

THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2023



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania

Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8



On the Cover: This is a photo at McConnell's Mill State Park. This is the road on the way back out of the mill area. With Fall foliage on the way, this will soon be a colorful place to visit in Western Pennsylvania.

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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

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

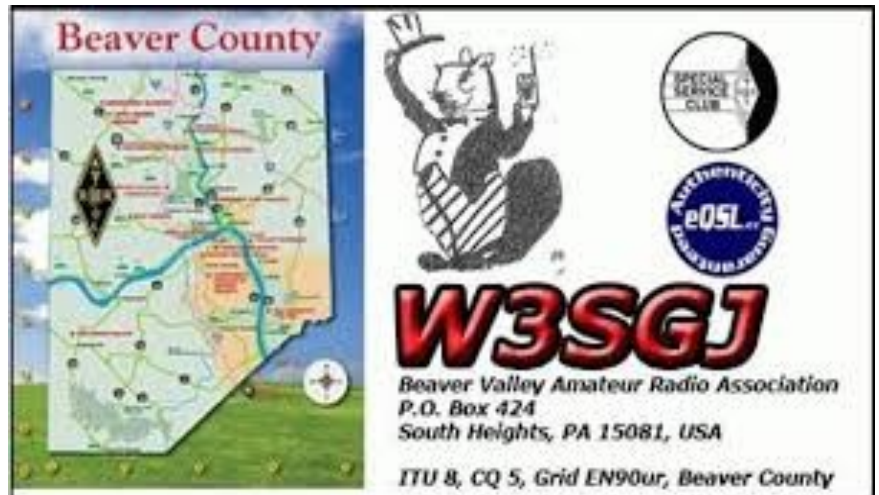
E-Board meetings are now held the Saturday before the monthly club meeting.

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



This Month

Special Roundtable Session:

Speakers: BVARA Club Members and You
Topic: Roundtable Help with Questions from You

What's It All About:

New to ham radio? Are you wondering about new digital modes with your equipment? Maybe you have questions about antennas, setting up your station, how to make an HF contact, or how to interface your computer to your ham equipment. Perhaps your questions are even more basic like rules and regulations, which bands are best to use, where to find operating resources like band plans, what to do after you make contacts and how do you save or conveniently create a useful log. Maybe you have problems with annoying noise or need help in selecting some equipment. The list goes on and on . . .

Since our initial roundtable discussion in November 2019, some changes have been planned in our roundtable format that will enable you to more easily seek the answers to questions you have about ham radio and operating a station. After our monthly club meeting, our next roundtable discussion with your participation is planned. You don't have to be a member of the BVARA; you may just have a question or two that's been bothering you about our ham radio hobby. In fact, you could be new to the hobby or a seasoned veteran with questions. Whether it's technical or about rules/regulations or operating or equipment, we want to help you. Perhaps your question involves unique HF, VHF, or UHF operating or perhaps some of the newer digital modes. Your question could help others with the same issues!

We'll start our roundtable around 7:15 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center at 351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003. *Please join us with your questions!*

Rich Soltesz - K3SOM
Extra Class Ham
BVARA VE Liaison

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)



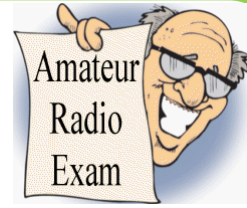
New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month :

August 2023 VE Test Session Results

Our August 2023 VE Test Session was not held, so there were no testing results. We were all at our BVARA Corn Roast! Please see the article later in this *eQRM Newsletter*.



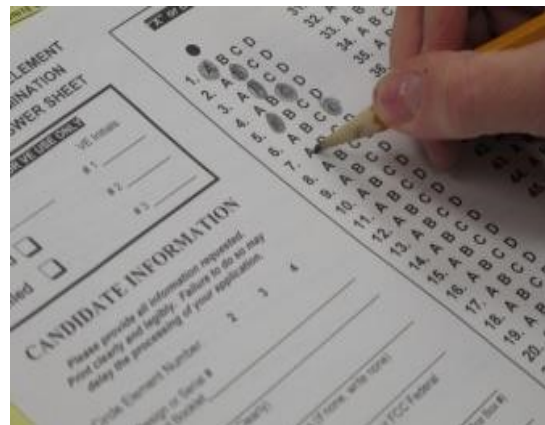
Please come to our next regular Test Session at the September BVARA Club Meeting.

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

A huge thank you to our Volunteer Examiners :

Reg Genola – W3REG,
Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP,
Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP,
Bart Stack – KB3NFM
Bob Winkle – N3AZZ
Frank Witkowski - W3FJW

Rich Soltesz - K3SOM, VE Liaison



the national association for
ARRL 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	
<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

H.A.T. FEST 2023

HANCOCK AUXCOMM TEAM HAM FEST

QST!
QST!
QST!



\$5.00
Admission

Vendor Table &
Registration Fees:

\$10 per Table (no power)

\$15 per Table (120VAC)

THE HANCOCK AUXCOMM TEAM WILL BE HOLDING IT'S
FIRST ANNUAL HAM FEST ON

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

AT THE CHESTER CITY PARK, 375 W Carolina Ave, Chester, WV 26034
FROM 10:00AM till 4:00PM.

For additional information and advanced tickets

<https://www.wv8hat.org/>



Call 304-277-7552

or call extension **11337** on Hamshack Hotline

EMAIL: HATFEST@wv8hat.org



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Of Interest to All

BVARA Coming Attractions



September

Field Trip to the Allegheny Observatory on Observatory Hill in the Northside of Pittsburgh, September 8th beginning at 7 pm

Butler County ARA hamfest – Unionville Volunteer Fire Company Station 14, 102 Mayhood Rd, Butler, PA on Sunday, September 12th

Trip to GBRT to operate their Radio Telescope for 24 hours, Cass Railway, POTA in WV, Overnight stay, September or October

POTA Activation in the Allegheny National Park for their 100th Anniversary, September 23rd and 24th

American Wireless Association's Amplitude Modulation (AM) QSO Party, September 30th

October

PA QSO Party, October 14th and 15th

More POTA Activations

November

(TBD)

December

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



The Corn Roast of 2023

It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents—except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up from the valleys below, rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness. Lightning strikes both near and far lit up the sky and shook the very ground around us. Well, not quite that bad, but certainly a BVARA Corn Roast that will long be remembered.

Let's take a moment and recall the earlier events. As some club members arrived at Shelter 1 of the Old Economy County Park, a group of people chose to occupy the shelter and were unwilling to vacate the site. A BVARA decision was made to instead setup at Shelter 4 on the opposite side of the park that had been used by the club in previous years. Some early warning rain probably helped with that decision. Setup and corn shucking began in earnest, including rearranging the picnic benches within the shelter to a more convenient configuration for our club event.

The large kettle and propane burner were set up just outside the shelter so that the chance of accidental burns could be avoided. Inexpensive table coverings were stapled to the picnic benches to add color and convenience to those who would be attending later. Ice chests were deployed to provide safe and cool conditions for some of the food, water and pop. A large cooler was reserved to temporarily store the cooked corn so that people would not have to wait for a nice hot ear or two of corn. Electric outlets and outlet strips were put in place for the pulled pork, baked beans, the hot dog and kielbasa machine as well as hotpots with assorted offerings.

As 5:00 PM approached we began preparing the corn and hot dogs as well as picking up the fried chicken that we had ordered earlier in anticipation of a much larger crowd, but only about 15 people were there. Did we pick a bad day for the event, given the dire warnings given by the weather forecasters? Then about six or seven cars came around the same time as the rain began to pick up in intensity. Soon we had over a total of 45 hungry people. Not knowing we had moved to the alternate location, the wave of additional people that had been at Shelter 1 waiting for us arrived at this alternate location! Members who had not been seen for some time, new members, whole families including small children arrived. The picnic was on! Name tags helped to identify both old and new with many conversations and mingling as people sampled the various food offerings and many desserts.

As the rains picked up in intensity, a huge lightning bolt struck with its blinding flash on one side of the shelter, through the sky above, and landing on a tree just beyond the other side of the shelter just into the woods. Everyone was silent as they realized what they had just witnessed.

By this time, a moat had formed about 18 inches across just outside the shelter, filling up the slight drop just outside the concrete floor of the shelter with falling rain. No one seemed to care it was raining so hard, because they were having such a good time. What a memorable picnic!

Teardown went very smoothly with Shelter 4 cleaned up and restored to its original condition.

Of Interest to All



A view of the Old Economy Barn through the developing fog.



Jim, KC3IXE directing the corn shucking event with Kathy and Doug, K3GTX
doing the work

Of Interest to All



Part of the Corn Roast attendees



The other part of the Corn Roast attendees plus several more off to the sides and out of view.

Of Interest to All



Pam, W3PMS, Shirl, Barbara, KC3WMB, and Glenn, KC3WMC



Celeste's granddaughter, destined to be a great leader when the time comes!

Of Interest to All

POTA Activation



August 30th, Jim, KC3IXE and Tom, N3XC joined me (K3SOM) for a trip to the Allegheny National Forest to find a suitable site for a POTA activation on Saturday, September 23rd and when park officials celebrate their 100th Anniversary, on September 24th, at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area.



The site we chose is the Tidioute Overlook with a beautiful view above the Allegheny River and the town of Tidioute at an elevation of 1560 feet. A road from the town of Tidioute takes you up the hill to a gravel parking lot that is less than 300 feet from two overlook areas. The attached photos show a couple of the views at the overlook.

Our Event Officer, Jim, KC3IXE felt that the weekend would be a great time to help celebrate with a POTA activation on Saturday, perhaps joining the celebration on Sunday at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area, while enjoying the fall foliage that weekend.

With about 514,000 acres, the Allegheny National Forest is a wonderful place to visit at any time of the year.

Best regards,
Rich - K3SOM

100 Years Ago in *QST Magazine*

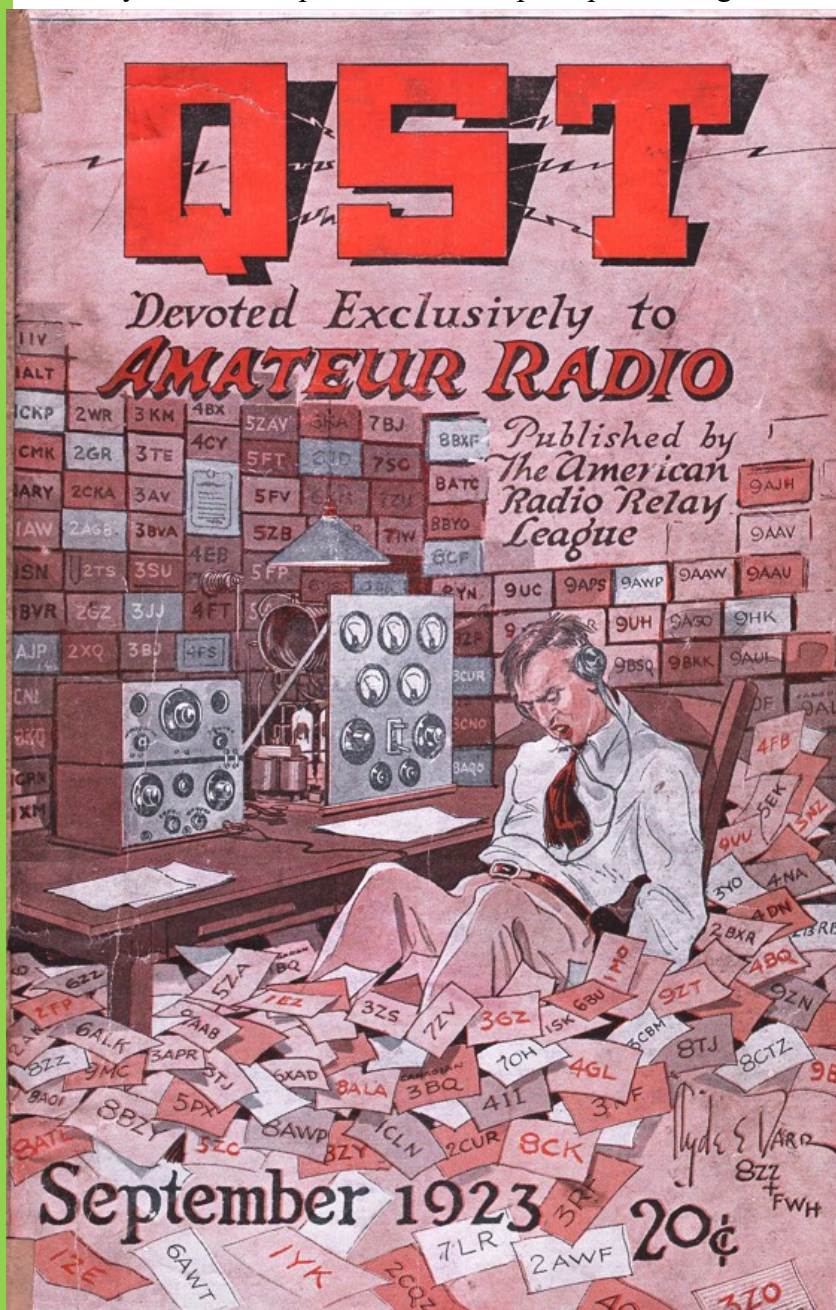
Continuing, this issue of our *eQRM Newsletter* and in celebration of our 100th Anniversary of the BVARA, two issues of the 1923 *QST Magazine* will be featured. A photo of the cover of each issue will be shown as well as a description of two articles within each issue of the magazine.

The cover of the **September 1923** issue of *QST Magazine* by Clyde Darr, 8ZZ shows a weary ham who may have been up for some time, perhaps showing exhaustion at working so much DX. The

walls of his radio 'shack' are plastered with QSL cards, while he sits, knee deep in piles of more QSL cards.

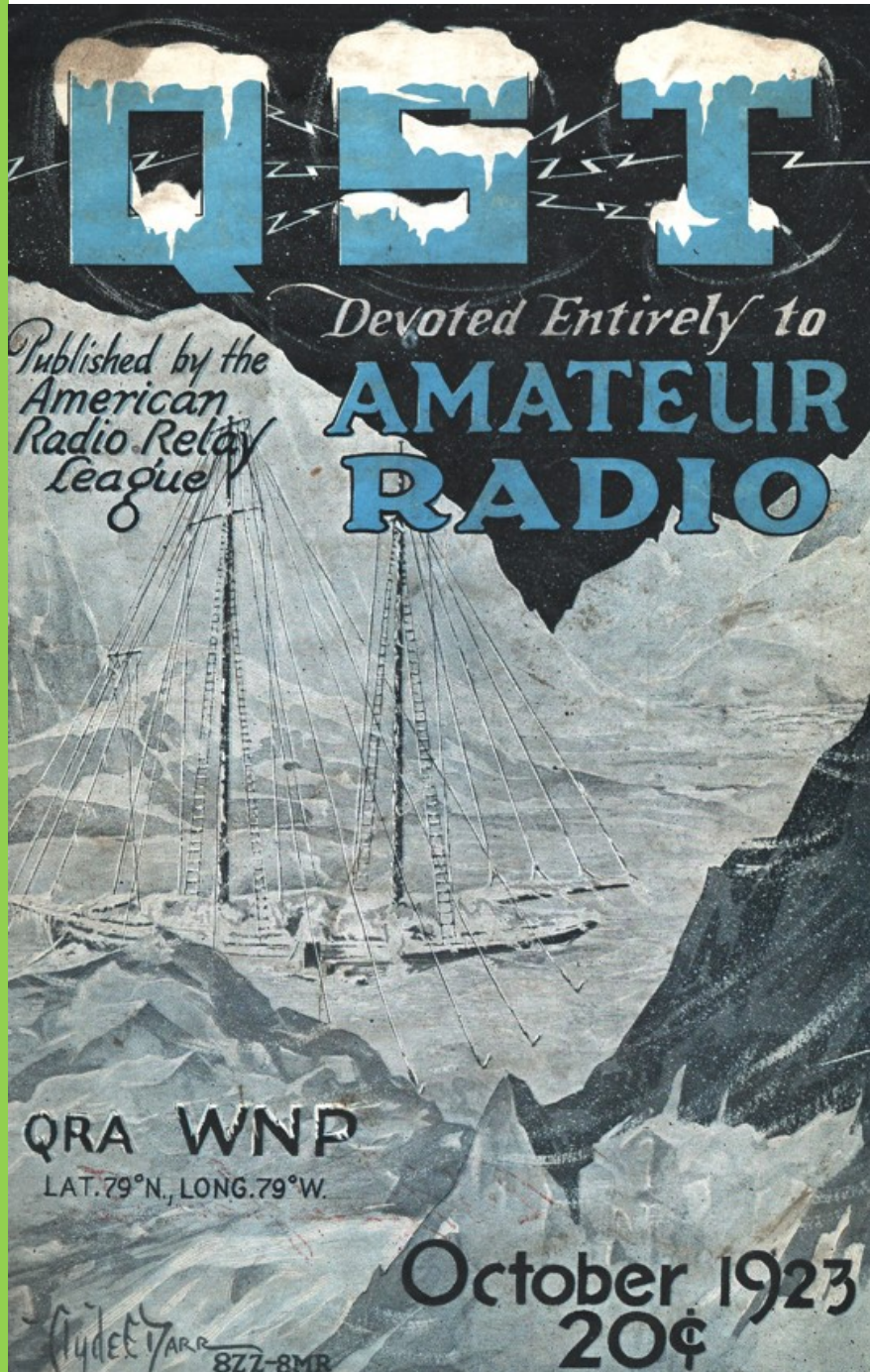
This issue of *QST Magazine* highlights the Second National ARRL Convention to be held in Chicago for five days. The agenda includes a tour of two Broadcast Stations, technical sessions on transmitters and another on receivers with many speakers, and then concludes with a "Night of Mystery" including initiation to Order of the Wouff Hong and other aberrations.

Another article by H.F. Mason described *The Nodal Point Explained* illustrating the effect of loading coils and series condensers. F.H. Schnell writes about *Have You Heard or Worked WNP?* This was the follow-up to the launch of the "Bowdoin" skippered by Dr. MacMillan towards Ellesmere Land. Schnell lists log accumulations to date of contacts or hearings of the ship along with the quality of each contact. But reception began to deteriorate as the "Bowdoin" sailed further North.



Of Interest to All

The cover of the **October 1923** issue depicts the “Bowdoin” at a protected inlet nestled between mountains and at anchor with many ropes and stakes securing the ship. After more than three



weeks of unbroken radio silence, two-way communication was re-established on August 27th, 1923 at 11:35 PM EST. R.B. Bourne, 1ANA in Chatham, Massachusetts clearly heard and communicated with Donald Mix, the ARRL-supplied ham radio operator as WNP aboard the “Bowdoin”. Mix had pounded out “Latitude 78-30” which was very near their final destination. As the daylight hours began to shorten, the signal from WNP began to cut through the Aurora Borealis and the diminishing Arctic sunlight to Chatham.

In another article, Howard J. Tyzzer from the American Radio & Research Corporation describes *A New Radio System*. What is presented is a Double Modulation System with examples of both transmitter and receiver schematics that achieves significant improvements in communications. From the schematics, the approach appears to be an intermediate step between TRF and Superheterodyne radio technology.

In *The Junior Operator*, the 5th in a series article describes *The Vacuum Tube in Amateur Work*. Targeted for new hams, various applications are described in more detail with many examples.

Rich – K3SOM

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

In the October newsletter I was saying how September was right around the corner... Well, here it is! I have had so many things I need to get done on the farm I have neglected my newsletter production. I apologize it is so late.

The Corn Roast was so much fun even though the weather wasn't the best. The rain came down and the wind blew it on everyone. The children present enjoyed playing in the rain. The adults took it in stride. We had a very notable lighting strike! People on one side of the picnic shelter saw it hit one place, folks on the other side, saw it hit in a different place. It was so close! This was truly a memorable Corn Roast. There was so much food, drink, desserts and wonderful radio comradery. If you missed this BVARA event you should make plans to attend another one soon! All present had a great time.

I now have in my possession two, yes two Dadgum Poles! I plan to share my journey of planting these ones for antenna hold points soon. I will take pictures of the fun...

Well as always, be safe and enjoy our radio hobby.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.

73 KC3BXC



Radio Sport

Contest Corral

September 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	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2 0000	3 2359	1.8-28	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	www.jarl.org
2 0600	2 0800	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.ru
2 0800	3 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of rigs, category, province or "DX"	www.sarl.org.za
2 1300	3 0400	All, except WARC	Colorado QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, CO county or SPC	ppraa.org
2 1300	3 1259	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	www.darc.de
2 1300	3 1300	3.5-28	RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
2 1400	3 1400	145	IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iau-r1.org
2 1600	2 1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	www.agcw.de
2 2000	3 2000	3.5	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
2 2000	2 2359	1.8-28	CWOps CW Open	CW	Serial, name	cwops.org
3 1000	3 1400	144	WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net
3 1800	4 0300	All, except WARC	Tennessee QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), TN county or SPC	tnqp.org/rules
4 1900	4 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
4 2300	5 0300	1.8-28,50	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	www.miqrp.net/contest
5 0100	5 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	arsqr.blogspot.com
7 1700	7 2100	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net
9 0000	9 2359	1.8-28,VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr or none	g4foc.org/qsoparty
9 0000	10 2359	2.3 GHz and up	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
9 0000	10 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.darc.de
9 1400	9 2200	3.5-28	Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	OH park abbreviation or SPC	ospota.org
9 1500	10 0300	3.5-28	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), AL county or SPC	alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp
9 1800	11 0300	50 and up	ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	www.arrl.org/september-vhf
10 0000	10 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
11 0000	11 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
13 1900	13 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14 1800	14 1959	3.5	BCC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), T-shirt size	www.bavarian-contest-club.de
15 1600	15 1700	3.5	AGB NEMIGA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr or none	ev5agb.com
16 0300	17 0900	50,70,144, 432,1296	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, 6-char grid	www.sarl.org.za
16 0600	17 2359	10 GHz to light	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char Maidenhead	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
16 1200	17 1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
16 1400	17 0200	All, except WARC & 60	Iowa QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), IA county or SPC	www.w0yl.com/IAQP
16 1400	17 2000	All, except WARC	Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), TX county or SPC	www.txqp.net
16 1600	16 2300	All, except WARC	Wisconsin Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	WI park abbreviation or SPC	wipota.com
16 1600	17 0359	3.5-28	New Jersey QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NJ county or SPC	www.k2td-bcrg.org
16 1600	17 2200	3.5-28	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), NH county or SPC	www.w1wqm.org
16 1600	17 2359	1.8-28,50	Washington State Salmon Run	CW Ph	RS(T), WA county or SPC	salmonrun.wwdxc.org
17 0000	17 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
17 1700	17 2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint PSK63 Contest	PSK63	Serial	bartg.org.uk
18 1900	18 2030	3.5-14	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
18 1900	18 2300	144	144 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	svhfs.org/wp/sprints/
21 0030	21 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
21 1900	21 2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl
23 0000	24 2359	3.5-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ zone, (US/VE state/prov)	www.cqwwrtty.com
23 1200	24 1200	1.8-28	Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ME county or SPC	www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html
23 1400	23 1800	144,432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, pwr, 6-char grid	www.agcw.de
23 1400	23 2200	3.5-28	Masonic Lodges on the Air	Ph	Lodge name, lodge no., jurisdiction or SPC	cqmorelight.com/rules
24 0700	24 1000	50	UBA ON Contest, 6m	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, ON (for ON)	www.uba.be
26 1900	26 2300	222	222 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	svhfs.org/wp/sprints/
28 1900	28 2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
30 1200	1 1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, district code (if UK/EI)	www.ukelcc.com
30 2200	1 2200	1.8-14	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	antiquewireless.org