

THE eQRM

JANUARY 2024



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania



Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: Orthodox Christmas is almost here! You will see decorations for a while yet. We haven't had much of a winter so far. I am expecting it to come soon, what amount of snow do you think will be coming?

Inside this edition

Who We Are	3	Hamfests & General	9
This Month	4	Announcements	
Get a License or Upgrade	6	Of Interest to All	10
New License and Upgrades	7	Bits and Pieces	24
Membership	8	Radio Sport	25



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 - 2024. 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

2023 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

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).

2024

Jan 11

Feb 08

Mar 14

Apr 11

May 09

Jun 13

Jul 11

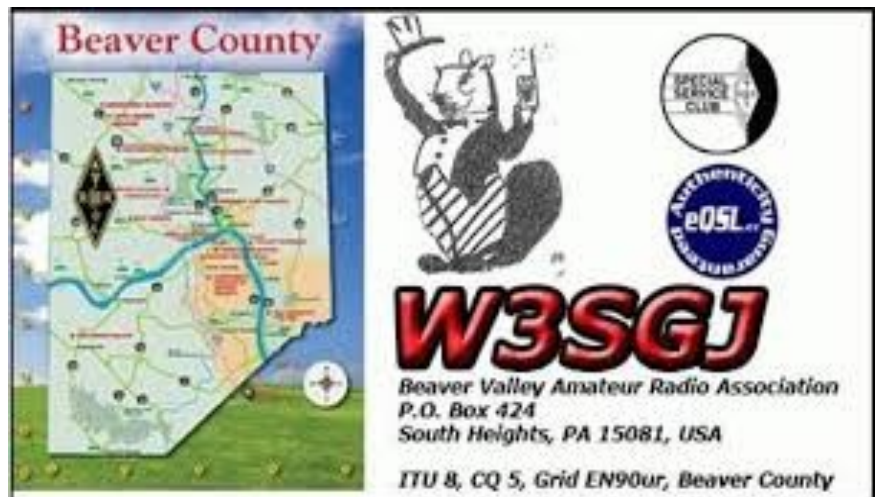
Aug Club Corn Roast

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

Dec Club Christmas Party



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:

Wolf River Coil Antenna System – Part 1

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month and next covers a very popular portable base vertical antenna called the *Wolf River Coil Antenna System (WRC)*. In particular, I purchased a Silver Bullet 1000 with the 40- to 10-meter coil and the *Mega Pod* tripod base with 24" legs. The *Take It Along (TIA)* package included three 33' radials as well as a 102" adjustable whip antenna. As I became more familiar with the antenna, I later purchased the 80-meter coil for 80- and 60-meter coverage and two 24" extensions with couplers to try different configurations. With these hardware pieces and my trusty SARK-110 Antenna Analyzer, I was well-armed and ready to expand my portable operations for POTA and SOTA.

We will start with an examination of vertical and mobile antenna configurations that utilize a radiator that is less than a quarter wavelength high. These antennas typically use a loading coil to make the antenna appear to be electrically longer than its physical length. Based on where the coil is placed, whether at the base or higher, we'll examine the effect on SWR, bandwidth, and on efficiency. We'll also look at the effect of ground losses and loading coil losses on bandwidth and efficiency as well as how to conveniently measure the Q for our WRC.

But wait, there's more! In Part 2, we will investigate different types of ground configurations and materials that can reduce ground losses, thus improving power losses and efficiency of our antenna system. As a bonus, some of these materials save considerable time in both setup and breakdown time. If you are a new ham or want to do something different for a change, 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

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)

Come join us!



BREAKFAST

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.



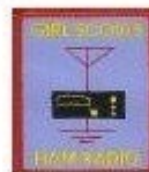
See you

RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.

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 :

December 2023 - No VE Test Session Results



Our December VE Testing did not take place because of our planned Christmas Party and Ham of the Year Award ceremony.

Are you interested in taking your Extra Class exam before the new question pool arrives on July 1st, 2024? Then you should make a New Year's wish to take some **free online training** and take your exam prior to July 1st.

A free, weekly, live, **Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course** on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 18, 2024, and will run through Thursday, March 28. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that have been held for years and are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum.

Those wishing to sign up should email Roland Anders, K3RA at roland.anders@comcast.net prior to the deadline.

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,
Ron Victorelli – KC3TZZ,
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ, and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW

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



WASHfest 2024

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

Sunday, February 25th, 2024

8:00 AM until 3:00 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

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES

First Prize: To Be Determined

Second Prize: To Be Determined

Third Prize: To Be Determined

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Ron Telek W3LE at (412) 831-4886 w3le@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2024.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2024 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance thirteen years running!

Of Interest to All

2023 Ham of the Year Award – Tom Stoops, N3XC

The membership of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) voted Tom Stoops, N3XC the prestigious *Ham of the Year Award* for his many contributions to our club during the 2023 year. Presentation was at the Christmas Party in December. Congratulations, Tom!



BVARA President
Jack Spencer pre-
sents Tom Stoops
(on the right) with
the award of
Ham of the Year!

Congrats again
Tom!
Thanks for all that
you do.



Of Interest to All

BVARA Annual Christmas Dinner

On Saturday, December 9th 2023, club members with their significant other gathered at the Rochester Hotel on West Washington Street in Rochester, PA to celebrate the holiday season as well as to close out the year on the club's 100th Anniversary. Over 35 people attended our festivities that included appetizers and a wide variety of well-prepared and tasty food selections from the buffet tables.

Much camaraderie and lively conversations filled the air as friendships were renewed and stories abounded about the happenings since our last get together in August. Many people commented on that 'dark and stormy night' and how intense the lightning storm had become.

As tradition would have it, many in attendance participated in a voluntary gift exchange to further spread good will and cheer. Many wonderful surprise gifts brought cheer to those who chose those beautifully wrapped items.

In the finest tradition of our BVARA, Tom Stoops, N3XC was awarded the 2023 plaque for the *BVARA Ham of the Year* by Jack Spencer, KZ3Z. Tom also received a custom-embroidered baseball hat proclaiming his amateur radio special award.

Some of the photos from the event are shown below. Additional photos from the Christmas Dinner will appear on the club's Flickr.com page along with other event photos.



Mick N3OJP & Jill

Celeste & Doug N4YQK

Of Interest to All



Tim KA3JRT

John's mom Angie & John N3NQP
KB3VSP

Dan



Tony K3AHP

Larry KC3ROS & Rosie

Lois & Rich KC3TOO

Tony's Vicky

Of Interest to All



Norm K3NJT & Mary

Frank W3FJW & Cathy



Randy KC3LZM & Joyce

Kathy & David KC3BXC

Of Interest to All



John N3NQP & Pam W3PMS



And a good time was had by All!

Of Interest to All

Rabid Raccoon 100 Ultra Ham Radio Volunteers Are Needed

This March 16 & 17 marks the 3rd annual Rabid Raccoon Race where ham radio operators help over **300 runners** and spectators run over 100 miles. Last year they had 50 some people run 100 miles around 356 runner did the 100 kilometers run and the largest group the marathon race.

There are some major changes this year: First, the race has moved to a new park it is now in the Brady Run Park which is an Beaver county park just north of Beaver Falls. The park looks a lot like Raccoon SP with hills and a lake. The Second major change is all the Aid Stations are in buildings this year. So no more tents next to a road with coal trucks zooming by.

There are 3 aid stations that you can pick from:

Aid Station #1: Brady Lodge

Aid Station #2 & #3: Four Season Lodge

Aid Station 4: Recreation Hall {Ice Skating Rink & Tennis Court} This is also the Start Finish line.

Since this is an 36 hour long event there are four shifts that you can pick from. You will notice that there even an over night shift the runners run though the night and you will be busy since they will be starting a half marathon at mid-night.

3:30 AM-1:00 PM // 1:00 PM-10:00 PM // 10:00 PM-7:00 AM // 7:00 AM-4:00 PM

You can find more information about the race on the sign up website listed below. Look over the open slots and pick one and just email me your choice and T-Shirt size to n3lrg@w3kwh.com. I will then add you to the list and get you on the email list for more detail information as we get closer to March 16 & 17.

Your duties will be just radio communications. Handle the aid station traffic, runner drop outs, restocking needs. The aid stations will have cooks that will feed you and there will be plenty of snacks to feed on. Plus the world famous pickle juice. {Don't worry there others thing to drink, but the runner love it!}

So please check out this link for more information:

w3kwh.net/Rabid

Christine Rial

Oakdale, PA



Of Interest to All

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



Of Interest to All

BVARA



January 2024

ARRL Straight Key Night, January 1st

Club Monthly Meeting, January 11th

South Hills VHF Contest, January 13th

January VHF Contest, January 20th – 22nd

Winter Field Day, January 27th – 28th

February

ARRL CW DX International Contest, February 17th – 18th

North American QSO Party, RTTY February 24th – 25th

South Hills Hamfest February 25th

March

ARRL Phone DX International Contest, March 2nd – 3rd

POTA, POTA

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

So here I sit in my radio room looking out the window. Outside it is quite cold and windy. The snow is blowing but so far, no accumulation, just a bit of a dusting. This morning we have had some strong, steady winds and powerful wind gusts! Earlier we had no commercial power to the farm for over four hours. It was getting cold in the house so I turned on a little propane heater to warm it up. We went from 64 degrees to around 67 degrees and the power turned back on, Yeh! The furnace is going to take a little while to warm things back up. I am grateful to the people from the electric company for getting our power back on so quickly. I also have power to run this computer to do the newsletter.



As I am sitting here, I want to apologize for being so late getting this newsletter out on the Web and emailed. Between the Covid, several bouts with colds and the regular Flu I have been under the weather. I didn't work on the newsletter. I still am not up to par. There is this lingering cough, seems like many of us have this and a kind of tired feeling. I will get better, it just takes time. This newsletter is short because I just don't feel good. I took sick right after the Club Christmas party. It has been a trial... Please pray for me to get all the way better soon.

New Years I didn't see; I fell asleep before 9 o'clock. It still came. I am wishing everyone a Happy New Year and good health!

Till next month, happy radioing and be safe in your hobby activities.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

January 2024

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	AGB New Year Snowball Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agnb_nysb.htm
1 0000	1 0100	1.8-28	KIUSN Slow Speed Test	CW	Max. 20 WPM; name, SPC	www.kiusn.com/sst.html
1 0800	1 1100	3.5,7	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, happy new year (native language)	www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm
1 0900	1 1200	3.5-14	AGCW Happy New Year Contest	CW	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	www.agcw.de/contest/hnyc/hnyc-engl
1 1400	1 1800	144,432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr class, 6-char grid	www.agcw.de/contest/vhf-uhf
2 0200	2 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqp.blogspot.com
3 0200	3 0330	7	QRP Fox Hunt	CW	RST, SPC, name, pwr	www.qrpfoxhunt.org
3 1300	3 1400	1.8-28	CWops Test (CWT)	CW	Name, SPC or mbr	cwops.org/cwops-tests
3 1700	3 2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
3 2000	3 2100	3.5	UKEICC 8-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com/80m-rules.php
4 0000	5 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max. 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigwalk40
4 1800	4 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
4 2000	4 2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
5 0200	5 0330	3.5	QRP Fox Hunt	CW	RST, SPC, name, pwr	www.qrpfoxhunt.org
5 2000	5 2100	1.8-28	KIUSN Slow Speed Test	CW	Max. 20 WPM; name, SPC	www.kiusn.com/sst.html
6 0000	6 2359	3.5-28	PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
6 0700	6 2100	3.5-14	Marconi Club ARI Loano QSO Party Day	CW	RST, serial, "MC" (if mbr)	www.arilano.it/marconiclub
6 1200	7 1200	1.8-28	WW PMC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PMC abbrev or CQ zone	www.s59dcd.si
6 1300	6 1700	3.5,7	RSGB AFS Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
6 1800	6 2359	3.5-14,18,21,24,28,2-m rptrs	ARRL Kids Day	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	www.arrl.org/kids-day
6 1800	7 2359	3.5-28	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Dig	WVE: RST, SP; non-WVE: RST, serial	www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
6 2000	7 0700	1.8	EUCW 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, name, mbr or "NM"	www.eucw.org/eu160.html
8 0100	8 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf
10 1700	10 2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
13 0000	13 2359	3.5-28	YB DX Contest	Ph	RS, serial	ybdxcontest.com
13 1200	14 1200	3.5-28	UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	Dig	ON: RSQ, UBA section or serial (starting with 001)	www.uba.be
13 1200	14 2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
13 1800	14 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
14 0630	14 0830	3.5,7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, 2-letter fylke/län/province/region	www.nraubaltic.eu
14 0900	14 1059	28	DARC 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, DOK (if any)	www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste
14 0900	14 1100	3.5,7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, 2-letter fylke/län/province/region	www.nraubaltic.eu
17 1700	17 2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
18 0000	19 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max. 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
18 0130	18 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
20 1200	21 1159	1.8-28	Hungarian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 2-letter county (if HA)	ha-dx.com/en/contest-rules
20 1200	21 1159	3.5-28	PRO Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "ME" (if mbr)	www.procontestclub.ro
20 1800	21 0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
20 1800	21 0559	1.8-28	NA Collegiate Championship, SSB	Ph	Name, SPC if NA	www.w9smc.com/nacc
20 1900	22 0359	50 and up	ARRL January VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrl.org/january-vhf
20 2000	21 0559	1.8-7	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	(See rules)	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
21 1300	21 1700	3.5,7	RSGB AFS Contest, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
21 2300	22 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigrun
24 0000	24 0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
26 2200	28 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or CQ zone	www.cq160.com
27 0600	28 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, CW	CW	RST, French dept or serial	concours.r-e-f.org/reglements
27 1200	28 1200	3.5-28	BARTG RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial (no signal report)	bartg.org.uk
27 1300	27 1700	3.5,7	RSGB AFS Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
27 1300	28 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, section (if ON)	www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
27 1900	28 1900	No WARC	Winter Field Day	CW Ph Dig	Category, ARRL Section, MX or DX	www.winterfieldday.com
31 2000	31 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com