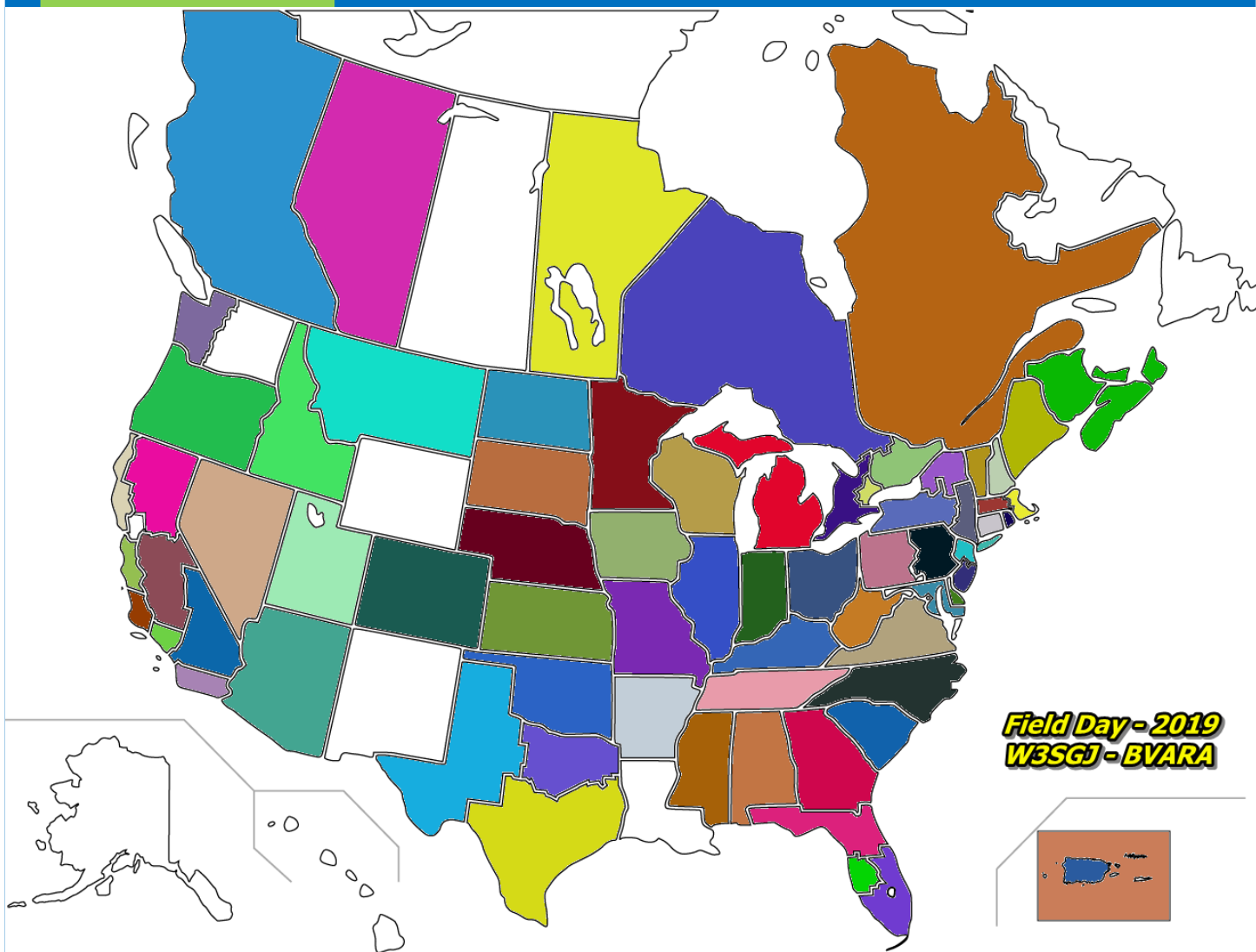


THE eQRM

JULY 2019



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover : It was a lovely 2019 Field Day!

We had the best weather in over ten years of consecutive field days!

Special thanks are extended to Norm Trunick, K3NJT for his thoughtfulness and generosity in purchasing and distributing BVARA Amateur Radio Field Day commemorative coffee mugs for each member in attendance. It's much appreciated! 'Breakfast with Norm' on Saturday was all so wonderful.

See pages 14-15 for more Field Day details...

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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

The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2019. 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

2019 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, 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).

Club Meetings 2019

Jul 11

Aug 24 Corn Roast (no club meeting)

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

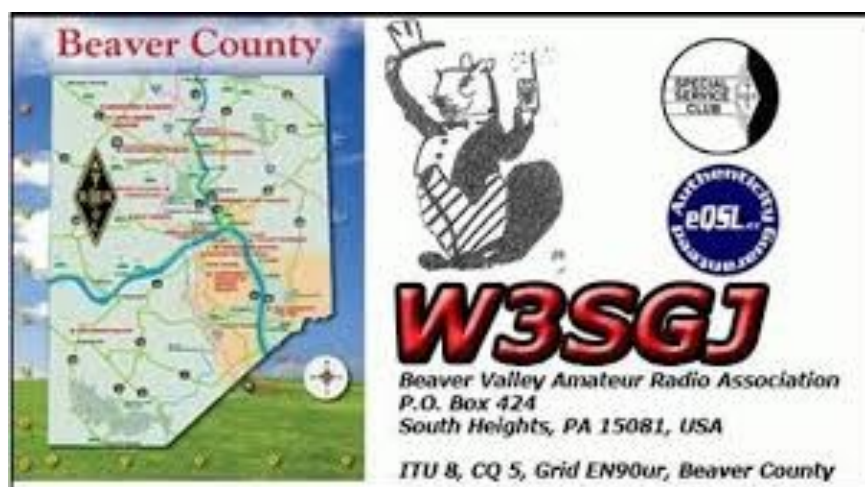
Dec 07 Christmas Party
(no club meeting)

Jan 09 2020

Feb 13

Mar 12

Apr 08



This Month

This Month:

Speakers:

John Shannon, K3WWP and Mike Brennan, KC2EGL

Topic:

Operating QRP CW with Simple Antennas

Including:

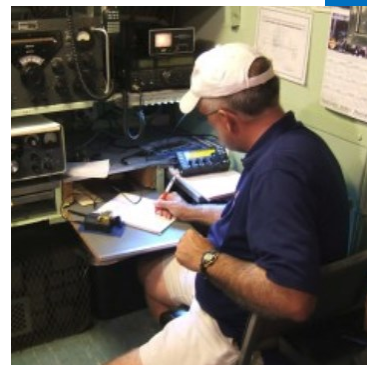
Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month deals with an interesting presentation and hands-on demonstration of operating QRP CW. The Beaver Valley ARA has invited John Shannon, K3WWP from Kittanning and Mike Brennan, KC2EGL from Brookville to attend our meeting on July 11, 2019 to give a demo on the use of CW/QRP/simple wire antennas in all kinds of ham radio activities such as rag chewing, DXing, contesting, and homebrewing. John will use his web site at <http://k3wwp.com/> which has been dedicated to such activities since it was founded on September 8, 1996 to give pointers on and answer questions about the topics. Mike will then concentrate on the North American QRP CW Club and various types of portable operation. The demo will close with the use of a KX3/PX3 rig to make QSOs from the 911 Center with a basic outside antenna and low power. Hopefully conditions will cooperate.

John is the co-founder and former Vice-President (#0002) of the *North American QRP CW Club* (NAQCC) that promotes the use of CW at QRP power levels on the ham bands. His total number of QSOs (all CW with QRP and simple wire antennas) since returning to the air in 1993 is over 71,000 of which over 23,000 are DX QSOs. Included are QSOs from 225 DX entities, all 50 states, all continents (including Antarctica), and 36 of 40 CQ zones. That's over 90,000 QSO's since 1963 (all CW except for 3 SSB and 2 AM QSO's in 1969 testing other hams' rigs for them.) In addition, John wrote a monthly QRP column for nearly 20 years for the *FISTS* newsletter, *Keynote* until retiring in 2014.

But wait, there's more! John has a continuous streak of over 9,000 days of daily QSOs which is nearly 25 years of daily contacts. This is one presentation you won't want to miss!



John, K3WWP



Mike, KC2EGL

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 CAFman, 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 (HFF, 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 67. 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 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

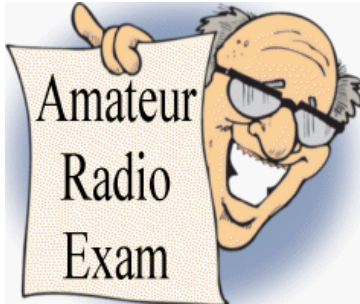
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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.

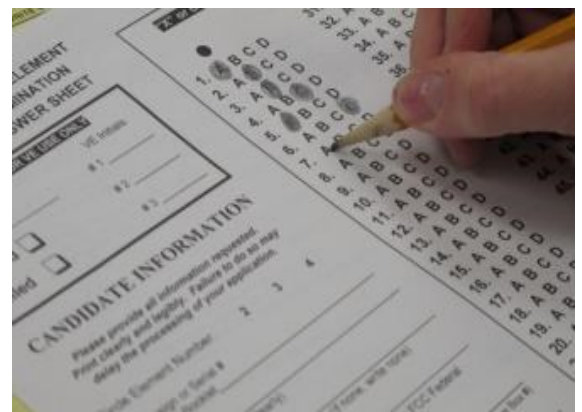
New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



Here is the successful participant in our VE process this past month:

There were no candidates tested at the June session of the BVARA.



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



Date Change

Free Parking

Free Coffee

Somerset County PA Hamfest

Presented by the Somerset County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1241
Somerset, PA 15501

Talk-In on K3SMT Repeaters
147.195+ PL 123 and 443.250+ PL 123



ARRL
Sanctioned

Sunday, July 21, 2019 – 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Somerset County Technology Center
281 Technology Drive, Somerset, PA 15501

Grounds Open at 6:00 AM for vendors and tailgaters.

Entrance Fee: **Adults \$5.00, children under 13 FREE**

Indoor Tables: Pre-Registration Required

Outside Tailgating: **FREE**

ARRL VE Testing
at 10:00 AM
Fee \$15.00

Main Prizes by KJI Electronics

FIRST PRIZE — Yaesu FT-891 HF/50Mhz All Mode Mobile

SECOND PRIZE — FTM-7250DR 50W C4FM/FM Dual Band Mobile

THIRD PRIZE — MFJ-4230MV Power Supply

FOURTH PRIZE — FT-4XR Dual Band FM HT

Main Prize Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20

Plus additional Main Prizes from DX Engineering, ARRL and others!

Door prizes from MFJ, NSFJP Software, & many more!

Plus a Black Box Drawing

KJI Electronics ((1111))



Created By Amy



**No-cost Pre-Registration
REQUIRED**
for indoor space
contact Stew, AK3J at
ak3j@arrl.net or 814-444-0637
for flyer updates visit
www.k3smt.org

Directions from PA Turnpike Exit 110

**Go straight off
ramp and turn left
at 4th stoplight onto
Route 31 East**

**Go 2.0 miles and
turn left onto
Technology Drive.**

**The Hamfest will be
on your right
behind the building**



For more local events and attractions see: www.laurelhighlands.org
for Hamfest updates www.k3smt.org and
www.arrl.org/hamfests/somerset-county-arc-hamfest

Radio Sport

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

Contest Corral

July 2019

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 2359	1.8-144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	VE: RS(T), province/territory; Non-VE: RS(T), serial	wpurc.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules
1 0001	7 2359	28	10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
1 0800	7 2000	All (no WARC)	IQRP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	www.arimontebelluna.it/contest.htm
1 1900	1 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgboc.org/hf
2 0100	2 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqp.blogspot.com
4 1700	4 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
4 1900	4 2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
6 0000	6 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.fistsna.org
6 0000	6 2359	1.8-28	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	yv5ro.v.org/reglasindep.aspx
6 1100	7 1059	3.5-28	DL-DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.drog.de/dldxrtty
6 1400	7 1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RST, serial	arilano.it/contest_marconi.html
6 1500	7 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	qpoc.de/contestrules/qqpe.html
6 2000	7 2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40-Meter Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
10 1900	10 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgboc.org/hf
13 0000	13 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.fistsna.org
13 1200	14 1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), ITU zone (HQ stations: send IARU Society)	www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship
13 1200	14 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
15 0000	15 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
20 0030	20 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
20 0700	20 1459	7-28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 3-char code or ITU zone	sm.ru/championat-rossii-po-radiovyazi-na-kv-rtio
20 0800	20 1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	wia.org.au/members/contests
20 1200	20 1359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, 4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
20 1800	21 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC/D.C.	www.ncjweb.com
20 1800	21 2100	50, 144	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.cqww-vhf.com
20 2100	20 2259	7, 14	SA Sprint Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	sa-sprint.com/rules
21 0800	21 1600	3.5-14	RSGB Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, power	www.rsgboc.org/hf
21 2000	21 2159	14	COC Great Colorado Gold Rush	CW	RST, SPC	coloradoqppclub.org/contests
22 0100	22 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qpcontest.com/pigrun
24 0000	24 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
25 1900	25 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgboc.org/hf
27 1200	28 1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA number (if any)	www.rsgboc.org/hf
28 1700	28 2100	7-28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, power or Bumblebee nr	www.arsqp.blogspot.com
29 1300	30 0400	1.8-28	QCC Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	www.qpp-labs.com/party.html

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 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,

Field Day was a great success! There was a hiccup that threatened to cause our entire field day activities to be cancelled. We miss-calculated the date of field day months ago when we reserved a shelter location for the weekend after the correct Field Day date. Pam called the park reservation folks and the Ham Frequencies reflected down on us favorable; we did not exceed the maximum usable frequency. Whew.



Things just got better each step of the way. The Parks and Recreation people came; power washed the shelter & tables, the power got turned on... we got an additional station/frequency on the air. It just got better and better. The weather was great. What more could we ask for, and why would we? Ahh... good food, good friends, good weather and Ham Radio. Does it get any better? Sure, we can look forward to next year!

If you missed the BVARA Field Day 2019 don't fret; we are already planning next year's activities. Come to the next BVARA meeting and volunteer for next year. Think about something that we haven't done in the past and present it. Maybe you could just put aside some cash and donate something good to eat next year. We have a whole year to plan. Get some good thoughts going and share them.

I have established a reputation for being Mr. Safety. I bring you an oldie but goodie. My safety tip is "When working on an antenna always wear safety glasses and a hard hat". I had a friend walk into a piece of an antenna sticking straight at him. He didn't see it till it pierced his eyeball... Please, think safety always, plan ahead and be careful as you enjoy your radio hobby.

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



Hey anything new out there?

We have had some great input to this page.
Please, I am waiting for more.



Of Interest to Field Day Enthusiasts

Field Day Summary of Results

The ARRL Field Day for the BVARA this year almost didn't happen. A date mix-up that was discovered about a week before the event almost caused us to cancel the event. With some quick phone calls and emails, we were able to secure Shelter 4 instead of Shelter 1 for the entire weekend of activities. The reason for the availability was due to an unrelated issue that required the power to the shelter to be shut down since before the season began. Shortly before Friday afternoon, Duquesne Light restored the power and the park maintenance staff was in cleanup mode of all of the picnic tables and general site cleanup activities when we first arrived. Our two extra generators would not be needed.

The weather on Friday through Monday was the best weather conditions that I have experienced in over 10 years of continuous Field Day operation. Temperatures were in the mid to upper 70s during the day with low humidity and into the upper 40s or low 50s at night with blue skies the entire weekend. Gentle breezes during the daylight hours added to our wonderful weather conditions.

Flexibility was the best word to describe our activities. At the last minute we added an 80-meter station and antenna with power provided by one of our two inverter power generators. A new 'kite' antenna that was described in the July 2019 issue of *QST Magazine* was quickly modeled with EZNEC 6.0 and then constructed just days before the big event. It's performance on 20 meters enabled many sections to be added to our log. Jack's 40-meter vertical kept us all busy almost the whole time of operation. With an all-ICOM lineup of transceivers and Russian band-pass filters from DX Engineering, inter-station interference was never detected. The N3FJP software and the high-power wireless hotspot and server with UPS backup worked flawlessly.

Many visitors including hams and non-hams stopped by. So did David J. Losier, our District Attorney for Beaver County. With seven different operators logging in as needed, others helped with either logging activities, encouragement, or with donuts and beverages to sustain activities.

As is always the case, we learned some new lessons, we enabled and encouraged people to try the equipment and new antennas, and had a great time as a result.

Rich – K3SOM



Of Interest to Field Day Enthusiasts



BVARA - W3SGJ 3A WPA Summary Comparison of Field Day Results

Performance to Compare	Possible	2018	2019
Number of States	52	36	45
US Sections	71	53	64
Canadian Sections	12	3	9
Total ARRL Sections	83	56	73
Total Contacts	-----	280	320
Amateur Bands Used	-----	6	4
Operating Time (Hrs:Mins)	24:00	14:24	14:35
QSOs/Hour	-----	19.4	21.9