

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ



2M Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

Are interesting in Amateur Radio? We here at the Beaver Valley Area Radio Association encourage you to read our monthly newsletter, attend one of our functions and attend a Club meeting with us. We have been around for 100 Years. Come have some fun and learn about Ham Radio with our group!

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter	Wednesday 10 Meter
8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8	9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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# Who We Are

#### 2022 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP 2nd Vice Pres · Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

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 (A.K.A. THE 911 Center) 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003 on the second Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated).

#### 2023

Feb 09 Mar 09 Apr 13 May 11 Jun 08 Jul 13 Aug 12 Corn Roast Sep 14 Oct 12 Nov 09 Dec 09 Christmas Party









# This Month



## This Month:

#### Speaker:

Fred McMullen, NOAA Pittsburgh Weather Service Office

#### Topic:

Western Pennsylvania Weather

### **Including:**

Role of Hams Skywarn The 'Beaver County Weather Split' Anomaly

### Fred's Background:

Fred McMullen Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service Pittsburgh National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



# More this Month

## Weekly

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

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) 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.



# 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 2023 VE Test Session Results

Our January VE Test Session had two successful candidates, with their achievements of obtaining a license and upgrading a license class. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly.

Our testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Congratulations to:

Kevin Hilling, KC3VKT, Coraopolis, PA passed the Technician exam Larry Popeck, N3ZEP, McMurray, PA passed the Extra exam

Reg Genola – W3REG, Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP, Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP, Bart Stack – KB3NFM, and Bob Winkle – N3AZZ Frank Witkowski - W3FJW

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 u	ıp for:	Price			
$\bigcirc$	BVARA full membership	25.00			
$\bigcirc$	BVARA student membership	15.00			
$\bigcirc$	BVARA associate membership	10.00			
$\bigcirc$	BVARA Child under 21 at home				
	One year ARRL membership	49.00			
	A Club Donation				
ARRI	L Member? Yes No	Total Enclosed			
Your	License Class (If you have one.)				
$\bigcirc$	Technician	Name			
$\bigcirc$	General	Address			
$\bigcirc$	Advanced				
$\bigcirc$	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



## 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: <u>kc3bxc.73@gmail.com</u>



## 2022 Ham of the Year Award Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

At the January 2023 BVARA Club Meeting, our Club President Jack Spencer, KZ3Z presented the prestigious Ham of the Year Award to Doug Lawrence, (in the red hat) K3GTX for exemplifying though his actions and practices, the best traditions of The Amateur's Code during 2022 to help enable the success of our club. That Code defines six desirable qualities that include: Considerate, Loyal, Progressive, Friendly, Balanced, and Patriotic that are wor-thy not only to our club but to all Amateur Radio.



In 2016, Doug, K3GTX also won the Special Achievement Award for his volunteer efforts in promoting the Amateur Radio Hobby. Thank you, Doug for your active role with the BVARA!



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## **BVARA Coming Attractions**



### February

#### Presentation

Who – Fred Mcmullan, NOAA Pittsburgh Weather Service Office Topics – Role of Hams and Skywarn, The 'Beaver County Weather Split' Anomaly When – February 9<sup>th</sup> BVARA Club Meeting, 7:00 PM

Breezeshooters Groundwave Contest See: <u>http://breezeshooters.org/ns/groundwave-contest/</u>

All Contests are Saturday Nights – 8PM to 11PM EST Saturday February 18th 2023 – CW Contest Saturday March 4th 2023 – Phone Contest Saturday March 11th 2023 – Digital Contest (FT8 and PSK31)

### March

#### **POTA Activations**

Moraine, Raccoon Creek, and Beaver Creek, OH North Country Trail and State Game Lands

### April

#### **BVARA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event Station and Celebration**

W3S for the week of April 15 through April 22, 2023 Operate from the Brady's Run ball fields on April 15 and 16 to open the week On April 22, Rich, K3SOM, has invited us to operate from his home to close the week Signup schedule for club members to operate during the week from their homes

### May

2023 Dayton Hamvention See: https://hamvention.org/

This Just In: Possible Trip to GBRT, Cass Railway, POTA in WV May/June TBD

#### June

Summer ARRL Field Day at Old Economy County Park





Hookstown, PA 15026

### Sat March 18 - Sun March 19, 2023

Christine Rial, N3LRG from the Steel City ARC is involved with planning the ham radio (comm support) side of the Rabid Raccoon Race at Raccoon Creek State Park in March. This is the second year she has been involved. The race has gotten a lot bigger since last year.

Christine is asking for some volunteer help from the BVARA Club this year to make it easier for all our volunteer radio operators. She added an additional shift so no one has to work as hard as last year. There are four shifts, she would like two hams at each of the four aid stations plus a net control.

She has been invited by our Club President, Jack Spencer, KZ3Z to come to our February monthly meeting to talk about the race and the need for radio operators. She is planning to check in to our Wednesday Net to also share the need for radio operator support for the race . Please consider helping our fellow Steel City ARC hams.



Any help would be greatly appreciated. Christine Rial, N3LRG

Christine Rial < crial@rialtech.com

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### Field Trip to Brian Roberts, K9VKY Station and Memorabilia Fombell, PA January 21, 2023

Brian Roberts, K9VKY has been an amateur radio operator for over 63 years. As a retired commercial airline pilot for many years, he is comfortable with a variety of technologies, but respects and preserves their origins. Over more than 40 years, he has amassed an impressive collection of considerable size that includes classic gear from many world-renowned manufacturers. Some of his receivers go back to the 1920s. Someone in our group counted at least three R-390 receivers that were all in working order and in impeccable condition. For many years, that model provided outstanding performance, high reliability, and unique design features in both military and signals intelligence gathering organizations.



Bob, N3AZZ Tim, KA3JRT Brian, K9VKY, and Doug, N4YKQ view some memorabilia.





Nipper the dog as he listens to 'His Master's Voice' on an Amplion Jr. speaker .



More memorabilia including old tubes, various period pieces.

Beautifully restored 1940 Zenith floor console radio.

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Brian enjoys operating CW, especially if the conversation centers around 'boat anchor' equipment and stories about collecting, repairing, restoring, and operating these prized units. He occasionally enjoys chasing DX, including many rare DXpeditions that have happened over the years to all parts of the globe. With a two-element five-band Cubical Quad antenna for 10 through 20 meters, an 80 Meter doublet as well as a 30 Meter vertical antenna, Brian is equipped to successfully make global HF contacts typically using 50 watts.



British railway key (c. 1863) with unique spring placement.

Orphan Annie and Captain Midnight memorabilia.



1951 Collins matching transmitter and receiver station.



Brian, K9VKY shows off his complete WW-II PRC-1 Spy transmitter/receiver.



For our visit, Brian welcomed us and made all of us experience the cordiality that he so easily gave us. We felt that we had been long-time friends with him as he displayed warmth and humor on so many topics. It was a rare experience for us to see such an extensive collection of prized gear. As we broke for lunch with him at a local favorite eatery of his, a feeling of wonder and a yearning to return soon to see more and exchange stories and information rounded out our Field Trip to K9VKY's place.



Complete Collins S/line station with 30S1 amplifier.

Brian, K9VKY at another complete working 1952 Collins station.



## 2023 BVARA Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day (WFD) this year was a very successful event. Propagation conditions, although not quite as good as last week, were very good with many contacts on 10, 15, and 20 meters.

But what was unique this year was the use of a Triplexer with individual band pass filters. With the Triplexer, our three transceivers were able to connect to one Yagi antenna and operate at the same time without any adverse effects. WFD rules limit the power of each station to 100 watts so the playing field for the contest was more competitive.

With a total of about 10 to 12 total club members and visitors, eight club members took turns at the mike or key for a total of 324 contacts on both SSB and CW modes.



Plenty of food with lots of delicious choices to make. Those Lemon Squares and Blueberry Doughnuts were very popular, as well as the Chili, Baked Beans, Pierogi, Italian Meat Balls, Ham, and Hot Dogs. Did I mention Brownies, Assorted Cookies, and a selection of Chips?

Lots of good conversation, new ARRL Sections, and busted pile-ups by our group. Some results are listed below. Rich - K3SOM

W3SGJ's Contest Summary Report for WFD Created by N3FJP's Winter Field Day Contest Log Version 2.8.5 www.n3fjp.com

Total Contacts = 324 (56 Contacts by Doug, N4YKQ will make this higher) Total Points = 3,530



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Operating Period: 2023/01/28 19:02 - 2023/01/29 18:58

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 14:23:24 Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 14:23:24

Avg Qs/Hr (breaks > 30 min deducted): 22.5



#### Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	3	41	0	44	14
40	2	94	0	96	30
20	10	81	0	91	28
15	12	26	0	38	12
10	2	53	0	55	17
Total	29	295	0	324	100

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator KC3IXE K3SOM K3AHP N3XC K3GTX KA3JRT N3OJP KB3VSP	Total  113 99 58 17 15 10 8 4	%  35 31 18 5 3 2 1
KB3VSP	4	1

Total = 8

Dan KB3VSP and Mick N3OJP

Jim KC3IXE, Tony K3AHP and Doug K3GTX



Tom N3XC and Jim KC3IXE

Map below includes 4 contacts in Hawaii, 2 in Alaska, and 8 DX entities



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#### Map below marks where stations were located



Jerry N3SVK, Jim KC3IXE and Tony K3AJP And that was how it ended, some amazed some befuddled.

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# Bits and Pieces

### Hello all,

Here is another full month of activity to report to you! There is so much that has happened and so much that is about to happen. I am so excited by what this new year has and is bringing! Have I used too many exclamation points? Maybe, but I am so excited!

Look on page nine, this will be the first Hamfest in our area. Are you going to attend? I am hoping to go to it. How about our next Club meeting with our



guest speaking about NOAAweather and Skywarn. We will also have Christine Rial, N3LRG from the Steel City ARC asking for some help to provide communications for an up coming foot race. There is so much more!

We have had such a mild winter this year and I am barely able to wait for Spring. It's right around the corner.

I encourage all Club members to invite a non-Ham to come to one of our club meetings, club activities, Thursday breakfasts or at least send them a copy of the eQRM. We have been around for 100 years, lets get more folks invited to enjoy our hobby. Catch the excitement!

Summer will be here before you know it. What radio upgrades do you have planned when the weather breaks? I hope you know by now that I am always the lead cheer leader for SAFETY! Please plan every detail of your projects with safety as your main objective. If you have any doubts... STOP! Ask for help, maybe get some advice, choose a different day, replan your project for a safer outcome. Please enjoy our hobby and be safe.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



# **Radio Sport**

### **Contest Corral**

## February 2023

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.

Dat	Start - le-Time			Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	2000	1	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
2		3	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	grpcontest.com/pigwalk40
2		2	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest		RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrricontest.no
2		2	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
4		5	2359	1.8-28,	Vermont QSO Party		RS(T), VT county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtgso.html
	2000			VHF/UHF				
4	0001	5	2359	28	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
4	0600	4	1800	1.8-28	EurAsia HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.eurasia-contest.com
4	1200	5	1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
4	1200	5	2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	www.rtty.fmre.mx
4	1400	4	2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, MN county or SPC	www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules
4	1400	4	2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	arizonascqrpions.apps-1and1.com
4	1600	5	2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), BC district or SPC	www.orcadxcc.org/bcgp_rules.html
4	1900	5	1900	1.8-28	European Union DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), EU union region or ITU zone	www.eudx-contest.com/rules
4	2300	5	0300	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
6		6	1729	3.5.7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
6		6	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB		RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
7	0200	7	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsgrp.blogspot.com
8	0130	8	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	nagcc.info
11	0000	12	2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest		RST, serial	www.cgwpxrtty.com/rules.htm
						Dig		
11	1100	11	1300	7,14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
11	1200	12	1200	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, JA prefecture or district code	www.kcj-cw.com
11	1200	12	1200	1.8-28	Dutch PACC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PA province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
11	1200	12	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11	1400	13	0200	All, except WARC	YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org/wp/yl-om-contest
11	1500	12	1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr (if any)	www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php
11	1600	11	1800	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
11	1900	11	2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
12	1300	12	1700	3.5,7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	arabih.ba
13	0100	13	0259	3.5-14	CQC Winter QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradogrpclub.org
13	0100	13	0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
13	1300	17	2359	All, except 60,30,17,12	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
13	1630	13	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
14	0000	14	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM or YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
15	1700	15	2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
15	1900	15	2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, 2-dig yr 1st used bug	www.agcw.de/contest/sta
15	2000	15	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data		RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16	0000	17	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	grpcontest.com/pigwalk20
18	0000	19	2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
		19	1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	and the second se		
18	1200					Dig	RST, 2 letter oblast or serial	rdrclub.ru/russian-ww-psk-contest
18	1900	18	2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr. SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
19	2100	and an installed	2300	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
19	2300	20	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
20	1630	20	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
22	0000	22	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	www.skccgroup.com
22	2000	22	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
23	2000	23	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
24	2200	26	2200	1.8	CQ 160m Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or CQ zone	www.cq160.com/rules.htm
25	0600	26	1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, French department or serial	concours.r-e-f.org/reglements
25	1300	26	1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, ON section or serial	www.uba.be
25	1500	26	0159	1.8-28,50	South Carolina QSO Party	and the second se	SC: RS(T), SC county or SPC	scqso.com
25	1800	26	0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.ncjweb.com
25	1800	26	0559	3.5-28	NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC+DC	www.w9smc.com/nacc
26	1400	26	1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
26	1500	27	0100	3.5-144	North Carolina QSO Party		NC county or SPC	ncqsoparty.org/rules
27	1630	27	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	memorial-ok1wc.cz
	<ul> <li>Sec. 10.10.1</li> </ul>	127	2130	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf