

# THE eQRM

JANUARY 2019



*Happy New Year*

The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the cover: The BVARA is  
wishing you a Happy New Year!

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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

## 2018 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, W6PEF

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting.

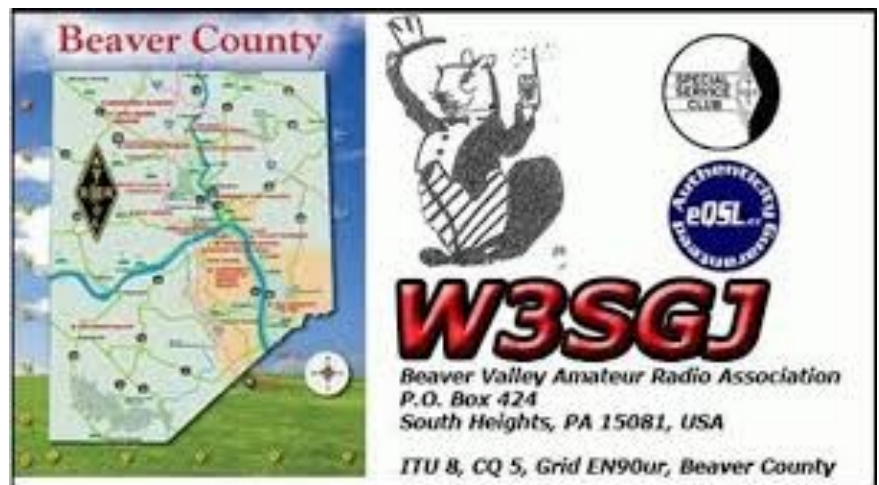
VE testing begins at 5:00 PM.

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).

## 2019 Club Meetings

Jan 10  
Feb 14  
Mar 14  
Apr 11  
May 09  
Jun 13  
Jul 11  
Aug Corn Roast TBA  
Sept 12  
Oct 10  
Nov 14



# This Month

## *This Month:*

### *Speakers:*

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

### *Topic:*

Information for Hams

### *Including:*

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is designed to help you find the information that you need in whatever area of ham radio that you wish to pursue. That sounds like one of those unachievable goals, but with just a little bit of effort, remarkable results can be gained.

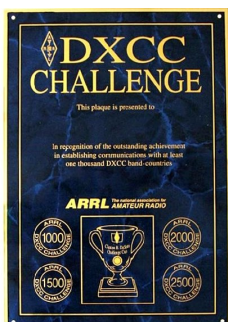


We'll begin by talking about your personalized home 'library' and how to set it up to be of the most value to you. Along the way we'll help you understand how to distinguish data from information, hints for spotting truth from fiction, good sources from bad ones, and more. We'll suggest some categories to help you begin to personalize this organization process based on your interests. We'll round this topic out by recommending excellent general sources for ham information and offer some cautions about other sources that can potentially be a waste of time.

Next, we'll focus on the 'make' or 'buy' decisions that everyone has to make sooner or later and also discuss tools like the Ben Franklin Balanced Sheet. Setting personal goals in ham radio is a great way to channel your time and efforts into tasks that support these personal goals. Some examples might be building your first kit, or working 100 countries for a DXCC award, or designing/building your own antenna, or completing ARES Training in order to provide support in the event of an emergency.



But wait, there's more! We'll go down another level into specific areas such as building your own equipment, evaluating a transceiver, automating your station, understanding propagation, etc. This is one presentation you won't want to miss!



### *Rich's Background:*

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



# 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.

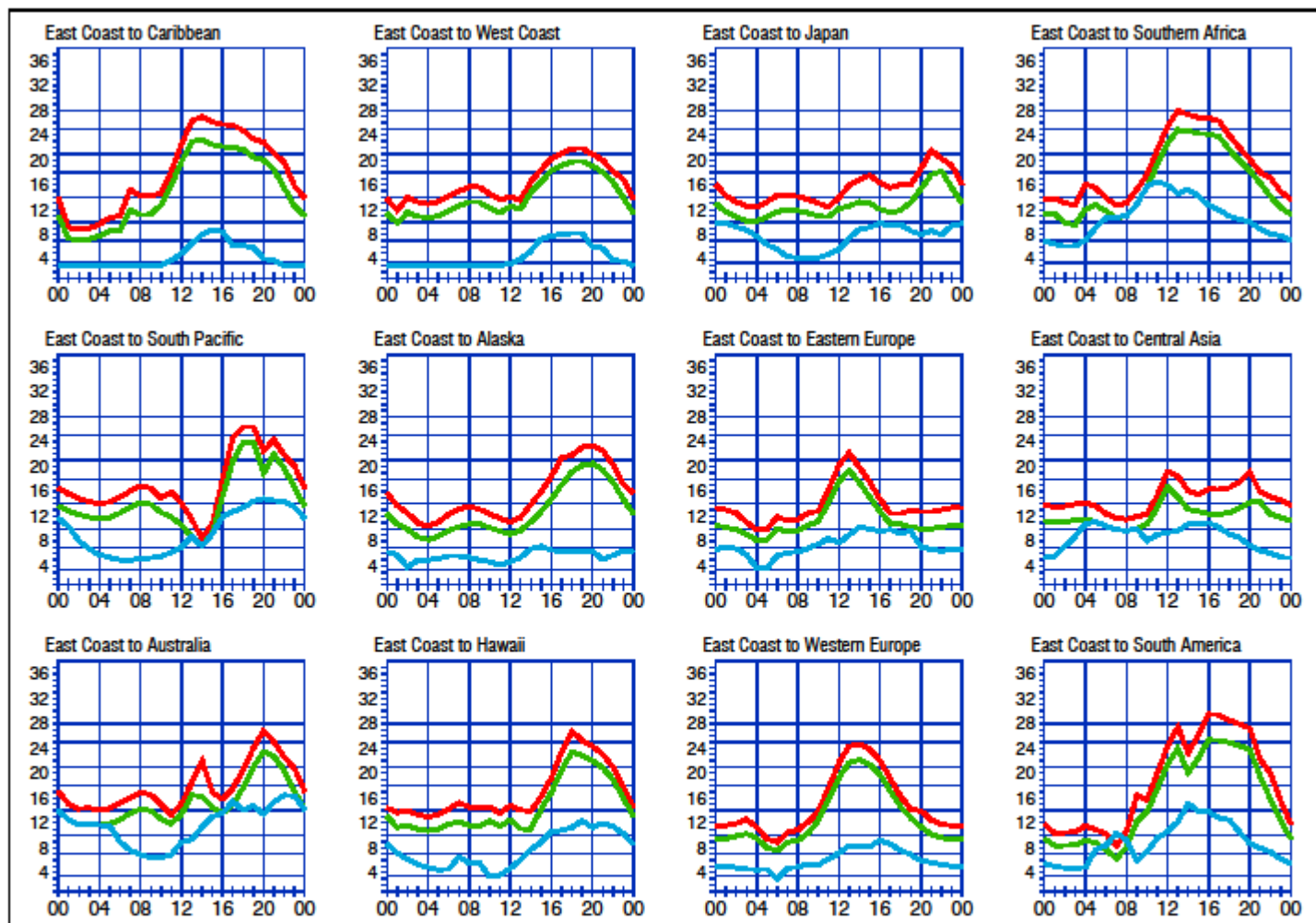
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

### 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 January 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 (HPF, 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 66. 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 January 2019.

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

**ARRL**  
The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

# 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

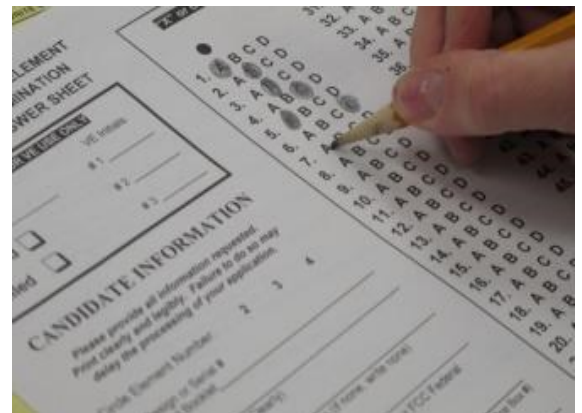
BVARA VE Testing



**Here's the list of participants in our VE process for the month :**

There was no testing as the BVARA was at the Club Christmas Party for the month of December.

Testing resumes on January 10, 2019 at the 911 Center in Ambridge at 5 PM.





# 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                   | 25.00 | _____ |
| <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.)

- |                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technician  | Name _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General     | Address _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced    | _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

**Hang on there...**

**There will be a Western Pa hamfest**

**Coming in February 2019.**



Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

## Contest Corral

## January 2019

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 - Finish Date-Time	Start - Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 0000	1 0100	3.5	AGE New Year Snowball Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/1u1agb_nysb.htm">www.qsl.net/1u1agb_nysb.htm</a>
1 0800	1 1100	3.5, 7	SARTG New Year RITTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, name, "happy new year" in native language	<a href="http://www.sartg.com">www.sartg.com</a>
1 0900	1 1200	3.5-14	AGCW Happy New Year Contest	CW	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://www.agcw.org">www.agcw.org</a>
1 1400	1 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid	<a href="http://www.agcw.org">www.agcw.org</a>
1 1500	1 1800	3.5-28	QRP AFCE New Year's Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.qrpafce.org/contests">www.qrpafce.org/contests</a>
2 2000	2 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukelcc.com">www.ukelcc.com</a>
2 2300	6 2300	1.8-7	AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	CW	RST, equipment year, power	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>
3 1800	3 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	<a href="http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests">www.nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
3 2000	3 2200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
5 0000	5 2359	3.5-28	PODXS 070 Club PSK-Fest	Dig	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
5 1200	6 1200	3.5-28	WW PMC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PMC abbreviation or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.w59dod.si">www.w59dod.si</a>
5 1300	5 1700	3.5, 7	RSGB AFS Contest, CW	Ph	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
5 1800	5 2359	3.5-14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 144 repeaters	ARRL Kids Day	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>
5 1800	6 2359	3.5-28	ARRL RITTY Roundup	Dig	RST, SP (or serial, if DX)	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/ritty-roundup">www.arrl.org/ritty-roundup</a>
5 2000	6 0700	1.8	EUCW 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, name, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://www.eucw.org">www.eucw.org</a>
7 0800	13 2000	All	IQRP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	<a href="http://www.arimontebelluna.it">www.arimontebelluna.it</a>
8 0200	8 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqp.blogspot.com">arsqp.blogspot.com</a>
12 0000	12 2359	3.5-28	YB DX Contest	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://ybdxcontest.com">ybdxcontest.com</a>
12 0500	12 0900	3.5-28	Old New Year Contest	CW Ph	RST, sum of operator age and years on the air	<a href="http://www.radio.ru/qslcontest/rule-results/index7.shtml">www.radio.ru/qslcontest/rule-results/index7.shtml</a>
12 1200	13 1200	3.5-28	UBA PSK33 Prefix Contest	Dig	RSQ, UBA section or serial	<a href="http://www.uba.be/en">www.uba.be/en</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 1800	13 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, SPC	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
13 0530	13 0730	3.5, 7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region	<a href="http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests">www.nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
13 0800	13 1000	3.5, 7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region	<a href="http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests">www.nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
13 0900	13 1059	28	DARC 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, DOK or serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de">www.darc.de</a>
13 1300	13 1700	3.5, 7	RSGB AFS Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
13 1300	16 0700	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, radio manufacturer	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org">www.classicexchange.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>
17 0130	17 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
18 1800	18 2200	3.5, 7	LZ Open Contest	CW	Serial, serial from previous QSO	<a href="http://www.lzopen.com">www.lzopen.com</a>
19 1200	20 1159	1.8-28	Hungarian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), mbr or serial	<a href="http://www.ha-dx.com/HADX">www.ha-dx.com/HADX</a>
19 1300	19 1700	3.5, 7	RSGB AFS Contest, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
19 1800	20 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, SPC	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
19 1900	19 2300	1.8	WAB 1.8 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
19 1900	21 0359	50 and up	ARRL January VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf">www.arrl.org/january-vhf</a>
19 2000	20 0559	1.8-7	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub">sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
21 0200	21 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qpptest.com/pigrun">qpptest.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>
23 0130	23 0330	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
25 2200	27 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	CW	RST, state/province (or CQ zone, if DX)	<a href="http://www.cq160.com">www.cq160.com</a>
26 0600	27 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, CW	CW	RST, department or serial	<a href="http://concourse-e-f.org/reglements">concourse-e-f.org/reglements</a>
26 1200	27 1200	3.5-28	BARTG RITTY Sprint	Dig	Serial	<a href="http://bartg.org.uk">bartg.org.uk</a>
26 1300	27 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, province (if ON)	<a href="http://www.uba.be/en">www.uba.be/en</a>
26 1900	27 1900	All, no WARC	Winter Field Day	CW Ph Dig	Category, ARRL section (if ON)	<a href="http://www.winterfieldday.com">www.winterfieldday.com</a>
30 2000	30 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukelcc.com">www.ukelcc.com</a>

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.

# Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone. The New Year is here! Are you as excited as I am? The 10<sup>th</sup> of January brings us our first BVARA Club Meeting of the new year. Make plans to come. I can hardly wait to live out this New Year. How will this year unfold? Winter will pass in about ninety days here in Western Pennsylvania. Keep working your indoor radio activities. Hurry up though, spring will be arriving soon and you will want to take your radio hobby outside. As soon as spring gets here summer will be just around the corner or at least you should be able to see it from there.



So what are your plans? Will there be a new radio, a new antenna, an antenna switch so you can have more than one antenna, a rotor to turn your antenna or some other radio gear? You can never have too good of a lightning protection grounding system. Is it time to install one or upgrade your protection system? When was the last time you inspected & cleaned all your radio electrical grounds? Will your interest be in experimenting with some new facet of your radio hobby? Have you ever pursued DX? I haven't. Have you ever tried contesting? I experienced a little taste of it during the Pa QSO party this past year. I liked it. What about satellite... how about something in the Gigahertz frequency range? Does microwave communication sound like fun? I don't know much about it but I have seen articles in QST magazine about it. It looks inviting.

Have you...subscribed to any popular ham radio magazines or purchased a new radio book to challenge you into trying something new in radio? You need to get ready for 2019! There are so many things new to get interested in! I am so excited.

Come on you "Techy Nerds" let's get into something new and exciting. I am encouraging myself here too. I know some of you out there have great tech skills and knowledge. I am not asking about working on some new breakthrough radio technology; I am encouraging you to try some of the established radio methods and practices you haven't experienced.

I was thinking... did anybody contact their local school district to see if you could teach some interesting facet of amateur radio? You could talk to the High School Physics and Science teachers; I think they would be interested in having an amateur radio operator come give a talk or demonstration to their class. It wouldn't have to be complicated. You could talk to a lower age group maybe 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

I hope you caught some of my enthusiasm. Get started thinking and then do it. Dream, dream big and act on it. Please write or email and share with me your 2019 radio goals. I also would like you to let me know about the radio "things" you do during this year as you do them. Please keep me informed.

Don't sit there, let your mind loose and act on it. Again, Happy New Year! I have a hopefulness you will have some radio things to reflect back on when 2020 arrives.

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

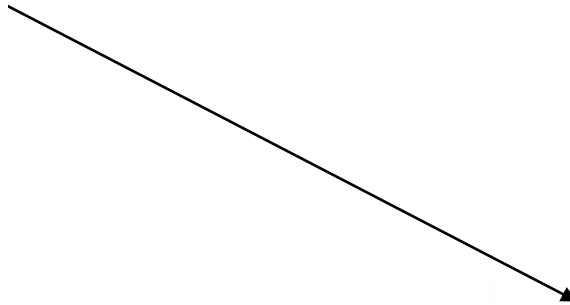
*Be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby.*



# 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 Radio Enthusiasts



Photo courtesy of Don K9NR

What is the meaning of ham radio?

Amateur **radio**, also known as **ham radio**, is a hobby enjoyed by several hundred thousand people in the United States and by over a million people worldwide. Amateur **radio** operators call themselves "**radio** hams" or simply "hams." **Ham radio** can provide communication during states of emergency.



# Of Interest to All Radio Enthusiasts

## **The lady on the previous page is Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L...**

I first saw NV9L on the Ham Nation netcast via a Roku box. She has an infectious love for the Ham Radio Hobby and is one of my personal Elmer heros. If you don't get excited by my love of Ham Radio, watch some of the videos with NV9L in them. I have seen many of her Ham Nation episodes and YouTube instructional videos. I think I would have been remiss if I had not included Valerie with my "What is the meaning of Ham Radio". Congratulations Mrs. Valerie!

Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, is the ARRL "Amateur of the Year" for 2018.

"We would like to thank everyone who nominated a candidate," the committee said in announcing the award recipients. "The process is always difficult."

First licensed in 2006, Hotzfeld has been very active in local Amateur Radio clubs and in ARES. Once she "discovered" HF, she became obsessed with DXing and contesting. In the past few years, she has enjoyed inviting new hams to her station to DX or contest. She has been the pilot or lead pilot for four major DXpeditions.

Hotzfeld is a co-host of the netcast "Ham Nation" and has created several how-to videos on YouTube for the ham radio community. She also enjoys giving presentations on various topics via Skype to Amateur Radio clubs across the US.

She is currently the treasurer for her contest club and the prize chairman for W9DXCC and SMC-fest. In 2017, she became very active in public service, traveling to Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey to help rescue small animals. She was subsequently deployed to Puerto Rico with the American Red Cross for 3 weeks as part of a group of volunteer Amateur Radio operators, facilitating critical communications after Hurricane Maria. Hotzfeld has said that Amateur Radio has enriched her life because of the challenges and great friends the hobby brings.

Here is the write-up at the ARRL website :

<http://www.arrl.org/news/valerie-hotzfeld-nv9l-is-amateur-of-the-year-as-hamvention-announces-award-winners>