

THE eQRM

MARCH 2024



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania



Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: The redwing black birds are back in Western Pennsylvania. This is a winter migrant back for the coming summer!

Photo by: Wendy Duchene

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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

2024 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

Mar 14

Apr 11

May 09

Jun 13

Jul 11

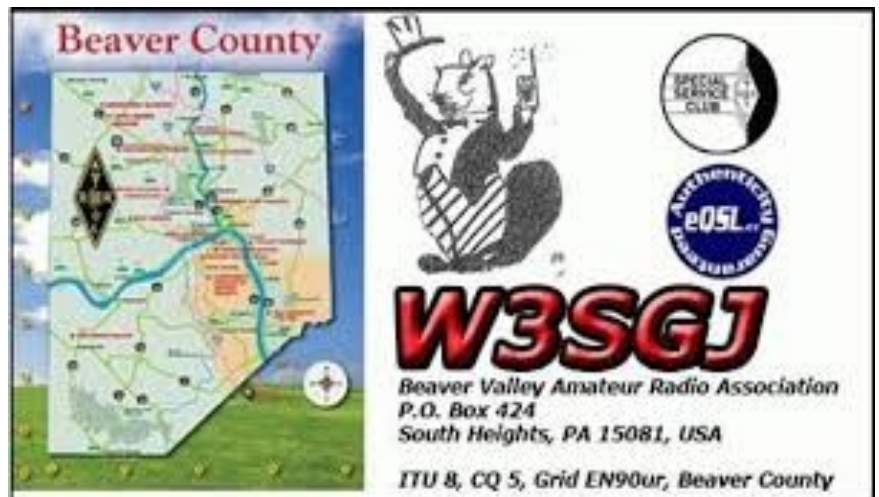
Aug Club Corn Roast

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

Dec Club Christmas Party



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Matt Heere, N3NWV

Topic:

POTA – What It's All About

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month covers a growing Radio-Sport called POTA. Matt Heere, N3NWV, was invited to enlighten us about this exciting activity. Matt was 1st licensed in the early 90's as a Tech Plus Class ham. After a 15-year hiatus from the hobby, he rediscovered ham radio. Matt pulled the old HT out of the box, wondered if it still worked, and threw a call out on the 146.85 machine. There he met Frank, N3TN, and his new ham radio life began as an Extra Class ham.

Matt will be talking about the beginnings of POTA when a nonprofit organization was founded in 2017 to continue POTA and how it has taken off since then. He will then describe the vocabulary that an Activator and Hunter use as well as the rules that help both participants to succeed with their goals. Matt plans to review some very important resources that enhance operating, spotting, and many other aspects of POTA. Depending on the goals of the activator, preparation of not only equipment but also setting up a game plan for multiple activations will be discussed.

Depending on these activator goals, his station has to satisfy the needs of the planned activation. For example, backpacking to a remote site requires much more consideration of equipment weight, what to pack in terms of equipment, power sources, antennas, and so much more. On the other hand, if the chosen park, trail, or State Game Land has a picnic table close to a parking area, station considerations may be completely different.

Matt plans to talk about what kind of 'toys' do these park-goers generally play with. Trade-offs of features Vs. cost always seem to rise, but hams are ingenious and creative when required!

But wait, there's more! Matt has been asked where he feels POTA will change over the next few years. A hobby with a tie-in to technology seems to always be changing as new equipment, new modes, and new concepts arise. This is one presentation you won't want to miss.

Matt's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed in the early 1990's
Created Over 120 YouTube Videos on Woodworking,
3D Printing, and Various Ham Radio Topics

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.



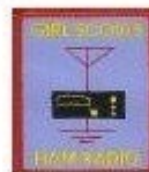
See you

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 :

February 2024 VE Test Session Results



Our February VE Test Session had two candidates, with both achieving upgrades of their 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 14th, 2024.

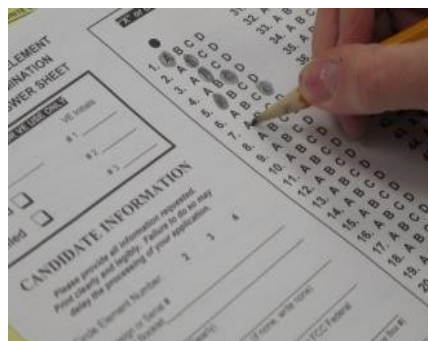
Congratulations to:

Keith Custard, KC3TMC, Extra Class, Beaver, PA
Floyd Traud, KC3VSB, General Class, Clinton, PA

If you hear them on the air, please congratulate them on their achievement!

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 – KC3TZT,
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ, and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW



73 from Rich Soltesz – K3SOM, VE Liaison



Hamfests & General Announcements



WEARSfest 2024

Westmoreland Emergency Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

Formerly the Foothills Amateur Radio Club and the Chestnut Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Saturday, March 9, 2024, 8:00AM to 1:00PM

Greensburg Masonic Center, 349 Donohoe Road, Greensburg

GPS Coordinates: N40°18'49.94" W79°29'22.82"

Talk-in on: 147.180, +.600, PL131.8

Visit the club's website for latest information: www.wc3ps.org

MAIN PRIZES

- First Prize: Xiegu G90 HF 20W SDR Transceiver
Second Prize: Radioddity DB25-D Mini DMR Mobile Radio
Third Prize: Quansheng UV-K5 Walkie Talkie

Main Prize Tickets: \$5:00 each

Bulk Ticket Pricing: 3 for \$10, 7 for \$20, 15 for \$40, 35 for \$75, 75 for \$100

Door Admission Tickets: \$5.00 each

Door Admission Ticket includes: Chances to Win Door Prizes

Hamfest Table Reservation Form – Please Print Clearly

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) ____-____ Call Sign: _____

Make checks payable to:

WEARS

P.O. Box 1084

Latrobe, PA 15650

Tables w/o Electricity: ____ X \$10 = ____

Indoor table space is limited.

Tables w/ Electricity: ____ X \$15 = ____

First come first served.

Tailgating \$5, weather permitting.

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS, TICKET SALES AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Abe (N3BAH), 412-357-0076 or Sam (KE3PO), 724-689-2096

email: wc3ps@comcast.net

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

Of Interest to All



Coach

Trip to the

Dayton Hamvention

Good afternoon, everyone,

The Triple 'A' Amateur Radio Association here in Beaver County is sponsoring a coach trip to the Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio on Saturday, May 18, 2024. This is a 50-passenger commercial coach (with on-board rest room), and will leave from Beaver County early in the morning of the 18th, make a stop for breakfast in the Zanesville area (I believe Denny's), then proceed to the Hamvention. We will spend the day there and return home that evening.

The cost for the trip is \$85; this includes the coach and your ticket to the Hamvention, and believe me, that's a bargain! Food and gratuity for the driver are not included (we will do a pass the hat for the driver's tip).

Space is limited to the first 50 people that make paid reservations; if you're interested in going, please contact:

Bill Bozek, N2MQK

Cell: 724-709-5986

Email: n2mqk_pa@yahoo.com

If you are unable to reach Bill for some reason, you can contact me at my information below.

Remember, this is first come, first served and reservations are coming in; don't miss a chance to attend this fantastic Hamvention. Don't delay! Reserve today!!!!

Thanks, and have a great day!!!

73,

Dom Bedolatti, N3EJL

President, Triple 'A' ARA, Inc.

ACS/ RACES Officer

ARRL/ ARES Emergency Coordinator,

Beaver County, PA

724-987-3018

Of Interest to All

Rabid Raccoon 100 Ultra Ham Radio Volunteers Are Needed

This March 16 & 17 marks the 3rd annual Rabid Raccoon Race. Volunteer ham radio operators support the **300 plus runners**. They run a course of over 100 miles. Last year more than 50 people ran 100 miles.

There are some major changes this year. The race location has moved to a new park, it is now in the Brady's Run Park. Brady's Run Park is in Beaver County, just north of Beaver Falls. This park looks a lot like Raccoon State Park with hills and a lake. The Second major change is all the Aid Stations are in buildings this year. Gone are the tents that were dangerously close to the 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 is even an over night shift. The runners run though the night and a half marathon will be starting at midnight.

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 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 detailed information as we get closer to March 16 & 17.

Your duties will primarily be radio communications. The aid stations will have cooks that will feed you. There will be plenty of snacks to enjoy and the "world famous pickle juice". (Don't worry, there are other things to drink, but the runner love the juice!)

So please check out this link for more information:

w3kwh.net/Rabid

Christine Rial

Oakdale, PA



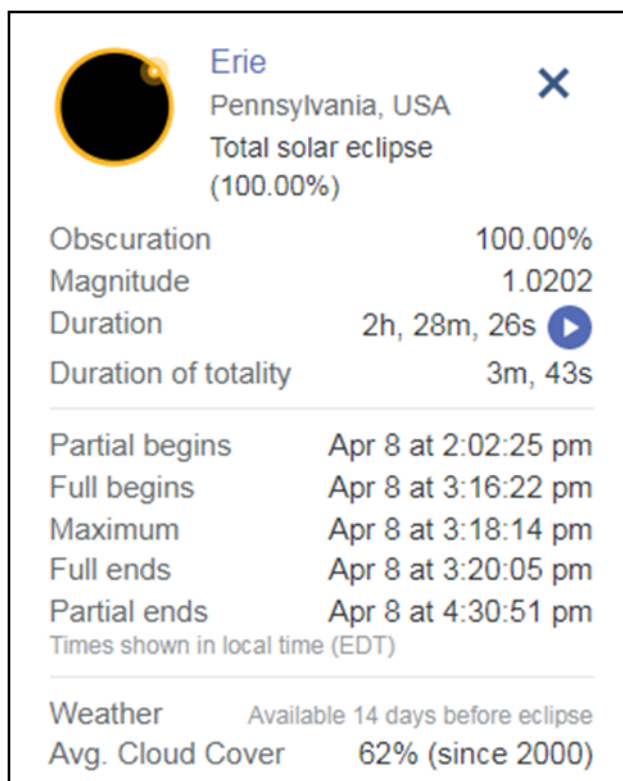
Of Interest to All

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



Eclipse Map — [April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse](#)



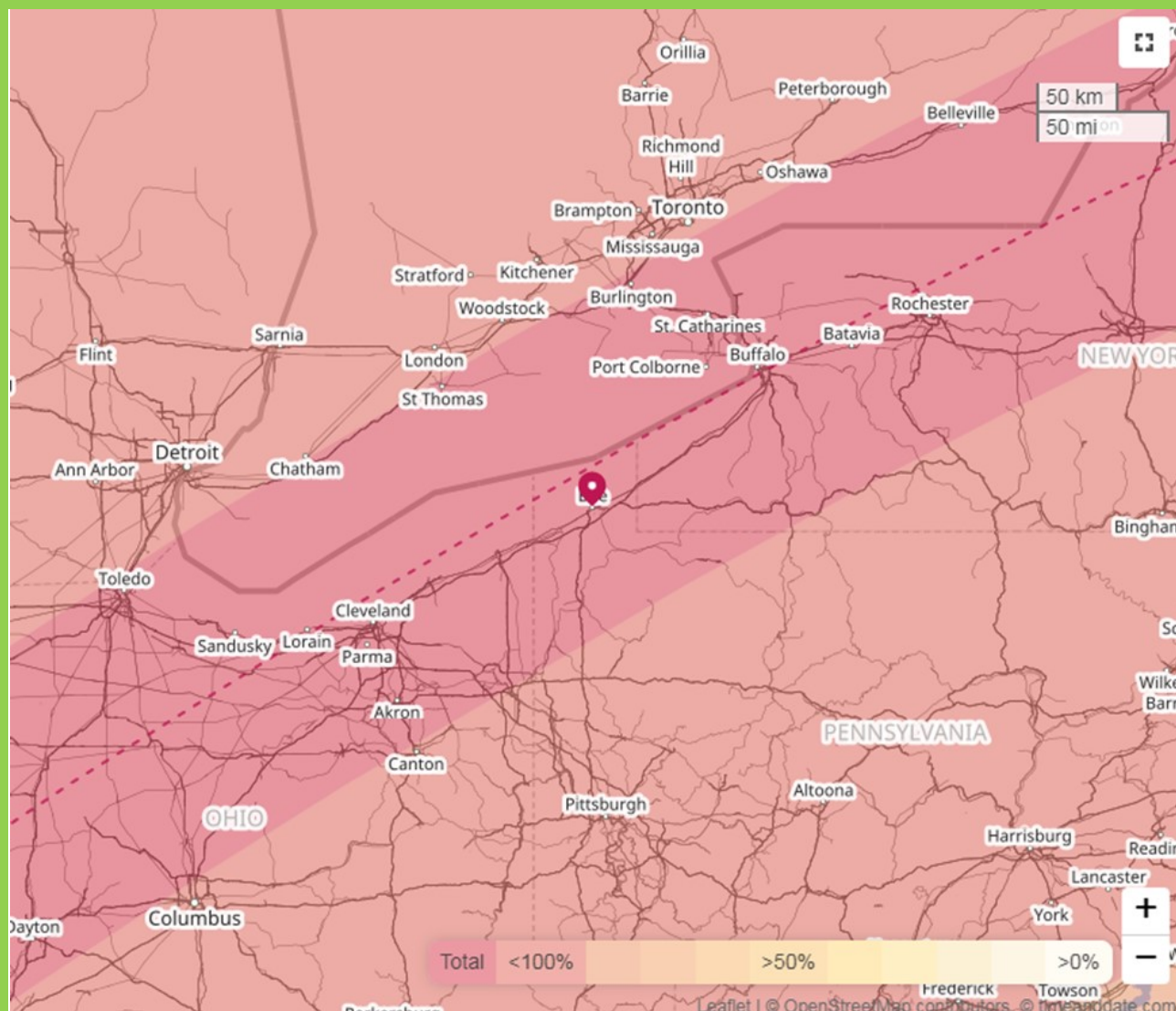
A total eclipse for most of the locations within about two hours from where you live may only be visible for one or at most two times within your lifetime. Furthermore, Erie has cloud cover about 62 percent of the time on April 8th. If the weather forecast looks favorable for Northwest Pennsylvania, travel to the area could be the event of your lifetime.

The map (on the next page) shows the visibility in our area of the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The darker band shows the area where the totality of the eclipse can be observed while the lighter bands show where the partial eclipse will be visible.

Below the map are four examples of techniques that can be used to safely view the eclipse without damaging your eyes. Several of the projection techniques are very safe while providing a good view of the eclipse as it progresses.

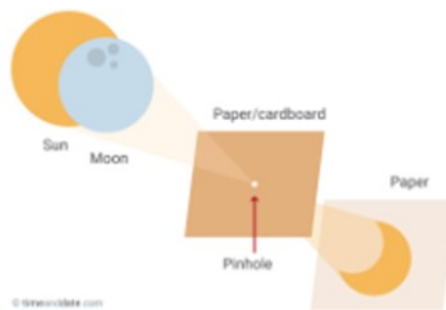
From the times given above for the area around Erie, PA, the total eclipse time will only last for approximately four minutes. The total event will last for about two and a half hours.

Of Interest to All



Safely See a Solar Eclipse

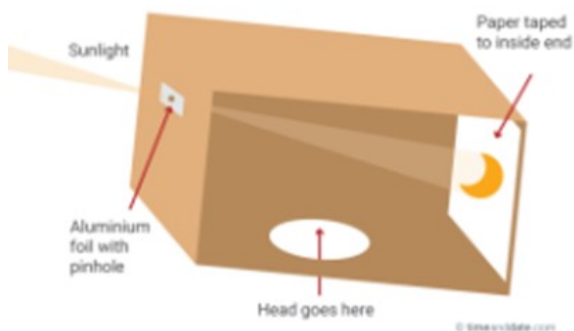
Protect your eyes during a solar eclipse. Sunglasses don't work.



Make a Pinhole Projector

Make a simple pinhole projector using 2 pieces of card or paper to safely watch a projection of a solar eclipse.

Of Interest to All



Make a Box Pinhole Projector

Instructions on how to DIY a pinhole projector using a cardboard box and household items to safely see a solar eclipse.



Make a Solar Eclipse Projector

Make a Sun projector a pair of binoculars or a telescope to safely watch solar eclipses or a planet transit.

References and Additional Details: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/2024-april-8>

Submitted by : Rich Soltesz

Of Interest to All



The BVARA will be welcoming Bob Nu3Q to speak at our March Club Meeting for approximately fifteen minutes. He will be informing us about the event and recruiting volunteers to provide radio communication during the event.



**2024 DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh
Marathon**

May 5, 2024

Of Interest to All

BVARA



March

WEARS-Fest 2024, March 9th, Greensburg

Rabid Raccoon Race, Bradys Run Park, March 16th – 17th

POTA, POTA

CQ WW WPX Contest SSB, March 30th – 31st

April

TRARC 52nd Hamfest/Computer Show, April 7th, Elizabeth

POTA, POTA

May

Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention, May 17th – 19th, Xenia, OH

POTA, POTA

June

BreezeShooters Hamfest, Butler Farm Show Grounds, June 9th

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me to feel better. It was terrible being sick for so long. Thanks to praying friends, I am feeling fine now.

There will be a Hamfest this month! I think I will be going. I have a couple of things that have to happen before I can plan to go. I hope you get to attend and have a wonderful time. In my hobby priorities, hamfests come in right after Summer Field day as my favorite radio things to-do, listening, then talking, are my most favorite. How do your favorites list in order of priority? I forgot about antenna building, Club activities like antenna parties & get-togethers like regular club meetings and setting up new station equipment... there sure is a lot of fun I forgot about. I invite you to come have fun with us too! Feeling better sure has gotten me fired up about our radio club activities and radio stuff in general! I hope some of my excitement rubs off on you.

The results of the Winter Field Day for our Club are here. Good job! I wish I had been feeling better so I could have contributed too. I know it is always a good time of radio, good food and great friendship. You all most likely know how much I look forward to Summer Field Day. I am like a child at Christmas. It is something I will never outgrow. I get all worked up when we start organizing about who will be doing this, who will be getting that, who will bring this and what kind of stations we will be setting up.... I get excited just talking about it! Okay I am sufficiently enthusiastic, let's get going! Oh, it's not time for field day yet. Well, okay, then let's hurry and get ready for the next Club activity!

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

March 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 Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2	0000 3 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or pwr	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
2	0000 10 2359	See rules	Novice Rig Roundup	CW	Name, QTH; (optional rig)	www.novicerigroundup.org
2	0600 2 0600	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
3	0700 3 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
3	1200 3 1400	7	SARL 40m SET	Ph	RS, serial	www.sarl.org.za
3	1200 3 2200	3.5	NSARA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Nova Scotia county or serial	nsara.ca
3	1800 3 2200	3.5	WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/Contests.php
4	2000 4 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
5	0200 5 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqrp.blogspot.com
5	1900 5 2100	3.5	AGCW YL-CW Party	CW	RST, serial, "YL" (if YL), name	www.agcw.de
7	0000 8 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
7	1800 7 2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net
9	0000 9 2359	3.5-28	YB DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	rtty.ybdcxcontest.com
9	0800 10 1000	50,144,432	SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid	www.sarl.org.za
9	0800 10 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of transmitters, category, SA province or "DX"	www.sarl.org.za
9	1000 10 1000	3.5-28	RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
9	1200 10 1100	3.5-28	DIG QSO Party, SSB	Ph	RS, mbr or none	diplom-interessen-gruppe.info
9	1200 10 1200	3.5-28	EA PSK63 Contest	PSK63	RSQ, EA province code or serial	concursos.ure.es
9	1200 10 1200	28	South America 10m Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), CQ zone	sa10m.com.ar
9	1400 9 2000	3.5-28	AGCW QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, mbr or "NM"	www.agcw.de
9	1500 10 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid	www.kkn.net/stew
9	1500 10 2100	3.5-28,50	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), OK county or SPC	k5cm.com/okqp.htm
9	1800 10 0559	3.5,7	Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, 4-char grid	www.radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs
9	1900 10 1900	1.8-28	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), ID county or SPC	www.idahoqsoparty.org
10	0000 10 0359	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
10	0700 10 1100	144	UBA Spring Contest, 2m	CW Ph	RST, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
10	0700 10 1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	CW	RST, serial, "F" (if mbr)	www.firac.de
10	1800 11 0100	All	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	WI county or SPC	www.warac.org
11	0000 11 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
13	2000 13 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Champ., CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
13	2300 17 2300	3.5-14	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	CW	RST, equipt type, year	www.antiquewireless.org
16	0000 16 2359	1.8-28,50	PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day Contest	Dig	SPC	www.podxs070.com
16	0200 18 0159	3.5-28	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, 4-dig UTC	www.bartg.org.uk
16	1200 17 1200	1.8-28	Russian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), oblast or serial	www.rdxo.org
16	1200 17 1200	3.5-28,144	F9AA Cup, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.site.urf.asso.fr
16	1200 17 1200	1.8-28	Africa All Mode Int'l DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.sarl.org.za
16	1400 16 1800	144,432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, mbr or "NM"	www.agcw.de
16	1400 17 2359	All	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Serial, VA county or SPC	www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party
17	0700 17 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be
17	2300 18 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
18	1800 18 2059	3.5,7	Bucharest Digital Contest	FT4	RST, serial	yo3test201x.blogspot.com
18	2000 18 2130	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
21	0000 22 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
21	0030 21 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
21	1900 21 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
23	0000 23 2359	1.8-28, VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	g4foc.org/qsoparty
23	0000 24 2359	1.8-28	Maidenhead Mayhem Sprint	CW Ph Dig	2-char grid field	w9et.com/rules.html
24	0000 24 0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
24	0600 24 1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6m	CW Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if ON)	www.uba.be/en
28	2000 28 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Champ., SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
29	1900 30 0300	3.5-28	Sasquatch Stomp	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or ZIP code, name	www.pnwqrp.org/sasquatch-stomp
30	0000 31 2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.cqwpw.com