

THE eQRM

MARCH 2023



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: March in Western Pennsylvania can still bring some winter mix. Be assured Spring is on the way. I can't wait! Come on Spring, hamfests and warm weather!

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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

2022 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).

2023

Mar 09

Apr 13

May 11

Jun 08

Jul 13

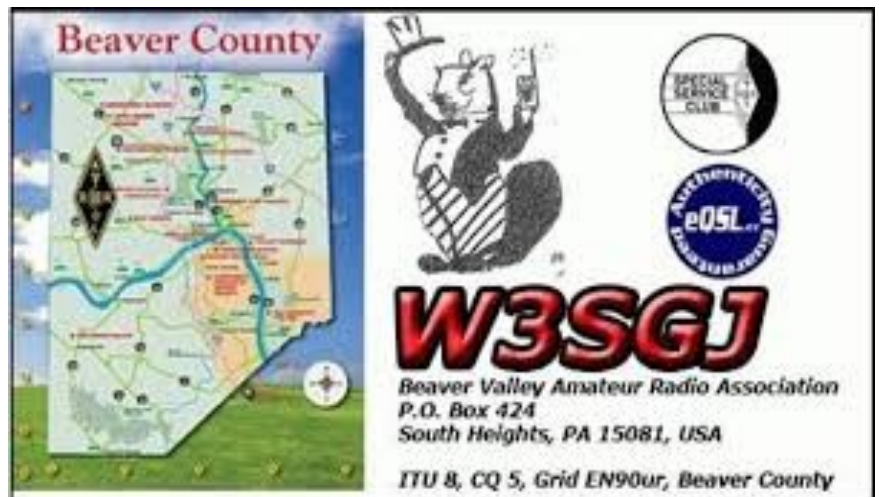
Aug 12 Corn Roast

Sep 14

Oct 12

Nov 09

Dec 09 Christmas Party



This Month

March Special Session:

Speaker: Club Members and You

Topic: Roundtable Help with Questions from You

What's It All About:

New to ham radio? Are you wondering about new digital modes with your equipment? Maybe you have questions about antennas, setting up your station, how to make an HF contact, or how to interface your computer to your ham equipment. Perhaps your questions are even more basic like rules and regulations, which bands are best to use, where to find operating resources like band plans, what to do after you make contacts and how do you save or conveniently create a useful log. Maybe you have problems with annoying noise or need help in selecting some equipment. The list goes on and on . . .

Once again, we've been approached as a club to provide help in answering your questions. At our monthly club meeting, a roundtable discussion with your participation is planned. You don't have to be a member of the BVARA; you may just have a question or two that's been bothering you about our ham radio hobby. In fact, you could be new to the hobby or a seasoned veteran with questions. Whether it's technical or about rules/regulations or operating or equipment, we want to help you. We'll start our roundtable around 7:15 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center at 351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003. Please join us with your questions!



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!



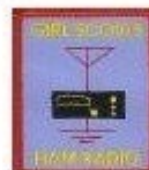
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

**See you
Thursday at**



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 only.
6. Your FRN Number. (free from the FCC, call for details)



New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :



February 2023 VE Test Session Results

Our February VE Test Session had two successful candidates, with their achievements of obtaining a license and upgrading a license class. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly.

Our testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on March 9th, 2023.

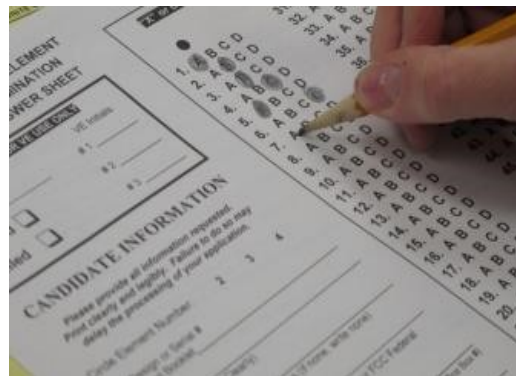
Congratulations to:

- Pete Brown, KC3VOK, Burgettstown, PA passed the Technician exam
- Andy Zelazny, KC3VOI, Aliquippa, PA passed the Technician exam

A huge thank you to our Volunteer Examiners :

Reg Genola – W3REG,
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP,
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP,
Bart Stack – KB3NFM
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ
Frank Witkowski - W3FJW

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



NOARS Winter Hamfest

Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9 AM - 12 PM EDST

Lorain County Community College

John A. Spitzer Conference Center

Reaser Grand Room

1005 N. Abbe Rd.

Elyria, OH

===== TIME CHANGES to Daylight Savings at 2 AM Sunday =====

Setup at 7:00 AM EDST

Doors open at 9:00 AM EDST

Air-conditioned indoor vendor sales

Free Parking - Handicap Accessible

ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST

On-site VE Testing – Pre-registration preferred; walk-ins welcome.

To register, contact Elaine, KC8FOS, at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com or 216-337-4235

Testing begins at 9 AM; entry stops at 11 AM.

Just \$7.00 General Admission - under 12 free

6 ft. indoor vendor tables - \$10.00

Vendor Discount: 20% discount for 6 or more tables Non-refundable Prepayment due by

February 1, 2023

PRIZES

Hourly Prizes starting at 10 AM

Need not be present for Main Prizes but must be present for all other prizes.

Mobile check-ins and directions on **146.70- (PL 110.9) NOARS** repeater

For table reservation, contact:

Carl Rimmer W8KRF at 216-256-9624 (before 9PM)

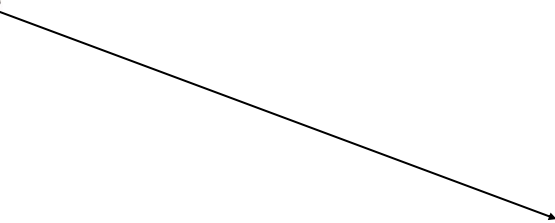
or

Email: winterhamfest@noars.net

To find out more, go to the NOARS website: http://www.NOARS.net/?page_id=1062

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



Of Interest to All

BVARA Coming Attractions



March

Roundtable Participation by All

- Who – Hams or potential new hams
- Topics – Questions about any topic relating to ham radio
- When – March 9th BVARA Club Meeting, 7:00 PM

BreezeShooters Groundwave Digital Contest

- FT-8 and PSK31 have been used by most participants
- 8 PM to 11 PM local time, 28.074 MHz FT-8, 28.120 MHz for PSK31
- Forms and Rules available at <http://breezeshooters.org/ns/groundwave-contest/>

POTA Activations

- Moraine State Park, South Shore at an available shelter
- March 25th 9 AM local time
- Little Beaver Creek State Park, OH at the RC Field & North Country Trail
- March 28th 1 PM, local time ('Twofer')

April

BVARA 100th Anniversary Special Event Station and Celebration

- W3S for the week of April 15 through April 22, 2023
- Operate from the Brady's Run ball fields on April 15 and 16 to open the week
- On April 22, Rich, K3SOM, has invited us to operate from his home to close the week
- Signup required for club members to use W3S/1-25 during the week from their homes

May

- **2023 Dayton Hamvention** See: <https://hamvention.org/>
- *This Just In:* Possible Trip to GBRT, Cass Railway, POTA in WV May/June TBD

June

- Summer ARRL Field Day Activations



Of Interest to All



The BVARA is celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2023. We have secured special event call sign W3S for the week of April 15 through April 22, 2023. Our plan is to operate from the Brady's Run ball fields on April 15 and 16 to open the week. On April 22, Rich, K3SOM, has invited us to operate from his house to close the week. We will need operators and equipment for both weekends.

During the week, club members are encouraged to operate from home using the special event call. Anyone interested would need to sign up for a specific Special Event Call Sign. For example, W3S/1, or W3S/14. Multiple calls can appear on the same band and mode. Operators would also need to log contacts on a program of their choice, as long as it can export an ADIF file.



Field Day 19??



Tony, K3AHP and Rich, K3SOM being interviewed on WBVP Radio.

Of Interest to All

BVARA HD SpiderBeam Construction Project

Construction efforts on the portable tri-band Yagi began this month with two sessions at the large work area that Doug, K3GTX acquired with the home that he recently purchased.

After a team discussion on some ambiguities in the Construction Manual, our team made progress quickly. On Saturday, March 11th, a final checkout of element and rope lengths will be made prior to one last session to completely assemble and make any final adjustments that may be required.



Tom, N3XC, Doug, N4YKQ, Mick, N3OJP, Jim, KC3IXE, Jack, KZ3Z, and Doug, K3GTX begin discussions on interpreting the Construction Manual.



Of Interest to All



Doug, N4YKQ and Doug, K3GTX do the element cutting.



Tom, N3XC, Rich, K3SOM, and Mick, N3OJP
gladly hold down the Steel tape measure.

Of Interest to All



Mick, N3OJP, Rich, K3SOM, and Tom, N3XC
attach multi-purpose spacers while
Doug, N4YKQ, and Jack, KZ3Z cut support ropes.



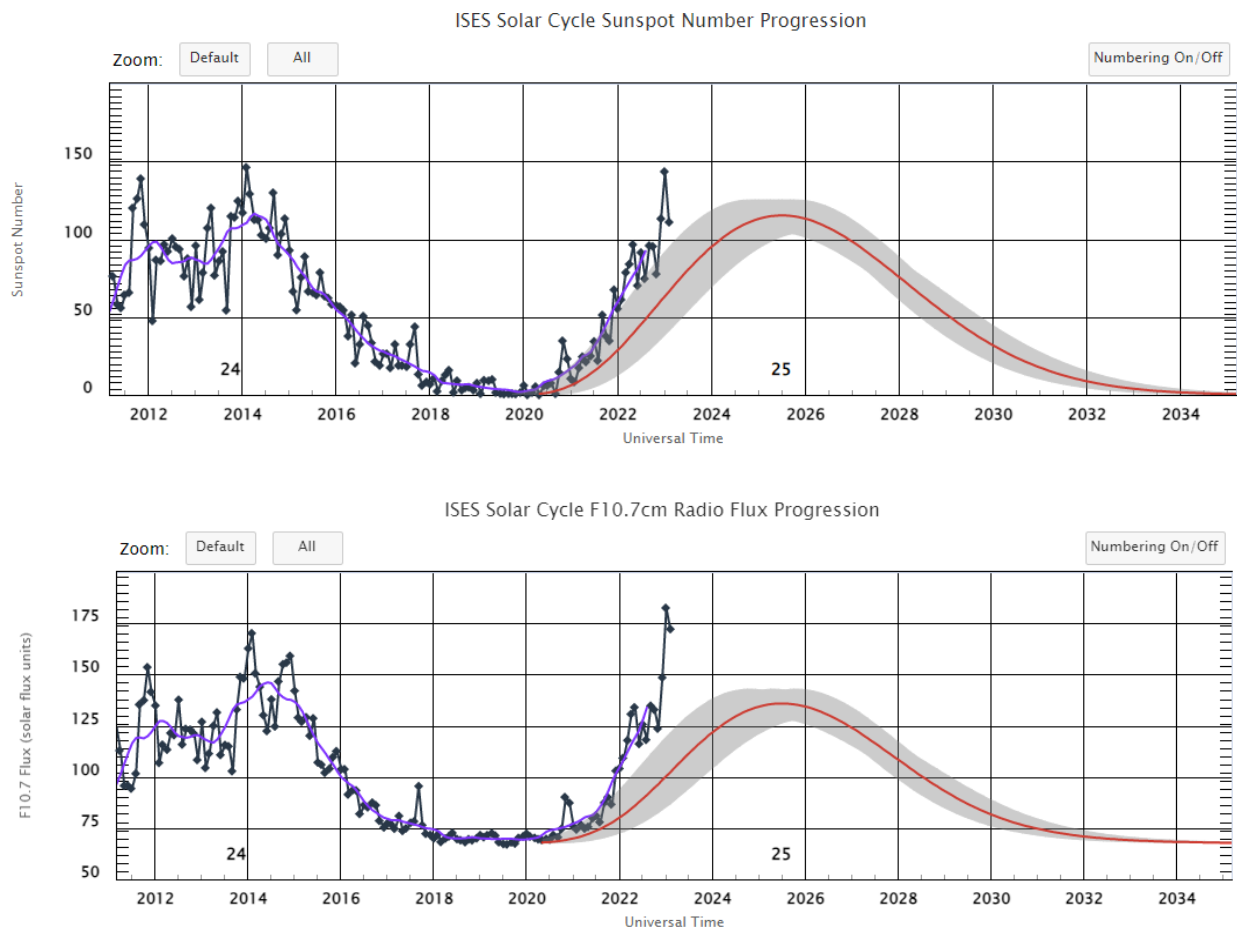
Doug, N4YKQ and Jack, KZ3Z read and interpret
meaning from the 'epistle' of Construction Manuals.

Solar Cycle Progression – Cycle 25

“February was another strong month for Solar Cycle 25. According to NOAA, the average sunspot number was among the highest of the past 10 years.

Originally, forecasters thought Solar Cycle 25 would be about the same as Solar Cycle 24, one of the weakest solar cycles in a century. February's sunspot numbers are the latest sign that Solar Cycle 25 will exceed predictions. In fact, Solar Cycle 25 has outperformed the official forecast for more than 24 months in a row.

Solar Maximum is not expected until 2024 or 2025, so the solar cycle has plenty of time to strengthen even more, bringing X-flares, geomagnetic storms and auroras.” From <https://www.spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=02&month=03&year=2023>



“In both plots, the black line represents the monthly averaged data and the purple line represents a 13-month weighted, smoothed version of the monthly averaged data. The mean forecast for the current solar cycle (Cycle 25) is given by the red line. . . (The gray shaded region) takes into account expected uncertainties in the cycle start time and amplitude.” From <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression> March is looking better than February, so stay tuned!

Of Interest to All

For those who missed last month's meeting, there was a presentation from Christine, N3LRG, president of the Steel City ARC.



Hookstown, PA 15026

Sat March 18 - Sun March 19, 2023

They are coordinating communications for a 36-hour event in Raccoon Creek State Park the weekend of March 18 and 19, 2023. This event is a 100-mile ultra-marathon that is run on the trails around the park. They still have about 19 positions to fill. Hams from several clubs in the tri-state area have signed up, so this is a good time to meet people from the surrounding area as well as supporting a Beaver County event.

Here is the link for more information:

<http://www.w3kwh.net/Rabid/>

Doug, N4YKQ

Of Interest to All



No matter how long or short in time we all have been Ham operators, it is good to remember our roots. The amateur's code below is always a great way to operate our stations, even today.

The radio amateur is:

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; offers friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kind 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 skills are always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Radio Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

We are quickly getting to Winter's finish line. I can hardly wait! I am so looking forward to some warmer Spring weather. I am planning some antenna projects. I have had a date with a horizontal loop for forever. Well not really, it just seems like it. I have to get that Dadgum Pole in the ground first. That Pole has been refusing my offer to plant it in the ground and use it for one of the supports for my HF horizontal loop for so long. Perhaps this spring all the universe will cooperate. May the stars align and the weather cooperate so I can get that Dadgum Pole where it belongs, planted in the back yard!

How about you, has there been an upgrade you have wanted to make to your station that just evades your best thought out plans?

There is so much to be involved in with our BVARA Club. There are outings, Thursday morning breakfasts, Monthly Club meetings, POTA activations, local hamfests and more. I encourage you to get involved, bring a non-ham with you and have some fun. Do you have an idea for a Club outing? Please suggest it. Let's have some more activities.

Did anyone get to the hamfest last month. As life would have it, I didn't get to go. I got a bad cold. But I am planning to get to go to the next one. I really enjoy going to hamfests. I enjoy the drive. I like to see different places. I get to talk to so many folks I haven't seen all winter. I like to look at all the things for sale too. On my drive home I usually stop for something to eat. I try to go to a mom & pop place and order something unusual for me to dine on. I just have a good time with the whole event.

By now you know that I am always the lead for SAFETY! Please plan every detail of your projects with safety as your main objective. If you have any doubts... STOP! Ask for help, maybe get some advice, choose a different day, re-plan your project for a safer outcome. Please enjoy our hobby and be safe.

I hope I have encouraged you to get out and enjoy your amateur radio hobby. Get some spring time sunshine on you and have a great beginning to this year's radio related events!



Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

March 2023

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	Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	1700	1	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
1	2000	1	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid	www.ukicc.com/80m-rules.php
1	2300	5	2300	3.5-14	AWA John Rollins Mem. DX Contest	CW	RST, equipt type, year	antiquewireless.org
2	0000	3	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
2	1800	2	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
2	2000	2	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
3	0145	3	0215	(see rules)	NCCC RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial, name, QTH	ncccsprint.com
3	0230	3	0300	(see rules)	NCCC Sprint	CW	Serial, name, QTH	ncccsprint.com
3	2000	3	2100	1.8-28	KIUSN Slow Speed Test	CW	Max 20 WPM; name, SPC	www.kiusn.com/sst.html
4	0000	5	2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	Ph	WAVE: RS, SP; non-WAVE: RS, pwr	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
4	0000	12	2359	3.5,7,21,28,144	Novice Rig Roundup	CW	Name, QTH; (optional rig)	www.novicegroundup.org
4	0600	4	0800	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix previous QSO	qrp.ru/contest/wakeup
5	0700	5	1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
5	1200	5	1400	7	SARL 40m SET	Ph	RS, serial	www.sarl.org.za
5	1200	5	2200	3.5	NSARA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Nova Scotia county or serial	www.nsara.ca
5	1800	5	2200	3.5	WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/Contests.php
6	1630	6	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Mem. (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
6	2000	6	2130	3.5	RSGBC 80m Club Champ., Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
7	0200	7	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqrp.blogspot.com
7	1900	7	2100	3.5	AGCW YL-CW Party	CW	RST, serial, "YL" (if YL), name	www.agcw.de/contest/yl-cw-party
11	0000	11	2359	3.5-28	YB DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	rtty.ybdxcontest.com
11	1000	12	1000	3.5-28	RSGBC Commonwealth Contest	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
11	1200	12	1200	3.5-28	EA PSK63 Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province code or serial	concursos.ure.es/en/eapsk63
11	1200	12	1200	28	South America 10m Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), CO zone	sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules
11	1200	12	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11	1400	11	2000	3.5-28	AGCW QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, mbr or "NM"	www.agcw.de/contest/qrp
11	1500	12	1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid	www.kkn.net/stew
11	1500	12	2100	3.5-28,50	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph	RST, OK county or SPC	www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm
11	1800	12	0559	3.5,7	Tosla Mem. HF-CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, 4-char grid	www.radiosport.org.rs
11	1900	12	1900	1.8-28	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ID county or SPC	www.pocatelloarc.org/idahogsoparty
12	0000	12	0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
12	0700	12	1100	144	UBA Spring Contest, 2m	CW Ph	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
12	0700	12	1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	CW	RST, serial, "P" (if mbr)	www.firac.de
12	1800	13	0100	All	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph	WI county or SPC	www.warac.org/wqp
13	0000	13	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group 2nd Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
13	1630	13	1729	3.5,7	OK1WC Mem. (MWC)	CW	RST, serial	www.memorial-ok1wc.cz
15	2000	15	2130	3.5	RSGBC 80m Club Champ., CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16	0000	17	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
16	0030	16	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
16	1900	16	2059	3.5	BCC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), T-shirt size	www.bavarian-contest-club.de
18	0200	20	0159	3.5-28	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, 4-dig UTC	www.bartg.org.uk
18	1200	19	1200	1.8-28	Russian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), oblast or serial	www.rdxcc.org
18	1200	19	1200	3.5-28,144	FGAA Cup, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.site.irc.asso.fr
18	1400	18	1800	144,432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr class, 6-char grid	www.agcw.de/contest/vhf-uhf
18	1400	19	2359	No WARC	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Serial, VA county or SPC	www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party
19	0700	19	1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
20	1800	20	2059	3.5,7	Bucharest Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	yo3test201x.blogspot.com
21	1700	26	1700	3.5-28	CLARA Chatter Party	CW Ph	RS(T), name, SPC	clarayl.ca/chatter-party
23	2000	23	2130	3.5	RSGBC 80m Club Champ., SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25	0000	25	2359	1.8-28,VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	g4foc.org/qso-party
25	0000	26	2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm
26	0600	26	1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6m	CW Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
27	2000	27	2130	3.5-14	RSGBC FT4 Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
29	2000	29	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid	www.ukicc.com/80m-rules.php