

# THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2017



## The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

## On the cover:

The final stages of the antenna installation. Several changes were made...

The good news is: **"The BVARA Repeater is back on the air!"**. Please see the last page of this newsletter for details.

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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

## 2017 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Mark Kavic, KB3LED

2nd Vice Pres.: Rob Miller, N3OJL

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

Director: Bob Croft, KB3RHN

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).

## 2017 MEETING DATES

Sep 14  
Oct 12  
Nov 09  
Dec 09 Christmas Party  
Jan 11  
Feb 09  
Mar 08  
Apr 12  
May 10  
Jun 14  
Jul 12





# This Month

## BVARA Club Feature Presentation *This Month:*

### *Speaker:*

Rich Soltesz  
K3SOM

### *Topic:*

Caution – Building Projects

### *Including:*

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month is a dangerous one that should be approached with extreme caution. Not everyone should consider going any further. If you decide to pursue this topic then you run the risk of exposing yourself to becoming creative, accomplishing something worthwhile, and quite possibly learning more than you expected in a very short period of time. Your mind will begin with curiosity, then develop an interest in the topic and along the way you will learn about techniques, suppliers, measurements, and so much more. You will be on an emotional roller coaster beginning with puzzlement, enthusiasm, mental conflicts, despair, possibly failure, then you may transition to perhaps communications, deep and insightful thought and self-analysis, a small partial success, and then the ‘big enchilada’: achievement of success!

The inspiration for this topic came from a \$3.00 purchase at the flea market area of the Skyview Radio Society Hamfest on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. First, we’ll take a brief look at the original project as described in *QST Magazine* back in 2002. Back then, entrepreneurs would offer supplemental etched PC boards or even offer the PC boards and parts ready for assembly onto the boards.

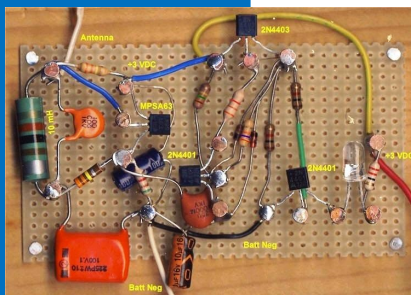
But the most interesting part of this topic is the originality and creativity displayed by project builders from around the world that went beyond that early article. The author of that original 2002 article must be very proud to see the inspiration and enthusiasm that he created over 15 years ago. The true spirit of the ham radio operator is alive and well as cost takes a back seat to creativity and pride of accomplishment. Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ham, bring your questions and/or experience to the meeting because 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



Credit goes to  
Martyn Fuller  
from the UK .



# 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.

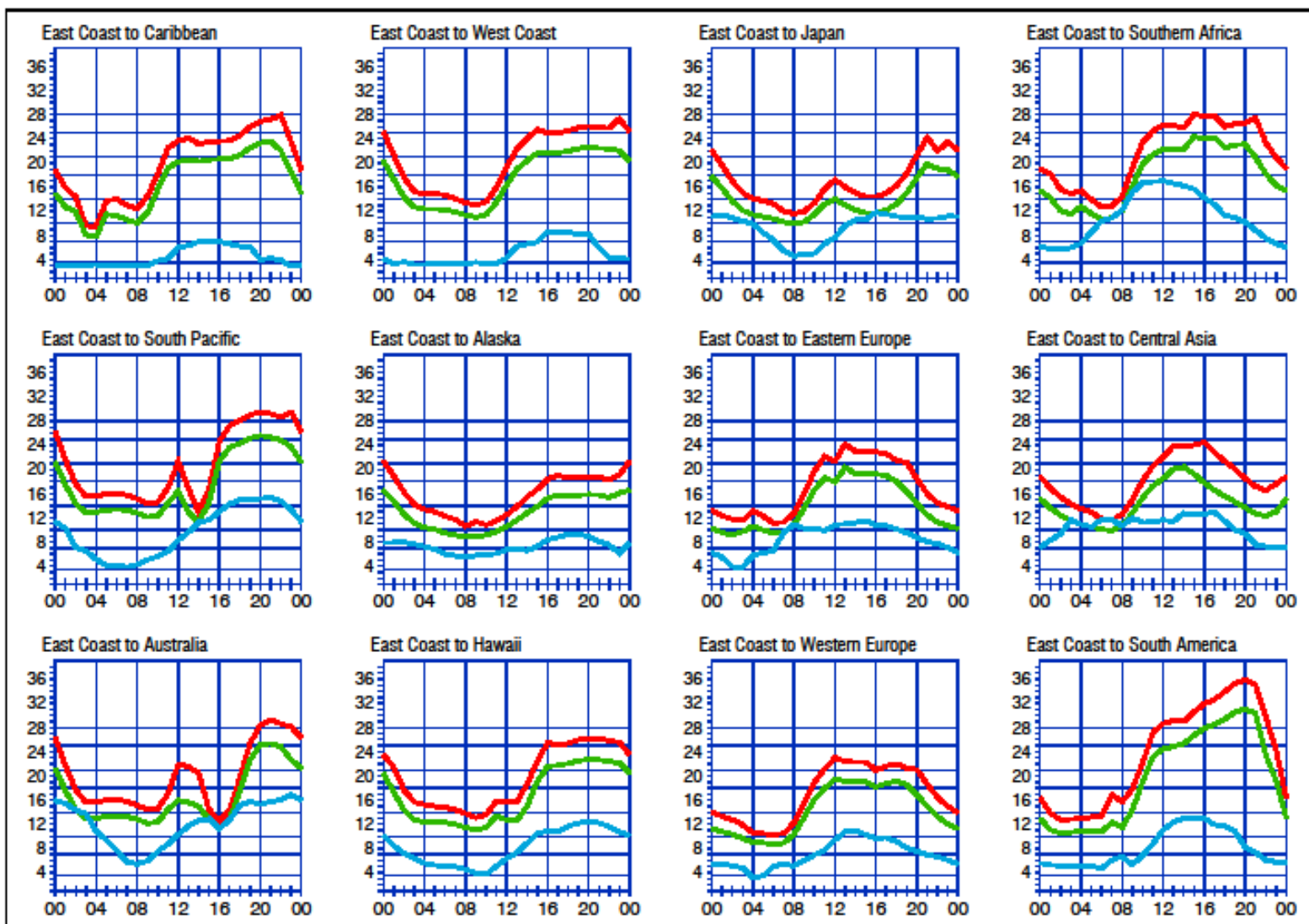
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 **September** 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 (HFF, 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 80. This is a **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 September 2017.

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

# 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.

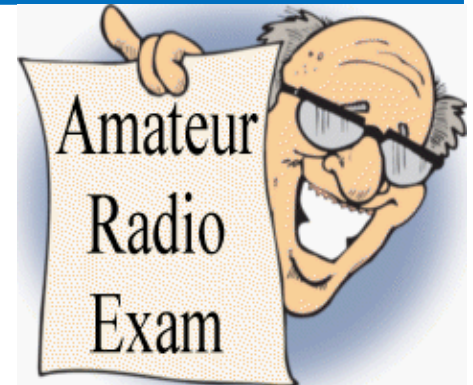
ALL candidates MUST bring ALL of the following:

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.

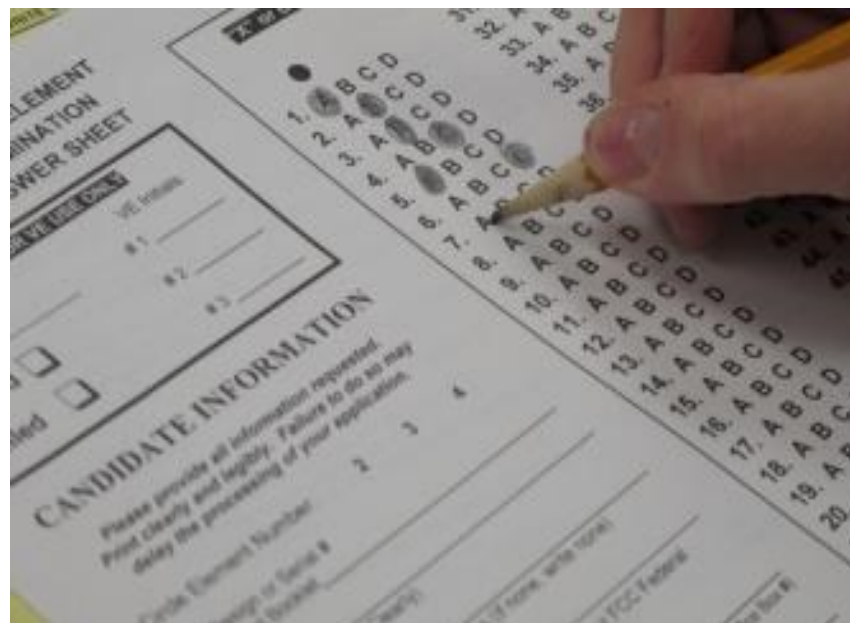


# New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing



Because of our Corn Roast activity last month, VE testing was not available. Testing resumes again this month. Do you need to upgrade? Come to the BVARA meeting on the 14th of September at the 911 Center.





# 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  | Name _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General     | Address _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced    | _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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



Looks like we will have to wait till November for the next  
Western Pennsylvania Hamfest.

## Contest Corral – September 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.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	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 2300 3 2300 3.5-28		GoZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://fistsna.org/operating.html">fistsna.org/operating.html</a>
2 0000 2 2359 3.5-28		Russian RTTY WW Contest	Dig	RST, oblast or CQ zone	<a href="http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/93">www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/93</a>
2 0000 2 2359 1.8-28		CWops CW Open	CW	Serial, name	<a href="http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html">www.cwops.org/cwopen.html</a>
2 0000 3 2359 3.5-28		All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	<a href="http://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library">www.jarl.org/English/4_Library</a>
2 0800 2 0800 7, 14		Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup">qrp.ru/contest/wakeup</a>
2 1300 2 1800 7		AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	<a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en">www.agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
2 1300 3 0400 1.8-UHF		Colorado QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	<a href="http://ppma.org/coqp">ppma.org/coqp</a>
2 1300 3 1259 1.8-28		IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de">www.darc.de</a>
2 1300 3 1300 3.5-28		RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
2 2000 3 2000 3.5		PODXS c70 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Meter Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
3 1000 3 1400 144		WAB 144 MHz QRP Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.internip.net">wab.internip.net</a>
3 1800 4 0300 1.8-UHF		Tennessee QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://tnqp.org/rules">tnqp.org/rules</a>
4 2300 5 0300 1.8-50		MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.miqrp.org">www.miqrp.org</a>
5 0100 5 0300 3.5-28		ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
6 2000 6 2100 3.5		UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
7 1700 7 2100 28		NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net">www.nrau.net</a>
9 0000 9 2359 14		Kulikov Polyu Contest	CW	RST, KP or serial	<a href="http://tularadio.ru/?pg=content&amp;pc=rule-en">tularadio.ru/?pg=content&amp;pc=rule-en</a>
9 0000 9 2359 1.8-VHF		FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://g4foc.org/qsoparty">g4foc.org/qsoparty</a>
9 0000 10 2359 2.3 GHz and up		ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>
9 0000 10 2359 3.5-28		WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.darc.de">www.darc.de</a>
9 1000 10 1000 1.8-28		SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), number of xmits, category, Province	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
9 1200 10 2359 1.8-50		SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
9 1400 9 2200 3.5-28		Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	Park abbreviation or "Ohio" or SPC	<a href="http://www.ospota.org/ospota">www.ospota.org/ospota</a>
9 1500 10 0959 3.5-28		Russian Cup Digital Contest	Dig	Serial, 4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail">www.qrz.ru/contest/detail</a>
9 1800 11 0300 50 and up		ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf">www.arrl.org/september-vhf</a>
10 0000 10 0400 3.5-14		North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjwab.com">ncjwab.com</a>
10 1300 13 0800 1.8-144		Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rig	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org">www.classicexchange.org</a>
11 0000 11 0200 1.8-28		4 States QRP Group 2nd Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
11 1900 11 2030 3.5		RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
15 2100 15 2359 3.5		AGB NEMIGA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://www.ov5agb.com/contest">www.ov5agb.com/contest</a>
16 0800 17 2359 10 GHz to light		ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char Maidenhead Locator	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a>
16 1000 17 1000 50-1296		SARL VHF/UHF Analog/Digital Contest	Dig	RS, 6-char grid locator	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
16 1200 17 1200 3.5-28		Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://sactest.net/blog/rules">sactest.net/blog/rules</a>
16 1200 17 1200 1.8-28		All Africa International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
16 1400 17 0300 All		Iowa QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.w0yl.com/IQOP">www.w0yl.com/IQOP</a>
16 1600 16 2200 1.8-28		QRP Afield	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, power or mbr	<a href="http://www.nowenglandqrp.org">www.nowenglandqrp.org</a>
16 1600 17 2000 3.5-28		New Jersey QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://k2td-bc.org/njqp">k2td-bc.org/njqp</a>
16 1600 17 2200 All		New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Dig Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqsop">www.w1wqm.org/nhqsop</a>
16 1600 17 2359 1.8-144		Washington State Salmon Run	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.wdxc.org">www.wdxc.org</a>
16 1800 16 1059 1.8-50		Fold Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub">sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub</a>
17 0000 17 0400 3.5-14		North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjwab.com">ncjwab.com</a>
17 1700 17 2059 3.5-28		BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	<a href="http://www.bartg.org.uk">www.bartg.org.uk</a>
18 0100 18 0300 1.8-28		Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
20 1900 20 2030 3.5		RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
21 0030 21 0230 3.5-14		NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
23 0000 24 2359 3.5-28		CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ zone, state/VE area (none if DX)	<a href="http://www.cqwwrtty.com">www.cqwwrtty.com</a>
23 1200 24 1200 1.8-28		Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w1tam">www.qsl.net/w1tam</a>
23 1400 23 1800 144, 432		AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid	<a href="http://agcw.org/index.php/en">agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
23 1400 24 2000 All		Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://www.txqp.net">www.txqp.net</a>
27 0000 27 0200 1.8-28		SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
27 2000 27 2100 3.5		UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukaicc.com">www.ukaicc.com</a>
28 1900 28 2030 3.5		RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name	<a href="http://www.rsgbc.org/hf">www.rsgbc.org/hf</a>
30 0000 30 2359 1.8-50		Fold Hill Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub">sites.google.com/site/foldhillclub</a>
30 1200 1 1159 1.8-28		Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST(Q), Oblast, or serial	<a href="http://rdclub.ru/news-radio">rdclub.ru/news-radio</a>
30 1200 1 1200 3.5-28		UKEI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, District Code (if any)	<a href="http://www.ukaicc.com">www.ukaicc.com</a>

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.

No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [www.hornucopia.com/contestcal](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal) 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. 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.

# Bits and Pieces

For the month of September I introduce KB3WAH, Grant Miller Sr. in my “Interview with a Ham”. The first time I talked to Grant was at one of the regular monthly Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association second Thursday meetings. He was kind, welcoming and seemed as though he was a



relatively new Ham. Grant is a bit of a hero to me. When I called him for this interview he was very modest about his Amateur radio experiences. To me he has done a lot in the short time he has been a Ham operator. He has operated on all the bands he is licensed for. He

has a pretty complicated radio and some very interesting antennas from 2 meters to 160 meters. When I have talked to him in the past he was always experimenting with some new facet of amateur radio. He has talked to many other hams around the world. In contrast I haven't had near the radio experiences Grant has.



As I interviewed Grant I learned even more about him. Did you ever listen to short wave? *Yes, my parents bought me a radio for Christmas one year. It was when I was a teen. It was during the “Boom Box” craze. It wasn't all that good at receiving SW. It could tune broadcast bands, TV, weather and short wave. I used it in the house. Maybe if I had used it outside or had an external antenna it would have done better.*

*Next I used the Citizens Band Radio. That got me started on the transmitting side of the microphone. Many years passed, I was the Leader of my son's Boy Scout troop. The current BVARA president, Jack Spencer, gave a class on Amateur radio to them. My son got his amateur radio license. I drove him to the amateur radio licensing classes and other Ham related events like Hamfests... A few of us adults got interested in amateur radio and Jack helped us get our licenses too.*

*The only thing I would change is I wish I had gotten interested/exposed to amateur radio at a younger age. I enjoy building resonant antennas for different frequencies. I like the challenge of trying to make contacts. Some days it is easy other times it just doesn't work out. If it was always easy then where would be the fun?*

If you see him, say hello. If you are on the air, have a great QSO like I did. I encourage you to be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby. Till next month, 73 KC3BXC.



# Interview with a Ham

*Name :* Grant Miller Sr.

*Call sign and license class:* KB3WAH, General Class.

*Year of first FCC License :* 2011, Technician Class.

*Did you ever make a crystal radio?* No.

*Did you ever listen to short wave radio?* Yes, my parents gave me a radio that would pick-up shortwave for Christmas one year. It was a “Boom Box” that picked up weather, broadcast and SW.

*Did you ever use CB radio?* Yes, it was my first transmitting radio interest.

*How did you get interested in Ham Radio?* The current BVARA president, Jack Spencer gave a class on amateur radio to my son’s Boy Scout Troop.

*What was your first radio?* A Radio Shack HTX10 and an Icom 2100 lent to me by Jack Spencer.

*What was your first antenna?* A 10M dipole & a fan dipole for 10,17,20 and 40 meters. I talked to the world with that antenna, Jack helped me build it and put it up too!

*What is your current antenna & radio?* An Icom 756 Pro II, an Ameritron amp and four different antennas. I have a vertical , a Yagi beam, two loop antennas for 40 & 75 meters and a 160 meter resonant dipole.

*What are your favorite modes to operate?* SSB voice.

*Your most memorable contact?* They are all memorable, it’s hard to choose. I guess a ship docked in California, the Queen Mary.

*What was your most fun contact?* The first time I made a contact in Australia.

*What part of the hobby interests you the most? (field day, home brewing, contesting, Hamfests, restoring old radios)* Contesting and building resonant antennas.

*Have you ever been on a fox hunt?* No.

*Do you use a logging program? (what is it)* Yes, QRZ, EQSL and N1MM.

*Would you purchase a Software Defined Radio?* No, probably not me. I feel like it is cheating. I like to turn knobs and push buttons.

*Do you use automation with your Ham Radio?* Only on occasion with N1MM logger.

*If you had a magic wand and could change Ham radio what would you change and why?* I would make my test for Amateur Extra easy. Then I would change it back for everyone else, Hee hee.

*Where do you see ham radio in ten years?* More Radio positive/helpful sunspot activity.

# 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](mailto:kc3bxc.73@gmail.com)



# Some Interesting Links



99 Hobbies <http://www.dxzone.com/dx24151/99-hobbies.html>

Create an azimuthal map <https://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html>

DXCC country map <http://hamwaves.com/maps/doc/map.cq+dxcc.ut0um.201107.jpg>

Pin your QTH on Google maps <http://www.qslnet.de/member1/hb9tlk/hamweb.html>

Build a match box radio <http://www.mds975.co.uk/Content/trfradios.html>

# For All Radio Operators

## Things I Wish I Knew When I Was a Young Radio Artisan :

With antennas, it's not about the feet and inches (or meters), think in terms of wavelength.

Don't worry about the orientation of a dipole when it's less than a half wavelength above ground.

In multi-multi contesting and big gun DXing it's often more a battle of bank accounts than operator skill.

You're going to go through several phases in your radio artisan career. Don't spend too much money until you're sure you like the phase you're in.

Don't gauge your success by the number of awards you have on the wall.

Don't get your start on 2-meter repeaters.

Don't be nervous.

Your money is better spent in antennas than amplifiers.

There are good CBers and bad CBers. More amateurs than you think got started on CB.

There are Jerks in amateur radio. You cannot identify them by license class, age, years licensed, call area, operating mode, education, or income.

When the bands are open any goofy antenna will make contacts. People will think this makes a goofy little antenna a good antenna. Not so.

The perception of amateur radio that the general public holds is much different from the perception within amateur radio. We're in a strange, esoteric and sometimes archaic hobby that most of the world doesn't understand. Welcome to our secret society.

It's not that extra one or two dB that makes the difference, it's the first 50 dB that really matters.

Girls actually dig letters written in Morse code while you're dating.

Save your money and buy a crank up or tilt-down tower.

Six meters.

You can operate anywhere you live, no matter what the restrictions. About any piece of metal can be loaded up with a tuner.

TJ



# For All Radio Operators

You buy an HF quad only once.

Low SWR doesn't mean it's a good antenna.

Ladder line.

Homebrew it, even if you're not some master electronics designer. When building equipment, don't worry about not being an EE or building the perfect circuit. Don't bother making printed circuit boards, you can build just about anything you want Manhattan style. Experiment. You will learn more from your building failures than your successes.

Don't fall in love with one brand of radio.

Don't limit yourself to one mode.

Join a club. Do what is fun and what you want to do in the club. As soon as others tell you what you should be doing, it's time to leave. When being involved in a club feels more like a chore, get out. If the club is on life support and you can't revive it in three years, pull the plug. Move on. Don't look back.

QRP isn't difficult. It requires persistence and patience....and knowing when to go QRO or when to QSY.

If you are in a club you don't like and you want to leave that club to create a new or rival club, list on a piece of paper why you don't like that club. This list is why you shouldn't start a new club.

Don't do CW because you want to impress others.

Get an ARRL life membership as soon as you can afford it. Don't worry, you will get angry at the ARRL at some point, but you'll save money on the magazine subscription.

The ARRL is about the only reason amateur radio is still around.

It's never what you don't know that bites you, it's what you think you know, and you don't know that gets you into trouble.

Walk away when you need to.

In amateur radio do what you like, like what you do.

You're in a great hobby for life.

Source: <https://blog.radioartisan.com/2011/11/25/things-i-wish-i-knew-when-i-was-a-young-radio-artisan/#comment-13427>  
(from TF3XO Blog)

# For All Radio Operators

Hello Beaver County Amateurs,

Thursday September 7, 2017 a professional crew was retained to remove the BVARA repeater antenna and replace it with a new Diamond X700HNA Dual-Band antenna. The picture on the front page of this newsletter shows the final stages of the installation. Several cable and connector changes were made with one or two small items remaining. The message here is: **"The BVARA Repeater is back on the air!"**.

The repeater frequency is 145.310 MHz with a PL tone of 131.8 Hz and the offset is minus 0.6 MHz (144.710 MHz). You are encouraged to get back on the repeater and try it out. I would be particularly interested with the coverage that you now experience with this new antenna. Just drop me an email at [K3SOM@ARRL.net](mailto:K3SOM@ARRL.net) with what you are now experiencing to help enable us to evaluate the performance. The transmitter power has not changed, but the coverage, it is hoped, will be even better!

At our club meeting on September 14th at the 911 Center in Ambridge I will provide additional details on the cause of the repeater's failure as well as SWR plots showing specific information as obtained with a SARK -110 Analyzer. Come and join us!

Best regards,

Rich - K3SOM

Trustee and VE Liaison for the BVARA