THE eQRM

NOVEMBER 2026



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association W3SGJ

2M Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8





On the Cover:

Autumn Leaves (no antenna) photo courtesy of K3SOM!

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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

2026 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

Vice President: Larry Homich, KC3ROS

2nd Vice Pres.: Greg Burns KCTFW

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

Director: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Director: Randy Dinello KC3LZM

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.

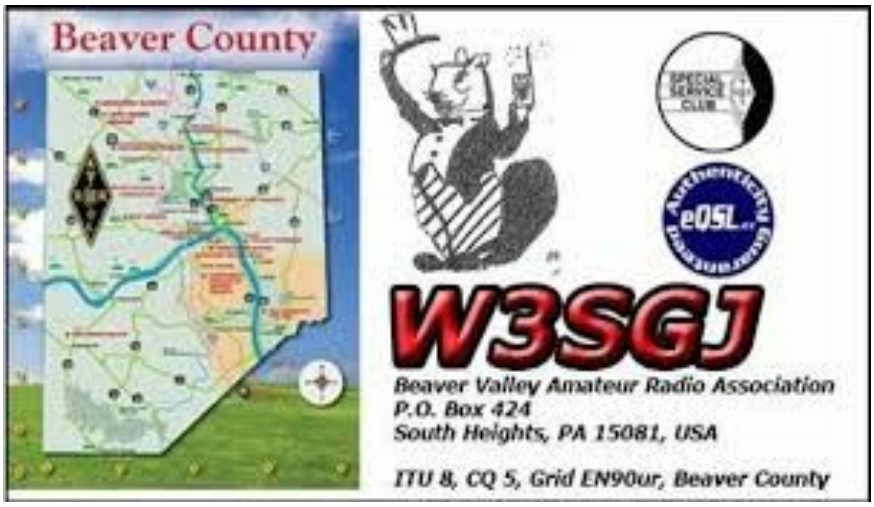
Regular meetings are at 6:30 PM

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).

2026 Meeting Dates

Nov 12
Dec 05 Christmas Party
at 5:00 pm

2027 Meeting Dates
Jan 14
Feb 11
Mar 11
Apr 08
May 13
Jun 10
Jul 15







This Month:

Speaker:

Scott Pelkofer
KC3KYZ

Topic:

How a Simple Gift Became an Unexpected Companion to Three Decades of EMS Service

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our club member topic this month features Scott Pelkofer, KC3KYZ who has had a career as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider. His topic presents a special hobby with interesting results. In his own words:

"One of the things that makes our club special is the opportunity to learn about one another beyond amateur radio. While radio brings us together, many of our members have fascinating hobbies, careers, experiences, and talents that are rarely mentioned."

"At our November meeting, I want to give a short presentation on an unusual hobby that began with a simple gift and evolved alongside my three decades in EMS. During the presentation, I will explain how a casual pastime unexpectedly intersected with my professional career, finding applications in both teaching and safety-related activities."

"My presentation is intended not only to share an interesting story but also to encourage other members to consider sharing their interests and experiences that help make our club the community-connected organization it is."

But wait, there's more! His presentation is fascinating in both its presentation style and content. 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.

Scott's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 2018, Dedicated Rag Chewer,
Formal Education in Emergency Medicine and Public Management
With nearly 30 Years in Emergency Medicine Services (EMS)

More this Month

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

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

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)

RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



Get your License or Upgrade

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

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



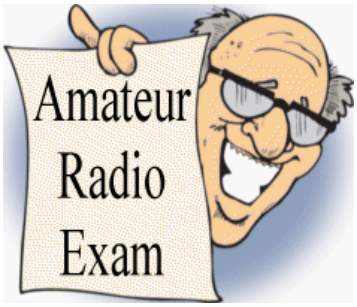
VE TEST SESSIONS

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

ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

1. 2 forms of I.D. - one MUST be a photo I.D.
2. A pencil AND a pen with blue or black ink.
3. The original AND a photocopy of any valid ham license.
4. The original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E.
5. The test fee of $15 - cash only.
6. Your FRN Number. (free from the FCC, call for details)

Testing this Month :



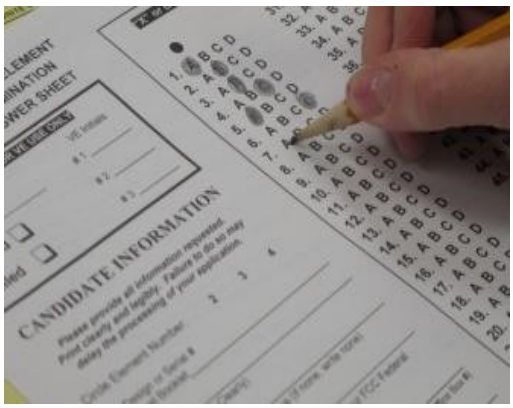
October 2026 VE Test Session

Our October VE Test Session had no candidates to achieve their Amateur Radio goal by passing their exam. Our electronic filing system was not required, but was waiting for a candidate.

Testing is conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on **November 12th, 2026.**

All of our BVARA testing would not be possible without the help of the following Extra -Class VE Team members:

Keith Custard – KC3TMC
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP
Karen Pelkofer – KC3SRL (General Class)
Scott Pelkofer - KC3KYZ
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP
Bart Stack – KB3NFM
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ and
Frank Witkowski – W3FJW



73 from Rich Soltesz – K3SOM, VE Liaison

ARRL the national association for amateur radio

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
◯ General
◯ Advanced
◯ 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



There will be more Hamfests

Next year.

Silent Key Announcement:

Rich Kulbacki Jr., KC3TOO from Bell Acres, Sewickley, PA died on October 29th, 2026 in his home. Rich was 80 years old and a long-time club member of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA). He contributed his efforts to many local organizations including the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department and the American Red Cross.

As a member of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association (BVARA), he was actively involved in many of our club activities, as well as a member supporting the 'Triple A' Amateur Radio Association, both in Beaver County. He frequently joined us for our Thursday morning breakfasts, as he enjoyed the comradery within the group.

On our Field Day, he would arrive every year in his American Red Cross role with his identifying badge to enable our club, as well as at least four other clubs to claim our association with community and emergency related organizations.

Rich's knowledge, his wit, his stories, and his keen listening abilities will be sorely missed by all of us.

His many friends over the years, still in Beaver County and beyond, have only one wish: May he rest in peace.

73, OM.
Dit-Dit-Dit Da-Dit-Da.

Left to right—Doug N4YKQ, Rich KC3TOO (SK), Dom N3EJL From 2026 Field Day



Of Interest to All

RACCOON CREEK
STATE PARK,
Hookstown PA

VETERANS TRAIL FESTIVAL
PENNSYLVANIA USA

Saturday, November
7, 2026

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 7, 2026 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



BVARA Christmas Party

The annual BVARA Christmas dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December **5,** at the Grand Valley Inn in Fallston.

- Dinner is at **5 PM**
- Cost is **$31.00** 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 **Tom Stoops, 30 KATHY ST, BEAVER FALLS PA 15010**

- **RSVP by Friday, November 13, 2026**

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

Election time for BVARA Officers. Nominations were taken during the October Club Meeting. Elections of nominated offers will be held in the November Club Meeting.

November 2026



ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest, CW, November 7th – 9th
10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital, November 14th – 16th
CQ-WE (Western Electric) Contest, All Modes, November 24th – 25th
ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest, SSB, November 21st – 23rd
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, November 28th – 29th

Special Events:

Nov. 6 – Nov. 8, 1600Z – 2355Z, WØJH, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association. **Remembering the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* at Split Rock Lighthouse**. 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360. Certificate. Shel Mann, 1618 Pine St. W, Stillwater, MN 55082. *Only WØJH contacts qualify for POTA US-2524, US-8095, ARLHS USA 783 validations, and submission to LoTW.* **www.radioham.org**

Nov. 7, 1600Z – 2200Z, KFØMSJ, Union, MO. Zero Beaters Amateur Radio Club. **100-Year Celebration of Route 66**. 14.250. QSL. Greg Ballard, 662 E. Main St., Union, MO 63084. **redbirdfan44stl@yahoo.com**

Nov. 11, 1430Z – 1900Z, W2B, Christiansburg, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. **Veterans Day from the National D-Day Memorial**. 14.262. QSL. Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Dr. SE, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3848. **dannywylam@gmail.com**

Nov. 14, 1400Z – 2200Z, K3S, Port of Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship *Savannah* Amateur Radio Club. **First Transatlantic QSO**. 7000. QSL. Ulis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113. *Check spotting networks for frequencies on all bands.* **www.qrz.com/db/k3s**

Nov. 14, 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. 17, 1500Z – 2359Z, K7GST, Prescott, AZ. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. **National Rifle Association Birthday Celebration**. 7.250 14.250 21.335 28.340. e-Certificate. **nrabirthday@w7yrc.org**

November can be a great opportunity for POTA, so get outside and enjoy some radio activity, but be sure to dress for cooler weather.

Of Interest to All

Dear Laurence:

Nomination Reply Requested

Please consider nominating a club member or yourself to serve as an officer in the 2027 BVARA.

To nominate a person, just provide their name and/or Call Sign, along with the position to one of the nomination committee members. (Note: nominate one person to each position.) You may reply by email, txt, or phone call to a committee member listed below.

The Positions are:

1) President
2) Vice President
3) 2nd Vice President
4) Treasury
5) Secretary

The Nomination Committee Members are the following:

Luke KD3CBU - lukedj96@gmail.com 724-888-6203
Greg KC3TFW - gmburns@gmail.com 724-407-3922
Larry KC3ROS - larry@kc3ros.net 724-318-5458

Many thanks and 73,

2026 BVARA Nomination Committee (Luke, Greg, & Larry)

Call to action

Bits and Pieces



Hello all,

I have to be honest, I am sad for our loss of Rich, KC3TOO (SK). As eloquently written by Rich K3SOM on page 10, it is difficult to express how much Rich did for our community, most times behind the scenes. He will be surely missed by all since Rich was very active in many different organizations and clubs.

On the Thursday Breakfast get together at the Freedom Square Diner, Rich KC3TOO (SK) and Keith KC3TMC would normally be the first two to arrive and get our table. I know I already miss our discussions, text messages, and the eye ball QSOs. So long my friend and 73! The following picture of Rich is from the 2024 Christmas Party and was taken by Rich, K3SOM.



On a separate note, the end of October also brought us some spectacular weather. However, we knew it was going to change, and just in time for the Nov 7 Veteran's Trail Fest at Racoon State Park. Also note with the anticipated weather change, remember to make your Christmas Party reservations before Nov 13.

Thanks again goes out to Rich, K3SOM for creating all the content for this issue. Also, I'm the reason the newsletter is late this month. I blame it on the time change, hihi. Remember that we will be voting for new club officers at the upcoming club meeting. Please also remember in your thoughts those family and friends that may be facing or recovering from personal health condition(s).



Till next month,

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



Radio Sport

Contest Corral — November 2026

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at **www.arrl.org/contest-calendar**. Check **https://contests.arrl.org** for recent results. 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	0000	1	0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	**ssbsprint.com**
1	0800	1	1200	Any	EANET Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	**fediea.org**
1	1400	1	1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	**www.highspeedclub.org**
1	1400	4	0800	1.8-28,50,144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rcvr/xmtr model	**www.classicexchange.org**
1	1600	1	2000	7,14,21,28	Real Time Contest	CW Ph	Serial, 4-char grid	**blog.contestonlinescore.com**
2	2000	2	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	**www.rsgbcc.org**
3	0100	3	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	**ars-qrp.com**
4	2000	4	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid	**www.ukeicc.com**
5	0000	5	0500	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	**ft8activity-na.net**
5	0000	6	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM: RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	**qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40**
5	1800	5	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	**nrau.net**
5	2000	5	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	**www.skccgroup.com**
7	0000	8	2359	1.8-28	YBDXPI FT8 Contest	Dig	4-char grid	**contest.ybdxpi.net**
7	0600	7	1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, "IPA" (if mbr), state (if US)	**www.iparc.de**
7	2100	9	0300	1.8-28	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW	CW	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	**www.arrl.org/sweepstakes**
8	0600	8	1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, "IPA" (if mbr), state (if US)	**www.iparc.de**
8	0700	8	1700	3.5-28	FIRAC HF Contest	Ph	RS(T), serial, "F" (if mbr)	**www.firac.de**
9	0100	9	0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	**www.4sqrp.com**
10	1900	10	2029	3.5,7	DARC FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report, 4-char grid	**www.darc.de**
11	2000	11	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	**www.rsgbcc.org**
12	0000	12	0500	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	**ft8activity-na.net**
14	0000	15	2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, serial	**www.darc.de**
14	0000	16	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	**www.podxs070.com**
14	0001	15	2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	**www.ten-ten.org**
14	0700	15	1300	1.8-28	JIDX Phone Contest	Ph	RST, JA prefecture no. or CQ zone	**www.jidx.org**
14	1200	15	1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, OK/OM county or serial	**okomdx.crk.cz**
14	1200	15	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	**www.skccgroup.com**
14	1900	16	0500	1.8-28,50,144,432	CQ-WE Contest	CW Ph Dig	Name, location code, years of service	**w8zpf.com**
14	2300	23	0300	1.8-14	AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	CW	RST, name, QTH, equipment year, xmtr type, pwr	**antiquewireless.org**
15	1300	15	1700	3.5,7	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	CW	RST, serial, class	**www.qrpcc.de**
15	1400	18	0800	1.8-28,50,144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rcvr/xmtr model	**www.classicexchange.org**
15	2300	16	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	**qrpcontest.com/pigrun**
16	2000	16	2200	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	**www.rsgbcc.org**
19	0000	19	0500	1296	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	**ft8activity-na.net**
19	0000	20	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM: RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	**qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20**
19	0130	19	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	**naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html**
19	1900	19	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM: RST, mbr or "NM"	**pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp**
21	1200	22	1200	3.5-28	LZ DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter LZ district or ITU zone	**lzdx.bfra.bg**
21	1600	21	2359	1.8	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, district code (if OE)	**www.oevsv.at**
21	1700	21	2359	1.8	REF 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, department code	**concours.r-e-f.org**
21	1800	22	2100	3.5,7,21,28	South American Integration Contest CW	CW	RST, "M" (if mbr) or "QRP" or "YL" or ITU zone	**sacw.cwsp.com.br**
21	1900	21	2059	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	**sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub**
21	2000	21	2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	Ph	RST, serial, district code (if UK)	**www.rsgbcc.org**
21	2100	23	0300	1.8-28	ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB	Ph	Serial, precedence, your call, check, ARRL/RAC Section	**www.arrl.org/sweepstakes**
25	0000	25	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	**www.skccgroup.com**
25	2000	25	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid	**www.ukeicc.com**
26	2000	26	2130	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	**www.rsgbcc.org**
28	0000	29	2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	**www.arrl.org/eme-contest**
28	0000	29	2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, CQ zone	**www.cqww.com**