

THE eQRM

FEBRUARY 2021



February 2, 2021



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310

PL 131.8

On the Cover: In Punxsutawney Pa, 1886 marked the first time that Groundhog Day appeared in the local newspaper. The following year brought the first official trek to Gobbler's Knob. Each year since then has seen a steady increase in participation of the celebration from people all over the world. This is the first time Groundhog Day will not have any attendees. Covid-19 cancels more than our Hamfests. Will Phil see his shadow this year?

Inside this edition

Who We Are	3	Hamfests & General	9
		Announcements	
This Month	4	Bits and Pieces	10
Get a License or Upgrade	6	It's Your Dime	12
New License and Upgrades	7	Of interest to all	13
Membership	8	Radio Sport	15

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 - 2021. 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

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).

*All meetings subject to Covid
restrictions and cancellations.*

Club Meetings 2021

Feb 11

Mar 11

Apr 08

May 13

Jun 10

Jul 08

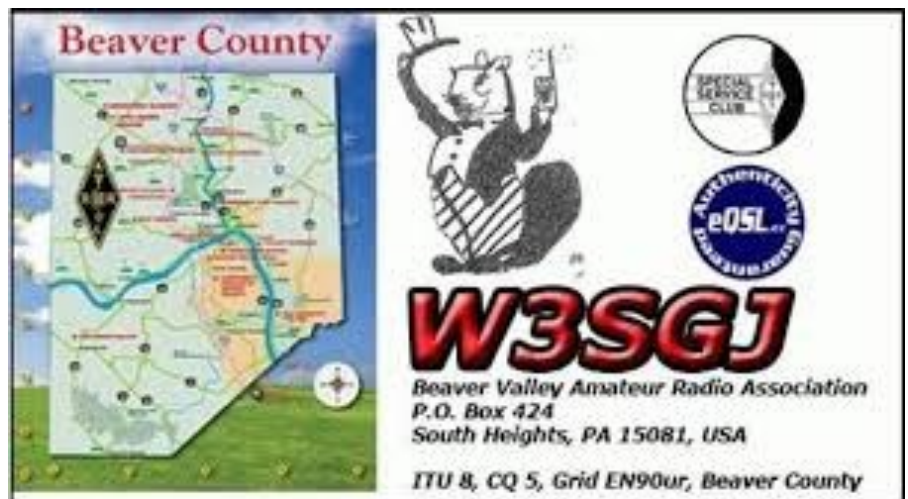
Aug 12

Sep 09

Oct 14

Nov 11

Dec 09



This Month

This Month:

NO CLUB MEETING

Because the Beaver County Emergency Services Center has been closed to outside visitors, no meeting will be held during February. We will determine whether availability will happen in March, subject to the status of Covid -19 and other issues.

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)

As the Governor permits restaurants to function we will be there if the Diner is open.



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



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.

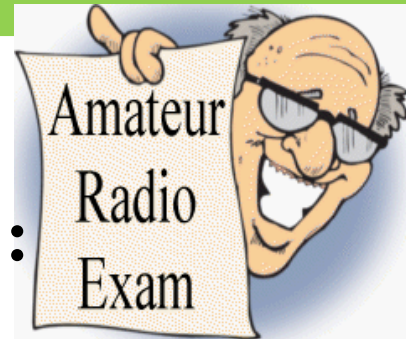


ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

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 :

January 2021 VE Test Session Results

Our January VE Test Session had three candidates, with each participant achieving their goal of passing the exam.

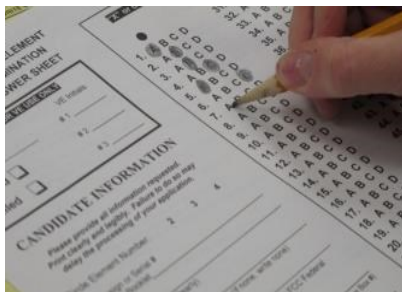
Because of the restrictions that were caused by the corona virus, our testing was not able to be conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. We were able to secure an indoor location that was very suitable for our VE testing purposes

Congratulations to:

Mike Blackwood II – KC3RBG, Midland, PA, Technician
Dan Froelich – KC3RBH, Wexford, PA, Technician
Ron Lapina – KC3IDZ, Cranberry Township, 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

Hamfests for 2021 have been ???

Well it's a new year.

What will it bring in the way of Hamfests?



Jack Buzon, KA3HPM, the Breezeshooters President announced that their Hamfest for 2021 has been cancelled.

After considering all possibilities and caring for all of our brothers and sisters in our hobby, the Board of Directors has cancelled the 2021 Breezeshooters Hamfest. We hope that conditions will improve and we may see everyone at the 2022 Breezeshooters Hamfest.

Hamfests for 2021 have been ???



Bits and Pieces

Hello All,

Congratulations to our “Ham of the Year”,
Doug Hanna, N4YKQ! Doug is our new Club 2nd



Vice President also. He has been busy behind the scene doing many things to improve the BVARA and

instill enthusiasm throughout the whole Club. He has always been vigorously involved in Club activities. Doug was part of the team that celebrated the KDKA 100th Anniversary Special Event and the Mt. Davis Activation for SOTA. Most



recently he laid the ground work to reserve a spot for the BVARA to get involved with activity related to D-STAR.

On the first page I checked into going to Groundhog Day this year. It's not a hamfest but it could be a fun side goings-on. I thought that because it was outside I may still be able to attend. But alas, the China Virus has altered this too! Maybe I can attend next year. I have only been to Punxsutawney in summer, not February second when Phil shows up to predict how long winter is going to last. This year, only the officiating entities will be permitted to attend. We will get Punxsutawney Phil's prediction for winter; only it will be witnessed by just a few lucky individuals. The virus driven oddity of life in 2020 seems to be dragging on into this year as well. What will the “normal” be like this year for Hamfests and our hobby as a whole? The good news is that ham radio is the ultimate social distancing hobby. This virus has put a damper on our hobby but it hasn't stopped it like some other hobbies folks have. We can talk freely, have conversations with people all over the world and have no risks associated with the virus. This oddity has given us challenges and we have come up with ways to skirt around it, Zoom meetings come to mind first...there are other things too. It has tried our inventiveness to come up with ways to continue our hobby. In

Bits and Pieces

a positive light, we have been forced to think and be creative.

The BVARA wants to thank everyone that participated in the HB-37 meetings all over Pennsylvania. For the BVARA, it was with Senator Elder Vogel in Rochester, Pa on the 21st of March 2020. The legislation has been changed (See page 14) to have Amateur radio operators exempt from the law that would have negatively impacted mobile operations. This goes a long way to help in times of emergency operations supported by Hams. We radio operators can continue unrestrained mobile radio operations to help our county, state and nation in times of disaster, crisis and emergency.



Thank you to our Senator Elder Vogel Jr. for helping all Amateur Radio Operators. This precedent could help amateur radio operators in other states as well.

Legislative assistant, Nat Troupe, District Director Josh Konecheck , Senator Elder Vogel, Jr.

Last month I alluded to something pretty big that is going to take place in my personal amateur radio hobby. I will share it with you as soon as the weather here in Western Pennsylvania has begun to leave Winter and be Spring-like. Stay tuned.

Till next month 73 KC3BXC clear but I'll be listening...

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



An Interesting Internet Radio Site

Radio Garden is a free app that enables you to listen to thousands of live radio stations world wide by rotating the globe. Every green dot represents a city or town with an available internet radio station. Tap on the green dot on the globe to tune into the radio stations broadcasting from that city. The app can be found for both Apple and Android devices. For PC users, just point your browser to:

<http://radio.garden/visit/pittsburgh-pa/l6e4VIWt>

and begin enjoying your program from near or far.

Radio Garden is a non-profit Dutch radio and digital research project developed from 2013 to 2016, by the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, by the Transnational Radio Knowledge Platform and five other European universities. It is funded by HERA. According to the service, the idea is to narrow the boundaries from the radio. It gained popularity in 2016 when it surpassed the 8,000 registered station mark and, as announced at The Radio Conference 2016: Transnational Encounters, went viral.

By adding new stations every day and updating ones that no longer work, they hope to give you a smooth international radio listening experience. You can even save your favorite stations for later listening. With over 25,000 stations to choose from, finding favorite stations to enjoy is now a very pleasant experience.

Rich - K3SOM

Of Interest to All



Dayton Hamvention Canceled

March 15, 2020 [WPA Section News](#)

...from <https://hamvention.org/>

COMMITTEE CANCELS HAMVENTION 2020

By W8HJR, Media Chairman 03/15/2020 Event Information

The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health Departments.

It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year.

This decision is extremely difficult for us but with around two months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary.

More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted .

Thank you for your understanding in this time of International Crisis.

Jack Gerbs

General Chairman HV2020

JackWB8SCT@gmail.com

Of Interest to All



Breaking News – HB 37

January 30, 2020 [WPA Section News](#)

Pennsylvania House Bill 37 was amended on January 14, removing existing exemptions for Amateur Radio (and other licensed radio service) mobile use by drivers of motor vehicles. The Bill is an effort to revise existing Motor Vehicle statutes and expand the definition of distracted driving to include the use of interactive communication devices while operating a vehicle.

This morning ARRL elected officials were in conference with the staff of the PA Senate Transportation Committee, which has received the bill for consideration later this year. Participants included Western Pennsylvania Section Manager Joe Shupienis W3BC, Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager George Miller W3GWM, Eastern Pennsylvania Section Emergency Coordinator W. T. Jones WN3LIF, Atlantic Division Vice-Director Bob Famiglio K3RF, Jay Silber WA2UAR, and the PA Senate Transportation Committee Executive Director and staff.

During the brief meeting, Atlantic Division Vice-Director Bob Famiglio K3RF suggested the importance of licensed amateur radio mobile communications during emergencies and other public service activities. It was suggested that the removal of these amateur radio privileges was an unintended consequence of the Bill as it now stands.

The legislative staff encouraged us to prepare appropriate wording to correct the omission, for inclusion in the final Senate Bill being considered later this year.

An official press release will be issued later today.

Radio Sport

Contest Corral

February 2021

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 Date-Time	Start - Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 0000	1 0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max	www.k1usn.com/sst.html
1 2000	1 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
2 0100	2 0159	1.8-50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, or youth)	wvsac.com/rules.html
2 0200	2 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqr.blogspot.com
2 1700	2 1900	3.5-14	RTTY OPS Weekspint	Dig	Other station's call, your call, serial, name	rttyops.wordpress.com
3 1300	3 1400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
3 1700	3 2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
3 1900	3 2000	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
3 2000	3 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
4 0300	4 0400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
4 1800	4 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrrlcontest.no/index.php
4 2000	4 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
5 0145	5 0215	1.8-21	NCCC RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial, name, QTH	www.ncccsprint.com
5 0230	5 0300	1.8-21	NCCC Sprint	CW	Serial, name, QTH	www.ncccsprint.com
6 0000	7 2359	1.8-UHF	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
6 0001	7 2359	28	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
6 0300	6 1200	1.8-28	EurAsia HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.eurasia-contest.com
6 1200	7 1200	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, JA Prefecture/District or continent	www.kcj-cw.com/e_index.htm
6 1200	7 1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
6 1200	7 2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	www.rtty.fmre.mx
6 1400	6 2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules
6 1400	6 2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	arizonascqrptions.apps-1and1.com
6 1600	6 1800	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org
6 1600	6 1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	alt.agcw.de/index.php/en
6 1600	7 2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), VE7 District or SPC	orcadxc.org/bcqp_rules.html
6 2300	7 0300	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
8 1300	12 2359	All, no WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph	RS(T), class (V/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
10 0130	10 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
10 1700	10 2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
10 2000	10 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
13 0000	14 2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.cqwpwxrtty.com
13 1000	14 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of transmitters, category, QTH	www.sarl.org.za
13 1100	13 1300	7, 14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
13 1200	14 1200	1.8-28	Dutch PACC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
13 1200	14 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
13 1400	15 0200	All	YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org/wp/yl-om-contest
13 1500	14 1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr or "none"	omiss.net/Facilit/qso-party.php
13 1900	13 2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, name, mbr, QTH, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
13 1900	13 2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8-MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, district code (if UK/EI)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
13 2300	14 2300	1.8-14	AWA AM QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	antiquewireless.org/homepage
14 0000	14 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM/YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
14 1300	14 1700	3.5, 7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	arabih.ba
15 0100	15 0259	3.5-14	CQC Winter QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC	coloradoqrpclub.org/contests
15 0100	15 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
15 2000	15 2130	3.5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
17 1900	17 2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, 2-digit year first used a bug	alt.agcw.de/index.php/en
20 0000	21 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	WVE: RST, SP, Non-WVE: RST, power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
20 1200	21 1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	Dig	RST, oblast or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
21 2100	21 2300	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org
21 2300	22 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
24 0000	24 0200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
24 2000	24 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
25 2000	25 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
26 2200	28 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Ph	WVE: RS, SP, DX: RS, CQ Zone	www.cq160.com
27 0600	28 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, department or serial	concoeurs.r-e-f.org/reglements
27 1200	28 1200	3.5-28	FTn DX Contest	Dig	RST, SP or serial	europeanft8club.wordpress.com
27 1300	28 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, province (if ON)	www.uba.be/en
27 1500	28 0159	1.8-50	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	scqso.com
27 1800	28 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
27 1800	28 0559	3.5-28	NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.w9smc.com/nacc
28 1400	3 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rig manuul/model	www.classicexchange.org
28 1400	28 1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
28 1500	1 0059	3.5-144	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC	ncqso-party.org/rules