

THE eQRM

JUNE 2017

2017 ARRL Field Day is June 24-25

ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the cover:

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 35,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

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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

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

Jun 08

Jul 14

Aug 12 Corn Roast

Sep 14

Oct 12

Nov 09

Dec 09 Christmas Party

Jan 11

Feb 09

Mar 08



This Month

BVARA Club Feature Presentation

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:

Newly Licensed Ham! Now What?

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month describes a situation that most newly licensed hams are facing. Now that they have their license, where do they go from here? With so many possible paths to take, which path is the ‘yellow brick road’ that can lead to fun and enjoyment and possibly personal fulfillment?

First, we’ll look to the new Technician-Class ham and examine some possible paths they may wish to take. Some questions should be asked and personally answered first to help provide some guidance to these new ‘rookie’ hams. Even before equipment and antennas are considered, these questions really become helpful in the many selection processes and decisions that will first be needed for this ‘journey’. There are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers here, a different path can easily be chosen or an old path revisited with little repercussions. Have no fear, ‘Elmer’ is here!

Few barriers exist – including age, sex, education, or handicaps just to name a few. After all, you passed that Technician test and the door is now wide open for you to explore.

If you’ve just upgraded with the General-Class exam, you probably are much more focused on new areas that you want to pursue now that your privileges have increased. It’s time to take aim on that new direction that you want to take.

But wait, there’s more! What equipment should I buy and what about a good antenna? This can be almost overwhelming. 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



Photo Courtesy of ARRL Publications

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.

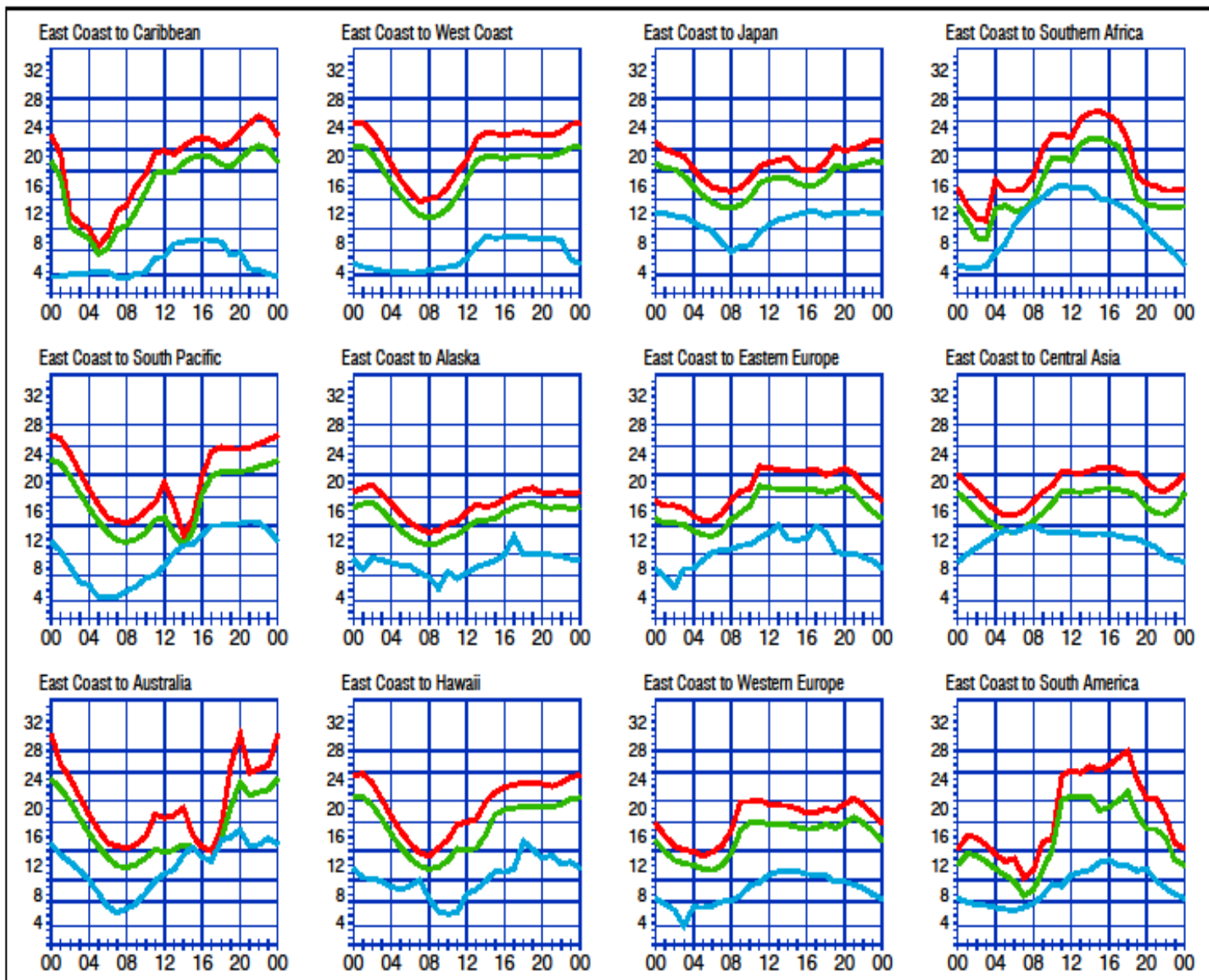
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 June 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 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 June 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:

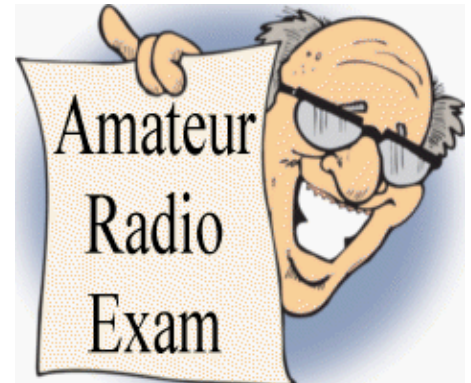
1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash, check, or money order.

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



to our newest amateurs.



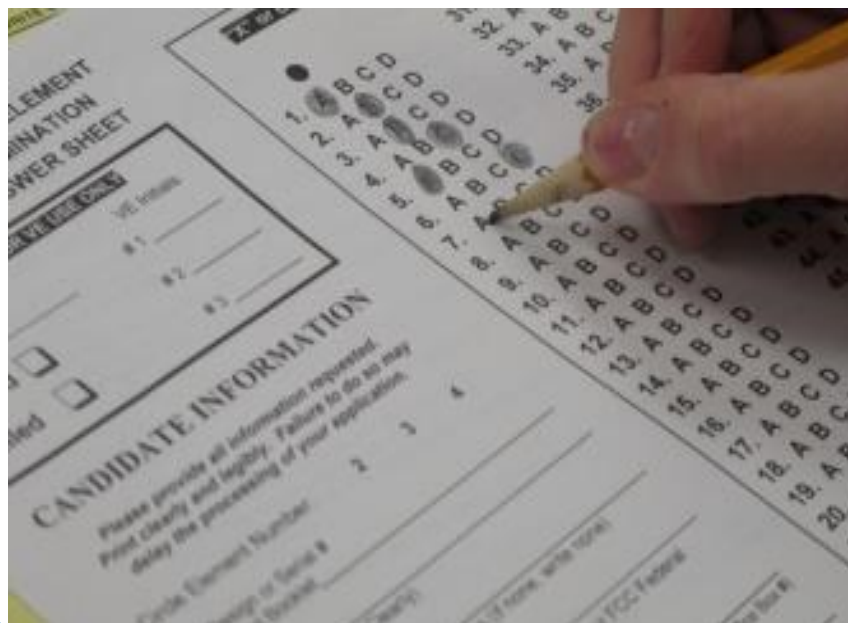
Congratulations to Mike, Steven, and Bill for all passing the Technician Class exam and to Bill for passing the General Class exam, as well.

Mike Fosnaught – KC3JGD, New Brighton, PA, Technician

Steven Hively – KC3JGC, Cranberry Twp, PA, Technician

Bill Applegate – KE8GZA, Weirton, WV, General

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.)

- ☐ Technician
- ☐ General
- ☐ Advanced
- ☐ Extra Class

Name _____

Address _____

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

w3ach.org

General Admission
(under 16yrs.free)

8:00am-1:00pm \$5.00

Tailgating: \$10.00
(setup starts at 6:00am)

Indoor Tables:
\$15.00 each
(\$10.00 each one after five)
(setup starts at 6:00am)
(Special request setup may be
available Fri. 6:00pm-9:00)

ARRL VE TESTING
Registration starts at 1:00 SHARP
(1:00-3:00pm)

For Tables/Advance
Registration or more
INFO: Email
hamfest@w3ach.org

Location:
Cumberland Valley
Engine & Machin-
ery Association
(CVEMA) Show
Grounds

1501 Criders Church Road
Chambersburg PA 17202

Talk-In 147.120 +100pl



ARRL Atlantic
Division WPA
Ver cvarcflr 3.0

CVARC HAMFEST 2017

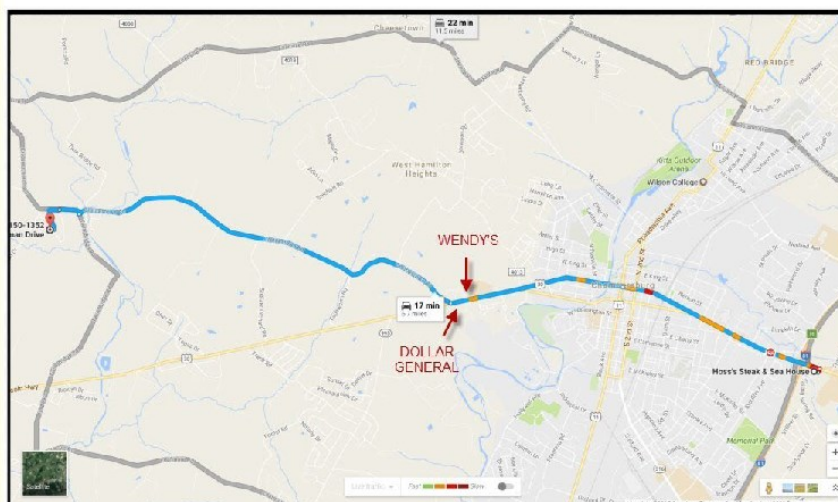
Saturday
June 17th 2017



Reserve your indoor tables NOW! Contact hamfest@w3ach.org for more info!

- > Large Show grounds
- > Large tailgating area and plenty of shade
- > LOTS OF INDOOR TABLE SPACE
- > Hourly Door Prizes, Main Prizes @ NOON (must be present to win.)
- > Concessions and snack bar available!
- > Seminars/presentations/demos and more!
- > VE Testing on Site @ 1:00 P.M (Walk-ins welcome)
- > Rain or Shine! (No over-nighting on grounds)

Twin Bridges Campground Nearby <http://www.twinbridgecampground.com/>



Decimal Degrees: 39.943833N, 77.744833W
GPS coord: N39°56.63, W77°44.69

Hamfests & General Announcements



Field Day June 24-25 2017

**Start: 1800 UTC Saturday
End 2100 UTC Sunday**

Always the fourth full weekend in June

For information contact:

Field Day Information
ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111
fdinfo@arrrl.org

(860) 594-0236

** The BVARA will once again be setting up our Field Day activities at Shelter No.1 at the Old Economy County Park. Come and join us, you're always welcome!*

Contest Corral — June 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	1700	1 2100	28	NRAU 10-Motor Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net
3	0000	4 0400	1.8-28	PVRC Reunion	CW Ph	PVRC: 1st yr of membership, name, QTH, call sign when joined PVRC. Non-PVRC: name, QTH.	pvrc.org/reunion/reunion.htm
3	0000	4 2359	28	10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest	Dig	Name, SPC, mbr	www.ten-ten.org
3	0400	4 2000	3.5-28	DigiFest	Dig	RST, 4-char grid square	www.microw.net
3	0600	3 0800	7, 14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.nu/contest/wakeup
3	1200	4 1200	3.5-28	SEANET Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	seanet2017.com/seanet-contest
3	1300	4 1300	50	UKSMG Summer Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, 6-char grid square	uksmg.org/contest.php
3	1500	4 1459	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.darc.de
3	1500	4 1500	7-50	Dutch Kingdom Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	dkars.nl/index.php?page=rules
3	1500	4 1500	1.8-28	RSGB National Field Day	CW	RST, serial	www.rs.gboc.org/hf
3	1600	4 0400	1.8-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.alabamاقso-party.org
5	1000	5 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Motor Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rs.gboc.org/hf
6	0100	6 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqp.blogspot.com
9	1000	9 1059	3.5, 7	HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	radioamator.honlapopites.hu
10	0000	11 1559	3.5-28	DRCG WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, CQ zone	www.drcg.daidrcgww
10	0600	11 0600	3.5-28	VK Shiras Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Shiras or CQ zone	www.wia.org.au
10	1100	10 1300	14, 21	Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	jafcc.org/lapsprint/aprule.txt
10	1200	11 1200	3.5-28	Portugal Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), District or serial	rep.pt/portugal_day_contest
10	1200	11 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
10	1500	11 1500	3.5-28	GACW/WWSA CW DX Contest	CW	RST, CQ zone	www.wvsacontest.org/english
10	1600	11 1600	50	REF DDFM 6-Motor Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, 4-char grid square	concoours.e-e-l.org
10	1800	12 0259	50 and up	ARRL June VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrl.org/june-vhf
11	1700	11 2200	All	Cookie Crumble QRP Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, cookie, name	w3atb.com/cookie-crumble
12	0000	12 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com/SSS
14	0030	14 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
14	1000	14 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Motor Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rs.gboc.org/hf
17	0000	18 2359	1.8-28	All Asian DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, 2-digit age	www.jar1.org/English
17	0000	18 2359	50	SMIRK Contest	CW Ph	Mbr (if any), 4-char grid square	www.smirk.org
17	1200	18 1159	3.5-28	Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, Oblast or serial	urdx.org/rtty
17	1200	18 1200	1.8-28	ARR BPSK83 Contest	Dig	RST, serial	cctarr.org
17	1400	17 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power, 6-char grid square	www.agcw.org
17	1400	18 1400	50	IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, locator	concoours.e-e-l.org
17	1500	18 1500	1.8	Stow Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	www.klon.net/stow
17	1600	18 0200	3.5-28	West Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	qsl.net/wvsa/qwqp
17	1800	17 1959	1.8-50	Feld Hall Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, QTH, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhallclub
18	0900	18 1500	50	WAB 50 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intemip.net
18	1800	18 2359	3.5-14, 18, 21, 24, 28, repeaters	Kids Day Contest	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	www.arrl.org/kids-day
19	0100	19 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpccontest.com/pigrun
22	0030	22 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
22	1900	22 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Motor Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rs.gboc.org/hf
24	0000	25 2359	7-28	Battle of Cambobo International Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YV state or serial	radioclubvalenciaeac.org.ve
24	0600	24 1700	3.5-28	UFT QRP Contest	CW	RST, QRP/QRO, mbr or "NM"	uft.net/reglement/eng.pdf
24	1200	25 1200	1.8-28	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, EA Province or serial	concoours.e-e-l.org
24	1200	25 1200	3.5-28	Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	Dig	RST, Oblast or serial	www.izmail-dx.com
24	1800	25 2100	All	ARRL Field Day	CW Ph Dig	Number of transmitters, class, Section	www.arrl.org/field-day
28	0000	28 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.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.hornucopia.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.

Bits and Pieces

For the month of May I introduce Bob Winkle, N3AZZ, as the “Interview with a Ham” amateur radio operator. I saw Bob at a BVARA club meeting. As part of the meeting everyone is given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Bob’s last name was familiar to me. Bob’s father and my father were Boy Scout leaders. My older brother knew Bob and his father very well. The next meeting I got to know N3AZZ much better. We compared notes on our lives. We have more than Ham radio in common.



Interviewing Bob today was fun. His love of radio started when he was young. He and his father built a crystal radio together. I could hear in Bob’s voice how much fun & respect he and his father had for and with each other. Bob got on the air with CB radio in 1976. One of the guys he talked to had two brothers that were Hams.

One night I was visiting my CB buddy and heard his brother on the Ham radio sending and receiving Morse code. This really got me interested in getting my FCC License. Learning CW was easy for me, but copying sent code took practice. I was copying 5 words per minute with proficiency. I thought I needed to do better for testing. I figured I would be nervous at test time, having a little extra speed could only help me. The FCC test only required 5 WPM. I practiced 7WPM. When I was ready to test I went to Dick Hanna’s house (a current BVARA Club member) to take the Code Test. I passed. Next I took my Novice written test. In those days there was no Internet. I had to impatiently wait for weeks... I had been listening to Ham radio but couldn’t transmit. Finally! I heard from the FCC (Dear Robert Winkle...), I got my ticket! You talk about someone excited; I was the original poster child! My first contact was VE3LLA from Canada. I still have his QSL card in the basement.

After so many years in Ham radio Bob is still excited about Ham radio. Building antennas seems to be his love. Just one look in his back yard confirms it! Recently Bob became a Volunteer Examiner. This shows me he wants to help others find their way in the Ham radio hobby. If you are working to get your first FCC license or preparing to upgrade your license come see Bob Winkle and the other VEs at the 911 Center in Ambridge Pennsylvania on the second Thursday of the month BVARA club meeting day. Let me be the first to encourage you to **“Get it done”**. Come take your FCC test with us or find a VE test location near you. Get your license and get on the air, it’s fun! There are so many facets to Ham radio, you will easily find something that interests you.

As always, be safe.

73 KC3BXC

Interview with a Ham

Name : Bob Winkle

Call sign and license class: N3AZZ Extra Class

Year of first FCC License : Probably January 1977

Did you ever make a crystal radio? I actually did! The antenna coil, germanium diode, etc. came from TV Parts in Rochester Pa. on Ohio Avenue. Do you remember TV Parts in Rochester...

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? No

Did you ever use CB radio? Oh yes, I was KOW2815 around 1976-77.

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? One of the guys I talked to on CB had two brothers that were Hams. I was listening to one of them copy & send CW. This caused me to get interested. I learned CW and took my test at Dick Hanna's house. It took weeks to hear from the FCC. I was so excited!

Did you ever build a Ham Radio? No. But my father & I built a Heathkit radio listen to Broadcast ... It may have been short wave. As a preteen this was good stuff!

What was your first radio? A Yaesu FT401, it was all tubes.

What was your first antenna? A 40M dipole & tried 15M with not much luck. A tower mounted beam was next.

What is your current antenna & radio? A Flex 6500 & 2 dipoles, a ground mount vertical and more.

What are your favorite modes to operate? CW, making contacts is so easy.

Your most memorable contact? VE3LLA, 1977 my first contact on CW, I still have his QSL card.

What was your most fun contact? Local contacts. Like Rich Soltesz. One from a while ago was Jim Merkel of 3WS 94.5 Broadcast radio (disk jockey) we communicated on 10 Meters.

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios) Just getting on the air & rag chewing also antenna building.

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? No? I have searched for activated aircraft emergency beacons.

Do you use a logging program? (what is it) Yes, master log N3FJP.

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? No, not unless my Flex broke.

Do you use automation with your Ham Radio? Yes, both for my radio and antennas.

If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why? I would increase sunspot activity Why? To improve propagation of course.

Where do you see ham radio in ten years? I would like to see more young people involved in the radio hobby, I think more will get involved in the years ahead.

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



I received an email for Adam Horniak as a direct result of last months “Interview with a Ham” section. There was another Navy radio man that read our newsletter and wanted to contact Adam.

I passed the email on to Adam.

This is exactly the kind of activity I encourage with the BVARA Newsletter. If you have something for me please write to me. I would be happy to hear from you!

kc3bxc.73@gmail.com

Some Interesting Links



Shortwave interest	http://tedrandall.com/pages/home.php
What is Ham radio	http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/what-is-ham-radio.htm
Ham testing tips	http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/study-tips.htm
Digital radio info	http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Category:Digital
Batteries for almost everything	http://www.batteriesamerica.com/hamradio.htm
Inexpensive QSO cards	https://www.cheapqsls.com/
Propagation information	http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/propagation.html
Navy training film Morse code	https://youtu.be/iC5RQNSSZH0
Antenna discussion	http://www.qsl.net/wb1gfh/antenna.html
Radio awards site	http://www.dxawards.com/

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.