

THE eQRM

MAY 2018

Dayton
Hamvention®

Hamvention

Hamvention 2018

Amateur Radio ... Serving the Community

2018 Dates May 18-20

Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center

Sponsored by
Dayton Amateur Radio Association Since 1952



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

A fox hunt !



BVARA event this month.

On the cover: The big Hamfest of the year in America, Dayton Hamvention! The new location is at the Greene County fairgrounds, 120 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385. The Hamfest is Friday 9 AM to 6 PM , Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday: 9 AM to 1 PM .

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8

Wednesday 10 Meter

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

The eQRM is a publication of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA) and is Copyright 2010 - 2018. All material presented in this publication is not necessarily the views of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), BVARA, or members of the said organizations. If you would like to contact the editor of the eQRM, please email David at kc3bxc.73@gmail.com. Please visit us online at www.W3SGJ.org. To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit W3SGJ.org/newsletter.php

Who We Are

2018 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Tony Pavilonis, W6PEF

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Trustee: Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

MONTHLY MEETINGS

E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting.

VE testing begins at 5:00 PM.

Regular meetings are at 6:30 PM

All meetings are held at the
Beaver County
Emergency Services Center
351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
on the second Thursday of every month
(unless otherwise stated).

2018

May 10

Jun 14

Jul 12

Aug 25 Corn Roast

Sep 13

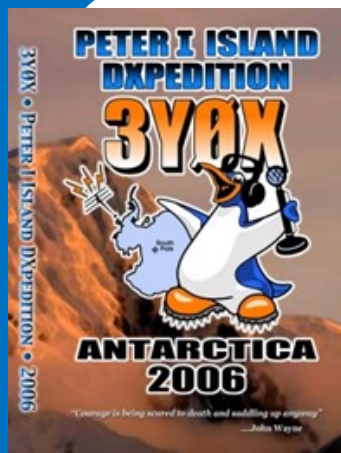
Oct 11

Nov 08

Dec Christmas Party TBA



This Month



This Month:

Speaker:

DVD

Topic:

The 2006 DXpedition to Peter I Island - 3YØX

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month shows some of the excitement and adventure of the 3YØX 2006 DXpedition to Peter I Island.

This remote island was named for Peter the First and is 275 miles off the west coast of Antarctica and South of most of the Antarctic bases. For years it was one of the most wanted DXCC entities. It was - until 21 international ham operators plus a non-ham world traveler took on the daunting task of mounting the costliest DXpedition in history!

Considered by some to be the *DXpedition of the Decade*, this one-hour 3YØX DVD brings the danger and excitement right to you. See the helicopter flights, hear the howling storms and incessant wind, and struggle along with the team as they set up their camp by erecting essential shelters, generators and communications antennas.

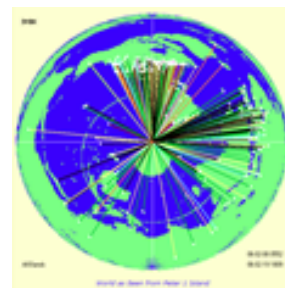
Hear huge pileups from the bottom of the world at the minimum of the sunspot cycle. Watch the daring rescue of one of the team along with three ship's crew members as they remove the last of the gear from the island. See all this in an edge-of-your-seat drama!

Amateur Radio DXpeditions are exciting events to watch, especially from remote, forbidding places like Antarctica that can turn deadly in mere minutes.

If you are a new ham or a seasoned DXer, this is one exciting DVD that you won't want to miss. DX Engineering sells this and other DVDs, some of which just may be shown at a future meeting.

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE,



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.

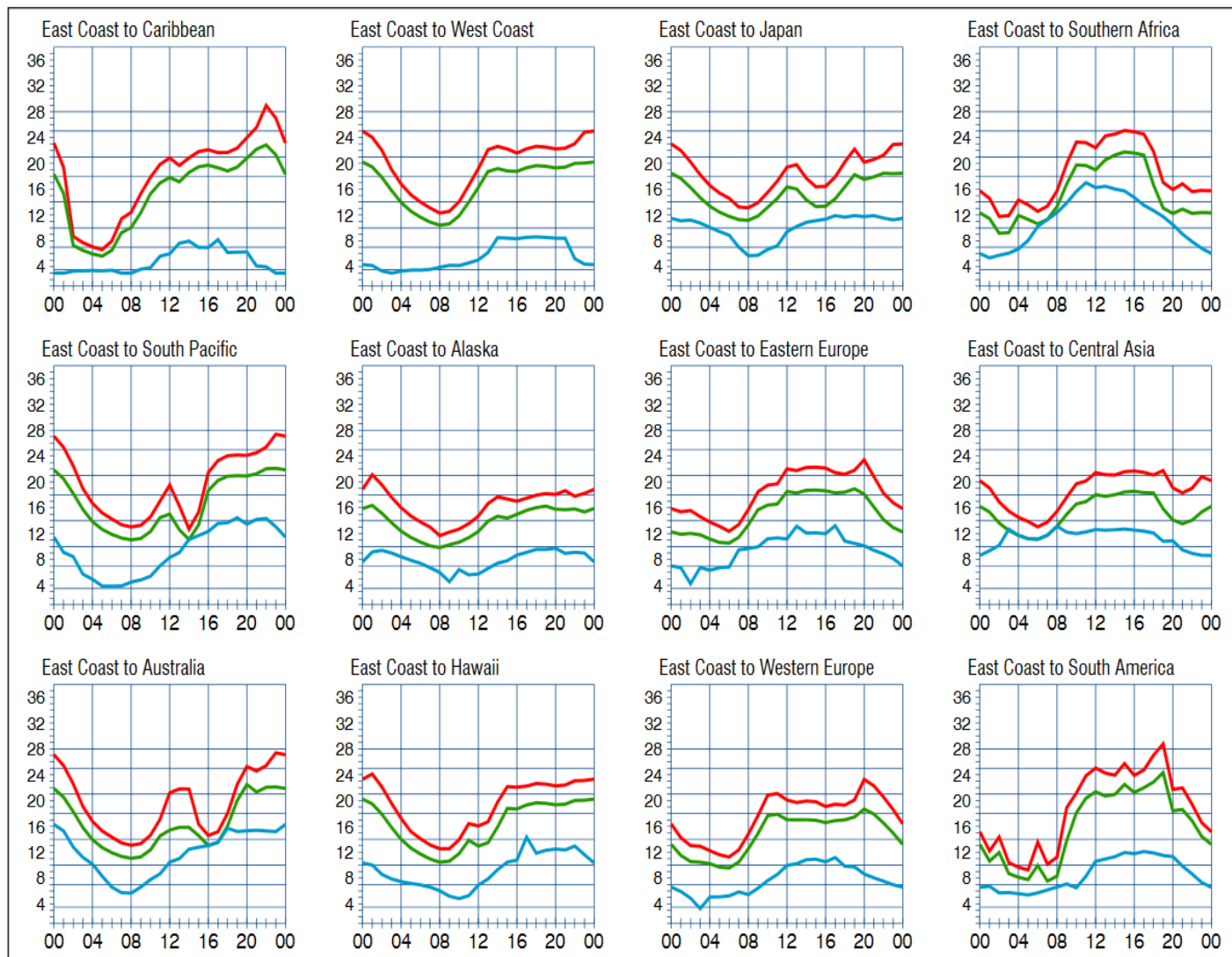
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 (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 68. 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 May 2018.

If you would like more information in general, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/propagation>



BVARA fox hunt this month

Get your License or Upgrade

If you are interested in getting your first FCC license or upgrading your current amateur radio license, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association holds VE Test sessions (Volunteer Examinations) the second Thursday of each month at the Nine One One center in Ambridge Pennsylvania prior to our BVARA Club meeting. If there is no meeting there is no test session. Please come take your test with us!

For more information, contact :
Rich Soltesz, K3SOM
(724) 847-0610
k3som@arrl.net



VE TEST SESSIONS

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

ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

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

New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



Here's the list of participants in our VE process this past month:

Ian Davis – KC3LGC, McKees Rocks, PA Technician*

Jim Bilanich – KC3LFX, Butler, PA Technician*

Jack Bowan – KC3LFY, Baden, PA Technician*

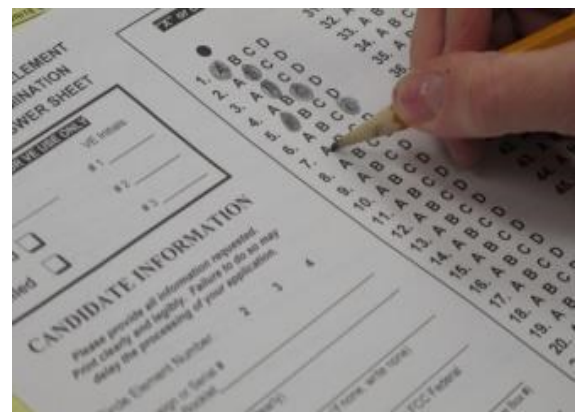
John Telesz, Jr. – N3ZOL, Freedom, PA General

*Eligible for BVARA membership at no cost for 2018

Don't miss the fox hunt



BVARA event this month.



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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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

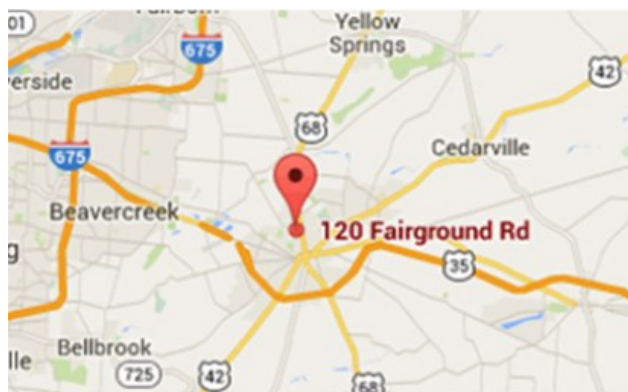
South Heights, Pa 15081

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2018 DAYTON HAMVENTION® DATES MAY 18-20

For more information on the Dayton Hamvention® go to www.hamvention.org



Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b@gmail.com

Contest Corral

May 2018

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arri.org/contests.

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	1300	1	1900	3.5-28	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	RST, serial, class (A or B)	www.agcw.org/index.php/en
3	1700	3	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
3	2300	4	0300	All	MIE 33 Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age, "ME" or "MEJ" if JA	zhvne.jp/isoda33/index-e.html
5	0000	6	1600	50, 144	Amazônia World Wide VHF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.uvhf.com
5	0001	6	2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
5	0600	6	2359	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	nfinb.com/sbmsrules.htm
5	0800	5	1400	902 and up	Microwave Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
5	1200	6	1159	3.5-28	ARI International DX Contest	Ph CW Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province or serial	www.ari.it
5	1300	6	0700	1.8-144	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), state/county code or SPC	ws7n.net/7QP
5	1500	6	0300	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.hdxcc.org/ingqp
5	1700	5	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
5	1700	6	2359	1.8-VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.dsarc.org
5	2000	6	2359	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county/state or SPC	www.necqp.org
7	1900	7	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbc.org/hf
8	0200	8	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsgp.blogspot.com
12	1200	13	1159	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.qrz.ru/contest
12	1200	13	1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, CQ zone	www.contestvolta.com
12	1200	13	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
12	1400	13	0200	3.5-28, 144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.arkqp.com
12	1700	12	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
12	2300	13	0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
13	1000	13	1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.internip.net
14	0000	14	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
16	1900	16	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbc.org/hf
17	0030	17	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
18	0900	20	1700	3.5-28	Portuguese Navy Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), mbr or serial	nra.pt/portuguese-navy-day-contest-2018.html
18	1800	18	2159	1.8, 3.5	Slobodzhansky Sprint Contest	CW Ph	Serial, QTH (URDA, RDA, province, state)	ut0lwa.wixsite.com/goldr-en
19	0600	19	2100	3.5-28	UN DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), district code or serial	undco.kz/bez-rubriki/2015-2
19	0800	20	1100	3.5	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	CW	RST, serial, Branch (if ZL)	www.nzart.org.nz
19	1200	20	1200	1.8-28	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, CW	CW	RST, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es/en
19	1200	20	1200	3.5-28	EU PSK DX Contest	Dig	RST, EU area code or serial	www.eupsk.com
19	1200	20	1200	3.5-28	Aegean RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.aegeandxgroup.gr
19	1600	19	2159	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
19	2100	20	0200	3.5	Baltic Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	balticcontest.english.blogspot.com
21	0100	21	0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
23	0000	23	0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
24	1900	24	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbc.org/hf
26	0000	27	2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.cqwpw.com
28	0000	28	0100	1.8-28	QRP ARC1 Hootowl Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	www.qrp-arc1.org

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity, XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

Bits and Pieces

This month I interviewed Jim Allen, KC3IXE. Jim was a bit hesitant to be interviewed. He claimed to be such a new ham he has little to share that would be of interest. What an inaccuracy! Jim is very interesting to talk to and as I learned, he has many one-of-a-kind experiences to share. He is definitely a gentleman Ham in my book. I am honored to be a part of His

amateur radio community. Jim is humble and a bit quiet till you get him to open-up... I started with the newsletter standard questions and I had a great visit. *Hi David, thanks for calling. What's up? You want me to be the interview candidate for the BVARA newsletter? You should set your sights on some ham with more experience and is more active on the air. I only acquired my license about fourteen months ago. I am a general class.*



My amateur radio interest got started by way of a guy I used to work with that was a Ham. It fascinated me that he could take old TV parts and bits & pieces of electronics and make an operating radio. Since that association, I have really delighted in being around Hams. They are intelligent, professional, polished, life experienced, and easy to approach. Radio amateurs always teach me so much, not just radio related only. I also like being an FCC licensed part of this exclusive group.

I have really enjoyed a five watt-low power radio my son got for me. It is a Yasue FT-817ND QRP rig. I enjoy operating from my porch. As the weather gets warmer I will be operating more. I enjoy CW operation. I also like the social side of Ham radio. This past winter field day I got to be part of the BVARA group setup at K3SOM, Rich Soltesz's house. I was so amazed, we put a wire up in the trees, and our first contact was a guy in Costa Rica! That was magic, well almost. It simply amazed me that with just a wire in a tree, a radio, and twelve volts, we could talk that far away. I also enjoyed our contact with a ninety-year-old man in North Carolina. He wanted to know if he was coming through all right. He thought he may have had his radio setup incorrect. He was blind and couldn't see if everything was set the way it should have been. I was impressed that he was on air at ninety and blind. I thought, "Keep Hamming my friend! You offer me such encouragement."

I have a 2-meter handheld I use to talk with a group in the Steubenville, Ohio area. I always learn things with this crowd. One contact in particular intrigues me. We talked about how he uses a kite to get his antenna up high. I hope to one day visit him in person to learn more. I don't have much time to operate. When I do, I really enjoy operating from our porch with that QRP radio my son gave me.



There is so much more I could share about Jim. I only have one page and it would take several more. Even then, I am not sure I could share it all. You should talk to him yourself. I know I will have to spend some more time visiting Jim. If you see KC3IXE, or hear him on the air, give him a visit.

Be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby.
Till next month, 73 KC3BXC.

Interview with a Ham

Monthly Interview with a Ham operator

Name : *Jim Allen*

Call sign : *KC3IXE, General Class*

Year of first FCC License : *March 23, 2017*

Did you ever make a crystal radio? *Yes, I was about seven years old it was a kit.*

Did you ever listen to short wave radio? *Yes.*

Did you ever use CB radio? *My dad had one, I used it but I really wasn't on the air much.*

How did you get interested in Ham Radio? *I worked with a "Radio Guy".*

Did you ever build a ham radio? *No, but it fascinates me that others do.*

What was your first radio? *A Kenwood 140S and a Yasue FT-817ND .*

What was your first antenna? *An MFJ 1899T adjustable antenna.*

What is your current antenna & radio? *The Yaesu 817ND and MFJ 1899T telescoping whip antenna.*

What is your favorite mode to operate? *Continuous Wave (CW).*

Your most memorable contact? *It was winter field day at K3SOM, Rich Soltesz's house. The first person we contacted was a guy in Costa Rica! That was amazing to me.*

What was your most fun contact? *That's a tossup between a very nice 90 year old blind man in North Carolina during winter field day and weekly 2 meter rag chews with the hams from Steubenville Ohio.*

What part of the hobby interests you the most? (Field Day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfest, restoring old radios)

Summer and Winter Field days, club meetings and any social events connected to amateur radio.

Have you ever been on a fox hunt? *Yes...well sort of, I tried finding the new BVARA "fox" for the May hunt; I was at K3SOM's house. This was a test run so-to-speak, I learned so much and it was fun.*

Do you use a logging program? (what is it) *No.*

Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio? *Yes, yes. I like the latest tech.*

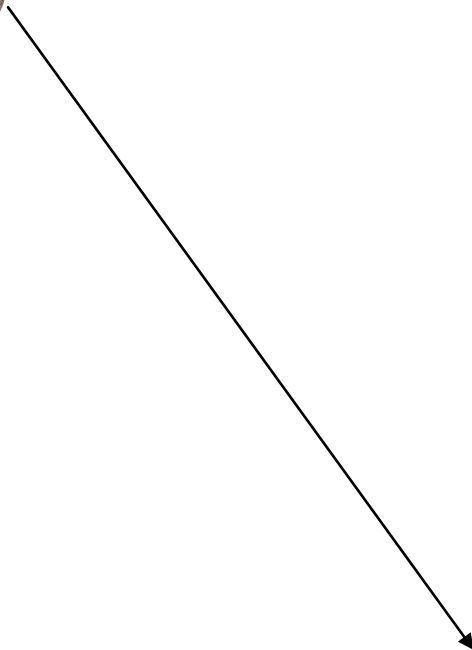
Do you use automation with your ham radio? *No, not yet anyway.*

If you had a magic wand and could change ham radio what would you change and why? *I would like to encourage more young people into the Ham radio hobby.*

Where do you see ham radio in ten years? *I think it will get increasingly easier to get your license. I also think there will be way more digital and automation than even we can imagine.*

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



Some Interesting Links



Call sign Look up <https://hamcall.net/>

FCC call sign look up <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAdvanced.jsp>

Internet speed test <http://performance.toast.net/>

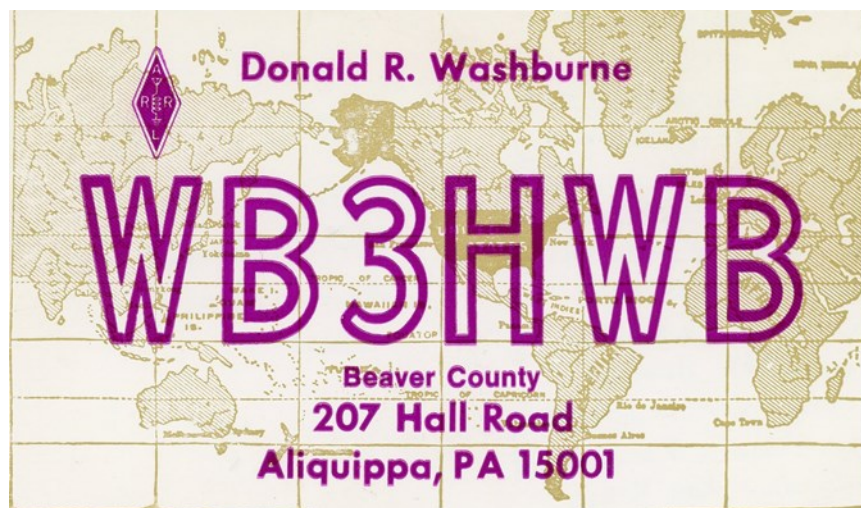
Digital mode samples (sounds) <http://www.kb9ukd.com/digital/>

Sounds of Modern Commercial & Military Digital <http://www.milspec.ca/modems/modems.html>

ARRL - what is Ham radio <http://www.arrl.org/PRB1-Presentation>

ARRL - method of Logging Noise Occurrences <http://www.arrl.org/noise-logging>

Looking back



Adam Horniak, KG3L, spoke to me about a respectful way to remember a Silent Key of the BVARA in the club newsletter. Adam sent me a QSO card from his friend Don. I asked Adam to share something he remembered about his friend. What follows is an amusing story about an emergency situation they responded to. Thank you Don and Adam.

May 31, 1985

Hams were needed to aid in emergency communication when tornadoes hit the Beaver Falls area in 1985. Don and I put some of our radio equipment into his VW Rabbit and headed out. We were told to go to North Sewickley Township fire hall to set up.

When we got close, we encountered a road block manned by a fireman that was stopping and turning around all traffic to the area. Don leans out the window and tells the fireman, "They told us to go to the North Sewickley fire hall." The fireman sticks his head in the car window and says, "Okay, go ahead, you look fat enough to be a fireman." Don was mortified. He angrily replied, "I'm a Ham Radio Operator." I never let him live down that comment. I reminded him of it many times. Don had a heart of gold. He was an officer in the BVARA Club for many years.

I also recall when he patiently sat down a brand new, very nervous, novice ham operator and talked him through his very first QSO. That novice was me... Adam Horniak, KG3L.

