

# THE eQRM

JANUARY 2021



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover: The baby New Year,  
may it be a great one!

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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).

*All meetings subject to Covid restrictions and cancellations.*

### Club Meetings 2021

Jan 14 (it may be a Zoom)

Feb 11

Mar 11

Apr 08

May 13

Jun 10

Jul 08

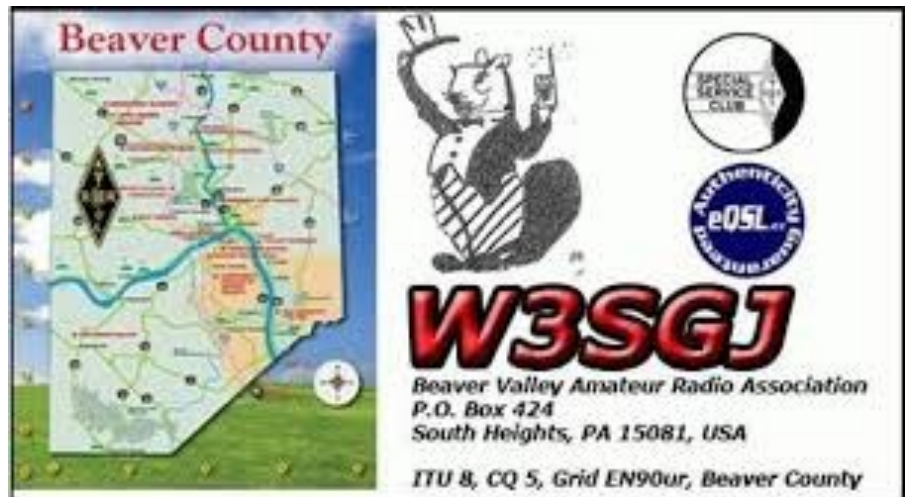
Aug 12

Sep 09

Oct 14

Nov 11

Dec 09



# This Month

A little humor please.

*This Month:*

**NO CLUB MEETING**



***Happy New Year fellow Hams***



***Field Day 2021 ?***

# 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



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.



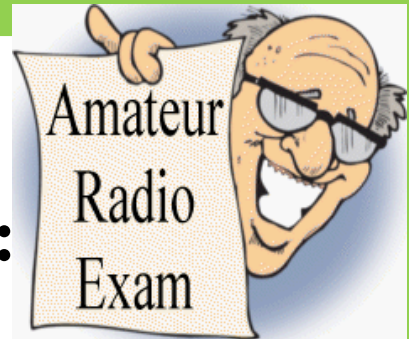
ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

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 :



### December VE Test Session Results

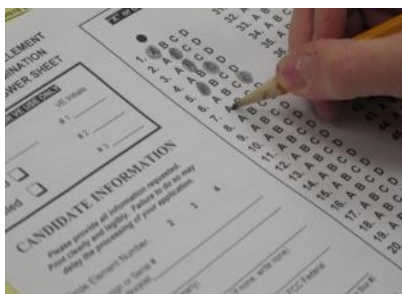
There was no Club meeting for the month of December so there was no testing.

Once again, because of restrictions caused by the corona virus, over the holidays, we are waiting to see if we will be permitted to have testing at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Please contact Rich Soltesz, K3SOM for details.

Congratulations to all the candidates that passed their tests with us in 2020. Start studying, we look forward to serving the candidates for 2021!

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?**



The Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club Inc. of McKeesport PA announced on the Monday night Breezeshooters Net of January 11th, that their Hamfest has **NOT** been cancelled. The event is usually scheduled for around the Easter time of the year. Stay tuned!

Hamfests for 2021 have been ???



# Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

It is the New Year! Whew!

I am so excited to live what it brings! This New Year is just like the baby on the cover of this month's eQRM, so full of promise. What will you do with your brand spankin' New Year? I don't want to waste my New Year. I have so much planned. I actually have more planned than I can possibly do. But I want to live and enjoy as much of it as I can. I have non-radio related things I want to enjoy this year too, but that is another story.



I want to put up that High Frequency antenna I have been planning all last year, I want to make my first QSL cards & make them unique to my station. Another goal this year is to make my first DX contact. I want to put in some time learning Morse code and my list goes on. Do you have a radio related list you are planning to cross some things off of? As always please share them with me. I sure would like to hear what other Hams are up to this year of 2021.

For now I can hardly wait to get my new year started. I did do a lot of remodeling to my radio room the end of December and have continued into January. I put in some new windows. The new windows are much larger and closer to the floor. I can now look outside while sitting in my Ham chair. I painted an accent wall and added some much needed color to the room. It looks so inviting and feels so comfy and homey. I am not bragging, I am grateful for what God has given me.

I am planning something really big for the Spring around maybe April/May. I will share what that is all about when we get a little closer to the time... I will keep hinting at this in each of the coming months of the eQRM.

I think this will do it for now, Happy New Year everyone. I can hardly wait to hear from you about your radio plans and achievements in the coming months.

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)



I got a request from a New York Vietnam Vet, if anyone knows of an AZDEN PCS-4000 for sale please contact Louis at [Techynyc@yahoo.com](mailto:Techynyc@yahoo.com)



# Of Interest to All



## What If It Happened Here in Western Pennsylvania?

Here's an interesting video from Jason, KM4ACK [after](#) the explosion in Nashville, TN on Christmas morning, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with a resultant internet and cell phone disruption. Specifically, here is the impact on a ham radio operator and his family who live in nearby Murfreesboro, TN. The video is only about 15 minutes in length but contains a considerable amount of information to absorb.

With the issues that he faced, after viewing his video I am now able to address several potential shortcomings in my ability to continue communication with both hams and non-hams should a similar situation happen here in WPA. Here's the link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpmNGrpZkSo&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=KM4ACK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpmNGrpZkSo&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KM4ACK)

Little things like extra wire, power pole connectors, portable antennas, batteries, various newer software packages, etc. are worth reading about if you are unfamiliar with their potential, should an emergency arise. He discusses JS8Call, WinLink, position reports with WinLink that are cross-linked with APRS. He discusses what happens when your APRS Gateway is offline.

He talks about the general use of GMRS and FRS as well as spare parts like extra coax, wire, power poles, batteries, and much more. His over-the-air TV antenna kept him locally informed. The focus in this video is on the high probability of a regional emergency and the resultant impact that he personally experienced – not an apocalyptic event.

Think 21st Century emergency situation and what you would do if it happened here. Who would be calling you, who would you wish to communicate with, what if it were longer than a day, a week, several weeks? Gas stations and grocery stores without the internet: could you buy food, water, medicine, gasoline? Do you have an on-hand cash reserve available? Hmmm . . .

Maybe it's time to buy some more toilet paper!

Best regards,  
Rich - K3SOM

# Of Interest to All



**Due to the Corona Virus restrictions  
we had to cancel our Club  
Christmas Party for December.  
We have rescheduled!**

**The BVARA Christmas Party is  
Saturday Jan 16 2021 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

( attendance limited to first 21 persons )

Norm Trunick or Pam Spencer



# Radio Sport

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

## Contest Corral

## January 2021

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	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 0000	1 0100	3.5	AGB New Year Snowball Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://qsl.net/eu1eu/agnb_nysb.htm">qsl.net/eu1eu/agnb_nysb.htm</a>
1 0800	1 1100	3.5, 7	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, name, happy new year in native language	<a href="http://sartg.com/contest/hyrules.htm">sartg.com/contest/hyrules.htm</a>
1 1500	1 1800	3.5-28	QRP ARCI New Years Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrparci.org">qrparci.org</a>
2 0000	2 2359	3.5-28	PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	Dig	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
2 1200	3 1200	1.8-28	WW PMC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PMC abbreviation or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.s59dcd.si/index.php/sl">www.s59dcd.si/index.php/sl</a>
2 1500	3 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	<a href="http://qrcc.de/contestrules/oqpr.html">qrcc.de/contestrules/oqpr.html</a>
2 1800	2 2359	3.5-14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 2 repeaters	ARRL Kids Day	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>
2 1800	3 2359	3.5-28	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Dig	WVE: RST, state/province. Non-WVE: RST, serial	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup">www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup</a>
2 2000	3 0700	1.8	EUCW 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, name, EUCW club info or "NM"	<a href="http://www.eucw.org/eu160.html">www.eucw.org/eu160.html</a>
4 0000	4 0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	<a href="http://k1usn.com/ssst.html">k1usn.com/ssst.html</a>
5 0200	5 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
6 1300	6 1400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
6 1700	6 2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-character grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
6 1900	6 2000	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
6 2000	6 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>
6 2300	10 2300	1.8-7	AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	CW	RST, eqpt year, input power	<a href="http://antiquewireless.org">antiquewireless.org</a>
7 0300	7 0400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	<a href="http://cwops.org/cwops-tests">cwops.org/cwops-tests</a>
7 1800	7 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://nrrcontest.no">nrrcontest.no</a>
7 2000	7 2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
9 0000	9 2359	3.5-28	YB DX Contest	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://ybdxcontest.com">ybdxcontest.com</a>
9 0500	9 0900	3.5-28	Old New Year Contest	CW Ph	RST, sum of operator age and years on the air	<a href="http://radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results">radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results</a>
9 1200	10 1200	3.5-28	UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	Dig	RSQ, UBA section or serial	<a href="http://uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules</a>
9 1200	10 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
9 1800	10 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, state/DC/province/country	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
10 0630	10 0830	3.5, 7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region	<a href="http://www.nraubaltic.eu">www.nraubaltic.eu</a>
10 0900	10 1059	28	DARC 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, DOK (if DOK)	<a href="http://www.darc.de">www.darc.de</a>
10 0900	10 1100	3.5, 7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region	<a href="http://www.nraubaltic.eu">www.nraubaltic.eu</a>
11 0000	11 0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	<a href="http://k1usn.com/ssst.html">k1usn.com/ssst.html</a>
11 0100	11 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>
13 1700	13 2000	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
16 1200	17 1159	1.8-28	Hungarian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter HA county or serial	<a href="http://ha-dx.com/en/contest-rules">ha-dx.com/en/contest-rules</a>
16 1200	17 1159	3.5-28	PRO Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "M" if member	<a href="http://procontestclub.ro/PDC%20Rules.html">procontestclub.ro/PDC%20Rules.html</a>
16 1800	17 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, state/DC/province/country	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
16 1800	17 0559	1.8-28	NA Collegiate Championship, SSB	Ph	Name, state/DC/province/country	<a href="http://w9smc.com/nacc">w9smc.com/nacc</a>
16 1900	16 2300	1.8	WAB 1.8 MHz Phone/CW	CW Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or serial	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
16 1900	18 0359	50 and up	ARRL January VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-character grid square	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf">www.arrl.org/january-vhf</a>
16 2000	17 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>
17 2300	18 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrcontest.com/pigrun">qrcontest.com/pigrun</a>
18 0000	18 0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	<a href="http://k1usn.com/ssst.html">k1usn.com/ssst.html</a>
21 0130	21 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
23 1200	24 1200	3.5-28	BARTG RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial	<a href="http://bartg.org.uk">bartg.org.uk</a>
23 1200	24 1200	3.5-28	UKEI DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, district code (if UKEI)	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>
25 0000	25 0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	<a href="http://k1usn.com/ssst.html">k1usn.com/ssst.html</a>
27 0000	27 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
27 2000	27 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>
28 0130	28 0330	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
29 2200	31 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.cq160.com">www.cq160.com</a>
30 0600	31 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, CW	CW	RST, French dept/prefix or serial	<a href="http://conours.r-e-f.org/contest/">conours.r-e-f.org/contest/</a>
30 1300	31 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, ON province (if ON)	<a href="http://uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules</a>
30 1900	31 1900	All	Winter Field Day	No FT4/8	Category, ARRL section (or "DX")	<a href="http://winterfieldday.com">winterfieldday.com</a>

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: [www.qrpfloxhunt.org](http://www.qrpfloxhunt.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 WATBNM 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, WATBNM, in providing this service.

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) QST January 2021 75