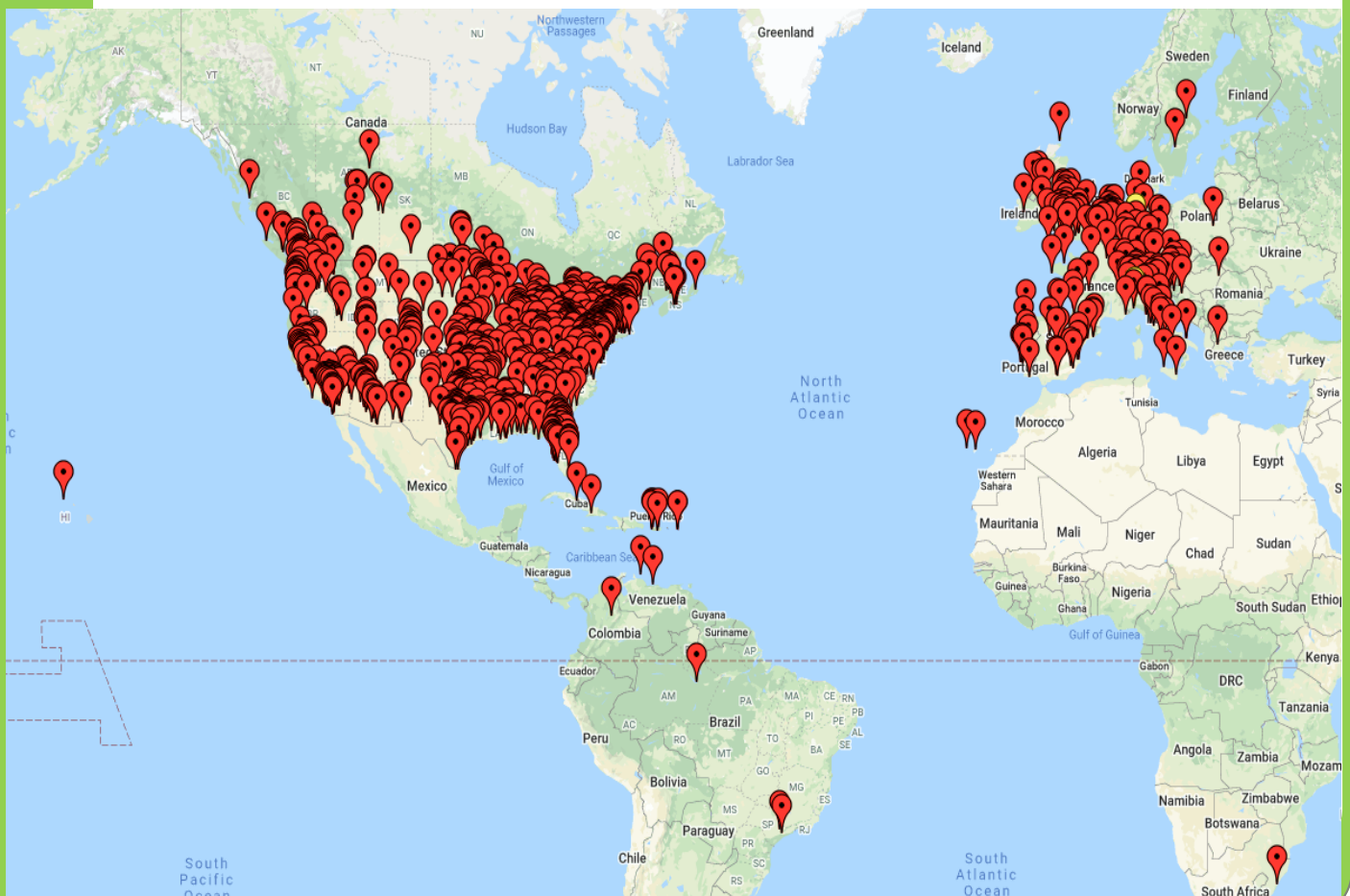
the BVARA. Their efforts made the Club participation a very worthwhile endeavor! I would like to add my appreciation and thank all five of you gentlemen too, thank you.

Here's a summary of our K3D and K3K activities for this event by the club:

- \* 1649 contacts on 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters
- \* 49 states
- \* 40 countries
- \* 5 continents
- \* 16 CQ zones

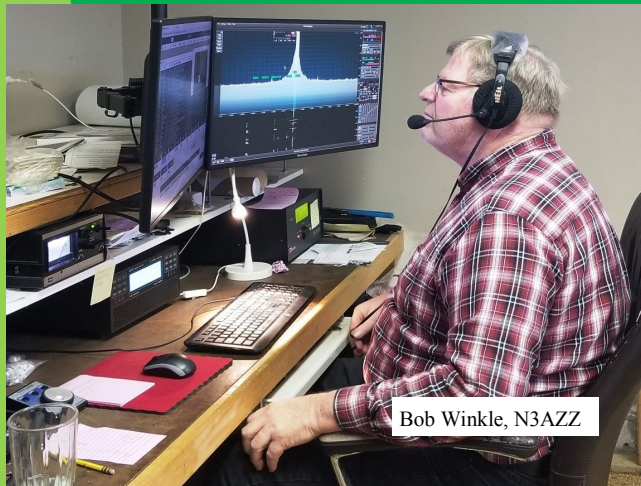


Below is a map indicating the locations of those 1649 contacts. The Durban, South Africa contact was F2 propagation on 10 meters on Saturday morning, about an hour and a half after our local sunrise.





# Special Event



Bob Winkle, N3AZZ



Doug Hanna, N4YKQ



Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

## KDKA 100th Anniversary Special Event\*

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association - W3SGJ

Description	K3D	K3K	Combined
Contacts	309	1340	1649
States	40	49	49
Continents	2	5	5
Countries	6	39	40
CQ Zones	6	16	16
Bands	20, 40	10, 15, 20, 40	10, 15, 20, 40
Transmitters	2	2	4
Operators	2	3	5
Mode	SSB	SSB	SSB

\*November, 2020 - South Western Pennsylvania



Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP



Jim Allen, KC3IXE



# Radio Sport

## Contest Corral

December 2020

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://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	0300 1 0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	<a href="http://qrp-labs.com/party.html">qrp-labs.com/party.html</a>
2	1700 2 2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
3	0000 3 0300	1.8	QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrp-arci.org/contests">qrp-arci.org/contests</a>
3	1800 3 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net">www.nrau.net</a>
3	2000 3 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
4	2200 6 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>
5	0500 6 1000	3.5-28	UFT Meeting	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://www.uft.net">www.uft.net</a>
5	0600 5 0800	7, 14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup">qrp.ru/contest/wakeup</a>
5	1200 6 1159	3.5-28	PRO CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, "M" if member	<a href="http://www.procontestclub.ro">www.procontestclub.ro</a>
5	1800 6 2359	3.5-28	FT Roundup	Dig	RST, SP or serial	<a href="http://rttycontesting.com">rttycontesting.com</a>
5	2000 6 1959	3.5-28	EPC Ukraine DX Contest	Dig	RSQ, Ukraine region or serial	<a href="http://epc-ukraine.ucoz.com">epc-ukraine.ucoz.com</a>
8	0200 8 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
9	0130 9 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
9	1700 9 2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dg	4-char grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
12	0000 13 2359	28	ARRL 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	WVE/XE: RS(T), state or province. DX: RS(T), serial. MM: RST, ITU region	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>
12	0000 14 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
12	0600 13 1800	3.5-28	TRC Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "TRC" if member	<a href="http://trcdx.org/rules-trc-digi">trcdx.org/rules-trc-digi</a>
12	1200 13 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
12	1600 13 1559	3.5-28	International Naval Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Naval club and mbr (or serial for non-members)	<a href="http://www.nmars.org.uk">www.nmars.org.uk</a>
13	2000 13 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrp-arci.org/contests">qrp-arci.org/contests</a>
13	2100 13 2259	14	CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	CW	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.coloradoqrpclub.org">www.coloradoqrpclub.org</a>
14	0100 14 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>
16	0130 16 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
18	1600 18 1700	3.5, 7	AGB-Party Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, mbr (if a member)	<a href="http://ev5agb.com/contest/agg_party.htm">ev5agb.com/contest/agg_party.htm</a>
18	2000 18 2359	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>
19	0000 19 2359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub">sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
19	0000 19 2359	3.5-28	OK DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, CQ zone	<a href="http://okrty.crk.cz">okrty.crk.cz</a>
19	0000 19 2359	1.8-144	RAC Winter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VE province/territory or serial	<a href="http://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules">wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules</a>
19	1400 20 1400	1.8-28	Croatian CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://9acw.org/index.php/rules">9acw.org/index.php/rules</a>
20	1800 20 2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	CW	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, SPC	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup">www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</a>
20	2300 21 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
23	0000 23 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
26	0000 26 2359	3.5-28	Gedebage CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://olkb.or.id">olkb.or.id</a>
26	0830 26 1059	3.5, 7	DARC Christmas Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK or serial	<a href="http://darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/weltnachtswettbewerb/en">darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/weltnachtswettbewerb/en</a>
26	1500 27 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-character grid square	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">www.kkn.net/stew</a>
27	0000 27 1159	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>
31	0900 31 2359	3.5, 7	Bogor Old and New Contest	Ph	RS, operator age	<a href="http://www.orarl-bogor.org/rule">www.orarl-bogor.org/rule</a>

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: [www.qrpfoxhunt.org](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org), [www.ncccsprint.com](http://www.ncccsprint.com), and [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org). All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 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.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com) 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.