THE eQRM

SEPTEMBER 2024



The BVARA in Beaver County Pennsylvania



Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association

W3SGJ

2M Repeater

145.310

PL 131.8

This is a beautiful photo of the rolling hills of Western Pennsylvania in September. Fall in it's full color will soon be here. I suggest a plan for a short trip to the mountains to see the Fall colors. How about you?

Photo by "photosByJames"

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Check into our nets

Wednesday 2 Meter

Wednesday 10 Meter

8:30PM on 145.310 MHz PL 131.8

9:00PM on 28.470 MHz

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THE eQRM

Who We Are

2024 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



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).

2024

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 14

Dec Club Christmas Party

2025

Jan 09

Feb 13

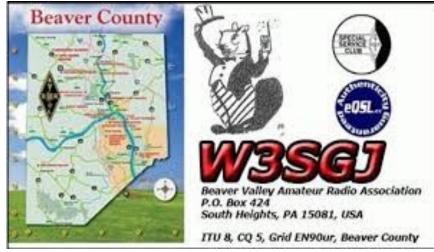
Mar 13

Apr 10

May 08

Jun 12







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This Month

This Month:

Speaker:

Rich Soltesz K3SOM

Topic:

The Real Deal - Array of Light

Including:

Continuing with our BVARA Presentation Series this year, our topic this month explores antenna design, construction, testing, production, and providing customer service from the perspective of a man who built over 27,000 antennas with over 150,000 elements in the field. Tom Schiller, N6BY has achieved significant achievements in the field of improving antenna performance. He created new fundamental designs and also set close to 20 world records with *Team Vertical*.

In the real world, one of the most important aspects of building and evaluating antennas is actually using them in environments where the performance can be measured in a real way. The phrase 'everything works' is misleading because everything *does* 'work', to some degree or another. Even a light bulb or a dummy load will 'work' to some extent, because I have heard and worked several local Western PA hams as they were testing and learning about their equipment. The MFJ-259 Antenna Analyzer has a unique 'signature' on the air!

How well an antenna 'works' is termed the 'performance envelope'. Determining how well it works involves repeatable test measurements, mechanical considerations in the design, the proximity to other objects, the entire feed system evaluation from the transceiver to the feed point of the antenna, and consideration of various misunderstandings with an open mind.

But wait, there's more! We'll review *The Illuminator Project* wherein a 150-watt light bulb with a TS-850 Transceiver was used in a 10-10 Contest as well as the ARRL DX CW Contest with surprising results. Comparisons of commercial antennas with some unbelievable performance numbers will also be discussed. This is one presentation you won't want to miss!

Rich's Background:

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

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More this Month

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

The eQRM urges all Beaver County licensed amateurs to participate in the County's RACES and ARES programs.

Any Beaver County
Amateur that is interested in participating in the RACES/
ARES programs can do so by checking into the Beaver
County Public Service Net which meets every Monday evening at 8:30
PM local time on the WW3AAA 146.850
MHz repeater (131.8 PL)

Weekly

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

RACES / ARES
The eQRM Urges All County Hams to Participate.



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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)



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New License and Upgrades

BVARA VE Testing

Testing this Month:



August 2024 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:

Keith Custard – KC3TMC

Reg Genola – W3REG

Tony Pavilonis – K3AHP

Scott Pelkofer - KC3KYZ

Mick Pyzoha – N3OJP

Bart Stack - KB3NFM

Ron Victorelli – KC3TZT

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 u	up for:	Price					
\bigcirc	BVARA full membership	25.00					
\bigcirc	BVARA student membership	15.00					
\bigcirc	BVARA associate membership	10.00					
\bigcirc	BVARA Child under 21 at home r	membership 5.00					
	One year ARRL membership	49.00					
	A Club Donation						
ARRI							
Your	License Class (If you have one.)						
\bigcirc	Technician	Name					
\bigcirc	General						
\bigcirc	Advanced						
\bigcirc	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

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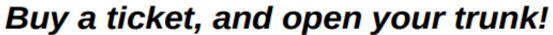
Hamfests & General Announcements



Radio, Computer, Electronics

SwapFest

Sunday September 8, 2024 8 A.M. to 1 P.M.



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

40° 56' 19" N, 79° 57' 34" W

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

No parking or driving on lawn!

FCC Amateur Radio Exams

You must have your FRN number and prepay your FCC fee!

PRIZES

Yaesu FTM-6000 dual band FM Transceiver MFJ Mighty-Lite 30A Switching Power Supply Yaesu FT70DR Dual Band Digital/Analog HT Transceiver Baofeng UV-17R 144-220-432 MHz HT

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, CTCSS 131.8 Hz Web Site: W3UDX.ORG

Breakfast and lunch available.

(No individual food sales permitted.)

Information: Mike Conlon, N2EM, n2em@arrl.net, 724-496-3008

Sponsored by: Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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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

Date: August 21st, 2024

Time: 11 PM, followed by 6 AM

Place: My Kitchen

Imagine my surprise last night when I went to close the kitchen window and this guy was between the screen and the window!

When I opened the window just a little earlier in the evening, the opportunity for something small to enter became a possibility. What should I do? I was tired so I shut the window and went to bed. The next morning, I got up a little before sunrise and this guy was still there. What if the rumor is true that direct sunlight would kill them? That conclusion was probably a result of watching too many vampire movies.

I quickly snapped a photo of the guy (could be a gal) and then got my Aluminum extension pole that I use to keep my ladder line out of the way and between the PVC goal posts. With an easy reach, I lifted up the Kitchen window screen about an inch. Quicker than I could lower the pole, he flew out of captivity and circled the yard a few times, glided on the last pass, and then headed for the woods.

I felt like I had taken a thorn out of the paw of a Lion and his glide-by was his way of saying: "Thank You!"

The little brown bat is nocturnal, resting during the day and foraging at night. Individuals typical-

ly emerge from their roosts at dusk, foraging for 1.5–3 hours before stopping to roost. A second foraging bout usually occurs later in the night, ending at dawn.

It produces calls that are high-intensity, frequency modulated (FM) and that last from less than one millisecond (mS) to about 5 mS and have a sweep rate of 80–40 kHz, with most of their energy at 45 kHz. Individuals emit approximately 20 calls per second when in flight.

Rich - K3SOM

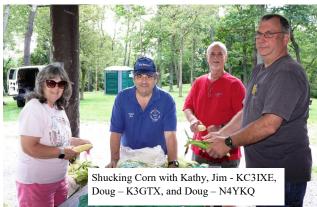


The Corn Roast of 2024

What a difference a year can make! Our 2023 Corn Roast weather was hot and muggy. As early evening arrived, thunder and lightning with heavy rainfall reminded us that it was still Summer. Still, last year we had good food, pleasant company, and many enjoyable conversations.

Unlike last year, there were no conflicts about the shelter that we had reserved at the Old Economy County Park; Shelter 1 was ours for the day. As a special bonus, the weather was exceptionally pleasant with low humidity and comfortable temperatures with gentle breezes. Was this nature's way of letting us know that Fall was just around the corner?

Setup and corn shucking began in earnest, with minimal rearranging of the picnic tables within the



shelter to a comfortable configuration for our club event. Our blue-colored, simulated checkered table covers easily encouraged a family-style outdoor picnic.

As in the past, the large kettle and propane burner were set up just outside the shelter so that the chance of accidental burns could be avoided. 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 steamed 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 Bratwurst 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 large crowd. Soon we had approximately 45 hungry people. Members who had not been seen for some time, new members, whole families including small children arrived. The picnic was on! Once again, name tags helped to identify both

old and new with many conversations and mingling as people sampled the various food offerings and many desserts.

And what offerings were available! Many imaginative Summer salads filled in one area. Creative vegetables complimented the salads with delicious side dishes. Better quality hot dogs and Bratwurst competed with some excellent fried chicken in the meat departments. But the desserts, including cookies, pies, lemon bars,



and so much more demanded a second trip to the food buffet just to try a little of this or that, as if it had been missed with the first pass!



Jack – KZ3Z, Doug – N4YKQ,

Dan – KB3VSP

The pleasant weather seemed to encourage so many enjoyable conversations with the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of both new and old friends.



But all to quickly, the sun began to set, and twilight began to take over as nightfall approached. A good time was had by all!

Teardown went very smoothly with Shelter 1 cleaned up and restored to its original condition.

Many more photos of the 2024 Corn Roast are on www.flickr/photos/w3sgj for viewing and downloading.

Field Trip to the USS Requin Submarine

Four members of the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association boarded the USS Requin WWII Submarine on August 26, 2024 to operate the amateur radio station within the vessel. Art Mueller, WA3BKD was our host as well as the Club Trustee of NY3EC, the amateur radio station aboard



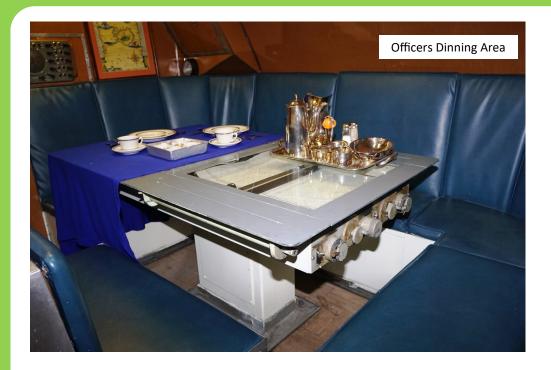


Tom - N3XC, Tim - KA3JRT, Rich - K3SOM, and Denny - KR3DX participated in the activities. Jim - KC3IXE, who set up the Field Trip, was unable to attend. All of us had previously toured the Requin back in our 2017 Field Trip or on other occasions with family and friends. This time, we wanted to spend a bit more time by operating the NY3EC station. The call, NYEC, was the original call sign when the Requin was on active duty. Art suggested that operating on 20 and 40 meters at the late morning window were popular bands to make contacts, as well as the two-

meter Repeater operated by the Steel City ARC.

We took turns operating the equipment and making several contacts on both HF bands, as well as a contact on two meters. Band conditions were less than ideal, but the large counterpoise to the vertical antennas proved helpful.





One of the hams that we contacted had much interest in WWII submarines but had never been inside one. We invited him to come to Pittsburgh and take the tour for a very interesting trip back 80 years in time.

Torpedo Tubes



Note to others: "Cell Phones are shielded when inside the Requin so the only bars to be had are outside the Requin!"





September

Butler County ARA Swapfest, September 8th – Unionville Volunteer Fire Company Station 14, 102 Mahood Rd, Butler, PA

ARRL September VHF Contest, September 14th – 16th, CW Phone Digital

State QSO Parties, September 21st - 22nd:

New Jersey

Iowa

Texas

New Hampshire

Washington State Salmon Run

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY, September 28th - 29th

Maine QSO Party, September 28th – 29th

POTA, POTA – Fall Foliage Makes September Outdoor Operating Great!

October

PA State QSO Party, October 12th and 13th, QSOs on CW and SSB only, no Digital

POTA, POTA - Ditto as above!

Bits and Pieces

Hello all,

It seems like each year Summer just races past me. I remember in Spring I was full of energy to get so many things done. I didn't waste Summer but I still have so much I want to do. Too many things I want to do and too little summer left. It won't be long and that swear word "snow" will be here. So many things I want to get to yet! I am working feverishly...dadgum poles always come to mind.



Thanks to Jeff Waite K3SLK, I was able to get my folded dipole antenna up in the trees. I have an antenna for HF! Jeff shot some lines up in two of my tallest trees to hoist it up. I now have the highest antenna I have had so far in my radio achievements. It's about 40 feet in the air. Now if I could just make time to use it.

This weekend is one of my favorite hamfests, the Butler County ARA Swapfest held at the Unionville Fire Department. This is conveniently close to my home and it is always fun to see so many of my Ham Friends. I am planning to attend. I hope to see you there!

The BVARA Corn Roast was so much fun! The weather could not have been better. The food and friendship were great. It was so nice to visit with everyone and share a great meal. As usual there was more food than we could eat. This is an event I think everyone looks forward to all year. Our Christmas Party will be here soon too. This is another of my "look forward to all year" events.

I could jabber on; I will stop for now. I am excited for the things that are coming! I hope to see you at the Hamfest and the BVARA Club meeting this month. There is so much happening enjoy it.

This is all for now till next month... happy radioing and be safe in your hobby activities.

Clear on your final, but I will be monitoring.



73 KC3BXC



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Radio Sport

Contest Corral

September 2024

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	- Fini	sh	1				1 - 1/10 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1
Da	te-Time		ate-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	1700	_	0300		Tennessee QSO Party	-	RS(T), TN county or SPC	tnqp.org
2	-	2	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
2	2300	_	0300	1.8-28,50	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	www.miqrp.net
3	0000	3	0200	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, pwr	ars-qrp.com
4	2000	4	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	Ph	6-char grid	www.ukeicc.com
5	0000	6	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com
5	1800	5	2200	28	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid	nrau.net
7	0000	8	2359	1.8-28	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Ph	RS, 2-digit age	www.jarl.org
7	0600	7	0800	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.ru
7	0800	8	1000	50,144,432	SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	Ph	RS(T), 6-char grid	www.sarl.org.za
7	0800	8	1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), # of rigs, category, province or "DX"	www.sarl.org.za
7	1300	8	1259	1.8-28	IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.darc.de
7		8	1300	3.5-28	RSGB SSB Field Day	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
7	1400	7	2200	3.5-28	Ohio State Parks on the Air	Ph	OH park abbreviation or SPC	ospota.org
7	1400	8	1400	145	IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 6-char grid	www.iaru-r1.org
7	1600	7	1900	7	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	www.agcw.de
7	2000	7	2359	1.8-28	CWOps CW Open	CW	serial, name	cwops.org
7	2000	_	2000	3.5	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
1	2000	0	2000	0.0		Dig	1101, 010	WWw.pouxao/o.com
0	0000	0	0050	0.5.44	80m Sprint	CIM	Otherde cell cours cell ceriel come CDO	nahuah aam
8	0000	8	0359	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
8	1000	8	1400	144	WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/Contests.
1								php
9	0000	9	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
					Sprint			
9	1900	9	2300	144	144 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	www.packratvhf.com
11	1900	11	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14	0000	15	2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.darc.de
14	1500	14	1900	3.5-14	Africa FT4 DX Contest	FT4	Signal report, 4-char grid	www.sarl.org.za
14	1800	16	0259	50 and up	ARRL September VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid	www.arrl.org/september-vhf
15	0000	15	0359	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com
	1700	15	2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint PSK63 Contest	PSK63	Serial	1
15	_	-						bartg.org.uk
15	2300	16	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrpcontest.com
16	1900	16	2030	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	FT4	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
17	1900	17	2300	222	222 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig		www.packratvhf.com
19	0000	20	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr; 13 WPM max	qrpcontest.com
19	0030	19	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info
19	1900	19	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl
20	1600	20	1700	3.5	AGB NEMIGA Contest		RST, serial, mbr (if any)	ev5agb.com
21	0000	22	2359	2.3 GHz	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	See rules	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
				and Up				
21	0900	23	0759	10 GHz to	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
				light				
21	1200	22	1200	3.5-28	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.sactest.net
21	1400	_	0159	3.5-28	New Jersey QSO Party		RS(T), NJ county or SPC	www.k2td-bcrc.org
21	-	-	0200		Iowa QSO Party		RS(T), IA county or SPC	www.w0yl.com
_				or 60	,		,,	
21	1400	22	2000		Texas QSO Party	CW Ph Dia	RS(T), TX county or SPC	www.txqp.net
21	1600	_	2300	All, no WARC	Wisconsin Parks on the Air		WI park number or SPC	wipota.com
-	-	-				-	The state of the s	The state of the s
21	1600	_	2200	3.5-28	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), WA county or SPC	www.w1wqm.org
21	1600	_	2359	1.8-28,50	Washington State Salmon Run		RS(T), WA county or SPC	salmonrun.wwdxc.org
25	1900	-	2300	432	432 MHz Fall Sprint	CW Ph Dig		www.packratvhf.com
25	2000	-	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80m Contest	CW	6-char grid	www.ukeicc.com
26	1900	-	2030	3.5	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
_	0000	_	2359	3.5-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RST, CQ zone, (US/VE state/prov)	www.cqwwrtty.com
28	1200	29	1200	1.8-28	Maine QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ME county or SPC	www.ws1sm.com
28	1400	28	2200	3.5-28	Masonic Lodges on the Air	Ph	Lodge name, lodge no., jurisdiction or SPC	cqmorelight.com
28	2000	29	2359	1.8-14,28	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	antiquewireless.org
29	0700	29	1000	50	UBA ON Contest, 6m	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, ON (for ON)	www.uba.be
	_	-		-				