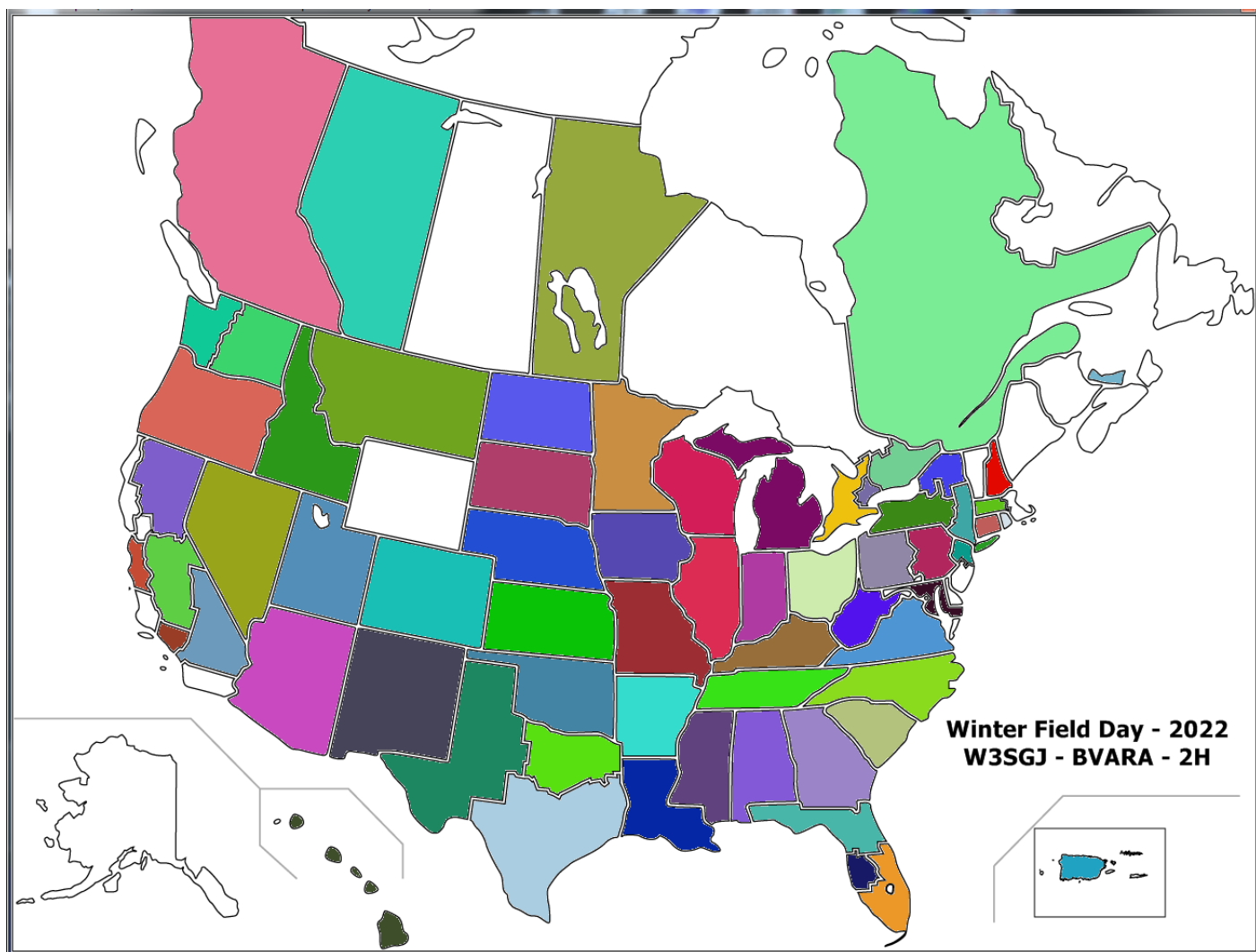


THE eQRM

FEBRUARY 2022



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: BVARA Winter Field Day plans had to be changed because of weather conditions. Even though the cold and snow depth required a change, Field Day was very nice. The color-filled areas are successful contacts that were made. We had a great time!

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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 - 2022. 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

2022 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

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

2022

Feb 10

Mar 10

Apr 14

May 12

Jun 09

Jul 14

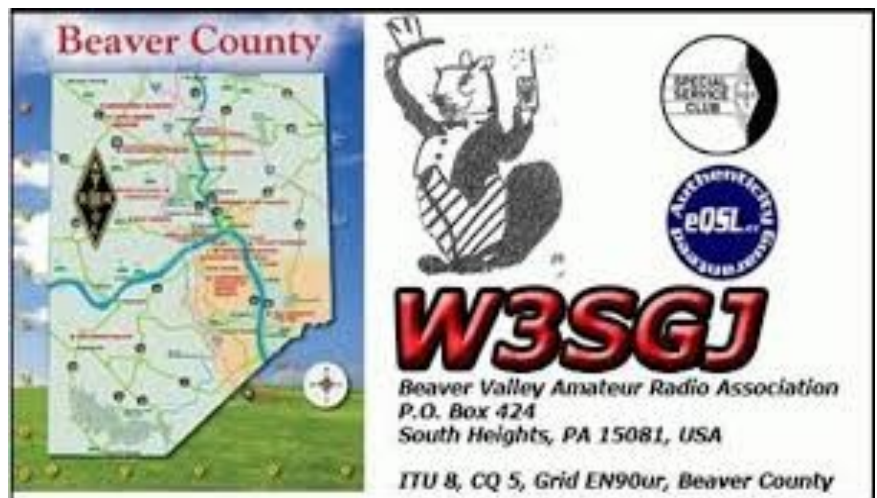
Aug 11

Sep 08

Oct 13

Nov 10

Dec Christmas Party



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:

BVARA Winter Field Day Results

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, it's time to take a look at our results for 2022 and to see the extent of the contacts that we made this year. We had to switch to 'Plan B' due to weather conditions. We'll also take a quick look at how we've done since our first foray into this Winter event since we first participated in 2017.

But wait, there's more! Our review of Winter Field Day would be incomplete without some commentary on the quality and variety of food that is so important for a successful event.

This is one exciting presentation that you won't want to miss.

Rich's Background:

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

More this Month

Weekly

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)

Come join us!



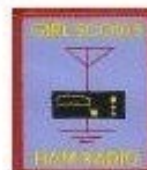
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

**See you
Thursday at**



RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



The Freedom Square Diner in Monaca has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

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:

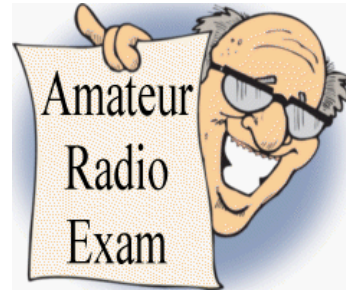
1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash only.
6. Your FRN Number. (free from the FCC, call for details)

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this month :

January 2022 VE Test Session Results.

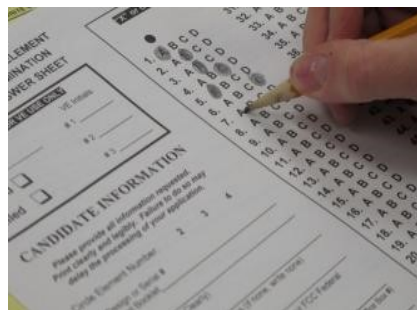


There were no candidates for VE Testing in January.
Perhaps it was a bit too cold.

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

Reg Genola – W3REG,
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP,
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP,
Bart Stack – KB3NFM, and
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ

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

BREAKING NEWS

Breaking News: . . . 10 meters was wide open on Saturday afternoon, February 5th with not only SSB stations, but also CW and FT8 stations from many parts of the Americas.

In other News: . . . Propagation is improving day by day as well as week by week. Call CQ even if you hear nothing on the band. Everyone just might be listening for you!

15 meters frequently has been opening but a little earlier than 10 meters and closing a little longer than 10 meters.

20 meters has been the 'bread and butter' band during the sunspot minima years. Recently it has been open from sunrise until almost midnight. In another year or two it will be open 24 hours a day.

Digital and CW stations on 30 meters at times opens up to all parts of the world. Try plus or minus two hours around sunrise and again at sundown.

40 meters is always 40 meters. Short skip with 30 over S9 signals and then it goes long. Sometimes as long as Australia and India. Follow the path of darkness.

On 60 meters, one of the channels is filled with FT8 signals.

Want to join a net? 75 meters is the band to go. Make sure you can operate full legal limit so that some of the nets just might let you join them! Watch out for the DX window around 3.79 to 3.80 MHz because you will find some good DX in that window.

On 160 meters, February 25th to 27th is the International Phone Contest.

Hamfests & General Announcements



WASHfest 2022

*The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY SIXTH** big year!*
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 27th, 2022

8:00 AM until 1:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Free Admission



(800) 545-8881

*FREE Coffee
for the entire
Hamfest
courtesy of*



*HAM RADIO
INSURANCE
ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*

2022 (Only) to be an Old-Fashioned, Back to Basics Swap 'n' Shop & Social Gathering

Swap 'n' Shop Tables available on a First-Come, First Served Basis,
while they last (limit one table per person or group) — or bring your
own (pending available space)

Table Cost: **FREE**



Free Coffee and Donuts will be provided, while supplies last.
Due to potential COVID related restrictions, we regret that the kitchen will be closed this
year; no other food or beverages will be provided by the club.

WASHfest 2022 VEC Exams

Saturday, February 26th, 2022

Starting at 11:00 AM until ??? Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Walk-Ins Welcome, Pre-Registered Preferred

If you plan on attending the test session, or to pre-register, please contact VE Team Liason
Grant Olson KC3MLC: kgo@grant-olson.net

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



I think you all know how I always insist on “Safety First”...

Here in Pennsylvania the first week of February, we had an ice and snow storm.

During the worst of the storm, my neighbor had a tree fall, blocking his driveway. He was using an ax to cut it up and remove it. An accident happened! I rushed him to the hospital because of an unplanned direct blow to his shin. We got home after 2 am. Everything turned out okay, but could have been much worse. Because of freezing rain, the drive to and from the hospital was dangerous enough.

Because of the iced trees falling, many of us lost commercial power. As a result, prepared folks use generators for power. Please ensure your exhaust is directed away from any occupied building. And that your generator power is not “back feeding” the commercial power line.

A few years ago, I lost a dear cousin to carbon monoxide poisoning from their generator's exhaust getting misdirected into their house. She was home alone.

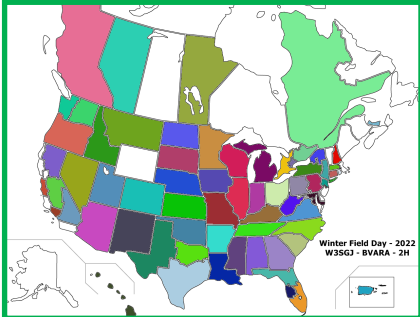
Moral of the story, please **be careful** during unusual weather... Think safety.

David KC3BXC

Of Interest to All

BVARA Winter Field Day 2022

The first plan was to operate Winter Field Day from an RV on generator power at Brady's Run Park near the ball field. Because of the deep snow condition of the road leading to the ball field, we decided not to try driving on that road with an RV for fear of getting stuck. As a result, Winter Field Day was moved indoors to the home of Rich Soltesz.



The Cover Page of the eQRM has a photo of our Field Day Map for 2022. It really filled up! We operated from Rich's home as 2H in Western Pennsylvania. A Flex Radio 6700 was used on 80, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Antennas used for the Flex were a Yagi antenna and a Doublet Long Wire antenna. We additionally used an ICOM 7300 exclusively on 40 meters with a perfectly-matched temporary dipole at 40 to 60 feet above ground.

We had a lovely group for the Field Day event. There was good food, soft drinks and plenty of "Radio Time". Doug, K3GTX, Kathy, and Tim, KA3JRT stopped by to encourage our contesting and put a dent in the many food dishes that had been prepared.



Jim, KC3IXE has such a serious look of concentration as he operates the Icom 7300. He really had a good time along with the rest of our group!

Of Interest to All



**Coming
March 12-13, 2022**

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will be held live from **March 12-13**, and then on-demand for 30 days afterwards. We promise an amazing learning and networking experience to help you improve your amateur radio knowledge and get exposed to new ideas, equipment, and practical techniques. No need to travel - participate from your home or office! Information can be found at

<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>.

Here are 5 reasons why you must attend:

Listen, engage with 60+ internationally recognized ham radio luminaries. Our speakers are experts and deeply know their material. Most importantly, they've worked hard to make sure that you'll understand the material and can apply it immediately to your projects.

So, so many different topics - everybody will find something of high value. There's content for everyone whether a newly licensed ham looking for next steps to using that license or a 30+ year experienced ham looking for new projects. Some of the more interesting presentations include: *Core HF Communication Concepts; Fundamentals of Shortwave Propagation; Deep Dive of An FPGA DVB-S2 Implementation; Fun With The NanoVNA; and Helically Wound Vertical for 160M.*

Of Interest to All

[Click Here for Presentation List](#)

Watch as many presentations as you want! A big limitation of in-person events is that you can't watch many of the presentations (you can only be in one room at a time). At the Expo, return anytime within 30 days to view any speakers and presentations you missed as well as explore exhibitor offerings.

Check out our live [Kumospace](#) video lounges for attendees to interact with each other and exhibitors. At the Expo we'll debut exciting but proven technology to further improve the live video interaction experience with exhibitors and fellow operators. You'll find this is a great way to meet up with friends, talk to vendors, and network on specific subject areas.

Take advantage of our calendar technology to efficiently organize your time. Once our presentations are scheduled, you can download speaker times in your local time zone directly to your Google or Outlook calendar. You'll then have a complete schedule of sessions to join to maximize your time during the Live period with speakers that are the most important.

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio®, is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner. FlexRadio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, Elecraft is our Gold sponsor as of this time.

Early Bird Tickets will go on sale February 1st, 2022, and are just \$10 (through March 6) and then \$13.50 to the end of the on-demand period. Tickets include entry for the Live 2 day period and the 30 day on-demand period. Save on gas, lodging, and transit time to attend the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on March 12th and 13th. For more information, go to <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>, or click on the blue button below.

Bits and Pieces

Hello All,

The weather sure showed us some of the very worst Winter can produce in Western Pennsylvania. Up to now we have had a pretty mild Winter. The end of January brought some very cold temperatures. The first week of February was one we won't forget for a while. There was snow, sleet, freezing rain, and flooding. The freeze didn't melt off right away either. We had it hang around for a while.



Winter Field Day was a great event again this year! This is a positive in this new year of 2022; thanks to everyone that participated. I also wish to thank Rich Soltesz for opening up his home to us for a lovely radio event. If you are not a member of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association you may want to become one. Our Club is always having a radio related event to attend. The more the merrier. Come join us even if you are not a member.

I am so excited about the upcoming South Hills Ham Fest! This one is going to be a bit different than I am used to. They are offering free tables, an old-fashioned ham fest/social event they call it. I am really looking forward to this. This new year is starting out quite positive for me! Attend this fest and have some fun, I plan to. Hope I see you there!

I experienced a serious medical event (read: "It's Your Dime" on page 11) recently that again reminded me to think safety first. Please don't be involved in an unnecessary calamity, avoid them! Think first. Before you do whatever, "it" is. Please be safe.

Clear, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

February 2022

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
2 1700	2 2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	f8activity.eu/index.php/en
2 2000	2 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
3 0000	4 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
3 1800	3 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrfcontest.no
3 2000	3 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
5 0000	6 2359	1.8-UHF	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), VT county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
5 0001	6 2359	28	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
5 0600	5 1800	1.8-28	EurAsia HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.eurasia-contest.com
5 1200	6 1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.unc.asso.fr
5 1200	6 2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	www.rtty.fmrre.mx
5 1400	5 2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, MN county or SPC	www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules
5 1400	5 2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	arizonascqrplons.apps-1and1.com
5 1600	5 1800	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
5 1600	5 1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	alt.agcw.de/index.php/en
5 1600	6 2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), BC district or SPC	orcadxc.org/bcqp_rules.html
5 1800	6 1800	1.8-28	European Union DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), EU region or ITU zone	eudxcc.altervista.org/leu-dx-contest
5 2300	6 0300	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
6 1400	9 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rig information	www.classicexchange.org
7 1630	7 1729	3.5, 7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
7 2000	7 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
8 0200	8 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsgrp.blogspot.com
9 0130	9 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
9 1700	9 2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	f8activity.eu/index.php/en
12 0000	13 2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Dig	RST, serial	cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm
12 1100	12 1300	7, 14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
12 1200	13 1200	1.8-28	Dutch PAOC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PA province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
12 1200	13 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12 1200	13 2359	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, JA prefecture or CQ zone number	www.kcj-cw.com
12 1400	14 0200	All	YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org/wp/yl-om-contest
12 1500	13 1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr (if any)	omiss.net/Facelift/qso-party.php
12 1900	12 2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
12 2300	13 2300	1.8-14	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	antiquewireless.org
13 1300	13 1700	3.5, 7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	arabih.ba
14 0000	14 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM or YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
14 0100	14 0259	3.5-14	CQC Winter QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradoqrclub.org
14 0100	14 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqr.com
14 1300	18 2359	All (no WARC)	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), class (I/C/S), SPC	arrl.org/school-club-roundup
14 1630	14 1729	3.5, 7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
16 1900	16 2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, year first used a bug	alt.agcw.de/index.php/en
16 2000	16 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
17 0000	18 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
19 0000	20 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, state or province; DX: power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
19 1200	20 1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	Dig	RST, oblast or serial	rdrcub.ru/russian-ww-psk-contest
19 1900	19 2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
20 2100	20 2300	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
20 2300	21 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrptest.com/pigrun
21 1630	21 1729	3.5, 7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
23 0000	23 0200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
23 2000	23 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukicc.com/80m-rules.php
24 2000	24 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25 2200	27 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or CQ zone	cq160.com/rules.htm
26 0600	27 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, French department or serial	concours.r-e-f.org/reglements
26 1200	27 1200	3.5-28	FTn DX Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	europeanftnclub.wordpress.com
26 1300	27 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, ON province (if ON)	www.uba.be/en
26 1500	27 0159	1.8-50	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SC county or SPC	scqso.com
26 1800	27 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.ncjweb.com
26 1800	27 0559	3.5-28	NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.w9smc.com/nacc
27 1400	27 1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
27 1500	28 0100	3.5-144	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	NC county or "SPC"	ncqso-party.org/rules
28 1630	28 1729	3.5, 7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
28 2000	28 2130	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf