

THE eQRM

NOVEMBER 2025



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: We at the BVARA are wishing you a great Thanksgiving, We hope you have a great holiday with family and friends.

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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

2025 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Larry Homich, KC3ROS

2nd Vice Pres.: Greg Burns KCTFW

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

Director: Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP

Director: Jim Allen, KC3IXE

Director: Douglas Lawrence K3GTX

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).

2025

Nov 13

Dec 06 Christmas Party

2026

Jan 08

Feb 12

Mar 12

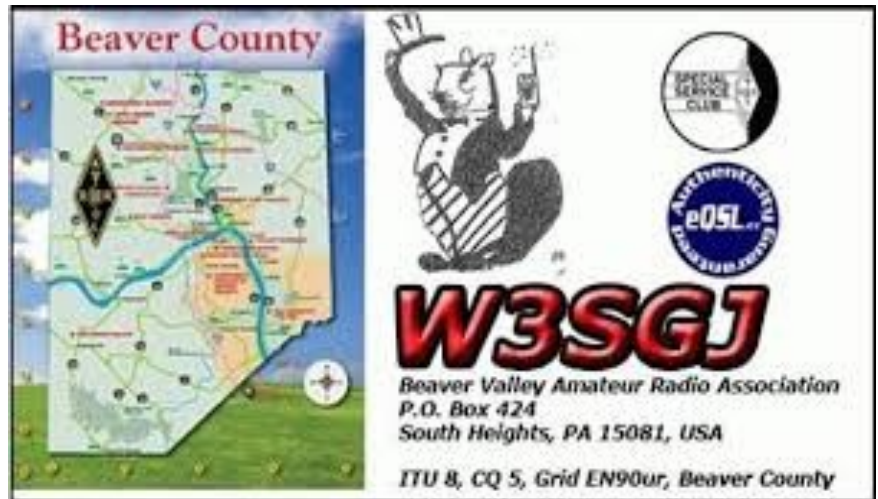
Apr 09

May 14

Jun 11

Jul 09

Aug 13



This Month

Special Roundtable Session:

Speakers: BVARA 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 . . .

After our November club business meeting, our 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. Perhaps your question involves unique HF, VHF, or UHF operating or perhaps some of the newer digital modes. Your question could help others with the same issues!

We've even had requests from club members to discuss *How to set up Echolink* and *What is Winlink and how to set it up*. Any volunteers?

We'll start our roundtable around 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center at 351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003. *Please join us with your questions!*

Rich Soltesz - K3SOM
Extra Class Ham
BVARA VE Liaison

More this Month

Weekly

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)

Come join us!



BREAKFAST

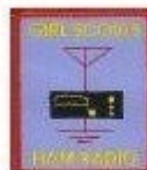
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.



See you

RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



The Freedom Square Diner in Monaca has a great wait staff. Come let them take your order.

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 :



October 2025 VE Test Session Results

Our October VE Test Session had one candidate, who achieved his Amateur Radio goal by passing both his Technician and General tests. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly.

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 November 13th, 2025. However, because of the shutdown of the Federal Government when the Senate refused to agree on a budget, the FCC will remain closed until their funding resumes. If there is any good news in this situation, our candidate is very early in the queue for processing. Harrumpf, harrumpf!

Congratulations to:

- Matt Hospodar, KD3xxx, Monaca, PA (awaiting FCC return after government shutdown)

If you hear him on the air, please congratulate him on his achievement! All of our BVARA testing would not be possible without the help of the following Extra-Class VE Team members:

Keith Custard – KC3TMC
Reg Genola – W3REG
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP
Scott Pelkofer - KC3KYZ
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP
Bart Stack – KB3NFM
Ron Victorelli – KC3TZT
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW



73 from 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	
☐ BVARA full membership	25.00	_____
☐ BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
☐ BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
☐ BVARA Child under 21 at home membership	5.00	_____
A Club Donation		_____
	Total	Enclosed _____

ARRL Member? Yes No

Your License Class (If you have one.)

☐ Technician	Name _____
☐ General	Address _____
☐ Advanced	_____
☐ 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



There will be more Hamfests

Next year.

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:

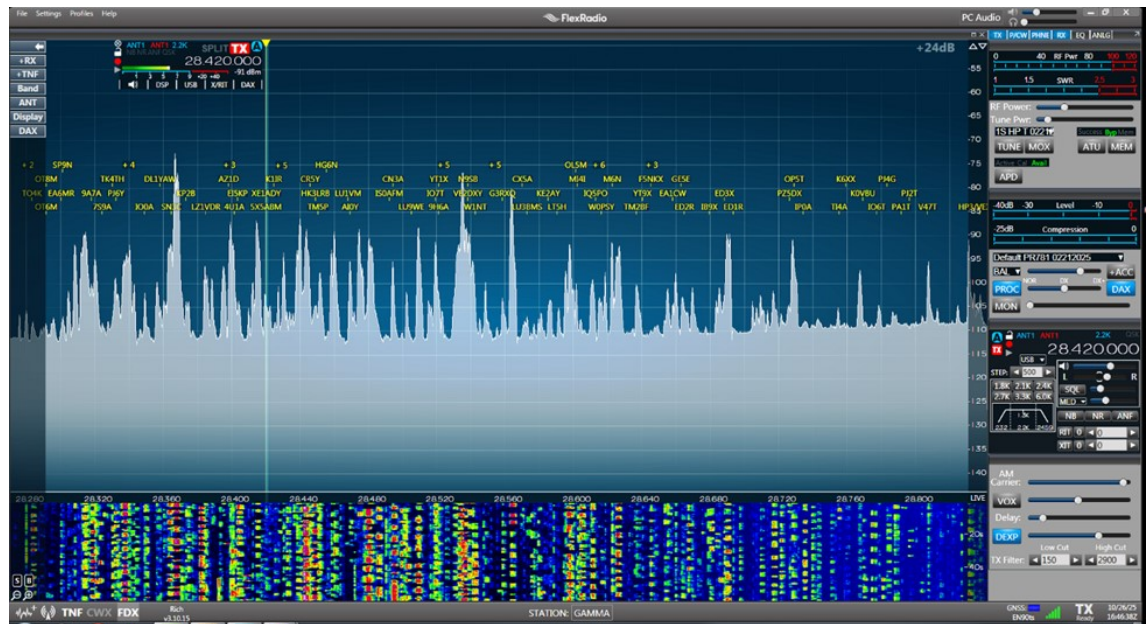
kc3bxc.73@gmail.com



Did You Miss the Huge International Contest on the 10-Meter Band?

On October 25th to 26th 2025, the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest was held on all non-WARC HF bands. If you want to work 100 DX “Countries” (entities) on one weekend, this is **THE** event in which to seriously participate. Furthermore, this is just about the peak of Solar Cycle 25 for propagation that will begin the downward spiral for the 11-year cycle of our Sun.

Here is what the band looked like at around noon on Saturday, October 25th on my panadapter that was set to display from about 28.300 MHz to 28.900 MHz:



The yellow letters just above the graph give the spots for the call signs that are displayed. These spots have a short lifetime that will disappear if they are not re-spotted within so many minutes.

If you are a CW aficionado, the CW version is at the end of November. Go for it!

Rich – K3SOM

Of Interest to All

RACCOON CREEK
STATE PARK,
Hookstown PA



Saturday, November
8th, 2025

ABOUT THE RACE

“THAT WAS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!” - This is the most common comment heard from finishers of the RSMC and PA 50K and 20Miler trail races! The course is a challenging and gnarly one in Raccoon Creek State Park, Pennsylvania. There is a 5k run/hike as well and those participants can FUNDRAISE also!

MISSION and PURPOSE

We are a Veteran Community Care organization that forms enduring relationships with veterans and military service members through time and adventurous activity in God’s creation, helping them refresh resilience through new life habits, finding purpose and helping them move from isolation to community.

BVARA,

We have been asked again to provide support for the run sponsored by Outdoor Immersion in Raccoon State Park on Saturday, November 8, 2025. This is a fairly long day, we start at 7 AM and finish by 5 PM. However, I can always rotate people if they cannot be there early or stay that late.

If you're interested in helping out, please let me know.

Thanks,
Doug, N4YKQ

Of Interest to All



BVARA Christmas Party

The annual BVARA Christmas dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at the Grand Valley Inn in Fallston.

- Dinner is at 6 PM
- Cost is \$24.99 per person
- Dinner will be buffet style and includes slow roasted roast beef and herb roasted chicken
- soft drinks are included
- cash bar will be available
- money should be sent to Tom, N3XC, and checks should be made out to BVARA

- **RSVP by Friday, November 21**

There will be an optional gift exchange, if you participate in the exchange bring a gift that is approximately \$20 (consider marking the gift as appropriate for an OM or YL)

Doug, N4YKQ

BVARA Coming Attractions



November 2025

State QSO Parties – None This Month

ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB, November 15th – 17th

ARRL Frequency Measuring Test, November 7th at 0230 UTC on 40 and 80 Meters
From Oklahoma and Ohio on CW – November 2025 *QST Magazine*, Page 81 for Details

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, November 30th – 31st

Nov. 8, 1700Z – 2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* Museum Ship. **Veterans Day and US Marine Corps Birthday.** 7.250 14.320; 14.070 PSK31 D-STAR on PAPA System Repeaters. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

Nov. 8 – Nov 10, 1600Z – 2355Z, WØJH, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association. **2025 Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald.** 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360. E-certificate. Email w0jhfitz@outlook.com. QSL certificates may be requested and sent only via email address: **W0JHFitz@outlook.com**. Only WØJH contacts qualify for POTA US-2524, US-8095, ARLHS USA 783 validations, and submission to LoTW. www.radioham.org

Bits and Pieces

Hello everyone,

It is so hard for me to believe it will be Thanksgiving soon! I will celebrate this Thanksgiving with all my kids this year. I am excited to have everyone under one roof! I hope you get to celebrate with your loved ones too.

Fall leaves this year have been disappointing. The colors have not shown up so beautiful this year. The recent rains have made all the leaves on the farm fall to the ground. That is the signal to get ready for winter. I have been so busy with farm winter prep that I haven't had anytime to enjoy Ham radio. I have one more big project to complete, then I can play radio.

I hope you were able to get some radio time in, I am hoping to as well. Our next BVARA Club meeting is important. We will be electing the officers for 2026. Please come and make your vote. The Christmas Party will be our next fun Club event. I hope to see you there.

Have a great Thanksgiving! Happy radioing.



Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Contest Corral

November 2025

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		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date-Time	Date-Time					
1 0000	2 2359	1.8-28	YBDXPI FT8 Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	contest.ybdxpi.net/rules
1 0600	1 0859	3.5,7	Silent Key Memorial Contest	CW	RST, SK call sign you wish to recognize	www.skmc.hu/en/rules.html
1 0600	1 1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, IPA, US state (if USA)	www.iparc.de
1 1200	2 1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UK/EI district code (if UK/EI)	www.ukeicc.com
1 2100	3 0259	1.8-28	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW	CW	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
2 0600	2 1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, IPA, US state (if USA)	www.iparc.de
2 0800	2 1200	Any	EANET Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	fediea.org
2 1400	2 1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
2 1400	5 0800	1.8-28,50,144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rcvr/xmtr model	www.classicexchange.org
3 2000	3 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
4 0100	4 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	ars-qrp.com
5 1700	5 2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
5 2000	5 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
6 0000	7 0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
6 1800	6 2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net
6 2000	6 2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8 0000	9 2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
8 0000	8 2359	3.5-28	FISTS Saturday Sprint	CW	RST, name, mbr or "0," SPC	fistsna.org
8 0000	9 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, serial	www.darc.de
8 0000	10 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
8 0001	9 2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
8 0700	9 1300	1.8-28	JIDX Phone Contest	Ph	RST, JA prefecture number or CQ zone	www.jidx.org
8 1200	9 1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, 3-letter OK/OM district code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
8 1200	9 2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, (SKCC no./"NONE")	www.skccgroup.com
8 1900	10 0500	1.8-28,50,144,432	CQ-WE Contest	CW Ph Dig	Name, location code, years of service	w8zpf.com/cqwe
8 2300	17 0300	1.8-14	AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	CW	RST, name, QTH, equipment year/type/pwr	antiquewireless.org
9 0700	9 1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	Ph	RS(T), serial	www.firac.de
10 0100	10 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
11 1900	11 2029	3.5	DARC FT4 Contest	Dig	RST, 4-char grid square	www.darc.de
12 1700	12 2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
12 2000	12 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
15 0700	16 0659	1.8-28	Ham Spirit Contest	CW Ph	RST, ITU zone, 2-char grid square	hamspiritcontest.ru
15 1600	15 2359	1.8	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, OE district code (if OE)	www.oevsv.at
15 1700	15 2359	1.8	REF 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, department code	concours.r-e-f.org
15 1800	16 2100	3.5,7,21,28	South American Integration Contest CW	CW	See rules	sacw.cwsp.com
15 1900	15 2059	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
15 2000	15 2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org
15 2100	17 0259	1.8-28	ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB	Ph	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
16 0000	16 2359	3.5-28	FISTS Sunday Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "0"	fistsna.org
16 1300	16 1700	3.5,7	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	CW	RST, serial, class	www.qrpcc.de
16 2300	17 0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
17 2000	17 2200	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
19 1700	19 2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
20 0000	21 0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
20 0130	20 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
20 1900	20 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	25 WPM max; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl
22 1200	23 1200	3.5-28	LZ DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter district or ITU zone	lzdxc.bfra.org
23 0000	23 0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com
26 0000	26 0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
26 2000	26 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
27 2000	27 2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
29 0000	30 2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, CQ zone	www.cqww.com