

# THE eQRM

MAY 2017



## The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

## On the cover:

Pennsylvania has many beautiful places to visit. This is McConnell's Mill State Park photographed by Jim Cheney. The weather is getting nice here in western Pennsylvania, a day trip and picnic would be nice at McConnell's Mill state park. Follow the link below for more information.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/mcconnellsmill/index.htm>

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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

May 11  
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:*

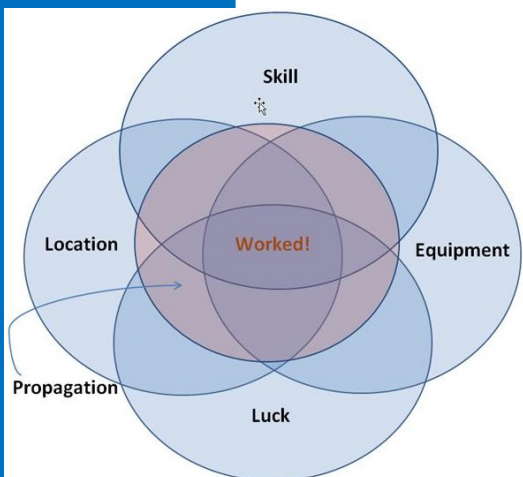
HF DXing, Contesting, and Other Thoughts

### *Including:*

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month updates a presentation from over seven years ago. This one is a favorite of mine because it ties together many aspects of the hobby, including goals, technology, technical factors, automation, personal operating styles, contesting, and so much more!

First, we'll examine where hams now live and how the demographics have changed over time. Lifestyle observations of the ham population may just surprise you. What will it take to qualify for a WAS or DXCC award? Are paper QSL cards so 'yesterday' with the advent of LOTW? Next, we'll offer our 'definition' of DX. It's really a matter of your perspective. What are your strategies for dealing with the inevitable chaos of those pile-ups? Is it time to rethink your approach?

Then we'll step back just a bit to review the history of contests within the ham world and how they have evolved over time. What are the major elements of a contest? Is your station automation and technical capabilities up to the challenge? Is it time for some new tools or a better location? Then there's that pesky sunspot cycle to deal with.



But wait, there's more! What about new controversies surrounding SO2R and remote operation from super locations with super antennas and equipment? Isn't that an unfair advantage that should be addressed? Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ham, bring your questions 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



# 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.

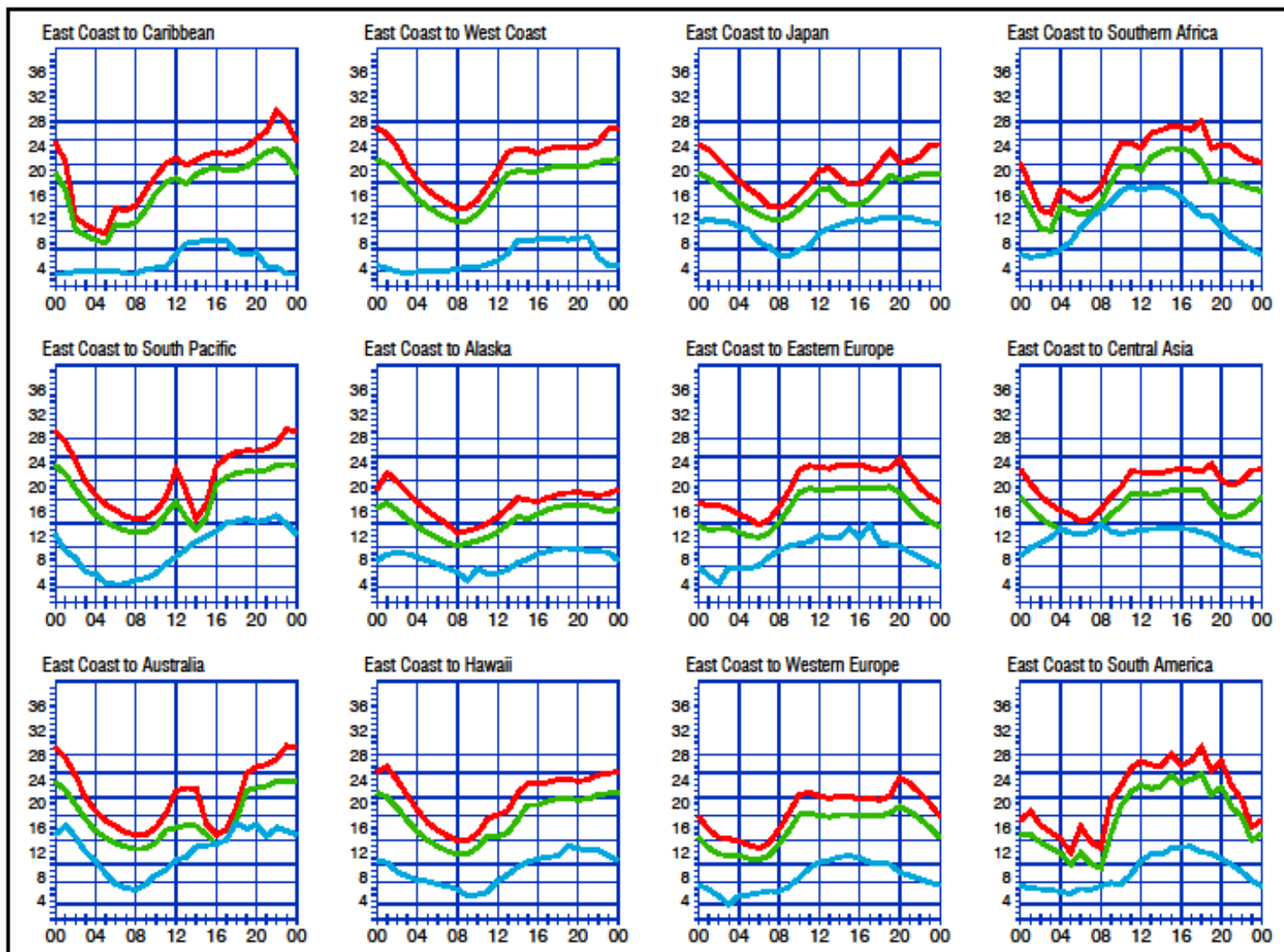
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 May 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 82. This is a 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 May 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:

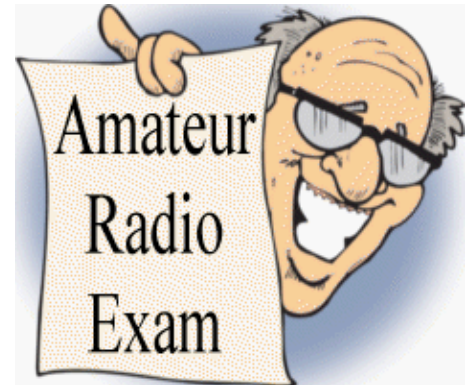
1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of \$15 - cash, check, or money order.

# New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



to our newest amateurs.

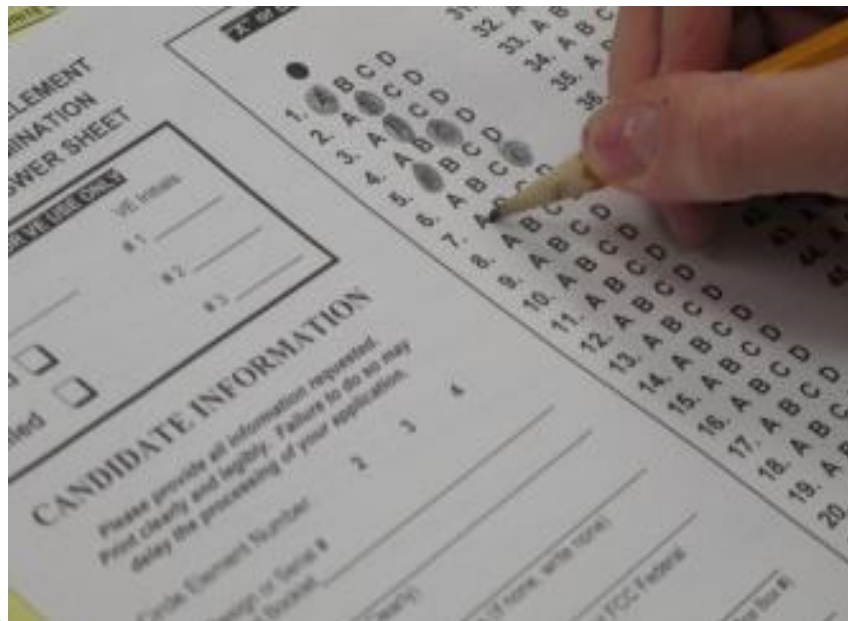


Paul Gough - KC3HNU, Canonsburg, PA Extra Class License

Paul Furis, Jr. – KC3JAQ, Baden, PA Technician Class License

Mark Munyon – KE8GLZ, Columbiana, OH General Class License

Our next club meeting is on May 11th beginning at 6:30 pm and you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Paul and Mark, because you took your Technician Class tests with us, you have free membership to our club for 2017 if you wish to be a member. Once again, congratulations to you all!





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

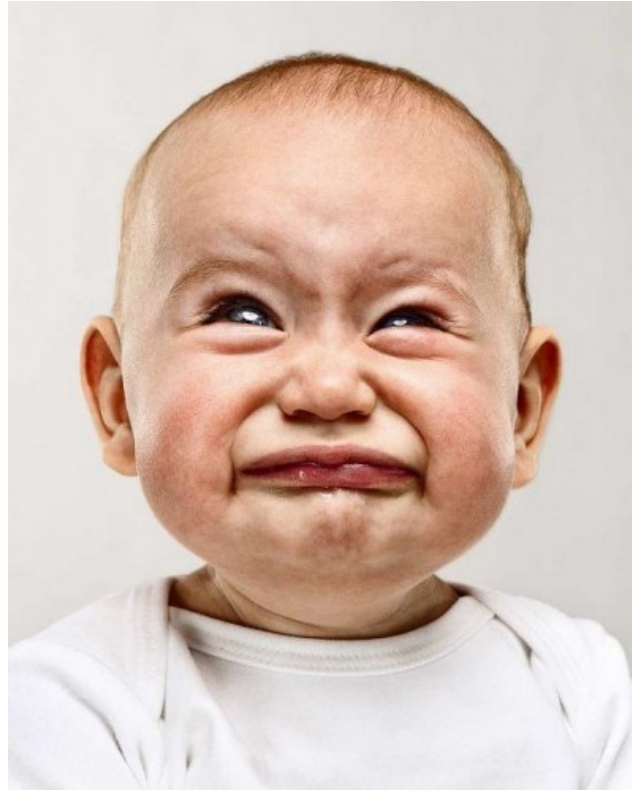
Make check or money order payable to:

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 424

South Heights, Pa 15081

## No Hamfest in Western Pennsylvania for the month of May 2017 !?

**What about Dayton Hamfest in Xenia, Ohio ? See page 12.**



**Look next month there is the Breeze Shooter's Hamfest...**



# the BREEZE SHOOTERS

on Monday Night @ 9pm ... Lets make it the Largest Night in NYPA

63rd Annual

Largest Meeting in the Tri-State Area

## BreezeShooters

2017 HANFEST • ARK® "OFF-SEASON CONVENTION"

Join the #1 gun show in the Northeast at the

BIG BUTTERFAIRGROUND

127 New Castle Road, Rt. 421 • Freehold, NJ 08052

Sunday Jan. 29, 2017 • 9am - 5pm

Information on our website: [www.OffSeasonConventions.com](http://www.OffSeasonConventions.com) or call: 800-868-2666  
 BreezeShooters.com

### Main State Drawings

1st Prize: \$100,000 • 2nd Prize: \$50,000 • 3rd Prize: \$25,000 • 4th Prize: \$10,000 • 5th Prize: \$5,000 • 6th Prize: \$2,500 • 7th Prize: \$1,000 • 8th Prize: \$500 • 9th Prize: \$250 • 10th Prize: \$100 • 11th Prize: \$50 • 12th Prize: \$25 • 13th Prize: \$10 • 14th Prize: \$5 • 15th Prize: \$2.50 • 16th Prize: \$1.00 • 17th Prize: \$0.50 • 18th Prize: \$0.25 • 19th Prize: \$0.10 • 20th Prize: \$0.05 • 21st Prize: \$0.025 • 22nd Prize: \$0.01 • 23rd Prize: \$0.005 • 24th Prize: \$0.0025 • 25th Prize: \$0.001 • 26th Prize: \$0.0005 • 27th Prize: \$0.00025 • 28th Prize: \$0.0001 • 29th Prize: \$0.00005 • 30th Prize: \$0.000025 • 31st Prize: \$0.00001 • 32nd Prize: \$0.000005 • 33rd Prize: \$0.0000025 • 34th Prize: \$0.000001 • 35th Prize: \$0.0000005 • 36th Prize: \$0.00000025 • 37th Prize: \$0.0000001 • 38th Prize: \$0.00000005 • 39th Prize: \$0.000000025 • 40th Prize: \$0.00000001 • 41st Prize: \$0.000000005 • 42nd Prize: \$0.0000000025 • 43rd Prize: \$0.000000001 • 44th Prize: \$0.0000000005 • 45th Prize: \$0.00000000025 • 46th Prize: \$0.0000000001 • 47th Prize: \$0.00000000005 • 48th Prize: \$0.000000000025 • 49th Prize: \$0.00000000001 • 50th Prize: \$0.000000000005 • 51st Prize: \$0.0000000000025 • 52nd Prize: \$0.000000000001 • 53rd Prize: \$0.0000000000005 • 54th Prize: \$0.00000000000025 • 55th Prize: \$0.0000000000001 • 56th Prize: \$0.00000000000005 • 57th Prize: \$0.000000000000025 • 58th Prize: \$0.00000000000001 • 59th Prize: \$0.000000000000005 • 60th Prize: \$0.0000000000000025 • 61st Prize: \$0.000000000000001 • 62nd Prize: \$0.0000000000000005 • 63rd Prize: \$0.00000000000000025 • 64th Prize: \$0.0000000000000001 • 65th Prize: \$0.00000000000000005 • 66th Prize: \$0.000000000000000025 • 67th Prize: \$0.00000000000000001 • 68th Prize: \$0.000000000000000005 • 69th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000025 • 70th Prize: \$0.000000000000000001 • 71st Prize: \$0.0000000000000000005 • 72nd Prize: \$0.00000000000000000025 • 73rd Prize: \$0.0000000000000000001 • 74th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000005 • 75th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000025 • 76th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000001 • 77th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000005 • 78th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000025 • 79th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000001 • 80th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000005 • 81st Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000025 • 82nd Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000001 • 83rd Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000005 • 84th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000025 • 85th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000001 • 86th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000005 • 87th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000025 • 88th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000001 • 89th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000005 • 90th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000025 • 91st Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000001 • 92nd Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000005 • 93rd Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000025 • 94th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000001 • 95th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000005 • 96th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000025 • 97th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000001 • 98th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000005 • 99th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000025 • 100th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000001 • 101st Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000005 • 102nd Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000025 • 103rd Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000001 • 104th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000005 • 105th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000025 • 106th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000001 • 107th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000005 • 108th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000025 • 109th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000001 • 110th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000005 • 111th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000025 • 112th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000001 • 113th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000005 • 114th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000000025 • 115th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000001 • 116th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000000005 • 117th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000000025 • 118th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000000001 • 119th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000000005 • 120th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000000025 • 121st Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000000001 • 122nd Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000000005 • 123rd Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000000000025 • 124th Prize: \$0.000000000000000000000000000000000001 • 125th Prize: \$0.0000000000000000000000000000000000005 • 126th Prize: \$0.00000000000000000000000000000000000025 • 127th Prize: \$0.00000

# Hamfests & General Announcements

\* See Page 17

Dayton  
Hamvention®

ABOUT ▾ ATTENDEES ▾ VENDORS ▾ MEDIA & NEWS ▾ TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION ▾ VOLUNTEER CONTACT ▾ TICKETS | 🔍

## Hamvention: Same Friends, New Home

THE Destination For Amateur Radio

May 19-21, 2017

Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center

**Countdown to Hamvention!**



### Greene County Fairgrounds

120 Fairground Road, Xenia, OH 45385 [[map it](#)]

Cost: \$22 advance tickets. \$27 day of event. Tickets are good for all three days.

Hamvention, the world's largest amateur radio gathering at Greene County Fairgrounds.

Hamvention will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Hamvention boasts over 500 indoor exhibits and over 2,500 outdoor exhibits, showcasing the latest in amateur radio equipment, technology, computer software and hardware along with hard-to-find radio and computer accessories and equipment.

Click link for more information <http://hamvention.org/>





## Contest Corral — May 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://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	1300	1 1900	3.5-7	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	RST, serial, class (A/B)	<a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en">www.agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
1	1900	1 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
2	0100	2 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqr.blogspot.com">arsqr.blogspot.com</a>
3	1900	3 2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints</a>
3	2300	4 0300	All	MIE 33 Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	<a href="http://www.uzh.no.jp/soda/33">www.uzh.no.jp/soda/33</a>
4	1700	4 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests">www.nrau.net/activity-contests</a>
6	0001	7 2350	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org">www.ten-ten.org</a>
6	0600	7 2350	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.n6nb.com/sbmsrules.htm">www.n6nb.com/sbmsrules.htm</a>
6	0800	6 1400	All above 902	Microwave Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints</a>
6	1200	7 1150	1.8-28	ARI International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province or serial	<a href="http://www.ari.it">www.ari.it</a>
6	1200	7 1200	3.5-28, 144	FaAA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.sito.urf.asso.fr">www.sito.urf.asso.fr</a>
6	1300	7 0700	1.8-144	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), state/county code or SPC	<a href="http://ws7n.net/7QP">ws7n.net/7QP</a>
6	1500	7 0300	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.hdxcc.org/inqr/rules.html">www.hdxcc.org/inqr/rules.html</a>
6	1700	6 2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://fistsna.org">fistsna.org</a>
6	1700	7 2350	1.8-VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.fisarc.org/qso-party">www.fisarc.org/qso-party</a>
6	2000	7 2350	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	W1: RS(T), county or state. Others: RS(T), SPC	<a href="http://www.neqp.org/rules.html">www.neqp.org/rules.html</a>
10	1900	10 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
11	0030	11 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
13	1000	13 2200	7	Jakarta DX Contest, 40 Meters	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://jakartadxccontest.com">jakartadxccontest.com</a>
13	1200	14 1150	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://www.cq-m.ru/en">www.cq-m.ru/en</a>
13	1200	14 1150	3.5-28	HPC World Wide DX Contest	Dig	RST, mbr or serial	<a href="http://pskclub.gr/qsocontest">pskclub.gr/qsocontest</a>
13	1200	14 1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, CQ Zone	<a href="http://www.contestvolta.com">www.contestvolta.com</a>
13	1400	14 0200	3.5-28, 144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.arkqp.com">www.arkqp.com</a>
13	1200	14 2350	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
13	1400	14 2350	3.5-28	MARAC County Hunters Contest	CW	RS, state/county or "DX"	<a href="http://www.marac.org">www.marac.org</a>
13	1500	14 1500	3.5-28	Portuguese Navy Day Contest	CW Ph	Mbr or serial, CQ zone	<a href="http://www.nra.pt">www.nra.pt</a>
13	1700	13 2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://fistsna.org">fistsna.org</a>
13	2300	14 0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints">sites.google.com/site/springvhfupprints</a>
14	1000	14 1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
14	1300	14 1650	3.5-14	UA2 QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), RDA ID or serial	<a href="http://www.qrz.ru">www.qrz.ru</a>
15	0000	15 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
20	0600	20 2100	3.5-28	UN DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), District Code or serial	<a href="http://undcc.kz/bcz-rubriki">undcc.kz/bcz-rubriki</a>
20	0800	20 2350	3.5-28	Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital	Dig	Mbr or serial, CQ Zone	<a href="http://www.nra.pt">www.nra.pt</a>
20	0800	21 1100	3.5	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	CW	RST, serial, Branch No. (if any)	<a href="http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities">www.nzart.org.nz/activities</a>
20	1200	21 1200	1.8-28	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, CW	CW	RST, EA province or serial	<a href="http://concursos.ure.es">concursos.ure.es</a>
20	1200	21 1200	3.5-28	EU PSK DX Contest	Dig	RST, EU area code or serial	<a href="http://www.eupsk.com">www.eupsk.com</a>
20	1200	21 1200	3.5-28	Aegean RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.aegeandxgroup.gr">www.aegeandxgroup.gr</a>
20	1600	20 2150	1.8-50	Feld Hall Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub">sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
20	2100	21 0200	3.5	Baltic Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://lnt.lt/bocontest/english">lnt.lt/bocontest/english</a>
22	0200	22 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
24	0000	24 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
25	1900	25 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
27	0000	28 2350	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.cqwpw.com">www.cqwpw.com</a>
28	1300	28 1600	3.5-14	SARL Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>

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](http://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.

# Bits and Pieces

For the month of May I introduce Adam Horniak, KG3L, as the “Interview with a Ham” amateur radio operator. I met Adam about three years ago at a Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association club meeting one Thursday evening. He made me feel welcome. I really got to know him better by attending BVARA Thursday morning breakfasts.



As I was interviewing Adam he said, *“I have always been interested in radio. When I was young a neighbor gave me a Sears Silvertone radio. The radio had a bad hum. ‘Rudi M.’ my father’s friend and our family TV repairman instructed me how to fix it. He also gave me brand new modern capacitors to complete the repair.”* Adam was really encouraged by being able to repair the radio ‘all by himself’. *“Rudi Mahalic, W3CXX, became my Elmer. He was tough. He told me I had to learn Morse code. That was all there was to it. So I did. I took all my FCC license tests at the Holiday House in Monroeville. The old time FCC test examiners were tough! They were downright scary. They had you take the Morse code portion of your test first. If you did not pass the CW there was no further testing! You had to come back for another test session. When I took my second test, I passed the CW portion. I sat down and did the written portion very quickly; the test administrator told me “You couldn’t have passed you were too fast, you failed”. I felt he was wrong. I knew all the answers. I felt good about the test. I didn’t fail, I passed! Back then FCC testing was intimidating. Not at all like today’s kindly volunteer examiners.”* Adam chases rare DX with a passion. He was fun to interview and has had some interesting contacts. Like a cross-country team that skied from Russia to Canada. They traveled right over the North Pole. Adam talked to them via satellite. Adam was in the U.S. Navy associated with radio, he made no transmissions. He was stationed at a listening post. Ask him, he has some great stories.



Once you meet Adam you will know of his love for the Lord. Adam is very active at his local Church. I encourage you to meet Adam, he has much to share.

With the nice weather it’s time to check all your antennas & their support points, coax, transmission lines and safety grounds. Clean all those grounds, make them shiny. Put some conductive grease to protect your handy work from corrosion. Hamfest time is here. I am looking forward to face to face QSOs. I hope you make time to attend some hamfests too. As always, I encourage you to be safe in all that you do. Be safe. Planning is everything. Just a few minutes used to analyze a situation could be the difference between a great radio day and an accident.

As always, be safe.

73 KC3BXC

# Interview with a Ham

*Name :* Adam Horniak

*Call sign and license class:* KG3L Extra Class

*Year of first FCC License :* 1977 All administered by the FCC at the Holiday House in Monroeville.

*Did you ever make a crystal radio?* Yes, made one as a kid. I just made one this year.

*Did you ever listen to short wave radio?* Yes, my neighbor gave me a Sears Silvertone short wave radio. It had a bad hum. I fixed it myself. My dad's friend Rudi Mahalic , a TV repairman, gave me the capacitors & knowledge I needed to fix it.

*Did you ever use CB radio?* Yes in the mid 1970s

*How did you get interested in Ham Radio?* As a child I was always interested in radio. My dad's friend, our TV repairman, My Elmer, Rudi Mahalic W3CXX really got me into amateur radio. By repairing the Sears Silvertone radio by myself, I was hooked.

*Did you ever build a Ham Radio?* No, but I tried once.

*What was your first radio?* A Yaesu FT101E . I still have it and it works.

*What was your first antenna?* A random wire loaded into a tuner.

*What is your current antenna & radio?* A Kenwood TS 830S, Mosley TA33 antenna, tower and rotor.

*What are your favorite modes to operate?* Phone, CW and Satellite

*Your most memorable contact?* The International Space Station, twice. Astronaut Doug Wheellock. I received two QSL cards.

*What was your most fun contact?* An airline pilot on 20 meters. Satellite contacts with a group of cross county skiers that started in Russia and finished in Canada.

*What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios)* Picking up rare DX and countries I haven't worked before.

*Have you ever been on a fox hunt?* No.

*Do you use a logging program? (what is it)* Yes, N1MM, nice software easy to use.

*Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio?* No, I would rather flip a switch or turn a knob.

*Do you use automation with your Ham Radio?* No

*If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why?* I would change the sunspot activity to cause max propagation for amateur radio right now.

*Where do you see ham radio in ten years?* I think you will not have a radio, maybe a radio out there with some form of internet connection, an echo link type of communication.



# 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](mailto:kc3bxc.73@gmail.com)



On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, about 12 club members visited the DX Engineering facility in Mogadore, Ohio followed by a trip to the K3LR Super Station near West Middlesex, PA along Interstate 80. There will be pictures posted to our BVARA web page on Flickr.

<http://www.w3sgj.org/>

# Some Interesting Links



For those who like to monitor all sorts of radio traffic:

<http://radio-locator.com/>

<https://www.fybush.com/>

[http://www.kf4l.org/Master%20Folder/top\\_1000\\_hf\\_frequencies.html](http://www.kf4l.org/Master%20Folder/top_1000_hf_frequencies.html)

<http://americanradiohistory.com/>

<http://www.choisser.com/broadcst.html>

<http://monitor-post.blogspot.com/p/this-international-hf-aero-frequency.html>

<http://www.fordyce.org/scanning/avifreq.htm>

[http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/signal\\_list](http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/signal_list)

<http://www.jamesbutters.com/>

[http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~srs/Antiques/Transistor\\_radios.php?collection=Radios](http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~srs/Antiques/Transistor_radios.php?collection=Radios)

<http://www.tvfool.com/>

If you want a good receiver that covers from 1 kHz (yes, one kilohertz, that isn't a typo) to 2 GHz:

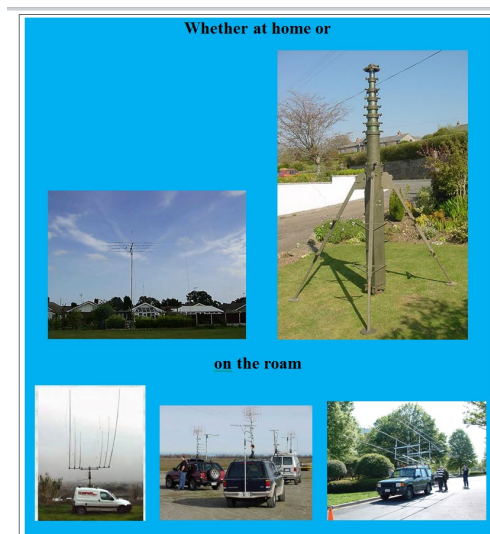
<http://www.sdrplay.com/rsp2pro/>

All links Courtesy of Denny KR3DX

# For All Radio Operators

\* May 13 – 14, 2017 Arkansas State QSO Party

\* Keep the last full weekend in June open for the ARRL Field Day Activity. Like last year, we will set up at the Old Economy County Park at Shelter No. 1. More details will be posted next month.



## 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.