THE eQRM
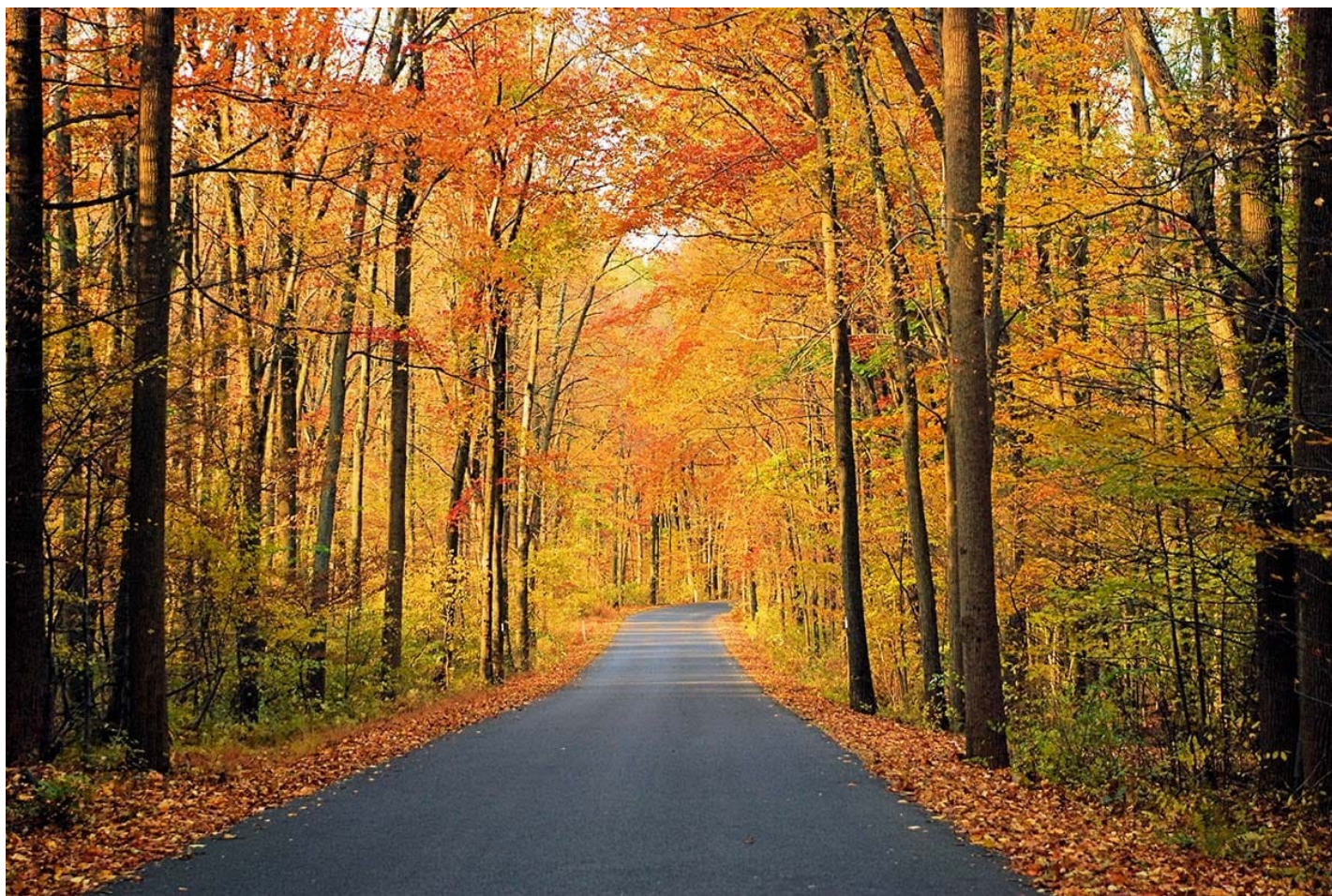
The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association   W3SGJ

2M   Repeater   145.310   PL 131.8

On the Cover: Here is a great photo of the French Creek Area from Ron Zanoni. What is down the road for you? Winter isn't far down the road for all of us. Have you got any radio projects you want to get done before the snow flies? Better get going!

Inside this edition

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

Who We Are

2022 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, 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).

2022
Oct 13
Nov 10
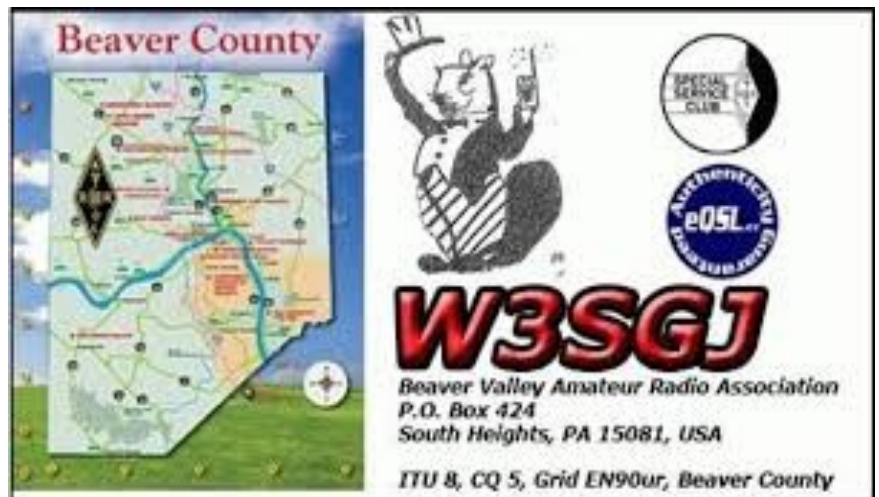Dec Christmas Party

2023
Jan 12
Feb 09
Mar 09
Apr 13
May 11
Jun 08
Jul 13
Aug Corn Roast
Sep 14
Oct 12

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz, K3SOM

Topic:

Ionospheric Conditions
In Near Real Time

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month highlights a recently-developed tool that begins to close the gap between propagation forecasting based on coarse averaging of solar data that is derived from what happened in the last week or month or previous years that could tell us what might happen in the next week or so. Maybe! Perhaps I expect too much from science and physics, but I can't help but feel at times like we are in the dark ages with no accurate data or data that might be based on the wrong variables whose accuracy is questionable.

Scientists and physicists have been taking *Ionosondes* to measure the Ionosphere in great detail for many years. An ionosonde is used for finding the optimum operation frequencies for broadcasts or two-way communications in the high frequency range.
An *Ionogram* is a display of the data produced by an ionosonde. The data represent current conditions at one point above the surface of the earth. We'll talk about these in more detail to see how this begins to tie in to ham radio.

Recent international collaboration and developments have enabled the development of a useful online tool that is updated every 15 minutes to tell us about the global current propagation conditions. Two graphs will tell us the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) and the Critical Frequency that are updated every 15 minutes. The data tell us about NVIS, when a band is going long, and why a band is going short. The graphs will also tell us if a path is possible between two points on the earth at a particular frequency at the current time.

As we move further along on our climb to the top of Solar Cycle 25, this is one presentation you won't want to miss!

Rich's Background:

Extra Class Ham, Licensed since 1962, VE,
B.S. Electrical Engineering,

Weekly

Thursday Morning Breakfast
(or you can have lunch)

Come join us!

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

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

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)
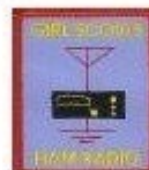
Get your License or Upgrade

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.

ARRL
Amateur Radio

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 :

September 2022 VE Test Session Results

Our September VE Test Session had three successful candidates, with all participants achieving their goals of passing the exam. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly. A congratulations email was then sent to the candidates with a snippet of their license page with their new callsign and/or verification that all information was entered correctly.

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 October 13th. Beginning July 1st, the new Technician Tests have begun to be used.

Congratulations to:

Mike Jones, KC3UTY, Beaver Falls, PA passed the Technician exam
Chris Ciccone, KC3LGT, Cranberry Township, PA passed the General exam
Joe Pintur, KA3SVH, Beaver Falls, PA passed the General exam

Congratulations!

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, and
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ
Frank Witkowski - W3FJW

73 from Rich Soltesz - K3SOM, VE Liaison
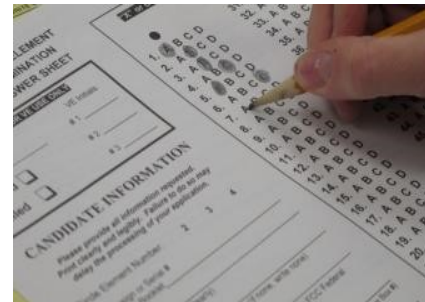
Membership Information

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   _____

     One year ARRL membership   49.00   _____

     A Club Donation   _____

ARRL Member?   Yes   No   Total   Enclosed   _____

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

No I can't take it…

Don't tell me there are no more
Hamfests this year in
Western Pennsylvania!

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
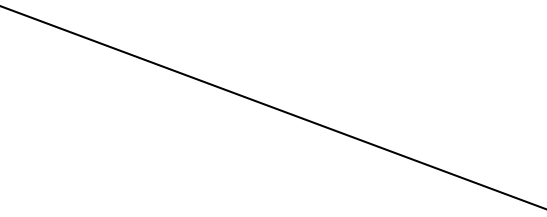
Of Interest to All

ALBERT BELARDIA (SK)

October 20, 1935 — September 27, 2022

Albert Belardia, 86, passed away on Tuesday (September 27, 2022) at his home in Aliquippa, PA. Al was born on October 20, 1935 in Elizabeth, PA, a 1954 graduate of McKees Rocks High School. On September 17, 1988 at the Assembly of God, Pittsburgh, he married Chong Sun Park, who survives.

He was a member of the Army Signal Corps serving from 1954 to 1956 and honorably discharged. Once out of the service Al spent his career working as a computer operator for Westinghouse at the Bettis Atomic Power Lab in West Mifflin, PA. He spent 40 years with them until his retirement in 1994.

Al, WA3GFM was an active member in the *Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association* and spent hours reaching out to amateur radio operators all over the globe. He made friends with contacts in over 320 Countries and on every Continent. Al took pride as a Volunteer Examiner with active participation in over 100 sessions to aid people obtain their license and advance to higher levels of achievement. He was always pleasant, helpful, and courteous to everyone.

He loved to spend his time in the outdoors. Al was an avid hunter, camper, and fisherman.

Family and friends were received at the SIMPSON FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES, 1119 Washington Avenue, Monaca, PA, Tuesday October 4th from 4 to 6pm. Mass was celebrated at St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Monaca, Wednesday October 5th at 10am, followed with a burial service at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies at 12:30 pm.

May he rest in peace.

Dit-Dit-Dit Dah-Dit-Dah (SK)

(Portions of this Obituary courtesy of the Simpson Funeral & Cremation Services, Monaca PA)

Enon Valley Octoberfest and Pumpkin Patch Activities for Children

On Saturday, October 1st, 2022, families from Enon Valley and the surrounding area gathered to celebrate the Fall season with many colorful activities. Some of the activities featured wagon rides to the pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting, face painting, fire trucks, games, crafts, a fall photo booth

and the *Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association* (BVARA) with a demonstration of amateur radio local communications.

Of Interest to All

Tom Stoops, N3XC and Jim Allen, KC3IXE set up a Morse Code electronic keyer that provided a tone to enable children of all ages to try their hand at sending Morse-Coded signals using helpful aides to assist them in their learning activity.

Some children really enjoyed hearing the sounds of their code as it filled the air with sounds that have been used for over 150 years. Two-meter repeater communications were also available for the youngsters with Tim, N2EA on the other end near the BVARA repeater.

Bits and Pieces

Hello All,

I am enjoying the Fall temperatures. I love the cooler weather. I just love Fall colored leaves and how crisp the air feels. It is short lived though! Fall only lasts a short time then it signals we will soon be into the winter season. It also signals I better hurry up and finish any last chores before the weather makes them a dreaded task.

I have been busy getting the last bits I need to get done on the farm before Winter. I haven't taken the time to get that Dadgum Pole planted. I want to get to it though. Have you gotten any of your big radio dreams finally completed this Summer? Putting up that Dadgum Pole and hanging a horizontal loop on it is my big dream. Since I got home from vacation I was refreshed and motivated to get many things completed on my list. I had been procrastinating far too long. My bride has been helping me so much. I appreciate her so much. It feels good to get so much done! With her help, I am getting ahead. I am excited to see what else I can get done this year. I am hoping my new HF antenna will be one such thing I get done. We shall see.

I have to say I was caught off guard by the SK news about Al Belardia. Al was very kind to me. Al was one of the VEs that tested me from Tech, to General to Amateur Extra. He was one of the first people to congratulate me when I got my Ham licenses. When I attended my first BVARA club meeting Al gave me some copies of CQ magazine. I always felt this was very nice of him. What a kind gentleman. He encouraged me by sharing all his latest DX cards at Ham Breakfasts. I called Al on the telephone from time to time just to visit. Al always had something interesting to share with me about ham radio. He was one Ham operator that I looked up to. I will surely miss him. To the Belardia family, may I express how very, very sorry I am for your loss.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC

Contest Corral

October 2022

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
1	0600	2	0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	CW	RS(T), Chinese province or serial	www.mulandxc.com
1	0600	2	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
1	1200	2	1159	1.8-28	Russian WW Digital Contest	Dg	RST(Q), oblast code or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
1	1400	2	1400	See rules	IARU Region 1 UHF Microwaves Contest	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid square	www.iaru-r1.org
1	1600	2	1100	3.5,7	International HELL-Contest	Hell	RST, serial	www.darc.de
1	1600	2	2200	1.8-28	California QSO Party	CW,Ph	Serial, CA county or SPC	www.cqp.org/Rules.html
1	1800	2	1800	No WARC	SKCC QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, name, 4-char grid square	www.skccgroup.com
2	0600	2	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
2	0600	2	1800	3.5-28	RSGB DX Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), serial	www.rsgbcc.org
2	2200	2	2359	3.5-14	Peanut Power QRP Sprint	CW,Ph	RS(T), SPC, peanut no. or power	www.nogaqrp.org
3	1900	3	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
4	0100	4	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
5	1900	5	2300	432	432 MHz Fall Sprint	CW,Ph,Dg	4-char grid square	svhfs.org
5	2000	5	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
6	1700	6	1900	3.5	SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid square or QTH	www.sarl.org.za
6	1700	6	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrrlcontest.no
6	1900	6	2100	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	0000	8	1559	3.5-28	Makrothen RTTY Contest	Dg	4-char grid square	www.pl259.org
8	0000	8	2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparci.org
8	0300	9	2100	1.8-28, V/U	Nevada QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), NV county or ARRL/RAC section	nvqso.com
8	0600	9	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
8	0800	8	1400	902 and above	Microwave Fall Sprint	CW,Ph,Dg	6-char grid square	svhfs.org
8	1200	9	1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
8	1200	9	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	1500	9	0500	1.8-28	Arizona QSO Party	CW,Ph	RS(T), AZ county, or SPC	www.azqp.org
8	1600	9	2200	No WARC	Pennsylvania QSO Party	CW,Ph	Serial, PA county, or ARRL/RAC section	paqso.org
8	1800	9	1800	1.8-28, 50,144	South Dakota QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), SD county, or SPC	www.sdqsoparty.com
8	2000	9	2000	1.8	PODXS 070 Club 160-Meter Great Pumpkin Sprint	Dg	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
9	0600	9	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
10	0000	10	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW,Ph	RST, SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
10	0001	10	2359	28	10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint	CW,Ph,Dg	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
12	0030	12	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
12	1900	12	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dg	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
15	0000	16	2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW,Ph,Dg	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
15	0000	16	2359	3.5-28	JARTS WW RTTY Contest	Dg	RST, age of operator	jarts.jp/rules2022.html
15	0001	16	2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
15	1400	16	0200	No WARC	New York QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), NY county or SPC	www.nyqp.org
15	1500	16	1459	3.5-28	Worked All Germany Contest	CW,Ph	RS(T), DOK or "NM" or serial	www.darc.de
15	2000	15	2359	1.8-7,21, 28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dg	RST, mbr, SPC, grid square	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
15	2130	15	2230	7	Argentina National 7 MHz Contest	Ph	RS, 2-digit year first licensed	www.lu4aa.org
16	0000	16	0200	14,21	Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org
16	0700	16	1000	144	UBA ON Contest, 2 Meters	CW,Ph	RS(T), serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
16	1700	17	0100	1.8-28, 50,144	Illinois QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), IL county or SPC	w9awe.org/ilqp
16	1900	16	2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo CW	CW	RST, previous 6-char grid square recd	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16	2300	17	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
17	1300	21	2359	No WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW,Ph,Dg	RS(T), class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
17	1900	17	2030	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	4-char grid square	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
20	1900	20	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	NTC member: RST, mbr; non-member: RST, "NM," less than 25 WPM	qsl.net/ntc/party.html
21	1700	23	0100	1.8-28, V/U	Telephone Pioneers QSO Party	CW,Ph,Dg	Chapter nr or RS(T), name	www.tpqso.com
22	0000	23	2359	1.8-28	YBDXPI FT8 Contest	FT8	4-char grid square	contest.ybdxpi.net/rules
22	1200	23	1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, district code, or serial	www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php
22	1400	24	0200	No WARC	YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	CW,Ph,Dg	Serial, RS(T), ARRL section or PC	ylrl.net/contests
22	1500	23	1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	www.kkn.net/stew
23	0000	23	0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
23	1300	26	0700	1.8-28, 50,144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, radio model	www.classicexchange.org
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 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
27	1900	27	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
28	1600	28	2359	3.5-14,21	Zombie Shuffle	CW	RS(T), SPC, Zombie nr or area code, name	www.zianet.com/qrp
29	0000	30	2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, CQ Zone	www.cqww.com