

THE eQRM

OCTOBER 2023



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: October is when the trees in Western Pennsylvania put on their Autumn colors. Now is a great time to get out and enjoy the beautiful Fall leaves.

Photo courtesy of FineArtAmerica

Inside this edition

Who We Are	3	Hamfests & General	9
This Month	4	Announcements	
Get a License or Upgrade	6	Of Interest to All	10
New License and Upgrades	7	Bits and Pieces	17
Membership	8	Radio Sport	18



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 - 2023. 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

2023 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Lawrence, K3GTX

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Tom Stoops N3XC

Director: Tony Pavilonis, K3AHP

Director: Jim Allen, KC3IXE

Trustee: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ



MONTHLY MEETINGS

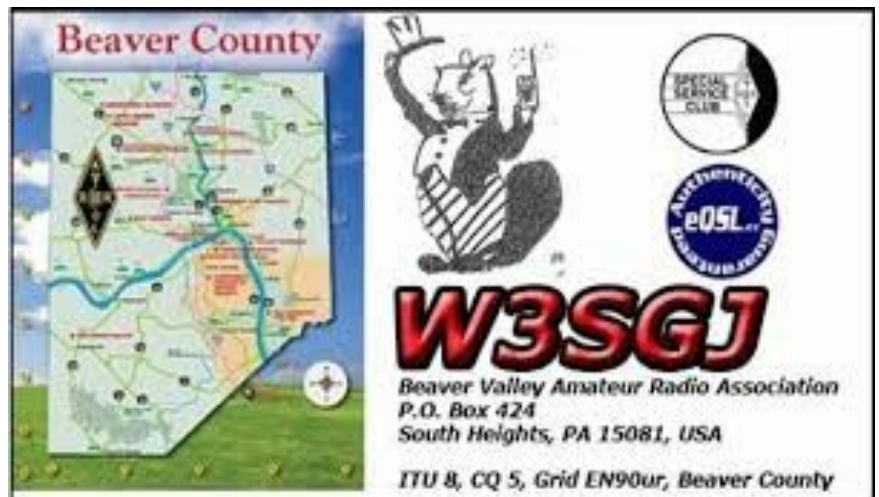
E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting.

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).

2023
Oct 12
Nov 09
Dec 09 Christmas Party
2024
Jan 11
Feb 08
Mar 14
Apr 11
May 09
Jun 13
Jul 11
Aug 08



This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz
K3SOM

Topic:

Fox Hunting

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is an update to our original Fox Hunting that deals with an outdoor topic involving radios, light exercise and . . . fun! Contrary to popular opinion, fox hunting is not when a guy is looking for that beautiful lady. Fox Hunting to hams is when you use a radio and normally some kind of directional antenna to search for a signal. It's called 'Fox' Hunting where the fox is a low-powered transmitter that is hidden outdoors and the 'Hunters' are hams that are equipped with portable radios and directional antennas who are trying to find the 'Fox'.

At an advanced level, Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is an amateur racing sport that combines radio direction finding with the map and compass skills of orienteering. It is a timed race in which individual competitors use a topographic map, a magnetic compass and radio direction finding apparatus to navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. That's not us – we're just beginning!

As rank beginners, we're going to begin with a Baofeng UV-5R two-meter transceiver that has been equipped with a BFoxCon fox controller by Byonics. Its PIC Controller has been programmed to transmit with unique identifying tones followed by our club ID in Morse Code. We'll also show you an easy-to-build three-element yagi that we made with steel tape elements and ½-inch PVC tubing with F/B ratios approaching 50 dB. Now we're on a roll!

But wait, there's more! We'll cover two or three signal attenuators and some techniques to minimize or attenuate the signal once you get close to the 'Fox'. If you are a new ham or want to do something different for a change, 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)

Come join us!



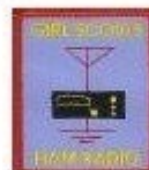
The BVARA meets every Thursday at the Freedom Square Diner in Center Township, just to the right of the Cinemark Center Township Marketplace at 09:30 AM. All radio amateurs and those interested in amateur radio are encouraged to come join us at our Thursday morning breakfast.

**See you
Thursday at**



RACES / ARES

The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



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 :

September 2023 VE Test Session Results

Our September VE Test Session had three successful candidates, with their achievements of either obtaining their new Amateur Radio license or upgrading their current license. Our electronic filing system once again worked superbly.

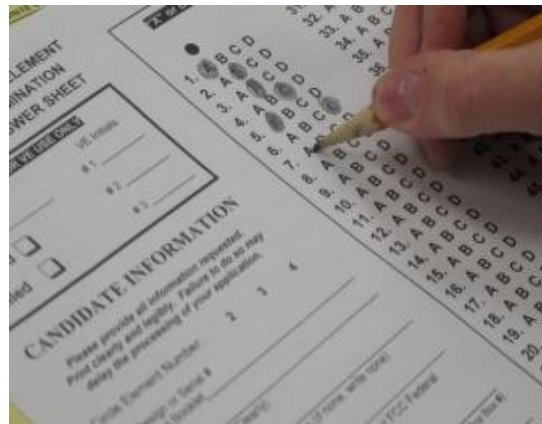
Our testing was conducted at our normal location at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center in Ambridge, PA. Our next VE Test Session will be on October 12th, 2023.

Congratulations to:

Tom Zehnder, KC3WSV, Technician, Ambridge, PA
Karl Dunkel Jr, KE8YPM, General, Negley, OH
Woody Douglass, KC3WFX, Extra, Seven Fields, PA

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, 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	
<input type="radio"/> BVARA full membership	25.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> BVARA student membership	15.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> BVARA associate membership	10.00	_____
<input type="radio"/> 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.)

<input type="radio"/> Technician	Name _____
<input type="radio"/> General	Address _____
<input type="radio"/> Advanced	_____
<input type="radio"/> 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

**Well that's it for now.
I don't see any more Western Pennsylvania
hamfests for this year.**



Of Interest to All

BVARA Coming Attractions



October

PA QSO Party, October 14th and 15th

POTA Activation in the Allegheny National Forest at
Hearts Content National Scenic Area

Possible Fox Hunt

More POTA Activations

November

(TBD)

December

Christmas Dinner, with Ham of the Year award, December 9th Rochester Hotel

Time and Per Person price to be announced at October Club Meeting



BVARA, the Allegheny National Forest Centennial, and a POTA Adventure

Several months ago, the BVARA learned that the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) was preparing to celebrate on September 24, 2023 their Centennial of the opening of the park. Jim Allan, KC3IXE contacted park personnel with questions about our club wish to set up amateur radio operations as part of the Parks on the Air (POTA) initiative. Brandon Pisani, Visitor Services Information Assistant with the Allegheny National Forest, Supervisor's Office contacted Jim with potential sites suitable for our POTA operations. He further provided possible camping sites and other additional information concerning sites that required a fee for use.

Several club members decided that a preliminary scouting trip would be helpful to find a site from Brandon's suggestions that would meet our needs. Jim, KC3IXE, Tom, N3XC, and Rich, K3SOM drove up to the ANF about two weeks early to scout out possible sites. Doug, N4YKQ and Doug, K3GTX offered their ideas and help with the preparations. Our preliminary field trip helped to identify the Overlook across and above the Allegheny River at Tidioute, PA. At an elevation of about 1,560 feet above sea level with easy access, the site looked like an ideal location without the need for further investigation.

Two days before our planned departure on September 23rd, Brandon emailed Jim that the Pennsylvania State Police asked the Park Rangers to close access to the Overlook because of an ongoing investigation. However, he made two additional suggestions to us that proved to be even better for us.

That Saturday morning, as we reached the Tidioute Overlook, Doug, N4YKQ was parked there waiting for us in front of the closed gate.



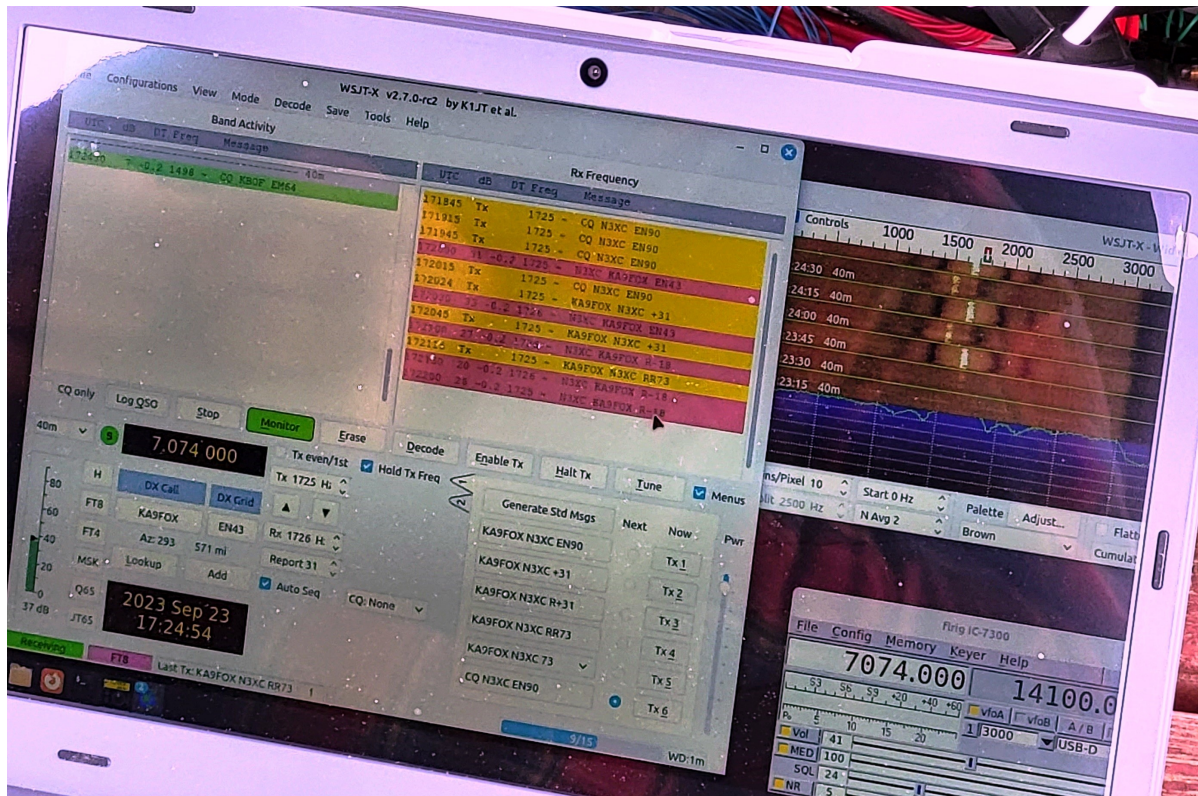
We all then drove to the Hearts Content National Scenic Area and parked by the Pavilion which is an historic CCC structure. With an elevation of 1,930 feet and a sheltered pavilion and several picnic tables in the clearing, we felt this was an even better site than the Tidioute Overlook.

Of Interest to All

With no power lines, no routers, and no switching power supplies for many miles in all directions, the bands were unbelievably without any electrical interference. With matched verticals on three bands with many radials, signals were quite strong. Tom, N3XC, with his newly acquired abilities with FT8, made the most contacts.



Tom is setup and ready to operate from the CCC pavilion



Screen on Tom's evolve laptop driven from his ICOM-7300

Of Interest to All



Jim, KC3IXE setting up his Wolf River vertical antenna for his Yaesu FT-817

Jim operating on SSB with his Yaesu FT-817



Rich, K3SOM spreading out one of his seven radials for his Wolf River vertical antenna for his ICOM-705

Of Interest to All

The next morning after breakfast, we headed over to the Twin Lakes Recreation Area to join the Centennial festivities, but rain, quite heavy at times, was not in our favor. Jim and I drove over there to personally at least thank Brandon for all of his suggestions and support for our POTA efforts. He was not there, but two other Park Rangers agreed to let him know we were there and we appreciated all that he had done to support our efforts.



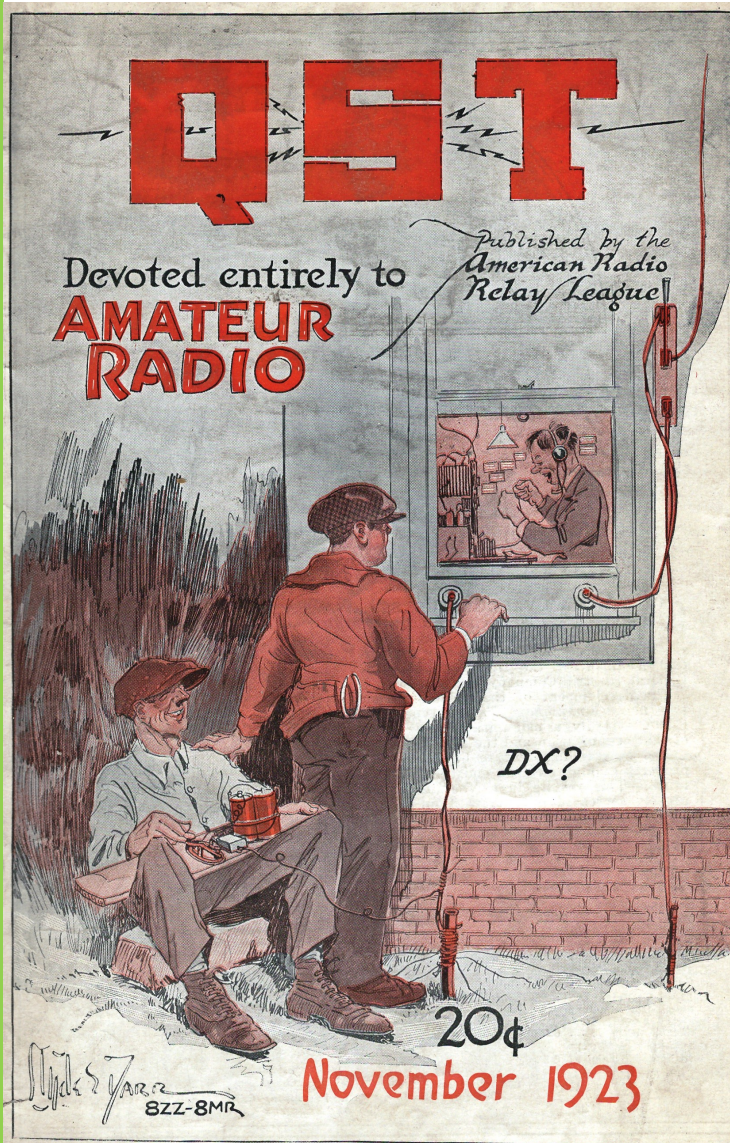
Jim and Rich Find a POTA
volunteer helper in Tionesta, PA

We'll be back!

100 Years Ago in *QST Magazine*

Continuing, this issue of our *eQRM Newsletter* and in celebration of our 100th Anniversary of the BVARA, two issues of the 1923 *QST Magazine* have been featured. A photo of the cover of each issue was shown as well as a description of two articles within each issue of the magazine. This feature article completes our coverage of all the *QST Magazine* articles for 1923.

The cover of the **November 1923** issue of *QST Magazine* by Clyde Darr, 8ZZ shows a



very happy ham on what he is hearing, while two young men or older boys just outside his window have a radio set with a telegraph key and a coupling coil around one of the external radio wires just outside his radio room window. Curiously, the two 'wags' have their radio wire wrapped around the station ground wire. The cover caption is 'DX?'

This issue of *QST Magazine* features an article by C. D. Tuska, the President of C. D. Tuska Company entitled *The Superdyne Receiver*. In this article, he describes a bit of history of RF amplifiers and various attempts to increase the gain, and thus, the sensitivity of the radio to weak signals. Tuska offers his approach by reversing the wires to the feedback coil that are placed next to the input antenna coil. The technique is considered by him as a significant improvement in the design. In a direct comparison between his 4-tube Superdyne radio and an 8-tube Superheterodyne radio, comparable results were obtained with very similar performance on many stations.

Another feature 11-page article covers the 4-day ARRL Second Hamfest in Chicago. Among other topics, a huge banquet photo fills one page, while another photo covers the representatives of amateur radio and the Department of Commerce with the American Railways representatives on amateur cooperation.

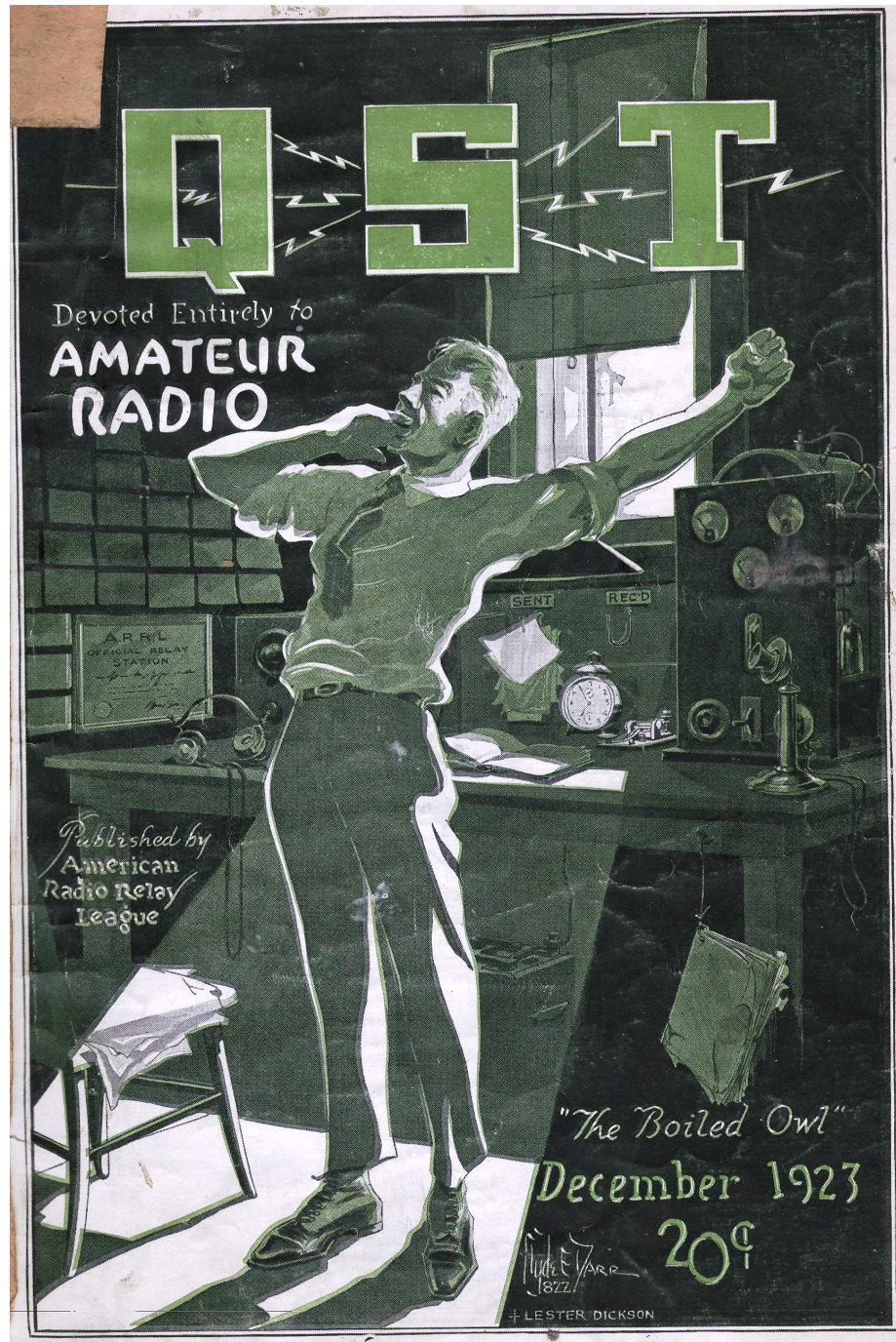
Of Interest to All

An article chronicles *West Coast Working 'Bowdoin'*, WNP with an updated log of recent comments. Many reports are from California, Washington, and British Columbia.

The cover of the **December 1923** issue depicts a yawning ham, probably at around sunrise who probably worked on traffic handling all night long. The cover caption is '*The Boiled Owl*'.

An article by S.W. Place entitled '*The Other Side of the Argument*' challenges readers to compare the August article '*Hard Rubber in Radio Instruments*' with his presentation on products like Condensite Celoron, Bakelite Dilecto, Bakelite Micarta, and Formica. In 1923, measurements of Dissipation Factors, as well as Surface and Volume Resistivity had not yet been available.

The Quarterly Financial Statement for the period ending July 31, 1923 indicated a Net Loss of \$2950.31 on Revenue less Deductions of 24939.50 for information to the membership.



Rich – K3SOM

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

I got in such a haste last month I put the wrong months in the September bits and pieces. I was so rushed I didn't notice my mistake until now. Okay I am up-to-date... It is October now! Fall is my favorite time of year. I like the cool temperatures and the colorful leaves.

I get in the mood to finish any undone ham outdoor tasks I have let slip. Since the hot weather is over, I want to get the undone completed before the snow flies. Sorry for that bad four-letter word. We all know it is coming. :-(

I hope you make/have time to finish any outdoor radio stuffs you want to accomplish before the weather changes too.

I have to make time to get two Dadgum Poles in the ground this year! I am so close to getting them in place and connecting an HF antenna to them. I have been waiting for this for so long! I am excited to get all the horizontal wire up on the Dadgum Pole connection points. This will be a great experiment for my life radio adventures. For me, it is just as much fun on the journey as it is arriving at the destination. I have been working on this horizontal loop idea for what seems like forever. I am looking forward to giving this antenna a try with my radio on the HF frequencies. I will keep you posted. This promises to be a lot of fun for me! I am also looking forward to the "Antenna Party" I will have to get it all connected up and running.

Please, always, be safe and enjoy our radio hobby.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

October 2023

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	1	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
1	2200	1	2359	3.5-14	Peanut Power QRP Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, peanut no. or pwr	www.nogaqrp.org
2	1900	2	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
3	0100	3	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqrp.blogspot.com
4	1900	4	2300	432	432 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	svhfs.org
5	0000	6	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40
5	1700	5	1900	3.5	SARL 80m QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid or QTH	www.sarl.org.za
5	1700	5	2100	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net/nrau-contests-in-general
7	0000	8	2359	No WARC	Collegiate QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	School ID or SPC, RS(T)	collegiateqsoparty.com
7	0600	8	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
7	0800	7	1400	902 and above	Microwave Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	svhfs.org
7	1200	8	1159	1.8-28	Russian WW Digital Contest	Dig	RST(Q), oblast code or serial	www.rdrclub.ru
7	1400	8	1400	See rules	IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iaru-r1.org
7	1600	8	1100	3.5,7	International HELL Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.darc.de
7	1600	8	2200	1.8-28	California QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, CA county or SPC	www.cqp.org/Rules.html
8	0600	8	0900	3.5	UBA ON Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
9	0000	9	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group 2nd Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
10	0001	10	2359	28	10-10 Int'l 10-10 Day Sprint	CW Ph Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
10	1800	10	1929	3.5,7	DARC RTTY Sprint	Dig	RST, DOK/"NM," or serial	www.darc.de
11	0030	11	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
11	1900	11	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14	0000	15	1559	3.5-28	Makrothen RTTY Contest	Dig	4-char grid	www.pl259.org
14	0300	15	2100	1.8-28, VHF/UHF	Nevada QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NV county or ARRL/RAC section	nvqso.com
14	0600	15	0600	1.8-28	Oceania DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
14	1200	14	2200	1.8-28,50	Solar Eclipse QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	hamscl.org/seqp-rules
14	1500	15	0500	1.8-28	Arizona QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AZ county or SPC	www.azqp.org
14	1600	15	2200	No WARC	Pennsylvania QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, PA county or ARRL/RAC section	paqso.org
14	1800	15	1800	1.8-28, 50,144	South Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SD county or SPC	www.sdqsoparty.com
14	2000	15	2000	1.8	PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
15	0000	15	0200	14,21	Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/
15	0700	15	1000	144	UBA ON Contest, 2m	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, ON section (if ON)	www.uba.be
15	2300	16	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
16	1300	20	2359	No WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), class (JC/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
16	1900	16	2030	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
19	0000	20	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	13 WPM max; RST, SPC, name, mbr/pwr	qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20
19	1900	19	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	25 WPM max; RST, mbr, or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl
20	1700	22	0100	1.8-28,WU	Telephone Pioneers QSO Party	CW Dig Ph	Chapter no. or RS(T), name	www.tpqso.com
21	0000	22	2359	3.5-28	JARTS WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, age of operator	jarts.jp/rules2023.html
21	0000	22	2359	1.8-28	YBDXPI FT8 Contest	FT8	4-char grid	contest.ybdxpi.net/rules
21	0001	22	2359	28	10-10 Int'l Fall Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
21	1400	22	0200	No WARC	New York QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NY county or SPC	www.nyqp.org
21	1400	23	0200	No WARC	YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), ARRL Section or PC	ylrl.net/contests
21	1500	22	1459	3.5-28	Worked All Germany Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK or "NM" or serial	www.darc.de
21	1500	22	1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid	www.kkn.net/stew
21	2000	21	2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
21	2130	21	2300	7	Argentina National 7 MHz Contest	Ph	RS, 2-digit year first licensed	www.lu4aa.org
22	1700	23	0100	1.8-28, 50,144	Illinois QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), IL county or SPC	w9awe.org/ilqp
26	1900	26	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
27	1500	27	2359	3.5-28	Zombie Shuffle	CW	RS(T), SPC, Zombie no. or area code, name	www.zianet.com/qrp
28	0000	29	2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
28	0000	29	2359	1.8-28	CQ World Wide DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, CQ zone	www.cqww.com