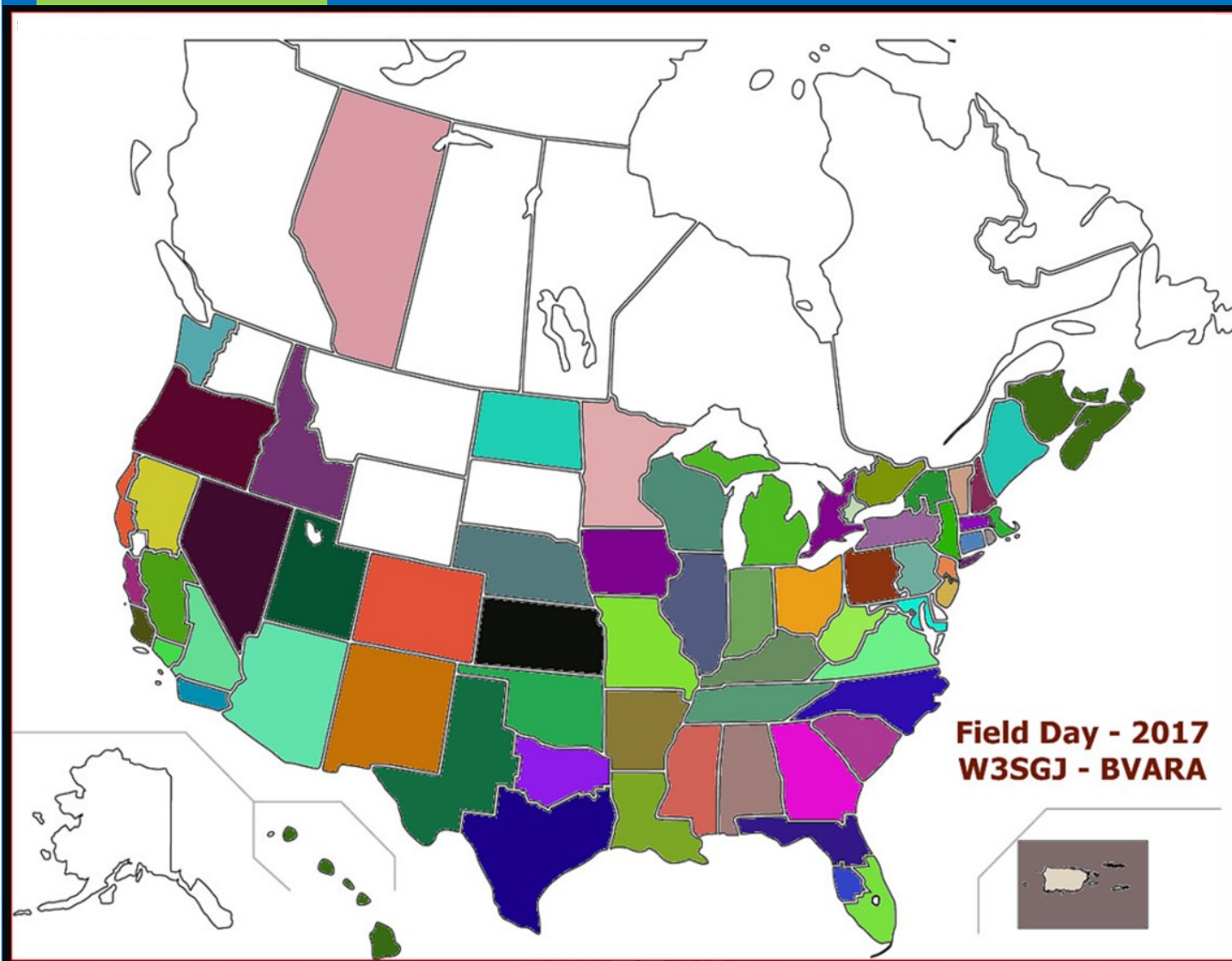


THE eQRM

JULY 2017



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the cover:

Field Day was 24-25 June. The BVARA had a great time! There were three stations on the air. We operated as 3A in Western Pennsylvania with a total of 429 contacts. The colored-in portions show where contacts were made. The weather was fantastic here in Western Pennsylvania for all our field day activities. A good time was had by all. I think the overall feeling is we can't wait for next year!

Inside this edition

Who We Are	3	Radio Sport	11
This Month	4	Bits and Pieces	12
Propagation	6	Interview with a Ham	13
Get a License or Upgrade	7	It's Your Dime	14
New License and Upgrades	8	Interesting Links	15
Membership	9	For all Radio Operators	16
Hamfests & General Announcements	10		

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 - 2017. 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

2017 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Mark Kavic, KB3LED

2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

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).

2017 MEETING DATES

Jul 13

Aug 12 Corn Roast

Sep 14

Oct 12

Nov 09

Dec 09 Christmas Party

Jan 11 2018

Feb 09

Mar 08

Apr 12

May 10



This Month

BVARA Club Feature Presentation

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz

K3SOM

Topic:

Ham Radio – A Rapidly Burgeoning Technology

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month expands on our topic last year about *Future Shock*. We'll explore many of the directions of ham radio technology that have literally exploded with new ideas, new techniques, new products and approaches that weren't even thought possible five or ten years ago. But unlike the jolt that we received from *Future Shock* we can pick and choose areas of interest to us with our seatbelts firmly on without fear of any danger.

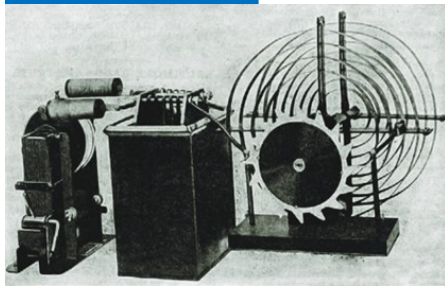
First, we'll take a brief look at the timelines of historical innovations within our hobby to appreciate how the pace has picked up recently. Then we'll explore the next level down and look at specific examples within antennas, propagation prediction, transceiver circuitry, station automation, as well as the impact of computers, smart phones, and tablets on our hobby. The door to building and doing continues to be open wide for those wishing to build equipment, design equipment, and merge technologies not possible five or ten years ago.

We'll examine how emergency communications have changed and look at the emergence of D-Star, Fusion, and other technologies like mesh networks. Public service participation has been a part of ham radio since the early beginnings of the hobby. These new technologies add significant capabilities to our real value in times of emergencies.

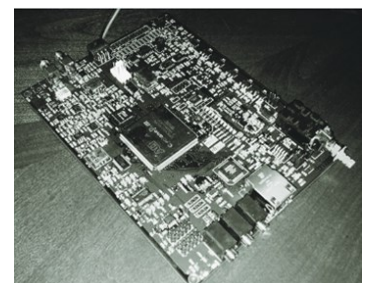
But wait, there's more! Remote operation and station automation are achieving incredible successes at reasonable costs. What happens next is only limited by your imagination. Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ham, bring your questions and/or experience to the meeting because this is one exciting presentation that you won't want to miss.

Rich's Background:

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



1900 spark gap



2012 SDR

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.

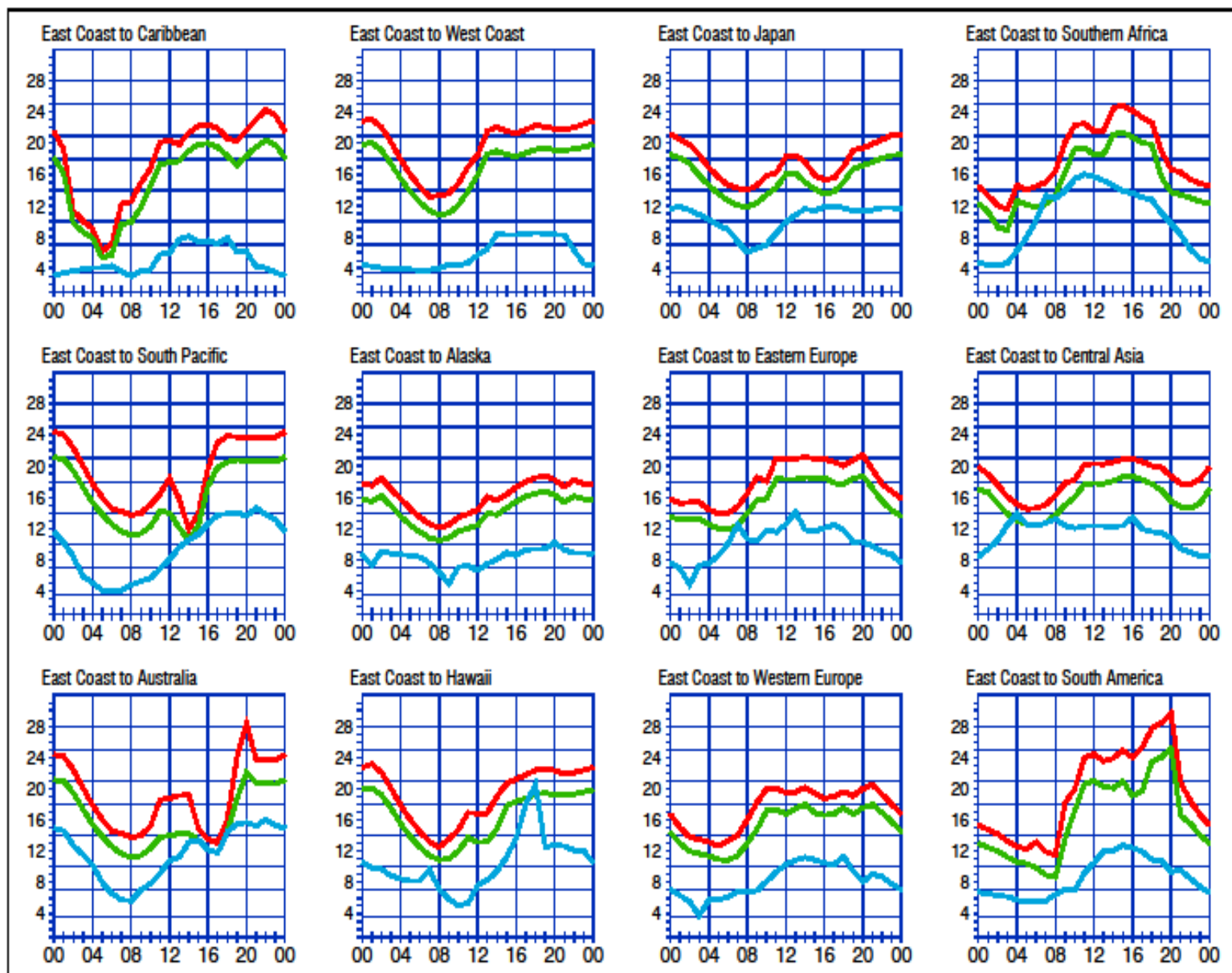
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 July 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 (HPP, 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 1300-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 75. 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 July 2017.

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

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:

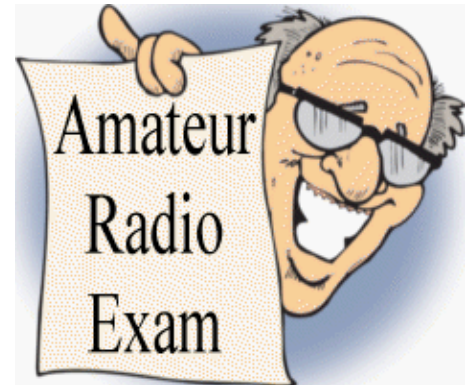
1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash, check, or money order.

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

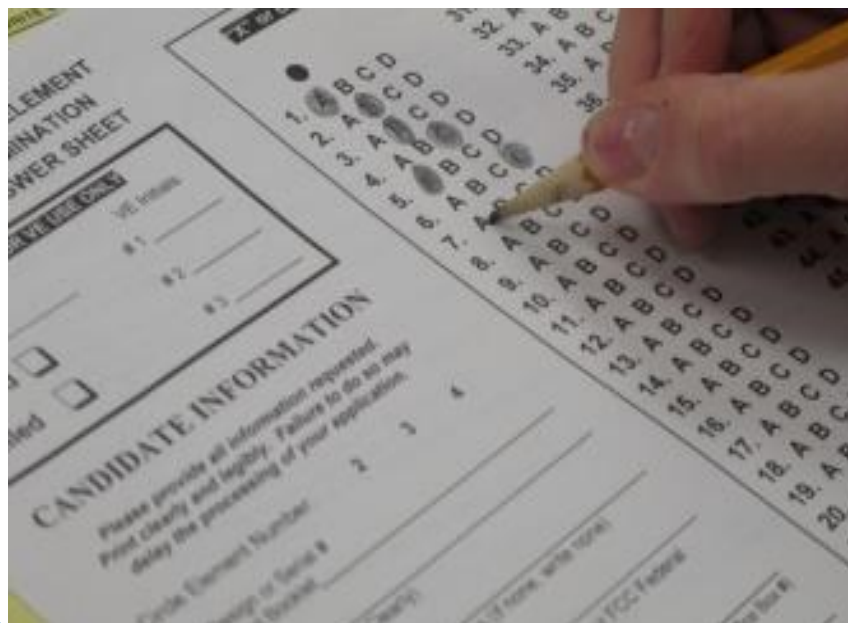


to our newest amateurs.



Hello Steven, Dave and Albert,
Your new Amateur Radio licenses have been issued. Congratulations! Here are the FCC-assigned call letters and license classes each of you has earned:
Steven Hively – KC3JGC, Cranberry Twp, PA, General
Dave Ratliff - KC3JJO, Clinton, PA, Technician
Albert Petruccelli – KC3JJP, Rochester, PA, Technician

You all qualify for free membership to the BVARA for the remainder of 2017, if you wish, as our way of helping you to quickly come up to speed with your issues and with any questions that you may have.



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 | 20.00 | _____ |
| <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



HAMFAIR.

2017 *Our 30th Year*

SUNDAY JULY 30th 2017

For Radio Amateurs Computer &
Electronics Enthusiasts

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER NEW LOCATION



**Unlimited Free Parking with
Indoor Vendors and a Huge Flea Market**

7075 State Route 88, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Mobile Check-In and Information on 145.39 - 600 MHz
North of Ravenna On St. Rt. 88, 7 Miles North of I-76 exit
38 GPS Coordinates : 41° 11' 04.4" N 81° 13' 26.3" W

VE Exams

Bring original and copy of license
Photo ID and Fee



ARRL

Officials
Have questions?
Ask them

**Donation
\$5.00**

**Indoor Tables with electric \$15.00 ea.
If reserved and paid by May.15 \$10.00ea.
Outside Flea Market spaces \$5.00**

Vendor and Flea Market Setup Begins at 7:00am

Main gate opens to public at 9:00 AM

No Overnight Parking or Smoking permitted on School Grounds

Main Prize Drawing 2:30 PM

**Winner need not be present for main prize drawings Non-
licensed winners will receive cash value at our cost Hourly
Drawings and Mobile Check in Prize**

For Reservations or Information & Tickets Contact

JoanneSolakKJ3O, Secretary/Treasurer

Portage Amateur Radio Club Inc.

9971 Diagonal Road Mantua, Ohio

44255 or call 330-274-8240

KJ3O@arrl.net

Copyright

Contest Corral — July 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 0000	1 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, first name, mbr or power	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
1 0000	1 2359	1.8-144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), province/territory or serial	wp.msc.ca/canada-day-contest-rules
1 0000	1 2359	1.8-28	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	yv5rcv.org/hoglasindap.aspx
1 1100	2 1059	3.5-28	DL-DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.drog.de/dldxrtty
1 1400	2 1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RST, serial	arifano.it/contest_marconi.html
1 1500	2 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	www.qrpcc.de/contestrules
1 2000	2 2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
2 1100	2 1700	28	DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.darc.de
3 0001	9 2359	28	10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
3 0800	9 2000	All	IQRP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	www.arimontabelluna.it
3 1900	3 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsghcc.org/hf
4 0100	4 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6 1700	6 2100	28	NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
8 0000	8 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, first name, mbr or power	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
8 1200	9 1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), ITU zone (HQ stations: IARU Society)	www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship
8 1200	9 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9 2000	9 2159	14	CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradocqpcub.org
9 2000	9 2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	www.qrparki.org/contests
12 1900	12 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsghcc.org/hf
15 0700	15 1459	7-28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 3-char code or ITU zone	news.srr.ru
15 0800	15 1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.vkcc.com
15 1200	15 1359	1.8-28	Fold Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub
15 1200	16 1200	3.5-28	DMC RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	digital-modes-club.org
15 1800	16 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
15 1800	16 2100	50, 144	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.cqww-vhf.com
16 0900	16 1600	3.5-14	RSGB Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, power	www.rsghcc.org/hf
17 0100	17 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
20 0030	20 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
22 2000	22 2359	7, 14	SA Sprint Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	sa-sprint.com/rules
26 0000	26 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
27 1900	27 2030	3.5	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsghcc.org/hf
29 0000	29 2359	1.8-50	Fold Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub
29 1200	30 1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA number (if any)	www.rsghcc.org/hf
30 1700	30 2100	7-28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, power or Bumblebee nr	arsqrp.blogspot.com

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.

No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornuocpla.com/contestcal 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. 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.

82 July 2017 ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® www.arrl.org

Bits and Pieces

For the month of July I introduce N3TN, Frank Cole as the “Interview with a Ham” amateur radio operator. I met N3TN Frank on the 145.850 two meter repeater here in Beaver County Pennsylvania. He was my first radio contact with my then, newly acquired FCC Technician License. He invited me to a Ham Club meeting. I met Frank, face to face, at a club meeting of the Triple “A” Amateur Radio Association in Rochester Pennsylvania around February 2014. He was very kind and welcoming like all the Triple A Radio Club members.



Today when I called Frank to ask if I could interview him for the BVARA Newsletter he was very kind and accepted. As I talked to him I felt as though I was talking to royalty in the amateur radio realm. I mean this with much respect and kindness. I was blown away by his knowledge and personal amateur radio experiences. He has been part of many firsts in Beaver County Amateur radio. Frank has been a valuable part of the Amateur Radio scene in the Beaver Valley for many years. As we spoke he shared about his involvement with emergency communications, disaster preparation operations, holding an official Radio Office since 1985, listening to short wave broadcasts with a four ban Hallicrafters radio, being trustee of the Triple A Club 146.850 repeater and the guy you usually speak to when you key-up that repeater. An all-around good guy in my book backed up by my personal interactions with him at field day & meetings I attended with the Triple A club, hamfests and this personal interview.

Frank shared an interesting story with me about a fox hunt he did for the fire department. There was a radio transmitting an open mic on a Beaver County fire department frequency. This basically put that radio frequency out of order! Turns out there was an old radio on a shelf in a Hopewell Auto repair shop that had been used to monitor fire calls for years with no problem... That is until it just oddly started transmitting on its own one day. It just went to jamming the fire department frequency. Frank said it took a while but he found it, contacted the owner and shut off the offending radio with no further difficulties.

As anyone who has interaction with him knows, Frank has a “huge”, “killer” dog. That big dog is usually with him and is a kind of N3TN ham shack mascot. He weighs in at a menacing, intimidating, scale breaking 5 pounds. Tiny is a “big scary dog”. Tiny knows he is a Great Dane at heart. Frank and Tiny are pretty much inseparable.

Another kind thing as we were talking was that N3TN invited me to come to his house and visit his Ham Shack. I feel quite honored. I will take Frank up on that one day.

If you are with-in repeater range you should key up the 146.850 2 meter repeater 131.8 tone and visit with N3TN. You will have a good QSO if you do.

I want to give Frank a heartfelt thank-you for letting me interview him and publishing it in this newsletter. Thanks Frank! 73 My friend.

As always, be safe.

73 KC3BXC

Interview with a Ham

Name : Frank Cole

Call sign and license class: N3TN Extra Class

Year of first FCC License : 1981

Did you ever make a crystal radio? Yes, as a kid. My father was a Radio/TV repairman.

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? Yes... I do right now, as a kid I used a 4 band Hallicrafters.

Did you ever use CB radio? Yes, I was into it in the early days.

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? I saw a station as a kid. It was a big rack mounted radio station. It fascinated me. In 1980 a friend signed us both up for Ham classes at the Beaver Train Station. In 1981 I got my novice, in 1983 my General and about 15 years ago I got my Extra license.

What was your first radio? A Yaesu Tempo One HF transceiver.

What was your first antenna? A Hustler 5TBTV Trap Vertical.

What is your current antenna & radio? A Kenwood TS590SG radio. A deck mounted Eagle vertical, an off center fed dipole for 80-6 meter and a tower mounted triband are my current antennas.

What are your favorite modes to operate? I like them all. I like to use 2 Meter repeaters.

Your most memorable contact? The MIRS Russian space station and the International Space Station.

What was your most fun contact? Local contacts, there is a great group of people on 2M and 6M.

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios) Meeting people and helping new folks get started, gently leading in the radio hobby.

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? Yes, I did one for Beaver County. A fire frequency was jammed by a malfunctioning radio.

Do you use a logging program? (what is it) Most times I use a hand written log. I use QSL.NET for serious logging.

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? Yes, I like the way they work. They are just a little expensive.

Do you use automation with your Ham Radio? Yes, USB and Cat. I use Signal link for digital mode.

If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why? I don't think I would change much. It's going pretty well. I would like to get more young folks involved .

Where do you see ham radio in ten years? Mostly digital, just like most things in this world. I think CW will always be with us. It is old, but still good and growing.

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



Some Interesting Links



Check this out. Just put the crosshairs on the green dots and hear radio stations all over the world.

<http://radio.garden/live/clarion-pa/91-7-wcuc-fm-the-clutch/>

From Adam KG3L

More than just DX news <https://dxnews.com/>

Hats and shirts <https://www.etsy.com/shop/tshirlady2008>

Ham related items http://www.hamcrazy.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=14

How Ham radio works <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/ham-radio.htm>

What is Ham radio <http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio/>

<http://www.eham.net/newham/whatis>

<http://searchmobilecomputing.techtarget.com/definition/amateur-radio>

<https://heilsound.com/heil-amateur-radio/more-heil/ham-fun/>

For All Radio Operators

Whether at home or



on the roam



The Amateur's Code

CONSIDERATE ...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL ...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE ...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY ...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED ...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC ...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.