

THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2019



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

Repeater 145.310 PL 131.8

On the Cover : This billboard was captured by KE3VIN Kevin Inscoe of Deltona, Florida. I like this thought. Now if I can get my wife to think the same way. Thanks for the picture Kevin. I checked, that is his call sign too. Very nice Kevin...

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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

2019 BVARA OFFICERS

President: Jack Spencer, KZ3Z

Vice President: Dan Grazulis, KB3VSP

2nd Vice Pres.: Doug Hanna, N4YKQ

Treasurer: Pam Spencer, W3PMS

Secretary: Norm Trunick, K3NJT

Director: Tony Pavilonis, W6PEF

Director: Bob Winkle, N3AZZ

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).

Club Meetings 2019

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

Dec 07 Christmas Party
(no club meeting)

Jan 09 2020

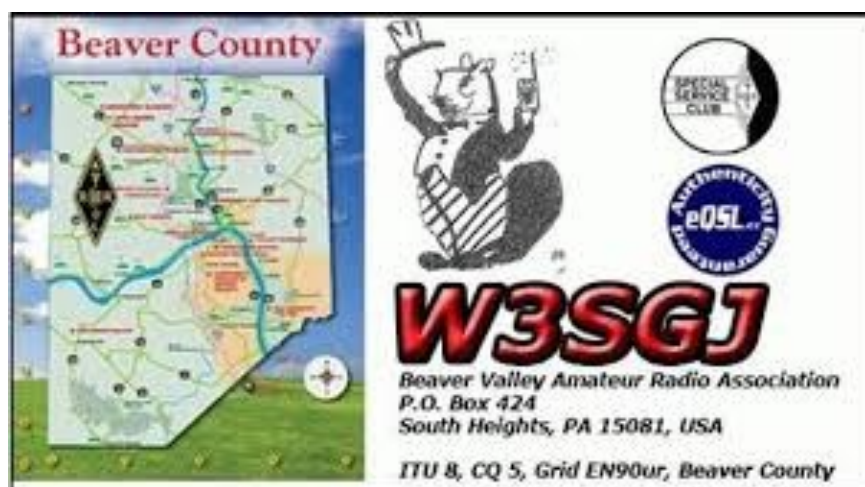
Feb 13

Mar 12

Apr 08

May 14

Jun 11

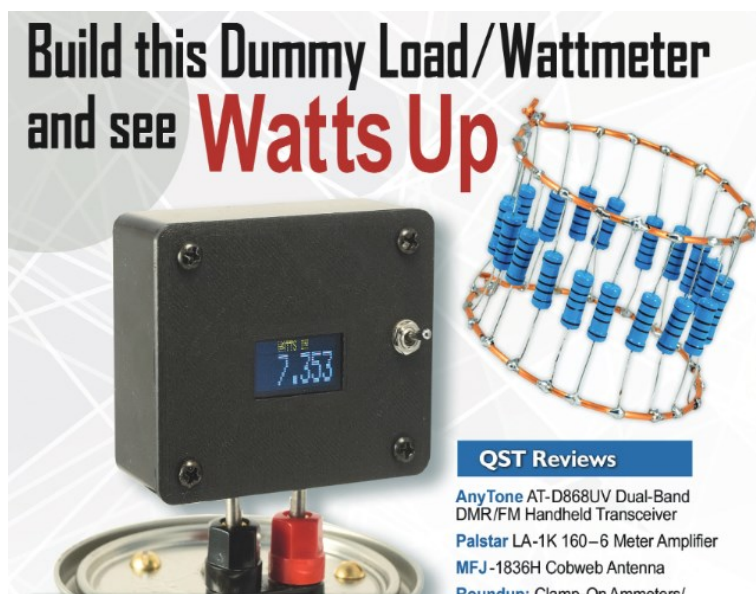


This Month

Club Meeting this month...

There will be a meeting on September 12th, but no formal presentation is planned. Instead of a presentation after the business meeting, Bob, N3AZZ will be helping to guide others in finishing up the construction of the Dummy Load Project.

Tim, KA3JRT has completed his project and will join Bob by assisting others with their efforts at completing the project and loading up the firmware to the Arduino Nano contained within the display compartment that is required to drive the OLED display.



From the November 2018 *QST Magazine* Cover, courtesy of the ARRL

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.

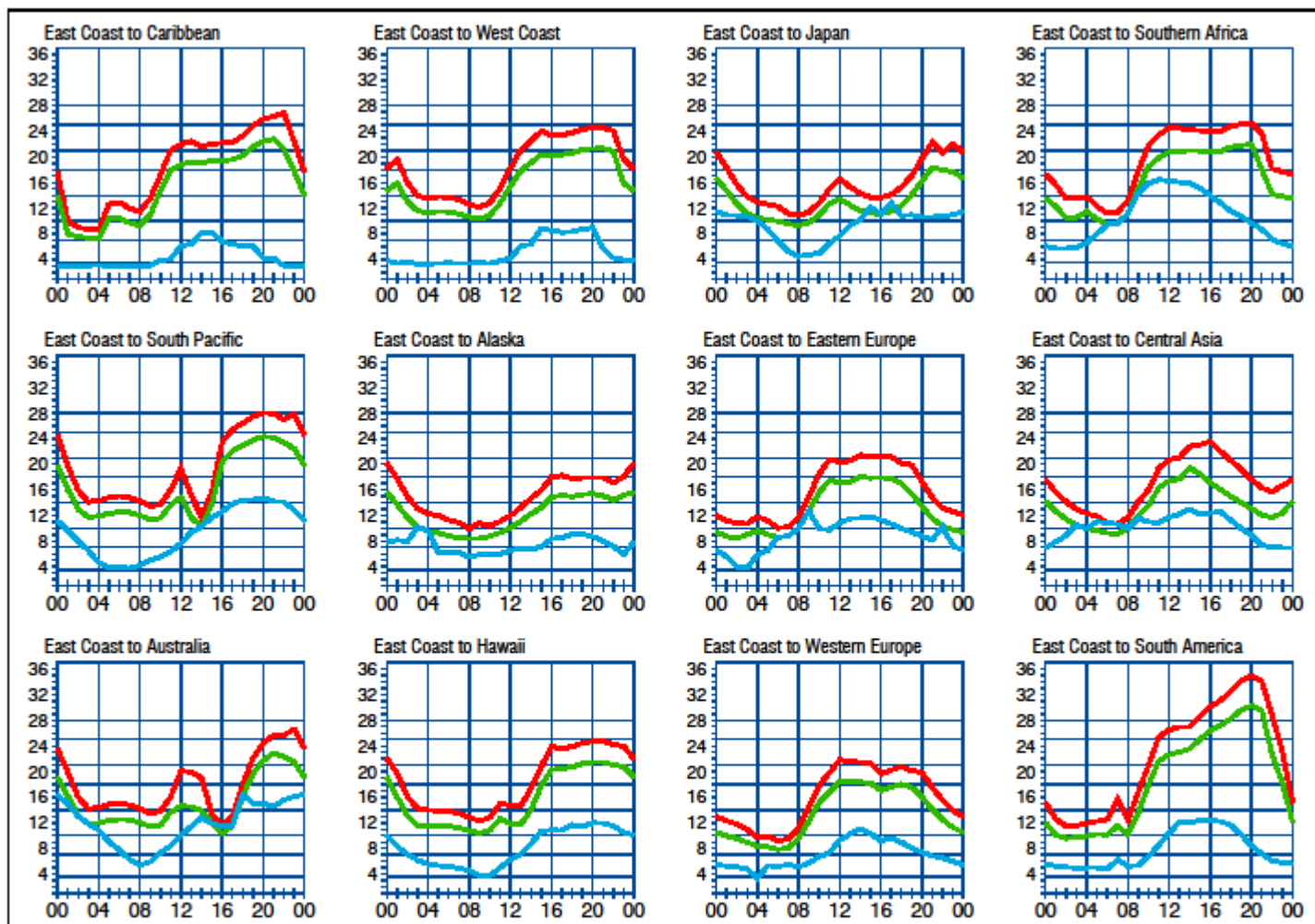
Any Beaver County Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the N3TN 146.850 MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

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 69. This is a Very Low level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM.

ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

PROPAGATION

The East Coast propagation chart listed here is for September 2019.

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

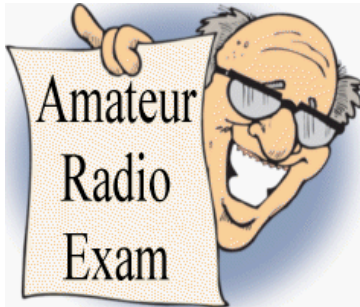
Beaver County Emergency Services Center 351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003.
Tests begin promptly at 5 pm on the same day as BVARA Club Meetings
(the second Thursday of the month).
All classes of amateur radio license tests are administered.

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

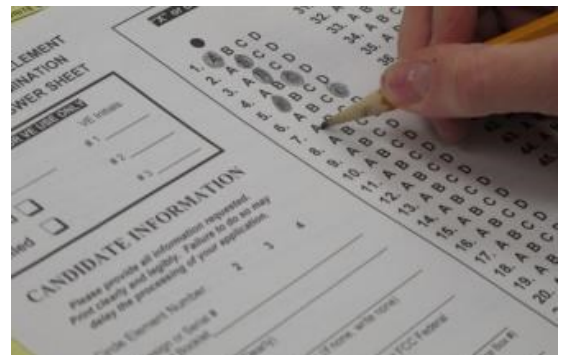


Here are the successful participants in our VE process the month :



Because there was no Club Meeting in the month of August, there were no candidates tested. Everyone was at the Club Corn Roast.

* Testing resumes at the September 12th BVARA Club Meeting.



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 | 25.00 | _____ |
| <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



Radio, Computer, Electronics

SwapFest

Sunday, September 8, 2019
8 A.M. to 3 P.M.



Buy a ticket, and open your trunk!

Gate donation of \$5.00 per person. No additional charge for sellers.

Unionville Fire Department
102 Mahood Road, Butler, PA 16001
(Along PA Route 8, 4 miles north of US 422)

In case of inclement weather, the SwapFest will be held indoors at the fire hall,
and parking will be available on the asphalt.

40° 56' 19" N, 79° 57' 34" W

No firearm sales! No alcoholic beverages permitted in SwapFest area!

FCC Amateur Radio Exams

PRIZES

(To be announced at a later date.)

Winner need not be present to win.

50/50 Raffles

Prize tickets are available at the club's table.

Talk in W3UDX 147.36/96
Web Site: W3UDX.ORG

Breakfast and lunch available.

(No individual food sales permitted.)

Information : Joe Sciulli, N3WHJoe@gmail.com 412-337-1687

Sponsored by : Butler County Amateur Radio Association , Inc.

Radio Sport

Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

Contest Corral

September 2019

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 1800	2 0300	1.8-UHF	Tennessee QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	tnqp.org/rules
2 2300	3 0300	1.8-50	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	www.miqrpnets.com/contest
3 0100	3 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqp.blogspot.com
4 2000	4 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com
5 1700	5 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
5 1900	5 2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
7 0000	7 2359	3.5-28	Russian RTTY WW Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter oblast or CQ zone	www.qrz.ru/contest/detail93
7 0000	8 2359	3.5-28	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	www.jarl.org/English
7 0600	7 0800	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.nu/contest/wakeup
7 1200	8 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
7 1300	8 0100	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph	County or SPC (FT8: grid square)	qoww.org/2019-ne-qso-party-rules.pdf
7 1300	8 1259	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	darc.dolder.club/referat/contestefaru-region-1-fielddayen
7 1300	8 1300	3.5-28	RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgb.org/ghf
7 1400	7 2200	3.5-28	Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	OH park abbreviation or "OH" or SPC	ospota.org
7 1600	7 1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	www.agcw.org/index.php/en
7 2000	8 2000	3.5	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Meter Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
8 0000	8 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
8 1000	8 1400	144	WAB 144 MHz QRP Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.internip.net
9 0000	9 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
9 1900	9 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	Other station's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgb.org/ghf
14 0000	14 2359	1.8-VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	ghfoc.org/qsoparty
14 0000	15 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	darc.dolder.club/referat/referat-contesteforwae-all-europe-dx-contest/en
14 1000	15 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of transmitter, category, province or "DX"	www.sarl.org.za
14 1400	15 2000	All	Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.txqpn.net
14 1500	15 0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.alabamagso.org
14 1500	15 0959	3.5-28	Russian Cup Digital Contest	Dig	Serial, 4-char grid square	qz.ru/contest/detail96.html
14 1800	16 0259	50 and up	ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	www.arrl.org/september-vhf
15 0000	15 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
15 1300	18 0700	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, CW	CW	Name, RST, SPC, rovr/mtr model	www.classicexchange.org
15 1700	15 2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	bartg.org.uk
16 0100	18 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qppcontest.com/pigrun
18 1900	18 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgb.org/ghf
19 0030	19 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
20 2100	20 2359	3.5	AGB NEMIGA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	www.ev5agb.com
21 0000	22 2359	2.3 GHz and Up	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
21 0000	22 2359	All	Collegiate QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	School name, school mascot, operating class	collegiateqso.org
21 0600	22 2359	10 GHz to light	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char Maidenhead locator	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
21 1000	22 1000	144, 432, 1296	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, 6-char grid locator	www.sarl.org.za
21 1200	22 1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
21 1200	22 1200	1.8-28	All Africa International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial	www.sarl.org.za
21 1400	21 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid	www.agcw.org/index.php/en
21 1400	22 0200	All	Iowa QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.w0yl.com/IAQP
21 1500	21 2100	1.8-28	QRP Afield	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.newenglandqrp.org
21 1600	22 0359	3.5-28	New Jersey QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.k2id-bcr.org/njqp
21 1800	22 2200	All	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.w1wqm.org/nhqsos
21 1800	22 2359	1.8-144	Washington State Salmon Run	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.wdxc.org/salmonrun
21 1800	21 1959	1.8-50	Field Hall Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/fieldhallclub
22 1300	25 0700	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rovr/mtr model	www.classicexchange.org
23 1900	23 2300	144	144 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	evhfs.org
25 0000	25 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
25 2000	25 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukelcc.com
26 1900	26 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dig	Other station's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgb.org/ghf
28 0000	29 2359	3.5-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ zone, SP (if US/VE)	www.cqwwrtty.com
28 1200	29 1200	1.8-28	Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	we1sm.com/MEQP.html
30 1300	1 0400	1.8-28	CQX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	qrp-labs.com/party.html

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. 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. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com 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.

Bits and Pieces

Hello Everyone,

So how have your radio plans gone this summer? I hope better than the way mine have. My intentions have gone off track from what I had planned. I was very excited and anticipated having a great time going to the Skyview Radio Club hamfest in New Kensington last month. I didn't get to the hamfest. Way back in April's eQRM I shared how I day dreamed of a new antenna all winter. Last month I wrote that I wanted to put up a new antenna or two. I was not able to get either one put up. Life gets busy and things don't always go as intended. I just had to roll with the punches last month.



Things are better for me now. I am planning to go to the hamfest at Unionville Fire hall this month. I surely will have improved providence with my planning this time. Weather difficulties and tractor problems held me up from my HF antenna project. Lack of funds, for pipe, hindered my 2 meter antenna plan. However, I did manage to get things started for the



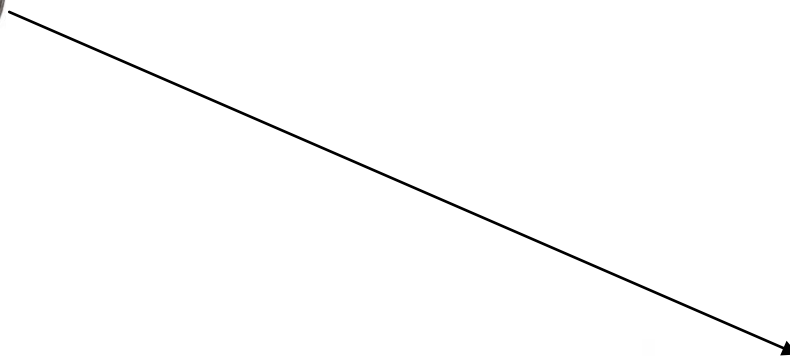
new HF antenna. I got the hole dug and the phone pole tarred on both ends. Using the tractor I placed the phone pole close to the hole it will be planted in. This is a lot bigger project than I had anticipated! I will get this new HF antenna together, it is just going to take a little more time than my original plan called for.

Till next month 73 KC3BXC clear but I'll be listening...

Be courteous on the air, be safe and have fun with your hobby.

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

Field Trip to Durbin, Cass, and the Green Bank Radio Telescopes

Members of the BVARA visited and toured the Green Bank Radio Telescopes* in Green Bank, WV on Friday, August 30th, 2019. The telescope sits near the heart of the United States *National Radio Quiet Zone*, a unique area where authorities limit all radio transmissions to avoid emissions toward the GBRT and the NSA's Sugar Grove Station. We took the General Tour followed by the SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) Tour after lunch.

The largest radio telescope on site has an active surface area of 2.3 acres and measures approximately 328' by 361' using 2,004 surface panels that are individually adjusted for optimum position.



*GBRT Image courtesy of NRAO/AUI, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17758390>

Of Interest to All

At a height of over 485 feet, it is taller than the Statue of Liberty and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Operational frequencies range from 290 MHz to 100 GHz. Pointing accuracy is the diameter of a quarter at a distance of three miles!

On Thursday, we stopped at Durbin, WV to take a train ride on the *Rocket* coal-fired steam engine for a beautiful ride on the Durbin Greenbrier Railroad. Our journey began at the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Greenbrier River and proceeded along the tracks close to the bank of the river at times as we steamed along to and from the Hevener Station for a total of 10.5 miles. Ah, the smell of burning coal and the smoke and ashes in the air is not soon forgotten!

Thursday evening dinner in Cass, WV presented us with an exceptional once-a-year opportunity to attend an Historical Walking Tour of Cass (Population 52) with appetizers at each of eight planned stops. That was followed by their annual 'Farm to Table' dinner at the *Last Run Restaurant* to commemorate the dinners that had been provided to the loggers who worked hard all day in the forest for the Company that also owned the entire town. Our walking tour included company homes, the Jail House that accommodated up to 12 guests, their museum, and other sites of interest. Entertainment during dinner was provided by Rich Pawling, an award-winning educator and interpreter who also played the harmonica, the guitar, the banjo, and the mandolin with his own vocal interpretations of West Virginia local music. Our delicious dinner was served family style with all home-made choices. That entire evening was quite unique and memorable on many levels. I'm glad we chose not to eat at the hotel/motel that evening.



Most BVARA field trips & Club events are open to everyone.

Please contact us so we can welcome you to come join us !